

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

**Socialist
Worker**



JOB 1,234,000 unemployed
PRICES Up a record 1.9% in a single month
WAGES Frozen to 4.5% for 12 months
CUTS Hospitals, schools, welfare slashed

**FIGHT FOR THE
RIGHT TO WORK!**

Join the Day of Action
Wednesday 26 May

MAKE SURE
THIS PAPER IS
SOLD OUTSIDE
EVERY
WORKPLACE
ON 26 MAY

JOB
PRICES
WAGES
CUTS

1,234,000 unemployed

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FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

Join the Day of Action Wednesday 26 May

GLASGOW: Half-day stoppage called by the Confed. Demonstrate, 1.30pm, Blythswood Square.

DUNDEE: Meeting of 150 shop stewards has called for work stoppages.

LIVERPOOL: Stoppages called throughout the city. Demonstration leaves Islington Square, 12.30pm.

SHEFFIELD: Half-day stoppage and demonstration.

NEWCASTLE: Two-hour mass protest picket at the Fleming Memorial Hospital, starting 12 noon.

MANCHESTER: Demonstration leaves AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford, 1pm.

CARDIFF: Lobby of Welsh Office called by South Wales Miners and Trades Council.

SWANSEA: Protest meeting organised by the trades council.

HARLOW: Meeting in Clement Attlee Square, 12 noon.

AYRSHIRE: Half-day stoppage throughout area and demonstrations in Ayr and Kilmarnock.

HUDDERSFIELD: Demonstration called by trades council.

ST HELENS: Demonstration called by trades council.

LONDON: Mass demonstration leaves Tower Hill, 1pm, called by London Confed and London Co-op Political Committee.

If your town isn't here, watch locally for details of demonstrations.

Seven colleges occupied in battle for the right to work

STUDENT teachers throughout Scotland have taken unprecedented direct action for the right to work.

By Tuesday they had occupied seven of the ten colleges of education in protest at the government's cuts, which mean half of them stand no chance of getting jobs when they finish their studies.

The occupations started at Moray House, Edinburgh, quickly spreading to Dundee, Callander College at Falkirk, Craiglockhart and Queen Margaret's, both in Edinburgh, Jordanhill in Glasgow, Dunfermline and Aberdeen.

The Scottish Department of Education has announced that 2000 of the teachers who qualify in Scotland this year will go without jobs.

Six hundred student teachers at Moray House College of Education in **EDINBURGH** voted to occupy on Wednesday

'WE WON'T JOIN DOLE' SAY STUDENT TEACHERS

last week. This was endorsed by a meeting of 1000 students the next day.

The day of the occupation interviews had been held on the college by various Scottish councils. Students had been queuing from 8.30 am only to be told there were no jobs available.

Redundancies

About 250 primary and 200 secondary teachers from the college are without jobs as a result of the cuts.

The students are demanding that the college authorities refuse to implement the cuts, that there should be no redundancies among college staffs and that there should be no rundown in teacher training facilities.

They also call on their union, the

Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), to renegotiate teachers' contracts to bring down class sizes, to instruct members not to teach classes of more than 33, to instruct its members not to cover for any teacher absent for more than three days, and to give full union membership to unemployed teachers.

Sandy Ross, president of the Student Representation Committee at Moray House, told Socialist Worker: 'At the first meeting of 600 only four students voted against the occupation.'

We set up an organising committee to run it and delegations of students have gone out to schools, local factories, hospitals and into the streets to gain support.

'Messages of support are rolling in from colleges throughout Scotland, from trade unions and some MPs.

We are solid, we are going to win. We are organising exams with the support of the lecturers' union, we are organising graduation, and even student intake next session.'

Edinburgh Right to Work Committee, to which Moray House is affiliated, is sending out appeals for support and collections. A Right to Work Rally on Tuesday was to be held at the occupation. Representatives from the Borders cleaners, who won their strike last week, were to speak.

A mass meeting at **DUNDEE** College of Education called for an immediate occupation on Friday.

A call was made for a complete stoppage and support of the march on 26 May, the national day of action against unemployment.

'The fight for the right to work is a fight in which students and workers have to link their strength', said Labour Councillor Ian Borthwick. He said the Labour government had to be made to change its policy on education cuts and pledged the Dundee Labour Party to support the students.

On Monday, **CALLANDER, CRAIGLOCKHART** and **QUEEN MARGARET'S** occupied. Trish Boyle, president of Queen Margaret's said: '400 students voted to occupy. These include trainee nurses, health visitors and speech therapists.'

On Tuesday morning, Edinburgh's lead was followed by students in **GLASGOW**, where a 1500-strong meeting at **JORDANHILL** College of Education voted to occupy, in **ABERDEEN**, and in **DUNFERMLINE**.

Moray House will be calling a national delegate conference to spread the action. Colleges of Education in England, Scotland and Wales should contact Moray House about this immediately. Phone 031-356 5184.

□ The International Socialist student organiser, Lindsey German, urged all members of the National Organisation of IS Societies (NOISS) to press immediately for active solidarity with the occupied colleges. That means pressing for resolutions and telegrams of support, solidarity pickets and demonstrations and where possible token occupations of support.

'NOISS members should press immediately for occupation of colleges of education in England and Wales, where students face the same unemployment as in Scotland. Every effort must be made to spread the struggle. Urgency is vital.'

services

As he said, what bus conductor is going to argue with a busload of 72 Ford workers refusing to pay?

The conference heard story after story of the fight being put up by hospital workers, social workers and teachers against the cuts in their jobs and services.

After the first conference of this kind in the East End a co-ordinated campaign against the fare increase could be the start to a series of joint actions to stop the cuts.

□ East London Action Committee against the Cuts, c/o Centreprise, Kingsland Road, London E8.



ABOVE: One way to protest against the cuts. Tenants from the Hindrey Estate in Hackney, East London, dumped their rubbish on the Town Hall steps. They were protesting at the failure of the council to employ enough dustmen to collect the rubbish regularly.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report).

'Stop fare rises' call

by **WENDY PLIMLEY**
City and East London NALGO

campaign to keep open the Mild End Teacher Training annexe.

A delegate from the local branch of the teachers' union NUT outlined the campaign to combat unemployment among teachers. In Tower Hamlets 12 schools are refusing to cover for absences longer than three days.

At the Princess May Infant School in Hackney, a delegate had helped to organise a joint meeting of parents and teachers to stop two teachers' jobs being axed.

For 64 of the 160 children in the school English is a second language. Cutting the staff by two means that the English classes will go.

The parents agreed to back action from the teachers and many demanded strike action in their own workplace. A petition in seven languages is being organised.

Jack Aldridge, a Transport Union delegate, from Walthamstow bus garage, proposed the resolution calling for a campaign against the fare increases.

'As a passenger you are going to have a wage cut for queuing up. If you went to your baker and were told your loaf had gone up by 26 per cent and you were only getting half a loaf anyway, what would you say? In a fighting speech he explained the importance of joint action by bus crews.'

VICTORY FOR BORDERS CLEANERS

by **STEVE FAITH**

The strike by 400 school cleaners in the Borders of Scotland against cuts in their hours and wages has ended in total victory. The Borders Regional Council has withdrawn its demands for 30 per cent wage cuts.

When the strikers' mass meeting heard of the council's surrender, there was tremendous applause. Mrs Frater, a shop steward for the public employees union NUPE, told Socialist Worker:

Mrs Lyle, another striker and member of the TGWU, said: 'At the start of the mass meeting, there was a rumour of a 10 per cent cut being offered. So we were all around them saying, "10 per cent? ... don't accept it!"'



NUPE steward Mrs Frater

Said Mrs Frater: 'There is something for other trade unionists to learn from our strike. If the Borders Regional Council try anything again, people will have the guts to fight, following us.'

Despite this victory, cuts in the Borders Region will still come.

Union officials have agreed to serve on a joint union-council committee to look into how cuts can be made. Cleaners' hours will be eventually challenged through this committee.

Delegates from the Edinburgh Right to Work Committee made regular visits to the picket lines during the strike.

Threat to ETV shows cuts lunacy

The plan to close Glasgow's educational television service (ETV) next month shows the sheer lunacy of the government spending cuts.

For it's going to cost them £300,000 in compensation to electronics suppliers—and all they're going to save next year is £150,000.

That doesn't include the price to be paid by the thousands of children in schools throughout Strathclyde. Last year ETV made 41 educational series—compared to the

joint output by the BBC and ITV of seven.

The ETV programmes are broadcast by cable to schools and colleges in Glasgow, five days a week, 30 programmes a day. Many more go out as recorded video cassettes, available to schools all over the country.

Seventh

All that to be sacrificed for a saving that's one seventh of one per cent of the education budget.

The workers at ETV were told about the proposed closure just 50 minutes

before the education committee made its final decision. It means 41 members of the film makers' union ACTT and the local government union NALGO will lose their jobs. But they're not taking it lying down. Ann Lauder, an ETV production assistant and a member of the ETV action committee, told Socialist Worker: 'Within two days we had organised a protest demonstration and had won the support of teachers, members of NALGO and the Glasgow Right to Work Committee.'

'Since then we've produced stickers, leaflets and a news-sheet.'

The regional committee of NALGO has called an overtime ban of its 15,000 members in Strathclyde against the closure. They have threatened selective strike action.

□ Support—financial and otherwise—to ETV Fighting Fund, 155 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4QS.

□ The action committee is running an exhibition to win public support. It's at the Third Eye Centre, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, from 26 to 29 May.

will work actively against the change. They have invoked the disputes procedure.

Tameside Trade Union Council, who were to picket the education committee on Tuesday, have pledged industrial support.

The new Tory council voted 29-23 to scrap the plan for comprehensive education which was to start in September. But they have had to offer a compromise plan to the teachers, because of the refusal of three teachers' unions to cooperate.

Tories try to bring back the 11-plus

by **DAVE HALLSWORTH**

FACED with a threat to the privileged education of their children, middle-class Tories are on the rampage in Tameside, Lancashire. Ignoring the protests of parents and teachers, and the challenge of the trade union movement, they are determined to bring back the 11-plus examination.

They are determined that their kids should have the 500

places at the posh grammar school, and that the 2,500 others—our kids—shall get second best.

At an angry meeting on Saturday at which Colin Barnett, leader of the Tameside Tories, addressed a meeting of 70 parents, only one parent voted for the Tory proposal.

Local children have already been allocated schools under the comprehensive scheme, four out of five to the school chosen by their parents. Many parents have already bought

the school uniform, some at a cost of £58. Now they are told it's all off.

Barnett, who talks of local businessmen complaining that local school-leavers cannot spell or add up, wants to bring back a system that divides off the bright few, the exam-passers, and leaves the rest to their own devices.

Refuse

Angry members of the National Union of Teachers have said they will refuse to mark the 11-plus exam and

Sorry folks,
we're all
full up



POLICE
MOVE BY
LABOUR
STARTS

KILLINGS

NORTHERN IRELAND'S most violent weekend for months resulted directly from recent changes in security strategy here which were certain to intensify the war. The reaction of Tory—and many Labour—MPs has been to demand a further escalation.

The spate of killings followed Northern Ireland Secretary Merlyn Rees' much-publicised decision to 'assert the primacy of the police in matters of law and order', that is, to have the Royal Ulster Constabulary take over some of the military jobs done since 1969 by the army.

With good reason, Catholics here see the RUC as a hated symbol of sectarian Orange domination. Ten days ago the Provo paper Republican News threatened 'a long hot summer for the RUC' if Rees thrust them back into the front line.

It began at the weekend, followed by the inevitable reactions and counter-reactions.

Shot

In 48 hours five RUC men were killed by the IRA. Five Catholics were killed in no-warning pub bombings. One Protestant seems to have died in an internal Loyalist dispute. Two Protestants were shot dead in retaliation for the pub deaths.

The Tories' reaction in parliament on Monday was to call for 'a new combined anti-terrorist force' comprising units of the army, the RUC and the Loyalist-dominated Ulster Defence Regiment. A sort of extra-special SAS.

This would be the biggest single escalation to date. The rate of killing would rocket. But far from rejecting it out of hand, the Labour government has been wavering.

Indeed, units of the UDR are in England and at the moment for full-time training—which seems to suggest that Rees has some new role in mind for them.

By staying in Northern Ireland, Britain is simply dragging the war endlessly on. The longer Britain remains, the louder will be the call for 'special forces' and for handing over more and more power to military men. The only way to stop this and to move towards peace is for Labour to announce that Britain is getting out of Ireland.

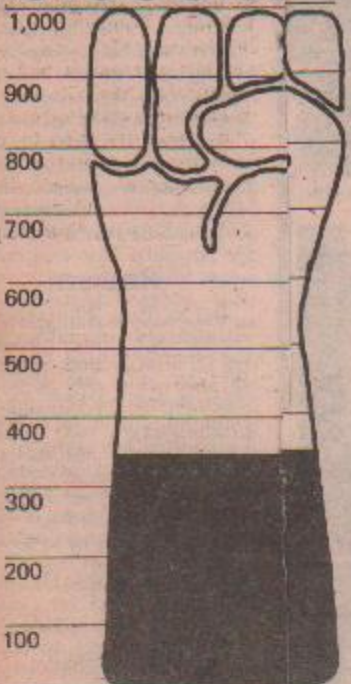
EAMONN McCANN
TROOPS
OUT



There's lots of room!

THE RICH HAVE 800,000 HOUSES EMPTY, FOR A START

Socialist Worker
£1000 FIGHTING FUND



In the Birmingham Sunday Mercury this week there is a whole page interview with local Labour Councillor William Jarvis.

Councillor Jarvis thinks there are too many blacks in Birmingham—come to that he thinks there are too many in the country altogether. So he wants immigration control. Not repatriation, he won't go quite that far. But his policy opens the door for those who do.

That's why, this week, we are printing a special edition of Socialist Worker for the Birmingham area. To answer the racist propaganda.

We can do this only if we reach our fighting fund target of £1000 a month. No matter where you live you can't dodge the arguments about racialism. Help us to fight it.

This week the fund received a total £32.75, bringing the May total so far to: **£344.47.**

It's not enough. We need much more. Our thanks this week to:

T.M. Hill £5, J. Waskett £1.50, Finsbury Park SW supporter 40p, T. Musgrove £1.50, Anon £5, Tower Hamlets IS £3, Hulme IS, West Manchester £2.50, Mid-Herts IS £3, SW supporter, Wolverhampton £2.80, Cardiff SW readers 60p, WYork IS £1.25, Central London collection £3.20, Anon £2, Caroline Conway £1.

Send your donations and collections to: Socialist Workers Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SCARCELY a week ago the entire British press got worked up over the human tragedy at Udine in Northern Italy. They shed many tears about those killed by the earthquake and those left behind, the homeless refugees.

This week these same newspapers turned their attention to another group of homeless refugees, 61 Asians from Malawi.

But their arrival at London's Heathrow Airport wasn't the signal for sympathy. It was the signal for another round in the hysterical campaign to persuade working people that other working people (with black or brown skins) are responsible for their problems, not the employers.

BBC Radio News handled the story in typical fashion. Can we squeeze them in to this overcrowded island? demanded the newsreader. The obvious implication was that it simply couldn't be done.

Well, Socialist Worker has news for BBC Radio and for all those issuing this barrage of propaganda. There's plenty of room.

Violence

This 'overcrowded island' isn't overcrowded at all. It's only the poor working-class areas that are crowded.

There's a stack of room on the Duke of Devonshire's huge estates in England, for example.

You could fit any number of extra people on Lord Douglas-Home's huge holdings in the border lands of Scotland.

And literally no one lives on Lord

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

Vestey's 50,000-acre estate in Scotland. He keeps it free of people so he can indulge in his favourite form of violence, shooting down defenceless animals.

A recent survey for the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth discloses the following scandal: Two per cent of the population own an unbelievable 72 per cent of all land values in Britain.

The same two per cent also hold on to as many houses as they can. So many people own two, three and even four houses, that there are in Britain something like 800,000 fully-furnished homes standing empty.

This is to say nothing of the empty office blocks and hotel rooms.

In a properly organised society there would be plenty of living room for all the present population and many more besides. But, claim those poisoned by race, if there's enough room, there aren't enough jobs.

Yet immigrants do not cause unemployment. They do not sack workers to boost profits.

They did not push through the closures and redundancies at Leyland, Chrysler, Norton Villiers, on the buses and railways, in the docks. The government and the employers did. Among those most concerned to destroy jobs

are the same newspaper owners who now try to blame immigrants.

In Glasgow, for instance, there is virtually no black population. But in Glasgow 40,000 people are on the dole this month. In Belfast, or Derry, where there are no black faces at all, unemployment is even higher.

Unemployment in Britain was at its worst in the 1930s. There was then no immigration at all to Britain. Unemployment was at its lowest in the 1950s, when immigration was relatively high.

The way to fight unemployment is not to blame immigrants. That can only divert you from a real struggle against those who push through the sackings.

More Wealth

Hundreds of thousands of jobs could be created tomorrow by a real fight for the 35-hour week. Hundreds of thousands would follow if overtime working were stopped.

In a society based upon real socialist planning, for need rather than the profit motive, unemployment would disappear forever and every extra worker would be welcomed as providing a source of more wealth for the community as a whole.

