

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

ADVERTISEMENT

National Right to Work Campaign
**TRADE UNION DELEGATE
 CONFERENCE AGAINST
 THE CUTS AND
 UNEMPLOYMENT**
 Saturday 6 November, Belle Vue,
 Manchester. Make sure your trade union
 organisation is delegated.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE TRAIN FROM LONDON: 7.45am from Euston (£4 return). Details of the train, and credentials, from the National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

JARROW:



40 years on—and they're marching for jobs again...

ON 4 OCTOBER, 1936 a group of 200 men marched out of the Durham town of Jarrow.

They were protesting at levels of unemployment that had wrecked their lives and deprived them of hope.

On Tuesday of this week, 5 October 1976, a group of 49 young men and women marched out of Jarrow.

Forty years after the first Jarrow march, they too have been forced to protest at a level of unemployment that wrecks lives.

In their town, one person in nine is on the dole.

The desperation of Jarrow 1936 was caused by the actions five years before of a Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald.

He had given in to the demands of businessmen and bankers in the middle of a world economic crisis.

He had cut public spending, cut schools, cut pay, cut social services. He had increased unemployment.

The desperation of young people in Jarrow 1976 is also caused by the actions of a Labour Prime Minister.

James Callaghan is also giving in to the demands of businessmen and bankers in the middle of a world economic crisis.

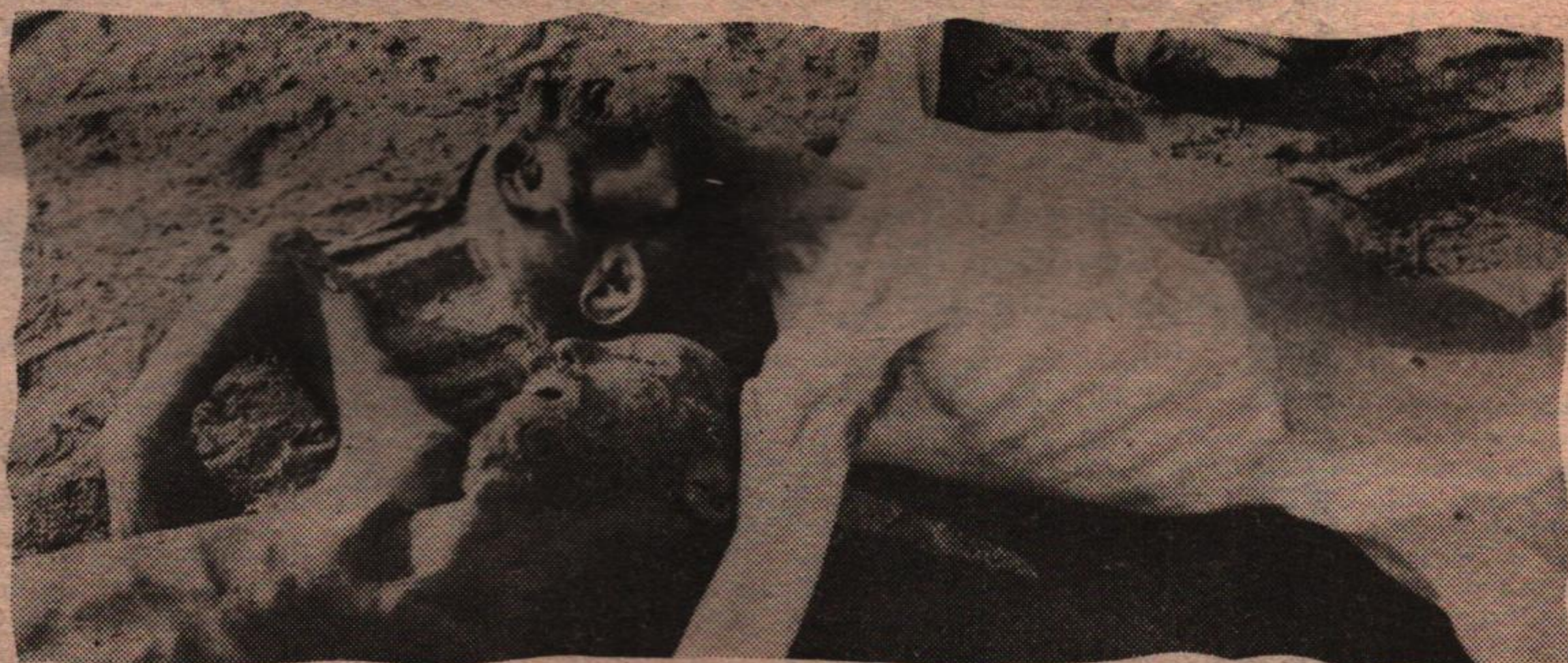
He is cutting public spending, cutting schools, cutting pay, cutting public services. He is increasing unemployment.

Politicians in the 1930s said these measures would solve the crisis. They made it worse.

That is why Tuesday's marchers called for support for the 6 November conference organised by the Right to Work Campaign.

At the conference, rank and file delegates from the trade unions will be able to prepare their answer to Callaghan, Healey and the bankers of the IMF.

POWELL THE POLITICS OF THE GAS CHAMBER



YES. That's what Enoch Powell was preaching on Monday.

He claims that he wants to 'persuade' black people to leave Britain.

But he knows very well that £1000 is not going to persuade

anyone.

Again and again, when the cry for repatriation has gone up, black people have insisted: No, we won't go. And quite rightly so. Their labour has helped build up British industry.

But Powell carries on, regardless. So if black workers and their families won't go voluntarily, how long will it be before Powell turns to the idea of forcing them to go?

How long, in other words, will it be before he starts welcoming violence as a means of repatriation?

Violence such as the murders of four 'immigrants' this summer—violence inspired by his speeches and perpetrated by his followers.

He knows the effect his speeches have. That's why he spoke again on race

last Monday.

He also understands quite clearly that if he can persuade working people to follow him on immigration, they will not notice the other things he stands for.

On Monday, for example, he declared that what mattered for him was race, rather than 'raising the standard of housing, of education, and of affluence generally'.

In fact, for a long time his own policy has been to worsen the standard of housing, education and social services.

He stands for cuts even more vicious than those of the government.

Only two days before Monday's speech, he defended high unemployment. 'Those who call for measures against unemployment', he said, 'are being cruelly and dishonestly deceptive.'

Powell is not the first politician to use race to distract attention from real social evils.

Nor is he the first to talk of 'repatriation'.

The programme of Hitler's Nazi Party spoke of 'the expulsion of all who had entered the Reich after 2 August 1914'.

There was no mention of gas chambers, or the murder of six million people.

But that's where it led...

INSIDE

The lies of Callaghan, bankers' man

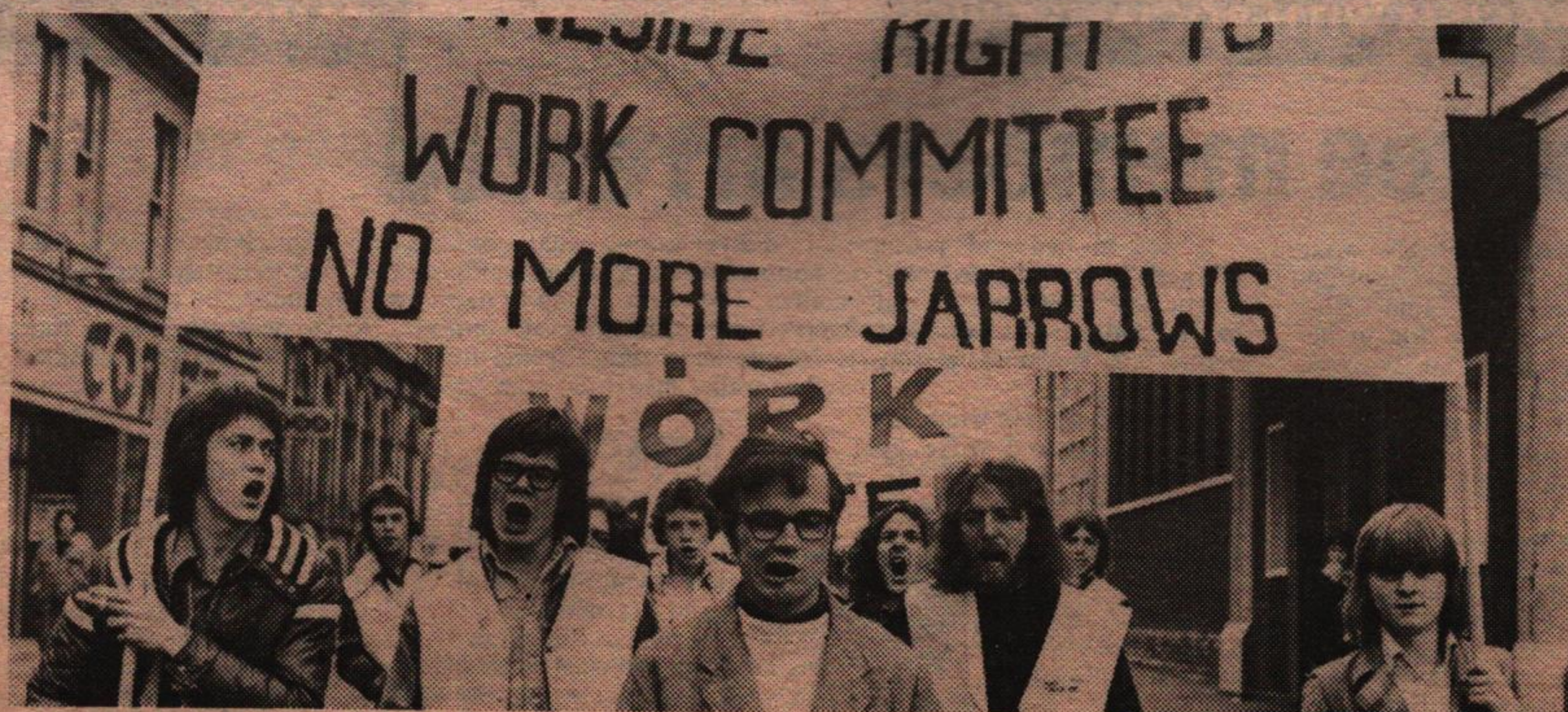
Page 8

WE WILL DESTROY APARTHEID



Soweto leader talks to Socialist Worker

Page 7



40 YEARS ON: Jarrow marchers on the road to Newcastle. More than 20 unemployed teenagers joined on route.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Police demand right to strike

By LINDSEY GERMAN

HUNDREDS of police shouted their general secretary down last week and demanded the right to strike. They were demanding a pay increase which would break the 4½ per cent limit.

Many people were probably surprised that the police—usually well paid—should have fallen behind and get so angry about it. After all, they're used to breaking strikes not starting them.

It caused an outcry from the press and London's Police Commissioner Sir Robert Mark—who claimed that such a strike would be illegal.

But the idea isn't so strange. In 1919 there was massive working-class unrest. Soldiers returning to the 'land fit for heroes' were greeted with rising prices, wage cuts and unemployment.

Miners, railwaymen and engineers all took strike action in 1919. The police too—fed up with rotten conditions and lousy wages—went on strike.

The British ruling class went berserk. To them this was the last straw. Bolshevism must be round the corner.

Who would they now use to crush strikes and disorder, if they could no longer rely on the police?

Illegal

Every effort was made to smash the strike. In Liverpool, a gunboat was sent up the Mersey. The strike was soon defeated.

Then the policemen who had led the strike were victims of the most vicious persecution. Many were sacked and even hounded after that. One was put into a mental hospital—for which he later got compensation from the Home Office.

And police strikes were made illegal.

Since then governments have usually tried to keep the police content by giving them preferential treatment over other workers. The aim has been to make them feel they have more in interest with those whose property they defend than with the class from which they are recruited.

For that reason, the authorities would now prefer to ignore their own pay policy and give the police, or at least some sections, a rise. But they are frightened that if they do, other workers will demand the same.

If sections of the police try to fight for the rise through strike action, then every device will be used to smash them. The special squads such as the Special Patrol Group, who have been used in the past against picket lines, demonstrations and black people, would be turned against the rest of the police.

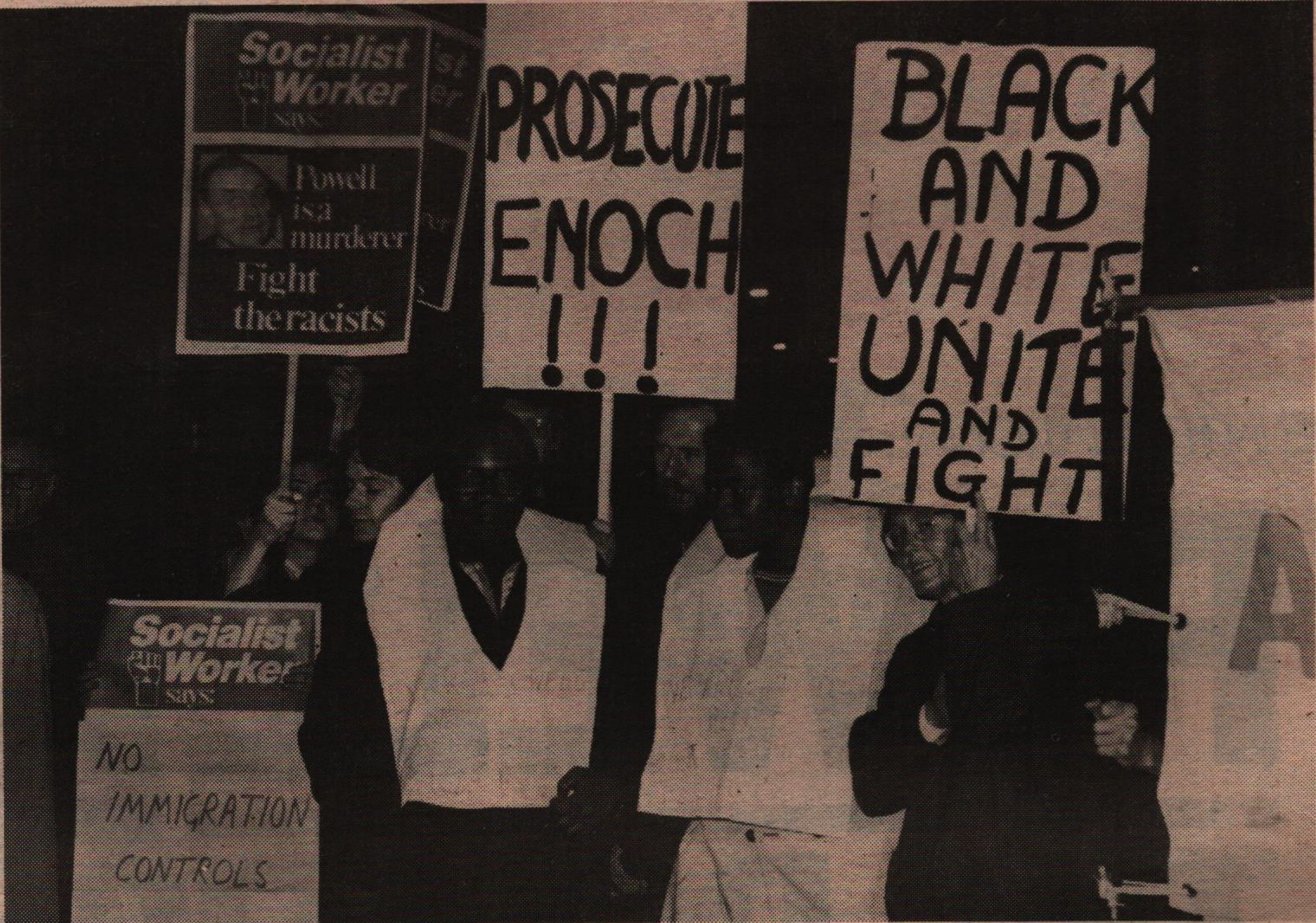
For there is one thing no ruling class can tolerate—that the police behave like workers.



Kevin Colfer and Sue O'Halloran

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER



How to smash Powell!

A HUNDRED anti-racist demonstrators picketed Enoch Powell's meeting in Croydon on Monday at he called for the government to spend £100 million on repatriating immigrants.

But the press largely ignored the demonstrators, instead giving heavy coverage to Powell's racist speech to 200 people and 150 empty chairs.

The newspapers did for once give some reply to Powell's arguments. But most accepted his main point—his claim that an increasing number of black people in Britain would be a 'problem'.

No one told the truth—that unemployment, bad housing and cuts in social

services are caused by the present rotten system of society. Those who claim there are too many immigrants are merely covering up for the profiteers and speculators who run that system.

Vicious

Tories such as William Whitelaw want to cover up for the profiteers as much as Powell does. So while Powell demands a vicious policy of repatriation, Whitelaw wants a nearly as vicious policy that would make it virtually impossible for the wives and children of immigrants to join them in Britain.

Some of the demonstrators at Croydon took up the call made by Labour MPs for Powell to be prosecuted for his speech.

Nothing would give Socialist Worker more pleasure than to see Powell rotting in jail. But experience proves we cannot rely

on racist judges and policemen to deal with such vermin.

What stopped Robert Relf displaying his racist slogan in Leamington? Not the law courts, but supporters of Socialist Worker who seized it and burnt it.

Indeed, the Labour government's official solicitor intervened to get Relf out of jail while the sign remained up.

The police will never stop Powell, the National Front and the National Party. But direct action by black people, trade unionists and socialists can.

Let's work together to drive the fascists off the streets now.

☐ Copies of the Socialist Worker poster in the photo are available from Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, £1.50 for 100.

The Battle of Brick Lane

FIFTY Socialist Worker supporters and members of the International Socialists went down to Brick Lane market in the East End of London last Sunday morning to sell Socialist Worker and stop the National Front from selling their racist NF News.

Brick Lane was a favourite stamping ground for Moseley's blackshirts in the 1930's and the Front

are obviously hoping to establish themselves in the area now. But things didn't turn out too well for the fascists, who were surrounded and stopped from selling.

A fight broke out when one Front member lashed out wildly and was arrested along with one of our comrades. After half an hour spent shouting ignorant abuse, the fascists

slunk off into a nearby pub.

While this was going on we held an anti-racist street meeting, gave out leaflets and sold more than 40 copies of Socialist Worker to shoppers.

An anti-racist fund is being started in East London to defend our arrested anti-racist demonstrators and finance the huge amount of anti-racist work being done in the area.

Socialist Worker National Day School **Black Workers in Britain**

Saturday 9 October, 9.30am to 5.30pm, Leeds Poly, Woodhouse Lane. 6pm: cheap meal followed at 8pm by social—disco, singers, snacks, drinks. Phone 0532-756624 or 01-739 9772 for details.

PICKET THE NATIONAL FRONT ANNUAL MEETING!

Support the call by Camden Council, picket Saturday 16 October, 9am onwards, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1.

☐ All London IS branches to support

THE National Front is organising another attack on the right of Asians in Walthamstow, East London, to worship as they choose. This Thursday they are picketing the council meeting to try and stop the conversion of a sarehouse into a Mosque.

☐ DEMONSTRATION against National Front picket: Outside Walthamstow Town Hall, Forest Road, 6.30pm, Thursday 7 October.

All Socialist Worker readers in North and East London are urged to attend. All IS members in East and Inner East London districts to support.

Guilty—of helping the police

EVEN if you help the police, and show signs of what they would call 'responsibility', you will still be found guilty of crimes you did not commit—if you are black.

This Rupee Ahluwalia found to his cost last Thursday when he was found guilty of assaulting a police officer and obstruction.

Rupee was returning home from the Temple in Southall in June, when the demonstration following the racist murder of Gurclip Chagger passed by, and he joined it. He quietly marched with the group while talking to a friend.

When a police van drew up, the crowd ran back, having had experience before of police vans. Rupee tripped in the hurry



and found himself under arrest and forced, face down, into the van where he was beaten by a policeman and called an 'Indian Bastard'. He cried that he had done nothing and was driven away at speed.

In court, to explain the doctor's report of bruising on Rupee, PC Baitey, the policeman in the van, said: 'He tried to escape from the back of the van so I had to hit him in the face.' It was claimed by the police that Rupee had tried to jump out of a fast-moving van, pulling two policeman with him.

In reply to this accusation, Rupee said: 'I am not a madman'. This statement of the obvious was later borne out when the court heard how, after being beaten in the police station, Rupee agreed to tell the crowd outside that he had not been charged, in order to avoid violence and further arrests.

Evidence was given to show how Rupee was at least 15 yards away from the policeman who claimed to have been hit by him.

