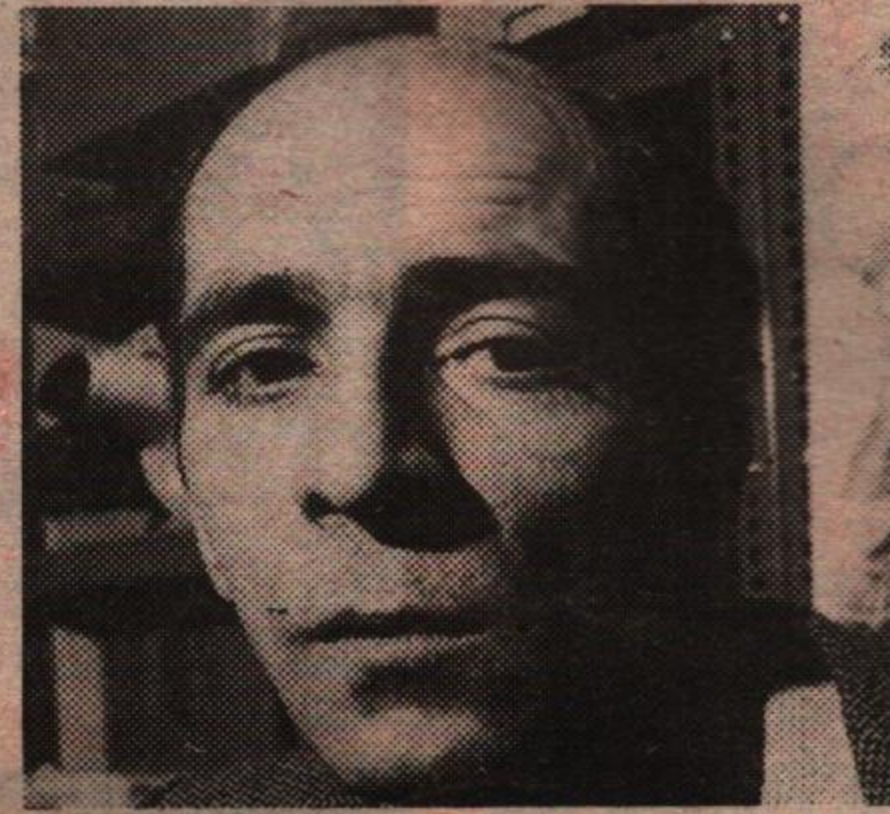


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

INSIDE



My story, by the socialist Russia put in a mental asylum . . .

□ PAGE THIRTEEN

2 MILLION OLD FOLK LEFT TO FREEZE

By PAUL FOOT

THE LABOUR Government has washed its hands of responsibility for the desperate suffering of two million old people this winter.

It has withdrawn its own minimum standards for heating in old people's houses.

Previous government documents, such as the Department of Health's *How to Keep Warm in Winter, 1972*, recommended a temperature of 70 degrees in old people's living rooms.

This year, in a letter to the Royal Institute of Consumer Affairs, the Department of Health and Social Security has withdrawn the recommendation. The letter makes it plain that the government now sets *no standards at all* for warmth in old people's houses.

George Dunn, general secretary of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners, told Socialist Worker:

'The basic pension allows for £2.80 for water and space heating. Anyone who thinks you can keep warm on that is either a lunatic or doesn't care.'

AT RISK

'If you rely on electricity, you can't even keep half a room at 70 degrees.'

'There are two million pensioners who will be seriously at risk this winter.'

'Old folk should wear socks and woolly hats to keep warm in bed.'

—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LEAFLET

'These two million get the basic pension—and a rent and rates rebate. They don't qualify for the latest government heating allowances.'

'If they get hypothermia because of the cold, they could die.'

Not content with shuffling off responsibility for

old people who die of cold, the government is searching round for new ways to damage old people—and the sick and poor.

This week it is agreeing to more cuts in public spending—by order of the international bankers of the International

Monetary Fund.

Housing subsidies will be slashed again—and council house rents will soar.

David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Stanley Orme, his left-wing Minister of State, are launching a 'Good Neighbour Cam-

paign'.

They are asking people to be 'kind' to old people in their areas.

The 'kindness' of Messrs. Ennals and Orme boils down to a handshake for the television cameras, and a kick in the teeth from behind the Cabinet doors.

REFUSE

There's only one policy to deal with these hypocrites: **No disconnections.**

Branches and shop stewards of the electricians union must issue statements declaring that their members will refuse to disconnect any pensioner from electricity or other sources of fuel.

Pensioners should use as much fuel as they want.

And they should send the bill to Messrs Ennals and Orme, Hypocrites of State, Department of Social Security, London.



'THE COUNTRY CAN'T AFFORD IT' . . .

'THE INLAND Revenue is losing a cool one thousand million pounds a year because it refuses to nail the tax scheme most enjoyed by Britain's better-off classes'.

So Sunday Times journalist Nicholas Faith revealed on 31 October.

He told how the rich were setting up 'discretionary trusts' in the

Channel Islands to evade tax—and how they were getting away with it. A thousand million pounds is almost all of what the government hopes to 'save' by pushing up council house rents and driving down welfare benefits.

■ ■ ■

Meanwhile, arms spending is to go UP by £517 million to £6000 million. The government hopes to buy the

new Boeing early-warning plane at £60 million each. The cost of one plane would buy heat and light for every old person in the country.

Sir Hugh Fraser, the department store boss and Scottish Nationalist, admits that he has lost about one and a half million pounds in gambling at roulette. In one evening, he lost a quarter of a million pounds.

A spokesman for the gambling club said: 'This was not remarkable'.

And it's not just the pensioners



SEE PAGES 8 & 9

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

COUNCIL PUTS STRINGS ON MOSQUE

THE Waltham Forest Islamic Association finally received planning permission for their new mosque—but only just. The chairman of the council's planning committee had to use his casting vote to carry the plan.

But the conditions attached to the permission will make it difficult for the new mosque to be opened. The council is demanding alterations to the warehouse—soundproofing, glazed windows in the back, car parking space made within the premises—which will cost £150,000 before the building can be used at all.

This wouldn't be so bad—except that the permission is only for a 'trial period' of three years.

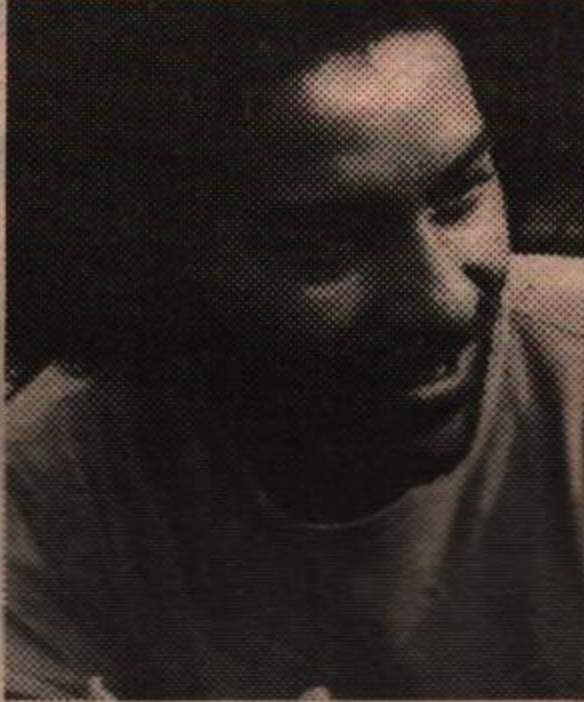
Dr Nazeer Ally, president of the Islamic Association, told Socialist Worker: 'Wherever we go, we will have difficulties like this.'

'The local authority have had seven years to see how we use this mosque where we are now. They don't really need another three years. We feel they are shelving a decision to avoid taking full responsibility.'

'We will appeal for the time limit to be removed. Our intention is to fight for this.'



Khalid Hassan



Dave Fewes

'Straight to the airport' threat by police

by PHIL MARFLEET

BRITAIN'S insidious immigration laws and the racist policemen who enforce them nearly claimed another victim last week, Khalid Hassan, a Pakistani-born worker living in Walthamstow, London.

Police visited his home when he wasn't there. Then they turned up at his workplace Phonodisc, told the gateman that they were 'friends' and then having lured Khalid out, told him that he could 'either go straight to the airport for immediate deportation' or 'via home to collect things'.

Khalid's own determination and prompt supporting action from friends and workmates stopped the police from carrying through their inhuman plans. But how many times do they get away with it?

Khalid's nightmare started last Monday. He heard police had been inquiring about him, claiming he was an illegal immigrant. Khalid immediately telephoned the police station.

He was asked whether he had recently been involved in any incidents. Replying that he had not, Khalid was told: 'But you have been. You have been on demonstrations, and you are a member of the Socialist Workers Party'.

Apology

He asked the police to visit him that evening and sort things out.

But after work Khalid found that the police had already visited and entered his

house. Telephoning the police again, this time he received an apology from the station commander: 'Forget it, there has been a mistake'.

On Tuesday, after a personal visit to the police, Khalid is asked to forget the whole incident.

But on Wednesday he was called from his work in the press shop of Phonodisc factory. He is told that 'friends' are waiting at the gate.

The 'friends' turn out to be two uniformed police in a panda car.

'You are an illegal immigrant', he is told by PC 716, 'you can go straight to the airport for deportation, or we can collect your things first from your home'.

Khalid insisted that his

passport kept at home will prove he has permanent residence. He is told the police are certain he is illegal—so why waste our time?

That night, Khalid visits again the police station. He finds only PC 716. He informs him that he intends taking his threats and insults up with the Home Office, the Community Relations Commission and his solicitor. 716 offers more threats: 'You dare, and I'll make real big trouble for you'.

Verbal

Khalid has been told that his case is 100 per cent solid, and the Home Office have already apologised verbally.

But damage has already been done. Khalid's landlord and Phonodisc management—who arranged for Khalid to meet his 'friends'—already view him with suspicion. Uniformed police have forced him from the factory—opening up intimidation and increased threats of blackmail to the 400 immigrant workers there.

The shop stewards committee at Phonodisc have moved quickly. Convenor Dave Fewes said: 'We are not willing to tolerate this intimidation of our members. The idea that they can remove a worker from the factory is just not on. We won't allow the use of racist laws in this way'.

The committee has passed a resolution against the removal of any worker from the factory, and called the attention of the executive of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and local union bodies to the events leading up to Khalid's removal.

Guilty of the impossible!

MAGISTRATES in South London got the police force off a particularly nasty hook this week.

Thirteen-year-old seven-stone Christine White, a young black girl with a badly blistered hand, came up in court last week charged with the impossible: assaulting two plainclothed Special Patrol Group officers.

But the magistrates found her guilty of these ridiculous charges and she had to pay £9 compensation to the officers concerned for a ripped shirt.

Christine's mother, Frances White, said: 'I've seen nothing like it in my life. We're going to fight this.'

Protest over jailed Cypriots

FIFTY supporters of the Cypriot Defence Campaign picketed Pentonville Prison in North London on Saturday. At least 12 Cypriots have been jailed under the immigration laws—they are all refugees from the tragic war in Cyprus in 1974.

A deputation from the picket was prevented from visiting Metin Salih, who was jailed for one day under the Immigration Act and has now been in Pentonville for a month!

The pickets marched to Holloway Prison, where Metin's wife Hulya is held. They were again refused a visit, though a gift of flowers from supporters in the Cypriot community was accepted.

The campaign is now receiving widespread support, particularly in the large Cypriot community in Haringey, North London. During Saturday's street meeting in Turnpike Lane, nearly £20 was collected from Cypriots whose own families and friends are under threat.

Contact the campaign at 90 Mountview Road, London N4. Phone 272-8270.



Picture: Mark Rusher (IFL)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

Labour's safety sell-out

JIM CALLAGHAN and his pals in the Labour government engaged in a singular act of vandalism and betrayal last week.

At a stroke they pulled the floorboards

out from under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The package that the Health and Safety Executive was hoping would be implemented is now to be dropped on grounds of cost.

This means that the regulations bringing recognition to workers' safety representatives, joint safety

committees and a safety code of practice will not now be brought through.

Broken

These regulations were one of the cornerstones of the so-called 'social contract'. Others included pledges to keep down prices and unemployment, which have already been broken.

The government's decision follows persistent lobbying from local authorities who are having their spending axed by the Labour government. They have carried out a scandalous campaign against the new measures, saying they cannot afford the cost of saving lives and limbs.

Dozens of employers also oppose the new regulations, even though their organisa-

tion, the Confederation of British Industry, gave its consent.

In particular the giant Shell corporation engaged in a persistent campaign, even threatening an investment strike if their demands for maximum profits were in any way bridled.

Some Labour MPs have hit out against this disgraceful shelving of the regulations. Audrey Wise, the Coventry MP, has tried to get a debate on the matter and is supporting a lobby of parliament by Coventry shop stewards.

But she has urged a low level, purely local mobilisation because Minister for (Un)employment Albert Booth is, she claims, 'very upset'.

Shelve

The TUC has suspected for some time that the government was going to shelve the regulations, but has done nothing more than write a 'strong' letter of protest.

The package never was the last word in Health and Safety, but it did give well-organised workers important openings.

If the regulations are ever to be taken off the shelves and implemented, rank and file workers will have to express their anger.

Journalists strike over deportations

JOURNALISTS in the Magazine and Book branches of the National Union of Journalists were planning strike action on Wednesday to protest at the proposed deportation of journalists Philip Agee and Mark Hosenball.

Home Secretary Merlyn Rees says they are a threat to national security. He plans to have them deported under the 1971 Immigration Act.

Agee, a former CIA agent, has exposed the activities and methods of American intelligence.

Mark Hosenball has also written on the CIA.

The Defence Campaign has already received support from trade unionists, some Labour MPs and others.

But the widest possible protest will be needed if they are to be allowed to stay. Their only appeal under the Act is to a

committee of three—appointed by the Home Office.

They are not allowed full details of the case against them and are not allowed to cross-examine witnesses. The final decision, even after the hearing, rests with Rees.

Philip Agee told a public meeting in London this week: 'I have never worked with British intelligence and I know nothing which could threaten British security'.

Expose

But he has some ideas about why Americans might have put pressure on Rees to deport him. 'It's because this campaign to expose their methods has been so successful,' he said. 'They need to disrupt my activities.'

Agee is currently working on a global Who's Who in the CIA. He also feels that

coming elections in Europe and CIA intervention could have something to do with the timing of the deportation.

'Britain is looking around for a loan at the moment. Before the money is handed over they don't just look for economic assurances, but political demands are made, and it could be that I am just part of the package.'

'When I came here I came on a shoestring to write my book. The CIA Diary. It took nearly two years and nothing happened to me in that time.'

