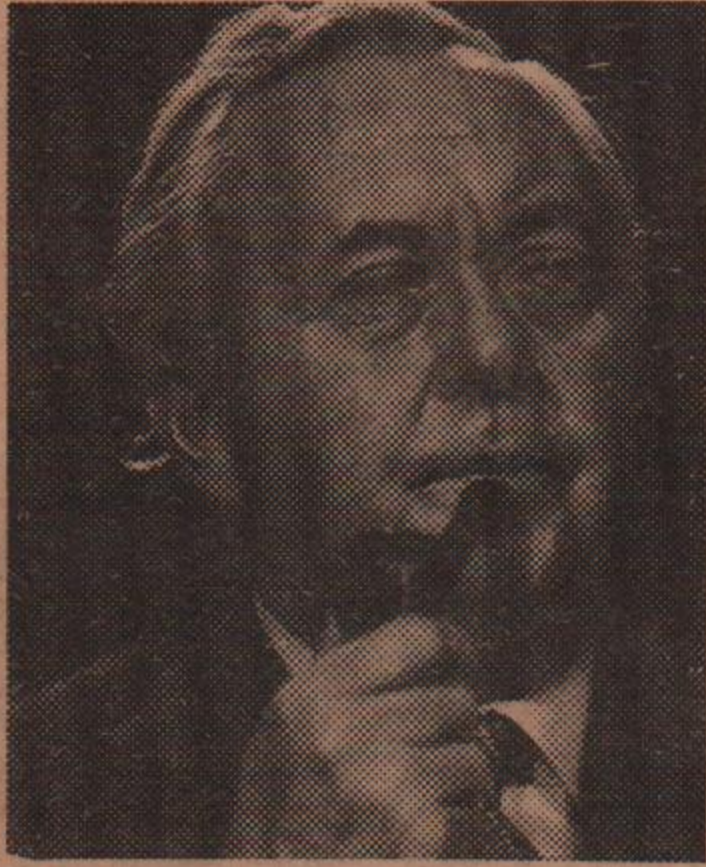


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



AN OPEN
LETTER
TO HAROLD
WILSON

**Alison is 8
—and dying.
Thanks
to you, her
life's hardly
worth living.**

MY DAUGHTER, Alison Cummins, is eight years old.

She suffers from a rare hereditary complaint, neurofibromatosis. In effect, it is a cancer of the cutaneous nervous system.

She is also crippled by an even more rare side-effect—gigantism.

Her mother died two years ago of this same complaint. At the time of her death, she had malignant tumours on the kidneys and lungs, and finally a brain tumour. She also had 250 non-malignant tumours covering her face, limbs and body.

Untreatable

This is the eventual fate in store for Alison. Not only is the complaint incurable, it is virtually untreatable.

Alison and I live alone and I cannot go out to work because of these circumstances. We receive £18.30 supplementary benefit. Applications for attendance allowance for a nurse or helper have been refused.

Attendance allowance was also previously refused for my late wife on

You've cut her school,
her home, her hospital.
What a 'socialist' policy
this is . . .

the grounds that her illness wasn't sufficiently serious. The refusal arrived the day after her funeral.

Last week we received a Christmas present from the North West Electricity Board—a cut-off notice. Later in the week we received another seasonable surprise from the local Department of Health and Social Security—they refused to pay the bill.

Attached to the refusal was a very interesting document stating that the scale of benefit set by Parliament was to provide for all normal needs which could be foreseen, including: repair and replacement of clothing and footwear; heating, lighting and cooking; household sundries; and miscellaneous personal expenditure.

Previously, these things could be paid through discretionary grants. Now it looks as though these grants

have been discontinued.

This wipes out completely the so-called increase in benefits made in November, parsimonious though it was in view of rising prices.

This really lets the cat out of the bag regarding your policy of cuts—you slash the living standards of the sick, the elderly, the one-parent families, all the sections of the community who need help most but who you look upon as fair game because of their inability to hit back.

Swipe

Dear brave Hercules, what a 'socialist' policy this is—if you can't take on the CBI, take a swipe at Alison.

She has been hit constantly throughout the year, cuts at her school, cuts where we live—and we

live in a council house and can't get even essential repairs—cuts at her hospital, half the wards have been closed throughout the year.

The possibility of a holiday provided by Social Services completely cut. Whatever little treatment there is for her complaint—cut.

What are you asking for from Alison: 'Give a year for Britain' even if it is to be the last, a sacrifice on the altar of profit.

I have news for you Harold, Alison isn't quite as helpless as you think. She can hit back.

During the struggle for the nurses' pay claim, she led the nurses on a demonstration round Bolton. When the hospital workers picketed her hospital (the Royal Manchester Children's) protesting against the cuts, Alison was there to support them.

When the Manchester Right to

Work Committee occupied the Job Centre at Stretford, Alison was there. She wasn't alone, I am always with her and so are my comrades.

Whenever the Rank and File hit back, she'll be there. And as thousands more helpless and sick children become affected by your vicious policies, more and more people will be joining the fight and hitting back.

In taking on Alison, you have bitten off far more than you can chew.

You've taken on the Rank and File, mate, and before long you'll wish to heaven that you had taken on the CBI instead.

JACK CUMMINS
Bolton engineer



WHAT THE STEEL CUTS REALLY MEAN



What's their future? Lee, Mark and Emma Bowen, children of the steel cuts...

By Margaret Renn
WHAT DO the proposed cut-backs in the steel industry mean to steel workers?

Ken Bowen knows. He works in the Trostre and Velindre plant in South Wales. Everyone is trying to say that weekend working is overtime,' he said. 'It's not. The British Steel Corporation wanted weekend working to keep their processes going.

DOUBLE TIME

'So continental shifts, especially Sunday shifts and so on, have been agreed by the unions. It's paid at time and a half on Saturday and double time on Sunday, but the hours are apart of the agreed rotas, they're not overtime. 'Some of the rotas have been operating for 25 years. Continental shift workers work either a

“We'll have to borrow out of the gas to pay the electricity, and then out of the electricity to pay something else . . . ”

—Gwyneth Bowen, whose husband Ken works at the Trostre plant

four or six week rota—that's one Sunday off every four or six weeks. It's not overtime. It's extra payment for agreeing to work at weekends. 'The Steel corporation wanted the weekend working when they wanted to produce more. Now, they are producing less—so they want to

save on the weekend money.' If the Sunday shift is cut, Ken, a married man with three children aged eight, five and three, will lose 16 hours pay, at £1.07 an hour, more than £17. 'Nearly a fifth of my wages', as he says. 'Already you scrape around at the end of the week for the money for a couple of pints.'

BACKSIDES

'We'll be on our backsides' adds his wife Gwyneth. 'We'll have to borrow out of the gas to pay the electricity, and then out of the electricity to pay something else, just to see us through. 'You start off by putting away each week for the mortgage, the insurance, gas, electricity, coal, and then pay for the rest. But if the money's not there, we'll have to decide what we are going to pay for, and what's going to wait. 'It's not so bad for us, because we understand, but the children are too young.'

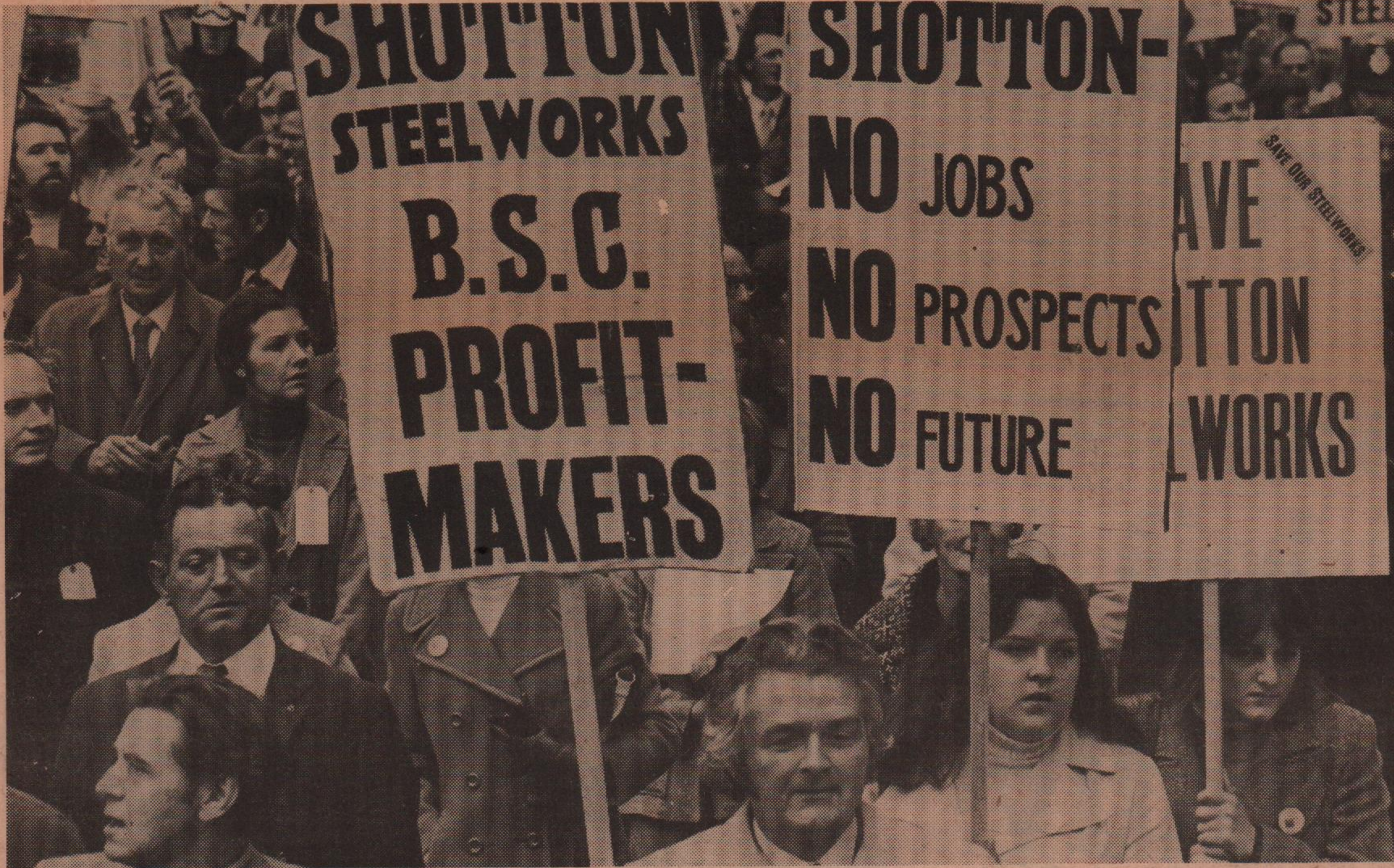
An end to the guaranteed working week could be even more devastating. The guarantee is simple—even if there is no work, the men get 80 per cent of their wages paid. Ken, a member of the Transport Workers Union, went on: 'The agreement was signed in 1969. If they tear it up no one will be sure from one week to the next when they are going to work. 'They could put us on two days a week for four weeks, and then where would we be? You can't claim social security even on that basis.'

THE SWANSEA area Steel Right to Work Committee produced a leaflet just before Christmas in the style of a Christmas card. It read simply: 'A Christmas Wish From The British Steel Corporation—Don't Come Back Next Year.'

This time the British Steel Corporation are in for a shock. A day in South Wales talking to steelworkers makes that absolutely clear: Men who have never talked of striking before are prepared to strike now. Port Talbot has shown BSC what they can expect. Gwyneth Bowen knows what they have to do: 'The men should strike now. If they just take it, they'll be knocked from pillar to post.'



THE STEEL-WORKERS want to work. And the rest of us want the goods that the steel is made into. While out driving, Robin Holland, who works in the Port Talbot works, pointed to a man walking in the rain. 'There's a man who needs a car. The need is there but BSC say there is no demand—their demand and our needs don't appear to be the same thing.' The problem is not ours, it is the British Steel Corporation's, and capitalism's.



The biggest issue of all in steel is sackings. These workers demonstrated last October to save the giant Shotton

Works in North Wales. They won a reprieve. But now the Steel Corporation bosses are out for blood again. Not only

Shotton, but Ebbw Vale, the Scottish plants and all the older plants, are in peril. Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

The fascists fall out...

SO MUCH FOR 'JUSTICE'

SIT BACK and enjoy it while it lasts: the National Front are tearing themselves to pieces. The bust-up between the open Nazis, led by John Tyndall and Martin Webster, and the so-called Populists, led by former Tories John Kingsley Read, Roy Painter and Richard Lawson, has now produced its own Night of the Long Knives.

Debts

Kingsley-Read, chairman of the Front, began it by expelling Tyndall and company. A High Court judge reinstated them. Whereupon Kingsley-Read, confident of taking most Front members with him, broke away to form the new National Party. This move had the added advantage for Kingsley-Read of leaving Tyndall and Webster with the National Front's debts of nearly £3000. The Nazis have also been evicted from the Croydon headquarters, though another High Court injunction has been granted to allow them to return.

TWO black women found out just how much help they could get from British courts last week. None. Gwendoline Simms and Isadora Gilpin took a private court action against Derek Day, a National Front activist on their council estate in Hackney, East London. They accused him of punching and knocking Mrs Simms to the ground, of shouting racist remarks and preventing them from going up to their flats. Day simply denied all the charges, except pushing Mrs Simms to the ground.

Meanwhile, the dirt flies thick and fast. A leading Front member in Lancashire, Walter Barton, has announced that he has 'resigned because of Tyndall and Webster' and adds: 'That's their style. They are a menace to the trade union movement and to this country.' Gordon Brown, who owns the headquarters, has let it be known that

The magistrates refused to hear witnesses who wanted to testify that Day had asked them to give false statements in court. 'I don't want this case, which is dealing with minor charges really, to become like a state trial,' said magistrate Mrs A M Frisby. The women bringing the charges sat in court shaking their heads in disbelief as evidence was given. Next time black people are harassed, they will know there's no way of defending themselves in the courts.

he 'will never join the NF again, nor any other party which contains Tyndall and Webster. . . . But the most telling comment comes from Kingsley-Read: 'We are determined to move away from any taint of neo-Nazism.' And that's what it's all about. But Kingsley-Read's Populists don't dislike the politics of fascism, only the

name. That's why they can include in their ranks men such as Robin Beauclaire, a wealthy Warwickshire farmer whose hatred of Nazism is so intense that it led him to print a booklet white-washing Nazi war crimes called Did Six Million Really Die? That's why they can also count on the oratory of Dennis Pirie, who once delighted audiences at Hitler Was Right rallies in Trafalgar Square. That's why Kingsley-Read can say 'we are not anti-semitic' while accepting the support of Gordon Brown, a former member of the openly anti-semitic Greater Britain Movement. The Populists want the politics of the gutter to become respectable—and they think they can do it by exterminating a few sewer rats. The Nazi taint is there, alright. And those socialists who have put it there, by exposing the National Front for what they are, can take credit for provoking a rift which could set the fascists back a long way, whether they call themselves the National Front or the National Party.

I want to be a Socialist Worker supporter

Name _____

Address _____

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

IT'S MAD, BUT

Now get troops out!

THERE CAN BE no justification for Monday's shooting of ten Protestant workers in Armagh, no matter who was responsible.

It was the biggest massacre Northern Ireland has seen since the Bloody Sunday killing of 13 people in Derry by the British Army.

And it was as pointless as the weekend killing of five Catholics that preceded it.

Such killings show how desperate things in Northern Ireland have become.

The British government claims it can do nothing. Merlyn Rees, who is supposed to be running Northern Ireland for the Labour government, said as much after Monday's killings.

His only reaction has been to send more troops into South

Armagh—a continuation of the same policy he followed after the last upsurge of shooting in the area five weeks ago.

Then, he moved in more troops and mobilised the all-Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment for full-time duty, even though its members were implicated in previous murders.

■ ■
Socialist Worker said then (29 November) that such measures 'would not lessen sectarianism or hasten peace; rather they would make matters worse'.

We were right, as the appalling bloodletting this week has made clear.

The government cannot deal

with the sectarianism in Northern Ireland because it refuses to tackle its roots—the existence of an artificial statelet built from top to bottom on sectarianism.

Only the fanning by successive British governments of religious hatreds between Protestant and Catholic enabled the province to be cut off from the rest of Ireland in the first place.

