

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



**This is what the cuts mean:  
5 closures in one city**

# HANDS OFF OUR HOSPITALS!

**THEY hit us this week—those cuts.**

Suddenly, out of the blue, we got a confidential report written by a group of £7000-a-year top-line managers.

It's the sort of report which hospital shop stewards are getting all over the country.

It's a ten-year 'plan' for Leeds hospitals. There's one sentence that matters. It says:

*'Hospital services offer the greatest scope for rationalisation.'*

## Savings

Translated into English that means: 'Cutting hospitals is the quickest way to save money.'

So they're going to cut our hospitals.

Five of them are going to close down. The Killingbeck Hospital (250 beds) is likely to go in April.

Then the Gateforth Chest Diseases hospital (61 beds), the Haigh Geriatric (39), the Four Gables Maternity (20) and the Marguerite Hepton Orthopaedic (58).

Notice it's the hospitals for chest diseases (bronchitis, pneumoconiosis and other workers' illnesses) which are the first to close.

The old people suffer next after that. And then

pregnant women.

The report talks blandly of 722 hospital beds being cut out.

*But there's 5256 patients waiting to go into hospital in Leeds. Almost as many are on the waiting list as in hospital.*

If we let them cut our services like this, there'll be 12,000 people on the waiting list by 1987!

Imagine our joy, then, when we read in Monday's papers that 100 new

**By Tim South, NUPE chairman, and five other shop stewards from St. James Hospital, Leeds**

hospitals are to be built in Britain over the next five years.

These hospitals will be, exclusively, for... wait for it, private patients.

Perhaps they will be offering the same vital services as the one in

Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, which is advertising a package of an 'all in' two-week holiday combined with plastic face-lift surgery.

All yours for a mere £500! 'Lose those bags under your eyes!'

*To get plastic surgery on the National Health in real-life Leeds, you need at least two bums—or a nose missing—never mind bags under your eyes.*

There are 1000 people here queuing to have their faces patched up after accidents on the roads or at work.

And they plan to cut the number of plastic surgery beds from 66 to 50, without batting a bagless eyelid.

Talking of eyes, what

about the case of Brian Parkin, a local engineering worker, who injured his eye the other day at work?

Because of a delay in treatment at St James hospital, Brian now faces permanent damage to his vision.

## Memory

As an 'economy measure', the hospital no longer issues appointment cards to out-patients to remind them when to come back for treatment.

They rely on the patients' memory: a memory often dulled by shock or accident.

Brian came too late, and there was no eye specialist in the clinic.

413 patients are waiting for eye operations in Leeds.

The miserable number of 67 beds set aside for eye patients is to be cut to 46.

*How many patients will wait in darkness next year?*

Makes you sick, doesn't it?

We hope not. Because if it does make you sick, and if you're working class, and if we let them get away with these cuts—there'll be nowhere for you to go.

**BUT THESE WOMEN ARE FIGHTING BACK**

**NURSERY nurses at St James Hospital creche, which cares for the children of many working women in Leeds.**

Recently, the hospital management said it had made a 'mistake'. The nurses, it said, were being paid on a local authority nurses' rate.

They should be paid on the Whitley Council rate. Result? A pay cut of £12 a week. The nurses had a quick answer: They came out on 24-hour strike, twice.

They'll go on taking action until the pay cuts are withdrawn. Says Doreen Collier: 'Management are free to break our contract; but if we broke it, we'd be sacked. They can't get away with this.'

## THE WOMAN SACKED

**ROSEBANK Nursing Home** is a nice private rest home set in the nice part of Darlington for people with nice private incomes.

One of the 35 patients, however, is not so nice. She objected to being touched by Latha Gunatunga, a black Sri Lankan auxiliary nurse.

Latha Gunatunga was immediately sacked. This blatant racist sacking was greeted with the condemnation it deserved.

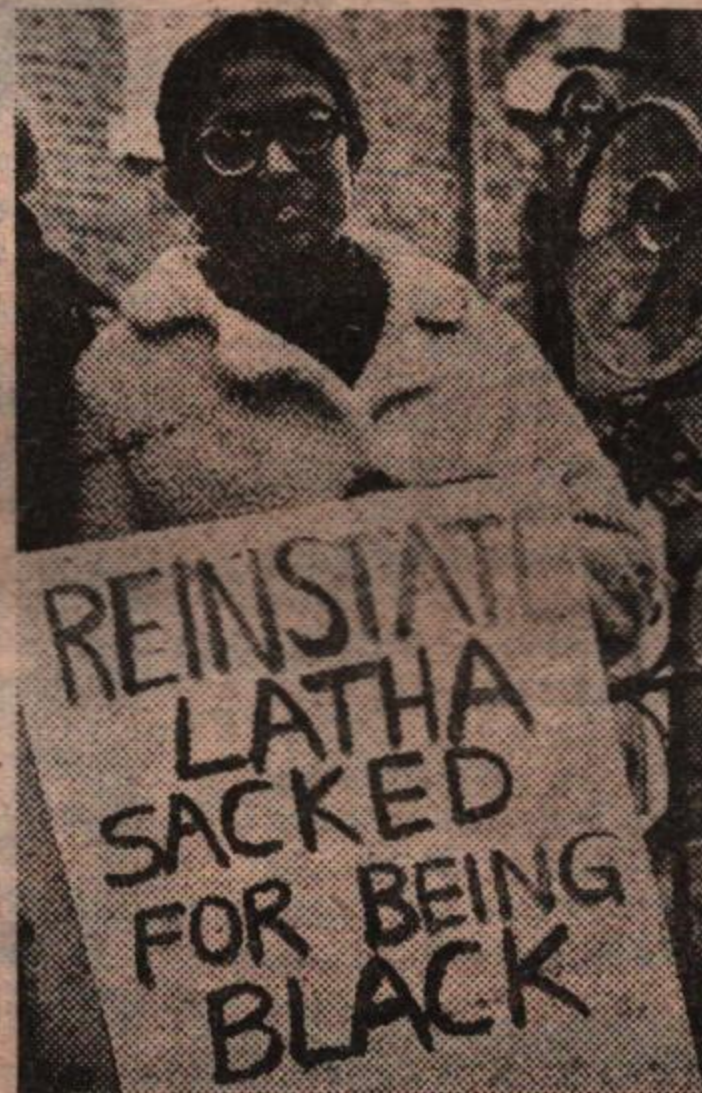
By Elizabeth Pearson

Leafletting throughout the town and a picket of the nursing home was immediately organised by women's and political groups.

And the demand for Latha's re-instatement is growing

Messages of support are welcome: c/o 2 Blackwell Lane, Darlington, Co Durham.

# - FOR BEING BLACK



Latha Gunatunga: sacked

# CIA murderer can stay, says Labour

## BUT NOT THE MAN WHO EXPOSES THEM!

**THE Labour government has quietly renewed the residence permit of former South Vietnamese dictator Nguyen Van Thieu.**

Their decision, taken at exactly the same time as they resolved to deport Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball for exposing the CIA re-affirms Labour's consistency on matters

of 'internal security.'

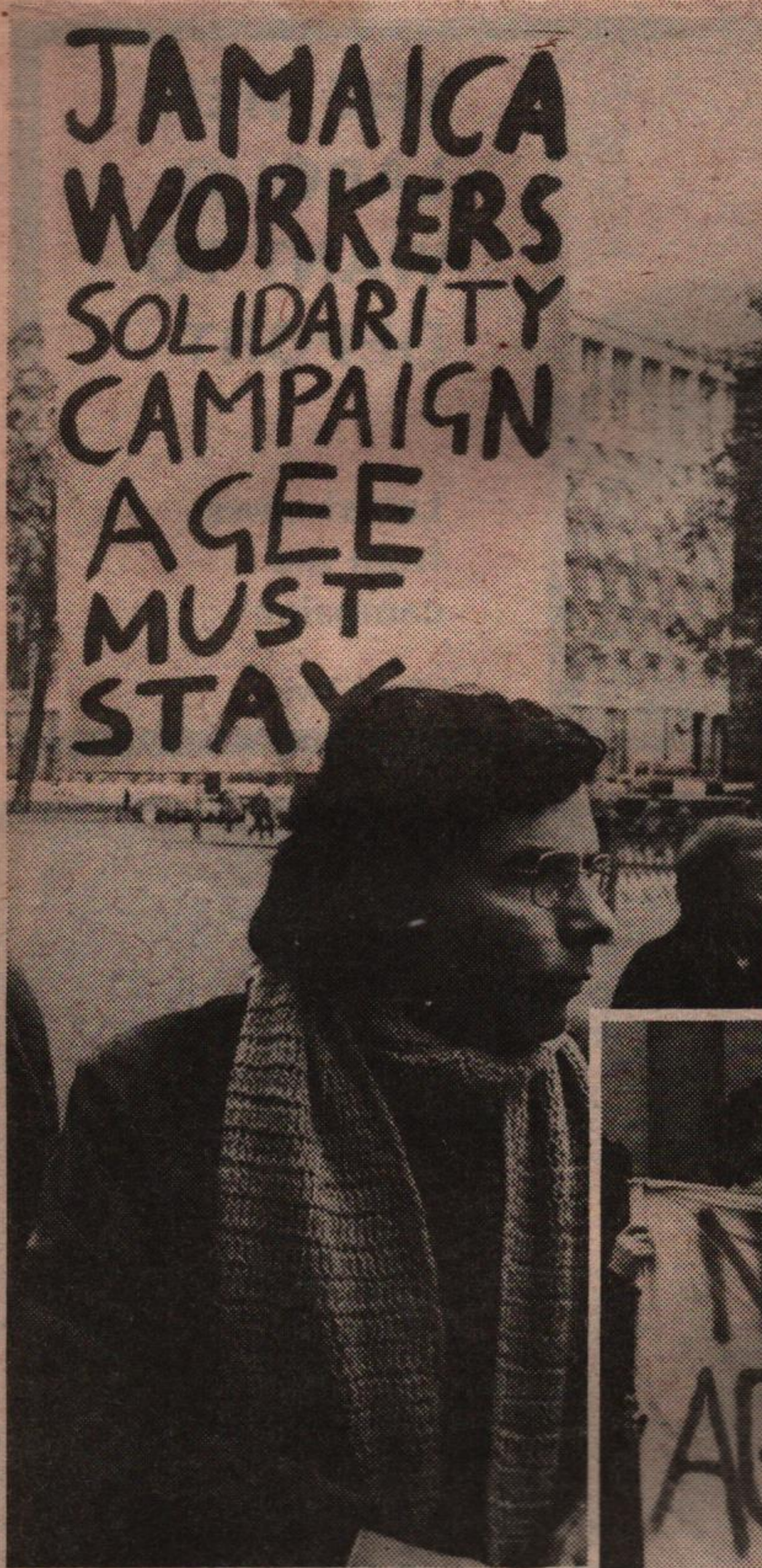
It amounts to this: anyone who exposes the activities of CIA murderers is to be driven out of the country. But those who, like Thieu are CIA mass murderers will be warmly welcomed.

Thieu was the puppet head of the vile South Vietnamese regime. He worked hand-in-glove with another crook, President Richard Nixon. Thieu promoted such atrocities as tiger cages,

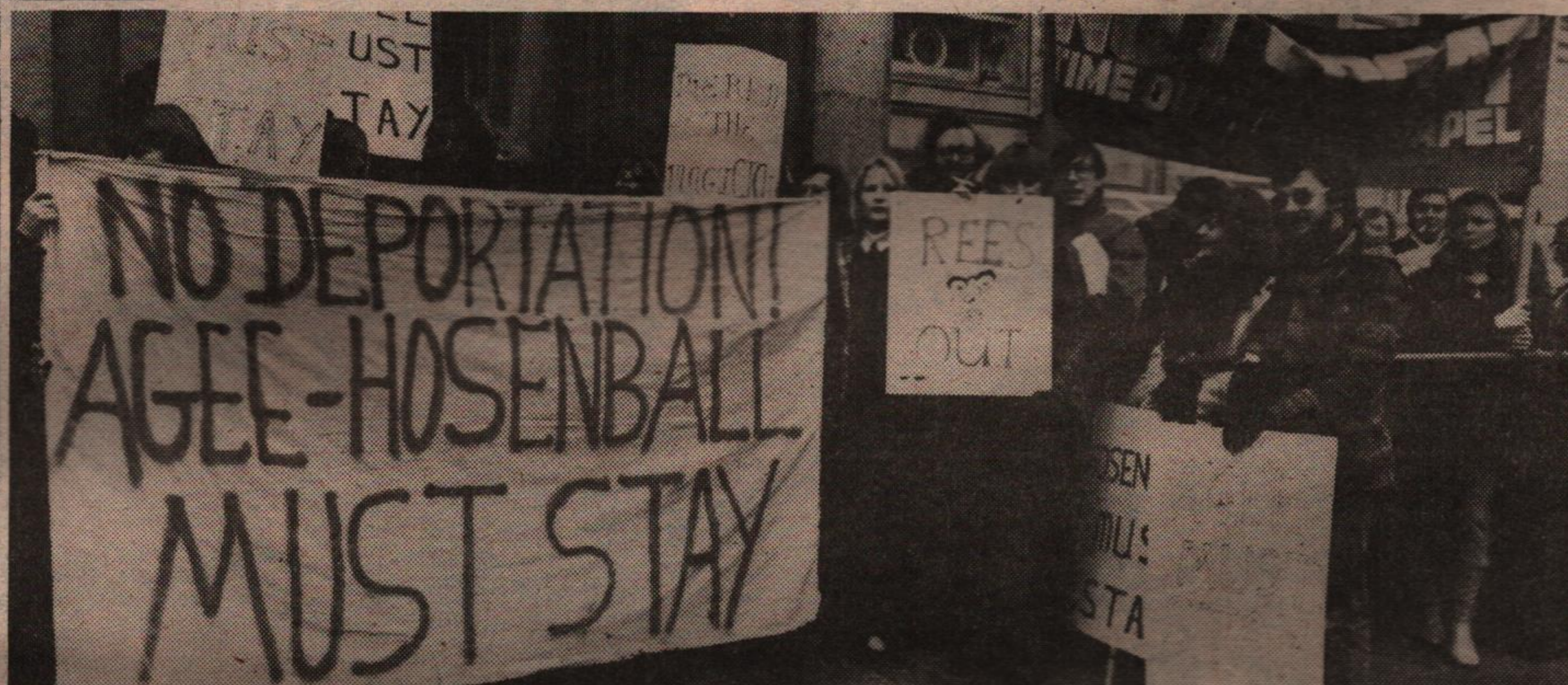
napalm, mass bombings and killings on a massive scale.

While doing all this, their speculated in opium, engaged in other forms of corruption. He amassed a vast fortune, some or all of which he managed to get out with him when he came to Britain.

Now, armed with permission to stay from a Labour government, he has set himself up in a luxury house in stockbroker Surrey and put his son down for Eton.



Philip Agee (above), the man who has exposed CIA operations in several parts of the world, and demonstrators picketing the Home Office on Monday.



