

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Storming the town council  
... women marching on  
London ... but no  
support from the  
employed, only charity—  
a woman organiser of the  
unemployed in the 1930s  
tells her story.

SEE CENTRE PAGES



**No IFs or BUTs ..  
STOP THE CUTS!**

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH

## 'Conspiracy' four in jail for Xmas

TWO of the six Harlesden black girls, both mothers of children, were sentenced for their alleged assault on police officers last week. Both got three-month jail sentences, suspended for two years.

The magistrates have now, after a three-month case, rubber-stamped the police brutality against blacks in North West London.

While the girls were being sentenced, their boy friends and friends were being fitted up in the courtroom opposite as a Christmas present.

Eric Scott, Everton Smith, Paul Allen and Vaughan Maynard were accused of conspiring to rob. They hadn't actually committed any crime, but the police prosecution stated, 'it seemed as if they were about to commit one.'

The defence lawyer replied:

'After hearing that it seems I'm about to die.'

The court was adjourned and bail refused. So the magistrates have put them in jail for Christmas.

The court was cleared during the trial. All young blacks were thrown out of the public gallery, and a police inspector barricaded the public doors with cleaning brushes and mops.

### Surrounded

Police reinforcements were brought in. The court-house was surrounded.

The way the police are behaving in Harlesden they will cause an explosion that will make the Notting Hill Carnival clash look like a picnic.

## AND HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS

RICHARD CRAVEN, a member of the National Front and the 'master race', was sentenced to six years in prison this week.



An 'arsenal' of explosives and other weapons had been found in his flat in Bradford.

They were to be used, confessed Craven, against 'a public figure, preferably a black one'.



In his defence, Craven pleaded National Front policy, 'I hate Asians', he said.

SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WOR

# Police's phoney campaign claims four new victims

FOUR black teenagers from East London are the latest victims of the London police and their phoney and racist anti-mugging campaign.

John McCullin, Desmond Daly, Kevin Barber and Raymond Sinclair, all from Plaistow, had gone

shopping on the afternoon of Saturday 27 November in Green Street.

Shortly after they had left Woolworth's in Green Street, a man lurched into Desmond. He informed him that he was 'under arrest'.

Staggered and unsuspecting that this character was a police officer since he had no uniform, Desmond replied: 'You must be joking'.

But this was no joke. Arrested he was, quickly followed by his three mates. All four were bundled into a police car and taken to Romford Road Police Station. Their nightmare had begun.

At the station they were stripped and searched, insulted, fingerprinted and photographed without their or their parents' permission. They were then charged with 'Being a suspect person loitering with intent to commit an arrestable offence, viz theft from the person...'

One of the arresting officers insisted that he had seen the four of them in operation the previous Saturday. If so, he must have a remarkable imagination and truly tremendous eyesight.

The previous Saturday John had been out at Heathrow Airport. His auntie was emigrating to Canada and he went to see her off.

Raymond was just slightly further from Green Street. He was in Jamaica.

### Truth

The simple truth is that these four black teenagers were out shopping that Saturday afternoon. No more and no less.

They might have done a bit of loitering. Most shoppers do. When you gaze in a shop window to decide which trousers you want to buy you can't help but loiter.

As for the 'intent to commit an arrestable offence, viz stealing from the person'—that's just the purest fabrication, but one that could land them in borstal and destroy their job prospects.

Just how blatant a fabrication it is can be seen from the fact that they had bought and paid for everything they had on them. They even had receipts.

But thanks to the carefully orchestrated police and press campaign against young blacks, they became targets for the sharpshooters of Romford Road Police Station, who know they can rely on compliant, 'protect your local police force' magistrates to rubber-stamp their 'evidence' and return the appropriate verdict.

With a bit of luck the police won't get away with it this time. They have got a truly pitiful case.



BADGES from Rock Against Racism. 22p each including postage, or ten for £1.50, post free. FROM Rock Against Racism, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

KER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM

## A charter for police prejudice

BRITISH JUSTICE has always been a cruel fraud—always one law for the rich and another for the poor. But there are aspects of it that the poor need to defend.

Those aspects—above all the right to a jury trial—are the fruit of generations of struggle. They are now under the most concerted attack.

Unless we are vigilant they will be taken away from us by a Labour government and its new Criminal Law Bill.

An excellent article by the socialist lawyer Geoff Robertson in last week's New Statesman spells out clearly what is at stake:

'The Bill is a charter for prejudiced policemen and ambitious store detectives. No longer will official allegations of dishonesty or misconduct against housewives, homosexuals, political protestors and others be sifted by commonsense and common humanity. They will instead be rubber stamped by the elderly conservatives who pack the magisterial panels.'

### Abolished

The Bill abolishes the right to jury trial whenever the police allege theft or handling of stolen property valued at less than £20 or criminal damage of less than £100.

Men charged with homosexual soliciting offences will no longer be permitted to put unreliable or prejudiced police evidence to the test of twelve good men and true.

This package has been got through the Labour government with consummate ease. Following police chief Sir Robert Mark's pronouncements in 1972, the Tory government appointed and handpicked a committee to look into the 'problem' of 'too many' acquittals under the jury system.

The committee, which included the former secretary of the Society of Conservative Lawyers and the personnel manager of Brooke Bond Liebig, naturally came up with the appropriate recommendations. These were duly endorsed by Labour.

Shop stewards committees and union branches should start passing resolutions against this fantastic increase in the power of our adversaries. What's more, they should be getting ready to act.



Pickets outside the Mayfair home of CIA agent John Kirby in London last Saturday. The Phil Agree Defence Committee organised the pickets outside the homes of several other American secret agents in protest at the government's bid to deport Agee and fellow journalist Mark Hosenball, who have both exposed the CIA agents in Britain and elsewhere.

THE conference of the National Union of Students got off to a good start last weekend when delegates voted to sling out extreme right-wing Tory MP Sir Keith 'Social Class One' Joseph on the grounds of his hostility to militant trade unionism and his racism.

Unfortunately things didn't go so well after that.

The executive—most of whom voted to kick Joseph out on Friday night—got cold feet by Saturday morning, when they gave comfort to the Tories and the press and expressed 'regret' for their behaviour.

No such regret was expressed when they combined later to exclude a speaker from the Right to Work Campaign and another from Balfour Darwins engineering works in Sheffield. Naturally there was not a whimper in the Tory press about working class speakers going unheard.

The alliance behind this was between members of the Broad Left—including Communist Party members—and Tories. Contrary to television

## Unholy alliance rules at the NUS

news reports it at no time involved the extreme left in any wheeling and dealing with Tories.

The motion on the government's economic policy proposed total opposition to cuts and unemployment, and supported the Right to Work Campaign. It was passed on a card vote by the slim margin of 6000 votes.

So the Tories and the Broad Left ganged up to railroad a recount, nobbled various delegates and reversed the decision.

### Sell

The alliance continued in the debate over NUS services, in the wake of the collapse of the NUS travel company and printing operations. The one

Tory who sits on the union executive spoke and voted for the successful Broad Left motion

The Tories also backed the Broad Left motion to sell off the NUS Insurance set-up to private enterprise, a sure recipe for more redundancies.

The union maintained its principled position of no platform for fascists and racists despite a concerted attempt from the Broad Left to reverse this policy.

This operation involved a really sad spectacle—members of the Communist Party advocating a policy of free speech for fascists. Others, notably from Wales and Scotland, proposed maintenance of the ban.

What clearly emerged from the conference is that the executive are incapable of carrying a vote on their supporters alone. They are forced to rely on the right wing

But this alienates some of their own supporters, who are now looking for an alternative, a fighting alternative

That's what NOISS, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies, aims to build.

**ROCK AGAINST RACISM**  
 AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART  
 WITH MATUMBI,  
 CAROL GRIMES AND THE  
 LONDON BOOGIE BAND  
 FRIDAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!  
 BACK SOON WITH MORE...  
 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)

'I WILL support the government's measures, whatever they are'. Those were the words of Reginald Maudling, former Tory Chancellor and friend of swindler John Poulson, speaking at the weekend.

Such support shows the real face of this government. It has abandoned any pretence to be acting in the interests of working people or to be challenging the power of the rich and privileged.

For the third time this year it has pushed through savage welfare cuts at the beck and call of the stock exchange and the money markets.

The Labour government's arguments in favour of the cuts come from the Confederation of British Industry, from the Daily Express, even from Tory leader Margaret Thatcher.

Labour claims that profits have to be allowed to rise and industry given 'breathing room'. But profits have risen massively over the past year and a million and a half unemployed provide massive 'breathing room'.

Yet the crisis is getting worse not better. And not only in Britain. In Germany, the United States, France, Japan, unemployment is growing, price rises are accelerating. A new slump is beginning to develop even before the last one is over.

## The Left

NOT ONLY the right wing in the Labour Party have bowed down before the demands of big business. The overwhelming majority of left MPs have given up the fight too.

They mutter about 'an alternative economic strategy'. But by this they mean import controls—which can only force prices up even more and, as in the 1930s, make the international crisis even worse.

Meanwhile, they back the wage controls, approve the handing out of huge sums of government money to private industry, and do nothing to mobilise workers against redundancies and factory closures.

## The fight back

YET a growing fight back against the cuts is taking place, outside the confines of parliamentary politics, in the ranks of public sector trade unionists.

17 November saw the biggest demonstrations of trade unionists in London for years. Last week tens of thousands of public employees struck for the day in the Midlands.

In Glasgow transport workers struck for a day. In the Civil Service, overtime bans are forcing more jobs.

In hospitals workers are discussing how to resist a ward closure here, a reduction in the workforce there.

There is little action over wages, as yet. But there is growing anger as workers find they just cannot keep up with rising prices, however hard they try.

This can rapidly boil over into struggle. At first this is likely to be over 'fringe benefit' issues, that seem to avoid rather than confront the wage barriers. But once action is under way, the wage code itself



# A NEW YEAR'S PARTY THAT THE BOSSES WON'T ENJOY

will soon come under attack.

The miners' Yes vote for action over early retirement shows what is beginning to happen.

## Leadership

ONE THING, however, is lacking from the growing anger. Leadership.

The main leaders of the TUC are continuing to argue for restraint in wages. Men such as Jack Jones of the Transport Workers Union (TGWU) have carefully avoided any support fighting the cuts.

The leaders of the teachers' union (NUT) have even tried to discipline some of their members who have resisted a rundown in staff.

Some union leaders have been forced to respond to the pressure of the rank and file. Alan Fisher of the public employees union (NUPE) played a role in organising 17 November. Arthur Scargill of the Yorkshire Miners has certainly pushed for the miners' Yes vote.

But this leadership rarely extends to specific struggles against the cuts. Alan Fisher seems more interested in one-day

demonstrations than in the fight in particular hospitals to save jobs and services.

Nor is there leadership in linking up with workers in other sectors. Alan Fisher supported the majority of the TUC in their threats to scab on the seamen. The miners have not yet moved for strike action in support of local hospital services or schools.

Traditionally, people who wanted a more militant, more socialist policy than that of the trade union and Labour Party leaders turned to the Communist Party for leadership. Whatever they thought of its attitude to Russia, they felt that on British issues it stood for a fight.

But the Communist Party too has been utterly lacking in recent struggles. It has failed to give a lead in the struggle over the cuts beyond the call for token gestures. It has refused to struggle among the rank and file against Jack Jones' policies in the biggest union, the TGWU.

When the racists and Nazis tried to take to the streets in the summer, the Communist Party as an organisation refused to join the struggle to stop them marching.

Instead, it advised people to keep to 'peaceful' pickets.

Instead of mobilising workers for a struggle against the policies of this government, it urges reliance upon the futile and half-hearted gestures of the 'left' MPs. It cannot provide the leadership that is needed.

## The International Socialists

THE International Socialists are not a massive organisation. With 3000 members we are nowhere like big enough to measure up to the tasks

presented by the crisis and the growing anger against the government.

But over the past few months, we have been forced to take up these tasks nevertheless.

It was our organisation that had to bear the brunt of organising against the racists and fascists in area after area.

Again, it was our organisation that had to take the initiative in the fight against unemployment, forming the backbone of the Right to Work Campaign.

Hundreds of local trade union organisations supported these initiatives, as did many individual members of the Communist and Labour Parties. But without the International Socialists the long Right to Work march and the unemployed demonstration to the TUC would not have taken place.

The Right to Work Conference on 6 November brought together hundreds of trade union delegates. It could not have taken place without the activity of the International Socialists. Its success shows that activity is beginning to bear fruit.

In unions such as the teachers, the civil servants, the public employees, our members have been leading much of the action against the cuts.

In unions such as the electricians' and plumbers, the engineers, the transport workers, our members have been crucial in organising rank and file and Right to Work candidates for internal elections who have demanded that these unions break with the social contract and fight the cuts.

Let us repeat. We are not nearly big enough or important enough to do any of these jobs as they should be done. But there is no-one else who will do them.

Despite our small size, we have been forced to act as a party, not as a small propaganda group.

That was why we stood candidates in the Walsall and Newcastle by-elections. We recognised that if we did not use the occasion to put forward fighting, rank and file, socialist answers to the crisis, no one would.

## The Socialist Workers Party

CONSIDERATION of all these points led the national council of the International Socialists, meeting last weekend, to agree overwhelmingly to change the name of our organisation to the Socialist Workers Party in the New Year.

Events have forced us to behave like a party. We have to recognise the fact and work as fast as possible to build up our puny resources to deal with the tasks that confront us.

Changing our name alone will not magically make us more important. But it will help us to recruit, to build, to intervene in the struggle.

The latest cuts, the prospect of a continued rise in unemployment and prices, the new lunge towards crisis internationally, shows that life for growing numbers of workers is going to be bitter.

The fight back is going to be increasingly bitter as well. Only the building of a conscious, organised, revolutionary socialist presence in industry can provide the leadership that these bitter struggles will need.

Join us and help build the alternative, the Socialist Workers Party.

Next week's Socialist Worker will be coming out a day early. All reports must reach us by 4pm Sunday afternoon. The following week, between Christmas and New Year, there will be no issue.

## SOCIALIST WORKER FIGHTING FUND

THE building of the Socialist Workers Party is going to put a lot of strain on the resources of Socialist Worker. It means we will step up our efforts against the racists, against the cuts and to build rank and file organisations of trade unionists and the Right to Work Campaign.

So we ask our readers to

make a special effort in the few days left before Christmas to contribute to our Fighting Fund.

We know many IS branches will be organising Xmas socials. Make sure the money collected from these comes to the fund.

