

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

You didn't dare go out in company because your face was in such a mess. None of us affected by the disease knew what it was. It was frightening. We started breaking out in blackheads and were worried for our wives and families. —ERNE TAYLOR, shop steward at Coalite

POISON CLOUDS IN BRITAIN?

COULD IT HAPPEN HERE? Could a chemical explosion like the one at Seveso in Northern Italy, which has poisoned thousands of men, women and children for life, happen in Britain?

It has happened here. And if firms carry on producing chemicals with the same 'freedom' as at present, it will certainly happen again.

In April 1968, there was an explosion in the Coalite chemical plant at Bolsover, Derbyshire, which makes the 245T weedkiller. The explosion unleashed the deadly dioxin which has caused the havoc in Seveso.

A chemist was killed, 79 workers were poisoned. Most of them broke out in chloracne, the painful skin disease which produces cysts under the skin. Some of the 79 are still suffering.

The Factory Inspectors were called in. They advised the firm to re-build the plant. They insisted on 'rigorous new controls'. The Coalite bosses claim that the plant is now 'perfectly safe'. Let us see.

COMMON

□ In 1970, a fitter and his mate from the plant were admitted to Chesterfield Royal Hospital with acute chloracne.

□ In 1974, a further 'leak' of dioxin caused another small epidemic of chloracne among the workers.

□ Most seriously of all, last year a newly-born baby girl broke out in chloracne all over her body.

Her father works at Coalite. But he never had

chloracne.

This means that dioxin is being carried out of the plant and passed onto the families and friends of the workers. It is especially damaging to the unborn foetus.

All this happened without the factory inspectors even hearing about it! Now, in panic after Seveso, the inspectors are in the plant once again.

The plant is shut down—and the rumour is that it will stay shut because the inspectors will insist on more controls.



BY PAUL FOOT

It takes mass murder by a Swiss drug company in Italy to shut down a small plant in Bolsover which has been known as dangerous for more than eight years.

DANGER

Why was it dangerous? Because Coalite insisted on making a profit from their waste products—the chemical oils which are left over after their solid fuel has been produced.

So they 'squeezed' their chemicals out of the raw

QUOTE
We suggest there are elementary weaknesses in the Coalite safety organisation, and conclude that employees need far better protection, and far more information about the hazards they may face at work, than they now get.

—SOCIAL AUDIT, a report on Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd, 1974

material, by subjecting the material to heavy temperature pressure.

This process is almost certain to produce unwanted, dangerous chemicals (like dioxin) and explosions which can scatter the dangerous chemicals all over the workers—and probably all over the area.

This is all quite unnecessary. It's perfectly possible to produce chemicals much more safely—by mixing chemicals so that you get a much higher yield of the one you want.

But if Coalite had done it that way, they couldn't have profited from their waste oils.

That explains what

happened at Bolsover, at Seveso—and at Flixborough, where 30 people were killed two years ago after a chemical explosion.

That explains what could happen any time in chemical production anywhere in Europe. Phthalates, for instance, which are widely used as plasticisers in the production of PVC, have similar properties to thalidomide.

The Seveso outrage was not one of those 'one-off' horrors that you expect once in a lifetime.

It will be repeated over and over again as long as decisions about chemical production are left to a handful of secretive gentlemen whose only concern in life is to line their pockets.

SCARE

But Coalite won't worry. When their plant exploded in 1968, profits were less than £4 million. Last year, they were £8.56 million.

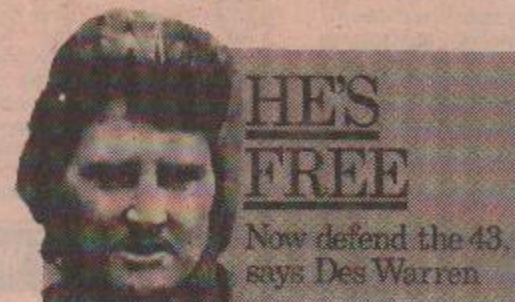
The scare will pass. Share prices will rise again. Chemical production for profit will continue.

And so will the explosions and the poison clouds.



The Coalite plant in Derbyshire. It's already had one explosion...

INSIDE



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SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACKS

SAY IT AGAIN:

WE SHALL BE FREE!



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PLUS: The 'socialist' country where a pop group is subversive—Page 11

Women's rights ... no! But bombs ...

CARDINAL. Colombo, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Milan, is campaigning to prevent pregnant women affected by the recent release of poisonous gases in Seveso from having abortions. The gases involved, dioxin and trichlorophenol, cause children to be born deformed.

They also cause heart attacks, lesions of the kidney and brain, and cancer. They also cause many women to have 'spontaneous abortions'.

Poisons

The effects of these poisons are best known by the people of Vietnam. American planes regularly sprayed them over vast areas as 'defoliants'. Innumerable deformed births and spontaneous abortions were caused.

The Roman Catholic Cardinal Spellman of New York used to bless the US bombers before they went to Vietnam.

There is no record of Cardinal Colombo, or of any other dignitaries of the anti-abortion campaigns in either Italy or Britain, protesting at Spellman's actions. They deny a woman's right to choose. But they don't care if governments and chemical firms cause deformed children to be born and women to have unwanted miscarriages.



Fascists: Wipe out Palestinians

The Tel al-Zaatar refugee camp in Lebanon last week. The anguished look of a woman as a relative leaves with her child.

The camp has been under sustained attack from the fascist Falange, who have vowed they will wipe out the Palestinian population.

It was the cold-blooded murder by the Falange of a coach-load of the camp's refugees that sparked off the civil war more than a year ago. Since then 30,000 people have died. But the Falange, backed by troops from neighbouring Syria, are not content.

The people of Tel al-Zaatar have been fighting back, without food, water or medical supplies, under conditions comparable only with those of the Warsaw Uprising in Nazi-occupied Poland 32 years ago.

THE ALTERNATIVE TO STONEHOUSE

THE crooked MP, John Stonehouse, still wants to hang on. Even now that the court has found him guilty and jailed him for seven years, he won't give up.

The man has become so used to privilege and so keen on deception that he cannot accept that for him it's all over.

His whole career has been the same story of self-seeking and abuse of power.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s Stonehouse pretended to be a left-winger while at the same time bullying his way to power. He became MP for Wednesbury when the sitting MP, Stanley Evans, was sacked by the local Labour Party for supporting the Tory government's Suez adventure.

Stonehouse kept up the pretence of being a socialist for a few years but dropped it as soon as some position came his way. By 1962 he was leading a vicious anti-

by **JIMMY McCALLUM**
Socialist Worker's prospective parliamentary candidate for Walsall North



communist campaign inside the London Co-op. With one aim in mind—to put John Stonehouse on top.

Since then he has grasped every chance for the rich life—no matter how crooked. His

final effort was the ugly manipulation of the British Bangladesh Trust, an effort that involved every manner of crook, including the Mafia, cashing in on the plight of millions in Bangladesh.

In a last effort to draw the court on to his side, Stonehouse brought up his record as an anti-communist fighter. His argument was simple—he might be guilty of all the charges, but look at

what he had done in the past to protect private ownership and wealth.

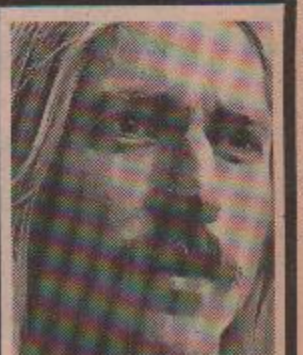
That was the job he did inside the Labour Party and the Co-operative Movement. It was his 'militant bashing' that won him favour with Wilson, Callaghan and Co, and friends among the bosses.

Stonehouse has always been a scoundrel—a right-wing crook.

Queues

That's why it is important that the by-election in Walsall North is fought around a socialist alternative. The way to end corruption is to build a workers' movement with real workers' power, a movement that controls its spokesmen and representatives.

That's what I will be standing for as Socialist Worker's prospective candidate in Walsall.



Rod Williams

In the dole ... now on the dole

by **SAM STRUDWICK**
ROD WILLIAMS used to work in Brixton dole office. Now he is on the dole.

'I was working on the other side of the counter,' he told Socialist Worker. There were 7,000 signing on at Brixton—now it's over 8,000.

'The queues go out of the door and down the street. Cramped conditions, long queues and inefficiencies caused some fights and I often saw people faint.

'This distressed me and I suggested to fellow workers that we asked the manager for all-day signing instead of mornings only. Ten people to sign 7,000 in only four mornings a week, it doesn't need a mathematician to realise there will be queues.

'I didn't get any support from the other workers.

'The manager knew I was sympathetic to the Right to Work Campaign, who frequently campaigned inside the labour exchange. The result was I was given the sack.

'Brixton labour exchange is undermanned and the queues still exist. A new section is going to be built on to it but the staff is not going to be increased, so the queues will still be there.

'I want to go on the September Right to Work march because I want the opportunity to speak to other workers in the factories on the way to Brighton to tell them how important it is to organise themselves and support each other against redundancies and any hardship that bosses try to impose.'

THE Coventry Evening Telegraph has consistently attacked the 17,000 unemployed in the city. After yet another scandalous 'Spanish holidays on the dole' attack, the local Right to Work Committee took action.

Twenty Right to Work marchers picketed the newspaper's offices, handing out leaflets to workers and passers-by. They successfully delayed the evening edition from leaving the works by blocking the gates.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

BAIL AFTER MURDER CHARGE

RIAZ KHAN, the young Asian accused of murdering a white youth after the unemployment demonstration in Newham on 12 June, has been released on bail.

This unusual decision by the court followed the committal proceedings at West Ham last week where it was revealed that the dead boy, 17-year-old Christopher Adamson, had been on the rampage all that afternoon,

beating up black West Indian and Asian youths.

Riaz Khan, who had not even taken part in the demonstration, will now stand trial for murder.

He and a friend were walking along the road when they were confronted by about eight white youths. Instead of just taking the punches and the abuse from Christopher Adamson, Riaz Khan defended himself. He

had taken a knife out with him because of all the publicity about racial violence.

His companion was beaten up in a shop doorway.

Earlier Christopher Adamson had knocked an ice cream out of an Asian man's hand. He was also seen beating West Indian youths near the park where the rally was held.

But there is no doubt whose poison spurred him on. That afternoon the

National Party held a fascist demonstration nearby and plastered the area with their racist slogans.

The jury at the Old Bailey will decide whether Riaz Khan was justified in taking out a knife to protect himself and whether or not he is guilty of murder. No one is going to put the blame for Christopher Adamson's death where it truly lies—with the fascists.

Two fined £560 for anti-racist slogans

THE LAW again demonstrated its 'impartiality' at Rotherham magistrates court on Friday, when two socialists were fined £560 for painting up the slogans 'Black and White, Unite and Fight' and 'Fight for the Right to Work'.

But the police didn't have it all their own way. A second charge under the Race

Relations Act had to be dropped after local political pressure.

Mohammed Abassi and Ann Silverleaf were arrested before the National Front march during the Rotherham by-election. After 20 hours in the cells they were charged with criminal damage and breach of the peace under the Public Order and Race Relations Acts.

A petition was organised

against these charges and signed by hundreds of Asians and socialists. Ten convenors from local factories supported it, one of them raising it on the Sheffield Council Watch Committee.

'It was this support and the threat of a picket on the court which made the police inspector—in his own words—'lose his nerve' and persuaded him not to press the charges under the Race

We hope Socialist Worker readers will follow the example of the Barnsley man who read the story in a local paper and that afternoon dropped in a tenner because he admired the guts of people who speak out against the National Front.

After organising for the Rotherham anti-racist demonstration, a group of Asians are setting up their own youth action group. The

first job is to raise money to pay these fines and for three Asians from Sheffield and Rotherham who will face the courts in London over charges arising from the 11 July anti-racist demonstration.

Messages of support and donations to: Anti-Racism Fund, 1 Portsea Road, Hillsborough, Sheffield.

Which scroungers?

WHAT WE THINK

THE Daily Mail led the press in a fantastic hullabaloo last week. 'See Spain on the Dole!' shrieked its headline.

The Mail's stablemate, the Evening News, followed with 'Costa Del Dole!'

What was the cause of this furore? An agreement between the British and Spanish governments which allows social security benefits to be paid to people who go on holiday in Spain

for up to a year.

This agreement was signed for one reason only— to allow elderly wealthy British people to live in Spain for up to a year and still collect their pensions.

Only one person had claimed unemployment benefit under this agreement—and that had been refused because the person was 'not available for work'.

True to form, the Labour Social Services Minister David Enalls collapsed under this press pressure. He issued an order

banning all unemployed people on holiday abroad from collecting benefit.

This means that someone who has booked and paid for a holiday abroad, and is then declared redundant, has a simple choice: Either they give up their holiday, or they forfeit their entitlement to unemployment pay while they are away.

Meanwhile the agreement stands for all benefits except unemployment pay. So the parasites in their Spanish villas will still get their pensions from public money.

The incident shows how low the Daily Mail and the rest of the press are prepared to sink in their propaganda against the unemployed.

Their campaign against 'scroungers', 'loafers' and the like has nothing to do with 'saving public money'. They couldn't care less when millions of pounds of public money is squandered on perks for businessmen, defence contracts or tax evasion.

Their campaign is a class campaign, generated from class arrogance and inspired by class hatred.

The Daily Mail and the Sun speak only for a class of people who have created a million and a half unemployed, and cannot tolerate the idea of paying money to keep them alive.



"I'm going to follow that woman, Watson—I suspect she's a scrounger . . ."

"I thought so—she's heading for the posh district . . ."

" . . . probably been fiddling the SS for years . . . Hello—she's turned into that prosperous-looking entrance!"

"What now, Chief?"

THESE ARE THE REAL PARASITES

'I SPENT a delightful week on the Costa Smeralda, Sardinia, staying at the Hotel Romazzino, which is owned by Ranks, and where one can revel in utter luxury. It is the ideal place to stay if one wants a spell of total relaxation.

'Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy are frequent visitors to this hotel, as they have a villa not far away.'

ADISON'S DIARY, The Tatler.

A SPECIAL report this week—price £20—shows that half the cars bought in Britain are offered as tax-free perks to managers and executives by firms. Between 1974 and 1975 the number of companies buying cars for tax-free perks increased by 21 per cent.

This is a way of beating the incomes policy and the taxman at the same time. It is estimated that is all the money paid out on cars—which are allowable off tax as a 'business expense'—were paid in salaries, and taxes collected from them, the Exchequer would haul in an extra £200 million.

'I ACCEPTED a kind invitation from the board of directors of the Cunard Steamship Company to join them for a luncheon and a day of racing at Sandown Park, sponsored by the Trafalgar House Group of companies.

'When I arrived around 12.30am this party appeared to be an enormous affair, with four giant marquees on the terraces, overlooking the paddock. So big was the luncheon party that never once did I set eyes on my chief host, the chairman Nigel Broackes or the vice-chairman and managing director, Nigel Mathews . . .'

JENNIFER'S DIARY, Queen. EVASION of death duty costs public funds £650 million a year. Other tax avoidance costs £1,500 million.

DEFEND SOCIALIST WORKER!

SOCIALIST WORKER is threatened with bankruptcy proceedings following a legal action brought against us by Frank Chapple of the Electricians and Plumbers Union.

The total cost to us of the action will be nearly £4000. Already Chapple's lawyers have indicated that if we cannot pay off the debt, they will force us out of business.

The threat has to be taken seriously. Some years ago the printers of a socialist paper in the North of England were compelled to close down after a libel action by Chapple.

We have spent vast sums on producing anti-racist leaflets, posters and stickers in the past few weeks, and we now do not have the funds to pay Chapple.

That is why we appeal to our readers and to members of the International Socialists to dig into your pockets. Only if we raise the money very quickly can we avoid problems not only for Socialist Worker, but for the many rank and file trade unionists' papers and the anti-racist material we print.

We are confident that we can raise easily this sum—but it depends on you taking action now.

Send donations as soon as possible to Socialist Worker Defence Appeal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WE, the undersigned members of the EETPU, call on all trade unionists, and especially rank and file members of the EETPU, to defend Socialist Worker and its printers by giving support to the Socialist Worker Defence Appeal.

- George Kelly (EETPU convenor, Central Electrical Workshops, Glasgow).
- John Chapman (shop steward, British Steel, Consett).
- Charlie O'Neil (EETPU convenor, British Rail Workshops, Glasgow).
- Bill Williams (secretary, former Cardiff No 2 Branch).
- Charlie Flood (shop steward, Witton James, Wembley).
- Bill Armstrong (Doncaster branch).
- Jack McKenna (EETPU convenor, STC East Kilbride).
- Rab Jeffrey (shop steward, ICI site, Grangemouth).
- Mick Carton (Midland branch).
- Philip Jones (shop steward, new Mini-mill, Cardiff).

Socialist Worker DEFENCE FUND



- Steve Darby (London Airport branch).
- Willie Black (shop steward, Parsons Peebles, Edinburgh).
- Norman Maclean (Waddon branch, Carshalton).
- Gerry MacManus (secretary, City District, DOE).
- Tom Sullivan (Northampton branch).
- Marc Mellor (shop steward, Phillips, Croydon).
- Bobby Buirds (Manchester plumber).

OUR regular fighting fund has continued to gather donations over the past week, but it is not bringing in anything like the money we need for this emergency. The total this week was £436.04, bringing the August total to £1,451.

- Our thanks to:
- Bolton SW supporters £18.83, BSR East Kilbride £2.
 - Rolls-Royce Blantyre £1.50, Glasgow District Council £3, J R Gilding £1, Anon £1.50, John Ormsby £1.50, SW supporters, Newcastle, Staffs £10, A Reynolds £1.50, J Wharton £1, Exeter Anti-Fascist Committee £3, Anon £1, Waltham Forest NALGO Action Group £5, City Post, SW supporter £2, Haringey teacher £1, Edna Louise £3, Bob Humm 50p, Leeds SW supporter £1, Kingston SW reader £1.70, Nick Beward £3, Sam and Brenda Crothers £5.
 - International Socialists levy Dundee £29, Southampton £10, Glasgow £17, Lowestoft £40, Central London £120, Doncaster £15, Leicester £20, Mansfield £16.61, North London £14.20, Exeter £25, Gloucester £37, Brentwood £2, Islington Council £13, Easter Ross £5.50.