Meanwhile Philip Agee is having to fight against all the odds for his right to stay in this country.

He told a press conference on Monday: 'Because the charges against me are so sweeping and general I have to spend a great deal of time going over my activities during the past three or four years before I can defend myself.'

'This law not only affects me and every other foreigner here. It also affects every British national, because the next step is to bring these charges against anyone.'

The widest possible protest is needed if Agee is to remain free to live here—and if people are to remain free to expose the atrocities committed by the secret service, whether the CIA in Portugal or the British SAS in Britain and Ireland.

The British security services—on which the CIA was originally closely modelled—are clearly happy to help their American friends and hound Philip Agee out of the country.

Socialist Worker calls on readers and supporters to back the protest demonstration called by the Agee and Hosenball Defence Committee.

**STOP THE DEPORTATIONS! Agee and Hosenball must stay!**

Saturday 11 December, 12 noon, Home Office, Whitehall, London SW1.

All branches of the International Socialists to support. London branches to attend with banners.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST

### OCCUPATION VICTORY FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

by JOAN RUDDER

THE government launched a new attack on overseas students last week. It announced that their college fees are to be increased to £650 for undergraduates and £850 for postgraduates.

At the same time fees for British students are to go up to £500 and £750.

But the vast majority of British students get their fees paid automatically by their local authority. Those directly hit by the increase are the 25,000 who have to finance themselves—and most of these are overseas students.

The government has also confirmed the circular put out by the Department of Education and the Home Office which calls on colleges to act as police agents for the Home Office by informing on students who haven't paid their fees and by reporting on student activists.

Students at Middlesex Polytechnic have shown it is possible to fight back against the increasing racism of government policy on overseas students. A two-week occupation has forced the directorate to concede student demands.

These are that there be no quota system for overseas students, that fees be frozen at existing levels and that a hardship fund be set up.

#### Unanimous

There was a lecture boycott at the Enfield site. The Church Street administration building was occupied. A meeting of 800 students on the Bounds Green site, where some of the administrative work had been moved, voted to occupy.

When the overseas students at the Hendon site occupied, the director gave in.

### £100 fines for Walsall anti-fascists

MORE verdicts of 'guilty' have been returned after the usual farcical magistrates court hearing against anti-fascist demonstrators in Walsall.

Ken Appleby, Socialist Worker's prospective parliamentary candidate in the coming Stechford by-election was found guilty despite numerous cock-ups in the police case.

Three police witnesses were supposed to give evidence

against him. But one was sick and another's evidence was thrown out because he had simply copied the notes of the arresting officer.

Defence lawyer Simon Brand totally destroyed the police evidence, but this still didn't stop the magistrates backing the police and finding Ken guilty.

Simon Brand took the unusual step of asking them why they had reached a guilty verdict. This threw them and

REFUGEES from the Cyprus carve-up are among the latest victims of Britain's revolting immigration and deportation laws.

Last week I and other supporters of the Cypriot Defence Campaign visited one of the new victims. He is Metin Salih, a Turkish Cypriot refugee now in his fourth week of imprisonment in Pentonville Prison, North London. His wife Hulya who speaks little or no English, is in Holloway Prison.

Both came to Britain early in 1974 and married here. They were arrested three weeks ago following an anonymous phone call to the Home Office.

They appeared in court and were recommended for deportation—all in a moment and without being given the slightest chance to put their case.

Also in Pentonville jail are

by BAMBOS CHRISTOU

12 other Cypriots and Turks being held pending deportation. Throughout Britain we estimate that as many as 800 people are being held, fearful of their fate at the whim of dictatorial, racist Home Office officials.

12,000 Cypriot people came here after the imperialist attacks on Cyprus. The British labour government refuses even to recognise them as refugees! Many are now being told to get out.

But this isn't the end of this disgraceful policy. While the Home Office denies people work permits and the right to

live here, they are forced to seek work in small sweatshops at slave wages.

Denied work permits, living constantly in fear, they can be exploited with ease.

The Cypriot Defence Campaign has been launched to combat this evil. We call on all trade unionists to give us their support.

Our demands are an immediate end to all the deportations, recognition of Cypriot refugees as refugees, full rights to work and live here for all workers and an end to immigration controls.

We have issued a petition in Turkish, Greek and English in support of these demands and we are out to mobilise the full

strength of the community in the campaign. Last Saturday we held a street meeting in Haringey, heart of the Greek community in London. The response was magnificent. 54 copies of Cypriot Worker were sold in a few hours. 400 people signed the petition.

PICKET Pentonville Prison and march to Holloway: This Saturday, 4 December, 1 pm, outside the prison, Caledonian Road, London N1 (nearest tube Caledonian Road or Kings Cross).

Send donations and affiliations to the Cypriot Defence Campaign, 90 Mountview Road, London N.4.

**ROCK AGAINST RACISM**  
 AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART  
 WITH MATUMBI,  
 CAROL GRIMES AND THE  
 LONDON BOOGIE BAND, LIMOSINE  
**FRIDAY DEC. 10**  
 3 BARS - FOOD 8 TILL 2  
 R.C.A. KENSINGTON GORE, ALBERT HALL ENTRANCE  
 £1.20 AT THE DOOR  
 £1.00 IN ADVANCE FROM S.U. R.C.A.  
 50p SCHOOL LEAVERS, UNEMPLOYED (WITH CARD)

### AN ICE CREAM FOR THE NAZIS!

THE National Front has been having a tough time in the Cambridge parliamentary by-election thanks to the activity of the left.

Their first effort at holding a public meeting in the market square was disrupted by a lone member of the International Socialists and the prompt action of a by-stander who took the opportunity to stuff his ice-cream cone into National Front candidate Wotherspoon's face.

The price of this success was two arrests.

The Front's attempt to hold a public meeting in the university was also a farce. They booked 11 rooms to confuse the left, but good coordination meant they were excluded from any room on college

property.

Protest against them also took the shape of a pray-in against racism but the left managed to organise some of the would-be knee benders and the meeting the Front eventually held at the Royal Cambridge Hotel, with John Tyndall as speaker, was picketed.

So was their Saturday meeting, where Gaultier Tyndall was joined by Fuehrer Webster. Refused access, we waited 200-strong for them to come out and eventually got at them though they were protected by the police.

They then tried to hold a walk-about, which turned into a run-about. In short their campaign has been well and truly screwed up.

WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM

WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN

Fifth election in 56 years - is it a record?

A RARE event is under way in the Transport and General Workers' Union: an election for a full-time official.

This has happened only five times since the TGWU was founded in 1920.

Britain's biggest union, with 11 giant sections and 11 massive regions embracing 1½ million workers, only elects one of its hundreds of officials: the general secretary. And he is elected 'during the pleasure of the union', that is, for life.

Jack Jones is retiring in 1978. So TGWU members will have the chance to cast their votes for his successor between 21 February and 9 March next year.

**Support**

Jones is known as the architect of the disastrous 'Social Contract'. He believes the Labour government must be supported at any cost.

And the cost is borne, not by Jack Jones, but by rank and file members of his union.

The Right to Work Campaign has led the national fight against Jack Jones's policies over the past year. It is now supporting the nomination of Tommy Reilly, a Manchester engineering worker, for election as TGWU general secretary.

Tommy Reilly is the deputy senior steward at the West Houghton Metal Box factory, an active member of its 6/123 factory TGWU branch, a member of the Bolton District Committee of the TGWU, and was a delegate to last month's Right to Work Conference.

Every branch is entitled to make a nomination for general secretary, and nominations are going through branches now.

**Alternative**

The Right to Work Campaign believes that an election campaign around Tommy Reilly can provide a real rank and file alternative to the jockeying for position now going on between the various national appointed full-time officials, such as Moss Evans, Larry Smith, Alex Kitson and Harry Urwin.

□ If you want to join the campaign, nominate Tommy Reilly in your branch, and contact the National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 if you want to help in any way.

□ TGWU members who are supporters of Socialist Worker and members of the International Socialists are meeting this Saturday, 4 December, in Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, 12.30pm-5pm, to discuss the situation in the union and how they can help build the Right to Work Campaign through the election.



A lone demonstrator who waved a small tricolour and shouted "Troops Out!" was told by a policeman to move away. As he did so a second policeman ran at him and knocked him down. Four policemen then carried him away struggling, to shouts of "Scum" and "Give it to him" from people standing nearby. — IRISH TIMES, 29 November 1976

**'TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND' UPSETS PEACE PEOPLE**

THE 'Peace People' came to London on Sunday. And what publicity they got from the press!

Papers that had only ten days earlier virtually ignored a demonstration six times the size against the cuts gave massive space to this demonstration. The Morning Star even joined in the praise.

The Daily Express, which supported the American war against Vietnam from beginning to end, gave a full page to Joan Baez, who opposed that war from beginning to

end. Why?

Because Sunday's demonstration was not really about peace in Northern Ireland, despite the genuine feelings of many of those present. It could not be, because its platform included, alongside Joan Baez, people who give full and uncritical support to one of the armed forces waging war in Northern Ireland, the British Army.

Among those present, for instance, was John Biggs Davison, right-wing Tory MP, at the special

request of the 'peace women'. When British troops shot down 13 people in cold blood in Derry four years ago, Biggs Davison applauded them.

The only people with a genuine policy for peace were some hundreds of hecklers who shouted 'Troops Out!' But the peace women sent the police to deal with them.

And John Biggs Davison's secretary told Socialist Worker how upset he was to be heckled with cries of 'Troops Out!' during the Lord's Prayer.



Joan Baez (second from left) with the 'Peace People' leaders last Saturday

**THIS IS 'GOOD NEWS' ONLY BECAUSE THIS SYSTEM IS A MADHOUSE**

'AT LAST THE GOOD NEWS.' That headline in the Daily Mail last week summed up the press reaction to a new report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

What was this 'good news' of Britain's workers?

- It was that
- Real incomes will continue to fall over the next year.
- Prices will continue to rise for at least the next six months.
- Unemployment will rise still further.

So what is the 'good news' for Britain?

It is that 'profit margins are expected to be rebuilt until the end of 1977'. Only two per cent of Britain's population will gain.

**IMF rules, OK? says Chancellor**

THERE is a row inside the Labour government, according to several newspapers.

Chancellor Denis Healey is apparently demanding massive cuts of £2000 million in public spending. This is too much for some ministers, ranging from Shirley Williams to Michael Foot and Wedgwood Benn.

Many of this second group call themselves socialists. You might think they are therefore against any further cuts, since these mean rising unemployment and worsening health services and schools.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. According to the Daily Mail, these people would be prepared to accept an 'easier package of cuts, involving £1500 million'.

This is in line with the policy of the recently-elected 'left wing' treasurer of the Labour Party, Norman Atkinson. He said in the summer that people had to

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

be prepared to see unemployment rise by a couple of hundred thousand as the price of keeping Labour in power.

There could hardly be a better demonstration of the need for a new socialist party.

HOW, you might ask, could a genuinely socialist policy be carried through in the face of the International Monetary Fund?

The IMF is not some supernatural

power that cannot be resisted. It is made up of representatives of the major western capitalist countries. Each country has votes in proportion to its economic power. So in effect the IMF is dominated by the US.

The loan the government is trying to borrow from the IMF is only half what this country wastes on so-called defence every year. It is well under half the amount spent on luxuries every year by the parasites who live off rents, dividends and interest.

**Never Sell**

What is more, the property that such parasites own abroad is worth thousands of millions of pounds more than Britain's total overseas debt. But they will never sell their property or sacrifice their luxuries to pay such debts.

They insist instead that workers bear the cost through cuts in their living standards, health, education and so on.

The IMF, run by people just like themselves, provides these parasites with the arguments they need.

The alternative to the IMF lies in an all-out assault on the power, wealth and the luxurious living standards of such people.

But the Labour government, even its 'left wing', cannot fight for such a policy. Each and every one of them believes you can solve a crisis of capitalism by cooperating with the capitalists. Even Wedgwood Benn talks in terms of 'cooperation between the unions, management and the state'.

And that means, under present conditions, surrendering to the demand for more cuts.

**Seveso horror goes on**

REMEMBER Seveso, the chemical disaster that threatens to cause many women in Northern Italy to give birth to badly deformed babies?

Italy's medical services are still dominated by the bishops of the Catholic Church. It has the sort of attitude to abortion that the anti-abortion group SPUC would like to enforce here.

The result is that last week women from Seveso started arriving in London to get abortions because they had been refused them in their own country. The Italian anti-abortionists led by the Vatican, insist that 'even under these terrible circumstances, abortion is still murder.'

The deadly chemicals of Seveso are already taking their toll. A worker from the factory died of liver cancer this week.

Our readers continue to send the funds we need so much to step up the fight for socialism. £392.45 has come in to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund in the past week.

It's a figure that has to be sustained over the weeks ahead. So keep up the collections and fund raising events to keep

**SOCIALIST WORKER FIGHTING FUND**

your paper fighting for the socialist alternative. Thanks this week to:

Nick Howard £25, Crawley SW supporters £3.50, D Lawrenson £40, Wellingborough public

meeting £2, East London Hospital worker £2, A Beveridge £1, S Ainsworth £10, Hatfield Poly £4, Bedford £10, Maidenhead £50, Norwich £20, Shouthampton £3.60, Camden Council Workers £4.30, GLC Workers £2.50, Central London Workers £4.30, Outer East London District £93, Inner East London District £80, Gloucester £2.12, North London District £27.50, Barnsley 43p, Tower Hamlets £2.50.

Donations to SW Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# STUDENTS UNDER ATTACK

by LINDSEY GERMAN  
International Socialist  
student organiser

## THE National Union of Students is under attack from the right.

The collapse of the NUS travel service last week is now being used in some colleges by the right wing press for disaffiliation from the national union.

In Scotland more than half the universities are now disaffiliated. The nationalists are now arguing for devolution for the union—in practice a separate union.

It means, inevitably, that the struggle against the cuts will be divided. Yet some sections of the Broad Left in the NUS have been backing the call for a separate Scottish union.

The National Organisation of IS Societies in the colleges is campaigning to keep the

## Bid by right wing to split the NUS

national union together. Students need a strong union to fight the cuts in education spending and for decent grants.

Thirty thousand students demonstrated on 17 November against the cuts. In the past two weeks students at Sunderland, Teeside, and Middlesex Polytechnics have occupied to defend overseas students. That is the way to fight the right wing in the

union. The federation of Conservative Students might make noises about wanting to keep the union together. But they support the cuts and the government's education policies.

No socialist should cooperate with them. We must convince students that NUS will fight to defend student interests, not just engage in cosy chats with Cabinet ministers.

The two members of NOISS on the NUS executive have initiated a meeting this Saturday in Manchester to discuss the best way to organise to keep the union together and fight the right wing. The meeting will discuss resolutions to the NUS Conference in two weeks time, to initiate a national campaign to keep colleges in the union.

