

WILSON'S

HAROLD Wilson is 'doing something' about unemployment. Or so he claims.

He announced a series of measures to deal with unemployment three months ago. And now there is to be a 'new package' on the same lines.

A key part of the last package was the creation of special, new jobs for unemployed school leavers by the government's Manpower Services Commission. This is likely to receive an even bigger role in any new package.

The news has, however, been greeted with something less than rapture by unemployed school leavers in Haringey, North London.

Last week the local council proudly boasted that 'Haringey is first'—first in the government's scheme of job creation.

The borough has been given £27,000. And with the money it has taken on 12 unemployed school leavers to reclaim a plot of derelict land.

The news of this great venture appeared on the same front page of the local paper that carried the area's latest unemployment figures.

Struggle

In the last month, 1000 more men and women have lost their jobs. A total of 5500 are now signing on the dole. There are only 250 vacancies for the whole area.

In other words, the jobs creation scheme has managed to produce just one new job for every 100 destroyed.

This fraud, this joke, this insult will be solemnly debated this week in front of every television viewer in the land.

Jack Jones and Len Murray will be summoned before the cameras to tell you how important are such 'new measures'.

Like a circus audience cheering on the clowns, we will be expected to sit and applaud.

Alternatively, we might care to stand up and shout back. We might care to join in the real Fight for the Right to Work.

INSIDE

More CIA agents exposed

Page Five

The Tory MP and a £500 carve-up



Page Six

Steel sell-out

Pages Thirteen and Fifteen

JOBBS FRAUD

One new job for every 100 sacked

Support grows for Right to Work Campaign

TRADE UNION bodies from all over the country are sponsoring the National Right to Work Campaign. Among the bodies the Campaign has heard from so far are:

Trades councils in Cardiff, Greenwich, Wakefield, Northampton, Waltham Forest, Barnet, Kingston, Bangor, Beaumaris and Llangefni.

Shop stewards' committees at Massey Ferguson, Manchester; Feinger, Blackburn; AUEW TASS, GEC Elliot, Lewisham; Borg Warner, Letchworth; Cannon Industries, Black Country.

AUEW branches at Ford's Dagenham; Manchester; Pilton, Edinburgh; Willesden No 3; Chiswick No 2; Ealing No 15; Coventry No 74-322 CT; Blackburn No 1; Letchworth No 5.

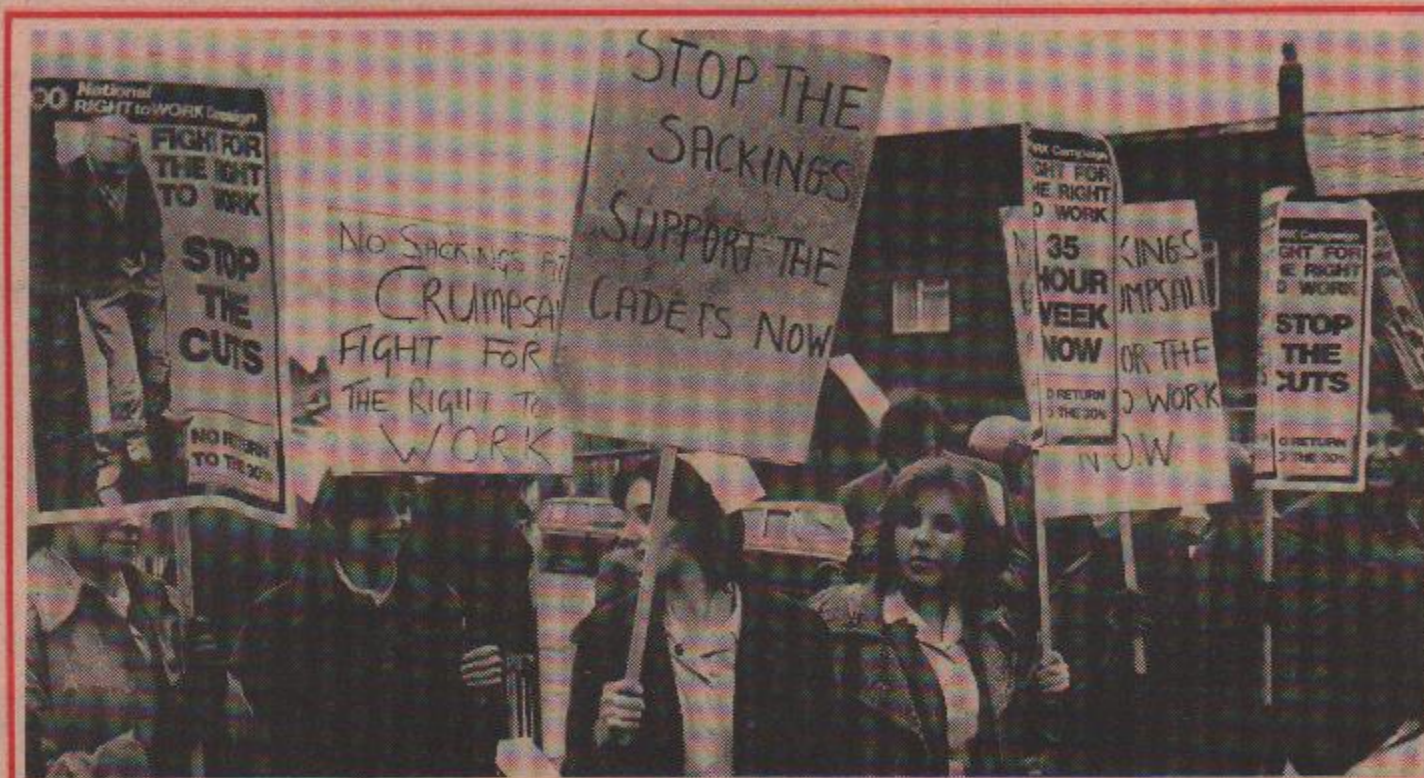
And these other trade union bodies: UCATT Northampton; UCATT Wolverhampton; UCATT Crooks branch; NUR Old Oak Common Branch; NUR Cambridge branch; NUPE Queen Elizabeth Hospital, London; NUPE North Camden Health branch.

NUPE North Hammersmith Health branch; TGWU 1696 Manor House Hospital; TGWU 6123 West Houghton; TGWU ACTS 9316 York; Lambeth NALGO Executive; CPSA London Area Committee No 4.

ASTMS Norwich General branch; ASTMS Leicester branch; ASTMS Divisional Council No 9; ASTMS Divisional Council No 9 NHS Advisory Committee; ISTC No 1 branch, Greenwich; APEX Horbury branch; NATSHE Pitfield Street branch; NATSHE Woolwich College branch.

London North Central Telephone Area GMO branch CPSA; J and C Moores SOGAT Chapel Committee; EETPU No 2 Cardiff branch; Glasgow NUS; Tavistock Youth Club; Indian Workers Association, Wolverhampton.

● The Right to Work marchers: Pages 8 & 9



By Marion Townshend, NUPE, shop steward Withington Hospital
NURSING cadets fighting sackings at North Manchester General Hospital on Monday. This picket was organised by the joint shop stewards' committee and the Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee.

More than 100 trade unionists from local hospitals and colleges gave out leaflets to visitors and stopped buses to leaflet the passengers.

The pickets marched to the administrative offices, shouting: MORE NURSES NOT LESS and NO CUTS.

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Now apartheid trembles...

THE HERRENVOLK are in retreat. The white, racist troops of the South African Reich have suffered their first, major defeat.

The black freedom fighters of the MPLA have won the first battles in the fight to smash the hold of apartheid throughout Southern Africa.

That is the meaning of the news coming out of Angola this week as the forces of the MPLA approach the city of Huambo, the headquarters of the South African and CIA backed UNITA.

But the South Africans have powerful allies. For a long time, the press and TV in this country covered up for their presence and for the massive CIA finance to the anti-MPLA forces.

Now a different story is being peddled. We are

told that the South African presence doesn't matter, because the MPLA are 'Marxists' and 'Russian puppets', that they are winning because of Cuban troops.

But the MPLA secured their hold on the capital, Luanda, more than a year ago, when the main form of foreign aid going into Angola was CIA money and arms for their enemies.

They are winning now because they have more support than their rivals. The Times reports that, in Benguela and Lobito, behind South African lines, black dock workers are on strike in their support.

In South Africa, one of the few legal black organisations, the Black Peoples Convention, risked persecution and arrest last month to vow their support for the MPLA.

They know that if the South African troops are defeated in Angola, resistance against the apartheid regime in Namibia and South Africa will increase a hundredfold.

Vorster, the South African premier, knows it. That is why he has resisted pressure to withdraw from Angola, has called up reservists and has changed conscription regulations so as to compel conscripts to fight outside South Africa.

Virtually every trade union body in Britain has, at some time or other, passed a resolution against apartheid.

Now is the time for these resolutions to be put into effect, for us to throw our support behind the MPLA in its struggle against South Africa's crumbling defence lines.

A product of police harassment

By John Plummer

DESMOND Wilson was jailed for life at Birmingham Crown Court last week for the murder of a policeman.

For him and the 1000 other black youths who were rounded up, dragged out of bed, stripped, searched, finger-printed, interrogated, and some say brutally beaten during the police investigation—it is just another stage in the police harassment which is an everyday part of their lives.

The road to jail began outside Birmingham's Rainbow Club, a popular venue for many young blacks who went there for the music and the dancing. It was also a popular haunt for the police who regularly harassed the youngsters and pushed them around.

This time, instead of 'taking it' or just shouting, a



The hysterical Evening Mail:

fight broke out which ended with one of the policemen lying wounded in the street.

In court, Desmond Wilson said: 'I did not want to injure the officer in any way. I did not want to hurt the officer at all... The whole thing is a bad accident. I am truly sorry. I did not intend anything that happened.' Desmond is 21, the oldest of ten children,

and the father of a child.

The Birmingham Evening Mail, ever anxious to point the finger at the local black community heralded news of the conviction with the headline CLENCHED FIST KILLER GETS LIFE.

In case readers didn't grasp this reference, the Mail continued with: 'A young West Indian nicknamed "Killer" by his friends...'

They also told of a 'disturbance among 40 West Indians in the public gallery, which was quelled by police officers.' Eye witnesses say this is just typical Evening Mail fantasy.

We don't know whether Desmond's hand held the knife which killed the policeman. But we do know that the way the case has been handled from start to finish, and the hysterical coverage of the Evening Mail, will do nothing but inflame the very real issue of police harassment of black people.

Students expose terror agents

IT'S NOT ONLY the CIA who are spying on socialists in Britain. Their offspring in Iran—SAVAK, the secret police whose reign of terror has taken the regime to the top of the world torture league—turned up in East London this week.

Two SAVAK sympathisers threatened to disrupt an exhibition—at the North East London Poly in Barking—highlighting that terror. But the tables were turned on the two, Hamid Norani and Mohammad Sarrafi, as students unmasked and then interrogated them.

The International Socialist Society, who staged the exhibition, had discovered what the two were up to. They found that several Iranian students at the college had been warned that they would be reported to their government if they did not oppose the exhibition.

A law lecturer thought to be connected with the meeting was assaulted. Student Union officers were pestered and pressure was put on its president to ban the meeting.

SUPPORT THE IRANIAN 21
Demonstrate, Saturday 14 February, 1pm, Assemble Cavendish Square, London.

But the attempted disruption failed. The meeting went ahead. And now these two fascists' links with SAVAK are being investigated by the Confederation of Iranian Students at their HQ in Germany.

The CIA-inspired coup in Iran in 1953 was one of the most bloody the world has seen. The terror of those days still lingers on. In the last week, 21 people have been executed.

Twenty-one Iranian students who occupied the regime's London embassy last year in protest at the repression have since been put on conspiracy charges.

They face the possibility of deportation. And that would mean 21 more political prisoners to add to the thousands now rotting in Iranian jails.

A THORN IN WHOSE SIDE?

The 1,400 workers at the Thorn television tubes factory at Skelmersdale, Lancs, yesterday accepted that the fight to save their jobs is over. The £20 million plant will now close as scheduled tomorrow.

—from page 19 of the Daily Telegraph, 22 January

NOISES from the television manufacturing industry have not been encouraging—the latest colour set sales figures come hard on the heels of Thorn closing its Skelmersdale tube factory—but that has not daunted the share price which has more than trebled over the past year.

—from page 21 of the Daily Telegraph, 22 January

'LET THIS CHILD DIE' —STRIKE-BREAKERS

By Colin Cameron (secretary, Bristol Unemployed Workers Committee)

RIO TINTO ZINC, the British-owned multinational mining company bossed by Sir Val Duncan, a personal friend of Labour Chancellor Denis Healey, has found interesting allies in its war against striking workers at its Commonwealth Smelting plant

For three months, those workers have been out against redundancies and in defence of manning levels. Now, at the toughest point in the struggle, they have been told to meet their electricity bills immediately or be cut off.

The electricity authorities could classify strikers as hardship cases and allow them to pay outstanding bills in the future, when they are less hard pressed. But they usually refuse to do so, insisting instead that the bills must be paid.

In the case of the Commonwealth Smelting strike, their usual ruthlessness has given way to downright brutality. For they have threatened to cut off electricity to the St Carryette family,

whose daughter Lindsay would die as a result.

The St Carryette family recently got a £52 bill. Like the rest of the Commonwealth Smelting workers, they had little hope of paying.

So the Smelter strike claims committee contacted the South Western Electricity Board, pleading hardship.

They explained that the St Carryettes' little daughter, Lindsay, suffered from cystic fibrosis and had to sleep in an electrically-powered humidified tent.

If the electricity was cut off, they explained, she would die.

They pressed the point again with the Electricity Board arrears officer, Mr Cody. He refused to let the St Carryettes' bill be held over until after the strike.

REPLY

Indeed, he insisted that the normal cutting off procedure must be applied. Told repeatedly about the special circumstances, he refused to budge.

In other words, he held the threat of death over a little girl to try to force the family to pay up. The strikers at Avonmouth have obtained evidence that this is more than just heartless bureaucracy.

They can prove it is politically inspired against the strikers.

Early in the strike, they wrote to their MP, Minister of Energy, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, asking him to prevent disconnection of electricity to the strikers. Eventually, the strike claims committee got a reply from Mr L J J Mackinnon, one of Benn's juniors at the Department of Energy.

He said the Department had no power to direct the local Electricity Board on such matters. But, he added, 'the Board are very sympathetic in cases of genuine hardship'.

Some of the 2000 people who marched in London last Sunday in protest at the Indian State of Emergency and the imprisonment of 100,000 political opponents of the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi. The demonstration was called by the Maoist-backed Alliance against Dictatorship in India. But, although most of the political prisoners are trade unionists or left wingers, the organisers allowed a speaker from Jan Sangh, the extreme right wing Indian Party.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

NOW EXPOSE 'SOCIALIST' FOOT!

MICHAEL FOOT, Minister of Unemployment, is speaking in Southall, West London this Saturday (31 January) at India Republic Day celebrations organised by the Executive of the Southall Indian Workers' Association.

Perhaps Foot doesn't know it, but the Southall IWA has no right to arrange the celebrations. They were bound constitutionally to give up office months ago and hold fresh elections. Instead they suspended

elections and have spent their time campaigning in defence of Mrs Gandhi's brutal policies.

A campaign has been developing in Southall to force such elections. Now some members of that campaign have

come together with local International Socialists to form a Southall Action Committee against Unemployment.