It's for these reasons that Socialist Worker unconditionally supports the right of the Malawi Asians to come to this country. There is plenty of room and there is plenty of useful work to be done.

To think otherwise, to give even one fraction of an inch to the racialsists is to deliver yourself bound and gagged to the real villains of the present crisis. Those are the people with wealth and power, the 2 per cent who own 72 per cent of the land values and 50 per cent of all the wealth in what is kindly referred to as 'our' country.

WHERE AFTER 26 MAY?

ON Wednesday tens of thousands of workers will be taking action against unemployment, the cuts and the Healey wage deal. It towns where there are no worktime stoppages and demonstrations, many workers will be expressing their anger in other ways—through lunchhour meetings,

through pickets, through leafletting their workmates.

What next in the struggle?

The next key date should be 16 June, the day of the Special Trades Union Congress, the day when union leaders Jones, Scanlon, Basnett and Murray hope finally to push through their deal with Healey.

It is vital that the deal does not go through. If it does, it

must be only with the loudest protest, a protest that can give heart to the first groups of workers who find themselves fighting it.

The National Right to Work Campaign has called for a lobby of the Special TUC in London on Wednesday 16 June. We urge all our readers to ensure that their trade union bodies and stewards' committees send delegations to that lobby.

ADVERTISEMENT
RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN
RANK AND FILE ORGANISING
COMMITTEE

**LOBBY THE
SPECIAL
TUC CONGRESS
JUNE 16TH
NO TUC DEAL WITH
HEALEY**

Wednesday 16th June, 9.30am
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

Third jury gives police a bloody nose - four cleared

After a two-day trial, a London jury unanimously acquitted four young black men of affray last week—the third time running that the Metropolitan Police have had such a bloody nose.

At the Carib Club trial it took a second jury to convict just two out of twelve. The charges against all ten at the Stockwell

Tube trial were thrown out. Now four out of seven from The Swan disco have been cleared.

In each case everything is peaceful until suddenly masses of police with truncheons drawn and dogs storm in. They are chasing a thief (never found) or answering a false alarm or just happen to be there having a drink.

Spontaneously and without cause, say

the police, they are attacked. Bottles are thrown, knives brandished and the most bloodcurdling threats made.

The public were in fear of their lives, say the police. Yet the public are suspiciously absent from giving any evidence. In the Stockwell Tube case the one member of the public, supposedly a representative of the dozens terrorised, destroyed the police case when she said that it was the police

who started it.

In the Swan case, the one civilian called as a police witness did not see a single thing that the defendants were accused of.

Day by day the 'heavy' side of the police acts as a constant repression on the black communities of Britain. Three juries on the trot have seen through the lies. There is hope.

getting jobs when they finish



People coming out of their homes to join the march, which swelled to 2000



The three-deep rows of police that protected the 70 National Front members outside the prison

HUNDREDS of Asians and West Indians joined the march against the National Front as it passed through Handsworth in Birmingham last Saturday.

The march grew from 1000 at the beginning to more than 2000 by the time it reached Winson Green. People came out of their homes and shops to march for their rights.

In spite of the pouring rain, the mood was proud, happy, confident. The march ended at waste ground near Winson Green Prison. Robert Relf, the fascist, who was jailed for breaking the Race Relations Act by refusing to sell his house to blacks, had been moved from Winson Green to Stafford Prison the day before in an attempt to take the steam out of the anti-fascist march. Relf is a former member of the National Front and the Ku Klux Klan.

Nevertheless, 70 fascist National Front supporters—including Front leaders Andrew Fountaine and Martin Webster—staged a picket outside the prison. They were protected by two lines of police—each three deep at times.

When the march ended, the frustration of the black youths reached breaking point.

Insult

The police blocked the road to their West Indian Federation Club, which National Front members had paraded in front of all week. The police also refused Asian kids who go through there on Saturdays for language classes permission to enter.

This insult was just too much. The blacks couldn't get into their own club which the National Front had been able to pass all week. Bricks and stones from the waste ground flew through the air.

Eventually the police agreed to allow anyone who wanted into the Club to go in, if the crowd broke up and walked around the block to get there.

But as people went to do this, they were charged by police on horses. The police charged not once, but twice, with batons swinging.

Grab

Then came more charges by police on foot. Then police on motorcycles ran through the crowd. These attacks were unprovoked. People were moving off peacefully.

Then they started picking people off, grabbing them out of the march without any reason. Even when the march reached the park and people were locating friends they had been separated from in the chaos, police came into the park to grab more.

Police attack as blacks join march against Front

REPORT: Jenny Jackson PICTURES: Dave Evans (IFL)



Two police—one a woman in plainclothes—grab a demonstrator as the march disperses



Mounted police baton-charge demonstrators

28 people were arrested. Police took fingerprints and photographs of all those charged. They refused to allow them out on bail if they wouldn't agree to this.

We have reports that one West Indian was burned with matches and threatened with a large office stapler. An Asian was beaten and his right eye was injured.

The conflict was caused by provocation. First by the National Front, who have paraded their racism up and down the streets of Birmingham this week. Then by the police who attacked the march.

A defence committee with representatives from black and white organisations in Handsworth, was set up on Sunday morning.

Support to: Handsworth 28 Defence Committee, c/o

Lozell's Social and Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 19

WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

'BLACK immigrants come and are dependent on the treacle stick—the Social Security—for keeping alive. We need to call a halt to immigration to give us time to review the situation and see where we are going wrong.'

No, that isn't Enoch Powell's latest outburst. It isn't a quote from Spearhead, the National Front's magazine.

It's a statement from William Jarvis, Labour Councillor, chairman of the West Midlands County Council, and president of Birmingham Trades Council.

His sickening racist 'policy to solve unemployment' was inspired by the swing to the Tories in the recent council elections

Resign

The Birmingham District Labour Party, the Coventry Borough Labour Party and the West Midlands Labour Party Conference have all condemned Jarvis' statement.

Colin Gurney, a Coventry Labour councillor, told Socialist Worker:

'I wouldn't ask him to resign. I would make him resign. It's appalling. To me that's not Labour Party policy. For a man in that

position to make such a statement—he's chairman of the county Labour Party—it's disturbing.

'What annoys me more is that the Labour Party doesn't do anything about it. When the fascists marched through Coventry before the by-election, there was a counter-demonstration. There was just me from the Coventry Labour Party—and about ten or twelve Young Socialists. That was all we could muster.

'I'll stand shoulder to shoulder with the blacks. That's what I'm in the Labour Party for, and if they don't fight racialism, I'll be out.

'This afternoon the West Midlands Labour Party conference passed a motion unanimously against immigration controls. Racism only divides us in an economic crisis.

RIGHT TO WORK MOVE AGAINST FASCISTS

THE Blackburn Right to Work Committee responded quickly to the election of two members of the fascist National Party to the local council last week.

Their meeting was attended by 120 workers, most of them black. They heard Les Kay and Balwinder Singh spell out the dangers to the whole working-class movement of the National Party's racist policies.

Two local shop stewards from factories with delegates to the Right to Work Committee were invited to speak. But one, Stuart Walsh, a Labour Party candidate and convenor at Crown Paint, cried off under pressure from his shop stewards.

He told the Lancashire Evening Telegraph: 'They wanted nothing to do with a smear campaign against the National Party. The Right to Work Committee should be non-political.'

Catholic

But Terry Hill, deputy chairman of Whitbread's joint shop stewards committee, spoke in a personal capacity about his experiences in Northern Ireland. As a Catholic, he understood and had witnessed the damage that discrimination causes to any working-class fight for jobs.

All that week the Right to Work Committee and supporters had been leafletting and flyposting. They had got posters in all the Asian shops and held impromptu street meetings. The leaflets—in English and Urdu—explained the dangers of the National Party and the reasons for organising a fight back.

Much of the delegate support for the Right to Work Committee from shop stewards committees and Labour Parties is wavering.

Racism

But as Paul Whittaker, an unemployed hospital worker, the secretary told Socialist Worker: 'For me and the unemployed workers on the committee, the Right to Work Committee will stand or fall on this question. Because the fight against racism, although a difficult one, is an integral part of the campaign and fight back for jobs.'

The Pakistani Workers Association and the Indian Workers Association are meeting this week to decide whether to affiliate to the Right to Work Campaign. It's hoped to leaflet the whole town and start a petition calling for a demonstration

CORRECTION: The address of the Manningham Defendants Fund is 41 Athol Road, Bradford.

★★★★ Lets Do It Again! ★★★★★

FLAME

BENEFIT DANCE

(Proceeds to launch the eight page Flame)

The HIGH FLAME

(Formerly the Young Groovers, straight from their smash hit at Skegness)

PLUS The latest in Soul and Reggae Sounds

featuring

MAFIA DOWNBEAT HI FI

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 8pm till Midnight

Camden Town Hall, London,

nearest tube Kings Cross

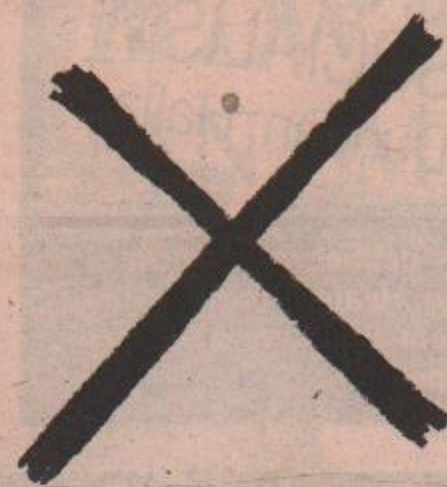
Late Bar, Tickets: 80p Advance, £1 on the door

Flame, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

For the Rank and File

VOTE WILLIAMS



'THERE'S your tea money, and your bus fare—and here's your union dues.

'Don't forget lad, the first thing you've got to do is join the ETU. It's a strong union—that's why I want you to be an electrician'.

Billy Williams still remembers this advice from his father as he set off to the local Co-op in Mountain Ash in the South Wales valleys to serve an apprenticeship as an electrician.

That was 20 years ago. This month he is standing for general secretary of the EETPU, the electricians' and plumbers' union. 'I soon found out that it wasn't all that strong a union even then' he says.

'And it's getting worse all the time, because of the way it's run. I'm standing to change the union the only way it can be changed—from the bottom up'.



Billy Williams (right) confronts Jim Callaghan when the Cardiff electricians blacked out his visit with Kissinger as part of their wages action.

Why I'm standing for EETPU secretary

WHY is Billy Williams standing for EETPU general secretary?

'Well, I've noticed everywhere I've been that it is possible to organise people and fight for better conditions, I've always been amazed how workers change when they see a chance of acting themselves.

'That convenor at Cardiff called his workers "dummies". And as long as you think they're dummies, of course nothing ever gets done. But those "dummies" soon showed that they could stop a whole city.

'It changed their lives, and it even changed the convenor. He was one of the best strike committee members!

'Everywhere I've been, the workers have taken action to protect themselves from some of the worst bosses in business. And everywhere I've been that protection has been won in spite of trade union officials. The officials here either ignored the disputes, or actively intervened against them.

'Some people say we can do without our union. But that's just not true.

'We need the union more and more. We need the solidarity which a national union organisation gives us. We have to concentrate on changing our union.

Dummies

'The present leadership of the union would be really happy if there weren't any members, just 400,000 dummies paying subscriptions.

'They've done everything in their power to cut the membership off from the union: amalgamating branches, putting off elections, castrating the conference, and so on.

'Do you realise that only 16



BILLY WILLIAMS talks to PAUL FOOT

officials in the whole union are ever elected? I stand for electing the lot—and I'm against banning Communists from office.

'Why wasn't Billy supporting executive member Harold Best against Chapple in the elections?

'Well, I'll tell you a story to explain that,' he said. 'During the local authority dispute, we got stewards together from all over the country to lobby Chapple at Hayes Court.

'Speaking to Chapple at that time I could tell from the look in his eyes that he was wondering who these people were. He'd never seen them before in his life.

'He loves debating with his known opponents on the left, the Flashlight candidates, the professional opposition-men. But these people were different, young rank and file militants who had no respect for him at all, who treated him as an equal and demanded action from him.

'I could see he was wary about it. It was something entirely new.'

'Now, these are the people I'm representing in the election: the people who want to change the union from the bottom up. For far too long, the left have tried to change it from the top.

'I don't expect to touch Chapple in the vote. But I do expect, through this election, to make lots of contacts and to start the argument about who controls the union.'

BILLY WILLIAMS went to work first as a face electrician, then as a miner, in the pits around Aberdare.

In 1969 he went to work at the huge Heath Hospital complex in Cardiff, where, before long, he was elected shop steward.

'I had my first taste of ETU officials when I was there,' he says. 'Some lads came up from Ottery St Mary in Devon. They were on strike in a switchgear factory.'

'I immediately blacked all switchgear and went to see my area official. He advised me to write to Frank Chapple, our general secretary. I did that—ad Chapple wrote back advising me to consult my area official!'

Billy Williams went on to a series of jobs in the contracting industry. At the huge Baglan Bay petrochemical complex, he rapidly became EETPU convenor, and started to 'clean up the site'.

'We organised across contractors and across trades. We really controlled the place: proper safety regulations were enforced, no redundancies were allowed, and so on.

Atrocious

In 1972, he moved to the big Inland Revenue tax computer centre site in Cardiff. Conditions were atrocious. Trade union organisation hardly existed. Within days he was elected shop steward.

Within weeks, he was leading an occupation and strike for fitted chin straps on safety helmets. 'The helmets were useless without straps,' he says. 'Very dangerous. But the union sent down an executive member to tell me that the strike was ridiculous.'

'Then they sent a bloke from the Joint Industry Board. He told me I had no chance. We stayed out on strike for 11 weeks.

'We got the chin straps. And workers on construction sites all over Cardiff got the straps too.'

In 1973, Billy got a start on a pickle line which was being built at the Ebbw Vale steelworks.

'I'd been out of work a long time after the IRO business,' says Billy, 'and I was really glad to be on the tools again. I was working really hard, harder than I'd ever worked before.'



The picket line at Royal Mint site, Cardiff, where a nine-week strike won reinstatement when the stewards committee was sacked. But Billy Williams (centre) was then victimised, with the agreement of local union officials.



Billy Williams (centre) among electricians lobbying NUI general secretary Ken Morgan.

'Well, they sent this engineer, Wyman, to supervise me. He took pleasure from sacking people and ordering them around.

'He comes up to me and tells me that I'm not working hard enough. I exploded. I'm afraid I couldn't repeat what I said to him (not for print anyway) but I went on at him for about ten minutes.

Laughing

'He looked terrified. I don't think a worker had ever spoken back to him before.

'As I went on, the whole line stopped. There were electricians and riggers laughing and cheering. So this Wyman, he says: "I'm off to get you sacked." And I said: "Go on, you silly little man, see how far it gets you."

'And he strode off down the line, with the men all watching him. Half way down, he turns round and shouts: "All right, I apologise. But watch your tongue." And everybody

laughed.'

Within weeks Billy Williams was a steward. 'We won the lot. Good pay, and, above all, good safety conditions. Plenty of protective clothing. Very few accidents.'

In 1974, Billy was taken on

as an electrician by Cardiff City Council. 'When I got my first pay slip, I couldn't believe it,' he says. 'It was for £25!'

'There had never been a strike by corporation electricians in Cardiff. The convenor, a bloke known as Lenny the Lion, came to see me. He shouted at me: "You can't get a strike here, you know. These people are just dummies, they're sheep."

'I said no one had mentioned a strike yet, but £25 a week was ridiculous.

'Anyway, before long the lads in Scotland and Leeds started to take action. The lads in Cardiff started to get interested. Before long, we did have a strike: one of the best I've ever known.

'We stopped the NUJ conference in Cardiff and we pulled out the plugs on the telly when Kissinger came to get the Freedom of Cardiff from his friend Jim Callaghan.

'We were out 14 weeks—and we won the lot. Pay went up from £29 basic to £54 basic, and there were all sorts of other gains.'

“

At Baglan Bay, I joined the Communist Party. I worked hard in the party for a couple of years. But I found it was full of old people telling us what to do.

They broke up our attempt to build a Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in Cardiff. I couldn't find any fighting spirit in the Communist Party.

I joined the International Socialists, and that's full of fighters. I say in my election address I'm in the IS. I'm proud of it.

”

THE UGLY FACE OF CHAPPLE'S UNION
and how to change it

A Rank and File pamphlet Price 5p

NEW RANK AND FILE PAMPHLET

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EETPU Rank and File National Meeting

No TUC deal with Healey Build a fighting Rank and File

Speakers include Billy Williams (Rank and File candidate for EETPU general secretary) and Jim Atkinson (Rank and File candidate, EC Division No 8). Chairman: George Kelly (EETPU convenor, Glasgow)

Saturday 12 June 2pm—5pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 (Holborn tube)

COACHES for the meeting will be travelling from the following places:

CARDIFF: Leaves Central Bus Station, 10am

NEWPORT: Leaves Transport House, 10.45am

SOUTH LONDON: Leaves Brixton 9am

NORTH LONDON: Leaves Kings Cross/St Pancras Road, 9.30am

GLASGOW: Leaves George Square, 6.30pm.

Why unemployment?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

It is the deliberate choice of Callaghan, Healey, Foot and the rest of them. But there is another choice open . . .