Lord Robens, chairman of Vickers. In 1971, Vickers got an order from the Ministry of Defence to build a destroyer, HMS Sheffield. Construction was delayed, and Vickers claimed compensation for the delay. The Ministry at first refused the claim, but then agreed it. In the end, the destroyer cost 59 per cent more than the contract stated: an extra £4 million. More than £23 million was overspent on five other destroyers.

Ireland: The vicious circle

THIS WEEK was the seventh anniversary of the outbreak of armed hostilities in Belfast and the fifth of the introduction of imprisonment without trial.

The British government commemorated by declaring that from now on those Irishmen involved in the hostilities will be treated as common criminals, not political prisoners.

The result has been an upsurge of bitter anger in the republican districts of Belfast, with the hijacking of lorries, the burning of buildings, and demonstrations against MP Gerry Fitt, who prides

himself on his closeness to the British government.

The anger is not surprising. The hundreds of working people who have been imprisoned from such areas are certainly not common criminals. Their struggle began as a political fight to gain equal rights with the Protestant community. They first took up arms because they were themselves subject to armed attacks by bigoted policemen and sectarian Loyalist thugs.

Many came to see their fight as merely the latest

stage in a 300-year-old political and military struggle to end the domination of Ireland by the rulers of Britain.

They saw that they could not get rid of sectarianism without getting rid of a Northern Ireland state based on sectarianism.

But successive British governments have refused to understand this. They have merely piled on repressive act on top of another.

The result has been to make worse the vicious circle of murder and

counter-murder, of bombing and counter-bombing.

Yet the British government still refuses to do the one thing that could bring the fighting and bombing to an end. They will not withdraw the British troops.

Until they do, the Protestant workers will cling to the marginal privileges given them by the British connection rather than make common cause with Catholic workers, and the republican community, isolated and harassed, will resort to ever more desperate counter-measures.

RIGHT: The heading from Truemid's quarterly bulletin. One article inside says: 'To preserve the democratic freedoms... we must therefore ensure the survival of capitalism.'

You can always tell a Truemid stooge

true line

Volume No. 4

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Price 3p

REMEMBER the howls about 'outside interference' every time a left-wing organisation plays a role in a trade union election?

You can be sure a fair amount of the howling is being done by supporters of Truemid, the 'moderate' organisation that purports to be defending union democracy.

But Truemid in fact exists to encourage outside interference in trade union affairs — by the employers.

Truemid internal documents revealed in Socialist Worker last week show that most of its £133,000 budget for the next year is to come from a levy on companies. What will they get for their money?

One document on how Truemid intends to work includes a section headed: 'TAKING OVER A BRANCH'. This describes a Truemid operation on a white-collar trade union branch that 'was moving and supporting extremist resolutions'.

'We made contact with two branch members who were in agreement with our views. We promptly arranged a further meeting, being careful not to overburden them with too much commitment at this early stage.'

Nucleus

'They, in a short time, had involved two others and were encouraged to form the nucleus of a group orientated towards taking over this branch.'

In the operation that follows, management is expected to play an important part.

'Throughout this line of action employers should show a willingness to accept their responsibilities and play a positive role. They must identify and encourage responsible employees to become trade union activists.'

'They must allow the moderate activists time off without pay and also the use of telephone and typing facilities. They should encourage and arrange inter-factory visits for moderate activists so that a liaison is established between moderates.'

This bought-and-paid-for bosses' organisation aims to interfere at every level of the trade unions:

'The movement works to remove extremists from official positions at all levels,' says the document. 'This involves:

'a) Encouraging suitable candidates to stand for election.

'b) Preparing the candidates.

'c) Assisting the organisation of the candidates' campaign, including assistance in the preparation of election leaflets, distribution of leaflets and canvassing.'

Vital

'The movement is currently involved in two campaigns involving vital elections to the national executive of two major unions,' says the document.

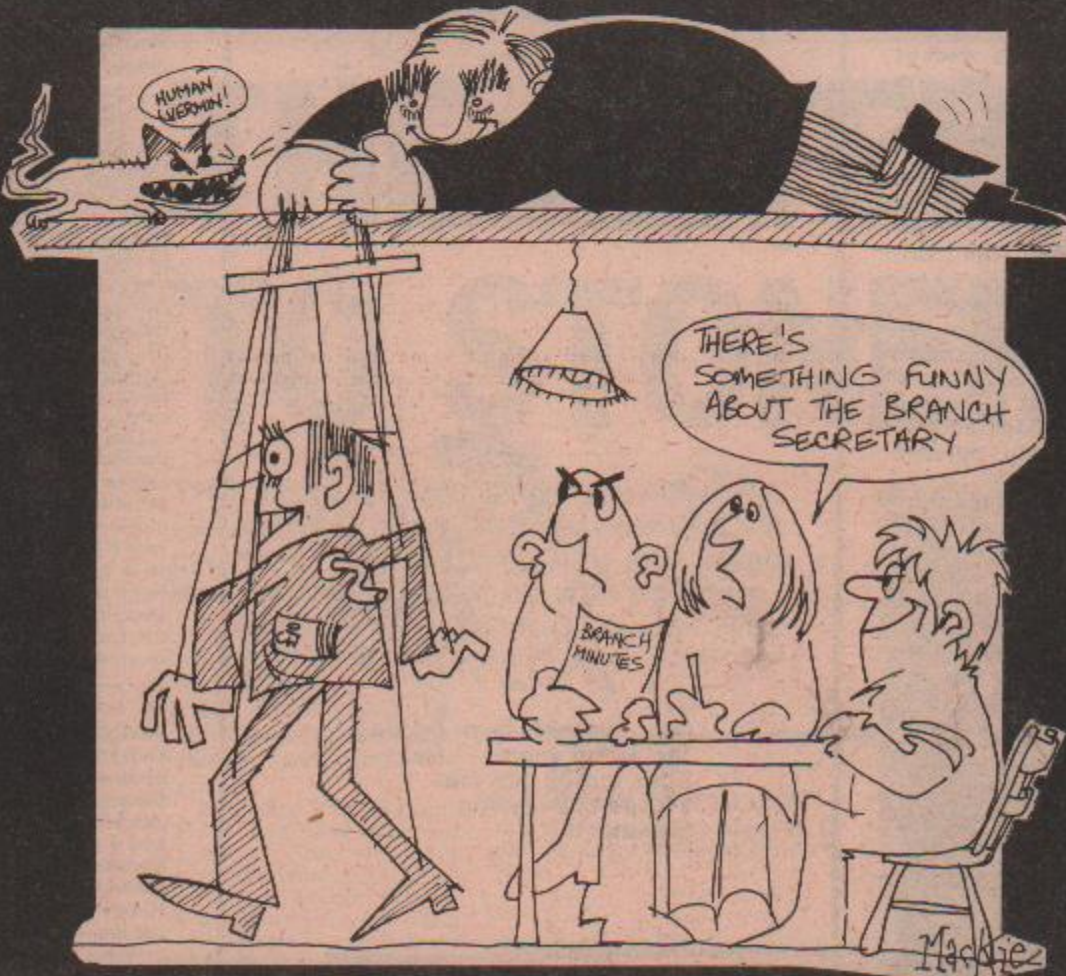
Truemid recently campaigned in the Engineers' Union (AUEW) for the election of right-wingers John Boyd and John Weakley.

But Truemid isn't going to stop at contesting elections.

A section in the document on shop stewards' committees, described as 'a somewhat dangerous combination which allows a determined activist to build up a powerful organisation', is followed by this comment:

... it illustrates the urgent need for all forms of practical help to be given to those moderate organisations who are working to remove the extremists from both the branch and the factory floor...

Which means that Truemid—management and moderates—working together, remember—aims to get its opponents victimised.



THE CUTS:

This play is a provocation!

THE problem about fighting the cuts is that they've already been sold to too many people.

They've listened to government ministers, trade union officials and newspaper propagandists saying: 'Look, give up a bit here, a bit there—make do on slightly lower wages, work a bit more overtime, queue a bit longer for the bus, wait a bit longer at the hospital—and we'll get the country back on its feet. All will be prosperous, and we'll have never had it so good again.'

It's what they call the salami treatment—slice off a bit here, then a bit more, and before you know where you are there's none left. Before people will fight back you've got to convince them that's what's happening.

CAST, the socialist theatre group, have just completed a chilling, half-hour play that will do just that.

They show where the attacks on workers' living standards are leading.

Stopped

Have they stopped inflation? No, though the government has got the official figure down to 15 per cent by ignoring food prices.

CAST shows Britain in 1984, with flat-rate bus fares at £2.50.

Sounds unlikely? But what would you have said two years ago if told you'd soon be paying four bob for a loaf? If you haven't noticed, that's what you are paying.

CAST show the deadend that Labour and the trade union leaders are taking us down. 'We've really got to do something about these cuts,' says one official in the play... 'we're going to have the biggest petition that's ever been seen.'

Racism

And there's racism in the play. And it goes unchallenged.

Because that's what's happening—and this play is a warning about what'll happen if we don't fight back.

The play is a provocation. It will provoke any socialist, any trade unionist worth her or his salt, to get on their feet in the discussion afterwards saying this has got to be stopped and how are we going to do it.

If that's what you want, get CAST to your union meeting, trades council, Anti-Cuts Campaign, Right to Work meeting.

Details from CAST, 11c Cabbell Street, London NW1 (phone 01-402 6087).



the unions

APOLOGY

IN the issue of Socialist Worker for 15 November 1975 we published an article entitled 'NUBE: How low can they get?' in which we misrepresented a press release issued by the National Union of Bank Employees so as to suggest that the union was adopting a policy of racial discrimination in relation to staff recruitment by banks in the City of London.

We now accept that the union was anxious to ensure that foreign banks in the City of London should not draft in staff from their home countries for senior positions when there could well be existing staff in London in those banks—many of whom are of Indian or Pakistani origin—who could well perform higher grade duties. We accept that the union's action was to safeguard the jobs and promotion prospects of its members who are of all racial origins.

We also accept that

NUBE has a positive policy of welcoming as members all staffs of banks and financial institutions in England, Scotland and Wales whatever their racial origin and we are informed that NUBE has a considerable number of members of Indian and Pakistani origin who take an active part in the union and we were pleased to publish extracts of a letter received from Mr Gamble in our issue of 13 December 1975.



We accept that our suggestion that NUBE was 'worried that a more militant trade union could win members in the banks' and was therefore 'resorting to desperate measures' is entirely wrong.

We wish to seek the earliest opportunity to apologise to NUBE and to withdraw our allegations.

TUC work permits demand is gift to the racists

THE agenda for next month's Trades Union Congress contains two resolutions on racism.

The first, from the print union SOGAT, 'condemns the provocative marches and demonstrations organised by the National Front and the National Party' and calls on the TUC General Council to 'organise a nationwide campaign through meetings, demonstrations and publicity material to combat the activities of the racists to set worker against worker'.

The second, from the Tobacco Workers Union, 'calls upon affiliated unions to make every effort to warn members of the evils of racism and the dangers of a divided working class'.

Task

As far as they go, the resolutions are excellent. But there is an important omission. They do not take to task the leaders of the trade union movement itself for making concessions to the racists.

The General Council has

been pushing for months for a measure which must warm the hearts of every National Front member. They have been urging the government to restrict the number of work permits issued to workers from overseas.

In effect they have been demanding stricter immigration controls.

They claim that this restriction will make it more difficult for employers to use immigrants as cheap labour, and will protect the conditions and wages of workers already here.

But the measure is bound, in fact, to have the opposite effect. It will mean that overseas workers already in Britain will be frightened of losing their work permits and will be intimidated into accepting even worse wages and conditions.

It will make it very difficult indeed to organise these workers into effective trade union bodies and will weaken trade unionism in the industries, such as hospitals, hotels and catering, where there are many workers and work permits.

Above all, any such demand

gives the impression that what matters is the division between workers according to their country of origin, rather than the division between workers and their employers.

This is the inevitable effect of any campaign for immigration controls, even when the trade union leaders who engage in such a campaign

claim that they want to protect the interests of all workers, black as well as white, from 'cheap labour from abroad'.

You cannot unite workers to fight the employing class if at the same time you are urging the employers to exclude some workers from jobs because they come from a different country.

NALGO ignores conference

FIVE council workers in Surrey, members of NALGO, face the sack in September. Small beginnings. By next year the government's cuts will be bringing sackings on a large scale.

While the 4½ per cent wage deal was being sold at the NALGO conference, a motion was passed against national executive council opposition instructing NALGO TUC delegates to table a motion to get the Trades Union Congress to reconsider its economic policy.

The NALGO executive met last month to decide which motions should go to Congress. NALGO is allowed two.

Arguments were trotted out that the conference instruction could be ignored. Instead the following appalling resolution, moved by Glynn Philips, is going to the TUC in NALGO's name.

This Congress, believing that the threat to the public services posed by the present economic

policies will be of a long-term rather than a short-term nature, calls on the government to consult with those trade unions with members in the public services where cuts are proposed and make available to those unions full information on public sector budgeting so that consultation can be effective before irrevocable decisions are made.

An amendment to emphasise NALGO's opposition to the cuts was defeated.

So instead of leading the fight against the cuts at the TUC, NALGO is just going to ask to be told where the axe is going to fall.

The union's Metropolitan District has demanded that the motion be withdrawn. Every NALGO branch should do the same.

Be on the Right to Work lobby at the TUC in Brighton on Tuesday 7 September to let NALGO's leaders know what we think of their sell-out tactics.

This is the real enemy, says army protester



Ex-soldier Chris Dunn

CHRIS DUNN was thrown out of the British Army because he refused to stand by and watch his fellow soldiers, young kids, behave like animals in Northern Ireland.

But when he got out he quickly discovered that the same violent system that was turning those kids into animals was causing the rest of their generation to stand idle in the dole queues with empty pockets and little prospect of a job.

'No wonder the army can recruit them,' he said.

Chris, who lives in

Southend, started off with a promising musical career but couldn't afford to carry on with it. So he ended up doing shift work in a plastics factory.

'Work was just so monotonous. I was sick of everything and the army seemed like a way out.

'Once you're in the army everything is designed to isolate you as a group from the rest of society, like for example having very short hair. You're made to feel so self-conscious that you don't break away from the group.

'In Germany I did com-

pletely unheard-of things, like making friends with the Germans and telling other soldiers that they didn't have to accept a system that was working behind their backs. It was then that I was packed off to Northern Ireland.

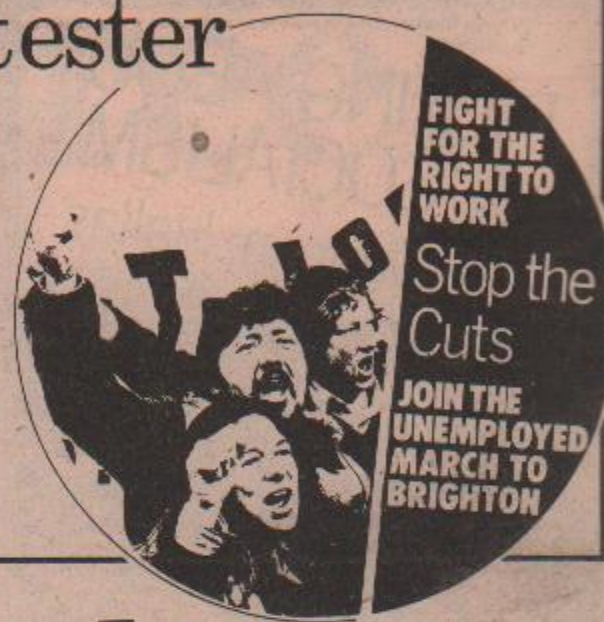
Animals

'The situation there was disgusting. It was turning ordinary kids into animals. So I tried to explain to them what was creating the situation and just how wrong it was to go out and kill people indiscriminately.

'I started refusing to go out with a loaded weapon but I was sent to Germany and questioned by the Intelligence Corps about my subversive activities. I was made to spend four months in Colchester "corrective centre" and then discharged.

'When I got out it was a terrible shock—all those kids at the Labour Exchange.

'I'm very enthusiastic about going on the march. We've got to do something. We've got to make sure all those kids fight the real enemy—the capitalist system.'



Canoeing for the right to work!

FULL AHEAD ON TYNESIDE

MATTHEW WHITING canoed across the Humber last Thursday to raise money for the Right to Work march.

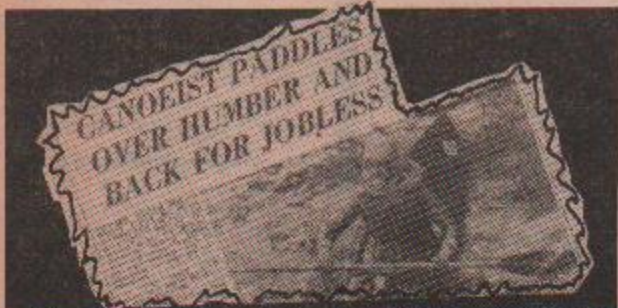
The water was rough and the wind was against him. But he did the return journey in three and a half hours—and raised £60 for the march. A crowd of about 100 collected to watch.

The trip got a lot of publicity in the local press and radio. One result was that Michael Cooper, aged 18, went down to the Hull Right to Work Campaign offices the very next day and signed up for the march himself and his brother Martin, who has just left school.

Matthew Whiting is himself going on the march. 'Every person that goes counts,' he said. 'I think everyone who is unemployed and has had the chance to come on the march and turned it down can't be all that enthusiastic to find work.'



TOP and RIGHT: Canoeist Matthew Whiting setting off on his 3½ hour marathon, which raised £60 for Hull Right to Work Campaign.