The court chose to ignore all the other evidence and found Rupee guilty on both counts. He was given two fines and a suspended 6-months sentence.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

PTA Committee members arrested

SUE O'HALLORAN woke up on Tuesday morning last week to find nine policemen and a dog in her flat. They had come to arrest Sue, who is four months pregnant, and her husband Kevin Colfer, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA).

Sue and Kevin are both on the Trade Union Committee against the PTA. Sue described what happened.

'They let themselves in. They knew exactly which flat to come to because they had photographs of the house. They took away lots of our papers.

'I was in bed and I was allowed to get dressed, but Kevin was taken straight out to the hallway. It was just before 7am. Kevin was getting ready for work.

'I couldn't believe what was happening when I woke up and saw them there.'

Kevin, 28, and Sue, 30, were both taken to West Hampstead police station where they were separated, questioned, had fingerprints and photographs taken without explanation.

Later they were taken to Paddington Green police station.

'I was put in a cell,' said Sue.

'I didn't know what was happening to Kevin all this time. They kept saying to me: 'It's funny that none of your friends have rung', trying to demoralise me.

Picket

'In fact several people had been inquiring. I only heard about the picket outside when I was taken to another part of the cells and heard voices.

'They let me out the following morning and tried to keep me away from the picket, but by mistake we drove straight through it.

'I think the picket was a real

help. The police inside felt they had to justify themselves all the time.

Kevin was released at the weekend, but another couple were still being held.'

Anthony Cunningham, arrested at the same time, has since been charged with conspiring to cause an explosion. He appeared at Marylebone Court on Tuesday morning and was remanded in custody.

His wife Ena was released on Saturday night. Their 12-year-old daughter had also been interrogated by the police. The family live in Kilburn, but Anthony was born in Belfast.

SOCIALIST WORKER TOUR ON IRELAND

Speakers: Tommy Douras (building worker just returned from Labour Movement delegation to Ireland) and Gene Kerrigan (editor of The Worker, paper of the Socialist Workers' Movement). Plus socialist theatre from CAST.

Sunday 17 October: GLASGOW
Monday 18 October: MANCHESTER
Tuesday 19 October: COVENTRY
Wednesday 20 October: COVENTRY
Thursday 21 October: BIRMINGHAM
Friday 22 October: LONDON
Sunday 24 October: SOUTHAMPTON

Details from your local SW seller.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

ISURRENDER!

THINGS ARE going to get worse all round for every worker in Britain as a result of last week's sterling crisis.

That much is admitted by every newspaper and every established politician.

The fate of Britain, they tell us, is no longer in the hands of government ministers, but of the International Monetary Fund meeting in Manila.

The level of unemployment, the scale of further cuts in the social services, the rate at which prices increase—all will depend on terms laid down by this international gathering of bankers.

We have to accept these terms, they say, because the alternative is a complete collapse of the pound.

Then there would be apparently, 'three million unemployed' and 'a totalitarian government of the right or of the left'.

Last week, they say, was a warning of an even worse catastrophe unless we obey the bankers now.

There is one glaring hole in this argument. The pound does not collapse of its own accord. Pound notes do not buy and sell themselves.

It was individuals—very rich and powerful individuals—who decided to sell pounds last week.

They did so because they thought they could make a quick profit.

And they weren't all foreigners either, as the papers would have you believe.

Collapse

Many powerful British industrialists took time off from preaching about the national interest and national unity to make a quick profit themselves.

The IMF is an international organisation run by a selected number of these very individuals from different countries.

The bankers and industrialists sell the pound and cause a collapse in its value one week.

Then the next week they lay down their terms for bringing the collapse to a halt.

They can do so because that is how their system—the capitalist system—operates.

The sacrifices Healey and Callaghan say we have to make are sacrifices to keep that insane system going.

Once again a few rich

bankers make Labour crawl—but now we must stand and fight

MANY OF the speakers from the floor at last week's Labour Party Conference blamed capitalism for the crisis. A few of the resolutions passed rejected the cuts and unemployment.

But if anyone believes that the conference decisions are going to produce a fight against the government's policies they should think again.

Left MP Ian Mikardo admitted as much last week. He said the resolutions could not have been responsible for the run on the pound—because the international bankers knew that conference decisions did not affect government policy.

Fightback

So where is the fight back going to come from? It is going to have to come from the rank and file organisations of trade unionists.

The Right to Work Campaign, which has been in the forefront of the protests of the unemployed, has called a conference for 6 November.

This will provide an unparalleled opportunity to discuss how to fight the cuts, unemployment and the wage controls. It

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

will help lay the basis for a real rank and file movement.

Some people in the trade union movement have been arguing against the conference because it is 'unofficial'. But there is little choice. It is an unfortunate fact that most of the big unions are refusing to fight government policy. Someone has to take the initiative.

If workers in unions such as NUPE that are officially opposing the cuts want help from other trade unionists, they too are going to have to form unofficial links.

The conference provides an excellent chance to build them.

Occasionally it is claimed that the conference will be an 'IS front'. What nonsense. Of course, IS members have been prominent in the Right to Work Campaign. It would be a disgrace for IS if it were otherwise.

Activists

But many rank and file members of the Labour Party and Communist Party—as well as workers belonging to no party at all—have also been active in it.

Mike Lynch, who is now facing six months in jail after the police attack on the first Right to Work March, is chairman of his local Labour Party.

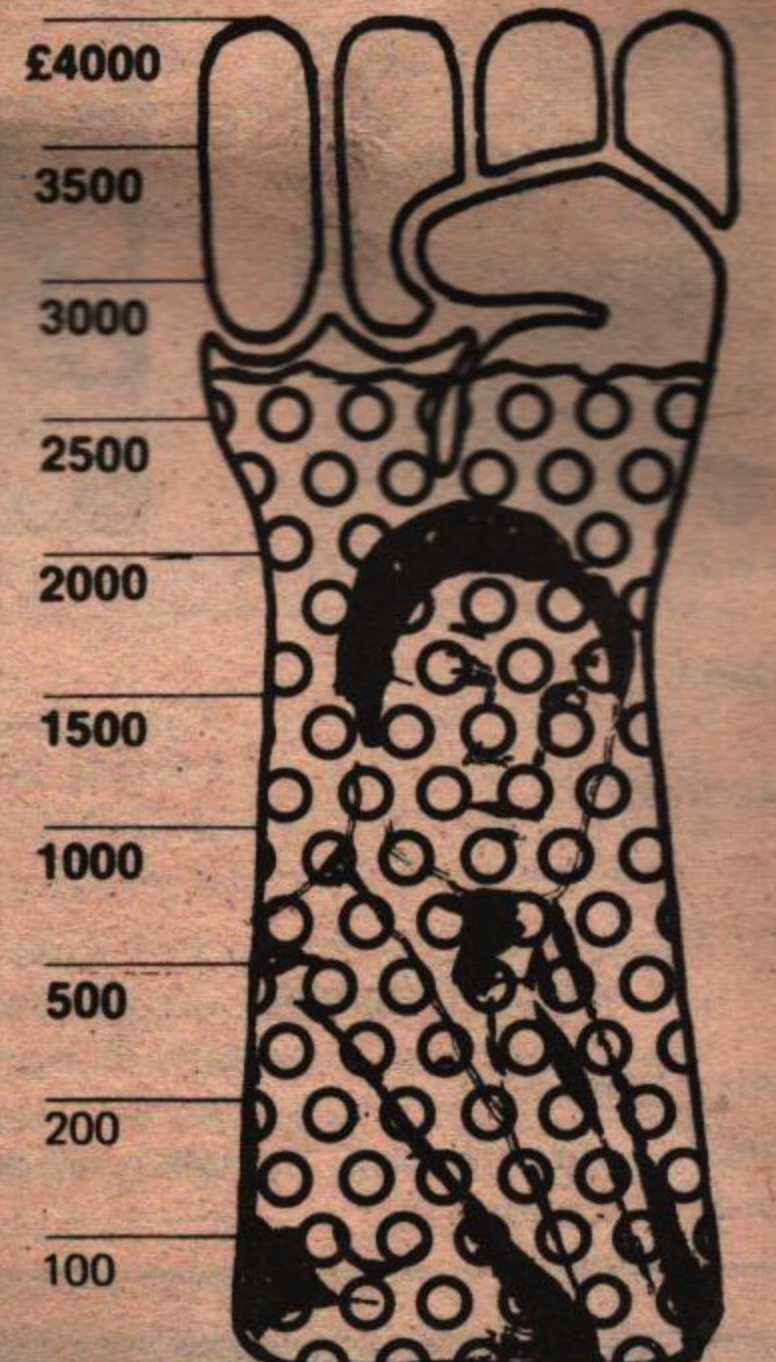
He told Socialist Worker last week that the best form of defence for him lies in a successful conference on 6 November.

Labour Party members who really want to fight the government's policies should bear Mike's words in mind and fight for their trade union bodies to send delegates.

And then the cowards who flinch, and the traitors who sneer, sing the Red Flag once a year...



Socialist Worker DEFENCE FUND



WE HAD to fork out another £1000 this week to Frank Chapple's lawyers—the latest instalment on what we owe after the recent legal action by the electricians' union leader.

It is money we can ill afford if we are to maintain our activities against racialism, unemployment and the cuts.

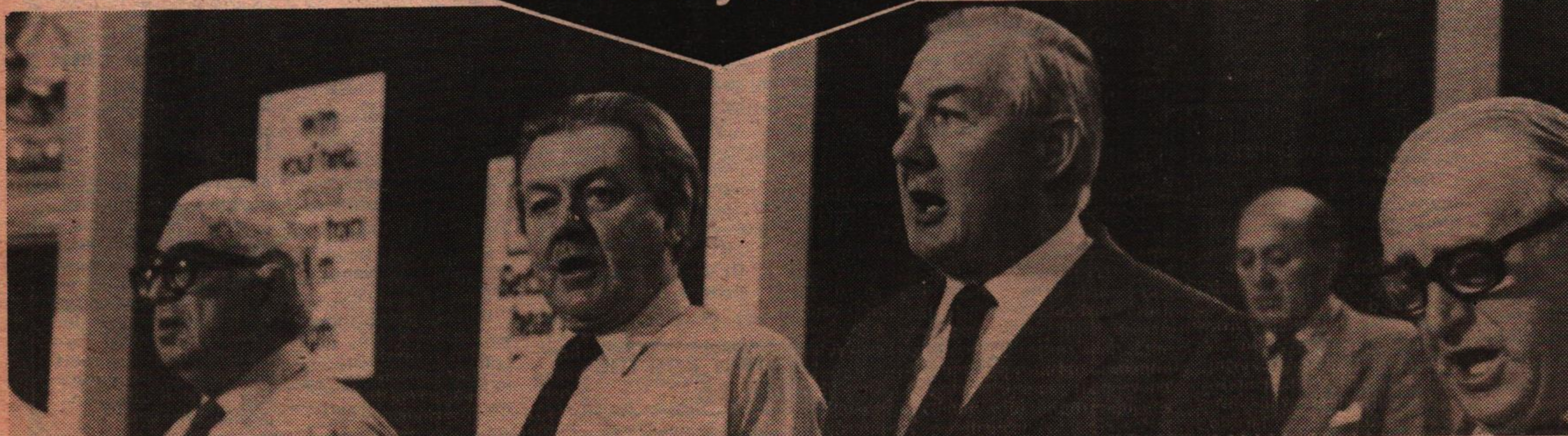
Clearly, many of our readers who are not members of the International Socialists appreciate this. Week after week, donations to our defence fund have flowed in.

But collections from IS branches are flagging. So this week's total, £184.05, has not been nearly enough to reach the £1,000 we had to pay out.

We need you to dig deep if we are to pay off the rest and expand our political activities in the next few weeks.

Our thanks to:
 Brian Starkey £2; Barnsley IS and SW supporters £6; Mrs F Hughes £1; anon £5; Wolverhampton UCAIT readers £2.65; G Cumming £1.50; C Raikes £2; Ossie Lewis £100; J Lomas £1; M McHenry £1.50; York IS £20; Walthamstow teachers IS £12; Chesterfield £1.40; Southend £3; Ipswich IS £10; Black Country IS £5.

Send donations and collections to SW Defence Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



TELL US WHY YOU JOINED...

WHY did you join the International Socialists?

We want new members to write and tell us.

If you are thinking of joining but want to clear up a few questions, drop us a line and we'll try to answer them.

Make sure your branch and district carries reports on new members and new Socialist Worker sales.

Send us your experiences and ideas on how to help build the Socialist Workers Party.

Write to SW Page, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.



BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

WALSALL:



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

VOLUNTEERS wanted for the Socialist Worker prospective parliamentary candidates Ken Appleby, (Birmingham Stechford) and Jimmy McCallum (Walsall North)

Both candidates are in urgent need of volunteers to help the campaign. Especially welcome are typists, workers with motorcars and motorbikes. We will be campaigning

throughout October and early November.

If you have an autumn week's holiday, why not spend it in the Midlands?

Individuals who can spend a weekend, a day or an evening are urged to help.

Readers and supporters of Socialist Worker are asked to give time to the campaign.



I want to help the Socialist Worker candidates.



Name

Address

Telephone

When I can help

Send to Jim Nichol, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

We're on the move!

THE Socialist Worker campaign in Walsall is producing results.

Socialist Worker is running Jimmy McCallum as prospective parliamentary candidate for Walsall North in the coming by-election to replace John Stonehouse.

It is not a vote-winning exercise. Socialist Worker wants to use the election campaign to create a network of members and contacts.

The first major success came last week when more than 100 people attended a Socialist Worker public meeting addressed by Paul Foot and Jimmy McCallum.

Temple

Six people joined—two busmen, two women members of NUPE, a teacher and a Transport Union storeman.

The new Walsall branch now has nine members, and

another five people have been recruited to other branches in the Black Country.

One of the new recruits, Avtar Singh Baines, took Jimmy McCallum to a meeting at the Sikh temple in Albion Street.

Jimmy explained why he is

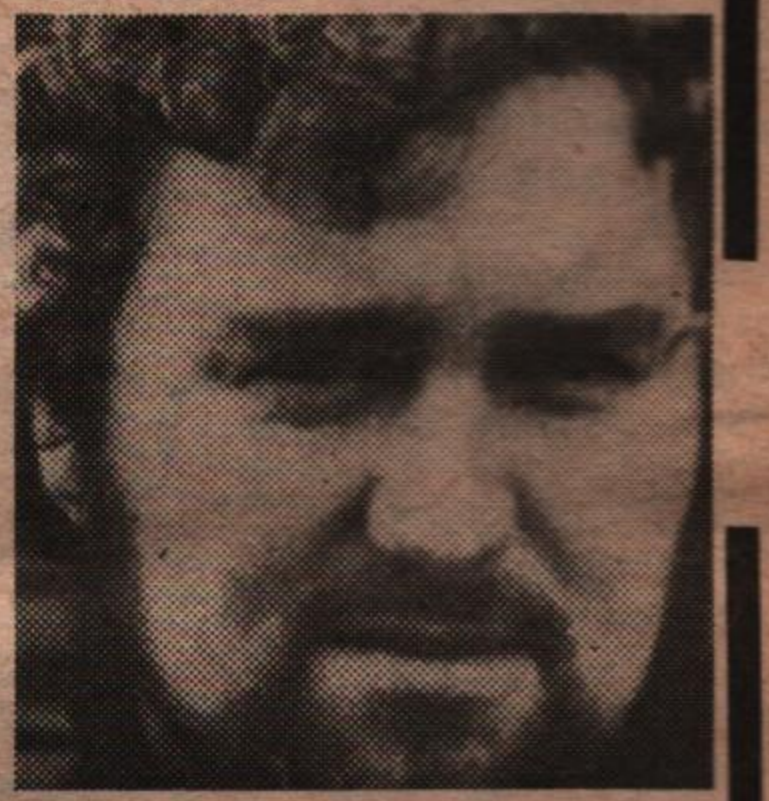
ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS - SO I'M JOINING

BUS DRIVER Jim Loughran is one of those who have just joined IS in Walsall. He writes:

They say action speaks louder than words. That's one good reason I would support a Socialist Workers Party. I believe that Socialist Worker is the spearhead of a genuine workers' movement.

It goes without saying that it does not matter what colour, creed or nationality you are, you are still welcome as comrades to the Socialist Workers' Party.

I have been a Labour Party supporter since the day I was born. But you gradually learn that all is not what it should be. A so-called socialist Labour Party is not necessarily a party which carries out true socialism.



A women's party, too!

IF WE ARE GOING to build a revolutionary party, IS women must ensure it has lots of women members—and that it fights hard for women. That was the message of the latest women's weekend school in Manchester.

All of the 40 women present agreed that Womens Voice needed to be less of a pale image of Socialist Worker, and that the women's sub committee needed to be better organised. It was also felt that an urgent push needs to be made to get women delegates to the 6 November conference called by the National Right to Work Campaign.

to stand in the election. The leader of the temple announced that he hoped everyone would support Socialist Worker, since they were the only ones really fighting the racists.

Jimmy McCallum has now issued a public challenge to the Labour candidate, David Winnick, to take part in an open debate on the cuts and Labour's record.

The meeting is being held on Tuesday 19 October at Bloxwith Library Theatre, Elmrow, Bloxwich, Walsall.

But more volunteers are needed to help during the campaign. The local branch is too small to cope with all the demands and to take advantage of all the opportunities.

GLASGOW: 25 new members in one month

TWENTY-SEVEN people have joined Glasgow IS in the last month.

'Some of the new members have been sympathisers for quite a long time,' said Socialist Worker organiser Alan Borrell.

'We said to them—isn't it

about time you joined?' Some of the other new members had come across Socialist Worker only recently.

'Many others who joined did so,' Allan added, 'because of the Right to Work march to Brighton and the way IS fought to make it a success.'

Among the new members are ten unemployed workers who were on the march.

Railway

Others include three members of the electricians union, and two members of the white-collar railway union, TSSA, who were in the Labour Party.

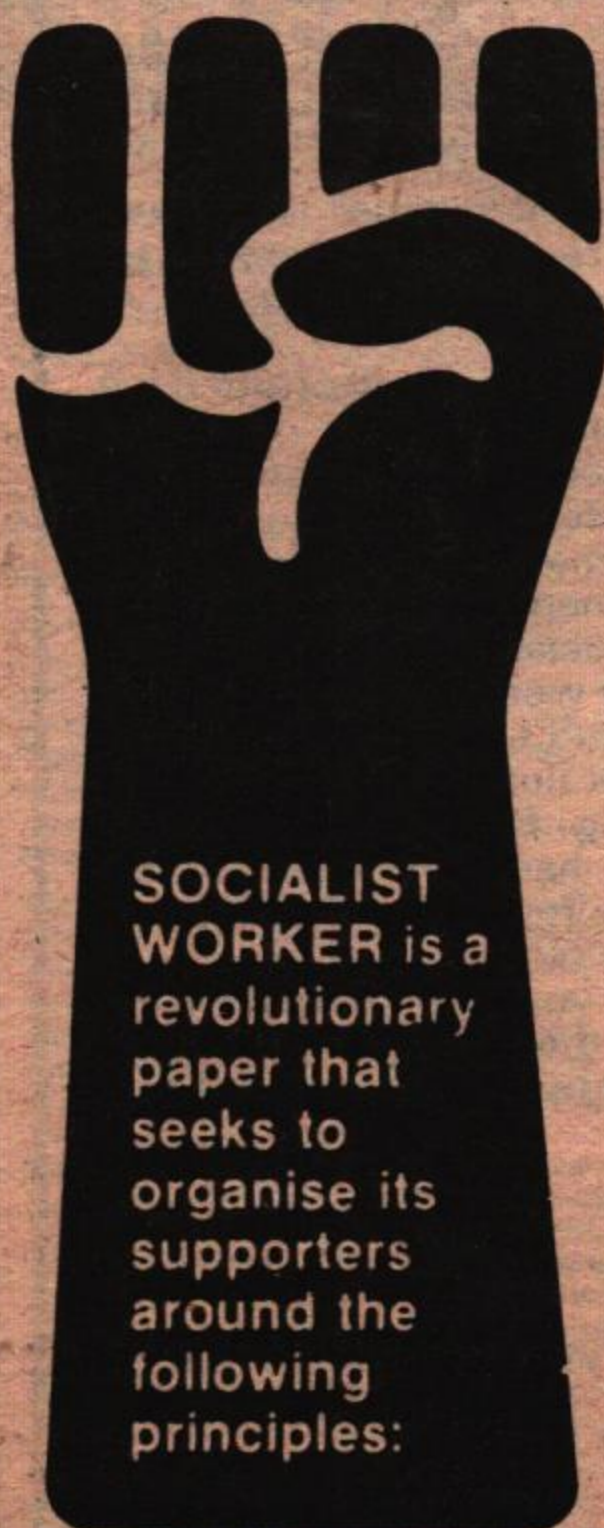
Two bus drivers have joined. Other recruits include a member of the foundry section of the AUEW, a member of the GMWU, two students and a building worker.