'CALLAGHAN strategy crushes the left' said the headline. The story, in the Guardian, was about how dismal Jim had persuaded the Labour Party NEC to throw out some policy proposals that the Guardian's editor disapproved of.

They were the usual sort of thing—expansion of public services and that old patent medicine, 'wide-ranging import controls'. What is really interesting is the

argument used by Callaghan. 'In a speech designed to echo in the City and the foreign currency markets, Mr Callaghan opened the meeting by saying that, to avoid uncertainty at home or abroad, he must make it clear that the government's economic strategy remained as announced by himself and the Chancellor.'

'The City'

Do you remember Ted Heath and his 'Who Governs Britain' campaign? Well, now we know who governs Britain—the City and the foreign currency markets!

Now words like 'the City' or 'the markets' have a nice impersonal ring about them. That is why they are used. 'Vast impersonal forces' was the phrase a historian coined for this sort of thing. You are supposed to think that you can no more do anything about them than you can stop the sun rising and setting.

It is all codswallop, of course. If Callaghan had said 'we are being held up to ransom by a bunch of profiteers and my policies are designed to ensure that nothing is done to upset these pirates,' well, even the Labour Party NEC might have boggled a bit.

If he had said this though, he would

have been speaking the truth. Let us be absolutely clear about it. There is no God-given rule or 'natural law' which says that there must be mass unemployment, inflation, real pay cuts and the ruination of the public services.

Planned

We have all these things because it is the deliberate choice of Callaghan, Healey, Foot and the rest of them that we should have them.

There is another choice open. It is the choice of a *planned economy* based on production for use, not profit, and the fullest utilisation of all available resources.

Socialist planning would abolish unemployment at a stroke and so greatly increase what is available for use.

It would control prices and expand welfare. The capitalist press, TV and radio, government ministers and 'opposition' spokesmen all play the same record.

Unemployment, cuts and reductions in living standards are necessary and inevitable they say.

Well, so they are, if you accept that the capitalist system must be preserved at all costs.

Invest

But only if you accept that capitalism is sacrosanct.

We are told that profits must be increased so that capitalists have 'the incentive' to invest.

That's right—if making capitalism work is your aim. And then pay must be cut, in real terms, and fewer resources allocated to health, housing, education and so on.

But why do we need the capitalists?

Profits are the difference between the value of what workers produce and what they are paid.

Legal

The capitalists get profits because, under capitalism, they have a legal title to the surplus wealth produced by others, by the workers.

Take over industry and run it according to a plan, democratically decided, and the capitalist disappears along with his legal right to the fruits of other men's labour.

The city—the institutions, not the place—simply disappears as well.

Surely it can't be as simple as that? It isn't. The economic problem is simple enough.

The problem is political: how to get the profiteers and their Labour lieutenants off our backs. Of which, more later.

RIGHT TO WORK SOCIAL
Friday 21 May, Kentish Town Students Union, North London Poly (nearest tube Kentish Town). Bar extension. All proceeds to the Defence Fund.

Socialist Worker

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DID YOU KNOW THIS MAN IS

A PRACTISING NAZI? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

WHAT MAKES Robert Relf, the man jailed for displaying the sign below, a folk hero and the £600-a-week Asians hate figures? The answer, in case you didn't know, is the racialism of the British press and TV.

Amid all the furore about the five-star luxury enjoyed by the Asians, which newspaper or TV bulletin informed you of the fact that they were allowed by social security only 23p a head for each meal?

TRUE BLUE

And, more importantly, which newspaper or TV bulletin gave the facts about Mr True Blue Englishman Relf? The not uninteresting fact, for instance, that he is a practising Nazi!

Twelve years ago, Relf was jailed for three months when he refused to pay a fine imposed for daubing racist slogans on walls in Warwick.

He was then a member of Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement, but left when they failed to help him over his jail sentence.

A year later, in 1965, he was back in jail, this time for aiding and abetting the wearing of uniforms of a political organisation—the Ku Klux Klan.

VOICE

A tape recording exists of a Klan meeting in Britain attended by Relf and his wife, Sadie.

Mrs Relf's hysterical voice can be heard screaming for 'the niggers to be driven up the chimneys.'

Relf's third jail sentence—two years and nine months—followed his flirtation with the Klan. This time he was convicted for an attack on an Indian shop.

FEW

Meanwhile, after a spell with the National Front, he is aiming to get back into organised politics.

He has applied to join the British Movement, the successor to the National Socialist Movement.

Few of these facts have been publicised by the Press or TV. Those that have did not get the 'scandal' treatment meted out to the Asians.

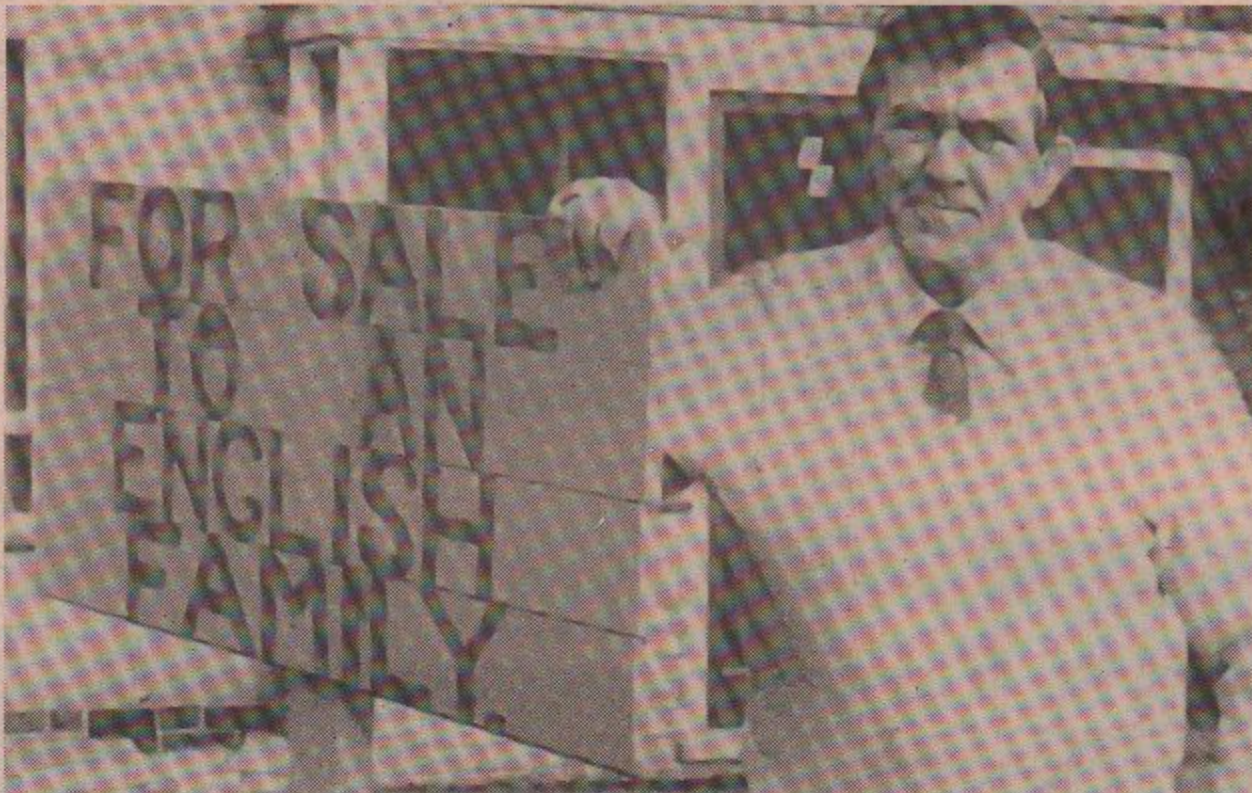
Which is a fair indication of where our 'impartial' media stand on the question of racialism. . . .

SACRIFICE...

□ **JAMES Beattie**, chairman of Beatties department stores, lets shareholders in on the secret of who is responsible for unemployment.

In his company's annual report, he says: 'I hope that those who succeed in pushing up certain salary rates far beyond the level inflation will accept a good deal of responsibility for today's unemployment.'

Directors of Beatties,



Robert Relf: he's applied to join the Nazi British Movement.

Stockpile of tricks

THE ANNUAL report of the London Brick Company makes interesting reading.

By December 1974, with the building industry first to be hit by the recession, LBC had built up a stockpile of 360 million bricks.

They reacted swiftly by sacking several hundred brickmakers and closing down the oldest works.

After a year of such belt

tightening and self sacrifice on the part of the management, we find chairman Sir Ronald Stewart declaring that 1975 had been 'an exciting and rewarding year' and announcing record profits of £9,791,000—a £7 million increase on the previous year.

Dismay

Earlier in the year, the company had won a generous price increase from that paper tiger of the Social Contract, the Price Commission.

To Sir Ronald's dismay, the rises 'were higher than they otherwise need have been', because of inflation, and 'monthly profit margins were swollen by mounting stock profits.'

Even more interesting is the use LBC is making of this windfall, these 'exceptional profits'. The charitable Sir Ronald's mind, it seems, turned to utilising LBC's 'expertise' in 'assisting the countries of the Middle East'.

And what better place than Iran, with its 'relative stability', its 'suitable brickmaking clays' . . . political repression, secret police and feudal ruler?

LBC is putting £3½ million into building a brickworks there, hoping to make a further profit from the sale of specialist machinery from LBC's workshops here.

Sir Ronald even has the cheek to conclude his report by thanking his employees for their 'hard work and loyal support' and advising them that 'the hard lesson' to be learnt is 'that the fortunes of employer and employee are intimately linked'.

MIKE GARNER

□ **WITHOUT COMMENT:** British vegetable growers are deliberately destroying crops of spring greens and cauliflowers because of falling prices. —from the Western Mail, 14May



□ **THIRTEEN** Russian bureaucrats have been jailed in Moscow after a trial heard how they used £250,000 of state money to build palatial quarters by the Volga river where they wine and dined off vodka and caviare and had sex with specially imported 'hostesses'.

Funny that: if Russia's socialist, and the workers control the state, how come 13 state officials can appropriate so much mazooma

□ **SPARE** a thought, please, for Raquel Welch. She had to hump ten suitcases to her hotel room last week when she arrived in Cannes to find the uppity waiters, porters and maids were on strike.

This is believed to be the first useful work she has done in her life

□ **IT IS** with a feeling of anger and cynicism that I regard the developments in Rhodesia. Here we have the spectacle of a British government seemingly determined to see the destruction of British (White) control in that country by any means possible.

—from a letter to the Gwent Gazette by T Bryn Jones, secretary of the Abertillery branch of Plaid Cymru, the well-known 'left-wing' Welsh nationalist party

□ **THE LONDON** Evening News recently ran a tear-jerking article on the plight of poor little rich children who have to adjust to spartan Britain after enjoying the Good Life in the Gulf States.

It included these memorable lines: 'Another worried mother, Mrs Jan Wood, insists that her eight-year-old son always travels economy class on aircraft.'

'He expects to fly first-class but I insist that we fly economy to show him his life isn't one of continuous privilege,' said Mrs Wood, whose husband Derek is the Barclays manager in Dubai.

Oh, the strain of being an economy-class parent

□ **'THE** government 'won' the General Strike by the ruthless exploitation of its propaganda advantage.'—from Labour Weekly, 7-May.

Funny, we always thought it won because of the spineless leaders of the TUC. Just shows you how wrong you can be

□ **FORTY-TWO** out of every 100 working-class mothers in city areas suffer from psychiatric disturbances, according to a report published last week. The rate is higher still among women whose children are under five years old. Meanwhile, the Labour government cuts back on nursery schools

It's a free country, isn't it?

□ **FURTHER** evidence of the build up of police intelligence against trade unionists and socialists comes to hand from Bletchley, Buckinghamshire.

A recent march against the public sector cuts was accompanied by a plain-clothes policeman, who photographed everyone on it.

Such procedures are now routine for all Britain's police forces. Photos are passed to the Special Branch, who then supply the local police with matching information briefs so that, in future strikes and demonstrations, 'the ringleaders' can be readily identified and dealt with.

Junta spies at work in Britain

THE BARBARIC Chilean Junta has a network of spies operating in Britain, it was revealed this week.

They are being paid by the Chilean Embassy in London to hunt out refugees from the regime which has already murdered an estimated 40,000 of its enemies.

One spy told ITV's London Programme on Sunday how he had been paid to photograph opponents of Chilean fascism, to steal Chile Solidarity Campaign documents and to cause disturbances on demonstrations.

But the Chileans are not the only agents operating in London. The Guardian proved last weekend that the South African Embassy was trying to blackmail a prominent, but unnamed, politician.

Agents for the Smith regime in Rhodesia have also been active, trying to recruit soldiers to fight against the black liberation movements.

Nothing

The response of the Labour government has been to issue statements saying that it has been 'watching developments' and then doing next to nothing.

But then this week's revelations have not really been all that new.

Two years ago, the Sunday Times showed that the Iranian Embassy was trying to blackmail Eli Povey, an Iranian girl living in Britain, into spying for them. The Labour government ignored the matter.

And it has been proved time and time again that there are dozens of CIA agents operating in London. But the government has done nothing.

When foreign dictators and torturers come to London, the government will spend thousands of pounds letting them. It will use thousands of police to protect them from demonstrators.

But when these dictators employ spies to threaten their opponents, the government chooses to look the other way.

ANOTHER BLOW FOR IAN SMITH



ZIMBABWE freedom fighters have been enjoying more successes in the guerrilla campaign against the racist Rhodesian state of Ian Smith. Last week saw the heaviest fighting yet.

According to an official government communique, 'three Rhodesian soldiers, all territorialists, were killed in an ambush'. There was an unspecified number of casualties.

Military

In a desperate attempt to defend their fantastic privileges and high living standards from the 95 per cent of the population who are black, virtually all adult white men are having to do prolonged periods of military service.

But these efforts are not going to stop the rising tide of black anger and organisation.

The US government last week warned the thousand Americans living in Rhodesia of the 'potential in the foreseeable future for increased violence'.

It clearly sees that Smith's regime is going to be smashed militarily unless it quickly makes an agreement with middle class sections of the black population.



THE REAL nature of Israel. The funeral on Sunday of 17-year-old Nina Nabussi, a Palestinian girl. She was standing outside her home in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, when Israeli troops shot her dead. On Monday the whole of

the West Bank showed its anger with a general strike. But it is not only the Israeli settlers who are attacking the Palestinians. In neighbouring Lebanon, Palestinians and left wing Lebanese are now under attack.

Jamaica: Troops move in

By Phil McCowan

TROOPS from the Jamaica Defence Force are being used against 450 strikers at Kingston's Norman Manley Airport.

The strikers—ground staff at the airport—are supported by the 230 militant stewardesses, who are also on strike.

The notorious Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act, which is modelled on the Tory Industrial Relations Act, is being used to force the workers back.

The strike started on 6 May when the workers rejected a 33 per cent wage offer.

The ground crews, who are all in the National Workers' Union, recently threatened to go on strike in support of the stewardesses. As a result, the stewardesses won a 48 per cent claim.

But this went beyond Prime Minister Manley's ten dollar a week wage-guidelines and a similar claim from the ground staff was blocked.

CYPRIOI WORKER

New issue now out: Articles on Healey's budget, the Labour Government's attack on the working class, letters from workers in dressmaking factories, piecework, Portugal and the recent demonstrations in Cyprus against American imperialism. Available, price 10p, from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

THE 'LEFT' CHOICE - A RIGHT-WINGER!

PORTUGAL'S political parties have got themselves into the most amazing contortions over the presidential election due at the end of June.

The self-proclaimed parties of the left, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, won a majority in last month's parliamentary elections. But the Socialist Party, under US pressure, is not prepared to form a government dependent on Communist support.

It wants to govern alone, and hopes that the presidential election will provide it with the chance.

But it is not standing its own candidate. That, it believes, would be too left-wing a thing to do.

Purged

Instead it is supporting a candidate first proposed by the parties of the right—General Eanes, head of the armed forces.

Eanes is officially 'non-political'. But he made his name as leader of the right wing troops who purged the left from the army after 25 November last year.

That is why the right will be quite happy if he is president.



They believe he could well end up heading a purely military regime that would destroy the power of the workers' committees and the unions.

The Communist Party is upset by the Socialist Party's support of Eanes. It would have preferred joint support for another military figure, such as the present president, Costa Gomes, who was also instrumental in smashing the left in the armed forces.

But that does not mean the CP is opposing Eanes. On the contrary, the CP leadership has said it will only support a candidate who can win.

And so it looks as if it, too,

is going to end up supporting a right winger, Eanes.

That's where the politics of the parliamentary road leads people who think they are fighting for socialism!

□ SUPPORTERS of the parliamentary road have diluted their politics beyond belief in Italy as well. Next month's elections could be the most important since the war.

The Socialist and Communist Parties are likely to get a combined majority, which could end the stranglehold of the major capitalist party, the corrupt Christian Democrats.

But vote winning for the sake of vote winning seems to have taken over from any

socialist principles. The Communist Party leadership has declared that it does not want any more nationalisation, that for Italy to leave NATO would 'destabilise the international situation' and that public spending must be cut.