We know that many in-

dividuals who do not yet feel able to join us in building the party, still see the need for Socialist Worker every week. See if you can't send in a small donation or collection for the paper.

Follow the example of the supporters who sent in a total of £105 last week.

Our thanks to:

Central London SW meeting £12, Central London E11, Glasgow £10, Portsmouth £2.50, Cardiff £7, Cheshire £2.35, York £5, John Miller £1, Martin Browne (Tottingham Postman) £50, Norma and Charles from Hackney £10.

Donations please to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6DN.

**BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!**

# The road opens up ahead...

MIDDLE  
000 BE  
NEXT TO  
FIGHT THE CUTS  
SAVE JOBS



Nurses marching on the big 17 November in London: women all over the country are now discovering that promises such as the Equal Pay Act are just bits of paper—unless followed by their own determined action.

**THE mood of hundreds of thousands of workers in Britain is beginning to change.**

The massive demonstration of 80,000 against the cuts on 17 November is just one sign—and the change is opening the way for socialists in their workplaces and trade unions.

That is why a whole day of the two-day national party council of the International Socialists last weekend was devoted to discussing our industrial work.

The acceptance of the 'social contract' in most workplaces and unions is beginning to break down. The trade union bureaucracy is increasingly divided and confused. Some sections will make sharp—but token—turns to the left.

Many of the arguments put forward by the International Socialists over the past two years will now be taken up by sections of the bureaucracy that have until now supported the social contract. We must be prepared for these shifts, and use them to spread and build rank and file opposition.

Even the right wing is shifting. In the civil servants union (CPSA), the right-wing executive members voted to extend the overtime ban against the collection of statistics, as part of the fight against the cuts.

There is unrest elsewhere

too. The executive of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) rejected by 18 votes to 14 the extension of wage controls after July. Even Frank Chapple, right-wing general secretary of the Electricians and Plumbers Union (EETPU) is threatening to withdraw the union's support from the social contract.

**Changing**

The mood is changing in the trade union rank and file. At British Leyland's plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, 10,000 workers voted for collaboration with the company, but a massive 3,000 voted against.

The miners are voting overwhelmingly for industrial action. In the Midlands thousands of NUPE members struck for the day last week.

In Scotland NALGO members are organising a one-day stoppage. In Glasgow the busmen and the council's building department have both organised one-day

strikes against the cuts.

For two years socialists and trade union militants have fought a rearguard action, in isolation.

**Now the whole mood is changing. The tactics and actions that were correct over the past two years are no longer adequate.**

Some rank and file organisations have become defensive, inward-looking, lacking in initiatives and trapped in the trade union machine. They have looked too much to the union machine, and not enough to the members in the workplaces.

That means changing the way we work in the trade unions and workplaces. It is no longer enough to argue for more militancy. What is militant one day can in changing circumstances be the position of the right wing the next.

We shall have to take on the political arguments more aggressively. The crisis is a crisis of capitalism. Unemployment is a permanent feature of capitalist society.

The demand for the Right to Work is also an attack on capitalist society as a whole, not just on the failure of the trade union bureaucracy to fight unemployment.

As the struggle grows, more emphasis must be put on workplace organisation. In the coming nine months there will be a chance to expand the number of Socialist Worker readers groups and units of the organisation in workplaces.

Socialist Worker bulletins, written inside the factory, will have an important role to play—particularly as sectional groups take up the wages issue.

Our trade union fractions are taking on a new importance. In every union we can create a wide range of supporters and sympathisers.

**Arguing**

Each fraction will also have to take on the responsibility for arguing for our politics inside the various rank and file organisations within the trade unions.

The appeal of the rank and file groups can now be widened—and our members must argue that on every demonstration, in every strike, in every dispute, the appropriate rank and file organisation takes an active part.

In the fight against Health Service cuts, rank and file action can be developed around a 'Save our Hospitals' campaign. We can use that campaign not only to talk to hospital workers, but to involve other workers, such as miners, dockers and engineers, in a fight to stop hospital closures.

Our members must be active in the Right to Work Campaign, which in even the smallest union should be able to organise the groundswell of opposition to the social contract.

Every effort must be made to ensure the success of the march of unemployed called by the Right to Work Campaign in the spring.

**EVERY branch of the International Socialists must take up the decisions of the party council. This means:**

- Contacting every local dispute and offering the support of Socialist Worker.
- Involving every member in the work of their trade union fraction and rank and file group.
- Uniting locally and nationally with all those prepared to join the real fight against the cuts, the sackings and the social contract.

**Ban on meeting fails**

THE MEETING that the Chief Constable of Essex tried to ban went ahead last week—and gave the Chelmsford branch of the International Socialists a shot in the arm.

Paul Foot spoke to an audience of 100 in the town's AUEW Hall on The Case for Socialism.

Before the Chief Constable stepped in and banned us from the Shire Hall, only a relatively small audience had been expected. But the resulting publicity produced a packed meeting. Five people joined the International Socialists.

## NEW CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO BE LAUNCHED

**THE party council decided on a major shift in the activity of the International Socialists by launching a campaign for women's rights, to begin in the New Year.**

This year has seen the Equal Pay Act, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Employment Protection Act—but instead of the position of women improving, it is getting worse. The economic crisis is leading to increasing attacks on women by employers and the state.

These laws, instead of giving equal pay, job security, and an end to discrimination, have led to strike after strike—as the only way women can win the rights 'granted' to them under the

six-month battle at Trico, in West London, is the longest of a list of dozens of bitter struggles led by women. Large numbers of women are realising that, whatever the promises, government legislation only gets you anywhere if followed up by determined action.

In the same year as the Equal Pay Act, hundreds of thousands of women have been thrown out of work. No one knows how many because many women do not register as unemployed.

Women at work have found there are no nurseries for their children—because of the cuts. The right to abortion is still under attack.

There is a contradiction between what women have been promised and what is actually happening. This can lead to struggles and a massive growth of women workers' confidence

and fighting spirit.

Members and supporters of the International Socialists have to act decisively to lead these struggles. In the New Year we will be campaigning to take up five main issues—the right to work, equal pay, abortion, nursery facilities and maternity leave.

Womens Voice has a major role to play in this campaign. Plans are under way to change the paper to meet the new needs.

**Give the lead**

Our members must give the lead in the rank and file struggle in every union and workplace for women's rights. In the public employees union (NUPE), five women members are standing for the executive's five special women's

seats as supporters of the rank and file Hospital Worker and the rank and file NUPE Charter.

Rank and File Teacher is fighting for support for a resolution on maternity leave at next year's union conference.

We shall be organising a Rights for Women Conference around the time of International Women's Day in early March.

The decision of the party council is a major shift for the organisation. The campaign must be taken up by every member in every branch and district of the organisation. Every time women are forced out on strike, every time another nursery is threatened with closure, we must be there arguing and organising.

**The fight for women's rights is an essential campaign to build a socialist workers' party.**

## 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 overturned.

**THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD**

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

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

a workers' militia.

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

**INTERNATIONALISM**

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

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

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

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

We are for 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.**



Grunwicks strikers marching past the factory last week.

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

# Great boost for Grunwicks strikers

AS George Ward, managing director of Grunwicks mail order firm, in North London, walked by the firm's main gates last week, he stopped by a picket and spat out: 'When this is over I'll send you to your heaven, wherever that is'.

Ward's comment is a reminder of what this vital 17-week dispute is about: an arrogant, offensive, racist management which is determined to preserve its 'right' to run a sweatshop.

Standard wages at Grunwicks are £25 for a 40-hour week. For years, workers, especially Asian workers and especially Asian women workers, have been systematically exploited, bullied and insulted.

In August the workers walked out on strike, demanding the right to form a union. The management locked them out, and have since taken back some scabs. The strike has the official



AUEW convenor Abdul Wagu, who received the heaviest applause at the meeting

support of the office workers' union, APEX.

Last Sunday a mass meeting of strikers at the Brent Trades and Labour Hall heard Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, give solidarity greetings from the TUC. 'We do not just stand behind you' he said. 'We stand side by side with



Grunwicks management photographing strikers on last Friday's demonstration

you, all the way'.

The meeting also heard solidarity greetings from local Labour MP, Reg Freeson, who is Minister for Housing, and from Maurice Styles, assistant general secretary of the Post Office Workers union (UPW).

The loudest applause of the meeting was reserved for

Abdul Wagu, Engineering Workers Union convenor at Associated Automation, which had sent a delegation of five shop stewards to the meeting.

## Black ban

Abdul denounced the UPW for lifting the black on Grunwick mail. This black would have forced Grunwicks to their knees. Yet it had been removed on the threat of legal action.

'The rank and file were not consulted about this decision,' said Abdul. 'They should have been'.

Mahmoud Ahmed, strike committee secretary, also called for the reimposition of the postal black. So did Archie Sinclair, local branch committee member of Cricklewood UPW.

'We wanted to put the black on in the first place', he said. 'And we want it on now'.

Maurice Styles said that if APEX formally approached his executive, the Grunwicks black would be 'top of the agenda' for the UPW executive meeting this Wednesday.

The ban had been taken off, he said, to allow the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (ACAS) to run a ballot about union membership in Grunwicks. There were also serious legal problems.

'If we go to court and lose,' he said, 'we don't want to go down like the Shrewsbury Two. We want the support of the whole trade union movement'.

The strikers were delighted with the meeting. They point out that this is the first individual strike meeting ever to have been attended by a TUC general secretary.

But the strikers must not leave the matter there. They cannot assume that the strike will be won for them by executives and officials.

The management are using ACAS negotiations to stall the dispute until the pickets lose heart. ACAS have no power to force a ballot, or the terms of the ballot.

Ward and Co are insisting that the strikers are not entitled to vote in the ballot because they are not workers. They are also threatening the scabs that they will lose their jobs unless they vote against the union.

The bosses and ACAS can go on stalling for months. But the strike can be won by Christmas, if the postal workers stop the mail. Post Office workers everywhere must bring pressure on their executive to reimpose the black.

## Help

In the meantime, money for the strike is more important than ever. Last week the strikers received some fine donations, including £60 from the women at Trico, who have sent many donations already.

Get your stewards' committee or union branch to send a donation to: Grunwick Strike Committee, Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willesden High Road, London NW10.

# EGA hospital workers win crucial support from doctors

by JEAN GRAY

WORKERS at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, in London, have won crucial support from doctors in their fight to keep the hospital open.

The medical staff gave their backing at a meeting last week and have formed a joint negotiating committee with other workers at the EGA.

This puts an end to Area Health Authority attempts to split staff at the hospital and play doctors off against other workers.

Dr Portia Holman told an open conference on the EGA in London on Saturday: 'We doctors have been politically naive until now.'

'We believed the authority when they said we would not lose the concept of the EGA when we moved from Euston Road. But it has become increasingly obvious that they have no intention of fulfilling that promise.'

## Links

The action committee have support from University College Hospital, but the weak links in the chain are the Royal Free and the Whittington, said UCH shop steward Tom Devine.

Robin White, from the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead said that workers there are beginning to realise the need to fight the cuts.

'Because ours is a new hospital, people thought it was safe,' he said. 'But recent events make it difficult for workers to maintain that belief.'

'Fees at the hospital nursery are about to increase from £5 to £17, which low-paid women workers at the hospital will not be able to afford.'

He criticised the union officials for not taking the EGA case to other hospital workers.

Industrial workers must be involved in the fight said Don Steadman of St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, because of the help they can provide in carrying out repairs and keeping the hospital services going.

They should be asked to take strike action if necessary and tell their employers that they are going to work at the EGA for the afternoon, said another speaker.

Said Pam Jones, a shop steward at the EGA: 'This is a test case and we at the hospital find it strange to be in the limelight. Before the talk of closure we were disorganised and had virtually no contact with the labour movement.'

'Occupation was a last resort. We had tried everything else and been kicked.'

The action committee is planning a full delegate con-



Pam Jones, a shop steward at the hospital

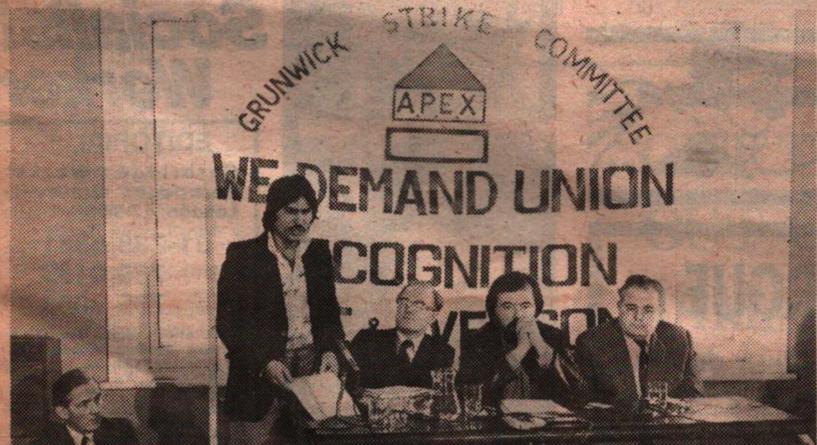


Womens Voice supporter Mandy Hurford speaking at the conference

ference in the New Year.

The North London Women's Voice group raised £20 for the EGA occupation at a street meeting last weekend. They sold badges and collected signatures on 25 petition forms.

Said Mandy Hurford: 'The response was extremely good. We plan to hold more of these meetings and would urge other Women's Voice groups to do the same. It is a very good way of raising issues with the public and organising support.'



The platform at the strike committee meeting (from left): TUC general secretary Len Murray, Mahmoud Ahmed, secretary of Grunwicks strike committee, Roy Grantham, APEX general secretary, Jack Dromey, secretary of Brent Trades Council, and Maurice Styles, assistant general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers.

**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.

# GMWU: RATS RULE OK?



THOUGH IT is not generally appreciated, a tremendous debt of gratitude is owed by the labour movement to Socialist Worker.

Nowhere is this more exemplified than in the paper's outspoken treatment of twisted union leaders and its exposure of their betrayal by those who put their trust in them.

For twenty years I was branch President of the General and Municipal Workers Union in Barnsley.

Despite opposition from many unexpected quarters, I welcomed the role of

troubleshooter, accepting local complaints as a challenge and a responsibility.

Conditions in Barnsley Park were depolarable. Many were handling toxic material without gloves, and the canteen was, as I told the superintendent, like the black hole of Calcutta.