□ OPEN MEETING on the crisis in NUS services and the future of the union. Student unions are invited

to sponsor and send two delegates. Individual observers welcome. Saturday 4 December, 11 am, Manchester Poly Students Union, Cavendish Street, All Saints, Manchester.

Sponsored by Manchester Poly SU, Bradford University SU, Andy Durgan and Graham Threlfall (NUS Executive, in personal capacity).

□ All NOISS members should give this maximum support, and make sure there is representation from every college.

INSIDE THE COMPANY: A pamphlet on the crisis in the NUS services and how to solve it, written by Andy Durgan and Graham Threlfall,

12p, including postage, or ten copies for 50p, from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

by GARRY BUSHELL

## THE president of the North East London Polytechnic Students' Union, Andy Strouthous, has been expelled—for supporting a strong union.

Last summer Andy was active in helping to organise an occupation of the poly's Barking precinct in protest against racism and the cuts.

The poly's governors organised a committee to rewrite the union's constitution so as to make all militant action impossible in the future.

The committee rooms were occupied by students, and the governors guaranteed that the proposed rewriting would not take place.

## Militant union president expelled

But Andy was charged and expelled for refusing to order the students from the meeting.

He told Socialist Worker: 'The six-person disciplinary committee voted 4-3 to expel me. Add that up and you'll see there's a slight mistake somewhere.'

'Easy to explain. Maggie Scott, chairperson, voted against me twice.'

'Mrs. Scott is a Labour Party councillor. I have asked the local Labour Party to expel her. A party which claims to uphold trade union organisation can hardly put up with someone who scabs on an elected union officer.'

'Another person who voted for my expulsion was B Good. He argued that in the college where he's a lecturer there's no organised students union.'

'He forgot to add that there are no common rooms or relaxation rooms for the students either. That's what they want at NELP.'

'We are the last organised students union in the area. West Ham's has been smashed. Avery Hill's has been smashed. But we will not be smashed.'

'If necessary we'll take this camping right through the country. We do not recognise the decision of this kangaroo court.'

□ Telegrams of support to: NELPSU, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, London E 15.

## BUILD THE SOCIALIST

## ALTERNATIVE!

# Police ban the case for socialism

A PUBLIC meeting to re-launch the Chelmsford branch of the International Socialists has been banned from the town's

Shire Hall by the Chief Constable of Essex.

Essex County Council, who hire out the Shire Hall, have denied that a political ban is being operated. But their 'reasons' for cancelling the IS

meeting have been exposed as lies by the local branch in the press.

And last week a county council press officer let the cat out of the bag. She told a reporter that IS was being banned on the instructions of the Chief Constable because of 'fears of extremists'.

The next day the Chief Constable and the County Architect issued a joint statement claiming that the press officer had made a 'mistake'.

Chelmsford IS know they are lying. They have launched a campaign on the issue which has won the support of many prominent local trade unionists. The result is likely to be a meeting three or four times bigger than the one originally planned.

□ THE MEETING THEY WANT TO BAN: Hear Paul Foot on The Case for Socialism. Wednesday 8 December, 7.45pm, AUEW Hall, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. Organised by Chelmsford IS.



WALSALL supporters of Socialist Worker have already collected more than 1000 signatures to a petition demanding that deadly arsenic lead waste at the ISC Alloys factory be removed. The waste, which has already killed one man and disabled six others, is lying on open ground in Bloxwich, cordoned off by a few flimsy bits of rope. One local teacher marched his class along to the fence which is supposed to guard the waste. It was easy to climb.

211 people joined the International Socialists in November, an average of about 50 a week. They included 12 AUEW members, seven building workers, seven EETPU members, 9 NALGO, 9 NUPE, 14 teachers and 31 unemployed workers.

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE newly-formed Lea Valley district of the International Socialists held its first full public meeting last week. It covers the Tottenham, Wood Green, Enfield and Cheshunt areas of North London.

The meeting, with Tony Cliff, got the district off to a magnificent start. Cliff described the crisis as one in which all fighting socialists were being led to the conclusion that we needed a new workers' party.

The 60 workers at the meeting agreed unanimously. To prove it, nine joined the International Socialists, coming from all areas of local industry—one convenor from the GMWU, two members of the Metal Mechanics, one of the TGWU, one AUEW, one CPSA, one ASTMS, and two of the NUS.

THE International Socialists' black caucus met on Saturday in London. 24 people attended.

The meeting agreed that black people were fighting not just against racism and police attacks but also against cuts and redundancies, as the 17 November demonstration and the recent battle at Ford had shown.

The meeting also agreed that the socialist paper Flame had to become the focus for socialist ideas in the black communities. It must be sold openly on the streets and the money taken in sales has to be sent back instantly.

There was a discussion about the political situation in Jamaica. The meeting approved the formation of the Jamaican Workers' Solidarity Campaign, and resolved to work for a series of meetings

□ Contact the Jamaican Workers' Solidarity Campaign at 36 St Alphonsus Road, London SW4, phone 01-720 4701.

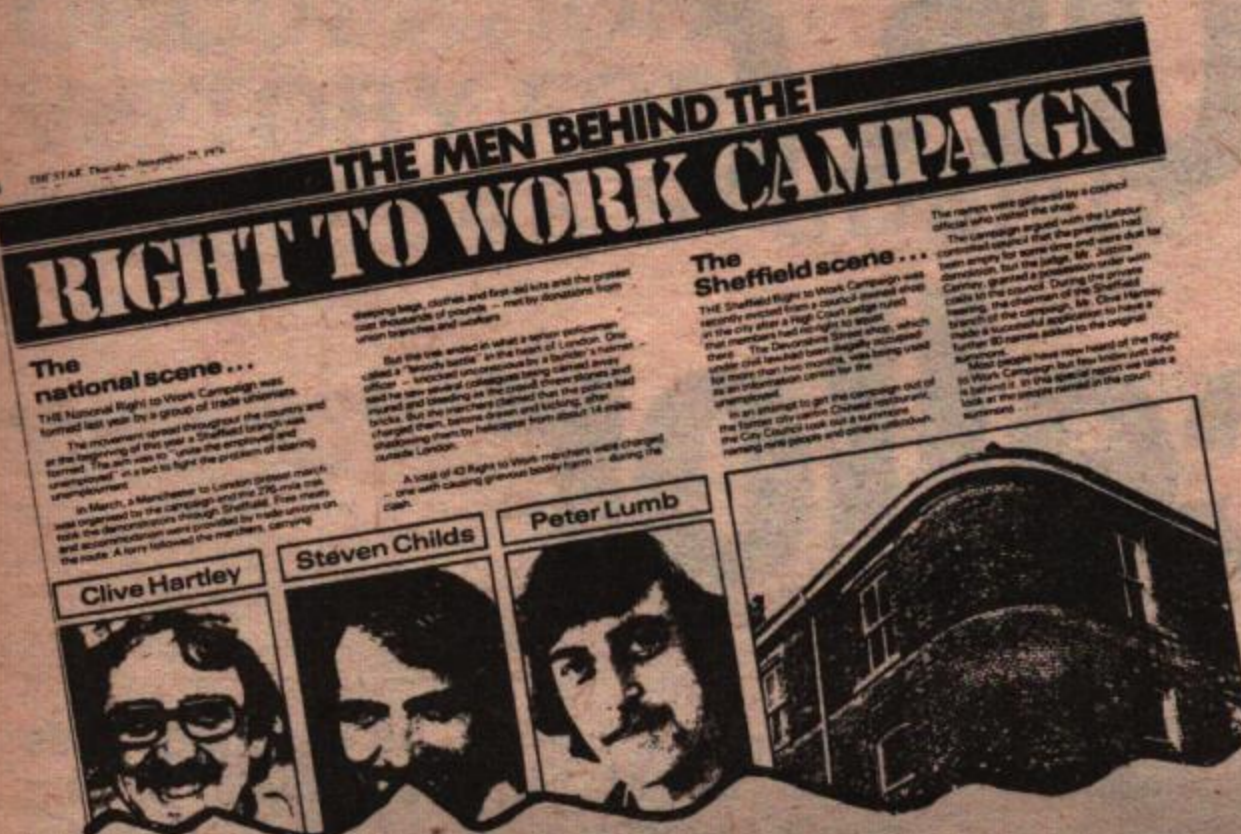
Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist 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.

by Christine Matheson  
ABERDEEN International Socialists sell about 200 copies of SW a week, and two copies of the IS Journal per member. We've been growing steadily, helped by an energetic youth group and a fighting Right to Work Campaign. But we've succeeded most in our work with women. Previously we used Women's Voice just for member and close contacts. But recently, we have been going out selling Women's Voice at gingerbread single parent family meetings, at supermarkets and the like.



THE Sheffield Star devoted its entire leader page article last Thursday to the Right to Work Campaign and the International Socialists. Five leading IS members in the city were quoted at length about the aims of the campaign.

For once, the Star's coverage was relatively fair and objective. This could be because one of the IS members named and quoted was Steve Childs, a reporter on the paper.

# WHERE WE STAND

## INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

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

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

## THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

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

## a workers' militia.

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

## INTERNATIONALISM

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

We oppose everything which turns

## workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

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

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

We are for real, social, economic and

## political equality of women.

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

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

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

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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



**MY GOVERNMENT**, I'm glad to say, has given up.

My government plans to do absolutely nothing during the next Parliamentary session, except fool about with devolution. It will stumble on to defeat. I'd advise all my rich and wealthy subjects to cheer up, hold fast, and wait for a few more months until we can get our dear Tories back in office once again.



**IF THE Queen** ever said what she meant, she'd have started her speech opening Parliament last week something like that.

Instead, she quacked her way through the shortest list of proposed laws for 20 years, and got back to Buckingham Palace in time for lunch.

**Corruption**

All next year, the Labour government does not intend to pass a single law in the interests of the working people who elected it.

Eighty-five per cent of all Parliamentary time until next November will be taken up with devolution—that is solving the problems of a weak, corrupt Parliament in London by setting up weak, corrupt Parliaments in Edinburgh and Cardiff.

*We've been here before—twice since the war.*

In 1949, the Labour government which had passed many reforming laws brought in austerity measures to beat off a sudden attack of 'economic crisis'.

**Fury**

It withered under ferocious Tory assaults led by the notorious 'Mr Cube' campaign to keep sugar in the hands of Tate and Lyle.

Labour stalled and went on stalling until it was driven from office in 1951.

In 1968, a Labour government which had carried through a small handful of reforms again tried to solve an economic crisis—this time by wage freeze and cuts in the social services.

Then, terrified by inevitable by-election defeats, it abandoned even the pretence of advance.

It tried for half a year to reform the House of Lords. When that failed it did what its predecessors had done in 1949: Nothing.

It stalled until a general election in 1970 when a huge majority was converted into a Tory majority of nearly 30.

Now a Labour government with a small majority is struck down by exactly the same paralysis. Now the manifesto of February 1974 reads like a sick joke.

*How about this, for example?*

'A Labour government will pay special attention to the manpower needs of all public services now approaching breakdown, particularly in our inner urban areas.'

**Ribbons**

The Labour government has paid special attention to these needs by cutting them to ribbons.

The manifesto ended with the ringing words:

'The aims set out in this

manifesto are socialist aims, and we are proud of the word.

'It is only by setting our aims high, even amid the hazards of our present economic situation, that the idealism and high intelligence, especially of our young people, can be enlisted.'

*Now the aims are set at zero. Why?*

Because Labour has been blown off course by forces over which it has no control.

A run on the pound, caused by financiers, stopped the Labour government in 1949 and 1968.

This time, a series of runs on the pound, carefully timed, has caused the government, in breach of pledges, to introduce wage restraint (twice in successive years) and cuts in

the social services (three times this year alone).

An investment strike by the oil companies has forced it to hand millions of pounds to oil companies in unclaimed tax.

Investment strikes by industry have caused it to release thousands of millions in corporation tax concessions to companies (and to claw back the money from public services).

These attacks on the government were not inevitable or accidental.

**Ruthless**

They were deliberate assaults by a class of people at the head of industry and finance who will stop at nothing to prevent a Labour government from passing laws to tax their wealth or weaken their power.

The philosophy of the Labour Party has left the government impotent to counter-attack.

The only power capable of matching that of the capitalists is the industrial power of the workers.

But the Labour Party is committed, before even it takes office, not to use that power.

It is committed to the notion that the elected government must govern itself.

Thus, when one of the few genuinely reforming measures in Labour's programme—the Docks Bill—was beaten by a combination of unelected peers and a couple of well-paid, right-wing Labour MPs, the Government's first concern was to prevent strike

# Stumbling to defeat

By **PAUL FOOT**



service men and senior civil servants—and, on the other, a handful of individuals who make up the Labour government and their support in Parliament.

It is no contest. As in 1949 and in 1969—though much more speedily and viciously—the Labour government and its supporting MPs are trampled in the dust.

*Yet there is a difference between now and 1949 and 1969.*

**Execution**

In those years, the whole Labour rank and file followed the Labour government to its execution.

Today, there are tens of thousands of workers who will not be cracked so easily.

As last month's demonstration against the cuts proved,

these people are keen to mobilise against the government to save their services, and their jobs.

In 1949 and in 1968, trade union membership was stagnant. Today it is growing in leaps and bounds.

And there is another difference. Now there are many working class socialists who look for a socialist society not from a Labour government but from the working men and women around them.

They intend to build out of the ashes of this Labour government a new socialist party which will meet the might of capitalism with the might of working class power.

Those people represent the only antidote to the cynicism and apathy which exudes from Labour's paralysis at Westminster.