It is calling not for a Communist or a Communist-Socialist government, but for an alliance of all parties apart from the neo-fascists.

That means they want a coalition with the Italian equivalent of the Tory Party.

In line with this policy, their candidates include well known capitalist figures, such as Spinelli, one of the Common Market Commissioners.

Tony Cliff: LENIN Volume 2 All Power to the Soviets

The second volume of Tony Cliff's LENIN, to be published in June, describes the first revolutionary victory of the working class anywhere—October 1917, and ends with Lenin's announcement to the Congress of Soviets: 'We shall now proceed to construct the socialist order.'



PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER until 31 May: Volume 2 for £2.60 (published price £3.60). Volumes 1 and 2 for £5 (published price £6.60). Post free. Cash with order.

PLUTO PRESS Books will be sent out early June.

Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK meetings

FIGHT THE CUTS film tour in South East London: 10-22 May. Series of showings in workplaces and trade union branches. Details and bookings, phone 858-8400.

EAST LONDON 'Defend the Right to Work 44' Social: Saturday 22 May. Three Blackbirds, Leyton High Road, London E10. Group, disco, bar extension to midnight.

MERSEYSIDE: The National Right to Work Campaign calls for maximum support for the demonstration on Merseyside on Wednesday 26 May. Assemble 12.30pm, Islington Square.

HARLOW: 26 May Day of Action: 11am, stoppage to march through Harlow, 12 noon: Meeting at Clement Attlee Square (by Town Hall), 1pm, assemble Town Hall car park for coaches to London. Organised by Harlow Unemployed Workers Committee and Trades Council. Phone Danny Purton, Harlow 31656, or Dave Lambert, Harlow 37205, to book a seat on the coach.

GLASGOW Right to Work Committee: A night of folk music and political theatre. Hard Times Socialist Theatre Group and their new play '1919: All Out on the Clyde' introduced by Harry McShane, with the Levellers folk group and full support. Glasgow College of Technology, Tuesday 25 May, 7pm-10pm. Bar. Tickets 40p.

NATIONAL EETPU RANK AND FILE MEETING: Saturday 12 June, 2pm-5pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Transport details from Rank and File Centre, phone 01-802 0978.

NORTH LONDON Right to Work Committee and Platform joint meeting: Fight the Fare Rises Tuesday 1 June, 8pm, North Library, Manor Gardens, London N7.

DARLINGTON: Fight Unemployment March organised by Darlington Trades Council, Saturday 29 May, Assemble North Lodge Park 1pm, Rally South Park 2pm. Speakers Joan Maynard M.P., Ted Fletcher M.P. and local trade unionists.

DUNDEE 26 May march: Assemble 9.30 am Dudhope Park, Baxter Park and Caledon Main gate. March from these three points to a rally in City Square at 10 am.

Central London Right to Work Committee and The Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act: Meeting to set up Camden-based Immigrant Workers Support Group. Any interested Irish, Black, Asian, Spanish Portuguese, etc. workers are specially asked to join us, so this doesn't become just another committee of 'do-gooders'. Friday 28 May, 6.30 pm, Camden Federation of Tenants building, 30 Camden Road, NW1.

Central London Right to Work Committee monthly delegate meeting, for affiliated trade union delegates and unemployed workers. Tuesday 1 June, 6.30 pm 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Central London Right to Work Committee Fund-raising Social: Bar, Disco, Light Show, the Film: Fighting the Cuts will be shown at 8 pm, 50p employed, 25p unemployed and/or claimants. Friday 4 June, 7 pm, Roebuck Pub, Tottenham Court Road. **HARLOW:** Round off 26 May with the Day of Action Social. Rave it up to Mike Carver, pianist and singer extraordinary. Lots of booze, free food, great music. Clifton Hatch Common Room, Trotters Road, near Bush Fair (off Southern Way), 8 pm onwards. Admission 40p (children free).

1932

THE COURT CASES now getting underway against the Right to Work marchers are not the first in the long struggle against unemployment.

In the 1930s, when unemployment was more than three million, the authorities feared that a mass, militant, unemployed workers' movement would emerge to thwart their vicious policies. And so the leaders of the unemployed movement came under police surveillance. Fascinating evidence of what the police got up to has recently been released in the Public Records Office in London. Composed entirely of internal police reports, orders and memoranda, it confirms everything the leaders of the unemployed movement said at the time—that it was official, top-level police policy to frame activists.

File MEPOL 2, numbers 3064 and 3065, gives an amazing picture of how the police prepared for the arrival in London of the 1932 Hunger March.

From every area of the city, reports were sent to the Deputy Assistant Commissioner on preparations to welcome the marchers.

The police engaged in the most detailed contingency planning. At each place on the route where the marchers might seek alternative ways through to their target, the Houses of Parliament, groups of police were to be held in reserve.

Possibility

The possibility was even considered that dockers and stevedores might thwart these schemes by travelling up the Thames by boat or barge.

Police preparations also included the gathering of information on march leaders.

On 24 October, 1932 a 'very urgent and confidential memorandum' went out asking for full details of 'names and addresses of any of the local or other leaders of the Communists or unemployed against whom you possess evidence



As the Right to Work Marchers appear in court, LAURIE FLYNN unearths a police frame-up of 40 years ago

of incitement to create disturbances or of participation in disturbances that have occurred'.

The Glamorgan police sent in information on 18 men described as 'the most prominent of the South Wales contingent'.

Among those named was Will Paynter, later to become one of the national leaders of the Miners' Union.

He was described as 'a very dangerous agitator... very defiant... he refuses to acknowledge any kind of law and order and has been convicted on several occasions of assaulting the police'.

Other secret police documents show how top level officers worked to build up an extremely tense atmosphere among their men before the arrival of the march. This was fully in accord with

government policy.

An internal Metropolitan Police telegram sent out at 10.30am on the morning the march was to arrive in London stated that the marchers' vehicles would be used to attack the police lines and would be carrying sticks and stones.

What the telegram did not explain was that the reason the lorries would be carrying sticks was that the police had taken the marchers' walking sticks off them and had themselves loaded them into the vans.

Emergency

Finishing touches to police preparations on 27 October 1932 included the removal of all regular police from traffic duty and the establishment of an emergency link with the army.

1976

As the various contingents of the march came through London that morning they were swelled by great numbers of supporters.

And in place after place they were harassed and attacked by the police who tried to seize their banners and pick off leading figures.

At Hyde Park, the police were to rise to still greater heights. They staged repeated mounted and foot police baton charges.

And then, of course, someone had to be held to account for the disorders. Naturally the police looked to the ranks of the marchers.

Among those selected for arrest was the 'very dangerous agitator' who 'refuses to acknowledge any kind of law and order'—William Paynter.

The circumstances of his arrest were as follows. The police had taken all the marchers' collecting boxes off them and stored them in the same van where they had earlier put the walking sticks.

Paynter, the treasurer of the South Wales march, was understandably concerned about the boxes and their contents.

Arrested

He went to claim them—and was promptly arrested.

The following day he appeared at Marlborough Street Court and was fined £5 for obstruction. He was lucky.

For the recently released Metropolitan Police confidential records show that a top-level bid to frame up Will Paynter was made.

Among those records is a report from Superintendent Manning to the Assistant Chief Commissioner

of the Metropolitan Police drawing attention to the items 'found' on the sticks, 18 pieces of iron bars.

'It has been ascertained that a van belongs to the contingent,' added the report. 'The Assistant Chief Commissioner yesterday for will the police... is going to the police station to see Paynter is a well known Communist agitator and a member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. His sentence of over £400 fine is a disgrace.'

Not Pencilled in at the report is a handwritten note from the Assistant Chief Commissioner which reads: 'Please get some of this at once, if possible.'

THIS IS 'SOCIALIST'?

By JOHN ROSE

MORE THAN 100 people were massacred in Delhi last month when police opened fire on Moslems marching against the Indian government's sterilisation policies.

This shocking story was told to Socialist Worker by an eye-witness terrified of revealing his identity for fear of reprisals against his family.

Ignore

The Western press has virtually ignored the massacre, claiming only 20 people were killed.

Sterilisation at gunpoint has come one step nearer for Mrs Ghandi's desperate and tyrannical regime.

After locking up and torturing many thousands of her opponents, including socialists and trade unionists, she is now removing those people she least likes from

the streets and forcibly stopping the rest from having children.

As the Bombay and Political Review put it in March:

'So hawkers, beggars and all such others who are considered part of the same species and whose presence on the pavements had been creating considerable obstruction to middle-class pedestrians have now been cleared from the streets by the police. Where they go and how they live are apparently nobody's concern.'

In fact, if they can't escape they end up in labour camps, where many are sterilised at gunpoint.

To sterilise the rest of the population, some state governments are already blackmailing employees to come up with monthly quotas of those sterilised—or have their pay

stopped. Virtually any trick will do. In the poorer villages, sick peasants attending Primary Health Centres have been sterilised without being told. Unmarried girls have been included among them.

Desperate

In some areas, ration cards for food are being withheld until sterilisation has been agreed.

One reason for the Delhi demonstration was the threatened destruction of Moslem homes to make way for office building.

Only those families agreeing to sterilisation requirements were to be offered new accommodation.

Indira Gandhi's regime calls itself 'socialist'. But her 'socialism' is like that of James Callaghan or, for that matter, Brezhnev.

It is a pretence used to protect small, privileged and corrupt ruling class against the rest of the population.

The more desperate the crisis of the international capitalist system becomes, the more vicious are the means which these so-called socialists use to protect their privileges.

They cannot offer the people they rule the most elementary needs of life. So they try to blame the most impoverished sections of the population for society's problems.

In Britain that means racialism against immigrant workers.

In India where the crisis is even deeper, it means labour camps for beggars and compulsory sterilisation.

Now Yorkshire miners back Defence Fund

Nothing has changed

THE YORKSHIRE miners are officially supporting the Defence Fund for those arrested in the police attack on the Right to Work march.

The secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, John Deason, who is among the 43 up in court this Friday, told Socialist Worker: 'This is very encouraging. We got a magnificent reception from the miners when we marched through Yorkshire and we need their support and the support of all trade unionists in our battle against these charges'.

Encouraging

Heading the list of contributions to the Defence Fund this week is the national executive committee of the print process workers' union, SLADE. They have given £10. Other official donations this week include:

J. L. Gardener & Sons Ltd, Eccles £5; T&G 8/34 branch Byker bus depot £5; T&G 1/498 CRS Dalston £10; Middlesex Poly Students Union £15; Preston No 9 AUEW £1; New Southgate No 2 AUEW £2; Lewisham NALGO £20; Moray House FRC £5; NUJ Uxbridge Branch £10; NGA Chiltern Thames Valley branch £35; Newton-le-Willows Trades Council £5. UCATT Hackney No 1 branch £1; COHSE 911 branch £16; EMI factory joint shop stewards committee £1; ASTMS Clydeside Health Service £15; Confederated Shop Stewards Committee, Charles Churchill Ltd £5.

COLLECTIONS: TASS conference £20.66; ASTMS Conference £70.28½;



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Newham Rights Law Centre workers £5.75; Borg Warners £1; Civil Service Right to Work Meeting £4.30; British Airways Maintenance 'A' Shift £3; Cammell Lairds Shop Stewards Collection £40; MGD Preston £4.36; Wakefield Trades Council £3.35; SCS members POOPS headquarters £6; Holiday Hall Electricians £25; NUJ Conference £20; NALGO NEC members £9; Gover Warehouse, Leeds £1.50

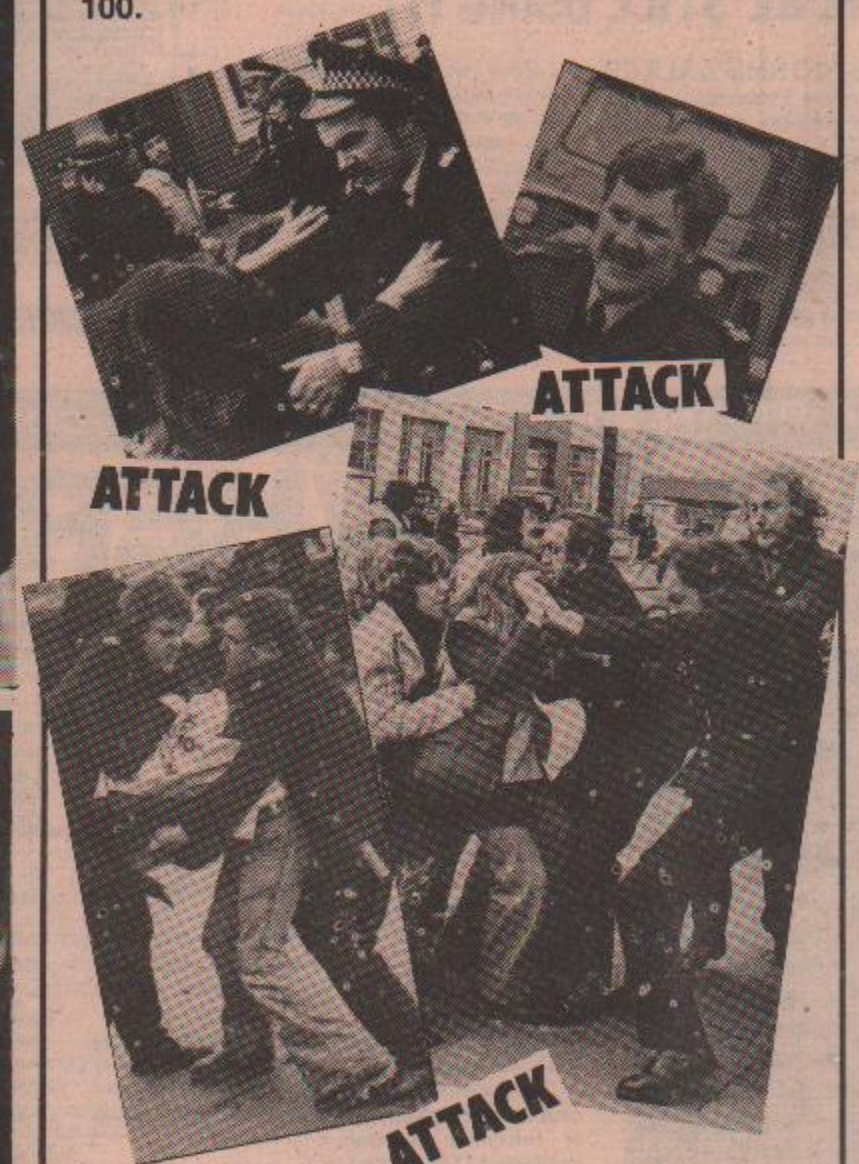
IS members and Right to Work; Cheshire/Shropshire IS £2.83; Tyneside Right to Work Committee £1.50; Black Country Right to Work headquarters £1.50; Braintree Right to Work Social £16.09.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

ADVERTISEMENT

The Right to Work Factsheet explains what happened at Staples Corner when the police attacked the marchers. Copies available to shop stewards' committees, trade union branches, Right to Work Committees etc. in bundles of 100.



From: Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

an Police draw- fact that among in the van were 60 wood and three

rtained that this he Welsh con- e report, . . . who was arrested uly obstructing ng to Hyde Park ove ownership. l known Com- was in posses- hen arrested.'

te e bottom of this ritten note from f Commissioner

body good onto ssible connect P

with this van.'

P of course was Paynter. And the note means that the Assistant Chief Commissioner was ordering a frame-up of him.

The attempt failed because the police had overlooked a simple fact—that they themselves had put the offensive weapons on the van.

Expose

And the Hunger Marchers would be able to expose such a frame up. So the Metropolitan Police backed off. But only for the moment.

On 1 November, Wal Hanington, the most prominent national leader of the unemployed, was arrested.

The previous day he had been the victim of a classic frame-up attempt. At a meeting of the marchers' council, he had been

handed a sealed envelope.

He was just about to put this straight into his pocket when he had second thoughts.

It was just as well. The envelope contained a cleverly faked document outlining the marchers' supposed plans to undertake various terrorist activities.

He destroyed it immediately. He was still arrested however under the notorious disaffection laws and jailed for the fifth time.

A month later, Tom Mann and Emrhys Llewellyn, two other national leaders of the unemployed, were jailed for incitement under the Seditious Meetings Act of 1817 and a law of 1360.

But the fight for the Right to Work went on. For every leader framed up and incarcerated replacements were found.



Will Paynter: police tried a frame-up

CAMPAIGN WITH THE Socialist Worker

THAT'S IDEAL!

by JULIE GREEN
Reading International Socialists

THANKS very much for the article in last week's paper on the Ideal Casements dispute in Reading—we sold 30 copies of the paper in half an hour and have made a lot of contacts within the factory.

We usually sell two copies!

Enclosed is a further report for this week's news pages.

USEFUL TIP for estate sales: Dig out those old copies of Socialist Worker from under your bed and get them through letter-boxes.

Back issues can be used as sample copies when leafletting estates for prospective sales. That way the buyer knows exactly what he or she is getting—and experience proves that many more potential buyers are won than through merely using a leaflet.



Selling in the main shopping centre in Reading. Sales in Reading doubled the week of the General Strike supplement.