### Jealous

Within a week, lighting, heating and cooking facilities were provided. Similar improvements and concessions were gained elsewhere—including protective clothing, sickness

by George Owen

and retirement benefit for part-time workers.

This was too good to last and suddenly the atmosphere changed.

There was a stony unwillingness to recognise my right to negotiate. Jealous of their own prerogative, the union's area officials told various departmental heads not to recognise me as I was acting on my own initiative.

With the ground treacherously cut from beneath my feet, I appealed to the membership. The response was lukewarm, though many members in

one section signed a petition expressing no confidence in the area organiser, which he contemptuously thrust aside.

The paid officials investigating complaints invariably cosseted themselves with the bosses, settling matters over drinks and informing stewards later.

### Reinstated

A Barnsley market worker was instantly dismissed through a misunderstanding. We got this changed to suspension, pending an investigation by the appropriate committee.

Before the committee met,

the area organiser was briefing me for an exit by the back door in the event of an adverse decision. I replied: 'In no circumstances will I accept this man's unjust dismissal.'

His mind was set on retreat with dignity, and he blew his top. As it happened, we got the man reinstated OK.

The rank and file of the union have no say in the appointment of paid officials, who, for the most part, are time-serving chair-polishers who adopt a patronising and dictatorial attitude to those who pay their wages.

Appeasing the management and avoiding friction is their overriding policy.

Without informing anyone, our area official accepted the redundancy of a militant shop steward. He told Barnsley GMWU branch that the man had been offered alternative employment—which he hadn't!

### Divine Right

The confrontation at the branch proved hectic and interesting. I pointed out that contrary to his belief in the Divine Right of Organisers, he was there to carry out the instructions of the paying members, a position he brazenly refused to accept.

He said it was his right to decide issues and 'keep us informed'. The packed meeting acquiesced with muted protest.

Embittered by years of frustration and disillusionment, vainly sticking my neck out trying to fulfil my obligations, I (perhaps mistakenly) resigned my position in 1971.

### Jelly Fish

I found the obstructive tactics and intrigue of both bosses and union officials nauseating. I felt contaminated by petty mindedness and graft.

Departmental heads, anti-socialist to a man, invariably opposed progress, Labour conciliors gave them a free hand.

The attitude of these spineless, fence-sitting jellyfish was typified by the chairman of the Markets Committee, who interrupted my heated arguments with: 'What's in it for you, George?'

The inference being, of course, that the only thing worth while is self-benefit.

Recently the local press splashed the presentation of a cheque by the Mayor to my successor—for twenty years service as branch President. I left in 1971. No comment.

## Happy Birthday ICI

ICI IS 50 years old this week. That's why they've supplemented their glamorous and costly series of 'Ideas in Action' ads in the papers with an especially hypocritical anniversary number.

This hymn of praise is done date by date like this:

- 1926 Four independent chemical companies merge to form ICI
- 1929 First meeting of the

Central Works Council Pioneered joint consultation in industry

- 1933 Polythene discovered. First major use—wartime rader, etc, etc.

Fifth Column has never liked hypocrisy. That's why we've compiled a few landmarks in the real as opposed to the official history of ICI.

- 1926 Roscoe Brunner is left off the list of directors of the new organisation ICI.

He shoots his wife and then kills himself. Brunner had been made to carry the can for the £1 million fraud committed on Lever Brothers and his wife was speaking out against this.

1931 ICI cuts manual workers wages by 5 per cent and staff salaries by 10 per cent, to an average of £2 a week. 7000 workers are sacked and Billingham completely closed down.

The men responsible for those cuts and sackings is the new chairman Henry McGowan. He works overtime to get his wages increased by an extra £5000 a year in recognition of 'the difficult situation' via a service agreement. He succeeds and his total 'earnings' for the year amount to £50,562. 500 times those of ordinary ICI workers.

1938 ICI discovers NON-OX S, used by rubber manufacturers to stop rubber perishing. It has the opposite effect on the bladders of the people who have to work with it. It gives them bladder cancer.

ICI definitely knew of this danger by 1943 and perhaps even as early as 1940. Nonox S was not withdrawn until 1949.

The firm's net profits on Nonox were £733,000. Liverpoolian Christopher Wright's net loss was his bladder. He had to have it removed and now urinates through his anus.



1975 ICI withdraws the drug Eraldin for weak hearts. Dozens of people badly injured by it lose their sight and even their speech.

1976 ICI celebrates its anniversary by doing a Thalidomide on them and saying accept what we offer or take us to court and just try to prove negligence.

ICI chairman Sir Rowland Allen claims in his anniversary speech that 'Our future success lies in preserving a genuine regard for the interest and aspirations of people.'

He is immediately awarded the Fifth Column 'Hypocrite of the Year' title, despite enormously strong competition from various other quarters.

## A four star operation

DOCK WORKERS may be interested to learn that while people like Herbert Robin Cayzer, alias Baron Rotherwick of Tynley, may not care much for job security in the docks, they do care about the nation's health.

The Baron is a director of the British and Commonwealth Shipping Co which has helped to build a new hospital at St John's Wood.

### Cushy bed

The Wellington's patients have their own room, a fridge and hot box.

If you fancy a boeuf bourgignon you can have it, and the medical director (according to the Daily Mirror) recommends 'a moving little Chateau Lafite to speed recovery.'

So next time you break your bones in the docks you'll know where to get it fixed.

One thing, though, you may need a decent wage increase first. The hospital charges £90 a week for a bed. —Ben Mellor.



MARGARET Thatcher took time off from abusing workers during the Cambridge election campaign to engage in her other favourite pastime—watching other people work.

The Iron Lady doesn't look keen to get her hands dirty at George Lister Engineering forge. Obviously a spell in the Australian mines a few weeks ago was as much work as she intends to do this year.

Send your suggestions for a caption to Fifth Column.

## CUTS, WHAT CUTS?

AS HEALEY'S cuts bite harder. Town Halls everywhere will be busy working out how to twist the figures to make it look like there are no cuts.

They should take a lesson

from the Essex Chronicle. The headline read 'Hospital Waiting Time is Reduced.'

The story began by giving readers the good news that nine out of 13 hospital

departments in the area had trimmed their waiting lists by 30 per cent.

The total number of patients waiting to see specialists fell from a high of 2,551 to 2,302. However, it went on, that was still 121 people more than at the same time the previous year.

The report went on to give detailed figures of departments affected and numbers of urgent cases.

Those still reading would discover the truth at the end of the article.

'Despite a fall in the total number of non-urgent cases, the number of non-urgent cases on lists for more than one year has risen from 1,883 to 2,231.'

Followed by a gem from the Area Health Authority spokesman: 'This is a trend in the right direction.'

You can't fool all of the people all of the time—but you can try!

### SACRIFICE CORNER:

cost us £500,000.

The patients at 16 Liverpool hospitals who are having their egg and bacon breakfast cut to toast and marmalade and losing their evening sweet can rest assured that we are all having to tighten our belts.

Even Her Royal Majesty is feeling the squeeze.

This week the world's best known film critic went to look at her new private train—which has

Recognising that this may seem a little extravagant in view of the economic climate, she was quick to point out to reporters that this was in fact a way of saving money.

The royal train, she said, is designed so that it can be 'stabled' overnight in the sidings without the royal hangers-on having to be put up in luxury hotels.



ON 1 DECEMBER, there was a West Midlands NUPE day of action. That well known militant NUT secretary and member of the NUT executive John Bowdler excelled himself. He came to school with an alastion dog—in case there was a picket. If there was a picket elsewhere, what was his advice?—'call the police at once.' There's one cut NUT members would like to see Mr Bowdler...

□ □

Any company or organisation which has not published its Safety Policy is breaking the law. Guess, then, which organisation has not issued its employees with a written Safety Policy? None other than the organisation which has to enforce the 1974 Act—the Health & Safety Executive.

□ □

ONE 'PENSIONER' who won't be in danger from hypothermia or starvation this winter is Sir Robert Mark.

When he retires at 60 in March his pension will be £14,000 a year. And it is index-linked so by the time the Metropolitan Police Commissioner is 83 he could be on a modest £350,000.



## 1975 CAMARGUE

Dark blue. As new. Chauffeur driven. Minimal mileage. Normally 2 years waiting list on this model.

£32,000 FOR QUICK

## Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

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

01-739 6361  
739 0185  
739 9043

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



Tens of thousands of workers marching through Paris last week in protest at the use of police to break an occupation by printworkers against redundancies.

## Again-Spain's rulers show their love of 'democracy'

THE SPANISH government showed last weekend what its turn towards 'democracy' is really about.

It sent armed police in to break up a demonstration calling for abstention on Wednesday's referendum.

The elections it promises in the spring will be rigged to gain backing for those the government approves.

It is saying that it will not allow the mainstay of years

of underground activity against fascism, the Communist Party, to take part.

Its electoral law says: 'the election will be based on a system of proportional representation with certain correcting devices to avoid an excessive fragmentation of the chamber'.

And if that fails, the King is allowed to appoint up to a fifth of the deputies and senators.

Many Spanish people will only vote 'yes' in the referendum because the government says a 'No' vote will mean supporting a return to all-out fascism.

There is no doubt, also, that the opposition parties have played into the government's hands. The capitalist parties are sympathetic to the government's approach.

And to avoid upsetting them, the other parties have avoided an all-out campaign to boycott the referendum.

### Rupture

Leaders of the main European Labour and Socialist Parties, including Michael Foot, were in Madrid last week for the conference of the main socialist party, the PSOE.

The conference agreed to jettison a call for a 'rupture'—a complete break with the fascists who still run much of the state—and instead to go along with the government's proposals for gradual reform.

The Communist Party is in danger of being left out in the cold by its middle-class and so-called socialist allies.

But instead of waging an active campaign against the referendum, with demonstrations and strikes, it has concentrated its fire on the call to be allowed to 'negotiate' with the regime.

The struggle for real democracy, and against the heritage of fascism in Spain, is increasingly a struggle waged only by the organisations of the revolutionary left.

## Stop this apartheid scandal

THE BRITISH premier of the South African-financed Ballet International was picketed in Bournemouth last week.

Ballet International is a major attempt by the South African government to break the cultural boycott of apartheid.

There are no black dancers and only one Chinese, who, for the purposes of South Africa is an honorary white.

### Picket

Ballet International is at the Hippodrome Bristol until 18 December, and will be at the Opera House Blackpool from 20-24 December, Festival Theatre Paignton from 17-22 January, Theatre Royal-Newcastle from 7-12 February, Congress Theatre Eastbourne from 14-19 February, New Theatre Oxford from 21-26 February, and Coventry Theatre from 28 February to 5 March.

Join the picket—No Apartheid Ballet.

# Rhodesia: Labour bow to Kissinger

THE BRITISH government is preparing to stop the complete breakdown of the conference on the future of Rhodesia.

The move came after a meeting with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last Friday.

### War

The aim is to bring to a rapid end the guerrilla war.

The American and British governments both recognise that the white racist regime will inevitably lose the war in the long run.

They are worried that western investments will be damaged and that there will be an advance for forces opposed to capitalism throughout Southern Africa.

The Geneva conference was meant to bring some of the main black middle-class leaders to an agreement to share power with the whites.

Leaders such as Nkomo or Muzorewa desperately want such an agreement.

But they know they cannot persuade the guerrillas to accept any deal that leaves military power in the hands of white racists who continue to murder black people wholesale.

### Hook

Yet this is what the British and Americans have been urging them to accept so far.

Now the British government is working out a slight variation to get the middle-class leaders off the hook.

It would mean British appointees and British officers taking control of the army and police.

They would continue to protect the privileges of the whites—and prevent any real improvement in the conditions of the mass of black workers and peasants.

But they would make compromises with the black middle-class in a way that Smith has refused to.

Many people who claim to be on the side of the blacks greet such a move with enthusiasm.



Nkomo: desperate



Crosland and Kissinger: worried that western investments might suffer



## The struggle goes on

A NEW sort of struggle is growing among Rhodesia's black workers.

While the nationalist leaders have been trying to negotiate with Smith and the western powers in Geneva, the workers have begun to struggle against rising prices and miserably low wages.

Africans in five centres have been boycotting bus services, municipally-owned beer shops and bakers' shops.

The movement began when bus fares in Rhodesia's second largest city, Bulawayo, were put up on 1 November.



The increases were the last straw for black workers who face 13 per cent inflation and short-time working, and increases in rents, electricity and hospital fees.

Their militancy is a reflection of the growing feeling

that the end of the Smith regime is near.

But the main nationalist movements seem to have ignored the workers' struggle.

No doubt men such as Nkomo and Muzorewa feel that since they expect to share power with the white owners of industry soon, it would not be in their own interest to encourage the workers.

The black workers could be the strongest ally for those people in the guerrilla army who want to destroy the whole structure of white racism and western-owned industry.

## GET THE CIA OUT OF JAMAICA

THE UNITED STATES' Embassy in London was picketed by the West Indian Standing Conference last week to demand that the CIA get out of Jamaica. The CIA is heavily involved in attempts to bring down the government of Michael Manley.

As we go to press, Jamaicans are going to the polls in their most important election ever. If, as expected, the People's National Party is returned, the CIA will be redoubling its efforts.

The Jamaican Workers Solidarity Campaign in this country will have a vital role to play in giving support to the growing



struggle against the CIA and the bosses. It has called a meeting for this Friday at the Abeng Centre in Brixton to discuss the election results. The main speaker, Tony Bogues, has recently returned from Jamaica and has up-to-date information on CIA activity.

JAMAICA: AFTER THE ELECTION, WHAT NOW? Public meeting, Friday 17 December, 6.30pm. Abeng Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton, SW2.

# 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.

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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).

Monthly payments: The first payment must be of £3, after which £1.50 will be required.

Bankers orders: If you have a bank account then the easiest way to pay is by bankers orders. A form will be provided on request.

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

# MAGGIE NELSON FOUGHT FOR IT 40 YEARS AGO. NOW WE MUST DO THE SAME ALL OVER AGAIN

INTERVIEW: ANNA PACZUSKA

**MAGGIE NELSON is 86. She joined the Communist Party in Blackburn 54 years ago.**

Throughout the Thirties, she was an active member of the National Unemployed Workers Movement and a leading member of its committee in Blackburn.

She describes some of the things they did.

“Our activities in Blackburn were carried out by about 12 people.

Two-thirds of them were in the Communist Party. Without the party, there would have been no unemployed organisation.

At first, we took over the Independent Labour Party rooms in Blackburn. But the ILP really had no respect for the unemployed.

Then the fire station came up to let. And our committee, three women and two men, decided to rent the place and take it over for the unemployed.