The Defence Campaign called a Day of Action on Wednesday. On Saturday there is a rally at the Home Office at noon and a protest at 2.30pm outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

Agee/Hosenball Defence Campaign, 186 Kings Cross Road, London N1. Write for petitions, leaflets, etc.

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)

SENSATION! WILSON DISCOVERS LABOUR INFILTRATORS...

SIR HAROLD Wilson waddles out of semi-retirement to issue a 'grave warning' to the Labour Party.

What bothers him? Is he concerned that his Party in government is ripping up the pledges which he gave in two general elections two years ago?

Is he disturbed about the cuts in the living standards of the people who voted Labour? Or about the mass unemployment which his policies have created? Or about the rocketing prices which he promised to curb?

Not at all. Sir Harold warns against 'infiltration' of the Labour Party by 'small and unrepresentative groups' who are attempting a 'take-over bid'.

Communists

In 1961, Harold Wilson, then Shadow Chancellor, warned the Tory Chancellor not to deflect public opinion away from his reactionary policies by denouncing Communists. 'Let him not look for red plots' trumpeted Wilson.

Now Wilson has found a 'red plot' to distract attention from government policies incomparably more reactionary.

Harold Wilson had some interesting things to say about the Parliamentary democracy which he so prizes. After an MP is elected, he said, 'he is morally and democratically the property of his constituents... no longer an office-holder to be dismissed by an unrepresentative caucus'.

Wilson concluded that an elected MP can only be dismissed by approval of the entire Parliamentary Labour Party, which he described as the 'MPs trade union'. Labour MPs in Parliament don't represent 'the people'. They represent themselves.

Under Wilson's proposals, MPs would be elected for life. Labour Party members would have no right to remove or even to influence them.

Ron Hayward, Labour's general secretary, agrees. He said last



But he's not talking about this

'small and unrepresentative' group...



week that MPs should not be removed because of their views. Why should they be removed then? Because of the colour of their hair?

Wilson attacked 'bed-sitter infiltrators' who 'owe no loyalty to an area'. But what are the majority of Labour MPs?

Is Giles Radice, Winchester and Oxford, MP for Chester Le Street because of his long association with the workers of Durham?

How did Jeremy Bray, a right-wing mathematics professor, come to represent the steelworkers of Motherwell? Or David Marquand, Emmanuel School and Oxford, the miners of West Nottinghamshire?

These MPs were selected by an 'unrepresentative caucus' in Transport House. A phone call to the party faithful put them on the road to fame and fortune.

Wilson, Hayward and the entire Press want to ensure that fame and fortune is never interfered with from below.

Richard Crossman, in his diaries, wrote of the Labour Party: 'The most we can hope for is a progressive oligarchy'.

That's what the Labour Party is: an oligarchy, in which power is selected for the educated few. And there's nothing remotely

progressive about it.

There's no point in being what Wilson calls 'a political asset-stripper' in the Labour Party. There are no assets to strip.

We urge socialists in the Labour Party to dump Wilson and his oligarchs and join with us in building a new socialist party out of the fighting spirit of working people.

Big vote to get troops out

A MOTION calling on Britain to declare an intention to withdraw from Northern Ireland was only narrowly defeated at the annual conference of the 'moderate' Social Democratic and Labour Party in Newcastle, County Down last Saturday.

The vote reflected pressure from within the Catholic community after the failure of the various 'solutions' sponsored by British governments over the past seven years.

Even middle-class Catholics are now weary of being taken for a ride again and are beginning to think in terms of a 'non-British' North.

Impassioned speeches by the SDLP's two leaders, Gerry Fitt and John Hume, couldn't prevent 40 per cent of delegates voting for Britain to get out.

Naturally, the vote gave the Provos considerable satisfaction.

Blitz

Their campaign of bombings and shootings shows no signs of slackening—as the Derry blitz last weekend demonstrated.

And every time the army beats up a Catholic area—which is often—the Provos gain new, young recruits.

To that extent, British military tactics are futile. The SDLP vote confirms that the political strategy is also doomed.

Gradually, the Provos believe, it is becoming clear to all that as long as Britain remains in the North, preserving the state, there will be Catholics in arms engaged in rebellion.

From the socialist point of view, it is by no means an adequate analysis; but no analysis which ignores it has any relevance to reality.



OUR fighting fund received a boost this week with cash collected at the East of Scotland Socialist Worker Rally in Edinburgh.

The Labour government has made it clear that it will not do anything about the repeated incitements to racialism by Enoch Powell and his friends.

It is frightened to take him to court, it says, because of the publicity

LABOUR'S SCARED - BUT WE'RE NOT!

that would give him. Yet in recent months supporters of Socialist Worker have shown that you can silence the racists with demonstrations, pickets and Socialist Worker's anti-racist

posters and stickers. That's the sort of activity financed by the money you send to the fighting fund. So keep up the donations so we can help you to keep up the struggle.

Our thanks to: Birkenhead SW readers 40p; Lowestoft £8; Bobby Noyes £1; SW supporter £1; Dumfries £2; Exeter 10p; Warrington £5; Assar £1; Pete McDonald 30p.

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

A YEAR AGO, on 29 December 1975, all women should have got equal pay.

At least that was what the government was claiming when it first introduced the equal pay legislation.

But, in reality, women are becoming less, not more equal, according to the government's own New Earnings Survey.

In most of the main occupations where women work, the gap with men's earnings grew wider between April 1975 and April 1976.

THE GREAT EQUAL PAY FARCE

Among secondary teachers, the gap widened from an average of 35.5p an hour to 42.4p an hour; among cleaners from 15.9p to 20.9p; among packers from 28p to 29.6p.

The lesson is simple. If you really want equal pay, you have to follow the example of women like those at Trico and fight for it.

FRENCH printworkers, dressed as convicts, demonstrating last weekend after police had 'broken a printers' occupation. The occupation began last year when the owner of the paper Parisien Libere introduced new technology aimed at destroying jobs. The paper has been produced since with scab labour from outside Paris. The police action led to a strike of the whole French press.

Now for a national youth rally

By Geoff Heaton

SINCE it was launched three months ago, the Socialist Worker Youth Movement has made modest but important strides.

Branches have been set up in most areas of the country, including the major industrial centres.

Our members have shown great enthusiasm, attracting other young people to SWYM as an organisation fighting for their rights.

Alongside older Socialist Worker supports, SWYM members have been in the forefront of fighting the racists on the streets of London, Leeds, Walsall and elsewhere.

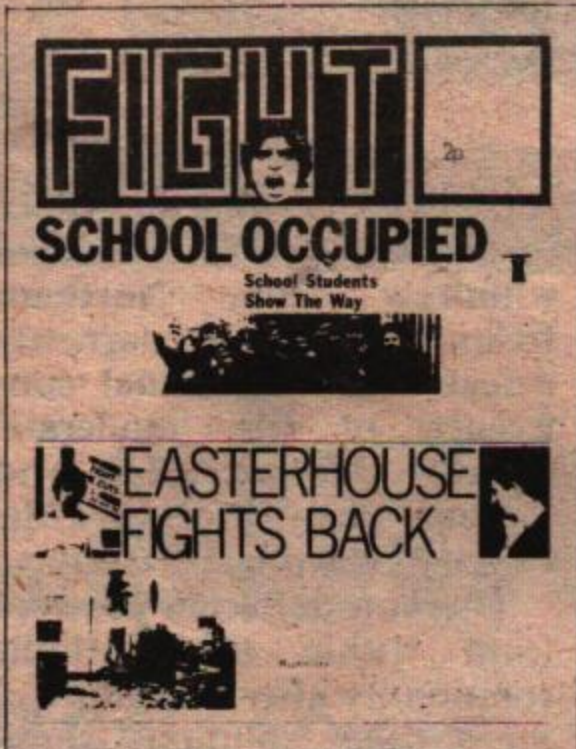
Occupying

In Hull, SWYM organised pickets and postering during an army recruitment drive. In Easterhouse in Glasgow, SWYM members have been active in the local Nursery Action Group, which has been occupying an empty nursery in protest against the cuts.

Our activities have two main aims. We try to unite young workers, unemployed and school students around action, and develop their confidence to fight.

And we always try to motivate older workers into taking action. The Easterhouse occupation, for instance, was started by young unemployed. But it has been gaining considerable support from housewives and trade unionists on the estate.

SWYM will be mounting a national rally in Manchester at the end of February. By then, there should be a wealth of experience to draw on. We will be in an excellent position to launch aggressive national campaigns around the issues that young workers face.



□ The latest issue of Fight, the SWYM paper, is out now. Available, price 10p (inc postage) from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 8DN. Ten copies 30p (inc postage).

Freedom—to be victimised...

By Julian Goss

CHRIS BAILEY, owner of Bristol Channel Ship Repairers, describes himself as 'a campaigner for freedom'.

For six months, he's master-minded the Tory campaign against nationalisation of shipyards and aircraft factories. The newspapers and the telly idolise him. He does not want state control. He wants 'free enterprise'.

What is this 'free enterprise'? Come down to Cardiff and you'll get one answer—from 30 workers who used to work for Bristol Channel Ship Repairers and Mr Bailey.

Petition

They dared to disagree with their management. In April 1975, they refused to sign his anti-nationalisation petition. They refused to take part in a special anti-nationalisation demonstration which Bailey organised for his workers.

Bailey and 'free enterprise' had a simple answer. The 30 workers were sacked. The sackings were supported by local Transport and General

Workers Union officials.

Graham Phillips, the local district secretary of the union, was close to Bailey. So close that Bailey ordered two workers up to Phillips' house to mend his roof after a gale.

Thirteen of the 30 took their case to an industrial tribunal, at which the

full glory of Bailey's free enterprise was exposed. Bailey's documentary evidence had been forged.

The tribunal found for the workers. Bailey appealed. Last week, while Bailey was getting on the telly every few hours to voice his belief in 'free enterprise', his appeal was turned

down at an appeals court in South Glamorgan.

Most of the Press and all of the telly forgot to report its findings.

The men, said the court, had been 'victimised'. But the courts can't give them their jobs back.

Remember this story next time you see Chris Bailey or his PR company's adverts on the telly. Remember what 'free enterprise' means.

Bilge

It means the right to agree with your boss—and the right to be sacked if you disagree with him. It means the right to fill up newspapers with bilge just because you've got the money to pay for ads. It means the right to buy lunches for Labour MPs.

It means the right to victimise on the shop floor, and bribe union officials to intervene. It means the right to be a hypocritical, lying, bullying parasite—and the right to masquerade on television as the opposite.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



QUOTE: from John Cooke, former Transport and General Workers full-time official, brought in (too late) to deal with Bristol Channel Ship Repairers.

When the men banned overtime in the first place—that was the way to fight the sackings. We could have won then.

But the union let these men down at every step. I've resigned as a full-timer myself. I certainly don't plan to give up the struggle, but it's become more and more obvious to me that the real strength lies on the shop floor.

The TUC and the union hierarchy are only concerned with the status quo. But we should be protecting our own members, not the bosses.

Freedom—to bribe MPs

BEFORE the summer break, Gerry Fitt, SDLP MP for West Belfast and Frank Maguire, Independent MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, had cause to complain to the Speaker of the Commons that they were being canvassed to the point of harassment.

During the summer, two holidaymakers walked into Frank's Bar, the public house in Lisnaska owned by Frank Maguire and asked for the proprietor. They were British

trade union men, they said, holidaying in Ireland with their wives.

The men drank in the bar and even joined in the Nationalist sing-song in the lounge upstairs. Eventually the talk came round to politics.

They knew

It would be a shame, they told Frank Maguire, if the Bristol Ship Repair Yard were to be nationalised, especially as a result of the Fermanagh MP's vote. They knew. They worked there.

One, Bernard Bulbin, was a shop steward. He didn't agree with the nationalisation plan, even though he was a union man. The company would suffer too much.

After they left, telephone calls and letters arrived regularly. There were calls from the company itself, exhorting the MP to come to London to talk to the people concerned.

'My wife and I were even invited to spend the weekend at Claridges,' Frank Maguire said.

—from the Irish Times, 20 November

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

BLIZZARD? SNOW PROBLEM!

SOCIALIST Worker rules, OK?

If you don't believe it, you should have been at the East of Scotland Socialist Worker Rally in Edinburgh on Saturday.

It was due to start at 9.30am. But Edinburgh woke on Saturday morning to find itself cut off from the outside world by heavy snow.

Long faces

People couldn't get in from ten miles away, never mind on trains from Glasgow, Dundee or South of the Border.

So the faces of the organisers were a bit long until

□ ANOTHER 66 people joined the International Socialists last week from 14 branches and districts. They included an AUEW shop steward, a GMWU branch chairman, the vice-president of a

students union, a NATFHE branch chairman, a TGWU branch committee member (bus conductor), a NUPE steward and branch secretary, and two NALGO branch committee members.

11am, when the first outside speaker managed to arrive. And from then on, success followed success.

John Deason's meeting on the Broad Left in the trade union movement was over-subscribed and people had to

be turned away.

Tony Cliff's session on racialism proved to be of the highest class and Harry McShane was as enjoyable as ever.

The films all went off without a hitch, as did the

plays and the rest of the organisation.

250 people attended and roughly 400 came to the Saturday night dance.

Eleven people joined the International Socialists, including one panel beater, one

electrician in the pits, two NALGO members, one unemployed worker and one nurse.

The financial appeal for the organisation made by Vincent Flynn on Sunday brought in a splendid £120.

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.

INTER-NATIONALISM

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

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

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

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

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

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

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

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

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

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

1300 SWs sold in Leeds



Last week's front page: it went down well in Leeds

SOCIALIST Worker took a giant step forward in Leeds last week thanks to the marvellous Hands Off Our Hospitals front page written for the paper by Leeds hospital workers.

Karen Gonzalez, local SW organiser, reports that the Leeds district upped their order from 550 to 850 on the strength of the story.

But by Thursday evening Karen was having to order 300 more and then on Friday she had to ask for another 150.

The sales went exceptionally well in the hospitals.

Response

In the town centre on Saturday, 75 were sold in just over an hour by contrast with the normal sale of 50 in three hours. The response in the pits was also excellent.

Saturday's Evening Post in Leeds led its front page on the Socialist Worker story, giving the paper's credibility another important boost.

The local Right to Work Campaign and supporters of the rank and file paper Hospital Worker have moved into action quickly.

They've set up a joint 'Save our Hospitals Campaign' to fight to keep the five threatened hospitals open.

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

BOOKMARX CLUB

Selections for the first quarter of 1977:

Coming in January:

My Life, by Leon Trotsky
Strumpet City, by James Plunkett: The story of the great lockout in Dublin in the early years of this century: an epic novel of class struggle

Late February:

The History and Practice of the Political Police in Britain, by Tony Bunyan: An authoritative study indispensable to all those active in politics. Available up to now only in a £5 hardback, this is the new revised and updated paperback edition.