HELP US SELL WHERE YOU LIVE

Some of the sales organised for this Saturday:

- BIRMINGHAM:** New Street Station ramp, 10am-4pm
- WEST LONDON:** Ealing Shopping Centre, Safeways, 11am-1pm; Hounslow Shopping Centre, Woolworths, 11am-1pm
- INNER WEST LONDON:** Shepherd's Bush Market, 10am-noon; Portobello Road, Corner of Lancaster Road, 11am-1pm
- SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Lewisham, Clock Tower, 11am-12.30pm; Woolwich, Powis Street, 11am-12 noon; Dartford, outside the new shopping centre, 11am-12.30pm; Gravesend, outside the market entrance, 10.30am-12 noon
- CHESTER:** Foregate Street, Grosvenor Hotel, by entrance to precinct, 1.30-2.30pm
- READING:** Junction of Broad Street and Union Street, 10am-3pm
- EAST LONDON:** Walthamstow High Street, Hee Street, 11am-1pm; Barking Magistrates Court, 10.30am-1pm; Ilford High Street, Woolworths, 11am-2pm
- YORK:** Coney Street, outside Woolworths, 11am-3pm, Stonegate, Noon-2pm, Market, 10am-1pm
- GLASGOW:** Central Station, 10am-5pm; Queen Street Station, 11am-4pm
- NEWCASTLE:** Northumberland Street, 11am-3pm; Gateshead High Street, 11am-1pm
- LEEDS:** Market, 11am-2.30pm
- HIGH WYCOMBE:** Octagon, 10.30am-12.30pm
- CARDIFF:** Market, 10.30am-2.30pm
- NEWPORT:** Market, 10am-noon
- SW LONDON:** St John's Road, Clapham Junction, outside Woolworths, 10.30am-1.30pm
- NORTH LONDON:** Wood Green High Road, Marks & Spencer, 11am-1pm; Holloway Road, Sainsburys, noon-2pm
- DUNDEE:** City Square, 11am-4pm; Thursday and Friday evenings 4-5.30pm
- MANCHESTER:** 11am-1pm, Cheetham Hill Precinct; Salford Precinct; Urmston Shopping Centre; Stockport Merseyway Centre; Prestwich Precinct

Count me in!

I'VE bought Socialist Worker once or twice outside Seven Sisters tube station in London and I was very interested reading about the Right to Work march from Manchester to London. I think everyone wants the right to work.

I'm an electrician and got a job now, but I was unemployed for four months and it was terrible trying to manage on £12 a week, even though I'm single and just got myself to worry about. After reading about the march I've decided that I've done nothing long enough, and now it's time I stood up and was counted. DAVID MULLINGS, London N17.

Socialist Worker

Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialist Workers.

Name: Mr D J Mullings

Address: Tottenham
London N7

Trade Union: EEPTU
ELECTRICIAN ENGINEERS AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES
Sect in National Secorum, Walthamstow
Socialists 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, 10N

-Support!

THAT TENANTS' STORY—WE'RE STILL USING IT!

by YVONNE WALKER
Hindrey Tenants Association

WE sold 152 copies of Socialist Worker altogether on our estates in Hackney, East London; 78 on the Hindrey Estate, the one in the article two weeks ago, and another 74 on the estate next door.

And we're still selling them—taking out the centre spread and putting it in the new edition of the paper.

This week we will finish the new sales and start going back with a new copy. Then we're organising a Socialist Worker meeting on the estate, in mid-June.

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

The workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up, or reformed, as the established Labour and trade union leaders say. It has to be overthrown.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling classes against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based

upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers

in other countries. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose imperialism and imperialist wars. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

CHESTER IS Inaugural Meeting: Unemployment, Cuts, Wage Freeze—what's gone wrong, and what can we do about it? Speaker: Paul Foot, Thursday 20 May, 7.30pm, Bear and Billie pub, Lower Bridge St, Chester. Admission 10p.

CROYDON SW public meeting: Women and the Law, Thursday 13 May, 8pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

SW AFRICA FORUM: Discussion on developments in SENEGAL, WEST AFRICA and the implications for the struggle in Africa. Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm, Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road. (Nearest Tube Warren St)

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW Public meetings: 27 May The Newspaper of a Revolutionary Organisation; 10 June Imperialism; 24 June Democratic Centralism; 8 July Theory of the Rank and File Movement; 15 July The Struggle in Italy. At South Bank Poly, Students Union, Rotary St. Details from Gil Loewenstein (622-1090).

NEWHAM SW public meeting: Southern Africa—What Next? Speakers: Pete Alexander (SW Africa Group), Joseph Jabangwe (ANC), Zimbabwe Thursday 27 May, 7.30pm, The Railway, Forest Gate, E7 (Near Forest Gate Station).

HARROGATE SW readers: Will any Socialist Worker readers interested in meeting others in the Harrogate area please write to Colin Vince, Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

HACKNEY SCHOOLS SW public meetings: Monday 24 May, 8pm. What attitudes should teachers take over expulsions and suspensions of pupils? Should we ever expel pupils? Talbot Pub, Enfield Road, N1.

SOUTHEND: An SW group is being formed. SW supporters who live in the area—or who know other supporters who do—are urged to contact Geoff Ellen immediately at Socialist Worker (01-739 9043).

CENTRAL LONDON SW Education Classes: Women and Socialism. Every second Thursday, 6.30pm, at The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London, WC1. Crèche provided. 10 June: The History of the Family. Speaker: Debbie Tom. 17 June: The Politics of Women's Depression. Speaker: Joy Leman. 1 July: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Sheila McGregor.

INNER WEST LONDON SW Half-day school: Sunday 6 June, 1pm-5.30pm. Workers Musical Association, 236 Westbourne Park Road, London, W11. Speakers: Laurie Hynn and Jenny Jackson. Practical session on writing for Socialist Worker and using the paper to build at the workplace. SW readers welcome.

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS—END IMMIGRATION CONTROLS! Meeting on the campaign on the work permits and to discuss the legislation introduced under the 1971 Immigration Act, the Appeals Tribunal system and renewal of permits. Saturday 13 June 11am-4pm, TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. Please contact IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, phone 01-739 9772.

NORWICH SW public meeting: The General Strike in East Anglia. Thursday 20 May, 8pm, The Black Boys pub, Colegate, Central Norwich.

NORWICH SW public meeting: Lenin and the Russian Revolution. Thursday 3 June, 8pm, Suckling Hall (opposite St Andrews Hall), St Andrews Hill, Central Norwich. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

READING SW public meeting: Spain. Speaker: Paul Harrison. Thursday 20 May, 8pm, TGWU, Kings Road, Reading. For further details ring Reading 62150.

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

MANCHESTER SW Day of Action meeting: Wednesday 26 May, 8pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

WEST MANCHESTER SW public meeting: Stop the Cuts, Wednesday 16 June, 7.30pm, Ye Olde Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.

LEICESTER TEACHERS SW meetings: Which way socialism? Thursday 27 May: Russia—Dissidents against the Monolith. Speaker: Chris Harman; Wednesday 9 June: China—Before and After Mao. Thursday 24 June: The Communist Parties in Western Europe. All meetings start 7.30pm, Globe Inn, Silver Street.

PUBLISHING BRANCH SW public meeting: The Cuts, Speaker from CIS Tuesday 25 May, 8pm, Museum Tavern, (opposite British Museum), Museum Street, London, WC1.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

CARDIFF SW jumble sale: Saturday 22 May, Albany Road School, 2.30pm. Jumble and helpers welcome.

LOST PROPERTY: Lost an anti-national Party demo in London when police moved in. Timex watch and a passbook. Anyone who found them please contact: Andy on 01-5404929.

NOISS

NOISS London Student Committee: One delegate per IS Society. Wednesday 2 June, 3pm, North London Poly, Holloway Road.

NOISS National Committee: Saturday 12 June. Details to be announced.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NORTH LONDON District IS: Pre-Conference aggregate. Change of date and venue: now SUNDAY, 23 May, Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road, N4, 1.00pm sharp. **NORTH LONDON District IS:** Pre-Conference aggregate. Change of date: now SUNDAY, 23 May, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N7, 1.00pm sharp. 85.00pm.

LEICESTER District IS: Post-Conference aggregate, Friday 4 June, 7.30pm, Globe Inn, Silver Street.

IS couple seek accommodation in London from late summer onwards. Contact Andy Durgan, c/o Social Sciences Department, Portsmouth Polytechnic.

Will all IS comrades going abroad for their summer holidays and willing to make contacts, take literature with them, please contact the IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, phone 01-739 9772.

WORKERS' STRUGGLES IN THE STATES: The IS North American group can provide speakers for branch, district and public meetings. Contact us at 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 phone 01-739 9772.

HOSPITAL WORKERS National Meeting: for all IS hospital workers and SW supporters. Saturday 12 June, TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester, 11am sharp. Please note change of date. Details later.

IS ITALY Day School: Programme to include the Crisis of Italian Capitalism, the left in Italy, perspectives after the election, Saturday 10 July in London. Write now for details, and to book a place. Italy Group, c/o International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS for IS districts, fractions, etc.: Producing and using silkscreen posters, using Socialist Worker (plus writing for SW), photography for socialists. Contact Pete Marsden, SW editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 (phone 01-739 9043).

IRELAND: National IS meeting: Delegates to be sent from all districts and major branches. Details of place and agenda to be announced.

IS PUBLISHING BRANCH business meeting: Tuesday 25 May, 7pm, Museum Tavern, Museum Street, London, WC1.

TOWER HAMLETS SW public meeting: Fight the Criminal Trespass Law. Thursday 27 May, 8pm, Bethnal Green Music Library. Speakers from IS and the Campaign against the Criminal Trespass Law.

NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE GROUP public meeting: Immigrant Women. Speaker: Martha Osmor. Monday 24 May, 8pm, The Beehive pub, Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham, N17.

BRITISH RAIL FRACTION: National meeting for all IS members and SW supporters in ASLEF, NUR or TSSA. Saturday 5 June, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. More details later—but start booking your tickets now.

FLAME West Indies Group wants to hear from you if you are from or have knowledge of the West Indies. Please write to: Flame, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



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

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists, fill in the form on page 15.

Orange dis-Order

Violent birth to violent present

OF THE many books I have read on the history of Northern Ireland, Michael Farrell's is by far the best. It is what it says it is: the first full-length political history of Northern Ireland from its violent birth to the violent present.

Throughout the book is the ever-present spectre of British rule, from all its colonial injustices, its dealings with the Unionist industrialists, businessmen and landowners, to its present disastrous but not so iron grip.

Some of Farrell's facts on the militancy of the Irish workers, particularly the

★ **NORTHERN IRELAND: THE ORANGE STATE**, by Michael Farrell, Pluto Press £5.



1932: The legal Unionist paramilitary force, the B Specials.

Protestant section, are revealing. These 'privileged' workers, periodically 'whipped' into religious hysteria ending in pogroms, murders and intimidation of their fellow Catholic workers, could turn on their Orange masters and have them trembling in fright at their class consciousness.

In 1919 when with British workers they were fighting for the 44-hour week, 40,000 shipyard and engineering workers went on strike. They

were slammed by everyone from the Orange Order down, but they remained solid for three weeks and would have had a general strike if the strike leaders had not lost their nerve.

Again, on May Day 1925, these same workers marched in a massive demonstration to Belfast City Hall for a rally that ended with a resolution of support for the Bolshevik government in Russia.

Russia

Ironically, in 1942, when the engineers stopped work over the sackings of two shop stewards, they were condemned by the Communist Party for 'holding up aid for their Russian comrades at war with Germany.'

Unfortunately such acts of working-class solidarity, which were few and far between, were smashed by the Unionists. Aided by British arms and finances, they would use sectarian politics to divide worker from worker.

This book details brilliantly the way the Orange state depended on such politics for its survival.

Although sectarianism

affects the working class as a whole, in Northern Ireland the main targets were the Catholic minority. They found themselves forced by the 1922 Treaty to live in a state that deliberately discriminated, intimidated and assassinated them in order to maintain a Protestant Ulster.

Abandoned by the southern state, and in the absence of any revolutionary socialist party, they constantly elected—and still do—middle class politicians who believed that by working within the state they could achieve some degree of justice.

This of course never happened. So frustration inevitably led to armed revolt, sporadic upsurges usually in the form of 'campaigns' planned and carried out by units of the IRA.

The IRA, although an 'army of the people', unfortunately never got to grips with the problem of the need for a 'political party of the people' based on the Irish working class as a whole.

If I have not said enough, it is because Michael Farrell's book will speak for itself.

FRANKIE DRAIN

A class ignored and crucial

THE flood of books about Northern Ireland since 1968 have tended to highlight the conditions, attitudes and experience of the Catholic minority community, but ignore the Protestant working class.

Their apparent lack of class consciousness provokes disdain and contempt among British socialists. Their reactionary and vicious sectarianism bring muttered accusations of 'fascist'! The pomp and spectacle of Orange marches seem absurd.

Yet which way the Protestant working class moves will

★ **THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER**, by Geoffrey Bell, Pluto Press £2.



1971: A Unionist wall slogan in Belfast

have a crucial effect on Northern Ireland. We need to criticise them and we cannot afford not to understand them. Geoff Bell's book is a welcome aid.

Whatever the rhetoric of Unionism in stressing allegiance to Britain, its practical meaning was the maintenance of Protestant supremacy at home.

The Unionist ruling class gained the support they needed from the Protestant workers by keeping skilled jobs as a Protestant preserve, making sure new industry went to Protestant areas, giving Protestants preference in housing.

Plot

Any signs of the Protestant working class appearing ungrateful or finding some common cause with the Catholics, as in the movement against unemployment in the 1930s, met accusations of a 'nationalist plot', incitement to sectarian violence, and calls for job preference for Protestants.

In wages, unemployment, housing, the Protestants of Northern Ireland were far behind workers in Britain—but they were privileged compared to the Catholic minority.

Unionism inhibited the development of a working-class political consciousness among the Protestants. With few exceptions, Protestant unity was easily maintained by simply beating the Orange drum, wearing an Orange sash and calling for a closing of the ranks.

What of the need for a conscious workers' struggle against capitalism in the south—which might allay Protestant fears of Irish unity? What of revolutionary socialist ideas gaining a foothold in the North?

The Protestant working class on their own will never be a force for Irish socialism, but socialism in Ireland will never be a reality without them.

JOHN MULLOY

★ **BOTH BOOKS** are available direct from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH. Please add 40p for postage.

This Terror Act

THE growing campaign against the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has a new tool.

The Act allows police to hold anyone in jail, without formal arrest, without charge, without telling you why you are being held, for seven days—on 'suspicion' of involvement in 'terrorist' activities.

It's become clear that to the police, merely being an active trade unionist can constitute 'suspicion'.

A speaker at a campaign meeting can state that—but CAST can show it. Too often the words 'socialist theatre group' have been connected with an evening of entertainment, but CAST's 20-minute play on the PTA is part of an active campaign.

It includes a stark portrayal of police interrogation under the Act. The bullying, the intimidation.

'You've no right to ask questions like that,' says the

Since 1968 a revolutionary change in the expectations and desires of the Catholic community has been stimulated by undreamt-of 'victories' such as the fall of a Unionist prime minister, the disbandment of the hated 'B' Specials and the fall of Stormont itself. These same events have produced in the Protestant working class acute confusion, anger, bitterness and feelings of betrayal.

Unionist unity was shattered. The mainstream of the Protestant working class moved away from even the Unionist leaders of 1968-72, whom they saw as 'soft' on the Catholics.

The Protestant working class has moved to the right, to greater sectarianism. No workers' leadership has emerged and no working-class politics have been developed. Many of the Protestant paramilitary leaders who pose as workers' leaders are bitterly anti-communist and viciously sectarian.

Link

The Protestant ostrich has buried its head in the sands of history, retreating to the past. The Protestant working class, at the most important juncture in their history, can do nothing but link arms and defiantly shout 'No surrender!'

The book exposes the myth of 'left' unionists and details the standard reaction of the Unionist block to any threat from within: assassination.

Geoff Bell captures the reality and limits of Protestant working-class politics. But he offers no discussion of potential changes.

What of the need to get the British troops out of Northern Ireland—which would dramatically challenge the Protestants' defensive posture?

What of the need for a conscious workers' struggle against capitalism in the south—which might allay Protestant fears of Irish unity?

What of revolutionary socialist ideas gaining a foothold in the North?

The Protestant working class on their own will never be a force for Irish socialism, but socialism in Ireland will never be a reality without them.

JOHN MULLOY

★ **BOTH BOOKS** are available direct from Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH. Please add 40p for postage.

☐ The Emergency phone number works. Remember it. You may need it tomorrow if you or one of your mates is held under this Act.