By maintaining British troops in Ireland, and propping up the sectarian statelet today, the government is continuing to prop up the basis of sectarianism.

Only when British troops are withdrawn will Protestant workers be forced to worry about what they have in common with Catholic workers, not what divides them.

THAT'S CAPITALISM...

THERE IS one solution to the present crisis: CUTS.

Cuts in wages. Cuts in social services. Cuts in jobs.

Or so you are expected to believe every time you open a paper or turn on the telly.

■ ■
What utter nonsense. Just look at the steel industry.

The Steel Corporation is in a financial mess, but not because

of any so-called 'overmanning'. The explanation is much simpler.

Two years ago it was turning out 526,000 tons a week. Now it is producing only 380,300 tons.

Cuts in other industries have reduced the demand for steel.

Lower wages mean that fewer cars, washing machines and saucepans are bought. Big business control of investment means fewer new factories are opening.

And so the steel industry is not able to sell enough steel to cover its own costs.

The effect of further cuts in wages, jobs or social services can only be to make the situation worse.

■ ■
And yet this is what the press, the politicians and the Labour leaders are demanding. This is where the system they support

leads.

It is not strikes or work-to-rules that are responsible for industrial output in Britain being lower now than at any time since 1969, lower even than during the three day week. The number of strike days in 1975 was half the 1974 figure.

The cause of this immense loss of wealth lies not with the strikers, but with the completely irrational capitalist organisation of production.

Labour pays farmers to force up egg prices

THE LABOUR government is determined to bring down prices. We know that's true because it says so just about every day in the papers.

So housewives were delighted last week when eggs fell by 7p a dozen, a welcome relief amid the endless round of price rises.

Their joy was short-lived. The Labour government, the same people who are so concerned about prices, immediately handed out cash to egg producers to keep prices UP.

Farmers will be paid a special slaughter subsidy to get rid of up to 300,000 hens and so cut down the number of eggs produced.

That way the prices can now start soaring again. Nice to know 'our' Labour government is more interested in helping farmers make big profits than in helping us to make ends meet.

▲
ASK SUPPORTERS of big business why their system is in such a mess and, likely as not, they'll mutter about 'the sheiks' and the 'oil shortage'.

But an embarrassing fact has recently come to light. The giant oil companies claim they have too much petrol.



As good capitalists, however, that is not going to bother them for too long. According to the Sunday Times, some of them considered 'burning off excess petrol' last summer. Now they have found an easier situation—they have ordered their tankers to take longer to sail to Britain.

ANYONE with doubts about abortion should examine the ideas of James White, MP, who introduced a Bill last year virtually to ban it.

Interviewed by The Guardian on 30 December, he expressed his opposition not only to abortion, but also to the battered wives campaign, 'having come across a number of female constituents who didn't seem to mind the odd whack around the ear on a Saturday night'.

James White's idea of morality is clearly that women should do whatever men want them to do—whether being forced into childbirth or being beaten to the ground.

ABOVE: It's not only in Britain that workers are being called upon to accept sackings to solve the bosses' crisis. But when that blackmail was applied by Leyland management in Milan in Northern Italy just before Christmas, 400,000 workers from other factories demonstrated in protest.

The steel workers may not have realised it, but they were challenging the whole absurd process by which decisions are made under capitalism—the process which has led to the present international recession.

You don't have to be a genius to see that there is an alternative to this system.

■ ■
With the most modern forms of technology, it would be easy to organise production so that more wealth was produced in all sectors of industry, wealth to produce the higher wages, the new hospitals, real aid for the Third World—all the things that Labour claims we cannot afford.

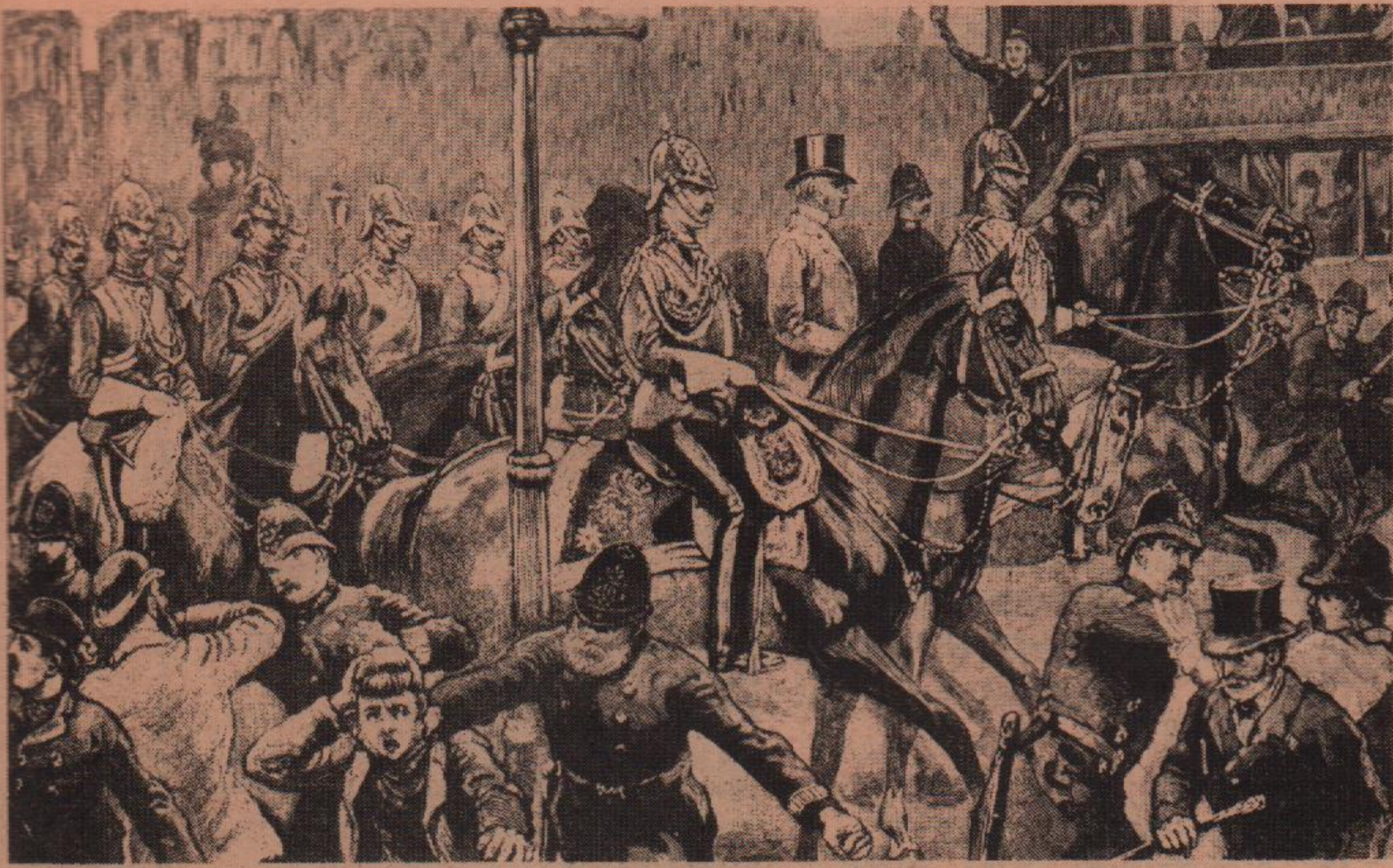
All that is required is for the absurd anarchy of blind capitalist competition to be replaced by a rational system of socialist planning.

But to get that we have first to get rid of all the profiteers, parasites, hacks and hirelings who react to every manifestation of crisis with a new bout of cuts.

WITHOUT COMMENT

Buy stocks and shares for the boom. The sharp rise in world stock markets has not yet run out of steam... If you can afford to buy whole office buildings, many are at bargain prices...

—From The Economist, 3 January



*Bloody Sunday
1883: Soldiers
escort a magistrate
into Trafalgar
Square as police
beat up
unemployed
demonstrators
with truncheons—a
drawing made at
the time.*

Why the unemployed were beaten in 1887

IN 1887, when Disraeli was prime minister and Britain ruled the waves, hundreds of thousands of British workers were out of work and starving.

In 1883, at the end of a short boom, British shipyards had built 1,250,000 tons of ships. In 1886, with more machinery, the same yards were built only 473,000 tons. The same catastrophic drop in production affected all other industries.

In London, where the agony was greatest, the unemployed took to the streets. In a series of parades and processions they marched from every working-class area demanding work or full relief.

The focus for almost all these marches was Trafalgar Square.

In October, James Allman, an unemployed worker on the council of one of the revolutionary socialist groups, the Socialist League, started to organise daily meetings and marches in the Square. Every day huge crowds of unemployed men and women marched into the square and held meetings under an enormous banner: 'WE WILL HAVE WORK OR BREAD'.

The government took fright, and laid plans for a counter-attack. A series of violent police raids were organised against the marchers and on the Square.

Spies were sent into the ranks of the unemployed, where they agitated for acts of vandalism by the marchers such as the smashing of shops and public monuments. These were used by the police and press to justify brutality against the unemployed.

On 8 November, when the plans had been carefully laid, the Metropolitan police chief Sir Charles Warren banned demonstrations in Trafalgar Square and all marches to it.

Enormous

A meeting had already been organised for 13 November to protest against the imprisonment of a radical Irish MP, William O'Brien. The meeting was transformed by the ban into a huge demonstration for free speech. Enormous workers' marches were organised from every part of London to demonstrate illegally in the Square.

The police were well-prepared. They sealed off the bridges over the Thames, and assaulted the marchers as they crossed, causing multiple injuries—26 marchers were taken unconscious to St Thomas' Hospital alone.

In St Martin's Lane, the huge contingent from the East End were broken and beaten up with truncheons. As individual marchers struggled into the Square, they were finished off by charge after charge from the police and the army.

The March of the Workers

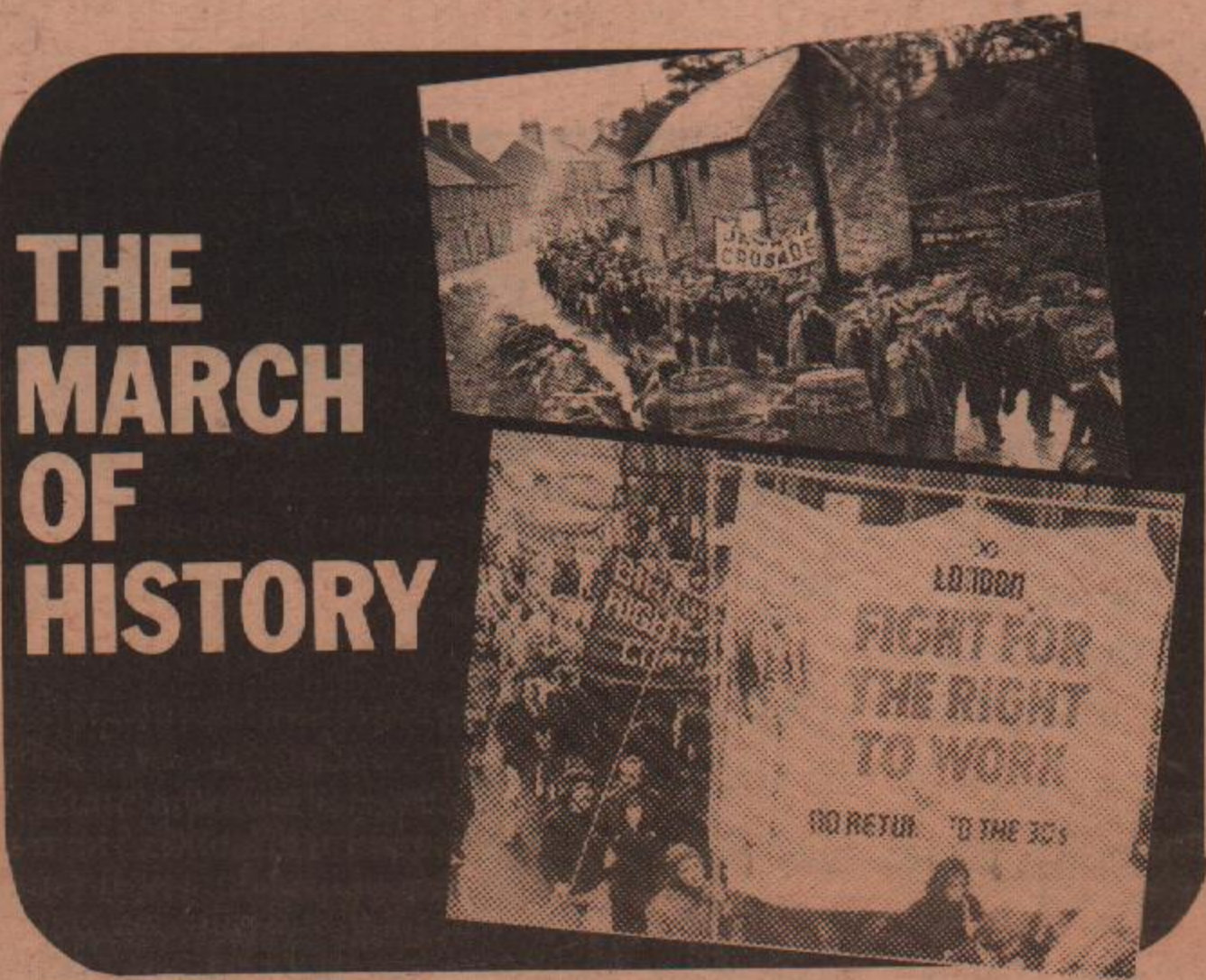
*What is this, the sound and rumour? What is this that all men hear?
Like the wind in hollow valleys when the storm is drawing near,
Like the rolling on of ocean in the eventide of fear?
'Tis the people marching on.*

*Forth they come from grief and torment; on they wend toward health and mirth,
All the wide world is their dwelling, every corner of the earth.
Buy them, sell them for thy service! Try the bargain what 'tis worth,
For the days are marching on.*

*These are they who build thy houses, weave thy raiment, win thy wheat,
Smooth the rugged, fill the barren, turn the bitter into sweet,
All for thee this day—and ever. What reward for them is meet
Till the host comes marching on?*

*Many a hundred years passed over have they laboured deaf and blind;
Never tidings reached their sorrow, never hope their toil might find.
Now at last they've heard and hear it, and the cry comes down the wind,
And their feet are marching on.*

THE MARCH OF HISTORY



by PAUL FOOT

The 'victory' of the police was hailed triumphantly by press and parliament. For two weeks afterwards, Trafalgar Square was manned by thousands of armed policemen. The following Sunday, mounted police charged up and down the Square hunting down small crowds of unemployed.

They rode down Alfred Linnell, a radical law-writer, and killed him.

The funeral of Alfred Linnell was the biggest demonstration in London since the Chartists 40 years earlier. The procession was one and a half miles long, and the funeral ended with some marvellous speeches, notably from William Morris, the revolutionary poet, writer and designer.

But Morris' marvellous rhetoric could not escape the fact that the great agitation of the unemployed had been smashed.

Spies

Throughout, the unemployed had had no contact with the employed. The trade unions, whose leaders were obsessed with craft differentials and the Liberal Party, were hardly represented on the marches. The employed workers obeyed their leaders and stayed at work. So the brutality against the unemployed could not be met by strike action.

The marches themselves, as Morris bitterly complained, were led by opportunists, and often by spies who paid no heed to organising the masses against police assault.