LEFT: The following day's story in the Hull Daily Mail

'I was signing on one day and I met two people from the Hull Unemployed Workers Action Group handing out leaflets. I gave a false name and address at first because I was wary about the consequences of going on a march.

Backing

'But after reading the leaflet over that evening, I liked what it was aiming at, and I thought they would need some financial backing. I offered to canoe across the Humber to raise money.

'Some members of the Right to Work Campaign then duplicated some sponsorship forms. They made house-to-house calls and went to the docks shop stewards committee, who agreed to take a collection in the docks.

'My father is shop steward at Rapistan and he took in some forms. We raised about £60 in sponsorship money.

'It was fun battling against the elements. It was difficult, but I enjoyed myself.'

FIFTEEN unemployed workers and school-leavers will be coming from Newcastle on the September Right to Work March. The local Right to Work committee is campaigning to raise the £10-a-head cost.

Every Saturday up to ten local campaigners go to Tyneside shopping centres, with a table, their banner, a megaphone and collection and petition sheets. Last Saturday one and a half hours in Crumblington New Town raised £10.77 and a further stint at South Shields shopping centre raised £26.05.

Last Friday a collection outside C A Parsons raised £11.05 and one outside Swans when everyone was coming out raised £13.47.

'It really surprised me how easy it was,' said Jon Cowley from the Right to Work Committee. 'It's enjoyable and you get out and talk to an amazing number of people.'

At C A Parsons, the TASS office committee has voted to send the petition and collection sheets round their 1200 members. All the reps will be collecting. The CPSA Newcastle District branch has also voted to send the petition round their members.

Train booked for lobby

CENTRAL LONDON Right to Work Committee is organising a block booking on a train to the lobby of the TUC when the march reaches Brighton on Tuesday 7 September. The train will be leaving Victoria at 10.28am, tickets £2 return from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Coaches are also being organised from East, West, North West and South London, as well as towns elsewhere in the country.

27 more sponsors

TWENTY-SEVEN more trade union bodies voted to sponsor the march and lobby of the TUC this week. Has yours?

- Shelburne School NUT
- Hugh Middleton School NUT
- Cheshire County NALGO
- Norwich ASTMS 797
- Chesham NALGO Action Group
- Hackney Downs School NUT
- Dunstable Trades Council
- ASTMS No 3 District Committee
- Central Newcastle CPSA
- Dumcaster Trades Council
- Cricklewood AUEW
- Waltham Forest NALGO Action Group
- Lothian Region NALGO
- APEX Newcastle General
- Faling Green High School NUT
- Norwich Trades-Council
- York Trades Council
- Edlington NALGO Action Group
- ASTMS No 15 District Committee
- Greenwich NALGO
- NUJ Book Branch
- Kildermore Residents Association
- Save Acton Hospital Campaign
- Northampton UCAU
- Arphorpe (Markham Main) NUB
- Hammersmith Hospital Medical Records NALGO
- Bilton Institute of Technology Students Union

MARCHERS' MEETING: Every local group of workers going on the Right to Work March from London to Brighton must send a representative to the national meeting: Saturday 14 August, 11am-4pm, Milton Hall, Manchester

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

Meetings and Notices

CUMBERNAULD Right to Work public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work! Speaker: Peter Bain (TGWU shop steward, Chrysler, Linwood). Chair: Joe Lynch (SOGAT Father of the Chapel, Thames Case). Wednesday 18 August, 7.30pm, Lesser Town Hall, Cumbernauld.

BRIXTON Right to Work and Flame public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work! Fight the Racists! Stop police harassment! Speakers: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Martha Osamor (Haringey Black Parents Movement, in personal capacity), Kim Gordon (editor, Flame, black workers' paper) and Danny Evaristo (Manchester to London Right to Work marcher), plus speakers from the Southall Youth Movement and Balham and Tooting Campaign Against Racism. Thursday 19 August, 7.30pm, Abeng Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Right to Work public meeting: Tooting Co-Op Hall, Upper Tooting Road, Wednesday 18 August, 7.30pm. Speakers: Dick North, Doug Murdoch and Danny Evaristo.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Right to Work social: Saturday 21 August, 8pm, Foresters Arms, Milham Road, Tooting.

CARDIFF Right to Work Campaign Disco: Mont Merence Night Club, 45 Charles Street, Cardiff. Wednesday 18 August, 10pm onwards. Tickets 30p.

Easterhouse: 30 join march

THE unemployment rate in Easterhouse, on the outskirts of Glasgow, is almost twice the national average.

It has virtually no local industry, so most workers have to travel out of the area to seek work. With the recent fare increase making Glasgow's the dearest fares in Britain, this means that a large portion of their dole money goes on travelling expenses. A school-leaver drawing £7 dole could spend £4-£5 a week on bus fares job-hunting.

In the 1960s Easterhouse's 40,000 people had practically no amenities. The city councillors and local Labour MP promised the Earth.

Services are now being viciously cut back. Our 'Health Service' is Rogerfield Clinic—opened 17 years ago as a 'temporary' measure and still going.

The nearby Queenslie Industrial Estate is dotted with empty factories.

But the people of Easterhouse are telling these 'hatchet men' enough is enough.

Agitation around Easterhouse dole queues by the local Right to Work Committee brought its



Derek Daly: 'We need a massive campaign for the 35-hour week'

rewards this week when 30 unemployed workers signed up for the Right to Work March in September. Their feelings were summed up by 17-year-old Brian Hughes: 'We won't get anything just sitting back, we'll have to fight all the way.'

Sell-out

As trade union leaders Jack Jones and Hugh 'Scandalous' continue their sell-out, it's in dole queues like Easterhouse that the results of their dealings can be seen.

A local tenants' group, Kildermorie Residents

Association, have organised a public meeting showing the Fight the Cuts film, in conjunction with the Right to Work Campaign.

Said Charles Saez, its chairman: 'Our association has backed the Right to Work Campaign because of the high rate of unemployment in our area and in the Easterhouse area as a whole.'

'We believe the role of our tenants' association is to protect and extend the rights and social well-being of our members. We regard unemployment as a primary social evil and any campaign



John Creighton: 'We won't get anywhere patching up this rotten system'

against this evil must be supported.'

Derek Daly, a 21-year-old unemployed electrical engineer, said: 'I am joining the September March because being unemployed I have no right to strike, no real power, and a feeling that I must do something to fight back. This campaign allows me as an unemployed worker the chance to link up with others in the fight for the right to work.'

'We need massive campaigns for the 35-hour week, which would create a million new jobs. 300,000 jobs could be created by national over-

Death of a prostitute

HERE IS a tale of two newspaper proprietors, Richard Carlile (1790-1843) and Roy Herbert Thomson (1894-1976).

Carlile owned only one paper, *The Republican*, lived all his life in poverty and died in debt.

Fortune

Thomson owned 148 newspapers in 11 countries, 138 magazines, five book publishing companies, 20 printing companies and 'vast interests' in television, radio and god knows what else.

He died, having been made a peer for his services to the rich, leaving control of assets worth £100 million and a personal fortune of £20 million to his son and heir.

Carlile devoted his life to attacking the power of the rich and defending the principle of a free press. He spent a total of nine years and four months in prison, serving repeated sentences for publishing and selling 'unstamped' and therefore illegal newspapers—mainly his own *Republican* and Henry Hetherington's *Poor Man's Guardian*.

And not him alone. 150 men and women served a total of 200 years' imprisonment between 1819 and 1825 alone, for the crime of selling these two publications.

The Tory government of the day—as vicious, bloodthirsty and corrupt a gang of villains as ever held office—had imposed a stamp tax on newspapers, a tax on each copy so heavy as to put them beyond the purse of working men and women.

They did it in 1819, the year of the Peterloo massacre, and they did it with

the avowed purpose of suppressing what their law called 'blasphemous and seditious publications'.

Seditious, according to my dictionary, means 'tending to undermine the established authorities of the state' and Carlile certainly tried to do that.

Freedom

'Neither kings nor priests nor lords are useful to a people' he wrote in 1831. 'We can work without them, eat without them, be skilful without them, be happy without them . . .

'Either in war or in peace, kingcraft, priestcraft and lordcraft, is a system of plunder, murder and spoilation. Then down with kings, priests and lords.'

That was the sort of thing the 'established authorities of the state' did

not want working people to read and that was what Carlile and his many helpers fought for the freedom of the press in order to be able to write.

Because, of course, nobody gives a fig for the principle in the abstract. The most tyrannical and despotic regime that ever existed will grant you the freedom to sing its praises.

It is the freedom to attack the established order that freedom of the press, like freedom of speech, is all about.

Carlile thought that his long, hard struggle had been successful. He had indeed, by organising mass defiance of the law, made the stamp duty unenforceable.

But like most radicals of his time he overestimated the power of purely political victories which did not touch the economic power of our enemies.

He claimed, before his death, that he and his fellows had 'accomplished the liberty of the press in England'.

He was mistaken. The existence of Lord Thomson and his ilk proves it.

What his struggle gained was legal freedom of publication. Now that was, and is, a great gain.

But it hardly amounts to a free press.

Carlile came to symbolise the struggle for a free press. Thomson will serve very well as a symbol of the prostitution of the press to the power of money.

Drivel

Carlile was a working journalist, Thomson, it is said, despised journalists—and reading some of the sickening, sycophantic drivel some of them wrote on his death I am bound to admit, though an NUJ member myself, that the old scoundrel was right to despise some of his creatures.

What we all know, and what the Thomson story proves yet again, is that in this country there is freedom for millionaires to own newspapers.

There is no freedom in fact for working men and women to control the mass circulation press—or TV either.

For that you need millions.

It was a Tory government which gave Thomson what

There must be something wrong with this country when a fellow like me can make money so quick.

—Canadian-born Lord Thomson, owner of *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and 146 other newspapers, who died last week. He leaves an estimated personal fortune of £20,000,000.

he himself called 'a licence to print your own money'—the franchise for Scottish Television.

But such franchises are only given to men of 'sound' conservative views, men who can be counted upon to defend the interests of the rich.

Parasite

You will not read the truth about Thomson in the millionaire press, nor will you hear it on TV.

For all I know he may have been no better and no worse than any other profiteering parasite.

His only significance is as a reminder of the power of money to corrode and corrupt, to transform freedoms into a mockery and to exploit the struggles and sacrifices of working men like Carlile in the interests of everything that Carlile detested.

One day we shall have a free press. That will be the day when the press barons are booted out, bag and baggage.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Lord Thomson was a symbol of the freedom of millionaires to own newspapers. For working men and women there is no such freedom. But one day we shall have a free press—when the press barons are booted out.

Keep up the war of words

EXCELLENT! That was Robert Marmion's letter to his local paper on immigration.

His was one of many fine letters written by Socialist Worker supporters around the country in recent weeks to combat the wave of racist filth in the press.

And it wins him the first of our regular book prizes for the best letter published in a local paper or the best intervention on a radio phone-in programme.

Robert, who is secretary of the Bootle branch of the International Socialists, will be receiving a copy of Wolfgang Abendroth's *A Short History of the European Working Class*.

□ □

Meanwhile, we urge all readers to keep taking up the socialist argument—not merely on racism, but on the cuts and unemployment as well—with every means at their disposal.

Keep using the local phone-in programmes.

And keep sending in those letters to the local press. One tip: make them short and punchy—or you'll give the editor an excuse either to butcher them or to leave them out altogether.

And don't forget: we want to know about your successes. Send cuttings of published letters or brief reports about phone-ins to:

War of Words, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Socialist Worker

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THALIDOMIDE ... SEVESO ... AND NOW ERALDIN

YOU'VE HEARD of Thalidomide—but have you heard of Eraldin?

It's produced by ICI with all the loving care that Distillers showered on their little creation.

Suffer

Eighteen people have died after being treated with the drug, which until a year ago was widely prescribed for heart conditions.

Despite being currently

under investigation by the government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines, Eraldin is still used for short courses of treatment.

One man who took the drug and then suffered four heart attacks is Stanley Edwards, of Edmonston, North London.

He is among more than

100 people seeking compensation from ICI.

Mr Edwards has had to retire prematurely from his job because of the afflictions he has suffered since taking Eraldin.

Side-effects include partial loss of sight and ulcerated legs. He says: 'I suppose it's a bit like having sand in your eyes all the

time. Your eyes are continually dry because the tear ducts are dried up.'

Compensation for Mr Edwards and his fellow-sufferers is entirely a matter for the 'conscience' of ICI. The firm are not legally liable.

Another breakthrough for *The Pathfinders* . . .

Why Sir Robert fails to make his Mark...

HE'S SUCH a nice man, that Robert Mark.

All he wants is for a few black people to join our lovely police force and help a few old ladies to cross the road and stop all this terrible racialism.

'Cos Sir Robert's really worried about racialism and he thinks about it all the time and if these nasty blacks won't come quietly and join our lovely force and help kick a few pickets across the road we'll have 'em in so bleedin' fast their feet won't touch the ground. Right?'

Sorry about that, folks, must be getting truncheon drunk.

Shots

Seriously, though, a lot of black people have joined the police force—not in Britain, but in the United States.

Madeline Fletcher was one of them. But being a black copper doesn't make you immune from racialism, as she found out last Christmas.

A white copper dragged her from a police car in Detroit and started beating her with his truncheon.

Finally, the two 'colleagues' exchanged shots. Whereupon three other white coppers immediately opened fire on her.

A police radio operator was heard over the air to say that it was 'too bad' that her wounds were not serious enough to kill her.

Madeline was arrested later that day as she lay on a stretcher in a hospital emergency ward.

She has since been cleared of all charges.

ANOTHER leading multinational has declared its support for the barbaric regime in Chile—the Catholic Church.

Bossman Paolo VI—known to his shareholders as, simply, the Pope—has expressed his devotion and affection for the 'very excellent and gentle' President Pinochet.

In a letter to the man who has, in the last three years, supervised the mass murder and torture of thousands of trade unionists and socialists, he thanks Pinochet for the gift of a small series of medallions commemorating the

'National Reconstruction of Chile' since the 1973 coup.

Meanwhile, back in Rome, some of the Pope's heavies have moved against

an abbot who dared to support the Communist Party in Italy's recent elections.

Dom Giovanni Battista

Franzoni has been unfrocked for 'actions which . . . degrade man in his innate dignity'.

Holy Mother of Jesus . . .



ONLY SLAVES NEED APPLY

A 16-YEAR-OLD school-leaver, Iris Jones, was paid £5 (roughly 11p an hour) after working a 45-hour, seven-day week at a cafe in Fleetwood, Lancashire.

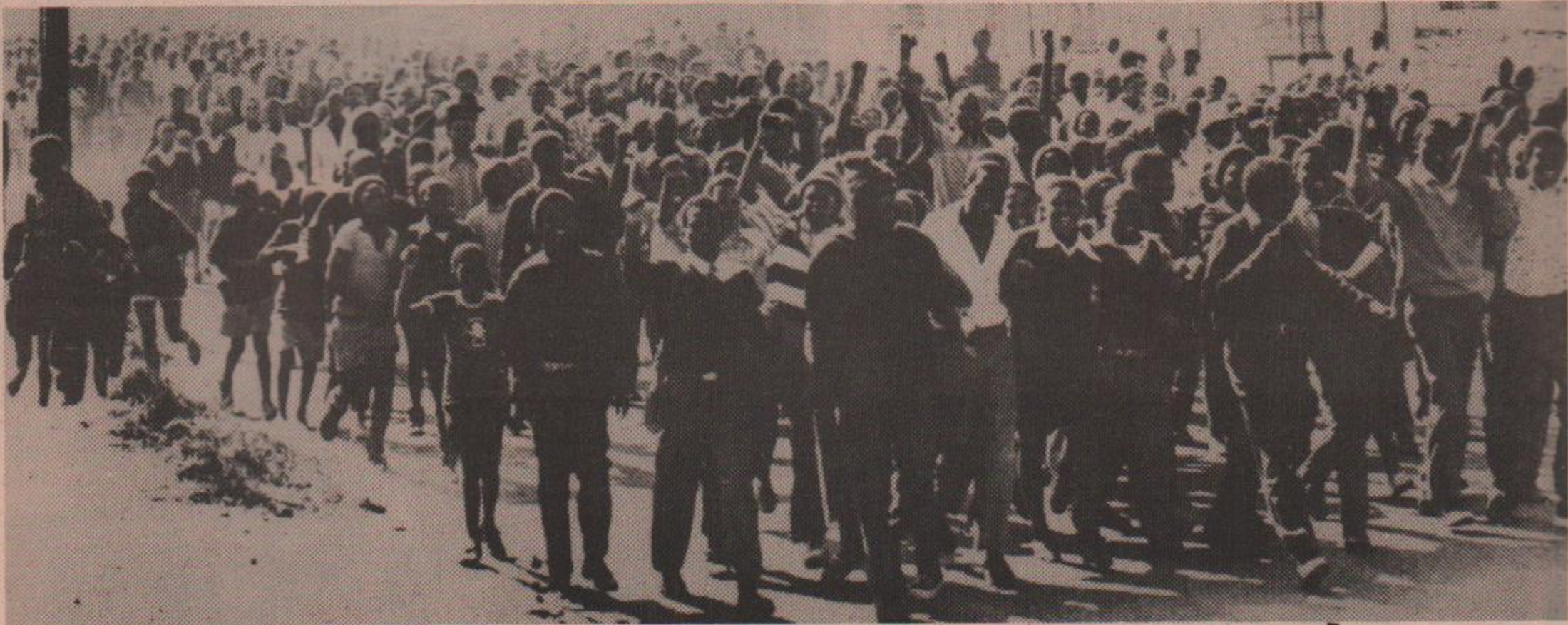
'I class this', she complained to the local paper, 'as slave labour', thereby greatly 'distressing' the cafe's proprietor.

The local Careers Office commented that they had no legal powers to deal with such complaints.