Unemployment, by Sarah Cox and Bob Golden: A new book which combines the reasons for unemployment with a history of the workers' struggles against it and the facts about those out of work today. More than 90 photos, plus poems and songs.

One other title still under negotiation. Details soon.

A different kind of Book Club

The usual book club offers its members books at cheap rates in return for a commitment to buy a certain number of titles a year. The Bookmarx Club is different.

For £4.50 a quarter, we will send you selected books, many of them new publications. Among them will be some of the best paperbacks and pamphlets available.

Members will receive at least two books twice a quarter (sometimes with additional pamphlets) for roughly half the selling price.

HOW TO JOIN

You have to commit yourself to joining for at least a quarter, with payment in advance.

Anyone who can make payments for more than a quarter at a time will greatly help us. Otherwise, payments can be on a quarterly or monthly basis.

Quarterly payments of £4.50 must be paid before the start of each calendar quarter (first day of January, April, July and October).

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Write to: **Bookmarx Club, Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 (01-802 6145).**

Devolution - isn't the first letter wrong?

'THERE'S only one thing wrong with the word devolution—and that's the first letter.'

The words of veteran Clydeside socialist Harry McShane, speaking at the Albert Hall Rally to greet the Right to Work march last March.

The publication last week of the Labour government's White Paper on the subject

by LAURIE FLYNN

proved just how right he was.

Labour's devolution proposals will not increase by one jot the control working people have over their own lives. Nor, what's more, would the more 'radical' proposals being hawked by the Scottish

National Party or the Scottish Labour Party

A parliament in the Royal High School in Edinburgh will do nothing at all to challenge the power of the Distillers Corporation, or of the waster and SNP backer Sir Hugh Fraser and his kind.

It will do nothing to tackle the fantastic power of those who own vast tracts of the Highlands and Islands and who work hand-in-glove with

the multinational barons of oil and other industries.

Devolution is a sham, a sham designed to perpetuate the rule of a gang of ruling-class scoundrels.

Demolishes

Just how big a sham is exposed in a pamphlet published this week by Socialist Worker. Titled 'Nationalism or Socialism'

The politics of the SNP and the SLP exposed', it attacks the notion that nationalism is a way forward for workers in Scotland.

This is how the pamphlet demolishes the myth of Scotland's oil, showing how the SNP and the SLP intend to leave it securely in the hands of the multinationals:

'Exxon, Standard, Gulf and British Petroleum, these companies control the production

and marketing of North Sea Oil. Its geographical proximity to Scotland no more guarantees that Scottish workers will benefit from it, than the proximity of Holyrood Palace guarantees a bed to the homeless of the Grassmarket.

Yet the nationalists pretend that by calling it Scotland's oil and getting a Scottish Assembly we have largely tackled the problem. The multinationals still remain in control. They will close or run down whole oilfields just as they did in the late 1960's if it will jack up the price.

Unlikely

'The SNP are unlikely to bring Scotland to the brink of a confrontation with the multinationals. Their slogan 'It's Scotland's Oil' is merely meant to disguise the real relationship between Scottish financiers and industrialists on one side and the multinationals on the other.

'Scottish capitalists know their role is parasitic. They do not want direct control of production but a larger share of the oil revenues.

'With a Scottish state, these Scottish capitalists could take direct control of the royalties.

However, the limits have been set well in advance. William Wolfe has emphasised the 'responsibility' of the SNP to American businessmen.

Revenue

'The SLP sees its negotiations, not mainly with the multinationals, but with the British government. It hopes to gain 30 per cent of the present revenues.

'Both the SNP and the SLP are steering clear of nationalisation. In this they are less demanding than the 'feudal' sheikhs of the Gulf.

On the independence and power we really need, the pamphlet says:

'The creation of a Scottish Assembly would still leave us with our daily dictatorships. The moment we pass through the factory gate or office doors we are directed by bosses, elected by no one. Every small attempt to wrest some control both over our work situation and our home lives is fought for strenuously.

Accountable

'Trade unions, tenants' associations and other bodies have been the ways in which workers have tried to limit the dictatorial powers.

'The kind of independence and power we need is that which links together control over our day-to-day lives through workers' councils with international control over production for human needs. This means delegated powers and accountability to the workers' councils.

It is not the proximity of the governing bodies that matters. The corruption, if anything, is worse on local councils, as Glasgow and Dundee well show. What is important is that workers have some direct say in affairs that affect them vitally.'

These people aren't

committing any crime...



The Bill aims to outlaw any occupation—and that goes for Ford workers at Swansea (left) occupying in defence of jobs, as much as homeless families (below) squatting in a £65,000 Georgian house left empty by a City businessman

THOUSANDS of workers faced with redundancy have successfully used occupation as a weapon in the fight for the right to work.

Last week the Labour government introduced a Bill into parliament that will give the police wide new powers to break occupations.

Under the Bill, anyone taking part in a peaceful occupation could get up to two years jail. Criminal trespass proposals first outlined by the Tories in 1972 are now being adopted by a Labour government determined to push through Tory policies.

Package

The newspapers and television have covered up the real implications of the Criminal Trespass Bill by presenting it as a package of mild reforms which raises fines in line with inflation and only poses a threat to squatters.

At the same time a hysterical press campaign has convinced many people that there is a danger that on returning from holiday they will find their home invaded by squatters. Such cases have occurred rarely, if at all, as even the Home Office admits. If they do happen, existing criminal law already covers the situation.

THEY WILL BE IF THIS BILL IS PASSED

by ANDY FRIEND of the Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law

What the Bill really means:

YOU'RE TAKING OVER YOUR WORKPLACE: The boss or one of his security guards claims you threatened them with violence. The police arrest you.

The judge says you committed 'Violent entry' because by merely outnumbering the management you have in law 'intimidated them'. You get up to two years in jail.

YOU JOIN A PROTEST OCCUPATION OF COUNCIL OFFICES: The police break down the door, clear the building and arrest you. Your placard was an 'offensive weapon'. You can get up to six months.



YOU'RE STANDING OUTSIDE A FACTORY OCCUPATION when the bailiffs arrive to evict it. You link arms to show your support for the workers inside.

Under the Bill a bailiff will be able to arrest you and you could get six months in jail for obstructing him.

For the past two years the Campaign against a Criminal Trespass Law (CACTL) has been fighting to defeat these proposals by exposing the threat to the trade union movement.

Opposed

So far it has gained the support of 30 trades councils, 60 trade union branches, 15 constituency Labour Parties, 50 student unions and many community groups. The public employees' union (NUPE), the film workers union (ACTT) and the National Union of Students have opposed the introduction of a criminal trespass law.

But the TUC, disregarding a conference resolution calling for occupations to be immune from legal attack, have only halfheartedly opposed two of the five new offences defined under the Bill.

CACTL is calling on all trade unionists, students and tenants to raise the issue in their organisations as a matter of urgency.

Raise the issue in your organisation and affiliate to CACTL (cost £5).

Work with your local CACTL group. Organise a meeting in your workplace or area.

Lobby your MP: Support the national day of action on Saturday 19 February.

Leaflets, posters and speakers from CACTL, c/o 6 Bowden Street, London SE 11. (phone 01-289-3877).

What we can do about NUS collapse

by LINDSEY GERMAN

MORE THAN 100 students, official delegates from 29 student unions, observers from a further 11, met in Manchester last weekend to discuss the collapse of the National Union of Students service companies and how to fight the right wing.

The meeting was called by the International Socialists student organisation, NOISS. Graham Threlfall, NOISS member and member of the union executive, talked about how the present NUS leadership played into the hands of the right by stressing services rather than the political role of the union.

This point was stressed again in the speeches on local action.

Middlesex Poly, stressed the importance of fighting against the attacks on overseas students. She criticised the NUS executive for giving little support to this and for their refusal to spread the occupations.

What was needed was a union committed to fighting over grants, against cuts and higher overseas students fees—only then would students see the relevance of the union.

This point was stressed again in the speeches on local action.

Middlesex Poly, stressed the importance of fighting against the attacks on overseas students. She criticised the NUS executive for giving little support to this and for their refusal to spread the occupations.

Andy Strouthous, student president at North East London Poly, who has just been expelled for picketing a governors' meeting, called on the NUS executive to organise national support

Ranted

Neither of these points was answered by Dave Aaronovitch, the NUS executive member responsible for services, who turned up at the conference and was allowed to speak. Instead he ranted about delegates being irresponsible, ignorant, irrelevant and out to wreck the union.

Needless to say, this didn't get a good response from delegates.

A delegate from Swansea—like Aaronovitch, a member of the Communist Party, and one of a group of Broad Left members from Swansea who came to the conference fed up with the executive's behaviour—felt compelled to attack him from the platform immediately after his speech.

Despite these rows, the meeting did get some policy hammered out. Local action was seen as the way to defend the union—and it was resolved to spread action

There was also a call to link with workers fighting the cuts.

Meeting for all NOISS members and sympathisers at NUS Conference. Friday 10 December, 4.30 pm, in conference hall, Blackpool.

NATIONALISM OR SOCIALISM? A socialist Worker pamphlet. 17p each including postage (10 copies for £1) from: SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. SW, 9 (1FL) High Street, Edinburgh. SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

The Labour Party's 'Honourable Algernon' broadcast claimed that the government is opposed to rich parasites and doing something about them. But where is Harold Wilson's New Britain?

Class and capital

'MOST shareholders are smallholders. But most share capital is tightly bunched in a few hands.

'And it is capital that carries weight, not heads. People owning shares to the tune of £20,000 and more in 1970 were a small minority among a tiny minority—no more than eight per cent of all individual shareholders; about one half of one per cent of the entire adult population.

'But they disposed of nearly 70 per cent of all corporate capital in personal hands.'

1970, it may be recalled, was the sixth and last year of Harold Wilson's 'New

Britain' where, in the 'white heat of the technological revolution', the government was 'achieving a fair distribution of the national dividend'—or so Wilson claimed.

Since then we have had nearly four years of Tory government and getting on for three of Social Con-Trick Labour. It is a safe bet that the half of one per cent still own the 70 per cent. But it can't actually be proved just yet.

Shareholding

As John Westergaard and Henrietta Resler explain in their new book *Class in a Capitalist Society*, from which the information about shareholding is

taken, 'the record of events lags behind the events themselves and, most important, the official figures 'cannot be used simply as they stand' because they are drawn up for purposes quite different from ours.

The great merit of this book (Penguin, £1.50) is that it presents a vast amount of information about 'class inequality—its nature and extent in present day Britain'. The amount of work involved in preparing it must have been tremendous.

The Guardian complained last week about a Labour Party TV broadcast. 'Its cartoon hero—the Honourable Algernon—moving from nursing home birth to Eton to cosy boardroom niche seemed crudely divisive . . .

The notion of Algie as a represen-

tative of rich, ten per cent Britain, swanning on the backs of the groaning workers was pretty silly too.'

Pretty silly? But it is an incontestable fact that nearly 94 per cent of the people of this country own no shares at all and that the eight per cent who do own them live off the backs of the workers and live very well too.

Inequality

As Westergaard points out, official statistics show that the top ten per cent of the population gets 25 per cent of all personal income and 'these figures understate the real extent of inequality'. There are plenty of Honourable Algernons about.

What was scandalous about that Labour Party broadcast was that it pretended that the Labour government is opposed to rich parasites and was even taking steps to do away with them.

That claim is a downright lie.

The whole economic strategy of the Labour government is directed to increasing profits. Increasing profits means more, not less, to the profiteers.

It means more and more unearned loot for the Honourable Algernons and less real pay, less social services and more unemployment for the rest of us.

Back in May, Callaghan spelled it out: 'I do not believe one can force the large private sector to invest . . . you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.'

'Therefore you have to apply the necessary incentives which will compel it to drink.'

'As this party has always stood for a mixed economy, and not a totally controlled economy, that must be the basis on which our economic policy proceeds.'

'Incentive'

The 'necessary incentives' are, of course, increased profits and that, Callaghan says, 'must be the basis on which our economic policy proceeds'.

In short, the government's economic policy aims to make the rich richer. And it is doing just that.

To conclude, a few quotations from *Class in a Capitalist Society*—all of them amply documented in the book.

'Proportionate to their incomes, the poor and the mass of the ordinary wage earners carry hardly less of the weight of taxation than do the rich.'

'Wage-earners pay for their "welfare state" largely out of their own pockets.'

'Some one per cent of the adult population have as large a share of all income after tax as the poorest 30 per cent.'

All this is after no less than six Labour governments so far, each one of which promised a New Britain!

Who are these scabs?



STUDENTS Ribhi Alhadidi and Dinash Choudry were stabbed to death when they were attacked by a group of four youths this summer.

During the three day trial at Chelmsford Crown Court last week it was said in defence of the youths that they 'only meant to give them a bit of stick . . . rough them up a bit.'

Alan Jones, 16, who produced the knife and stabbed the students was found guilty of murder and detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

His three companions admitted 'making an affray' and were each fined £150 with a six-month suspended sentence.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

'I can't help wondering if the whole of my life has been lived in vain and if that is not the reason why I'm so glad to have given up adult education and journalism and taken on a spell as a professional politician—a member of the ruling establishment.'

'How ironically suitable our position here at Prescote is to this task. Here are Anne and I, people of affluence, running a big farm and therefore just suitable for being members of the establishment.'

'Is it hypocrisy to say this? No, because I've abandoned the aims in which I believed the Workers' Educational Association and I now accept that the settled and just management of society by a progressive oligarchy is probably the best we can hope for.'

—CROSSMAN DIARIES, SUNDAY TIMES NOVEMBER 28.

WITHOUT COMMENT: Hursal Investments, the property company which held the lease of the Royal Hotel on Brighton seafront where five people died in a fire in January, were fined £1000 with £250 costs at Brighton Crown Court. They admitted having no fire certificate.

NATIONAL FRONT Committee member Michael Taunton was carrying a knife when he was searched by police in the grounds of Goodmayes Hospital, Ilford.

Taunton claimed that he had been threatened by 'extreme left wingers' who had taken his photograph on NF marchers, and he carried the knife for protection. He was fined £25 at Stratford court.

WITHOUT COMMENT: Planet Earth—science fiction film about a future age when women dominate the world. Starring John Saxon.

—from the London Evening Standard TV Guide

THIS IS a rogues gallery of bosses' narks.

These people were photographed going into the annual meeting of Truemid in London on Saturday.

Truemid, the employers' organisation which operates inside the trade unions, plans to spend £133,000 in the next year in campaigns to get right-wingers elected to union offices.

Can you put names to the faces?

'Punk rock' rules?

PUNK ROCK has surfaced with a torrent of abuse. Its images span the political spectrum, but the common element is anger, anger of working class kids, totally pissed off with the system.

The press hysteria is predictable. But what really happened? An obnoxious TV 'interviewer' was called a fucking bastard, someone kicked their colour telly in and the Daily Mirror had orgasms of garbage.