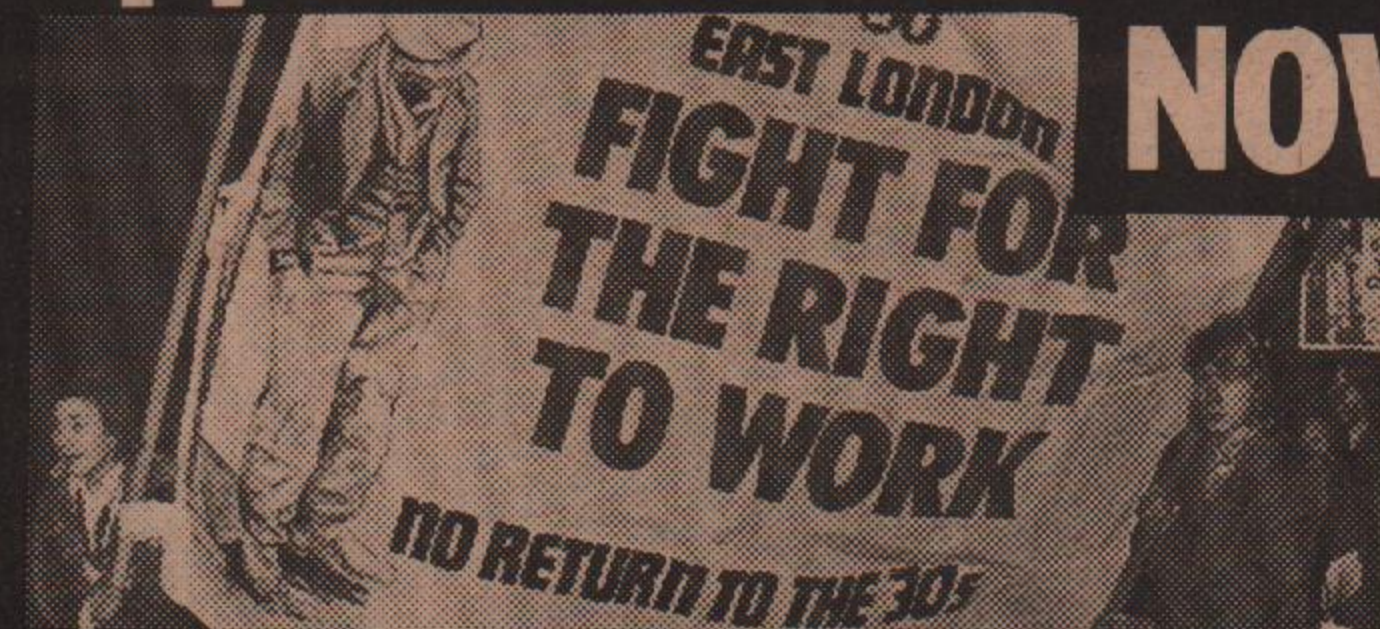
Morris believed that the East End contingent could have beaten the police at Trafalgar Square if its leaders had been prepared for what happened, and had drilled and organised.

Yet Morris and the other Socialist League leaders were at least partly to blame. As E P Thompson wrote in his biography of Morris: 'Morris and the council of the League smelled danger, but instead of going to meet the unemployed workers and wresting the leadership out of the hands of firebrands and spies, they took refuge in their old purism.'

Too many socialists, in other words, scorned the unemployed marchers because they were seeking immediate remedies—like poor relief and work—while themselves saying: 'The only solution is the end of capitalism.'

Too few saw that only out of the battle for immediate remedies can come a battle for the end of the capitalist system.

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.

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

- 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

We're

THE NATIONAL UNION of Mineworkers' Area Council in Derbyshire have given a spirited lead to the fight against sackings. They have declared a ban on all overtime in the county until the Coal Board withdraws its plans to close Langwith Colliery (900 miners).

'We want to stop the Coal Board's policy of closing small and medium-sized pits' says Peter Heathfield, Derbyshire NUM secretary. 'And this is the best way to do it. The decision to close Langwith is a lot of nonsense. The pit has plenty of coal left'.

The local area Coal Board announced its 'final' decision to close Langwith at a meeting with union representatives on 23 December.

The union reply was swift. A special meeting of the area council on New Year's Day decided on an immediate overtime ban—which will be explained and argued for at a series of mass meetings throughout the county.

Fought

The council went further. They want the issue of Langwith Colliery taken up and fought by the national union.

This Thursday's National Executive meeting will be lobbied by the Derbyshire area council, who will be demanding a national overtime ban to save Langwith and all the other threatened pits.

The ban will hit the Coal Board hard. In Derbyshire, Peter Heathfield reckons, additional shifts account for a quarter of the shifts worked.

'We have been getting very concerned at the increasing amount of

'One of the most urgent demands of the Right to Work Campaign is a ban on all overtime. A ban on overtime tomorrow could get rid of all short time and provide another 200,000 jobs at a stroke.'

—John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign.

work done in overtime', he says, 'especially by the craft element'.

The greatest impact will be on Mondays, when maintenance work—banned over the weekend—will hold up the mining shifts.

This is the way to fight sackings and unemployment. Prompt and powerful action, which uses the maximum power of the union as soon as sackings are announced, can change the employers' minds and save jobs.

The NEC must back the Derbyshire initiative—and all workers threatened with sackings can learn a lot from it.

SUPPORT US, MPs URGED

LETTERS have gone out from the Right to Work Campaign asking 37 Labour MPs to sponsor the march.

The letters make it clear that the march is the property of the entire working class movement, and will be judged on the extent to which it draws support from workers' organisations everywhere.

Sponsorship means no more than a general commitment to the march's aims, and a willingness to attend meetings and speak to the marchers en route.

The MPs have been chosen on the basis of their speeches and writings against the government's economic policies—for a fight against unemployment and for nationalisation of ailing industries.

Some have been selected on the grounds that they represent areas

through which the march will be passing. They are:

Frank Allaun (Salford East), Sid Bidwell (Southall), Norman Buchan (West Renfrew), James Callaghan (Middleton and Prestwich), Maureen Colquhoun (Northampton), Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough), Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton), Lena Jeger, (Holborn and St Pancras South), Judith Hart (Lanark), Renee Short (Wolverhampton North East), Richard Kelley (Don Valley), Neil Kinnoch (Bedwelty).

Arthur Latham (Paddington), Max Madden (Sowerby), John Mendelson (Penistone), Ian Mikardo (Bethnal Green), Eddie Loyden (Liverpool, Garston), Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside), Andrew Bennett (Stockport North), Dennis Skinner (Bolsover), Bob Cryer (Keighley), Stan Thorne (Preston, South), Brian Sedgemore (Luton, West), Harry Selby (Govan).

Peter Snape (West Bromwich), Jeff Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr), Jock Stallard (St Pancras North), Tom Swain (Derbyshire, North East, which includes Clay Cross), Helen Hayman (Hatfield and Welwyn), Geoffrey Edge (Aldridge and Brownhills), Audrey Wise (Coventry, South West), Tom Litterick (Selly Oak), Ron Thomas (Bristol, North West).

Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead), Jo Richardson (Barking), Stan Newsen (Harlow), Denis Canavan (Stirlingshire, West).

Any reader of Socialist Worker who supports the march and lives in any of the areas represented by these MPs should write urging him or her to sponsor the march.

Any trade union organisation in the area which supports the march should also press their MP to do so.

How

WHEN WORKERS from Commercial Plastics in Orpington march against 375 redundancies later this month, the South East London Right to Work Committee will be right along side them.

Every time a factory announces redundancies, or threatens closure we'll be there; every time there's a fight back, the Committee will support it all the way. Ted Parker, secretary of Greenwich Trades Council, told Socialist Worker last week.

Ted explained how the Committee was built:

with you all the way!

Right to Work March wins quick backing

SUPPORT is already growing for the Right to Work March.

In **LETCHEWORTH**, Hertfordshire, the Borg Warner shop stewards' committee have joined the campaign. Shop steward and district committee member Brendan Salisbury told Socialist Worker:

'We sent two shop stewards as official delegates on the 26 November demonstration. In the report back they said there were 20,000 trade unionists up and down the country willing to fight.

'The demonstration showed that the TUC leadership is out of step. They also said that the only national organised fight on the march was the Right to Work Campaign.'

'One woman shop steward had been at the Engineers' Charter Conference and she said the campaign was fighting for the right to work and we should be in there. So we voted to join the campaign and to start the fight locally.'

In **WOLVERHAMPTON**, the UCATT BE 305 branch has nominated an unemployed UCATT member, Lou Burlingham, to join the march.

In **YORK**, the Right to Work campaign was launched on 17 December at a meeting of 40 trade unionists and unemployed workers.

A committee was elected which includes workers from Rowntrees, Terry's and Armstrong's factories, the buses, building, catering, hospitals, local government and teaching, as well as the unemployed.

Four branch secretaries and four shop stewards are on the committee.

Anyone interested should contact the secretary G Pogmore, 23 Maple Avenue, Bishopthorpe, York (Phone 63142.)

□ Socialist Worker will publish free of charge advertisements for all local Right to Work activities and meetings. Make sure your local Right to Work Committee or trade union body sends details to Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

IS YOUR TOWN ON THIS MAP?

IF SO, you'll need to be organising now. The Right to Work march will be coming through your area sometime during March. As unemploy-

ment keeps on rising as a direct result of Labour government policies, and as the TUC spend most of their energies trying not to fight against it, the march

becomes more and more important.

It is not a gesture of despair, as many such marches were in the 1930s.

It is an organising force behind

definite policies which can get rid of unemployment

It is a focus for the anger of the unemployed workers to do something to stop sackings.



WHY I'LL BE MARCHING

A LOT of people say to me: 'What's the use of marching all the way to London? Where will it get you?' My reply is that if we sit around doing nothing we'll never get jobs

Too many unemployed people seem to think that because they are out of work, they cease to have any power in

the trade unions. That just isn't true. Most trade unionists I know are very worried about unemployment.

But if we just stand around on street corners or lie about at home, they'll forget about us. We can make our presence felt in the trade union

movement, but only if we show ourselves ready to fight.

The Right to Work March is direct action. It shows that we're not a lot of layabouts. We are fighting workers who are denied even the right to make a decent living. That's why I'm going on the march.

“ All of Steve Jones' family are out of work—except his Dad. And he retires soon. ”



Some of Steve Jones' family in Liverpool. Steve (right) has been out of work for two years. His mother, nephew, three brothers and their wives, and two sisters and husbands, are ALL out of work.

SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN SUPPORT THE MARCH

National leaflets and posters available from the campaign at 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Leaflets 500 for £1 (including postage).

we built our campaign

'We gave ourselves six weeks to organise a meeting on 8 December, with local militants speaking; and so we circulated the most active trade union bodies in the area.'

This gained the support of four stewards' committees, one Trades Council, three branches and one federated chapel.

At the same time, unemployed building workers in the area had started picketing the Thames Barrier site, where men were working 12 hour shifts.

Along with other unemployed workers, they elected an Unemployed Workers' Action Committee. This

also sponsored the 8 December meeting.

They also leafleted and collected names at dole queues, particularly for the 26 November lobby on unemployment. 140 names and addresses were collected.

The meeting attracted 120 local employed and unemployed workers—including the stewards from Commercial Plastics.

It voted unanimously to set up a delegate Right to Work Committee affiliated to the Rank and File Organising Committee Campaign. This included delegates from the trade union bodies which sponsored the

meeting.

'They're clear that they're affiliating to action and not talk,' Ted said. He went on: 'It's important for the Committee to operate on two levels.

'Freedom of action for the unemployed who are providing the drive, but commitment of support and funds from the whole local network of trade union bodies.'

The Committee is now mailing other union bodies for affiliations, for the national march and rally against unemployment, and for concrete support for the local unemployed schoolgirl who's going on it.

The Committee is also working with the stewards from Commercial Plastics, and planning to act against threats of heavy redundancies at Woolwich Arsenal, Charlton and Parson's at Erith.

Ted Parker summed the situation up: 'A small group which knows where it's going and knows the importance of the rank and file can provide the driving force to draw the trade union movement into action.'

'A small group, by propaganda action, can also establish a feel for fighting back, so workers don't just expect to be laid off.'

EDINBURGH RIGHT TO WORK RALLY

Speakers: Harry McShane (secretary of the Scottish Unemployed Workers Movement in the Thirties), Bobby Buirds (chairman, Manchester Right to Work committee) and local speakers.

Wednesday 25 February,

7.30pm, Edinburgh and District Trades Council Club,

14 Picardy Place.

The insanity of unemployment...

'UNLESS WE CAN produce the money and goods with which to increase our living standards and improve our social services we shall not improve our services—we shall only talk about it.'

I take this pearl of wisdom from Chancellor Denis Healey's New Year's Day broadcast.

Prevented

The same Denis Healey presides over the economic policy that has produced one and a quarter million unemployed, one and a quarter million producers who are prevented from producing 'goods with which to increase our living standards'.

Or even to maintain them. For Healey warns

that real living standards will continue to fall 'for a few months yet'.

Is the problem really a shortfall of output? Is that why living standards are falling? Then there is a simple solution.

Put the unemployed to work. Not digging holes and filling them in again but productive work.

Couple together idle men and women and idle machines and you will have an immediate and massive jump in output.

You will also have an immediate possibility of raising living standards, not only for the unemployed who will get full pay, but also for others.

But this simple and obvious solution is not possible, say all the orthodox 'experts'. It is no use keeping men working in car factories if the demand for cars is not there.

The Steel Corporation, backed by the government, is calling for 44,000 redundancies in steel—44,000 more jobs destroyed—because

'the demand isn't there'.

At the same time, increasing unemployment puts a growing burden on state expenditure. So, say the 'experts', the welfare services must be cut. Because, with lower output and high unemployment 'we can't afford' so many teachers, health workers and so on.

These 'luxuries' must be cut back—and the unemployed totals swelled still further! The social wage must be cut, too.

Weakened

There was a time when the medical profession believed that practically all ills required treatment by bleeding. The unfortunate patients were subjected to repeated attacks by leeches, which further weakened them.

But it would be unfair to compare those doctors of yesterday with capitalism's economic 'experts' of today.

The old doctors were more rational. After all,

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Doctors used to believe that illness could be cured by bleeding the patient: but it would be unfair to compare them with capitalism's economic 'experts' of today. The doctors were more rational...

in a few cases—not many certainly—bleeding was actually beneficial, or so we are told.

Unemployment can never, in any circumstances, be beneficial to working people and their families. It is a pure evil.

Let us be absolutely clear about the purely economic meaning of unemployment.

Leave aside, for the time being, the human tragedy. Unemployment is sheer economic waste. Unemployment is the deliberate suppression of production, the deliberate impoverishment of the working population.

Deliberate? Yes, deliberate. For unemployment is not an act of God like a drought or a bad winter.

Unemployment is the result of human action; specifically it is the result of private production for profit and the government's policies designed to prop up private production for profit.

Enforced

In the interest of private profit—and the small minority of social parasites who live on it—men and women are kept in enforced idleness while they and others badly need the things they could have produced.

If we clear our minds of the fog of bamboozlement that TV and press generate daily, the nature of the problem and its solution becomes obvious.

Production needs to be organised around a plan based on human needs.

That plan, naturally, involves the full use of all available resources—including the entire potential workforce.

Involuntary unemployment is inconceivable. If it turns out that, on the basis of planned full employment, there are really too many workers in steel or car production, then they will be retrained for other work—which is always available.

Socialism

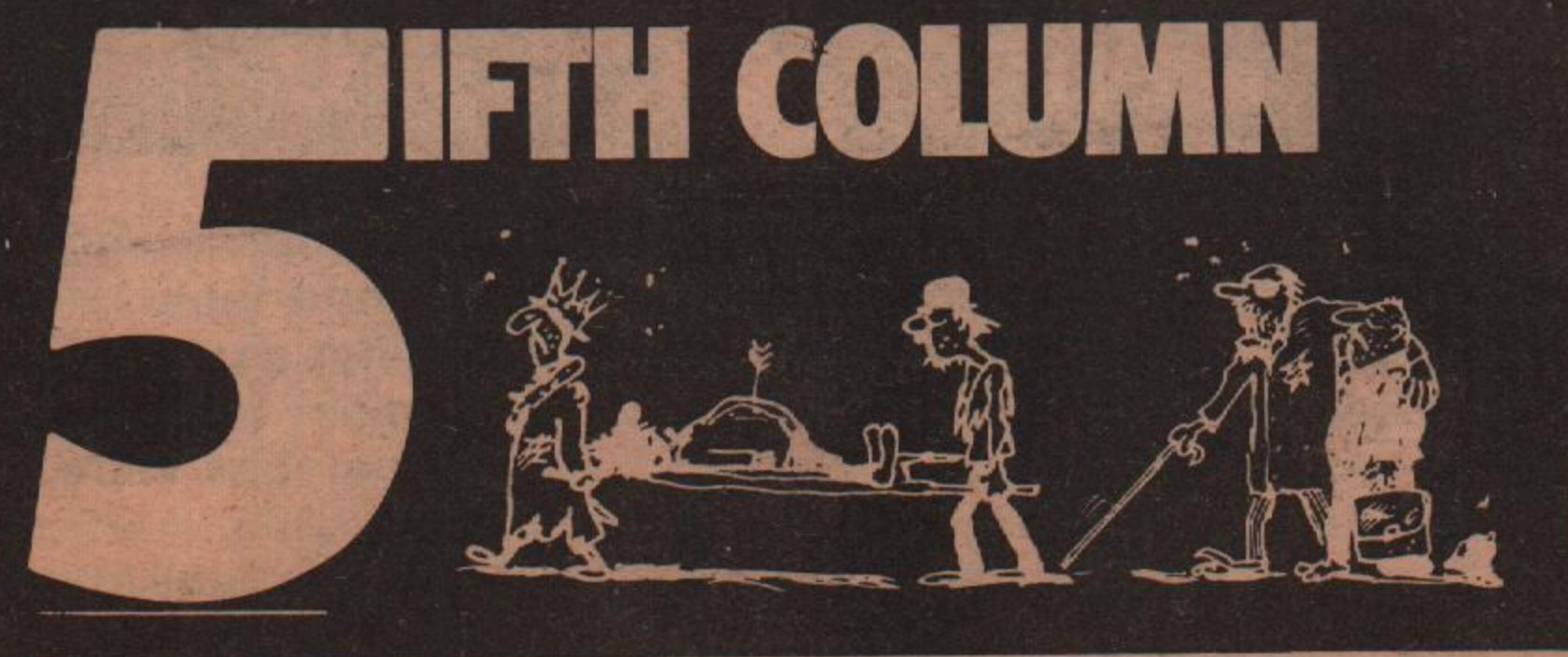
If, collectively, it is decided that too much is being produced overall, then hours are cut all round. This system is called socialism.