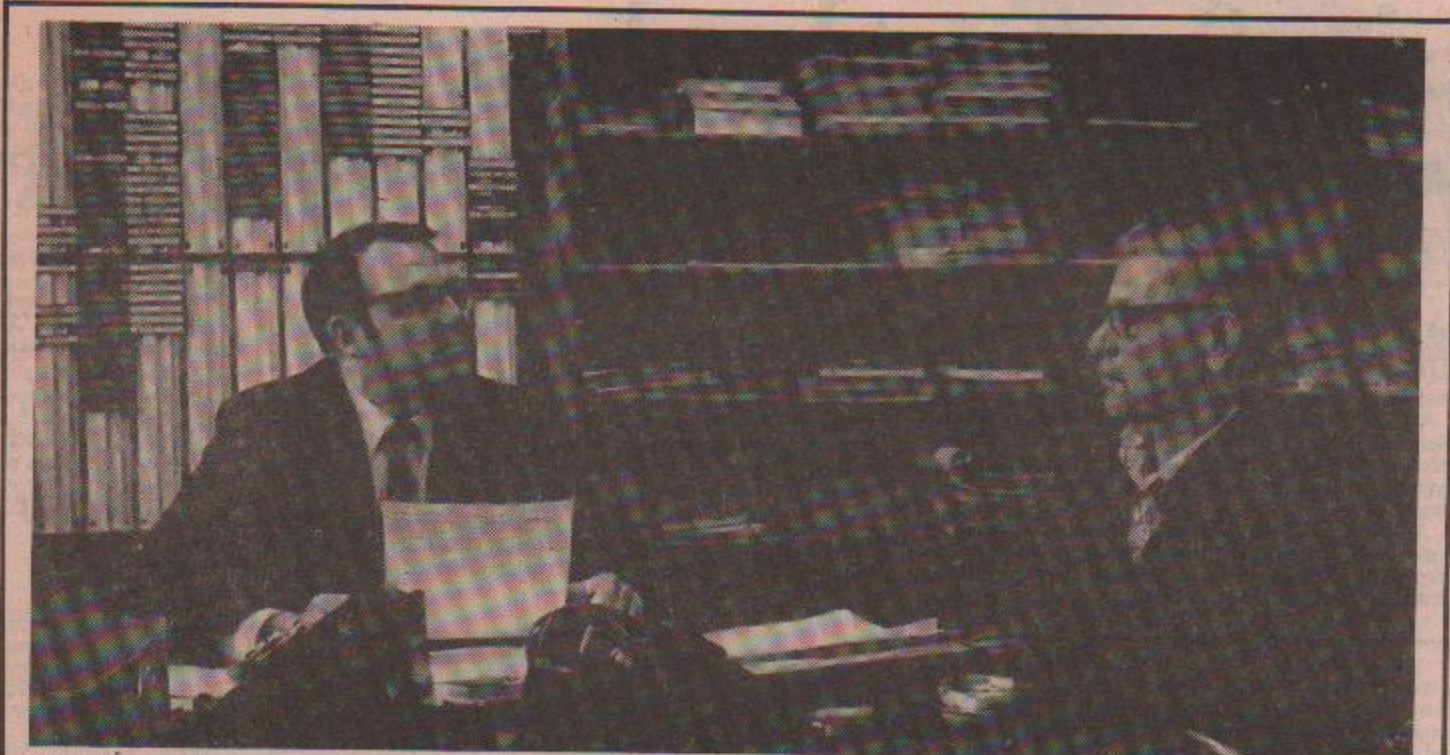
01-603 8654.

suspect. The interrogator replies: 'Under this Act you've no rights.'

Get CAST to your workplace, trade union branch, trades council, or fix up a meeting on the PTA. CAST will show you what a threat it is to the working class movement better than any speaker can.

Then talk about how we can meet that threat.

☐ **CAST**, 11c Cabell Street, London, NW1, phone 01-402 6087 (5pm-8pm).



This photograph of a miner applying for a lower-paid surface job expresses the confrontation between worker and management that is at the heart of Robert Golden's exhibition of photographs now on at

the Boxroom Gallery in London. It's a celebration of working-class strength. It will be available for trade union bodies and political organisations around the country after 30 May. Contact Robert Golden, 9

Tanza Road, London, NW3.
☐ **Boxroom Gallery**,
125 Shaftesbury Avenue,
London, W1,
until 30 May.

CHILE'S STRUGGLE IN EXILE

THERE'S a new Chilean theatre group called Teatro Popular Chileno. I can't think of a good reason why they shouldn't be invited to perform at your branch, workplace or student union. I can think of dozens of reasons why they should.

The group is made up of Chilean exiles and refugees, most of them with experience of prison and torture since the military coup in 1973.

Out of those experiences they've put together their own production, *Chile 1973*, which dramatises events leading up to the coup and the repression and resistance that's followed it.

To do this they use a brilliant combination of slides, cartoons, quotes, dramatised sketches and harrowing re-creations of prison and shanty town life.

Cut through it are the facts that the audience needs to put all the emotions of the performance into shape. Such as the 45 US military interventions in Latin



America since 1823, such as the 4000 Chilean policemen trained in the US Panama Zone since the war—a statistic that puts US presidential candidate Ronald Reagan's insistence on retaining US control of that zone into a new and murky perspective.

Touch

The production is raw and still has a lot of rough edges. But the actors are aware of this, as they show in the wide-ranging discussion with the audience that they have after all performances, discussion that can touch on anything from theatrical

technique to worthwhile forms of political solidarity in the place where they happen to be appearing.

One particular problem that they're working on and have gone a long way to solving is that it's almost too easy to dramatisise repression—torture, police raids, midnight arrests and so on.

Much harder to turn into honest, unglamorised stage material is the boring grind of much resistance work—duplicating articles, making a speech about a water rate boycott, sitting around on hunger strike.

The result is that this sort of subject could all too quickly degenerate into soggy, emotional wallowing in violent defeat that gives the audience powerful, morbid feelings but leads nowhere.

Teatro Popular avoid this by punching through the narrative a hard analysis of why the coup occurred—a whole lifetime of political experience, for example, is summed up in a worker's despairing shrug when he realises he has no arms to fight the soldiers when the

coup comes. And they avoid it too with short, incisive sketches that prove a constant reminder of the forms of ongoing resistance.

Teatro Popular are particularly anxious to perform for, say, dockers involved in or contemplating a boycott of Chilean goods, or student unions thinking about adopting a Chilean prisoner.

They've a short season at

★ PREVIEW

SATURDAY
The 100th OPEN DOOR programme (BBC2) is produced by the Claimants Union and promises to be an attack on the oppression of the Social Security system. More than four million people receive benefits by right—but usually have to face a humiliating means test to get them.

MONDAY
In the series SPIRIT OF 76 (BBC1), they're looking at the clash over private property interests in the United States today, where private property has its most sacred shrines. The Declaration of Independence guarantees 'Life,

Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness', but many of the state constitutions speak of 'Life, Liberty and Property.'

They're taking an environment issue to illustrate the confrontation.

TUESDAY

America again. Alistair Cooke's AMERICA (BBC2) tells of the driving of the Indians from the Great Plains. He's not usually a cowboy propagandist.

THURSDAY

MONEYWISE (ITV 12.30pm) includes a section that 'explains' Social Security benefits. Good luck to them.

PAUL O'FLINN

Four-star hotel, five-star hypocrisy

I WAS surprised to find no mention in SW, 8 May of an issue which has dominated the news media for the past week—the housing of two families from Malawi in four-star luxury.

Socialist Worker should realise that it's things like this, especially when given full coverage by the newspapers and TV, that are the topic of conversation on the shop floor, unless my own factory is unique.

It is very difficult to counter the hypocritical sense of outrage by the media which assails working class ears nightly on this issue.

The role of Socialist Worker, above all, should be to provide the arguments in order to attack the racist propaganda being peddled by the 'free press'.

Socialist Worker should ask why it is that such things as four-star luxury hotels exist for a privileged few while many people have to put up with sub-standard housing.

We should be told that the Labour government set a target of 500,000 new houses a year only 12 years ago, yet the other night on TV Shirley Williams was crowing about the completion of 168,000 houses last year. (This was better than the Tories, you see.)

This is the main reason why the four-star incident arose.

With the local election victory of the fascist National Party in Blackburn, it is obvious that a determined attempt will be made to split black and white workers. Once this is done the damage will not be easily made good.

It is vital that Socialist Worker takes up issues made popular by the press and provides ammunition in order to shoot down (and correct) the popular misconceptions about immigrants, Social Security handouts and the evils of racialism.

□ D Whalley, Convenor, Feniger and Blackburns, Blackburn, Lanes.

I WAS VERY disappointed by the 8 May Socialist Worker. Earlier in the week, racist attacks had been made by the national press against British passport-holding Asians.

This sort of outburst carries more power for the racists than any speech by Enoch Powell. Consequently, SW should have responded immediately to this situation.

When my branch saw there was nothing in SW we responded by writing a leaflet to be inserted into the SWs sold in the district. We hope other districts responded in a similar way.

□ Mike Allchin, Paddington.



JACK ROBERTSON is a shop steward at Massey Ferguson in Manchester and a member of IS. He sells the paper in the plant. Two weeks ago he was selling the General Strike special issue—at 20p a time. He sold a fair number to the lads on the opposite shift—on nights. When he came back in the morning, one of the lads on the night shift presented him with this cartoon, a tribute to Jack's enterprising selling practices.

□ SW Reader, Manchester.

Letters

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

Manningham: We need support

AS YOU probably know, on Saturday 24 April the National Front staged a march and meeting in Manningham, a major immigrant area of Bradford.

Despite protests by local trade union bodies and immigrants' organisations, the police and council allowed this attempt at intimidation of a significant proportion of Bradford's population to go ahead.

Twenty-one people were arrested protesting against this blatantly provocative demonstration and a fund has been set up to help cover defendants' legal costs, etc.

As well as widespread support from individuals both in Bradford and elsewhere, this fund is sponsored by Bradford Trades Council, the Indian Workers' Association, and the

Pakistani Workers' Association and other local bodies.

We would like to take this opportunity to appeal to your readers to support the fund and show solidarity with the comrades arrested in any or all of the following ways:

To contribute to the fund and take collections among friends and workmates;

To pass resolutions of support through trade union bodies, associations, etc, calling for donations;

Anyone who witnessed an arrest to contact us at the address given;

To support a peaceful solidarity picket called by the defendants outside Bradford magistrates court on Thursday 20 May at 10am.

Please send all donations, notifications of resolutions passed, requests for official

collections sheets to this address. (Make cheques, POs payable to Manningham Defendants' Fund—all donations acknowledged).

□ Terry Farrer, AUEW convenor, Brian Rhodes, Bradford Labour Councillor (Hon Treasurer, Manningham Defendants Fund), 41 Athol Road, Bradford 9.

OVER THE LAST six months we have made appeals for money in Socialist Worker

On behalf of the Dewsbury 27 Defence Committee, I would like to thank all who collected and donated money for the defendants.

Any money left over will be sent to the Bradford Manningham Committee.

□ Selwyn Smith, Ossett, Yorks.

POSTAL POINTS

THE FRONT-PAGE cartoon (8 May) got some good laughs from SW buyers. But, that headline, BLACKMAIL, should never be used again. At different selling points, several Black people stopped and complained.

As revolutionary socialists, we are at odds with the entire racist and sexist nature of society and this includes our prejudice-bound language. You wouldn't print headlines about 'paddy wagons' and 'chicks' nor can you use phrases that offend young Black militants, even if to our sloppy white minds they seem innocuous.

□ Sherril Yanowitz, London NW6.

A visit from the law...

AS AN IS member, I may well be an 'oddy' as I am self-employed. My wife and I run a small bookshop (no staff).

Naturally I do my stint selling Socialist Worker locally, so it's clear enough in a small country town where my political sympathies lie.

And in the shop window we show a variety of SW and IS pamphlets and books.

On Wednesday 5 May, a plain-clothes policeman came into the shop when only my wife and myself were in.

He said: 'I thought you might like to see our bomb detector'. He quickly took out of a box he was carrying a hand-held gadget used for frisking aircraft passengers and ran it over my body.

When it emitted a high-pitched tone, he said: 'You have a metal object in your right jacket pocket'.

I said 'No', and patted my pocket to show it was empty. But he insisted. Putting my hand in my pocket I produced a small chrome mirror screw that had been lodged in the corner of the pocket.

Another 'bleep' picked up my belt buckle, and the gadget was put back into its box as a customer entered the shop.

I asked the policeman what his idea was and he said he was out buying batteries for 'it' and thought I might like to see 'it'.

WHY AREN'T THE TROOPS IN GLASGOW?

REMEMBER when the troops were breaking the dustcart drivers' strike in Glasgow? The official excuse was that the uncollected rubbish was a health hazard and was allowing rats to breed.

Well on 7 May an article appeared in a popular Scottish paper saying that in Maryhill (a working-class slum district of Glasgow) the residents of three particular streets were getting rather fed up with rats.

After complaints to the authorities had got them nowhere, they sent down ferrets, which were promptly killed. Then they bought their own blowtorches and mini-flamethrowers and went down

after them.

And guess what they saw? Thousands of rats, some a foot long (excluding the tail) and some dead ferrets.

The rats scattered before the blowtorches. They'll probably be back again in a few weeks. But the point is that Maryhill, Govan, Possilpark, Gorbals and places like them have always had rats.

It is clearly a health hazard to have rats running all over the place. But why don't they send the troops in now? Maybe it's because there's no one on strike...

□ Tony McGhee, Glasgow

I'M NO SAM THE MAN!

I WAS somewhat disturbed by the article referring to me and my appearing at the Institute of Contemporary Arts' showing of the CAST play Sam the Man in last week's Socialist Worker.

First of all, I was never informed that any member of the press were present and I would have thought a left-wing newspaper would have indicated they were reporting what took place, however lighthearted that discussion might have been.

Even some capitalist newspaper lobby correspondents have the decency to check what has been said, and I was not even informed at any time that remarks attributed to me were to be published.

Serious

Had that been the case I would have separated my serious comments from those that were made in a very lighthearted fashion.

Furthermore, the remark attributed to me that refers to the Labour Party as distinct from certain Labour MPs was in fact in its exact context made by someone else and I commented on it.

Unlike Sam, the hero in the CAST production, I am not naive enough to think that the only road to socialism lies in the parliamentary method.

That is why your headline 'Sam the Man meets Sam the Man' could never be more wrong.

I believe parliament only interprets the real wishes of the working class movement



Flashback to last week's article

when the working class puts sufficient and continuing pressure on their representatives, and sadly there have been only a few occasions in my six years in parliament when that pressure has been exerted to the extent that it produces results ie the Pentonville dockers were fetched out of jail by trade unionists but Des Warren and the Clay Cross councillors were left isolated.

Therefore, unlike Sam the

Man, I know what needs to be done and it is not only appealing for parliamentary majorities once every few years.

I hope that any others who watch the CAST production of Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins will make their comparisons, not with me and my role in parliament, but with those MPs who truly and fervently believe that parliament alone can solve their troubles and lead them to their socialist Utopia.

□ Dennis Skinner, MP

We apologise if we inadvertently misquoted Brother Skinner. Our headline was meant to be light-hearted. It certainly was not meant to imply that those few MPs like Dennis who have taken a line in support of the Shrewsbury pickets, Clay Cross and so on are in the same camp as those who continually betray the movement.

LABOUR MUSTN'T GET AWAY WITH IT

LABOUR is going to run a massive brainwashing campaign to force through acceptance for the new stage of the so-called Counter-Inflation Policy—the 4½ per cent limit.

We've been told that with a little help from their friends (firstly the Mirror boss, now the IPC boss), they are producing amongst other things another guide pamphlet for every household in Britain.

Labour won the ideological victory over the £6 limit. So socialists should this time fight the battle in a much harder

way—otherwise Labour will have another easy victory.

Labour's lies (about re-investment and jobs etc) should be countered at every opportunity. This means for Socialist Worker and IS an effort to reach as many workers as possible in this way—otherwise Labour will have another easy victory.

We cannot just counter the new policy in SW—it doesn't reach enough workers.

What we should do is produce a replica-type

pamphlet of the forthcoming government one. This should counter every lie just as laid down—as well as putting forward our alternatives in a concluding section.

Briefly, clearly and cheaply produced for mass circulation, such a pamphlet could really help in the overall battle against Labourism, as well as help to establish SW and IS further (as independent voices please, not just the publicity weapon for the Right to Work Campaign!)

□ Bill Collins, Durham.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM

Duncan Hallas

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

Lecture series

EDINBURGH: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.

20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.

3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

GLASGOW: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm-9pm, in Paisley Town Hall.

20 May: Modern Capitalism. Speaker: Dave Sherry.

3 June: Nationalism and Socialism.

17 June: The State—is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Jim Henderson.

EAST LONDON: Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.

21 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

4 June: What is imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.

18 June: Building the revolutionary party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

WEST LONDON: Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.

1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

...and nothing in HIS place



WHAT would you put in His place?
 Surely a godless world would be a poorer world? People need something to believe in and your attitude to religion proves that you revolutionaries are only interested in grey equality and uniformity, doesn't it?
 Indeed if ever there was a source of

grey or rather pitch-black uniformity it is organised religion.
 The Bishop of Chichester summarised it perfectly. He said recently that 'the high purpose of sex as implanted into mankind by God' would be 'subverted into pleasure' by making abortion available on demand.
 Subvert indeed! The bishop fears that when conception and childbirth come under human control so that sex

and procreation do not automatically go together, there'll be no holding us back!
 For centuries the Christian Church has insisted that only limited forms of sexual activity, within marriage, for the purpose of having children, are acceptable to God. They therefore condemned masturbation, homosexuality and any other 'deviations' from the straight and narrow.
 Some of the founding fathers of the Church even argued that rape was preferable to masturbation in the eyes

of God. Because rape could lead to a child being born.
 The essence of organised Christianity is that we obey a spiritual king and master, our Lord in Heaven, whose will is interpreted to us by a select band of middle-men, the clergy, also generally if not exclusively male by the way.
 If we do not obey, we are threatened with the chance of eternal damnation and destruction, from old-fashioned hell-fire, to its modern variants, such as general disease, sterility, economic collapse and anarchy.

