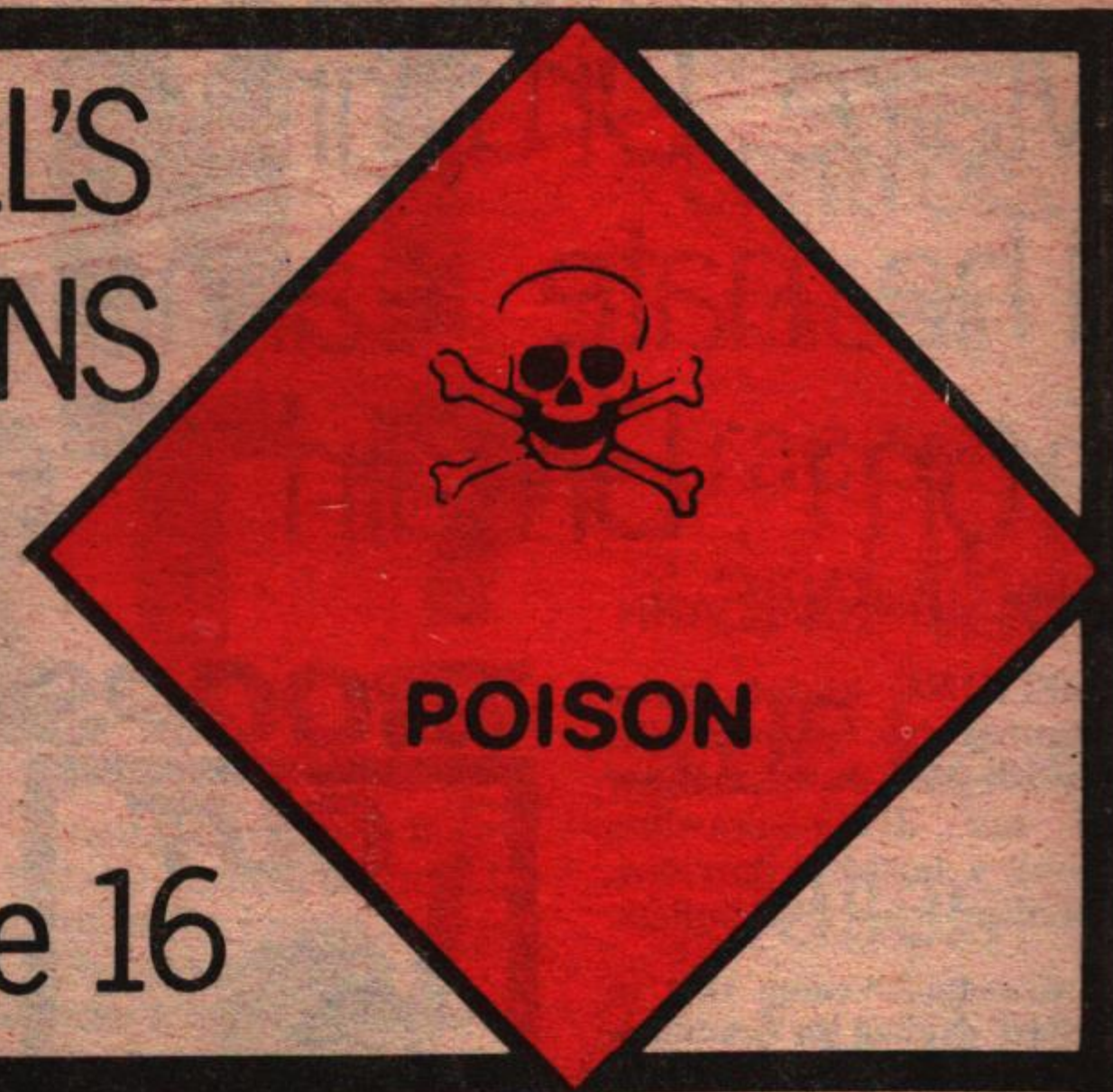


# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

WALSALL'S  
500 TONS  
OF  
DEATH  
see page 16



## JAILED - for organising a union

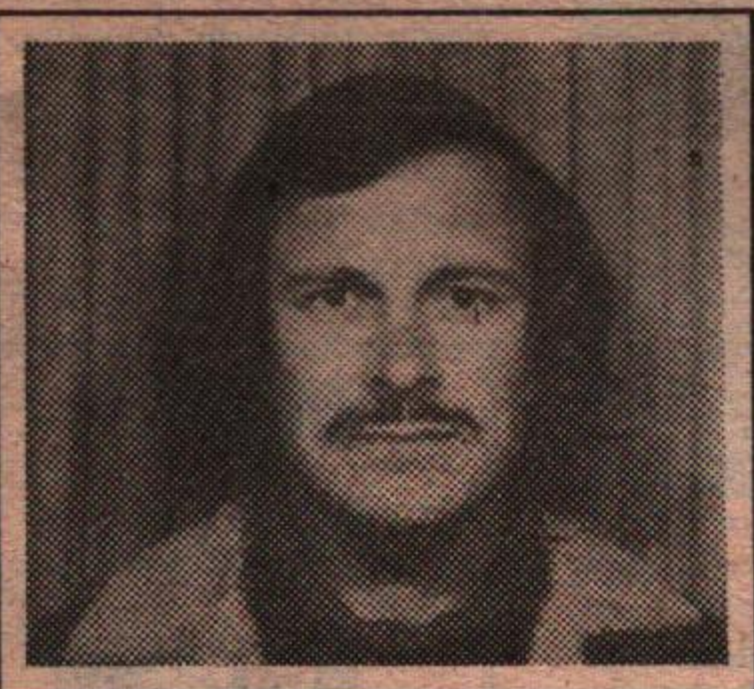
TERRY GALLOGLY is in prison—for organising a union.

Earlier this year Terry was let out of Northallerton jail, where he is serving a prison sentence which ends this Christmas. He was to be allowed to work the last few months of his sentence in a prisoners' work scheme.

He was sent to work at Aronsteads, in Batley. Conditions there, especially for immigrant and women workers, were appalling. Terry organised almost all the workers into the Engineering Union. On 22 October, a worker was threatened by a foreman with a knife. Terry called in the AUEW, and the foreman was suspended.

A few days later, Terry was hauled off to Wakefield jail by two warders. They told him he'd been sacked, so he'd have to go back to prison!

The management started by saying that Terry's 'parole conditions' prevented him taking part in trade union activities. But Terry isn't even on parole!



Now they say that threats were made on Terry's life by some truck drivers. This is also a lie.

Most of the workers walked out when they heard of Terry's sacking. But the local AUEW district committee are dragging their feet.

Terry wrote to his wife last week: 'The same firm, Aronsteads of Alexandria Road, Batley, were fined £300 only last week by an industrial tribunal for wrongfully dismissing a warehouseman.'

'I am being blatantly victimised for legal trade union activities.'

'It is frankly incredible that with a Labour government, the Home Office is prepared to assist unscrupulous employers by imprisoning shop stewards.'

□ Socialist Worker calls on all AUEW members to raise Terry's case and get emergency resolutions to Wakefield district AUEW and AUEW headquarters.

□ Letters of support to Terence Gallogly, 156526, Wakefield Prison, Love Lane, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

# THE TOWN THEY WANT TO MURDER

STEPHEN McKAY was sent home from school in Skelmersdale because he was wearing only half a school uniform, and tennis shoes.

His father, Leslie, is out of work.

His application for a grant to buy a school uniform for his 11-year-old son had been turned down.

Ronnie Johnston is another of the town's 3000 unemployed. 'When Sonia goes to school next year, I don't know how we're going to find the right clothes for her,' he said.

'We try to put aside a few pennies, but even now we can't afford the underwear the children need.'

Ronnie lost his job at Thorn's television tube factory last January, and has been out of work ever since.

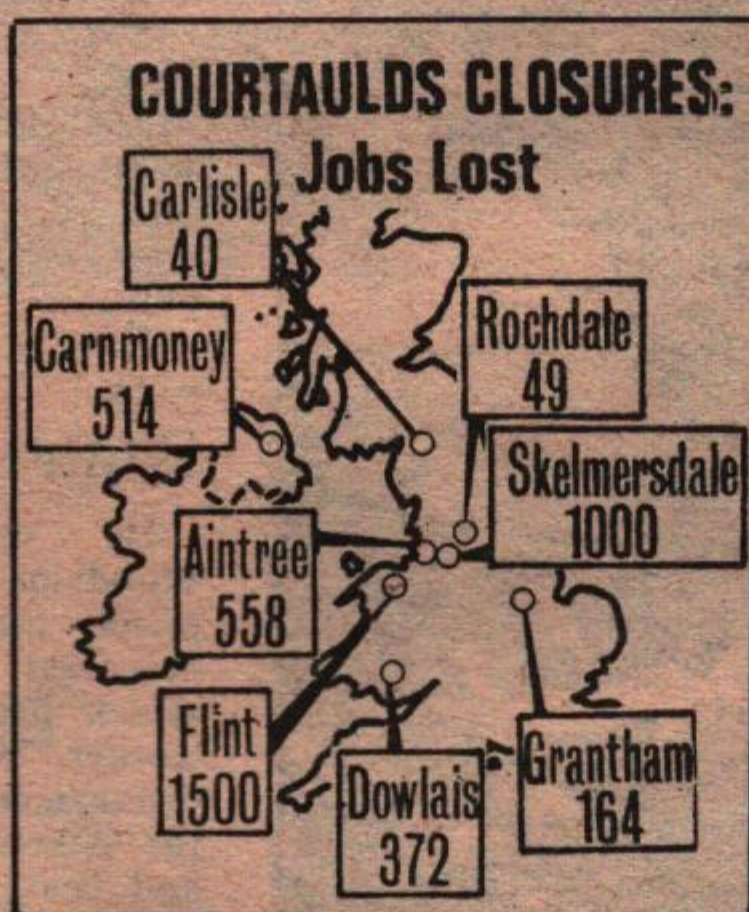
Last week the multi-million pound giant Courtaulds announced the closure of their factory in Skelmersdale. The factory weaves enough cloth to fit every child in Skelmersdale with three new sets of clothes every school term. It employs 1000 workers.

That's Skelmersdale. Plenty of workers willing to work. Plenty of factories. Plenty of new machinery lying idle.

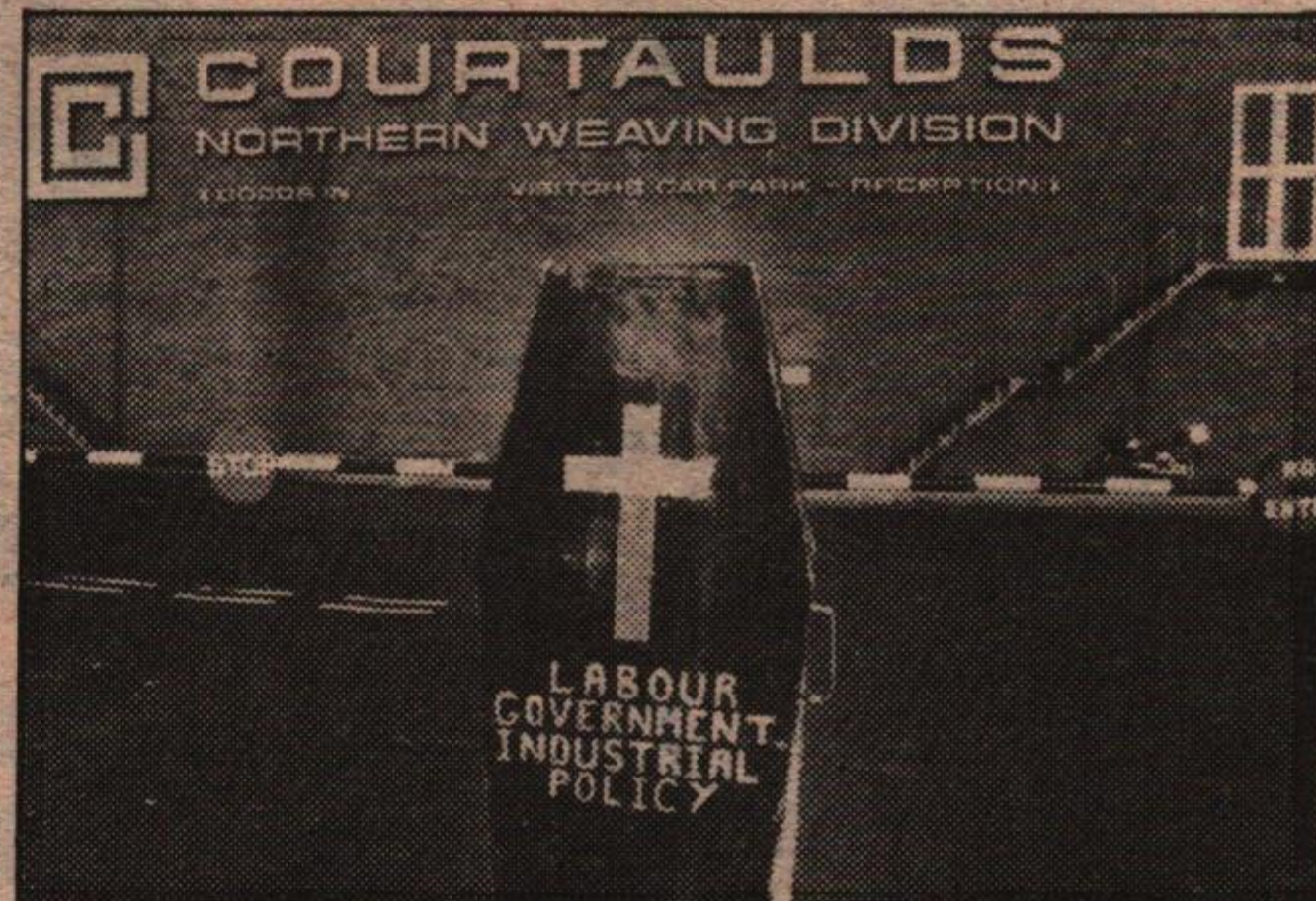
But one in six of the workers on the dole. At least a dozen factories empty. Hundreds of tons of machinery lying idle.

More than 100 families, that's 500 people, with their electricity cut off. That figure is expected to triple by Christmas.

## Courtaulds axe Skelmersdale



The map of disaster—almost all the sackings are in high unemployment areas. RIGHT: Skelmersdale workers' response.



People cold, people hungry, people idle, while, in the same town, the means of producing heat, food and clothes are left to rot.

'We've had enough,' says Billy Castley, secretary of the town's Unemployed Action Committee, part of the Right to Work Campaign.

Together with the action committee at Courtaulds, we are calling a one-day stoppage for the whole town this Thursday.

'Everyone's involved in this

fight—everyone in the town. So everyone should stop work, and join the unemployed in a huge demonstration of protest.'

Billy Jones, textile workers' union (ATTU) shop steward and a member of the action committee at Courtaulds, which is fighting the closure, told Socialist Worker: 'We're going to meet Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of Courtaulds, on Thursday. And if Sir Arthur offers us the bones off his table, we won't be picking them up.'

'It's no good making any more

productivity deals. And it's no good just letting them close it down, like they did at Thorns earlier this year.'

'We're not prepared to piss around with a lot of high-up union officials telling us to keep calm. We're not allowing the Department of Employment people in.'

'We're not allowing the machinery to move either. I say: If they can't give us jobs, they can't have their factory or their machinery.'

## FACT

COURTAULDS specialise in building factories in 'areas of special assistance'—where the government grants are the highest. From 1966 to 1972, their big building period, they spent £150 million on investment. £62 million of that, more than a third, came in grants from the government.

## STOP THE ROT

Socialist Worker Public Meeting in Skelmersdale: Thursday 11 November, 7.45pm, The Highwayman, Wigan Road, Digmoor. Speakers: Billy Castley (secretary, Unemployed Action Committee), John Deason (secretary, Right to Work Campaign), Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and a representative of the Courtaulds shop stewards' committee.

**All out against cuts and unemployment 17 November**



# Maire Drumm: The hate came from Britain

by EAMONN McCANN

NOTHING about Maire Drumm so pleased the British press as the manner of her dying—crawling along a hospital corridor, bleeding from five bullets.

'Grandma Venom shot in Belfast' exulted the headlines, while editorial writers smacked their lips in satisfaction and pronounced her a victim of her own beliefs.

Most British people hated Maire Drumm and she hated Britain. Indeed hate is a nothing word for the way she felt. She hated Britain with a pure passion for what British power in Ireland had done to people around her.

Her husband, Jimmy, although never convicted of a crime in his life, spent 13 years in prison. A fact which alone would fuel hatred in almost any human being.

She lived in Andersonstown, which is often referred to as a 'Provisional stronghold' and so it is—because there is hardly a home in the entire sprawling estate from which men and women have not been dragged screaming in the middle of the night for 'questioning' in barracks.

Hardly a man there has not been beaten up by British soldiers and there are homes by the hundred where people have been interned, maimed or murdered. It could hardly be other than Provo Road.

## Outrageous

And if Maire Drumm's public pronouncements were often so outrageous and politically confused—which they were—hers was the unmistakable voice of a people battered into bewilderment and trying desperately, sometimes blindly, to bring it to an end.

She was not a politician. She rarely thought before she spoke. She knew little of the niceties of 'proper' political exchange and in private she was, not to be patronising about her, an ordinary, motherly, old-fashioned Irish woman.

Two ultra-right gangs of Protestant assassins have separately claimed credit for killing her. But they were not on their own. They are merely the most vicious expression of the sectarianism which is the very essence of Northern Ireland, which was nurtured by Britain through the ages, the better to manipulate the people of Ireland. They are the cutting edge of Orangeism, which Britain has consistently supported and effectively still does.

Maire Drumm's murderers may reasonably have felt that their action was sanctioned in advance by people in high places who, clearly, desired her death.

## Assassins

Collusion between British security forces and Protestant assassination squads has been documented in Socialist Worker in the past. Indeed many of the assassins are serving British soldiers, members of the 8000-strong Ulster Defence Regiment.

The collusion expresses an identity of interest. Both the assassins and the British authorities want republicanism destroyed and Ireland made safe again for imperial rule. From that to active co-operation is, as often been shown in the past seven years, a small step.

Whether or not there was collusion with Maire Drumm's killers—and that may never be known for certain—she was set up, and the people who set her up were preparing to dance on her grave before her body was cold.

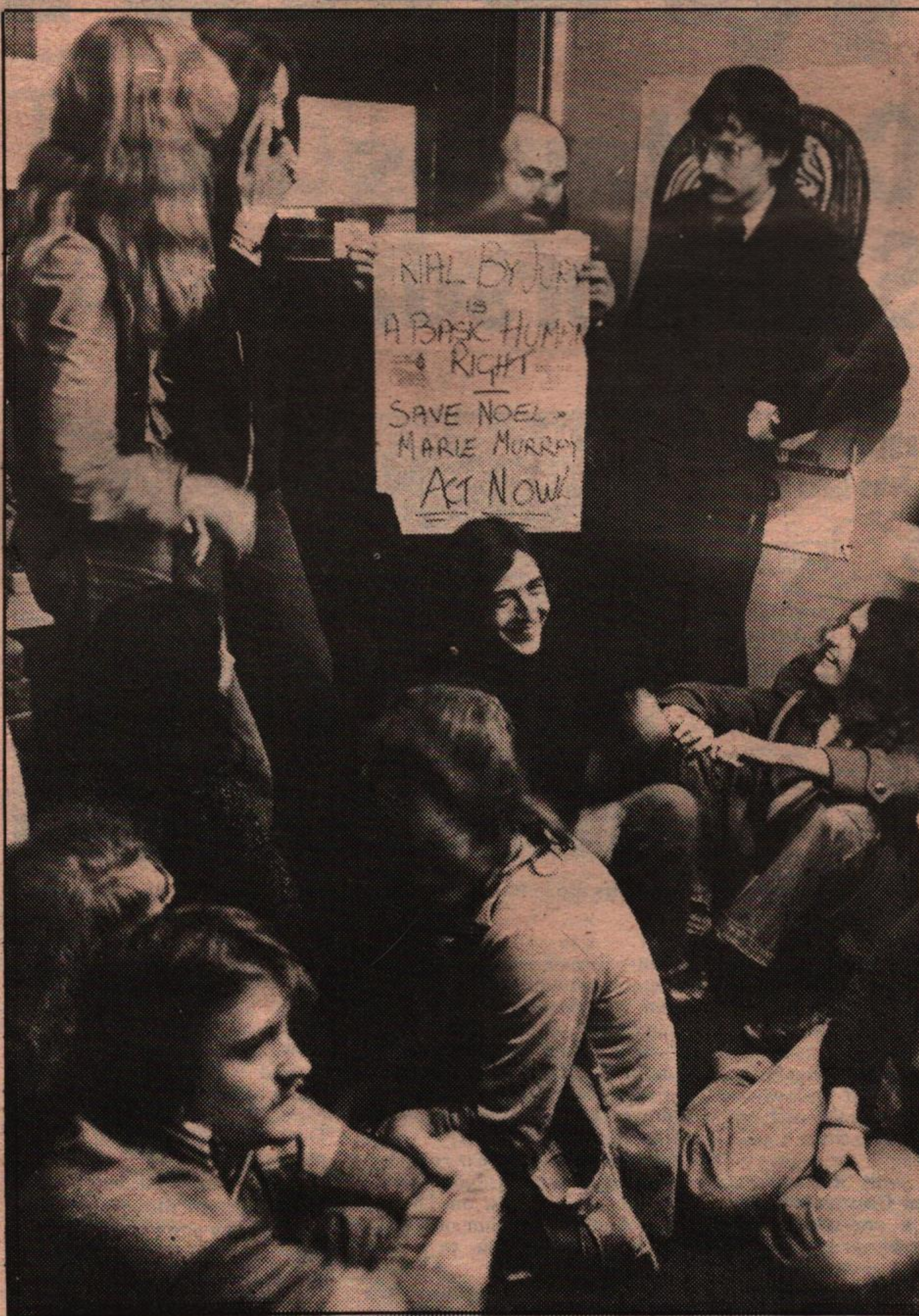
## TROOPS OUT



Within two days of her death three other Catholics have been killed in North Belfast. Two newspaper delivery men, John Maguire and Charlie Corbett, were hooded and shot while the ten-year-old son of one of them was made to look on. A 20-year-old student, Steven McCann, was seized on his way home from a dance, beaten senseless, his throat cut and then shot in the head.