**The Labour government is paralysed, having been blown off course by forces over which it has no control. Out of its ashes must be built a socialist party to confront the might of capitalism.**

If you cut out this advert with your order, 25p of your money will be sent to the Right to Work Campaign

**Pluto**



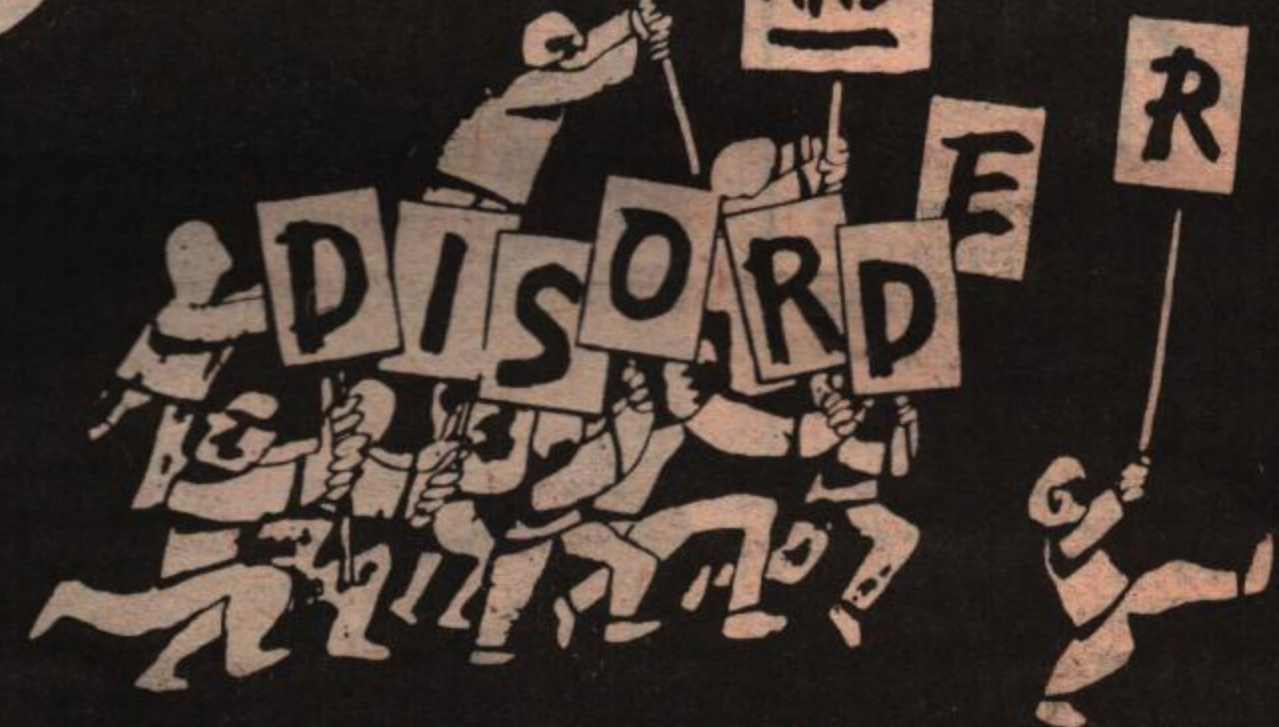
**Big Red Diary 1977**

**LAW**

**AND**

**DISORDER**

**£1**



Pluto Press Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH telephone: 01-722 0141

# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

The problem is not one of technology, which some people seem to see as some kind of independent force. The problem is one of POWER.

# Technology is neutral

I GUESSED that what I wrote a week or so ago about the anti-technology trend on the left might ruffle a few feathers.

It has, and some of the points raised are well worth discussing further.

First, to clear up some misunderstandings, no socialist defends or can possibly defend the uses to which scientific knowledge is often put under capitalism.

For example, most of us heard about green monkey disease for the first time as a result of an accidental infection at the Porton germ warfare centre.

This vile institution exists to develop methods of killing or crippling human

beings by deliberately infecting them with bacteria or viruses, especially ones which cause diseases difficult or impossible to cure. That is why they are working with green monkey virus.

The intended human victims are Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs

## Prostitute

Those who voluntarily contribute to this work, those who prostitute their knowledge and talents to this end, are scoundrels, vermin.

The man who was infected deserves as much sympathy as a Capone trigger man shot down by rival mobsters.

But those who order or allow this filth to go on are on a much lower moral level. And they are Rt Honourable

Gentlemen, members of Her Majesty's 'Labour' government.

The late Heinrich Himmler, the top executive in charge of Hitler's 'final solution'—the extermination of the Jews—once went to see a mass execution by shooting of Jews of all ages and both sexes.

It is recorded that he was physically sick. The extermination programme went on all the same, under Himmler's direction.

No doubt Defence Minister Fred Mulley, and his predecessors Roy Mason and Denis Healey, would be similarly affected by the sight of a few thousand victims of the germ warfare they have planned and promoted.

But that does not alter their guilt in the slightest degree.

The point is that it is precisely 'the power structure of competitive, militaristic societies' that is responsible for these atrocities.

It is not the technology, which is essentially the same whether directed to killing or curing. It is in that sense that I wrote, and I repeat, technology is neutral.

To take another example, fast breeder reactors. There can be no reasonable doubt, to my mind anyway, that they are too dangerous to tolerate, given present methods (or lack of them) of safely disposing of the ultra-toxic and practically immortal waste.

G Birking is obviously right in saying that we should energetically oppose their development at Windscale and everywhere else. Of course we should.

But the problem is not one of technology, which some people seem to see as some kind of independent force. The problem is one of power.

Can we mobilise enough power to stop the lunatics? That is the issue.

Nuclear power, as such, is of immense potential benefit to humanity, provided that safety is put first.

## System

Howard Miles writes: 'Technology and science exist as integral parts of capitalist society and their relationships to other parts of that society depend on the economic system.'

Of course, what marxist ever supposed otherwise? And we can say with equal truth that, at the present time, 'the working class exists as an integral part of capitalist society'.

We do not, on that account, try to turn our backs on our own class. And so with science.

Rosa Luxemburg spoke of 'the union of science and the workers' as the world-transforming power. That is right.

The various anti-science, anti-technology trends amongst sections of middle-class opinion are, in the most literal sense, reactionary; even though some of the people expressing them have, in a distorted way, progressive impulses.

## Patronise

We have to tell them the truth, not pander to their prejudices.

A final word. I am speaking of science and its applications (technology), of man's increasing power over nature.

I am not speaking of fake science, of capitalist ideology masquerading as science, as 'intelligence testing' or 'ethology' (ethologists say look at apes or geese—that's what you are and always must be, no real change in society is possible).

Spearman and Burt—of IQ fame—and Lorenz and Morris—the naked ape merchants—have exactly the same relationship to science in general as astrology has to astronomy.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

01-739 6361  
739 0185  
739 9043

Circulation department: 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 01-739 2639. Published weekly except final week of December. Subscriptions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months, £1.75 for three months. Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU all departments), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

## ...and guess who was left with the crusts

ASSET-STRIPPERS stole the jobs of the bakery workers in Hove, Sussex, who turned up for work two weeks ago to find the bakery and its 20 shops locked and their jobs gone.

Clarks Bread, their employers, were taken over in 1973/74 by a firm called James Warren, which guaranteed 'no redundancies'. Clarks should have known better—but then their financial advisors at the time were Slater Walker, kings of the slippery

customers.

Warren took one look and started stripping. Clarks was making its money from a frozen food business, but its baking side wasn't doing so well.

So the bakery was split off, its business assets sold for £80,000, its factory and shops taken by Warren—and then leased back to the firm for an annual rent.

## Pocket

The shops were then sold off, with Clarks as tenant, as 'an investment'. Warren's pocketed the profits.

Clarks of Hove, thus picked clean, was left with nothing but £100 in share

capital, and a bank overdraft that was getting bigger. Desperate for cash, they got a £20,000 loan from a man named Geoffrey Pike—ironically himself a former protegee of Slater Walker and a former asset-stripper.

And one morning, Clarks locked the factory and shops

without warning.

Redundancy pay? Well, James Warren have taken the frozen food business, the factory, and the profits from selling off the shops—they've got the cream. The workers—some after 45 years' work for Clarks—are left with the crusts.



## FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR 1

HAROLD STORK is one of those Social Security claimants the press love to get their teeth into. Since he got the sack from his job, he's been better off on the dole.

Better off because for a 40 hour week as a farm labourer, Mr Stork, who is 61 and disabled, was being paid a princely £13.50.

Every morning for 33 years he hobbled three miles to work and three miles home again. He milked the cows, fed the livestock and swept the yard at the 800-acre farm.

Then the lord of the manor, farmer Arthur Connors, decided that Mr Stork's ill-health was getting in the way of his work and sacked him without a penny compensation.

The National Union of Agricultural Workers had allowed Connors to pay him less than the union rate because of his disability.

But they didn't know that he hadn't received two increases due to him, which should have made his pay £30 a week.

Now Mr Stork is living it up at his cottage in Thwing near Bridlington, Yorkshire, on his handsome unemployment benefit—£12.90 and another £2 in added bonuses still to come.

## FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR 2

WHEN Michele Colonna was 11 he was 'sold' at the annual market for sturdy boys in Altamura, Southern Italy.

By the time he was 14 he was fetching a good price. He was sold again for £45, ten kilograms of cheese, 3,000 lbs of firewood, 12 kilograms of oil and 12 lbs of salt.

His buyer was Giacinto Lorusso, who put the boy to work on his farm. Every morning he took 200 sheep out to the pastures, returning for food 15 hours later. He slept locked in the stable with the sheep.

Last year, Michele took his boss's rifle, walked off into the country and shot himself. Nobody searched for him. His body was discovered accidentally 15 days later.

The Italian courts took an unprecedented step. They convicted Lorusso for 'maltreating an employee'.

In his defence he said that he bought Michele in the customary way 'after being examined and lifted up to judge his weight.'

## Some Caviar Mr Perez?



Tony Benn and Perez at a 'working breakfast.'

CARLOS ANDRES Perez, Venezuelan President, came to London this week to sell some oil for his country, thereby securing a better standard of living for its inhabitants.

Although, of course, there is so far no evidence that this is the case. Despite the oil boom 70 per cent of the population doesn't have enough to eat and half the houses have neither water nor drainage.

But it isn't all hardship in Venezuela. Caviar is selling like proverbial hot cakes and Guinness does a fine trade at £1.50 for a half a pint.

No prizes for guessing which category Mr Perez falls into.

## GETTING YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT...

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Anthony Nolan's life depends on a bone marrow transplant.

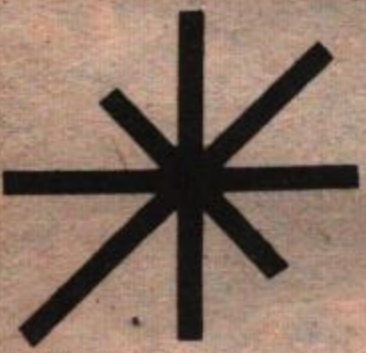
He is one of hundreds of children whose lives might be saved if the government

would agree to make a loan of £110,000 for vital research.

But this week under secretary for social security, Eric Deakins refused because, he said, there is

no certainty of success.

Recently, it was revealed that the government has spent £215,000 on a ministerial flat at No 1 Carlton Gardens. Nobody lives there.



## THE MAN WHO BELIEVES PUBLIC SPENDING SHOULD BE CUT PART 93:

Shadow environment minister Michael Heseltine today paid £7200 at Christies for five volumes of The Birds of Great Britain.

Evening Standard Wednesday 24 November.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS BY ORDER LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE

YOU CAN send Christmas cards this year and do something useful at the same time. The Right to Work Campaign has produced its own cards.

The greeting on the front is 'the best police in the world, giving traditional greeting at Hendon, 19 March 1974.'

Get your cards now £1 for ten cards, post free. All proceeds to the Marchers Defence Fund. Orders to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

# A SIT-IN WITH A DIFFERENCE...



When the bosses of a sweet factory in Northern Italy failed for the third month running to pay out wages because of 'financial difficulties', their 700 workers took action. And some action it was too! They staged a sit-down on the tracks of Turin railway station, blocking traffic and winning massive publicity for their struggle.

CHRIS HARMAN, just back from Spain, reports

## Spain's 'democracy,' rigged from top to bottom

'DEMOCRACY comes to Spain.' That has been the claim of the British press since it was announced a fortnight ago that there are to be elections in the spring.

But the 'democracy' promised by the government will be democracy of a peculiar sort. It will be rigged to keep power in the hands of those who ran the

country under fascism, and to deny workers many basic rights.

The government's 15 December referendum on the so-called democratic reforms is to be organised just as referendums under the dictator Franco were organised. It is a criminal offence to campaign for abstention.

The government has insisted that there are three sorts of political parties: those that are already legal (the right wing), those that will one day be legalised (the various hues of moderate socialists), and those that are 'illegal'—the Communist Party and the parties to the left of it—'who will be allowed nothing'.

Only the government will be allowed television time in the referendum campaign, and in the election campaign the right-wing parties will get a further advantage from the vast sums that will flow to them from the big banks with which they are closely connected.

Meanwhile, the more left-wing a party is, the more it is harassed by the armed police. So, for instance, the moderate Socialist Party and the trade union, UGT, backed by the Labour Party and TUC (and possibly the CIA) are allowed to organise more or less freely.

### Harass

But those to the left of them are subject to repeated harassment.

Last week, for instance, saw the arrest of a number of Communist Party members for selling their publications in the streets.

No fewer than 150 members of one of the Trotskyist groups, the Revolutionary Communist League, were seized while holding a conference in a Basque monastery.

Hundreds of workers face fines of up to £1000 for taking part in the one-day general strike of 12 November.

This is the power that can change it

THE SPANISH government's plans can still be thwarted by the popular movement.

Two million workers struck for the day on 12 November.

And the last week has seen a powerful strike of 90,000 state school teachers, partial strikes by firemen, municipal police and even jail warders, and a continuation of all-out stoppages by construction workers.

A new development has been the rapid growth of a women's movement. Fascist laws make adultery by women a crime and there have been big demonstrations in Madrid and Barcelona outside courts enforcing the law.

But the government and the



The power of Spain's workers: a recent demonstration in Madrid protesting at the increasing cost of living.

employers have been able to exploit weaknesses of the mass movement. The most important is the willingness of its best-known leaders to hold it back and split it so as to placate sections of the employing class.

The employers are now prepared to tolerate an independent trade union movement provided it is split into weak, rival, politically-based unions, as in France.

Unfortunately, the Communist Party leaders of the biggest single organisation of underground militants, the Workers Commissions, have

accepted this, changed its name to the Union of Workers Commissions, and agreed with other underground unions to a divided trade union movement.

This has led to a split in the workers commissions, with a minority insisting on a fight for a united workers organisation in each factory and district.

Such united organisation has existed in almost every major strike.

The left has succeeded in building more or less permanent organisations based upon such delegate structures in

places such as Vitoria, the Basque country and the new giant Ford plant in Valencia.

Picketing is illegal in Spain. The main leaders of the workers commissions argue that this law must be adhered to, otherwise the middle classes will be frightened away from the anti-fascist struggle.

For the same reason, they discourage mass sympathy strikes.

### Massive

Yet the lack of massive sympathy strikes has led to three major defeats for Spanish workers in the last few months—for the Motor Iberica (Massey Ferguson) workers in Barcelona, for the 15,000 metal workers in the Barcelona suburb of Sabadell, and for the Madrid transport workers.

The Madrid and Barcelona workers who were defeated did not join the 12 November political general strike.

The policy of holding back workers' struggles, far from strengthening the struggle for democracy, is actually strengthening the govern-

counter the propaganda of CIA-backed groups such as the Jamaica Freedom League in this country.

Our first action will be a joint picket with the West Indian Standing Conference of the US Embassy on 9 December. We urge all readers and supporters of SW to attend.

□ For more information, contact: 36 St Alphonsus Rd, London SW4, or phone 739 1878.

Jamaica: Organise solidarity!

Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign in this country. It aims to mobilise the black communities in solidarity with workers back home and to

By Kim Gordon (Flame)

JAMAICA goes to the polls on 15 December—and the People's National Party (social democratic) government are trying to hang on to power.

Whatever the result of the election, Jamaican workers and peasants face a hammering

Flame, the black sister paper of Socialist Worker, and the Brixton and Croydon Collective have set up a



## Apartheid spies aid British firm

ALL PRETENCE at toleration of black trade unionism has been ended in South Africa.