Is it really as simple as that? Surely there must be a snag.

Yes, there is a snag, all right. It is that all the political and propaganda institutions of our society are dedicated to maintaining, at whatever cost, the 'free enterprise' system which is properly called capitalism.

They, including the leaders of the Labour Party, are the problem.

They are not the doctors. They are the disease.



FIRST, for the good Christians the world over, the bad news: a heathen Communist has been elected mayor of Nazareth, where Jesus Christ was born. Now the good news: he has promised to keep politics out of his new job.

JUST a few weeks before it split asunder, the National Front brought out a new badge bearing the slogan Buy British. The badges were made, would you believe, in Italy...

A COPPER-BOTTOMED SCAB

SCABS ARMY—the obnoxious organisation set up by General Sir Walter Walker under the innocuous name of Civil Assistance—launched their Greater London branch just before Christmas. And there to give them a helping hand was no less than Leslie Male, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales.

Male roused a specially-invited audience (tickets only, security strict, though not strict enough to

keep out Fifth Column's under-cover correspondent) with talk of '30 years of leniency... misguided liberalism... and psychiatric rubbish'.

Speaking beside a montage showing the extent of 'communist infiltration' in Britain, he called for the restoration of capital punishment. He condemned the liberalising of the laws on abortion, homosexuality and prison reform.

And when a questioner attacked the National Council for Civil Liberties and called the BBC a 'disgusting left-wing organisation', Male agreed.

All of which is very interesting. Not only because

Male, laughably, insists that his talk was, like Civil Assistance, 'non-political'.

But, more importantly, because he—the leader of a senior section of the supposedly impartial British state machine—should be helping to promote an organisation whose clear aim is to break strikes.

Tackled the next day by a Fifth Column reporter, Male was unrepentant. The Police Federation's ruling body had, he said, approved his presence at the meeting...

GET ANY good Christmas presents this year? Jean Ford did—courtesy of the Thames Valley police.

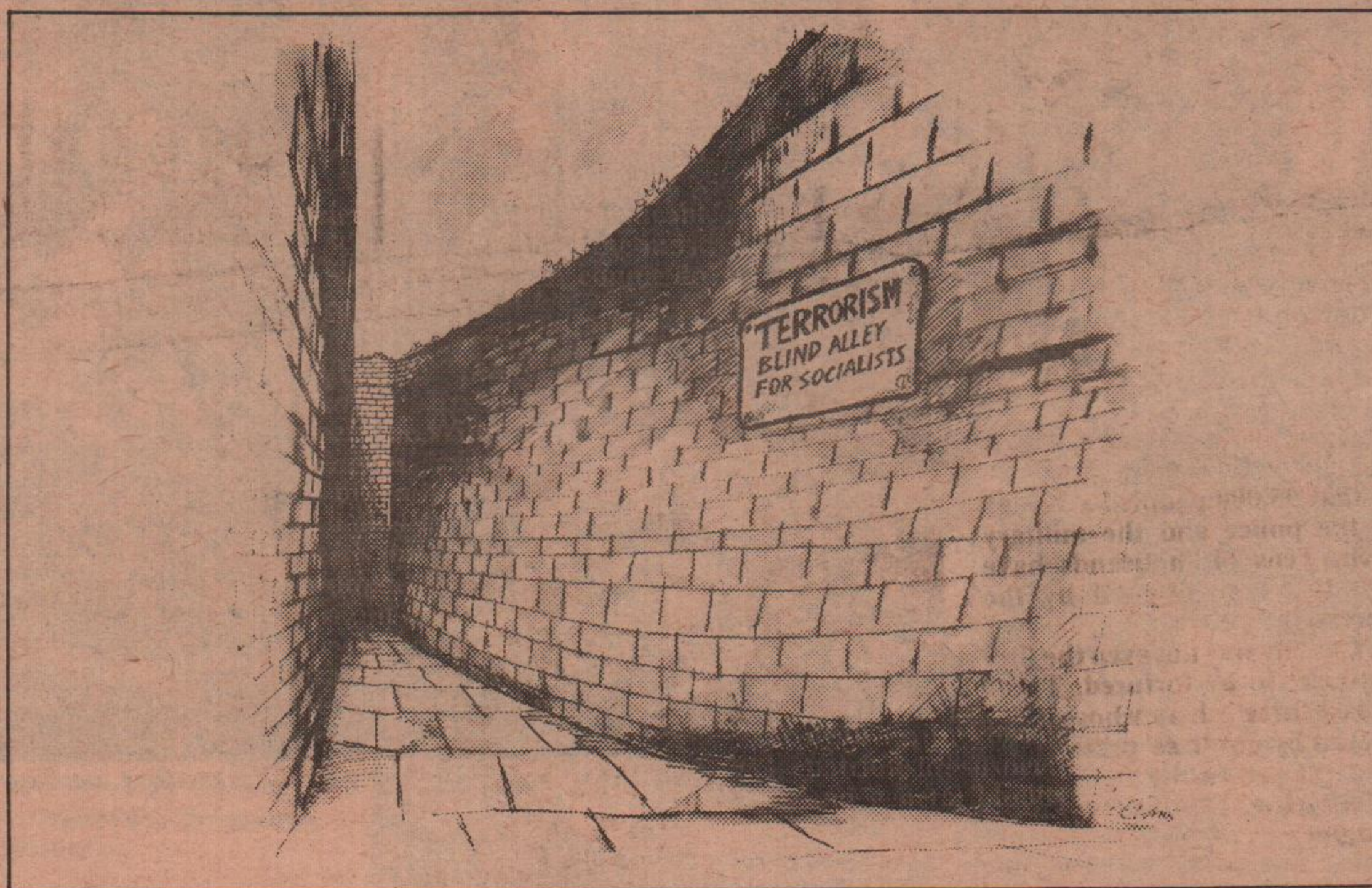
They arrested her in the early hours of Christmas Day for refusing to take a breath test, an offence carrying a fine of up to £50.

But Mrs Ford, far from being fined, was not even charged.

This seasonal goodwill by the constabulary was not unconnected, however, with the fact that Mrs Ford is the wife of Major-General Ford, commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

ANYONE who's ever turned on the radio and got Jimmy Young by mistake will know his politics is even more revolting than his singing. No surprise, then, that he was far from happy about joining the recent strike by BBC journalists.

Jimmy Young, a new recruit to the National Union of Journalists, whined and pleaded with its feeble general secretary Ken Morgan for special dispensation to work through the stoppage. Morgan, to his everlasting credit, refused.



INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH

TAILPIECE to Paul O'Flinn's review of *Jaws* (see page 11): an Australian has signed a £500,000 contract to fight a great white shark to the death.

The contest will take place in March in an underwater cage off Western Samoa in the Pacific. The 15 ft shark will be starved for 48 hours beforehand to make sure it's 'fighting fit'.

Plans are going ahead to screen the 'death match' by satellite in cinemas around the world. Top prices for seats are likely to be

around £10. Wonderfully civilising thing, private enterprise...

BAFFLED ABOUT ANGOLA? It's simple. There's goodies and baddies. The baddies are evil Marxists. The goodies are fighting nobly and single-mindedly for freedom.

Exactly what sort of freedom was illustrated recently when Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA (goodies), almost had his private plane shot down. Which could have given the game away, since it was put at his disposal by that well-known band of international freedom fighters, Lonrho.

I'm proud of our struggle for Socialism in Northern Ireland

By STAN ORME
Minister of State,
Northern Ireland Office

From Labour Weekly, 19 December: rumours that next week's Labour Weekly contains an interview with Johannes Balthazar Vorster entitled I'm Proud of Our Struggle for Racial Equality in South Africa have been denied.

International Socialism 84

REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS TODAY

AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

A DEBATE

Plus: Marxist economics, Notes of the Month

Available, price 30p (inc postage) from ISJ, 8 Cottons, Gardens, London E2

Portugal: Armed police kill four

From SW reporters in Lisbon

THE New Year in Portugal began with a massacre. Demonstrations were called on the afternoon on New Year's Day outside the prisons of Caxias and Custoias to demand the release of the revolutionary soldiers imprisoned after 25 November.

At Caxias 4000 workers were dispersed by commandos who rammed the crowd with armoured cars. They hacked at the demonstrators with their machine-gun butts and ammunition belts.

At Custoias 20,000 were dispersed when the GNR police opened fire, some from their knees, killing four and wounding seven. Two of those killed were workers as were five of the wounded. Many more were injured.

One of the wounded was a little girl, the youngest daughter of one of the revolutionary officers. She was shot in the back while fleeing the guns and horses of the GNR. The bullet ripped through her intestine.

Post-Mortem

There will be no independent inquiry into the shooting. The prison and civil authorities of Oporto claim that pistol shots were first fired from the crowd and that an attempt to invade the prison provoked the GNR.

In some eye-witness accounts neither of these are mentioned. In others both claims are flatly denied. The police have been put in charge of post mortems and bullet examinations.

To cloud the issue further the authorities have faked a story of a plot inside the prison to release the revolutionary soldiers. Only this story is being investigated—the inquiry is headed by a colonel in the army.

The only evidence cited as showing 'complicity' between the people inside the prison and the demonstrators is a slogan put at the bottom of their leaflets: 'Free the revolutionaries—fascists in prison'.

THE FIGHT BACK GROWS

THE Portuguese workers' fight back against the government policy of freezing wages and forcing up prices is gathering strength. Dock and ship workers have forced the government to renegotiate their wage agreement, despite the freeze. In the town of Sao Joao da Madeira the sewing machine factory of OLIVA has been occupied, and at the Lisbon Timex plant the workers have so far resisted the management demand for 700 sackings.

This trend can be expected to grow as workers understand what it means to have both price increases and a right-wing-run army and police that completely oppose all demands for wage increases or opposition to sackings.



Cypriots demonstrating in Athens last week against the continued imprisonment of their relatives in Turkish concentration camps. They marched to the British and American embassies to protest at the complicity of those governments in the occupation by Turkish troops of nearly half Cyprus. They also made known their feelings at the Friendship Pact that Russian premier Kosykin had just reached with the right-wing Turkish regime.

Suddenly the press discovers the torturers of Chile...

THE experience of Sheila Cassidy, the British doctor held by the Chilean secret police, has forced the press to recognise at last that people are being tortured in Chile.

But the torture is not new; it has been going on for more than two years, since the right-wing coup in September 1973.

A report of the Chilean churches suggests that 95,000 people have been held by the police and the military since then. Tens of thousands have been tortured—and ignored by the British press.

Sheila Cassidy was not even the first British subject to be tortured. There were at least three others whose cases were ignored by our 'free' press—that of Father Woodward, a Catholic priest, of Mrs Inez Beausire, wife of a Bristol engineer, and of Brian Pollitt, a university lecturer.

The majority of the British press supported the coup which overthrew Allende and brought the torturers to power. Throughout the last months of the Allende government they carried article after article blaming the Chilean left for the economic crisis of the country and more or less openly calling for the right wing to take action. The Times, the Sunday Times, The Economist all praised the generals when they finally moved.

They never mention that support now. Maybe they are afraid people will recognise that many of the right wing forces the press praise so much in countries such as Portugal or Angola model themselves on the Chilean junta.



Dr Cassidy after her release

THE British press, prodded by last week's release of Dr Sheila Cassidy, have suddenly 'discovered' what every socialist has tried to make known for two years—that people are being tortured in Chile.

They also, miraculously, made the further discovery that yet another British subject is being held hostage by a barbaric South American regime.

It took them six weeks to notice that Richard Whitecross, a publishing rep in Argentina, had been seized and held without being charged, along with 12 other people, including his wife Cristina.

When, three years ago, Sir Geoffrey

THE Labour government made a token gesture after the truth came out about the torture of Sheila Cassidy. It withdrew the British ambassador from Chile—for a couple of days. But its actions of the past two years have in fact served to encourage the torturers.

In opposition, Labour spoke about stopping arms sales to the junta. In power they have continued those arms sales.

In opposition they called for an end to economic aid to Chile. In power they have done nothing about the failure of the junta to pay its debts—although the junta has the money to buy more arms for repression and to pay compensation to firms such as ITT for losses of profits during the Allende government.

The behaviour of the Foreign Office was summed up by The Observer Latin American correspondent, Hugh O'Shaunessy, on Sunday: 'The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has given the junta the idea that while maintaining an ostensibly reproachful attitude, Britain would accept any indignity, provided that British commercial assets like Shell, Unilever, Lloyd's Bank and the British-owned railway in Northern Chile were not touched.'

British trade unionist held in Argentina

Jackson, the British ambassador in Uruguay, was held hostage by the Tupamaros guerrillas, it was almost impossible to pick up a paper without being assailed by news of his plight.

Victim

But Richard Whitecross is a mere trade unionist and his captors, the Argentinian government, are legalised terrorists. Whitecross and his fellow-prisoners are said to have committed the outrageous crime of helping Chilean refugees.

Such are the links between the secret police of the two countries that

many refugees have been returning to Chile because it is safer than Argentina.

Fellow members of Richard Whitecross' ASTMS office branch at the Oxford University Press in London picketed the Foreign Office before Christmas to demand the sort of action it took over the Jackson case. But so far the Foreign Office has done no more than call in an Argentinian Embassy official for a chat.

Messages of support, and contributions can be sent to the Whitecross Defence Committee, c/o David Sawyer, 37 Dover Street, London, W1 (phone 01-629 8494).



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WOMEN'S VOICE, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Bloody Biased Commentary

BBC

ANGOLA The riches at stake

ARMY MEN BEHIND THE NEWS

by Paul Foot

DID you watch the BBC's spectacular New Year current affairs programme, *This Year, Next Year*, on 28 December? It was billed in the *Radio Times* as a round-up of the world flashpoints, spiced with independent comments from BBC correspondents all over the world.

In fact, the programme was inspired by the Foreign Office. The idea for the programme came from top men there, when the dutiful BBC news producers of the programme approached the Foreign Office for the 'official view' of the world.

There followed the usual round of entertainment for BBC producers, including the standard lunch at L'Escargot, the chic Soho restaurant where the Foreign Office does most of its lunching.

Polite

Entertainer-in-chief was Brian Cartledge, head of the Foreign Office's Russian and Eastern European section.

In their delightfully polite way, the Foreign Office men hinted that a good subject for the programme could be 'detente' between East and West. They specifically suggested some 'key areas' of detente—Somalia, where the Russians were digging in, South Korea, 'threatened by Communist hordes', Panama, just for balance, where the Americans were training anti-Red forces, Turkey, Yugoslavia, or Russia itself.

To tell the truth, the BBC producers hadn't seriously considered the crisis in Somalia, or South Korea, or Panama for their programme. But after the Foreign Office 'briefing' (and the lunches) they suddenly realised the 'deep-seated importance of these key areas'.