By the time this is printed there may have been others. There may be retaliation. And it all will be fodder for more British moralising about the viciousness of the Irish.

The viciousness is not native. It is a British import. That's what is important to understand about Maire Drumm and her murder.



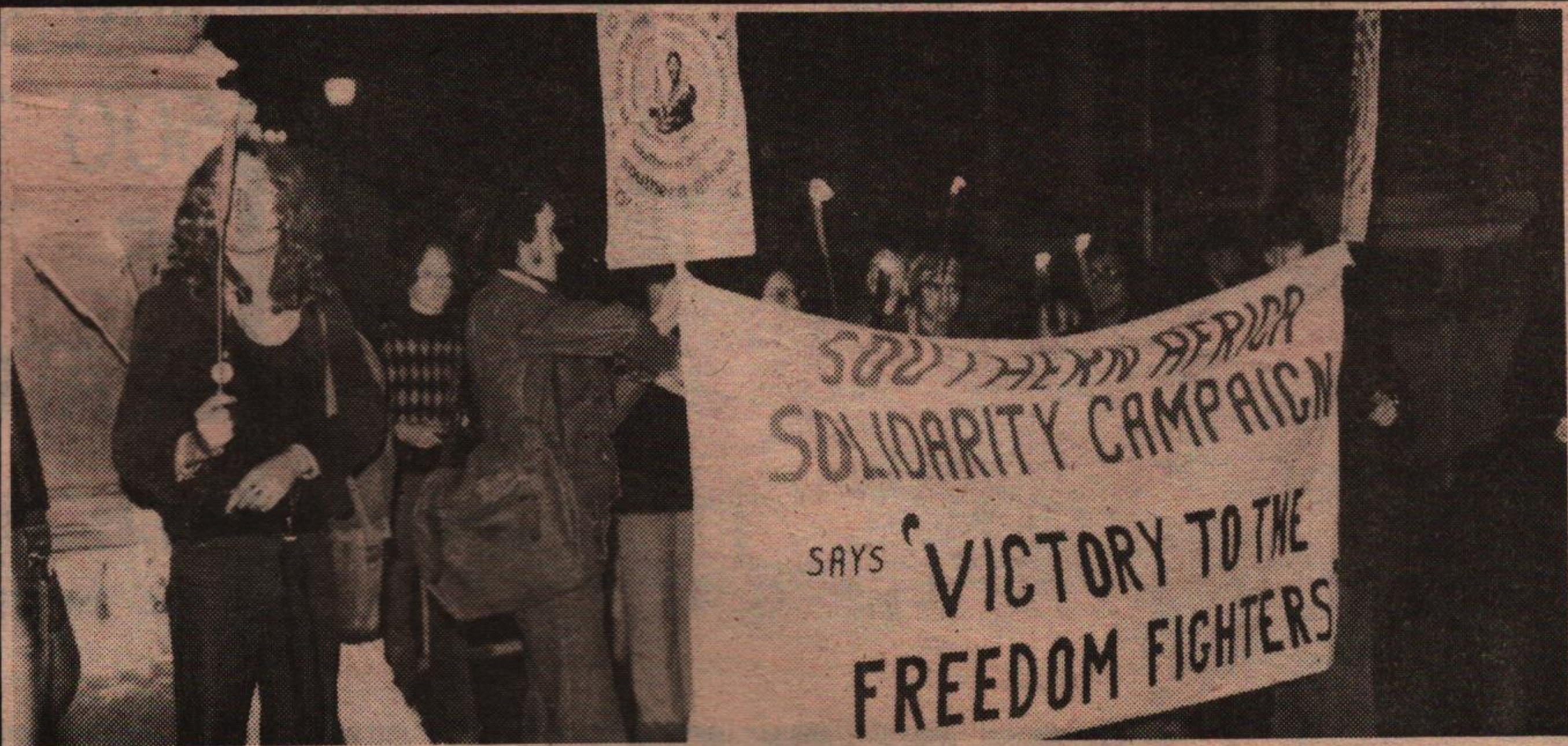
Protesters occupying the London offices of Amnesty International demanding action on behalf of Noel and Marie Murray, the couple condemned to death in Dublin after a secret trial without jury for the alleged murder of a policeman. The Murveys' final appeal is to be held this week—in secret.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM W

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER



Pickets of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign outside Downing Street last week as the conference on Rhodesia began in Geneva.

# 3am, and police come for anti-racist

**TWENTY-FIVE police with two dogs swooped on the house of Mohinda Singh, chairman of Kent Workers Against Racism, at 3am last Sunday.**

When Mohinda answered the door and asked to see their search warrant, he was sprayed with something that knocked him out. The police broke the safety

chain, forced their way in and claimed that Mohinda had fainted.

The police pushed Mohinda and his wife and children around, searched the house from top to bottom and seized the families bank and savings books and passports.

## Searched

Then they dragged Mohinda in handcuffs to the police station. They told him they were holding him on 'an immigration matter'.

While he was in the cells the police

searched his house three more times.

Four other Asians were arrested the same day. Mohinda heard the interpreter tell them that if they mentioned Mohinda's name they could remain in the country.

'But they didn't mention me because they didn't know me, couldn't even recognise me'.

Mohinda's workmates from Kingsnorth Power Station went three times to the police station to see what was happening. Then, on Tuesday evening, the secretary of Kent Workers Against Racism, Balwinder Singh went with a lawyer.

They were told that Mohinda would be charged with stealing a set of screwdrivers.

Sergeant Monk, No C12, told them to get out. But they threatened a course action for 'Habeas Corpus' and Mohinda was released half an hour later after three days in custody.

Mohinda has now been sacked from his job for being 'unreliable' that is, for not being at work when he was in the police cells. He told Socialist Worker: 'I've been in England for 23 years and nine months. I've been victimised because I'm chairman of Kent Workers Against Racism. They're trying to frighten other people from being involved, but they're not going to stop me.'

## MARCH AGAINST RACISM

The joint Labour Party/TUC demonstration against racism is to be on Sunday 21 November. Supporters are being called to Hyde Park Corner between 11am and 12 noon.

Members of the International Socialists are called on to mobilise nationally in support

## Black : Seven years White : Three years

IN any decent society, Rhyse Francis Gwyn Morris would be behind bars. In our society, he puts other people there.

Judge Gwyn Morris is a circuit judge in the Central Criminal Court. Two weeks ago, he sentenced Ronald Crawford, aged 17, to seven years in prison for snatching a woman's handbag. Ronald Crawford is black.

While passing sentence, Morris delivered himself of a stream of racist drivel. He even recommended vigilante groups to keep 'black muggers' off the streets.

He was in action again last week.

## White

He sentenced Clifford Woodvine to three years in prison for what the judge described as a 'murderous attack' on a Nigerian charity worker. Woodvine and two drunken friends had fallen on the Nigerian and his friend and beaten them mercilessly with a vehicle starting handle. Woodvine is white.

Woodvine had a long record of violence. But the judge was sympathetic. 'I am

impressed by the efforts you have made to control your predisposition to violence by taking medical treatment for it', he said.

Woodvine's two white accomplices, who took part enthusiastically in the murderous attack, were let off with suspended sentences.

Morris's racist fantasies have been accepted and even supported by the Press and television. His comments about 'mugging' by 'coloured youths' in South London were printed as though they were justified.

No one repeated the facts, given in Socialist Worker last week: 'You're nine times as likely to be 'mugged' in Glasgow as in London—yet Glasgow has very few black people.'

Mugging and petty theft have nothing to do with the colour of people's skins. They have to do with unemployment and poverty. That's why, in South London ten years ago, there were half as many muggings as there are now—and half as much unemployment and poverty.

Judge Morris's comments, in other words, were founded in racist fantasy.

## Kick the Nazis off Brick Lane!

BRICK LANE, in East London, scene of much anti-fascist agitation in the past, is again plagued by Nazis, in the shape of the National Front.

For the past two months, the NF have been selling their paper at the top of Brick Lane market. Two Sundays ago, a gang of them came down Brick Lane and badly beat up a 13-year-old Bengali with a four-foot piece of scaffolding. The boy was admitted to hospital with serious head injuries.

Feeling in the Bengali community runs high, and the local Asian Anti-racist Committee has called for a demonstration against the Front for this coming Sunday.

The Front are increasingly active in the area and a large turnout from both Bengalis and white socialists and trade unionists in a united demonstration can stop them in their tracks. Otherwise attacks on Asian youths and Asian houses will only increase.

## DEMONSTRATE:

Black and white, unite and fight! Smash the National Front! Sunday 7 November, 10am, the Naz Cinema, Brick Lane, London E1 (Aldgate and Aldgate East tubes).

All International Socialists in North, Central and East London to support.

by ALOCKE BISWAS (NALGO)



# UNEMPLOYMENT FOR EXPORT?

**WHAT IS the alternative to the Labour government's disastrous policies on unemployment?**

The one most commonly talked about is that pushed by some Labour MPs. They claim that import controls would constitute a socialist policy for dealing with the crisis.

But import controls have nothing to do with socialism. They have traditionally been argued for in this country by Conservative politicians. Seventy-five years ago, the Tory Joseph Chamberlain demanded 'tariff reform' to protect British big business.

■ ■

Socialists opposed the argument then and they should oppose it now. For it means not blaming the employers for a mad system that destroys jobs, but merely trying to shift unemployment onto the backs of workers in other countries.

If import controls were implemented, the effect on jobs would be small. The

left Labour paper Tribune last week called for import controls as recommended by the TUC. It said these would lead to 250,000 new jobs.

But there are 1,377,110 people officially registered as unemployed (as well as at least half a million who no longer bother to sign on). More than a million people would be left on the dole under this scheme!

Meanwhile, the prices of many goods would go up. For instance, cheap suits and shoes from Eastern Europe would be banned. What would workers in this country do? Many would not be able to buy more expensive products 'made in Britain'. They would simply do without.

Import controls mean rising prices and the export of unemployment. They can only perpetuate an absurd system where machines and workers are left idle and where workers are then told

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

there is not enough wealth to go round.

In the 1930s every major country imposed import controls. Unemployment soared to three times its present disgusting level.

It could not be otherwise. For to fight unemployment you have to fight those responsible for it—the employing class. The people who call for import controls prefer joint delegations and a 'common approach' with the very employers who are drawing up the redundancy notices.

A struggle is needed, not for import controls, but to take control of industry and the banks out of the hands of a rich and ruthless ruling class.

That means industrial action against redundancies. It means forcing the employers and the government to provide jobs. It means building a movement that will kick them out if they don't.

■ ■

And it means arguing for a system of socialist planning that would prevent the enormous waste on 'defence', on luxuries for the rich, on property speculation and advertising.

That is a quite different approach from that of the import control peddlers who want to divert us into demanding an increase in the prices of basic necessities needed by workers.

Import controls mean racism - and the TUC have fallen for it

IT IS only a short step from import controls to trying to blame overseas people in Britain for the crisis, the weapon usually used by the racists and Nazis.

And it is a step which, regrettably, the leaders of the TUC seem to have taken.

They have asked the government to reduce the number of work vouchers available for foreign workers in Britain. The result, inevitably, will be that instead of the employers being blamed when jobs are destroyed, English workers will be encouraged to let the redundancies occur, provide they hit non-English workers. Racism will have wholesale encouragement.

■ ■

Already there are reports from hospitals of nurses from overseas being sacked on the pretence that this will provide work for 'English' nurses.

Yet all workers suffer as a result, as workloads inside the hospitals increase and services suffer.

The government is encouraging a similar trend among students. It plans to increase the powers of racist immigration officials over students from other countries.

The effect can only be to encourage college authorities to take a racist attitude to students.

Socialist Worker has welcomed the call by the Labour Party and the TUC for a national demonstration against racism on 21 November.

But they can hardly fight racism when they are encouraging workers to turn against those from other countries.

This is what we think of your poison, Powell

By HARRY COWAN

ENOCH POWELL came to Gloucester last Friday, intending to spread his racist poison. Instead he met 200 angry pickets, including many black workers from Gloucester. International Socialists from Kingswood, Bristol, and Swindon and Cheltenham Students Union were among them. On a miserably wet night, the demonstrators, blocked by a police wall, kept up constant heckling as Powell supporters filed into the 'ticket only' meeting.



£6? THAT'S FUNNY ...I NEVER NOTICED IT

By Pete Halsall  
(dole money: £10.65)

As workers' cash shrinks, jobless get more

## DOLE BREAKS THE £6 LIMIT

—the Daily Express front page, 21 October

SO JOHN Warden and the Daily Express have another 'first' to their credit.

This time I learnt, to my amazement that I, in company with 1½ million other people, had broken the £6 pay limit.

Where the hell do they get these figures from? I've been unemployed for more than a year—and at no time have I received more than £11.50

dole money.

At the moment, I get £10.65 and I've just had a letter saying I run out of benefit in two weeks.

Is it possible that you're doing a bit of fiddling yourself with the figures, Mr Warden, in order to turn employed workers against us on the dole?

If life's so good on the dole, why don't you come and join us and do us all a favour?

Why the jobless figures 'improved'

HOW MANY people are unemployed?

The government claimed last week that the number was falling, chiefly because 67,160 school-leavers had stopped signing on at the dole.

But teachers all over Britain know what's happened to them. Many have taken the government's own advice and returned to school.

They are still unemployed, but the government is happy because they do not appear in the official figures.

Tens of thousands of others have been taken on in the government schemes to pay employers for 'job creation'. But these schemes last for only six months.

So the youngsters will be thrown back on the dole queues about next Easter—just as hundreds of thousands of next year's school-leavers are beginning to sign on.

OUR SPECIAL campaign fund had raised £892.25 by Monday, with four days to go to the by-elections in Newcastle and Walsall.

The total raised in three weeks has been a magnificent £2,108. But this still leaves us £1,000 short of our target.

No doubt many of our readers, and many IS districts, have been waiting to finish collecting money before sending it in to us.

■ ■

But we need it urgently if we are to continue to make the maximum impact in the fight against racism, unemployment and the cuts.

The by-elections gave us the opportunity to argue socialist politics to thousands of people who had never heard of

## KEEP THAT FUND CASH POURING IN

us before.

But, unlike the other parties, the fight for us does not end at the ballot box. We need to keep pumping out leaflets, posters, socialist ideas.

As a reader on a council estate in Tower Hamlets writes:

'Dear brothers and sisters, I've recently got a legacy of £20 from my dead gran. Despite the many temptations to keep it—soaring food prices, unemployed friends, etc—I'm giving it to SW to continue to lead the fight against racism, unemployment, the cuts—against capitalism and class

ridden society.'

Our thanks also to:

T Jackson £2; William Hopkins (AUEW) £1; Paisley member £1.50; C Falconer £5; Ian Parr £3; K Harding £5; 'Well wisher', Aberdeen £10; M Miles £1; Pete Cammell £50; 2 Irish readers £2; H Newlove 50p; Brian Starkey £1; Edinburgh SW Discussion Meeting £1; Mrs M House, Nuneaton £5; Coventry Cross Estate (Tower Hamlets) reader £20.

■ ■

Martin Roiser £20; H Dewar £5; T Butler £10; St Albans UCATT reader £5; Les Pick £1.50; Edna Loose £5; Derek McMillan £10; Paisley College SW supps £1.50; Gloucester member £5; A Seymour 60p; D Holgate £2; High Peak Supporters £10.45; D J Youngs £10; West London Com-

rade £50; A Cunningham £1; B & J Fakes £7; J Waskett £1.50. IS Branches: Oxford £34.50; Lampeter £12; Bradford £15; Wellingborough £6; York Univ IS Soc £20.50; Witham £5; Southend £10; Oxford Students £18.50; Gloucester £10; S E London £90.72; Halifax £4.30; Reading £7.60; Crawley £10; Bedford £11.85. Warwick Univ IS Soc £11; Maidstone £9.50; Lincoln £2; Brentwood £5.50; East Manchester £25; Exeter £1.50; Glasgow £23; Lowestoft £7; Sheffield £10.50; Portsmouth £38; Manchester £20; Aberdeen £24.50; York £40.50; Canterbury £7.50; Cambridge £20; Derby £20; Kingston £2.70; Wandsworth £18.50; N Herts & Borg Warner £16; Pontefract £9; Newcastle Pub Meeting £44; Black Country £27.

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



# Newcastle & Walsall: What we expect to gain

A MASSIVE drop in the Labour vote . . . a boost for the Tories . . . and increased support for the Fascist right wing.

That, almost certainly, will be the outcome of this week's three parliamentary by-elections.

The exact results came after we went to press.

But it is easy to predict the consequences of Labour's betrayal of its own supporters.

Large numbers of workers will not have turned out to vote for policies that reduce living standards, create unemployment and destroy the

social services.

Labour is paving the way for the return of the Tories and creating the conditions in which the fascists can flourish.

Because of this, Socialist Worker decided to intervene in the Newcastle and Walsall elections.

We did not do so because we believe that electoral, parliamentary activity can overthrow capitalism. The strength of big business does not lie in ballot boxes, but in

its control of industry and armed power.

It can only be overthrown when that control is challenged by the direct action of the working class.

As Lenin put it: 'the action of the masses—a big strike for instance—is more important than parliamentary activity at all times' (Left Wing Communism).

That is why it is wrong to claim, as for instance the Morning Star has, that 'The International Socialists have made a volte-face in their attitude to elections.'

For us, the elections are a chance to argue socialist ideas, not a weapon that can overthrow capitalism.

We know the number of workers who see the need for such a commitment is still small. Most see no alternative to the big parties, even if they are fed up with them.

Racist ideas are still far more prevalent than those of revolutionary socialism.

## Narrow

So we expected no more than the 465 votes that the Communist Party candidate in Walsall North got in 1974.

The same proportion of the poll in Newcastle would be about 100 votes. We will be doing very well if we reach these levels.

As we put it in Socialist Worker on 25 September: 'We will get very few votes. Winning votes is not the reason for



Jimmy McCallum, Socialist Worker candidate in Walsall North, with the latest racist sign to be removed from outside the home of Nazi Robert Relf

## BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

By Chris Harman  
for the International  
Socialists' Central  
Committee  
1 November, 1976

standing candidates. The by-elections give us the opportunity to establish ourselves locally as the socialist alternative to Labour.

'Running candidates is part of the general strategy of expanding our organisation until it is a national presence to workers everywhere.'

We also believed that we could use the election period to draw many of those who would vote for us into forms of struggle that would go on after the election—supporting the Right to Work Campaign, fighting the cuts locally, buying and selling Socialist Worker, joining and strengthening the International Socialists.

Most workers are not going to turn to our ideas and organisation yet. But as the crisis of the system makes them frustrated and angry they will begin to re-think their political ideas—and it is essential that they know we exist.

We have had some successes in achieving these modest

goals.

There is no doubt that in Walsall, for instance, large numbers of people are now aware of the existence of the revolutionary alternative for the first time—even though they cannot yet bring themselves to support it.

Every house in the constituency has been visited; meetings have been held outside the factories and on street corners; the local radio and press have featured the arguments of our candidates.

Tens of thousands of people who were only dimly aware of what we were in the past now know what we stand for.

As Mel Norris, our election agent in Walsall, put it: 'When you knock on the door people know who you are already.'

This is a very important gain in breaking out of the narrow circles in which revolutionary socialist ideas have existed in the past, in getting beyond the small number of factories and council estates where revolutionary socialists have been active.

The election campaign has certainly enabled us to draw more people into the fight to build a rank and file movement.

The Walsall area will be sending 17 separate delegations to the Right to Work conference on 6 November; there were only three to the rank and file conference of two years ago. In both areas we have achieved an impressive growth in Socialist Worker sales.

The election campaign in Walsall gave us the opportunity to sell the paper to 2,500 people for this first time. Most of those were once-only sales, because it was a novelty.

But about 500 showed willing to buy it a second time and with luck at least 250 will buy it on a continuing basis—in a town where sales used to be virtually zero.

In Newcastle, we expect an extra 100 permanent sales.

Finally, the by-election campaigns have, in both areas, produced a substantial growth in the membership of our organisation: in Walsall, 25 new recruits; in Newcastle, 15 new recruits.

## Sales

But the real test of our success will come when the election has been forgotten.

All the established parties will then desert Newcastle and Walsall until they want votes again. But we have to keep working, to turn those who voted with us and bought

## ANOTHER RECORD FOR NEW MEMBERS

MORE PEOPLE joined the International Socialists last month than ever before. The 192 new members compares with September's figure of 174, itself a record.

In MANCHESTER, Tony Cliff spoke to a meeting of 50 hospital workers on Leon Trotsky. Six people joined.

In SUNDERLAND, Paul Foot spoke to a lively meeting in the Polytechnic. Seven people joined.

Socialist Worker into-fighters against unemployment, the cuts and racism.

As Mel Norris put it: 'There is an awful lot of disillusionment. We have to turn it from disillusionment with all politics in a positive direction—in the fight against the closure of the local maternity hospital, in the factories, in the fight against the fare increases, on the council estates.'

## Expanding

It will be a long hard struggle to build the Socialist Workers Party into an effective force.

The by-election interventions were pioneering steps.

The gains made and the lessons learned will help us to take the next step forward.

## Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

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## SOCIALIST WORKER ORGANISERS' CONFERENCE

### AGENDA:

11am-1pm: Perspectives for the Socialist Workers Party—the future role of Socialist Worker. Introduced by Tony Cliff.

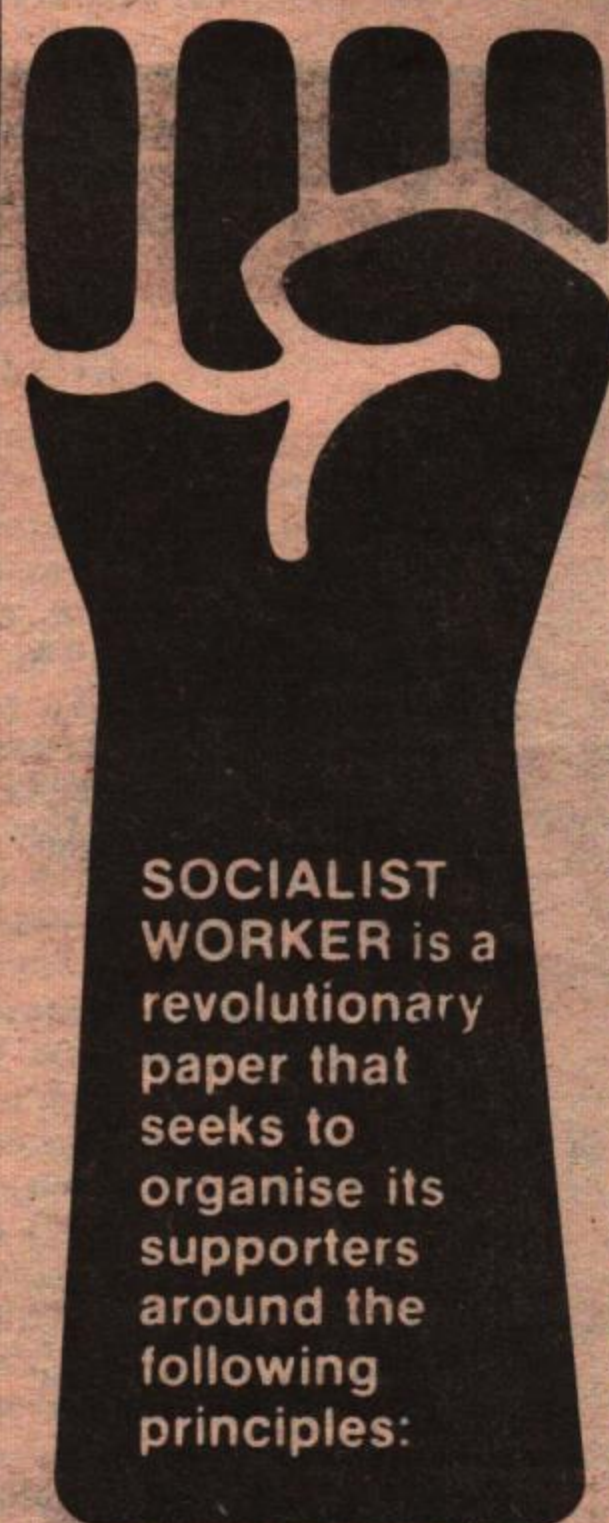
1pm-2pm: LUNCH.

2pm-3.30pm: Walsall and Newcastle Central: Results and prospects for Socialist Worker. Introduced by Jimmy McCallum/Mel Norris.

3.30pm-5pm: Socialist Worker in the localities. Introduced by Allan Borrell, SW Organiser, Glasgow District.

Discussion documents now circulating on each of above topics.

All District SW Organisers to attend. Pooled fare £5 a delegate. For final conference arrangements it is essential that details of delegates are forwarded to the national secretary by 5 November. Any queries ring John Larkham 01-739 2639.



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

### INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

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

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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



# ACTION!

## THAT'S THE WAY TO WIN

### Newcastle women prove it again and again

**FROM** McCutcheon Court, ten rotting council blocks in Newcastle upon Tyne, goes a message this week to all working-class families battling against cold, damp, overcrowded housing:

If you get together and do something about it, you can force the council to find decent houses for you.

Linda Manning lost a baby girl soon before last Christmas. The damp and the steep stairs had a lot to do with it, she feels sure. Now she is pregnant again.

She wants to get out before the next baby dies. She has two children in care and can't get them out because her flat is too small and damp for them

to live in.

McCutcheon Court is ten blocks of four-storey 'maisonettes' and flats. They were built in the middle of the council house boom in the 1950s. They stink.

The damp forces its way into every square inch of every room.

#### 'Appalled'

Jean Barnes has lived there with her sick husband for seven years. She's been through four sets of carpets and two of lino. Now she doesn't bother putting anything on the floor because it rots almost at once.

It's almost a year since the women decided they'd had enough. Linda Reid, a young housewife, started organising them into a tenants' association. Her mother, Norma Bell,

came in from outside to help.

Before long the women were organising marches and demonstrations to Newcastle Civic Centre demanding new houses for all the tenants. Councillors and officials were shocked at the women's direct action.

Says Norma Bell: 'Benny Abrahams, the councillor for the area, came and asked us why we hadn't informed him first. We said it wasn't necessary.

'Because we'd found that leaving things to officials and councillors got us nowhere. We had to do things ourselves.'

After a particularly noisy demonstration, the women were promised that they would be rehoused, and the blocks would be modernised.

The tenants' association leaders, notably Linda Reid,

were among the first to be rehoused. But they kept their committee together to see that the whole job was properly done.

Most of the families had been rehoused when, suddenly, council policy changed. Faced with a new demand for cuts in spending, the council decided to start renovation while seven families still lived in the blocks.

Worse, the council started rehousing families from other areas in the flats before they had been renovated.

By an odd 'coincidence', almost all the women left behind were single mothers with children.

#### Overthrow

'They saw it as a way of punishing the single-parent families' says Catherine Morton, who lives with her sister Julia and her 2½ year-old son Michael in a flat where there's not enough room to swing a saucepan.

'Last Tuesday we held a meeting' says Norma Reid. 'We decided to take action. On Wednesday we marched down to the flats where the council workmen were renovating.

'We told them we were occupying the flats until we had a promise of new houses for the seven. The workmen couldn't believe it.

'Then our language started to change, and they left. We passed their tools out after them.

'The following day, the workers came back to different flats and locked themselves in the flats. We gathered outside billing and cooing and saying: 'Let us in we want to ravish you.'

#### Paymasters

They let us in, and they we threw them out.

'Most of them saw our point of view and left willingly'.

The council are now stymied.

They will probably back down. For once, they won't be able to make tenants suffer for their own mistakes and penny-pinching.

Why? Because they had to deal not with the whining of councillors but with a band of angry, determined women who were not afraid to take action to get what they wanted.

As Norma Bell put it: 'My husband tells me I'm a troublemaker, but if you don't cause trouble, what happens to you? You just go under.'

### MAKE THE 17th OUR BIGGEST PROTEST YET

□ If your union is supporting the Day of Action, send resolutions to the executive now demanding they follow the lead of NUPE in London and call strike action.

□ If your union is not yet supporting the day of action, send resolutions demanding that they join the ten unions already committed.

□ Organise strike action in every workplace and in every industry now. All workers and their families are affected by the cuts. If you can't win a full day stoppage, fight for a half a day, or at least a mass meeting and a delegation with banners to the mass demonstration in London.

□ The Labour Party National Executive has called for support for the 17th. Ask local Labour Party and Communist Party members in unions that are not yet supporting action to help raise the question in trade union branches and districts.

□ Make sure your union branch, district, trades council and shop stewards' committee send a mass delegation to the demonstration in London.

□ Organise transport to London. In some areas trades councils, NUPE or local Right to Work committees have already organised trains or coaches.

□ Make sure that free places are provided for unemployed workers on every coach and train.

□ The Right to Work Campaign is producing a special leaflet calling for support for 17 November. Engineers' Charter is also producing a leaflet arguing why AUEW members should join the day of action. The leaflets will be available at the Right to Work Conference this Saturday or from the Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 (phone 01-802 0978).

Flashback to August and the 1000-strong demonstration against the cuts in health and education in Bury, Lancashire. The campaign has since stopped three closures



90,000 London members of the giant public employees' union, NUPE, have been called out on strike against the cuts for half a day on Wednesday 17 November.

This is the latest decision by the union's London divisional council, which first called for the day of action.

This has now snowballed into a massive day of action supported by nine trade unions, the National Union of Students and even the national executive committee of the Labour Party.

The resolution calling for a demonstration came from East London supporters of the rank and file paper Hospital Worker. NUPE shop steward Steve Ludlam moved the first resolution at the Hackney district of NUPE health workers.

He told Socialist Worker: 'It was rank and file supporters of Hospital Worker who started the ball rolling. They got me to move a resolution in my district calling for a demonstration.'

'Then we got it adopted by the London Area Health Committee. From there—with two other Hospital Worker supporters, Bill Geddes, the Hammersmith Hospital convenor, and Dave

## 17th: How rank and file led the way

### ALL OUT THE 17th!

ASSEMBLE 1pm, Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park. London W1, for mass march and demonstration to parliament. 4pm: Meeting in Central Hall.

Ling, a shop steward from the Royal Free Hospital—we went to the divisional council representing all 90,000 NUPE members in London.

'We argued for a special paper for all London NUPE members on the cuts, a massive demonstration and a conference of all London shop stewards.'

'Once we got going we thought we might as well do the job properly. We knew it would be at least as big as 26 November last year. We thought it would be a good idea to invite all the other NUPE members to join in.'

'It wasn't just that NUPE leaders suddenly became mili-

tant. It was the pressure from London.

'That's when the executive stepped in and supported 17 November.'

A lot of public sector union leaders are now supporting 17 November because they see it as a safety valve for the rank and file pressure that is building up.

They don't want the Social Contract to be swept away in another revolt by the lower paid. When they supported the Social Contract they gave the government a blank cheque to write the cuts on.

'The three biggest unions in the TUC who have

members in the public sector—the General and Municipal Workers (GMWU), the engineers (AUEW) and the transport workers (TGWU) are not backing the day of action. Callaghan made it clear on television the other day that instead they will back the government's policies for the next three years.

'But a lot of their members will be out on the 17th with us.'

'One day of action won't change government policy. But the 17th will provide a fantastic rallying point for the rank and file.'



In the civil servants' union, the CPSA, the supporters of the rank and file paper Redder Tape made sure there was a call for action and the 17th and that it was raised on the executive.

In the teachers' union, the NUT, supporters of the Rank and File Teacher immediately raised support for the 17th and argued for strike action on the executive and in the associations and schools.

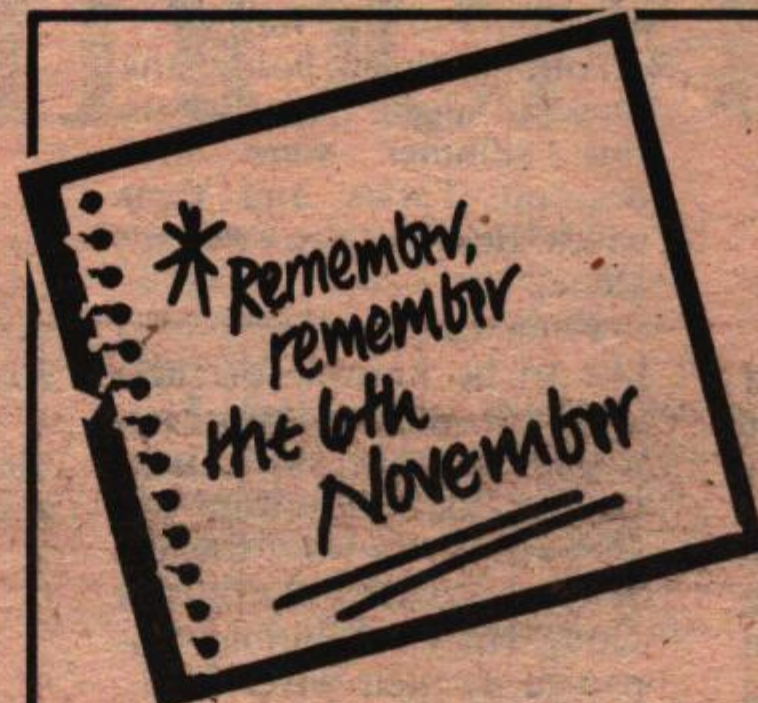
In National Union of Students, members of NOISS, the International Socialists' student organisation, argued successfully on the executive that the union must support the 17th and not choose a different day for action.

Said Steve Ludlam: 'The

fight against the cuts will go on after the 17th. In my own union our task is to build a rank and file organisation within the union that can break the grip of the government's supporters at the top.

'In the short term that means fighting the cuts.'

With the official support of other unions and massive action by the rank and file trade unionists, 17 November will be the biggest day of protest against the policies of any government since 250,000 workers marched against the Tory government and the Industrial Relations Act in February 1971.



Belle Vue, Manchester, Saturday 6 November, 11am-5pm

#### ADVERTISEMENT

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

#### COACHES TO THE CONFERENCE

COVENTRY: 8am, TU Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road.  
GLASGOW: 11pm, Friday, George Square.  
CARDIFF: 6am, Central Station.  
BIRMINGHAM: 7.30am, Hall of Memory.  
BRISTOL: 6.45am, City Centre Hippodrome.  
SWANSEA: 5am, Uplands.  
GLOUCESTER: Phone Phil Jones, Gloucester 413910.  
LIVERPOOL: 9.30am, Pierhead, 9.45am, Queen's Drive flyover, 10am, Golden Eagle Kirkby.  
SHEFFIELD: 9.30am, Wicker Arches.  
WALSALL: 8am, Hatherton Road (outside St Paul's Hall).  
WOLVERHAMPTON: 8.35am, Falkland Road car park.  
LONDON SPECIAL TRAIN: 7.45am, Euston Station, £4 return.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone 01-802 0978.



## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

It's not the size of organisations that's crucial, but the uses to which they are put. The 'back to nature' trend is no solution.

# A big problem-or is it?

'WHAT IS the socialist answer to those people who say that the problems of society are caused by large-scale organisations and industries which frustrate, stunt and degrade human beings and that a return to small scale industries and techniques (utilising the best modern knowledge and technical abilities) would enable people to lead freer and more creative lives?'

The reader who raises this issue

also asks if we regard nuclear power in itself as a form of energy that threatens mankind and that alternative, safer forms of energy should be found or can 'nuclear power be made safe in a socialist society?'

There is no doubt at all that nuclear weapons threaten the existence of mankind. Or rather, since the weapons do not have minds and wills of their own, the power that a handful of men in the USA, the USSR and a few other states have to launch a nuclear war, threatens the existence of mankind.

This, rather than the disposal of toxic

wastes from nuclear reactors—which concerns our reader and many others—is surely the big danger.

Now nuclear technology has developed in such a way that, relatively speaking, small scale production methods can make nuclear warheads.

The common estimate is that about 20 states, other than the five which admit to being equipped with nuclear weapons (USA, USSR, China, Britain, France), have the power to make them.

Two of these, Israel and India, have almost certainly already done so. More will very likely follow.

And the revolution now underway in 'conventional' weapon technology is

enormously increasing the destructive power of non-nuclear weapons.

However, in this as in other fields, it is not the technology or the scale of organisation that is the real problem.

It is the power structure of competitive, militaristic societies. Technology is neutral. What matters is the use to which it is put.

Many people have a hankering for a simpler world, the past without its disadvantages, the past with a bit of modern technology and everything on a smaller scale.

The 'back to nature' trend—grow your own food, no synthetic fertilisers, home made pottery and so on—is an extreme expression of this.

Of course it is simply not on as a solution.

A few folk can get a bit of land and live in a 'self-sufficient' commune.

It isn't really self-sufficient: how many nature lovers go in for medieval dentistry when they get a bad toothache?

Never mind, the point is that this kind of activity in no way alters the course of events. It is a cop out.

The fear of science and technology is reactionary—in the most literal sense of that word.

### Cooperative

Modern science, modern industry, modern technology are what make possible a reasonable standard of living and freedom from unremitting toil.

They don't automatically produce these things—that is the reformist fallacy.

But they are the indispensable basis for a society that does not 'frustrate, stunt and degrade human beings'. And nuclear power is part of that basis.

To realise the progressive potential of all this you have to destroy the power of capitalists, militarists and bureaucrats because only in that way can a society based on democratic planned cooperative production be established.

That said, there are indeed real problems in the democratic control of big scale institutions and big scale societies.

But to concentrate on those problems just now is to miss the point.

## Were CIA 'terrorist' behind bomb?

REMEMBER the Entebbe hijacking? Remember all those speeches from British and American politicians about how hijackings should be made an international crime? Remember their call for exemplary punishment for those who gave support to such actions?

Well, they've been very quiet for the past month about an act of airborne terrorism that caused many, many more deaths of passengers than did Entebbe.

A bomb exploded in a Cuban Airlines plane as it was flying off Barbados on 6 October. 73 people were killed.

You can just imagine the headlines that incident would have received in the Sun and the Daily Mail if the bomb had been planted by a Palestinian splinter group or by the mythical 'jackal'.

But by some coincidence they kept very quiet about this, probably the worst crime in the history of terrorism against civil aircraft. When Cuban premier Fidel Castro claimed that the US intelligence agency, the CIA, were to blame for the explosion, they treated his speech as outright nonsense.

After all, the great white hope for South African whites, US secretary of state Henry Kissinger had insisted: 'I can state categorically that no official of the US government, no one paid by the American

government, no one in contact with the American government had anything to do with the bombing.'

But last week it was revealed by the Washington Post that at least two of the people connected with the bombing had close contacts with the American FBI.

Hernan Ricardo, a Venezuelan, has confessed to the bombing to police in Trinidad. Ricardo has twice in the past two years received help in getting visas from an FBI agent, Joe Leo.

Ricardo has been working for the 'private detective agency' run by a friend of

Leo's, a Luis Posada who is also under arrest for the bombing.

Posada was one of five top men in the Venezuelan security police, the DSIP, between 1971 and 1973. Leo has been 'legal attache' to the US Embassy in Venezuela since 1970.



THIS PICTURE, specially-staged by Socialist Worker, brings you an exclusive remembrance of a most touching scene at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty the Queen was having one of her sumptuous luncheon parties. Among the guests named in The Times Court Circular for 27 October was Hugh Scanlon, the republican and socialist president of the Engineering Union (AUEW).

Socialist Worker is happy to report that fruitful discussions on the need for still more sacrifice in the nation's time of need took place in between Hors D'Oeuvres and the smoked trout.

Cuts in Government spending could leave Buckingham Palace and the House of Commons a breeding ground for rats, mice, and cockroaches, civil servants claimed yesterday. This will result, said the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, from a Government

—The Guardian, 28 October

### JUST GOOD FRIENDS:

Every so often a sycophant of some description interviews that torturer and murderer, the Shah of Iran, for television. In the past it's been done by Lord Chalfont. Next it's going to be the turn of David Frost.

One thing he is unlikely to mention is a recent 'psychological profile' made of the Shah by the US intelligence agency, the CIA. The CIA concluded: 'The Shah is a dangerous megalomaniac.'

## SACRIFICE CORNER

### The needy...

From the Times Business Travel Supplement, 13 October

'Under pay freeze conditions, a few companies are looking to overseas business trips to provide perks for middle-grade executives, where the squeeze has hit hardest... These are some of the reasons for the 13 per cent increase in business air traffic in the first quarter of this year...

'It is estimated that 20 per cent of hotel rooms are occupied by businessmen...

'If your aim is to impress your client and arrive in style and comfort you could charter the HS 125 Hawker Siddeley business jet from McAlpine Aviation, which is increasingly accepted as the executive way to fly. Although it is costly, compared with scheduled services, at £456 an hour...

'British Airways has also noticed a sharp increase in the number of businessmen travelling first class, which seems to indicate that, even if they cannot give their executives a salary increase, companies are prepared to give them more comfortable travel.'

ASTON MARTIN'S new £2,500, 140 mph car, the Lagonda, is finding plenty of buyers—and most of them are not oil sheikhs. Of the 70 ordered so far, 40 are for British buyers.

Someone must be earning a big wage to afford them, you might think.

But don't worry. As the general manager of Aston Martin explained to the Daily Telegraph, individuals will not be paying for the cars at all, although they will be driving them. The cars are being bought by 'the principals of small and medium companies.'

'They are looking for a go-ahead image and want something different from a Rolls-Royce or Mercedes', he said.

## and the greedy

□ CRAWLEY council, in Sussex, is to scrap its heating scheme for old people. 'I am afraid some pensioners will have to make a choice whether to eat properly or keep warm', Councillor A. C. W. Crane said. This year the subsidised scheme would have cost the council £4,500 and costs were going up all the time. 'We just could not continue it.'

—The Times.

## Labour Friends of Lockheed

IN THE past year the names Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas have become passwords for the corruption of capitalist society.

Lockheed, we now know, has bribed its way throughout Western Europe

and the Far East. McDonnell Douglas has knowingly flown defective planes in the pursuit of profit, killing hundreds as a result.

With their respective 'images' so badly battered they badly need friends. They

appear to be going about getting them in the way known to business enterprises the world over—freeloading, all expenses paid tours to the States.

Among those politicians they got along from Britain this summer were four decrepit Tories and their wives. But the Tories weren't alone.

Four Labour MP's who like to be known for their uncompromising opposition to capitalism also went along for the ride. They were Ian Mordant, Lewis Carter-Jones, Russell Kerr and Doug Hoyle. Again accompanied by their wives.

Doubtless all the food, drink and pleasure they obtained for nothing will be of vital importance in the making of a socialist Britain.

## Maxwell of the Yard

MANY newspapers have published the fact that Robert Maxwell is making a take-over bid for The Observer—but none have published the fact that he is under investigation by Scotland Yard.

Attorney General Sam Silkin admitted as much in the House of Commons on 11 October. He said that he had not received the final report of the Yard's investigation into Pergamon Press, Maxwell's former publishing empire.

The investigation has been going on for two and a half years. Detective Chief Inspector Gerland Mitchell, who led the probe, is now retired, and it continues under Detective Inspector Clive Jackson of the Fraud Squad.

International  
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## out now

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# Strike wave as Italy's workers fight back

**ITALIAN workers are on the move again.**

A wave of strikes has swept the country in the last month.

On 7 October, there was a two-hour national general strike. But that was only the beginning.

Regional general strikes have taken place in every major industrial city.

In Turin, 700,000 workers—including three at the giant Fiat complex—struck for a day. Angry workers blocked the motorway to Milan for five hours.

Two weeks later, in Milan itself, as many as 100,000 people demonstrated as every major factory closed for the day.

## Militancy

Last Thursday it was the turn of the railways. All the workers struck for 24 hours.

Italian papers are already comparing the strength and militancy of today to the beginning of the Hot Autumn of 1969 which ended with the occupation of the major factories of the North and the growth of the factory councils. The strikes are the centre of a campaign of resistance to the government's plan to slash workers' living standards.

The cost of public transport, electricity, gas, cigarettes, milk, bread and pasta is to be pushed up by act of government.

Meanwhile, the system of automatic wage rises which gives workers some protection from inflation is to be cut or abolished for higher paid workers.

With inflation running at 20 per cent a year, an estimated 99 per cent of all industrial workers will be left defenceless against rising prices.

The minority government—composed of corrupt and inefficient Christian Democrats who have ruled for 30 years—is kept in power only through the continued abstention of the Communist Party.



Italian hospital workers demonstrating against the government's policies

This is producing great strains inside the Communist Party. At a stormy meeting of its central committee last week, Terracini, the leader of the left of the party, voiced the words that millions of workers must have echoed:

"Our position lacks any basis which connects with the needs and ideas of the working class. Instead, when we ex-

plain and denounce the crisis, we must start from the fundamental fact that it is capitalism that brings this crisis.

"We must clearly identify our enemy: the government, the Christian Democrats and the bosses. If, in the course of our struggle, the government must fall, then we should do so without any remorse."

The old line of propping up the government will, however, continue. But so will the calls for a national general strike.

The opportunities for the revolutionary left are enormous. But they are faced with great problems.

Since the disappointing results in the general elections, they have been thrown into crisis.

Leading members of all three major groups (Avanguardia Operaia, Lotta Continua and PDUP) have resigned and a big debate is going on over all aspects of their politics.

Only when the revolutionary left can show themselves as a real alternative to the CP will they be able to win to their ranks the many CP members sickened by the behaviour of their party.

## AND IN ARGENTINA, TOO

THE WORKERS of Argentina have once again shown their willingness to resist a military government that is murdering left-wingers wholesale. The two power companies in the capital of Buenos Aires were both nearly paralysed by strikes last week. The western part of the city was blacked out, even though the government was threatening to conscript strikers into the armed forces and send troops into the power stations.

government of the Socialist Party was formed.

But the right wing is determined to get its way. It is using its control of the armed forces to put more and more pressure on the government to obey its orders.

## Right-wing

There have been a series of meetings of right-wing officers, organised in underground 'committees for the defence of liberty'.

These are grouped around the commander of the coun-

try's Northern military region, General Veloso.

And they have boycotted military functions run by officers they regard as 'too soft' on the left.

They hope either to force the Socialist government to form a coalition with the openly right-wing parties, or to build up sufficient forces to overthrow it.

In response, the government has adopted an increasingly right-wing stance. It has begun to take back land occupied by landless labourers in the South.

It has pushed through an education policy that enjoys right wing support. And it has introduced a new labour law that weakens the unions.

But these measures are creating problems with its own supporters.

## Demonstration

The Socialist Party-run teachers union organised a huge demonstration against the Socialist Party Minister of Education.

In other Socialist Party-run unions, mass meetings have

ordered the leadership to oppose the government's attempts to split and weaken the unions.

Unfortunately, the left has not been able to take full advantage of these splits. The Communist Party has advised people not to resist the eviction of those occupying the land.

And the revolutionary left is as split and confused as ever. The organisation GDUP, behind which the revolutionaries united to get a fifth of the vote for Otelo da Carvalho in the presidential

election, seems to have degenerated into sectarian infighting.

The most powerful organisation within it has been the Maoist group, the UDP, which has shown more willingness to fight openly for its ideas than the rest of the left.

But the UDP's sectarian attitude to workers who still support the Communist Party makes it impossible for it to give the lead that is necessary, if the drift to out-and-out counter-revolution is really to be stopped.

## Social contract, Michael? We prefer the gun...

THE REAL nature of Indira Gandhi's government in India was shown last week. She admitted that dozens of people troops fired on a protest against compulsory sterilisation.

But that has not stopped would-be left wingers in our own government continuing to support her. The picture shows Michael Foot, now deputy leader of the Labour Party, with Mrs Gandhi early last month.



## Victory to the blacks



THE FREEDOM fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) are beginning to hit home.

That is the significance of the extensive military preparations made by the white racist regime this week.

The racist troops are now under attack from all sides. And the weather should change to the benefit of the guerrillas any day now.

That is why the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign is stepping up its activities. The picket in Aberdeen, above, made the front page of the local paper last week.

For background to the struggle see page 11.

# So much for 'democracy'

PORTUGAL'S rulers showed last week how hollow their talk of 'democracy' is.

The runner-up in June's presidential election, Otelo da Carvalho, was imprisoned for four weeks for making a political speech.

This is the latest in a series of manoeuvres by the right to build its power.

In elections earlier this year, more than half the voters supported candidates who claimed to be socialist, and a



# Skelmersdole

## Is this the Jarrow of the Seventies?

**'IF THE TRADE Descriptions Act was enforced, everyone in charge of Skelmersdale would be in prison.'**

'They promised us a Dream City with new factories, new shops and new everything. Now we've got the factories, the offices—and the houses. But we haven't got any jobs. So the factories, the offices, the houses are all empty.'

Billy Castley is secretary of the Skelmersdale Unemployed Action Committee, the local branch of the Right to Work Campaign. He marched in this year's two Right to

Work Marches.

Now he is fighting to save his home town from becoming a waste land. 'It's the Jarrow of the 1970s', he says.

In the 1930s, Palmers shipyard decided to close down because it wasn't making any profit. As a result, a third of the workforce of Jarrow spent ten years on the dole.

Today, a handful of large companies led by Thorns and Courtaulds are closing the factories which they built with the help of hefty government grants.

Some of the most modern machinery in the world is being shipped to other factories, many of them abroad.

### Shock

In Skem, one in eight of the workforce is registered as out of work.

That doesn't count nearly a thousand others, most of them women, who are out of work but have not registered.

The latest shock to the town comes from Courtaulds, who have announced their intention to close their Northern Weaving division factory in the town, throwing more than 1000 people onto the bursting dole queues.

Billy Castley says: 'They had three banks in the Parade here two years ago. All of them closed. Now one of them has opened again—as an extra dole centre.'

'If you lost your job at



Dave Woods and Reg McGhee: 'We're insisting that these jobs are not lost'

By  
PAUL  
FOOT

## 'DREAM CITY'

REG MCGHEE, above right, is the convenor for the Association of Textile Trades unions, which has 750 members at Courtaulds in Skelmersdale. He told Socialist Worker:

'Strikes? We've had two in the past eight years: one in 1968, which lasted for six weeks. And one the other day which lasted for a week—after management had broken an agreement.'

'Apart from that we've had a few lay-offs and lock-outs, none of them due to us.'

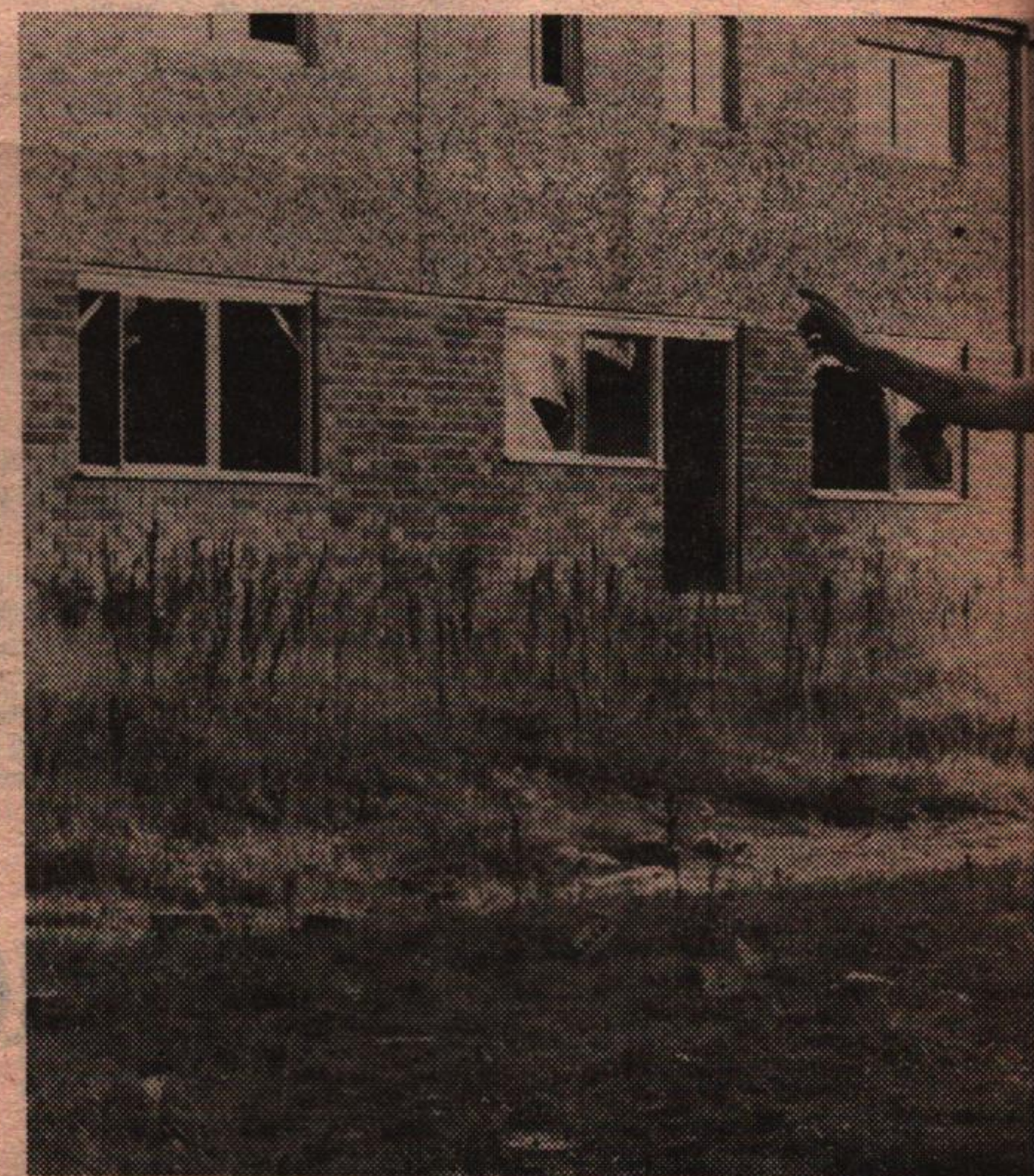
■ ■ ■  
'When the firm last threatened to close, in 1972, we gave them a guarantee that we would not strike for six months. That guarantee lasted for two years. We've bent over backwards not to get involved in disputes, and just look where it's landed us.'

'High pay? Well, I tell you what I come home with. £35 to £39 a week. The pay rates are no higher than the average in industry.'

'We're fighting for jobs here, make no mistake about that. It's fundamental to our trade unionism. No we're not fighting for redundancy pay. We're insisting that these jobs are not lost.'

'We say that what's gone wrong here at Skem is management's responsibility. They've had seven managers in seven years! Something must have been very seriously wrong if they had to change around like that.'

'We welcome the support of all the people in the area, and all trade unionists everywhere.'



'LOOK AT THIS. There's 600 houses here. They've been built for nearly two years, but there's no one living in them.'

Billy Castley walked round the Birch Green Six estate at Skelmersdale. This

was going to be says. 'Comfortable views. They were and the people'

No one quite Green houses h Some blame th

### Socialist Worker Lottery

10p a ticket, 50p for book of six

1st Prize

25" Colour TV set

2nd Prize

Grundig Audio Stereo Unit

3rd Prize

Black and white portable TV

4th Prize

Cassette tape recorder

5th Prize

25 hampers, value £10 each

Tickets from National Treasurer, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

# ALL OUT 17 NOVEMBER!

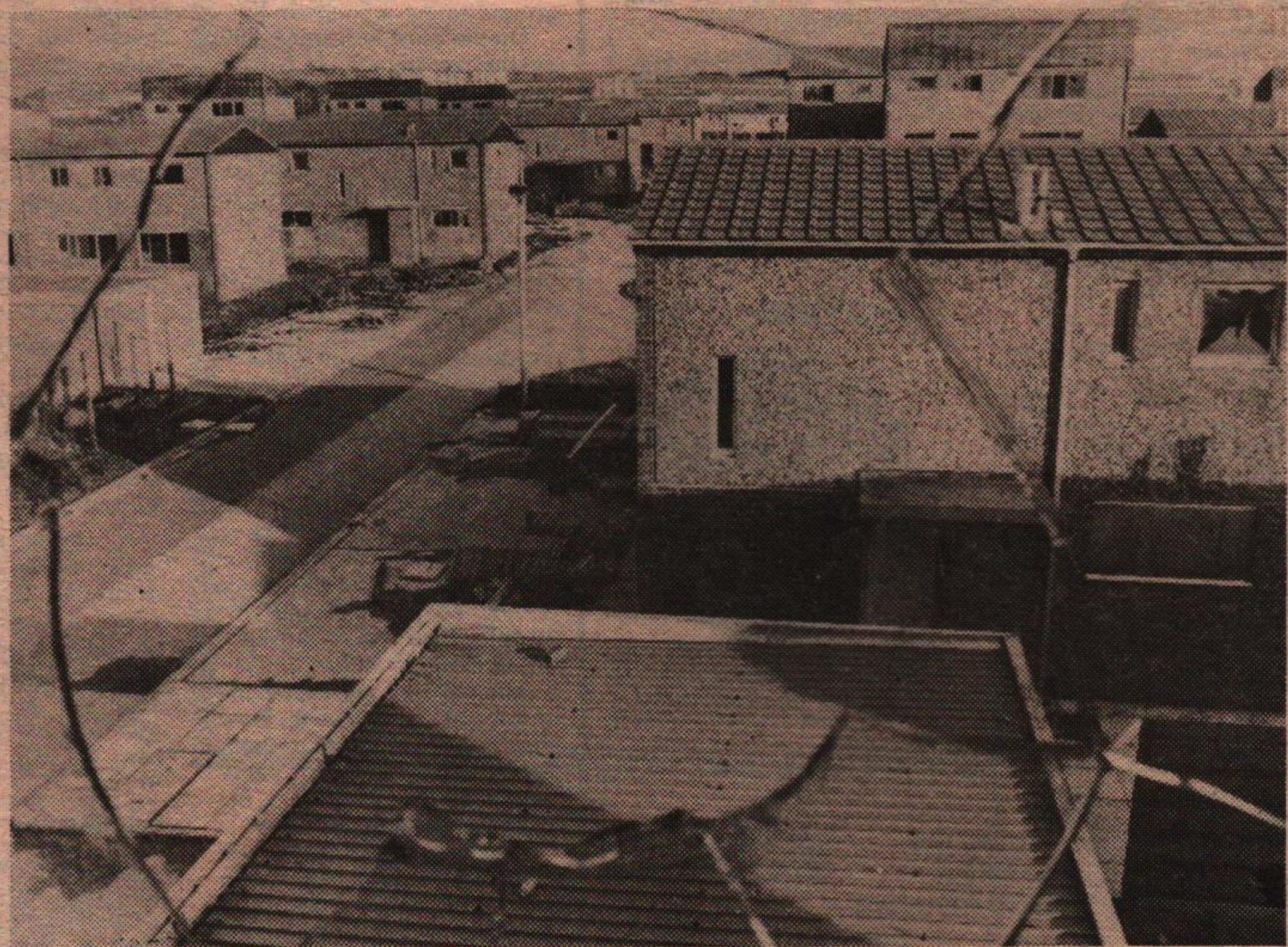
Day AS





Courtaulds: the latest firm to fling Skelmersdale workers on the scrapheap—with Labour's help

# NIGHTMARE...



the Garden of Eden', he...  
le houses, with lovely...  
e the planners' dream,  
nightmare.'...  
knows why the Birch...  
ve been left unfinished.  
unions. The unions say

the main trouble is that the houses don't come up to the required standards.

But the Development Corporation admit that 168 of the houses have been completed, but there is no one living in them. Why? For the same reason that 400

houses are empty elsewhere in the New Town.

Because you can't get a house in Skem unless you've got a job to come to.

And there aren't any jobs to come to.

of Action supported by NUPE, CPSA, FBU, NALGO, MS, NUM, NUS, NUT, SCPC, CoHSE and the Labour Party NEC

## On the march again... the bible-punchers who threaten every woman

By Dr GERRY DAWSON

THE SPUC RALLIES this weekend will all be very English. Land of Hope and Glory over the megaphones, massed bands of clergymen, kids with white flowers and posses of happily submissive girl guides from cathedral towns.

They will probably say a prayer for the lost souls of we demonstrators. But underneath the self-righteousness and face powder is a hard political edge and a tough organisation anxious to regain the initiative in the abortion campaign.

SPUC is determined to put the right to choose, over abortion and a lot of other things, safely in the hands of those who Know Best, the doctors, the Church and the State.

SPUC is a well-financed, hard-line religious organisation which believes, as does the Good Book, that the value of women resides in their capacity for submission and the frequency with which they achieve the blessed state of motherhood.

But it doesn't dare say it. So instead it uses words such as 'Life', which like 'Peace', and 'Love', we can all agree are very sonorous.

And they point out, quite mercilessly, that the liberals, who think that the emotional misery of our system can be cured by wise laws instead of social revolution, are not getting anywhere.

SPUC, founded in January 1967 to rally opposition to the liberalisation of the abortion law, which rallied 10,000 people in November 1973 and which openly claims credit for James White's bid to outlaw abortion on all but the strictest grounds, has, unfortunately, the support of a lot of working class people.

It says that 'an end to the holocaust' would be possible if only we lived in a society which took childbearing and kids' welfare seriously.

### Urge

To get working class sympathy they have a programme 'to urge social reforms relating to unmarried mothers'.

It says it is against private medicine's exploitation of the desperate, that it is for the expansion of child benefit allowance and in favour of free child care.

It points out, quite accurately, that without these sort of reforms, abortion and contraception are just weapons in a state population policy which doesn't care a damn for what wives and husbands feel they can manage.

There is one problem. SPUC MPs, every single one, voted for the Healey package. They all support the cuts. The Tory ones don't think they have gone far enough.

Mrs Jill Knight and Mr Norman St John-Stewas, founder members of SPUC, are against private medicine if abortion is concerned, but consider it a crucial factor in the freedom of the individual if it is not.

SPUC says it fights for single parent benefits, but when they were scrapped recently it was too busy organising the bribing of pregnant girls with 'free' anti-abortion advice and charitable gifts of clothes to lift a political finger.

SPUC's passion for the Sanctity of Life suddenly loses interest when the child (and its soul) is safely delivered.

When was the last time you met SPUC on an Anti-Cuts

## PICKET THE BACK-STREET ABORTIONISTS FROM SPUC!

SPUC—the campaigners against legal and safe abortion—are holding five regional rallies this Sunday (7 November). Women's Voice is organising pickets of them. Every woman who wants to fight for legal and safe abortion on demand should be there.

BIRMINGHAM: 12.45 pm: Calthorpe Park.

BRADFORD: 1 pm: Lister Park.

BRISTOL 1.30 pm: Meet at Downs, Near Water Tower.

CHELMSFORD: 1.30pm: New Writtle Street, Chelmsford FC.

GLASGOW 2.30pm: Outside Kelvin Halls.

or Jobs march?

The SPUC 'solution', banning of all abortion, might make things seem simpler. But there has always been abortion—and history shows that when it is driven underground, the misery, the pain and the profit are not abolished... just increased.

So if SPUC got its way, there would soon be new targets: married women who worked and 'helped create unemployment', unmarried women who 'deliberately didn't have children'.

And then, if SPUC got that strong, it would be asking for 'a religious-moral revival, a spiritual transformation... which will restore to the people the morally serious will to live'.

That's not Mary Whitehouse speaking, that's Friedrich Burdorfer, inspirer of the German festival of light which paved the way to Hitler.

With the National Front, at least you know where you stand. But with the religious-backed conservative organisations like SPUC you have a mix-up of hard-line priests with a lot of working class followers who would change their minds if it was argued out.

That's why it's so important that socialists show the flag at this Sunday's rallies with local NAC and women's movement supporters.

## Make next year Law and Disorder Year!

The theme of the 1977 Big Red Diary is Law and Disorder—the legal repression of capitalist society.

There's William Hone in all his glory taking the piss out of the high and mighty... It also contains a great

deal about the struggle for real freedom...

'Treat yourself. Have one for each pocket.'

—Laurie Flynn in Socialist Worker.



SEND ME A 1977 BIG RED DIARY

I enclose £1 per copy, of which 25p is for the Right to Work Defence Fund

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NUMBER OF COPIES \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chichester Road, London NW10 7EJ. Cash with order only.



# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

**WANDSWORTH** Socialist Worker public meeting: The Struggle in Ireland—a socialist perspective. Speaker: Mike Heym. Monday 8 November, 8pm, Battersea Library.

**WEST MIDDLESEX** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism. Alternate Mondays, 7.45pm. The Mill Hill Tavern, Gunnersbury Lane (nearest tube Acton Town).  
15 November: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign.  
29 November: What is fascism?

**ORMSKIRK** Socialist Worker public meeting: Reform or revolution? Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm, Civic Hall committee rooms.

**KINGSTON** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Fight for Socialism. Thursdays, 8pm, Three Tuns, London Road.

4 November: Who runs the country?  
11 November: Why there is no parliamentary road to socialism.

**EXETER** Socialist Worker public meeting: Troops Out of Ireland. Speakers: Ossie Lewis (ex-CPUSA executive) and Richard Blackwell, both recently returned from Ireland. Thursday 11 November, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore Street.

**DUMFRIES** Socialist Worker day school: Sunday 14 November, 12 noon—6pm. Speakers: Peter Bain and Henry Maitles, on The Origin of the International Socialists, The Crisis—Who caused it and What can we do about it? The Need for a Revolutionary Socialist Party.

More details from Terry Stewart, 1 Irving Street, Dumfries. Or phone Dumfries 62406.

**DURHAM** Socialist Worker Christmas social: Friday 3 December, 8pm, Fowlers Yard, Durham. With CAST in Sam The Man, bar and disco.

**LEICESTER** Socialist Worker teachers' meetings: Mondays, 7.30pm, The Bricklayers Arms, Welford Road.

8 November: The Labour Party, The International Socialists and elections. Speaker: Des Bailey (IRSP).  
22 November: The trade unions and bureaucracy. Speaker: Bob Carter (AUT).  
6 December: The Left in Europe. Towards the revolutionary international.

**HALIFAX** Socialist Worker meeting: AMERICA—the problems of building a socialist movement. Speaker: John Charlton. Friday 12 November, 7.30pm, Room A, Harrison Road Library.

**FINSBURY PARK** Socialist Worker meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.  
10 November: The origins of racism and how we fight it. Speaker: Lee Kane.

17 November: Workers and law and order. Speaker: Alistair Hatchett.  
24 November: The Labour Party and Socialism.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON** Socialist Worker day school: Saturday 13 November, 10.30am, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. Nigel Harris on MARXISM AND HISTORY, with other sessions on Women and the Family, Revolution, and Slavery. Cost £1 including lunch and tea. Details, ring: 733-5201.

**NEWHAM** Teachers Socialist Worker public meeting: Crisis in Education. Monday 15 November, 5.30pm, Earl of Wakefield, Katherine Road, East Ham. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and Jim Backhouse (Little Ilford teacher suspended from NUT).

**SOUTHALL** Socialist Worker half-day school on INDIA. Saturday 27 November. Socialist following. More details next week.

**NUPE**: National meeting for all Socialist Worker supporters in NUPE. Saturday 20 November, further details next week.

**CHELMSFORD** Socialist Worker public meeting: Build the socialist alternative. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 8 December, 7.45pm, Shire Hall.

**WITHAM** Socialist Worker film show: Blow for Blow, a film about women workers fighting for their rights. Friday 19 November, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

**ILFORD** Socialist Worker public meeting: The Labour government, racism and unemployment—the socialist answer. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 11 November, 7.45pm, Fellowship House (corner of Sunnyside Road and Green Lane).

## Fight Against Racism

**FINSBURY PARK** Socialist Worker meeting: The origins of racism—and how we fight it. Speaker: Lee Kane. Wednesday 10 November, 8pm, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**BATH** Socialist Worker public meeting: The Fight against Racism. Speaker: Kim Gordon (editor of Flame). Thursday 11 November, 8pm, The Hat and Feather Inn, London Road, Bath.

## Socialist Worker public meetings

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



**SOLIDARITY BADGE**: Southern Africa—Victory to the Freedom Fighters! Red, black and white. 15p plus 6½p postage. £1.50 for ten post free. £10 for 100. International Dept, IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

### Socialist Worker meetings

**EAST LONDON**: Thursday 11 November, 7.45pm, Princess May School, Kingsland Road. Victory to the black workers in South Africa!

**ISLINGTON**: Thursday 4 November, 8pm, Essex Road Library, London N1. Speakers: Chen Chimutengwende (from Zimbabwe) and Alex Callinicos.

**NORTH LONDON**: Tuesday 9 November, 7pm, Canteen, Lad-broke House, North London Polytechnic. Speakers: John Rogers (Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign) and a representative of the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA).

**BIRMINGHAM**: Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm, Socialist and TU Book Centre, 224 High Street, Doreland. Speaker: Alex Callinicos.

**HARLOW**: Wednesday 10 November, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair. Speakers: John Rogers (Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign) and a representative of the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA).  
**SOUTH LONDON**: (Southwark SW Teachers): Thursday 11 November, 5pm, Southbank Polytechnic, Ritary Street. Speaker: Sue Cockerell (secretary, SASC).

**SOUTH WEST LONDON**: Monday 15 November, 8pm, Three Tuns Pubs, London Road. Kingston. Speaker: Sue Cockerell (secretary, Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign).

**LEICESTER**: Thursday 18 November. Speakers: Russ Bowman and a representative of the Zimbabwe People's Army. Watch for further details.

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

**CREWE** Socialist Worker discussion groups: Alternate Tuesdays, 8pm, at the Angel pub, Victoria Street, Crewe Town Centre.  
9 November: Russia, State Capitalist or Socialist?  
23 November: What is Racism?

**HARLOW** Socialist Worker public meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, at Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair. All welcome.

10 November: South Africa—Victory to the Freedom Fighters! Speakers: John Rogers (Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign) and a member of Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army.

17 November: Who are the International Socialists?  
24 November: What's happening in Lebanon?

**TOWER HAMLETS** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every second Wednesday, 8pm, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green.

17 November: Building Socialism after the Revolution.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** SW discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism and working-class history.

Thursday 4 November: Why the Labour movement is reformist. Speaker: Fred Lindop. Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7, 7.30pm.

**CHESTER** SW discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, The Railway Inn, Brook Street (two minutes from station, just off Hoole Way/Hoole Road). Meetings finish 9.15-9.30. All welcome.

18 November: What the papers say—is it the truth? Why we need to build a socialist workers' daily paper.

**MANCHESTER**: Regular, informal SW/IS get-together, every Sunday, 7.30pm, The Wheatsheaf, Deansgate. Come for a drink and a chat! All welcome.

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD** SW discussion meetings: Every second Wednesday, 7.45pm, Rose and Crown, Old High Street. All welcome.  
10 November: Troops out of Ireland!

**EAST KILBRIDE** SW discussion meetings on THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Every second Tuesday, 8pm, The Murray Hall, S. The Murray.  
16 November: The Crisis and the Cuts.  
30 November: The Struggle in Ireland—a Socialist Perspective.

**PRESTON** SW discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Keystone, Brook Street. All welcome.

11 November: How profit rules all.  
25 November: India and Pakistan.  
9 November: The police and the state.

**EDINBURGH** SW public meetings on the international struggle: Alternate Thursdays, 7.30pm, Room 10, Societies Centre, Hill Place.

11 November: Ireland's British Problem. Speaker: Harry MacShane.  
25 November: Workers' struggle in Poland. Speaker: Jan Golab.

**BURNLEY** SW public meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, The White Hart, Church Street.

11 November: social contract or socialism?  
18 November: reform or revolution?

**EAST LONDON** Hospital Workers IS open meeting: Enterprise Books, 136 Kingsland High Road, London E8.

Wednesday 17 November: British fascism—the Thirties and now. Speaker: Nigel Fountain.

**LEICESTER** SW discussion meetings: Every second Friday, 9pm prompt, Globe Inn, Silver Street.

5 November: Russia and state capitalism. Speaker: John Clossick (NUT).

19 November: Workers' control or state control? Speaker: Alan Mee (NUSMW).

3 December: The International Socialists and the Labour Party. Speaker: Mike Teague (ASTMS).

Topics to come: China, Portugal, Trotsky and the united front, Leicester and the revolutionary left, Ireland, Queries and suggestions to Terry Allcott, 106 Knighton Fields West, Leicester.

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

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

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

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

**BLACKBURN** SW discussion meetings:

Thursday 18 November: Marxist Economics. 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.

**DURHAM** SW international public meetings: Leading speakers from IS. Tuesday 23 November: Middle East, 8pm, Elvet Room, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham City.

**DURHAM** SW Education meetings: Socialism or Capitalism? Speakers from local IS branch.

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.

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

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.

## Action in the Unions

National meetings for all members of the International Socialists and Socialist Worker supporters in the following unions:

NUPE: Saturday 20 November, in London.

CIVIL SERVICE unions: Saturday 27 November, in London.

HOSPITAL WORKERS unions: Saturday 4 December, in Manchester.

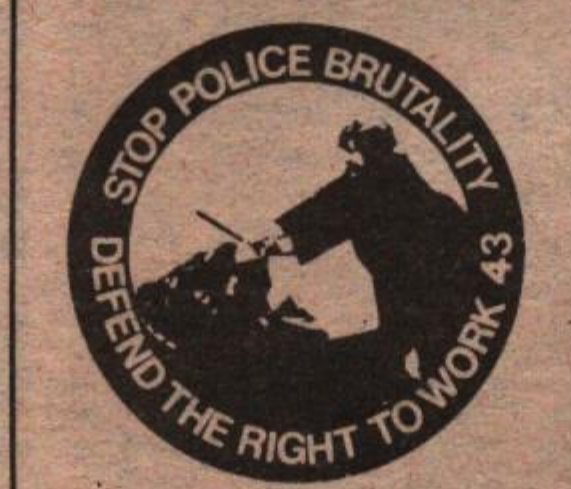
TGVU: Saturday 4 December, in Birmingham.  
Fraction secretaries' meeting: Tuesday 23 November 7pm.

For further details of these meetings, contact your branch or fraction secretary or call the IS Industrial Department, phone 01-739 9772.



The latest issue of FLAME, Socialist Worker's sister paper by black workers is out—with articles on police muggings, Southern Africa, Jamaica, Fords Dagenham and the by-election in Brixton, South London. Copies now from Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 8p monthly.

Flame is burning now!



**STICKERS**: Stop police brutality! Defend the carnival 60, or Defend the Right to Work 43. From Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 3p for a sheet of six, £3 for 100 sheets.

**LONDON** Socialist Worker public meetings on marxist theory and the politics of the International Socialists:

**MARXISTS AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**. Every second Friday, 7pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, London, WC1 (opposite Dillons Bookshop).

19 November: Inflation and Marxist Theory. Speaker: Michael Kidron.  
3 December: The Labour Party and the Communist Party. Speaker: Paul Foot.

17 December: History of the International Socialists. Speaker: Ian Birchall.  
6 January: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign. Speaker: John Deason.

13 January: State Capitalism in Russia. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

20 January: World Capitalism and Imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

27 January: British Imperialism and Ireland. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

3 February: Shelley and Revolution. Speaker: Paul Foot.

10 February: The Degradation of Work. Speaker: John Ure.

17 February: The Crisis of British Capitalism. Speaker: Michael Kidron.

24 February: Fighting Racism and Fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

**TOTTENHAM** SW bonfire party—proceeds to SW by-election campaign levy. Friday 5 November, 6.30pm, adults 50p, kids free, unemployed 25p. Sausages, baked potatoes, soup, etc. Booze available. Bring your own fireworks. Details from branch of phone 348-2041.

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

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.



## SOCIALIST WORKER RECORDINGS

Documentaries and public meetings on tapes and cassettes. Ideal for SW discussion groups, education meetings.

□ **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 Chilean music. £1.40.

□ **SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION**—(in Portuguese), including Grândola Villa Morena, the song used on Lisbon Radio as

## NOISS

NOISS day schools on the international struggle for socialism: All dates have been changed—full details next week.

## Notices

**SELF-CONTAINED FLAT** in South London available for IS member in exchange for minimal caretaker work and small rent. Write to Box S, What's On, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

**JENNY and JEREMY WEINSTEIN** are pleased to announce the birth of Benjamin on 20 October.

**£1 PRIZE FOR BEST CHANT**. Write a chant suitable for demos, to the tune of a popular song or football chant. Send to Chants, TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

**International Socialists HEALTH WORKERS** full fraction meeting: Saturday 4 December, 11.30am, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. £3 pooled fare, lunch provided. Will all members please try and attend. Further details from fraction secretary.

**ANY COMRADE** going abroad for Christmas please contact the International Department well in advance. International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**SPEAKERS NEEDED ON IRELAND**: Most of the International Socialists' established speakers on Ireland are based in London. The IS Irish Sub-Committee needs comrades outside London willing to speak. Please contact IS Irish Sub-Committee, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878).

**NATTKE**: Could all members of the International Socialists and SW supporters in NATTKE, also anyone with experience of building in theatres please contact (in strictest confidence) Stage Hand, Manchester TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 20.

**SHIPBUILDERS**: Will all members of the International Socialists employed in shipbuilding/repairing or oil rig erection please contact Jim Conner, c/o 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. (Glasgow IS Shipbuilders Branch).

**GUY FAWKES WAS RIGHT!** North London Socialist Worker Social: Friday 5 November, 8pm-11pm, City University (near Angel), London N1. With limousine and disco. Entrance 75p (50p unemployed and students).

**HACKNEY** SW bonfire party—proceeds to SW by-election campaign levy. Friday 5 November, 6.30pm, adults 50p, kids free, unemployed 25p. Sausages, baked potatoes, soup etc. Bring your own fireworks and booze. Tickets and details of place from SW sellers.

**SWINDON**: Anyone interested in helping to form a Swindon International Socialists branch please write to Swindon IS, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6DN.

**SCARBOROUGH AREA**: Anyone interesting in forming discussion group, sales of SW etc, please contact Chris, phone Filey 2867.

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

## womens voice

## WOMENS VOICE ABORTION OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE

**BADGES** available now. £1.50 including postage, £2 for 20, £10 for 100 post free. Money with orders to: Women's Voice, 6 Cotton's Gardens, London E2.



**ALICIA SENNO** is four years old. She was playing outside the Icmesa factory, in Seveso, Northern Italy, when it exploded, showering the surrounding land with the deadly poison Dioxin.

Alicia and 170 other children who were in 'Zone A' near the factory are now suffering from Dioxin poisoning. There is no known antidote.

But the scandal of Seveso is that thousands of workers are still living in the area heavily contaminated with Dioxin—trees, plants, houses, even the topsoil to a depth of one foot—and nothing is being done to save them.

Dioxin causes a skin disease called Chloracne. It damages your liver, kidney, pancreas, intestines—almost every organ in your body. It destroys the white cells in your blood which fight infection.

Alicia Senno is suffering from chloracne—her body is covered with spots and foul-smelling boils.

After the explosion the 'experts' suggested destroying everything contaminated. The trees, plants, houses, one foot of the topsoil was to be burnt and then buried deep in the ground under a concrete lid.

Dioxin must be burnt at 800 degrees centigrade. It is four months since the explosion and the incinerator hasn't been built yet. Different 'decontamination' companies are still bidding for the contract.

The poison is spreading. It's sinking into the ground—twice as deep now as in July. It has spread in the torrential rains since the explosion. Traces of it have been found in the rivers Seveso and Certesa. It is reaching Milan—the biggest industrial city in Italy.

## Evacuate

The 253 acres around the Icmesa factory are known as Zone A. After the explosion there were plans to evacuate 15,000 people, but only 753 people have been moved—those living in Zone A.

The 'experts' said that Zone B was 'slightly polluted'. Now they're found out that those 3,000 acres are as badly contaminated as Zone A. No one has been evacuated yet.

The Health Minister explained: 'We think of health in its wider sense—because it would be more disturbing for people to live in hotels and improvised houses... we can permit them to live in this polluted area provided they follow certain regulations'.

Children and adults are told not to play on the ground or touch it with their hands. No one must touch the vegetation. This is in an area where people make their living out of growing vegetables to sell on the market stalls of Milan.

Hoffman La Roche, who own the Icmesa factory, are

## Seveso: The poison spreads

one of the richest companies in the world. They make up to 8,000 per cent profit on Librium and Valium tranquillisers. The victims of Seveso will never see those profits, but their lives have been sacrificed on account of them.

The dangers of dioxin are well-known to the 'experts'. There have been four previous explosions—in Britain at the Coalite factory in Bolsover, in Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia.

The Coalite factory has been closed down—eight years after the dioxin explosion it is still contaminated. Some of the workers are still suffering the effects of the poisoning.

A worker at the German factory died recently after nine months in agony.

The bosses have plenty of evidence of the effects of this poison, which they have described as 'weedkiller'. It was used extensively in Vietnam to strip high areas of forest.

## Military

In fact, new visitors have joined the scientists, agents of chemical companies and the press in Seveso. A team of NATO personnel and representatives of the allied powers military defence ministries recently arrived to 'study the effects' of this... weedkiller?

There is only one answer to these merchants of death. And that is to take industry out of their hands and to run it for human need under direct workers' control.

JOANNA ROLLO



# PLAYS

## THE OTHER WAY ROUND

A BUILDING worker is brought in by the Special Branch. They jerk the chair from under him. They begin firing questions at him.

The 'interrogation' goes on for nearly 30 minutes...

...and you begin to get an idea what it's been like for the 2000 people picked up under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) during the past two years.

For this is a play performed by CAST, titled *The Other Way Round*. It was performed at a series of Socialist Worker meetings during the past fortnight. I was one speaker at those meetings.

The building worker in the play is not a 'terrorist', nor has he any connection with 'subversives'. Neither have the vast majority of people picked up under the PTA—only a tiny minority have later been charged with any offence.

Its aim is intimidation. They want people to keep their heads down and their mouths shut.

The British ruling class, who created the violence of the Irish struggle, don't want meetings like the series just ended. They don't want British workers discussing why there are British troops shooting children and kicking in doors in Belfast.

They want you to accept the propaganda that there's something wrong with the air in Ireland that makes people use guns, and that they need an army of occupation to keep us from tearing each other apart.

The excuse they give for such repression as the PTA is that there are people in this country doing things against the interests of the people of Britain.

This is precisely why Republicans are fighting—because there's an army in Ireland doing things against our interests.

It is *The Other Way Round*, just as the play shows. They are terrorising us.

### GENE KERRIGAN

Shop steward, Irish TGWU, and editor of *The Worker*, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement in Ireland.

□ **THE OTHER WAY ROUND**, which has played successfully to large audiences in many parts of the country, is one of three short plays by CAST which aim to focus on a political issue, illustrate the arguments surrounding it—and leave it wide open for a speaker and discussion to explore what needs to be done, about Ireland, about unemployment, about the cuts in education and health.

□ **CUTTING US TO SHREDS**, another of the three, was performed a couple of weeks ago after a Conference against the Cuts in Manchester. As a result, CAST is going back to Manchester for a week-long tour of hospitals, trades councils and anti-cuts meetings in mid-November.

□ CAST are there to be used. Phone them on 01-402 6087.

'YOU will have to talk to me with my rifle in my hand. I find if I talk with my rifle in my hand the white man pays more attention to what I say. Once I put my rifle down I am nothing. I am just a dog to be kicked.'

These are the words of one of the leaders of the great African uprising against the white rulers of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) in 1896. But they could have been said by any one of the thousands of young black guerrillas fighting the Smith regime today.

The settlers crushed the early rebellion. Machine gun and artillery fire drove the Africans to take refuge in caves. The white soldiers then threw dynamite and hand-grenades in after them.

When the Africans—many of them women and children—came out to surrender, the settlers were there waiting at the mouth of the cave and opened fire.

This was how the whites brought 'civilisation' to Zimbabwe. Today their descendants are defending the privileges they won in much the same way.

The report **CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA\*** was smuggled out of Zimbabwe a few months ago. It describes the brutality with which Ian Smith's security forces are hammering down on the African population.

Many peasants have been forced to leave their homes and live in 'protected villages' under armed guard, in case they make contact with the guerrillas. They have to travel miles to tend their crops and if caught out of the village after six in the evening, they can be shot on sight.

106 Africans have died in this way since the war began.

Many more have been killed while 'running with terrorists' or 'mingling with terrorists'—by official definition. The report explains:

"Mingling with terrorists" does not necessarily mean being found in the company of insurgents. There is a widespread belief in the Mtoko area that the Security Forces are liable to open fire on people found near the place where a landmine has just exploded.

The phrase can also include people suspected of being present at meetings called by insurgents.

But all the beatings, torture, shootings have not quenched the spirit of the Zimbabwean people. The settlers have been forced to retreat and even to accept the principle of majority rule.

But the struggle is by no means over.

The sort of future that Kissinger and Callaghan have in store for Zimbabwe can be gleaned from their track record in Angola. There they backed the black puppet movements FNLA and Unita and did everything they could to crush the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

They hoped in this way to produce an obedient government of black 'moderates' that would not interfere with the massive Western investments.

For example, in January 1975 the 40 Committee, the top American intelligence body which is headed by Kissinger, voted money for Holden Roberto, leader of the FNLA.



With the money, according to Tony Hodges, 'the FNLA bought up the country's major means of communications, acquiring a TV station and the leading daily paper, *A Provincia de Angola*, reinstalling as its editor Rui Correia de Freitas, who had previously been exiled after being accused of complicity with the 28 September 1974 right-wing coup in Portugal.'

No doubt today in Zimbabwe American and British money is flowing into the pockets of 'moderate' black leaders such as Joshua Nkomo. As

in the case of Jonas Savimbi, leader of Unita, Nkomo has close links with Lonrho, a big exploiter of black workers throughout Africa.

The trouble with these books is that they have little to say about the future course of the struggle in Southern Africa. This is especially true of the book by Basil Davidson, Joe Slovo and Anthony Wilkinson, which after all is

subtitled **THE NEW POLITICS OF REVOLUTION**.

They don't have much that's new to say. For them, the struggle in Zimbabwe and South Africa is one to be waged by guerrillas in the countryside.

You wouldn't know from reading their book that there is a massive black urban working class of over six million in South Africa, or

that there are nearly a million African workers in Zimbabwe.

It is they, fighting not simply apartheid, but also the capitalist system itself, who will liberate Southern Africa.

**ALEX CALLINICOS**  
*CIVIL WAR IN RHODESIA*, The Rhodesian Catholic

*Commission for Justice and Peace, CIIR, £1.*

*AFTER ANGOLA*, by C Legum and T Hodges, Collins, £1.25.

*SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE NEW POLITICS OF REVOLUTION*, by Davidson, Slovo and Wilkinson, Penguin, £1.25.

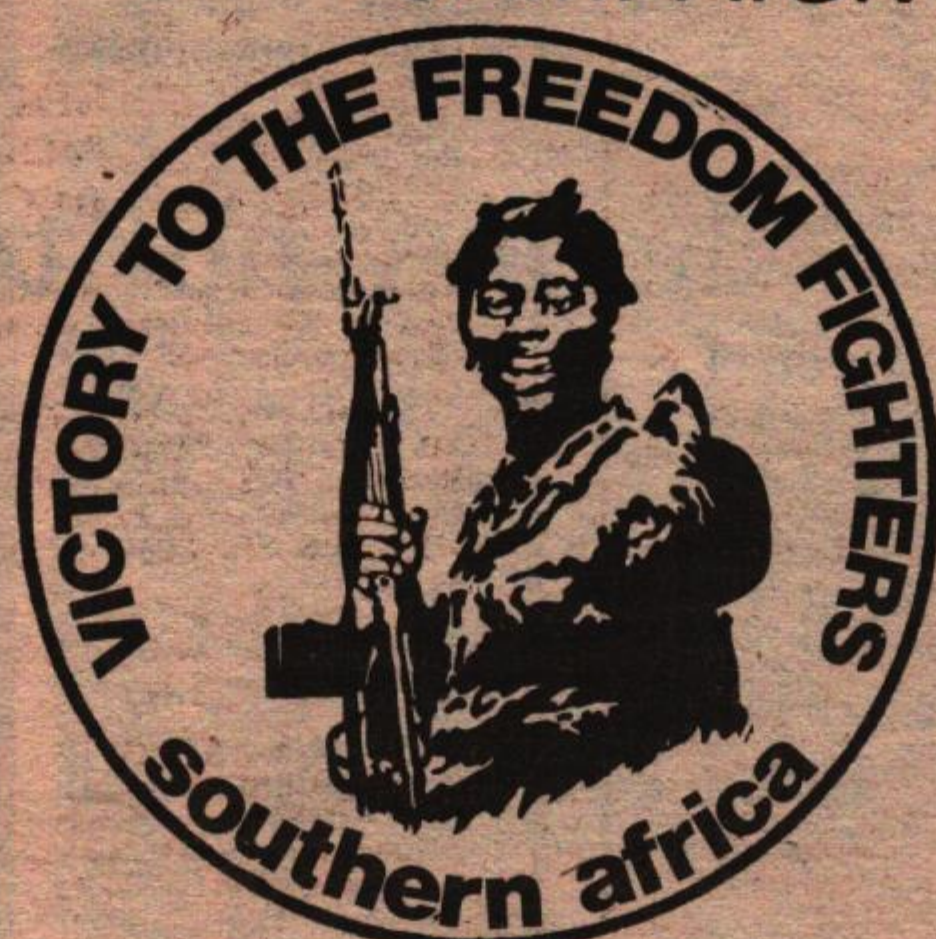
All available from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (please add 15p postage).

# The Battle for Africa

LEFT: Black demonstrator against white policeman in Johannesburg  
BELOW: Heavily armed Rhodesian 'defence police'—and villagers in neighbouring Mozambique digging an air raid shelter. Rhodesian forces have again raided across the border—in July they massacred 300 men, women and children 'guerrillas'.



## SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



**BULLETIN:** First issue out now. Articles on Transkei, black trade unions under apartheid, Zimbabwe, Soweto, racism at Heathrow Airport, London. 10p a copy plus 10p postage.

**POSTER:** With space for details of local activities. Two colours. £1 for 50.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Saturday 27 November, 1.30pm, outside Brixton Town Hall.

**PICKET:** Against National Front celebration of Remembrance Day, Sunday 14 November, 2.30pm, The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London.

**PICKET:** Annual general meeting of Consolidated Goldfields, one of the biggest exploiters of South Africa. Monday 22 November, 11.30am. The Dorchester, Park Lane, London, W1.

**GRAND FUND-RAISING BENEFIT SOCIAL:** Friday 3 December, 8pm, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Malet Street, London, W1, with The Derelicts and real ale.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN**, 101-103 Gower Street, London, W1.

## PREVIEW

### SUNDAY

**WRITE-ON** (BBC1) gives people a chance to express their views in person to a vast audience. This week a 14-year-old school student suggests an alternative to the exam system.

Most of us consume about 31bs of artificial food additives each year. **TOWARDS A SUPERFOOD** (Radio 4) considers whether they are really necessary and what they are doing to our health.

### MONDAY

Two young American executives used a computer to balance an error in the accounts of Equity Funding, an insurance company. Within a short while it turned into one of the biggest frauds of all time. **THE BILLION DOLLAR BUBBLE** (BBC2) is a play about the true story.

### FRIDAY

**THE MONEY PROGRAMME** (BBC2) focuses on public spending and how local authorities are 'coping' with the cuts.



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

## An open letter to the Queen

Dear Mrs Windsor,

I trust that this letter finds you well. That goes without saying, because you seemingly have a personal physician for each different part of your anatomy, whereas commoners like myself have but one between several hundred of us.

I am one of the 1½ million unemployed, and likely to remain so indefinitely thanks to the betrayal of working-class interests by your present government.

Not, of course, that it really matters, otherwise you would no doubt have criticised this situation in addition to your important duties as a film critic.

Like yourself, I draw social security, albeit £1,400,000 a year less than yourself. Unlike yourself I have to register weekly for mine. Unlike yourself I pay rent, for lodgings somewhat more humble than your own.

However, I digress. I thought it would be a nice gesture of solidarity on your part with your fellow unemployed if you were forgo your next Giro payment and instead ask the Department to donate £1 each to the remainder of us unemployed.

If you could set to donate £100,000 of your own money in addition—making a total of £1,500,000—will suffice to benefit us all.

Incidentally, one thing puzzles me, Mrs Windsor. I thought that one was ineligible for social security if one's savings amounted to more than £1,200. If you're not careful, the press will be calling you a scrounger!

Please express my fondest regards to Phil, Ted, Andy and of course Charlie who never seems to have any unemployment problems. Long live the Welfare State.

I look forward to hearing from you soon—personally.

Yours fraternally,  
John Green, Wiltshire.

## If they say No, appeal!

I HAVE seen items in Socialist Worker about the injustices of the Social Security. If you have been badly treated, appeal. Write a letter to your SS office as follows:

I wish to appeal against the decision of your office not to

grant me benefit (or whatever).

They must visit you within three days and will often back down to avoid an appeal!

□ SW reader, South London.

RAR's first dance  
Friday 12 November  
at the Princess Alice, Forest Gate  
up the Romford Road E15

Rock Against Racism with  
Carol Grimes and the London Boogie Band  
plus support band and sound system.  
£1 to get in, 50p with your dole  
card. Remember the date and remember to come

Any supporters interested in putting on a Rock Against Racism  
write to us at 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2

# Letters

## OF COURSE ALL SOCIALISTS HATE VIOLENCE...

THE ruling classes of the Western world deplore violence. We know this is so because it says so in the Daily Mail.

So it was with some surprise that I read of the American supreme courts ruling on capital punishment—surely with their distaste for violence they would have abolished it? But no. Instead they decided that three Southern states had death penalty laws which did not break a ban on 'cruel and unusual punishments' contained in the constitution. As a result hope is fading for nearly 200 people who are awaiting the electric chair in jails at Huntsville in Texas, Raiford in Florida and Reidsville in Georgia.

What will be the first execution for 10 years now seems likely to take place in Texas early next year and the victim will almost certainly be poor and black—otherwise he would not be sentenced to death in the first place.

Think about it—the man who is condemned by the system to such squalor that he takes to drink and then kills his wife in a jealous quarrel is to die an appalling death in the electric chair, but Richard Nixon coldly and calmly ordered the deaths of god knows how many in Vietnam and he receives a free pardon.

The employers who regularly cause death by deliberate negligence in the pursuit of profit receive both state honours and state contracts. Something strikes somewhere.

The truth is that the real



A Vietnamese burnt by napalm in a US bombing raid

criminals in our society are those who have stolen the wealth from the people and then sit in hypocritical judgement of the wrongs that their rotten system sometimes drives us to commit.

That is why Socialists should oppose all attempts to restore the death penalty in the States—or for that matter anywhere else.

□ Wayne Asher, Leicester.

### Pacifist

HAVING struggled with the problem of being a revolutionary socialist and a pacifist, I should like to answer Stan Goodman of Hull by asking him what is his definition of violence.

Does he not think that it is violence to someone to make them spend between eight and twelve hours a day on an excruciatingly boring assembly line, where it is an effort of will not to stand up and scream with boredom and frustration, earning just enough money to keep alive a wife and kids who one has no time to see or communicate with.

## ...but dare you tell him to turn the other cheek?

To come home to a wife who is so worn out with trying to cook clean and contented children, who cannot understand why there is no pocket money, why their parents have no time to show them any love and who therefore never learn to love.

They cannot understand why there is nowhere to play. So they go out and smash things for want of amusement, and due to their lack of money do what is now called 'a

mugging'.

This is how the majority of the working class has to live and die—sometimes even earlier than usual from asbestosis caused by pollution and appalling factory conditions.

This is the violence we working-class people are forced to put up with every day. Does Stan Goodman really believe that we have to turn the other cheek?

There will be time for

pacifism after the revolution. But we may well need to use violence to stop the violence that is being done against us every day.

□ DS. Blackheath, London.

### No Illusions

I WOULD like to reply to Stan Goodman's letter on pacifism. While I agree with Stan that the Angolans used Cuban mercenaries to help them on the road to victory, the point is that capitalism is rooted in violence, fear, repression and cunning, to keep the working class down and 'in its place'.

When faced with militant action, that well-known arm of the state the police answer with their own type of violence in the name of Law and Order. What they do is baton, kick, and punch anyone who gets in their way.

So while being sympathetic with Stan, I must say that I have no illusions about using force, violent if necessary, to help the emancipation of the working class.

□ F T Jones, Kirkby, Merseyside.

## How not to fight against racialism

IF YOU wanted to know how to fight racism you wouldn't be any wiser if you were one of the 80 people who listened to Syd Bidwell, Southall's Labour MP, and Vishnu Sharma from the immigrant community when they spoke in Woking.

What a pity that neither ever once said how to defeat

the racists, that the answer must lie in the fight for socialism and in actively opposing racists and fascists.

Their only 'call to action' was to support the TUC/Labour Party demonstration against racism. But what happens afterwards? In an hour and a half of talk neither speaker urged the audience to oppose the racists on the streets.

Even more seriously, while

arguing against the 1971 Immigration Act, both Bidwell and Vishnu Sharma urged the adoption of a 'non-racist' immigration policy! It was left to one of the audience to point out that any immigration policy is bound to be racist under capitalism.

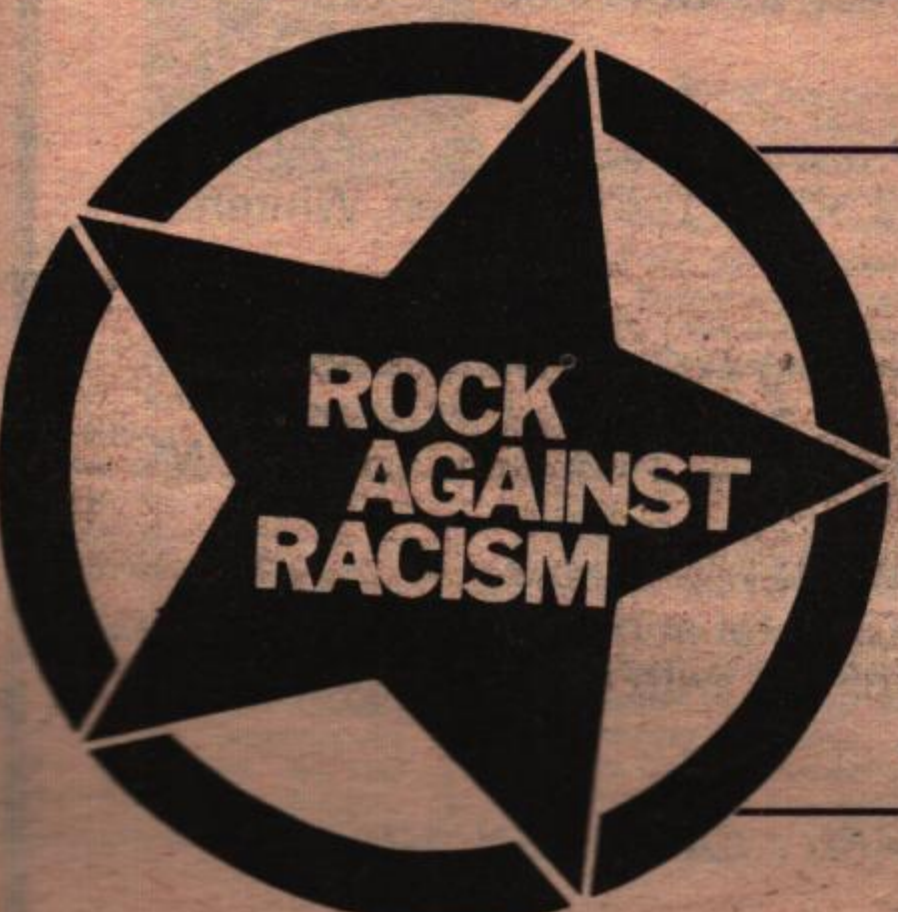
### Deluding

Syd Bidwell is only deluding himself when he calls himself a 'socialist internationalist' if he

believes otherwise.

Things only picked up later when the play Divide and Rule Britannia, performed by Broadside Mobile Workers Theatre, put the finger on the cause of racism—the efforts by the ruling class and their collaborators both inside and outside parliament to divide the working class in the interests of profit.

□ Howard Miles, Guildford.





## Postal Points

IT WAS with disgust that I read, in *Socialist Worker*, an advertisement for a bonfire party to be held this November 5th. How can anyone who calls himself or herself socialist possibly celebrate the death of a man who was fighting for the rights of an oppressed minority in this country?

Gido (Guy) Fawkes was the first, and, as far as I can ascertain, only person to enter the building of the Houses of Parliament with honest intentions. His misfortune in being apprehended and later murdered by the state, should be mourned, not celebrated.

While I realise the comrades concerned are trying to raise money for a good cause, I do think they could be a little more discerning in what they appear to support.

□ Derek Richards, Ilford, Essex.

Yes, that's why we'll be burning an effigy of Enoch Powell, not Guy Fawkes.

I SALUTE your front page exposure of Adolf Powell (SW9 October), but why underestimate Hitler's 'repatriations'? The Nazis did not just murder six million people but twelve million, six million of whom were Jews.

Six million is the number Zionists remember—surely socialists should remember the real total.

□ David Buckwell, Glasgow G3.

I WOULD like to make it clear that the £2.1 recently sent to SW was for the Frank Chapple libel fund and my contribution should most definitely not be listed in your election fund-raising column—firstly because as a long-time Labour Party member I look forward to the election of David Winnick as a campaigning socialist MP for Walsall North, and secondly because politically I completely reject the opportunism in the International Socialists' decision to take the parliamentary candidacy road to gimmicky publicity.

□ D McShane, North London.

Sorry, Brother McShane, for the error. Sorry too that you see David Winnick's progress up the ladder as commendable while it's 'opportunism' for *Socialist Worker* to use the election as a platform for some serious socialist ideas. We think you're mixed up somewhere.

MAY we again invite your readers to send greetings for Christmas and the New Year to the families of political prisoners, detainees, the banned and the banished in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia (South West Africa). Such greetings are seen as an expression of support and concern and are deeply appreciated by the recipients.

Lists of the above are available on request from the Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, London W1P 2DQ.  
□ Abdul Minty, Anti-Apartheid.

where  
we  
stand

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

# WHY KEEP ON ABOUT RUSSIA?

by Austin Danks TGWU Chrysler, Coventry

Fifty-nine years ago this month the workers and peasants of Russia seized state power.

Why do revolutionary socialists of all persuasions keep on about it? What's so special

about something that happened so long ago and seems to have been so utterly destroyed?

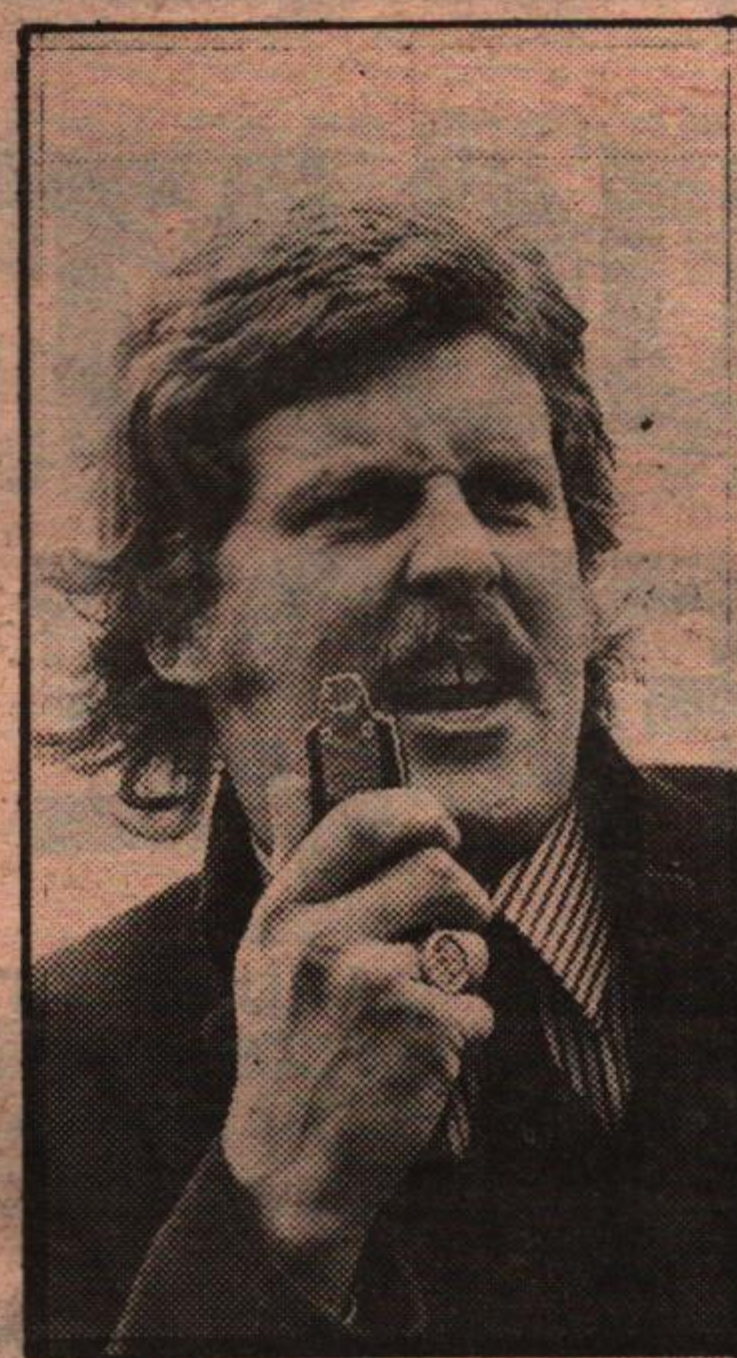
The answer is simple.

In Russia, in 1917, for only the second time in history—the first was the Paris Commune—ordinary people, workers and peasants, seized them with the conviction that it was possible for them to plan and run their own lives through organisations—the soviets—that they themselves had built.

In Britain today we are still being taught that the affairs of the state must be left to a tiny ruling minority, that the business of running society is beyond our comprehension.

*It's a lie, and the Russian revolution exposed that lie.*

In just 20 years all the vision, hope, enthusiasm and democracy of that revolution had been smashed. Smashed by a dictatorship that was to prove itself more brutal and oppressive than the one the workers had overthrown.



One of the slogans that Lenin's Bolshevik Party had led the revolution with was 'Peace, Land and Bread'.

Once in power they inherited a country that was hungry and tired of its war with Germany. Peace was signed 'at all costs' but the white armies, the forces of counter-revolution inside Russia, were not to let it last.

Russia was soon to be plunged into a bloody civil war that would leave it starved, disease-ridden, weak and demoralised. The workers who had been at the head of the revolution were in the front-line again.

By the time the counter-revolutionary armies had been defeated those that had not given their lives to the revolution were demoralised and war weary.

Devastated by the civil war, revolutionary Russia groaned under the burden of having to tackle the problems it had inherited.

Trotsky and Lenin regarded Russia as a besieged fortress. It would be possible to take the first steps towards socialist planning inside that fortress but they would never break the shackles of their backwardness and build socialism until that siege was lifted by a revolution in one or more of the advanced capitalist countries.

It looked now as if Russia would have to wait longer for that aid to come than it had originally thought.

The Bolshevik Party found itself in the position, not of being the party of the class that had taken power, but of having to dictate in the name of that class, in its absence as a healthy political force.

The Bolsheviks had no choice. If they had admitted defeat and handed power back to the old rulers the revenge those rulers would have taken would have been one of the bloodiest the world had seen.

It was not until after Lenin's death that Stalin was to talk about the possibilities of building 'socialism in one country'. It was a negation of everything the Bolshevik Party had previously stood for.

It was to mark the beginning of a view of the world that would push Russia under a brutal dictatorship and would sell out workers' struggles in other countries.

*In Europe today we have the productive machinery to produce an abundance of wealth, if used for need and not profit. In Russia in 1917 industry was only just developing, the country was hardly capable of feeding itself and most of the advantages of a modern industrial country were missing.*

Some of the main problems that faced the Russian working class will not face us.

That does not mean that a British or European revolution will be the end of all our problems, it won't. What it does mean is that it will see a start to the possibility of solving those problems.

That's why it is important for us to understand the isolation and devastation that killed the Russian revolution. It is important for us to share the vision that carried Russia's workers to power in 1917. A vision of the emancipation of mankind and womankind from misery, poverty and exploitation.

The International Socialists are about building the machinery with which we can do it. If you're serious... Join us!!

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.

1923 poster advertising October, the Russian film

director Eisenstein's film on the 1917 Revolution



## Boost for striking dustmen

CANTERBURY: All 350 members of the City Council's direct labour force are now on strike.

The strike began four weeks ago after the council cut the bonus payments for dustmen. They were left on the basic £35 a week. For many men this meant a take home pay of only £25.

The men began a go slow and the Council sacked six of them.

All the men came out and two of the unions involved, the Transport Union and the Public Employees Union, have made the strike official.

The dustmen have been joined by car park attendants, painters and many others.

### Pressure

The council brought in contractors to clear the rubbish. They tried to use unofficial tips. So the unions took the council to court. Surprisingly enough, the council have been ordered to shut down all the unofficial tips.

The council are still refusing to negotiate with any of the unions.

Support and donations to the Strike Committee, 124 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

## POOL ATTENDANTS FIGHT WAGE CUTS

SHEFFIELD: 'Where is their loyalty to the corporation?' a councillor asked of militant swimming bath attendants.

Last Tuesday the shop stewards of the Sheffield Swimming Pool attendants met with spokesmen of the council's recreation committee.

The stewards were told that new rosters were going to be imposed on 8 November. These cut down on services and would cause wage cuts of up to £12 a week.

A mass meeting on Thursday will almost certainly ban swimming lessons and casual overtime.

The bin men are being approached for support. The management are in NALGO, the local government workers union, and are also facing cuts. Two of their stewards

GRANGEMOUTH: 1,700 men are occupying the BP Chemical Plant to demand that management negotiate with their plant representative over pensions and not, as management insists, with the national union officials.

Negotiations with the officials have produced an agreement which dis-

criminate against older members of the workforce.

Production is at a standstill although there is a 100 per cent turnout for each shift. Only basic maintenance work is being done.

This is the first time in the 25-year history of the plant that all the unions have moved together. The strikers include Transport and General, the craft unions and also the supervisory staff in ASTMS.

A mass meeting two weeks ago took a unanimous decision that unless management agreed to negotiate at plant level, industrial action would be taken.

Tam Grey, the craft convenor, said: 'Feeling is very high and we are determined to win.' Despite very strong pressure from the unions, the members of all the craft unions have ignored national instructions to return to work 'because we are all in this together'.

# UCATT OFFICIALS FACE SHOWDOWN

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Building workers in the 24th week of their picket of the Marshall Andrews site are now facing a showdown with full-time union officials.

The workers, in line with the conference policy of their union, UCATT, are demanding direct employment by the main contractor on the site.

They are fighting a sophisticated form of the lump. And yet last Friday two UCATT officials, Jim Collman and Charlie Negus, turned up on the picket line with a letter threatening disciplinary action if the picketing continued.

Shortly after, a delivery lorry appeared from nowhere to be escorted through the picket by the officials.

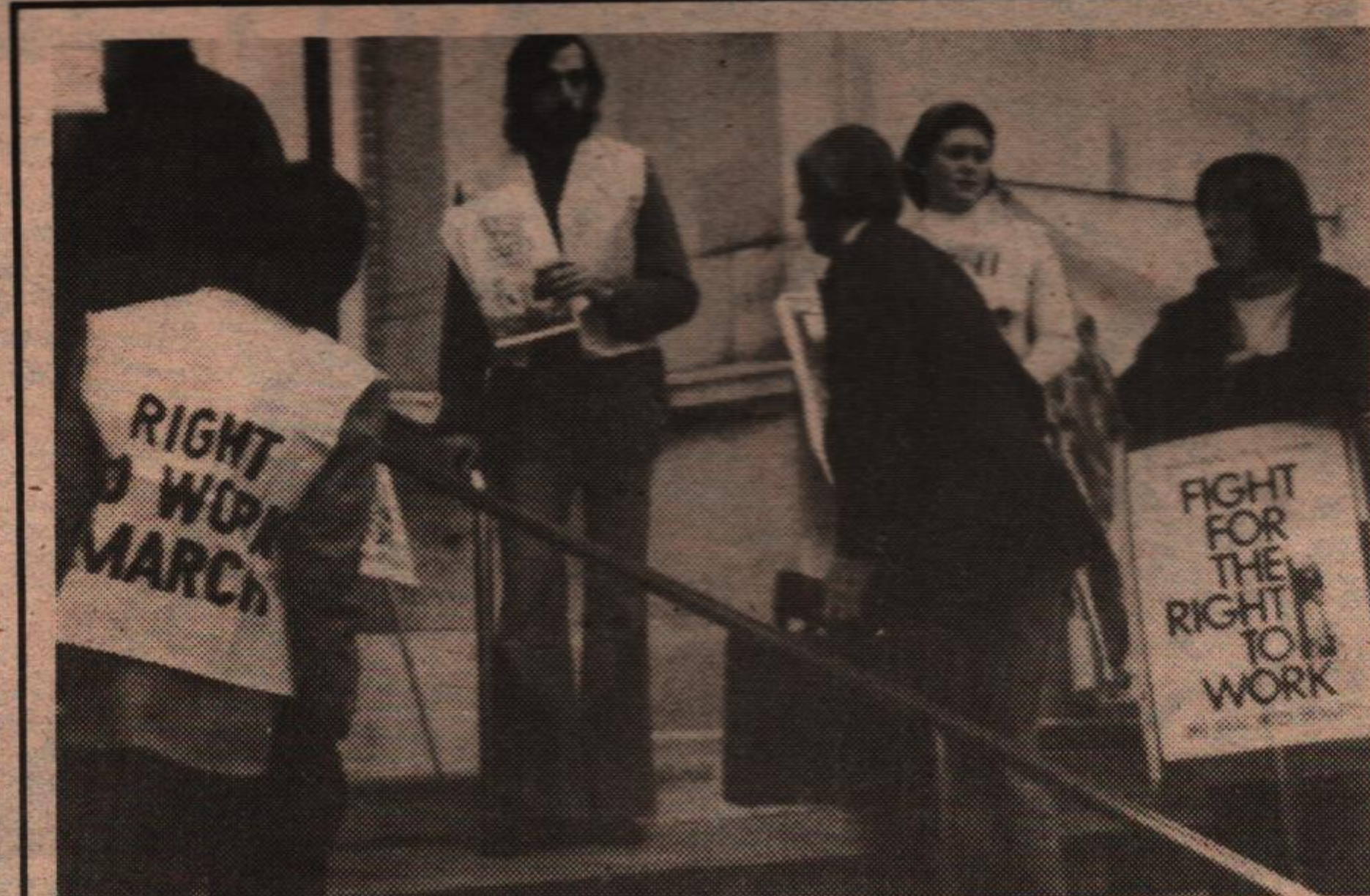
The threatening letter, signed by UCATT regional secretary Ivor Jordan, also bore the names of three local UCATT branch secretaries, all of whom have denied knowledge of signing it.

Now an emergency meeting of the regional council has been called for this Saturday to discuss the document and the mystery of how the secretaries' names came to be on it.

### Fight

Meanwhile, a mass meeting of 120 building workers voted unanimously on Tuesday to carry on with the picket.

This fight for the right to work direct is, after 24 weeks, proving a strain financially. Please send donations to John Davies, c/o Breakmead, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. UCATT members are urged to move resolutions in their branches supporting the men and condemning the action of the officials.



SOUTHAMPTON: When local leaders of industry, and trade union officials met to discuss unemployment with the local council they were greeted by a picket organised by the local Unemployed

Workers Action Committee. One protester was removed from the meeting before they were able to begin. The result of the discussions was—nothing. They came up with no solution to the problem

## Bingo women win support

COVENTRY: In the second week of their strike for union recognition, the 70 women at Club One bingo in Coventry have been joined by the 20 staff at the Rialto Bingo Hall.

The Rialto is owned by Orr Enterprises, the same firm that owns Club One.

Irene Lacy, one of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The club was closed down last week because of our strike. Orr must be losing a fortune.

'He's getting no beer delivered and the dustmen aren't emptying the bins. His takings must be less than ten per cent of the usual.

'Last Monday only 60 or so customers crossed our picket lines. There's usually six or seven hundred people there on a Monday night.'

The strike has been made official by the TGWU but the action of NATKE—the theatre and cinema union—has been disgraceful.

Management want the women to join NATKE and last Monday night the local NATKE official crossed the picket line, helped usher customers into the hall and told the pickets: 'You are expendable.'

An official complaint has been made to his union.

Donations and messages to: Club One strike committee, 42 Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry.

# Big blow for the right-wing as Bob Wright wins AUEW ballot

THE RIGHT-WING have suffered a severe set-back in the elections in the engineering section of the AUEW for the post of Assistant General Secretary.

Bob Wright, the candidate of the left, beat the extreme right-winger, John Weakley, by 160,378 votes to 126,972.

Weakley is the man who twice took his own union to court to destroy the branch

balloting method of elections. He has led the right wing on the National Committee in their efforts to sabotage amalgamation.

His defeat could mark the turning of the tide in the wave of right-wing successes in recent elections.

Bob Wright, who lost his executive seat to the right-wing in last year's elections, has long been associated with the Broad Left.

His politics are the same as

the union's President, Hugh Scanlon, and like Scanlon he is a supporter of the Social Contract.

During the battles against the Tory Industrial Relations Act, the AUEW played the leading role in destroying the National Industrial Relations Court and all the workings of the Act.

But the AUEW is not supporting the Day of Action on 17 November. Nine union executives are.

There will be engineering union workers on the demonstration. There will be industrial action by AUEW members. But this is being organised by rank and file engineers in individual work places and districts.

It will be a long, hard battle to build a national rank and file organisation among AUEW members to challenge the power of the government's supporters in the union leadership, both left and the right.

The Engineers' Charter and its paper are laying the foundations of such an organisation.

Information and copies of the Engineers' Charter can be obtained from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

There will be a detailed analysis of the election results in next week's Socialist Worker.

## JOURNALISTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

By Aidan White

JOURNALISTS Charter, the rank and file organisation within the National Union of Journalists, is to campaign on three fronts—against new technology which is threatening jobs, for the closed shop, and against the social contract.

The annual meeting in Sheffield on Saturday also agreed to campaign against

racism in the press and to fight for fairer reporting of political and labour movement affairs.

Charter is urging all NUJ members to campaign for an immediate return to free collective bargaining at the annual conference in April.

The NUJ voted against the 4½ per cent deal but later the

## It's not enough! Ford workers say no to pay offer

AN OVERWHELMING majority of the country's 52,000 Ford workers have voted to reject the company's package pay deal for the next 12 months.

Union negotiators were not satisfied that the company was offering as much as it could under the Social Contract.

In particular, workers at the PTA plant at Dagenham have a long-standing grievance about lay-off pay. The package doesn't satisfy their demands.

Because of the Social Contract, the question of fringe benefits comes to the fore. But the basic reason for rejecting the deal is simple—we don't get enough pay under the Social Contract.

The union leaders are talking of £2.50 to £4... but this will be reduced by cost of living payments we have already received!

So the production worker will end up with an increase of a little over £2.

We are told that the country can't afford to pay higher wages, but Ford are making big profits this year.

### Action

If we accept a miserable £2, will the money saved go on better hospitals or better schools?

We all know the answer—it just makes bigger profits for Fords.

And are the rich making sacrifices for the country, selling their racehorses and yachts? Are the expensive restaurants closing down? We know the answer.

The union negotiators recommend that we reject the deal. But are they going to lead a fight for a better one?

No, it's on the production lines that we have to lead the fight. Nobody is going to do it for us.

## Sacked - for demanding safety

DARTFORD: Gleasons 210 workers at Littlebrook Power Station walked out over the victimisation of one of their stewards, Bill Walsh, last week.

Bill, a qualified scaffolder and a member of UCATT, explained: 'The day before I was working with my mate, also a qualified labourer, plus one labourer. Then on Friday I was moved to a different part of the site to work with just a labourer.'

'We don't have any written agreement so I go by common practice. And you just don't work without another qualified bloke.'

The dispute has gone to arbitration and failing full reinstatement the Liaison Committee, which represents the whole site, will recommend a total stoppage.

## Sparks out at IRO site

BOOTLE: Electricians at the IRO construction site who were on strike for three years between 1971-74 have been out for two weeks over victimisation.

McAlpine have refused to take two electricians from the EETPU unemployed list, although two vacancies exist on the site.

The 60 men are mounting a day-long picket at the site where TGWU construction members are still working. Liverpool TGWU drivers have blacked deliveries.

Donations and messages of support to: John Byrne, 44 Sydney Road, Liverpool.

## 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

Prisoners Aid Committee: Noel Jenkinson, commemoration meeting, Small hall, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, Friday 12 November, 8pm.

ANSAPHONE for militants held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act: London 01-603 2864. Manchester 061-832 8102.

RANK AND FILE CONTACT NO2: the rank and file paper for members of the EETPU is now available at 5p a copy from Rank & File Contact, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please add 6½p postage.

Labour Against Racism and the Cuts: Public meeting Monday 8 November, Westway Lunch Club, Ladbroke Grove, 8pm. Speakers include Ian Mikardo MP, Paddy O'Connor, Winston Pinder, Ann Holmes.

First Anniversary of Angola Independence: Angolan Women Speak Thursday 11 November, St Pancras Town Hall, 7.30pm. Speakers Dina Almeida, Conceicao Boavida (Angola), Ayibuye (ANC). Seats bookable 20p. Telephone: 01-734 9541.

National Abortion Campaign Tribunal mobilising committee is meeting 7pm, 9 November, at LSE room F101A. All welcome.

DURHAM Right to Work Campaign meeting, Fight the Cuts, Tuesday 16 November, 8pm, Durham Town Hall.

CAMDEN Men Against Sexism group is looking for new members. We are all committed socialists and are active in various areas of the labour movement. If interested, ring Chris Thomas, 01-794 2825.

Labour Movement Delegation to Ireland. Report back meetings, Wednesday 10 November, 7.30pm, Acton Town Hall, Tuesday 9 November, 7.30pm, Kentish Town Library, Kentish Town Road, London NW5. Thursday 18 November, 7.30pm, Edmonton Labour Rooms, Orchard House, Edmonton, London N18.

North East London Polytechnic Students Union: Assistant Administrative Officer, Salary: AP4, £3963-4299 (inc supplement & London Weighting). Applications are invited from candidates previously experienced in Administration and office procedures, and with sound business acumen. The successful candidate will be responsible to the Administrative Officer for the smooth organisation of the Union offices, services and trading enterprises. It is essential that applicants are able to drive and a car owner is preferred to whom local authority allowance will be paid. Further details are available from the Administrative Officer to whom telephone applications are preferred on 01-534 5208/7708. Closing date: 19.11.76.



## Defend Little Ilford Teachers!

by BETH LIGHT

NUT executive member, in a personal capacity

EAST LONDON: 30 teachers at Little Ilford School, Newham, have been suspended from their union, the National Union of Teachers (NUT). General secretary Fred Jarvis has informed the Newham Education Authority that the 30 were acting 'unofficially' and in 'defiance of union policy'.

The 30 face the possibility not only of being expelled from their union, but dismissed from their jobs.

So what crime are they guilty of? Simply this: fighting back against savage education cuts and the highest teacher unemployment ever known.

With teachers in other schools, they refused to cover for teachers absent for more than three days.

Newham's education record is among the worst in the country. It has more schools pinpointed as in need of extra resources than any other single area. Yet they are threatened with cuts.

There are also at least 20,000 teachers unemployed. This is expected to be 40,000 by next year.

If the 20,000 unemployed teachers were employed, we could begin at last to tackle some of the shortcomings of the education system. We could reduce the size of classes. The average number of children per teacher in secondary schools is now worse than in 1909.

It is the stated aim of the NUT, the TUC and the Labour government that no class should be larger than 30 children. Yet nearly half the classes in primary schools are bigger.

To reduce all classes in England and Wales to 30 would employ an extra 58,000 teachers.

As the cuts take effect the pressure is on for teachers to take on more and more work, to make up for the lack of paper, books, pens. But no teacher will be able to compensate for these cuts. The answer must be to fight the cuts, not to hide them.

This is what teachers at Little Ilford School were trying to do. In most jobs if a worker is off sick, it would be unthinkable to expect another worker to do both his own job and his workmate's. Yet for years this has been the case in teaching.

The NUT has been using a policy of 'no cover' in its campaign against teacher unemployment and the cuts. But against only the harshest education authorities.

With the cuts national government policy, it needs a national campaign to reverse them.

So while 20,000 trained teachers sign on the dole each week, most union members continue to do extra work that could provide jobs for them.

Teachers like those at Little Ilford School have rejected this hypocrisy.

The NUT leadership is trying to pick off the 30 Little Ilford teachers, as a warning to other teachers. They must not be allowed to get away with it.

□ **SUPPORT THE LOBBY** of NUT headquarters: Friday 5 November, 4.30pm, Hamilton House, Mableton Place (opposite Kings Cross Station) London WC1.

□ **Donations and resolutions of support to:** Birenda Singh (NUT rep), Little Ilford School, Browning Road, London E12.

STOP THE CUTS

STOP THE SACKINGS

ALL OUT 17 NOVEMBER



# POLICE ATTACK FILM WORKERS' PICKET LINE

**NORTH WEST LONDON:** The same police that attacked the Right to Work March at Hendon struck again on Monday night.

They attacked a peaceful picket and arrested eight people at the Grunwicks film processing factory.

It was the first day of effective blacking by Post Office workers.

Management stood by laughing as police tried to bully the pickets away from the gates in Chapter Road. Among those arrested was Labour Councillor Cyril Shaw, who was taking down a policeman's number.

Two hundred and forty workers at the factory—mostly black women—have been on strike for 12 weeks for union recognition.

On Monday the Post Office blacked all Grunwicks mail.

As most of their work is mail order, the scab workforce had to be sent home in the afternoon. Then the police attacked, arresting eight. Women from Trico were on the picket line at the time.

Said Susan Moroney, one of the strike committee members: 'I have never seen anything like it. We were being chased by police and they were obviously working on behalf of management. They told us to leave and not come back and threatened us if we didn't.'

A mass picket was called at the factory gate on Wednesday morning to protest against the arrests.

Basic wages at Grunwicks are £25 for a 35-hour week, before deductions. Overtime is compulsory and then, according to one of the women on the picket line, the management cheats on its overtime payment.

### Solidarity

The women don't have a lot of industrial experience. English is not their native language—and for most of them even the puny wages they get at Grunwicks are no extra—they're a necessity.

The management—ruthless and racist—screw

every possible advantage out of this situation. The strikers say that pressure and intimidation are so bad that they can't feel much bitterness and resentment towards those still working.

The women at Grunwicks have the odds stacked against them worse than usual. They badly need financial support, but just as much they need the physical presence of other workers on the picket line.

That, with the blacking activities of the Post Office workers and other trade unionists, would help to bring a sweeter-than-usual victory.



Grunwicks workers and supporters marching for union recognition last month

Pictures: Andrew Ward and John Sturrock (Report)

## GRUNWICK BULLY BOY. AFRAID OF WORKERS

## MK ROUND 1 TO THE STRIKERS

**NORTH LONDON:** Engineering Union (AUEW) members at MK Electric, Edmonton, have won the first part of their fight for the reinstatement of a victimised member.

Ken Caesar, a moulder, was sacked after intervening to prevent a dispute between a fellow worker and a racist foreman. He was sacked, and all 90 workers in the shop went on strike against his victimisation. Ken is black.

This was the first strike at the Park Road site for nine years. Black and white workers united on the picket line and prevented any movement of goods. When management smuggled in a few boxes of components, women assembly workers refused to handle them.

Now management have taken back Ken Caesar, suspended on full pay, with an agreement that an inquiry take place immediately. Any management delay over full reinstatement will result, says convenor Roger Burns, in immediate and more widespread strike action.

The strike has proved that rapid militant action can produce unity throughout the workforce. Is it a blow struck for union organisation on the site and against the racism which supervisors and foremen have used to try and divide the shop floor.

Says Ken Caesar: 'For 25 years no black has ever even held a spanner to set a machine in our section. But they're quick enough to put a broom in our hands.'

'Yet white men with six months service are made up to foremen. We have never had black foremen, supervisors, fitters or setters. Over half our shop is black.'

'The strike was a blow against this. We were together. It was fantastic.' But Ken Caesar and other MK workers are asking what happened to the official side of their union during the dispute.

District office is only 50 yards from the factory gate. District secretary Bert Thorogood couldn't be bothered to get into his union car, let alone walk to the picket line to discuss a vital anti-racist strike with his members.

It is yet another lesson that strength in the union lies with us on the shopfloor, not in the official's well-carpeted offices.

## NUPE members rally round black nurses

by IAN AUSTIN

NUPE chairman, Selly Oak Hospital

**BIRMINGHAM:** Three black nurses, recently qualified, have been offered jobs at Selly Oak Hospital but the Home Office is refusing them work permits.

Other nurses are finding that their permits are being delayed.

Without a permit they cannot work or remain in this country. In other words, the Home Office is giving them the sack.

The Department of Employment has issued a circular saying that British-born nurses must have preference for jobs.

Selly Oak Hospital branch of the public employees union NUPE has called a meeting this Thursday to decide action. If trade unionists allow their mates to be picked off like this, it will prove that workers in hospitals cannot support each other. When the next round of cuts comes, they will have lost their power to resist.

Hospital workers must fight, and that means fighting

the government. A nationwide campaign is needed against the immigration laws as well as the cuts. Union branches must be kicked into action.

## Picket Callaghan!

**NORTH LONDON:** Prime Minister James Callaghan is to make his next pronouncement on education and how to cut it on Tuesday—amazingly while 'celebrating' the 21st anniversary of Woodberry Down Comprehensive School.

Trade unionists in North London have called a picket of the school. Employed and unemployed will be there to tell the government that we are not willing to stand for this

appalling hypocrisy.

Support has already come from the North London Teachers' Association, Hackney Teachers' Association, the school branch of the National Union of School Students, and the North London Right to Work Campaign.

□ **PICKET.** Woodberry Down School, Woodberry Grove, London N4 (nearest tube Manor House), Tuesday 9 November, 6pm.

## GEC LOCK OUT 2000

**LINCOLN:** 2,000 workers at the Ruston Gas Turbines and Dorman Diesels GEC factories have been locked out as a result of industrial action in support of their pay claim.

Management carried out its threat on Thursday afternoon. The union, the AUEW, has appealed for negotiations, but management has refused.

□ **Donations and messages of support to:** Don Gossop, 245 Nettleham Road, Lincoln.

## 'We want a nursery' says occupation

**GLASGOW:** 20 members of the Easterhouse Right to Work Campaign occupied the annexe of St Claire's primary school last week. The school annexe was shut down two years ago, with a firm promise that the building would be converted into a nursery. The local council have since done nothing.

Easterhouse, the giant housing estate in the east end of the city, has thousands of young families yet hardly any nursery provision. Many young mothers are unemployed and cannot get work because there is nowhere to take the kids during the day and no one to look after them.

The Right to Work Cam-

paign is determined to do something. They are going to try to run the occupation until the authorities promise to open the building as a nursery.

The campaign is appealing to all families for support. They are asking all mothers who need nursery facilities to bring their kids along and show the authority just how

great that need is.

Already unemployed members of the campaign have been leafletting door to door and a public meeting was held outside the occupation.

□ **Messages of support and donations to Easterhouse Right to Work Campaign,** c/o Willie Dolan, 7 Edderton Place, Easterhouse, Glasgow.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS)



# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

# 500 TONS

# OF DEATH DUMPED IN WALSALL

FIVE HUNDRED TONS of deadly poisonous, arsenic-contaminated industrial waste, which has already killed one man and disabled six others, is lying in open ground in Bloxwich, Walsall.

It is cordoned off by a few flimsy bits of rope. It is fully accessible to children who live nearby.

In the rain, deadly fumes can be released which can speedily overcome human beings.

Then the arsenic takes its toll...

At first, it causes headaches, giddiness and sickness. Then the arsenic slowly dissolves the red blood cells, crippling you for life—or killing you.

The waste was dumped by Wheeler and Pearsall, a firm in Market Drayton, Shropshire.

They had agreed to process the waste, which came from

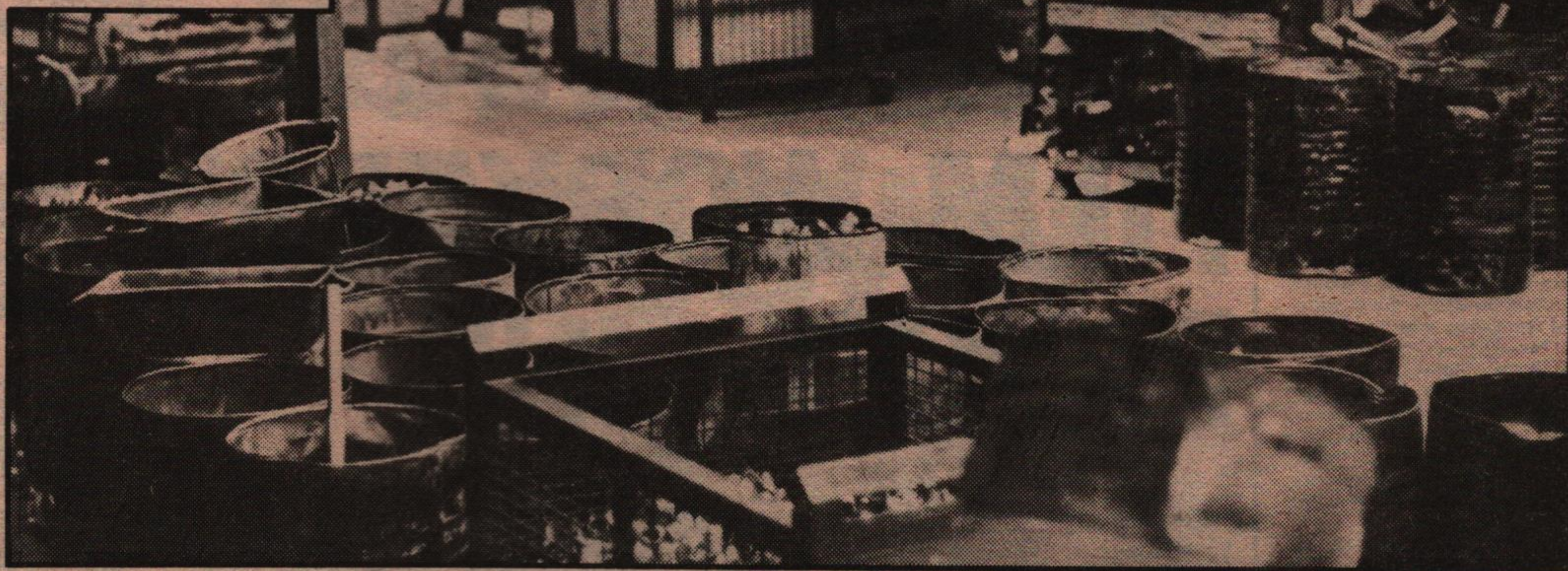
the huge Rio Tinto Zinc smelting plant at Avonmouth, near Bristol.

While they were processing it, last September, a major disaster took place.

Seven workers were overcome by the fumes, and were rushed to hospital. For two days, doctors fought for their lives. All seven had two complete changes of blood.

Roger Hassall, 22, who had been married six weeks earlier, died.

His six mates survived with severely damaged nervous systems, without normal sensations in the arms and legs, without normal control of movement. Some cannot even shake hands without feeling intense pain.



Inside the ISC plant: workers complain of zinc chills, a flu-style illness caused by heavy exposure to toxic metal fumes. Behind the plant, 500 tons of arsenic-contaminated waste have been dumped in the open. When prosecuted earlier this year for having waste that gave off up to 100 times the permitted levels of arsine gas, the company somehow managed to obtain a not guilty verdict from local magistrates.

Picture John Sturrock

## The toll so far: 1 dead, 6 maimed

By  
Laurie  
Flynn

Why is this deadly poisonous waste dumped in the open, where it can kill again?

Because the firms which were prepared to profit from it were not prepared to make it safe.

□ **RIO TINTO ZINC** who supplied the material without testing it (as they were bound to do) refused responsibility for it. So did.

□ **R.L. CUSICKS**, a firm of metal speculators in Ware, Hertfordshire, who bought the load of waste from RTZ. Cusicks is closely related to RTZ. Cusick's man responsible for the Market Drayton deal whereby the waste was processed by Wheeler and Pearsall, was Geoffrey Platt, whose own metal broking firm had earlier been taken over by RTZ.

□ **WHEELER AND PEAR-SALL**, the processors. As soon as the disaster happened, Wheeler and Pearsall

managers looked around for somewhere to dump the poisonous waste.

They tried to find a safe tip. But there wasn't one. So, with the full knowledge of the various so-called 'protective agencies', the Salop County Council, the Severn Trent Water Authority, the West Midlands Metropolitan County Council Pollution Control Unit, and with the assistance of all the police forces between Market Drayton and Walsall, they loaded up a lorry and drove their deadly waste to Walsall.

There they dumped it behind the ISC Bloxwich factory, an RTZ subsidiary. The local Factory Inspectorate, needless to say, neither know nor care about it.

But there it lies, likely to kill again at any time.

Wheeler and Pearsall are in no doubt that the waste is deadly dangerous and that if air samples were taken a huge hazard would show up.

Last week Socialist Worker took the noted health hazards writer and campaigner Pat Kinnersly to Walsall.

His report has been placed in the hands of various shop stewards' committees in the constituency.

Walsall needs a determined rank and file attempt to clean up the town and make it a safe place to work and live in.

Otherwise the profiteers of Rio Tinto Zinc will carry on their highly profitable malpractices. And they will kill again.



On trial: Paul Whittaker, Tim Baster, Dave Schonfield, Noel Halifax and Ian Mason

**THE FIFTH** trial of Right to Work marchers began on Tuesday at Hendon magistrates court.

The defendants, who face a variety of charges from assault on obstruction, are: Ian Mason, printer, NGA, threatening behaviour;

Noel Halifax, book seller, chairman TGWU ACTS 1451 branch;

Tim Baster, carpenter, chairman, Harlesden UCATT branch;

Mick Brightman, engineer, former North London District Committee AUEW, threatening behaviour;

Dave Schonfield, NUJ, delegated by the Magazine branch to meet the march on its way into London and backed by his union executive and annual conference;

Paul Whittaker, former COHSE shop steward, now a printer.

The first day's trial consisted of policemen testifying from their notebooks written eight months ago.

PC Mathews of the Special Patrol Group claims to have arrested Mick

## Another six marchers in court

Brightman for waving his fists and arms in a menacing fashion and then to have dragged him to the police coach.

Mick had never seen this policeman until he was in the vehicle. He had been drag-

ed there by two different policemen, one who had truncheoned him.

When the defence produced photos of Mick wearing a hat, PC Mathews denied he was wearing such a garment.

PC Brannigan accused Dave Schonfield of throwing a brick at a group of seven or eight policemen grappling with marchers. He was also allegedly waving a stick. The prosecution produced neither weapon.

The officer claimed that the roadway was covered in bricks, stones and rubble. None of the 30-odd photos show any such objects.

It's all very familiar. But it could end in fines and even jail sentences.

□ The trials will continue for at least another two weeks. Support the marchers by attending the court. Check for details with the Right to Work Office—and for transport to the court, phone 01-802 0978.

The court is Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, Edgware Road, Hendon, London NW9 (nearest tube Hendon Central).

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