EVEN IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS...

ANOTHER unexpected growth area is the Channel Islands. Three people have asked to join there recently.

One wrote: 'Please send me details of membership of IS... you may realise that the working class in Jersey are among the worst repressed in any part of Europe—this place will be the last bastion of capitalism.'

WHERE WE STAND



INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and

a workers' militia.

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

INTERNATIONALISM

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

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose 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 an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

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.

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

THE SECOND Right to Work trial ended last Friday amid shouts of 'police lies' from the crowded public gallery.

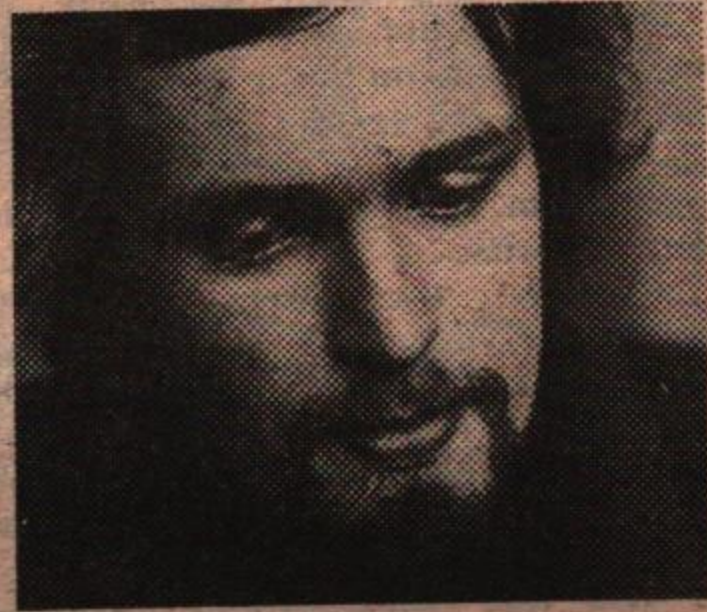
Steve Kind and Eric Cameron—two of the 43 Marchers charged after the battle at Staples Corner last spring—were given suspended jail sentences of three months and fined £25.

Three others, Tommy Kayes, Joe Trujillo and Kevin Burridge, were cleared.

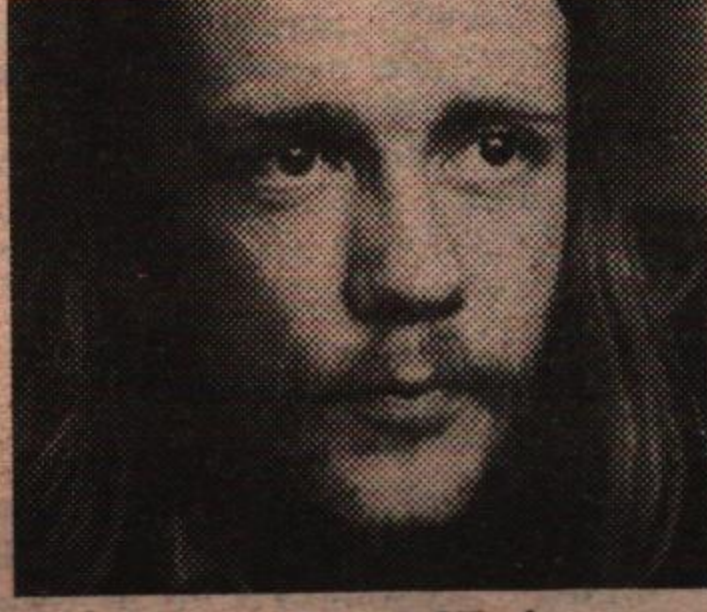
Steve and Eric were found guilty of assaulting the police—a curious conclusion even for the Hendon magistrates to arrive at.

(The chairman of the bench, Mrs Pamplin, is the wife of a Tory alderman on Barnet Council.)

Two fined, 3 cleared



CLEARED... Tommy Kayes



FINED... Steve Kind

Steve Kind produced in court a fistful of hair which had been torn from his head.

But this the magistrates chose to ignore, preferring to believe that Steve, an asthma victim, and Eric, who has poor sight, would seek to take on the heftily built PCs Concanon and Wright.

Police lies have so far been a marked feature of the trials. But in this case they really overstepped the mark.

Two goons from the Special Patrol Group at Scotland Yard described in remarkably similar statements a 'rain of missiles' thrown by Marchers at the police, which included

bricks, stones and large lumps of concrete.

PC Gunnill said under oath that the road was 'strewn' with bricks and stones.

Unfortunately, no-one else, including four independent witnesses, saw these fearful projectiles.

Defence counsel Lord Gifford

told the court: 'There was no rain of missiles, there wasn't even a drop, and these two (Gunnill and Whitman) are a pair of unscrupulous liars.'

PC Gunnill also claimed to have heard shouts of 'over here brothers, let's get them, let's kill the pigs'.

It was all too much, even for the pro-police magistrates, who have already sentenced Mike Lynch to six months imprisonment.

They cleared Joe Trujillo who was said to have kicked a policeman, when it was revealed to them that he wasn't wearing any shoes at the time because of sore feet.

The court came to life after the two guilty verdicts were announced. Eric Cameron and Steve Kind made speeches to loud applause from the

public gallery.

Steve said: 'This has been a political trial against the Right to Work Campaign, which is the only real fight against unemployment.'

'But me and Eric are going to appeal and force the lies of the police down their throats.'

Eric called for the Director of Public Prosecutions to take action against the police for perjury.

THE NEXT group of marchers come up on trial on Monday 18 October.

There will be a picket of the court each morning from 9.45am onwards. Make sure you support it and that the public gallery is packed with supporters.

Trade union organisations and local Right to Work committees should choose a day or arrange a rota

Defend
the Right
to Work
Marchers

JIM BLAKE
reports the
second
trial

ADVERTISEMENT

Some questions you asked about the Right to Work March. And some honest answers

1 The police claim the Right to Work Marchers attacked them just north of Staples Corner on 19 March. Is this true?

The police are asking you to believe the unbelievable. They're saying

That a highly-disciplined march, which had come 300 miles without incident, suddenly and for no reason turned into a vicious mob.

That the marchers chose to do this outside a police station

That they did this just hours before they were due to be welcomed by a big demonstration and rally

As Lord Gifford, defence counsel in the first trial, put it: 'This, in my submission, is inconceivable.'

2 What did happen outside West Hendon police station?

A couple of policemen moved in to snatch a march banner—after first having tried unsuccessfully to pull one of the leaders out of the march for an 'interview' about its route, which had already been agreed with the police.

In trying to get the banner, they punched one of those carrying it in the face. This was done without provocation. The marchers held on to the banner and formed up again to carry it.

But the march was not allowed to move off. Instead the police attacked it. After the first incident, there were three attacks, each more brutal than the one before. Not surprisingly, the marchers offered some resistance.

3 Why should I take your word for all this? After all, the Right to Work Campaign is an interested party.

Look at the report of the independent trade union inquiry set up by Barnet Trades Council (available from 16 Yew Grove, London NW2 3AD). It stated:

'... the incident touching off the whole sequel of violence was an attempt by the police to take hold of one of the march leaders and seize the lead banner.'

There was no evidence before the committee to justify such an action and in the absence of police or other evidence (the police were asked to give evidence but refused) the committee was unable to establish why the police acted as they did.

... the committee had evidence, which it accepts, from marchers and independent observers of excessive and indiscriminate violence by the police during all these incidents and also in the police station.

There was also evidence of injuries to the police and of marchers fighting back. But this does not excuse:

- Dragging people by the hair
- Throwing a national newspaper reporter's notebook over a police van.
- Beating up an unconscious man
- Telling a marcher 'Why don't you fuck off to Russia?'
- Indiscriminate use of truncheons
- Kneeing a marcher in the groin and delivering a karate chop to the neck
- Jumping on a man's stomach in a police station
- Telling a marcher in the police station to get on his knees and crawl to the cell.

4 You say it was an independent inquiry? Who sat on it?

They were: Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union and a member of the National Executive of the Labour Party; Jack Collins, a Kent miner and member of the National Union of Mineworkers' national executive; Jack Morrish, Group General Secretary of the Society of Civil Servants; Syd Bidwell, Labour MP for Southall; Dolly Sewell, a shop steward at Patent Die Casting; Chris Soutar, a trade union convenor at Oliver and Thoms; Mike McGrath, a member of the executive of the Civil Servants' Union, CPSA; Ian MacDonald, a barrister and Vincent Flynn, former general secretary of the print union SOGAT.

5 You say that the march was attacked by the police. Yet the defendants were found guilty of police assault. Surely the police couldn't have got a false verdict

through a court of law?

The police regularly obtain guilty verdicts against innocent people. They got them against Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson in 1973 thanks to the Conspiracy Laws. Unlike these two, the Right to Work marchers never even got the option of a jury trial!

They were arrested under the Police Act. This gives the police, but not the accused, the choice of a jury trial. In this case they chose a magistrates court. They even dropped more serious charges in the case of defendant Pete Fysh so that he couldn't take the case before a jury.

According to a new book by legal writer Pat Carlen called Magistrates Justice, the police manipulate these courts with consummate ease.

6 Aren't you exaggerating when you say the police attacked the March?

No. Dozens of photographs show what they did. The police are doing such things more and more often. Remember that the same police divisions which went for the Right to Work March were involved in the attack on the Carib Club, in breaking up the Notting Hill carnival and in swooping on the Smith's Industries picket line during a recent strike.

Sometimes cases of police assault against trade unionists have been proved. Remember the Roberts Arundel strike in Stockport in 1967. The police were forced to pay damages for assault though none of them ever went on trial for the offences.

7 So what can people like me do to help the Campaign and the defence of the Right to Work marchers?

Support the Defence Fund. The case is going to be expensive. Many items are not covered by legal aid. Many of those arrested have families who need support. Some witnesses and defendants are having to travel from Scotland or Liverpool or Newcastle to consult solicitors and attend the trial. All this is costing a lot of money.

It is now clear that some of the fines are going to be crippling for unemployed workers, unless enough money can be collected to pay them. Already one unemployed worker, Mike Alderson from Bristol, has been fined £50 on top of a three-month suspended prison sentence.

Collection sheets are available from the defence campaign. Make sure they are circulated in your workplace, in your trade union, in pubs, community centres and so on.

All trade union and labour organisations should be asked to make a formal contribution to the Defence Fund as well as authorising an official collection.

Make sure the resolution published below is passed as widely as possible. To ensure support, leaflets and fact sheets are available from the Defence Fund. Produce your own leaflets. Put an article in branch and stewards bulletins.

That is the only way to counter the lies in the newspapers about 'bully boys' and so ensure that trade unionists and workers everywhere know what really happened. Invite one of the defendants to speak at a meeting.

Support the marchers during the trial. Arrange a rota to attend the trial from the public gallery or send a delegation to see what is happening and to report back. Make sure your organisation is committed to support demonstrations and pickets in support of the defendants.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

This branch/shop stewards' committee calls on the Home Secretary to cancel any more prison sentences against Right to Work Marchers and release those already sentenced. This branch/shop stewards committee further supports the call for a public inquiry into the events at Hendon issued by the independent Trade Union Inquiry set up by Barnet Trades Council.

Send copies of resolutions and collections to Ernie Roberts, Honorary Treasurer Defence Fund, 265 A Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

He knows the left-wing MPs, for all their words, will never really oppose the Labour government. But, beyond them, a tide of discontent is beginning to rise . .

Callaghan's contempt

'AN UNWISE resolution, an ill-judged statement, can knock £200 million off the reserves in a minute,' bellowed Denis Healey at the Labour Party conference, 'or add 20p to the price of goods in your shopping bag in a minute. It has happened.'

This, the man argued, was a decisive reason for supporting the policy of preserving at all costs the very financial institutions and arrangements which make it possible for a handful of speculators to have such an enormous influence! If there was a prize for the daftest argument of the week, this one should

surely beat all comers. But it served its purpose all the same. The conference overwhelmingly endorsed Healey's policies. Yet the same conference, on the same day, endorsed a resolution calling for the nationalisation of the banks and insurance companies.

Contempt

It had already condemned the cuts, strengthened the left on the national executives by voting in Norman Atkinson as party treasurer, and inflicted a number of other revolutionary defeats on the right wing. What are we to make of all this? Of course Labour Party conference resolutions, as such, are not worth the

paper that they are written on. A small but revealing incident occurred early on in the conference. A motion on the agenda opposed direct elections to the so-called European parliament. It was carried by a two to one majority.

Crosland, the Foreign Secretary, said in advance that whatever conference decided it would make no difference. The elections would go ahead regardless. And there was no move whatsoever to attempt to discipline this arrogant fellow.

Now this contemptuous disregard for conference decision was on an issue that by no means threatens to overturn the capitalist system. Indeed, even some Tory MPs oppose direct elections. And so it must be obvious to a bright child of five that proposals that really

alarm big business, nationalisation of banking and insurance for instance, do not stand the proverbial snowball in hell's chance of being carried out by the Callaghan government.

Now the Labour lefts are not morons. They know as well as anyone that the conference is a charade.

They know that, as the Guardian put it, 'the real battlefield is among the international bankers and currency speculators'. And they know that Callaghan and Healey are absolutely determined that the battle shall be fought on the terms dictated by the bankers and speculators.

They know, in short, that whatever 'victories' the left gained at Blackpool are meaningless, so far as any effect on government policy is concerned. So what do they think they are achieving?

'I genuinely believe,' said Mr Benn at the Blackpool Tribune meeting, 'that we are now, in this government, realising the implementation of Clause 4' (ie, 'the common ownership of the means of production etc').

If Benn really believes that, he might as well believe that the recent drought was caused by witchcraft or that the run on the pound was caused by little green men in flying saucers from Venus.

But, of course, Benn does not believe a word of it.

He is engaged in a deliberate and cynical exercise in political deception: keeping his place in Callaghan's cabinet while cultivating a 'left' image as insurance for the future.

Bankers

Some of the others are not cynics. Some of them, even among the MPs, are genuinely horrified at the government's bootlicking of bankers, profiteers and speculators, here and abroad.

The trouble is that they cannot bring themselves to fight the cuts, mass unemployment, falling real wages and the policy of staking everything on making capitalism work by giving the capitalists practically everything they ask for.

They know the policies of the government are disastrous—even for the Labour Party in the long run—but they cannot bring themselves to break with the government.

Callaghan and Co know it. That is why they can afford to treat the lefts with contempt.

This said, there is another sense in which the anti-government resolutions do have some significance. Not in themselves, but as indicators of a rising tide of discontent.

It will grow. The prospects for the fight against unemployment and the cuts by working people themselves are getting brighter.

The 6 November conference, the 17 November day of action and much more to come.

These things, not paper resolutions, are what count.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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ABORTION CAMPAIGNERS—THE LATEST VICTIMS OF BRITAIN'S POLITICAL POLICE...

BRITAIN'S political police—the Special Branch—have now taken to spying on women campaigning for abortion on demand.

Last month, 20 supporters of the National Abortion Campaign picketed a public meeting held in Braintree, Essex by the anti-abortion Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

The picket—and the angry exchanges inside the meeting—were reported on the front page of the Braintree and Witham Times.

Soon after, acting editor Dave Dunford received a request for photographs of the pickets which had not been published. It came from Ian Ormes, a crime reporter on a sister paper, the Colchester Evening Gazette.

Ormes explained that they were wanted by the Special Branch. An officer, based at Colchester, Jock Pratt, was interested in one picket in particular.

Dunford refused to hand over the pictures. Instead, he brought the matter before his office branch of the National Union of Journalists, which then sent a letter, deploring Ormes' behaviour to Gazette editor John Gerrard.

Errands

Ormes has since been reprimanded by Gerrard. Whether this will have any effect on his activities remains to be seen.

As crime reporter, he values his relationship with the local police, even to the extent of running errands for the Special Branch.

Two days before the picket, an IS activist living well outside the Gazette's circulation area was surprised to receive a phone call at home from Ormes.

Ormes asked for him by name and then questioned him about the picket. Yet no report ever appeared in the Gazette.

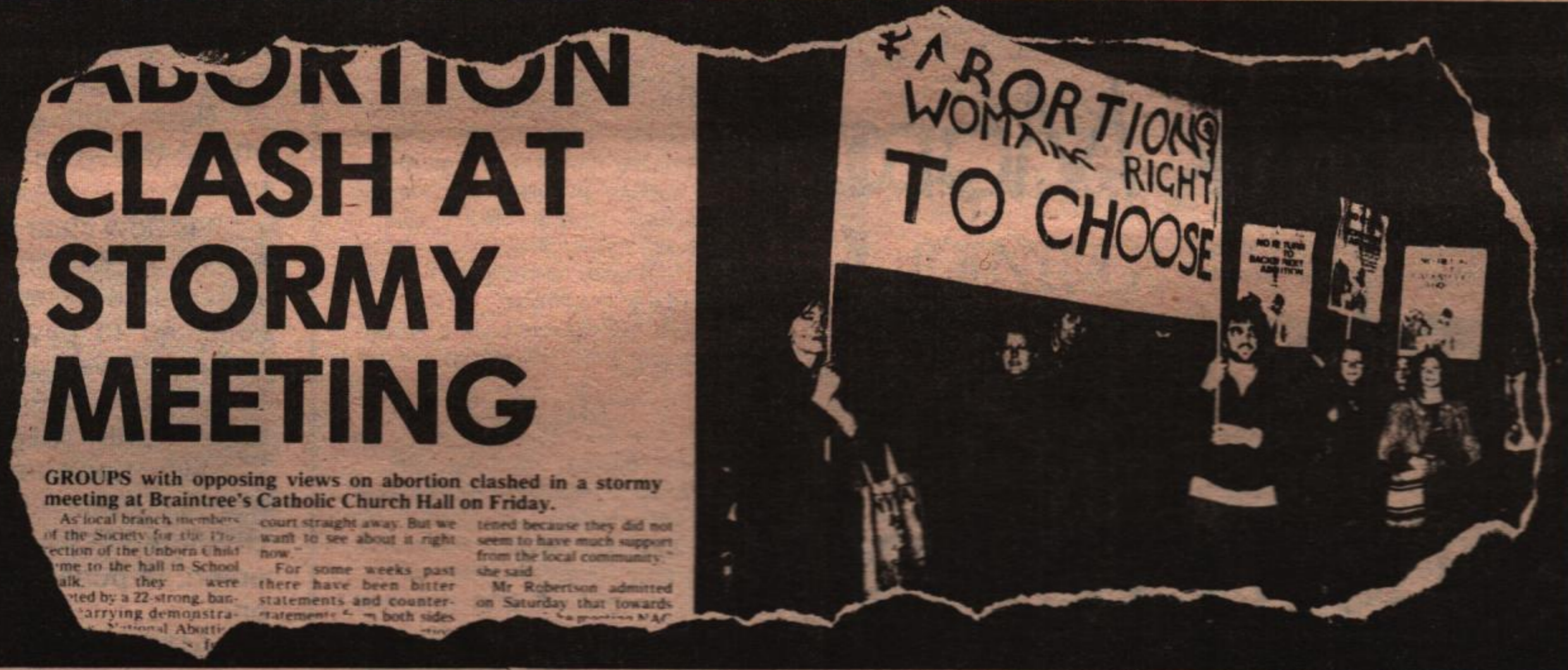
The activist is now asking himself how Ormes got his phone number, how he knew the activist was involved in the picket—and why a crime reporter who does not cover ordinary news stories should suddenly cover this one and then not publish it.

REMEMBER the Seveso disaster? The Italian government would rather forget it.

They commissioned British expert Arthur Lee to investigate the levels of the deadly TCDD thrown out by the Hoffmann La Roche plant.

He discovered that the level was not four pounds, as announced officially, but something nearer 285 pounds.

Lee's 'secret' report revealing this not insignificant fact has been sat on by the Italian government since mid-August.



GROUPS with opposing views on abortion clashed in a stormy meeting at Braintree's Catholic Church Hall on Friday. A local branch of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child met in the hall in School Lane. For some weeks past there have been bitter statements and counter-statements from both sides.

The Braintree and Witham Times report: the Special Branch asked for pictures of the pickets

I pray I'm innocent

THE WATERGATE scandal was just a plot by Richard Nixon's enemies to bring him down.

Who says so? Why no less a man than Richard 'I cannot tell a lie' Nixon himself.