Its first activity will be to greet Foot's arrival in Southall with a mass picket. Leaflets were being distributed this week calling for support for the picket and exposing a so-called socialist minister who presides over one and a half million unemployed and who also lends his support to a regime which locks up and tortures trade unionists.

underground newspapers—one Board official vilified... Gossip and hearsay... Being stirred up.'

The workers refuse to be cowed by this collusion between so-called impartial government officials and the millionaires who run Rio Tinto Zinc. They have resolved to find the money to pay off the St Carryettes' bill, and keep Lindsay alive. What's more, they've asked electricity supply workers to refuse to cut off any of the strikers' electricity.

They know that the only power to rely on in a struggle is the power of the rank and file.

Electricity workers can and should assist them, whereas Tony Wedgwood Benn can't even control one supposed junior official in his own department. The workers at Commonwealth Smelting need your support to win the battle against one of the most ruthless employers in the business. Send your messages of support and donations to Mike O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol.

Mackinnon, however, slipped up. Included in his reply were, by mistake, the notes of a telephone conversation he had had with someone in Bristol about the strike.

Here is a selection of the comments, which are in Socialist Worker's possession:

'Strike is political—people behind it want it to go on... Strike is about manning levels instead of pay. Firm is connected with RTZ—not popular with Left... Strike is now official he thinks, but people involved thought to be not members of union... Local

For details of transport from London, phone Lindsey German, 739 1878.

NOISS Delegate Conference Weekend 7-8 February, UMIST Students Union, Manchester. Credentials for delegates (£2) and observers (50p) from NOISS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

THE SCANDAL OF THE 12p SPUD

PAY 12p a pound for potatoes?

What a joke! But unfortunately it's not, it's a hard fact. And unavoidable, we're told. The bad weather, you know. Can't do anything about the weather.

But other factors can and have been controlled. Though not to keep the price down.

The government backed Potato Marketing Board works out the acreage of potatoes to be planted each year. This has fallen considerably—from 580,000 acres in 1972 to 500,000 acres in 1975. And farmers are fined £25 for every acre they plant over their quota.

By using more fertilisers, farmers kept production up to the needed level. Though the cost of extra fertilisers had to be passed on to the

shopper, naturally.

But last year the bad weather conditions spoiled things, causing a shortage of potatoes. So many farmers made a quick profit by lifting their maincrop potatoes and selling them as 'new' potatoes.

ROT

As a spokesman from the Potato Marketing Board said: 'It's a free market. We don't control it. We only try to make sure there's not too big a surplus'.

In good years potatoes are left in the fields to rot because, if they were put on the market, the price would fall—and the farmers don't like that. In bad years, the price soars.

Heads they win, tails we lose.

A WEAPON TO USE AGAINST US

TO MOST workers in Britain the events of 30 January 1972 in Derry now seem remote. The image of 13 civilians being shot by a British regiment has faded behind the spectre of scores of other shootings by soldiers, of bombing after bombing in Britain and Ireland, of corpses in Dublin and Monaghan as well as Newry and Derry, of the sickening succession of murder and counter-murder in Belfast and Armagh.

Yet there is every reason why we should remember Bloody Sunday. That day it was not the so-called gunmen, not the men we are taught to think of as embittered fanatics, who took action. It was the high command of the British army that ordered that unarmed men be shot from behind with automatic weapons.

They did so when the war in Ireland was, from the Republican side at least, not carried out against people for their religious beliefs, but against 'professionals', the armed and uniformed defenders of a system that guaranteed unemployment, low pay, miserable housing and discrimination for workers who happened to be Catholics. Even the bombings then were always preceded by elaborate warnings.

Bloody Sunday

Let us repeat. Indiscriminate murder of civilians was begun by the British army. Bloody Sunday set an example which certain elements on the Republican side and greater numbers on the Loyalist side have taken to imitating.

What we think

It is not just a question of 'who fired first'—although this is important in Ireland, because it was our rulers who fired first, not merely on Bloody Sunday but for hundreds of years, by using murder and the deliberate encouragement of religious hatreds to maintain their hold.

More important for us, Bloody Sunday shows what they would do to us if we challenged their rule seriously.

In Ireland there have been thousands of incidents in which soldiers have been ordered to do things they may not like to do, and to do them to people from similar working-class backgrounds to their own.

They have grown used to throwing teargas at kids indistinguishable from

their own kid brothers, to kick down the doors of council houses like those their own mums live in, to apply lighted cigarette ends to the skins of people who could drink in their own local, to aim machine guns at men who could work in the factory two streets away.

They have grown used to doing these things on the orders of those who speak with the same accents, who come from the same schools and frequent the same clubs as the large shareholders, the company directors, the property speculators.

Barbarity

Karl Marx used to say that a nation that oppresses another cannot itself be free. Its rulers would build up a massive armed force, prepared for any barbarity, unrestrained by feelings of class solidarity or simple humanity. And that

armed force could as well be used against the local population as against 'foreigners'.

The top men in the British army like to boast that the war in Ireland is giving them a 'training' in battle conditions better than that available for any other European army. To their friends they let drop the opinion that in the not too distant future they expect to see this army in operation against 'subversives' in Britain.

The majority of activists in the trade union movement and the overwhelming majority of its official leaders prefer to ignore the Irish war and forget acts like Bloody Sunday. But we cannot afford to ignore and forget. A weapon is being developed that can be used against our struggles.

That is one reason why we have to demand Troops Out Now.

DEMONSTRATE: TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND! Sunday 1 February, 1.30pm, Shepherd's Bush Green, West London
Organised by Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee. Followed by Troops Out Movement Rally



This is called defending the 'free world'. Henry Kissinger, the US Secretary of State flew into Spain last week to sign a new defence pact with Franco's successor King Juan Carlos. The BBC greeted this pact as 'encouraging liberalisation'. But Juan Carlos is putting the weapons given to him by the US to the same use as his fascist predecessor, as can be seen from this photograph of striking Madrid bank workers running away from tear gas bombs, which were thrown at them by the police the moment they tried to demonstrate.

Thatcher's Blue Terror—don't laugh too soon



DON'T laugh too soon. The slanging match between Tory leader Mrs Thatcher and the Russian newspapers may not seem too serious. But in the background are some terrifying facts.

For years we have been told that 'detente'—an understanding between the US and Russia—guarantees world peace. But that has not stopped the continual piling up of weapons of mass destruction on both sides. How monstrous this is shown by the fact that the arms limitation agreement allows each side to keep 2000 strategic arms—each equipped with an H-bomb warhead.

The Economist reported last week that the US arms budget for next year is to be 112,000 million dollars (£56,000 millions), 'the first sharp real increase since the height of the Vietnam War'.

This increase is caused by a new set of monstrous weapons just coming

into production. It is to be paid for by cutbacks in US government spending on schools, health and other social services.

Detente had not stopped this, because it has not stopped the determination of the rulers of the US—and Russia, for that matter—to dominate other countries. At most, detente has meant an agreement with the Russians about who is to dominate what.

But the terms of this agreement depend on the number of weapons possessed by each of the great powers and its allies.

So, while talking of detente, both sides devote huge resources to finding more horrendous means of devastating the other. Hence, the pressure at the top in both the US and Russia is for more arms spending.

This is where Mrs Thatcher comes in. Someone has somehow to persuade people to accept that guns are more important than the smattering of mangle on the old age pensioner's bit of bread, that rockets need money more than the Victorian hospital down the road.

The giant companies of Britain and America want that message got across quickly, if other countries are not to follow Vietnam and Angola in escaping their control. Many are also eager to get new profitable arms contracts. So while accepting detente, they welcome war like noises from the Tory front benches.

Already the Mrs Thatchers are having some successes. Despite all the talk about cuts, the British arms budget this year is over £4000 million, and the defence cuts are tiny compared to the other cuts in government spending.

Bills, bills, bills—Socialist Worker needs your help

THE COST of producing Socialist Worker has shot up in the past few weeks. Our telephone bills have doubled. Our electricity bills have shot through the roof.

We cannot meet those bills without your help. We need every penny you can spare to keep up the increasingly important—and increasingly expensive—job of exposing and answering the Labour government's anti-working class policies.

Last week you sent us £114.82. That was ten times better than the week before.

But it's still not enough to finance the sort of propaganda and action we really need.

Take one example: jobs. The

government destroys thousands every day. The trade union leaders rush to the TV studios to announce how 'concerned' they are—and then show how they're even more concerned to carry on supporting this so-called Labour government.

■ ■ ■
The real fight on unemployment comes from Socialist Worker. Our Paper is leading the campaign for the Right to Work.

But we need to make our coverage—of every jobs struggle, of every action by the unemployed—bigger and better.

For that, we need money. That's why we urge, unashamedly, every

reader and supporter to dig deep.

If you can't send us your pounds, send us your pennies. If you can't collect cash from your workmates, get it from your neighbours, your family, your friends.

Don't think your 25p isn't worth sending. It is. A similar sum once a month—better still, once a week—from all our supporters would do wonders.

Just think: for less than the price of a pint, or a packet of fags, you can help this paper turn the tide in the fight against massive unemployment.

And that's worth a few bob of anyone's money.

Thanks this week to: South Manchester hospitals £1.60.

- Peterborough SW supporter 60p.
- Whitfield (Dundee) SW supporters £5.
- Mike Walsh, Hulme 62p.
- Central London Railworkers £5.
- Central London Printworkers £10.
- Central London hospital workers £3.
- Manor House Hospital £3.
- Royal Free Hospital £3.
- Dumfries SW supporter £5.
- Lampeter SW supporters £9.
- East London District IS £25.
- Svag picket 50p.
- Barnie Robinson, Agecroft NUM £1.
- NW London SW supporters £2.
- SW London District IS £34.50.
- Camden Town SW supporters £6.

Total this week £114.82, which brings the total so far for January to £128.80.

Send donations and collections to: Mel Norris, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Support the Right to Work Campaign!

How TUC tried to stop march

WHEN the papers and television refer to hunger marches, they always speak of the Jarrow march of 1936. They give the impression that the marches were an official Labour movement effort.

But the first unemployment marches were more than ten years before Jarrow. And they were opposed by many official leaders of the movement.

In October 1923 300 marchers set off from Glasgow. By the time they reached London a month later they had been joined by nearly 3000 marchers from other towns.

There was another march in November 1927, when more than 250,000 miners were unemployed. Arthur Cook, the militant general secretary of the Miners' Union called for a protest march to London. He was backed by the National Workers Unemployed Workers Movement and the Rhondda miners.

But the official leaders of the TUC feared that agitation from the unemployed would disturb their cosy talks with the government and the employers' representatives. They did their utmost to sabotage the march.

After trades councils in London and Bristol came out in support of the march, the then TUC general secretary, Walter Citrine, published statements saying the march was completely unofficial, without the support of the trade unions.

The right wing moved into action. Wal Hannington, of the Unemployed Workers Movement, tells the story in his book, *Unemployed Struggles*:

'A M Wall, the secretary of the London Trades Council, in spite of the decision of his own trades council, began to denounce the march as a communist stunt "fostered by the communists for the express purpose of augmenting their membership."

Ban

'The statement was a signal for an outburst of violent abuse and incitement by the coal-owners' press against the march and its leaders. They called for the government to ban the march and for the police to "show no mercy for the political incendiaries, who were organising it against the wishes of the respectable elements of the labour movement." 'The *Western Mail* and *South Wales Daily News* tried to frighten the men

PAST STRUGGLES AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT



Miners' leader Arthur Cook speaking in Trafalgar Square to the thousands who turned out to welcome the 1927 marchers

who were recruited for the march by warnings of how they would be left to starve on the road, and declared that "the organisers of the march were only concerned with frustrating the campaign of the labour leaders to promote goodwill between capital and labour."

'Within 24 hours of Wall's statement appearing in the press, four miners' wives who were carrying out house-to-house collections for the equipment committee were arrested and fined, and the police began to harass the march organisers everywhere.'

'The Marchers' Organising Committee had succeeded in establishing contact with trades councils and Labour Parties on the route of the

march, and had received promises of support in the reception, the accommodation and the feeding of the marchers.

'Then, when these arrangements were practically complete, Walter Citrine sent a letter to the trades councils on the route of the march, instructing them not to render any assistance. As a result of this communication, trades councils and Labour Parties began cancelling arrangements which they had made.

'The press made a few mocking references to the impossibility of the men ever reaching London, some estimating that the march would not last three days, that it would collapse and end in disaster; but when the first body of marchers, led by Arthur



Horner, from Mardy and the top end of the Rhondda Valley, came swinging into Porth, with overcoats rolled and full haversacks on their backs, people who had doubted and questioned whether the march would start realised that here were men with a purpose, ready to face the worst that might come without flinching.

Food

The labour movement in the towns along the route to London soon disregarded the advice of the TUC leadership. At Newport, Bristol, Chippenham, Swindon, Reading trades councils found accommodation and food for the marchers.

'As we marched out from Bristol, thousands escorted us to the outskirts of the town. Then, while we were on the road to Bath, we received news that an official reception from the trades council was awaiting us. We were now feeling confident the sabotage of the march was being defeated by the response of the rank and file workers in the towns through which we passed.

The TUC today likes to pretend that the unemployment marches of the 1920s and 1930s are a glorious part of its traditions. But we can see that TUC leaders then in fact showed the same attitude towards them as Jack Jones and Len Murray do today: hostility.

Public meetings organised by local Right to Work Committees.

PORTSMOUTH: Saturday 31 January, 2pm, Forresters Hall, Fratton Road. Delegate meeting. Open to delegates from trade union branches and shop stewards committees, and to the unemployed.

EETPU Members for the Right to Work: National meeting: Saturday 14 February, 2pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

BLACKBURN: Wednesday 18 February, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam. Speakers: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Len Blood (candidate for AUEW assistant general secretary) and local speakers. Meeting sponsored by Feniger and Blackburn Shop Stewards' Committee, Blackburn AUEW No 1 branch.

NORTH WEST LONDON Right to Work Campaign jumble sale: bric-a-brac, refreshments and jumble, jumble, jumble! Saturday 31 January, 2.15pm, Harlesden Primary School, Acton Lane, Harlesden.

HACKNEY AND TOWER HAMLETS' Right to Work Campaign social: Saturday 7 February, 8pm, 179 Sandringham Road (Unemployed Centre), Hackney, London, E8. Admission 50p, unemployed 10p.

HACKNEY AND TOWER HAMLETS Right to Work Committee urgently need any spare furniture, radios, televisions, record players, records etc, to equip the campaign's unemployed centre in Sandringham Road. We also need jumble for a jumble sale. If you have anything you can part with please contact us at 179 Sandringham Road, Hackney, London, E8.

PETERBOROUGH: Len Murray addresses the trades council on Sunday 1 February. Help launch a Peterborough campaign by joining rank and file trade unionists and unemployed workers at a protest meeting outside. Meet at AUEW Hall, Lincoln Road, 9.30am.

EAST LONDON Right to Work Campaign book sale. Please bring unwanted books to Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15 before 7pm, Friday 6 February. Sale starts at 7pm. Includes new books!!

SOUTHWARK Right to Work Campaign street meeting: Saturday 31 January, 2pm, outside Morning Star pub, Peckham Rye, London, SE15. All those fighting for the right to work welcome.

Public Meeting for unemployed workers organised by Leicester Trades Council Unemployment Subcommittee. Fight for the Right to Work. Secular Hall, Humberston Gate, Wednesday 4 February, 2pm.