So, what's it all about, Grundy? If you're 17, bored out of your skull, on the dole and sick to death of promises that never come true, trapped in a tower block, you must be a vandal.

If you talk about the obsenity of unemployment on telly you can get shouted down, as the Right to Work Marchers were by Lew Gardner. And who complains then?—ROGER HUDDLE

Gentleman Jack

AS WE all know Jack Jones is a man of the people. And last week at the crucial Docks Delegates Conference, there was a good example of his love for his fellow man.

At the conference, several delegates raised a furore over the threatened sackings in Preston Docks.



The anger was taken out of the meeting, when Jones himself read out a statement and promised to meet the deputation of 60 Preston dockers who had travelled overnight to picket the conference.

At the end of the meeting Jones did meet some of the Preston lads, for a few minutes on the stage of the Conference Room.

He was approached by a member of the TGWU National Docks Group Committee—the highest committee in the Docks Trade Group of the TGWU.

All he wanted to do was to add his weight to the Preston men's protest, but Bro Jones turned round on him and said: 'Either you fuck off or I do.'

It's a pity he doesn't speak to the employers like that.

IT COMES as no surprise to find that the National Front are not adding their weight to the Agee and Hosenball Defence Campaign.

After an anti-fascist counter-demonstration at

Off the record...

AN OBSCENE little pamphlet called Did Six Million Really Die? was sent to the head of history at a Manchester school.

It was written by the fictitious Richard Harwood (almost certainly Richard Verral of the National Front). The booklet claims that only 300,000 Jews died in concentration camps, that the Anne Frank diary is a fake and that none of the camps had gas chambers.

Fortunately the head of history happens to be Jewish and sent the whole lot to the

Speakers Corner two years ago, some Socialist Worker supporters were going back to their minibus which was parked near the US Embassy.

They told Socialist Worker, 'Just as we were getting in we noticed a small party of National Front supporters bearing a flagpole approach the embassy. Two patrolling policemen approached them, then moved off. Seconds later a side door to the embassy opened to let the NF member in.'

education authority. The authority has not taken it any further.

Another Manchester school sent for a catalogue of Christmas goods to sell (to raise money for school funds).

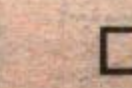
Back came the samples—a couple of pens, a key ring and a badge for the British Movement with a fascist symbol and the slogan White Power.

How many other schools have received this filth? Have a few seeds been sown? DICK BROWN

Sir Oswald who?

SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, the leader of the British fascists before the war and a devoted admirer of Adolf Hitler was on television last week.

After the programme the self-styled British Fuehrer was going to a hotel for the night. The taxi arrived and the obsequious BBC man escorting Mosley said to the taxi driver: 'Take Sir Oswald Mosley to Claridges'.



The taxi driver replied—Sir Oswald who? And the BBC man announced again—'Sir Oswald Mosley'.

The taxi driver told the BBC man and Sir Oswald what they could do with themselves in clear and vivid language and drove off leaving Mosley standing on the pavement.

Socialist Worker

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JAMAICA

PICKET SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE!



A TORCHLIGHT picket of South Africa House in Trafalgar Square has been called for this Friday (11 December), 5.30-7.30pm. It is SATIS, the campaign for the release of political prisoners in Southern Africa. Supporters of the South Africa Solidarity Campaign are urged to attend.

Jobs lies

UNEMPLOYMENT in the United States rose by another 200,000 last month. And in West Germany rose by 41,000. So much for those who blame the plight of the unemployed on 'lazy British workers' or the welfare services.

60 at school

MORE THAN 60 delegates attended a school organised by the International Department of IS last weekend. There was an enthusiastic and wide-ranging discussion beginning with the world crisis and moving on to the questions of Southern Africa, the revolutionary left in Europe and the eventual aim of building a new revolutionary international.

Murderers

FOUR Brazilian policemen are under arrest—for carrying out an execution in which one of their intended victims survived. Daniel Sousa, 23, was one of three people arrested by the notorious Death Squad for possessing marijuana. The three were taken to a deserted road and executed. But Sousa survived. His parents have proved that he had never been arrested before, that he had been honourably discharged from the Brazilian Army and that he was duly registered with the income tax authorities. The Death Squad has executed thousands of left-wing activists and alleged criminals. There has been growing pressure against their activities.

Hunger strikes

IRANIAN students in many Western cities are now on hunger strike in protest at the Paris trial of two leading activists for the attempted murder of a known SAVAK agent. To support or send messages to the hunger strikers in London, visit or write to C.I.S.N.U., 101/102 Gower Street, W.C.1.

BOB Marley, the reggae singer, was shot and wounded last Saturday—because of his politics.

His wife, and two members of his band, were shot too. They are seriously ill.

The group were sitting in Marley's front room discussing plans for a free concert in support of Prime Minister Michael Manley's Peoples National Party.

The PNP is defending its large majority in a general election on Wednesday.

TERRORISTS

Its opponents, big business's absurdly titled Jamaica Labour Party, is trying to terrorise the people into voting against the government.

It is handing out guns and inviting people to shoot up prominent PNP supporters. It hopes Jamaican workers will opt for a 'quiet life' and vote for big business.

The 'quiet life' the JLP has in store is a dictatorship no less brutal than that imposed by Pinochet in Chile.

It wants to make Jamaica free for the marauders of the tourist, bauxite and banana industries.

In 1972, the People's National Party was elected with a large majority on a programme of social reform.

Manley's government struggled to introduce reforms, such as equal pay and a minimum wage. It imposed a

Are big business and the CIA planning a Chile-style coup?

By PAUL FOOT



Bob Marley: shot because of his politics



Manley: old mistake

royalty on bauxite, one of Jamaica's main raw materials.

Aluminium sells at 800 dollars a ton. Manley imposed 40 dollars 50 cents a ton.

Manley's government infuriated the American State Department by openly supporting the MPLA liberation forces in Angola, and helping the troops from Cuba who went to the MPLA's aid.

Manley joined forces with Cuba and other governments of poor countries in a campaign to raise the prices of food and raw materials.

Big business in Jamaica, America and Britain respond-

ed with traditional savagery. Revere, bauxite manufacturers, closed down their bauxite plant in Clarendon, throwing 500 workers out of work.

More than £200 million was sent out of Jamaica by the local ruling class. Foreign investment dropped by half between 1974 and 1975.

The American tourist industry published a series of mass leaflets headed 'Jamaica goes Communist'.

As a result, tourist cruises have been re-routed past Jamaica, plunging whole areas in the North of the island into unemployment.

BAUXITE

At the same time, the working people of Jamaica have been squeezed by the rise in price of the things they need from abroad, mainly oil, and the fall in prices of the things they sell—bananas, sugar and bauxite.

Unemployment is 26 per cent—higher even than when Manley was first elected. There is no unemployment pay.

The minimum wage has not

kept up with inflation. There is desperate poverty.

Manley has made the old mistake of infuriating big business and its supporters without destroying their power.

Now those businessmen are using that power to destroy him.

PNP

If, as seems likely, the PNP win with a reduced majority, the pressure from the class with property will intensify.

The signs are that Manley will respond as Allende responded in Chile—by forcing back the rising tide of workers' anger, and by appealing to nationalist sentiments.

While more and more Jamaican money pours out of the country into the luxury second homes of Jamaican businessmen in Miami and Canada, Manley and Co will appeal to 'all Jamaicans to unite against the foreign threat'.

The working class of Jamaica is strong. It has at its disposal huge mineral resources, and food enough for all the people of the island.

If it mobilised, it can deal

tremendous blows to American big business plunderers and their Jamaican supporters.

If not, if it leaves politics to Michael Manley and his advisers, the cricket ground at Sabina Park could become a prison for socialists every bit as brutal as was the football stadium in Santiago in the grim autumn of 1973.

JAMAICA WORKERS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
Public meetings

MANCHESTER: Sunday 19 December, 7.15pm, Whally Hotel, Brooks Bar.

LEEDS: Friday 10 December, 8pm, Trades Club, Savile Mount, Chapeltown. Speaker: Paul Gordon.

BRIXTON: Saturday 18 December, 6.30pm, Abeng Centre, 7 Gresham Road.

CIA OUT! Picket US Embassy, Thursday 9 December, 4.30pm

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

PICKET SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE: Friday 10 December, 5.30-7.30pm, for release of political prisoners.

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.



Pinochet, Chile's dictator and friend



THE DYERS AND BLEACHERS

Whose side are they on?

WE ARE members of the National Union of Dyers and Bleachers. We believe that our union is rotten.

We have been trying for several months now to get our legitimate worries and complaints heard in the official machinery of the union. We have had no luck.

Resolutions have been ignored or glossed over. Private inquiries are treated with contempt or rudeness.

We are writing to Socialist Worker in the hope that you will give publicity to our case.

On 3 January 1975, two fine fighters for dyers and bleachers were expelled from the union: Keith Griffin and Claude Lavender.

They were expelled for assisting angry workers who occupied the head office of the union—their own union—in protest against the treatment of workers at Intex Yarns.

Brave

Keith Griffin was also accused of writing for Socialist Worker! Claude Lavender, himself an elected member of the union executive, was refused leave to appeal.

Subsequently we lost two other good members, Dave Hallsworth and D Rhodes, from Intex Yarns, where they had conducted a brave fight for trade union rights and against victimisation.

The latest member to be penalised is Tommy Miskell, former convenor at Birstall Carpets, at Batley in Yorkshire, who has a formidable history of defending our union members.

His crime? He 'told an

official, Eddie Haigh, what he thought of him'. His punishment? Suspension from holding any office in the union for three years. He is not even allowed to attend meetings of his branch at Batley, where he has consistently upheld trade union rights for many years.



Claude Lavender

What sort of people have been carrying out this attack on rank and file militants?

As an example we cite Ivy Abson, branch secretary at Wakefield and a member of the executive. Rules 6 (e) and 12 (b) of our union state clearly that any officer or executive member of the union must be 'working in the trade'.

This is a bad rule which is often used by the executive against militants

standing for office when they have been victimised or when they become unemployed. But why doesn't it apply to Ivy Abson?

She hasn't worked in the trade for ten years or more, as we've found out from her former employer, Patons and Baldwins, of Horbury, near Wakefield.

Is there one rule for Claude Lavender and another for his persecutors, like Ivy Abson? We'd like to know.

We'd also like to know whether Ivy Abson receives payments for 'loss of earnings' when she goes to union meetings.

Less good

Our union officials are good at looking after themselves, but less good at looking after the membership. In 1975, the full-time officers' salaries review, which normally comes into effect in September, was brought forward to June, thus neatly avoiding the £6 pay limit of that year, which came in August.

So the officials got rises of about £7 a week. The members were fobbed off with £3.57.

What is happening in our union? How is it that fine militants who keep the organisation going are chucked out and suspended, while the officials pay themselves more than their members?

How is it that rules are applied to some members, and not to others if they toe the line?

Is it true that executive members are paid twice for their meetings, once by the union and once by the employers?

Every member of the union should seek an answer to these questions NOW.

Picture: Shelter



LEFT: Looking at second-hand shoes on Brixton Market.

RIGHT: And Bond Street, in London's West End, with shoes costing between £28.95 and £34.75. The total supplementary benefit payment each week for a man and woman with two children under five is less than £28.95.

Pictures by Bob Golden, from 'Down the Road, Unemployment and the Fight for the Right to Work', to be published next month.

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

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LAW AND ORDER

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Who is the scrounger?

The man on £4

a week or the one on £517?

EVERY Monday morning in Salford, Manchester, a queue forms outside a factory.

The men and women are queuing for the privilege of earning about 10p an hour, or between £4 and £5 for a 35 to 40-hour week. They take part in a secret scheme run by the massive Manchester firm Ward and Goldstone.

The scheme is called Homework. Every Monday men and women take

home in trolleys and baskets hundreds of tiny screws and terminals. The job consists of putting the screws in the terminals.

Twenty years ago the rate of pay for this was 1½ old pence for each 144 completed. Today it has reached 7p for 100.

Most of those who take this work home are housewives, pensioners or single parents, or the unemployed.

Some earning this

money may be on social security. If they were identified, their social security. If they were stopped and they would be prosecuted.

The Daily Express and the Sun would no doubt have a field day denouncing the 'scroungers' who had been caught out. They are unlikely to mention the real scrounger who runs the whole operation.

Sampson Goldstone CB, the chairman of Ward and

THIS IS THE WELFARE STATE

Unemployed and homeless, a family with seven children lived (left), in a van in Essex. Social services sent them back 'home' to Barking in East London, where another social services department 'stepped in'—and found them a space for their van on a gipsy caravan site. A Barking social worker commented: 'The gipsies did more for the family than us'.

Thirteen million in poverty

THIRTEEN million people in Britain live in poverty—a quarter of the population.

And during two years of the Labour government's 'Social Contract' the number of people driven into poverty has risen by a third.

These horrifying figures were published this week by the Child Poverty Action Group.

They show how, instead of conquering poverty, government policies are pushing more and more people into destitution.

The poverty-stricken used to be pensioners, the sick, single parents with families, the physically handicapped. Now those millions have been joined by millions more—the unemployed and the employed. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, tens of thousands now living in poverty are working at full-time jobs.

Two million people now get less than the supplementary benefit level. Most do not receive supplementary benefit because they have full-time jobs.

Another 3,700,000 people are living on supplementary benefit. A man and wife with two children

under five receive £27.85 a week, plus rent.

The payment for each child is £3.60 a week—just 51p a day to live on.

Another 7,300,000 are living on an income of no more than 40 per cent above the supplementary benefit level. For a man, wife and two children under five this means just under £34 a week.

As thousands have been forced on to the dole, small factory sweatshops have opened in every city. Long hours, little or no protection against injury, low wages, and no union organisation mark out these places.

Sweatshops

At Grunwicks film processing plant in West London, Asian workers have exposed one such sweatshop. One worker there told Socialist Worker she was taking home £18 for a 40-hour week.

The Grunwicks workers are now on strike. Hundreds of thousands of others are still working under such conditions, in sweatshops, in offices and in hotel and catering jobs.

They are among the millions driven into poverty by this government. And now more cuts are on the way—which can only make this poverty worse.

THE FACTS

IN 1975 it took a worker on the average industrial wage 1 minute and 48 seconds to earn enough to buy one pound of potatoes—in 1976 it takes 4 minutes 36 seconds.

Britain imported 3.2 million bottles of champagne from France in the first ten months of this year, more than double last year. Britain is now the world's leading champagne importer.

1,200,000 houses were 'unfit for human habitation', according to official government figures in 1971. All were being lived in.

At the same time there were over 675,000 empty houses in England and Wales—100,000 in London alone. More than 300,000 rich people also owned two or more homes.