Last week the regime ordered the arrests of 21 trade unionists and banned them from taking part in any activities.

The bans follow the ten week strike by members of the all-black Glass and Allied Workers Union at Armourplate Safety Glass, at Springs, north of Johannesburg.

Armourplate is a subsidiary of Pilkingtons, the big glass monopoly based in St. Helens, Lancashire.

The South African government was also infuriated by the resistance to British Leyland's decision to move their plants in Durban to Cape Town.

The black stewards in Durban wrote to stewards in the Longbridge, Birmingham, British Leyland factory. They protested through the Transport and General Workers Union machine.

Jack Jones promised to raise the matter at the Brighton TUC—but Leyland management promised to sort the matter out if Jack dropped the motion.

Jack dropped the motion all right and British Leyland, South Africa called in the South African police.

**WEEKEND AGGREGATE** for all IS members involved in international work: 4-5 December in London. Phone IS International Department for details.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN



**GRAND FUND-RAISING SOCIAL:** Friday 3 December, 8pm, School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1, with The Derelicts and real ale.

**BIRMINGHAM LIBERATION DISCO:** Thursday 9 December, Poly South Centre, Bristol Road, 60p on the door/50p in advance.

**PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS:** Saturday 11 December, 10am, Waterloo Street (near Victoria Square), Birmingham.

**POSTER:** Victory to the Freedom Fighters! With space for local details. Two colours. £1 for 50.

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

**PLUTO PRESS XMAS OFFER**

Pluto Press are offering these books at HALF PRICE for Christmas to SW readers. Choose two or more titles and add postage.

Cliff: State Capitalism 75p (normally £1.50) + 20p post

Cliff: Lenin I £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post

Cliff: Lenin II £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post

Harman: Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe £1.35 (£2.70) + 20p post

Birchall: Workers Against the Monolith £1.35 (£2.70) + 20p post

Kidron: Capitalism and Theory £1 (£2) + 20p post

The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post

Dewar: Communist Politics in Britain 90p (£1.80) + 20p post

O'Flinn: Them and Us in Literature 45p (90p) + 10p post

Callinicos: Althusser's Marxism 90p (£1.80) + 20p post

Groves: The Balham Group 60p (£1.20) + 10p post

Origins of the International Socialists 50p (£1) + 10p post

Offer ends 31 December. Maximum postage necessary £1.

Please state your name and address clearly, and send your cheque or PO to:

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

**PLUTO PRESS XMAS OFFER**

**‘We’re going for early retirement at 55 by 1980—and so it should be. Tha’d say so too if tha’d seen men at 50 who can’t walk and breathe because they’ve worked in dust all their lives.’**

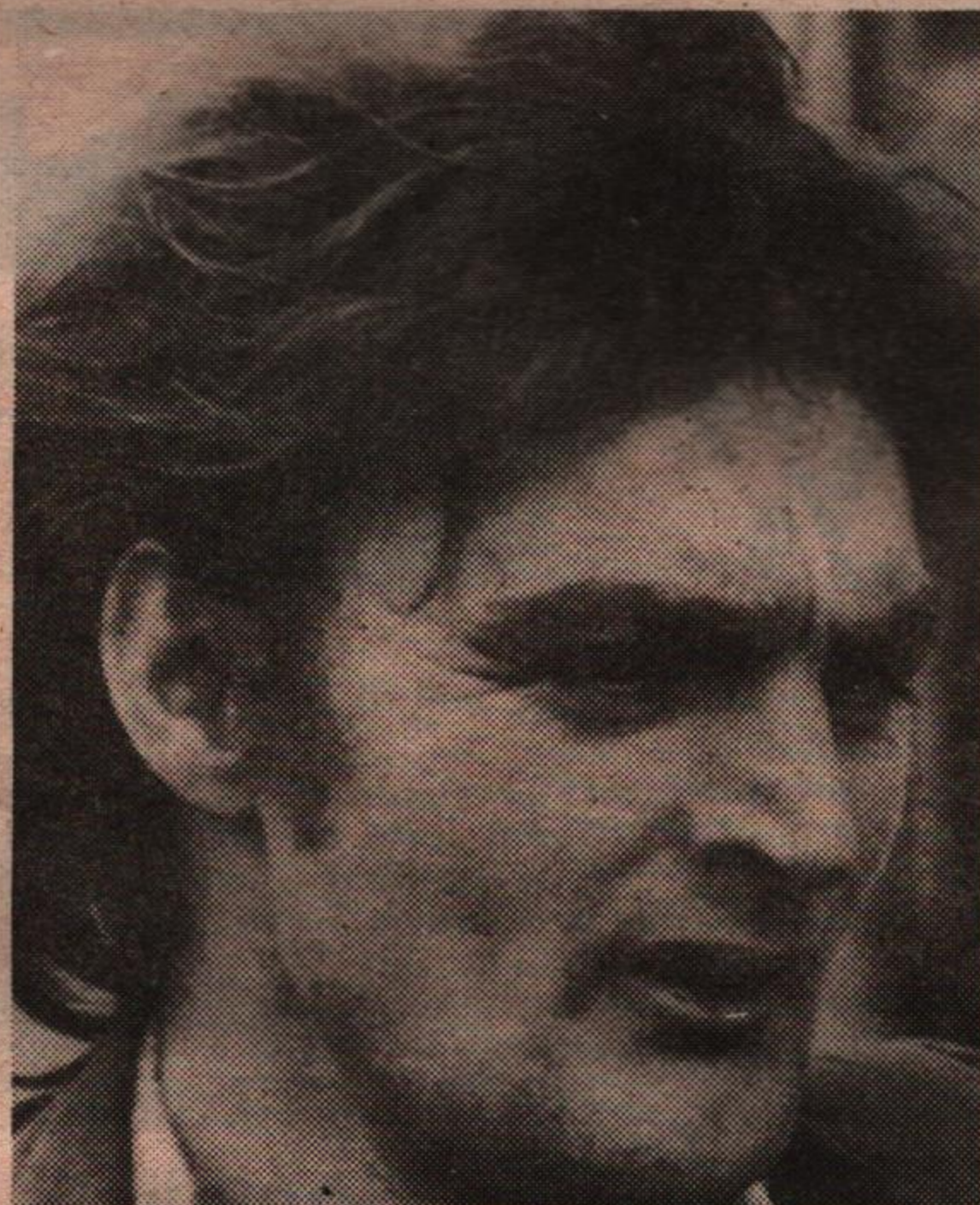
—BARNSELY MINER PHILLIP CLOWERY

**‘I WANT better conditions and better money. This ballot should be 100 percent in favour of industrial action—if every man’s right in the head.’**

‘I’m just at the right age to fight for this because I know that I shan’t be

able to go on until I’m 65.’

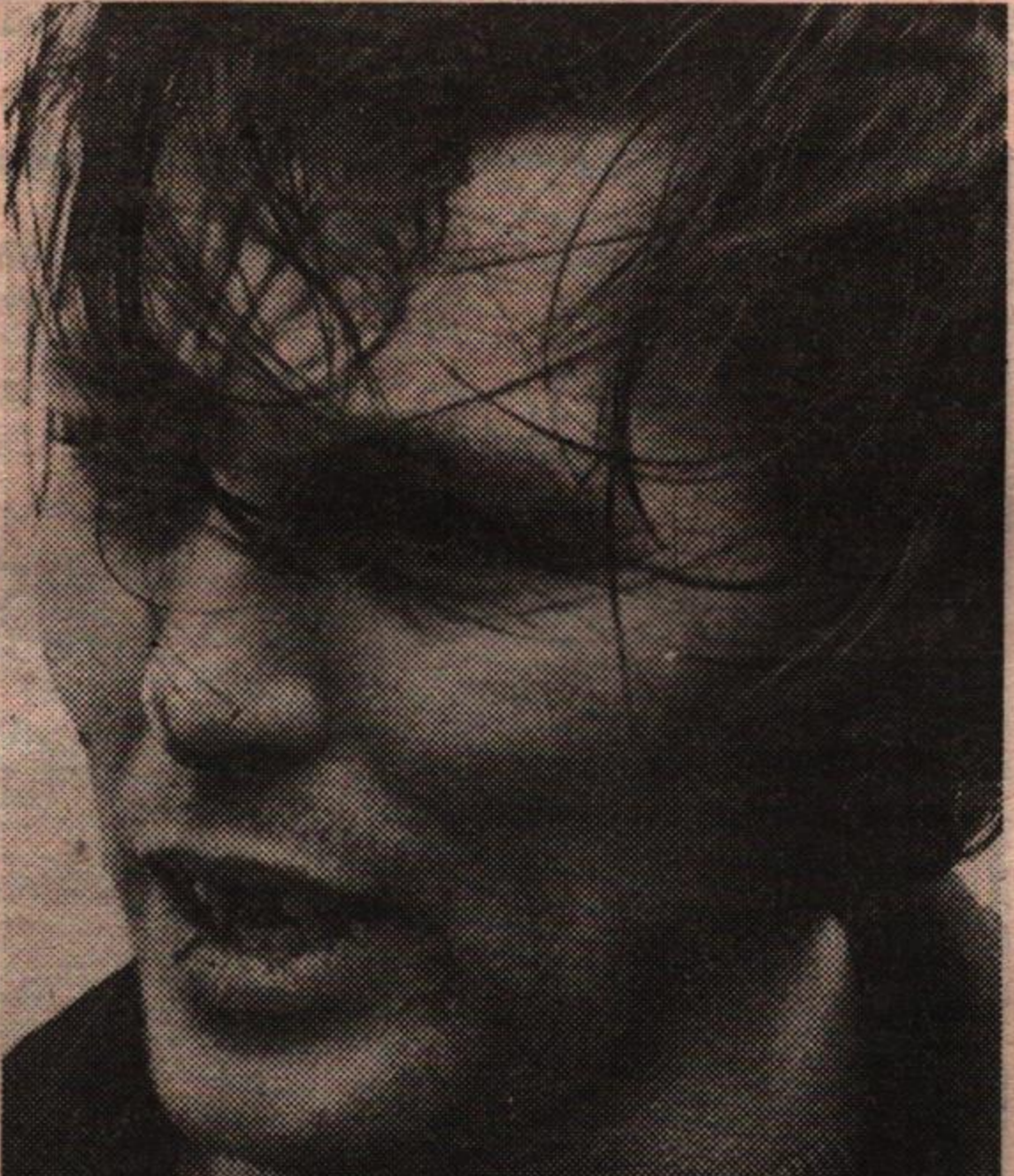
That’s what **BERNARD BOTTOM** thinks about the miners’ ballot for industrial action to win early retirement in the pits. Bernard, 32, is a tail-gate ripper at Dodworth Colliery near Barnsley.



**PHILLIP CLOWERY: My father’s knackered**



**BERNARD BOTTOM: We must fight**



**JIM DEAKIN: The offer is bloody stupid**

He has seen the effect of long years in the pits on men who work in one of Britain’s most

dangerous and unhealthy jobs.

‘My father’s just retired at 65. He’s got the dust on his lungs and his finger-ends are off.’

‘My mate’s 40 and he’s got the dust. He’s worked about six weeks in the past two years. It’s put down to bronchitis, but we know what it is.’

‘There’s more dust now than ever. It’s all because of these new mechanical means of getting coal out.’

‘Before it was all off a shovel. Manually it was harder work, but if you’re fit, hard work doesn’t hurt.’

‘I’ve been talking to a bloke at Redbrook End on the new face there. He says its bloody awful—tha’ can’t see a foot in front of thee with dust.’

**Fight**

‘Tha’ goes to work in clean clothes. At pit tha’ puts on old bloody mucky, stinking clothes.’

‘There’s no toilets down pit, so tha’ doesn’t know what’s on ‘em because tha’ doesn’t know where anyone’s been to toilet down there.’

‘We’re going to have to fight for the next generation, same as our fathers fought for us.’

**PHILLIP CLOWERY**, 40, also works at Dodworth Colliery, where he is a main-gate stable-man:

**Dust**

‘We’re going for early retirement at 55 by 1980—and so it should be too. Tha’d say so too if tha’d seen men at 50, 55 or 60 who can’t walk and can’t breathe because they’ve worked in dust all their lives.’

‘My father’s one of them. He’s 65 and he’s knackered. He started at pit when he were 14 and he’s worked nowhere else, but for the past three years they haven’t found him a job he’s fit to do.’

‘They offered him a job in the washer at pit top, but that’s a harder job than what I’m doing.’

‘In the end they gave him 300 quid and that were it—just 300 quid.’

**JOHN BRAY**, a development worker at Dodworth, wants to see British miners retire at ages comparable to those of their counter-parts in Europe:

‘We’ve had to go into the Common Market, so we might



**MINERS throughout the country are up in arms over their claim for early retirement with no loss of earnings.**

For years, miners’ union conferences have passed pious resolutions in favour

of it. But, at last, this year’s conference set a deadline for negotiations. The executive was told firmly to go for retirement at 60 by January 1977 with further reductions to 55 by 1980. Negotiations with the

**Bill Message and Gwen Jones report from Barnsley, and Cwm, South Wales**

**PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report) and Phil McCowen**

as well get the same benefits as miners there. These business people are making money out of it—that’s why they wanted in. We might as well get something out of it if we can.’

The National Coal Board has offered to reduce the retirement age gradually to 62 when the social contract allows them to.

**JIM DEAKIN**, a 34-year-old faceworker at Dodworth has nothing but contempt for this offer:

‘The Coal Board’s offer is bloody stupid—it’s only what we can get already because we can become redundant at 62 on 93 per cent of earnings, so if they’re going to offer us early retirement at 62 then all they’re doing is altering ‘redundant’ to ‘retirement’.’

‘We’re selling our health if we accept that the social contract means no early retirement for miners.’

‘Besides, the government seem to have torn up their copy of the social contract, what with prices rising and unemployment and so on.’

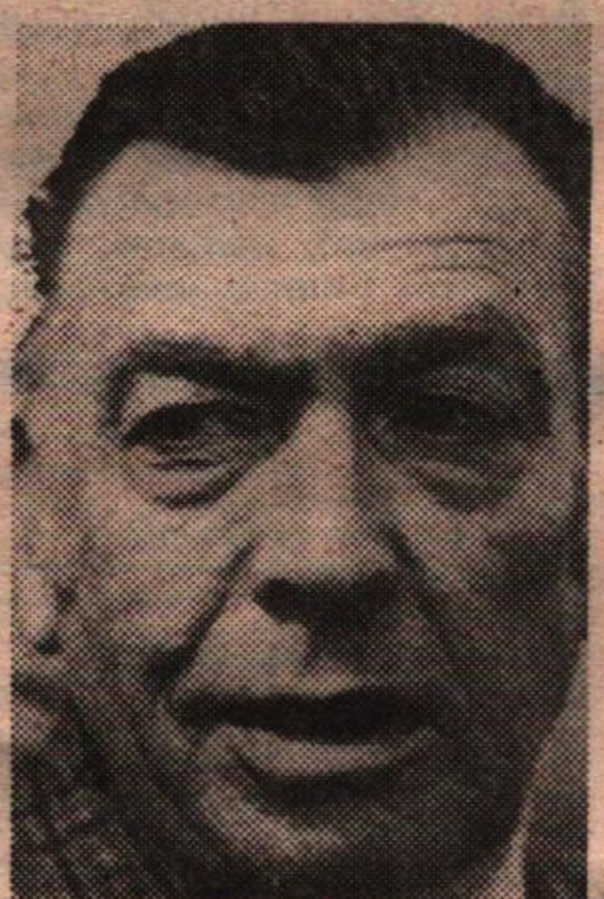
‘I don’t see any reason why we should pay any more heed to it than they do.’