WOLVERHAMPTON Right to Work Disco: The Three Crowns, Coleman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, Saturday 31 January, 8pm. Food and bar extension.

Socialist Worker will publish free advertisements for all local Right to Work activities and meetings. Send details to Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Help spread the campaign!

THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK—new pamphlet just out. By John Deason, secretary, National Right to Work Campaign. Includes sections on how unemployed workers can fight strengthening the trade unions, organising factory occupations.

Available from the Rank and File Organising Committee, price 19p each including postage. Orders over 10 copies post free, 10p a copy.

THE National Right to Work Campaign wants to circulate all trade union bodies supporting the campaign locally. Make sure the address of your trade union body has been sent in.

LEAFLETS calling for support for the Right to Work march, including details of the campaign aims and a sponsorship form, now available. £1 for 500, including postage.

POSTERS to advertise meetings in the campaign. 10p for five, £1.50 for 100.

BADGES: Fight for the Right to Work! 10p each, plus 6½p postage. Orders over 50 post free.

FROM Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Money with orders please.

How to bring the money in...

TWO students' unions have voted large sums of money for the Right to Work March. At Reading University, the students' union has voted £105 to sponsor the march of an ex-student who is out of work. The North East London Polytechnic have voted £50.

In many areas, the sale of Right to Work football cards is going well. Many factories have taken football cards for sale each week. In Blackburn,

for instance, workers at three factories, Fenigar and Blackburn, Scapa Engineering and Mullards, are selling cards regularly.

The East London Right to Work Committee organised a jumble sale, and raised £70

The National Campaign needs money urgently for march and rally preparations. Keep up the jumble sales, football cards, sponsorship efforts. And send in the money as soon as possible.

Advertisement

National Rank & File Organising Committee INVITES

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

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TO

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RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship fee £1 details from

46 Prince George Road, London N16

RAISE FUNDS WHERE YOU WORK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

In aid of the 'Right to Work' campaign and unemployed workers

5p = £1

NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT

Everyone who supports the Right to Work Campaign can raise money by taking a football card around their workmates each week. Raise £1 a week—cards from local Right to Work Committees or direct from: Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 50p FROM EACH FOOTBALL CARD TO THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN OFFICE?

Each £1 is divided 50p to the local campaign and 50p to the national. The national campaign urgently needs money. Send off those 50p pieces today!

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY

Gerald, 16, unemployed and black, in an escape was the street-corner, his solution was jail for five years. Another victory for law and order.

GERALD FORD is 16. He is black. He is in prison for five years for taking a handbag off a woman at a South London underground station.

Last week the Court of Appeal confirmed his sentence. The judges admitted that it was a deterrent sentence: It wasn't for what he did. It was to frighten off other people who might do it.

Gerald and four other young West Indians in South London were sentenced last year by Judge Gwyn Morris. The judge in his summing up said that Brixton was such a nice place before the coloured people came here.

The Court of Appeal judges didn't approve. They said that it was 'unfortunate' that the judge had used language which 'could be misconstrued' as racialism.

But the five-year sentence, said their Lordships, was correct.

In 250 lines of judgement, most of it about the 'terror' to people in the street caused by young blacks, there were just two lines which tried to analyse why the crimes were committed.

'Factors of deprivation', concluded the three wealthy gentlemen, 'frustration, a degree of poverty ... could not lead the court into the path of mercy'.

Gerald Ford spent most of his time on the streets around Brixton because it was drier there. There

By Flame reporter

were buckets around all the walls of his bedroom to catch the permanent flood of water coming down them. The other rooms were no better.

On the streets, he met other boys a few years older. There he learnt that if you wanted more than £6.90 a week then it had to be illegal because there were no jobs for the like of Gerald.

He had the choice of abject poverty or fighting for the means of life: starvation or jail.

There are 7009 registered unemployed at the dole in Brixton—121 vacancies. Many hundreds of school-leavers, white as well as black, don't even bother to put their names down.

After a two-year study of unemployment in the borough, a committee of senior Labour councillors has no answers. The Careers Office is so desperate it wants to let out unused factory space for peanuts if firms will only take on a young worker.

There are hundreds of Gerald Fords in South London. The State is quite happy to let them rot.

Gerald's attempt was one way out. But it leaves the system intact for the rest. The fight is there, it only needs the direction.



The truth about student 'spongers'

THE DAILY MAIL, Express and, of course, Woodrow Wyatt of the Sunday Mirror, have found a new whipping boy—the foreign student.

Foreign students, we are told, are sponging on the British taxpayer to the tune of £1,110,000 a year.

That is rubbish. In fact, asking foreign students to pay even higher fees than they do at present is tantamount to asking them to subsidise British education even further.

This is because there is very little additional cost in providing for foreign students once educational institutions are built, equipped and staffed. Whether the students are foreign or British, the costs would still exist.

Sabotage

But some people want to pass on these essential costs to foreign students.

At a time when cuts in public education are threatening the jobs of thousands of teachers and other staff, the foreign student issue is a diversion.

We have to build a real fight against the cuts and unemployment, not get caught in a racist cul-de-sac of squeezing more and more from foreign students (whose fees are already three times higher) and so shutting the door completely on poorer ones.

At the same time, we are absolutely opposed to the elitist argument which, put crudely, says that expelling 'excellent' foreign students would mean accepting 'sub-standard' British students.

The National Organisation of International Socialist Societies argues for higher education as a right to all who want it—and a decent grant so students from working-class families can afford to study.

CIA: The murders Maudling ignores

'IT IS AN invitation to murder'. That was Reginald Maudling talking to the London Evening Standard about last week's publication of the names and addresses of CIA agents by Socialist Worker.

As he was speaking, information was coming

out of still more murders organised by the CIA.

Eighteen months ago, the government of Cyprus was overthrown by an extreme right-wing nationalist coup. Part of the coup was an attempt to murder Makarios, the president of the country.

The immediate result was a Turkish invasion, which has left the country divided, thousands of people dead and tens of thousands homeless.

The CIA knew about the coup in advance, but

deliberately refused to do anything to prevent it. This has been revealed in a US congressional committee report leaked to the American papers.

A month after the coup, the right wing in Cyprus murdered the American ambassador. According to the report, the CIA knew within one hour who had done the murder, but did nothing to help apprehend them.

It seems more than possible that the CIA was even involved in the murder preparations, seeing them as a way to create a climate of crisis suitable for its own manoeuvres.

The CIA is an organisation which will stop at no form of terror in its efforts to defend the interests of US big business. If the occasion arose, it would resort in Britain to the murderous methods it has employed in Cyprus.

That is why we have no hesitation in printing the names and addresses of as many CIA agents in Britain as we can discover.

More spies uncovered

WE HAVE been able to uncover the whereabouts of two more CIA agents in London.

John F Pereira, one of the top three or four CIA men, is living in an old CIA residence: 3 Wilton Street, London SW1, Phone 01-253 9751.

Thomas Blackshear, another agent recently named by the magazine Time Out, lives at 37 Circus Road, London, NW8, phone 01-286 1684.

THE CIA IN BRITAIN

Speaker: Philip Agee, former CIA agent.

HARLOW: Thursday 29 January, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair, Harlow.

CENTRAL LONDON: Thursday 5 February, 6.30pm, Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock Place, London WC1

TUC TREACHERY

THE work-permit system in the hotel and catering industry has made it possible for employers to exploit foreign workers to the hilt, enforcing long hours, low wages, and blocking strong trade union organisation. The collapse of London Eating Houses last summer left the workers without any protection, compensation, or the right to claim social security benefits.

The TUC is now leading the attack, not on the work permit system, but on the foreign workers in the industry. It has asked the government to stop issuing work permits altogether, since 'the country is suffering from mounting unemployment'.

Jose Caba, Transport Union branch secretary at Manor House Hospital, told Socialist Worker:

'There is a general worry about unemployment, and instead of giving a lead in the fight for jobs, the TUC is exploiting people's fears and diverting attention to foreign workers.'

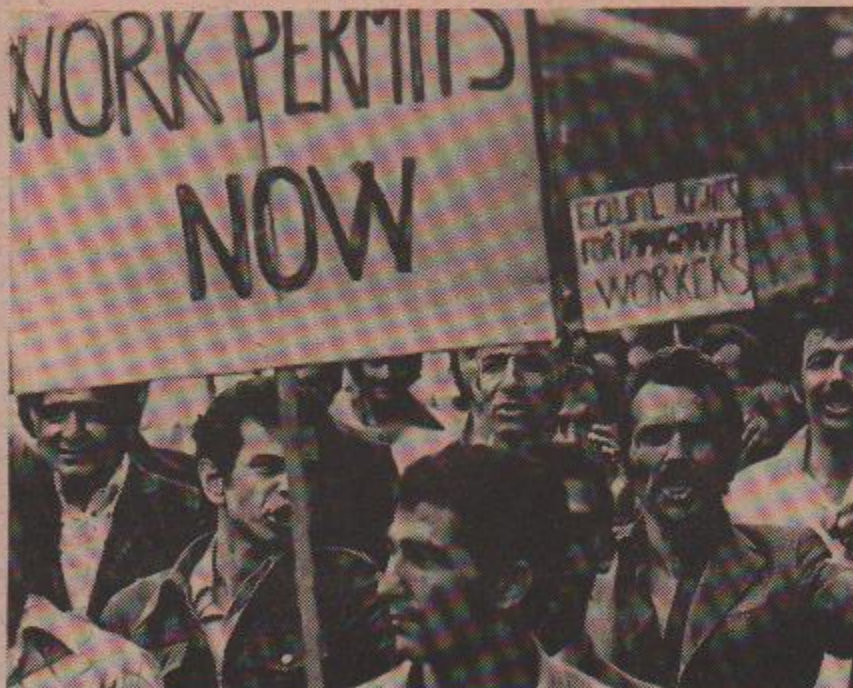
'This is a serious and dangerous situation. Already there has been pressure in certain hospitals to stop the recruitment of foreign workers.'

GLOATS

'The TUC has made it easier and more respectable to talk of a ban on foreign workers, and that is why it is even more important that we take the issue head-on.'

In the past two weeks the press has made maximum propaganda. The News of the World gloats over a 'major union trying to halt the flood of foreign workers snapping up jobs.' Suddenly, a 'report', attributed to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, is 'leaked' to the press, claiming that at least 84 per cent of foreign catering workers are working without permits.

Vishnu Sharma of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, told Socialist



Worker: 'There is no such report and the figures quoted bear no relation with the reality. Such newspaper reporting can only do harm to these workers. In this industry foreign workers are exploited by employers.'

The demand should be: 'Jobs for all, Work permits for all'. The TGWU 1/696 Branch, at Manor House Hospital, passed this resolution: 'This Branch condemns the TUC for asking the Home Office to restrict the issuing of work permits for immigrant workers.'

'We see this as an attempt, by the TUC

leadership, to divert attention from the real causes of unemployment, and make one of the most exploited sections of the working-class pay for a crisis which they have in no way caused.'

'The real causes of unemployment are redundancies and factory closures by employers, cuts in public spending in government, and pay restraints, cutting real spending power.'

'We therefore demand that the TUC deal with the real causes of unemployment, and stop using any section of the working-class as scapegoats.'

Soonu Engineer

International Socialism 85

LINWOOD 1975
PORTUGAL
UNITED STATES
ECONOMICS
KEIR HARDIE
& VICTOR GRAYSON

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Available now, 28p including postage, from 15 Journal, 8 Coitons Gardens, London E2, or you can buy it from any SW seller, 20p.

There's something for everyone at your local IS Bookshop

Why is there a crisis?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Part of the answer—and in plain and simple words—is in this masterpiece of a book.

I RECENTLY came across a copy of a book which I had not seen for years—John Strachey's *Why You Should Be A Socialist*.

The edition—the 1944 revised version of the 1937 original—was published by Gollancz, then a famous left-wing publishing firm, in a huge quantity at a shilling a copy.

It was one of the notorious 'yellow books' (so-called from the colour of the paper wrapper).

Simple words

These 'shilling volumes of concentrated sedition', as a right-wing Tory MP called them at the time, put the basic socialist case in plain

and simple words.

They included *Your MP* by Gracchus (otherwise known as Michael Foot), *Why Not Trust The Tories* by Celticus (otherwise known as Aneurin Bevan), *Guilty Men* by Cato (Frank Owen) which sold more than 200,000 copies, and, pick of the bunch, Strachey's little masterpiece.

I call it a masterpiece, not because its political line is impeccable—far from it, like all the series it is coloured by a mixture of part-reformist, part-revolutionary, part-Stalinist notions—but because it takes up and answers some elementary questions about capitalism and socialism more clearly and more concisely than any other popular work I know.

The blurb on the yellow cover summarises its substance: *What causes unemployment? What causes war? What makes booms and slumps? What is capitalism? What is socialism?*

Here is Strachey's explanation of the quite complicated business of why capitalism is crisis ridden:

There are far too few of the rich to carry off the wide stream of consumer's goods which modern methods of production can and do turn out.

Cannot answer

So neither the 43 million (the workers and families—DH), for they are kept too poor, nor the four million (the capitalists and families—DH), for they are too few, can buy them. Who is to buy them?

In the last analysis, there is no answer to this question. It is precisely because our present economic system cannot answer this question that it is going bankrupt before our eyes.

This is the ultimate cause of our troubles. This is the cause of those slumps which are always occurring in peacetime, which fling millions of workers out of their jobs, which ruin millions of lives.

This is the ultimate factor which prevents our economic system from functioning properly. This is the barrier against which it breaks its head.

After each slump, it is true, there comes a boom. For a time everything seems to go well.

But no sooner have good times been firmly established than once more the slump comes back.

And it comes back, fundamentally, because there is no one to buy the flood of commodities which the increased production of good times has thrown on the market...

There is a plausible solution which is sometimes called the 'theory of high wages'.

As you can see, nothing is more natural than to suggest that all that needs to be done to make our system work properly is that employers should pay us all higher wages...

To anyone who has seen that, at bottom, the system will not work because people have not enough money to buy the goods they produce, the obvious solution seems to be that they should be given some money by way of increased wages.

System

Unfortunately, however... this simple theory does not work...

The trouble about the 'theory of high wages' is that high wages cut into profits... the system will only work if the capitalists are continually re-investing their profits in new enterprises.

But they will not do that unless the general rate of profit is high enough...

Thus it is not open to the system to get rid of its gigantic surplus by giving it away to the workers by high wages or any similar device.

Now read on, if you can get hold of a copy. It is a remarkable indicator of the state of opinion at the end of the last war that a book of this kind should be a best-seller.

Strachey went on to become a Cabinet Minister, his ministerial career is now almost forgotten.

His books, of which this is the shortest and best, are still worth reading.

WITHOUT COMMENT

CORPORATE TAX AVOIDANCE

Programme

Michael Z. Hepler LL B LL M Barrister

Iain Sillit ACA Partner Arthur Andersen & Co.

- 09.30 GENERAL TAX AVOIDANCE CONSIDERATION DIVIDEND POLICY
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.15 TECHNIQUES FOR REDUCING TAXABLE PROFIT
- 12.30 Cocktails and Lunch
- 14.00 SPECIAL CLASSES OF COMPANY, CLOSE GROUPS AND CONSORTIA
- 15.00 TAX DEFERMENT
- 15.30 Tea
- 16.45 OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES
- 17.00 End of Conference

Adequate time throughout the programme has for questions.