The Employment Service Agency		(MAN OR WOMAN)
VACANCY	P/T BAR STAFF	
DISTRICT	BRI. TOL 1	
BUSINESS	CLUB	
SALARY	£3.10 per week	
HOURS	5.30pm-1am. Thur, Fri, Sat	
REMARKS	Age open, serve drinks, collect + wash glasses, keep bar top + tables clean + tidy. Handle cash	

—a 'vacancy' from a Bristol jobs centre

We shall be free!



THE BLACK people of South Africa are on the move—and nothing is going to hold them back.

That has been the message of the demonstrations in Soweto, New Brighton, and elsewhere over the last week.

In Soweto, tens of thousands of young people took to the streets, smashing through police barriers in an effort to march on the headquarters of the dreaded security police in John Vorster Square in nearby Johannesburg.

Many opponents of apartheid have been imprisoned and tortured in this building.

Strike

The demonstrators called for all-out strike action from the black workers who keep white Johannesburg running. Last Thursday more than half the workers defied the threat of the sack from their employers and stayed at home.

The main demand of the demonstrators was the release of hundreds of youngsters held in prison since the demonstrations six weeks ago.

The police will not release their names or allow them any contact with their families.

During those demonstrations 176 black people were killed by the police, more than twice the number killed at Sharpeville in 1960.

It took 16 years for the black townships to recover

from Sharpeville—it has taken them barely a month to turn to the offensive after the Soweto uprising.

Since the uprising the Security Police have been pulling in anyone remotely connected with the black consciousness movement and the organisations—the Black People's Convention and the South African Students Organisation—which led the

June demonstrations.

New terrorist legislation—the Internal Security Act—gives the government powers to hold indefinitely without trial anyone they consider threatens 'security or public order'.

Banned

The Act has been put into operation in the Transvaal,

where Soweto is situated. Black schools have been closed and public meetings banned. Armed police have been patrolling Soweto's streets.

But repression has failed to intimidate Soweto's blacks.

The Johannesburg *Star* commented: 'For the first time since... the early 1960's there are signs of a unified urban black front closing

ranks against what it considers further unbearable repression.'

Puppet

Young blacks have shoved aside black 'leaders' who sit on puppet apartheid bodies advising white administrators how to run Soweto and the other black townships.

The young blacks organis-

ed the protests in June—and the highly disciplined marches on Johannesburg last week.

Despite massive repression—eight-year-old children were picked up by police—the marches went ahead.

If the young black militants succeed in organising a real resistance movement among South Africa's black workers, the results will be explosive.

Black unemployment will be two million by the end of the year. The decline in the gold price, on which South Africa's economy still depends, will mean more sackings.

Lay-offs

Already, much of the car industry is on short-time working, with lay-offs growing weekly.

In the last six months, the cost of living has shot up for blacks.

The employers are terrified of another wave of black strikes like those which shook South Africa in 1973.

If the anger of the townships is united with the industrial muscle of the black working class, apartheid and capitalism in South Africa will both be blown sky high.

IT'S THE SAME IN RHODESIA

BLACK freedom fighters are also worrying Rhodesia.

The Smith regime admitted last weekend that six of its troops had been killed in a clash with black forces.

Only a few days earlier, Smith had admitted, indirectly, that some of his supporters were beginning to flee from the country.

He brought in new measures that stop whites taking more than a limited amount of money out of the country with them.

The five per cent of the Rhodesian population who are white enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world at the expense of the 95 per cent who are black.

But growing numbers can see the writing on the wall, and no government measure will halt their stampede as the black freedom fighters enjoy more successes.

THE STRUGGLE IN SPAIN TODAY

Hear Chris Harman and Spanish speakers: Friday 20 August, 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (Holborn Tube), London.



On the march to Johannesburg: repression has failed to intimidate Soweto's young blacks...

Poland: Now it's terror

HUNDREDS of workers arrested, thousands victimised.

That has been the situation in Poland since the massive strike against price increases a few weeks ago.

Reports from Polish workers published in the French daily paper *Rouge* tell how repression began on the day of the strike.

At one of the strike centres—the Ursus factory,

near Warsaw—workers lit bonfires in the street to celebrate their victory over the government.

Brutal

'It was then', reports *Rouge*, 'that the militia decided to intervene with brutal charges, systematically hitting demonstrators with their batons, using tear gas and smoke bombs. Massive arrests began.'

More than 1000 arrests were made, 600 in Ursus and hundreds more in Radom.

Not only demonstrators were arrested. Anyone in the area at the time was liable to be picked up.

The arrests were followed by mass sackings. More than 1000 workers were sacked from the Ursus factory alone and of a total workforce of 5000.

In the town of Plock, where workers had demonstrated

behind red flags and had sung the Internationale, 150 workers were sacked from the oil refinery and 30 from a factory producing agricultural machinery.

Drafted

The left-wing dissident, Jacek Kuron, was drafted into the armed forces after sending an open letter to the Italian Communist Party appealing for action on behalf of the victimised workers.

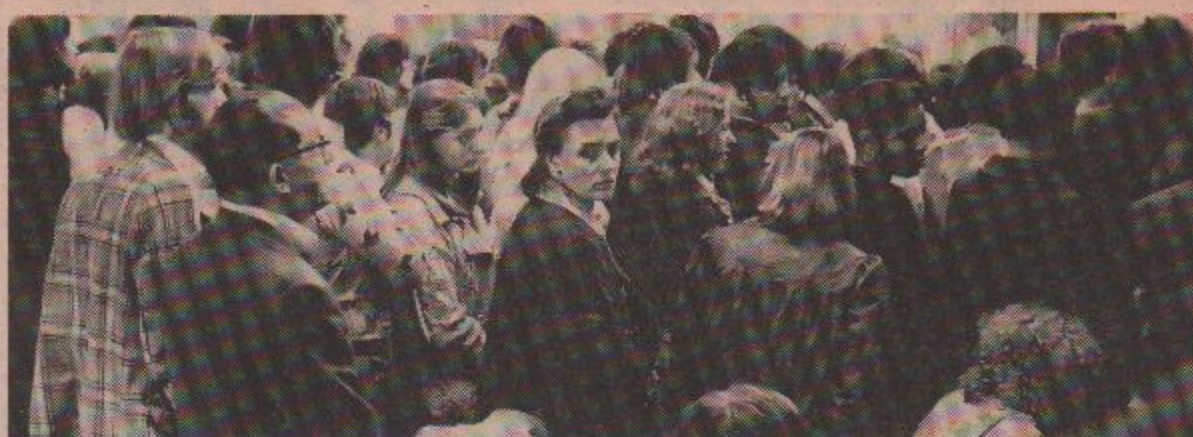
Kuron wrote of 'an anti-worker terror'. He added: 'The June events are a symptom of a serious malaise in our society. All the responsibility for this state of affairs falls on the state authorities, who have expropriated the working class and society as a whole of all forms of expression of opinion and defence of their interests.'

Kuron's appeal must be answered by socialists, Communists and trade unionists in Britain.

WOMENS VOICE

If you want to know how to beat the cuts in your area, then read this month's *Womens Voice*. Articles on the Cuts, abortion, Trico, reviews, letters. Get your copy now from your Socialist Worker seller, or direct from *Womens Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Price 6p (plus postage).

8000 SIGN ON THE DOLE HERE EVERY WEEK



Brixton dole: no chance of a job round here . . .



Four more marchers for the right to work: Eddie Harrison, Leslie Hearn, Dave Guscott and Lester Jacobs

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

That's why we're marching!

'I haven't had a full-time job for more than a year now. I'm picking up £1.80 a week from the dole, because I have to stay at a reception centre in Clapham. The rest of my money goes to the centre. I'm going on the march for fun, and to protest against unemployment. I think people should be able to work. I should be working.'

DAVE GUSCOTT, 20

I'm going on the march for two simple reasons. I haven't got a job—and I can't live on £4 a week dole. It doesn't look as though I'll get a job, either. There are 8000 people signing on in Brixton already.

We're also marching against police harassment on the streets and in our homes and clubs. And I want to protest about those empty homes that are being left to rot by the council, leaving loads of people like me and Dave and John out of a home. So I'm counting on you fellas, boys and girls, to join us on the march.

EDDIE HARRISON, 16 year-old school-leaver

HELP US TO PUT THEM ON THE ROAD

By Jason Meyler
Treasurer, National
Right to Work Campaign

FOUR hundred and eighty-two unemployed workers and school-leavers have now signed up for the September Right to Work March.

The number is growing by the day—and that means our slender funds are going to be stretched to the limit.

That's why we have sent out an appeal this week to trade unionists who support the campaign.

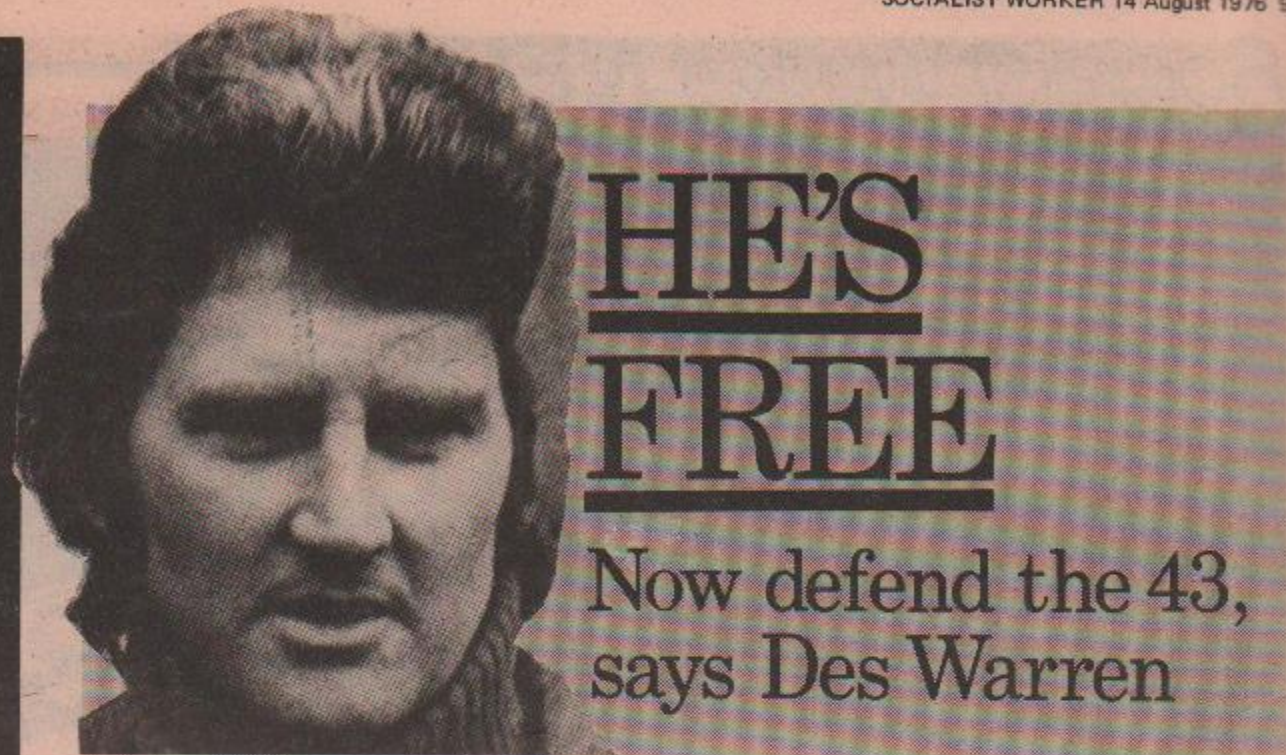
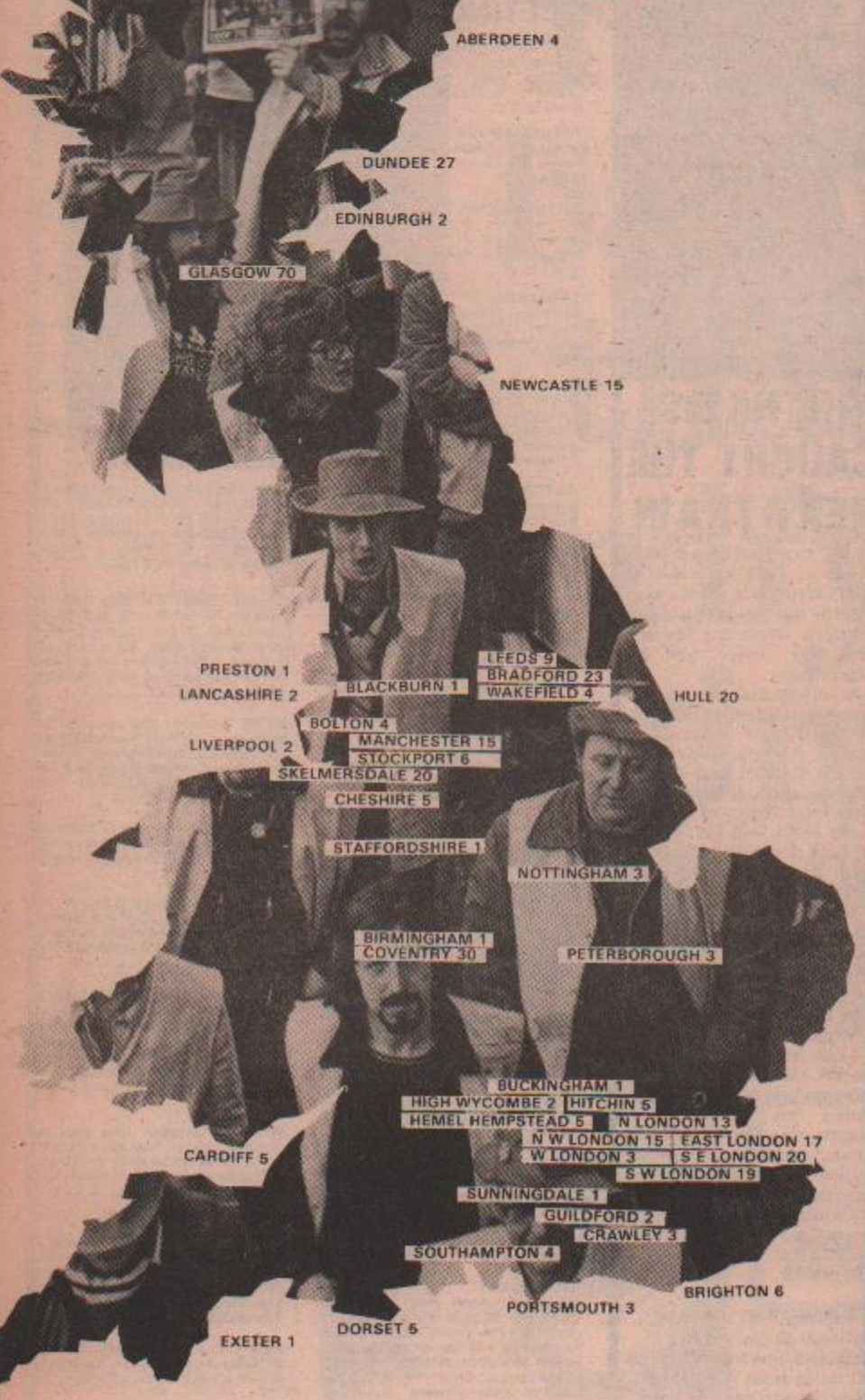
We're asking them to pull out the stops to raise the £10 needed to put each marcher on the road.

Support for the campaign so far has shown that we can reach our target. In the next three weeks, we are hoping to see every supporter raise collections in their workplace.

Street meetings and collections in shopping centres can take the campaign out onto the streets and keep the money coming in.

Send collections and donations to: Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WHERE THE MARCHERS ARE



HE'S FREE

Now defend the 43, says Des Warren

DES WARREN came out of jail last week only a month before the end of his full three-year sentence.

During a hectic day before leaving for holiday, in which he answered calls from scores of friends and well-wishers, Des found time for a word with Laurie Flynn of Socialist Worker.

He said he'd seen Socialist Worker regularly while in prison, and wanted to thank the paper for all the support it had given him.

Interest

He said he had read 'with the greatest interest' about the police attacks on the 43 Right to Work Marchers, and was greatly concerned about their coming trial.

'We've got to make sure that we don't make the same mistakes in their case that were made in ours', he said.

'The whole labour movement must be mobilised in defence of these people. The court must be packed and picketed, so that the labour movement support is known.'

'I want to associate myself with the campaign in defence of the 43, and I'd very much like to speak on their behalf, if it's at all possible.'

Des also authorised publication of a long tape-recording which he had made with officers of Blackpool Trades Council when he was released on parole earlier this year.

The document, which



Some of the thousands of trade unionists who took up the cause of Des Warren and the Shrewsbury pickets: was he released last week to spare the embarrassment of TUC leaders at next month's Congress?

runs to 22 foolscap pages, is a magnificent tribute to Des' fighting spirit during his years in prison.

It shows that Des behaved throughout like a militant trade unionist and socialist. He was always the first to risk punishment on behalf of his fellow prisoners.

When a complaint had to be made, when a prison officer bully had to be put down, it was always Des Warren who stuck his neck out.

Classic

'I've been moved 16 or 17 times, which is a classic example of what they do with political prisoners' he said. 'And I've spent time in 11 prisons.'

'You just get settled in—next thing you know, you're shanghai'd and you have to start all over again, different procedures, different screws and so on.'

'And then your reputation gets ahead of you, and it's always distorted, so the

prison staff are wary as soon as you get there.

'For example, when I went to Lincoln Prison, I found out later that two of the screws had made a bet of who'd be the first to nick me. That's the kind of thing you're up against.'

The bulk of Des' tape concerns three major allegations which he made against prison officers: one of bribery and corruption over the supply of tobacco at Sudbury open prison; one against the foreman of works for the gerry-building of a new prison workshop at Lincoln prison; and another of intimidation against an officer at Lincoln.

The allegations are made in the greatest detail. They were put through all the official channels. None of them was acted on.