Six films were made, and shown—from Somalia, Panama, South Korea, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Russia.

All led by implication to the same Foreign Office conclusion—that 'detente' should not be used as an excuse to run down British defences.

Cold-war

The programme, which was meant to be about the world's flashpoints, hardly mentioned one. The great world events of the past year—the end of the war in Vietnam, the start of the war in Angola, the revolutionary developments in Portugal—scarcely got a mention. What was billed as 'independent comment' became two hours of stale Cold War propaganda.

Is this surprising? Not at all. For one of the strangest facts about the BBC News Department is the large number of important people in it who are working in one way or another for British intelligence.

The Head of Administration, BBC TV News, suitably called Peter Bond, is a major in the Territorial Army intelligence. The deputy editor of BBC News, Alan Protheroe, is a captain in the same army.

These two recently sat on the appointments panel for a new BBC News Defence Correspondent. Candidates were asked about 'Inside Right', the recent massive exercise by the Territorial Army to 'put down' a hypothetical insurrection. Only one man could answer



News editor Derrick Amooore—two years in the SAS



TV head of administration Peter Bond—a major in Territorial Army Intelligence



Westminster correspondent Peter Hill—an officer in the Territorials' naval intelligence

the question properly: Christopher Wain, who also serves as an intelligence officer in the Territorial Army.

To no one's surprise, Wain got the job.

The Westminster correspondent of BBC News, Peter Hill, is an officer in the Territorials' naval intelligence. The editor, Derrick Amooore, served a three-year commission with the SAS, the 'active arm' of British intelligence.

There are many other examples, which Socialist Worker will reveal from time to time in the future as a guide to all those who watch telly and wonder how newsmen can always be so objective without hurting the feelings of anyone in high places.

PORTUGAL TWO FIGHT THE SACK

By Jenny Jackson

'WHEN you come to work at the BBC, you must realise who you're working for. It's like Voice of America or Radio Moscow.'

That's what Jorge Ribeiro was told by his boss when he worked as a programme assistant in the Portuguese section of the BBC external service.

He worked there for seven years. Antonio Cartaxo worked there for twelve years. Both were dismissed in October.

This may seem surprising, since both had their work commended in their annual reports last summer.

So what happened to make the BBC change its tune?

Winston Churchill MP came back from Portugal last June with complaints—from Socialist Party leader Mario Soares among others—about BBC bias in its news coverage of Portugal. A week later the BBC started building up its case.

'They started saying things like: "Why don't you resign? You might find your opinions incompatible with working here. It would be a honourable decision for you to leave", said Ribeiro.

After the meeting of European social democrats in Stockholm last summer, Labour Home Secretary James Callaghan ordered the BBC to increase its main coverage on Portugal by 50 per cent. They did—but no new staff were hired. In fact, two of the six in the Portuguese section were suspended.

'They don't need outright censorship at the BBC', said Ribeiro. 'It's all geared one way—there are editors, sub-editors, reporters, correspondents, programme organisers, the head of the service, the controller. We rely on press reports from the correspondents. Often we don't get information we need. There's a lot of self-censorship. You don't write about what you feel might cause trouble.'

Ribeiro and Cartaxo are appealing against their sacking. The Television Centre branch of the film and TV union (ACTT) has passed a resolution condemning the political victimisation and calling for their reinstatement. Judith Hart MP is taking up the issue of right-wing bias in the BBC. Needless to say, no one has been sacked because of that.

Messages of support—especially from newspaper and TV workers—should be sent to Media Support Group, 12 Little Newport Street, London W1, and letters of protest to the Director General, BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1.

OIL, diamonds, copper and iron ore, these are the spoils that have brought South African troops and American mercenaries recruited by the CIA to Angola. Behind their intervention stands the power of the big companies, British, American and European, that have systematically exploited Africa for the past 100 years.

Many of these companies were behind the explosion in the Congo in 1960 as they fought for control of the rich Katanga copper belt. The backing for the right-wing FNLA comes from Zaire. When the press says Angola could be repeat the Congo bloodbath, they know the same puppeteers are pulling the strings.

The key link is the British-built Benguela Railway, export route through Angola for this copper. It is run and owned by London-based Tanganyika Concessions, which is but one strand in the web of copper producers. Another is the Belgium-based Union Miniere, which stage-managed the foreign intervention in the Congo (now Zaire), co-operating with the CIA to ensure the death of nationalist leader Patrice Lumumba and the installation of the American and Belgium-backed dictatorship of Mobutu.

Profits for these companies are blocked

because the Benguela Railway by the MPLA government of partly by the UNITA forces losing 125,000 dollars—makes it well worth paying few dollars to 'win it for the Biggest supporter of intervention is Anglo-American giant whose shares are mostly British investors for the profit too has a big interest in Railway and its diamond mines are threatened with nationalisation MPLA.

The South African invasion south was launched from Namibia, where the British the biggest exploiter of minerals is hoping to move in the invasion force to win the minerals Angola, mainly iron ore.

These cheap raw materials in human misery—are what British companies are open Africa. The ore from RTZ of British Steel Corporation plus to British Leyland (South others).

The American Gulf Oil power to undermine the request of the CIA, it has had of its 120 wells off M Cabinda, cutting off royal year gave the MPLA 420 nearly half their budget.

How unions turned

THE Labour government won a major victory for its strategy of deliberately increasing unemployment last week, as resistance to the 8000 redundancies at Chrysler collapsed.

At a succession of mass meetings senior stewards gave official recommendations to accept the plan. They gave the impression that this was the feeling of the stewards' committee. This was not true. Although every senior convenor in Chrysler was in favour of the plan, the majority of manual stewards were against.

It was the deliberate scheming and manipulation by full-time officials that turned this majority resistance into a recommendation for acceptance. The lead to the full-time officials was given by the leading Broad Left member in the Engineering Union, Bob Wright.

Ryton, Coventry, is the only one of the three main Chrysler plants where the stewards' vote to accept the rescue plan was honestly carried without dispute. Even at Ryton the vote was 43-43, with the chairman's casting vote in favour of surrender.

At Stoke, Coventry, 40 stewards voted for the plan, 72 voted against. The plan was carried by the device of taking the vote on two amendments hostile to the plan at the same time as the vote on the main resolution. The vote split 40-36-36.

At Linwood in Scotland the vote to accept the plan was carried by 156 votes to 129. But this only happened because 30 of the white-collar union ASTMS, representing just 400 workers, and some other white-collar workers' representatives were specially brought in to the meeting to swell the vote for acceptance. Otherwise the vote

REPORT
BY
PETER
CLARK



would definitely other way. The Lin John Carty, avoid at the next step simply by not turning

Difficult

It is notorious oppose a recommendation mass meeting. The the microphones take questions, speeches of opposition one has been won

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Big Red Diary, £1 postfree 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.

RF HANDS OFF PORTUGAL CAMPAIGN

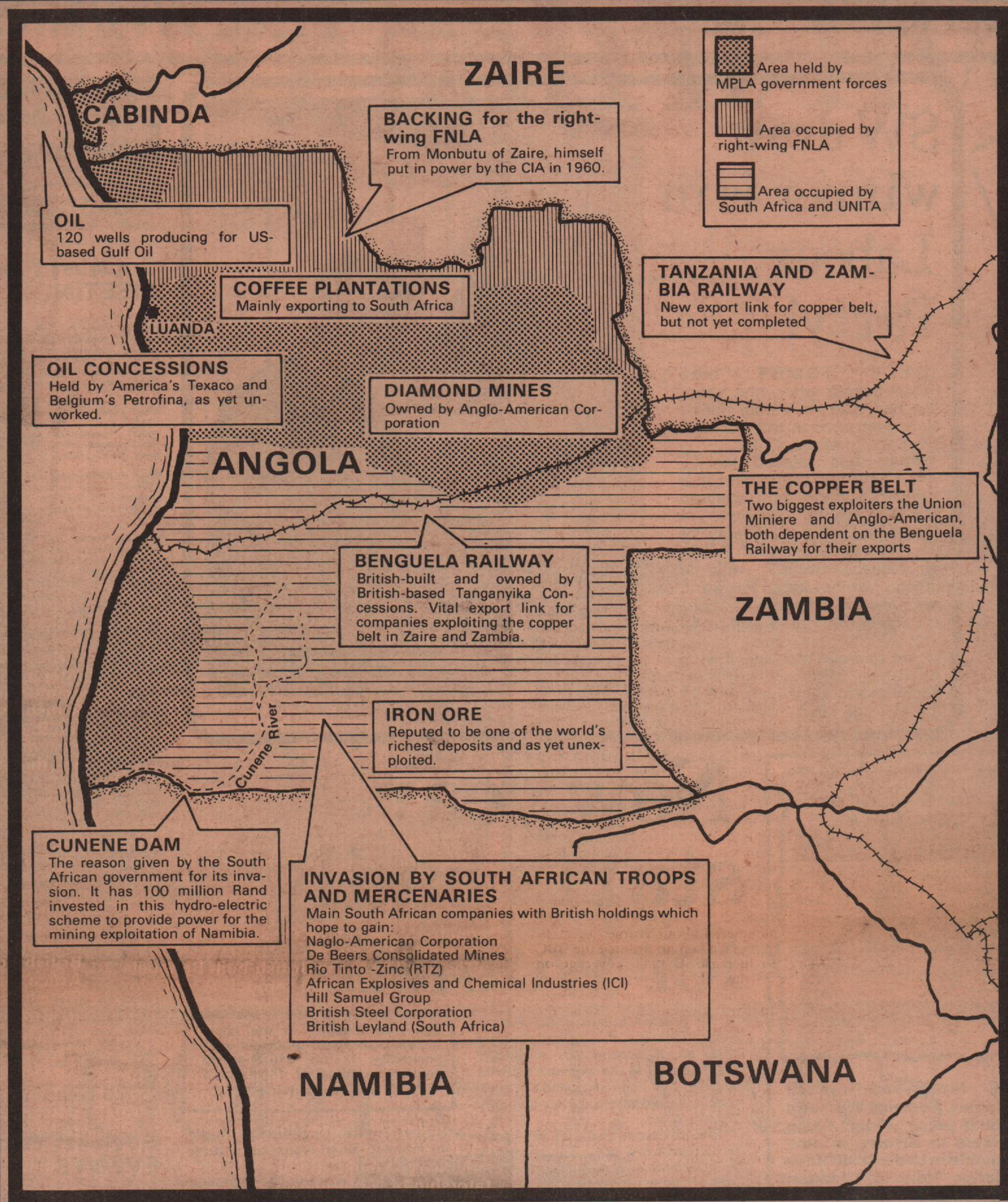
HANDS OFF PORTUGAL

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

10p a copy (plus 6½p postage)—or 12 copies for £1 post free

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.

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



'Hundreds of American ex-servicemen have been sent to Angola and more have been trained to go. The CIA is indirectly recruiting American ex-servicemen, training them, dispatching them to South Africa and contributing towards their pay via funds for Zaire and Angola's two pro-West factions, FNLA and UNITA.'

Christian Science Monitor, 2 January

'The carrier Independence, the cruiser Boston, and three destroyers have been placed on full alert. They have been given the mission of flying tactical air support strikes over Angola. The Independence, which carries 90 F-4 Phantom jets, has been armed with several tons of napalm, Sidewinder missiles and anti-personnel fragmentation bombs.'

'US spotter planes are now flying missions over Angola from Zaire. These planes are used for spotting troop movements and other targets.'

'US cargo planes are air-dropping supplies directly to South African columns operating on the central front.'

Information leaked to the American Committee for Africa by a high official in the US Department of Defence.

'The Ford administration's initial authorisation for substantial CIA financial operations inside Angola came last January, more than two months before the first significant Soviet build-up, well-informed officials report.'

'The administration's high-level intelligence review panel, the 40 Committee, at its January meeting agreed to permit the CIA to provide 300,000 dollars clandestinely to Holden Roberto [of the FNLA]. At that time, Mr Roberto, whose links with the CIA began in 1961, was on a 10,000 dollar a year CIA retainer for "intelligence collection", the officials said.'

New York Times, 19 December

'It would appear that South African regular army units are involved on the FNLA/UNITA side deep in Angola. There is strong evidence that the flying column that took Mocamedes, Benguela and Lobito in mid-November was a wholly South African operation: armoured cars with helicopter support took the town with the 'victorious' troops of their African allies coming in rapidly thereafter.'

Financial Times' Johannesburg correspondent, 29 December.

... is held partly of Angola and The railway is a day—which mercenaries a e West'. South African can, the mining ch beloved by ts they bring. It the Benguela ines in Angola isation by the sion from the om occupied -based RTZ is ral riches. RTZ e wake of the nerals of South —paid for only y many other ating in South an go direct to ants there, then (Africa) among s also using its MPLA—at the ted production PLA-controlled ties which last million dollars,

Resistance to defeat at Chrysler



dancies. Yet the position of the Linwood shop stewards' committee at this stage was of total opposition to the plan, of support for an occupation of the plant if jobs were not guaranteed. Carty's remarks helped to spread confusion and a general feeling that the plan had to be accepted in some form. The convenors took some time to come out openly for the plan. The real stampede of support came from national trade union officials, led by Bob Wright, a member of the Engineering Union executive and a leading member of the Broad Left.

Scrap

At the first negotiations, Wright spelt out his position when he said: 'I suppose I'm the moderate now'. He made his main fear clear when he warned that the Tories and right-wing Labour MPs wanted to scrap the plan anyway. But it doesn't follow that Wright actually believes in the plan. He said: 'Even if it only saves some jobs for two years, it will be worth it ... Chrysler is not the issue I would choose to fight unemployment on.'

The negotiations about the deal have won almost no concessions at all. At the meeting last Monday Griffiths, for Chrysler management made it clear that all Wright's

talk of the company's 'limited flexibility' was hot air. He said: 'If I had any great area of flexibility I would not have used the term non-negotiable at the last meeting.'

Wright was supported throughout by Granville Hawley of the Transport Workers Union, who summed up his position on Monday as: 'It's the best deal—it's better not to lose all 25,000.'

Roy Grantham, general secretary of the office workers' union APEX, was even more profound. Parliament had passed the deal and therefore everyone had to accept it, he said. 'There is no way in which we can change Parliament's mind.'

Of the national officials, only John Forrester of the white collar engineers (TASS) opposed the plan. But a surprising number of local officials from the EETPU, ASTMS and TASS voted against. Wright was so alarmed by this that after insisting that officials had to vote he insisted instead that they shouldn't.

Wright said it was 'not a feasible proposition' to challenge the company on the scale of the sackings. Instead he told them: 'You've got to justify every redundancy on an individual basis, and we will only challenge where necessary.'

The one threat Wright made throughout the negotiations must have cheered up Chrysler no end. If

really pressed, he was prepared, he said, to go to the government and ask for more money for the company.

To see the extent of the betrayal you have only to imagine what would have happened if Bob Wright had turned his conference speeches into action and campaigned against the redundancies. He could have waged the sort of campaign that the Yorkshire miners waged around their pay claims in 1972 and 1974.

Lesson

Can anyone doubt there would have been a massive rejection of the government's slaughter of jobs?

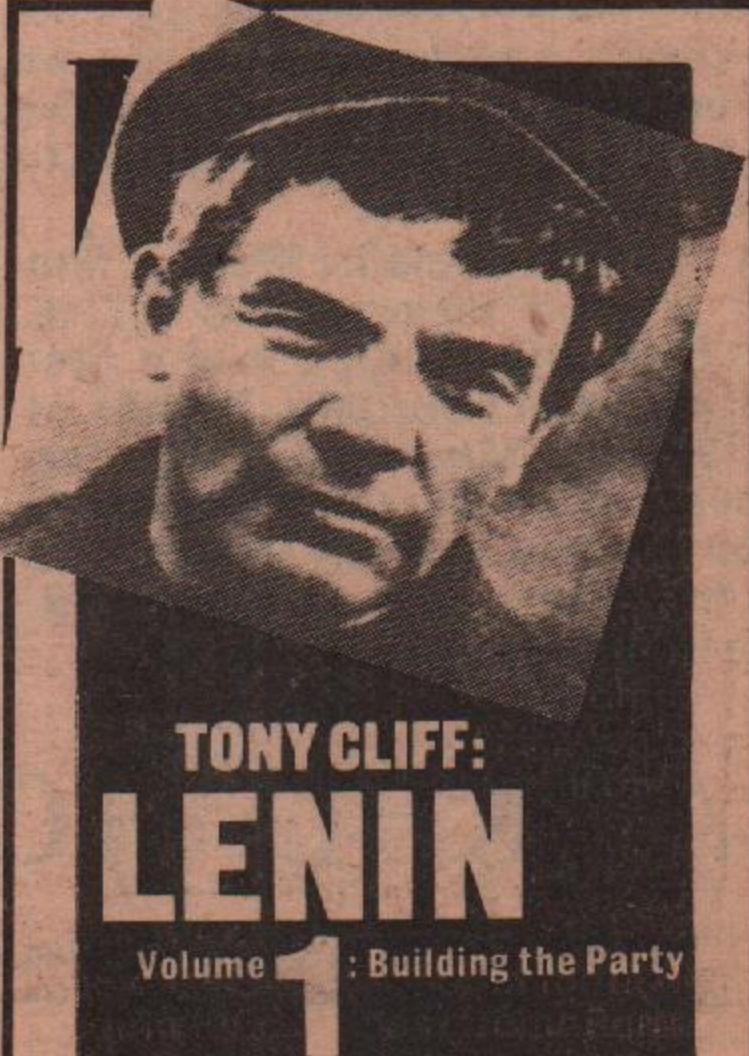
There is an important lesson here for other workers facing the fate of those at Chrysler—in Rolls-Royce, Plesseys, STC, the steel industry. In each case men whose politics are essentially the same as Wright and the Chrysler convenors will speak at first about 'saving jobs'. In each case, given the chance, they will then negotiate those jobs away.

That is why the main fight for the right to work must come from rank and file groups of workers, who do not wait for the full-time officials to give the word, but insist that only through militant action can sackings be fought.

HANDS OFF ANGOLA!

United States out!
South Africa out!
VICTORY TO MPLA

Demonstrate and picket US embassy and Gulf Oil in London. Wednesday 21 January, 2pm, assemble Lincoln's Inn Fields (Holborn tube)
Called by NOISS. All London and Home Counties IS students to support



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

... have gone the Linwood convenor, ed another vote wards' meeting ing up. ly difficult to endation at a platform have d don't have to never mind ition. Since no king in Chrysler



SW draw winner is in Labour Party!

JOYCE TOMBE was flabbergasted when she heard she had won the colour television, first prize in the Socialist Worker Christmas Draw. Joyce has worked for 12 years as a night attendant in a children's home for Cleveland County Social Services in Teesside. She's a member of the National Union of Public Employees. She is also a member of the Labour Party and her husband, Paddy, is a Labour councillor on Langburgh District Council. She told our reporter: 'I wish Socialist Worker and all Socialist Worker supporters all the best for 1976.'



Joyce Tombe and husband Paddy—a photo taken on their 25th wedding anniversary

A FILM TO HELP FIGHT THE CUTS

FIGHT THE CUTS, the new 55-minute film made with the help of the Rank and File Organising Committee, is to receive a series of showings in Manchester in the final week of January.

The local Committee against the Cuts is organising a lunchtime showing in hospitals throughout the area, while there are to be evening showings for teachers, local government workers, students and on a housing estate.

The showings are being arranged by the Manchester Socialist Worker agitprop group.

The film is meant for people anywhere who are fighting the most savage cuts in working-class living standards since the 1930s. But it's not a film about the 'helpless, hopeless victims' of the so-called welfare state. It is made with the participation of health workers, social workers, teachers, tenants, and trade unionists in the Transport Workers, Engineers and Postal Workers unions who are actively fighting these cuts.

They explain how they are organising locally, in London's East End, in Glasgow, in Newcastle, in Sheffield. They call for action—for the forming of rank and file trade union bodies to fight the cuts.

As Ted Jones, of the Isle of Dogs Action Group, says: 'It always affects areas like this: working-class areas in Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester—don't matter where it is. We are already at the bottom of the barrel or bottom of a well, if you get a shower you're the first one to drown.'

'And this is what's happening. Cuts are coming now in a shower and we are beginning to drown. What we've got to do is learn to swim. And learn to swim bloody quickly.'

A national Socialist Worker film tour will be taking FIGHT THE CUTS to major cities in the first two weeks of February. Details of this and the Manchester showing in next week's Socialist Worker. Book the film to show to rank and file trade unionists in your area. Hire is free. Phone 01-794 2825.



THE latest edition of Chingari, Socialist Worker's sister paper for Asian workers in Britain, is now available in Urdu. It includes a letter from a Chingari supporter to jail Shrewsbury picket Des Warren, which ends with a poem written in jail by a radical poet in Pakistan. Copies 5p each from Chingari (Urdu), 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

New year starts badly for women

JUST before Christmas the occupation at Personna in Scotland finished with an agreement for voluntary redundancies in the women's sections in 1976. The Ladbroke strike is over, with increased severance pay and only 28 jobs saved.

In both cases the women have got a particularly raw deal. The voluntary redundancies at Personna mean those jobs are gone for ever that is only the thin end of the wedge. Where those women go, others will be expected to follow.

The tragedy is that there were no women organised to picket the factory, make clear when it came to the mass meeting that 'voluntary' redundancies only mean other people's jobs gone, that the occupation must go on. At Ladbroke the build-up of

The next meeting of the International Socialists women's sub-committee is on Saturday 10 January, starting at 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2

support for this magnificent struggle for jobs and union organisation came too late.

The rate of unemployment among women has more than doubled over the past six months, rising twice as that for men. Women have to organise to fight for their right to work.

School-leavers

The Right to Work march in two months time gives us the opportunity we need to raise all the problems facing school-leavers, nurses and teachers, engineers and textile workers, women who can't get jobs, and those that re being made redundant.

We have to ensure unemployed women workers are on the march, that we organise sponsorships, raise money all over the country in support. We are all affected by unemployment wherever it comes, and we all have to organise against it.

As the government spending cuts take effect, we must campaign in education, the health service, social services and everywhere they affect our lives.

Abortion

On 3 April is another demonstration planned against restrictive legislation on—we have to ensure the trade union movement honours its 1975 resolution to campaign for abortion on request.

There is plenty to discuss and decide. The agenda of the IS women's sub-committee on Saturday will start with Women and the Right to Work Campaign, followed by The Fight against the Cuts and The Abortion Campaign in 1976. A pooled fare system will be operated. Every IS district, branch and trade union fraction must send a delegate. If you cannot send anyone you must let us know before Saturday.



HURRY, hurry, hurry. There are still places left for the Socialist Worker rally in Skegness next Easter. The rally is from Friday 16 to Monday 19 April, Easter weekend. The inclusive cost for adults is £16, which includes the cost of all meals, accommodation and entertainment. Children are free. Ask your local Socialist Worker seller for details now. Local rally organisers MUST send in all completed forms now to Skegness Rally, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Late bookings may be too late—there is a limit on the number of places available.

PACKED HOUSE FOR SAM THE MAN

A FANTASTIC evening of socialist entertainment was organised recently at Manchester Polytechnic Union when CAST theatre group performed their latest play, Sam the Man, to a packed audience of 300 people. The play centres round the character of Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins, a Labour MP with 'left' ideals who is unable to carry them out within the system.

The play, often hilarious, left no doubt in anyone's minds about the impossibility of socialism ever coming through parliament. Judging from the audience's enthusiastic response, we will be seeing more of Cast in Manchester. The evening ended with Alex Glasgow's singing, including 'Close the Coalhouse Door' and the 'ABC of Communism'—

which was especially requested by a six-year-old boy who asked: 'Can you sing the song that has "B is for the boss who's a bastard in it"?' After expenses had been paid, the concert raised £70 for the Manchester Socialist and Trade Union Bookshop, which has provided us with a much-needed duplicator.

Socialist Worker WHAT'S ON

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

Socialist Worker MEETINGS

NORTH LONDON SW public meeting: Portugal today: Lessons for revolutionary socialists. Speakers include members of Rank and File stewards' delegation recently back from Portugal. Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17. Wednesday 14 January, 7.30pm. All welcome.

EAST LONDON Socialist Worker public meeting: The CIA in Britain. Speaker: Philip Agee (former CIA agent). Thursday 22 January, 7.45pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, E13 (five minutes from Abbey Arms, Barking Road).

HIGH PEAK Socialist Worker supporters' meeting: 1976—the way forward for socialists. Friday 16 January, 7pm, The Swan, Newton, New Mills (by A6 traffic lights). All supporters urged to attend.

Socialist Worker and Chingari public meeting: Southall Indian Workers Association: The need for a workers' leadership. Speakers: Joginder Kaur, Jaswant Atwal, Mota Singh, Mick Brightman. Southall Town Hall, Saturday 10 January, 7pm.

IPSWICH Socialist Worker meeting: The Fight against Labour's Tory policies. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 14 January, 8pm, The Station Hotel, Ipswich.

BLACKBURN Socialist Worker public meeting: Unemployment—time to fight back. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm, New Central Library.

NORTH KENT Socialist Worker Day School: Sunday 18 January, 2pm-7pm, The Cricketers, Arthur Street, Gravesend, Kent. Topics: Reform or Revolution, The Revolutionary Party, The Rank and File Movement. All SW readers welcome.

Socialist Worker supporters in ASTMS will be meeting in Digbeth Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday 25 January. Discussion on the annual delegate conference.

TEESSIDE SW Public Meeting: Unemployment and the Labour government. Speaker: Paul Foot. Friday 16 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.

Socialist Worker EVENTS

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BLACK POWER? Forty-minute cassette of Fred Hooper, trade union militant and a member of the American International Socialists. Exceptional account of the black movement in the States. Ideal for SW discussion meetings. £1.60 including postage. Sixty-minute cassette, SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION, still available—also £1.60. From Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

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.

FRENCH COUPLE, speak English, urgently need a room in London. Contact Geoff Brown. Phone: Gerrards Cross 86706.

COUPLE seek unfurnished flat. East/SE London. Phone 01-856 1656/01-851 1072 (evenings).

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

NOISS

NOISS Film tour: Angola in Struggle. 26 January to 6 February, calling at colleges all over country. Watch this space for details.

NOISS weekend school for southern colleges: Sessions on IS perspectives, international and student work, and practical sessions. 17-18 January, Portsmouth Poly. Phone 0705-819141 for further details.

IS meetings

INNER WEST LONDON District IS meeting for all members: Wednesday 14 January, 7.30pm, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, W6. All members to attend.

NORTH LONDON district IS meeting of all members: Bruce Grove School, Sperling Road, N17, Saturday 10 January, 2pm. All members to attend.

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.

Their spirit lives on

MARGARET THATCHER, Mary Whitehouse and Marie Patterson are recommended to turn their eyes well away from the pages of *Shoulder to Shoulder**.

ANN FLYNN reviews a new book on the Suffragettes

did not find it convenient to extend democracy by giving the right to vote to women between the age of 21 and 30 until 1929. And just for our record, it was not until 1944 that the businessmen's wives lost their double votes—one for the home and one for the business. The double vote for businessmen and the universities continued until 1948.

Reality

That way they may continue to remain genteel, ignorant and windy, their digestive tracts undisturbed by the reality of history. *Shoulder to Shoulder* is the story of the struggle to obtain the vote for women. In the course of that struggle more than 1000 women

went to jail, endured police assault and forcible feeding. There were rich women, poor women, well known and unknown, young and old. As prisoners, they were not allowed to communicate with their friends, contrary to law. They were refused bail and hundreds were forcibly fed, contrary to law. Some were to die

in that struggle.

Their battle endured from 1903 until 1918. It was a long, cruel, cat and mouse, bloody process. Even by 1918, the right to vote only applied to all males over 21 and to females over 30.

Ever grudging, the Mother of Parliaments

Qualification

During the 1914-18 war, the residence qualification of a year meant that soldiers abroad and working men who had moved to different parts of the country had, by serving the nation, lost the right to vote.

Attacking a Suffrage Bill before Parliament in 1910, our much venerated Mr Winston Churchill said he did so because the class of women who would be enfranchised under it did not suit him.

Some women ought to be enfranchised, he said. The best plan would be to select some of the best women of all classes on a consideration of property, education and earning.

So much for democracy.

Struggle

The book is a glorious record, mainly of the people in England. The Scots were also deep in the struggle.

In Dundee, when forcible feeding of suffragettes was threatened, 2000 men assembled in protest and secured the release of the hunger strikers.

Happenings sprung up all over. Turf was cut in an Aberdeen park and a bowling green in Glasgow.

No forcible feeding was inflicted in Scotland. A triumph for deeds, not words.

The living link between these women and the George Davis campaigners now is clear for us to see. So, too, is the anti-apartheid struggle.

The fight to free the dockers was won when the trade union movement showed its strength.

Fight

The Clay Cross councillors are suffering the same enforced bankruptcy as Frederick Pethick-Lawrence, the barrister ordered to pay the Crown's costs of the famous Suffrage Conspiracy case in 1913. Now, as then, Authority behaves like Czars.

But we can move those raised in authority over us. Protest and action, a force the will of the people. It is our fight and we should mean to win.

Midge Mackenzie's splendid book is expensive. Perhaps branches might consider buying a copy and circulating it. The illustrations are fine, sensitively chosen and movingly alive.

It is a big book and one that deserves a big circulation.

* *Shoulder to Shoulder*, by Midge Mackenzie (Penguin, £3.50). Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, NA.



The strong arm of the state: suffragettes faced violence from the police—and prison authorities

BLOODY SHARKS...

JAWS IS a film about fishing. Seriously. Admittedly it's a big fish (a Great White Shark in fact) but it's still a film about fishing. Briefly what happens is that this fish—sorry shark—starts eating people at a holiday beach in Massachusetts. So three men in a boat go out and kill it. End of movie. Time taken: 125 minutes. Looking at that brief summary, two significant points emerge. First is the fact that for the most part there are no women in the film. A couple do make brief appearances.

TAKE IT AS RED

JAWS will bite your wallet and numb your brain

by PAUL O'FLINN

Wayne used to kiss when he came home from a hard day at the office killing Indians and minding the nation's business.

For the moment they seem to have disappeared. If you want to be billed as a movie star these days you have to be a man or preferably several men.

For which state of affairs I blame all this women's lib nonsense. Women have ruined their commercial image. They've become politically controversial and so they've been dropped into Hollywood's 'Taboo' tray long inhabited by trade unionists and pinks of all sorts—subjects not to be dealt with because their apparent lack of patriotism, suspect enthusiasm for free enterprise and general bloody mindedness mean they're no

longer a source of either simply family entertainment or good dirty fun.

And if you can't provide these things you can get the hell out of the picture, women, and don't come back until you've learned to behave yourself properly (or, rather, improperly) again. Doris Day, where are you?

But if you can't make movies about women any more you have a real problem, because they're more than half the human race. One solution to the problem—and this is the second significant thing about Jaws—is the solution pioneered by the appalling Walt Disney. You make films about animals.

You must have noticed how the media are chin-deep in animals these days. You can scarcely move in W H Smith's without knocking over piles of books about bunnies (Watership Down) and bunnies' friends (three books about vets by James Herriot have been bestsellers for more than six months)

RUBBISH

For movie moguls the neat thing about this animal rubbish is that you can either drop 'society' altogether and just present a Timeless Tale of Man and Nature, or you can, as Walt Disney does all the time, use the animals to get across a few boring right-wing morals that wouldn't stand up for five minutes if portrayed by human beings.

Also a giant octopus is probably not a member of a trade union so you can get away with paying him peanuts or whatever it is that a giant octopus eats.

In Jaws there is a tiny vestige of a real issue. The businessmen who run the resort town want the shark story played down and the beaches to stay open to keep the tourists and their dollars flowing in. The townspeople whose kids are being eaten tend to disagree.

But this issue vanishes once you move comfortably offshore and spend the bulk of the movie putting the men against the shark in a timeless, mindless battle.

You could say that that's what people like—they want offshore movies that take them out of all the depressing problems that fill their daily lives.

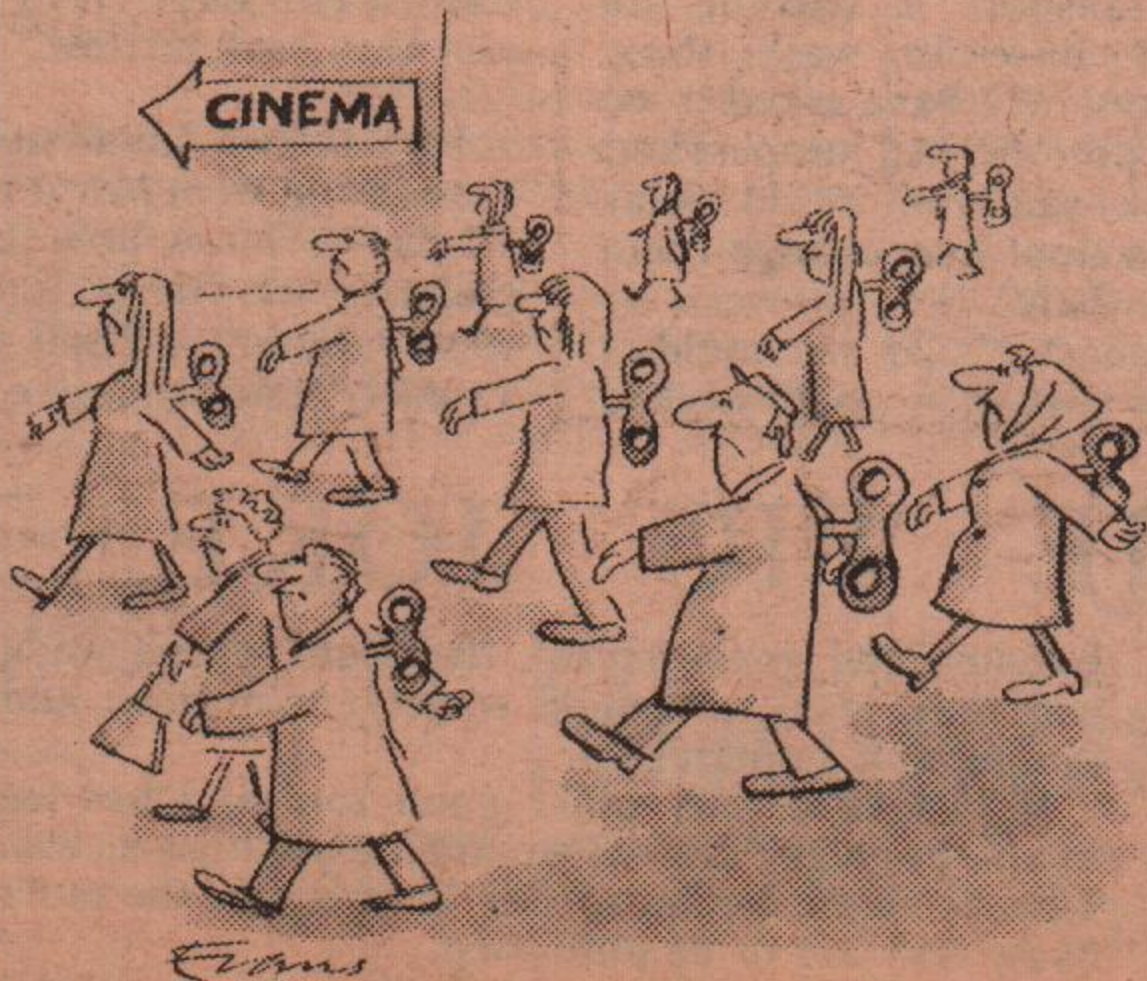
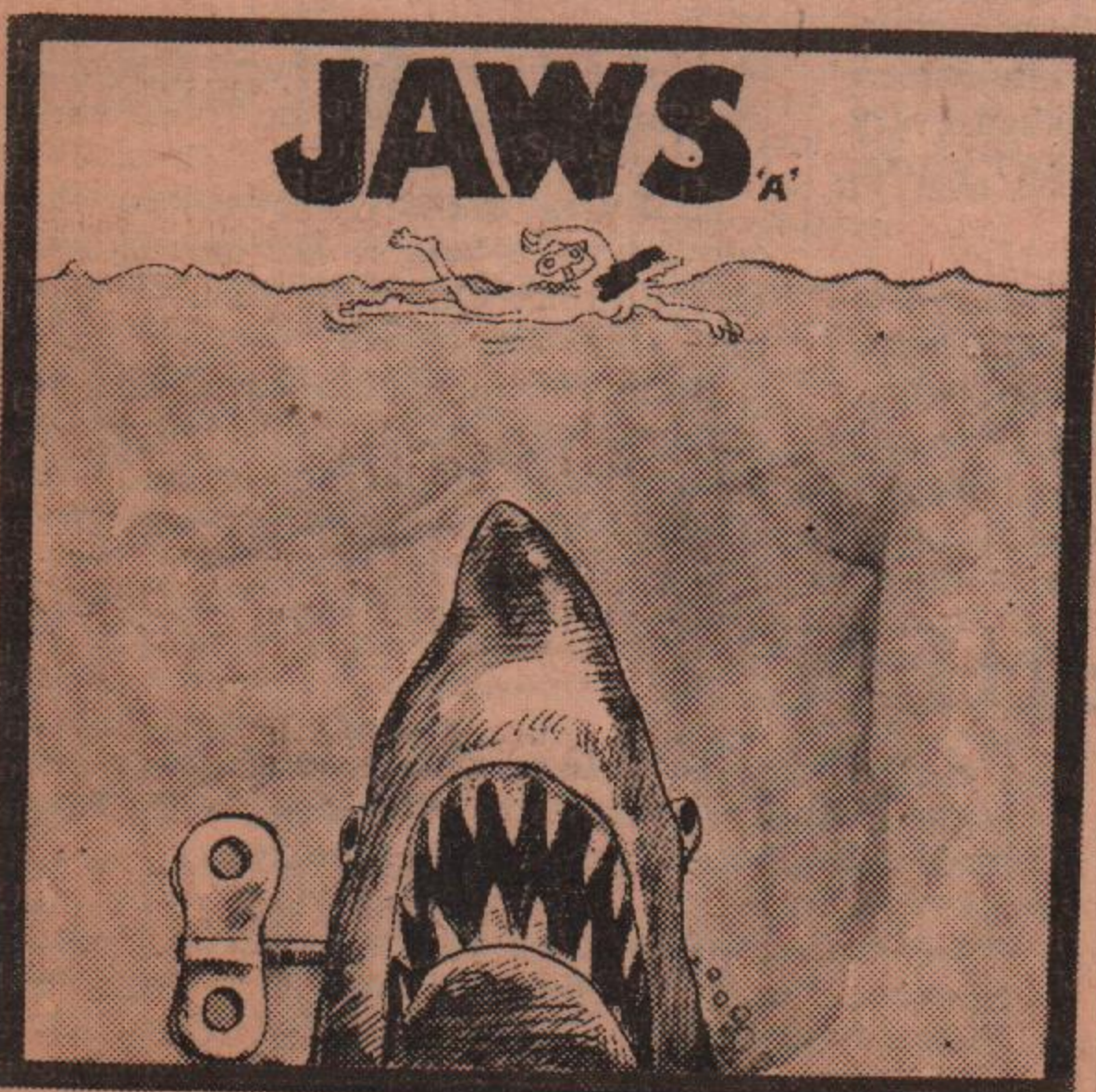
But then you need to ask yourself what sort of society it is whose culture sees its role as providing people with mind-rot rather than with the vision that might lead them back into their lives with enriched understanding.

DIRTY-MAC

One of them does her The Wife He Left Behind thing and another goes swimming without anything on and gets bitten in half. (I don't think the producer intended this as moral criticism of nude bathing. I think it's just in there so that they could put a naked woman on the posters poised over a phallic shark snout and so get some of the dirty mac constituency to come along).

Anyway, the point is that there are for most of the time just three men in a boat and no women in sight.

Women. You must remember them. They used to be in a lot of movies. They were the people John



LETTERS

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

Happy Birthday, British Army...

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday British Army,
Happy Birthday to you.

MAY I BE the first to wish the British Army a happy birthday. 'Our lads' have now been stationed 'somewhere in Ireland' for 807 years.

I expect there won't be much celebration-but then people tell me that the British army have a solution for Ireland. They're just a wee bit shy about revealing it.

Death

1976 has opened with a New Year's honour for Sir Frank King, and the death of Mrs Sylvia McCullough-

killed by a random pub bomb in its opening minutes.

Sir Frank King gets his honour for defying British government policy. As army commander in Northern Ireland, he publicly criticised Merlyn Rees' decision to release internees.

Like most army commanders in the North he was against any political solution and for heavier repression of Republicans. Most of the 245 killed in the North in 1975 were the victims of the Loyalist right wing.

The squaddies in Belfast will not expect to see their names up for any honours. But they deserve an explanation of why Shankill hates them almost as much as the Falls, and how 'Loyalist' gunmen can shoot at them

for up to 48 hours. Sir Frank King has few explanations for them.

My New Year's honours go to some real heroes. To the few brave socialists in Northern Ireland who are breaking the sectarian barriers and working towards a permanent solution to the Irish puzzle—a Workers' Republic—North and South.

Troops out

My sympathy to all the Mr McCulloughs around the world. Let's make 1976 the year we got the troops out of Ireland. Real heroes are always worth supporting.—FRANK CONWAY, Manchester.

WHO THE HELL DOES THIS MAN THINK HE IS?



Wyatt: the New Messiah?

WHO THE HELL does Woodrow Wyatt think he is? The New Messiah?

I've followed his writings in the Sunday Mirror for weeks. You get step by step orders on how to run your 'own' life. He'll be sending day-by-day instructions through the post next.

As an electrician, I am concerned on what authority he writes about my union. I don't like being given advice by a person of doubtful ability. Is he a former contracting spark or a fully paid-up member of the EETPU, or any other union for that matter?

If not, he should keep his bloody thoughts to himself.—IAN McADAM, Leyton.

A LETTER FROM LONG KESH

NOW THAT internment has ended, I will do my utmost to ensure support for the institutions of state from the minority community.'

So spoke Gerry Fitt, in one of his lesser publicised, but far-reaching statements.

Even taking this at face value, without delving into the wider implications, it represents a total vindication of Britain's internment policy in Ireland over the past four years.

One can't help wondering if Mr Fitt's blanket appeal is aimed also at the parents of Hugh Coney who was shot dead in Long Kesh.

Should they too now offer full support to the 'institutions of the state', because Britain has condescended to release all internees?

What of the parents of Jim Moyne who writhed and twisted in agony on the floor of a locked tin hut in Long Kesh, while his comrades, helplessly, watched him die. Should they support the 'institutions of the state'?

Likewise the families of Teddy Campbell, Frankie Dodds, Paddy Teer and Patrick Crawford, all of whom died in Long Kesh.

And, on a lesser scale, what of the families of the men who have received lengthy sentences for trying to escape the 'great evil' (in retrospect) of internment.

Should they be overjoyed and thankful because their men are now in Long Kesh by 'due process of law and order', rather than under an internment order?

Mr Fitt has conveniently overlooked a few minor details in his haste to grasp this opportunity of self-advancement. Long Kesh, Magilligan, Crumlin Road and Armagh are packed to capacity with young men and women put there by every underhanded method conceivable—bribery, perjury, torture and frame-ups, to mention but a few.

The efforts to paint a picture of a new liberal era are belied by the facts. The only way earlier methods have changed are in their subtlety.

It will probably surprise your readers to learn that the cages of Long Kesh, vacated by the internees, are already filled again: 22 cages of men, 'sentenced' by the 'due process of law'.

Multiply this by Magilligan, Crumlin Road and Armagh jails and the full extent of the hypocrisy of Mr Fitt's statement will become apparent.

Britain's policy is now geared towards isolating support for those men and women still in the camps by branding them as 'criminals', but in this matter they are either being seriously misled by their warlords, or by the Welsh Wizard, who believes they can be silenced with promises of 50 per cent remission.—DEREC MAC THOMAS, on behalf of Republican prisoners-of-war, Long Kesh.

The NF—nothing to laugh about

SW MUST MAKE it absolutely clear that the National Front poses a deadly threat to black people and to all socialists in this country.

Your report of the Front's attacks on the National Council for Civil Liberties' meeting in Manchester (6 December) did not make this clear and its sarcastic style is quite inappropriate to the subject.

'Forty lovers of law and order, members of the National Front, met on an outing last Sunday' is frivolous and open to misunderstanding by

people who read English with difficulty, such as some Asian workers who are among the Front's first potential victims.

The National Front are certainly a bunch of embittered, vicious thugs, organised along military lines, and we must all defend ourselves against

them. But they are also a political threat and this must be fully explained.

At present the Front are breeding by selling the lie to a section of the white working class that unemployment is caused by the presence in this country of migrant workers and that

the only solution is to 'kick out the blacks' (and then the reds).

The Front are conducting a massive and expensively-backed campaign to promote their fascism.

And they are organising to secure influence within the trade union movement. They operate behind the protecting arm of the police, who invariably claim that they are keeping socialists apart from the Front.

Origins

Every socialist knows this to be another lie, as the police never protect us and we don't expect them to do so.

It is no good simply saying 'Smash the Nazi National Front' or 'Drive the fascists off the streets': Socialist Worker must consistently inform readers of the origins and current activities of the NF, and how we can build a really effective body to expose them.—DAVE BUTLER, AZIM HAJJEE, JOHN PLUMMER and other members of Handsworth IS.



'EXCUSE ME sir—may I straighten your tie?'

Here at the Japanese Police School of Courtesy and Deportment members of the 'anti-terrorist' squad are seen in training.

Hand-picked for their traditional politeness and helpfulness they are experts in propelling old ladies across roads (or through shop windows).

This crash-course in executionary etiquette is believed to be the brain-child of Prime Minister Miki, the victim of an inexplicable and very rude attack early last year.—SID ARKWRIGHT, N London.

You got me wrong!

MY LETTER on violence (29 November) was edited incorrectly. I agree almost completely with Jenny Wistreich's reply (13 December).

There is no doubt in my mind that the foundations of socialism have to be built on the destruction of capitalism.

I am concerned, however, about the chances of a socialist system being built from the chaos caused by its capitalist supporters. The victors are unlikely to be those with well thought-out policies: they will be those with muscle.

And what about those without the conviction to take to the barricades? Revolution seems a bit of a hit and miss affair to me.

Because violence appears to be so much a part of it, its 'democratic' aspect must be largely eroded.—K ANDERSON, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Our 'little Hitler' headmaster

I AM 16 and still at school, doing 0 levels and CSEs. For the last five weeks our biology teacher has been away sick. Our Spanish teacher has been away for three weeks.

In biology lessons someone comes in, writes on the board what work we have to do, and then either sits with us or comes in from time to time. The work consists of writing notes from a text book. As we don't have anyone to explain the work to us, we aren't learning anything.

Our fifth-year committee, of which I am a member, has mentioned it but nothing has been done. When we have meetings with the headmaster he never

gives us straight answers.

One boy asked if the boys could stop wearing ties. The headmaster replied, 'A man isn't dressed if he isn't wearing a tie.' Most of the pupils come from working class homes and their fathers do not wear ties, neither does mine.

As the transport is bad in the mornings, I have to walk three miles to school. We have asked to be able to wear polo-necked jumpers and trousers. He said we could wear trousers to school and change them when we get there.

The headmaster said we couldn't wear warm woollen polo-necked

jumpers (he didn't give a good reason). Instead some women teachers choose a thin, nylon polo-necked jumper/shirt, which is a terrible price for its quality and warmth (£3.75).

Many people are allergic to nylon, and the jumpers are also white, which mean they have to be washed every one or two days. They aren't warm, and they look terrible.

He said we could wear trousers if the heating went below the legal level. I'd like to know how he is suddenly, going to tell 500 girls that they can wear trousers.—Pupil at a Greater London comprehensive school.

SO WHAT'S THE BIG JOKE, THEN?

PLUTO PRESS will very soon be bringing out a collection of left-wing political jokes. Perhaps your readers know a few gems of political humour which we might have missed.

We have more or less completed the book, but we still have room for a few more jokes, particularly on the following themes:

Bosses and workers, bureaucracy (trade union,

Labour, and government), the State, propaganda and the Press, women in society, minorities and racism, and Imperialism.

If you know any other good topical jokes (eg Spain, Portugal, detente etc) then send those in, too. Time is short, so the sooner they arrive, the more likely they are to be published.

If you send us a joke which we haven't got already,

and which we decide to publish, you will be credited in the Introduction and get a free copy of the book. We'll acknowledge your letter anyway.

Send your jokes to us at: Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcott Road, London NW1 8LH—GRAHAM LOOMES and GREGOR BENTON.

POSTAL POINTS

YOUR TIMELY reminder (20 December) of the continued imprisonment of Des Warren, which is deplored by all socialists (Prentice and Jenkins please note) was good to read. However I read SW nearly every week and I don't remember reading about the even worse plight of George Davis.

His dubious conviction and crushing sentence make him just as much a political prisoner as Des. Lord Chief 'Justice' Widgery who backed the army to the hilt in the Bloody Sunday whitewash rejected Davis' application for appeal and thereby performed a similar service for the police.—PETER BACON, Orpington.

IF HITLER returned to earth, defenders of free speech for fascists like Pat Arrowsmith 'would challenge him in open debate and ridicule him in the light of our shining logic'.

But while the noble debaters were on the platform, Hitler would be busy organising his death squads and concentration camps. What do we say to a plan to enslave and destroy millions of 'subhuman' organisms? By inventing counter arguments we're just drawn into the morass of this insanity.

The decision on free speech for fascists was taken in Coventry, London, Warsaw, Stalingrad and Madrid, in the horror camps of Dachau and Belsen, the Czech mining village of Lidace. Never again must we allow a platform for fascists or racists.—JOHN PRANCE, Preston.

THERE'S AN important angle to be added to Duncan Hallas' article on Stalinism (20 December). Socialism in one country was a lie in Russia, it's a monumental lie applied to small countries today, surrounded by capitalist countries who can and will club together to sabotage them.

Portuguese workers today must inspire the workers of the world with the example of what is possible. Unless we neutralise the sabotage of big business and capitalist governments they are doomed to failure.—PETE FYSH, Tottenham.

THE POEM by Steven Cohen (13 December) was insulting and unnecessary. This type of comment on Christianity is out of place in a paper trying to present an unbiased ideal of a society with as much freedom as possible.—RUTH HARRIS, Fulham.

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)



Aidan White

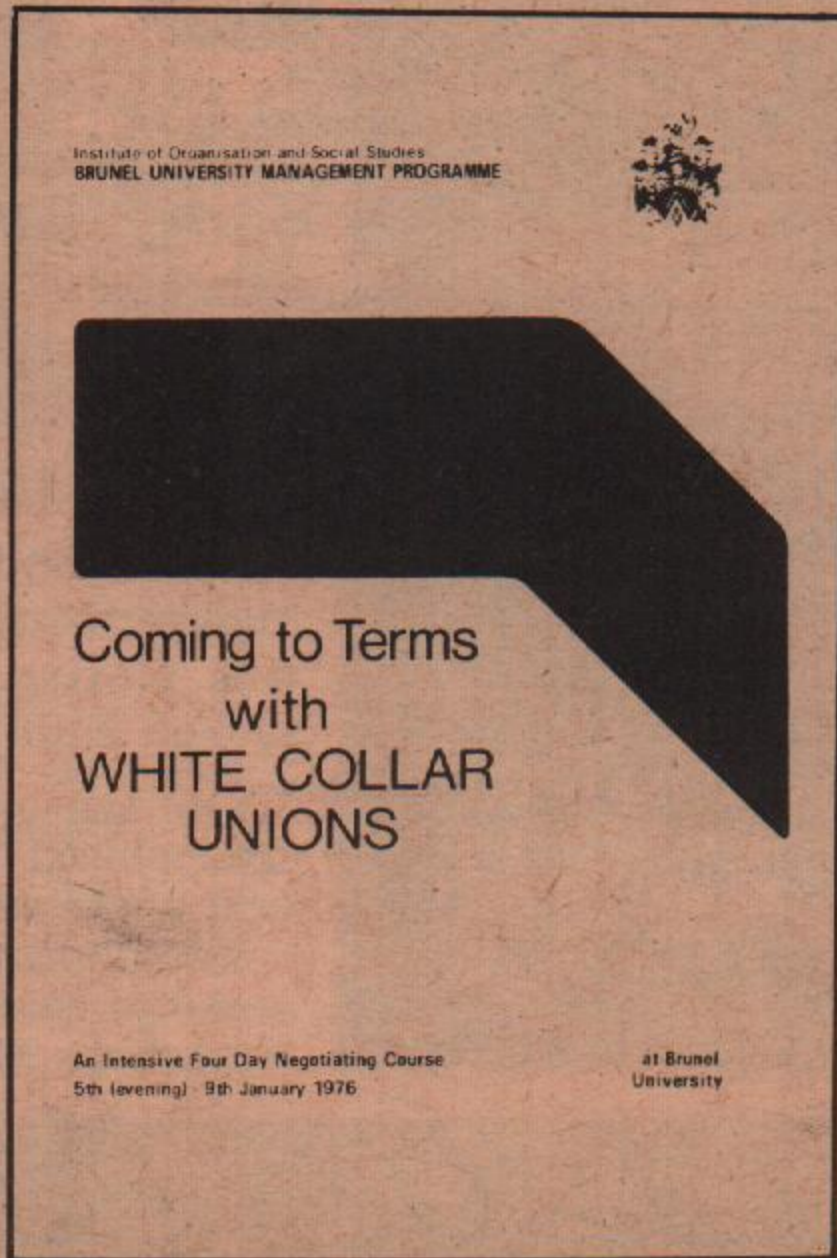
CHARTER JOURNALIST ELECTED

ONE election that failed to make the headlines last week was the vote by journalists in the London area which put a leading militant in the National Union of Journalists on to the union's executive council. Aidan White, organiser of Journalists' Charter, the rank and file group within the union, defeated two former executive members to win the seat. The territory involved covers all weekly and evening newspapers circulating in and around London and includes about 1000 journalists.

In his election address Aidan White called for militant campaigns to save jobs and to end the attack on living standards caused by the TUC/Labour government 'voluntary' £6 limit.

Journalists in London know that the only way forward in such appalling circumstances is through tough, uncompromising militancy. So far the executive hasn't even been capable of a whimper of resistance. I hope this vote will encourage other members to ditch the hapless creatures on the executive who are really responsible," said Aidan White.

NUT official gives the bosses a few tips



The programme for the bosses' bean- food and drink alone is £185.

A SENIOR officer of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) is lecturing this week to bosses on how to 'deal with' militant white-collar trade unionists.

He is Barry Fawcett, NUT national salary officer, who was formerly assistant national officer of the local government workers' union NALGO.

The course—entitled 'Coming to terms with white collar unions'—is sponsored by the Brunel University Management Programme. It is at the university in West London, from 5-9 January, and the food alone costs £185 per head.

The brochure for the course complains: 'In increasing numbers, clerks, supervisors, technicians and managers are not only joining trade unions but becoming militant.'

'This presents management with

THE UNIONS

new problems and to assist management in this field a special course has been devised.'

The course, it explains, 'is intended for managers and industrial relations staff,' 18 of these key bosses have been selected for the luxurious week.

The organiser of the course is Gavin Kennedy, senior lecturer in economics at Strathclyde University, whom older readers will remember as the militant firebrand in the Young Socialists in the mid-1960s.

Main participants are John Benson, personnel manager of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, and R G Owen, employee relations adviser at Unilever. The appalling Fawcett is lecturing on Wednesday on 'Problems of white collar employees: A union viewpoint'.

He told Socialist Worker: 'I don't think the problems of industrial relations can be furthered by ignorance. There's a lot that can be learned about collective bargaining procedures. I think these courses help to modernise employers' attitudes to trade unions.'

Fawcett said he did not think the course was at all unusual. He was not going from the National Union of Teachers, but in his private time. 'You see Jack Jones or Clive Jenkins going to functions like this. Yes, I'll be there for most of the week.'

NUT members might like to raise the following questions at their next branch meeting:

Does the union know about Fawcett's participation in the course? If not, why is he billed as an NUT man?

Is it union policy to allow officers to go to week-long courses for bosses when teachers are being sacked all over the country?

Any resolutions about any of these matters that are passed in any NUT branch will be reported on this page.

Branch adopts Chilean prisoners

TWO Chilean prisoners have been adopted by the Greater London Council branch of NALGO, which is hoping this will lead to their release into exile in this country. Carlos Olivera Villacuro and Oscar Soto Bustos were both public service workers before being imprisoned by the junta.

The branch is to approach the GLC for accommodation for the two in the 'low-letting' properties specially set aside for Chilean refugees and will also help them find work if they are released. The branch executive also voted a £50 donation to the Chile Committee for Human Rights.

THANKS FOR THE DIARIES

THANKS to all the readers who sent the Unions page their union diaries for Christmas. A Transport Workers Union member in Lowestoft send us his TGWU diary, and we had similar presents from USDAW, COHSE and CPSA members. The diaries are full of information about these unions, which is invaluable to us in reporting what they are up to.

Many unions cut the prices of their diaries in January. How about getting a cheap copy and sending us one? We're especially interested in the AUEW, the NUM, the GMWU and the NUT—but any union diary would be welcome.

PROTEST AT IRISH ANTI-TERROR BILL

SEVENTY-FIVE shop stewards and militants have circulated a resolution in the Irish trade unions calling for the withdrawal of the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Bill.

The Bill gives the police wide powers to arrest and search without warrant. It allows evidence to be given in the absence of the accused and increases penalties for a wide range of offences. It is being introduced ostensibly to deal with terrorism, but, as the trade unionists point out, it could be

used to damage trade union organisation.

All but a few of the 75 are elected representatives directly and daily responsible for negotiations on behalf of tens of thousands of Irish workers.

The resolution states: 'The passing of the Bill could strengthen the repressive machinery of the state which may be turned against the working class and trade union movement at a time of increasing economic difficulties.'

'We consider that the provisions of the Bill represent an intolerable interference with the rights of citizens by allowing arrests and searches without warrant, allowing evidence to be given in the absence of the accused and increasing the penalties for a range of offences.'

'We are opposed to the closer cooperation with the Northern courts and the Royal Ulster Constabulary which this Bill proposes.'

SW
What we stand for
SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

- Independent working-class action** We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.
- Revolution not reformism** We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.
- The smashing of the capitalist state** The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply

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

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

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

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

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most mili-

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

WE ARE

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

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

to strike and on effective picketing.

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

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

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people.

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

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

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

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

JOIN
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IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM
Become a Socialist Worker Supporter—fill in the form on page three.

**Why stop at Portugal?
Make the solidarity international!**

WANTED...



The Port Talbot Steelworks, where 1000 workers went on strike when men were sent home.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

THE mandarins and millionaires who run the British Steel Corporation have launched a staggering attack on the 220,000 workers who produce British steel.

Four hours before the steelworkers broke for the Christmas holiday, BSC chairman, Sir Monty Finniston and Co delivered an ultimatum. They wanted workers to agree:

□ To give up the guaranteed earnings of 80 per cent of a basic wage, which has been pledged since 1969.

□ To give up payments for week end shifts.

□ To agree to 40,000 sackings—that's one in five steelworkers—'just for starters'.

If the workers agree to this ultimatum, they will be consenting to the castration of their trade union organisation.

What's the point of trade unions making agreements with bosses—if the bosses can tear up the agreements whenever they like? You might as well

...an all-out fight for steel jobs

let the bosses decide in the first place.

The next two weeks will be a vital testing time for all steelworkers. The BSC bosses, like the skilled class warriors they are, are 'testing the resistance' of workers.

If the workers resist, the BSC will pretend to be reasonable. They will 'make concessions' on the guaranteed week.

They are like the hangman who makes a deal with his victim—'I intend to hang, draw and quarter you, but if you keep still and don't complain I'll forget about the drawing and quartering. I'll just hang you'.

'Graceful concessions' on the guaranteed working week must not be accepted as an excuse for slashing week end payments or for sackings.

The existing steel capacity was built up so that the bosses in industries which use steel can make maximum profits in boom times. In recession times like these, they hope to hang on to their profits by slashing jobs—in their own industries and in steel.

That is why every shift payment, every guaranteed week agreement, every job must be defended.

But by whom? Last spring the Labour government, in the shape of Industry Minister Tony Benn, promised to defend the jobs of demonstrating steelworkers—and ticked off Finniston when he asked for 20,000 sackings. The same government is now encouraging the BSC to be tough.

Weakest

The steel unions are among the weakest in the country. Isolated from their rank and file by a bureaucratic and reactionary structure, the steel union leaders are quite unfit to defend their members from this holocaust.

The only language the steel bosses understand are the rude words of rank and file steelworkers as they acted against the cuts last weekend.

Steelworkers at Shelton, at Corby, at Trostre, Velindre, Ebbw Vale, Llanwern and countless other plants turned up to work although they were told not to. If they're not paid for the

day's work, there will be trouble. As Ken Bowen (TGWU), who works at Trostre, South Wales, told Socialist Worker: 'There will be no work here alongside men who don't get paid'.

At the huge Port Talbot plant the workers' response was even angrier. When men reported for work, but were sent home, 1000 workers went on strike in the cold mill. They are on strike until they get an assurance that the weekend shifts will be maintained.

Militant

There is nothing the steel bosses can do to resist that sort of action. However much they cut production, they still need production, or they can't provide steel for their friends in private industry.

Rank and file steelworkers must fight a militant campaign to protect their conditions and their jobs. They must break through the divisions between rival unions in the industry and unite in the fight for jobs.

They need the muscle and experience of other workers in other industries. They need the co-ordination of the local Right to Work Committees.

The Swansea Steel Right to Work Committee is calling an urgent conference of rank and file steelworkers from all plants and unions in the area to decide the best means to fight back against Finniston and Co.

That's the right way to beat them.

What the steel cuts mean
—page two

JUST before the New Year, the International Socialists drew up our most ambitious plans yet for international solidarity work.

During the coming months we intend to extend still further attempts to develop practical solidarity with those struggling in other countries and to engage in political discussions with the revolutionary organisations involved in those struggles.

But all this will cost a lot of money. In 1975 we launched the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund. This enabled us to spend several hundred pounds campaigning for the September solidarity demonstration in London, to send more than £1500 to the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist party, and to send Socialist Worker reporters and IS representatives to Lisbon.

We were also able to print several thousand copies of three pamphlets in Portuguese and produce Tony Cliff's booklet, Portugal at the Crossroads, in five languages. The most recent of these has just appeared in Greek, and editions have been published separately in German and Danish.

Now plans are afoot to follow this work with a new Italian edition of the IS journal, and with further issues in French and Spanish. We hope the Spanish edition will help those comrades fighting in the underground in both Spain and Latin America to develop their ideas. We will have to put more effort than before into organising delegations to meet revolutionaries in countries such as Italy, France, Germany and the US, and to maintain our work over Portugal and Spain at least at its present level.

Finally, we will have to provide backing for demonstrations over Angola, such as that called by the National Organisation of IS Students for 21 January.

We have decided to transform the Portugal Solidarity Fund into a new International Solidarity Fund to finance all these activities. We hope that in the next few months supporters of Socialist Worker, as well as branches and members of IS, will see raising money for this fund as an important task.

Even the Christmas and New Year holiday has not stopped some of our supporters and branches sending money in. In the past fortnight we have received £374.

Aberystwyth Town Hall Branch £1, Newcastle IS £10, K D Harding £50, NELP IS Society £31.77, Triumph Coventry SW Supporters £10, Aberystwyth IS £4, Anon, Basildon £10, C Hughes £2, Warwick University IS Society £8, Birmingham IS £6, Anon, Liverpool 35p, South West London IS £1.50, Inner West London District IS £20, Leeds Hospital Workers Branch £8.21, T and R Silvester £5, M Ferret £1, J R Gilding £1, Anon, Glasgow £10, Cambridge IS £9, Manchester Corporation and Greater Manchester County Council SW Supporters £17, J P Barlow £5.

J Neale £20, B Griffiths £2, Oxford IS £6, K Jones £2, Dudley IS £5, Camden Workers £6, Maidstone IS £2.75, Belgian SW reader £3.24, Lancaster University Students Union £30, Lancaster University NOISS £20, London Airport Workers Branch £1.50, Sales of badges, posters and journals £43.27.

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

STOP PRESS

Peter Chappell of the George Davis is Innocent campaign, has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for digging up a bit of turf at the Headingley Test cricket pitch, Leeds. This was part of the campaign to publicise and protest against the imprisonment of George Davis, in prison now for a crime he never committed. Meanwhile the National Front thugs that beat up people at a Manchester meeting of the National Council of Civil Liberties in December are still free and unprosecuted.

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