In 1970, 26,323 families, around 100,000 people, applied for temporary accommodation because they were homeless. In 1975 the number of families rose to 50,840, around 250,000 people. The figures exclude single people and are for England alone.

OCTOBER 1976: Prices rose by 3p in every pound in the month—meat, bacon, bread, tea, potato products, fish, butter, cakes, biscuits, sweets, chocolates went up. Rents rose by 1½ p in the pound, gas and solid fuel by 10p. Clothes and shoes by 1½p.

The Financial Times is recommending a Christmas present for the 'elusive man who has everything...' It's a signature, in neon lights. 'You should send a signature written on a very large piece of paper, large enough for the signwriter to work from. The light from the neon tubing has that lovely blue look so typical of neon lights...I think it's great fun.' The cost is £150.



Slum housing in Cymmer, South Wales



Kitchen is on the stairs for this family in Lambeth, South London. Mother, father, and three children live in two rooms.

Goldstone.
Last year he got a pay rise of £50.34 a week, bringing his weekly wage up to £517.44. He also holds about 370,000 shares in the Ward and Goldstone Group, which pay him cash dividends.
In 1972 one of his employees, then Mayor of Salford, recommended he be made a freeman of the City of Salford. This was agreed 'in recognition of his eminent services to Salford in industry and social welfare and as a Justice of the Peace of the City.

Picture: Shelter

Notices and meetings

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

THE MURRAYS MUST NOT HANG! Manchester Meeting: Friday 10 December, 8pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate. Speaker from the Defence Committee and hopefully a relative.

CRITIQUE CONFERENCE: The working class in Eastern Europe. Friday 10 December, 7pm, and Saturday 11 December, 9.30am, at Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1. Speakers include E Baluka (Polish strike leader) and Bill Lomax.

RACISM AND HOW TO FIGHT IT: Harlow public meeting, Monday 13 December, 8pm, Stavanger Room, Harlow Town Hall. Speakers: Europe Singh, Ernie Roberts (AUEW) and Neil Kinnock MP. Organised by Harlow Trades Council. **Anti-Fascist Committee STREET MEETING:** Saturday 11 December, 11.30am, by the Trigon station, The High, Harlow. Local trade unionists and councillors speaking on the racist threat.

ZIMBABWE—Neo-colonialism or Liberation? Teach-in: Sunday 12 December, 10.30am-6pm, 34/6 Bedford Square, London WC1. Speakers from Zimbabwe and others. Registration fee £2.

NO FASCISTS IN BRITAIN: Demonstrate Saturday 11 December, 11.30am, Brixton Oval (opposite Lambeth Town Hall). Called by Lambeth Anti-Racist Movement, supported by Lambeth Trades Council and Socialist Worker. All Socialist Worker supporters should attend.

CYPRIT WORKER fund-raising SOCIAL: Saturday 11 December, 8pm, at 57 Foulden Road, London N16. Drinks and free food. 50p admission.

DANCE IN AID OF COVENTRY IGWU STRIKERS: Friday 10 December, 8pm-2am, Transport House, London Road, Coventry. Dance band, late bar, 50p admission.

CONCERTS FOR CHILE: Presented by the Chile Committee for Human Rights in aid of children's dining rooms in Chile.

LIVERPOOL: Friday 10 December, 7.45pm, Mountford Hall, Liverpool University Students Union, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool 3. With Karaxu, Adrian Liver and Pete McGovern. Tickets £1.

JOURNALISTS CHARTER/CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM IN THE MEDIA: Christmas disco: Tuesday 21 December, 8pm-midnight, St Hilda's East Community Centre, Club Row, Bethnal Green, London E2. Tickets £1 from Jean Gray, 01-739 6361.

RED LADDER GRAND BENEFIT: Friday 10 December, doors open 7pm, performance starts 8pm, St Pancras Town Hall, Euston Road, London N1 (nearest tube Kings Cross). Bar open 7pm-11pm. Tickets £1 at the door.

New issue of CYPRIT WORKER out now! Articles include: Stop the deportations, fight against racism, the Cypriot Defence Campaign, Why immigration controls are racist and anti-working class, CYPRUS—LETTER FROM A WORKER, Cypriot workers victims of exploitation in Czechoslovakia, The 'industrial revolution' of the ruling class, TURKEY—The general strike and the rise of Turkish workers, Overseas students and the fight back. Copies 12p including postage from CYPRIT WORKER, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

DIARY OF PALESTINE 1977: Illustrated and informative, £1 plus 25p postage from Palestine Action, Basement, 101-103 Gower Street, London WC1.

1976—A DOSSIER OF STRUGGLE: Red Notes and Stage 1 Books are preparing a dossier for 1976, but due to limited resources, may have difficulty with the sections covering Women's struggles, the struggle in Ireland, and Immigrant struggles in Britain. Anyone who can help, please contact 1976 Dossier, Stage 1 Books, 21 Theobalds Road, London WC1.

Issue 2 of THE LEVELLER out now. Northern Ireland torturers named! Struggle for Southern Africa, Understanding the Cuts, Politrock: The Derelicts, Repression in West Germany, and Hobsbawm on bandit films. Send 35p plus postage to 155a Drummond Street, London NW1. Subscriptions £5.

WANTED: Actors to form socialist theatre group in Birmingham. Contact R Honey, 184b Middleton Hall Road, Birmingham 30.

ROADGANG, Tyne-side based political theatre group, requires performers (M/F). Musical ability preferred. Equity rates. Write to Roadgang, 13 Swinburn Street, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

Scotland

EAST KILBRIDE Socialist Worker public meeting: Nationalism and internationalism—what we think about a separate Scotland and socialism. Tuesday 14 December, 8pm, The Murray Halls, The Murray.

EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion group meets every Saturday, 11.30am, Room 9, Societies Centre, 21 Hill Place (off Nicholson Street, opposite Nicholson Square). Open to all SW readers. Further information from Penicuk 72819.

ABERDEEN Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism: Every second Wednesday, 7.30pm, Trades Council Rooms, 24 Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC Cinema). All welcome.

22 December. History and traditions of the International Socialists—towards the Socialist Worker Party. Speaker: Des Murphy (IS).

Yorkshire

DONCASTER Socialist Worker public meeting: The Need for a Socialist Workers' Party. Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS national secretary). Monday 13 December, 7.30pm, Mason's Arms, Market Place.

SHIPLEY, West Yorkshire: Anyone interested in forming a branch of the International Socialists, please phone Shipley 593669.

BRADFORD and SHIPLEY: Socialist Worker always available at Fourth Idea Bookshop, Bradford.

SHEFFIELD and ROTHERHAM Socialist Worker Xmas Social in aid of Anti-Racist Fund: Friday 17 December, 8pm, Sheffield University Students Union, Western Bank. Disco, live band, food and other surprises. Late bar. Tickets £1 (60p for unemployed and students) from Simon Turner, 63 Sheldon Road, Sheffield.

LEEDS Weekend School for new members of the International Socialists: 11-12 December (starting 2pm Saturday), at 43 Park Street, Leeds. Duncan Hallas on The Origins and Development of IS, and on Trade Unions and Rank and File Groups—how we operate: Open to members of all Yorkshire branches. Accommodation and food provided. Registration £1, unemployed 25p. Phone Leeds 789765 (Leeds district secretary).

North West

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

BIRKENHEAD and WALLASEY area: Anyone interested in forming or attending a Socialist Worker discussion group in this area, please contact Birkenhead IS, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

BOOTLE Socialist Worker supporters meet every Thursday for informal discussion meetings in the Franbar Hotel, 15 St Catherine's Road, Bootle, Liverpool 20 (two minutes from Bootle Town Hall, three minutes from New Strand shopping precinct). All welcome.

LONGSIGHT Socialist Worker public meeting: The Socialist Alternative to Labour. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 15 December, 8pm, Longsight Town Hall, Stockport Road.

BLACKBURN Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.

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

Send in your money and counterfoils NOW

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.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Socialist Worker public meetings

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

WALSALL SW Asian Day School: Nigel Harris on what's happening in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Second session on Fighting Racism in Britain and Building the Socialist Workers Party. Sunday 12 December, 10am-5pm, White Hart, Caldmore.

WARRINGTON Socialist Worker public meeting: Can socialism be achieved with Labour? Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 16 December, 7.30pm, for further details phone Padgate 811584.

MANCHESTER: Regular informal Socialist Worker/International Socialists get-together every Wednesday, 8.30pm-10.30pm, The Wheatsheaf, Deansgate. Come for a drink and a chat! All welcome.

CHESTER: Thursday 16 December—All SW supporters are urged to support the Chester Trades Council lobby against the cuts. Lobby the county council meeting from 11.30am onwards at County Hall. Transport available afterwards to Warrington for public meeting with Paul Foot at 7.30pm. See your local SW sellers for details.

STOCKPORT Socialist Worker public meeting: The Politics of Homosexuality. Thursday 16 December, 8pm, Spreadeagle pub, Hillgate.

STOCKPORT Grand MarXmas Social: Friday 17 December, 8pm, The Navigation pub, Lancashire Hill, followed by a party.

MERSEYSIDE SW TOUR: 2 February in South Liverpool, 3 February in Bootle. Speaker: Paul Foot. 9 February in Birkenhead, 10 February in Kirby. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Plus lunchtime meetings at Liverpool University, Liverpool Polytechnic and colleges of education. More details later.

MANCHESTER SW Christmas Party: Thursday 23 December, 8pm-2am, Waves Club, Dantzig Place off Shudehill. Details from bookshop.

SALFORD SW public meeting: Inflation and wage freeze. Wednesday 15 December, 8pm, Kings Arms Hotel, Whit Lane.



LEEDS Socialist Worker Youth Movement and Right to Work Campaign **ROCK AGAINST RACISM** concert: Saturday 11 December, 7.30pm, The Lipman Building, Leeds University (behind playhouse). Foxp (unemployed) 25p.

WALSALL Rock against Racism disco: Friday 17 December, 8pm till late. Long Acres pub, Dillways, Willenhall. Late bar. Food. All proceeds to Walsall anti-fascist defence fund.

Midlands

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

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

LEICESTER SW discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam, Blackburn.



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

SOUTHERN AFRICA Victory to the freedom Fighters! Build the solidarity campaign! Socialist Worker public meetings

BIRMINGHAM: Sunday 12 December, 3.30pm, Digbeth City Hall. Film on Soweto and speakers from the Zimbabwe People's Army and the International Socialists.

NORTH WEST LONDON: Wednesday 15 December, 7.30pm, Luncheon Rooms, Ladbroke Grove. Speakers from the Zimbabwe People's Army and the Southern African Solidarity Campaign.

London

International Socialists GAY Group meets regularly in London, on Mondays. Phone 790-2545 or 800-8557 for details: 19 Redmans Road, London, E1 3AQ.

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Worker meetings on Marxism and Working-Class History. Thursdays at 7.30pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE17.

16 December: Gareth Jenkins on 'Is Russia Socialist? Does it matter?'

SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker Jumble Sale: Saturday 11 December, 12noon-3pm, Chatham Hall, corner of Chatham Road and Northcote Road, SW11. We need lots of jumble and help. Phone 767-2537 for collection and further details.

WEST MIDDLESEX Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism. Every other Monday, 7.45pm at the Mill Hill Tavern, Gunnersbury Lane, opposite Acton Hospital (E3 bus route, nearest tube Acton Town). 13 December: South Africa 3 January: Family Life and Capitalism 17 January: Racism today and how to fight it

South East

NORWICH Socialist Worker public meeting: The Fight against Racism and Unemployment. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 16 December, 8pm, Shire Hall Hotel, Norwich (near Anglia TV building).

CROYDON SW public meeting: Fight the Cuts. Speaker: Sandra Peers. Thursday 16 December, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane).

NORTH ESSEX SW District Public Meeting: How we're organising for socialism. For all members and supporters in Colchester, Harlow, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Witham, Maldon and Braintree. Speakers will include Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker) Saturday 18 December, 3.30pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill (near Witham Station). Creche.

NORTH ESSEX SW Christmas Social: Socialist theatre from CAST, disco, booze, food. Saturday 18 December, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham. Admission £1.

CHELMSFORD SW meets every Thursday, 8pm, at the Royal Steamer (behind Chelmsford station). All meetings open to members and supporters.

South West

BRISTOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Baptist Knowles Community Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs. (off Mina Road, near M32).

16 December: Ireland's British problem

NOISS:

National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY International Socialists Society: Series of meetings on The Meaning of Marxism. Alternate Tuesdays, 1pm, OM Committee Rooms. Every other Tuesday: public meetings on various issues.

14 December: Thinking the Right Thoughts. Speaker: Pete Beharrell. 18 January: Women under capitalism.

NOISS Christmas Rally: CAST presents The Cuts. The struggle for socialism and why we need a revolutionary party. Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), Bob Light (London dockers) and an international speaker. Chairman: Andy Durgan (NUS Executive). Plus disco. Thursday 9 December, 7pm, Room S101a, London School of Economics, Houghton Street.



SUPERB LENIN BADGES—15p each. All proceeds to NOISS. Orders for ten or more post free—if not, send stamped, addressed envelope. Money with orders to NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Notices

THE FIGHTING ALTERNATIVE TO LABOUR... Socialist Worker

The Paper That Says:

- ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
- CUT YOUR OWN THROAT, HEALER, NOT OURS!
- Call this a Labour government!

LEAFLETS for building Socialist Worker sales on council estates. £1.50 for 1000 from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WILL the comrade who took an orange address book from TU Books, Manchester, about two months ago please phone Rob on 061-764 7972.

CYPRIT members of the International Socialists are available to speak on the situation in Cyprus and the fight in Britain against racist immigration controls and the expulsion of Cypriot refugees. Contact Andreas on 01-272 8270.

ROOM AVAILABLE in shared house in North London, Apply Box N, SW Litho, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

BOOST YOUR SOCIALIST WORKER SALES: Posters for placards, billboards, newsagents—'Fight Racism', 'No Hospital Closures', 'Stop Unemployment' and blank ones for writing in local slogans, 1p a poster. Window stickers for newsagents—Socialist Worker sold here, 10p each. Sales leaflets £1.50 for 1000. From SW Circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



SOCIALIST WORKER BADGES: 15p each, or 10p for orders over ten. Cash with orders to SW circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS COUPLE seek accommodation in Islington/Camden/Hackney area. Phone Andy or Barbara, 858-8400.

HISTORIANS in the International Socialists interested in re-forming the IS Historians Group, please write to Stirling Smith, 49 Albany Street, Hull. Stamped, addressed envelope please.

ASSISTANT BOOKSHOP MANAGER REQUIRED. Apply to the Socialist and TU Bookcentre, 224 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham 12.

COMRADE FROM MANCHESTER moving to London in January urgently needs a room (North London). Please phone Aileen, 061-445 8904, on Monday nights.