He's been spending some of his new-found leisure time writing up his version of the affair. And some of the memoirs have already been leaked. They tell how:

The alleged scene in which Nixon, sensing that the game was up, got down on his knees in the

White House with Henry Kissinger and prayed, was nothing but a typical slur put about by his enemies. In fact, the two great men stood and prayed.

In the final hours before his resignation, Pat Nixon tried to persuade her husband to go to a White House window and acknowledge the friendly crowds outside. She thought they were chanting 'All Hail to the Chief'. In fact, they were demanding 'Jail to the Chief'.

These momentous insights into the decline of a great man are expected to earn Nixon something in the region of £1,500,000.

Who says crime doesn't pay?

FOOTNOTE: Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, still feels nostalgic about his relationship with Mr Nixon, according to Mr Averell Harriman, the American ambassador-at-large, who is in London after a trip to Moscow. 'Mr Brezhnev has a lingering admiration for, and regret about losing, former President Nixon. They got along,' Mr Harriman said at a press conference. —from The Times, 30 September.



The Nazi National Party

MAJOR H.W. Hill, the National Party's top man in Crawley, Sussex, has resigned.

He told the Crawley Advertiser: 'I met the leaders of the NP in June and all I can say is that their behaviour was a little unusual.

'I found there was a Nazi element among the leadership which I cannot

support'. Asked by another local paper, the Evening Argus, to expand on these interesting allegations, he said: 'I had hoped the formation of the National Party would throw off the Fascist and Nazi image within the organisation (the National Front).

'But some of those I objected to in the National Front are on the executive of

the National Party'. Major Hill, who was chairman of the NP's Horsham and Crawley branch, has also claimed that 'many of the National Party's most influential and wealthy local supporters' had followed his example and quit.

He added: 'The National Party is finished in Crawley'. What a shame...

SOUTH AFRICA: Britain's finger on the trigger

'PEOPLE in South Africa are beginning to know who their enemies are. They are beginning to realise that the apartheid regime is being supported by the whole of the imperialist West, that as well as Vorster, the British government is behind the triggers being pulled on them.'

These are the words of 19-year-old Soweto student leader Tsietshi Mashinini, speaking at a press conference in London on Monday. Tsietshi had to flee to Botswana from the police. Then he was forced to leave Botswana following attempts by BOSS, the South African secret police to kidnap him.

He and two other Soweto students were held by British immigration officials for two days before being released. This is what he had to say about the struggle in South Africa.

'We know that the British newspapers only say what the Vorster regime wants people in Britain to hear—like the lies that the blacks are shooting each other in South Africa, and that schoolchildren and students were shooting workers to prevent them going to work.

'We organised the stay-at-home strikes because we recognised that the only way to make our faint cries heard was to cripple the economy. We gave leaflets to the workers and picketed the railway stations to persuade workers to stay at home.

'Is it likely that we would shoot our own parents?'

Regroup

'It was the police who turned our peaceful demonstrations into a bloody confrontation by firing on us without a single warning. People are being killed merely for being black.

'Over 350 of us were killed in the first three days of the fighting. The police opened fire on groups of more than three blacks, armoured cars toured the streets with guns sticking out of them at all angles. When we saw them we would run away and then regroup.

'One little girl aged eight didn't know to run and raised her fist in a Black Power salute. She was mowed down



ABOVE: Soweto student Tsietshi Mashinini, forced to flee to Britain.

BRITISH firms produced this armoured car. It was used by white Rhodesian troops when they massacred hundreds of black men, women and children at the Nhasonia refugee camp in neighbouring Mozambique in August, and was later captured by Mozambique forces.

Ferret armoured cars are made in South Africa under licence from British firms. Then the South African government supplies them to the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

British big business is happy with the arrangement. It wants to replace Smith with black middle-class leaders who will guarantee its property in Rhodesia. But at the same time it wants to prevent a revolutionary overthrow of white minority rule.

So it lets Smith get arms, and it wants Smith's friends to keep control of the army and police during the transition to majority rule.

by bullets.

'A great many students are in detention, some only eight years old. Arrested students are not asked what happened—they are ordered to sign false, prepared statements. They are kept in solitary confinement, beaten up and threatened with long jail sentences.

'Instead of negotiating with us the regime is jailing us. But

that won't stop us.

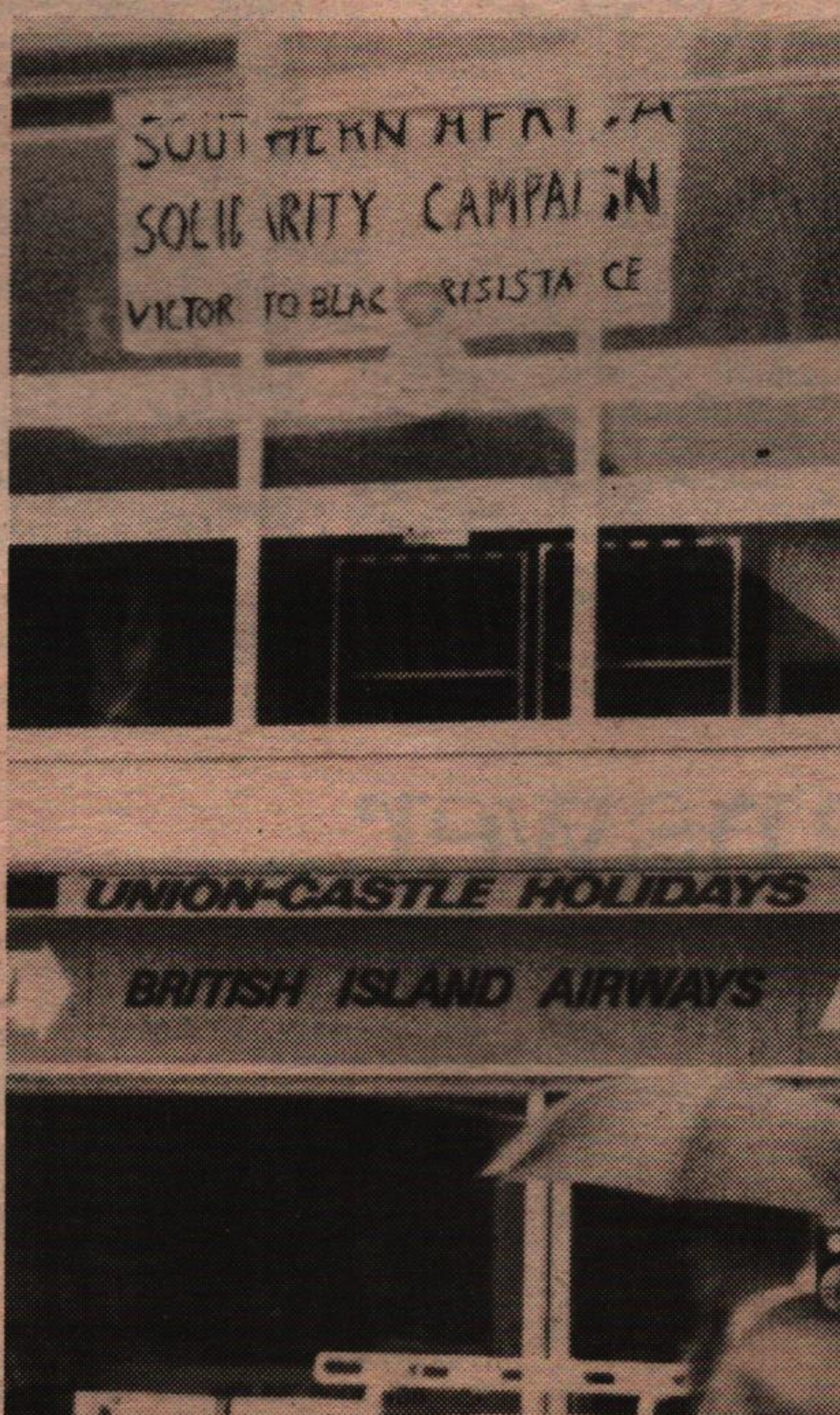
'The students don't want anything to do with Kissinger's deals either. They know that the deal with Smith is just an attempt to make Southern Africa safe for Western investments.

'Kissinger is extremely unpopular among black students. They know who he represents.

'The system in South Africa is stubborn—it has conceded almost nothing so far. But the struggle will continue until after the system succumbs. A new generation of leaders has now taken over and we intend to go on fighting.

'Of course I shall not be able to take part in the struggle directly now, but there is a lot to be done in Britain as well. We all believe that the success of our struggle is inevitable.

'The struggle will not stop because I have had to flee from South Africa. There are thousands of Tsietshi Mashininis in Soweto.'



Supporters of the recently formed Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign occupied the Southampton offices of Union Castle, which runs holidays to South Africa, last weekend. Police with dogs were used to drive them out.

Day of action in bid to stop hangings

THIS Friday will be the first international day of action against the death sentence passed on two Irish Anarchists, Noel and Marie Murray.

Noel Murray has now withdrawn his appeal against the sentence in protest against his treatment in prison. He can now be hanged at ten days notice.

They are alleged to have shot a policeman, but their trial was a travesty of justice.

They were allowed no jury and were barred from the court after making their protests heard. They had to listen to the last two-thirds of their trial, including the death sentence, over the court loudspeaker system.

They claim they were tortured in prison. So too was co-defendant Rónan Stenson. Nine months later he is

still too ill to appear in court.

Tameside Trades Council, in Greater Manchester have passed a resolution to support the defence campaign and oppose the hangings. Try to get your own union branch or trades council to follow this lead. Take a copy of the Murray petition around your workmates.

TELEGRAMS of protest to Minister of Justice, 72-76 Stephens Green, Dublin.

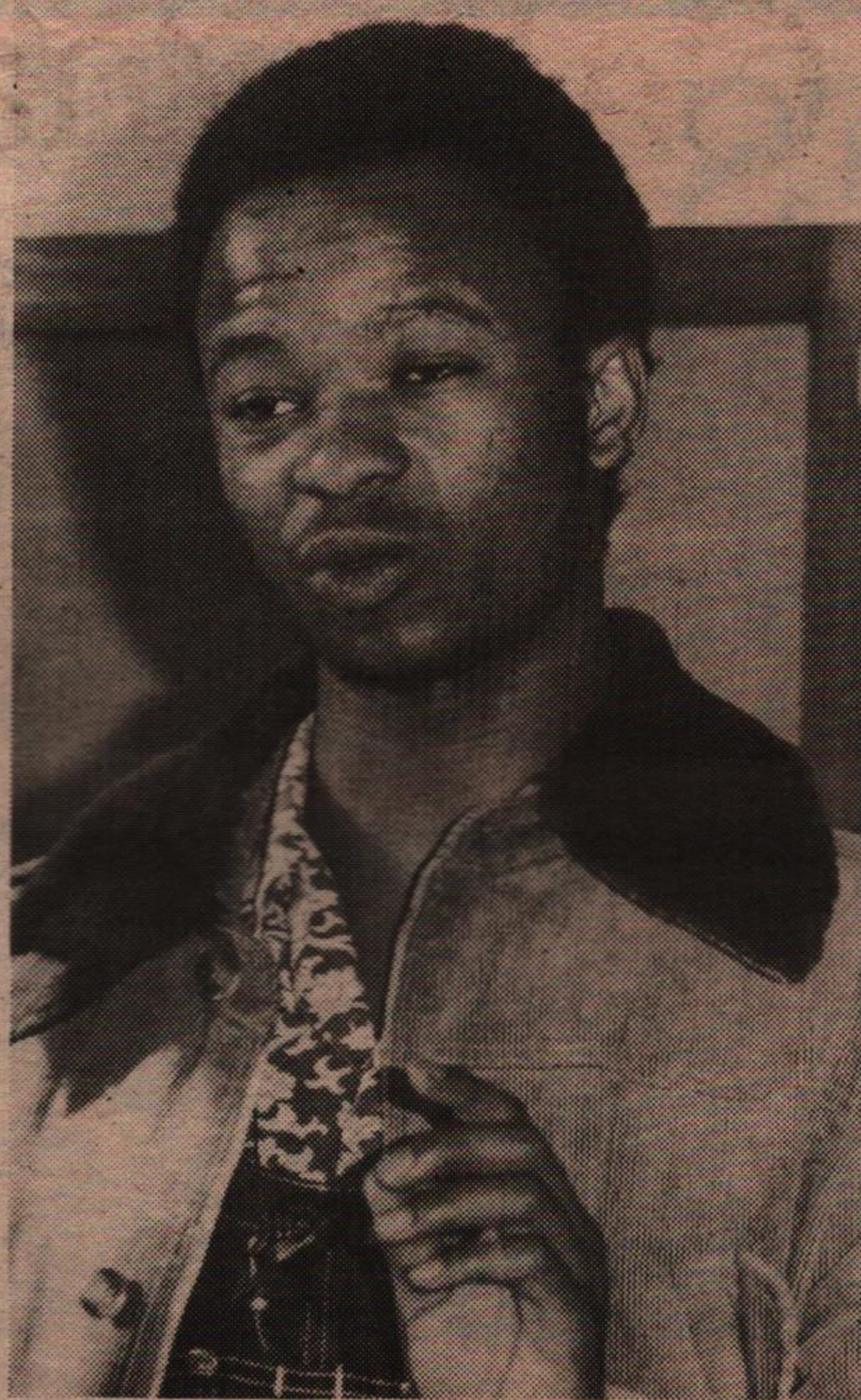
PETITIONS and further information from Box 2, Rising Free, 142 Drummond St, London NW1.

DEMONSTRATE 7pm, in London, Torchlight march from Speakers Corner to Kilburn.

MASS PETITION, Manchester. Outside Chieftans Concert in Free Trade Hall, 7.-9pm.



SOUTHERN AFRICA BADGE in red, black and white. Available from IS International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 15p each (plus postage 6p) £1.50 for ten (post free), £10 for 100.



Socialist Worker public meetings

VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA! Build the solidarity campaign

Thursday 7 October
CENTRAL LONDON:
Polytechnic of Central
London, Cavenidsh
Street, 7pm, Speaker:
Kim Gordon (editor,
Flame).
BOLTON: College of
Technology, 7pm.
Speaker: Simon Turner.

Monday 11 October
SOUTHAMPTON:
University Students
Union, 8pm. Speaker:
Pete Alexander.
HACKNEY TEACHERS:
Talbot pub, Mortimer
Road (off Englefield
Road), London, N1, 8pm.
Speaker: Sue Cockrell
(secretary, Southern
Africa Solidarity
Campaign).

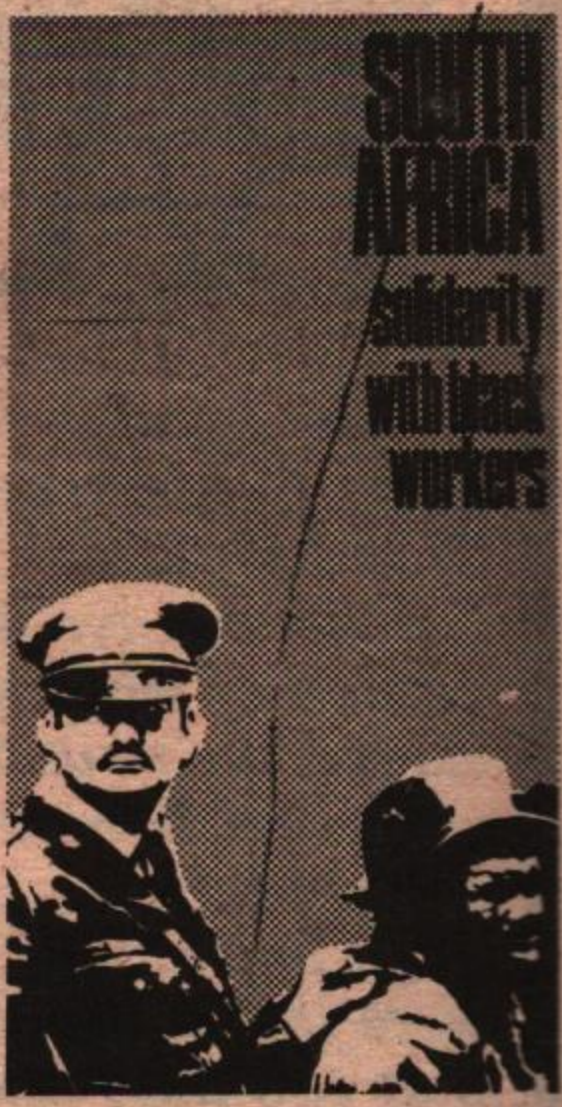
Wednesday 13 October
DURHAM: Elvet Room,
Dunelm House, New
Elvet, Durham City, 8pm.
Speaker: Bill Message
(editorial board member,
The Collier).
CENTRAL LONDON: City
University Students
Union, 1.45pm. Speaker:
Alex Callinicos.
READING: Bulmershe
College of Education,
2pm, and University
Students Union, 8pm.
Speaker: Pete
Alexander.

Wednesday 20 October
NORWICH: University
Students Union,
1.15pm. Speaker: Sue
Cockrell (secretary,
Southern African
Solidarity Campaign).
SHEFFIELD: Polytechnic
Students Union.
Speaker: Pete
Alexander.

Thursday 21 October
LEES: University
Students Union, 1pm,
and Chapelton, 8pm.
Speakers: Kim Gordon
(editor, Flame) and
Barbara Winslow (US
International Socialists).

Tuesday 26 October
DUNDEE: Watch for
details.

Wednesday 27 October
GLASGOW: Watch for
details.
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:
Rose and Crown, Old
High Street, 8pm.
Speakers: Oliver Duke
and Roy Cuckow
(recently returned from
Durban).



ABOVE: One of a new series of colour posters for the Southern Africa solidarity campaign available from the International Socialists (Intl Dept), 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 25p each plus 15p postage (10 or more post free). Cash with order please.

Thursday 28 October
EDINBURGH: Place to be
announced. Speaker: Bill
Anderson (ex-South
African soldier).
OXFORD: Univeristy IS
Society, Bule Room,
Wadham College, 8pm.
Speaker: Alex Callinicos.

Friday 29 October
WITHAM: Spring Lodge
Community Centre,
8pm. Plus film End of
Dialogue.

Wednesday 3
November
CARDIFF: Watch for
details.
BRIGHTON: Watch for
details.

Wednesday 10
November
NEWCASTLE: Place to
be announced. Speaker:
Bill Anderson (ex-South
African soldier).

Thursday 11 November
SHEFFIELD: Place to be
announced. Speaker: Bill
Anderson (ex-South
African soldier).

Friday 12 November
MANCHESTER: Place to
be announced. Speaker:
Bill Anderson (ex-South
African soldier).

Thursday 9 December
NORTHAMPTON: Watch
for details.

FREEDOM MARCH on South Africa House

Sunday 10 October, assemble 1pm, Mangrove Restaurant, 8 All Saints Road, London, W11, for march to American Embassy, Downing Street and South Africa House.

Organised by Black People in Support of Liberation in Southern Africa. Supported by Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign and Anti-Apartheid.



SOCIALIST WORKER RECORDINGS

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BLACK POWER?—Fred Hooper (US International Socialists) 50 mins, £1.40

LENIN—Tony Cliff (45 mins) £1.40

CHILE—A 55-minute documentary, with music, £1.40

THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN—Norman Cooper (co-author of Spain in Crisis, speaking at an SW meeting, August

1976). Two hours including questions and answers, £1.80. All prices include postage.

We now have facilities for recording, editing, copying and distributing recordings. If you have a recording which you think is worth distributing, please send it to us. When ordering cassettes, state whether your equipment has Dolby noise reduction. Technical inquiries welcome.

Orders and inquiries to Pete Marsden (SW Recordings), Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

THE LIES OF CALLAGHAN, BANKERS' MAN

AT the Labour Party Conference, Prime Minister Callaghan gave his version of what has caused the pound crisis and how to deal with it.

So impressed were the delegates that two days later they voted overwhelmingly their confidence in his policies.

But Callaghan's argument was based on a series of lies.

LIE no 1

'Britain has lived for too long on borrowed money... For too long this country has borrowed money from abroad to maintain our standard of living,' he said.

The workers of this country certainly have not had their living standards artificially bolstered by the huge loans of the last couple of years.

The average wage packet buys less now than it did four and a half years ago. In April 1972 average earnings were worth £26.33 (in 1970 money). Since then they have fallen until they are worth only £25.30 (again in 1970 money). And four-fifths of workers earn less than this average.

Yet through that period the amount of wealth produced by each employed worker—'productivity'—has continued to rise.

The Tories and their newspapers, such as the Sun, claim that the social services are eating up all the wealth.