Is this the deadly son of asbestos?

FOR years the giant insulation companies have conducted an insidious campaign of pretence that asbestos was safe.

They formed and funded a 'respectable' front organisation called the Asbestos Information Committee to put out their deceitful propaganda.

They commissioned learned scientists to praise their deadly product. They bought space in newspapers and sent out 'information' to any trade unionist who questioned their product.

But their web of lies is being exposed. So the asbestos murderers have begun to move to pastures new. Increasingly they are using for insulation Calcium G silicate rockwool and, most important of all, fibreglass.

Every worker should beware these substitutes and any claims that they are safe. Every worker should remember that such claims were consistently made for asbestos.

Claims

Workers on the Lower Thames Street buildingsite, in London, who blacked asbestos, have begun to receive blatant propaganda from the fibreglass manufacturers. Again all sorts of inaccurate and misleading claims are being made.

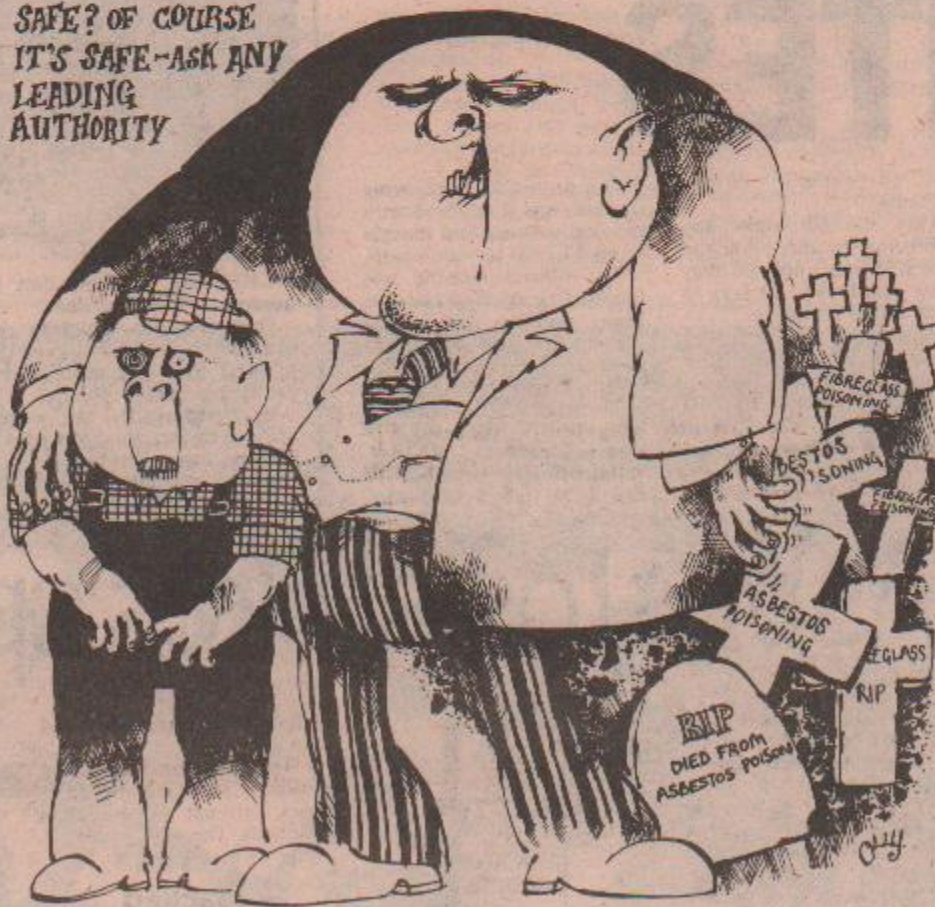
As a service to our readers, Socialist Worker here publishes an extract from an important American research paper on the hazards of fibreglass, by Katherine Montague, director of the South



Laurie Flynn

REPORTS ON AMERICAN INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DANGERS OF FIBREGLASS

SAFE? OF COURSE IT'S SAFE-ASK ANY LEADING AUTHORITY



West Research and Information Centre in New Mexico, and Peter Montague of the University of New Mexico.

When fibreglass began coming into commercial use around 1940, people naturally began wondering if it could hurt them. Workers in fibreglass factories complained about a bothersome itching, a burning sensation in their eyes, and sometimes a cough.

'Inert'

Tests on laboratory animals and examination of workers, however, yielded no conclusive evidence of danger, and fibreglass was thereafter labelled 'biologically inert'.

In 1961 a case was reported of a man incurring serious lung problems from fibreglass. His job was to tear the fibreglass insulation out of old hot water heaters, and clouds of fibreglass surrounded him when he was working. He developed 'fibreglass pneumoconiosis,' and his doctor had to remove part of one lung.

Even when a study of fibreglass workers uncovered evidence which suggested that chronic bronchitis might be afflicting some fibreglass

workers, the data were considered inconclusive.

Recently, several researchers have concluded that sheet metal workers and insulation workers suffer 'long-term upper respiratory irritation' from handling fibreglass.

To this day no one knows what makes asbestos so dangerous, but medical scientists have not yet reached agreement on this important point. Some say that asbestos is dangerous because of its peculiar chemical composition. But others say that asbestos is dangerous because of the persistence and extremely small size of its particles.

There is absolutely no doubt now that asbestos causes a variety of cancers in people.

If asbestos produces cancer in people because of its chemical make-up, then fibreglass may not be very dangerous because the chemical composition of fibreglass is quite different

Cancer

'On the other hand, if it is the physical character of asbestos particles that causes the cancers, then fibreglass may be a very hazardous substance indeed.'

The employers claim another victim

WILLIE COOK was just 46 years old when he met a premature and tragic death last month. He had suffered for months the intense pain and sense of impending doom that is the inevitable accompaniment of the diseases his employers had given him—asbestosis and mesothelioma.

But to the last he retained the courage that made him one of the best fighters the

working-class movement in Glasgow has produced

Just before Willie died he took his eldest son and daughter aside and insisted that a post mortem be performed after he was gone. He was determined that his death would not be neatly covered up by some doctor pronouncing that heart failure or exhaustion was the cause of death, a device used again and again

on members of the 7/162 Glasgow insulation engineers branch of the Transport Union.

Willie Cook came into the lagging industry as a boy straight from the school. He went on to become one of those most active in strengthening the 7/162 branch.

Willie was a brilliant negotiator and a great student of rulebooks and

procedure. The employers hated him for this and for the fact that they couldn't fool him or buy him off.

Perhaps Willie's finest achievement in the trade union movement was as ladders' convenor at Longannet power station. There he inspired the complete transformation of the trade union organisation in the station so that workers' safety became a reality and not a slogan.

The contract at Longannet of course came to an end. Willie then tried to get work at Baglan Bay in South Wales. Although the employers were screaming for labour, they would not take him on.

Willie's trade unionism was inspired by a vision of a new society where men and women would be freed from the twisted priorities of the profit system. That's why Willie was a member of the Communist Party.

His life was taken away from him and from the trade union movement by a familiar evil, the negligence and greed of the employers.

Now it's our turn to profit!

by a UPW member

THE Conference of the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) this year meets when the jobs and living standards of its members are under serious attack.

The past 12 months have already seen big cuts in jobs and a restriction in wages. Make no mistake, the job-cutting and wage restriction is only just beginning.

What has our executive council done about the Post Office cuts in services and jobs

ADVISE TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Delegates who want the UPW to resist the assault of government and Post Office should vote for amendments like Composite 2A to the general secretary's annual report Para. 2.1. Delegates must also support whatever amendments reject the wage deal advocated in the Oral Supplementary to Para. 6.1.

The amendments to Para. 3.39 on Rejection after 60 that are composed as 3D should also be supported. But support for this amendment makes it imperative to resist job cuts, as retaining the over 60's at the expense of other workers would be divisive.

or about the government restriction on wages? They have collaborated 'in the National Interest'.

What about the workers' interest? If sacrifice was ever necessary then we have sacrificed long enough.

We must welcome the launching of the paper, Post Office Worker, which can and must be used as a rallying point for the building of a rank and file movement in the UPW that will be willing to fight alongside other workers.

Post Office Worker, c/o Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

OUR NORMAN



SHEFFIELD SPARKS PULL OUT 14 SITES

SHEFFIELD: Flying pickets have brought out electricians on 14 sites.

Seven weeks ago, contractors N G Bailey at the St Helens Hospital site, Barnsley, stopped paying travelling expenses and ended a one-hour a day bonus scheme.

The electricians responded with a series of half-day stoppages. On 10 May, 18 of them were sacked. The rest came out in sympathy.

Flying pickets have since brought out sparks in 14 sites in the Sheffield area.

Dispute

The attitude of local officers in the electricians' union, the EETPU, has been disgusting.

Before 10 May, EETPU contracting official Frank Chapman's advice to Baileys was to stick to the JIB national agreement on disputes. This, in effect, gives permission for the sacking.

At the Sheffield Central EETPU branch meeting on 11 May, the Branch Committee following the Rule Book to the letter demanded that members from other branches should show their union cards. This

Notices and meetings

BOLTON COMMITTEE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT public meeting: Wednesday 26 May, 7.30pm, at BIT Deane Road. Local speakers plus Dig for Victory, a play about unemployment, by NW Spinner.

SAVE THE EGA: Public meeting against the closure of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm, William Collins School, Charringworth Street. NWT Speakers: Lani Jegar, MP and an EGA shop steward.

DAY SEMINAR ON IRELAND: Sunday 23 May, 10.30am-4.30pm; City of London Poly Student Union, 102 Whitechapel High Street, E1 (Aldgate East Tube). Speakers include: Michael Farrell, Michael Welsh. Sessions: British domination of Ireland; The last seven years; The role of the army; The Labour Party; The Troops Out Movement.

PUBLIC MEETING ON UNEMPLOYMENT: organised by Lambeth Trades Council and Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council, Tuesday 25 May, 7.30pm, Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Speakers include: Ernie Roberts, AUEW Engineering Section, Vanessa Wiseman, secretary Lambeth Trades Council. May Day Theatre Group production, The General Strike. Exhibition from 7pm.

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL 26 May social: Middleton Arms, Middleton Road, Queensbridge Road, E8. 7.30pm, bar extension, raffle, music.

Northern Ireland: The Orange State. Speaker: Michael Farrell. Friday 21 May 7.30 pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. (Tube Holborn).

CAMPAIGN TO REPEAL THE IMMIGRATION ACT: fund-raising play by General Will of 'Me See It Gonna Blow', with discussion following at Oval House, Monday 17 and Sunday 23 May, 7.30 pm, Westway Luncheon Club. Friday 21 May, 7.30 pm, Brixton Market. Friday 21 May, 3 pm, Strett theatre, Portobello Road, Saturday 22 May morning, Street theatre, Centreprise: 136 to 138 Kingsland High St., E8. Saturday 22 May, 7.30 pm Artists for Democracy: 143 Whitefield St. W1 Wednesday 19 May, 7.30 pm.

1916 Ommemoration Poster. Giant (30" x 40") 3 colour, silk screened poster featuring the Irish Citizen Army is available in limited edition for £1 (+ p&g) from Bookmarks, or send £1.10 to T.O.M., 1 North End Road, London W14. All proceeds to Finance National Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland on 18 September.

was to exclude known militants.

They did not allow any member of another branch to raise any issue, nor did they allow non-Bailey workers to speak about the strike.

They said it was the branch committee who decided how the meeting was run and no-one else. Usually at EETPU branch meetings it is common practice to welcome members from other branches and to encourage them to speak.

One protesting engineering steward was threatened with physical violence and the loss of his EETPU steward's card.

The official meeting was followed by an unofficial one. Many militants are hoping that the dispute will lead to a campaign to smash the JIB.

An action committee against the JIB was hoped to be formed from a meeting of contracting sparks on 18 May.

For victory, the strike will have to be spread even wider.



PICKETING at Willesden bus garage in West London.

Drivers and conductors came out on strike for three days against new schedules which are being savagely cut.

In Wandsworth, bus workers are following this example by striking every Thursday against the new schedules.

Busmen strike against cuts

Asbestos strikes spread



ALL LONDON ladders employed by Darlington Insulation have been out on strike for a week.

At a mass meeting at Belvedere on Monday, they called for all London region ladders to come out on strike. The proposal is being put at a mass meeting of the GMWU Heat and Frost Thermal Insulation branch next Monday.

Overalls

Peter Mitchell, shop steward at Belvedere Power Station, told Socialist Worker: 'Darlington Insulation had a small contract at Belvedere Power Station. The men's overalls went to in-

dustrial cleaners, but as the labour force increased, the management decided to cut costs and clean overalls on site.

The multinational company bought a second-hand washing machine. The stewards and men were not happy and attempted to negotiate to improve con-

ditions. The company would not give way.

The final crunch came last Friday. The overalls came back covered in insulation material. The men refused to wear them.

Sacked

The company replied by ordering us off the site. They said we would be sacked and the site closed down. They changed the sacking to suspension when the men were out of the gate.

From a mass meeting for all Darlington employees in the London area, the decision was that no longer will we be subjected to breach of regulations, that no longer will

we tolerate the situation where men are subjected to long periods of exposure to asbestos (often 70 hours a week).

'What we want is a 35 hour week with a ban on all overtime at a realistic level of pay for doing a hazardous job.'

The time is now for all ladders in the area to come out. This battle has got to come sometime. So let's fight it united now.

WATCH OUT for a new Rank and File factsheet on asbestos—vital reading for every trade unionist. More details soon in Socialist Worker.

On the picket line: Grahame Watson (left) and Chris Piatkewitz (right)

Sacked -and sued!

WEST LONDON: Two members of the engineering union are facing prosecution for 'criminal damage' and are being sued for £1000 after occupying their workplace.

Grahame Watson and Chris Piatkewitz are being sued after by the managing director of Clansons, a typewriter servicing company. He is alleging up to £1000 for loss of trade and damage to fixtures and fittings.

After ten weeks on strike for union recognition, they occupied the premises but were



ejected by lump building workers after a few hours.

The police have charged them with causing criminal damage to a calculator and two typewriters. They had never even seen the machines.

The strike started when Graham Watson, newly

elected AUEW shop steward, was sacked shortly after he had told managing director Anthony Beckley that the firm was now unionised.

Grahame says: 'I could go on and on about it. But the worst thing about working there was Beckley himself. He

thought he owned us.

'He was pathetic really. He cut the legs off one of the chairs in his office so that if he sent for you he could get on his big chair behind his desk and tower over you as he gave his orders.'

Refused

But Beckley may still get the last laugh if he swings the courts in his favour.

Make sure that Clansons, and its sister company, Evers Business Equipment, in Holloway Road N7, is blacked. And start collections.

So far Chris and Grahame have been refused legal aid. Their branch has started a Defence Fund.

Money should be forwarded to the Secretary, Wembley AUEW No 4, 7 Church St, Lower Sunbury on Thames, Surrey.

JOBS CONFERENCE A FARCE

WITH 100 delegates from trade unions and students' organisations, I attended the Conference On Youth Unemployment last Saturday. It was stage managed from start to finish.

The proposals of the organising committee simply repeated the demands of the 27 March Assembly Against Unemployment and added the expansion of training and educational facilities for

By Vicky Passant, conference delegate from Aberystwyth Guild of Students

school-leavers.

Delegates supporting the Right to Work Campaign tried to move amendments calling for a fighting programme around which employed and unemployed workers could unite. On the end of the official resolution, it

stated clearly that amendments could be put.

But we were told there was no time for amendments and they would be composited instead.

During the discussion period, the chair selected speakers who agreed with the proposals of the organising committee. We were not able to contribute.

The conference was then ended an hour early.

RULE 14 HATCHET MAN IS OUSTED

By James Anderson, executive committee member of Camden Trades Council

THE SECRETARY of Camden Trades Council, Sid Gregory, has been forced to resign following his co-operation with the TUC's efforts to suspend Camden for refusing to implement the new rule 14.

The new rule strengthens the old bans and prescriptions and bans trades councils from co-operating with any organisation that disagrees with TUC policy.

Entry

After Camden twice rejected the new rule, Gregory cancelled the executive and delegate meetings, announced the council's suspension before it happened, and made acceptance of the new rule a condition of entry to a special meeting held last week. All his actions were endorsed by the TUC.

At the meeting, the new rule was accepted. But many branches sent in protests demanding the removal of the secretary. A burst of cheering greeted Gregory's resignation.

The fight back against the new rule must be carried to the TUC through the trade union. But the unions will only act if the trades councils mobilise opposition.

Picket

The campaign must also involve members of all political organisations. Gregory is a member of the Communist Party, but his outrageous behaviour has not prevented other CP members from joining the fight against bans and prescriptions.

The London based campaign against the new rule has organised a coach to picket the TUC's annual meeting of Trades Councils in Swansea on 22 May. The coach leaves King's Cross at 7pm. Further details of the campaign from c/o 164B Haverstock Hill, London NW3. Phone 01-722 0766.