Instead, the persecution of Des Warren, constant charging and loss of remission for the pettiest of 'offences', was doubled and redoubled.

He says: 'The prison officer I was working with at Lincoln, Parker, was under a lot of pressure because he refused to run with the pack and give me a hard time.'

'He told me: "I've never known pressure like it in my life. Normally, you just poodle along, but I'm under pressure all the time."

Interview

'He'd asked for an interview with the governor and said: "I don't care if every prison officer in this nick turns against me, I'm not going to nick Warren without cause. If he steps out of line I'll nick him, but I work with him all day, and I've never had a bit of trouble with him. In fact, he helps me a lot with the job".'

'Now, it's on record that that prison officer went before the governor and made this statement, because he had to submit a paper. So, if there is an inquiry, they'll get blasted about my treatment in prison.'

The persecution of Des Warren in prison brought him up 'on report' 35 times, often for the most ridiculously small charges. In all, he lost six months remission, and spent seven months in solitary confinement.

'For six months,' he says, 'I was on Governors 43—this was at the direction of the Home Office, because I was "subversive" and "recalcitrant"—not to protect

me, but to protect the other inmates from my bad influence, for the sake of good order in the prison.'

The campaign against him never let up.

'When Margaret Jackson (MP for Lincoln) visited me at Lincoln, I had to go through the governor's office to see her. The governor was present.'

'As I came in, what they call the 'centre of the prison, there were about 40 or 50 prison officers waiting to knock off their shift—it was about four o'clock in the afternoon. A group of eight or nine started hissing. I just walked through.'

'When I was sitting in the governor's office talking to her, they all walked past the office, and there was a loud hissing noise. I said to her: "There you are, that's what I have to put up with".'

Treatment

'She said: "Is that for your benefit?" So she witnessed some of the treatment I got.'

The Blackpool Trades Council (and especially their Press Officer, Bernard Fawl), should be congratulated for producing Des Warren's Report. They are calling for an independent inquiry into Des Warren's treatment in prison.

□ WHY were his allegations about shoddy, lump work, about corruption and about intimidation not followed through by the Home Office?

□ WHY are the officers complained of still serving in their posts, without even a reprimand?

□ WHY was Des Warren singled out for harassment in almost every prison he was sent to?

□ WHY did he lose so much remission?

□ WHY was he moved from prison to prison so often?

Support

Every labour movement organisation should support the Blackpool Trades Council campaign for an inquiry.

Des Warren says that his treatment in prison was designed to squeeze the maximum out of the deterrent sentence; that is, to frighten other trade unionists in the same position as me.

Until there is some answer from the Home Office, his charge stands.

ADVERTISEMENT

National Right to Work Campaign

March for the Right to Work

SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCH

The National Right to Work Campaign appeals to all trade union and labour movement organisations to sponsor the London to Brighton Right to Work march.

SPONSOR THE MARCH FOR £1. Raise Collections to help pay for the march

For further details, speakers, sponsorship letters, write to the National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (Phone: 802 0978)

JOIN THE MARCH

- I would like to join the march
- I would like further information about the march.

Name

Address

Send to The national Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone (01) 802 0978

It's no use standing around on the dole queue waiting for the trade union leaders, Jones, Murray and Scanlon, to do something about unemployment. Join the unemployed march from London to the next TUC Congress in Brighton to force them to do their job by getting you one.

Unemployed workers from all over the country are assembling in London, on the Embankment, Charing Cross, on Saturday 4 September at 11am. They will be joined by other local marches from Hendon, Enfield and Gravesend. Food and accommodation is being arranged for the march which will take four days.



We're building the socialist alternative

WE WANT TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS! We received through the post 51 slips from the special page in Socialist Worker in the last week of July. The total number of inquiries for the month hit 134.

All over the country, those 134 people are being visited by members of the International Socialists and brought into the local activity of the organisation. With every new member we become stronger. It is the strength we need in our fight against unemployment, racism and the cuts in our living standards.



LEFT: The special page in Socialist Worker on 24 July. It brought 51 new members.

Chester: Strength out of nothing!

IN September 1975 there was no International Socialist activity in the Chester area. Now—less than a year later—we sell on average 95 copies of Socialist Worker a week. We have a small but strong nucleus of members and more people are joining us.

After our enormously successful public meeting with Paul Foot, drawing 130 people plus a couple of dozen unable to get into the room, we held a series of eight weekly discussion group meetings with an average of 23 people attending. Most of them were not members of IS, but interested in it.

Lessons

Although this is only a start, what lessons do we have to offer for isolated comrades in small right-wing towns like Chester?

First, don't be conservative. A minority of sympathisers and supporters will be found everywhere. Try new areas and be patient.

Second, be very flexible in your approach to people. Don't hound people and force IS politics down their throats.

We aim to encourage supporters to identify with IS by a whole variety of actions, selling SW to their mates, distributing leaflets, and so on. We have found people will do this if they know they are not immediately going to

be pressurised into joining IS.

Third, by using the direct mailing of SW to members and supporters outside Chester and collecting money from them when we see them, we have kept them in contact with the branch and prepared the ground for future expansion in these areas.

Fourth, we have given SW to people on a strict sale-or-return basis. We have encouraged supporters to take spare copies into their workplace as free trial copies. This has worked at Vauxhalls and Hawker Siddley, though not at BSC Shotton.

Fifth, we have tried to be open and non-sectarian. If we believe that our politics are best in practice, then we should not be afraid of putting them to the test.

□ Chester IS



Selling Socialist Worker in Leeds. PICTURE: Richard Platt.

THE NAZIS CAUGHT THE NEXT TRAIN

OUR campaign against racism in York has made a good start. We have distributed thousands of leaflets in streets where the fascists have been active, and at factory gates.

A discussion meeting a month ago attracted 30 people, and last Thursday's public meeting, also on racism, doubled that to 60. One useful tip is to find out some local history of fascism in the 1930s, and put this on the back of a leaflet. Plenty of older trade unionists will make the connections.

The National Party have started campaigning with local and national propaganda against coloured families moving into York—with its tiny black population.

When the Nazis attempted to sell and leaflet in the market place we managed to mobilise eight comrades within ten minutes. The fascists, who came over from Leeds, made for the police station before catching the next train home.

Constant vigilance will be maintained by a system of IS Special Patrol Groups!

□ York IS

A MEMBER of the International Socialists in Scotland was travelling the 50 miles from Alness to Inverness to see his wife and their new baby in hospital. He decided to take a few copies of Socialist Worker with him in case anyone wanted to buy one—and sold 50 in those 50 miles!

Going on a train journey yourself?

HELP US SELL WHERE YOU LIVE

- SWANSEA:** 11am-12 noon, College Street.
- NORTH LONDON:** 11am, Holloway Road (outside Sainsbury's) and Chapel Market, N1.
- ROCHDALE:** 11am-4pm, Yorkshire Street.
- NORWICH:** 10am-4pm, market end of Davey Place.
- HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:** The Marlowes, by the market, (10am-12 noon, 1pm-3pm).
- PETERBOROUGH:** 2-4pm, Cathedral Square.
- STAMFORD:** 10am-12 noon, The precinct.
- HULL:** Monument Square, 11.30am-2pm.
- SOUTHEND:** Shopping Precinct (next to Guy Norris) 11am-1pm.
- SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Clapham Junction outside Woolworths, St Johns Road, Saturday 10.30am-1.30pm. Tooting High Street, Saturday, 11am-12.30pm. Brixton outside Tube, Saturday 11am-1pm and Friday, 5pm-6pm. Stockwell outside Tube, Friday 5pm-6pm. Peckham Rye Saturday 11am-12.30pm.
- NORWICH:** Davey Place (opposite the market), 10am-5pm.
- LEEDS:** The Precinct 11am-3pm.
- ORMSKIRK:** Clock Tower, 11am-3pm.
- LIVERPOOL:** Church Street 10.30am-3pm.
- MANCHESTER:** MOSS SIDE shopping precinct, 10.30am-2pm. SALFORD shopping precinct, 11am-1pm. CHEE'HAM HILL shopping precinct, 11am-1pm. LONGSIGHT MARKET, 11am-3pm. STOCKPORT Merseyside shopping precinct, 10am-4pm.
- WOLVERHAMPTON:** Outside Golden Egg, Queen Square, Saturdays 10.45am-2pm. Sundays, 12 noon-1pm and 3pm-3.45pm, outside Walfrun Hall, Indian Cinema.
- BOLTON:** Precinct, 11am-4pm.
- BURY:** Precinct, 11am-1pm.
- WIGAN:** Makinsons Arcade, 11am-3pm.



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

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 overturned.

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 racialism and imperialism. 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.

PONTNEWNYDD public debate between the International Socialists and the Communist Party: Which Road to Socialism? Jimmy McCallum for IS, Brian Davies for the Communist Party (member of the CP Welsh executive committee) Tuesday 17 August, 8pm, The Horseshoe pub, Pontnewnydd, near Pentypool, Gwent.

EXETER Socialist Worker public meeting: Fight the bosses, not the blacks. Speaker: Tony Cliff, Thursday 12 August, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore Street.

SOCIALIST WORKER NOTICES

BRADFORD Socialist Worker Outing: Sunday 29 August, Bradford to Robin Hood's Bay. Adults £2, kids free. Everyone welcome, phone Terry Farrar 0274-55913.

STAMFORD Socialist Worker readers wanting to join newly-formed IS group, ring Chris or Lesley at Peterborough 61685.

ISLE OF ELY socialists interested in forming an SW group, please ring Phil at March 4611.

PETERBOROUGH Socialist Worker group meets each Wednesday at 7.30pm in The White Horse, Cumbergate. Discussion followed by action! Details from Peterborough 61685.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

DESIGNER WANTED URGENTLY TO WORK ON PREPARATION AND LAYOUT OF IS publications. Write, with details of experience and/or training to M Norris, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

COLLECTORS ITEM: Back issues of Workers Power (IS US), Nos 59-82 (Jan 72-Oct 73) two missing and ten from No 22 (Sep 70) minus 47. Proceeds to SW Fighting Fund. Offers to Pete Marsden, at SW, Corbridge Works, by 20 August.

All IS members and sympathisers studying at Sheffield Polytechnic next year (76-77) please contact: Johnny Donachie, Sheffield Polytechnic, Union of Students, Pond Street, Sheffield.

Would any IS member or supporter able to read Japanese please contact Ian Birchall (01-807-1741) as soon as possible?

If anyone has a copy of France: The Struggle Goes On (Cliff and Birchall, 1968) they are willing to part with please contact Ian Birchall (01-807-1741).

WOMENS WEEKEND SCHOOL: Manchester 25-26 September. Sessions on The family, women and socialism, the revolutionary party, public speaking. Please book places now. Phone Margaret Renn (01-739-9772) or write to: 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WOULD comrades who took red Socialist Worker flags away from the 11 July demonstration in London please send 50p a flag immediately to the International Dept., 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2?

TAMESIDE IS ramble: Sunday 22 August. Meet outside Grey Hare Inn, Charlesworth, at 11.30am. Shake off those back-to-work blues! Kids welcome—nothing too strenuous. Phone 061-330 7231 for details.

FEMALE COMRADE NEEDS ROOM in North London, Call Maggie Rutter, 01-806 5262, after 6pm.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED for IS member moving to North London mid September (Finsbury Park-Tottenham area preferred). Contact Wayne Asher, 53 Laurel Road, Blaby, Leicester.

KEVIN SKINNER: Please phone Ruth again.

GABY AND SIMON MADDISON have a daughter, Alexis Sara, and she's great.

WHERE WE STAND

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Women's committee. Next meeting Saturday 14 August, 11am, on the Right to Work and the campaign after 7 September. All districts, branches and fractions to send someone. Pooled fare.

Socialist Worker say: Don't be fooled: Unemployment is caused by the bosses & the government not by black workers.

Socialist Worker says: Don't be fooled: Fewer blacks are let into Britain each week than Rhodesian whites. Migration controls are racist!

Socialist Worker anti-racism stickers—six different types. £1.50 for 1000, 30p for 200 from Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Money with orders please.

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

The rock bands that

terrify the Czech regime

Ivan Jirous of Plastic People, who was jailed for ten months in 1973 for insulting a member of the secret police.

THESE are strange fellows. They are willing to go to jail just for their principles.

These are the words of a Czech secret policeman working on the prosecution case against the latest group of dissidents the Czech government is to put on trial.

The victims of this new round of repression are underground rock musicians who express dissident ideas in a way that readily wins a mass audience among the young.

Any day now this operation will result in a trial of members of two of Czechoslovakia's finest bands, The Plastic People of the Universe and DG 307.

The police began this latest wave of repression by arresting, raiding and interrogating more than a hundred partisans of underground music, including musicians from other groups, including Umela Hmota. Three men have already been sentenced for attending a performance at a youth club in Prestice, near Pilsen.

Those three men, Karel Hevelka, Miroslav Skalicek and Frantisek Starek, went on trial in Pilsen on 6 July. They were jailed for 30 months, 18 months and eight months respectively for what the Czech government called an 'organised breach of the peace'.

The coming trial of the musicians themselves is on charges of 'creating a public nuisance'. Doubtless it will also result in hefty jail sentences.

For the musicians of the Plastic People of the Universe, DG 307 and Umela Hmota are not going to make it easy for the government. They are determined to defend their music and their ideas.

For these have grown into a significant and increasingly socially conscious underground music scene alongside the underground publishing of writers and



Pavel Zajicek and his wife, poet and singer with the DG307 band

poets but reaching a much bigger and more working-class audience.

At the centre of the developments have been the Plastic People of the Universe.

This group was formed in 1967 and quickly gained prominence as one of the most original groups in Prague. Its repertoire consisted of songs by American underground bands, The Velvet Underground, The Fugs, and Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, and included songs of their own.

Events

Plastic people concerts were more than just concerts, they were events, something

like happenings in which a whole range of effects were used—costumes, make-up, scenery, and stage effects—to have the maximum possible impact on the audiences, consisting chiefly of young people dissatisfied with the bland musical pop offered to them by the more established conventional pop groups.

In 1970, in line with the 'normalisation' process, after the Russian invasion and the installation of the Husak government, the Plastic People lost their professional status. They refused to compromise with the new standards applied to all performing groups—no long hair, no lyrics sung in English, neat, conventional dress. Nevertheless, they con-

tinued to perform as an amateur band, and at the same time, they constructed their own electronic equipment so as to be as independent as possible. They refused to compromise.

For they saw clearly, even at that stage, that to give in to official demands simply for the right to perform publically meant to deny and eventually stifle and kill the roots of their own creativity.

Broke

The Plastic People were by no means the only group denied professional status. During the mid and late 1960's, literally hundreds of rock and pop groups had emerged in Prague and many encountered precisely the same difficulties.

Some bands succumbed to the pressure and broke up. Others, seeking their hope of survival in compromise, found that they could no longer play the kind of music they wanted, and degenerated to become cafe dance-bands or back-up musicians for commercial pop singers reaping their share of the rich financial rewards offered by the regime to all those who would cooperate with its cultural policies.

By 1972, it was clear that the Plastic People was perhaps the only band to

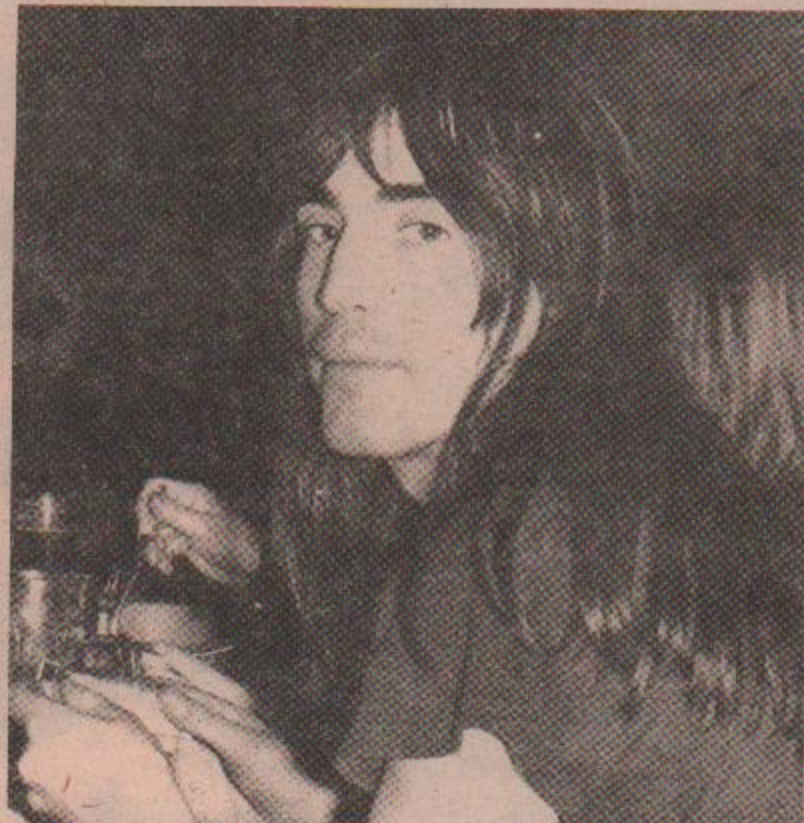


Zdenek Fiser (left) of the Plastic People, and Michal Otakar, guitarist with Umela Hmota—both are now on trial

THREE
JAILED,
22 ON
TRIAL



by
JAN DESIVY



Milan Hlavsa, founder of both Plastic People and DG307 bands—the number is that on the Czech hospitals' list for 'abnormal reaction to stress'

survive with its music and its principles intact. And when even amateur public performances became impossible because of official interference, they turned to the last and only remaining possibility—private performances for their friends at birthday parties and weddings and the like.

By 1973, the band had all but ceased playing songs by British and American rock groups and were playing exclusively their own repertoire—setting the words of some of the best Czech poets like Jiri Kolar and Egon Bondy to music.