But Labour Research has shown that the proportion of the total national resources going into welfare—housing, education, social services and so on—is no higher now than it was in 1964.

The increase has been in the amount that the government and local authorities pay in interest charges to money-lenders. Every time interest rates rise, a small but highly privileged army of parasites take vastly increased sums out of the state's coffers.

Total interest payments to these scum have risen from



Callaghan in his days as a banker—February 1973, with merchant banker Julian Hodge (left) and Chase Manhattan Bank chairman David Rockefeller. Callaghan was then a director of Hodge's Commercial Bank of Wales and of the Italian International Bank.

£2000 million in 1970 to £6000 million today.

Another £2000 million of government spending is direct government gifts to big business in the form of 'grants' and 'subsidies'.

Add to this £5000 million a year which the Tories and the right-wing press insist is spent on 'defence' and you can see that it is not the workers who are to blame for overseas borrowing of less than £3000 million a year.

As for the total overseas debt of £10 billion, this is still less than the total property owned abroad by the ruling class—whether oil wells in Arabia, sweatshops in Hong Kong or luxury villas in the Dordogne.

If they were serious about getting out of debt, they would sell off this property to pay the bills incurred by their demand for increased interest payments, increased company grants and increased arms spending. But they prefer men like Callaghan to put the blame on the workers.

LIE no 2

'We have not been creating wealth as fast as we have been distributing it. Over the past three years our domestic product has risen by 2 per cent, our public expenditure by 18 per cent.'

As we have seen, the increase in public spending has been caused mainly by the throwing of growing sums at the money-lenders.

But the argument is a lying one for another reason. Public spending would be 'cut at a stroke' if unemployment were cut—because total dole and social security payments

would be cut.

What's more, massive new amounts of wealth could be created if jobless workers were allowed to run the shut-down factories.

Anthony Harris of the Financial Times recently calculated that if only one in three of the unemployed got jobs, that would mean an additional £2½ billion for the government.

What Callaghan is really saying is that the system he runs has produced unemployment, and his answer is to cut public spending and cause more unemployment. It is the economic logic of the lunatic asylum.

LIE no 3

'Unemployment is caused by paying ourselves more than the value of what we produce.'

In fact, quite the opposite. Unemployment is caused because the goods produced cannot be sold. Why else are shoe workers, oil rig workers and so on being made redundant at this very moment?

LIE no 4

'Overcoming unemployment depends on our labour costs being at least comparable with those of our major competitors.'

But wages in Britain are now lower than in France, Germany, or the US. What's more, those countries are not immune to unemployment either.

Unemployment in the US grew by half a million in the

past three months. France, Germany and Japan have a million unemployed each—and in each case unemployment also grew over the summer.

LIE no 5

'The only long-term cure for unemployment is to create a healthy manufacturing industry... We can only become competitive by having the right kind of investment and by significantly improving productivity.'

But new investment does not necessarily create jobs. We have seen in British Leyland, Chrysler and British Steel over the past year how schemes to spend vast sums on new investment have meant the sacking of workers and the cutting of the workforce.

As the National Institute Economic Review recently pointed out, investment in manufacturing industry 'could bring big increases in productivity—which would mean fewer new jobs for the time being.'

LIE no 6

'The willingness of industry to invest requires that they must be able to earn a profit.'

Industry has been earning massive profits in the past couple of years. But it has refused to increase investment, despite massive government grants.

A recent Financial Times survey concluded that 'British companies are still mostly more profitable than their European counterparts... British companies are

grouped at or close to the top of every industry except motors. British or part-British companies top the league in four of the seven sectors of industry (FT, 17 September 1976).

According to the Financial Times last Thursday: 'The corporate sector's gross trading profits climbed by 26 per cent in the first quarter and 30 per cent in May-June.'

But in the same period manufacturing investment was 11.9 per cent down on the year before.

Capitalists are frightened to invest. Not because of workers' demands or of conference resolutions. But because they know that their own crisis-riven system can no longer guarantee that they will be able to sell at a profit goods produced in a couple of years time.

... and one truth

In fact there was only one true statement in Callaghan's speech. The cosy words which we were told would go on forever, where unemployment would be guaranteed by a stroke of the Chancellor's pen, is gone forever.'

That's right. The system defended by Callaghan, former director of the Commercial Bank of Wales, can no longer give full employment. Not in Britain, not in Germany, not in the US.

But the way out is not through the recipe of Callaghan and the IMF—more wage controls, more cuts, more unemployment, more wealth not produced. It is by getting rid of the system.



This is our answer...

CHANCELLOR Denis Healey claimed last week that the only alternative to going cap-in-hand to the IMF was such severe cuts in living standards as to cause riots in the streets, 'a totalitarian government of the right or left'.

There is another alternative to any contemplated by Healey and Callaghan. It would need to be based not on dictatorship by a minority, but on the democratic organisations of workers taking control of industry and the banks out of the hands of the present property owners, and imposing real socialist planning.

Socialist planning would mean, for example:

□ Nationalisation without compensa-

tion of industries which leave machines standing idle and workers unemployed.

□ Cancellation of the government interest payments to money-lenders, releasing resources to build the houses, schools, hospitals that are needed.

□ Nationalisation without compensation of the banks, so that their profits are used for the general good, not wasted on speculative ventures.

□ An end to the waste of advertising, Concorde, massive defence spending and so on. The workers and machinery now used for these could then produce useful goods and services.

□ An end to the vast waste on the luxuries of the rich, such as the huge houses (quarter of a million pounds a time) bought for its directors by Slater Walker.

□ An end to the movement by the rich of their wealth abroad. This needs the intervention by workers to check what their employers are doing. It means workers' control.

Such a programme is not going to be carried out by the present government. It cannot be carried through by any government that relies on collaborating with the present owners of the means of production—and with their relatives and friends who sit at the top of the civil service, the Bank of England, the armed forces and so on.

But it could be carried through by a socialist government that used the rank and file organisations of the trade unions to launch an all-out attack on those who run the present system. That is Socialist Worker's answer to the crisis.

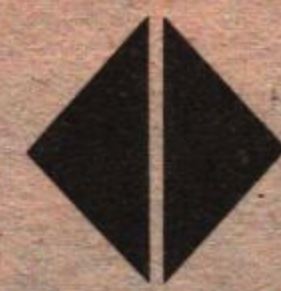
Belle Vue
Manchester
Saturday 6
November

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK STOP THE CUTS

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN
Trade Union Delegate Conference Against the Cuts and Unemployment

Delegates from trade union branches, shop stewards committees, districts, trades councils and all other official trade union bodies welcome. Credentials and further details from National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4

His dad's unemployed and he's 'couldn't afford the fare money to of wood on a derelict site 'to give that needs mending.'



The face of Jarrow: 40 years separate these pictures—both taken on Tyneside—can you tell the difference? Today's picture is on the left.



THE ROAD BACK TO JARROW?

THE Jarrow March, most powerful symbol of the poverty and unemployment of the 1930s, started for London 40 years ago this week. Jarrow, on Tyneside, was called 'the town that was murdered' after the shipbuilding employers shut down their yards, putting four men in every five on the dole.

Forty years later, how much has changed?

Only two of the pictures on this page were taken in the 1930s. The others were taken on Tyneside in February this year.



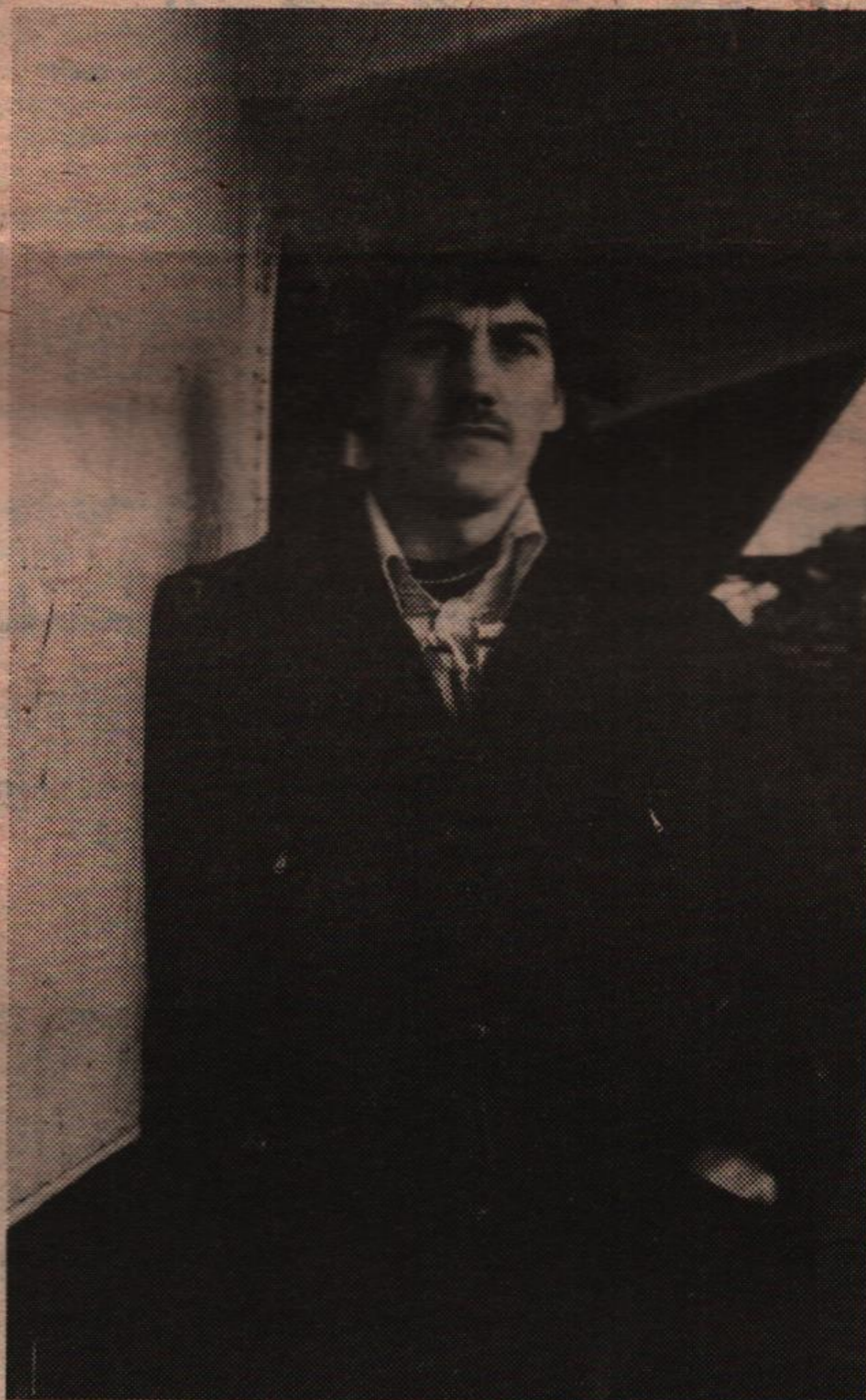
'Gotta keep her warm, it's not right she should be cold. . . I don't care if they arrest me, gotta keep her warm'. The words of an unemployed man photographed picking coal from a rail track in Jarrow, in February this year (right). The 1930s coal-pickers are on the left.



not at school—'Me mum day.' So he's picking nails out me dad so as to fix the fence

'If you drop a tanner at Drill Hall Corner, you'll have to kick it down to Jarrow before you can pick it up', they used to say in Hebburn in the 1930s. Mass crowds of unemployed used to gather here.

Our photograph (right) shows Drill Hall Corner today—new systems of signing on and paying the dole keep the unemployed isolated, prevents them acting together against the society that throws them on the scrapheap



An unemployed shipyard worker. 'I've been looking for a job along the Tyne for months. I'd do anything—but there's nothing.'



The hand of a woman organiser of the Jarrow march holding her badge of honour—she said today wasn't as bad as the 1930s as 'we have the greatest welfare state anywhere.'

But Labour's latest spending cuts mean a total halt in council house building, hospitals to be closed, nursery schools and old people's homes standing unused.

Newspapers and television this week will be making hay out of the 40th anniversary of the march—yet in the 1930s, unemployed marchers were violently attacked by the press.

And by the police. In October 1932, mounted police charged hunger marchers on the Edgware Road in North London. It was at Staples Corner on the Edgware Road that police attacked Manchester to London Right to Work marchers in March this year.

Pictures by ROBERT GOLDEN

These photographs are from 'DOWN THE ROAD: Unemployment and the Fight for the Right to Work', a book by Sarah Cox and Robert Golden, to be published by the Writers and Readers' Co-operative in January.

This, God help us, is the leader of a mighty union

SO NOW WE KNOW: Social Contracts are made in Heaven. This is John Boyd, General Secretary of the Engineering Union, speaking at a recent Festival of Light Rally in Trafalgar Square.

'Give us this day our daily bread' was the section he introduced. He might have added 'so long as it isn't more than 4½ per cent.'

'Our shorter working week, longer holidays with pay and altogether greater affluence, still leave us a nation dissatisfied and divided,' he told the mighty throng of clerics, Right-wing MPs, and businessmen.

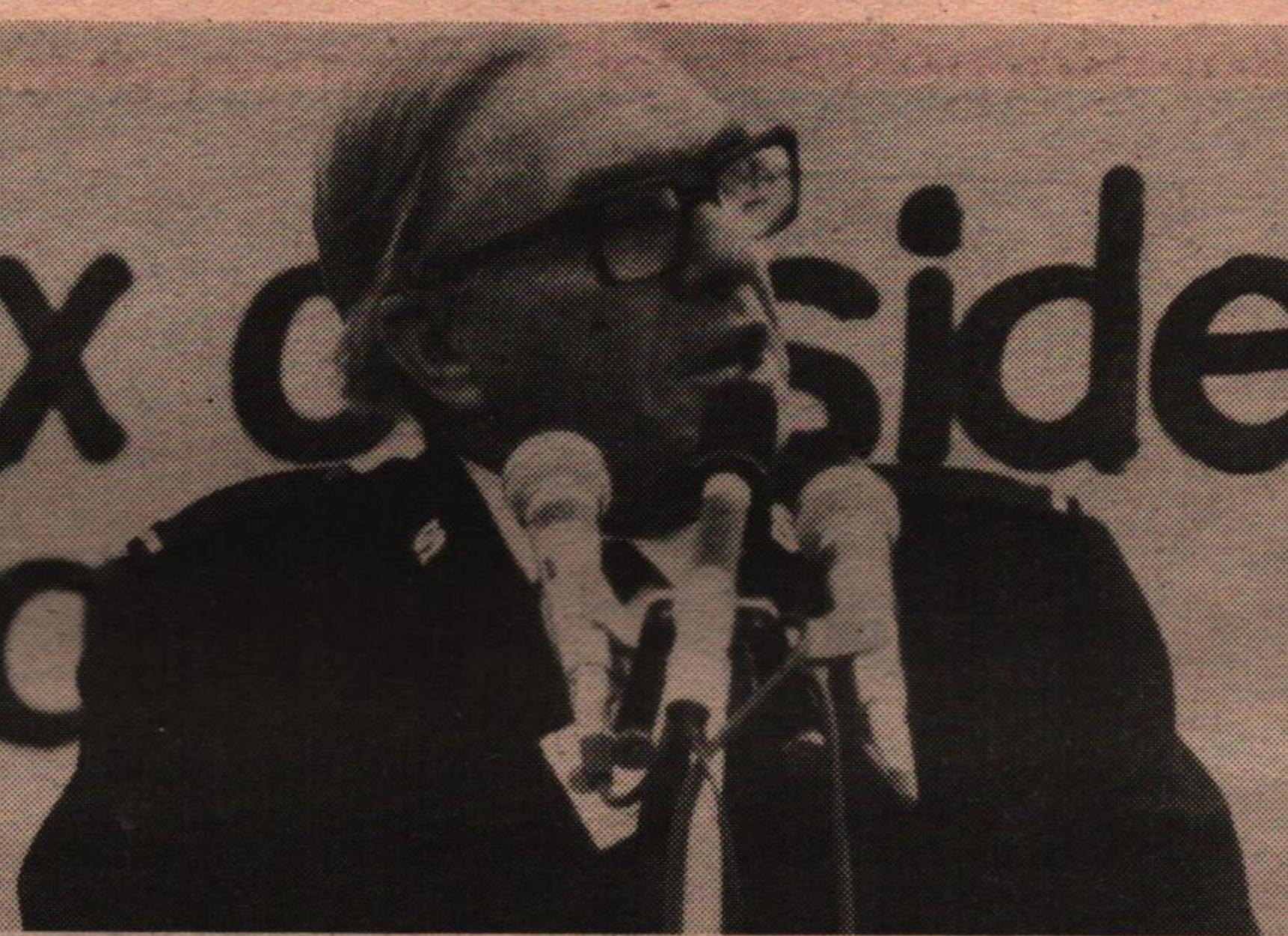
And what message of hope did he have for the unemployed and disillusioned workers? 'I believe only the presence and guidance of God in our lives will regenerate our nation.'

Also on the platform was Malcolm Muggeridge and Mary Whitehouse, who has just returned from South Africa, where she was invited by the apartheid government to advise them on the 'social responsibilities of the media'.

Asked by a British journalist if she thought South Africa was a police state, Mrs Whitehouse scoffed: 'I travelled 4000 miles and only saw six policemen.'

Mrs Whitehouse has also in her time voiced support for such Christian activities as the bombing of North Vietnam by the Americans. Such are the people with whom John Boyd is prepared to share a platform...

No sex outside marriage



Murray: bully boy

Seamen: How you can gain



the unions

WE'LL cripple you. My God, we'll make sure no union supports you.

With those words, Len Murray and the TUC General Council browbeat the seamen into virtual surrender. Much of their original claim was abandoned.

But some gains were made in their recent settlement. Gains that are important for other groups of workers.

The public employees' union NUPE, for instance, is looking for 'any implications there may be from the seamen's settlement in relation

to fringe benefits and allowances'.

Negotiations began this week on behalf of manual workers in local government, some of whom are members of NUPE.

Their claim will help set a pattern for other manual workers in the public sector over the next four months.

Shorter

Meanwhile, the miners are now arguing for early retirement, first of all at 60, with a lowering of the age to 55 by 1980. They are also claiming extra holidays, improved pensions and a shorter working week.

Until the seamen's settlement, the position was clear: all these fringe benefits would

have to wait until after next August as they breached the TUC guidelines for the pay policy.

Now even the right wing in the NUM smell the possibility of making the government—or at any rate the TUC, the real enforcers of the policy—shift their position.

The police are also considering whether the seamen have found a way through the policy.

And North Sea oil rig workers will be able to find many parallels with the seamen's settlement.

Carworkers may well find there are now holes in the policy which affect them.

Under the terms of the seamen's settlement, it now seems that, according to the Department of Employment, 'improvements to enhance job

security—such as new or improved redundancy payment schemes, guaranteed week provisions and sick pay schemes—are allowable outside the pay limit.'

The Financial Times estimates that the increase in fall-back payments, the seamen's form of a guaranteed week, amounts to 60 per cent. The implications for everyone else are clear.

The increase in travel allowances for seamen going to their ships has also stretched the policy. According to the guidelines, the existing allowances may be revised in line with increasing costs.

Increases

The seamen are supposed to be reimbursed for what they pay out on journeys, overnight stays and so on.

As transport drivers, among others, will be quick to notice, the increases are really an increased payment. For journeys exceeding three hours, the rise is from 75p to £2.50, for lodging overnight from £3 to £6.75.

It's not much, but it does open the door to similar claims.

Another benefit is the commitment to increase in time off in compensation for time spent at sea while not working.

This concession is promised 'as soon as it is permissible under the pay policy'. This raises endless possibilities.

Other commitments were also won by the seamen, including increases in subsistence allowances when working in ports.

If fringe benefits can be improved for the seamen, then why not for miners or carworkers? There is one clear reason.

Courage

The settlement has nothing to do with legalistic interpretations of what is and is not allowable within the Social Contract and the pay guidelines.

The seamen forced the TUC and the government to negotiate because they threatened a national strike. If they hadn't, they would have got little or nothing.

They did not get what they went out for, but they lost courage and surrendered to Murray's bullying.

But they did force the government and the TUC to reinterpret the policy.

What the seamen began other workers can take up.

Ford workers carried placards outside a recent meeting on their wage claim.

They read: 'The seamen show the way, fringe benefits for Ford's today'.

WHY THE BOSS LOVES ERIC

WORKERS at the Secura factory in Barnsley, where the Engineering Union has a closed shop, recently received copies of a newspaper cutting—marked out and underlined—from the factory manager.

The article was written in the Sunday Mirror by

Woodrow Wyatt. Its aim was to get people to vote for the present district secretary Eric Dyson.