Harpur Hill: Mass meeting now!

BUXTON, Derbyshire: 500 members of the Agricultural Workers Union at the Harpur Hill Mushroom Farm are facing mass sackings and a 20 per cent wage cut.

At least 350 jobs are to go under a scheme cooked up by the management and the chairman of the union branch, Gordon Thompson.

The local Right to Work Committee organised a delegation from the factory to travel to Bristol to meet shop stewards in another part of the combine. The Bristol shop stewards are anxious to set up a combine committee.

Shambles

But first the workers at Buxton face the problem of their branch chairman.

Already Thompson has turned one mass meeting into a shambles. He had to be expelled from a Right to Work Committee meeting after disrupting it.

When a petition for another mass meeting was presented to him, he simply ripped it up.

The plans are under way to get another mass meeting called and to begin the fight back.

50 sit-in at Brunel

ABOUT 50 students are occupying the sociology department of Brunel University, Uxbridge, in protest at the sacking of Mark Cousins, who lectures in Marxism.

Another lecturer who registered in protest, but later changed her mind, is also being forced out.

Messages and telegrams of support to: Brunel University Students Union, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge, Middx.

The victor

NOISS member Tom Hickey has been elected president of the Students Union at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) by a clear 50 votes in a record poll.

He campaigned on programme of opposition to all cuts in education and discrimination in overseas students' fees.

ADVERTISEMENT

MANCHESTER SUPPORT THE 26 MAY DAY OF ACTION

Demonstration called by Manchester Right to Work Committee Assemble AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford, 1pm. Fight for the Right to Work! No Deal with Healey!

SMASH THE RIGHT WING BUILD THE RANK AND FILE Rank and File public meeting: Thursday 3 June, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (near Holborn Tube).

Speakers: Billy Williams (EETPU Candidate for General Secretary), Mike McGrath (Redder Tape), CPSA NEC in personal capacity), Alan Watts (Engineers Charter, AUEW Toolroom Convenor) Chairman: Norman Maclean (EETPU)

Playtex: What a victory!

JOHNSTONE: 500 women at the Playtex Factory have won a tremendous victory against redundancy.

The women, all GMWU members, struck five weeks ago when the company broke a promise to rehire union members made redundant.

Within a week, nearly 800 women from the firm's three factories in Scotland were on strike. At one stage there was a daily picket of 110 women outside the Johnstone factory.

The strikers were always confident that they would win and they even said that this strike would settle other scores they had with the company.

Playtex have now restarted the union members made redundant. The shop stewards are now talking about how to settle the bonus claim they have against the company.

ENGINEERS' LEADERS VOTE FOR PAY CUTS

REPRESENTATIVES of a quarter of a million engineering workers voted in Scarborough on Tuesday to cut their members' standard of living.

By 28 votes to 23, with one abstention, they voted down a resolution opposing the wage deal.

All 52 delegates are now mandated for next week's National Conference of the whole amalgamated union to

PAUL FOOT REPORTS FROM SCARBOROUGH

vote in favour of the deal. Hugh Scanlon threatened to resign from the TUC's negotiating committee if the national committee did not accept the deal.

In a last-minute attempt to win the waverers, the Broad Left deleted from their resolution the phrase committing the AUEW to 'use the whole strength of the union' in the

fight for better wages

John Boyd countered this with a plea to 'become partners in Great Britain Limited'. The right wing trio of Weakley, Jordan and Griffin repeated time and again that 'the Labour government must be saved'.

In an impressive speech, Len Brindle, convenor of Leyland Preston, said: 'I could

not hold the workers at Leyland for another year, even if I wanted to.'

Last year's AUEW National Conference opposed the £6 freeze policy. This year the result is a foregone conclusion.

As a letter in Tuesday's Morning Star pointed out, the TASS Conference the week before at Bournemouth did not carry a motion opposing

the deal. Instead the conference at Bournemouth endorsed Ken Gill's vote on the general council.

The letter continues: 'All motions which sought to declare policy on wage restraint and government economic policy were forwarded without decision to the national conference of the four sections.'

Now the result of the national conference is all too clear. The million votes of the engineering workers will be cast at the special congress of the full TUC on 16 June in favour of the Healey deal.

'Socialist' SNP show true colours

CUMBERNAULD: Dustmen came out on strike against an attempt by the new SNP-controlled District Council to cut their wages.

The provost, a member of the SNP who claims to be a 'Scottish Socialist in the tradition of John Maclean', is leading the attempt to cut wages by up to £6 a week.

The Nationalists are proving to be just as capable and willing as Labour or Tory to make workers pay for the crisis—enough to make John Maclean turn in his grave.

The strikers are determined to resist wage cuts but say they will accept voluntary redundancies for men nearing retirement age.

But the dispute is not simply about wages. It's about cutting public services—and if the men don't organise against the loss of jobs, as well as wages, they will be in a weak position.

Resisted

The lessons for other local authority workers have to be learnt. The recent dispute in Knowsley Direct Labour department showed how the cuts can be resisted. The local council there tried to sack 181 of the 570 building workers.

The workers decided to fight and down tools but they didn't leave it there. They organised among other council employees, such as the refuse collectors and canteen workers, who agreed to strike in solidarity.

Faced with this show of strength, the council backed down.

The lesson for the Cumbernauld workers is clear. If they treat the issue as a sectional dispute, they may be isolated.

If they link up with other council workers in Cumbernauld, they can win.

Sacked

LEWISHAM: Carol Comley has been sacked from GEC Elliott Process Instruments for refusing to make the tea.

She is a deputy shop steward in the clerical union, TASS, and together with other women members of the staff she protested that management were discriminating against women members and making them carry out all the odd jobs that came up.

EQUAL PAY: Get in fast before it disappears...

YOU'VE GOT just ten weeks to get it. The new pay deal comes in on 1 August—and wipes out women's right to equal pay.

Trade union leaders agreed that 'in the new pay round there will be no special provisions like those needed last year for equal pay'.

So if you don't get equal pay before 1 August, you'll have to fight not just your employer—but the government and probably your trade union officials as well!

48 OUT AT EAST COAST

NORFOLK: 48 women at East Coast Plastics in North Walsham are on strike for equal pay.

They use high-frequency welding equipment and assemble, strip and stack plastic products. They get a basic of £27.60 for this skilled work. Piecework is changed at will by the employers.

The two men who cut the wages are on strike to support them. The women, members of USDAW, have refused management's miserable offers—first of £2.50, then £3.50.

The women are picketing the factory from 7am till



11.30pm. Union drivers have refused to cross the picket line to make deliveries, but scabs are forcing their way through.

The strike is official. But more active support is needed, specially from ASTMS members at the plant.

Send donations and messages of support to Mrs Penny, USDAW shop steward, 40 Spurdens Crescent, North Walsham, Norfolk.

ORLAKE LTD

GRAMOPHONE RECORD MANUFACTURERS

On the picket line at Orlake's at Rainham in Essex. The strike of the 103 women workers for union recognition is now official. The men are no longer working, and there is no work coming out of the factory.

Last week three of the women went to Ford's to meet TGWU members there. They collected £20 for the strike fund, and were promised another £60.

STAGERS OCCUPY

the workforce to undermine solidarity with the staggers by trying to turn CSEU and ASOB members against them.

Management's latest fact sheet calls on the workforce to accept contract labour in the yard or time-served boiler-

makers for the work.

It also states that lay-offs will result if the workforce do not accept either of these recommendations.

Management tried to bring contractors in on 16 May but a picket to stop them entering the yard.

All contractors' shop stewards on Merseyside have now told the staggers that they will not allow contractors to do their work.

The 90 staggers then occupied a 55,000 tanker due for launch in June.

They have erected scaffolding on the gangways as barricades and are prepared for a bitter fight to get all the sacked men reinstated.

Cammell Laird get a shock

The staggers are the most militant and united department in the yard. They have hardly ever lost a dispute because they stand together.

Their attitude is: If you fight, you win.

Cammell Laird know this and are trying to get rid of them before the 'germ' spreads to the rest of the workforce.

But their morale would be boosted by support—both moral and financial—from other groups of workers, both in the ISTC and in local workplaces.

Write to Bill Connor, 10 Court Thirteen, Milton Road, Witham, Essex.

FIGHT TO SAVE THIS HOSPITAL

A FEW DAYS after Barbara Castle announced the closure of the Elisabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London, the lift mysteriously went out of order.

The same thing happened last year when the Acton Hospital closure was announced.

Once the lifts are out of order, the hospital is reduced

to the ground floor only. Which makes it all the more difficult for the workers there to fight the closure.

But the fight goes on. The workers are demanding the repair of the lift, the restoration of all the services and a guarantee of no job losses.

Get your branch to support the EGA public meeting on 25 May, 7.30pm, at William

Collins School, Charrington Street, W1. Send a donation to their fund, at 30 Camden Road, London NW1.

Pam Jones, a NUPE member at the Hospital, told Socialist Worker: 'We want action to come out of this meeting. A really massive meeting will show the hospital authorities that they have a fight on their hands.'

Support the Rom River lads

WITHAM, Essex: 25 workers at the Rom River plant struck last week in what could be a long and bitter struggle for trade union recognition.

Their picket line has been respected by postmen and dustcart drivers—but not by a handful of General and Municipal members at the plant. They have regularly crossed the picket and so allowed the local press to present the dispute as an inter-union battle.

Join

But says striker Bill Connor: 'We're not having any of that. Our problem is management.'

Bill is branch secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, which most of

the Rom River workers decided to join last year.

They sought recognition from managing director Richard Ewart Smith, who suggested the two sides should go to arbitration.

He then announced that he would not stand by any arbitration ruling that he didn't like!

Meanwhile, without being approached by any official, a number of anti-union workers at the plant suddenly joined the GMWU.

The strikers believe they were put up to it by management. The GMWU is a notoriously pro-management outfit.

The ISTC are blacking supplies to other Rom River plants. And so the strikers are confident of victory.

Socialist Worker

Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists

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Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Support!

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Now Des Warren says it: Defend the 43!

DES WARREN has signed the Defence Appeal for the Right to Work marchers attacked by the police at Staples Corner.

Des is still serving a three-year sentence after the Shrewsbury frame up trials. Last weekend he was given a couple of days parole, during which he signed the appeal.

Des told Bobby Buirds from the Right to Work Campaign that he understood that the marchers had tremendous support. 'That's excellent', he

**RIGHT TO WORK MARCH
DEFENCE FUND APPEAL**

We the undersigned support this defence fund appeal

Des Warren

added, expressing his hopes that all 43 would be all right.

He'd lost his remission, he said, and still had a few months to do.

Among those who have already signed the Defence

Appeal is Ricky Tomlinson, who served two years in prison after the Shrewsbury trials.

Other signatories include Vic Turner and Bernie Steers, two of the dockers imprisoned by the Tories at Pentonville in 1972 for defying the Industrial Relations Act.

Another welcome call for support has come from the Yorkshire Area Council of the National Union of Miners.

This Friday the arrested marchers are appearing in court in West London. A solidarity picket has been called by the Right to Work Campaign. Delegations are expected from all over the country.

The speakers at the rally organised outside include Ricky Tomlinson and Peter Hain. The picket will begin at 9.30am sharp because the Magistrates Court will start on time.

Last Saturday the independent trade union inquiry into Staples Corner set up by Barnet Trades Council held its first meeting.

After the meeting, the chairman, former SOGAT general secretary Vincent Flynn, explained that the inquiry would make its report soon.

WHAT 4 1/2% MEANS FOR THE MINERS

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Mineworkers has decided to back Denis Healey's 4 1/2 per cent pay deal.

By Bill Message

ed, the most a married face-worker with two children would get from the deal is £3.06 in his pocket.

At the other end of the scale, a single surface-worker would get just £1.85.

They would not get this until next March and it would apply until March 1978.

General Secretary Lawrence Daly argued strongly for acceptance of the deal by the executive.

This may come as a shock to many miners who have come to expect a stab in the back from National Secretary Joe Gormley, but who have had a lot of respect for Daly's militant position.

The executive's position, if it is not kicked out in the

ballot, would mean that by March 1978 miners' real wages will have fallen by more than a fifth since 1975.

This would mean an even greater wage cut than the Tory government and mine-owners were demanding in 1976.

The ballot is being held around the Spring Bank Holiday. Several pits will be on holiday for a full week.

This means many miners will be more open to press and television pressure and it will make it more difficult to organise opposition to the deal.

FEELING

Nevertheless, feeling in the coal-fields runs high. A special conference of South Wales delegates on Monday produced, out of 150 votes, only 12 in support of the deal.

Even in the traditionally moderate area of Nottingham there is widespread anger.

And on Tuesday, leaders of the Scottish Miners unanimously recommended rejection of the deal.

The responsibility now lies with the left-wing leadership in these areas. They must mount a massive campaign of leaflets, posters, and pit-head meetings of every shift.

Britain's 265,000 miners are on the brink of a decision that could spell the beginning of the end for Healey's wage-cutting offensive.

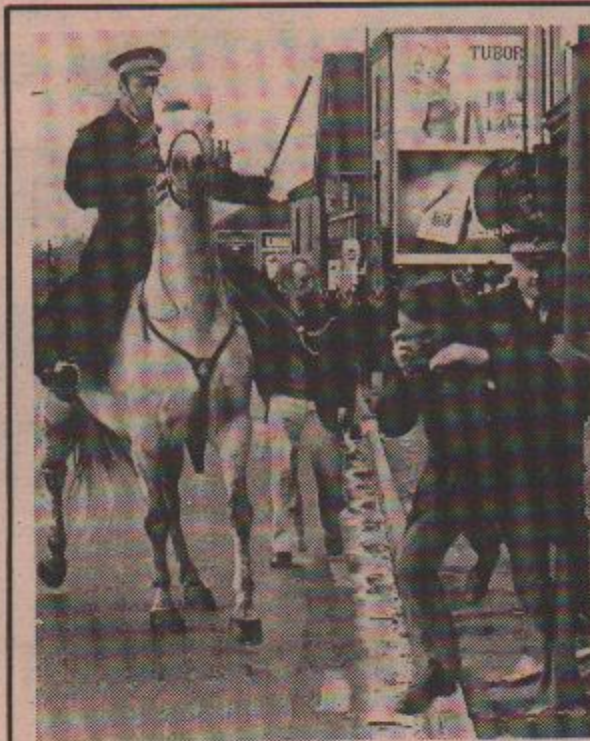
CHANCE

As one NUM branch secretary in Nottinghamshire told me: 'We miners now have the chance of speaking up on behalf of the rank and file in every union and giving them a chance of stopping their own leaders' undemocratic support of Healey. We must not let them down.'

The editorial board of The Collier, the rank and file miners' paper, is publishing thousands of leaflets urging No Deal With Healey.

Copies can be obtained from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The Editorial Board has launched a financial appeal to cover the cost of the leaflets.

Donations should be sent to the same address.



THE BATTLE OF WINSON GREEN



MORE PICTURES AND FULL STORY: Page 4

But there'll be no wage cut for Joe Gormley

FULL-TIME officials on the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers have pulled off another coup for themselves.

Having just voted to impose the Healey fraud on working miners last Thursday, they went on to vote themselves a second £6 a week increase backdated to last July, when they got their first £6.

This makes them among the highest paid hypocrites in the trade union movement.

Chief pusher of the scheme to give all full-time officials another £6 was leading fan of incomes policy for the workers and rich living for himself, Joe Gormley.

Serious

The only serious opposition came from the one working miner on the executive, Jack Collins of Kent.

He pointed out that this was the second £6 they'd given themselves in one year.

Nevertheless the proposition was carried, and without a recorded vote. This indicates that the executive majority in favour of giving themselves a second £6 a week wage rise was very much bigger even than the majority for foisting wage cuts on working miners.

None of these facts have, of course, been reported by the 'free press' who so brilliantly highlighted the decision to accept the Healey deal.

In fact having given themselves a £12 '£6 increase' this wasn't the end of the executive's generosity to the full-timers.

Houses

A proposition was also put to the executive about paying the rates on the two national official's houses. This also was agreed.

Socialist Worker understands that in the case of Joe Gormley's little shack the rates amount to yet another £6 a week. This means that his £6 a week social contract rise is actually worth a cool £18 a week.

On top of his meagre £8250 a year salary, Gormley does of course have an expense account. And by a decision of the national executive in May 1975, Gormley and Co awarded themselves free cars from union funds.

So much for moderation.

IS members face NF trial

THREE members of the International Socialists—Michael Fenn, Roger Burridge and Kevin Corr—appeared at East Ham Magistrates Court in East London on Tuesday for committal proceedings.

When they walked into court they faced just one charge of grievous bodily harm arising out of an alleged incident with National Front members on 6 December 1975.

But the police had decided that still more charges were to be brought. So when the court sat, the police announced that nearly six months after the alleged incident they were adding on two extra charges—the catch-all affray charge used against the Shrewsbury pickets and black youngsters up and down the country, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Defence lawyers managed to persuade the magistrate to put the defendants on an identity parade before committal and trial—a development the Plaistow police were clearly anxious to avoid.

This meant that the committal proceedings were adjourned until September.

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