**LEN PEMBER**, 58, has ten per cent dust. That means pneumoconiosis. He still works underground:

‘I’ve had 45 years of it. They bring the horses up and let them run when they’re old. It’s inhuman to let a man stay in a hole in the ground until he’s 65. Smiler Jim Callaghan should have a little taste of it.’

We need better wages to attract younger people. It should be young men in, old men out. But our leaders went and got us four per cent and all the prices went up. They must have brains. It’s the way they juggle with them. They cut the milk for the kids. They give them one potato less. Then you read about the Lord Mayor’s banquet.

Loyalty won’t fill our bellies. The unions are loyal to the Labour Party, which is kicking the unions in the teeth.’



**LEN PEMBER: Labour kicking us in the teeth**

**FACT**

IN SOUTH Yorkshire, miners have a 14 per cent higher chance of dying before they are 50 than other workers in the area—and a 35 per cent higher chance of dying before they are 70.

Their average life expectancy is 65, compared with 70 for other workers in the area.

A Yorkshire specialist, Dr Hall, said on television recently that miners should retire at 45. After this age, he said, the risks of disease and injury begin to multiply at an alarming rate.

**FACT**

ON 21 MARCH 1973, seven men died in a disaster at Lofthouse Colliery. One of them was Charlie Cotton, 49.

Most of his mates escaped. But he died because he could not run fast enough to keep up with them.

Charlie Cotton had emphysema, a crippling chest disease that afflicts thousands of miners. Emphysema leaves the sufferer short of breath and unable to run any distance.



# Why we want to retire early

...ional Coal Board have now reached deadlock, and in accordance with the instructions from conference, NUM executive has called a ballot of the membership for industrial action. The incredible meanness

of the NCB's offer has miners everywhere itching for a chance to get at them.   
▽▽   
NCB chairman Sir Derek Ezra has announced that his best offer is a gradual reduction in the retirement age to

62, but only when the social contract permits it and only for men who have spent 25 years underground.   
Ezra, who has never worked underground in his life, has already announced his intention of retiring when he reaches the age of 60.



**STEPHEN JONES** has been working underground for the last ten years. He is 26:   
‘When I come to 55, I’ll have been down for 40 years. It’s not only the dust. It’s the heavy work. A lot of people are on hardship because of back trouble. On average, if you retire at 65, you’re dead at 70. If you retire at 55, you’ll have more years to enjoy. If they don’t negotiate terms, industrial action will have to be taken.’



**J L TROTT**, a member of the deputies union, NACODS, is 56 and still working underground:   
‘The majority of men who are 55 and over have done 40 years’ service. They should be out of it. But it’s no good being stuck in the house without a penny for a pint.   
The big issue is: what is the retired miner going to live on? There used to be queues of lads waiting for jobs. But now there’s no incentive because of the wages. This claim is 30 years too late. We should have had early retirement years ago.’

# THIS IS WHAT ‘IMMIGRATION CONTROLS’ REALLY MEAN

A YOUNG Asian from Southall, with a proven record of fighting racism, has now been locked up in Pentonville Prison for three weeks.

Faceless Home Office officials have the power to throw him out of the country.

He is allowed to see his wife for just 15 minutes a day in a public visiting room. He is disillusioned and depressed. His ‘crime’ is that, after he married in this country he told the Home Office that he entered Britain ‘illegally’.

He believed he would be granted an amnesty. His honesty was rewarded with the slam of the prison door.



Rupi Ahluwalia: so much for ‘British justice’

THIS MAN FOUGHT RACISM - AND MAY BE THROWN OUT OF BRITAIN

## Killing

His name is Rupi Ahluwalia. He worked with a gang of Asian roof repairers. These ‘roofers’ took part with hundreds of other Southall youth in the street demonstrations following the racist killing last summer of Gurdip Chaggar.

When the police tried to arrest some Indian youth, Rupi intervened—and was arrested and beaten up in a police van.

Rupi was one of the Indians released as a result of the massive sit-in which paralysed the traffic outside Southall police station on the Sunday after the murder.

He appeared in court some months later—charged with assault! The arresting police officer made the following memorable remark to the court:

## Illegal

‘I had to hit him in the van because he was trying to escape.’

Rupi was fined £100 and given a six month suspended prison sentence.

Five months before, in February, Rupi had been to the Home Office to explain his ‘illegal’ status to them. He was now married and wanted to settle down.

He did not want the grim shadow of ‘illegal’ status hanging over himself and his family for the rest of his life. He thought the Home Office would understand.

He’d been told that ‘British justice’ would prevail.

For nine long months, from February to November, the Home Office did nothing. Finally, Immigration Officers



The protest outside Southall police station which led to Rupi’s release: now he’s back in jail—and facing deportation

came to Rupi’s home in Southall.

Under the 1971 Immigration Act, these men have draconian powers of arrest and detention. They moved Rupi, first to the notorious detention centre at Heathrow for five days and then to Pentonville Prison, where he remains under lock and key.

In other words, Rupi took part in the anti-racist demonstrations in Southall last summer with this threat hanging over his head. His family pleaded with him, warning him of the dangers to his case if he was involved.

He shrugged his shoulders and said he had no choice: he had to stand shoulder to shoulder, he said, with the youth movement that was on the streets demonstrating against Gurdip’s death.

Now this courageous man is face to face with the bestial immigration laws designed to demoralise people just like him.

Ironically, if he is thrown out he is entitled under law to return to live with his wife. But he will have to join the queue of relatives waiting to come in—and that could take at least a year.

That is if the Labour

government doesn’t screw even this remaining morsel of humanity out of the immigration laws in the next few months.

A campaign is needed to publicise Rupi’s case and to tap the enormous energies of the anti-racist movements that grew up in the Asian areas in the summer.

Whatever lingering anti-racist sentiment still exists inside the Labour Party must be utilised to the full to cause maximum havoc at the Home Office and to force Rupi’s release.

## Refuse

Discreet and private contact which relies on a special favour from the Home Office is no solution.

A Home Office which refuses to investigate its Immigration Officers at Heathrow who laughed when an Indian woman in detention screamed with labour pains is going to do no favours for an ‘illegal’ immigrant who demonstrates against racism.

JOHN ROSE

## THE COLLIER

A special pre-ballot issue of the miners' rank and file paper is now out.

5p a copy plus postage from: The Collier, c/o 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

**ON EARLY RETIREMENT?**

Another Committee set up to 'consider schemes'

Chairman of Government-aided company retires early with £10,000 pension

MORE COMMITTEES IN GOVERNMENT STEPS IN

**IS THE NEC DRAGGING ITS FEET?**

Chairman of Government-aided company retires early with £10,000 pension



Fine, that's what we all need...  
but what do you offer us?

### SONG OF THE PATCH AND THE OVERCOAT

Whenever our overcoat is ragged  
you come running up and say: this can't  
continue  
you must be helped in every possible manner.  
And, full of zeal, you run off to the bosses  
while we who freeze are waiting.  
And you come back and in triumph  
show us what you have won for us:  
a little patch.

*Fine, that's a patch all right  
but where is  
the whole coat?*

Whenever we cry aloud from hunger  
you come running up and say: this can't  
continue,  
you must be helped in every possible manner.  
And, full of zeal, you run to the bosses  
while we who starve are waiting.  
And you come back and in triumph  
show us what you have won for us,  
a crumb of bread.

*Fine, that's the breadcrumb  
but where is  
the whole loaf?*

We need much more than patches,  
we need the whole overcoat, too:  
we need much more than the breadcrumb,  
we need the loaf itself.  
We need much more than a job,  
we need the whole factory and the coal and the  
ore and power in the state

*Fine, that's what we all need  
but what  
do you offer us?*

BERTOLT BRECHT



Labour election posters, 1950: Brecht's poem could almost have been written with Attlee, Wilson and Callaghan in mind

WE'VE ALL spent a lot of time in the last few months calling the National Front 'Nazis'. But what was life like under the Nazis, and how could the struggle go on?

A new book, *Resistance in Europe 1939-1945\**, helps to answer some of these questions.

It's a collection of essays about resistance movements in Europe; some are a bit academic, but others—especially Josef Garlinski's first-hand account of the underground movement inside the Auschwitz death camp—give a vivid picture of life inside Nazi Europe.

The brutality of the Nazi occupiers is well-known.

In Poland, if resisters killed one German soldier, a thousand local inhabitants were shot.

But the brutality was class brutality above all. When the Germans occupied territory, the first thing they did was to impose a total wage freeze.

Strikes were banned. But strikers weren't shot—they were deported. Useful labour couldn't be wasted.

#### Selfish

Even inside Auschwitz, the patterns of class society reappeared. Josef Garlinski writes:

'Life there was a paradox: while thousands were dying of hunger, terror, and disease, some influential trustees drank champagne and lit their cigarettes with dollar bills.

'For a platinum Omega watch, you could get a small onion, for a gold five-dollar piece a loaf of bread.

'In 1942, 1943 and 1944 Auschwitz camp was the biggest black market in Europe.'

But even under the worst terror of Nazi rule, some form of resistance was possible. For example, there's the story of the old lady in Paris, who used to go and sit on a bench in a tube station.

#### Determined

Every time a German officer passed, she would put her umbrella between his feet and fetch him over.

Even inside Auschwitz, resistance was possible. Prisoners built a radio transmitter and hid it in the typhus block of the hospital, where the SS men never went for fear of infection.

But the weight of real resistance fell on the workers.

Not only were they the ones who had most to lose under Nazism; but they had the power to make resistance that was more than just symbolic.

The Nazis could ban strikes—but they couldn't stop the level of absenteeism among French miners

# The spirit the Nazis couldn't crush

BY  
IAN BIRCHALL

rocketing upwards, cutting production.

In one French factory, workers organised regular sabotage so effectively that they were able to persuade the RAF not to bomb the factory on the grounds that they were doing more damage.

And the biggest set-back for the Nazis in France was when they tried to introduce compulsory labour in Germany.

Thousands of workers refused to go, and flocked to join the resistance instead.

#### Foresight

What the book doesn't say clearly enough is that there were two resistances, quite separate from each other.

There were the workers, forced into resistance by hunger and brutality.

But there were also the others, the smooth men who could see that fascism, in the long term, was a monstrously inefficient system.

They saw a new world in which capitalism would survive, propped up by planning and deals with the trade

union bureaucrats.

When Nazism collapsed in 1945, Europe was ripe for revolution. Because the workers missed the boat, the smooth men rode to power on their backs.

Millions had died, believing they were fighting for freedom; instead we got the Common Market.

But that's another story, one you won't get from this book.

To find out about that, you'll have to read the finest book ever written about the Second World War, Gabriel Kolko's *The Politics of War*.

\* *Resistance in Europe 1939-1945*, edited by Stephen Hawes and Ralph White, Penguin. Available, price 96p (inc. postage) from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

□ *To Be A Slave*, the paperback publicised on this page last week, is out of print. It is still available, however, in hardback, price £1.50.



1945 — and Buchenwald prisoners stare in disbelief as their rescuers arrive: one prisoner, right, wasn't so lucky. Driven by the will to live, he was just able to squeeze his head and an arm under a prison door before being killed in a fire



## THE £50-A-SEAT PARASITES

I WAS enraged to hear Tory and Labour MPs complain on television about the rise in unemployment benefit and seriously consider ways in which to get some of it back, to hear accusations that a rise in unemployment benefit causes a lack of incentive to work—without any mention that there are no bloody jobs to be had.

I was enraged to hear that a person can be better off unemployed than in a job paying £25 a week—without any attack on the fact that it is disgraceful that anybody should earn such low wages.

I was enraged to hear that the rise in benefit will lead to more 'scroungers' living off the state and taxpayers' money—when later that evening the real scroungers appeared as spectators in the Royal Variety Performance and as partakers in the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

These parasites who can

afford £50 a seat to be entertained, and who are invited to stuff their gullets at the expense of the taxpayer, would do nothing to help the unemployed.

To see Callaghan shedding crocodile tears for the unemployed while guests were itching to start their feast and forget the starvation, poverty and humiliation that exists in the real world was enough to make me want to put my foot through the TV.

If I wasn't pregnant I would have loved to have gone and made them all choke on their turtle soup.

For those who are in a better position than me to fight—take up my anger, go forward to build a socialist alternative and bring the revolution nearer. So my kid which is yet to be born will not have to grow up in a society so full of injustices.  
 □ MARION FRANKS, London SW12.

## Facts the Sun ignores

CAN a person get more money on the dole than at work?

Yes! On 21 November the News of the World gave 'proof' of this by printing the story of a man who was protesting about getting £3 a week more on the dole than he got at work.

But one little fact didn't quite tie in with the 'slash the lot' campaign: when at work the man was employed for 22½ hours a week!

Recently the Sun gave front-page coverage to a

very bad case of 'scrounging'. The man concerned had a weekly wage of £47 (whether gross or take-home pay was not stated, but I suspect it was gross) and the rent for his council flat, after rebate, was over £14 a week.

Because he had run up rent arrears, he was nominated by the Sun as Chief Scrounger of Camden!

These, apparently, are the worst cases of 'abuse of the social services' that the muckrakers can dig up!

□ JIM PARKES, Walsall.

# These

# 'scroungers' are starving

WE THOUGHT your recent articles about 'scroungers' and the welfare state were good. The campaign in the gutter press has been a deliberate conspiracy between press barons and top civil servants on behalf of the ruling class.

The 16 per cent increase in social security nowhere near covers inflation.

Food and fuel have gone up by half.

One example of the brutal cuts in subsistence is that the Social Security allow £3 in the weekly money for fuel—then make compulsory deductions of £8-£9 a week to pay your bills with.

They now also make you pay for your own clothing grants with 'compulsory savings', although they admit the weekly money is not enough for this. No wonder they're called the SS!

This is an attack on all claimants,

particularly the unemployed. No prizes for working out that this is an attempt to shift the blame for unemployment on to 'lazy workers', and to try to pressure the unemployed into accepting sweated labour jobs.

This is why it is essential that trade unionists at work should link up with the unemployed, since everybody's wages are on the line.

As far as the breakdown of the welfare state is concerned, the SS just

ignore hardship now—emergency payments here have stopped and kids just have to starve.

The other weekend they forced a homeless family to sleep in their car after keeping them waiting in the office all Friday afternoon.

The worst case was when they drove a young woman to kill herself after starving her for three days

□ RICHARD LAVER, Advice Centre, Batley, West Yorkshire.

## The plutonium barrier

I WOULD like to take up the question 'Is technology neutral?' in relation to what happened last weekend at Brokdorf in West Germany.

I don't believe technology is neutral. Nature yes, but technology here and now is capitalist technology.

The West German government has plans for building an atomic power station at Brokdorf. The local inhabitants had protested and a decision was awaited from the court.

However, with the help of the local government officials and the police, the building firm started work on the site before the court had given its decision. They came in the middle of the night with a convoy of lorries, driving on to the site and then building a high, barbed-wire fence round it, and outside that a moat.

The locals decided to organise a protest demonstration. Between 30,000 and 40,000 turned up to support them (police figures).

These people have been labelled by the police as communists and enemies of

democracy!

During the demonstration the police provoked a clash.

First by refusing to allow people to drive to the planned site of the demonstration—as agreed by the local authority.

Secondly by hovering just above the demonstrators in a helicopter during the locally-organised church service (remember the bit about communists), which was to signify the culmination of the protest, so that it was impossible to

hear what was being said.

During the clash the police used water cannons and tear gas indiscriminately.

The important point is the insight this incident gives into the kind of security measures we can look forward to in all countries with atomic power stations.

Are these measures neutral? Are they not an obstacle in the way of socialist revolution?

□ PETER MYATT, 8200 Aarhus N, Denmark.

## A film for socialists

IF you read previews of TV films in the bourgeois press, you probably passed up seeing Sacco and Vanzetti on BBC2. So many 'political' movies are 'worthy' but dreary or totally

bore. Sacco and Vanzetti is a brilliantly acted, intense reconstruction of the racist, anti-immigrant, anti-Red hysteria and police terror in America following the end of the First World War. More than that, it accurately portrays the victims' socialist beliefs and lives.

At a time when the British

government, through its various magistrates courts, is savagely harassing marchers, young blacks, or anyone who raises up to cry 'enough'; and the very week that the Irish government conspires to murder the Murrays as dangerous 'anarchists', it is truly amazing that the BBC broadcast this film.

If you have an independent cinema or film co-op nearby, get them to screen this film. The International Socialists must try and show this film

□ SHERRILL YANOWITZ and NEIL ROGALL.

# Letters

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

## SHAMEFUL SLUR ON JUDGES!

SOCIALISTS should condemn comedian Dave Allen for boosting the cause of British magistrates. On his TV programme last Tuesday he issued this shameless but factual advert for judges:

'If you sleep on a bench in Hyde Park for a night you get a £2 fine. If you sleep on a bench in the Old Bailey for a year you get £18,000'.

A rush of job applications from businessmen tired of an arduous two-day week sleeping in boring boardrooms and golf clubs is expected by Old Bailey experts.

But it's bad news for unemployed workers and trade unionists. A Law Society spokesman has made it clear. 'Ruling class scroungers only need apply.'

How about it Enoch? It's better than getting heckled on any questions.

□ GARY BUSHELL, London W12.



## POINTS

YOU are overgenerous to some of your readers. It's fine that you print E S Mporu's letter defending Joshua Nkomo.

But why do you print his suggestions that Socialist Worker has been influenced by CIA agents?

Even worse that these agents have been collecting money off SW and IS and with it bought houses in Britain. This isn't argument. It's contemptible slander and has no place in your paper.

□ TOM DELANEY, Glasgow.

I HOPE that Peter Shelley's idea for an organising centre for socialist writers of all sorts will not become just one more idea that went through the Letters page.

If there are any other members or supporters of the International Socialists—playwrights, poets, novelists or whatever—who can see the importance of such a group, perhaps they could write to me at 7 Burghley Road, Bristol 6.

□ MARTIN BARKER.

READERS OF Socialist Worker will be interested to know that Lucas management have rejected the alternative plan put to them for the company's future by shop stewards.

The company dismissed the idea that it should diversify into socially useful products. The statement contained the following gem: 'Lucas Aerospace maintains that aircraft are obviously socially useful. We need aircraft for defence.'

□ Chris Stephenson.

## Our right, not yours

TERRY WILLIAMS (Letters, 20 November) has a mistaken view of the abortion issue. It's not a question of whether he would put the potential life of the foetus ahead of that of the woman. The woman herself must be able to choose whether she wants a child or not.

Contraception is preferable to abortion (I speak from experience). But until it is 100 per cent effective, safe, and freely available, to all, abortion will continue to be a necessary right.

One of the aims of socialism is to smash ruling class power and privileges, have always been able to buy an abortion, regardless of legislation. Working class women do not have this right. Support for SPUC means support for the oppression of working class women.

□ LIZ HALL, Glasgow.

I MUST disagree with some points that you stated concerning the SPUC rally in Chelmsford (SW, 13 November).

You alleged that Christians retaliated to your protest with so-called strong-arm tactics, claiming two people were hurt. Yet you also say 'First we invaded their rally at Chelmsford Football Ground. Then we harassed them along the length and breadth of their march.'

Don't you think you were using strong-arm tactics too?

Please don't discourage Christian Socialists. We need all the support we can get.

□ A BRADFORD READER

**Socialist Worker Lottery**

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.

10p a ticket, 50p for book of six

Buy and sell tickets now for the Socialist Worker Christmas Draw. All proceeds to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. Send all money from tickets to SW Draw, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act, no employee or close relative of an employee of Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers may enter.

Send in money and counterfoils now to 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

# 'Socialism would never work as well as capitalism...'

READING Socialist Worker a few weeks ago, I spotted a letter from a new member asking: 'After the Revolution, what?'

It reminded me of a marvellous essay on the subject by the American socialist, James Cannon.

Cannon tried to show that once there was production in abundance—and capitalism lays the basis for that—the most extraordinary horizons would open up.

Just think of it. Think of the scandalous waste of millions of acres of arable land kept unproductive by American government subsidies.

Think of the beef and butter mountains in Europe which are but another way of achieving the same end. Think of the unemployment, the waste of human resources.

And think of the stupendous wealth of the tiny minority who control our lives.

*Surely we are talking about something that is possible? And more than possible—bloody marvellous.*

Socialism would bring about a transformation of human activity in work, education, sports, amusements, manners and morals. All these changes will begin and proceed from the transformation of the system of production as this would clear the way for all other changes.

## ABUNDANT

Even at the present stage of economic development, if everybody had a job and there were no waste, a universal four-hour day would provide abundance for all.

Given the leap forward in science and technology that could be anticipated under socialism, a four-hour working day would soon become absurdly unnecessary.

In some sectors of production, it is inevitable that workers in a socialist society would actually produce less. After all, do we really need 20 different brands of soap powder produced by only two firms, all containing the same ingredients and giving the same results?

A recent survey on dog foods showed that every brand is processed from cows' udders, lungs, chicken necks etc into 'meaty' looking chunks. The only difference is the label on the tins.

Yet a vast amount of human resources goes on advertising to convince us that product X is better than product Y.

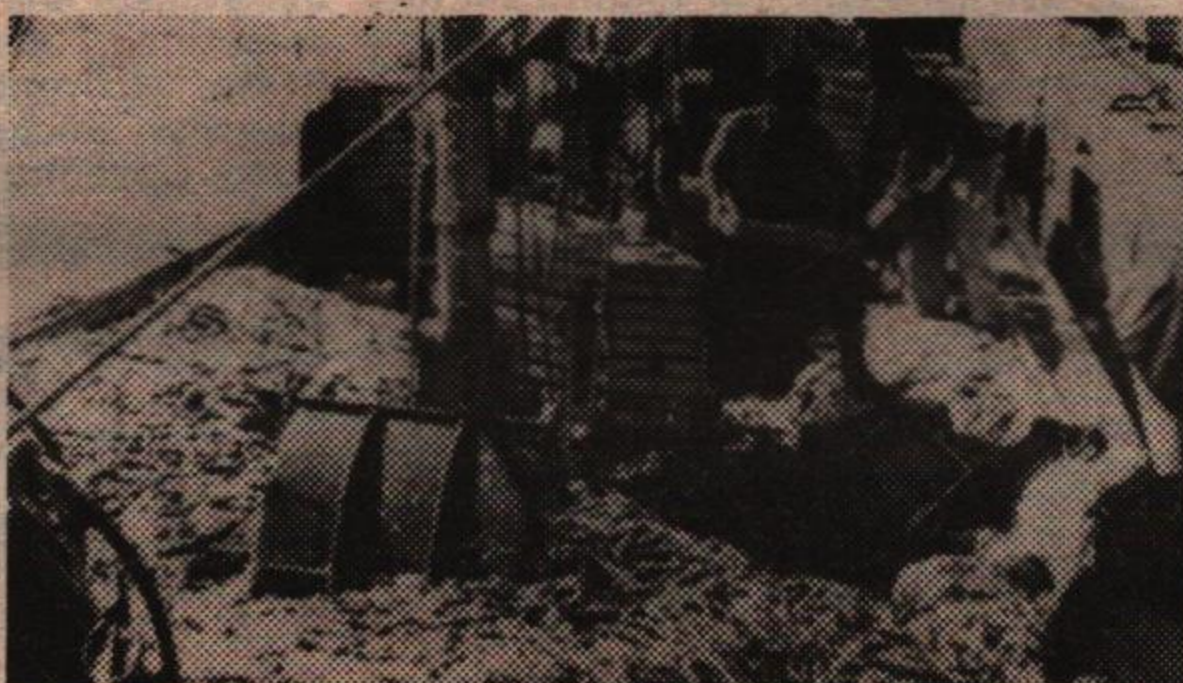
## ELECT

Cannon's opinion was that, eventually, the amount of work time required of the individual by society during his or her life need not exceed two years, and that the individual would be allowed to elect when to make this contribution.

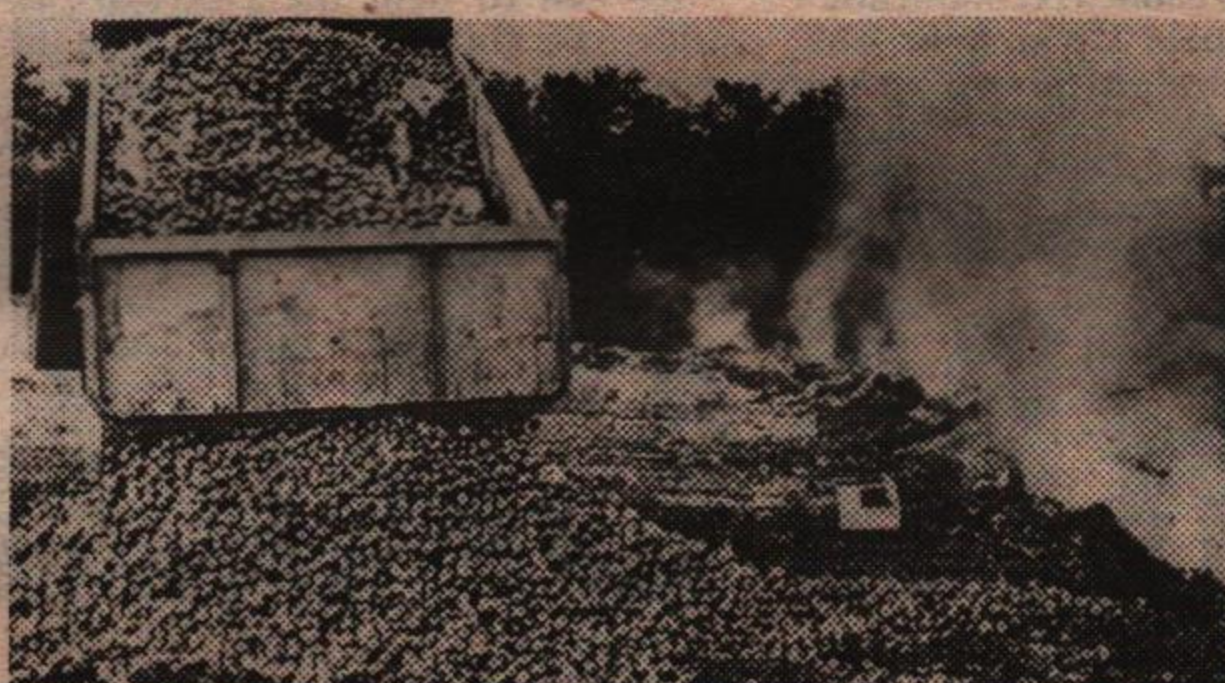
Emerging from capitalism, the transitional society would initially require people to work for wages. But with abundance, or superabundance, of what our society produced, the absurdity of a money system would become apparent.

*As the great Russian revolutionary Lenin liked to dream, gold could be used to make door knobs for public lavatories. This virtually useless metal has caused thousands of deaths and untold human misery in digging it from the depths of the earth and then burying it in the depths of the earth in 'bank vaults' for 'safety'.*

If the notion of the money system disappearing sounds



While millions starve, capitalism dumps fish ...



and tomatoes ...



and apples

# People are too greedy!

By  
**TERRY STEWART**



'visionary', 'utopian' or 'impractical', we must make the effort to lift our thinking out of the framework of this lunatic society we exist in.

When abundance exists for all, what would be the point in keeping an account of each one's share? At a well-supplied family table, you don't keep account as to who eats how many slices of toast at breakfast or how many potatoes at lunch. Nobody grabs when the table is laden.

Just how lunatic the system is can be illustrated as follows. In 1971 the Rank Research Centre developed a mushroom grown on petrol by-products, with a protein content equal to milk.

This cheap, high-protein mushroom could help eliminate

starvation in the 'third world' countries.

But as the poor people whom it would benefit cannot pay enough for it, and the capitalists can't make what they term 'a fair return on capital', which 'fairly' translated means a whacking profit, then as far as the bosses are concerned the world's poor can continue to starve.

A non-polluting source of power is plasma fusion, obtainable from seawater which has almost an infinite supply of deuterium for this purpose, and estimated to last at the lowest period 2.7 billion years.

*This we can't have, as the research would be 'expensive'. So in the meantime*

**It is our task to wade through the blood and filth of this outmoded system and clear it away ... and that is an occupation most worthy of a civilised man or woman.**

The rich already do this—notice the way the 'royal' family's world tours to sunny climes invariably coincide with our winters.

An all-out war against sickness and disease will be the only war we shall know. We will look back in indignation to the past society where most people couldn't 'afford' to be ill.

As all private property will be for personal use, crime would virtually disappear. Who would need to steal when a superabundance was available as a right whenever required?

## PARASITIC

No need for jails, police, judges, lawyers, bailiffs, informers, perjurers. This mass of parasitical rubbish will be swept away. Differences and heated debates would arise, but not on class differences.

*James Cannon believed that all this, and more, was not idle speculation, but a realistic perspective of a world socialist society. He didn't live to see it.*

He died three years ago at the age of 84. His political life spanned 66 years in the struggle for socialism. He said:

## DYING

**'It is our task to wade through the blood and filth of this outmoded dying system. Our mission is to clear it away and that I think is the highest privilege today, the occupation most worthy of a civilised man.'**

**Or woman.**

□ *Speeches for Socialism, by James Cannon (Pathfinder Press) is available, price £1.60 (inc postage), from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.*

*'they' continue to pollute the world in the name of profit.*

The approval of the people would be the highest incentive and reward in socialist society. Scopy for ambition would not be lacking.

In place of the struggle of man against man for personal gain, we would have the struggle for ideas to serve and advance the general good.

People will struggle co-operatively to change the course of rivers, control climate, move mountains, organise migrations with changing seasons. Why should the birds be the only creatures with sense enough to move south when winter approaches?



Picture: Mark Risher (IFL)



Teachers picket outside NUT headquarters in London during the occupation.

OVER a hundred teachers in the National Union of Teachers stormed into their union headquarters in London last Saturday and occupied the room where the executive was meeting.

The executive had refused to meet and speak with a lobby of teachers in support of 30 teachers from Little Ilford School, Newham, East London. The 30 have been suspended from the union for refusing to cover for

## Teachers union HQ occupied over ban

teachers absent for more than three days.

During the occupation one black Asian girl from South Africa was approached by a member of the executive who asked: 'Do you understand English? Having people like you here as teachers who are unable to understand and speak proper

English is why we have a situation like this.'

After holding the room for an hour, the teachers went downstairs and held a meeting inside the building.

Only two members of the executive were prepared to speak to the meeting, the two supporters of Rank and File

Teacher, Dick North and Beth Light.

The names of more than 750 NUT members who are operating the same 'no cover' policy as the Little Ilford teachers are being sent to the executive this week.

Teachers from two more London schools, Highbury Grove and Stockwell Manor, are now facing the same attack as the Little Ilford teachers.

In spite of this the 'no cover' campaign can create jobs for thousands of unemployed teachers

# BUILDER'S ELECTION ADDRESS SUPPRESSED

**THE election address of a candidate for regional organiser in the building workers' union UCATT has been suppressed.**

It is that of Right to Work Campaign supporter and member of the International Socialists John Clifford. He has been nominated by 14 branches.

The 'left-wing' officials who have suppressed the election address claim such addresses are 'not appropriate' for an administrative job. The real

reasons are clear enough from the militant policies put forward in the address, which has now been published by supporters of the Right to Work Campaign.

Here is part of it: **UNEMPLOYMENT:** 300,000 building workers are now unemployed. The government is proposing further cuts in public spending. Yet millions of workers in Britain live in squalor.

### Refusal

**'SOCIAL CON-TRICK:** This year's conference demanded the 35-hour week with no loss of pay and one National Minimum Rate of £2 per hour. This is the way to end low pay in our industry. One rate would unite members working in the public and private sectors.

'The Social Contract is a Social Con-Trick that has resulted in wage cuts, cuts in social services and loss of our members' jobs.

**'ONE UNION:** We must fight for more democracy, not less. That's why I support one union for the whole industry with regular elections of full-time officials every three years. If elected I pledge myself to resign in three years time so that the rank and file can judge my performance.

### Concern

**'UNITY IS STRENGTH:** Stronger shop stewards' organisation is the key to a fighting union. We must smash the lump and the blacklist. I will support the rank and file—and this means full backing for their decisions to take on the employers, whether official or unofficial, as in the current Welwyn Garden dispute.'

The dispute that John Clifford refers to is now

exactly six months old. It is a battle of unemployed union members against the millionaire builder Marshall Andrews, who persists in using subbies on the site in Welwyn Garden City and other sites.

Their fight is a crucial battle for the right to work—the right to work under trade union conditions.

Shortly after union members in Welwyn Garden City launched their campaign against the lump, Marshall Andrews quietly arranged for its sub-contractors to become registered.

This has caused the union officials dealing with the dispute and the top leadership in UCATT to move against the pickets. They have issued statements that there is no dispute with Marshall Andrews, and threatened members with discipline.

### Enough

All this is in direct contradiction to the most recent UCATT Delegate Conference decision on subbies, which insisted that the register should not be used as a way of legitimising the lump.

The picket celebrated the six months of their struggle last Friday with a mass picket. 200 building workers turned out in a magnificent display of solidarity.

Six sites staged strike action in support—Mowlem at Broxbourne, Shanley's at Stevenage and Shanley's at Hertford, McInerney at Hertford, Walker and Hawkes at Hatfield, Headways at Hatfield, and Headways of Guessons Road. Delegations came from eight other jobs.

The pickets need solidarity resolutions—but even more they want other workers to take on the subbies on their own sites.

## Clayton's Strike

MANCHESTER: Workers on three shifts at Clayton Aniline walked out on a 24-hour token strike last week.

All the shop stewards were told by Transport Union officials that they were not to take part in the strike, as the dispute about eroding differentials for working shifts was going against the Social Contract.

This left the men without any leadership, but the strike went on.

Thanks must go to the few stewards who ignored these bully-boy tactics and to other sections which walked out with us to create the company's first strike in 100 years. Considering this long history of non-militancy the fact that only seven men out of over 400 scabbed was amazing.

□ **Manchest ENGINEERS CHARTER** public meeting: Automot and the State of the Union. Speaker: Jack Robinson (AUEW). Saturday 4 December, 11am, Lass O'Gowrie, Charles Street off Oxford Street, Central Manchester.

## CAMPAIGN INVADES SHIPYARD

CLYDESIDE: 25 unemployed members of the Glasgow Right to Work Campaign invaded Govan shipbuilders last week.

The yard had been leafleted in the morning with the arguments against overtime working and the need to fight for a 35-hour week without loss of pay. Then 15 unemployed workers marched into the convenor's office and had a 20-minute meeting with convenor Jimmy Airlie and other shop stewards.

Eventually Airlie agreed to raise with the shop stewards the possibility of inviting an unemployed worker to speak to a shop stewards meeting about the Right to Work Campaign. Ten other unemployed workers held a factory gate lunchtime meeting to explain their campaign.

## Courtaulds battle is on

by **ROBBIE MARMION**

MERSEYSIDE: 'You're not on!' That's the answer of the workforce at Courtauld's Furzebrook Knitting Mill, at Aintree, to the attempt to blackmail workers into productivity deals with threats of closure.

The workers voted overwhelmingly at a mass meeting on Monday to reject

plans Courtaulds management had tried to force on them.

They may now be the first plant in the Courtaulds group to call for a national strike to stop the planned closures all over the country.

A meeting of lay delegates from all branches of the Transport Workers Union in the Courtauld's combine has

already decided to recommend national strike action to their branches. The decision now only needs ratification from the branches to make it certain that the 4000 workers threatened with redundancy will receive the best support possible from their brothers and sisters.

John Nettleton, chairman of the TGWU site committee at Aintree, said after the mass meeting: 'A recommendation for strike action will be put to the TGWU members on the site on Wednesday night. This is the only way to stop Courtaulds from walking all over us.'

'We hope other Courtaulds plants will take up the call for a national strike to defend the threatened jobs.'

A national strike of all Courtaulds workers would put the mockers on plans for closures. It would be a powerful demonstration that a group of workers in one combine could give two fingers to any idea that a big company can take their problems out on their workers.

It would be a great lead in the fight for every worker's right to work.

## LAWRENCE'S: WE'RE PART WAY THERE

by **ALASDAIR MacSWEEN**

Shop steward, Lawrence's site, Lower Thames Street.

LONDON: We have won some of what we wanted from our three-week strike to stop victimisations disguised as redundancies.

Everyone has been reinstated. Work is guaranteed until after Christmas. And we have a guarantee of three months work or three months pay after that for everyone.

All but ten men are now guaranteed transfers to other

jobs. The ten include three shop stewards. We are still demanding that jobs be found for everyone.

Lawrences have as good as admitted that they are deliberately not transferring the shop stewards. But we are going to keep the pressure on to defeat the Lawrences blacklist once and for all.

We would like to thank the Camden Direct Labour Department stewards for their help, rank and file building workers who supported our picket line in all weathers, and drivers, some not in a union, who respected our picket line.

# How Booth lied to the dockers

By **EDDIE PREVOST** (TGWU, London Royal docks)

ALBERT Booth, the Minister for Unemployment, is a liar. He showed this when he spoke at the meeting of the Docks Delegate Conference last week.

The government and their cheerleader Jack Jones, were desperate that the dockers delegates should accept the Dockwork Extension Bill, mutilated by the House of Lords. The alternative to accepting the mutilated Bill would have been industrial action.

Booth was the main speaker of the day. He spoke for an hour. His most important point was that the Lords, in their haste to de-gut the bill, had overlooked a loophole that left dockers stronger than under the original Bill.

It is a technical but important point. Under the unamended Bill, there was a

## SOCIALIST WORKER EXCLUSIVE

guaranteed five-mile corridor reserved for registered dock work. The Lords had amended that to half a mile in a direct line from 'a harbour or harbour land'.

Booth claimed that this would become a self-expanding corridor. First of all the Dock Labour Scheme would extend to all operations within half a mile of the ports, but once these were inside the scheme, then we could also claim all work within half a mile of the new acquisitions.

Booth called this a 'rolling' definition. Theoretically, in time, the Dock Labour Scheme could expand half a mile by half a mile to cover the entire country. When a delegate suggested that this was a 'leapfrogging' effect, Booth said indeed it was.

There is no doubt that this interpretation swayed the conference, and perhaps even carried the vote in favour of accepting the Bill.

Yet the very next day, Booth denied that he had made that interpretation of the Bill. He is now denying point-blank that he ever spoke about the 'rolling' corridor.

### Unsafe

There is absolutely no doubt what Booth said. I personally heard it. So did 99 other delegates.

Even TGWU officials are in no doubt that Booth not only spoke about a 'rolling corridor' but emphasised it at least three times and maybe more.

There is no way this could have been a mistake. Booth had with him two senior civil servants to advise him. And the man is after all a Cabinet Minister and this has been the major piece of legislation under his jurisdiction in the last parliamentary session.

No, it was no mistake: it was a cold-blooded lie.

In fact, at the National Docks Group meeting immediately before the conference, Booth made no mention at all of the 'rolling' corridor.

So the whole plan is obvious enough. Before the conference there was talk amongst delegates that Jack Jones had an ace to play: it turned out to be the 'leapfrog' card, and Jones and Booth wanted to keep it as close to their chests as possible until the last possible moment.

The whole thing was a cynical exercise to deceive the Docks Delegates Conference into voting for a government that is now so corrupt and rotten that it has to resort to Nixon-like tricks to stay in office. The conference was the victim of fraud. The result should surely now be declared void, and the conference recalled to discuss the real implications of the dismembered Act, and not the falsehoods of a desperate liar like Albert Booth.

# Socialist Worker

Please rush me my weekly copy of *Socialist Worker*. I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to *Socialist Worker* for

£7 for one year

£3.50 for six months

£1.75 for three months

(Please tick) to pay subscriptions and postage, so start sending them to:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

When completed post to Socialist Worker Subscriptions, Circulation Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

**Subscribe**

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



Photo John Sturrock (Report)

# SUPPORT THE MINERS!

WHY WE WANT TO RETIRE EARLY: Special interviews, see centre pages

## Retirement at 60 would mean another 20,000 jobs NOW

### ANOTHER miner was killed on Monday.

Another statistic to add to a mounting toll of death and maiming in Britain's pits.

Last year's toll—64 dead, 586 seriously injured—has already been passed this year.

The latest victim—Lee Douglas Taylor of Darfield Main Colliery in Yorkshire—had hardly breathed his last when a Tory MP was rising to his feet in Parliament to express his 'concern'.

*Michael McNair-Wilson suggested that MPs should send condolences to the dead man's family.*

Yes, and perhaps they might also care to send explanations of why they, and successive Tory and Labour governments, have done nothing to improve the appalling conditions that miners live and work under.

Men who began work underground at the age of 14 are still there 50 years later at the age of 65.

Next week, the miners are voting in a pit head ballot. A 'yes' vote will empower their union executive to call industrial action in support of the claim for early retirement.

The demand for retirement at 60 in January and at 55 by 1980 will bring them into line with other miners in the Common Market. Even in

Spain, the retirement age is 50.

The ballot is likely to return an overwhelming 'yes'. If this is so the miners will be attacked on all sides for 'threatening the Social Contract', 'wrecking the economy' and 'holding the country to ransom'.

*Tory MPs such as Michael McNair-Wilson will orchestrate the abuse.*

Only strike action can win the miners' full claim. Then,

of course, the press and the government will change their tune.

They will argue that the miners are a special case which mustn't affect other workers.

### Rubbish

This is rubbish. The steelworkers' union, the ISTC, has already put in a claim for early retirement. Retirement for miners at 60

would create 20,000 new jobs next year alone. Retirement at 55 in 1980 would create jobs for 100,000 workers now standing in dole queues.

Hundreds of thousands of other workers, from engineers to white collar groups, stand to gain from any breakthrough on fringe benefits. A campaign by the miners on fringe benefits can smash a hole through the Social Contract and pave the

way for the destruction of the wage freeze.

In 1972 and 1974, the miners broke the back of the Tory wage freeze. Millions of other workers benefited.

After the ballot result, trade unionists and socialists in every workplace and trade union, on every dole queue, must take up the argument for the miners.

## 13 December: Support this crucial picket

THREE Right to Work marchers now face the prospect of Christmas behind bars.

The appeals for all the convicted marchers will be heard on Monday 13 December.

The three sentenced to prison are Mike Lynch, an unemployed miner from Dunfermline (six months), Willie Dolan, a shop worker from Glasgow (one month), and Bobby Buirds, a pupil from Manchester (two

months).

They were among the 43 unemployed workers arrested when the police charged the Manchester to London Right to Work march in Hendon earlier this year. The police made four separate charges, three with batons drawn.

The marchers need the support of all trade unionists and socialists on the first day of the appeal. The Right to Work Campaign is organising a mass picket outside the Court House.

Every effort should be made to get

official delegations from trade union and labour movement bodies to attend with their banners. But numbers will be as important as delegations.

Local Right to Work Committees are organising transport from all over the country. Details are available from the National Right to Work Campaign

Twenty seven marchers were found guilty of charges such as assault and threatening behaviour. 15 were acquitted. One still remains to be tried. He is the campaign secretary John

Deason.

All the cases are being organised by the Department of Public Prosecutions, which set up the trial and prison sentences of the Shrewsbury pickets, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren.

A mass picket on the 13th will make it much harder for the judges to endorse the prison sentences. And it will make it much harder for the police, the courts and the DPP to try similar tactics on other groups of workers.

ADVERTISEMENT

## DROP THE CHARGES!

## FREE ALL THE MARCHERS!

Mass picket of the appeals of the Right to Work Marchers: Monday 13 December, 9.30am, Middlesex Crown Court, Parliament Square (by Westminster tube).

Bring banners, organise transport now.

*Organised by the National Right to Work Campaign*