Grew

The band's encounter with Bondy's poetry was crucial. By setting it to music, the band now found a voice in which to address its growing audience in Czech, giving expression to the feelings and experiences of sensitive, creative people subjected to the stresses of life in a repressive and manipulatory society.

By 1973, then, the Plastic People had made the point—an underground band could survive and perform even within the bounds of the drastically narrow laws of the land. Moreover, they proved that by taking a clear stand

they attracted a growing public whose loyalty and support were essential for their survival.

The underground scene grew too, with other bands like DG 307, Umela Hmota, Midsummer Nights Dream, Berani and singers like Karasek and Soukup.

It is difficult for people whose only experience of life is in the West to understand just how much courage, dedication and determination required to create an alternate culture in a totalitarian society.

Legally arranged concerts both public and private—were arbitrarily banned in advance or broken up by the police, with all the brutality that the British police used at Windsor Free Festival and more. At the very least, the concerts were attended by policemen and police spies, and in almost every case the identity cards of everyone present were checked and recorded.

The most brutal intervention of all took place on 30 March 1974 in Ceske Budejovice, where literally hundreds of police and troops used force to break up a concert at which the Plastic People were supposed to play as guests.

In the trial that followed, at least six young people received jail sentences ranging from

3 months to 14 months and many more were punished by not being allowed to write their final exams in high-school.

The repression climaxed in March and April this year with the arrest of at least 22 people members of the Plastic People and DG 307, two singers, Karasek and Soukup, some members of Umela Hmota rock group and various friends and associates in other cities in Bohemia. More than 100 others were interrogated.

In addition, the police have confiscated the band's electronic equipment, built by them over the past six years at a cost of tens of thousands of crowns of their own money.

Regime

It might well be asked: why all the fuss over a couple of rock bands?

What does the regime, supported by a huge police apparatus and backed by the armed might of the Soviet Union, have to fear from a small sub-culture of young people who have deliberately avoided all forms of open political protest.

The answer is relatively simple. The government in Czechoslovakia fears anything and everything it cannot control. It is looking over its shoulder in every possible direction.

What's more, the critical ideas being expressed by the Plastic People are a stimulus to others. The band has played concerts at the works clubs of a number of big factories and been well received.

The underground bands also have friends and contacts all over the country. They can organise events secretly by spreading the word around and they can get big audiences.

And clearly no dictatorship can put up with that.

The kind of music they want is the kind that dulls the mind rather than enlivens it. That's why the Czech bureaucrats go for the likes of Cliff Richard.

The Czech bureaucrats also appear able to rely on considerable solidarity from their Western counterparts who control the music business. The Plastic People Defence Group has tapes of the band's music which have been offered to various record companies. They're simply not interested.

There isn't profit enough in releasing a record of the Plastic People, apparently. If only the Plastic People were more like Cliff Richard...

Why the hell are WE afraid?

From The 100 points, a song by the Plastic People of the Universe

They are afraid to let people out
They are afraid to let people in
They are afraid of the left
They are afraid of the right
They are afraid of the departure of the Soviet Troops
They are afraid of the changes in the Kremlin
They are afraid of detente
They are afraid of disarmament
They are afraid of their own police
They are afraid of the spies
They are afraid for the spies...
They are afraid of Marx
They are afraid of Lenin

They are afraid of all our dead Presidents
They are afraid of truth
They are afraid of freedom
They are afraid of democracy
They are afraid of the Charter of Human Rights
They are afraid of socialism
So why the hell are WE afraid of THEM?
TRANSLATION JD

Copyright Plastic People Defence Group
Donations to the Plastic People Defence Group, c/o Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Postal Points

THE FRONT page of Socialist Worker (31 July) really came home to me. Dave Nuttall and people like him have got one move to make—I made it myself two months ago. I joined the International Socialists.

You don't need to be a political wonder to see where the Labour Party stand. They are quite prepared to consider the bosses' interests before ours.

The rank and file must fight to resist this attack and to do that you need the right politics. That's why I joined IS.

Norman Adams, Northampton.

HAD IT not been for Russia there would have been no Cuba and no victory for the MPLA in Angola.

The Yanks would have still been rampaging in S.E. Asia. We think you should give credit where credit is due.

Two Newcastle supporters.

WE WENT down to the Exchange Square and I saw some of my dad's friends on the stand. They were talking about the International Socialists but weren't getting very far. My dad went up there and he didn't get on very well either.

Me and my mum argued with some people and I got so angry I stuck stickers on their mouths.

Denise Lee, aged 11, Glasgow.

SOME correspondents on the angolan mercenaries raise what I feel are false arguments.

It is wrong to see the executions as an act of revenge. Remember that the war in South Africa goes on.

It is false to quote Marx on capital punishment in the abstract. Wars are special situations, especially class wars.

Socialists should draw the line at atrocities or torture, but certain correspondents, seem to believe that a perfect socialist morality can develop in the heat of the struggle, whereas the truth is that it can only really flower long after the victory.

John Laurence, Stanmore.

TAKING ON THE FASCISTS AT THE POLL

THE NATIONAL Front has announced that it's going to fight over 300 seats in the next general election. By doing so it will get equal time on the TV with the Liberal Party, and will have ample opportunity to spread its racist filth into every home in the country.

Surely the fact that they are able to consider this, coinciding as it does with their alarmingly high vote at the Thurrock by-election, proves that those liberals, and many socialists, who sneered at the NF's electoral strategy, were completely wrong?

The Front has demonstrated that a propagandist intervention in

parliamentary elections can be an extremely effective political tactic. This shouldn't really surprise us both Lenin and Hitler, in their own very different ways, recognised the same thing. So what are we going to do about it?

Arena

The NF has grown for one very simple reason: in a time of economic crisis, when the political solutions offered by the Labour and Conservative parties seem increasingly futile, it has been prepared to offer its own racist solution and to put it forward in the bourgeois political arena.

Surely, we socialists should be prepared to do the same.

In the next election, revolutionary socialists should be prepared to argue for their own socialist solution to the crisis. The need to do so becomes all the more pressing in the face of the Front's own intended election campaign.

They argue that immigrants are the cause of the problem. To this the Labour and Conservative Parties have no answer, for they cannot admit the real cause, that it is the capitalist system itself. Only we can do that.

At the next election, the International Socialists, or Socialist Worker, or the Rank

and File Movement, should be prepared to field a slate of 300 individual socialists, with fairly high incomes, who could pay a substantial contribution towards the cost of a parliamentary deposit.

Putting our money where our mouths are, we are prepared to put up the cash for, at least, the first two of 300 such deposits.

Verity Burgmann (ASTMS), Helen George (NATFHE), Susan Howard (NATFHE), Andy Milner (NATFHE), Dr Chris Sill (ASTMS, Medical Practitioners Union section), Barry Sidgewick (NATFHE).

Fight with the rank and file - it's the only way

I WOULD LIKE to congratulate Socialist Worker for the article advertising the very successful anti-National Front demonstration in Southall on Saturday 24 July. Credit for the achievements of the demo, and the good turnout, must be due to the enlightening article.

For two years I have been a reader of Socialist Worker and have consistently agreed with the politics of the International Socialists.

However, I felt that political freedom of thought, and obstructive criticism. Since contacting the International Socialists, I have broadened my own perception

of working class politics and understand what true freedom is all about. Release from capitalistic pressures, under workers' control.

From my own experience, I urge all Socialist Worker readers to become involved in rank and file activities and contact the International Socialists.

Finally best wishes to the paper for the future success of the London to Brighton unemployment march.

Jimmy O'Rourke, Northampton

Tameside teachers' battle

IN YOUR otherwise very pertinent article on Tameside (Socialist Worker 31 July) you describe what will now unfortunately be secondary modern schools as 'slum schools'.

Certainly millions of pounds needs to be spent on education in Tameside as it does on housing and reconstructing the environment.

This is the class nature of the system which we want to destroy. The quality of the buildings vary—a few indeed are near slums but a few have better amenities than the grammar schools.

Most teachers are battling on despite having to teach a syllabus many of them would like radically changed with ever diminishing supplies of books and paper, and their own jobs threatened. The effort put in by them must surely refute the slum label.

Peter Devonshire, Tameside.

Socialism at £1 a head

MANY OF the students in our school will be leaving next year and will no doubt be joining the growing dole queue.

They are all gravely concerned by the job situation for the future. It is all very well for the government to make drastic cuts in spending, but to what avail if this money is not used to create stability for the future?

I think the Right To Work March aims to support the capitalist system, albeit unintentionally.

I believe that the only way to defeat the capitalists is to create a complete working socialist commune right in the middle of Britain. If all the unemployed could give £1 towards buying land to build a factory when the workers shared all the profits equally then perhaps the situation could be condoned.

Eventually if it were successful more land could be purchased where crops could be grown in order to create self sufficiency. One day I am sure that like Scotland and Wales, England will once again split into its own little county governments, the majority of which will be socialist.

Ruth Crawford, aged 15, Chester.



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

Get it right, Jim!



Long Kesh—the camp where political prisoners are kept in cages 38 yards long by 50 yards wide.

I READ with amazement and anger reports of the recent interview given by the British Prime Minister James Callaghan, in which he complained that the Soviet Union had still not implemented some of the agreements reached at the Helsinki conference one year ago.

This hypocritical rhetoric from a so-called Socialist is similar in nature to opinions he voiced almost one year ago at the Labour Party's annual conference. 'The use of state violence,' he said, 'was alien to all the labour movement stood for.'

Coming from a Prime Minister whose army still occupies by force a part of Ireland and who is directly responsible for some of the most draconian legislation on political and social freedom since Hitler's Germany, this is indeed hypocrisy of the highest magnitude.

Barbaric

Over the past few years the catalogue of murder and torture by the British Army and its Quisling supporters, has increased by leaps and bounds. They have been responsible for some of the most barbaric acts ever witnessed.

Thousands interned without charge or trial and brutally beaten while imprisoned, and tortured because of their opposition to British Imperialist domination. Thousands given mock trials for their opposition to British rule in Ireland.

British politicians have no right to condemn or criticise other nations for few if any have such a record as hers for oppression and exploitation of another nation.

R G McCauley, POW, Cage 12, Long Kesh.

Fight to preserve culture

I AM nearly 69 and have been a socialist internationalist most of my adult life.

I must sincerely congratulate you on most items and views in Socialist Worker especially on the racist issue, the CP in Spain (well remembered by me) and India.

There is no racial antagonism here in Scotland which has always been less so inclined than England.

I agree that you should not ignore the fight for the Welsh language and I add to this the rights of the Scottish Gaelic. I have a friend aged over 70 and born in the Hebrides who knew no English until he went to school at five.

Yet the policy of imperialist Westminster at that time was to suppress native cultures.

I believe that we can all be truly socialist internationalists while yet retaining minority rights in culture.

I should like a definite policy on all national liberation movements which are genuine from all readers and you.

James Maguire, Glasgow.

Equality for gays

I THINK it is time more emphasis was given in Socialist Worker to discrimination against homosexuals in this country.

A young boy can ride a motor bike at 16, drive a car at 17 and vote at 18 but he must take care not to display what the Wolfenden Committee called 'a propensity towards a member-of-his-own sex' until he is 21.

If he is younger than that his only protection from the full weight of the law is that the Director of Public

Prosecutions has to consent to charges being brought.

In Scotland, in Northern Ireland, in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy the sanctions against homosexual conduct even in private are as severe today as they were during the Victorian era.

If we believe in equality for black people and other oppressed groups surely we believe in real equality for homosexuals.

Maxine Johnson, Manchester

KILLER

Those Socialist Worker readers who complained about the execution of Callan note the following report. It is about one of the fighters on the fascist, Falange side in Lebanon.

A British mercenary, Robert Thacker, aged 28, of Sheffield, has been killed in the Civil War in the Lebanon. Mr Thacker also went to Angola as a mercenary.

Colin Humphreys, North London.

We'll have the last laugh

AS USUAL the big circulation newspapers can hire a big mouthed personality to push their revolting right wing politics for them.

Last time I wrote it was Terry telling us how wonderful South Africa is. Now it is Les Dawson telling us that the Campaign For Homosexual Equality should not meet in Scarborough (Sunday Mirror 1 August).

He claims it would risk the town's smut-free reputation to have some men who are more like women and some women who look like coal heavers. I've never heard him complain about the tit magazines in the smutty newsagents of Scarborough.

The effects of his jokes against women along with the tit shops and brothels treat women as

purchaseable objects to be pushed about and laughed at. As long as women are treated lightheartedly over serious issues the working class is halved.

When we laugh at the five per cent (over a million) homosexuals in Britain we are weakened again.

It is possible to be funny without dividing the working class that so badly needs unity of purpose. Lenny, a film about Lenny Bruce, portrays a comedian fighting racism and sexism in an hilarious fashion.

The more we laugh at the bosses, the better equipped we will be to ensure that the joke is not on us.

Steve Emsley, Durham

The Fight Against The Racists



The Nazional Front and How to Smash it.

A Socialist Worker pamphlet

10p a copy plus 7p postage (more than 5 copies: post 3p each) from: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Garden, London E2.

WHENEVER SOMEONE asks the question 'Why Socialism?' the answer has to be found in a critical examination of the capitalist system you were born and raised under.

Luckily for me, my Dad, a docker and a particularly militant one at that, began this process of critical examination for me at an early age.

He taught me about workers' struggles, particularly dockworkers' struggles, like the one to end casual labour in the docks and the fight for registration, the National Dock Labour Board Scheme.

He also taught me about the sell-outs by the so-called trade union 'leaders', men such as Arthur Deakin, general secretary of the Transport Union after the war. My old man detested him, as did most dockers.

I remember one occasion when I was a kid. Deakin appeared on the TV news slapping dockers who were on strike, telling them to get back to work. The old man exploded. I thought the telly was going to go through the window.

Waste

As I grew older, I too began to understand the system. What, particularly, struck me about it was not only the privileged position of a minority, but the fantastic waste of working people.

Most of us were written off as factory fodder, no-hopers. Worse, many workers just accepted this as inevitable.

My first real experience of waste was during the second world war. As a youngster, I saw the bombing of houses, hospitals, schools, factories and, most of all, people. You can't get much more waste than that.

War is the pinnacle of the waste and madness of the system. And even though the war ended for us in 1945, in other parts of the world, be it Korea, Malaya or Vietnam, capitalism managed to continue to burn and destroy the working class of other countries.

Always after the war, things are going to be different. 'Our boys' (meaning working class boys) will have homes fit for heroes. No problem for the rich, their system just creates war.

Exploited

Workers fight it, get killed in the name of 'freedom'. Those who manage to survive come back and clear up the mess, only to be further exploited for their pains.

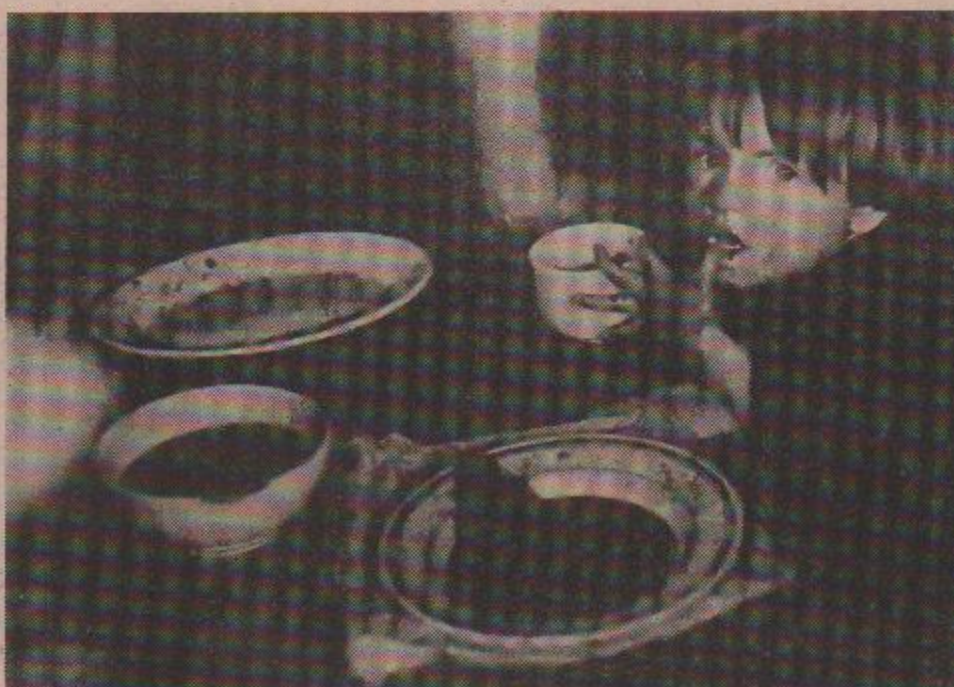
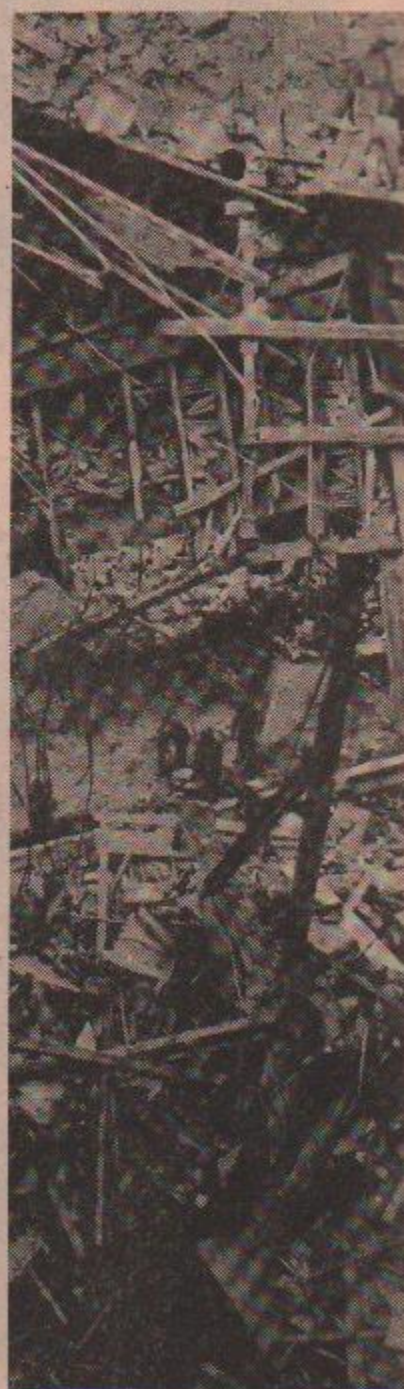
Another thing I noticed about the last war was that it was always cities that were being bombed. Cities where workers lived, particularly the dock areas.