## LOUSY

It was a smashing big room with a large yard in front where you could have meetings. So we began to develop a social atmosphere. We held dances to get the unemployed to come along.

At first, the authorities thought it was a big relief. The unemployed were getting so many and they were worried what to do with them. So at first they let us be.

Then we started to develop it into an advice centre for the unemployed.

You could get Public Assistance then, but by God it was lousy.

Then the NUWM brought out a pamphlet about the ‘pots and pans clause’ which told you about extra payments you could claim.

But first we had to win the right to represent the unemployed at the Tribunals.

That was hard. The police often came into the Tribunals to clear us out.

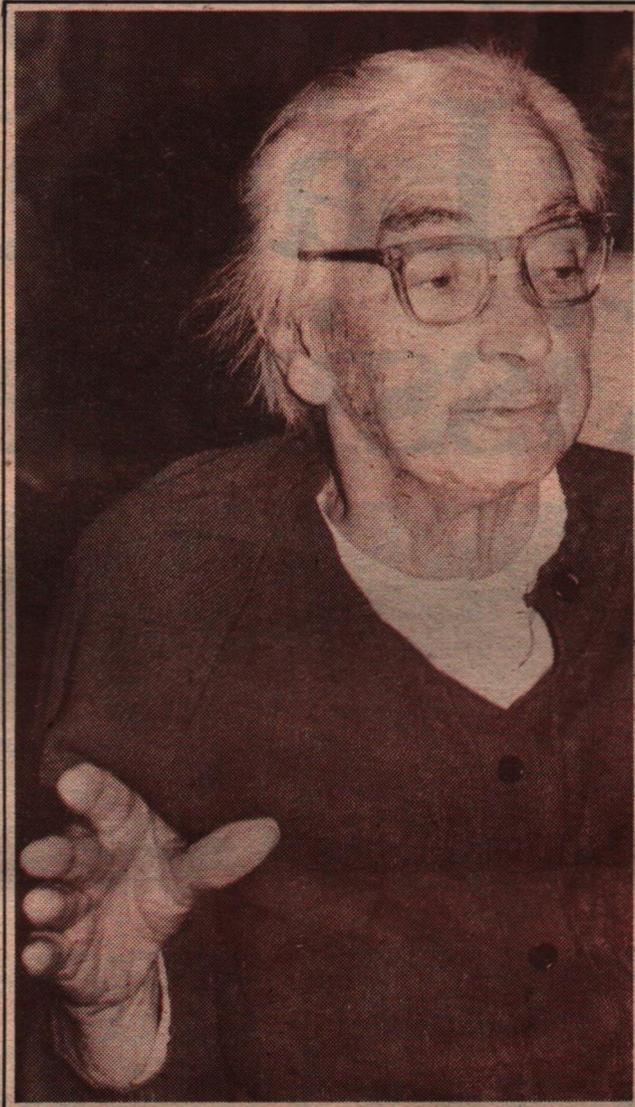
And what did the Labour councillors do? They agreed for the police to be fetched. You had militants on the one hand and Labour aldermen on the other.

## SUFFRAGE

But the committee was gaining respect all the time. The support for it got so big that the talk in Blackburn got to be which was bigger—the Labour Party or the National Unemployed Workers Movement.

We organised activities to get us attention from the press. We would storm a local council meeting and unfurl our banner in the middle of it.

We whitewashed canal bridges. Some unemployed copied the suffragettes and chained themselves to the



Maggie Nelson today... and in the Hungry Thirties, organising among the unemployed (third from right)



railings in front of the bank in Penny Street, with placards wrapped around them.

Whatever we did, we gave out leaflets telling people about our meetings.

We held them on Thursdays and Sundays on the square after the market stalls had been taken down. Anything between 1000 and 2000 people used to get to the square to listen to the speakers.

A lot of workers agreed with us and sympathised with our aims. But they were scared to come out and support us. Trade union support was acquiescent.

Workers would go down to their trade union branch or

their Labour Party meeting and they'd say ‘something must be done’.

So they'd organise a raffle or a collection. It was charity, not support, really. The essence of support wasn't there.

The hunger march was organised because the unemployed realised that they were on their own. We had got no support from the employed workers. They only gave us handouts.

People were scared that if they supported us, or were seen with a copy of the *Daily Worker* in their pocket, that they would be the next to lose their jobs.

So we marched against

poverty and starvation and against the means test. Something had to be done to draw the attention to how families were being broken up and victimised by the means test.

We started from Lancashire. There were about 40 women, all of them working class. We sang all the way and Bertha Jones—that's her in the photograph—played her drum.

We sang *Work Work Work We want work And an end to the means test Slave camps and the rest.*

There were many grand songs on the march. We made

many of them up.

We slept on floors in church halls, co-op halls, ILP rooms, Labour Party halls. Many organisations put us up. But, in reality, it was all up to those who slept down on the boards.

We used to go to the factories and speak to the workers.

Many people thought it was a disgusting shame that women had to march.

But we marched to show up the men and the organisations that weren't doing anything.

I went to prison twice. The first time was after a demonstration in Blackburn.

## LOCKED UP

We had been round with our megaphones organising people to come along. Bertha Jones and I were told that we would be let off if we agreed to keep the peace for a year, and not go on any demonstrations and marches.

But we refused. We were the only two—the two militant women who took a stand. And we were locked up.

When we went to prison it hardened the support for us in Blackburn. People on the fringes began to play an active part and got really committed.

You should learn from the past. It's only forgotten as far as you want it to be. Today's right for another march. ”



One job for a woman librarian was as

# Why we say: No Return to the Thirties

By Matthew Salisbury, AUEW

Scotland.

‘They were harassed by the police all the way down. There were no arrangements for food so they had to beg at houses on the way down.

‘They had to sleep where they could. On one occasion they were in some disused railway carriages. They were evicted for trespassing. And had to march in the night through the rain.

‘When they got to London they went to lobby the MPs at Parliament. They were

surrounded by police, many of them on horses.

‘The police charged the marchers. My father was hit by a baton on the back of his neck and on the elbow. His neck festered and he could not bend his arms for weeks.’

The marchers then had to walk all the way back. When Rose's father finally arrived home, Rose and her mother went to the door. ‘We didn't recognise him, we thought he was a tramp until he spoke.’

His shoes were worn out. His feet were wrapped in old rags. ‘He screamed as the rags were cut away. His feet were festered and swollen.’ He spent two weeks in bed and didn't leave the house for a month.

After that, he was caught doing casual work on the side to supplement the dole. His money was stopped for a week and he was fined £2 for fraud.

This is why the employed must support the unemployed in their fight for the right to work. And that's why we say—No Return to the 30s.



# man's work



advertised—and this was the queue that applied.

## Higher rents

THE FULL force of Healey's axe has fallen on housing.

In the last two rounds of cuts—in March and in July—housing was defended by the then Secretary of the Environment, Tony Crosland.

He said housing was 'sacrosanct' in the Labour movement. So housing escaped the worst cuts.

Even so, the government's plans for public spending, published in March, announced:

“This year the percentage of housing costs borne by rents after rebates will stay at 43 per cent. Thereafter it is assumed that the percentage will rise so as to exceed 50 per cent by 1980—thus saving about £180 million a year.”

That's £180 million more to be met by the six million families who live in council houses: 60p a week extra all round.

But now housing isn't sacrosanct any more. The government are slashing away at council house subsidies again—for next year.

And for all their pretence about protecting rent-payers, the new cuts will force the rents up.

Councils which are preparing rises of up to £1 for next year are already revising their plans.

## Fewer homes

THE LABOUR government started its term of office with plans for a 'massive increase' in council house building.

This was partly to fulfil election pledges, partly to 'take up the slack' in a grossly underused private building market.

But now even this has been abandoned. In the first ten months of 1976, council house building was down 14 per cent on the same period last year.

## And even worse houses...



Terry Bellamy: 'entombed in asbestos'

# LABOUR'S 'HOUSING' POLICY

FOR the 1,200 families living in Glasgow's New Gorbals, the tenement slums of yesteryear and the new council houses of today are one and the same.

### DREAMS

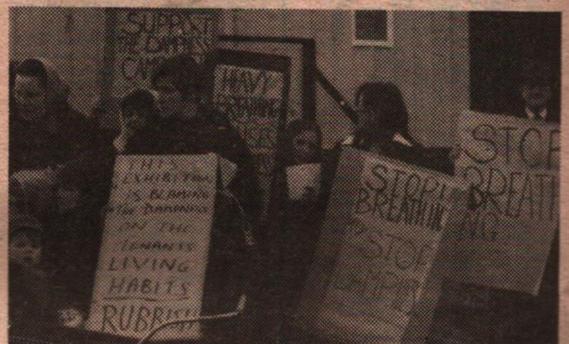
The 'dream' homes built with today's most modern materials and techniques, have been described by the tenants as 'concrete tombs'.

The problem, caused by a structural fault in building design and the use of cheap materials, is rising damp.

More than two-thirds of the homes are affected by condensation and water penetration. That means peeling wallpaper, mildew on the carpets, soaked mattresses, snivelling colds, bronchitis and nauseating smells, not to mention thousands of pounds lost in replacing clothes and furniture.

"It is creating ill-health and depression", said Mrs McVicar, mother of three. "I could not stand another winter here".

For three years, the tenants have been living in misery. And that's official.



A tenants' picket: 'breathing causes dampness', say the council

A team of experts has confirmed that the flats are neither healthy, hygienic nor habitable.

Doctors and psychiatrists have warned of the dangers to physical and mental health.

So what have the District Council done?

They said it was the lifestyle of the tenants that caused the damp. And one official commented that it was because the tenants "breathe too heavily".

The tenants formed their own 1,200-strong tenants association, from which the Anti-Dampness Campaign

arose.

The campaign is about to set a legal precedent in Scots law by taking the Council to court under Scotland's 1897 Public Health Act.

Yet why should it go this far, and where does the blame lie?

The truth is we've got this new generation of slums for the same reason we got the last. The conditions of the people who live in the houses aren't the priority.

The priority is the interest charges of the money lenders and the profit of those who own land materials and construction companies.

YOU'D be hard put to find a better example of the mad logic behind public spending cuts than the Carpenters Road estate in Stratford, East London.

Composed of three huge tower blocks and a variety of maisonettes, the estate was 'finished' eight years ago.

### SHARKS

But like every other council housing estate in Britain, Carpenters Road was designed for cheapness.

The vast amounts of money the council had to pay to banks and loan sharks was taken as read.

So bearing these ever spiralling costs in mind,

designers worked to minimise the costs of construction.

Once again, greed came before need.

But now, just eight years after the estate was 'finished', the cheap methods are showing up as extremely expensive.

Damp got in behind the facings on the tower blocks, and they are coming away. The council in their wisdom are replacing them.

But once again, they're out to spend as little as possible on materials.

So what the geniuses of Newham Council are doing is to clad the tower blocks from head to toe in—you've got it—asbestos.

As Terry Bellamy of the Tenants Association puts it: 'We're being entombed in asbestos.'

The Factory Inspectorate say they can do nothing about it, or about the underground slum factory where the contractors do their cutting.

The council pretend that the job is being done under strict supervision.

But the monumental cost of this chaos won't only be in people's lives. Sooner or later the asbestos sheeting will have to be replaced.

How long will it be before the wind gets in behind the frames, vibrates the facing from top to toe and brings all or some of it down?

### BODGE UP

How long will it be before the damp takes its toll and the sheetings crumble, releasing more deadly dust into the air?

Already the council have spent £700,000 replacing one bodge up with a second, more deadly one.

They're proving that cheap construction is very dear construction in the long term.

They're proving that low expenditure becomes in fact fantastically high expenditure—because cost cutting means worse and worse materials, cheaper, shoddier and more dangerous forms of construction.

ADVERTISEMENT

## STOP THE CUTS

A Right to Work Campaign pamphlet by Paul Foot

Everyone will be hit hard by the extra £1000 million that's to be cut from government spending

**FOR CHILDREN**, it means crowded classrooms, no meat for your school dinner.

**FOR THE SICK**, it means longer queues in increasingly decrepit hospitals—and probably increased charges for prescriptions, the dentist and the optician.

**FOR ALL OF US**, it means higher prices as food subsidies are removed.

*But the cuts can be stopped.*

Portsmouth hospital workers have proved it—they saved 30 nurses' jobs. Merseyside council workers have proved it—they stopped 181 building workers being sacked. London hospital workers proved it—they stopped the closure of hospital kitchens.

**This pamphlet proves it... buy it now**  
19p a copy, including postage, or ten copies for £1 (post free)

**RIGHT TO WORK CENTRE**  
265 Seven Sisters Road, London E2.

## 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.



**WYTHENSHAW** Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Stop the Cuts! Fight for the right to work! Thursday 16 December, 7.30pm, Brownley Road Social Centre. All welcome.

**SAVE OUR HOSPITALS** Conference, organised by Hospital Worker and the Right to Work Campaign: Saturday 19 March, in London. Details and delegates' credentials from the Right to Work Campaign office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION** Right to Work Campaign Conference: Smash the Social Contract. Saturday 26 March, in Manchester. More information from the Right to Work Campaign office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



**Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign** Meetings with **TONY BOGUES**, of the Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica.

Birmingham: Thursday 16 December, 7.30pm, New Town Community Centre, Aston, Birmingham 19.  
LONDON: Friday 17 December, 6.30pm, Abeng Centre, 7 Gresham Road, Brixton.  
MANCHESTER: Sunday 19 December, 7.15pm, Whalley Hotel (Brooks Bar).  
JOIN the Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign. Send 50p to JWSC, 36 St Alphonsus Road, London SW4.



Come and hear **TONY BOGUES** of the Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica.

**POSTERS** to advertise your Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign meetings in style! £1 for 100 from JWSC, 36 St Alphonsus Road, London SW4, or phone 01-720 4701.

## meetings

**CYPRIOI DEFENCE CAMPAIGN** Street Meeting: This Saturday, 18 December, 10.30am, Finsbury Park (outside Rainbow Theatre), London N4.

**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.

## Notices

**FORD WORKERS STRUGGLES IN BRITAIN**—Documented, illustrated 'Red Notes' pamphlet. 40p from Bookmarks, Compendium, Rising Free.

**New issue of CYPRIOI 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 **CYPRIOI 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.

## Scotland

**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 (EIS).

## Yorkshire

**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.

## 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.

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

**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.

**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.

**WARRINGTON** Socialist Worker public meeting: Can socialism be achieved with Labour? Speaker: P. Thursday 16 December, 7.30pm, Red Lion, Winwick Road.

## Midlands

**LETCHEWORTH**: Socialist Worker is sold every Saturday morning, 10am-11am, at the New Shopping Precinct.



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

**LEICESTER** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Fridays, 9pm prompt, Globe Inn, Silver Street.  
17 December: The International Socialists and the Labour Party. Speaker: Mike Teague (ASTMS).

# 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.

### Action in the unions

**BUILDING WORKERS**: National meeting for all members of the International Socialists in the construction industry. Sunday 23 January, 12.00 noon, IS Books, 224 Digbeth High Street, Birmingham. To discuss: 1. Building a rank and file movement—the need for a national rank and file paper, union elections, the Right to Work Campaign. 2. Direct labour under attack. 3. The fraction and IS—how we work as revolutionary socialists on site. Discussion documents and further details will be circulated by fraction secretary.

**POST OFFICE WORKERS**: National meeting for all members of the International Socialists in the UPW. Sunday 15 January, 11am-4pm, in London. Pooled fare system.

**TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION** fraction executive meeting—delegates from all regions. Saturday 8 January, 1pm, Trade Union Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

**COUNCIL WORKERS**: Meeting of all supporters and members of the International Socialists who are shop stewards or trade union reps in town halls, direct labour departments, etc. Saturday 22 January, 1pm-5.30pm, Trade Union Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester.

**NUPE**: National meeting for all members and supporters of the International Socialists in the National Union of Public Employees. Saturday 19 February, in London. Please keep this date free.

**International Socialists INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** meeting: Saturday 29 January. Delegates will be contacted with details.

**PLEASE NOTE**—The IS industrial department's new phone number is 01-739 6273.

7 January: The Minority Movement and the Right to Work Campaign. Speaker: Bob Maloney (ASTMS).  
21 January: Fascism and how to fight it. Speaker: Ted Ashby (TGWU).

## London

**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?'

**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).

3 January: Family Life and Capitalism.  
17 January: Racism today and how to fight it.

**TOWER HAMLETS** International Socialists closed meeting: Wednesday 22 December, 7.30pm sharp, Oxford House, from 9pm onwards at the Ol George pub a Socialist Worker supporters and friends welcome for a MarXmas party.

**International Socialists GAY GROUP** meets regularly in London on Mondays. Phone 790-2454 or 800-8557 for details: 19 Redmans Road, London E1 3AQ.

**EAST LONDON** Socialist Worker Black School: Sunday 23 January, 11am-5pm. Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, Canning Town. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Morning: Imperialism. Afternoon: Migrant workers in Britain.

## 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 Goodle 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!

## South East

**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.

## 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.

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.



Get your **FLAME** stickers! Tell the world what you think of the police—and advertise the greatest fighting black workers' paper. Only 50 for a sheet of six self-adhesive stickers. Please send stamped addressed envelope. Or £1 for 20 sheets, post free. From **FLAME**, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6DN.

**FLAME** editorial board meeting: Saturday 18 December, 1pm-4pm, at 21 Mayall Road, Brixton, London SW2 (three minutes from Brixton tube). All Flame supporters and members of the International Socialists welcome. If you have transport or accommodation problems, phone Flame at 01-739 1878.

## Notices

**THE FIGHTING ALTERNATIVE TO LABOUR... Socialist Worker** The Paper That Says: 'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!'



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

**CYPRIOI** 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.

**PRINTING**: For all your printing requirements, leaflets, pamphlets, posters, stickers, tickets, etc. SW Printers, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. Phone 061-832 8102. Also anti-racist stickers for sale, 20p for 100 (plus postage).

**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.



**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.

**BOOKMARKS 1977** BOOKLIST 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 8 pm 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), Socialistische Arbeider Zeitung (Germany), Lutte Ouvriere (France).  
□ **BOOKMARKS**, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE. Phone 01-802 6145.



**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.

# THE MEANING OF MARXISM

## Duncan Hallas

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

# HALF PRICE!

## PLUTO PRESS XMAS OFFER

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

<p>Cliff: State Capitalism 75p (normally £1.50) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Cliff: Lenin I £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Cliff: Lenin II £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Harman: Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe £1.35 (£2.70) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p>	<p>Birchall: Workers Against the Monolith £1.35 (2.70) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Kidron: Capitalism and Theory £1 (£2) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution £1.80 (£3.60) + 30p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Dewar: Communist Politics in Britain 90p (£1.80) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p>	<p>O'Flinn: Them and Us in Literature 45p (90p) + 10p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Callinicos: Althusser's Marxism 90p (£1.80) + 20p post</p> <p>□ □</p> <p>Groves: The Balham Group 60p (£1.20) + 10p post</p> <p>□ □</p>	<p>Origins of the International Socialists 50p (£1) + 10p post</p> <p>▲</p> <p>Offer ends 31 December. Maximum postage necessary £1.</p> <p>Please state your name and address clearly, and send your cheque or PO to:</p> <p>□ Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.</p>
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**GLASGOW SOCIALIST WORKER BOOKS**, top floor, 64 Queen Street. The new bookshop is now open with increased stock. Buy your books for Christmas now! Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, wide range of socialist books, pamphlets, novels. AND SW Litho—get your leaflets, posters and pamphlets printed. Phone 041-221 3426 for further details and quotations.

Male worker, 25, domesticated, dependable, likeable, **NEEDS ROOM** in warm sharing house, preferably mixed, in North or North East London. Phone 01-555 2436 and leave message.

**TO LET**: three rooms, unfurnished, in South West London. Two minutes from Brixton tube. £5 a week for Right to Work Campaign supporters or member of the International Socialists. Phone 01-720 4701.

**WANTED URGENTLY**: A copy of Kolko's The Politics of War, regardless of condition. Phone 01-478 7101.

**THERE'S** a new sort of music power driving its way onto the established music scene.

It's hard, it's crude, it's aggressive, it's the new music of youth—performed by youth, and unemployed youths at that. It's called Punk Rock.

Gone is the complex perfection of groups such as Yes and ELP. Punk is violent and simple, it's mood music.

And the mood is the anger of a new generation who've graduated from school to street corners and dole queues.

The music rebellion comes in a jumble of ideas. Take Clash. They're called that because they stand for clashing with authority.

Clash come on stage wearing swastikas next to pictures of Karl Marx and Red Guard armbands. They sing songs such as 1977:

*In 1977 there's knives in W.11  
It ain't so lucky to be rich  
Because there's sten guns in  
Knightsbridge...*

And White Riot:

*All the power is in the hands  
of people rich enough to buy  
it.*

*While we walk the streets too  
chicken to even try it  
And everybody does what  
they're told to*

*And everybody eats super-  
market soul food*

*White Riot, I wanna riot,  
White Riot—a riot of my  
own.*

**Sexist**

This isn't anti-black—it's white working-class kids wanting a musical identity, their own rebellion, like young blacks have reggae and rastafarianism.

Their music is a product of its time—a violent reaction to a society collapsing around them.

Not all the songs or groups have revolutionary overtones. There's a lot about sniffing glue and some groups, particularly the Sex Pistols, delight in degrading women.

**Hot Rods**

But they all echo the same healthy hatred of the musical establishment—and society's establishment.

Even as I write, the musical establishment is reacting to this new music by absorbing it—as it has always absorbed and stifled every new music.

For instance, Eddie and the Hot Rods and the Sex Pistols have got brand new recording contracts.

But outside, the new groups proliferate as does the new rebellion of youth against being sacrificed by Callaghan and his big business pals.

Our problem is to channel that rebellion into a real revolutionary movement.

**GARRY  
BUSHELL**

# Sex Pistols: Whose finger on the trigger?

FORGET THE FOUR-LETTER FURORE — PUNK ROCK IS HIGHLY POLITICAL. AND IT'S ON OUR SIDE, SAYS GARRY BUSHELL... BUT NIGEL FOUNTAIN SOUNDS A WARNING NOTE



Sex Pistols and fans: whose side are they on politically?

**MY INITIAL** reaction to the Sex Pistols launch in show business was favourable.

Nobody who spits at the promenaders of London's unpleasant Kings Road, and follows it up by calling Thames TV's Bill Grundy a sod, can be all bad.

This was followed by surprise. I was surprised that the media could whip itself into hysteria about it.

Then I reassured myself. They were only going about their time-honoured trade of marketing cheap thrills in a bag labelled prudery, like an enterprising brothel-keeper who specialises in nuns and clerical vestments.

But what about those people who got alarmed about it? Rang the brothel keepers up? Kicked in their colour TVs?

The reason, I concluded, was that some people use the media, and it is a prime reason why the media is there, to reassure themselves that the world is nice, clean and normal. It isn't. As anyone who looks out of their front door knows.

**Prissiness**

That is what is outrageous about Punk Rock. It lets the cat out of the bag. It points out that life is violent, racist, sexist.

That we lead aimless lives. It is alright, however, for the wretched Grundy, now concluding a fortnight's exile

from the cathode tube (for embarrassing Sir) to advocate physical violence against erring football supporters.

He did this in the Daily Mirror. He can advocate violence. They can't.

Punk is a reaction to being an out-group. To being ignored. To the prissiness of most Rock.

Practically, it is a reaction to its cost. The technology of modern music is expensive. Only with a record contract can a group afford the instruments to compete with the Queens and Rod Stewarts of the industry.

The spontaneity of early rock was lost. Accountants ruled. Punk has meant that some control by youth over their music has been restored.

As before, it won't last. The

contracts flood in. The fatuous interviews with concerned journalists ('Have another bottle of Stag's Breath, Mr Rotten') follow as bruise follows brick.

It is ironic but inevitable that while Tories like Sir Geoffrey Howe denounce the cancer in our midst with one gesticulating finger they pocket the proceeds—in Howe's case as a director of EMI—with the other.

**Vitality**

Words may be dirty but money is always clean.

There is nothing inherently virtuous in Punk. It picks up the ideas in the street like a flypaper, a tinge of fascism, aimless violence, despair.

It can lurch off into black shirts and fetishism, a last cul-

de-sac of a system at the end of its road.

It doesn't have to. Take the band Clash, interviewed in the New Musical Express (11 December).

'We're hoping to educate any kid who comes to listen to us... just to keep them from joining the National Front when things get really tough..

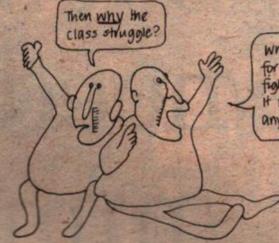
We just don't want the National Front stepping in and saying, "Things are bad—it's the Blacks..."

The energy of that music, and where it came from, can go either way.

We need that vitality on our side. It could be a mortal enemy.

**NIGEL  
FOUNTAIN**

MARX SHOWS US HOW THE LAWS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT DETERMINE THE INEVITABLE SEQUENCE OF MODES OF PRODUCTION: FROM PRIMITIVE TO SLAVERY, FROM FEUDALISM TO CAPITALISM... WHICH LED (AND STILL LEADS) MANY TO ASK THEMSELVES:



**MARX  
Replies:**



BECAUSE MEN MAKE HISTORY, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND...

HISTORY DOESN'T DO ANYTHING. IT DOESN'T PROMOTE ANY STRUGGLE.

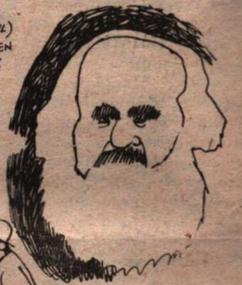
CAPITAL WILL ATTEMPT TO RESIST ITS OWN DOWNFALL. WHAT WILL LEAD TO ITS DESTRUCTION ARE CAPITALISM'S INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS; BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF AN ADVERSARY DEVELOPING INDEPENDENTLY OF CAPITALISM'S WILL; I.E. THE PROLETARIAT...



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If Marx's ideas baffle you, give this book a try

JUST AS EVERYONE WAS SETTLING DOWN, HAPPILY WITH CAPITALISM (AND LIKE HEGEL) THINKING THAT SOCIETY HAD FINALLY TAKEN THE RIGHT ROAD, ALONG COMES MARX AND SPOILS THE PARTY...



'Ere! Who the 'ell invited you hippie?'



MARX'S THEORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE—INEVITABLE AND HISTORICAL—REALLY HIT CAPITALISM BELOW THE BELT. SOONER OR LATER, SAYS MARX, CAPITALISM IS GOING TO HAVE TO RETREAT BEFORE A NEWER AND FAIRER SYSTEM...

**Socialism**



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**THE CARTOONS** above come from Marx For Beginners, an easy-to-read, illustrated paperback about the man's life and ideas.

Complete with glossary, it summarises the theories of the ancient Greek philosophers up to the time of the 19th century Europeans from whom Marx extracted and developed his own work.

The book takes Marx's theories one by one and explains what they actually mean. A good Christmas present.

**MARX  
for beginners**



**TONY  
MCGHEE**

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



**NOW FOR PUNKS AGAINST RACISM**

LEAFLETTERS from Rock Against Racism were attacked by British National Party members outside the first night of the Sex Pistols' concert in Leeds last week.

The leaflets attacked the support Eric Clapton gives to Enoch Powell. They asked if Clapton supported 'repatriation of all black musicians which would leave the field open to him and other white musicians who owe their musical roots—success and riches—to black music.'

The fascists arrived in force and attacked the leafletters and ripped up leaflets.

Rock Against Racism is now trying to organise a Punks Against Racism concert

LEEDS ROCK AGAINST RACISM.

**Why the silence?**

I AM amazed by the failure of Socialist Worker to report the recent Congresses of the 2000 strong Scottish Labour Party. The summary 'expulsion' of five branches and numerous individual members for defending left wing policies and internal party democracy has received no mention in your columns.

Despite the fact that the 'expulsion' was engineered by the use of a block card vote by Sillars loyalists from Ayrshire, and that the 'expelled' comrades heard no evidence presented, were denied a right of reply, and had no right of appeal, Socialist Worker chooses to remain silent on such a flagrant breach of elementary workers democracy.

It is well known that Socialist Worker does not agree that Scotland has a separate national identity, but that is no reason to black-out all news regarding important developments among the large number of socialists who do accept this premise.

Jim Mackechnie, Glasgow.

**I'm no racist, but surely we need some immigration controls?**

THERE ARE more than one million hoases unfit for human habitation in Britain, according to last week's Socialist Worker.

So how does Socialist Worker oppose all immigration controls. Isn't it obvious that Britain is already overcrowded?

It's nothing to do with whether someone is black or white. All the talk in the immigration laws about patial and non patial is enough to make any socialist sick.

The truth is that any more immigration would

mean even more people who can't get a job, even longer queues in doctors' surgeries and in hospitals, even more overcrowded schools, even more people trying to get rehoused or being swindled by landlords.

Immigration controls are not necessarily racist. They're just common sense.

I've been on plenty of demonstrations against racist organisations such as the National Front. But I'm not prepared to see the overcrowding here made even worse by more immigration, black or white.

R Thompson, Surrey.

**...OR DO WE?**

MANY people have had the wool pulled over their eyes about overcrowding in Britain.

The Daily Mail scare about the people queuing up to get in and about how we are bursting at the seams has influenced a lot of workers.

But how many people will have seen the government census figures published last week?

They showed that 44,000 more people left Britain last year than settled here.

In fact, the population is falling.

Of course, this piece of information has received nothing like the massive publicity it would have got had the census proved the opposite.

J Bourne, N. London



End all immigration controls—but one reader disagrees

**POSTAL POINTS**

THE pensioners have just received a £2 rise, or so the newspapers would have us believe. Many pensioners have to work to supplement their meagre pension.

My father is a pensioner who works. He earns £11.85 after tax for working 20 hours a week. But now because of the £2 increase on his pension he will only get £10.80 after tax, a drop of £1.05 in his earnings.

So the result of his £2 pension increase is he gets 95p and the government gets £1.05.

S WHAITES, Burnley

I WOULD like to criticise the use of ultra violent songs and slogans aimed at individuals on some recent demonstrations, like 'If it wasn't for the coppers you'd be dead', or 'Disembowel Enoch Powell'.

We need to explain and argue why we want to smash these racist organisations. Many of the individuals in them or influenced by them are workers we need to convince.

D MacNEE, Leeds

WHAT AN astonishing remark from Chris Harman 'in a decent society some of the extra wealth would be used to employ more social workers'.

What for? To make sure that old people aren't dying from cold and neglect? To look after battered women and children?

No—in a decent society we won't need social workers, we won't have to employ people to look after each other.

JIM MADGE, London W14

The Organisation of Mozambican Women needs material on Womens Liberation in Britain.

Any donations of books, pamphlets, materials, leaflets would be appreciated.

Please send to the Guinea, Angola, Mozambique Information Centre, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2.

I WAS shocked by your headline—the government plans to do absolutely nothing during the next parliamentary session, except fool about with devolution'.

In fact with the Criminal Trespass section of the law reform bill the government plans to restrict the use of direct action by the homeless, community groups and others. The threat of police intervention in such occupations needs massive publicity.

JANET WATTS, NUPE, London N1

**FAMILIES WHO FACE DAILY PERSECUTION**

ROMANY travellers, or gypsies as they're called, are being banned from whole areas of the country.

There are some 30,000 travellers in England and Wales.

Every local authority is supposed to provide 'adequate accommodation for gypsies residing in or resorting to the area', according to law. Most local authorities have done

nothing about it. Instead, hundreds of families face the threat daily of evictions, police harassment and summonses.

The government even provides local authorities with 'designation' orders. All the local authority has to do is satisfy the government that it has no traveller population in its area, or that it has already provided a site.

Once it gets this order, the travellers are banned. The penalty for breach of the law is £20 for the first day and £5 for each subsequent day.

They've been legally banned from whole areas, just like the black population in South Africa.

John Scott, Norfolk.

**Letters**

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

**LET'S ALL RETIRE EARLY!**

I BELIEVE early retirement for all sections of the working class—miners in particular—should be compulsory, on the grounds that few men working underground all their days have sufficient health at 65 to enjoy their retirement.

A number of men at the pithead are sent up from the pit because of injury or ill health and they must come into this category.

As we are in the Common Market and pay Common Market prices, we want the same conditions as miners there get—voluntary early retirement at 55 and compulsory retirement at 60.

Also, taking men out of the collieries at this age will increase the intake of young men, so helping with the problem of unemployment in the coalfields and the country in general.

Ian Chalmers, surface worker, Comrie Pit, Fife

□ □

THIS CLAIM for early retirement is like a lot of things.

We should have had it years ago. The propaganda from Ezra and the whole media about not being able to afford it is a load of rubbish.

There are always hundreds of millions of pounds available for the Tory bosses of big business or for generals to procure more sophisticated weapons of war.

But let a worker demand a wage rise or better conditions and suddenly the kitty runs dry.

In 1972, when the rank and file decided to apply a bit of muscle, the National Coal Board and the government suddenly discovered that they could, after all, afford to meet our wage claim.

We will have to do the same over this claim. At the same time we will have to keep a tight control over our own national officials to ensure that the right wing on the executive have no chance

to sell us out.

We need to ensure that strike action is taken as soon as it is necessary and there is no time wasting with overtime bans.

I'm looking beyond the time when we win this claim to the time when we lodge a healthy big wage claim. Judging by the state of my pay packet each week, that had better be bloody soon.

Tam McGuinness, face worker, Comrie Pit, Fife.

□ □

OUR LEADERS in the mines fight sometimes for advantageous legislation for us. But what in practice does that amount to?

Last year legislation came in on new dust counts. According to the National Coal Board, this was going to affect production. It was one of the reasons given for closing Longannet Colliery.

But did these new tougher controls on dust counts improve the working conditions of the miners? Did it bloody hell!

In this age of technology,

when we send men to the moon and back, we still fail to provide adequate safety measures against dust in the mines.

The miners' disease of dust turns men into walking corpses.

We must make it clear to the Labour government, to the TUC and to the IMF, that the miners will no longer tolerate the fake promises of our leaders, or of the government.

Dick Hall, Warsop Main, National Union of Miners.

**Fred Ford: My thanks**

MY THANKS to IS comrades and all others for your messages of sympathy and condolences on the death of Fred last week.

It has helped to know that so many of his comrades' thoughts were with me and his family. Special thanks to Gerry Hobin for his wonderful tribute to Fred.

Pat Ford, Manchester

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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# Ireland: The violence will not go away until Britain's gunmen pull out

**WORKING** people in Britain, with a few notable exceptions, have for many centuries generally ignored the troubles in Ireland.

Recently, however, with the present war stretching into its eighth year, people are becoming increasingly concerned and many groups are busily engaged in supplying information on the situation.

The Troops Out Movement, in particular, with elements of the Labour and trade union movements and most of the radical or socialist groupings, have been involved in this work.

## Confused

Westminster MPs, members of the British Government and party politicians have deliberately confused the issue. They pontificate about peace in Ireland and yet at Westminster only 45 minutes a month is set aside for discussions on Irish affairs. Only about 40 MPs attend. So much for their concern for peace in Ireland.

I take the view that the basis for peace will only be established here when the British withdraw.

*Why? Because the British Army, government and financial interests should not be here anyway. They have no rights in Ireland nor rights to Ireland.*

They have never brought peace. They work only in British interests and they have exploited, and continue to exploit and monopolise the Irish situation, for their own ends.

The British government retains ultimate authority over the affairs of the people of the six counties and dominates the affairs of people of the 26 Counties.

## Control

Westminster has always had a policy towards Ireland as a whole and the undeniable control exerted through the Government of Ireland Act and the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 ('It is hereby declared that Northern Ireland remains part of Her Majesty's dominions and of the United Kingdom . . .') makes British responsibility for our present situation clear.

The only feasible solution is for her to dismantle her administration in Ireland, to renounce all claims to any part of Ireland and to pursue a policy of withdrawal.

The British connection has lasted through several stages, for many centuries. It has taken many forms whether economic, political, territorial, or cultural. But it has always used violence, coercion, sectarianism and terrorism as its methods—and power as its objective.

It has produced governments which terrorise to maintain the status quo, organisations which fight to maintain their own privileged position within it and organisations which fight in opposition to it. It has established partition, fear, distrust, privilege and poverty, disunity and faction-

fighting.

It has brought death to many Irish people, to its own British soldiers and to British civilians. The British connection denies civil and human rights to the Irish people, and it is maintained by concentration camps, summary executions and the use of torture.

## Poisoned

*By its very nature, the British presence is not, and has never been, a just or peaceful presence. And because of this, relationships between the Irish people and British people have been poisoned.*

When the root cause of violence in Ireland is removed then and only then will the violence cease. Then the working class in Ireland and England will find common cause to move forward into an era which has long been denied them by the British Government.

Ireland is an island. Historically, culturally and geographically, it is one single unit. Partition, established by the Government of Ireland Act and subsequent British Acts, divided Ireland into two artificial statelets.

C.P. Scott, the English writer, wrote in 1920 that partition was . . .

. . . to entrench the Six Counties against Nationalist Ireland. Its effect will not be to make a solution of the Irish Question easier but to make it harder by creating a fresh and powerful obstacle.

By creating and maintaining partition, by giving a national minority the power of veto on the unity of Ireland, Westminster succeeded in its primary objective.

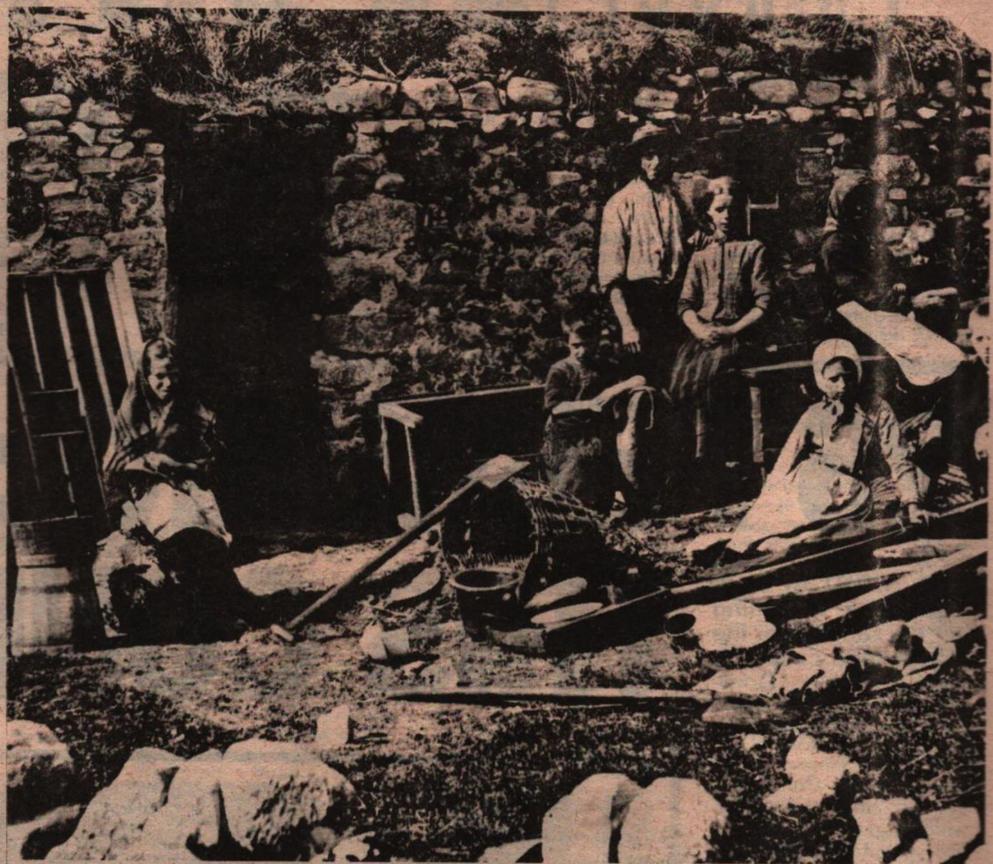
Democracy, the right to self-determination and the sovereignty of the Irish people, are thus thwarted by the British government.

*The system established in the North by Britain is the prop on which sectarianism depends.*

## System

The British government established their system upon a pro-British minority holding a privileged position over a dispossessed majority. This system was established by, and is controlled by, and is the responsibility of, the British government.

The sectarian terrorism and discrimination indulged in by those who wish to maintain their own position within that system is also the responsibility of the



The violence Britain's rulers brought to Ireland: a family before and after eviction



British government.

The system itself is undemocratic (and in its relationship with the UK, under the British connection, democracy is absent).

A solution will never be found within this system and even the most recent short-term 'solutions' have failed. 'Pro-British' elements will face up to the reality of the situation only when the British prop and the system which uses them as its tools is removed.

When the British go, through time, those working-class people now professing a pro-British loyalty will realise that the conflict in Ireland is not about religion. The reality of that situation will

force the vast majority to accept that their welfare will be better served in a system in which they and all Irish men and women regardless of religion, can work together.

Peace will only come when this setup, its side-effects and the British presence which maintains them, is removed.

*Ireland has suffered and has been impoverished by British domination of her economy. In the North, there are 49,899 unemployed, while in the South, the unemployment figures exceed 200,000.*

Most firms employing more than 200 people in the North are British-owned. In the South,

foreign, mostly British, and multinational companies (70 per cent of business land and capital are owned from outside Ireland) monopolise industry.

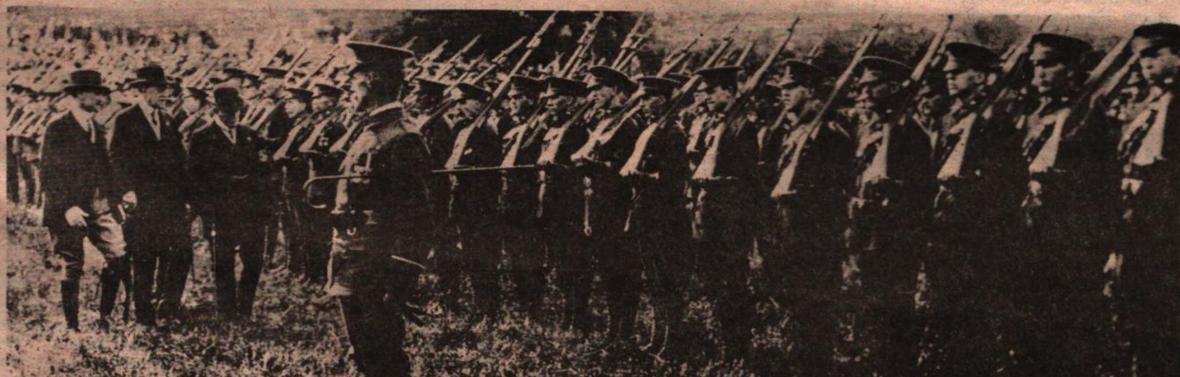
Neither government in Ireland can see any way forward. The recent Free-state Government Green Paper forecasts a worsening of the situation while the Quigley Report suggests that at least 50,000 and perhaps 60,000 jobs will be needed even to achieve an unemployment level of five per cent by 1980 in the North.

## Unabated

Thus emigration has continued, unabated, North and South. The pool of cheap labour provided, the hunger for jobs and the grants on offer to industrialists, benefit only British interests, or rather those financial interests which the British government serves.

Profit and only profit is their motive for being in Ireland. They have made the economy and wealth of Ireland subservient to their own vested interests. Meanwhile, the working people of Ireland suffer.

Economic stability cannot be built without political and economic freedom. Only by a British withdrawal can this situation be rectified and only when it is rectified will there be peace in Ireland.



The Dublin crowds who greeted the 2000 men detained after the 1916 Easter Rising; and Ulster Volunteers drilling in 1914 in readiness to thwart a united Ireland.

# CONVENOR THREATENED

By Alasdair McSween, UCATT

A CAMPAIGN of intimidation has been waged since last July against Jim Duffy, the Isleof Grain convenor who was responsible for organising 1000 tunnel miners into the Transport Workers Union. In the last two weeks, Peter Kavanagh, TGWU building group secretary and Jimmy Kavanagh, convenor at the Dartford Tunnel, have been getting the same treatment.

First it was phone calls and letters warning against recruiting to the union and threatening the lives of the men and their families. On 20 November, Mrs. Duffy received a bomb through the post. Fortunately, it had a false detonator. The lock of the front door was drilled through. The bolts on the back door were taken off.

Then, one day, a car drove up the pavement at Mrs. Duffy. Police have refused protection to the Duffys. Last weekend a shed was burnt down in the back garden in the early hours of the morning, causing £300 worth of damage. The callers describe themselves as the Employers Protective League.

Jim Duffy, who is also chairman of the South East Region Building Group of the TGWU, has been active in the Kent area against racism. The attackers are probably linked with the National Party. What is beyond doubt is that they are out to do the employers' dirty work. The T&G executive has been asked to demand full

police protection. Failing that, the Group committee will be asked to call all No 1 Region T&G building workers. Messages of support have already come from sites and branches. Resolutions should be sent to T&G trade groups, to UCATT regional committees and to the executives of both unions. This is a threat to every one of us. Demand a strike call.

## Rubery Owen: Why the papers are so concerned

By an AUEW shop steward, Rubery Owen, Darlaston

A PRESS campaign has been launched against trade union organisation in our factory. On Tuesday morning, three national newspapers carried stories on their front pages

about an alleged 'sabotage' attempt. A wire was found lying across two terminals. This is said to have caused an explosion. Why did the Press—which has never showed the slightest interest in safety conditions in this cold, wet factory, or in the constant murder of Walsall people through factory waste and pollution in the area—suddenly get concerned? Because 80 electricians are sitting-in at the factory, demanding lay-off pay for the time they were laid off during a recent strike. The electricians are right to demand lay-off pay. If they win, we will all gain.

### Output

It's no good saying that the electricians crossed a picket line in 1973. Two wrongs don't make a right. The electricians have, of course, denied the Press allegations. It's unlikely that a worker would deliberately put scores of his friends and workmates at risk. It's much more likely that management or their stooges put the wire there to start a witch-hunt against the sparks—and all of us.

### Thorn's blackmail

N. LONDON: Thorn Electrical is using the Christmas period to try and blackmail white collar workers in ASTMS into submission over a dispute about the salary structure. Following a series of stoppages and a work-to-rule, the company demanded we cover for absent colleagues. At the Southbury Road site, ASTMS members sat in and refused to leave the factory until management agreed to serious negotiations.

### Tactics

At Thorns Lincoln Road site, the company presented an ultimatum. Either the ASTMS members agreed to cover or they would shut the factory and lock out the ASTMS members. The dispute is continuing, with more threats of action.

### Demo backs sit-in

HUDDERSFIELD: Members of the white-collar section of the engineering union, TASS, are demonstrating this Thursday in support of TASS workers at Hopkinsons. The demonstration, called by the TASS executive, is expected to be supported by more than 1,000 workers from Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire. The 250 TASS members at Hopkinsons are sitting in against the victimisation of shop stewards.

# 26 FEBRUARY: SUPPORT THIS CONFERENCE

THE RIGHT to Work Campaign is calling for full support for the conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions on 26 February.

The Liaison Committee is the unofficial body which organised successful widespread strike action in the early stages of the fight against the Tory Industrial Relations Act.

At the Right to Work Campaign Conference on 6 November, the 700 delegates, representing more than 400 trade union organisations, unanimously endorsed a resolution calling for united action against the cuts and unemployment.

The resolution also called on the organisers of last March's Assembly Against Unemployment and the Liaison Committee and the Right to Work Campaign to organise united action.

Right to Work Campaign Secretary John Deason told Socialist Worker: 'We are organising to get support for this Conference raised in every trade union organisation.'

'We have written to the Liaison Committee suggesting a meeting to organise for the Conference. We've also contacted the organisers of the Assembly.'

'Everyone who agrees to organise against unemployment and the cuts must come together. This isn't the time for divisions. We are for unity in action and this Conference can make a major contribution.'

□ □

The Right to Work Campaign is calling on trade union organisations to pass resolutions to the Liaison Committee Conference on five points. They are:

- A one-day national strike on Wednesday 23 March against the cuts. This is one month after the conference to allow time to organise a massive turn out.
- Active support, including solidarity strike action, for all groups of workers fighting the cuts, unemployment and the Social Contract.
- Support for the initiatives of the Right to Work Campaign, in particular the marches of unemployed workers from Jarrow and Skelmersdale in April.
- Support for the campaign

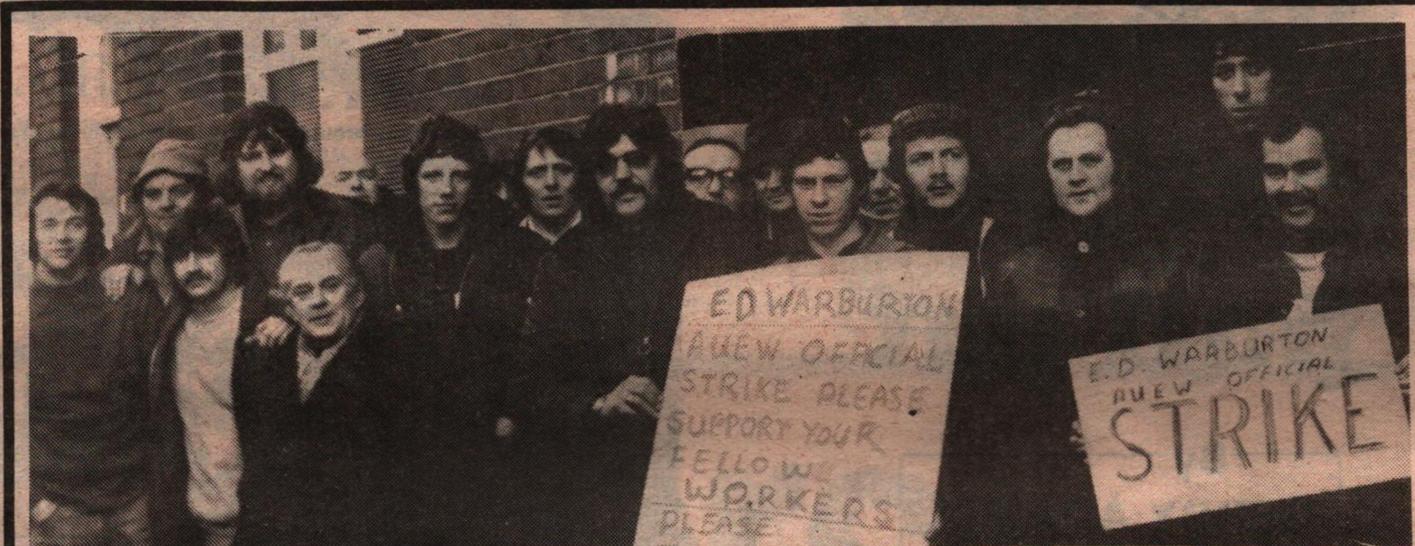
## Marathon's Xmas present...

CLYDEBANK: The Marathon rig building yard will lay off 1,050 men on Friday, just two weeks before Christmas.

With the completion of the last rig on the order book the company wants to keep only 350 workers for small engineering contracts.

Sadly, a meeting of the workforce on Monday agreed to this.

Marathon, the old John Brown shipyard, was one of the work places at the centre of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders



FIFTY engineers in two factories at Bury in Lancashire are fighting for a rise of £2.50. At Warburton's they are sitting in, at Holgate Fishwicks they have been locked out. Pickets have been outside for eight hours a day in snow and sub-zero temperatures. Lorries from all over Britain have been turned back. The basic wage is £44.50 at both factories, with a £5.50 premium. Even with the £2.50 that's one of the lowest

Give us a bit of that million pound profit

By Bob Dickinson, AUEW

engineering rates in the district. The action has been going on since 26

November and has been made official by the Engineering Union. Both factories are

owned by Weston Evans, which made a profit of more than £1 million last year. Nine directors

divided up £84,559. Management are trying to split the men. They tried to ban the convenor for both factories, Derreck Mortiboys, from entering the premises. They have taken refuge in the arms of the Engineering Employers Federation. It is now a question of who can last the longest. □ Donations and messages of support: Derreck Mortiboys, c/o AUEW House, 12 St Mary's Place, Bury, Lancashire.

# 9 MONTHS ON STRIKE

by Alan Harris, AUEW

WASHINGTON, Co Durham: The strike at the Vibro Plant Depot is now in its ninth month, making it the longest ever strike involving the Engineering union in the North East.

The strike, involving 12 members, started when one of our brothers, a fitter, was dismissed for refusing an union instruction to clean a machine.

This, we felt, was the final act of victimisation in a long line of actions by management to try and break the union.

We walked out in support of our brother leaving five scabs and a few non-union labour inside.

We have picketed the depot every day since. On 23 September, we were issued with a High Court writ to stop trespass, which meant we could not picket on their land. It has not stopped our picketing.

The company is at last being blacked nationally. This was the result of ten of us lobbying the National Executive at the AUEW headquarters in November.

### Accidents

Since that lobby, a letter has been sent to all AUEW districts from the National Executive informing all members to black Vibro Plant machinery. Building workers should black it from their stores.

We ask that all union members, not just those in the AUEW, help us in our struggle, which is basically our

right to belong to a union. Vibro Plant have 20 other depots in the country, mostly non-union, and these are helping the Washington depot to carry on with their work. They include:

- Harrogate; Leeds; Rotherham; Grimsby; Nottingham; Peterborough; Milton Keynes; Carlisle; Stockton upon Tees; Glasgow; Edinburgh; Irvine; Dundee.

□ □

Messages of support to: T. Burgess (shop steward), 56 Cleeve Court, Glebe, Washington, Co. Durham.

### 8,000 IN JOBS PROTEST.

by Willie Dolan Easterhouse Right to Work Campaign AFTER their fruitless journey to London to see Prime Minister Jim Callaghan last week, the Scottish TUC called for a big response against unemployment on their demonstration last Saturday. 8,000 workers, mainly from NALGO, NUPE and EIS, the

### Airport strike

by Ian Morris AUEW shop steward

SHOP stewards in the Engineering Union at London Airport (British Airways) voted overwhelmingly for a stoppage of work this Wednesday.

The stoppage is in support of a claim for more shift payments under the Fair Wages Resolution, which management are resisting.

Facilities for AUEW stewards to meet with pay during working hours have also been withdrawn—though they are available to all other unions at the airport.

**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.

## Holbrook: Questions in the House...

By Garry Bushell

**E. LONDON:** Questions have been asked in the House of Commons about the Holbrook Annexe of the North East London Polytechnic.

Not about the fact that lump labourers sawed up blue asbestos there. But about five cleaners, five 'mindless, International Socialist, Communist, militant, anarchists' who have been on strike for 11 weeks to have the building made safe.

What's it all about? Striker Ann Nicholson explained: 'This whole dispute is about five cleaners being abused by the Polytechnic Authorities who broke the Health and Safety laws.'

'For three months we swept up after labourers who told us they were putting up plaster-board but it was asbestos.'

### Unsafe

'Our demands are simple. We want that building made safe. We want a register set up so if anyone suffers they'll get compensation. We want an end to irresponsible, non-union labour and we want Lorraine Webb re-instated.'

The striking cleaners, all members of the GMWU, have had an uphill fight against Poly management.

The director promised their demands would be conceded by the Joint Education Committee in November. The JEC still hasn't met.

Said Florrie Batt: 'We have given the JEC until 31 January. If not, our official will call on all other GMWU members here to take strong action.'

'We're prepared to go back if unionised cleaners clear up the building and the factory inspector gives it a clean bill of health.'

## Victory for firemen

**AVON:** Firemen have forced the council to keep open Severnside Fire Station at Pilning.

The decision comes after a month long work-to-rule and ban on detach duties.

Pat Creton, Chairman of the Avon Area FBU, told Socialist Worker that the men are continuing their action to stop the council's attempts to shut the part-time station at Kingswood.

They're also demanding a written guarantee that there will be no future reductions in the full time brigade force.

Part-time firemen are to present holding a ballot to decide on strike action to maintain all the unmanned stations in the area.

Support locally has been excellent. Pilning is the nearest station to the section of the M4 where last Friday's fatal multiple accident occurred.

The closure of Pilning would have meant a delay of a to 15 minutes in getting the fire brigade on the scene.

### Re-open this ward!

**E. LONDON:** NUPE members at St Mark's Hospital have decided that if there are going to be any cuts in services, they won't be for National Health patients.

Management have just closed Fournier Ward, one of four NHS wards at nearby St. Bartholomew's and three at the Hackney Hospital.

NUPE members have decided to close down all meals and other services to the

# EQUAL PAY: WE'VE WAITED A YEAR...



**WIDNES:** For more than a year the UCATT members at Wheelons joinery factory, part of the Bowaters Paper Group, have been in dispute over equal pay.

The women's jobs are

accepted by the men as skilled joinery work.

The women are supplied with joiners tools by the management. One of the female joiners, Beryl McDevitt, said:

'It's not as though we don't do skilled jobs. In fact, sometimes the male joiners come and ask some of the women who've worked in the

factory for more than 20 years how certain jobs are done.'

Management refused the claim for equal pay on the grounds that the women have not done an apprenticeship, despite the fact that most have worked there for more than ten years.

The workforce stuck but later returned to work at the request of the union official to

wait for a tribunal. The tribunal has never sat.

An action committee, formed of all the unions in the factory, which include UCATT, TGWU and ASTMS, called a one-day strike last Monday and a picket of the negotiations between management and unions.

### Unanimous

Mike Sinett, UCATT steward, said management blackmail—drop the equal pay claim or the factory will close—would not work, the workers will fight on for equal pay and against all attempts to close the factory.

□ □

□ Messages of support: Mike Sinett, 82 Beches Road, Hugh Green, Widnes.

## Bingo women: We're determined

by Rita Walker

**COVENTRY:** The strike by women at Club One casino, for recognition of the Transport Workers Union, continues into its eighth week.

Orr Enterprises, who own both clubs, have now offered T&GWU joint negotiation rights with NATKE, the enter-

tainments union which management claims represents us.

This is a sign that the bosses are weakening.

There is to be a meeting of T&GWU and NATKE officials with the TUC next

Tuesday to try and settle the dispute.

But we are determined to win sole negotiation rights for the T&GWU, and are ready to picket into the New Year if need be.

Our fund-raising dance last Friday night was a great success. The 350-capacity hall in Transport House was pack-

ed with local trade unionists. Many more had to be turned away.

The evening raised more than £200 for our strike fund.

□ Support is still needed on the pickets every night, and donations to the strike fund. Ann Coffey, 42 Hamilton Road, Stoke, Coventry.

**OXFORD:** 300 people took part in a Trades Council demonstration in support of the two hotel strikes in the town.

Both strikes are official, called by the Transport Workers for union recognition and the reinstatement of victimised workers.

During the demonstration, management at Linton Lodge disconnected the electricity from the staff hotel where most of the strikers are still living.

They also ripped the receiver off the hostel phone and then accused the strikers of doing it.

The strikers now have no heat, light or hot water.

At the Randolph, oil for the central heating is running low. Management have got in a scab oil delivery, using the police escort.

Both hotels have had their normal trade severely hit. Trust House Forte catering workers at British Leyland, Cowley have threatened strike action in support of the workers at the Randolph, which is part of the same group.



# JOURNALISTS STRIKE

**KETTERING:** Journalists on the Evening Telegraph and two sister weekly papers have been on strike since 6 December over a claim for an improved house agreement.

The 75 members of the National Union of Journalists have withstood attempts by a minority group of department heads to get them back to work, and have voted to stay out on official strike.

Their general secretary Ken Morgan has opposed the strike from the beginning. On its first day, he told strike committee chairman Ian

Reinecke: 'I wouldn't believe you if you told me it was quarter to four in the afternoon.'

Morgan has given advice and encouragement to the splinter group, and refused to agree to deal only through elected chapel officials.

He has exempted the editor of New Musical Express from observing picket lines, overturning a decision of the national executive two days before.

### Refusal

Having dropped a closed shop clause in August by one vote, the NUJ chapels at Northants newspapers expected an improved offer on the rest of their claim.

Many now realise that dropping the closed shop was a mistake which has simply strengthened management's hand.

New company director Robin Miller is refusing to talk before normal working is resumed. He wants a three-year agreement instead of the existing one year agreement.

Although the NUJ's fighting fund has reached its target figure of £250,000, only

£10-a-week strike pay is being paid.

□ Money and messages of support to Jerry Connolly, 2 Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough, Northants.

□ □

By Steve Childs, Sheffield NUJ Branch Committee

TWELVE journalists came out on strike this week after their Father of the Chapel (shop steward) Roger Currell was sacked by BBC Radio Sheffield.

Roger was 'suspended' after refusing to handle a sport report prepared by a non-journalist.

### Concern

He was taking part in chapel action, officially backed by the Journalists' Union executive, against the BBC's use of non-journalists—including a greengrocer and a teacher—for covering football matches.

The strike has disrupted

local news coverage, but management are reading out national bulletins as the other union at the studios, the ABS (Association of Broadcasting Staffs), have refused to support the NUJ.

An NUJ member on the picket line narrowly avoided injury when an ABS member brushed past him in his car.

BBC London bosses are behind the victimisation of the FOC as a crude attempt to smash the growing militancy among the local radio chapels.

### Enough

Several chapels, including Radio Cleveland, are taking on the BBC about the use of non-journalists.

The rank and file group, Journalists Charter, urges all its members and supporters to raise cash urgently for the Sheffield strikers.

□ Send messages of support and money to: Chapel Treasurer, Peter Sandy, c/o 66A Clarke Grove Road, Sheffield 10. Cheques made payable to BBC Radio Sheffield NUJ.

## Sell-out -then CoHSE triumph

**ESSEX:** A handful of ambulance crews went back to work this week with their heads held high—just a day after most of their colleagues had accepted a sell-out.

Most of the 300 ambulance men and women locked out for four weeks ago returned to work on Sunday under pressure from their unions, NUPE, GMWU and TGWU.

Officials claimed the peace deal—40 per cent of pay lost during the lock-out—was a victory. But 33 per cent had been offered by management two weeks before.

Only the COHSE members decided to fight on. And on Monday they won an agreement to return to work on a formula of full payment of lost wages.

They also won a pledge of an independent inquiry into the management ultimatum which led to them being locked out.

### Harass

COHSE members, confident they have a cast-iron case, are sure that the inquiry will find in their favour.

The dispute, which began over a claim for meal break allowances, led to crews being locked out throughout Essex.

A powerful feeling of unity grew up among members of all four unions. But some full-time officials, especially those in NUPE, did their best to sabotage it by turning union against union.

□ Many of the ambulance men and women have stated that they wish to thank all those trade unionists, including many Socialist Worker readers and supporters, for the crucial financial backing they gave them during the dispute.

### DOWN THE ROAD

Unemployment and the Fight for the Right to Work. An exhibition of photos by Robert Golden at the Half Moon Gallery, 27 Alie Street, London E1, by Aldgate East Underground, Open Monday to Saturday, 11am-6pm.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

# 'Black our goods' 2500 engineers ask the dockers

## Striking builders need your help for Xmas

**UNEMPLOYMENT** building workers in Hertfordshire are still fighting millionaire Tory Duncan Marshall Andrew for the right to work in trade union conditions.

They have been picketing his company's Welwyn Garden City site for 28 weeks now in their bid to compel the employment of direct labour on the site. Indirect labour is the curse of the building industry.

Their picket is part of a broader campaign which is achieving important successes. Only this week the pickets got news that an official dispute would be called on a Hitchins and Co site to compel them to employ direct labour.

What's more the campaign has already forced some employers to abandon plans to close subsidiary companies and let out their jobs.

### HOSTILITY

For most of the 28 weeks the pickets have received nothing but hostility from their union, UCATT. The regional secretary, toeing the line and accepting so-called 'registered sub-contractors', has repeatedly stated that there is no dispute on the site.

But the determination of the men has grown from strength to strength and there are strong signs that the union is now changing tack.

### PRESSURE

Important support for the pickets came this week from London dockers. They have blacked the firm Owletts, which has been persistently running through the Welwyn picket line.

The Welwyn workers intend to keep up the pressure over Christmas. To do that they need financial support and resolutions in solidarity.

Give generously and send to John Davies, c/o Welwyn Garden City Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

your help  
for Xmas

**AS 2500 engineering workers in Sheffield enter their second week of a fight to save 450 jobs, support for the dispute is growing.**

Already delegations from the Edgar Alan Balfour factories have been to the docks at Hull, Immingham, London and Liverpool to organise blacking of the company's exports.

Money is now coming in from local factories and the Sheffield Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has called on all shop stewards in the area to organise a factory levy.

The action started two weeks ago, when the Confed issued a call to black all Edgar Alan Balfour products to stop the closure of one factory in the group and the loss of 450 jobs. 2,500 workers in the group answered the call by refusing to work and in factory after factory they were laid off.

Management failed in an effort last weekend to break the morale of the strike. The local paper and radio were full of reports that 100 workers at one of the factories were returning to work.

This turned out to be only 18 workers, led by a non-union scab.

### SUPPORT

Management also tried to frighten some workers back to work by claiming that if there wasn't an immediate return more redundancies would be necessary. This also failed completely.

This week a further meeting of all Confed shop stewards will discuss further support for the strike and a proposal for a district one-day stoppage on 22 December, next Wednesday.

Shop stewards told Socialist Worker: 'The lads are holding firm and they are more determined to win than ever. This strike is about the right to work. There can be no going back on it.'

'If management doesn't back down within a few days, then they are definitely going

by SIMON TURNER

to leave us out of work until the New Year.'

Clive Hartley, from the strike's finance committee, appealed to all trade unionists to organise collections before Christmas. 'Strike pay is unlikely to get through before the New Year. It is important that those involved in this strike should get some money before Christmas.'

The National Right to Work Campaign this week urged all its affiliated trade union bodies to support the Edgar Alan Balfour dispute and organise immediate financial support.

Information from and all money to: Edgar Alan Balfour Group Shop Stewards Committee, The New Inn, Carbrook Street, Sheffield 9. Phone Sheffield 446370.

The following products to be blacked: Stag, Easicut and Steadfast tools, Aerex fans, Entwhistle products, Sandiacre screws, Rema plant equipment, George Turton Platts forgings and all Edgar Alan/Balfour Darwin products.

## CPSA ban blocks government figures

BY MIKE McGRATH

CPSA national executive (in personal capacity)

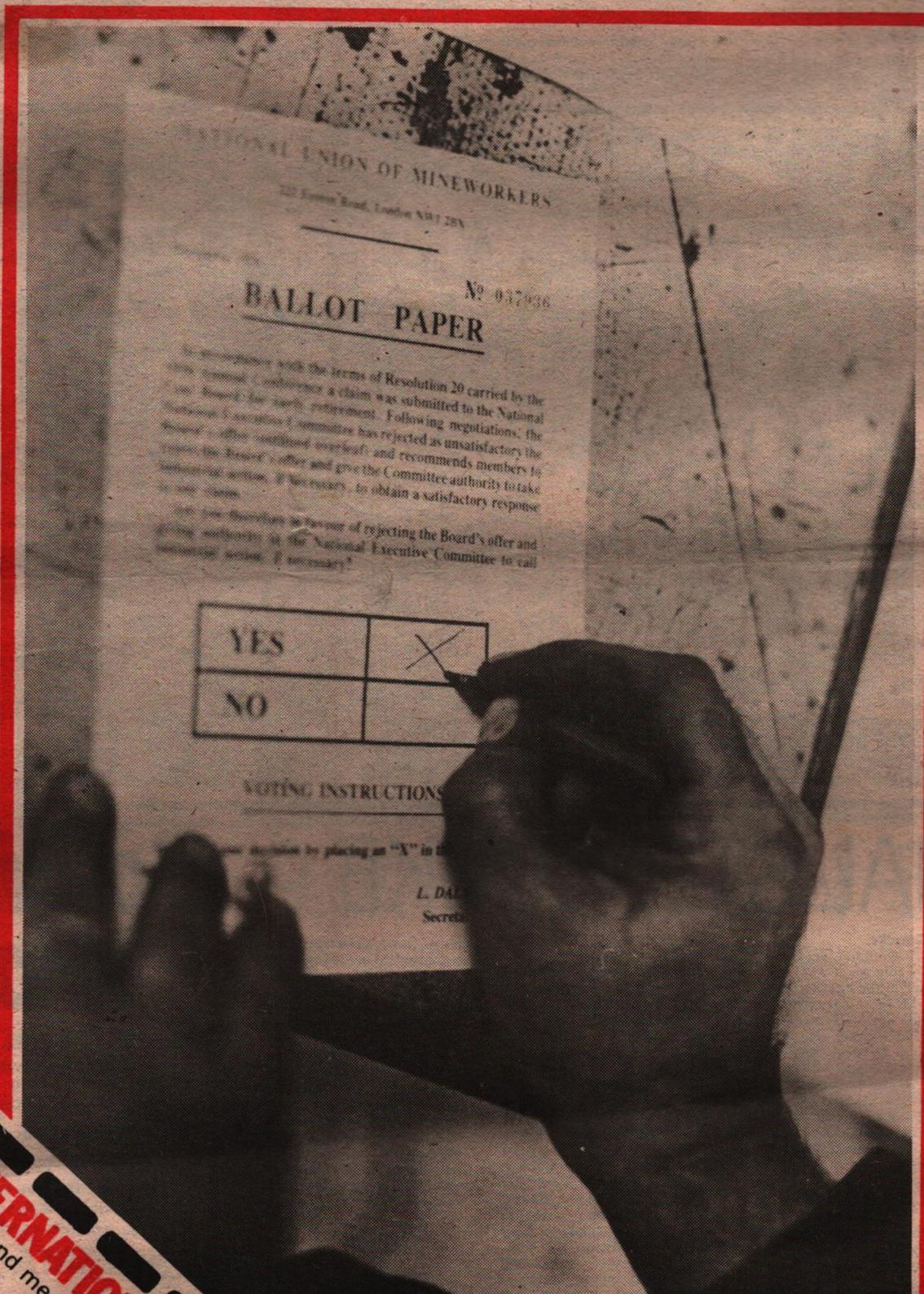
THE CIVIL and Public Services Association, representing 200,000 clerical workers has been fighting the cuts for the last few months with a ban on overtime.

Now the Department of Employment section has cut off the flow of statistics to the government.

The government threats are so crude that even a right winger on the national executive proposed a motion calling for similar action in other sections. It was passed

with only three against. The Department of Health and Social Security section swung into action the next day. We must ensure the full implementation of this action in all offices.

This can lead to links with other public sector workers. For example, Leeds and Harrogate Area Committee has affiliated to the Leeds Campaign Against the Cuts and is encouraging all branches to do the same.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**

Name .....  
Address .....  
Trade union .....

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary,  
International Socialists, 6 Cottons  
Gardens, London E2 6DN

A MASSIVE vote for industrial action was the expected result of the miners' ballot results to be announced this week. The miners are demanding the right to retire early—at 60 in January 1977, at 55 in 1980. Britain is the only country in Europe where miners are expected to work underground at the age of 65. Thousands of jobs would be created in the mines if early retirement were won. It would also be a major blow against the Social Contract. If the miners take industrial action they will deserve the support of trade unionists and socialists everywhere.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN  
ADVERTISEMENT

**DEFEND THE  
CONVICTED  
MARCHERS**

**STOP THE  
JAILINGS!**

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).