When the factory opened two years ago, rates of pay and working conditions had already been agreed in advance between Dyson and the factory manager Ray Blockley.

About 12 months ago, the workers tried to negotiate a

34-hour week with 44 hours' pay.

When the officers of the local AUEW branch got to hear about this, the Secura workers were told: 'You can't do this. If you get it then everyone will want it.'

The claim, which by now had received agreement from the management, was sent to district secretary Eric Dyson. He vetoed it.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Socialist Worker public meetings

Send notices — to reach us first post Monday — to What's On, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

ORMSKIRK SW public meetings: Every Tuesday at 8pm, Civic Hall, Committee Rooms.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Worker meetings on sexual politics. Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1, on alternate Thursdays at 7pm.

14 October: Lesbians—the double oppression. Speaker: Sybil Cook.

28 October: Personal Life in capitalism. Speaker: Joy Leman.

11 November: The abortion campaign. Which Way Now? Speaker: Gerry Matthews.

25 November: Working Women Under Attack. Speaker: Irene Breugel.

9 December: Socialists and housework. Speaker to be confirmed.

BRADFORD Socialist Worker Teachers have regular meetings every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. Discussion of activities and political education in Meeting Room 1, Communal Building, Bradford University.

HULL SW public meeting: Which way to socialism? Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 20 October, 8pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate, off Princess Dock Side.

CHESTER SW public meeting: Can the Labour Party bring socialism? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Tuesday 12 October, 7.30pm, Labour Club, Upper Northgate St (near Fountains Roundabout). Admission 10p. Tickets from SW sellers.

PETERBOROUGH SW discussion groups meet regularly. Phone Peterborough 61685.

EDINBURGH SW discussion group meets every Saturday, 11.30am, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place. Open to all SW readers. For further information, phone Penicuik 72819.

HACKNEY SW Schools branch public meeting: Black or white South Africa. Speaker from IS Africa Group. Monday 11 October, 8pm, The Talbot, Mortimer Road, N1 (near Dalston Junction).

EAST LONDON public meeting: Racism, the police and the fascists—the fightback. Speakers include: Eason Singh, editor of *Pragati*, IS speaker in Bengal. Thursday 14 October, 8pm, Toybee Hall, Commercial St.

ROCHDALE: Anyone in or around Rochdale interested in forming a SW discussion group, please contact Alan (Rochdale 56006).

SOUTH EAST ESSEX SW public meeting. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Saturday 16 October, 2pm, in Southend. Details from your SW seller.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SW discussion meetings: Every second Wednesday, 8pm, Rose and Crown (large room), Old High Street. Socialists and trade unionists welcome.

Wednesday 13 October: SOCIALIST WORKER. Speaker: Peter Marsden.

Wednesday 27 October: SOUTH AFRICA. Speakers: Oliver Duke and Roy Cuckow (recently returned from Durban).

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: The Socialist Alternative to Labour. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Wednesday 20 October, 8pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road.

NEWPORT SW discussion meetings: every Wednesday, 8pm, The Vulcan, Lower Dock Street.

13 October: History of the International Socialists.

20 October: Is Russia Socialist? 27 October: Ireland, the Troops Out Movement, and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

3 November: Public meeting to commemorate the Chartist March on Newport.

10 November: Gay liberation, women's liberation and the fight for socialism.

BLACKBURN SW discussion meetings: Thursday 21 October: Building a mass revolutionary party and the rank and file movement. Thursday 4 November: Class struggle in Labour History, some examples of the working class in struggle. Thursday 18 November: Marxist Economics. 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.

DURHAM SW International public meetings: Leading speakers from IS. Wednesday 13 October: South Africa. Wednesday 27 October: Spain. Thursday 23 November: Middle East. 8pm, Elvet Room, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham, Durham.

BANGOR SW public meeting: The Revolutionary Party and the Socialist Alternative to the Labour government. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Tuesday 19 October, 7.30pm, Glanrafon Arms.

CLEETHORPES SW readers meet every Sunday at 2 Mill Road, 3pm. All welcome.

LEA VALLEY SW public meetings: The Fight for Socialism. Thursday 14 October: World Crisis—the socialist answer. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

Thursday 28 October: What is Socialism? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

Thursday 11 November: Law and Order. Speaker: Laurie Flynn.

Thursday 25 November: Building the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton.

NORTHAMPTON SW discussion meeting: State Capitalism or Socialism? Speaker: Peter Binns. Thursday 14 October, 8pm, Guildhall.

DURHAM SW Education meetings: Socialism or Capitalism? Speakers from local IS branch. Monday 18 October: What is Socialism and how does it differ from capitalism? Monday 1 November: How do we achieve socialism—by reform or revolution? Monday 15 November: Is Russia socialist? Monday 29 November: Which way to socialism in Britain? The politics of IS. 8pm, back room of Colpitts Hotel, Sutton Street, Durham City.

GLASGOW SW discussion meetings on the Meaning of Marxism. Organised by Clydebank and Albion Motors branches of IS.

Tuesday 12 October: The Struggle against Fascism and Racism. Speaker: Allan Borrell (Clydeside SW organiser).

Tuesday 26 October: The need for a Revolutionary Workers Party—building the International Socialists. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank, and prospective SW candidate for Walsall North).

7.30pm, Small Public Hall, junction of Fore Street and Henrietta Street, Scotstoun.

PARK ROYAL SW Public Meeting: Organising in the factory. Discussion of problems and prospects for socialists in the workplace. Exchange of experiences and ideas around strikes, disputes and building factory branches. All contributions welcome. Thursday 14 October, 6pm.

HALIFAX SW public meeting: The revolutionary party. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Friday 15 October, 7.30pm, Room A, Harrison Road Library.

SE LONDON SW Training School for new members and SW readers: the working class and the struggle for socialism, reform or revolution; the revolutionary party. Saturday 16 October, 1-6pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

MANCHESTER IS Hospital Workers public meetings: Every other Thursday, 8pm, TU Bookshop, 260 Deansgate.

14 October: The Press: what the papers say and why you shouldn't believe them. Speaker: A journalist from a big daily paper.

28 October: South Africa. Speaker from Southern Africa.

11 November: Who runs this country? Speaker: Colin Barker.

25 November: Portugal one year later. Film and speaker who was on the spot. Meeting to be held at Manchester Poly.

9 December: Who was Trotsky? Speaker to be arranged.

S W LONDON SW Introduction to IS: Courses for new members every Wednesday 8pm, at Minet Library, Knatchbull Road, London SE5, 29 September: What are We Fighting For? Speaker: Sandra Peers. 6 Oct: Role of working class movement. 13 Oct: Building a revolutionary party. 20 Oct: IS and the Labour movement. 27 Oct: The politics of IS.

NOISS

UNIV COLLEGE IS Soc: An introduction to the politics of IS. Series of public meetings. Monday 11 October: The Revolutionary Party. Speaker: Steve Jefferys. Monday 18 October: The Rank and File Movement. Speaker: Paul Holborow. Monday 25 October: State Capitalism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Monday 1 November: Internationalism. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. 1pm, Conference Room, Collegiate Building, Gordon Street, All SW readers welcome.

BIRMINGHAM POLY IS Soc meets every Tuesday, 5.30pm, 2nd floor lounge, Gosta Green Union.

ANYONE ATTENDING NUS Nursery Conference in Cambridge this weekend should contact Lindsay German (01-739 1878).

NOISS Womens Caucus: Saturday 16 October, 10.30am, Leeds University. Further details from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 (phone 01-739 1878).

NOTICES

Speakers' notes on abortion and equal pay. 10p (inc. postage), additional copies 2p each, from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PRAGATI, the International Socialists' paper in Bengali, out now (issue no 2). Contents: Stonehouse, Walsall by-election, police violence and the state, anti-racist actions, the Right to Work Campaign, etc. Copies (including postage): 12p for one, 70p for ten, £1.50 for 25. Orders to: Pragati, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Cheques/POs must be made payable to C Knowles.

CHESTER SW Day School: for new members of IS. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Sunday 17 October, in Chester. Agenda: 11am-1pm What does IS stand for? Principles and traditions of IS. 1-2pm Lunch. 2-3.30pm How do we achieve the revolution? IS strategy, Rank and File Movement, mass revolutionary party. 3.30-4pm Tea. 4-5.30pm How do IS members put this strategy into practice on the shopfloor, in the offices and on the dole queues? Creche and playgroup facilities will be available. Because of the cost, a charge of £1 a head (unemployed 50p) will be made. Further details, agendas, reading lists etc available from Chester IS, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Places are limited so branches and individual comrades are advised to book early.

CARDIFF SW Jumble Sale: Saturday 9 October, 2.30pm, St Martins Church Hall, Crwys Road. Jumble and helpers wanted. Contact Cardiff 499579.

IS Fraction Secretaries' meeting: Wednesday 13 October, 7.30pm. Details from Cottons Gardens.

DRUMMER AND GUITARIST wanted for IS rock band. Phone Mark or Cardine 802 0977.

RACE WORK COMMITTEE We need to know the name and phone number of your branch and district. Race Work organisers, Send to Race Work Organiser, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOUTHERN IS DAY SCHOOL Black workers in Britain. For black members and contacts. Brighton 10.30am-5.30pm. Saturday 16 October. Social in the evening. Accommodation overnight available. Contact IS centre for more details. Midlands and Southern branches to mobilise.

N W LONDON SW school in basic printing: simple leaflets, electro-stencils and photo-litho plus poster techniques. Expert tuition and practical sessions. Saturday 9 October, 2.30-5.30pm, in Harlesden. Phone 961-0591 (evenings) for details. Cost 60p per person.

CENTRAL LONDON SW DISTRICT AGGREGATE: Party Council Report back and report from Labour Movement delegation to Ireland. Wednesday 13 October, 6.30pm prompt, Institute of Education, Small Hall, Malet Street.

BOOKSHOP ASSISTANT needed urgently. Ring 021 643 5717 or write to 224 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham 12.

NW REGIONAL IS Hospital Workers Fraction meeting: Saturday 16 October, 2pm, The Basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

REVOLUTIONARY POSTERS from Spain, Portugal and Africa (with explanatory text), for £1.50 (inc. postage) from IS International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SPEAKERS NOTES on South Africa available from IS International Dept (Please send SAE).

ZIMBABWE IN CRISIS: Still available from IS International Dept. 15p each (inc postage).

S W LONDON SW Meaning of Marxism: Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, 8pm. Bring contacts. All welcome. 11 October, Their Morals and Ours; Chris Harman. 25 October: Women's Liberation or Revolutionary Socialism; Joan Smith. 8 November: Ireland and the Struggle for Socialism; Mike Heym.

Victor Serge's novel *Conquered City* is now in English for the first time

A city conquered - but a city lost

THE past hangs like a nightmare on the brain of the present, wrote Karl Marx.

There's nothing that applies to more than the decline of the Russian revolution and the rise of Stalin. You can't put the case about socialism to anyone without being asked: 'What happened to Russia?'

Victor Serge was a Belgian Anarchist. After years of prison in the west, he travelled to Russia in 1919 and joined the Bolsheviks.

Within ten years he was imprisoned again—this time by Stalin, for defending the ideals of 1917 against the bureaucrats.

His novel *Conquered City*, now translated into English for the first time*, was written during this repression. It aims to show how things went wrong, but also to show that the revolution itself was not to blame.

It is set in the great city of the revolution, Petrograd (now

Leningrad), in the year 1919.

The city is virtually cut off from the rest of Russia by advancing troops. For days at a time no food supplies get through. The people are on the verge of starvation.

The factories are not working. Men and women huddle at machines, turning out pipe cleaners from lathes designed to carve out machine parts.

The old ruling class have been deprived of their wealth. The empty rooms in their houses have been given over to the poor.

But they live on, selling off their luxuries to buy bread and preparing lists of their enemies for when the right-wing forces enter the city.

Shadowy figures move from place to place, spreading rumours, demanding bread that does not exist, calling for strikes, whispering about the Bolsheviks and the Jews.

Many of the old militants have left the factories to fight at the front. The few who remain have nothing to do

with such calls. They know the only way to get bread is to fight the real enemy.

But they feel empty and despairing inside. For they also know that economic hardship has destroyed the enthusiasm and democracy that made 1917.

You cannot have workers' councils when the factories are half empty and virtually at a standstill. Hunger and squalor breed cholera, not enthusiasm.

Such is the despair that even Lenin is

prepared to give up the fight to protect the city against the invading armies.

Trotsky alone believes it can be defended. His arrival turns the tide and recreates enthusiasm at the crucial moment. The city is saved.

But the revolution within the city is already more than half dead, strangled by hunger and poverty.

'The sign of our death. Not a single chimney was smoking. The city was thus dying. And like shipwrecked men on a raft devouring each other, we were

about to fight among ourselves, workers against workers, revolutionaries against revolutionaries

'We are less and less free men, more and more, in an exhausted, besieged city, an army in rags whose safety lies in terror and discipline,' writes Serge.

The terror is the political terror of the secret police. Serge has no doubt it is a necessary terror, directed against those who are planning to drown Petrograd in blood.

But it is not directed by the apathetic and starving remnant of the working class. Instead it comes from a group more and more standing in a vacuum, more and more corrupted by cynicism and careerism.

Dictator

Already Zinoviev, president of the city Soviet (workers' council), is known as 'the dictator'. People talk of the better food if you eat at his table.

No one realises it, but a battle has already started within the party between those who want to carry forward the spirit of the revolution and those who have forgotten what the fight is all about.

Unfortunately the working class is broken by hunger and cannot intervene in this debate. Strangulation of the revolution by foreign invasion and reaction prepares the ground for strangulation by Joseph Stalin.

Serge's account is not easy to get into. At times it is a bit heavy to follow.

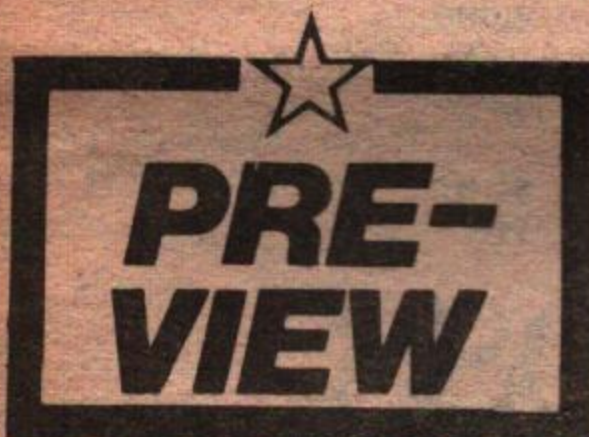
But it remains a novel worth reading alongside his other books, *Memoirs of a Revolutionary* and *The Case of Comrade Tulayev*, if you want to understand what happened to that great upsurge towards socialism in 1917.

***CONQUERED CITY**, by Victor Serge, Gollancz, £3.95. (Get your local library to buy it)

CHRIS HARMAN



An unusual photograph of Lenin, the man that right-wing historians always portray as a ruthless political machine



MONDAY

'I wouldn't leave Barnsley for all the tea in China', says Yorkshire miners' leader Arthur Scargill on IT'S NO JOKE LIVING IN BARNSLEY (Anglia/Tyne Tees/Yorkshire, 10.30pm). It's good to see a working-class town getting some attention. Could be worth watching.

On YESTERDAY'S WITNESS (BBC2) is the story of the exploding of the first atomic bomb, and political sectarians can take a few tips from Imperial Rome in 1, CLAUDIUS (BBC2).

Also starting today is a series of television plays being reshown at the National Film Theatre in London. They include Collin Welland's ROLL ON FOUR O'CLOCK (Sunday 17 October), Tom Clarke's STOCKER'S COPPER (Tuesday 19 October), Jim Allen's THE LUMP (Wednesday 20 October), and Dennis Potter's STAND UP, NIGEL BARTON and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE FOR NIGEL BARTON, all worth seeing again. □ Full programme from NFT, 81 Dean Street, London W1, phone 01-437 4355.

TUESDAY

THE ELEPHANTS' GRAVEYARD (BBC1) is about two men, ashamed to admit that they are unemployed, who invent imaginary jobs and spend the days in the hills above a Scottish dockyard town. Billy Connolly plays one.

GET US KIDS OUT OF HERE (BBC1) is about delinquency, from the anti-conventional sociologist Laurie Taylor.

FRIDAY

The Campaign for a Democratic Health Service takes over OPEN DOOR (BBC2) to put the case for patients and workers having a say in how the NHS is run.

The cake the TV bosses banned



THIS picture was meant to be an advertisement for Oxfam Week, illustrating the fact that one third of the world's population enjoys four-fifths of the world's income.

But that fact was too hard to swallow for the Independent Television Companies Association. They have banned it from the television screens.

The ITCA, which vets all television ads—some more closely than others—says the cake-cutting scene is political and contravenes a rule on charities. Though they didn't give Oxfam any details.

When Socialist Worker approached the ITCA, a spokesman said: 'We don't normally discuss advertisements which have not appeared on the screen.' Convenient.

An Oxfam spokesman said that the advertisement was designed to be factual rather than political and had been based on a similar advertisement for Mentally Handicapped Week which showed a small child in Wembley Stadium.

A voice announced: 'You may think little Andrew is alone. But there are enough mentally-handicapped children to fill this stadium three times over.'

Said Oxfam: 'We specifically modelled our ad on that one because charities are not allowed to appeal for money during commercials, we can only advertise events, such as Oxfam Week. We thought that by stating a fact we were not contravening the rules.'

Obviously there are some facts that ITCA finds less offensive than others.



LENIN Volume 1
'Building the Party' from political obscurity to leader of a mass working class party. £3.30 including postage.

LENIN Volume 2
'All power to the Soviets' through to the first victorious proletarian revolution. £3.90 including postage.

Lenin

by Tony Cliff

From Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1, or direct from any IS bookshop.

BOOKS BY VICTOR SERGE

Memoirs of a Revolutionary £1.70
The Case of Comrade Tulayev 50p
From Lenin to Stalin £1.40
Conquered City £4.20
Year One of the Russian Revolution £4.20

All prices include postage and packing, from: BOOKMARKS (London IS bookshop), 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Postal Points

IF THE United States was able to seed the clouds and bring about torrential rain to hamper the NLF guerrilla operations, do you suppose they could be persuaded to do the same over Europe and end the drought?

If they would, they could then go on to the Sahel region and so on and no one need be hungry and it would find all those men in uniform something useful to do. Or am I being naive?

□ D S Greenwood, Halifax.

IN VIEW of the fact that IS is now intervening in parliamentary elections, has the organisation considered making a programme for the Open Door series, recently used by the National Front?

This would seem to offer a great chance to put across our ideas and combat the racist trash put out by the NF, as well as boosting sales of Socialist Worker and recruiting people.

□ Mark George, Acton.

NOEL AND Marie Murray, two Irish anarchists, are condemned to hang in Southern Ireland for the alleged killing of an off duty policeman. They await only the ruling of the Supreme Court before the final date for the hanging is set.

At the main trial, there was no jury, but three government appointed judges, and the accused were not allowed to be present during most of the trial, for this was a Special Criminal Court.

Friday 8th October is an International Day of Solidarity for the Murrys. There will be a torch light procession from Speakers Corner to Kilburn, commencing at 7pm.

We urge all people who condemn the hideous treatment of the Murrys by the Irish Government, to join the march. Further details: Box 2, 142, Drummond St., London N.W. 10.

□ Imelda puddefoot, Murray Defence Group.

Criminal trespass: fight it now!

ACROSS THE country Right To Work Campaigners have occupied Job Centres to protest against unemployment. More and more workers have used factory occupations as a tactic to fight for basic trade union rights and against redundancy.

The Criminal Trespass Bill, due for its first reading in November, contains several proposals which can be directly used against workers occupying their factories, students in colleges, or homeless people squatting. The offences include:

□ Behaving in a threatening fashion or carrying objects which could be called offensive weapons while attempting occupation. Sentence six months or £400.

□ Occupation of embassies becomes illegal. (the Rank and File delegation to the Chilean embassy could be said to be occupied while sitting in the waiting room).

□ Resisting eviction by bailiffs, however passively.

These measures will mean that workers in occupation immediately come up against the blunt end of the state machine.

When occupations do occur, they will have to be physically defended.

It is important for militants to be forewarned so we can be forearmed.

Socialist Worker should carry an article on the implications of the Bill and how we can fight it.
□ Ken Collins, East London.



THE DAILY JANG print shop in East London where workers recently went into occupation, demanding wage increases to bring them up to the union rate.

This sort of action will be illegal if the Criminal Trespass Bill becomes law.