Most of the upper classes lived in the country and were exempted from the bombing. They could also afford to buy goods on the black market. No shortages for them.

And of course, many a post-war capitalist first got started from the proceeds of the black market.

Today, when the system is under pressure once more, workers are

Why socialism?



IN WAR—AS IN PEACE: The workers bore the brunt of suffering and sacrifice . . .

exhorted by the media to revive the wartime spirit, backs to the wall etc. The only spirit that existed was the spirit shown by workers and their families. Meanwhile the profit system went on, business as usual.

BECAUSE of their loss of faith in their leaders, working class fathers were always telling their kids to study hard at school.

Bored

There lay the road to escape and success (the 'if you can't beat 'em, join 'em' syndrome).

Never mind that history was a total bore, where issues were settled by the 'important' people. Never mind that schools were run more like prisons with teachers acting as wardens and some of the children being seduced to act as grasses on their mates under the grand title of prefect.

It always seemed to me that the most lively and attractive kids were the ones who refused to play 'their' game. Anyone who didn't jump through the hoops was given the treatment.

If, despite all this, by some miracle you managed to pass the required exams, you could go to one of those posh schools and get on. When you got there, of course it was still a prison teaching the same irrelevancies, but now at a much higher level. Now you could ape the upper classes, having all the advantages of a house system, wearing a school uniform. Now you could adopt a superior attitude to all those mates who hadn't made it.

All in all, the system is very seductive and elitist. If, however, you kick against it, the psychological and physical pressure applied by the controllers can be severe.

Pressure

'Get yourself a 'good' job when you leave school, maybe in an office somewhere, you don't want to end up in the dock killing yourself, says Dad. Trouble is, when you get to the 'promised land' you find all the old bourgeois prejudices and attitudes abound.

JOIN the army and see the world. You're joining, whether you like it or not. It's called National Service. What it amounts to is now you're to become part of the

A new series - begun by London docker EDDIE PREVOST



controlling system. But this time it's workers from other countries who are to be controlled.

Still you're not free. They've got the same prison warders in there as they have in the schools in the shape of 'your' officer class. And wait a minute, aren't they the same working class grasses, only they don't call them prefects, now they're called NCOs.

When a squeaky-voiced 19-year old second lieutenant just out of public school, representing the elite, starts getting himself busy making life hell for the squaddy, the same rules apply.

Either you conform or you are in big trouble. One of 'their' favourite tricks is to punish the whole platoon for the 'misdemeanours' of one man, turning all your mates against you.

And don't laugh at the pompous colonel who keeps telling you about those wicked Reds, who we're going to have to fight one day.

Finally, you're in the dock alongside your old man, like his father was in the dock before him. You feel your roots, a sense of history. At home.

Roots

Plenty of ruckers, people ready to have a go here, arguing back at the gov'nor without fear. We all stick together, well most of us, anyway.

Taking part in strikes. On the picket line. If all workers were like us things would be different.

tion, medical services etc.

People who live in Tower Hamlets seem to work hard. Yet they have to get by on shirt buttons, while those that live in Hampstead and Knightsbridge seem to live off the fat of the land, doing very little, thank you very much.

SOME workers explain that 'these are the people with the brains'. Trouble is, when you look at the way they run industry and commerce, it's total chaos.

When the press talk about the inefficiencies of nationalisation, it's 'their' nationalisation run by 'their' people. Workers have about as much say running public industry as they do running private industry.

Surely that's not socialism?

Ideas

Well, if that's not socialism, what is? Gradually you become familiar with the ideas of Marx, Engels, Trotsky and Lenin. People who have written about revolution and changing things.

People who say that representatives of workers should be elected on total recall and sacked if they act against workers' interests. Representatives who, they say, should receive the same wages as workers.

A system which would abolish private ownership and tear down the slums. Build for need not greed, where kids would get a decent chance.

That's why socialism. It's reason enough



. . . and the rich fled to the country

□ Why don't you write for this column? Send articles to Laurie Flynn, Where We Stand, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.



MASSACRE

'Shoddy work'
-and we get
the blame!

By Cathy Colton

IF LABOUR Councils believe in anything, it's direct labour.

It was their answer to the horror of capitalism.

Direct labour meant workers hired by the council, building and repairing council houses, mending council lighting, collecting rubbish, manning schools.

For thousands of building workers, it meant job security, better holidays, safe pensions, strong union organisation.

Now direct labour departments everywhere are threatened by the Labour Government cuts. The axe has started to fall in Tyneside, a Labour area, which has always been proud of its direct labour.

Test

In South Tyneside, 450 of the 600 direct labour force have been given a 90-day redundancy notice.

Northumberland have just announced 80 redundancies in their highways section.

Ted Ablett, UCATT convenor in South Tyneside told Socialist Worker: 'South Tyneside is a test case. If they win here, all the other local authorities will follow.'

'We've met the Labour councillors and the two local Labour MPs. But it's just part of a political merry-go-round.'

'The politicians clear their conscience by talking, but unless our lads fight, along with other public service unions, it's going to be a cold Christmas for us.'

Tenders

The usual tactics have been used by management, private contractors and the Labour Party. Direct labour have been accused of being inefficient, inexperienced, and unable to compete against private enterprise.

The recession in the building industry means private contractors are putting in tenders for projects normal-

Jobs butchered as Labour cuts its own pride and joy



ON THE PICKET LINE at Hammersmith Hospital in London. A strike by 50 ancillary workers ended on Tuesday afternoon when management threatened to start moving patients.

They told management they would return to work because of the possible danger to patients,

but they stressed that patients were the responsibility of the hospital authority, not the workers. The strike began when a woman worker in the ante-natal department was refused a holiday because her colleagues would not cover—in line with union policy. Management gave in on her case but refused to give an undertaking that no-

one would be victimised for carrying out union policy in the future. Although not a complete victory, workers at the hospital have learnt that, with effective picketing, they can stop all supplies to the hospital—a valuable lesson for an anticipated fight against the cuts later this year.

ly given to direct labour. Estimates are being slashed to beat the direct labour tender.

But a clause in private building contracts stipulates that any increase in cost of materials, or in wage rises, will be reimbursed by the council.

So, of course, direct labour has to put in a realistic estimate to cover costs, while private enterprise make a meaningless one.

Ratepayers are subsidising private contractors' profit. One firm, Bacalls, recently received £800,000 from New-

castle council for a housing project and then declared themselves bankrupt. The money wasn't seen again.

Newcastle would not be Newcastle without corruption. The local council is rotten with freemasonry. Direct labour workers recently discovered a major indiscretion.

A director of a local building firm, Boweys, was a member of the housing committee. Mysteriously, direct labour was told not to put in tenders for contracts that Boweys won from the council.

The plasterers' shop steward told Socialist Worker that a new business manager named Chick lasted only three months. 'Chick knew too much. He was told he wasn't wanted and given a £6000 golden handshake.'

The same shop steward told Socialist Worker about a letter from Mike Thomas, Labour MP for Newcastle

East. Apparently the constituency party was not working class enough, and fancied having a few building workers along. Could he, the shop steward, please recruit some?

The steward wrote back: 'The Labour Party has broken all its promises to building workers. There are half a million on the dole, and you're asking them to join the Labour Party? We want nationalisation now.'

Sit

The Labour Party is showing itself adept at implementing Tory policies

UCATT members in South Tyneside are determined to fight against the redundancies and are linking up with other public service unions in the area.

In Newcastle the attitude is: 'We will refuse to take the sack when it comes. We'll sit in and take the business over.'

Merseyside battle over bus cuts goes on

By Tommy Healey

LIVERPOOL: Busmen are continuing with their non-cooperation policy at six MPTE depots in response to a plan to cut 104 buses.

Only half the buses were on the roads last week. The rest were kept in the depots by crews refusing to take them out because of defects.

Two depots, Green Lane and Gilmoss, decided to work to normal while Garston, Speke and Edge Lane are adamant that they will not talk cuts.

'Most passengers,' said Jimmy Murphy, Transport Union branch chairman, 'see that the fight is in their interests and support us.'

Minority

He said that when people were moved out from the city centres they were promised a cheap and efficient bus service. But if management get away with these cuts the service will be non-existent.

He added: 'The MPTE are saying to us "no redundancies" but we estimate with all the cuts to come, in the end it will be 225 buses cut, which in manpower terms is 675 jobs.'

Management have made a statement that the fight is led by a militant minority. This is quite true but unless those militants extend the struggle

to an all-out strike the MPTE will continue a divide and rule policy which is what they did at the two depots who dropped out of the fight.

A work-to-rule or a non-cooperation policy is a fine start, but it must be extended.

ON 1 JUNE, after many months of looking for work, I started on a Greater London Council site in Half Moon Crescent, Islington.

The following week the foreman decided I wasn't working hard enough, and gave me a day's notice. I pointed out to my Transport Union organiser that there was no productivity scheme and therefore no means of assessing my output.

Pressure

A more likely reason for sacking me was that the subcontractor I was working for—Cadogan—had found out that I had been blacklisted by Cubitts because I had been a convenor stewards on one of

their jobs. The organiser quickly put pressure on Cadogan and I was reinstated the following day.

A week later, as I was leaving at the end of the shift, I was attacked without warning from behind by a labourer who had started that day.

Six weeks later my ribs are still badly bruised from the kicking that he gave me while I was on the floor. The general foreman of Cadogan's happened to be passing and sacked both of us for fighting on the job!

The following Monday there was a picket outside the job with National Union of Teachers Rank and File members on it as well as

Even the factory inspector agrees...

ROCHDALE: Workers at the Laings bus station site stopped work last Friday in protest at appalling conditions, wages and bonus rates.

The site, which has about two years to run, has only recently been organised. The men are particularly angry at the way Laings are cutting corners to save costs.

Conditions are so bad that even the Factory Inspectors have threatened to take action. The toilets are under two inches of water; the canteen is a mess and the site is permanently littered with equipment and materials.

There are no clear storage areas.

The men are demanding a 40-hour week, a 100 per cent increase in the bonus rate, a pooled bonus scheme, an official afternoon break and a clean-up of the site.

Management replied by demanding an immediate return to work.

Persuade

The site agent, Arthur Boot—'Big-hearted Arthur', as he's known by the men—even went along to the strike meeting to persuade the men to go back to work.

This is the first major test of the new trade union organisation on the site.

Blacklisted—and beaten up

By John Newman, Chairman 1/720 branch TGWU

TGWU and UCATT members. All the concrete was stopped.

On Tuesday, I went round other sites and got support. The Building Group Committee of the TGWU voted to give my picket against victimisation full backing and recommend it be made official.

Casual

On Wednesday, Cadogan caved in and decided to accept that I had been assaulted. The following week I was back on the site with full pay for the time I had lost.

The main battle is yet to be won, however. The reason why the kind of intimidation used on me is so common on

the buildings is the casual nature of the work.

Sub-contractors operate with various degrees of illegality throughout the industry. Men who are on tax-exemption certificates (usually bent) find it very difficult to go straight and thus see unions as a threat to their livelihood.

On this so-called GLC site there are only six GLC direct-labour workers. A similar position obtains all over this town on council sites.

A large step in the direction of a safer, healthier, decasualised and better organised building industry would be the removal of all subbies from council contracts.

This is what all of us inside and outside the industry must fight much harder for.

Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday before publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send CASH WITH COPY (10p a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

Manchester Right to Work Disco: Saturday 28 August, 8pm. Victor Brox Blues Band Poly Union, Cavendish House, All Saints, Manchester Extension applied for Admission 75p, 35p for unemployed.

WORKERS BOOKSHELF: Socialist mail order book service offers wide selection of books on Marxism, labour history, women and international affairs. Pamphlets our speciality—over 60 titles. SAE for catalogue to Workers Bookshelf, 150 Foster Road, Trumpington, Cambridge.

CHILE—Don't forget National Demonstration: Sunday 12 September, Assemble 1pm, Clerkenwell, Green, London EC1. Organised by Chile Solidarity Campaign.

MANCHESTER Engineers Charter Meeting: The Way Forward. Speakers: Harry McShane (AUEW), Jimmy McCallum (IASS), Clive Hartley (AUEW convenor, Foundry Works, Sheffield). Wednesday 25 August, 8pm, Town Hall Basement Theatre, Town Hall Extension, Manchester.

Weekend Educational Conference at the University of East Anglia, on RACISM, IMPERIALISM AND APARTHEID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. 29-31 October. For further details please contact the Students' Union, University of East Anglia, NORWICH.

Notice

He declared work sub-standard and blamed it on us—even though the rotten work was completed and passed before we came on the site.

We were given seven days' notice and locked out. If Shanley's think that will sort us out, they can think again. We will continue our fight against robbers like this sub-contractor M Peters.

Our fight is for the right to work. But it's more, it's a fight to throw out labour-only subbies and for direct employment by main contractors.

In the face of government cuts, our fight is important. Big contractors and local authorities will cut costs by using cowboys in labour-only outfits.

We need to fight against the employers before they get too confident.

SUPPORT OUR FIGHT—FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK—DIRECT.

Messages of support to: Mike Presland, 8 The Crescent, Bedford.

PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

PICKET THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

Grand Hotel, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, Sunday 15 August, 12 noon. Organised by IWA(M) and IWA(ML). All IS and SW supporters in West Midlands to support.

India Independence Day Celebrations

Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, Sunday 15 August, 2pm. Hear Jimmy McCallum, prospective Socialist Worker candidate for Walsall North.

WARWICK: CALL FOR WALK-OUT

THE ceilings of most buildings at Warwick University are tiled with various forms of asbestos in unprotected or badly protected states.

The NALGO branch there recently discovered work being done on these tiles in the library, the administration building and the catering department with few if any precautions.

The worst area was catering, where thick asbestos dust was lying on the floor and being trailed round on workers' boots. The university safety officer was informed, and did nothing but send some memos. The Factory Inspectorate were called and offered to come in five days time!

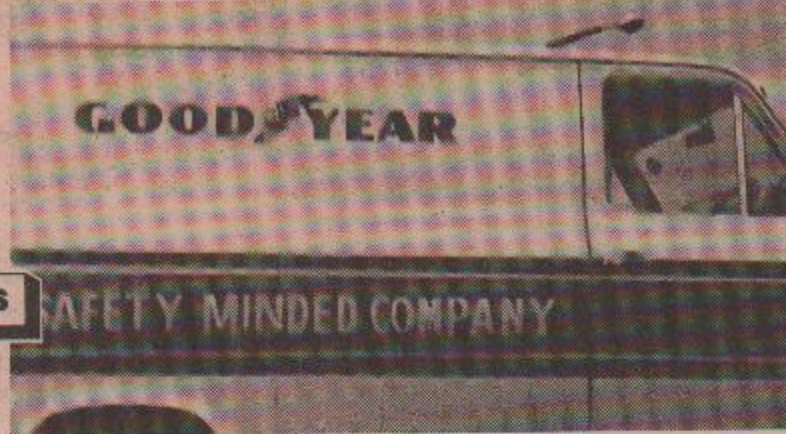
Members of the NALGO Action Group are calling for a walk-out



RIGHT: A Goodyear van

LEFT: Asbestos inside the plant

THE ONLY SAFE ASBESTOS IS BLACKED ASBESTOS



Asbestos blacking at Goodyear

GOODYEAR—the safety-minded company. What a laugh! Its Drumchapel plant in Glasgow has asbestos lagging on the pipes and boilers.

During the summer closedown, asbestos was removed from the top of the Baggomatics, tyre presses in which tyres are cooked for up to 30 minutes.

The loose asbestos was just pulled down with

hooks by the subcontractors, Darlington Insulation Company, who work for this safety-minded company. Clouds of dust floated through the air.

Asbestos hanging from pipes is being covered by aluminium, not replaced.

The Baggomatics have been blacked by electricians and plumbers at Goodyears. They are still waiting for the factory inspector to come in to check other pipes.

POSTMEN BACK STRIKING BINMEN

by JOHN REES
Stockport Right to Work Campaign

STOCKPORT: 270 dustmen are out on strike here in protest against the high-handed, arrogant behaviour of Stockport's Tory-controlled council.

Last week the council's time and study men tried to 'time' work on an estate in Heaton Norris which is plagued by a one-way system. The one-way system has infuriated the men for many months. The attempt to 'time' was deliberate provocation.

One binmen's gang of seven men refused to be timed. They were sacked.

Every binman in Marple, Cheadle and Gatley, Hazelgrove, Bredbury and Romley promptly came out on strike demanding the men's immediate reinstatement, money to compensate for the time on strike and a new bonus of an hour's pay a week.

Terrified by the men's solidarity, the council offered to take the men back—but refused the other demands.

At a mass meeting on Tuesday morning, the binmen contemptuously rejected the offer. 'We're out for the lot,' says Eddie Collier, one of the sacked seven.

The council have tried to distribute leaflets to houses on the estates putting their case in the strike—'all lies and distortion', says Eddie Collier.