Marxism and the Revolutionary Party

LONDON Socialist Worker public meetings on Marxist theory and the politics of the International Socialists.

Friday evenings, 7pm, at the University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 (nearest tube Goodge Street).

17 December: The History of the International Socialists. Speaker: Ian Birchall.

7 January: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign. Speaker: John Deason.

14 January: State capitalism in Russia. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

21 January: World capitalism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

28 January: British imperialism and Ireland. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

4 February: Shelley and revolution. Speaker: Paul Foot.

11 February: The degradation of work. Speaker: John Ure.

18 February: The crisis of British capitalism. Speaker: Mike Kidron.

25 February: Fighting racism and fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

There will be small group discussions on each topic in the week following each meeting. Give yourself a socialist night out!

Unions in Action

SW MOTOR INDUSTRY FRACTION MEETING: Saturday 11 December, 6-8pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road.

BOOKMARKS 1977 booklet now available—send a 10p stamp. We give a small amount for second-hand books, so don't hang on to your old political tomes—hand them on. Remember we are open till 8pm on Wednesdays.

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS: We still offer ten issues of any one of the following papers for £1.75, postage included: Workers Power (USA), Workers Action (Canada), The Battler (Australia), The Worker (Ireland), Sozialistische Arbeiter Zeitung (Germany), Lutte Ouvriere (France). **BOOKMARKS**, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE. Phone 01-802 6145.



Documentaries and public meetings on tape and cassette. Ideal for SW discussion groups and education meetings.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BLACK POWER? Speaker: Fred Hooper (US International Socialists). 50 minutes, £1.40.

LENIN. Speaker: Tony Cliff of the International Socialists. 45 minutes, £1.40.

CHILE: END OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM. A sound documentary by members of the International Socialists, with Chilean music. 55 minutes, £1.40.

SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION (in Portuguese)—including Grandola Vila Morena, the song used on Lisbon Radio as signal for the 25 April anti-fascist coup. 60 minutes, £1.40.

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. Speaker: Norman Cooper (co-author of Spain in Crisis). A detailed analysis of the background to the civil war—not suitable for discussion meetings. 55 minutes, £1.40.

All prices include postage. Cheques payable to Socialist Worker please.

We now have facilities for recording, editing and distributing tapes. If you have a recording that you think is worth distributing, please send it to us. Technical inquiries welcome.

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

WEST MIDDLESEX Socialist Worker Christmas Social: Friday 10 December, 8pm, Park Hotel, Hanwell, London W7. Food, High Flame Band, country and western—all for £1.



FIRST ISSUE of the International Discussion Bulletin out now. Articles on Italy, Spain, Chile, and the debate on China since Mao's death. 15p a copy (plus 10p postage) or subscribe to six issues (£1.20 inland, £1.50 abroad). From IS International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

No Return To The Bad, Bad Times

'Love it... strangely Funk... stingbee guitars... couldn't agree more'. **New Musical Express**

'Political singles often tend to be amateurish and bleak... No such fault can be found with the KK Band's disco-oriented rock song about the "Right to Work".' **Time Out**

'It's about protest, organisation and struggle... you'll enjoy this record... Buy it' **Socialist Worker**

Buy it for Xmas £1 ALL PROCEEDS TO THE RIGHT TO WORK DEFENCE FUND

Available from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. And all IS Bookshops

Great for Xmas



WEST MIDDLESEX Socialist Worker Christmas Social: Friday 10 December, 8pm, Park Hotel, Hanwell, London W7. Food, High Flame Band, country and western—all for £1.



A LOT OF THE
WEST HAM
LADS ALSO SUPPORT
THE NATIONAL FRONT...

The real menace behind 'soccer hooliganism', by one who knows

THERE WAS an incident which I was involved in at West Ham. A goal was scored and I jumped up in the air and accidentally came down on this copper's foot.

She grabbed me by the ear. I didn't know who it was so I turned round and pushed her. She tried to get hold of me. I tried to get away as I thought it was another supporter and I was going to get hit.

So this other copper came up and grabbed me round the head and just threw me out and pulled me down the stairs, kicking me in the back of the leg.

Another copper got hold of me and they just pulled me over the wall and onto the pitch.

Then they take you underneath the stand into this room where there's a lot of kids sitting round. The coppers just come up to you and say: 'What have you done?'

You say 'Nothing!' and he says: 'Cunt, don't give me that, what did you do?'

'Nothing, just leapt up in the air when West Ham scored.'

'A likely story. You're just an aggro boy, aren't you? You got your boots on, come down for a big fight did you?'

'No I came down to watch the game.'

'Don't give me that shit', he says.

And that's what the police are like.

Truncheon

I remember once when the West Ham fans went round to where the Manchester United coaches were, waiting for the fans. So the police came up and didn't ask them to move on or anything, they just got their truncheons out and the police on horse back charged without any warning.

The truncheons were flying everywhere. So what happens then is that the fans fight back. There's not a lot more you can expect when the cops behave like that.

It's the police's attitude. They've dragged me out a couple of times just for standing there watching the match. And you think: 'What a lot of bastards'.

You want to get them back. Now I'm not the sort of bloke who's going to do over a copper, but a lot of kids would.

They think, straight after a match, 'those fucking coppers'. So they go out, get a few of their mates, find a copper and get him.

But if you put a label on someone and say 'you're a hooligan' then sooner or later he's going to start acting like one.

I've seen some pretty bad incidents. Once a kid got stabbed. He was a Liverpool supporter.

He'd stabbed a West Ham fan at Liverpool and the bloke recognised him at the return game. So he and a few of his mates got round him and, as he was backing up the steps, this kid just gets a knife out, walks up to him and puts it in his side.

And then there was the time a group of West Ham fans took two sawn-off shotguns on the Kop at Liverpool. They didn't get far—there's a lot of Liverpool supporters on the Kop. They got pretty badly hurt.

Wreckers

A lot of the West Ham lads are National Front supporters. I've seen them charge into Asian shops near the ground, nick all the sweets, turn over the tables and wreck the place.

If the NF marched past the ground I'm sure a lot of them would join in.

It's the same as on a

'SOCCER HOOLIGANS' could soon face £1,000 fines and six-month jail sentences if the Labour government get their way. The targets of the law and order brigade are lads like DAVE WATKINS, a 15-year-old IS member from East London. He knows firsthand what 'soccer hooliganism' is all about. He knows who is really to blame. And he knows the sinister threats lurking behind it.

INTERVIEWED

BY

STEVE CEDAR

Saturday afternoon, just out for a fight, a bit of a laugh.

The kids see it as being sort of hard or something to say 'All niggers are bastards'.

What you've got to do is show them that the NF aren't the only ones that can give them something to do on a day when they're not at a football match.

You remember all the bad racist attacks round Barking during the summer holidays. The kids were off school. No football matches, nothing.

No way to get rid of their tensions. Might be at home all day with their mum who'll say 'Get out from under my feet'.

Riding

Maybe they'll just be riding about on their push-bike or mucking about with motor-bikes or nicking cars.

Then the NF come down the street and say 'Why don't you march with us and do over a couple of Pakis?'

And they think 'Oh, great, I've never really liked Pakis much' and they just join on the back of the march.

When it comes to hardcore fascism they don't know what it's about. If you call them Nazis they laugh in your face.

They don't know what you're on about.



Legalised hooliganism: This is known as preserving 'law and order'...



Mussolini meets his end—hanged upside down

Mussolini: What that TV series didn't tell you

MUSSOLINI'S fascism would have been all right—but for his dirty shoes, his dislike of bathing, and his trust in Hitler.

That was the message of the two-part TV series which ended this week

It is difficult to think of a bigger travesty of history.

In 1920, almost every major engineering factory in Italy was occupied

But the Socialist Party and the trade unions told the workers to go back to work for a few improvements in wages. The workers became disillusioned.

And when an economic crisis followed, the employers struck back in revenge. Suddenly, Mussolini's moment had come.

He provided the employers with an army of social scum to launch terror on the left

In 1922, the employers' supporters in parliament—including many rich 'liberals'—gave Mussolini control of the government. Now he could murder left-wingers as he pleased.

The upper classes throughout Europe showered him with praise. A gentleman called Winston Churchill, visiting Rome in 1927, said:

'If I were an Italian, I would don the fascist blackshirt.'

Such a reaction was natural. For fascism represented the fulfilment of the 'respectable' people who pour out their hate of the workers in the leader columns of the Daily Express or the letters pages of the Daily Telegraph.

PRE-VIEW

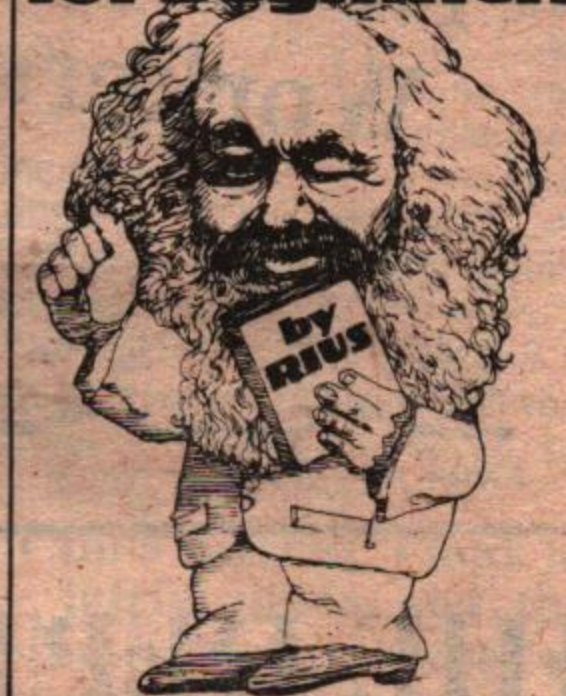
SUNDAY

THE LONELIEST MEN (Radio Four) is about conscientious objectors in the First World War.

MONDAY

HORIZON, usually worth watching, could well come up with the best programme of the week. Called HALF-WAY TO 1984, it's about computerised spying on people like you. In Northern Ireland, the programme explains, half the population are on police files so extensive that, within 30 seconds, details can even be obtained of their wall-paper and the colour of their furniture. Thank Christ we live in a free country...

MARX
for beginners



£1 (inc p&p) from Writers & Readers Publishing Cooperative
14 Talacre Road
London NW5 3PE

If you believe Russia is socialist, listen to this man...

I HAVE a lot to say to sincere people who believe Russia is socialist.

I ask them to look at the distribution of wealth and income.

Lenin once wrote that the income differential between top and bottom should never be more than six to one. This was to pay the bourgeois specialists for their services until we got our own.

Now if you take a prominent politician in the Ukraine, what does he get by comparison with my mother, who is an agricultural worker? He gets 400 roubles a month whereas my mother gets 60. And he's far from being in the top salary range.

Secret shops

All the inhabitants of the major cities know of the existence of the secret shops for members of the bureaucracy. In these places, they can get all the products ordinary mortals can't.

The extent to which it goes on is amazing. Krushchev, for example, had 33 dachas. I was told this when Krushchev was sacked. I was a party activist at the time.

Outside Kiev there is, as everyone knows, a massive guarded wood where the top people hunt. Wild game is brought in.

There are special nurseries for the children of the privileged. My wife worked in the Ministry of Education department responsible for them.

There are honest Communist Party officials. One such was Ostachi in the west of Ukraine. When he was offered the privileged shopping facilities, he protested. He ended up in prison for his efforts.

Police apparatus

For Lenin, socialism in a political sense is a transitory society, whose self-contradictions should be diminishing. The bureaucratic and police apparatus, for example, should be on the way out. The state should be being transformed into a voluntary association of collectives.

Throughout, the whole emphasis must be on democracy, the involvement of the masses in controlling their own lives. The dictatorship role that every state has should be beginning to vanish.

Yet even Krushchev was forever harping on about the massive role of the police apparatus.

Take the laws regulating elections. You can cross all the names out and write in your own candidates. In theory this should allow some genuine elections.

But, in reality, this is quite useless unless you have some means of propaganda and counter propaganda, freedom to hold meetings, the ability to make use of printed matter.

SUPPORT THIS PICKET

A DEFENCE Committee has been formed to raise trade union support for Polish workers victimised and imprisoned for defending living standards.

It aims to bring pressure for their release and for independent trade unions in Poland.

Picket the Polish Embassy this Friday (10 December), 4-6pm. Bring placards.

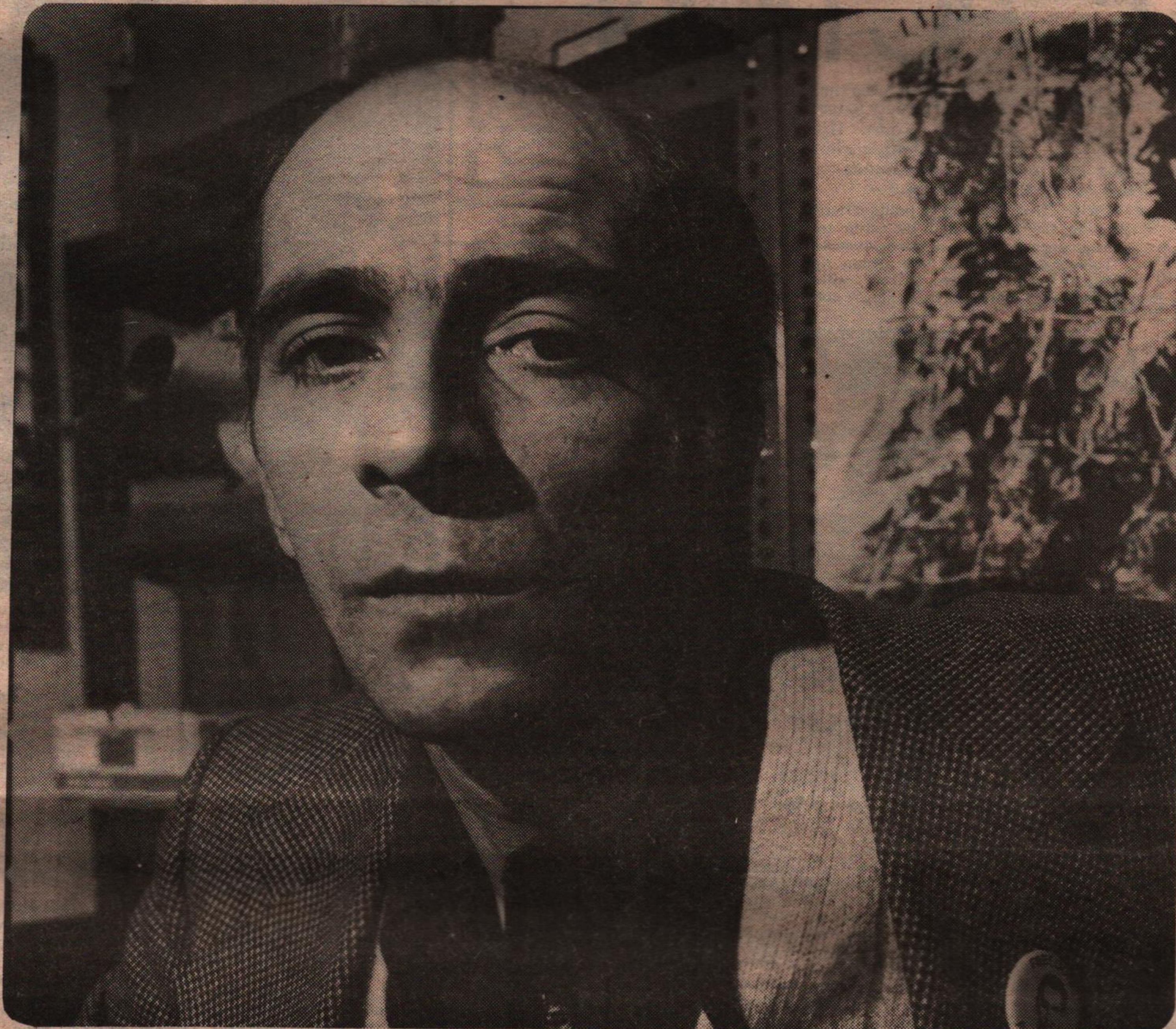
Raise the matter in your

union branch or shop stewards committee.