Date: Wednesday 4th February 1976

Venue: The Inn on the Park, Park Lane, London W1

Fee: £45 inclusive of refreshments, cocktails, lunch and

—from the *Law Society Gazette*, 14 January

A bit soft in the NUT

TEACHERS in London are falling over themselves to get the new diary produced by their division of the National Union of Teachers. It's full of helpful information.

For the city's 2000 teachers on the dole and therefore with a bit of free time, there's the timely reminder that the pheasant and partridge shooting season ends on 31 January.

And for those still with jobs—and dreaming about what they won't be spending their next frozen pay increase on—there's the vital information that 1969 was a particularly good year for champagne.

Grouse shooting, meanwhile, begins on 12 August. Those teachers unable to bag any good grouse on the wild moors of Central London can always, however, hunt down that other local delight, the Lesser Brained Twit. It breeds in great numbers at NUT head-quarters.

It's the most terrible government... it's really Communist. It's not comfortable to be near people like Healey and Wedgwood Benn.

—Kitty Miller, a card-carrying member of the ruling class, explaining to a New York society magazine this month why she has fled England and gone to live in the United States.

ONE RESULT of the wave of short-time working and redundancies at Chrysler's two Coventry plants is a doubling of attempted suicide in the city. They're up to 80 a month. Successful suicides are rising, too.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Introducing the Scrounger of the Week: it takes four men's income tax to keep him



Hallett: "I'm trying for more money"

JOBLESS Charlie Hallett reckons that anyone who works for less than he can get in State handouts needs his head examined.

Hallett, a 40-year-old father of five living in a council house, hasn't worked for eight years and gets £48.90 a week from the State.

It takes the income tax paid by 1500 average wage earners to fund that sort of money.

But Hallett, who pays only £250 a fortnight in rent for his council home in Chiswick, Middlesex, would rather be getting every penny he can out of the State—without working for it.

He says: "I think I should have more money from the State and I'm trying for it."

If the Government can give out to anyone why shouldn't I get more? The Hallett family have a TV, a record player, a tape recorder, a stereo and other luxuries.

And on top of their £48.90 a week State handout— including £1.50 family allowance—Hallett told of having £2 or £3 a week from doing electrical repair work on the side, which is used to his wife, Prestella, so as not to affect his State.

Here, in his own words, is the Hallett philosophy: "I wouldn't look at a job that paid less than £28 a week after deduct-

News of the World Reporter

tions and without overtime.

Others can work for less than the Government will hand out if they like. More fools than they want their heads examined.

In May the Employment Department offered to send me on a rehabilitation course to train for a job.

But when I learned I'd be paid less than the union rate during training I decided there was no point in going.

I haven't been to a job interview for over a year and have given up the idea of working.

But I think the State is very mean with its money.

I earn £2 or £3 a week repairing radios and other electrical appliances.

But, because I'm only allowed to earn £3 without affecting my unemployment payments, those earnings go in my wife's name.

AND NOW THE TRUTH

MANY READERS seeing the News of the World's article last month on 'Scrounger of the Week' Charlie Hallett must have felt their blood boil. But just look at the facts:

Charlie invited a News of the World reporter to his house in Exeter to publicise his attempt to get his eldest daughter, Prestella, out of care.

The reporter was very sympathetic, Charlie told Fifth Column. He showed me the draft of the article he was going to publish about Prestella.

"When I saw the article in the paper I just couldn't believe it. The reporter misrepresented everything I said and mentioned nothing about her."

The News of the World claimed that Charlie gets £48.90 from the State; they also claimed that he said: "Others can work for less than the government can hand out if they like—more fools than they want their heads examined."

He never said anything of the sort—and at the time of the article, he was receiving £38.40 benefit for himself, his wife and his four children.

The News of the World also failed

to mention that he is an epileptic, suffering from frequent fits, and that he is on invalidity benefit, not the dole.

The critic added: "The Hallett family have a TV, a record player, a tape recorder... and other luxuries."

The TV is second hand, the record player Charlie built himself, and the other 'luxuries' is a three-piece suite bought nine years ago.

Charlie has since received 12 poison pen letters. Several threatened him with physical violence, one supports from Plymouth and another tells him to get back to Ireland, despite the fact that he is not even Irish.

His fits have increased as a result of these letters.

Charlie and his wife Christine have not had a holiday in seven years. A couple of weeks ago their rent went up £3 and still the council have not mended their back door, which is little more than a hole in the wall.

Their recent benefit increase has already been swallowed up by the massive increase in electricity and other prices. So much for 'scroungers'.

TIM COUSINS AND MIKE BRODERICK



Aitken: £500 for nothing

NOW WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THAT BEFORE?

'To combat inflation and unemployment, workers must accept rises less than the past rate of inflation'.—Herr Schleger, head of the West German CBI, speaking on West German TV earlier this month.

BELLY-AITKEN FOR SACRIFICE

JONATHAN Aitken is a whizz-kid. He is also a Tory MP and therefore a devoted advocate of sacrifice—for you, not him.

On 29 August 1973, Aitken, then a director of two Slater Walker companies, bought 5000 shares at 30p each in Lamont Holdings, a little-known

Edinburgh manufacturing company.

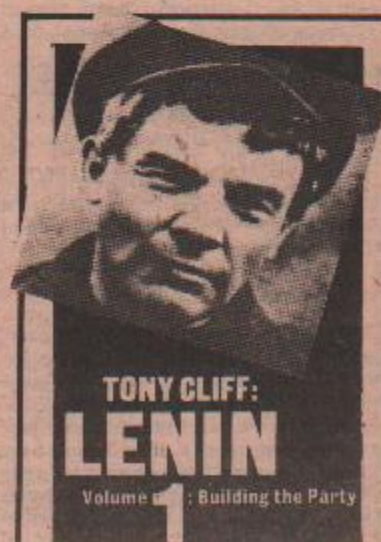
On 8 September, Tony Buckley, another of Slater Walker's young eagles, suddenly left Slater Walker.

On 12 September, it was announced that Buckley had joined Lamont Holdings.

Profiteers on the stock market immediately took notice. In those boom days of 1973, any company joined by a Slater Walker man was 'good for a buy'.

Everyone started clamouring for Lamont shares. Their value boomed. How lucky for Jonathan Aitken that he already had 5000 shares under his belt. At the peak of the Lamont boom, Jonathan sold his shares—for £2000.

A clear profit of 33 per cent—or £500 for doing absolutely nothing except lifting the telephone twice (and being 'in the know' in Slater Walker).



TONY CLIFF: LENIN

Volume 1: Building the Party

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

PORTUGAL

Picket killed by armed police

ARMED police in Portugal have again fired on Portuguese workers. One was shot through the heart and died on the way to hospital and six other people were injured including two shopworkers, two elderly women and an elderly man.

This time the shooting, to which I was an eye-witness, took place in the centre of Lisbon during a two-hour stoppage of work by shop-assistants and retail workers. About 36,000 of the 40,000-strong Commercial Workers Union struck in protest against the wage freeze and the rise in the cost of living. They were supported by many of the small shopkeepers.

A small incident in a back street, Rua de Barros Queiros, started it all. The owner of a toy shop insisted on keeping business going through the strike by his own employees. Striking workers from shops in the same street formed a picket around his door, calling the owner a 'fascista'.

The owner phoned the police to come and break the picket. When they arrived they used their truncheons to break through to the toyshop door. One old woman was injured in the head while two pickets were arrested. Some pickets followed angrily after the police who took the arrested employees to the main police station 100 yards down the road at Largo do Regedor, just behind Lisbon's main square, the Rossio.

Machine-Gun

As the crowd, by this time large, gathered at the entrance to this narrow street I spoke to a lad in a yellow coat who said his name was Luis. A photographer then came up to me and asked if I spoke English and what was happening. Luis told him to hide his camera since the police had already arrested someone for taking pictures of them using their rubber truncheons.

Nothing was happening and I decided to turn round and walk back to the little toyshop to see if the picket was still effective. I had not walked more than 20 paces when people began running past me shouting and screaming. Instinct told me to run like hell and then the sound of machine-gun fire and pistol shots burst out.

I ran up past the building that had been occupied by the war veterans and hid behind a

From a Socialist Worker reporter, Lisbon

car. Through the window I caught sight of the last policeman running through the street below baring his teeth and firing his pistol wildly above his head like a cowboy. Later I saw that a large dent had been made in the door on the other side of the car by a ricochet.

Finally the shooting stopped, things quietened down. I saw Luis down the road and went to speak to him. The right sleeve of his coat and his back were smeared with blood, after helping to bundle two of the wounded into nearby cars.

Large crowds remained nearby for about five hours afterwards talking about the bloody affair. Several hundred must have learned the true facts, if only second or third hand.

Brutality

Nevertheless the following day none of Lisbon's daily newspapers openly criticised the PGP. Even the Communist Party-influenced 'O Diario' made excuses for them—it said there had been provocateurs in the crowd trying to discredit strike action! Only the 'Diario de Lisboa' is complaining two days later after discovering that one of its own journalists was attacked.

After the 25 April coup the police, who gathered an odious reputation for corruption and brutality, were kept very much in the background. Now they are being let out of hibernation.

Fascists freed as left-wing general is jailed

MORE than 100 left-wing Portuguese soldiers held in prison since the end of November were joined last week by the former commander of the Lisbon military region and the security force, Copcon, Otelo da Carvalho. Otelo was one of the key officers in the overthrow of fascism 20 months ago.

Two days after jailing him, the authorities released from jail key figures in the fascist dictatorship. Among them was the man responsible for giving orders to the PIDE secret police, Cesar Moreira, Caetano's minister of the interior.

The excuse for the jailing of Otelo was a report on the events of 25 November, when the occupation of airbases by left-wing paratroopers was followed by a sweeping victory for the right.

But the report fails to produce evidence of any organised attempt at a left-wing coup or 'insurrection'.

A coup implies an organised attempt to seize power. But the report recognises that the military action of the left on that day 'lacked a centralised military command.'

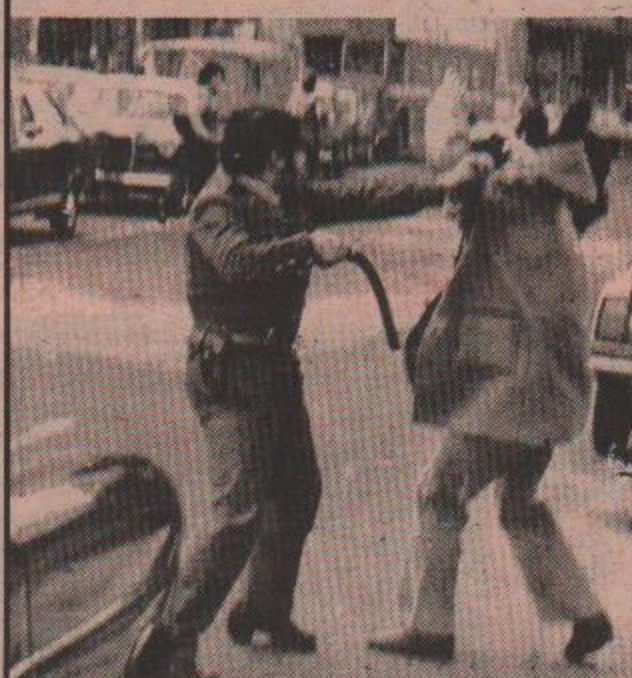
Otelo is accused of telling the paras to take over their own bases. Also accused are Costa Martins, former Minister of Labour considered sympathetic to the Communist Party, and Jaime Serra, a member of the Party's central committee 'who was in the

RIGHT: A sequence of photographs in the *Diario de Lisboa* shows their reporter being beaten up by an armed policeman in Lisbon's main square as the police moved in to break the shopworkers' pickets.

Copcon headquarters on the nights of 21 and 24 November', says the report.

Sections of the Communist Party are also accused of organising a demonstration of support for the paras in the glass-manufacturing town of Marinha Grande and of urging on the paras at the Montijo base. It is claimed there were visitors from 'the Communist Party, the young Communists and LUAR' [a small revolutionary group], in another main base, BETP.

The most that can be concluded from the facts in the report is that sections of the Communist Party and officers friendly to it put on a show of force in the hope that this would persuade other members of the government to give them a little more power.



CHRYSLER LINWOOD STEWARDS SUPPORT MADRID WORKERS

STEWARDS at Chrysler's Linwood plant have moved to support their brothers and sisters in Chrysler's factories in Spain.

This important act of solidarity came at the height of the latest big struggle in the multinational giant's Madrid factories.

The militancy of the Madrid Chrysler workers forced the company to offer wage increases of £10-a-week each two weeks ago. Then the Spanish government moved in. The government, doing its damndest to ride a wave of working class militancy, ordered that these rises were 'inflationary' and must be reduced by a third.

The government's intervention prompted shop stewards in Madrid to call a mass meeting inside the factory. The meeting was brutally broken up by the police.

After this the Transport Workers Union stewards at Linwood decided to make direct contact with leaders of the underground unions in Chrysler Espana. They also called on the company to negotiate with genuine trade unions—not the fascist puppet unions—and resolved to protest to the Spanish Embassy over the arrest of Chrysler and other trade union leaders.

The Scottish Chrysler workers' letter to their brothers and sisters reads: 'We Chrysler Linwood stewards pledge our support for your struggle to establish free trade unions. We have protested to the Spanish Embassy and Chrysler Europe calling for the release of all Chrysler Espana and other workers arrested by the authorities, and supporting your right to organise independently of the state. We will continue to aid your fight by all the means at our disposal.'

Boycott needed - not talk

A CONFERENCE 'For Solidarity with Workers of Spain' is being called for Saturday 14 February in London. Its sponsors include no fewer than 18 members of the TUC General Council, including Jones, Gormley, Drain, Basnett and Chapple, and several 'left' MPs. Speakers include Michael Foot.

Wherever possible members of the International Socialists and Socialist Worker supporters should try to get themselves delegated to this conference. Only national, regional and district trade union organisations, trades councils and shop stewards' committees can send delegates—branches cannot be represented.

Nevertheless we cannot abstain from this conference. We have to fight for workers' solidarity with the Spanish working class. We should aim to draw a line between those on the side of Spanish workers and those who are not.

Worse

The sponsors by and large fall into the second category. The platform of a conference in solidarity with the Spanish working class does not include the 'un' Employment Secretary of a government which sent a representative to Franco's funeral and plans to be host to his successor's trade minister. Neither does it include trade union leaders whose unions profited out of cheap holidays in fascist Spain. These points have to be made, and we are the only people who will raise them.

The sponsors will be moving resolutions calling for amnesty for all political prisoners and free trade union organisation in Spain. Of course we support these 'democratic demands'—they are crucial for Spanish workers in economic struggles.

But these are not enough—we have to argue for boycott, for trade union blanketing of all Spanish goods and of trade with Spain. That is the only way to cripple the Spanish regime, and to give the workers the support they are calling for. By fighting for this demand we aim to turn the conference into the basis for a massive solidarity campaign.

□ All IS members and SW supporters delegated to this conference should contact the IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878)

PORTUGAL

The Lessons of the 25th November 1975

Tony Cliff
Chris Harman

10p

For 18 months after the overthrow of fascism, the revolutionary movement in Portugal grew and grew. It was the most exciting working-class upsurge for decades.