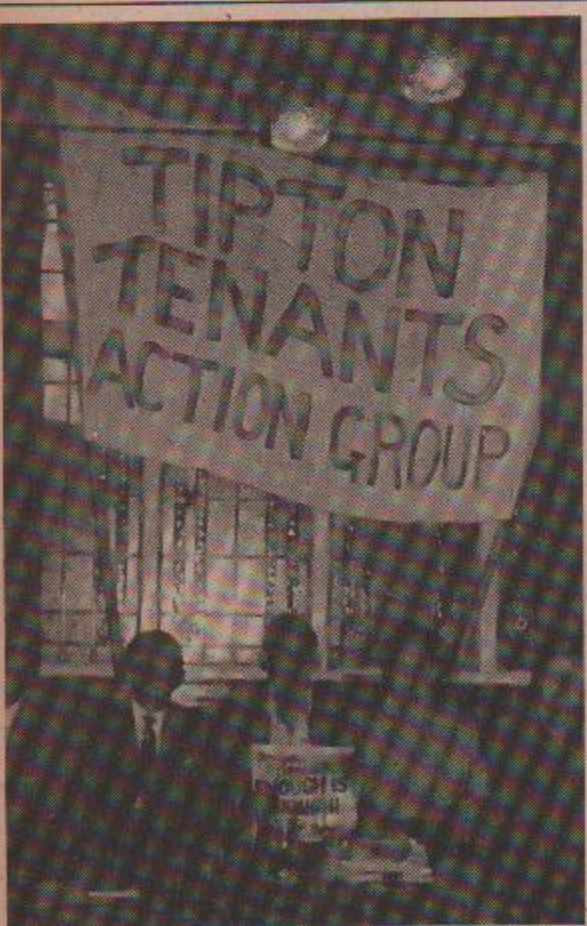
But the Union of Post Office Workers have refused to touch the leaflets—so has the local branch of the local government workers' union NALGO. Only a very few have been distributed, by scab labour.

Essex dustmen work to rule

MALDON, Essex: Council dustmen are working to rule following the high-handed treatment of one of their shop stewards, Derek Barnaby.

Derek was sent on a job which needed scaffolding and a ladder. When it wasn't supplied, he refused to work—then had his pay docked.

The dispute is the latest flare-up in a long-running battle between the council and the workers over plans to bring in contractors and so 'save' money by making men unemployed.



Tenants at a meeting called to fight the increases last week

TENANTS' PICKET STOPS COUNCIL

by PAUL BOLTON

MORE than 80 tenants picketed Sandwell Council on Tuesday last week to protest against rent increases of £1.50.

Anger mounted as one Labour councillor after another spoke against the Tories' hypocrisy while not opposing the rent increases themselves. As the meeting progressed, it became obvious that not one councillor was prepared to fight the rent increases.

All the fine talk was to keep the picket quiet.

Heckling began—and one Labour councillor threatened to take a protester outside. This was the nearest to a fight put up by any of the Labour Group.

Finally the councillors were forced to adjourn the meeting. The picket dispersed more convinced than ever that the councillors weren't going to be much use in this campaign.

More promising was the commitment from so many tenants, expressed by one woman: 'These councillors can debate and talk all they bloody well like. I shan't pay the increase.'

Former Front-backer gives £10,000 to Automat

WHO is the man who knows all about the internal affairs of the Engineering Workers Union?

The lucky fellow is none other than Winston Churchill MP, who has taken an active interest in the affairs of the Automat factory in Swinton, Manchester.

Churchill has been aided and abetted in his crusade by a certain Mr Gouret, whose latest conquests were the Tameside schools. He is a full-time paid troubleshooter for Aims of Industry, the bosses' right-wing pressure group.

The two have been at meetings inside the factory with Automat owner John Chamberlain.

The unholy alliance is being well-funded by extreme right-winger Tom Keen, who used to finance the National Front and describes Jack Jones as a rabble-raising communist. His £10,000 investment is used to produce Automat Unity, a scurrilous load of garbage claiming to be written by workers at the factory.

AUEW members at the factory have been on strike for seven months—over union recognition.

Strike

But it isn't only the bosses that they are having to fight. Some trade union officials are putting up a pretty tough battle.

Sid Weighell of the National Union of Railwaymen is following in the footsteps of historic leaders of that union, Jimmy Thomas of the NUR, sold out the miners in 1926. Now Weighell is telling Automat strikers that his union will not back Red Star parcels sent by Automat.

by a Manchester AUEW member

Fortunately some rank and file railwaymen are so disgusted they have started the blacking anyway.

Closer to home, AUEW district secretary Walter Mather delayed sending off strike pay receipts—so for three weeks they got nothing.

Two men had to go down to London to sort it out.

Mather has begun to obstruct the strikers' use of the union office.

The district committee has been asked to investigate a complaint that Mather had offered some of the strikers jobs in other factories early in the dispute. Strangely enough, Mather has gone on the sick.



ENGINEERS CHARTER public meeting: The Way Forward in the AUEW. Wednesday 25 August, 8pm. Town Hall, Basement Theatre, Albert Square, Manchester.

Speakers: Harry McShane (AUEW Govan and former secretary of the Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s), Clive Hartley (AUEW Foundry Section and convenor, Balfour Darwins, Sheffield), Jimmy McCallum (AUEW/TASS) ex-convenor, John Brown Engineering, Glasgow, Dougie Daniels (AUEW craft convenor, Chlorides, Manchester, and prospective candidate for Manchester AUEW district secretary).

Perhaps that's why he's only been seen on the picket line three times in the past seven months.

Manchester engineering shop stewards have called for a demonstration to support the Automat strikers. They will march from Swinton Town Hall to the Automat factory on Friday 13 August at 3pm.

Attempt

This could be the springboard for an attempt to bring the dispute to a successful conclusion. There is growing feeling in the district that they are just flogging a dead horse.

But the support from rank and file trade unionists in the district has been fantastic—consistently large pickets from Gardeners in Eccles, and massive support from

Stockport last week when 500 joined the picket line.

To help win this strike, three things should be done.

□ We need a regular weekly bulletin to inform the rank and file AUEW members in the local factories of developments.

□ The district committee sub-committee's findings on payment of the district levy and the rundown on payments to strikers should be published for the membership.

□ A well-organised Confed meeting should be called in the Houldsworth's Hall with the sole purpose of calling a stoppage or series of stoppages throughout the district to support our brothers at Automat.

This strike for one of our most basic rights—union recognition—is one we must win.



SUNDAY

This week THE EDITORS (BBC1) have a filmed report on the role of the National Union of Journalists and the scab Institute of Journalists in the press. The film crew was at the Buxton NUJ Conference during the best debate—the Barnsley issue, which raised the whole question of journalists' loyalty to the working class in their reporting.

They also filmed a Journalists' Charter meeting on press freedom.

MONDAY

If you can take any more of Auberon Waugh's drivel the second programme in THIS IS WAUGH (ITV 8.30pm) is focussed on the middle classes, who are 'running scared' of the socialists.

Followed by something completely different, BILL BRAND (ITV 9pm)

Shock plan to 'fail' one teacher in five

ONE in every five students at colleges of education is going to be deliberately failed in their exams.

That will be the result of a government circular when it becomes official. It instructs college authorities to fail more students from next year onwards.

The reason given is that the government is worried about alleged 'low standards' in teachers who are qualifying. That is rubbish. There is no evidence at all to support such a claim.

It is just a cover-up for the

AN advertisement for 13 teaching jobs at the new Edwinstone Comprehensive School in Nottinghamshire got 1,200 applications.

real reason behind this circular—the lengthening dole queues. More than 20,000 student teachers will be without jobs when the new term starts in September. Next year there will be even more.

These teachers have been thrown on the scrap-heap by a government which is only interested in cutting education costs to appease big business. It doesn't consider reducing class sizes—which would provide jobs for all unemployed teachers and benefit the children.

The proposal is an attempt to hide this. More 'failures' means fewer unemployed teachers.

They are even prepared to pay for these students training over three years, knowing that one fifth have no chance of

getting a diploma—let alone a job.

Tim Potter, a newly-qualified technical teacher from Garnett College, London told Socialist Worker: 'This shows just how low the government is prepared to sink in its cover-up of the 1½ million unemployed. It shows that we have to continue the struggle launched by the student occupations last term.'

'The first step will be the Right to Work march on the TUC in September. We need a massive group of unemployed teachers on that march.'

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Rolls-Royce workers occupy to save jobs

BLANTYRE, Lanarkshire: Engineering workers and staff at Rolls Royce have occupied the plant and given a resounding thumbs-down to management plans to close the factory. On Monday, after returning from

three weeks' holiday, the 470 workers voted almost unanimously to take control of the plant. They have announced a 24-hour occupation to force management to back down. They have known for some months that the bosses in the aerospace industry have been setting them up for the chop.

Rolls Royce chief Sir Kenneth Keith and his rich cohorts have been planning to get rid of 1000 jobs and step up productivity throughout the combine. The Blantyre workforce were told in January that this would mean closure and the transfer of jobs to the bigger Hillingdon plant more than 20 miles away.

The workers refused to accept the company's logic. They voted to oppose any attempts to move machinery or transfer workers.

Three weeks ago—just before the annual holiday—management made it known that they would start to transfer workers when the holiday ended.

It was obvious to shop stewards that this was the first move in a planned rundown of the factory. Convenor Willie Lynch told Socialist Worker: 'When the workforce met on Monday, they demanded that we occupy immediately. It was overwhelming.'

Local MPs and councillors have given verbal support but they have been powerless to get the government to intervene and save the factory.

Disaster

Blantyre is one of the smaller plants in the combine. But if it closes, it will spell disaster for an area already officially described as an unemployment blackspot.

John Simmons, secretary of the occupation coordinating committee, said: 'We can't see the company coming up with any compromise at the moment.'

'We've occupied to save the factory and protect the jobs for school-leavers in this area. We've organised a rota for manning the occupation.'

'Everybody is involved, all the unions are participating, and the occupation has official union backing.'

Willie Lynch said: 'We're looking for maximum support from the rest of the trade union movement. We're organising a meeting with trade union representatives from the other two Rolls Royce plants in Scotland, and from this we'll be hoping to organise support on a combine-wide basis.'

Threat

'We've already been given help from the local factories who are refusing to receive goods or machinery from our factory.'

If the Blantyre workers are to win, support has to be organised throughout the combine. If Blantyre closes, it will be a threat to every other Rolls Royce worker.

Donations and messages of support are urgently needed. Send them to John Simmons, 54 Ayton Park North, East Kilbride, Glasgow.

Rolls-Royce are also demanding 500 redundancies at the factory in King's Langley, Herts, by next March. Since January the factory has taken on 500 new workers!

SHEFFIELD FITTERS WALK OUT

SHEFFIELD: 300 fitters in the General and Municipal Workers Union are on strike at Sheffield's East Midlands Gas depot. They want a restructuring agreement which has been accepted by every other depot in East Midland Gas.

Under the present arrangements, the men are paid £37 a week after five years training, and are expected to do any work. Recently they have been burdened with a lot of paperwork—through which the management hope to 'lose' some of their staff.

TRICO WOMEN HIT LEYLAND

BRITISH LEYLAND are, in their own words, 'desperately worried' about the Trico equal pay strike in West London.

Cars from three Leyland factories are being delivered to dealers with only one windscreen wiper.

ILLEGAL

A spokesman told Socialist Worker: 'It's illegal to sell a car without windscreen wipers. To be honest, I don't really know whether it's all right to sell them with one wiper on the drivers' side.'

HELP THE TRICO STRIKERS: Take a collection, support the picket line. Trico-Folberth, Great West Road, Brentford (under M4 motorway). Or send it to: Trico Strike Committee, AUEW House, 1 Woodlands Road, Southall.

'We're running out of wipers because of the Trico strike, so we're fitting the relevant models with one wiper, and hoping the dealers can stock them.'

Trico blades are fitted on all MGs, which are made at Cowley; on Austin Princesses, made at Abingdon; and on Triumph Dolomites, which are made at Canley, Coventry.

As yet, there has been no threat to production. But it is no secret at Leyland that if the Trico strike continues, production will soon be affected at all three factories.

WIPER

Stocks of Trico blades held by Leyland have almost run out, and soon there won't be enough left even to fit the cars with one wiper.

Then the buck-passing—delivering one-wiper cars to dealers, and dealers delivering to customers—will have to stop.

Leyland have had more

difficulty in replacing their Trico blades than Ford's or Vauxhall's, who have obtained alternative supplies from abroad, chiefly from Germany.

If these supplies were blacked in the docks, Ford's and Vauxhall's would be even more seriously threatened than Leyland's.

But Trico management are

still able to get supplies out of their Northampton factory, which is not unionised.

Sidney Atkins, managing director, is so worried about production in Northampton that he travels there every week to give the women a pep talk.

The scab lorries which burst through the picket lines in London last week took their

London Engineers Charter Meeting SUPPORT THE TRICO STRIKERS

Kings Head, Acton High Street, (Acton Town tube), 8pm, Thursday 19 August. All Engineers welcome.

loads to Northampton. If your employer uses these haulage firms, get them blacked:

General Express Services, 105 Abbey Road, London E15

SDS Transport, 3 Gloucester Parade, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex.

Phoenix Freightliners, 105 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London

Trico management are now taking their case back to the Industrial Tribunal.

BLACKING

The union is blacking the Tribunal but management are bound to use its findings to try and get the women back to work.

The women engineers, who have been on strike for 13 weeks, are prepared to ignore whatever the management says, and stay out until they win.

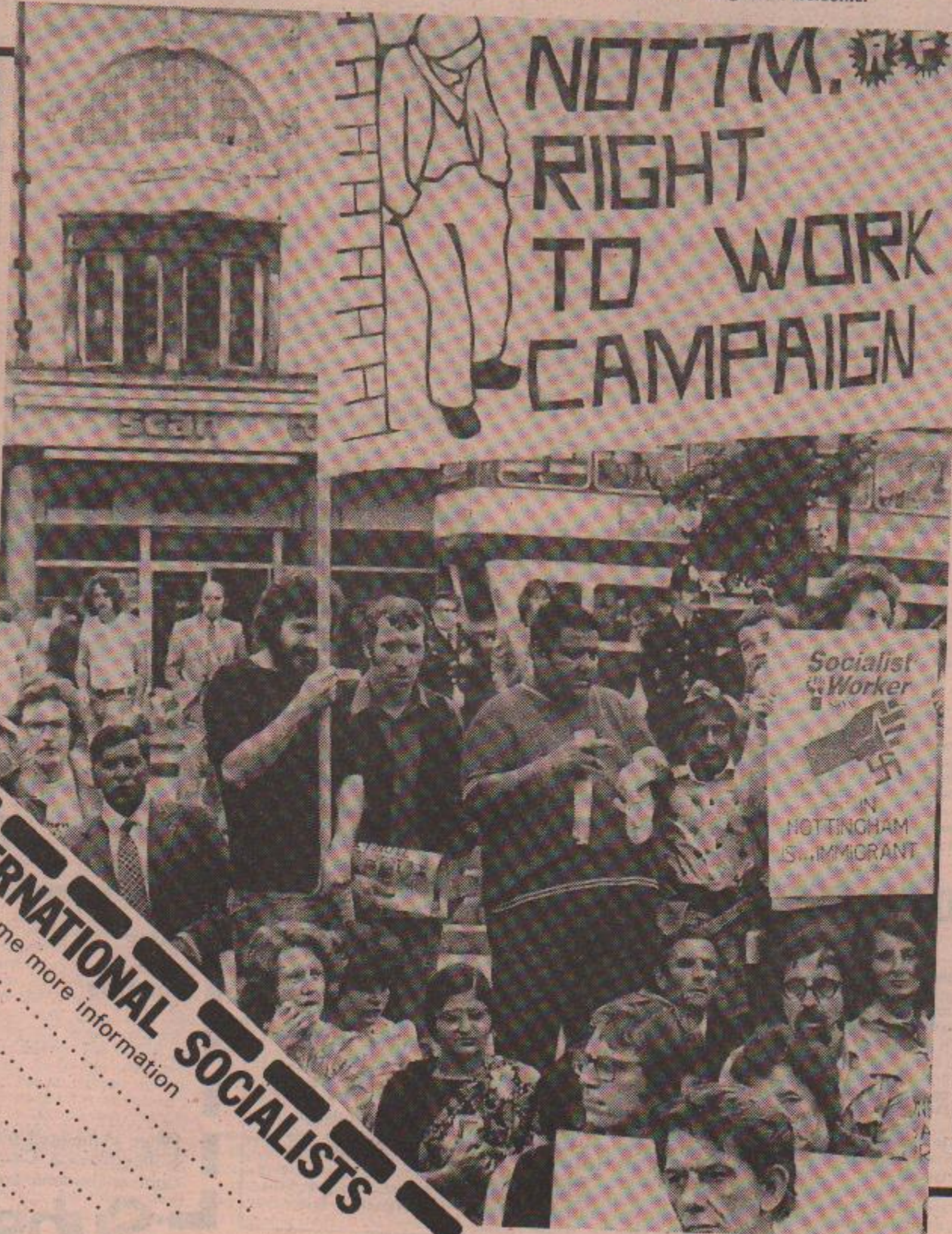
ANOTHER VICTORY RALLY AS NAZIS BACK DOWN AGAIN

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Name
Address
Trade union

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists & Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8JW



By Dave Croll

Three weeks ago the National Front got permission for a rally in Nottingham's Old Market Square.

Last Thursday they confessed: 'In the face of left-wing opposition, we have decided to call off the rally.'

International Socialists in the Nottingham area had organised a mass occupation of the square by black and white workers.

We produced thousands of leaflets and posters urging workers to turn out against the fascists.

We replaced the cancelled Nazi rally with our victory rally. International Socialists and local immigrant speakers spoke to 150 black and white workers. Jimmy McCallum of the IS Central Committee spelt out how the Right to Work Campaign is central to the fight against racism.

The National Front received two other blows. Radio Trent withdrew an invitation to their East Midlands Organiser after hearing of threats to occupy and picket the station.

And at Shipstones Brewery, action by the General and Municipal Workers Union has brought about the banning of National Front meetings in the Willerby Arms Hotel, their meeting place for five years.