Send copies of your resolution to the Polish Ambassador and the Committee.

Donate to the campaign and ask for a speaker to your branch or workplace.

Polish Workers Defence Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



By Leonid Pliouchtch

INTERVIEW: LAURIE FLYNN

PICTURE: RED SAUNDERS

LEONID PLIOUCHTCH, a socialist who spoke out against the lack of workers' democracy in Russia, was arrested by the KGB in January 1972.

Charged with producing anti-Soviet

propaganda, he was imprisoned in Kiev and Moscow before being sent to the notorious Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry, where doctors declared him to be 'mad'.

As a result, Pliouchtch was in-

carcerated in a mental hospital

Last January, following an energetic campaign both outside and inside Russia, he was allowed to leave the country. He now lives in Paris with his wife and two sons.

Apart from the parts of the constitution which promise you rights, there is of course the clause about anti-Soviet propaganda.

And so any group of people who start to agitate in an organised fashion—even if that involves only crossing out the names of some candidates and writing in others—are branded as anti-Soviet. They become liable to harsh punishment.

It is, therefore, hard to talk of the role of the working class, the intelligentsia and the peasantry in the elections.

AS YOU KNOW, there are workers' strikes in the Soviet Union. There was the enormous Novochoerkask uprising and others.

Yet nowhere in any of these risings did a trade union of any sort appear as defending the workers' interests. In the Soviet Union, the working class has no party and no other organisations which defend its interests.

Take the example of a collective farm. Its head is appointed by the local party official.

The workers play some part in choosing a section of the 'leadership'. But, in practice, the farm is controlled by the appointed functionary. There is, once again, this complete contradiction between theory and reality.

In some cases, the head of a

collective farm will defend the interests of the workers. But every type of means will be used to have him ousted. And if the workers don't agree to this, he is simply removed without consultation.

This is what happened in the famous case of Ivan Yakimovitch. He had assisted in transforming a farm into a model collective. But when he declined to go along with local party directives, there was a huge campaign against him.

His protest against political trials was used to throw him out. And he ended up in a psychiatric hospital like myself.

Anti Semitic

WE HAVE a mono-party state system which claims a monopoly on ideas, which are subject to the whims of a particular group or even of a particular individual at the top.

Then from the national point of

view, socialism equals the right to the equal development of culture. Yet from the official point of view what you get is anti-Semitic propaganda or propaganda against the deported nations.

So the most obvious feature from this point of view is the growth of great state chauvinism, the absolute opposite of socialism.

In theory, too, you would expect a socialist state to support working class movements in the west. We know that under Stalin there was the pact with Hitler. We know that Krushchev was giving Nasser a 'Hero of the Soviet Union' medallion at the very time Nasser was putting socialists and communists in jail.

We can also see that Brezhnev keeps very good relations with the Iranian government and has never once interceded for any imprisoned socialist of any kind, not even Communist Party members.

HOW DO I characterise the society that exists in the

Soviet Union? After a long search, I have come to the conclusion that the most accurate characterisation, though not absolutely perfect, is state capitalism.

Lenin used this term to describe a situation that existed not very long after the revolution—when power was still in the hands of the toilers.

When I use the term, I do not mean this, since in Russia today power in no sense is in the hands of the workers.

You have to examine who is the exploiting class. Who is doing the exploiting? Who controls the surplus.

Bureaucracy

Djilas (the Yugoslav government minister who later broke with Stalinism) says that the exploiting class is the bureaucracy as a class. I feel that it is still more accurate to say, as Marx once did, that the state is an abstract exploiter.

But with the existence of the bureaucracy, you do have the ruling echelons controlling the surplus and sharing the profits with their bureaucratic stooges.

This is exactly what a capitalist does. He doesn't put it all into his pockets. Some goes to his lackeys, some to the state, a part for the bureaucratic police apparatus and entourage.

Marxist groups in the Volga region issued a programme titled 'The sunset of capital'. They were not referring to the West. They were characterising the situation in the Soviet Union as the last form, the death pangs, of capitalism.

And it is true that all these signs of decay do exist. There is the most widespread corruption. There is a moral vacuum, moral emptiness, especially among the youth.

Chauvinism

There are immense social problems, the growth of drug taking and alcoholism, the destruction of nature and the environment, the swift unplanned capitalist spoliation of natural resources, the emphasis on militarism, the horrible police role, the chauvinism.

I say all this. But I am not a man without hope. On the contrary, I look forward to this being changed.

I am a marxist. I look to the intelligentsia and the working class to succeed in realising the noble ideals of socialism, and perhaps sooner than any of us think.

HOPKINSONS: TASS CALLS STRIKE ACTION

Huddersfield: 1300 office workers are striking for one day next week in support of the 250 office workers sitting in at Hopkinsons.

The stoppage is being organised by TASS, the white collar section of the engineering section.

This week the company secured the wholehearted support of Deputy Judge Gibbens in the High Court. He ordered the six shop stewards who have been sacked by Hopkinsons to stay off the firm's premises.

The six have now set up a headquarters close to the factory and the sit-in to reinstate them continues as strong as ever.

The management has now begun to threaten more of the strikers with dismissal. The courts and the police are not

taking any action against Hopkinsons who have been sanction busting in Rhodesia.

The financial support and backing of Hopkinsons' products by workers of their main customers has been encouraging.

About 10,000 TASS members all over the country are contributing to weekly levies and the numbers are rising.

There is no doubt that the Engineering Employers Federation is supporting this attempt to break trade union organisation among white collar workers.

Office workers at one of the main customers—C A Parsons at Newcastle—have already sent £200 and have agreed on a total refusal to send orders to Hopkinsons.

Hopkinsons other largest customers are Aytons of Derby, GEC, Clark Chapmans and Babcock and Wilcox.

Letters of support and donations to: Bill Sales, AUEW/TASS Divisional Office, Vassalli House, Room 1, 20 Central Road, Leeds.

□ Letters of support and donations to: Bill Sales, AUEW/TASS Divisional Office, Vassalli House, Room 1, 20 Central Road, Leeds.



Andy Strouthous

NELP STUDENTS PLAN FIGHT BACK OVER SACKING

'ON THURSDAY we fight back' that was the decision of last week's largest ever meeting of the North East London Polytechnic Student Union.

The emergency meeting after the union President, Andy Strouthous, was sacked by the Poly directors for supporting a fighting union.

The students voted by a magnificent 525 to 97 for Andy's reinstatement and they are backing the vote up with action—a Poly-wide strike on Thursday.

Andy told Socialist Worker: 'We have given the governors till 18 January to consider my appeal. If I am not reinstated by then NELPSU will decide what further action to take.'

POLY CLEANERS STAY OUT

MANAGEMENT at the North East London Poly have lied yet again to women strikers at the Holbrook Annex.

Five GMWU cleaners have been on strike for ten weeks after being ordered to clean up lethal blue asbestos dust.

The Poly director met them two weeks ago and agreed to most of their demands. He

said that the Poly's ruling body, the Joint Education Committee, would rubber stamp them the next night and discuss non-union labour. This was a lie.

The JEC didn't even meet the next night. It still hasn't met.

The cleaners have called on all other Poly unions to support this demand.

650 STRIKE

by Vic Brown

NORTH LONDON—650 ASTMS members employed at Thorns staged a one-day stoppage throughout the North London sites last Wednesday. We had rejected a company offer of a 7.6 per cent improvement following a renegotiated grade structure.

This followed a mass meeting where ASTMS members overwhelmingly voted to take industrial action.

Further actions, including selective stoppages, overtime bans and other measures are now being introduced with considerable effect!



PART of the picket outside the Randolph Hotel part of Trust House Forte in Oxford. The management at Oxford's poshest hotel sacked six chambermaids in the Transport and General Workers Union.

Now twenty hotel workers are out on strike in support.

At the nearby Linton Lodge Hotel 17 TGWU workers are on strike. 17 workers struck when a shop steward was sacked.

They demanded union recognition, but instead the management sacked all of the strikers.

On Saturday night the police suddenly moved into the picket line and arrested two local trade

unionists, a student from Ruskin Trade Union College and another student. They were supporting the picket.

Another two pickets have also been arrested and charged with assault on one of the people trying to cross the Linton Lodge picket line.

□ Donations and messages of support to Linton Lodge Strike Committee, 22 Walton Well Road, Oxford.

The trades Council has called a demonstration in support of the strikers for this Saturday. The demonstration leaves Linton Lodge Hotel, Linton Road, off Banbury Road at 12 noon to march to the Randolph.

Riley fights TGWU election

NOMINATIONS close next Saturday 18 December in the election for a successor to Jack Jones, as general secretary of the Transport Union.

Tommy Riley a Westhoughton Metal Box worker is standing on the Right to Work Campaign platform in this election.

The importance of this battle in the TGWU cannot be underestimated. Jack Jones and his sidekick Harry Urwin are the architects of the present social contract fraud.

Brains

Socialist Worker understands that the following are all standing:

Harry Urwin, the union's present deputy general secretary and the brains behind Jones and the social contract, Alec Kitson executive officer of the union and the man who sold out the various strikes in the West of Scotland two years ago, Rod Todd, London Region secretary of the union, and Moss Evans national organiser and architect of many a sell out in the motor industry.

Crisis

Tommy Riley is not standing for personal advancement and the pursuit of power. He is standing to gain wider circulation for militant fighting policies to beat the crisis and help build rank and file strength in the union.

Tommy is deputy senior steward at West Houghton Metal Box factory, and a member of the TGWU 6/123 branch in the factory and of the Bolton District Committee of the TGWU.

If you want to join the campaign, nominate Tommy Riley in your branch and contact the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Black these bingo clubs

by the Club One strike committee

COVENTRY: Half negotiation rights with the manager's wife. That was the insulting offer made by Club One management in the seventh week of our strike.

We have been out for union

recognition since we joined the TGWU. The management tried to saddle us with the theatrical union NATTKE.

Now they have offered us half negotiation rights with NATTKE, but the only

member is the managers' wife. But we're staying out until our union is recognised.

With Christmas only two weeks away, we're going to need all the help we can get to win.

Foodstuffs and supplies are still being delivered to the Club One and the Rialto by Laxton, Palmer and Harvey, and by Bablake Wines. We'd like to ask all of our brothers and sisters to black those firms.

Laxton, for example, delivers to most of the factory canteens in Coventry, and we'd also like to ask for all of Orr Enterprises in Coventry, Nuneaton, Leamington and Morecambe to be blacked by trade unionists.

Picket

The following is the list of places: Coventry: Club One, Rialto, Theatre One, Coventry Caterers, Hales Street Stores, Trinity Stores, The Three C's Casino; Leamington: Spa Casino; Nuneaton: The Palace and Scala picture houses; Morecambe: Arcadia, Floral Hall, Palladium, Plaza, Promenade Entertainments and Whitehall.

And we also need money and support on the picket line. Don't forget our fund-raising dance on Friday December 10, 8 o'clock to 1 am in Transport House. Tickets 50p from 42, Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry, or Trade Union and Socialist Books, Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. On Friday 17 we're going for a big push. Mass picket outside Club One, 6 pm to 9 pm.

Versus

Finding the path blocked by officials in frustration, they have tended to turn on each other. For example, pieceworker versus day worker, skilled versus unskilled, manual versus staff, black versus white, men versus women, and management are quite happy to see this.

These are the divisions we shall have to fight to overcome in 1977. A successful fight in Rubery Owen could blow the lid off the whole wages policy.

WAGES STRIKE ENDS

by a shop steward at Rubery Owen, Darlaston.

negotiating committee argued for the day workers.

This is the method that is still used to negotiate the annual wage claim. This year all workers received £6, but some sections have received between £16-£18, depending on how they're organised.

The engineers on strike over the past three weeks for regrading have claimed that they are not trying to break the wage freeze. But if they win it will open the gates to many more claims by sections who haven't taken action before.

Negotiating departmentally means that as soon as there is no progress with the manager the workers can take action.

This means the full-time officials do not come in. When they came in last time an overtime ban which had been on for six weeks and was just beginning to bite they ordered it to be lifted.

THE 120 maintenance engineers have called off their strike and are now negotiating about regrading. The strike was called off after three weeks of pressure from full time officials in the engineering union and the transport workers union.

The wage system at Rubery Owen is chaotic. There was a five week strike in 1973 when the management attempted to move piece workers onto a new system.

Dispute

The effect of the management's scheme was to divide the workforce. Other workers crossed the picket line throughout the dispute, although after five weeks the management had to back down.

In 1974 we had a year of free collective bargaining and the shop stewards' committee decided to negotiate departmentally for the pieceworkers while the

Grunwicks'—bosses hunt for loophole

NORTH WEST LONDON: The management at Grunwicks film processing plant is trying to wriggle out of an agreement to use the Government Arbitration Service (ACAS).

Post Office workers called off their blacking of Grunwicks mail on the condition that the company would go to ACAS.

But this week it was discovered that the company has consulted a QC—sponsored by the National Association for Freedom—with a view to challenging the ACAS recommendation.

ACAS is organising a ballot among workers at Grunwicks. Most of them have been on strike for three months for union recognition.

A demonstration has been called on Saturday, leaving Grunwicks in Cobbold Road at 12.30 to march through Willesden.

On Sunday at 11.30 am there is a meeting at Brent Trades Council, where Tom Jackson of the Post Office Union, Apex General Secretary, Roy Grantham and possibly Len Murray, will be speaking.

Hobson's choice?