A single banner against the bosses

THE GENUINELY socialist movement of this country is deeply divided. The International Socialists have many political opponents on the Left. I believe we all have one thing in common, which could lead to the overthrow of capitalism.

The Communist Party have in the past been a mouthpiece for the State Capitalism of the Eastern Bloc, but give credit where due, they have also given considerable support for various IS activities—the Right To Work March, the recent anti-racist demonstration in Blackburn.

The anarchists, Trotskyists,

anti-fascist committees and various other organisations have several ideological aims in common with the IS.

Above all, the one aim we all adhere to is the overthrow of the capitalist system.

Why should we not unite under one banner and accelerate the downfall of our present system? Then of course we could negotiate a constitution acceptable to a united socialist government.

This is not a criticism, but a constructive proposal. We have many enemies, but united we stand, divided we fall.

□ C M Wilkins, Filey.

A woman's right - the domestic nightmare

IT ISN'T the first time you've printed articles about consumer or domestic affairs in terms of 'housewives' instead of shoppers, parents, or whatever.

Of course, everyone knows it's only women involved in shopping, doing the housework and looking after children.

How can Socialist Worker hope to change sexist attitudes when it perpetuates them by frequent articles about problems of prices, for example, in terms of hard-up mums, wives, mothers-of-four?

Does Socialist Worker print photos such as 'prices nightmare' (25 September) because it is 'sissy' to show a man leaning over a food counter, or do they think domestic nightmares are the prerogative of females only?

□ Lynda Kaye, Welwyn Garden City.

After the revolution...

AS A member of the International Socialists for the past ten weeks I've naturally tried to spread our politics to people through discussion.

Generally everything goes well until after the revolution. What will this workers' state be like, they ask?

The standard cop-out about not laying blueprints for post revolutionary situation isn't good enough.

I think SW should open its pages to contributions from comrades about their personal ideas on the nature of the workers' state.

It can only enrich the political awareness of us all, especially those on the fringes of IS.

□ Nino De Marco, Wandsworth.

SOCIALIST Worker has recently finished a series called 'What Would You Put In Its Place' which we will soon be starting again. We would certainly welcome any contributions. EDITOR.

Letters

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

Charity begins at home!

THIS WEEK has been Oxfam Week when the charity has been making a big fund-raising effort for their work overseas. But people might be less happy giving money if they knew how Oxfam treat workers in this country.

At Oxfam House the, main administrative centre in Oxford, the TGWU branch is not recognised. Brian Walker, the director, is fervently anti-union, preferring to have a management-dominated staff association.

The same disregard for workers is manifest at Oxfam's Wastesaver in Huddersfield, a waste-

recycling centre employing 100 workers.

It was set up with fine ideals about workers' participation in policy making but now in the name of greater profitability workers' participation is rapidly becoming a luxury.

That is, we participate to the extent of being told what's going to happen after the decision has been made to do it.

Half the workers have no job security at all because they're on the Job Creation programmes. One of the phases of Job Creation is just ending and of the 20 workers involved, just seven have been taken on permanently.

The other 13 are being thrown back onto the dole queues, even though there is plenty of work for them to do. There has been no discus-

sion at all in the Industrial Relations Committee (our negotiating body) about this, in contravention of agreed policy and the workers' representatives resigned in protest.

We are now trying to renegotiate the constitution of the IRC but unless it has certain powers in the workers' favour our resignations will stand.

Most of the workers have little or no experience of trade unionism, and morale is low. But they are becoming increasingly aware of how little they can expect from the good will of management and what a fraud 'participation' is when management controls the game.

The fight is only just beginning.

□ Dave Green, TGWU shop steward, Oxfam Wastesaver, Huddersfield.

CROSS PURPOSES

WE ENCLOSE £7.05 towards the Socialist Worker Defence Fund donated by readers in the car assembly block, Chrysler Linwood.

Among those who contributed are workers who are practising Roman Catholics. They recognise the need for a paper like SW, and treat seriously articles dealing with religion, showing the links between the Vatican and big business, the Catholic Church and the extreme right, etc.

On Clydeside one-third of the population are Catholics, overwhelmingly working-class.

The advert for The

Worker (SW, 11 September) does absolutely nothing to convince anyone of the marxist view of religion. In fact it only reinforces barriers already in existence.

It's the type of thing we expect to see in Private Eye or The Orange Cross, not in a revolutionary socialist paper.

When they're handing out the prizes for political insensitivity, we would like to nominate whoever was responsible.

□ JOHN MOONEY (AUEW) and PETER BAIN (TGWU), Chrysler Linwood, Scotland.

BAND ON KK RECORDS LISTEN FOR IT

IN AID OF THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS

"We're not asking you for a penny towards our new children's home."

HEINZ £100,000 NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME APPEAL

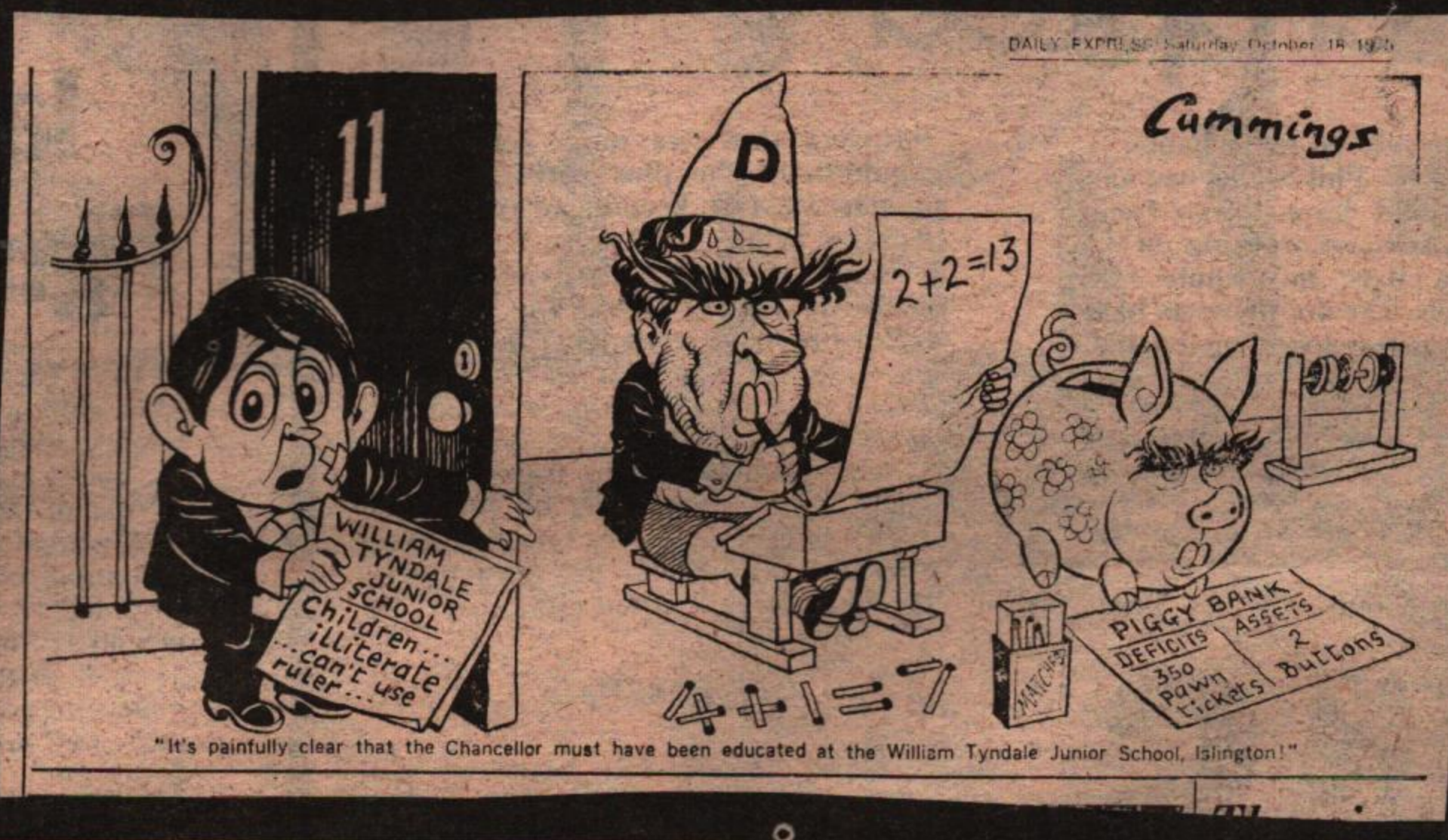
John Ormsby, Tatworth.

57 ways to make a profit

WHAT DO readers make of this Heinz ad, from the Radio Times?

What strings are attached to the children's entry into these homes and so on? If it is simply another profit-making dodge, it's scandalous.

John Ormsby, Tatworth.



"It's painfully clear that the Chancellor must have been educated at the William Tyndale Junior School, Islington!"

What the Daily Express thinks of Tyndale school—a symbol for an attack on progressive education

A GOLDEN age of education...a paradise in which every youngster could read and write faultlessly...a time when, above all, there was discipline—iron discipline—in schools.

That message is now being hammered home again and again by Tories such as former headmaster Rhodes Boyson, by the reactionary schoolmasters' union and by the propagandists of the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph.

The attack on progressive education has found a 'cause': the alleged failings of William Tyndale school in North London.

But what would happen if the bigots got their way and turned the clock back?

Twenty-five years ago, I was a pupil at a secondary modern in West London. Now I am a teacher at a comprehensive in North London. And I have no doubt which is the better school—the one I'm at now.

From the age of seven, I was the victim of Rhodes Boyson and his golden age. I was streamed. The Boysons decided then which of us would go to a grammar school four years later.

In other words, they had written off most working class kids at seven years of age.

From then on, an inferior school and Boyson's beloved discipline set out to tame us until eight years later, we became factory fodder—people who created wealth for other people without a murmur of protest.

Subjected

In the years since I went to school, important changes have been achieved.

Education is still far from perfect. How could it be otherwise when, starved of resources, it is now further subjected to massive cut-backs?

And the social system of which education is a part has not been fundamentally altered either. So still the fate of most working class people is that of fodder for Ford's or an office job.

Those who argue for 'standards' and 'selection' may say they don't want to go back to that extreme.

But selection always means that a few pass and most fail.

It also pushes pressure down through the school. After all, if you have an exam, kids have got to be 'prepared' for it—so the argument goes.

So kids are 'streamed', 'setted' or 'banded'. In some way they are told that they are 'probables', 'possibles' or 'no-hopers'.

Infants

With the spread of progressive ideas, we have pushed this pressure further back. Where the 11-plus has been abolished, the pressure has been taken out of the infants and juniors and most of them don't stream at all.

In many secondaries, we've pushed it back to 14 before pupils are divided up according to the exams they are going to take.

Another gain we've made is in the whole atmosphere of a school and the attitude of the kids. 'But they've got no discipline any more' is the argument you hear.

What those who moan about discipline usually mean is blind obedience. Figures of authority, including teachers, are not feared as they once were.

And of course this is a marvellous gain. Kids have said to me: 'This is boring. Why do we have to do it?'

Boring

Now as a kid, it would never have occurred to me to think that school should be anything else but boring. But if I had said that to a teacher, I would have got a hammering for insolence.

Nowadays the teacher can take it as rudeness—or a serious point for discussion.

You also hear the arguments that 'the slow ones hold back the bright ones', as though you can divide kids up into those who are good at everything and those who are not.

But education is about trying to encourage whatever talents and abilities a kid has got.

The selection and exam system takes a narrow range of abilities and uses them to stamp kids with 'success' or 'failure'.

In my school last year a

class of 14-year-olds were studying 19th-century social history. The 'bright' ones produced more and better written work.

But when a mixed group produced a short play on 'A day in the life of a child worker' they all swapped ideas around and the finished product showed a real understanding of conditions of the time.

Just by looking at the play you could not tell who had contributed what. You could not tell who the 'bright' girl was.

Yet this is what terrifies the selectors and Black Paper supporters. Because they are not interested in raising the general level of education. They don't care that all the kids in that group understood better.

Money

Their only concern is to be able to identify the 'bright' kid, the 'highflier' that it is worth spending more money on.

I want to be a teacher, not a quality control inspector picking out the few from the mass.

But is it true that, in this system, the 'brighter' ones are held back? And is this to be justified because it stops the others being labelled as failures?

There is no way of proving it one way or the other under this system. My experience is that, provided you try to teach children as individuals, the kid who is good at writing things down (which is what 'bright' means) will do as well in a mixed ability class as in a streamed class.

Backlash

Whether you can treat the kids as individuals depends on the size of the class and what resources you've got.

And whatever we have got they are trying to make worse by the cuts. There is, of course, a link between the increasing right-wing backlash in education and the cuts.

When British capitalism was expanding, there was a need for more skilled manpower. The general economic optimism was gradually converted into educational expansion.

But there were bottlenecks.

Prison without bars... the future for our schools?

JEFF HURFORD

National Union of Teachers
Chairman, Tyndale Defence Committee



The two faces of education: the scrapheap for working-class kids (ABOVE) and Harrow for the rich (RIGHT)



The 11-plus was not efficient. The old grammar school curriculum was not geared to the new needs.

Even the rigidities of the old class system were inappropriate. If you were designing a computer, what you knew was more important than who you knew.

So there was a climate in which progressive ideas could get a hearing. But times change. Now we are in a declining economy. 'Value for money' becomes the guiding light and the public spending axe falls.

The best way of getting value for money in education is to find a more efficient way of selecting those it is worth educating beyond the minimum.

So all the old arguments for selection and competition

return. The press take an issue like the Tyndale case, twist and distort it until the original facts are lost, and then use it as a club to attack all left-wing teachers and ideas.

Similarly the 'brave stand' of the Tameside backwoodsmen is praised—not because the Right really believe the 11-plus is the answer, but because it encourages the general principle of selection.

Socialists have to fight not only in each of these specific battles but in the whole war of ideas.

And to win that war, we are really going to have to pull our fingers out.

ANNOUNCING

Socialist Worker Lottery

Price 10p per ticket
Book of 6 for 50p

- 1st Prize 25" Colour TV set
- 2nd Grundig Audio Stereo Unit
- 3rd Black and White Portable TV
- 4th Cassette Tape Recorder
- 5th

25 prizes of hampers, value £10 each

TICKETS Available from:
National Treasurer
6, Cottons Gardens
E.2

FORD'S: Why it erupted

CO-WORKERS, we solicit your support in this hour of crisis. Let us unite in demanding a right to work from the company rather than being sent home whenever it suits the company. Today it's our turn. Tomorrow will be your turn. United we stand, divided we fall.

That was the message the day shift in the body plant at Ford's Dagenham, found waiting for them when they turned up for work on Wednesday morning.

morning.

The plea for solidarity was made by workers on the night shift. Workers whose protest at yet another lay-off caused a sensation in the press on Wednesday.

Smash Up

'Rioters Smash Up Ford Plant' was how they told the story. 'Rioting car workers go on the rampage'.

News of the lay-off came just before midnight. The men had been working for only two hours. After a meeting,

many of them refused to go home.

Plant manager Phil Staley had said that they would have to go home because door-hangers working on the new Cortina were in dispute over manning levels. The doorhangers have been fighting cuts in manning for some time.

Rather than direct their anger and frustration at fellow workers, the men stayed put and made their protest to those who are really to blame—the bosses.

In the yard outside, they began

throwing their tea mugs up at the windows of the plush offices where management sit, keeping an eye on the workers below.

When the police arrived minutes later—all 200 of them—the workers refused to be intimidated. They turned the hoses on them and set fire to two Post Office vans, forming a barricade across the factory gate.

Said Hajinda Singh, from Graveland: 'We were working on the new Fiesta line. The line is very fast and work is very boring. We need more people. Everyone is fed up.'

Stranded

'There was no way we could get home. The last ferry had gone. Everyone was very angry at being laid off again. Tempers flared. But eventually many people went.'

Dave Wray, a shop steward on the day shift said: 'Most of the people on the night shift are young blacks and people who either live a long way off or have been unemployed for a long time before starting at Fords. A lot of them are new.'

The night shift went on strike, demanding payment for the time they were laid off. Shop stewards are meeting again on Wednesday.

FURY AGAIN AS 1000 LAID OFF

FORD pay negotiations opened on Friday. The unions put in an ambitious package of demands which include:

□ Parity with workers in Germany which could mean increases of 12-28 per cent:

- A 35-hour week
- Improved holidays and holiday pay
- Improved lay-off fund
- Fringe benefits like free overalls and pegged canteen prices.

However, Moss Evans TGWU national organiser was quick to assure nervous reporters that any talk of breaking the government's pay code was 'absolute rubbish'.

Union leaders are hoping to get the company to make promises for the future and expect Ford workers to be satisfied with the five per cent available under the social contract.

Promises!

The cost of living index has risen by 42 per cent over the two years of the present pay deal, which means that it would take a pay rise of at least £15 to make Ford workers wages what they were worth two years ago.

The rise in the cost of living index for August also gave production workers a rise of 2.1 per cent on their basic rate. This was promised under the present agreement

THE BODY PLANT at Dagenham, was shut down on Monday afternoon and 1000 day shift workers laid off. Management blamed the lay-offs on a strike by 14 Plasma welders demanding to be upgraded with workers in Belgium and Germany.

'Management are using us like pawns in a game. They have taken on the welders as an excuse to shut the plant down. They have been having teething problems with the new Fiesta', said a metal assembly worker in the plant.

The night shift is already on strike demanding lay-off pay for last Tuesday night.

made two years ago.

Now the company have announced that under government pay policy this will have to be taken out of the new agreement so that the five per cent increase will be further reduced to give Ford workers an increase of only £2.

The negotiators have so far given no indication whether they will accept this deduction. The danger is that the leadership of the unions don't want to see anything that jeopardises the Labour government and its social contract.

Ford workers now have the example of the seamen before them. The seamen were faced with a similar problem of a previous agreement being broken under government pay policy.

A decent lay-off agreement comes under the heading of 'fringe benefits' and if we don't get a decent lay-off pay out under the new agreement then the officials' list of demands will mean nothing.

In the USA 200,000 Ford workers are at present on strike for a decent new pay contract.

Why so many simply quit...

THE ASSEMBLY PLANT at Dagenham is in the process of increasing the workforce by 800 to build the new Fiesta. To do this, they will take on 1300 men, expecting 500 to leave. And leave they will, despite the high level of unemployment in East London.

New recruits will realise what working at Fords means and will go. Some last a few weeks, some a few days, some will take one look at their job on the line and ask for their cards.

A shop steward recently told a story of how one man asked his foreman if he could go to the toilet.

The foreman asked him to wait, so after a while the man asked again and the foreman said no relief man was free.

He couldn't wait any longer so he left the line and went to the toilet. When he returned, the foreman put in a disciplinary report.

It took the intervention of the steward to prevent the man from being disciplined for going to the toilet.

Defeats

Everyone says 'isn't the boredom terrible?' But worse is the constant pressure of having to repeat hard physical work.

Try tightening a nut deep in the engine of your car so you really have to stretch, or bend double, tightening a screw right under the dashboard.

Then imagine doing it every two and a half minutes at 4am.

You get used to all that, but it's the lay-offs that no one can stomach.

The foreman comes round with a letter. You've no money and go to the dole. And there they'll tell you you're on strike, and aren't eligible for benefit even though the dispute is probably not even in your plant and you don't know what it's about.



Broken windows and (Top) overturned Post Office vans: the scene after last week's explosion

Barrier lads fight on

43 BOILERMAKERS on the £350 million Thames Barrier project have been on strike for six weeks against the sacking of four of their mates.

When redundancies were first announced the site was working 12-hour shifts. Immediately it went onto a straight 8-hour day. But management didn't budge an inch and insisted on redundancies.

A renegotiation of the contract for what is described in government circles as 'the eighth engineering wonder of the world', was behind management's action, rather than a rundown of work.

For the past two years, the consortium (Costain, Tarmac, and Hollandsche) have been working on a time and material basis—the Greater London Council pays the consortium according to hours worked and material brought onto site.

But the new contract will be a fixed-price one and management are looking to cut every corner possible to boost their profits.

The implications of this have already come to light during the strike. To keep the site operating, management have introduced flexibility for all sections. When one T&G steward refused to leave his job and do sweeping, he was immediately sent home.

Unofficial

If the strike is lost then flexibility will be here to stay and with it the possibility of serious accidents and loss of life.

The Boilermakers London District Committee are behind the 43 men but after six weeks the union's executive have not made the strike official. They want more information, yet they have returned letters from the strike committee, because they are not an official union organisation.

Local TGWU official Frank Burns has instructed all his drivers to cross the picket line.

Last Thursday morning more than 60 lorries from St Albans Sand and Gravel (Waltham Cross) and Hall Aggregates (Romford) went through the gates.

The local Right to Work Committee immediately contacted the Welwyn and Hatfield branches of UCATT who are fighting the lump. They have said that if the lorries continue to go through the picket line, St Albans Sand and Gravel will be blacked by UCATT members on sites throughout Hertfordshire.

Socialist Worker Leeds Campaign Against Racism

Public meeting, Sunday 10 October, 7.30pm, Wellesley Hotel, Wellington St. Speakers: Tony Cliff and local trade unionists. Chairman: Jim Newton (AUEW convenor, Sulzer Bros., in a personal capacity.)

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.

ANGOLA Solidarity Committee discussion forum. Series of four meetings on the Angola revolution. Admission free. All meetings at the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 at 7.30pm.

Thursday 21 October: Angola and African and Caribbean struggles.

National Abortion Campaign Day School: on positive legislation, ethical questions, facilities etc. Discussion on the mobilisation for National Tribunal in Women's Rights (to be held on 29 January) is also scheduled, Saturday 9 October, 34-6 Bedford Square, London.

NEEDED URGENTLY for political reasons: room for comrades, 23, Inner East London district (or near). Phone Alison 980-0231 ext. 13.

COMRADE urgently requires somewhere to live. Contact Drew Regan at Corbridge Works 739-1870.

THE NEW PLUTO PRESS catalogue of forthcoming titles and complete back list is now available. Send s.a. for copies to Unit 10.7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.

HOSPITAL WORKER out 13 October: orders and money to Hospital Worker, 78 Edith Grove, London SW10. Phone 01-351-1540.

NATFHE RANK AND FILE All London meetings 10 October 7pm. The Current Crisis in Education. Speaker: Richard Kuper, Middlesex Poly. The Kings Head, Swinton Street, London, WC1. (Just off 'Grays Inn' Road. 5 mins, Kings Cross).

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION Open Day School: State and Revolution. Saturday 23 October 10am-6pm, Trades Council Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7. Creche. Inquiries Leeds 757961.

WORKING WOMENS CHARTER: Campaign Benefit Disco, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7. Friday 15 October, 8pm-1am. Admission 50p. Late bar till 1am.

COMRADE needs accommodation in Hackney area. Phone Chris, 739 1413.

LABOUR MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO IRELAND Public Meeting: A delegation of 65 trade unionists representing 50 Labour movement bodies (CLPs, TC, TU branches etc) spent three days in Ireland (Dublin, Crossmaglen, Belfast). Trade Union delegates will report on what they discovered. Monday 11 October, 7.30pm, LMDI, 1 North End Road, W14.

BROADSIDE MOBILE WORKERS' THEATRE: The Woman's Show plus the Derelicts women's rock band. The Basement, Shelton St, London, WC2. Friday 8 October, 7.30pm. Tickets 80p, claimants 50p. Benefit in aid of Camden Women's Centre project.

STUDENT LEADERS ON TRIAL

By Stuart Hukin and Garry Bushell

LAST TERM, North East London Students Union staged one of the largest occupations in the country against teacher unemployment and the blatant racism of the Polytechnic authorities.

Autonomy

On Friday the Poly's authorities hired East Ham town hall council chambers and a heavy police guard to hold a secret trial of three militant students—union president Andy Strouthous, Jeff Fryer and Ian Miller, all 18 members.

Their crime? Defending the

union. The governors reacted to last term's occupation by attempting to alter the union constitution and write out all possibility of militancy.

Students insisted on union autonomy and that union rules be changed only by union general meetings. But they were threatened that funds would be frozen if they didn't toe the line.

A student picket immediately occupied the governors' special committee room

until they agreed to leave the Constitution intact.

Director Brosan's next move was to accuse three of the student occupiers of 'threatening behaviour' and call this disciplinary tribunal.

He hopes that by expelling 'ring leaders' he'll destroy the will of others to fight.

NELP students are picketing the Town Hall to show they won't take intimidation lying down. But they need support from other colleges. After all, if Brosan succeeds, directors all over the country can start to dismantle student unions that won't comply with the government's spending cuts.

Students interested in supporting the picket should contact NELP Students' Union immediately.

□ Glib promises from Poly authorities convinced students at the Holbrook site of NELP to end their lock-out of the premises last week. Students closed the building because it was layered with deadly asbestos dust.

But the vague reassurances that swayed them didn't fool the cleaners. They have struck until all the asbestos is removed. The cleaners are all members of the General and Municipal Workers Union who have made the strike official.

ROLLS: NOW IT'S A FIGHT FOR ALL THE JOBS

BLANTYRE: The ten-week old Rolls-Royce sit-in goes on despite management's attempts to undermine it by offering voluntary redundancies.

The truth behind the rationalisation plan was revealed last week.

Rolls are now saying that they want to get rid of 400 jobs in the Scottish division.

This means combine-wide action to protect jobs has to be organised urgently.

Practical

The example of Blantyre has to be followed. The longer the sit-in is left isolated the more confident management will become.

It is the duty of convenors and shop stewards in every Rolls Royce factory to make sure that doesn't happen.

If they fail to win practical support for the occupation, they could be next.

Engineers Charter/Right to Work public meeting FIGHT THE CLOSURES FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

Speakers: Jack McKenna (TGWU convenor, STC East Kilbride) and Willy Lee (AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood), Blantyre Miners' Welfare, Saturday 9 October, 11am.

STOP THE CUTS Public meeting organised by the Rank and File public sector bulletin, Fight Back, and Glasgow Right to Work Committee, City Halls, Albion Street, Glasgow. Tuesday 12 October, 7pm. Speakers: Harry McShane and John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign).

Phipps picket ends

NORTHAMPTON: The four women sacked at Chamberlain Phipps for being members of the Engineering Union have called off their picket of the factory and are to take their case to an industrial tribunal.

The local district of the Engineering Union says it will represent them at the Tribunal, but isn't prepared to do anything more to fight for their jobs.

If the AUEW believes the women have a case at a tribunal, it must also recognise that they are entitled to their jobs back.

The union should back them in their fight. But it won't.

The women have not given up the fight against the union officials who sold them out. They will carry on fighting through the local AUEW branches to get officials who are prepared to stand by their members.

Follow Blantyre's lead - occupy!

GLASGOW: 550 jobs are threatened at STC East Kilbride and 280 at Perssona International in Hillington.

Bill McCarron, an Engineering Union member from the Blantyre occupation, told Socialist Worker: 'The workforce at these two factories have both been involved in the fight against redundancies in the last year.

'In both cases, jobs were sacrificed in a compromise, with management promising on both occasions to retain the factory. Now they are both to close.

'Quite clearly the workers have been conned. The only thing they can do now is to follow Blantyre's lead and occupy.

Easterhouse Right to Work Committee March against unemployment and the cuts from Easterhouse to the City Centre. March assembles Tuesday 12 October, 11.30am, Easterhouse Shopping Centre Car Park.

WORKERS SURROUND UNION HQ

NORWICH: Shoe workers surrounded the local headquarters of their union, NUFLAT, on Monday demanding action to protect their jobs.

Kay Shoes want to shut one of their two factories in the city at a cost of 350 jobs. A mass meeting has discussed the possibility of an occupation and further action is being discussed during the week if management do not back down.

The local NUFLAT official told his members not to attend the mass meeting as it would mean 'breaking the Social Contract'.

More than 100, mostly women, ignored this and attended with ASTMS members.

Trico: Now a blacking campaign is essential

WORKERS at Chrysler's Linwood plant in Scotland have voted against blacking South African wiper blades.

This decision is a setback to the efforts to help the 300 women workers at Trico in West London, who have been on strike for equal pay for 19 weeks.

Trico management reacted to the blacking of Trico products by arranging alternative supplies.

In this way they can keep their contracts with the big car firms and sit out the strike.

The attempt at Linwood to get the alternative supplies blacked was the first effort to break the deadlock in the strike.

Shop stewards at the Joint Representative Committee in Linwood recommended the blacking call. So did the shop stewards in the affected section.

But a mass meeting of the section turned down the call on Monday.

Unfortunately, there were no women from Trico present to argue their case.

A hard campaign is needed to reverse the Linwood decision.



Action

The Trico strike is a test case. If the strikers win, the way will be open for tens of thousands of women workers across the country to take up the demand for equal pay.

This is why all workers must support the strike. And it is why the women's union, the Engineering Union, must be forced to lead and organise a vigorous, national campaign to black the alternative supplies.

The Right to Work Campaign has produced a special leaflet for car workers urging the need to black Trico blades and the alternative supplies. It should be used at all car factories.



SKELMERSDALE: 800 textile workers at Courtaulds are sitting-in in protest over plans to speed-up production. The bosses want to increase the rate from 200 looms to 25 looms a day. A year ago it was eight. The workers—including 400 weavers—are also demanding that more people should be taken on. Unemployment in Skelmersdale is among the highest in the country. Electricians and engineers are still working.

WE DEMAND A UNION!

COVENTRY: 30 workers at the two depots of Bristow and Cotley joinery works are now in their fifth week of a strike for the reinstatement of a victimised shop steward.

The company is part of the massive Powell and Duffryn group which has interests in timber, shipping and oil. Until the strike began the company was strictly non-union.

Three days after the depots were organised, the newly-elected steward was sacked. Immediately all but six of the workforce struck.

They have since maintained a strong picket line at each depot.

More than 200 vehicles have

been turned away in the last four weeks, including one from Belgium. Threats of blacking have stopped some deliveries completely.

A notice outside the gate reads 'We will go to independent arbitration, will you?'. But the company have refused. They want a secret ballot of Transport Union members to elect a new steward.

The TGWU branch secretary told Socialist Worker, 'We'll stay out until we have won. We are prepared to take the company to the conciliation service, our case is so water tight. But we need support now, especially financial assistance and blacking.'

'Already Palgrave and Brow in Yarmouth have blacked all consignments—they are part of the group, too.'

□ **Donations and messages of support to: Bristow and Cotley Strike Committee, c/o Transport House, Parkside, Coventry.**

COVENTRY: The actors' union, Equity, and the Musicians Union have blacked the racist Barras Green Working Man's Club.

The blacking was imposed nationally after an Asian Equity member, Ian Baley, one of the Right to Work marchers, was refused work in the club four weeks ago.

For the last three weeks, the local Right to Work Committee has picketed the club on Friday evenings. Now that picket has to be strengthened.

Join the Right to Work picket against racism every Friday, 7.30pm and 9pm, outside the club in Coventry Street, Stoke Heath, Coventry.

WALK-OUT OVER WAGE CUT

STEEL erectors are picketing a South Yorkshire pit this week after stopping work on a new coal washing plant.

The 62 strikers, members of the AUEW Construction section, walked out on Monday

after an attempt to cut their wages by the contractors, Head Wrightson, of Stockton on Tees.

Miners are working normally at the pit, Dinnington Colliery near Sheffield.

A surgery- or it's an all-out strike!

'A SURGERY in the 85 shop or it's an all-out strike!'

That's what the 700 workers in the Hillman Hunter Gear Box and Engine shop at Chrysler's Stoke plant in Coventry demanded at a mass meeting last Monday.

And the management

By Gerry Jones, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Stoke

agreed to open the surgery the same afternoon!

Chrysler had closed the 85 shop surgery last winter during the period of redundancies

when they knew a fight back was unlikely.

They wanted to transfer all the medical facilities to one central surgery.

This has meant that injured workers have had to wait for up to an hour before receiving attention.

Boost for Automat

MANCHESTER: Blacking of the Automat factory received a further boost last week when eight workers visited the giant GEC factory at Trafford Park.

Engineering Union members at Automat have been on strike for nine months for union recognition. They have been supported by levies, pickets, and blacking by trade unionists across Manchester.

Blacking

Last week they discovered that GEC were still using parts made by scabs inside Automat. Everything from Automat was blacked months ago.

Stewards had been told by GEC that Automat products were no longer being used. But the strikers have invoices that prove GEC has an arrangement with Automat.

Now the stewards are going to take up the blacking with GEC for the second time.

HOSPITALS STRIKE CALL

HOSPITAL workers in central and East London are calling another one-day strike against the cuts.

The area shop stewards committee have called a stoppage for 14 October. All

hospitals in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham will be affected.

There will be a march and a mass lobby of the Area Health Authority in Chant Street, London N1 at 2.30pm.

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10c

Too many cleared? Change the magistrates!

ANOTHER serious threat faces the 30 Right to Work marchers awaiting trial at Hendon Magistrates Court in North London.

The three magistrates who have heard the cases so far have been taken off the trial.

They were lay magistrates, part-time. They are being replaced by full-time, stipendiary magistrates.

This is clearly because five of the 12 marchers tried so far have been acquitted. Some of them are now suing the police for assault and are

likely to win substantial damages.

The stipendiary magistrates are being brought in to stop this, to ensure more convictions and tougher sentences.

But there was also some good news for the marchers last week. More than 100

delegates at the Labour Party Conference signed a petition urging support for the Defence Campaign, calling for a public inquiry into the police attack on the march and demanding that the Home Secretary stops all prison sentences.

The signatories include a number of MPs, Ray Buckton, general secretary of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, and Alan Fisher, general secretary of the Public Employees Union, NUPE.

One of those most active in collecting signatures was the treasurer of the Right to Work Defence Fund, assistant general secretary of the AUEW, Ernie Roberts.

He told Socialist Worker: 'It is vitally necessary for the Labour and trade union movement to defend all workers under attack by any part of the establishment. This is particularly so in this case where unemployed workers are being committed to prison for their activities in fighting for the Right to Work.'

'Everyone must rally to the support of the arrested marchers in spite of the

CLEANERS' STRIKE STRONGER EVERY DAY

INVERGORDON: They closed down another 28 schools in the Scottish Highlands on Monday. A fifth of the 248 Highland schools are now shut.

Every day there is another sign of success for the 400 school cleaners defending their jobs and schools from the clutches of the Highland Regional Council.

A month ago the Council, which consists mainly of retired colonels and landed gentry, sent an arrogant note to its 400 school cleaners. They ended the cleaners' contracts, and cut their hours by a third.

Muriel Crout, shop steward for 22 school cleaners in Invergordon, told Socialist Worker: 'I take home £24 for 30 hours work. The council want to take £9.50 of that. They want us to work two hours a day instead of three.'

'A lot of women won't bother—especially the widows and one-parent families. They will go on social security, where they will cost the government just as much.'

'The effect on the schools will be terrible. Toilets, for instance, can't be properly cleaned in time, and there is no ventilation in the toilets where I work. There is a serious risk of infection and illness among the children.'

AMAZED

'Think of it. Saving in pennies from working women's wages! And these duffers in the council voted their top official a £480 rise this year! That's half what we earn in a whole year.'

Muriel Crout and her fellow cleaners have been on the picket line at their school, South Lodge, for every day of the strike. Everywhere, from Wick to Lochaber, the response of the women to the strike call has amazed the authorities.

There have been huge meetings, and demonstrations, most of them supported and

by PAUL FOOT

even inspired by parents and school children.

The Highland Council, in reply, have issued secret orders to keep the schools open as long as possible—so many schools are operating with stinking, infectious toilets, filthy classrooms and gymnasiums. Teachers' union militants are demanding closure for health reasons.

The council is losing the fight. It is beginning to split.

Even so, there is a nasty smell of 'compromise'

in the air. Officials from the government Arbitration Service (ACAS) start talks with the cleaners' union, NUPE. Union officials are talking openly about selling the cleaners for 2½ hours a day instead of three.

Such plans must be resisted.

MOCKERY

The Highlands is one of the areas of highest recruitment for NUPE. Inverness NUPE branch secretary Bob Johnson, speaking at a Socialist Worker 'Stop the Cuts' meeting on Monday, said his branch has grown from 23 members to 1005 in a year.

To agree a cut in hours after the magnificent response of the women cleaners would make a mockery of this.

The strikers must strengthen their organisation. The strike action committee has 15 members, only four of whom are women cleaners. The strikers must demand a weekly meeting of all their stewards and a more representative action committee.

Leave the last words to Muriel Crout: 'They're testing us out, because they think we are weak. They took on the cleaners in the Borders, but the cleaners beat them back. If they win here who knows where they will cut next.'



One coach of scabs that didn't get through—but then the police moved in in force.

STRIKERS CALL FOR MAXIMUM UNITY

TWENTY of the strikers at RDL Methil have sent the following letter to Socialist Worker:

'We are now in our third week of strike against a vicious agreement which would seriously worsen conditions inside our yard, Redpath Dorman Long (RDL).

'After three meetings of the full workforce rejected this agreement, management took 100 men off the clock for refusing to work in unsafe conditions.'

'This threat led to a fourth mass meeting where, unannounced, the joint shop stewards' committee

railroaded the agreement through with the majority of 70 out of more than a thousand.'

'Since then more than 200 scaffolders and erectors have been out on strike and have been joined by over 50 of their brothers in the Boilermakers' Society.'

SCABS

'Management of this nationalised company has since sent the strikers their cards. Obviously this is part of the government's fight to raise unemployment.'

'Scab labour is being recruited nationally through labour exchanges and a group called 'Task Force'. Some of those scabs are now working, although many men who were recruited have respected our picket line because they don't want to be classed as scabs.'

'Unfortunately the shop stewards' committee are encouraging this situation by accepting these men on the site with temporary union cards.'

'It has to be said that prominent Communist Party members who daily cross our picket line are among the most active in implementing this policy. We write to urge that the Communist Party discipline these members for their encouragement of scabbing, and flouting of basic trade union principles.'

□ James Kermack, Brian Sweeney, J Murphy, A G Stuart, J Davies, D Gray, H Tunnie, D Kellichan (AUEW Construction Section), W Richies, A Wyse, Ian Gordon, John McKie (Boilermakers Society), B Bain, G Budge, T Brown, J Tierney, R Steel, A Muir, J Senior, J Scot (AUEW Construction Section).

Stakes go up at RDL

THE police are now turning out in force at the Redpath Dorman Long oil rig site at Methil, Fife, where 300 men are on strike against management attempts to speed up the job and abandon all reasonable safety precautions.

After pickets sat down in front of coaches on Wednesday morning, the Chief Constable of Fife arrived.

Bruce Ramsay, a member of the Boilermakers' Society, told Socialist Worker what the Chief Constable had said: 'We were told that the next day these coaches would be going through. We're going to smash your strike one way or another—that's what he really meant.'

'Sure enough, on Thursday morning more than 70 police arrived to hold back the pickets.'

Problems

The strikers face another problem more serious than the police.

A delegation of strikers, including Jimmy Fitzsimmons, the scaffolders' steward, the T Minogue the striking boilermakers' rep, arrived at the monthly meeting of the Oil Rig Shop Stewards' Liaison Committee last Saturday. This is a delegated body representing all the oil rig construction sites, including RDL.

The strikers requested speaking rights to explain their case. This was turned down and no strikers were allowed to speak.

Tommy Minogue told Socialist Worker:

'Even if they disagree with us, they shouldn't stop money coming in for our strike. They have sent letters out to sites telling the men not to contribute to our strike fund. This is our life-blood and they are cutting it off. They are strike-breaking.'



Ernie Roberts: Collected signatures

political differences which exist in our movement.'

Among the other signatories were:

Joan Maynard, MP, Audrey Wise MP, Norman Atkinson MP, Albert Stallard, MP, Syd Bidwell MP, Laurie Pavitt MP, Neil Kinnock MP, Dennis Skinner MP, Roy Hughes MP, Joe Dean MP, Robert Hughes MP, Jo Richardson, MP.

Bernard Dix (NUPE), John Forrester (Labour Party NEC), Richard Clements (editor of Tribune), Ray Buckton (ASLEF), E Pritchard (Bakers Union, Merseyside), G Harrison (Bakers Union, Manchester), F J Rumsey (TGWU steward, South West London), J Hignman (TGWU steward, Uxbridge), A Bevan (LPYS national chairman), Nick Bradley (Labour Party NEC), Jack Farrell (Peterborough Boilermakers president).

□ Report from the trial—page 5.

Edinburgh and Dunfermline public meetings

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS!
No more Shrewsburys!

Speakers: Vincent Flynn (chairman, Barnet Trade Union Inquiry into police attack on Right to Work march), Mike Lynch (chairman, Dunfermline Central Labour Party, sentenced to six months jail, John Deason (national secretary, Right to Work Campaign).

EDINBURGH: Wednesday 13 October, 7.30pm, The Hole, 21 Hill Place.
DUNFERMLINE: Thursday 14 October, 7.30pm, Carnegie Bath.

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