Then, on 25 November, it suffered its first major defeat. An abortive coup by paratroopers gave the right-wing the chance to disarm and disband left-wing military units.

Why did this happen? Does it end the hopes of millions that Portugal would become the only country on earth controlled by its workers?

This important new pamphlet explains what went wrong—and what needs to be done to put Portugal back on the road to socialism.

10p (plus 9p postage) from International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.



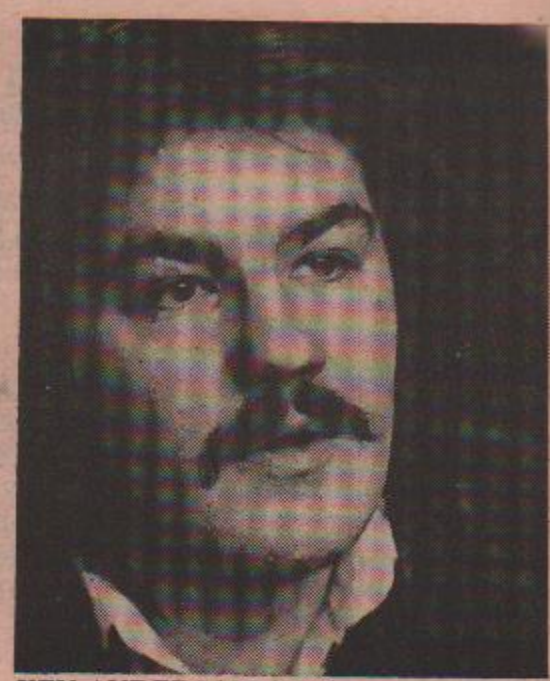
DAVID FITZGERALD, from Middlesbrough. Aged 43, he is a fitter and a member of the Engineering Workers Union. He is married with four children and has been unemployed for nine months.



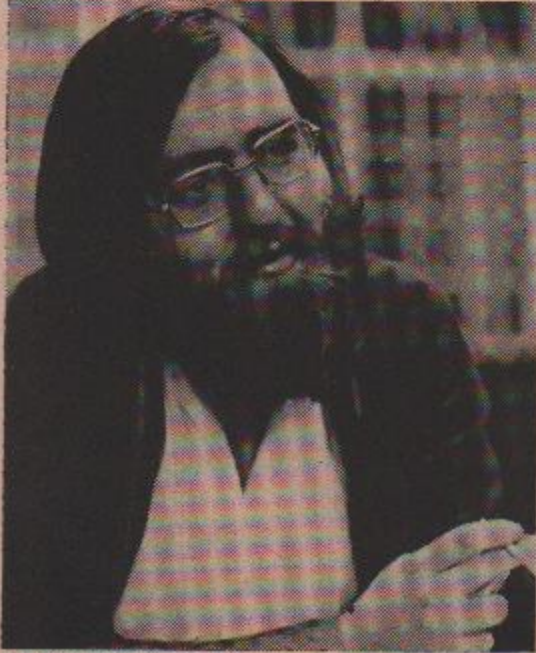
SAM STRUDWICK, from London. Aged 21, she is a member of the Transport Workers Union who lost her job in a laundry. She has been unemployed for three months.



JOSEPH CRONSHAW, from Salford. Aged 39, he is married with five children. He is a qualified class 1 driver and a member of the Engineering Workers Union (AUEW). He has been unable to get work since September.



KEN ANDERSON, from Salford. Aged 23, he is a building worker and has been unemployed for nine months. He is married with two children.



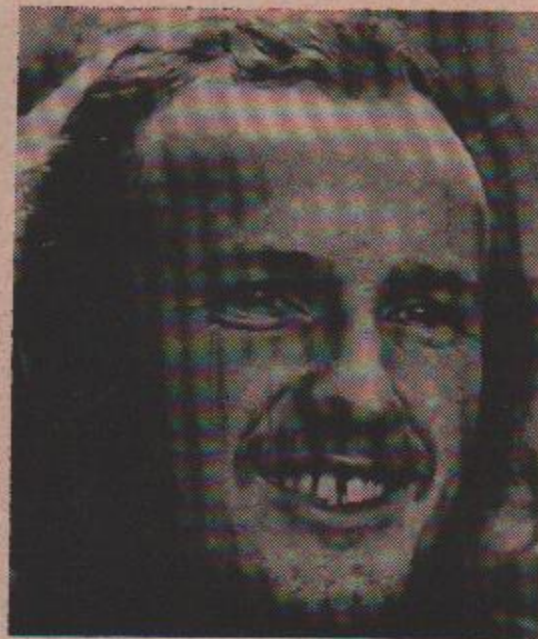
PETE McDONNELL, from Cheltenham. Aged 23, he is a machine operator in the Engineering Workers Union. He has been unemployed for three months.



NANCY KELLY, from Glasgow. Aged 21, she has been unemployed since June, when she stopped being a student.



AZEEM KHAN, from Blackburn. Aged 18, he has been unemployed since New Year's Eve. He was a baker and is a member of the Bakers' Union.

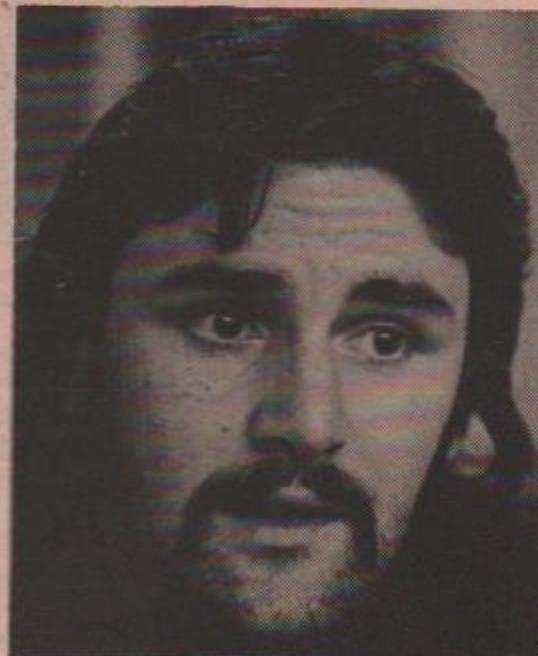


RAY STORRY, from South London. Aged 24, he was a General and Municipal Workers Union shop steward at STC in Greenwich. He has been unemployed for five months.

Marchers for the right to work - will you support us



NEIL ROGALL, from London. Aged 25, he is an unemployed civil servant and member of the CPSA. He has been looking for work since November.



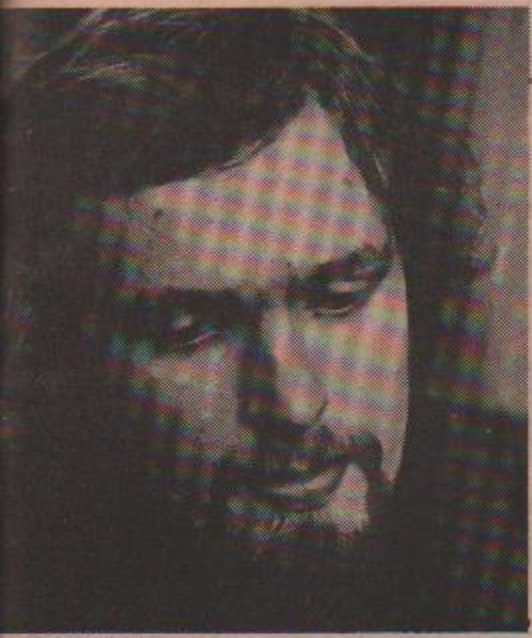
FRANK JONES, from Kirkby, Merseyside. He has been unemployed for 2½ years. He is married with five children, and is a member of the Furniture Trades Union.



RAY BROWN, from Liverpool. Aged 30, he has been unemployed for 11 months. He was a carworker and is a member of the Transport Workers Union.



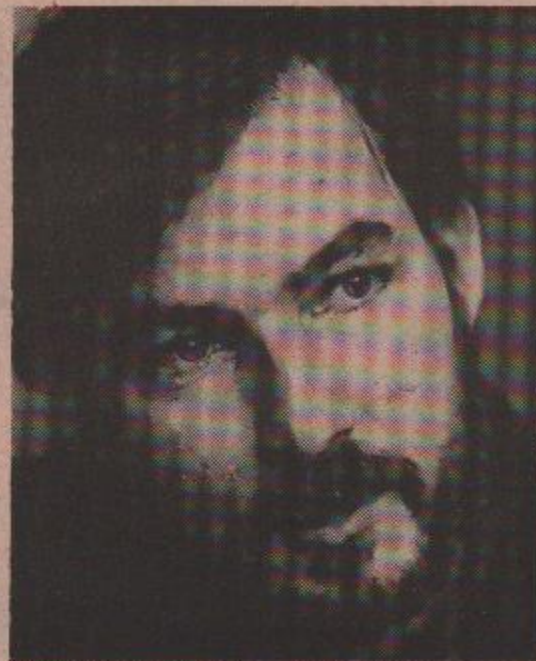
DAVE SWINGLER, from Birmingham. Aged 20, he learnt to be a radio engineer in the army. He is now in the Engineering Workers Union (AUEW) and has been unemployed for the past two months.



TOMMY KAYES from Paisley in Scotland. Aged 22, he is a member of the government workers' union NALGO and was a social worker. He has been unemployed for the past three months.



ERICA BURNLEY, from Nottingham. Aged 24, she is a member of the General and Municipal Workers Union. She has been unemployed for the past six weeks.



MIKE MARTIN, from Manchester. Aged 29, he has been unemployed since he left college seven months ago.



CAROLYN CONWAY, from Guildford. Aged 23, she has been unemployed for two weeks. She is a member of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

HERE are 22 unemployed men and women who will be marching for the right to work from Manchester to London next month. 'We're out of work', said one of them, 'but we're not going to sit around and take it. We're going to do something about it'.

These men and women want the support of the trade union movement throughout the country. Their march is already sponsored by five Labour MPs and by trade union branches and shop stewards' committees. But they still need much more help if they are going to bring their message to workers in every area they pass through.

Already 33 other marchers are signed up for total of 55 so far. Names of other marchers are still coming into the Right to Work office.

It will cost £5 a day—for food, equipment, leaflets, posters, propaganda of every description—for each day each marcher is on the road.

Call for the sponsoring of a marcher for one day or more at the next meeting of your trade union branch, trades council or shop stewards' committee, as part of your fight against unemployment.

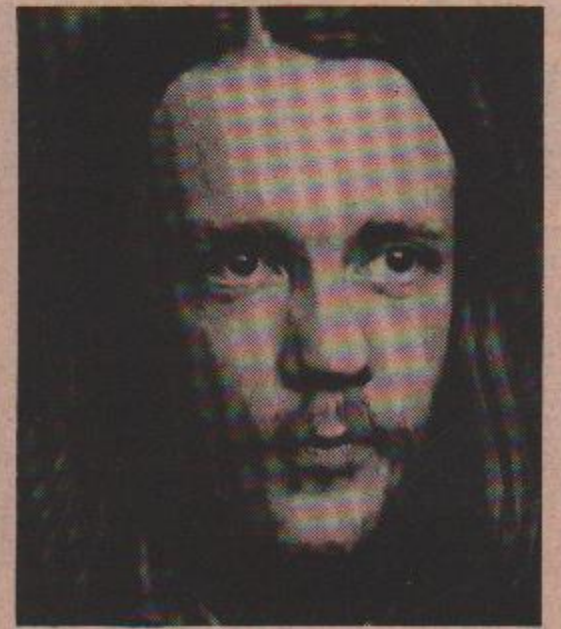
Hold a collection among the men and women in your section, office or workplace to pay for a marcher. Regular collections each week until the march starts can keep a marcher on the road for several days.

Send in individual donations too to help the marchers.

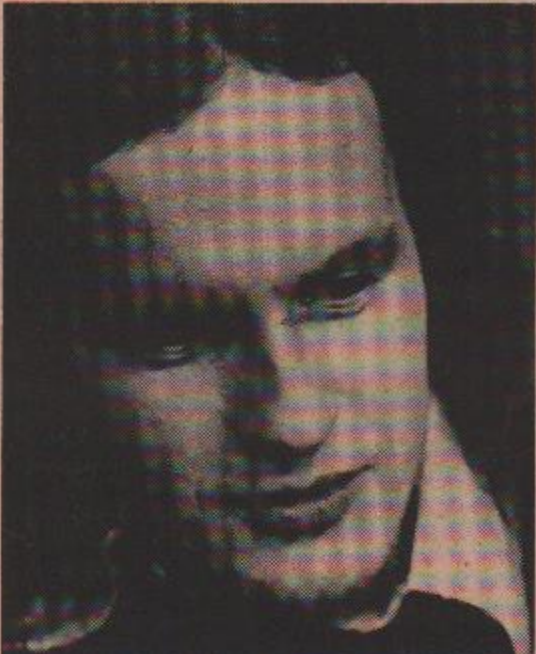
Sponsorship is the simplest and most direct way in which employed workers can link with the unemployed who want to organise against unemployment. So fill in the form below right away.



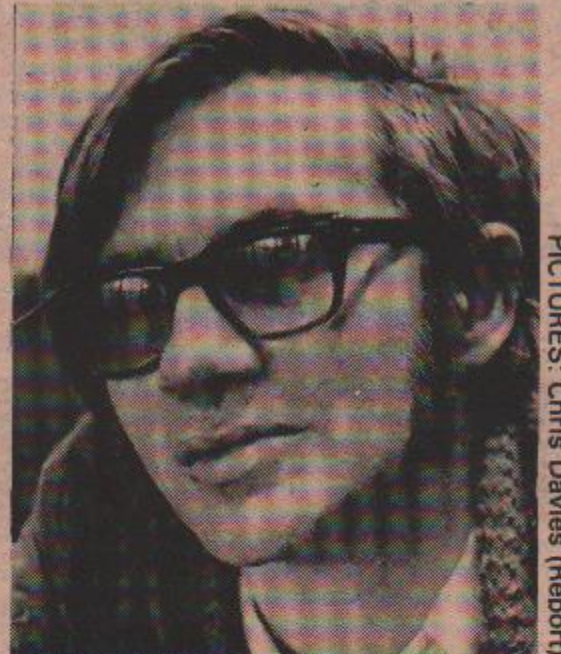
THELMA KENNEDY, from Bolton. Aged 25, unemployed since last May, she was a social worker and a shop steward in the local government workers union NALGO.



STEVE KIND, from Leeds. Aged 28, he is a member of the Engineering Workers Union, (AUEW) and a machine operator. He has been unemployed since October.



ROBERT GRAHAM, from Glasgow. Aged 23, he has been unemployed since he left college seven months ago.

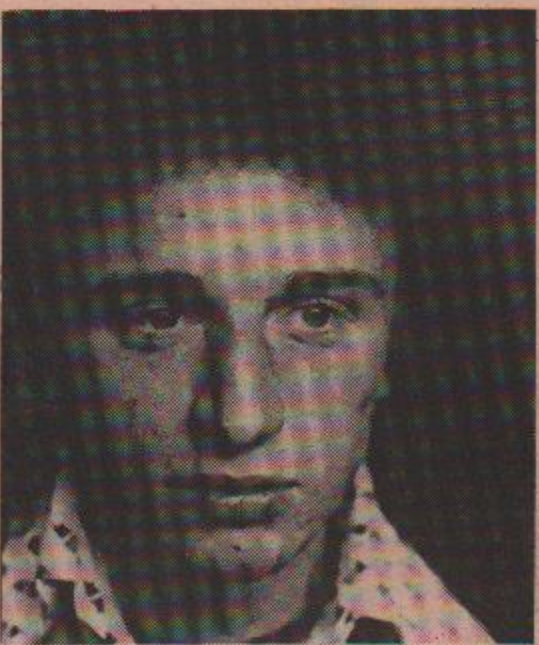


DAVID SCHOFIELD, from Manchester. Aged 32, he is married with four children. He is a member of the Transport Workers Union and has been unemployed for six months.

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)



MIKE BUCKINGHAM, from Glasgow. Aged 31, with two children, he is a member of the National Union of Journalists and has been unemployed for four months.



LOZ BRIDGEN, from Birmingham. Aged 18, he has been unemployed for seven months. He is a semi-qualified metal shearer and a member of the Transport Workers Union.

Advertisement
National Rank and File Organising Committee
RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN NEEDS
For the duration of the march, 27 February to 20 March
SINGLE MATTRESSES SLEEPING BAGS SINGLE SHEETS CALOR GAS COOKERS
Mattresses will be placed in protective polythene and returned in the same condition. Sheets and sleeping bags will be cleaned before being returned.
We will collect. Phone 01 249 1207, or write to the Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

**Right to Work Campaign
SPONSORSHIP FORM**

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR _____
(Name of marcher)

FOR _____
(length of time sponsored)

NAME OF SPONSOR And or
TRADE UNION ORGANISATION _____

I ENCLOSE _____

Cut out this form and send to:
Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee,
46 Prince George Road, London N16.

One they could not crack

THE torture and death of our comrades throughout the world is a common occurrence. The graveyards of Russia, Chile, Spain, Portugal, testify to this.

Everyone has read somewhere the story of the tortured body of a comrade 'suiciding' from the upper stories of a police headquarters. Where was it now? Chile? Spain?

The Valpreda Papers*, by Pietro Valpreda, gives us the inside dope, and also the story of one who survived to fight again.

Our dead comrade Pinelli was a young lad from Milan in Italy, an Anarchist railway worker. The Italian political police, trying for a frame-up on a charge of bombing the Agricultural Bank and killing 16 farmers, gave Pinelli one blow too many when seeking a 'confession' and were forced to 'suicide' him through the window of the interrogation room.

With Pinelli, charged as the 'mastermind' gone, the police looked around for a 'softer' replacement. Wayout, freaky, ballet dancer Valpreda looked a good bet. We all know these poofy ballet dancers will soon crack. Alas, for them Valpreda was toughened with politics and humanity.

Contrast

After two years of being given the works, Valpreda still hadn't cracked. Such was the campaign that the state had created around this case, and with the lack of a 'confession', together with the collapse of their witnesses, the state had egg on its face.

A special law had to be rushed through the Italian parliament to free Valpreda. After these years of prosecution, his mother and aunt

by DAVE HALLSWORTH

dragged through the courts for perjury for providing his abili, his friends and neighbours constantly harassed by the police and courts, Valpreda emerged from prison still without undergoing a trial, weaker physically, but steeled and hardened politically

For those of us who have experienced or witnessed the 'justice' of the courts of capital, the ignoring of the revealed lies of the police, the vengeance-seeking of the judges and magistrates, or have been on the receiving end of the distortions, lies, and smears of the 'free press', the story holds no great surprise. Except maybe



Valpreda under guard. They couldn't torture a 'confession' out of him.

the bumbling ineptitude of the Italian state.

In Britain Capital seeks to keep its cosmeticised face towards the people, and hide the ugliness of its arse. In Italy they're not so skilful, but they still own the judges, courts, press and police. Whatever cobblers they make of it their buddies will cover up for them or have their own nakedness revealed.

But the Valpreda case ripped the covers off the right-wing state machine, and clearly revealed the arse of Capital.

Ignore

One thing emerges that confirms my own experience during the Intex strike, here in Ashton under Lyne. When the workers are in struggle, all the left groupings whose leaders are engaged in knifing each other in the back, unite in rendering help and assistance. Communist, Anarchist, Trotskyist, rank and file ignore their differences in the desire that the workers shall win.

The Valpreda Papers reveal the excellence of some of our comrades who fight under the banner of Anarchism. Certainly there are differences between us. But we are united in our hatred of capital and its stooges.

The book, an expensive one at £6, is certainly worth demanding to be included on the shelves of your local library. The least that can happen is that someone will think it a spy story and get an eyeopener about capitalism.

*Published by Gollancz, £6.

ON THE BOX

THURSDAY

Marlon Brando stars in the excellent film, *ON THE WATERFRONT* (BBC2) a picture of life in racket-ridden New York dockland. *THE MONEY PROGRAMME* (BBC2) features the views of 'top people' on the economic prospects for 1976.

SUNDAY

'Stanley's house in Wimbledon is the target for an inter-galactic plot which threatens the entire race—his wife is being turned into a turnip'—and *RED LETTER DAY* (ITV) takes its first step into science fiction. Funniest programme of the week is *THIRD TESTAMENT* (BBC2) with Malcolm Muggeridge on Tolstoy. Never in the field of television has one man done so much to bore so many. *MASH* (BBC2) is one of the best comedies around at the moment.

MONDAY

HORIZON (BBC2) looks at the decline and proposed new growth of Britain's coalfields and examines the new Selby field in Yorkshire.

TUESDAY

This week's *DECISION* (ITV) looks at Hammersmith Council in 'Rates: the search for cuts', battling to cut public spending and keep rates down. Meanwhile *FAULTY TOWERS* (BBC2) continues.

HOW WE'D RUN LUCAS - BY THE WORKERS

HOW often are we told how important the bosses are to our society, how without the incentive of profit there would be no improvement in technology or products, how competitions makes industry more 'efficient' and less wasteful?

How many times have we been told we need the bosses to plan production? There'd be chaos if it was left to the workers.

The workers at Lucas Aerospace, led by their combine stewards' committee, have just shown how much crap that really is. They have published their own plan detailing the kinds of socially useful products Lucas could be making.

The plan was developed in response to the threat of sackings, if there was further rationalisation or if the much-talked about defence cuts go ahead. 'People have talked about the right to work but no one has suggested what could be made instead,' said Mike Cooley, one of the stewards.

Such as electric retarding braking systems. Such a system, fitted to the coach that crashed in Yorkshire last May, would have saved 32 lives. The Lucas plant at Willesden has 25 years design experience in this field, but so far Lucas have refused to develop the systems for mass production.

The Lucas workers have a plan for a combined petrol/electric car that doesn't need special charging. It could reduce pollution from cars by three-quarters and fuel consumption by half.

There's a plan to use pneumatic wheels on trains, instead of hard steel. This would make travel more comfortable, and both train carriages and rail lines cheaper to build.

These are the kind of ideas that are supposed to be the monopoly of universities, experts and 'entrepreneurs'. Yet the entrepreneurs aren't interested and the universities, when asked by the stewards for their ideas, were mostly useless.

REMOTE

Some of the ideas stretch the limits of your imagination. Airships using helium which don't waste any of the rare gas, telecheiric devices which could fight fires or work under the ocean, all under remote control.

But all could be set up or developed using the facilities already available at Lucas, facilities the management seem happy to run down if they aren't profitable enough.

Then there is the case of the kidney machines. Lucas was planning to sell off this area of its production, although there is a shortage costing hundreds of lives.

Or the case of the machine to help Spina Bifida victims get around. Lucas engineers helped design the 'Hobcart', but Lucas wouldn't produce it because it was 'incompatible with the product range'.

And if their plan was actually put into action? 'We also want new ways of working,' explained Mike Cooley, 'We don't want four boring jobs put together into one, saying you've enriched the job. We want to involve everyone in the plant.'

The ideas from the shop floor are more imaginative and more challenging than anything ever to come from the management. All this in opposition to the profit motive. They are a direct challenge to the wastefulness of unemployment and proof that workers can plan production.

PHIL GRIFFITHS

Yes, but pale green...

HOW Green Was My Valley, BBC2's current serial, showing on Monday and Saturdays, is about the experience of a mining family in South Wales at the turn of the century.

And that's the problem. For it's little more than that.

Yet a family in a mining town lives and works in a community. With neighbours, public houses as well as chapels, and a community that exists to dig coal for the profit of the mine owners.

This relationship dominates and penetrates even to the hearth of the family. But in this series it only consistently shows through the 'fiery' personality of Ianto, played well and, perhaps, more real than many of the characters. But seen in such isolation, he comes over as the middle-class ideal of the typical militant representing few but himself.

In the third episode we hear about a five-month strike. I believe it is the 1898 Cambrian Combine strike, against the sliding scale of wages that linked wages to the price of coal. Opposition to this scale was widespread during the 1890s. Coal prices continually fell year in, year out, eroding the South Wales miners' standard of living.

Yet Ianto is the only one who

complains. He only speaks to a small meeting of a dozen men. They take the strike decision and the decision to go back. You'd never think that mass meetings attended by thousands, with militant picketing, were a feature of the strike.

There's plenty of knock-about heroics. It's good entertainment, but it never has adverse consequences. The minister is not sacked for denouncing the deacon. Ianto comes under no real pressure at work after having a go at the boss's son!

Is this really set in the 19th century?
LEN ARTHUR

ANGOLA: WHAT TELEVISION DOESN'T SHOW

ANGOLA IN STRUGGLE, the film now on a National Organisation of International Socialist Students tour, was made in colour in October 1975. It is the most recent film available on the Angolan war and includes interviews with Portuguese and Zairean mercenaries captured by the MPLA.

The film concentrates on the organisation and activities of the MPLA and its armed wing, FAPLA. There are scenes of a mass rally in Luanda, and of FAPLA engaged in various aspects of the struggle, in-

cluding production. The last part deals with the work of the People's Committees in the shanty towns.

The film confirms the popular base and orientation of the MPLA but has many shortcomings. First is the lack of any historical background to the current phase of the struggle, essential for an understanding of the MPLA and its enemies.

Aspects of MPLA policy are presented, but the overall picture is vague, and sometimes inaccurate. Two FAPLA commanders are inter-

viewed and described as typical. But neither was involved in the earlier struggle and they don't typify the advanced political consciousness of the long-standing MPLA members.

Serious too is a failure to define the real enemy. FNLA and UNITA are denounced as tribal, and South African and Portuguese involvement exposed, but no real reference is made to the forces behind them: the big business corporations of Western Europe and the United States and their governments.

Some explanation lies in an apparent intention to use the film for TV. You get the distinct impression of concern by the film-maker to reassure 'liberal opinion at home'.

The film must be seen critically in this light. Yet it is definitely worth seeing and should arouse interesting discussion. There is human warmth and movement. It brings you closer to the struggle in Africa and gives insight into the particular problems there that the revolution must face.

PENNY GRAHAM

LETTERS

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

You've got it wrong on Scottish nationalism

IT IS a great pity that Socialist Worker has not taken the opportunity afforded by the formation of the Scottish Labour Party to re-examine its attitude towards the Scottish national question.

Regrettably, your article on the SLP (24 January) shows that you intend to continue your ill-thought-out attacks on Scottish nationalism.

I would think it valuable to make a distinction between three separate phenomena:

The Scottish National Party, the party of capitalism and exploitation of the working class;

Nationalism, a political current which socialists have always understood could be either progressive or reactionary, depending on the economic, social and political forces;

Interest

And the 'national question', which is the heading under which Marxists have traditionally and correctly placed their scientific analysis of whether a nation has a separate identity and to what degree it is discriminated and exploited by the ruling class of another nation.

Surely it is to this third factor—the national question—that Socialist Worker should be directing its thinking.

Whether the Scottish Labour Party is part of this movement towards a socialist Scotland remains to be seen. It will depend precisely on whether it adopts policies such as the nationalisation of oil under workers' control.

But if political leadership along these lines does not emerge and the justification claims of the working class of Scotland to recognition of Scottish national identity does not occur in the politics of socialist organisations, then only the capitalists of the Scottish Nationalist Party will gain.—JIM MacKECHNIE, Glasgow.

Stop this slow murder!

TWO SOCIALISTS, Frank Stagg and Gerald McAuley, are starving to death in an English prison.

Why? Because the present 'socialist' government in England, unable to break these men by various means (Frank Stagg spent eight months in solitary confinement, the last three without even being allowed into the fresh air) are refusing to grant them their just demands for repatriation to their native soil, where they would be among fellow Irish POWs, out of some sense of revenge.

As the English government have already transferred numerous Irish prisoners both ways across the Irish Sea, there is obviously no reason why these two POWs and their comrades should be allowed to suffer in this senseless and barbaric fashion.

How can the English government indignantly accuse other governments of foul play and torture when they use the foulest deed of all, slow murder, against their political opponents?

The capitalist media assist in this by covering up this torture.

If the capitalist media are not prepared to inform the public about what is going on in their name, then it must be the duty of the socialists in your country to highlight the plight of these two courageous men before it is too late and we are left with yet two more socialist martyrs.—G BURNS, Republican POW, Cage 11, Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

Where 20 queue for every job

AS AN unemployed worker here in West Germany, I would like to comment on the International Socialists' slogan of 'work or full pay'.

Since full pay for the unemployed will not be given in this society, we socialists are right to demand it as a lever to achieving full employment.

Most of the jobs that would be necessary to run a socialist society, with a high standard of living for all, are indispensable.

Machines could be used for a lot of disgusting work now done by workers. Therefore all able people would be allowed and expected to contribute and share the work as necessary.

Nowadays as my recent experience has proved, it's no bloody fun tramping around from one factory to another being told with a false smile 'sorry, but that job is taken'.

Or, like government policy, the answer is: 'You're the wrong nationality to be even considered', when there's 20 blokes in the queue for one job.

You just slump from one depression to the next and become harder to live with, with all the frustrations that have to come out now and again, knowing that you and the other millions could be producing needed goods.

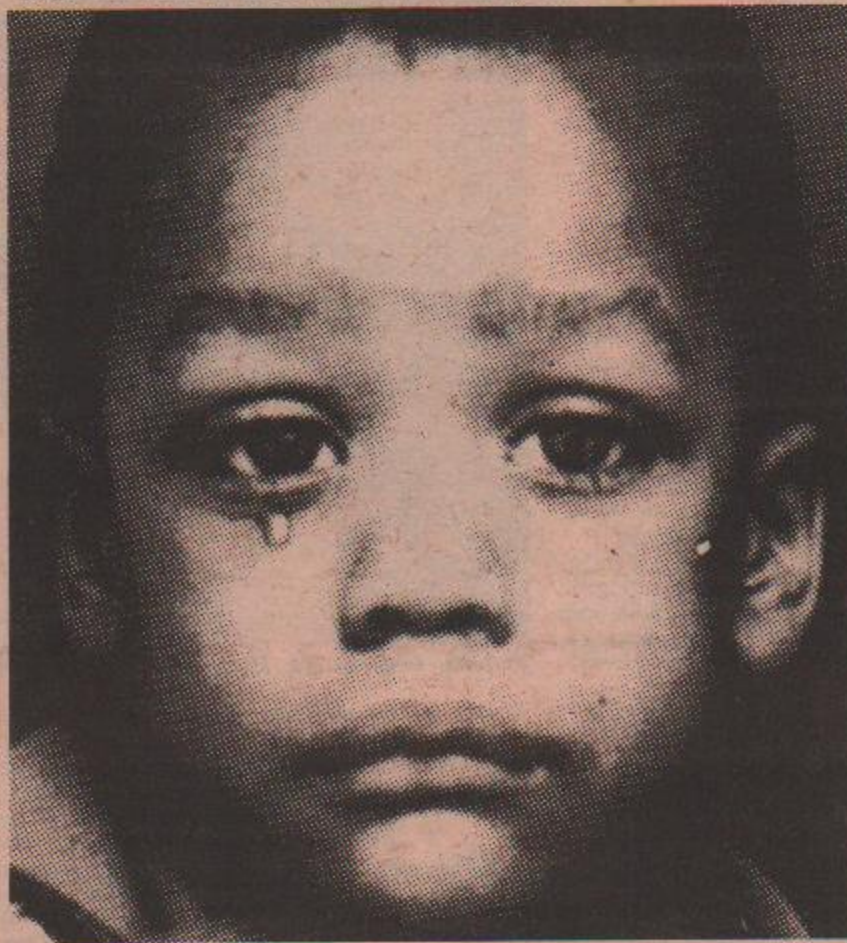
It hardens my conviction to fight to change completely this sick excuse for a society, and those people who prop it up.—DAVE LEWIN, Bockingen, W Germany

THE LETTER (last week) pointing out the shortcomings of the Alison Cummins story was correct. The gutter press also uses the technique of attributing the effects of capitalism to some (in their case fictitious) cause, while failing to prove the relationship.

It is useless merely to point to injustices, asking workers to follow us and put matters right. Unless workers are taught the necessity of socialism for economic advance—as opposed to it being a form of religion or idea of a society based on utopian ideas of charity—then workers will never sustain any initial beliefs in the face of the capitalist media and non-socialists.—J BARLOW, Liverpool.

THE 'LUCKY' SURVIVOR

Three-year old George Koro, after his three brothers and one sister had been killed by an overturned heater in their Harlesden, North London home early this month. Recruitment of firemen in the Greater London area has been stopped because of the government's spending cuts.



AN OVERTURNED OIL HEATER claimed the lives of four youngsters in Brent, North West London, three weeks ago. This is not the first time—nor will it be the last—that lives have been lost through these contraptions. As always, it's the poorest working class families who suffer. And yet no inquiries have condemned oil heaters. The blame, they say, is 'human error'.

Local councils should immediately circulate educational leaflets. Much better, of course, is for everyone to fight for the money to afford decent living conditions. What I fear is that, as things get worse, more and more people will start falling back on these cheap but deadly heaters.—FIREMAN, London SE13

BLACKLISTED-AND THE UNION DO NOTHING

I READ with interest Socialist Worker's report (17 January) on the strike at the Isle of Grain power station in Kent by EETPU members and of their subsequent victory with the help of other trade unionists but without the help of their own officials.

Of particular interest was the fact that their employer, NG Bailey, kept files on the men to avoid employing militants. But the blacklist is not only used by Bailey's.

Militants in Kent, specially on the power station, have suffered the blacklist for years, and the union bureaucracy have done nothing to fight it.

I have been out of work since 1974 as an engineering mate and put my case in the hands of the local AUEW District Committee.

After being turned down for employment by the engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox, my District Secretary wrote to me saying they wouldn't employ me even if they had jobs going and that was 'not able to generate great enthusiasm from our membership on the site'. So far as I know, he didn't even try.

Even our Labour MP, Bob Bean, said there was nothing he could do and that there were 'excellent opportunities' for me in other industries. As a blacklisted man?

In November, I applied for work at the General Electric Company on the power station. After giving them particulars of previous employment they turned me down.

Once again I got a letter from the union confirming that I wouldn't be employed by GEC.

Once again the District Committee does nothing. I suggest the AUEW on the power station get out their rule book and read it.

Rule One states that the union provides 'Assistance to members when out of employment or in distressed circumstances'.—BERNARD WARD, Chatham, Kent.

WHY DON'T we use tactics that will turn the membership away from the trade union bureaucrats. Only then will we get the Rank and File Movement we so badly need. So why not start a campaign to withhold subs for a start?—RON BURFORD, Anglesey.

NOTICE TO QUIT ...WHAT A JOKE!

I HAVE BEEN a tenant of the Greater London Council's Kingsmead estate since 1973. My rent book ran out last 27 September. When I did not receive a new one through the post, I rang County Hall and they gave me the number of the local Housing Office.

The man I spoke to there told me he had hundreds of other houses to see to and he wasn't there just to know when my rent book was up. He added:

'If you've got the rent money, you could come down here and collect a new book.'

I work as a cook supervisor at a school in Hackney. I start at 7am and finish at 3.30pm. I then collect my son from school.

Twice I tried to reach the Housing Office before it closed at 4pm. Catching a bus round here is also a big problem, so twice I got there and the office had already closed.

On 8 December, I paid £20 rent with a special loose slip a neighbour gave me. Still no rent book came. Then before Christmas I received Notice to Quit through the post. That expired on 5 January.

No-one has been round to see me about it and I am still without a rent book.

I feel really cut up about what's happening to me. A lot of people on this estate have similar problems. Repairs are never done. It's dirty and neglected.

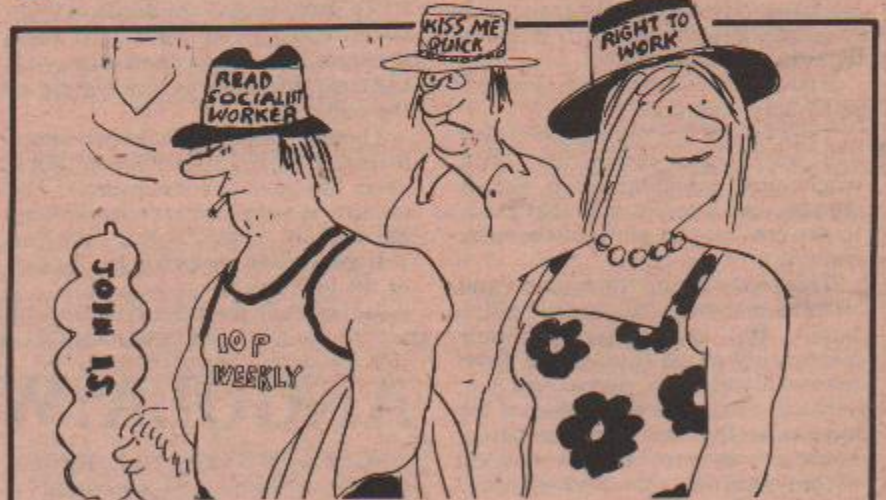
It's adding insult to injury to expect you to take time off work so that you can pay your rent!—MRS M JOSEPH, London, E9.

I SPENT an hour of astonishment watching last week's 'impartial documentary' on ITV called Who Says It Couldn't Happen Here? It was one of the most blatant right-wing propaganda films I have seen.

Lord Chalfont showed us the ten points of Marx's Communist Manifesto and explained (to my amazement) that over half of them have already been implemented in Britain. This just goes to show, he said, that Britain is well on the way to becoming a Communist state.

Other notable 'moderates' told us what a dangerous situation was developing and what we must do to preserve our freedom. Among them were Lord Hailsham, Woodrow Wyatt, the editor of the Daily Telegraph and Frank Chapple.

Chapple profoundly stated that 'the overthrow of capitalism would mean the loss of freedom for workers'. It's easy to see whose side he's on.—TIM FRANCE, Ormskirk, Lancs.



Easter is a political feast this year

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.

AUEW: Who would you vote for?

WHO would make the best assistant general secretary for the Engineering Union. There are three main candidates in the March election to replace Ernie Roberts, who is retiring. Who would you vote for?

Election addresses are now coming out. Make sure they get circulated to members in your factory so that everyone can read what the candidates stand for.



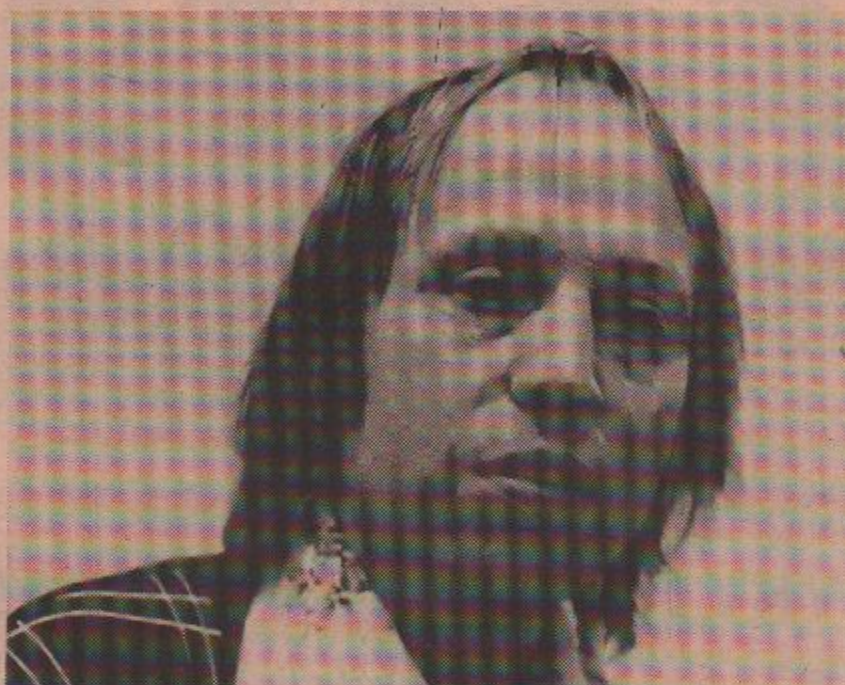
BOB WRIGHT, of the Broad Left. 'I suppose I'm the moderate now', said Wright before Christmas, when he persuaded senior convenors in Chrysler to accept the loss of more than 8000 jobs.

His previous major achievement at Chrysler has been to order AUEW members to cross the EETPU official picket lines at Stoke in 1973. This broke the electricians' strike and began the run-down of trade union organisation inside the plant.

Wright has been the victim of a series of vicious press attacks. He has reacted to each attack by attempting to appear yet more moderate.

At Chrysler before Christmas, as the senior full-time union official involved, he could have led a massive fight back against the redundancies. A majority of manual shop stewards were opposed to the deal. Wright had backed them, speaking at mass meetings and arguing with the members, the whole story of the collapse at Chrysler would have been different.

Wright could have started the national fight back against unemployment. He refused.



LEN BLOOD, candidate of Engineers' Charter, the rank and file organisation within the AUEW.

He is shop steward at Greenings in Warrington and a member of the district committee. He is branch secretary, trades council secretary for Newton, and a member of the North West Regional Council of the TUC, which called the 26 November demonstration against unemployment.

Len Blood was a member of the strike committees at Ford Halewood in the the parity strikes of eight weeks

in 1969 and ten weeks in 1971.

He was a member of the occupation committee at Ruston Paxman during the 13-week occupation in 1972 in support of the engineering pay claim. The factory stayed out over the 35-hour week in particular. He was also on the occupation committee during the seven-week occupation against the victimisation of a steward in 1973.

With his record, Len Blood would make an assistant general secretary with real experience of the battles faced by the rank and file members of the AUEW.



JOHN WEAKLEY, from South Wales. Last year he took the AUEW into the High Court to get the decision to replace the postal ballot system overturned.

Apart from increasing the power of the High Court to interfere in the trade unions, Weakley has some strange friends. He has been attending the House of Commons to chair meetings of an organisation called TUECDS, the Trade Union Education Centre for Democratic Studies.

Other members of this organisation, which was set up to assist the election of 'politically moderate' candidates in union elections, include Roy Boyfield and Herman Roberts. Both were judges in the Tories' National Industrial Relations Court.

Before that Herman Roberts used to write propaganda pamphlets for the Engineering Employers Federation.

Weakley is convenor at British Leyland Llanelli. His plant was one of the first to accept Measured Day Work. It is among the lowest-paid in Leyland. The only strike there that anyone can remember took place while Weakley was away at a union conference. It ended when he returned.

THE UNIONS

STEEL: BOYD'S BAND OF BUREAUCRATS

by PETER INGHAM

JUST about the only trade union organisation in the country which rivals the steel production workers' union ISTC in contempt for its rank and file is the National Craftsmen's Coordinating Committee. This represents all craftsmen in the steel industry, engineers, electricians, boiler-makers and so on.

The committee has its origins in a great strike of 7000 steel craftsmen in Sheffield during the first Labour government of 1924. After a bitter battle, the strike was defeated. Steel craftsmen's gross earnings have, ever since, slipped behind those in general engineering.

The union officials who sold out the strike had formed themselves into a joint negotiating body which has continued to this day.

The committee has always been controlled by officials in the different craft unions, who have clung jealously

BOYD'S BAND OF BUREAUCRATS

to their craft divisions. In 1956, it was whittled down to one representative from each of the ten craft unions. In most cases this representative is simply appointed by his union—or, at best, elected by the union executives. Direct contact with the rank and file is nil.

No one

At the same time, the local Allied Trades Committees were given a new set of standing orders which gave full-time officials astonishingly wide powers. The local committees now hardly function. No one knows who is on them. No one bothers to contest for seats on them.

Until recently elected general

secretary of the engineering union (AUEW), the secretary of the joint craftsmen's committee was John Boyd.

Boyd makes out he is a great believer in industrial democracy. 'I would like to see worker-directors elected from the shop floor' he said once. But he is quite satisfied with the set-up on the steel craftsmen's committee in which unions like the EETPU send along representatives never elected by anyone.

Boyd's attitude to the British Steel Corporation can only be described as adoring. In an article in the Corporation's Journal, British Steel, in Autumn 1973, he wrote: 'The company feeling (from the Latin words 'cam', to bring together, and 'panis', a

sharing of bread), is a part of the steelworkers' character.'

Boyd's belief in the 'company feeling' at British Steel was put into practice last November when he used the AUEW mailing lists to circulate two documents on behalf of the British Steel Corporation.

The first called for further action on the cost-cutting (sackings) enterprise, and urged the TUC steel committee to get on with the sackings to help out the BSC.

The second consisted of a series of complaints against rank and file workers who had failed to carry through the flexibility clauses signed by the TUC steel committee—which never consulted even the member unions.

by a craftsman at BSC Appleby-Frodingham, Scunthorpe

WHAT do I know about this secret society, what does anyone know about the Scunthorpe Allied Trades Committee? Isn't that local moderate, trade union official Laurie Hancock of the Electricians and Plumbers, something to do with it?

Well yes, actually he's the secretary. What about all the convenors? Yes, that's correct, all the craft union senior stewards are there too.

Now comes the tricky bit. Name any two from outside your own union—or even inside for that matter. It's like trying to name the Tory shadow cabinet.

It appears the committee is just a vehicle for the thoughts of Chairman Laurie.

Who is this man who leads the steelworks craftsmen ever downwards until we all disappear?

He's the man who frequently sided with the management on the Anchor site, labelling the elected leaders on the site as extremists and Trotskyists. He's the man who sided with management to break the strikes at Normanby Park and Redpath Dorman Long last year.

He's the man who introduced the productivity deal that both those strikes were against, and that brought in a system universally hated throughout the works.

He's the man whose latest utterance is: 'We're all in the same boat, we've got to bale out together'—when management propose to reduce manning levels and bring in redundancy, while his own job is secure for life and isn't even subject to re-election. It doesn't matter to him how many go down the road so long as we don't rock the boat.

We must demand that all decisions reached by the Scunthorpe Allied Trades Committee are put to the rank and file members for ratification.

In this, solidarity is the all-important key. If we allow ourselves to be splintered, then we'll go the way of Normanby Park and RDL. United, we can force both the Allied Trades Committee and management to take notice of our grievances.

Then we can have true industrial democracy. In other words, the working people can have control over the decisions that affect their everyday working lives.

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.

STEEL SELL-OUT: Four 'Right to Work' militants lash out



KEN BOWEN, member of the Transport and General Workers Union, Trostre:

'We had a mass meeting last Saturday to discuss the sell-out. It was accepted by about ten to one. Only some people in the finishing department raised the issue of the premium shifts. Some of these people will be losing up to £16 a week if the payment for the shifts goes: that's more than a quarter of the pay!

'Even the branch chairman, Trevor Jones, said that the union wouldn't go along with such cuts. If they do try to cut back the Sunday pay and the back-up money in the next few weeks, we'll be straight out on strike again.

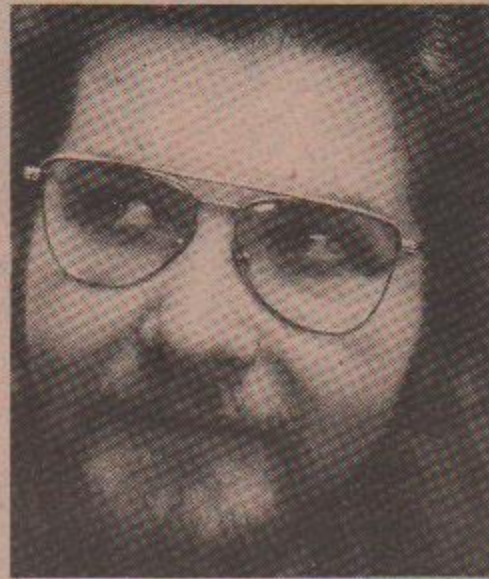
'I think the most important thing is to get a multi-union rank and file committee going in steel. We've got the start of it with our Right to Work Committee down here. But we saw at Trostre in the strike how different union loyalties pull different workers different ways. In our case, there were even workers crossing the picket lines!

'We need the rank and file committee now more than ever before.'

BILL SIRTS, general secretary of ISTC, the biggest steel union, and the other members of the TUC Steel Committee sold the steelworkers down the drain last week. In what was described by almost all newspapers as a 'victory', Sirts agreed that the Corporation could go ahead locally and enforce massive redundancies and cuts in steelworkers' shift payments.

The settlement led to a quick return to work at Port Talbot, Trostre and Velindre, where thousands of workers had struck against arbitrary cuts in their premium shift payments.

Four members of the South Wales Right to Work Committee spoke to Socialist Worker about the settlement.

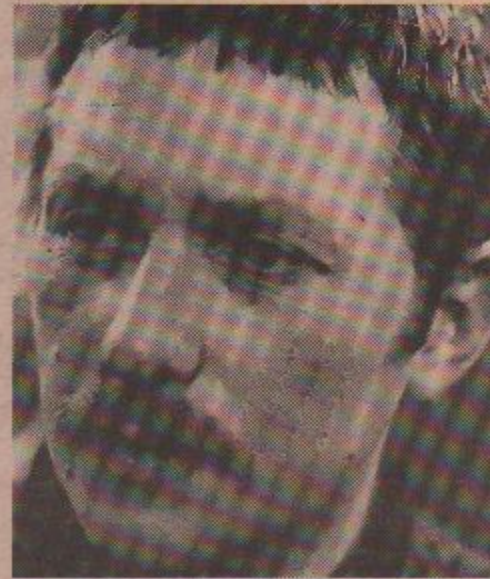


JOHN WILLOCK, member of the white-collar ACTSS, Trostre:

'I don't like the document one bit. It's a complete capitulation to the basic aims of the British Steel Corporation. It means more unemployment in these areas, much more.

'They say clearly that even if they can't get what they want by voluntary redundancy, they'll get it by compulsory ones.

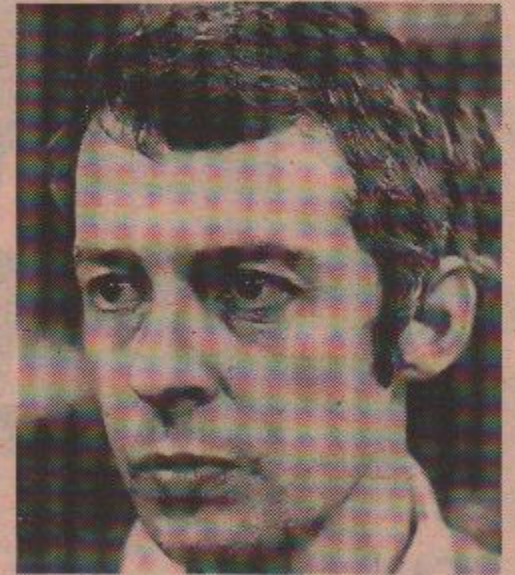
'What seems like a victory is really a ceasefire. The enemy is regrouping and will come back soon to try to outflank us



NOEL NEWTON, ISTC member, Velindre:

'The union officials here are delighted with the outcome. I was trying to explain to one last night that nothing has changed. We're going back in the same position that we were in last month. BSC still wants its sackings. It's just put the whole thing off for a few weeks.

'There was no opposition at our union branch to going back to work. But we lost a good chance to teach the Corporation a lesson.'



ROBIN HOLLAND, staff worker, Port Talbot:

'There's a feeling of euphoria as though we'd won a great victory. But we haven't won a victory at all. All that's happened is that Bill Sirts and the other union leaders have washed their hands of the whole and passed the buck to local level.

'Scholey and the others at the Steel Corporation are as determined as ever to get their sackings and their cuts in premium shifts. They'll try to do this by local agreement now.

'Many workers down here think we're stronger at local level. They think that we can take on the Corporation plant by plant—and beat them. But they're wrong.

'The Corporation will now play the old game of divide and rule. They'll start with the weakest plants—sacking workers and cutting premium shifts. The more they succeed, the weaker all the other plants will become.

Sirts and the others have sold us out badly. There was a chance of a real national fight in the steel industry against the Corporation.

'A national fight would have forced the Corporation to scrap all their sackings and cuts. But Sirts and the others backed off. They've left Scholey as strong as ever.

The strikes in Port Talbot and at Trostre and Velindre over the past few days have shown just how strong we can be. They were desperate for their steel and their tin, so they had to go back to where they were before the strikes. We have to learn the lesson, and work to build a rank and file movement of steelworkers which can keep that spirit alive for the real battle round the corner.'

What this 'settlement' means

by Margaret Renn

THE British Steel Corporation and the steel unions signed a document last Friday. In suitably subtle language it plans for fewer jobs, lower wages and a lower standard of living for steelworkers.

Among those signing the document were Moss Evans of the Transport Workers Union and Les Dixon of the AUEW engineering section executive and a leading member of the Broad Left.

JOBS: The document draws an original redefinition of overmanning. There is 'recession overmanning' and 'inbuilt overmanning'. The former are the steelworkers that BSC have decided are 'surplus' to the current rundown in the industry. Those jobs are to go within three months.

Gun

The jobs to be lost because of 'inbuilt overmanning' are to go within two years.

The old plants will still bear the brunt of the jobs loss.

How are the jobs to go? Through voluntary redundancy, so they say. But in fact the worst clause from the previous BSC document stays: 'If the manpower has not been reduced within 12 weeks of the date when jobs are declared redundant, then other redundancy measures will have to be applied.'

It is voluntary redundancy with a gun to your head. Either you go while BSC are just asking, or you go when they kick you out.

WEEKEND WORKING: BSC still intend to 'save' money by cutting out the



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

While the steel unions were inside negotiating a sell-out, steelworkers from plants around the country waited outside. Their jobs were at stake.

weekend shifts. For working Sunday, steelworkers earn double time and it was that sudden cut in wages that caused the strikes and stoppages of the past two weeks.

So now BSC are cleverly saying that in those plants where the steelworkers put up a fight, the old rotas will be re-established—for two weeks!

Where the steelworkers have put up a fight they may be allowed to work some weekends. The rest will have their

weekends, and their wages, cut.

GUARANTEED WORKING WEEK: This is to stay—but at a heavy price.

In return for a guarantee of at least 80 per cent of average wages, the unions have agreed to flexibility and mobility between jobs and between shifts. Management will decide, on a weekly basis, what shifts are to be worked. Steelworkers will be pushed around from one job to another within the plants. In almost all cases, this means more dangerous working.

□ The AUEW convenor at Machynys works, which is attached to the Trostre tinplate plant near Llanelli, has invited representatives of the Steel Right to Work Committee in South Wales to speak to shop stewards in the plant next week.

□ At the Appleby Frodingham works at Scunthorpe, where eleven men died recently after an explosion, the Steel Right to Work Bulletin is going down well. Sixty copies have already been taken into the plant.

BID TO SACK WOMEN

by Alex Briggs

NORTH ESSEX: 95 sackings have been announced at Crittalls' three plants in Braintree, Witham and Silver End—and management are saying the axe must fall on married women workers.

The firm, which produces metal windows, has justified the redundancies with talk of 'a decline in commercial and building projects'. It does not say that the parent company, Norecos, made a record £11 million profit last year. Only last month it announced that its 'liquidity position' was 'excellent' and that it was 'well placed to take advantage of any improvements in the UK economy.'



One woman worker, a member of the white-collar union APEX, told Socialist Worker: 'Their attitude is to kick the women out and keep the men on. They reckon the married woman should go just because we're supposed to have two wages coming in!'

She added: 'There's not too many workers, only too many bosses, what with their new P registration cars.'

Two weeks ago, members of TASS, the draughtsmen's union, staged a two-and-a-half day strike against the proposed sackings. That action needs to be extended to save the jobs and stop the management dividing the workers, men against women.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Build an international struggle for socialism

THIS WEEK'S total for the Socialist Worker International Solidarity Fund is £95.26, bringing the total since December to £2221.47. Our thanks to: Gateshead SW readers 90p; Anon, Portsmouth £5; Collection taken at East London CIA meeting £28.50; High Wycombe IS £6.22; P Whalen £1.50; M Kesterton £1; J Edmondson (Canada) £8.50; A Smith £5; J Sprague £12; L Knight £10; NOISS member £2; Sale of Lessons of 25 November pamphlet £14.60.

We also received six new bankers' orders. This means an extra £15 every month added to our regular income. The special leaflet we printed to boost the fund has a bankers' order form on the back. It runs for six months—every month £2.50 is transferred from your account into the International Fund. It's one of the most painless ways of giving money—you may not even notice it.

We need a regular income to finance our work. We have just paid the fares of comrades who went to the conference of a revolutionary group working in Spain. We are also paying for others to go to conferences in Germany and Italy this week.

The more money we have the more we can do to build an International struggle for socialism.

Send now to: SW International Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2

SCOTTISH EQUAL PAY STRIKE

GLASGOW: At the Wheway Watson factory ten members of the draughtsmen's union TASS, nine women and one man are now in their second week on strike for equal pay. They are demanding that the wages of the women staff are brought into line with the 60 shop floor workers in the factory.

Edith Hannaghan, one of the pickets told Socialist Worker: 'The highest-paid woman on strike takes home £23 a week—some of the younger girls are getting only £18 take-home pay. We're at least £10-a-week lower than the lowest-paid men in here.'

'We're picketing every day and we're turning back most of the deliveries. Inside 17 men have been laid off because they refuse to handle blacked goods.'

Workers from the nearby Personna factory have given £50 to the strike, but more help is needed, particularly support on the picket line from other factories in the area.

Donations and messages of support to Far Carnegie, 56 Potterhill Road, Glasgow G53.

DEATH TRAP!

Coal Board negligence killed

INCOMPETENCE and negligence by Coal Board officials and manufacturers of mining equipment killed five miners last June.

They died in a gas explosion at Houghton Main Colliery, near Barnsley.

A devastating report on the disaster, published last week and written by the Chief Inspector of Mines and Quarries, leaves no hiding place for the local management of the pit—or for the manufacturers of the notorious Carter Howden fan.

The report exposes the hypocrisy of Coal Board chiefs who are trying to close down another colliery—at Langwith in Derbyshire—on the grounds that the new seams will not be safe.

The inspector's report finds:

□ That the explosion was caused by the build-up of gas due to lack of ventilation.

CUT

The fan in the crucial area (BO5) had broken down on 3 June. The explosion happened on 12 June. The report concludes:

'It can be assumed therefore that BO5's return heading was totally unventilated for a period of nine days prior to the accident. During this time it would almost fill with firedamp [gas].'

□ Almost all senior management responsible for Houghton Main knew that this area was unventilated; and that it was dangerous and even illegal that it should be. They did nothing about it.

One overman was informed that the broken down fan led to 'open sparking'. Says the report: 'He did not see fit to walk a distance of 60 yards to examine it.'

□ The gas was ignited by a spark from a Carter Howden fan.

The fans are made by the big Glasgow-based engineering group.

5 miners says official report

These fans have been a constant source of trouble ever since the Coal Board started buying them in huge numbers. In 1974, all Carter Howden fans operating in pits in South Wales were withdrawn and modified because of a fault in the motor alignment.

In August 1974, discussions were held between the Coal Board officials in the Barnsley area and Howdens. The report states: 'The representatives of the National Coal Board thought it would be impracticable to return all the fans in use at mines in the Barnsley area to the manufacturers' works for modification'.

OFF

So all the faulty fans were left in the pits. At Houghton Main, one of them ignited the gas which killed five miners.

The report upholds every one of the submissions made by the Yorkshire Area Council of the National Union of Mineworkers. Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire NUM president, who spoke for the miners at the inquiry, told Socialist Worker: 'I am pleased that the report has accepted the case presented by the NUM. He's accepted all our recommendations—at least some of which have already been put



Houghton Main Colliery

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

THIS MAN'S BLOOD WILL BE ON JENKINS' HANDS

BY the time you read this, Frank Stagg may be dead.

The press will say he has taken his own life. But he will have been killed by Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary.

Jenkins has made the arbitrary decision not to allow Stagg to be transferred from Wakefield Prison to a prison in Northern Ireland. That is all Stagg requests.

It is a request that has been granted

to 16 other Irish prisoners, including 12 Loyalists. Jenkins has no reason for denying it. But still he refuses although he knows the consequences.

And Stagg, who is in prison for conspiracy to cause explosions when there weren't any explosions, will have given his life for a simple demand others have won.

And the blood will be on Jenkins' hands.

into effect'.

Arthur Scargill described as 'codswallop' the Coal Board's excuses for closing Langwith colliery.

'The pit makes a profit of £500,000', he said. 'The Coal Board can easily keep the dust under control if they want to. The truth is that they want to close pits—and we're not having that.'

The NUM Executive is committed to a national ban on overtime if the Coal Board persists in its plans to close Langwith.

But the most important lesson for miners from the Houghton Main inquiry and the proposed closure of Langwith is that the Coal Board can't look after the interests of miners. It is run by businessmen for businessmen. It is not 'practicable' to save miners' lives by simple precautions simply because it is not profitable.

Houghton Main was considered 'a safe pit'. It was a death trap.

If miners are to be protected from future death traps in all the other 'safe pits', then the miners' organisations, including the NUM will have to start protecting them.

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