LADBROKES the bookmakers, self-appointed 'Leaders of Leisure', have come up with a novel scheme at their main administrative building at Chad House, Gateshead, Co Durham.

Management proposed forming a committee to look at the problems caused by the poor bus service on Tyneside. While applauding and appreciating the efforts of the staff in getting to work on time, they proposed that it would be possible for the staff to arrive a few minutes later in the morning and/or leave

earlier at night.

But, anybody taking advantage of this understanding would, under the Social Contract, forfeit their rise of £2.50 per week due on January 1 1977.

This activity may be connected with the formation of a union branch which has been in existence since June, has 60% membership and is currently negotiating with ACAS. They were refused recognition on the grounds that Ladbrokes will only consider this on a national basis.

ADVERTISEMENT

No more Shrewsburies

If the Committee had clear evidence that on 19 March the violence had been caused or provoked by something the marchers had done it would be difficult to say that there had been any interference with the right to protest. But the evidence before the Committee is to the contrary.

Part of the report of the Independent Trade Union Inquiry into the arrest of 43 Right to Work Marchers at Hendon last spring. The committee comprised:

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

The full report is available from 16 Yew Grove, London NW2 3AD.

Once you have read it, please act on it.

Thousand builders strike over cuts

by JOHN GLEN and PAT GILLIGAN

EEPTU shop stewards, Glasgow District Council Central Electrical Workshops.

GLASGOW: More than 1,000 building workers employed by Glasgow District Council struck for half a day and marched on the City Chambers last week as part of the campaign to stop the council sacking 800 from the building department.

The stoppage was a success despite the officials of two of the unions involved, UCATT and the TGWU. Although their members will be among the first to suffer from the cuts, they instructed their not to support the stoppage.

These same officials have also instructed TGWU and UCATT convenors to withdraw from the convenors' committee built up over the past few months.

The demonstration was supported by Direct Labour, House Maintenance, Central Electrical Workshops and General Maintenance departments and by supervisory staff in the local government workers' union NALGO.

One electrician on the demonstration said: 'The district council want us to do only emergency repairs in school and community centres and children's homes. Soon we'll be reading in the papers how some kid has been electrocuted because of lack of maintenance.'

NALGO calls off strike

by IAIN FERGUSON (Renfrew NALGO division)

STRATHCLYDE: The NALGO regional branch called off the one-day strike against the cuts planned for this Wednesday.

The decision makes a mockery of the Save Your Services campaign. The £26 million cuts Strathclyde Council wants to implement will mean redundancy for 200 home helps, leaving 3,000 old people with a reduced service.

Day centres for old people, the mentally and physically handicapped will be open only half of their present time. It is possible that hundred of nursery nurses will be out of jobs.

Only the Glasgow delegation voted to carry on with the strike.

So £26 million will be cut from the 1977-78 budget and if it is done 'without compulsory redundancies' for NALGO members then the massacre of services will go ahead with NALGO's total approval.

Students back workers

BIRMINGHAM: 400 trade unionists and students demonstrated round Birmingham University last Tuesday in support of the demand for an extra five days holiday a year by members of the white collar union ASTMS at the university.

The University promised this in 1974 and have broken their agreement. The ASTMS members are now on strike until their demand is met.

Ambulance battle needs your help

ESSEX: Ambulance men and women are now in desperate need of financial support as they enter the fourth week of a county-wide lock-out.

The dispute has had little publicity nationally and, as a result, the 400 men and women locked out have so far received little backing from other trade unionists.

Unless that financial support and solidarity is organised quickly—and Socialist Worker supporters can play a crucial role in this—lack of funds could see their determined stand withering as Christmas approaches.

The dispute has forged a powerful rank and file unity among the four unions involved: NUPE, COHSE, GMWU and TGWU.

It began over a claim for meal break allowances—but it has erupted over management's attempts to intimidate the ambulance men and women and refusal to recognise locally-elected trade union reps.

When NUPE members took action over

the meal break allowance, management, the Area Health Authority, issued an ultimatum. In effect, it said to all Essex ambulance workers: Abandon your trade union rights or be locked out.

Many of those locked out believe management's plan was thought out in advance and was designed deliberately to provoke a confrontation.

Ambulances are being driven by senior office staff with little or no training. Yet offers by those locked out to work on emergency calls have been refused by senior management.

Nonetheless management are clearly bending. They announced last week at a



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

'Defend our jobs' call to steelmen

by a delegate to the SIMA Conference

ABOUT 150 delegates from the steel industry's white-collar union, SIMA, are meeting in London this weekend for a special delegate conference to discuss industrial action to oppose the demanning policies of the British Steel Corporation.

The emergency conference was called for by the national conference in September, at which representatives from SIMA's 12,000 members in the BSC expressed widespread resentment at redundancies, downgradings and total lack of consultation.

In January SIMA signed an agreement with BSC. This followed the well-publicised agreement

between BSC and the TUC Steel Committee, which is made up of the ISTC, TGWU, the Blast Furnacemen and the craft unions under the effective leadership of Bill Sirs, ISTC general secretary.

Weakens

The two documents are equivalent and can only be described as a monstrous sell-out that seriously weakens the ability of rank and file steelworkers, manual and white-collar, to fight back against BSC's redundancy and closure policies, signed by Bill Sirs, Moss Evans of the TGWU and others.

The Steel Committee 'acknowledges that the Corporation cannot continue to accept the

present employment practices... such that significant reductions in manpower have to be made.' If this is not achieved 'by voluntary redundancies, other redundancy measures will have to be adopted... The committee actively supports management to minimise unofficial strikes...'

'In the view of the enormity of the problems facing the Corporation, consultation with the workforce cannot be allowed to delay the implementation of this agreement.'

With union leaders like this, who needs enemies?

At this weekend's conference, white-collar workers at least will have the chance to boot out the agreement and provide some national focus for a fightback.

ABOVE: Steelworkers from South Wales marching to the House of Commons last week to lobby MPs against the rundown of the South Wales steel industry. Thousands of jobs are threatened.

EGA workers call action conference

LONDON: Workers at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital have called an open conference on Saturday to discuss action over the planned closure, and the cuts in the Health Service.

The hospital, in Euston Road, one of two women's hospitals in London, is being picketed 24 hours a day and staff are working-in to make sure that everything that goes into or out of the building is checked.

The Department of Health planned to close the in-patient wards by the end of the year, but they have now said that the crunch will come in early February.

Said Pam Jones, a NUPE steward: 'The conference is open to any supporters of our campaign. We hope that all health workers and local people interested in fighting the cuts and supporting us will come along.'

'We want to build for a delegate conference later.'

The Department has been running down the EGA, refusing to carry out vital repairs. Now they claim the repairs would cost too much and want to absorb EGA facilities into another hospital.

The conference is being held at the New Ambassadors Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1, 11am-4pm, Saturday 11 December.

conciliation meeting that they would be prepared to pay one-third of the wages lost as a result of the dispute.

But a mass meeting last Saturday voted overwhelmingly to fight on for the important demands of full pay, no victimisation and withdrawal of the management ultimatum.

The meeting also voted to step up the action, calling on all hospital staff to support the dispute.

The determination of the ambulance men and women contrasts sharply with the scandalous behaviour of their so-called 'leaders'.

Nonetheless, the ambulance men and women have shown they have the unity and strength to win this dispute whatever their officials may do. It's now up to other trade unionists to lend a hand to ensure that they do.

Send donations and messages of support to: K Wash, COHSE branch secretary, 4 Wycke Lane, Tollesbury, Essex.

Right to Work CHRISTMAS DANCE Friday 17 December, 8pm

Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish Street, W1. (Large hall) With The Derelicts and Rock Disco. Tickets £1, unemployed 50p, from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Day of Action against the cuts

WEST MIDLANDS: Most schools and colleges in the area were closed for one day last week when members of the public employees union NUPE held a stoppage against the cuts.

Said Pat Hall, secretary of the Social Services branch:

'The response from the rank and file was excellent. We wanted to show the local authority that we are united against the cuts and to demonstrate to the government that there is opposition and there are people willing to fight for our services.'

'And we showed the public what would happen if the cuts continue.'

'We were pleased to see the support on our march from members of the AUEW and ASTMS. Members of the GMWU were instructed by their union not to join us.'

George Bullock, a NUPE steward at Goscote Isolation Hospital, said that every member supported the stoppage: 'Some went through our picket, but didn't clock on. They came out and joined us. The nursing continued for patients.'

Last week showed that a massive number of public sector workers are committed to fighting the cuts, but it is important that it is just part of an on-going campaign.

Odd days aren't going to solve the chronic shortage of nurses or stop the sacking of teachers in the area.

'Stop the Cuts March. Demonstration organised by the Kirklees Trade Union Liaison Committee, begins 10.30am Saturday December 11, from Friendly and Trades, Brook Street, Huddersfield.'

REDDER TAPED

FIFTY civil servants from the four main unions, CPSA, SCPS, IPCS and CSU, met last Saturday to discuss the fight for the rank and file policies of their paper Redder Tape.

The right wing in the civil service unions—the moderates—are reorganising through a new paper, and the Broad Left is attempting to organise. Redder Tape will be running Mike McGrath, now a member of the CPSA executive, as the rank and file candidate in the CPSA presidential elections.

The meeting also agreed to fight discrimination against women in the union and the civil service, and to fight all forms of racism. The best way to fight both is to build better more active Redder Tape groups.

HOSPITAL PICKET FOR JIM

by BRIAN CORRIGAN (UCATT, unemployed)

LEEDS: Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey refused to speak to pickets outside the annual dinner of the East Leeds Labour Party.

The 60-strong picket, supported by local hospital workers and unemployed Right to Work Campaign, were protesting against the proposed closure of five hospitals in Leeds, with the loss of 2,000 jobs.

Killingbeck Hospital, one of those threatened with closure, is in Denis Healey's own constituency.

Mick Jones, an ASTMS shop steward at St James Hospital, said after the picket: 'It makes me sick that so-called socialists in the East Leeds Labour Party are sitting down to eat with the same people who in one stroke are decimating the hospital service in Leeds and all over the country in the interests of big business.'

Picket the Area Health Authority: Tuesday 14 December, 1pm, The Mount, Clarendon Road, Leeds 6. Called by Leeds Hospital Worker, Leeds Right to Work Committee and supported by St James Hospital NUPE Branch.

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FOR SPEAKERS from the shop stewards' committee to explain the case to trade union bodies please contact the Sheffield Right to Work Committee, 0742 584561.

DONATIONS and messages of support to Brother A. Glossop, 261 Owl Lane, Sheffield 4.

SHEFFIELD: 3,000 STRIKE FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

By Simon Turner

SHEFFIELD: 3,000 workers are on strike to defend the right to work. The Edgar Allen Balfour factories throughout the city have struck to stop the closure of one factory in the group and the loss of 450 jobs.

Last week, in factory after factory in the group, workers downed tools in answer to the Sheffield Confederation of Engineering Unions' call for national blacking of all Edgar Allen Balfour products.

The Confed called for this to start the fight back against the closure.

The result was disputes in every factory until the whole group was brought to a standstill.

Keith Adams and Les Frith, two shop stewards from the Fitzwilliam Works, told Socialist Worker:

'The Confed decision didn't go far enough. They should have called the whole group out on strike straightaway, instead of leaving it to each plant.

'This has delayed the dispute, but now we are determined to fight all the way to save the jobs.

'A thousand jobs have been

MINERS: BE READY TO BUILD SUPPORT

BRITAIN'S 250,000 miners have been voting in a pit-head ballot this week.

They are expected to give their executive the power to call industrial action. They are demanding the right to retire at 60 in January and at 55 in 1980.

By Bill Message

But the majority of the union executive are desperately anxious to do a deal with the Coal Board which will avoid industrial action, even if it falls far short of the claim. The fact that the executive has been

forced to call a ballot gives many of the younger militants much encouragement. They want to see the Social Contract broken. Not just so that the older men can get their earlier retirement, but because it would give everyone a chance to get more than a 4½ per cent wage increase when prices are expected to rise by more than 15 per cent next year.

Several important areas have already come out in favour of all-out strike action instead of an overtime ban.

If a strike does take place in January, it will be a hard and bitter one, fought against the TUC just as much as against the Coal Board and the government.

All out

Jack Jones, the architect of the Social Contract, is expected to instruct members of the Transport Union to cross miners' picket lines, although Ray Buckton, ASLEF General Secretary, has offered his support.

It is vital that a campaign of support for the miners is started among the rank and file of the trade union movement.

Once again, as in 1972 and 1974, a miners' victory would mean a victory for the working class as a whole.

Boost for three who face jail



John Deason: support from Ricky Tomlinson

THE SHOP stewards committee from Pontins Holiday Camp building site in Prestatyn, North Wales agreed this week to support the defence of the three right to work marchers threatened with imprisonment.

Support

They decided to send the four former defendants in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial who are currently working on the site to join the picket of the appeal court in London.

The committee further agreed to pay the expenses and lost wages of the delegation and to send their trade union banner.

Finally it agreed to send Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson to the trial in May of Right to Work Campaign Secretary John Deason.



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

MEMBERS of the cast of Ipi Tombi, a musical now showing in London, demonstrating outside the South African Embassy last week.

They were protesting against the arrest and imprisonment of a member of the cast, Trusty Ntuli, who was sacked by the management and returned to

South Africa.

In South Africa, Vorster's police arrested him. Trusty Ntuli was sacked after leading a protest against working conditions. He was told by management that he would be in trouble in South Africa if the cast 'caused trouble' in Britain.

lost throughout the group in the last year. Our factory could be next on the list. You see people thinking, are they going to be next?

Clive Hartley, convenor of the Fitzwilliams Works, and secretary of the shop stewards committee for the group, told Socialist Worker.

There has been a magnificent response throughout the group. If we can save these jobs it will be a fantastic victory for the whole fight for the right to work.

'But it is never easy to come out at this time of the year, with Christmas so close.

'We need support from trade unionists everywhere, as quickly as possible. In particular you can help our struggle by getting the national blacking working straightaway and by raising

money urgently.

'There are 3,000 people, most with families, out on strike.'

Supporters of the Right to Work Campaign are calling for a half day stoppage throughout Sheffield at the next meeting of the Sheffield Confed.

National Right to Work Campaign secretary John Deason has called for support from all Right to Work supporters.

'This action is a vital step in the fight for the right to work' he said.

'We must fight now to get the blacking effective in every factory that uses Edgar Allen products and we must start raising money for the strikers straight away.

'Every Right to Work Committee must organise support now.'

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN ADVERTISEMENT

DEFEND THE CONVICTED MARCHERS DROP THE CHARGES

The date of the appeal hearings has been changed by the Courts to 31 January from 13 December. Organise now for official delegations and mass support at the picket outside the Middlesex Crown Court (by Westminster Tube).

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Name Please send me more information

Address

Trade union

Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN