

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



THEY'VE WON!

The Coventry bingo women have won their battle for union recognition.

Shop Steward Ann Coffey tells how they did it.

□ Page 15

WE'RE BACK TO THE MEANS TEST!

MY UNEMPLOYMENT benefit was cut off in Christmas week.

The computer-typed slip from the Department put it bluntly. I've been out of work for a year now, and that's the end of my benefit.

It's the dreaded moment for all the unemployed. You might think that doesn't matter all that much. After all, there's always social security. But for hundreds of thousands of people in my situation, social security does not exist.

That is because they have wives or husbands who are in work and who, according to the government, are 'paid enough' to keep the whole family.

Solution

I meet these people on the dole every week. A woman sacked a year ago who gets nothing because her husband brings home £40 a week!

A man made redundant last Christmas who doesn't get a penny because his wife is out working.

A Minister admitted the other day that one in six of the unemployed—250,000 people—get no state payments at all. This figure does not include hundreds of thousands more who have stopped registering at the Labour Exchange because they see no point in queuing up once a week to get nothing.

And for hundreds of thousands of others, it's back to the means tests before they get anything to keep themselves on.

It's back to questions about who you live with, how much they earn, who are your dependents, how much do they earn, how much you've managed to save, do you have an insurance policy?

All those nosy questions which make workers feel like scroungers.

Well, the 'cut-off' system does turn us into scroungers of a sort—but not scroungers from the State.

Refused

We're forced to scrounge every penny from our own husbands and wives and parents. Even a bus trip means that some harassed member of the family has to hand over a few bob.

We at the Right to Work Campaign estimate that a quarter of a million people will have their dole cut off completely during the next three months—that's 20,000 people a week!

This is the dreadful warning to people like the workers at Courtaulds, Skelmersdale, who agreed to their factory closure this month.

These people very quickly go down the human drain into despair. They feel lonely, unwanted, scroungers.

The Right to Work Campaign exists to challenge that apathy.

It gives unemployed workers a part to play in the struggles of people at work—especially in the great struggles for jobs such as the one which is now taking place at Balfour Darwins in Sheffield.

Join us and make the fight in 1977 so powerful that the only people cut off next year are the businessmen and bankers who got us into this mess in the first place.

By John Deason,
Secretary, National
Right to
Work Campaign

Dole cut off for 250,000 jobless



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Now is the
time to build
the Socialist
Workers' Party

THE SOCIALIST Workers Party. That is the new name of the International Socialists.

The change has taken place because we see the building of a new revolutionary socialist party based on the rank and file as essential.

Essential in the fight back against unemployment and falling wages. Essential in the fight back against racism and the Nazis. Essential in the fight against the destruction of the social services. Essential in the fight for socialism.

But if the change is going to be more than just a matter of words, all our resources have to be put into building the party.

For this reason, it has been decided to launch a Party Building Fund. The target is £30,000. We need this sum so that we can organise massively to build the party.

Among other things we are going to:
□ Distribute 20,000 copies of a new paperback by Paul Foot called *Why You Should Be a Socialist, The Case for the Socialist Workers Party.*

□ The Party's industrial department will be organising support for the Right to Work candidate in the Transport Workers Union election, a conference of rank and file health workers called by the Hospital Worker, a rally of rank and file members of the electricians union, a conference of black workers.

□ The women's committee will be organising an SWP Women's Rights Campaign with propaganda meetings and rallies.

□ The International department will be continuing to back the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign, the Jamaica Solidarity Campaign, the Cyprus Defence Campaign and the Cypriot Worker.

□ The training department will be producing a new Members' Handbook and a training pamphlet on the Labour Party.

□ Chingari will be coming out in two languages in January.

All these initiatives will cost a lot of money on top of what is required for Socialist Worker itself.

Every branch and district of the Party is being set a target to raise.

Socialist Worker supporters collection sheets are being printed so that collections can be made where SW is sold, on estates, in the streets and at work.

Bankers' orders forms can be used to get regular sums every month from supporters.

Better-off members and supporters are being asked for substantial donations.

Collections will be taken at all Socialist Worker meetings.

We hope our members and supporters will look towards these and other ways of raising money. Achieving our target is an important way of making sure we succeed in building the party.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FREEDOM?



An NAFF meeting last year—with Winston Churchill as speaker, Robert Moss on his left. And the headline from the 'Free Nation'

Brother Tocher and the Siege of Automat

Yes...the bosses' freedom to pay the wages of the sweatshop

A TIGHTLY-KNIT GROUP of right-wing extremists is being rumbled.

Articles in the Guardian, the Daily Mail and other newspapers have exposed the connections between the CIA and mushrooming right-wing organisations in Britain such as the National Association for Freedom (NAFF) and the Institute for the Study of Conflict.

The articles have established
□ That Robert Moss, director of NAFF, and a speechwriter for Tory leader Margaret Thatcher, had a book published on Chile which was financed in part by a front organisation for the CIA.

□ That Brian Crozier, director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, was formerly boss of another organisation financed in part by the CIA-controlled Congress for Cultural Freedom.

□ That both these and other right-wing associations have close links with the Chilean Embassy and the South African security services.

These revelations are welcome. But they are not the end of the story.

For these extremists are not just professional witch-hunters and front-men for intelligence agencies. They are open class warriors, out to challenge the entire labour movement.

In November, the National Association for Freedom took legal action to stop post office workers blacking mail to Grunwicks, the North London film processing firm where more than 100 workers, many of them Asian women, are on official strike for union recognition.

Filthy Rich

They had been working in shocking conditions, for very low pay and for a management which knew no limit to racist arrogance.

Yet Robert Moss and his fellow 'freedom fighters' intervened to ensure that the employers' mail was not blacked. The Union of Post Office Workers, to their shame, buckled under the threat of legal action, and removed the blacking.

The NAFF gangsters had won a great victory.

Similarly, at Automat, the engineering works in Swinton, Manchester, where there is a strike for union recognition and basic union rights, the employers have been strengthened by the activity of the NAFF.

As Socialist Worker first

revealed on 20 November, Winston Churchill, a Manchester Tory MP and council member of the National Association for Freedom, had written a personal and friendly note to John Boyd, right-wing general secretary of the Engineering Union (AEU).

The letter, dated 10 August, urged Boyd to give a 'hefty shove' to the dispute, and then 'we can get this all wrapped up (and I too)'. 'I' was a reference to the militant Manchester divisional organiser for the AEUW,

John Tocher.

John Boyd has failed to give any satisfactory explanation as to why this letter was written. It is a clear attempt by a right-wing Tory MP to involve a right-wing trade union official in a fight against his own members.

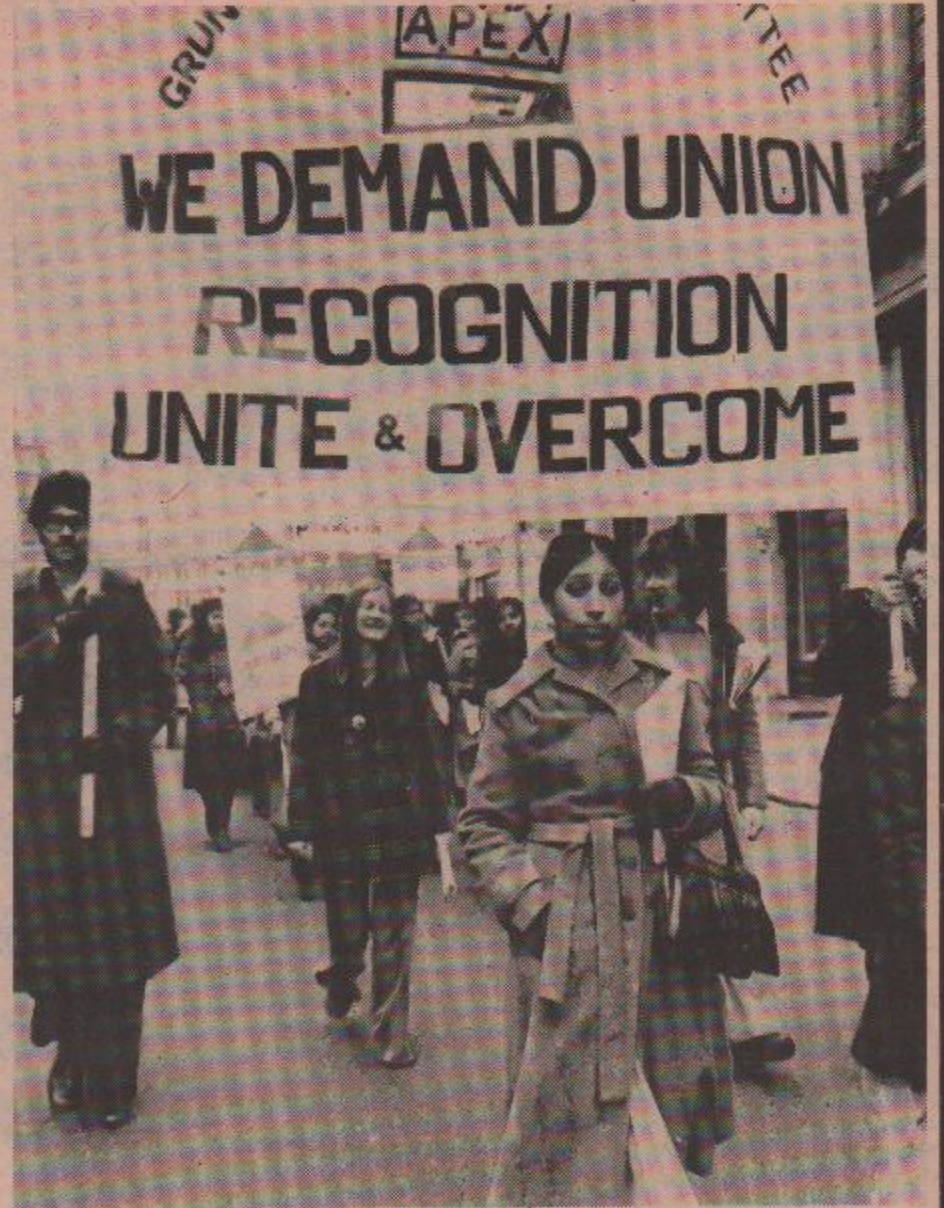
In the same week that Churchill wrote his letter, the Free Nation, the paper of the NAFF, printed an attack on the Automat strikers and John Tocher under the heading 'Brother Tocher and the Siege of Automat.'

The best answer to these

scabs is trade union action.

Press revelations and solidarity speeches by TUC general secretary Len Murray cannot stop victories by the NAFF and their supporters at Grunwicks, Automat and elsewhere.

But blacking the mail at Grunwicks and official industrial action throughout the AEUW for recognition at Automats would soon put the Mosses and the Churchills in their proper place.



Grunwicks workers—the NAFF threatened legal action when blacking looked like winning their strike.



Philip Agee outside the Home Office last month

THE CIA'S BEHIND THIS TOO!

WHILE Tory MPs and right-wing journalists co-operate with the CIA to subvert the trade union movement, the Labour government is planning to throw out of the country two people who have dared to expose the CIA.

Next week, Philip Agee, who left the CIA and exposed its secret and murderous operations, will submit his defence to a government immigration tribunal. He has to show why he should not be thrown out of the country.

A week later Mark Hosenball, an American journalist who has exposed the dark activities of British intelligence, must do the same.

Even if the tribunal recommends that the two men should stay, the Home Secretary does not have to take this advice.

There has been a great wave of protest in the labour

movement against the deportation orders. The executives and general secretaries of ten trade unions have sent resolutions to the Home Secretary or expressed their opposition: the Transport and General Workers

(TGWU), the white-collar ASTMS, the draughtsmen (TASS), the railway workers (NUR), the film and television workers (ACTT), the journalists (NUJ), the public employees (NUPE), the miners (NUM), the train

drivers (ASLEF) and the National Union of Seamen.

Every member of the railway workers' executive has signed a letter of protest to Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, which is written in the strongest terms.

Some members of the same union as Agee and Hosenball, the National Union of Journalists, have taken industrial action in protest. The NUJ chapel (office branch) at Penguin Books staged a one-day strike and the chapel at the Health and Social Service Journal blacked all official handouts from the Home Office.

The Agee/Hosenball Defence Committee, which has ten groups around the country, is calling a demonstration this Sunday to protest against the deportations. It deserves the support of all who believe in the right to discover what is going on in our society and to make it public.

DEMONSTRATE

Fight the Deportations! Agee and Hosenball must stay!

Sunday 9 January, assemble Embankment tube station, London 12.45pm.

Move off 1.15pm for march to Home Office, US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, and Speakers Corner, for rally. Speakers include Jusith Hart, Philip Agee, Ken Morgan (NUJ general secretary).

Out with the CIA!
Repeal the Immigration Act!

Anti-abortionists out again

by MARGARET RENN

THE anti-abortion campaigners will not lie down. An extreme right-wing Tory MP, William Benyon, plans to move in parliament for more restrictions on abortion, in a private member's Bill on 25 February.

His Bill calls for a ban on all abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except where the mother may suffer grave permanent physical or mental injury, for the authorisation of

all abortions by at least two doctors, for restrictions on referral agencies—all of which would make it far more difficult to get an abortion on the National Health Service (though not, of course, if you're rich, like Benyon and his family).

Weapons

Benyon's proposals are almost the same as those of the right-wing Tory and Labour MPs on the Select Committee on Abortion last year. The

committee was boycotted by Labour women.

The government have refused to allow time to change the law this session, so Benyon is trying to do it by private member's Bill. The Times, for one, thinks he stands a chance of getting his Bill through.

So we've got to get our and start the fight for Women's Freedom to Choose all over again. Women's Voice supporters will be picketing the Commons on 25 February. Start organising for that now.

SOCIALIST WORKER DISTRIBUTION

IN FUTURE Socialist Worker will be dispatched by rail to provincial towns on main lines to arrive by WEDNESDAY evening.

This follows the discovery that one district was able to sell 20 per cent more papers when they arrived Wednesday night. Other districts should reorganise their distribution to take maximum advantage of the increased selling opportunities.

NO DEPORTATIONS!
AGEE AND HOSENBALL MUST STAY!
GET THE CIA OUT OF BRITAIN!

The only answer to low pay...

THE government has unwittingly exposed the miserable level of many people's wages.

Last year it passed the Employment Protection Act. One part of this—Schedule II—deals with workers who are grossly underpaid.

Where their wages and conditions fall below the 'general level' for similar workers in their area, they are entitled to a wage rise—even if this is greater than that normally allowed under wage controls. This was intended to apply to only a few workers.

But 18 months of wage freeze and rising prices mean that many workers now fall into this category.

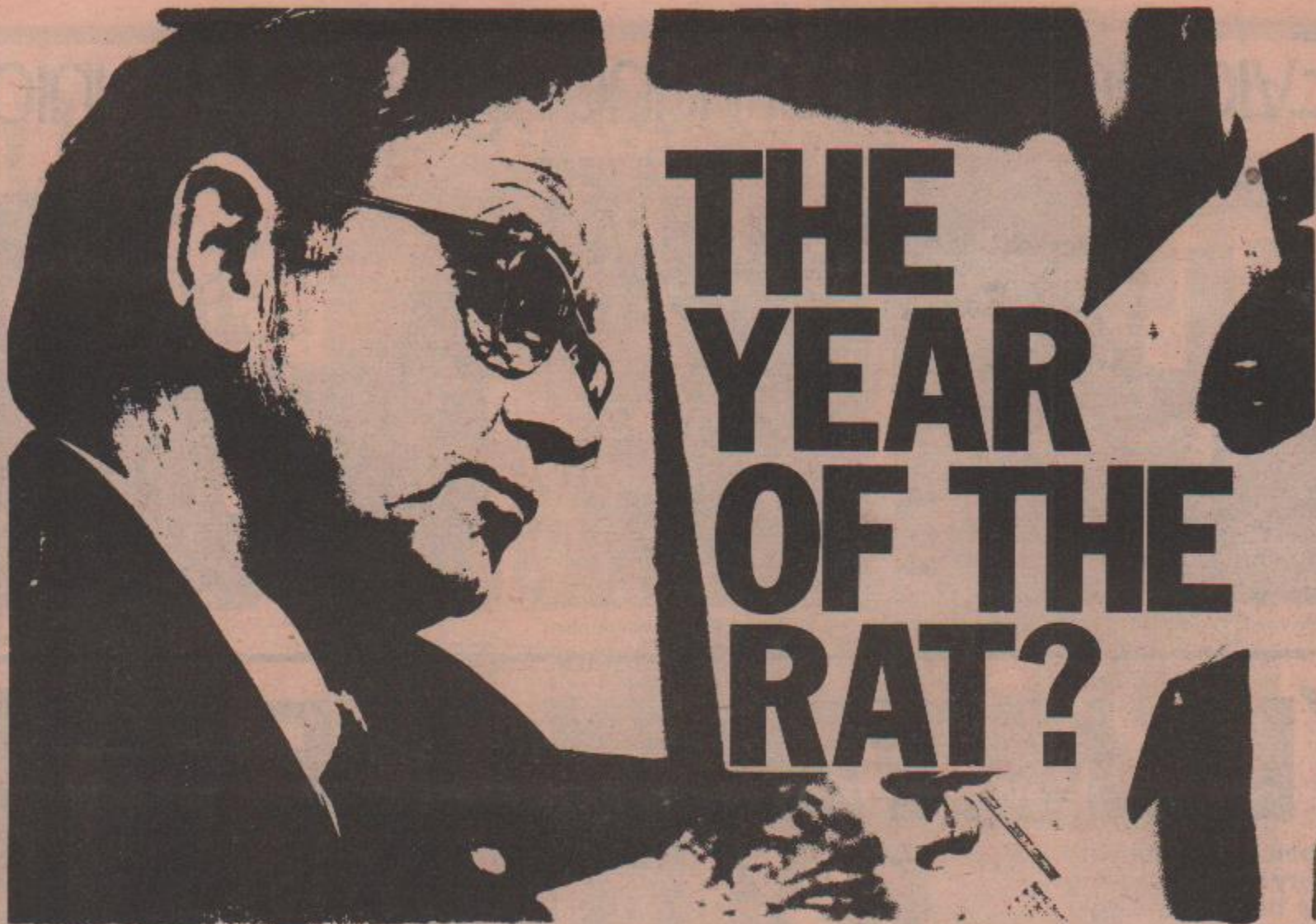
So many, in fact, that sections of big business are panicking. They are frightened that there will be an avalanche of claims.

We have to prove that their fears are justified.

We cannot rely on the Jack Joneses of this world to take this issue seriously. They are as frightened as the employers of workers catching up with the cost of living.

They will try to bury Schedule 11 in the same way that they dealt with the right of women workers to equal pay, which was supposed to take affect last January. After 12 months, women's wages have actually fallen further behind men's!

Only rank and file action will end low pay, just as it was only rank and file action that got equal pay in strikes such as the one at Trico.



THE YEAR OF THE RAT?

'WE MUST work like Beavers'. It is difficult to think of a sicker New Year message than that from Jack Jones, head of the Transport Workers' Union.

It is sick because a million and a half people cannot find work, however hard they try, because of the policies of the Labour government, which get Jack Jones' support.

It is sick because for millions of other people the

That's what is in store for us if Jack Jones gets his way

WHAT WE THINK

coming year is going to mean a continuation of rising prices and falling

living standards. Last year the number of people living at or below the

official poverty line rose to 13 million, because of the wage controls.

This year, if the government gets its way, the figure will be still higher.

Jack Jones says industrialists are preparing to invest, if only workers are prepared to slave harder. He doesn't say that most of this is labour-saving investment, which will mean fewer jobs, more redundancies, unemployment rising still higher.

Jack Jones' message is that we should accept all this without protest. We don't know whether 1977 will be the year of the Beaver.

But we do know that if it's Jack Jones' year, it will be the year of the Rat.

Old Red's Almanac SOME PREDICTIONS FOR 1977

That a horrible monster called 'Jubilee' will drop all kinds of muck over us with ever-increasing regularity.

That Len Murray (the invisible man) will star with Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon in 'Raid on wage packet' written and directed by the IMF in collaboration with Big Jim, Michael 'boot-in' Foot, technical assistance, Denis 'cigars-and-brandy' Healey. A 'one-more-hard-year' production from the team that gave you 'white hot Britain' such notables as Gaitskill, Gunter, Geo Brown, Stonehouse, Prentice and their current smash hit 'Cut, cut, cut, Gonna get you in the gut'.

That ex-Sgt Major 'Chaiky' White will reform the Back Britain Movement, part 49.

That Margaret Thatcher will star in a soft porn version 'Postal Ballot'.

That the Labour Party manifesto will remain critically ill until the April budget, whereupon it will promptly die.

That Jimmy Carter will murder the skeleton in his cupboard.

That David Dimbleby will become Richard Dimbleby.

That Spiro Agnew will come amongst us again in another form—Poulson on parole.

That Oswald Mosley, after waiting 27 years for the nation's call, will die.

That—a major prediction—the BBC will continue to treat all foreigners as scum, except the Irish, who rate a degree or two lower depending on which channel you're watching.

That the editors of the Daily Mail and Sun will continue to strike after the truth, to work ceaselessly for justice, to hold high the banner of freedom and to fight inhumanity, oppression and drunkenness where they may appear.

That pigs will fly.

That the police evidence at John Deason's trial will win major science fiction awards.

That the Rhodesian government's PR department will announce a merger with the BBC.

RED SAUNDERS

BUT WE CAN FIGHT BACK THIS WAY

FACED with so-called leaders like Jack Jones, there is a real need for rank and file trade unionists to link up their efforts.

That is why we repeat the welcome we have given in the past to the conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions for 26 February.

This could provide an excellent opportunity for building the fight back. We urge our readers to press

now for delegates committed to resolutions that call for:

A one-day national strike against the cuts on 23 March.

Solidarity action, including strike action, with all those fighting the cuts.

A co-ordination committee bringing together the Liaison Committee, the Right to Work Campaign and the organisers of last year's Assembly on Unemployment.

Potatoes? You're being robbed right, left and centre

IF YOU'VE bought potatoes lately, you've been robbed right, left and centre.

That's the only conclusion

to be drawn from a joint survey by Farmers Weekly and Women's Realm.

You are likely to be paying about 12p a pound for spuds. But they cost only 3p a pound

to produce. All the rest goes in profits to wholesalers and shopkeepers.

So it is with carrots. They cost 3p to produce and sell at 12p. Sprouts, meanwhile cost 12p and sell at 20p or more.

'PEACE' AT A PRICE

ACCORDING to the Press and TV, the people who lead the so-called 'peace movement' in Northern Ireland are motivated only by the highest aspirations. Which is no doubt why they refuse to condemn the biggest armed force in Ireland, the British Army.

But 'peace' has its price. The rising leader of the 'peace movement', Mr Ciaran McKeown, told The Observer last week that he had asked a large English charity to provide him with a salary of £6000 a year.

'There is a puritan notion,' he said, 'that if you work for peace you should do it for nothing. In fact, for creating confidence in this country and economy we should be paid better than the top executive'.



Evicted - for demanding a trade union



Police and bailiffs break into the strikers' tied accommodation. . . minutes later, they and their belongings are flung onto the street.

STRIKERS at the Linton Lodge Hotel in Oxford being evicted from their tied accommodation just before Christmas.

They have been on strike for six weeks for union recognition and the reinstatement of victimised union members.

Hotel workers at the Randolph are also on strike for union recognition. Police have arrested their shop steward and charged him with wilful damage.

The strikers have been in contact with striking hotel workers in Sheffield. See page 15.

Support on the picket lines—and donations—are needed. Contact 127 Botley Road, Oxford. Phone Oxford 44114.

'WE'LL NEVER CLOSE BALFOUR DARWINS'

ONLY 20 months before announcing the closure of a factory and the sacking of 400 workers, the bosses of Edgar Allen Balfour, the Sheffield steel combine, promised there would be no sackings or closures.

In February 1975, Edgar Allen's took over Balfour Darwins. Their offer to buy out Balfour Darwins shareholders stated:

'Edgar Allen is satisfied that the opportunities for employees will be greater in the new group, and that the merger will not cause the closure of any factories.'

The offer document went on: 'Edgar Allen looks not to rationalisation but to the creation of larger units able to sustain greater selling units and investment in the most modern plant and machinery.'

This optimism persisted. In the company's report for 1974 to 1975, the chairman, J.D. Oakley, said:

'Order books are at a record level, and certainly in most areas, a degree of optimism for the future is permissible.'

A year later, in June 1976, Mr. Oakley burred on: 'It has been an interesting and satisfactory year'. Profits were up to £3.3 million.

Mr. Oakley had nothing but optimism for the next trading year:

'During the second half of the year' he said, 'the increase in the order book will become effective and the results for the first half will not reflect the outcome for the year as a whole'.

Profits for the first half of this financial year came out last month. They showed, as

Now they're doing just that!

BY PAUL FOOT

Oakley predicted, that pre-tax profits were down—by about £700,000.

They also show that the group paid no corporation tax at all for the six months.

Last year, they had paid more than half a million pounds in tax.

So after-tax profits weren't

very different to what they were last year: £590,000, compared to £750,000 last year.

Balfour Darwins still expect an enormous increase in profits in the second half. But they are using the recession, and the investment strike by their fellow industrialists, to break their pledges to the workers, to close down the Capital Tools factory and to sack more than 400 workers.

And that's in spite of a £500,000 free gift from the Chancellor of the Exchequer!

The workers are not having it. More than 3,000 of them—that's more than half of all the group's workers—are out calling for the factory to stay open.

MONEY is desperately needed. Send to Edgar Allen Balfour Group Shop Stewards Committee, the New Inn, Carbrook St., Sheffield 9. Phone Sheffield 446370.

'It is interesting to note that primarily because of stock relief provisions, no corporation tax is payable on the profits for the year. Assuming no change in government policy, we expect the mainstream corporation tax payable for the next two or three years to be minimal. . .'

—J.D. OAKLEY, chairman, Edgar Allen Balfour, 29 June, 1976

ALL BUT ONE of Balfour Darwin's directors got £15,000 last year. The exception, Mr. S. Armstrong, got £17,000.

Last year, when the group made £3.3 million, every director was entitled to an extra £4000 a year 'commission', bringing the average director's pay to £20,000 a year (compared with the average worker's £57 a week).



Inside an Albion truck: the cabs are a menace.

NIGHT trunk line drivers at the Roadline Depot in Urmston, near Manchester, are fighting for safe working conditions.

British Road Services, a nationalised company, have conspired with the Ministry of Transport and trade union officials against every effort the men have made to get their case known.

Menace

At least 20 of the 'Albion' trucks they use are a menace. The manifold—which takes the diesel exhaust fumes out—is on the wrong side of the cab, under the driving seat.

So the fumes come back into the cab, through gaps in the floor.

The drivers' unions, the Transport Union and the United Road Transport Union, forced management to bring in the Ministry of Transport to do an inspection.

But the MoT claimed that they couldn't do so because they 'couldn't come onto private ground', the depot site.

Perhaps the real reason was that if the cabs were inspected independently, they would have to be taken off the road immediately.

The men
forced
to work
with
poison
fumes

Two men who've tried to fight for better conditions have been victimised.

The first, a member of URTU, refused to drive an unsafe vehicle. Management found him a new one but, a few weeks later, discovered that he was an 'unsatisfactory' driver.

He was sacked, although he had been one of the most reliable drivers in the depot.

Halfway through a journey another man pulled in at a transport cafe to phone the depot and complain. It was pouring with rain, and his wipers were so bad that he couldn't see out of the window.

Suspended

Even a policeman who checked the cab agreed he was right not to go on driving. But he was suspended—allegedly because he left the keys in his cab as he made the call.

He has been offered a lower-paid job, but they won't let him drive again.

With the others, he is being driven out into the private hauliers jungle, although he wants to work for the nationalised firm.

It's not only the diesel fumes that make these cabs dangerous. The heaters rarely work and the noise can be deafening.

British Road Services' cost-cutting exercises threaten the health of all the drivers and the safety of anyone who shares the road with them.

The men's struggle deserves a response from other trades unionists in the industry.

The dynamic story of Mark Balfour

BIGGEST SHAREHOLDER is the Hon. Mark Balfour, the director in charge of exports. He has 323,922 shares and is trustee for another 125,000.

These shares bring him in £18,000 a year in dividends on top of the £20,000 he gets as a director.

How did the Hon. Mark Balfour get onto the board of so illustrious a company? Easy. He was the son of his father.

And how did his father—the 75-year-old second Baron Riverdale—get to be President of

Balfour Darwins, not to mention a director of the National Westminster Bank, chairman of Yorkshire Television, and a lot of other important things besides.

Easy. He was the son of the First Baron Riverdale.

The first Baron (1873-1957) made his way from humble origins to become one of the most ruthless exploiters in Yorkshire, for which he was awarded a peerage by the Tory Government in 1935.

WHERE WE STAND



INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

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

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

INTERNATIONALISM

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

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

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

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

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

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

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

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

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

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 16.

Another enemy of apartheid 'hangs himself in prison'



The picket of South African Airways in Manchester just before Christmas: Wellington lived in nearby Salford



WELLINGTON Tshazibane was one of the hundreds of black people to be murdered in South Africa in recent months.

He was alleged by the South African police to have hanged himself while in their custody.

He was the seventh prisoner who they claim has done this in a year.

Studies

Wellington was a student in Salford until he returned to Soweto three years ago.

Mr Shangar Nadra, who shared a house with him for a year said, 'The news of his death was quite unbelievable.'

'He had almost everything to live for. He had very high hopes and would not have taken his life. It is possible that they have harassed him to such an extent that life, perhaps, became unbearable to him.'

'He obviously wanted to help those fighting for justice in South Africa. I was absolutely shocked when I heard about his death.'

'I can only hope that it makes those who so blindly 'build bridges' with white South Africa think twice.'

Thirty people picketed South African Airways' Manchester office at the end of December. Placards said: 'Remember Wellington Tshazibane: Salford Student murdered in South Africa'.

The picket, called by the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign, was supported by Salford University and Manchester Poly students unions.

WHY NINE WOMEN WERE GUNNED DOWN

THE RACIST regime in South Africa is heavily armed. Police and troops kill at the slightest opportunity.

They don't mind how high the pile of black corpses is, provided they protect the power and the privileges of the whites.

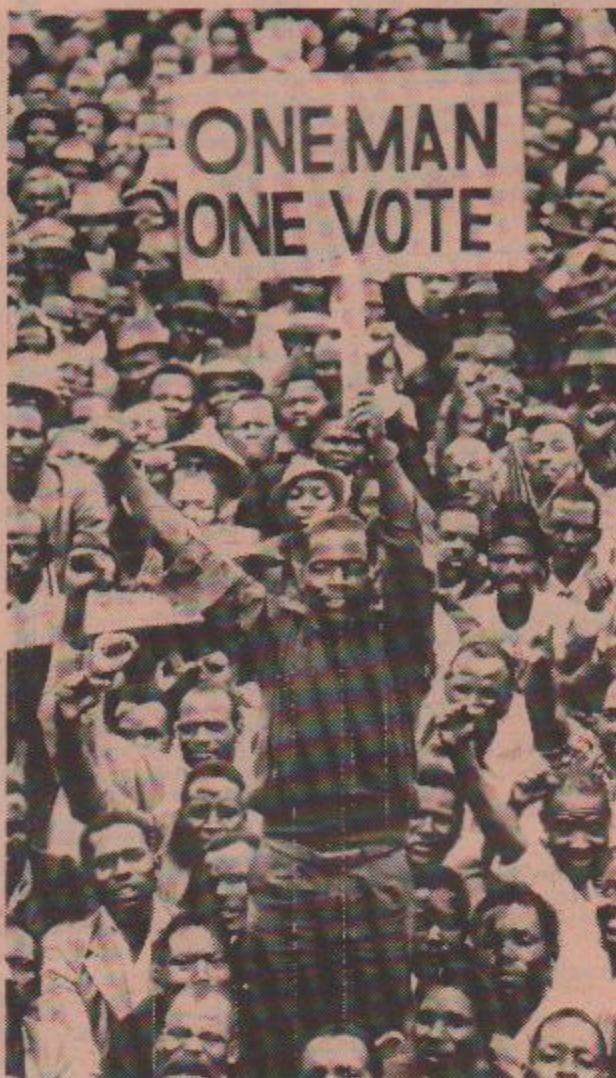
Fear

Yet they also live in fear—because they know they cannot prevent the rising tide of black anger.

An incident last week showed how afraid they can be, and how brutally they respond to that fear.

A white woman in the small town of Veneia in eastern Transvaal was frightened by a lorry backfiring. She phoned the police and said she had been attacked. The police immediately opened fire on the lorry.

Nine black women farm labourers were hit by police bullets and ended up in hospital.



'Peace envoy' meets a killer

IN A DESPERATE attempt to save the Rhodesia deal it has planned with the United States, the Labour government sent its representative, Ivor Richard, to meet South African premier Vorster on Monday.

Richard claims his aim is to prevent bloodshed. Yet Vorster's record as a murderer is second to no one.

In 1976, last year, since the uprising in the black townships of Soweto, more than 600 black civilians have been murdered by Vorster's police.

So what is Richard up to that Vorster can be of some help to him?

The British and American governments want to stop Rhodesia 'being another Angola'—they want to stop the black freedom fighters winning a guerrilla war and threatening western property.

Vorster wants to prevent a successful black revolution on South Africa's borders as well.

The Labour government is more or less saying to Vorster that if he will help them persuade Smith to change his ways, they will forget the murders perpetrated by South Africa's racists.

Rhodesia's workers show their power

'LAW AND ORDER' for Ian Smith of Rhodesia does not only mean murdering Africans who support the freedom fighters.

It also means using force to break the protests of black workers against low pay and rising prices.

Eight hundred Salisbury bus workers were on the receiving end of this benefit of

'white civilisation' over Christmas.

They struck on Christmas Eve because the company had frozen their Christmas bonus at last year's level, despite massive price increases since.

Arrests

The racist regime moved into action immediately, arresting all 800. They were

then faced with the choice between fines of £40 each, or 40 days in prison.

The first 20 strikers to be brought before the court were cheered and carried shoulder high by friends and relatives.

And, despite the arrests, there were no bus services for nearly a week.

The strike shows that the wave of working class unrest that started in Bulawayo in

November is spreading.

While Western business interests attempt to force Ian Smith's white racists into a coalition with middle-class black politicians, those who produce the wealth in Rhodesia, the black workers, are beginning to stir.

If their industrial might is linked to the armed might of the freedom fighters, the Smith regime cannot last long.

SUPPORT THESE TWO Still in jail—the man framed by Dominica's corrupt police

JORGE RIBIERO and Antonio Cartaxo, the two journalists sacked by the BBC for calling the Daily Telegraph a 'deeply conservative newspaper', were going before an industrial tribunal again this week.

The real reason for the sackings has been admitted by BBC officials. The corporation's commitment to 'Western values' has been undermined. In other words, bias is OK as long as it's right-wing bias.

Ribeiro and Cartaxo are getting no legal aid for the tribunal and therefore desperately need financial support. Send donations to: Media Support Group, 15 Acklam Road, London W10.

OUR 'IMPARTIAL' PRESS...

'HEAVILY ARMED riot police battled with 3000 demonstrators in Bilbao early this afternoon in one of the worst demonstrations by Basque separatists since Franco'. —DAILY EXPRESS, last Monday.

POLAND'S SHREWSBURY 2

TWO POLISH workers have been sent to prison for three years each. Marek Majewski and Adam Zukowski have been sentenced for tearing up railway tracks during strikes at Ursus over food prices last summer. Majewski had his jaw broken by plain-clothes police on the night he was arrested.

DESMOND Trotter, Dominica's number one political prisoner, has just spent his second Christmas in jail for a crime he did not commit.

Rally

In 1974, he was convicted of the murder of an American tourist, John Jirasek, but the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment when an international outcry followed proof that all the evidence had been rigged by Dominica's corrupt police. The fact remains that an innocent man is still behind bars.

In November, police in Dominica's capital, Roseau, used tear gas and arrested 13 people at a rally in support of Desmond Trotter.

Among those arrested was

E. Germain, a prominent local priest.

Walter Rodney, the well-known historian and political activist, was banned from entering Dominica from Guyana to give his support to the campaign for Desmond's freedom.

The Dominican authorities, especially the corrupt premier Patrick John, are desperate to suppress any organised militant opposition.

The international campaign saved Desmond's life. Now we must force his release from jail.

Telegrams and letters demanding his release should be sent to:

Patrick John, Government House, Roseau, Dominica, W.I.

Copies should be sent to the Desmond Trotter and Political Prisoners Defence Committee, P.O. Box 231, Roseau, Dominica, and to the News Editor, Radio Antilles, Montserrat, W.I.

Radio Dominica is government-controlled and nothing has been broadcast in support of Desmond.



Solidarity badges in red, black and white from Socialist Workers Party (International Dept.) 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 15 p each plus 6½p postage, £1.50 for ten (post free), £10 for 100.

Who is non-productive?

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Is there any such thing as a 'non-productive' worker, or is this just a myth expounded by the media to divide workers?

HOW can we oppose all cuts in social services, a reader asks 'when everybody knows there is a lot of bureaucracy and waste. We should be against cuts in things that are really useful like hospitals but it would be a good thing if a lot of unproductive people were not paid out of our taxes.'

This may seem pretty reasonable on the face of it. After all, who is in favour of 'bureaucracy and waste'? But it is wrong and dangerous. The reader is being misled by a clever and well-orchestrated propaganda campaign by TV, press and radio against 'unproductive' expenditure. The object of this campaign is simply

to get workers to accept a cut in the 'social wage'—the various services that are of benefit to us from refuse collection to hospital care. Now the best way, from a ruling-class point of view, to put this across is to set worker against worker—I'm productive, you are not!—and switch the argument away from whether there should be cuts to which cuts should be bigger and which smaller, who should get the chop and who should be saved.

More and better

Let us be quite clear about where our interests, working class interests, actually lie. We need more and better services, not worse and less. Every cut the government gets away with reduces working class living standards, either

directly or indirectly or both. Who gains? First and foremost the rich. Because the aim is to switch the money 'saved' on social services to profits and because the rich don't rely on health service provision or state schools—they buy 'private medicine' schemes and send their children to (tax aided) 'public', ie private, schools and so on. That said, what does 'unproductive' mean anyway? At its crudest, the right-wing propaganda campaign says that the 'public sector' is 'unproductive' and the 'private sector' is 'productive'. The fact is that the apparently 'commonsense' distinction between productive and non-productive work is anything but simple. It is very largely a matter of definition and what definition you use depends largely on what you

want to use it for. Many people find this hard to believe but, as it happens this is a very old question in economic theory. Different economists have answered it differently. We can usefully look at one or two answers to help see that definition depends on purpose.

Distinction

For the pioneer French economist of the eighteenth century, Quesnay, 'agriculture is the only genuinely productive activity... for a farmer plants one seed and, in due time, reaps twenty... A manufacturer... simply alters the shape of materials, he does not multiply them.'

Quesnay was out to show that the whole of the rest of society sat on the back of the peasant—and, indeed, it did at the time—and to argue that industry should not be encouraged at the expense of agriculture.

His definition is neither right nor wrong, but useful from his point of view, not useful from others. For Adam Smith, the Scottish ideologist of early industrial capitalism, industry was productive activity.

His definition of unproductive included 'some both of the gravest and most important, and some of the most frivolous professions: churchmen, lawyers, physicians, men of letters of all kinds; players, buffoons, musicians, opera singers.'

Adam Smith

For Smith, productive work was work that increased the future economic capacity of a society—that increased the rate of growth of output of goods in the narrowest sense.

Note that Smith, unlike some of his latter day imitations, did not confuse productive with important or useful. Smith was out to defend the profits of the new industrial capitalists from all other claims. Again, from this point of view his distinction makes good sense.

A later generation of pro-capitalist economists, the founders of what is now called micro-economics, did away with the distinction altogether.

Cabinet

'It is sometimes said... the cabinet maker produces furniture, the furniture dealer merely sells what is already produced' wrote Marshall, a well-known English economist. 'But there is no scientific foundation for this distinction. They both produce utilities and neither of them can do more.'

All work that is paid for, on this view, productive—the test is simply whether it 'attracts' an income. We will see why these 'neo-classical' economists took this position next week.

Meanwhile, don't be fooled by the media, don't be brain-washed. No 'expert' and no word is neutral. They are grinding their axes to carve up our social wage.

Socialist Worker

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YOU CAN be a Lesbian, but if you are, keep it to yourself—especially if it interferes with profits.

That was the finding of an industrial tribunal which ruled that Louise Boychuk was not unfairly dismissed when she was sacked for wearing a Lesbians Ignite badge in a City stockbrokers' office.

The decision came as no surprise. Throughout the hearing, the stockbroker from HJ Symons Holdings and the chairman of the tribunal took the opportunity to air their prejudices.

Would you sit next to this bigot?

'I did not sack her because of prejudice against Lesbians,' said the stockbroker. He later admitted that he considered lesbianism perverted and 'would not like to sit near a homosexual.'

'Unbiased'

The chairman of the tribunal kicked off with a simple, 'unbiased' question: 'Might there have been 16-year-old girls just out of school, working with Miss Boychuk?'

Later her lawyer had to remind him that lesbianism is not illegal in Britain, after he delivered a sermon about Sodom and Gomorrah.

He was unconvinced when Louise pointed out that she wore the badge so that people would not assume she was heterosexual and to show a real person behind the fearful word 'Lesbian.'

'Aren't you really trying to encourage people to become lesbians, bringing other women into the cult?' Even after it was explain-

ed that none of her workmates had complained and that she had no dealing with the foreign customers HJ Symons were so anxious to save from embarrassment, he delivered this ruling:

Lesbian

'She was the author of her own misfortune. In our view, whether you agree with homosexuality in principal or not, an employer is entitled to set a standard within reasonable limits.'



CAPITALISM has been given the thumbs up by Poland's government. They have passed a new law to protect the interests of private enterprise. Businessmen will pay only a sixth of what they were previously taxed and in future they will be helped by officials instead of harassed.

TIGHTENING OUR BELTS, Part 658:

A 22-CARAT gold replica of a Coca-Cola bottle was sold for £6,969 to Mr Chapman Root in New York. Mr Root is a descendant of the designer of the original bottle.

THE SOUTHERN Irish government took the unusual step of charging eight SAS men who 'wandered' across the border with possessing firearms.

It is unusual for them because of their collaboration with British politicians to smash the anti-imperialist movement.

The trial is unlikely to take place however because according to a recent Guardian report the men are said by an SAS officer to be serving with the Sultan of Oman.

Another embarrassment for the Southern Irish government is the death of Irish Army Corporal Michael Gerard Rouine who was killed in a parachute jumping exercise at Fidsion airfield near Peperborough.

Questions are being asked as to why he was training at the same place as the SAS.

'MY HANOI album didn't make me a dime, neither did my album about the coup in Chile... in fact I took a dip financially, which I suppose I should have realised at the time. So I decided to do something positive.'—Joán Baez in the Glasgow Herald on why she is supporting the Irish Peace Movement.

Poor Old John

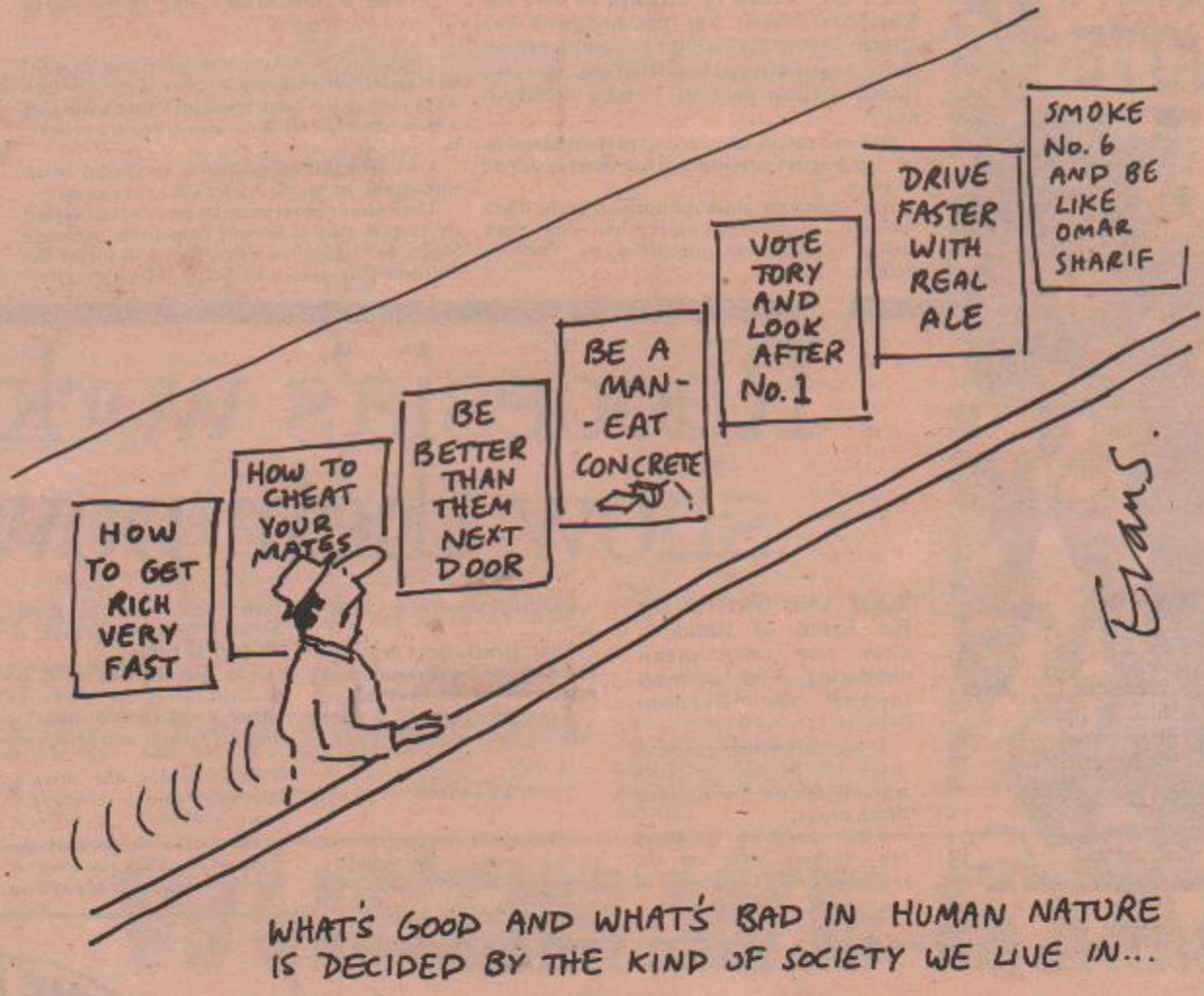
THAT GREAT DEFENDER of taxpayers' money The Daily Express has dropped its attack on social security scroungers—no doubt temporarily—and found a new cause.

All the sympathy and human concern they can muster is being spent on the biggest fiddler of them all... John Mr Corruption Poulson, currently doing time.

His campaign to have him let out on parole after 18 months in prison is disguised as a heart-rending look at the real man behind the swindler through his 'letters from captivity.'

The architect from Pontefract who knows a great deal about how to swindle taxpayers' money, comes out with this gem in a letter to his wife: 'My departure (death) would make life easier for you and the girls...'

'For my own part it would be release from all this Black Hole of Calcutta existence. But I pledged myself to one of Our Lord's most poignant statements in the Garden of Gethsemane: 'Thy will be done.'"



Maggie's Iron Man

ROBERT MOSS, Britain's leading apologist for the heinous Chilean Junta and author of Margaret Thatcher's Iron Maiden speech, turned his journalistic attentions to the Angola War this summer.

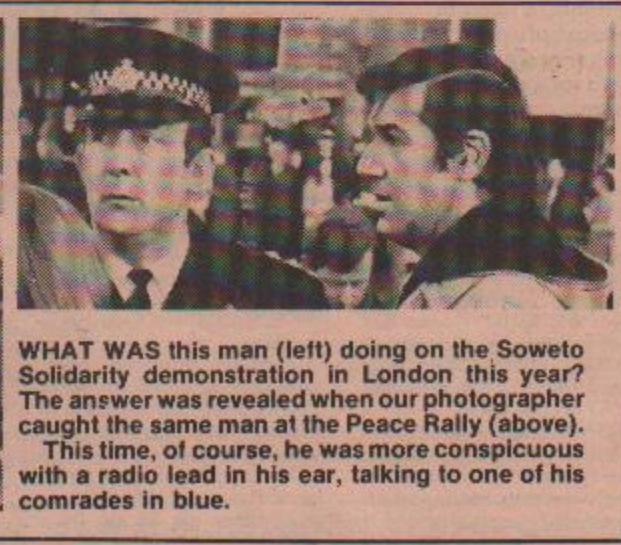
Curiously, none of his reports from that war-torn country mentioned the not unimportant fact that South African troops were swarming all over it.

When, despite his efforts, the news got out, his paymasters, The Economist, demanded an explanation of his little 'oversight'.

The objective Mr. Moss, a

director of the obnoxious National Association for Freedom, replied that he had known about the South African invasion all along. But, he added: 'I did not think it would serve the interests of our side if it were made public.'

Mr. Moss' book Chile's Marxist Experiment, commissioned by a CIA-subsidised propaganda agency, is sent out by the Chilean Government to anyone wanting information on the political situation in Chile, the Guardian revealed recently.

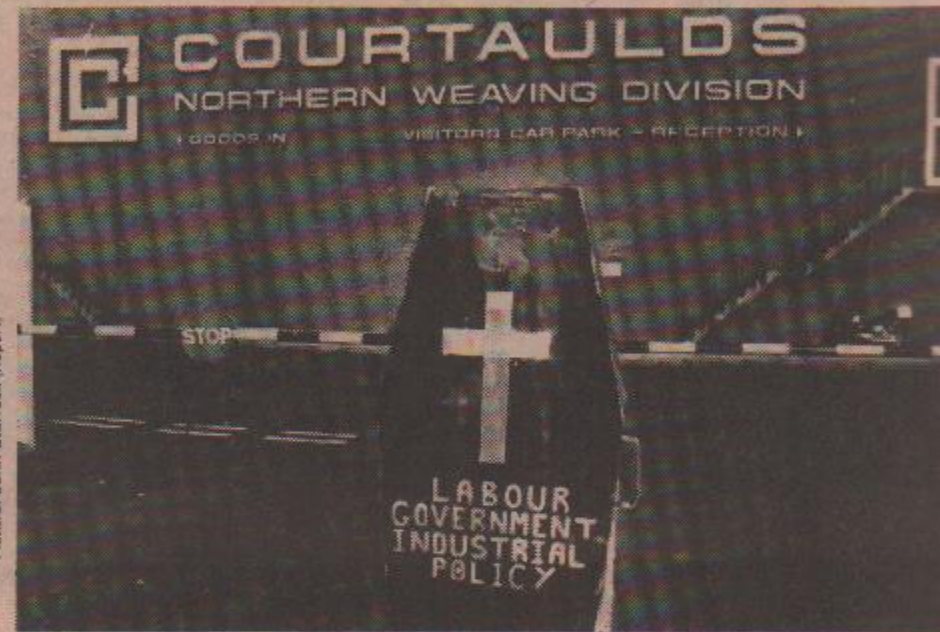


WHAT WAS this man (left) doing on the Soweto Solidarity demonstration in London this year? The answer was revealed when our photographer caught the same man at the Peace Rally (above). This time, of course, he was more conspicuous with a radio lead in his ear, talking to one of his comrades in blue.

1976



Two pictures that symbolise 1976: Thorn's colour TV tube factory (left) and Courtaulds rayon mill, both in Skelmersdale, Lancashire



YEAR OF THE DOLE...

1976 started with the announcement that the Thorns colour television tubes factory at Skelmersdale in Lancashire was to close.

The 1400 workers protested. They lobbied ministers and union leaders. They called for import controls.

The ministers and union leaders listened sympathetically. They insisted: 'There's nothing anyone can do'.

The workers accepted defeat. They trooped out of the factory to join the town's 3000 unemployed.

1976 ended with the closure of Courtaulds new mill, also in Skelmersdale, Lancashire. The 800 workers had protested. They had lobbied union leaders and ministers. They had called for import controls.

The ministers and union leaders listened sympathetically. They had insisted: 'There's nothing anyone can do'.

The workers accepted defeat. They trooped out of the factory to join the town's 4000 unemployed.

That's the main theme of 1976.

YEAR OF THE CUTS

In a year when enormous fortunes were made from share dealing, rising interest rates, booming dividends and slashed corporation tax, working people paid heavily for a crisis which is not of their making.

Sackings and cuts have increased the number registered on the dole from 1,150,000 this time last year to more than 1,320,000 today.

Basic services—hospitals, schools, public transport—have been plundered. In a year when basic wage rates rose 13 per cent, prices rose by nearly 16 per cent.

How has the British working class—the strongest and best-organised in the world—allowed all this to happen?

Because the Labour government which they elected, and their own union leaders, have been implementing the cuts, slashing wages, pushing up prices, and begging the rank and file to accept it all 'for the good of the nation'.

On 16 June, the TUC overwhelmingly accepted restraint and other cuts as 'negotiated' with the Labour government. In September, the TUC General Council proved their dedication to these policies by smashing plans for an official seamen's strike.

1976 was the year in which the workers gave sacrifice a try—but the year in which sacrifice failed.

The workers have learnt the hard way that in capitalist society workers' sacrifice does not make things better. It makes things worse.

It lengthens dole queues, wrecks services, such as health and transport impoverishes the poor, enriches the rich, and prolongs the economic crisis.

So there is another, less prominent story in 1976.

It is the story of the first faint rumble of revolt from the working-class rank and file against the policies of the Labour government.

The great demonstration of 17 November against the cuts and unemployment was called in June, the same union leaders who smashed the seamen in September.

Why? Because of the fury in the rank and file. Because the reluctant resignation with which workers greeted cuts and wage freezes at the beginning of the year is turning into anger, into a determination to fight back.

In the next two pages we pay tribute to the workers who fought back in 1976. They have laid the foundation for a counter-attack, a counter attack which can turn the gloom and apathy of 1976 into hope and enthusiasm in 1977.

THE ANGER IN REPLY: Some of the 80,000 trade unionists who marched against the cuts and unemployment on 17 November.

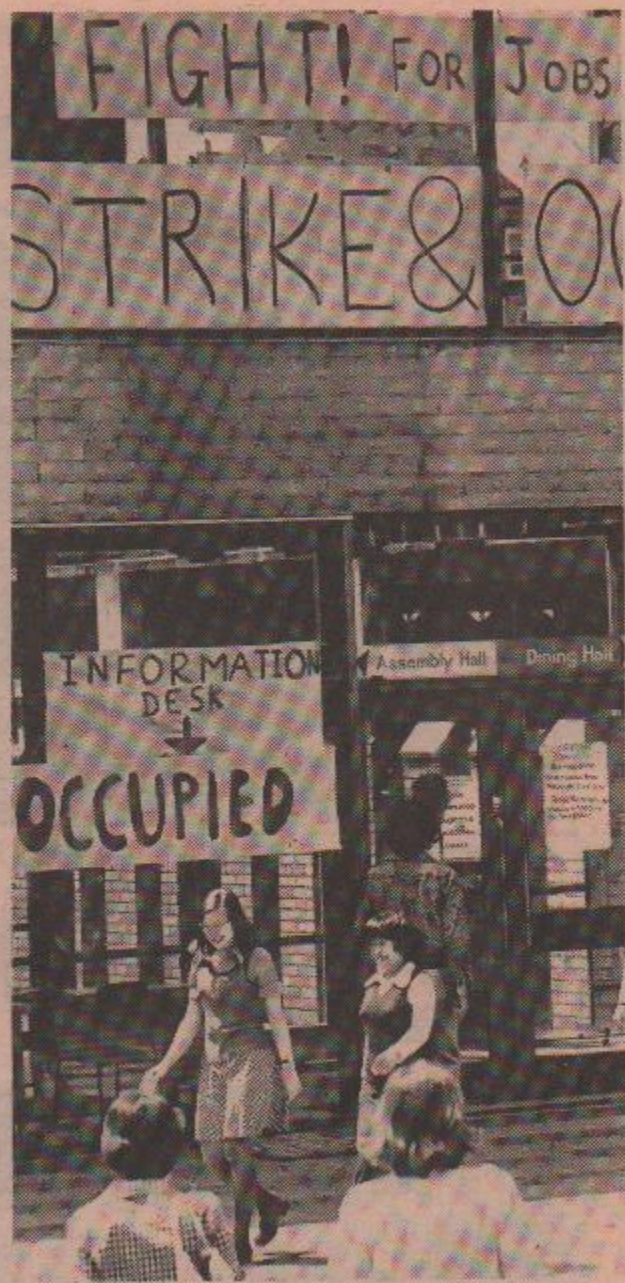


Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

...and year of the first faint resistance

SEE CENTRE PAGES

1976: Who hit back? The rank and file



Against the Cuts

THERE was anger as the Labour government announced £6000 million cuts in government spending, causing local councils everywhere to close hospitals, axe old people's centres, slash spending on schools.

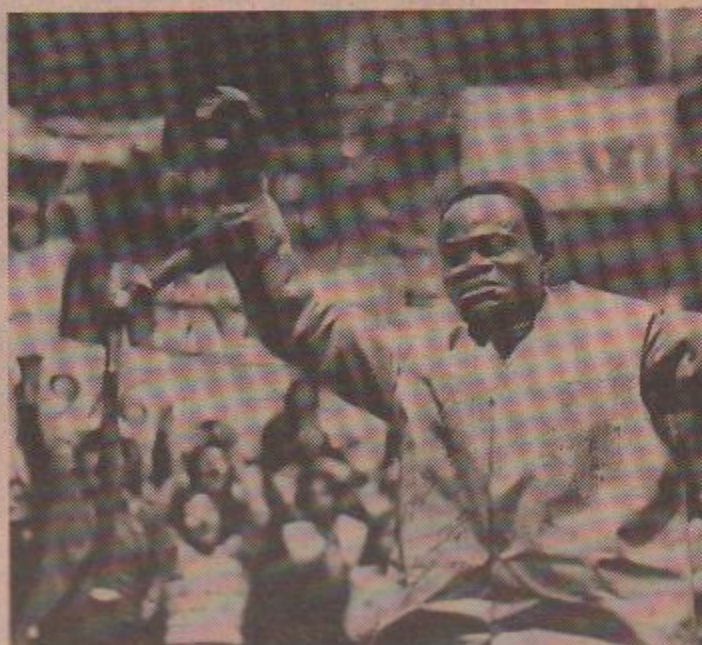
In Dundee, where the Tory council was particularly vicious, 30,000 men and women came on strike for a day. More than 8,000 marched (pictured above) demanding an end to the cuts.

A five-week occupation in Bury, Lancashire, stopped the closure of a half-way house for homeless people. It was the first of several victories for the Bury Action Group, backed by the local government workers' refusal to make the closure.

In the Borders of Scotland, women cleaners fought to stop sackings and cuts in their wages. They won.

Students in teacher training colleges found in the summer term that there were no jobs for at least 7000 of them. A mass protest movement occupied more than 100 colleges (top left) and there were huge demonstrations.

There were thousands of little battles against the cuts—but almost all of them were isolated, and ignored by the trade union leaders. In Glasgow, for instance, in November three separate groups of local authority workers took action against the cuts on three different days. United action on one day would have had a much more powerful effect, and that's the lesson of the fight against the cuts in 1977.



For the right to Work

1976 was the year the unemployed had to start marching again. 80 marched from Manchester to London in spring, to a massive welcome from 6,000 trade unionists at the Albert Hall.

In September the Right to Work Campaign organised its

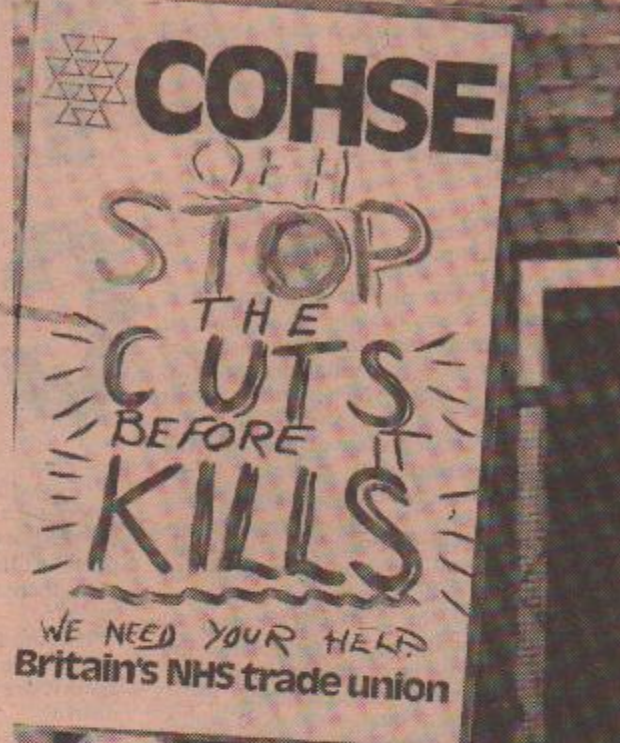
second march—500 unemployed, many of them school leavers, black, women, marched from London to Brighton to picket the Trades Union Congress.

The marchers won the support of employed trade unionists throughout the

country.

But factory after factory shut down. With a few fine exceptions, there was little resistance.

And in spite of the promises and rhetoric of the trade union leaders, the resistance was left to the rank and file.



For women's rights

IT WAS the first year of the Equal Pay Act—but the gap between men's and women's pay has widened. Employers have used the high unemployment to take on women workers at scandalously low wages. The Act can't do anything about the economic crisis. The tribunals ensure that the vast majority of cases brought go in the employers' favour. The way to equal pay was shown by the women workers at Trico, a windscreen wiper firm in West London, where 400 members of the engineering union went out on strike for six months. They won equal pay and compensation payments for the time they were out. Equal pay was also won after long strikes at Cockburn Valves in Glasgow and at Newtons at Derby. The Trico women's great struggle showed that women's rights cannot be won by the new laws, the hope of so many women's rights campaigners. They can only be won in struggle. 1976 dragged the campaign for women's rights into the centre of class struggle. You can't fight for socialism without campaigning for women's rights. And you can't campaign for women's rights without fighting for socialism.



ABOVE: Trico workers marching in May. They earned their victory with 20 weeks of strike picketing.

RIGHT: Though they were demanding equal pay, their right by law, the women at Trico found the full weight of the law against them.

BELOW: Four of five cleaners at the North East London Polytechnic who refused to sweep up deadly asbestos dust. Victimisation followed. They have been picketing for three months.

LATEST NEWS—page 14.



Against racism

IN MAY, a wave of racism swept the country. It was unleashed by the gutter press, and Enoch Powell. Racists all over the country took courage. They killed Gurdeep Singh Chaggar in Southall. They burnt Mohan Devi Gautam to death in Leamington. Black people walked in terror.

A baby died while being born in a lounge at London Heathrow Airport. Security guards had laughed and refused to call an ambulance.

The black communities exploded.

In Southall, West London, mass demonstrations were led by the Southall Youth Organisation. In Bolton, Blackburn, Grays in Essex, Bradford, Dewsbury and many other towns tens of thousands of people demonstrated and picketed against racism.

A racist sign, used by the fascists to win support, was seized and burned (right).

In the London docks, socialists took round a petition signed by 55 leading shop stewards and militants condemning all racist activity.

But as the dust settled, it became clear that the *only* people fighting systematically against racism were the organised revolutionary socialists. For racism will be defeated only by argument and organisation on the shop floor.



FOR A NUMBER of years, the International Socialists was a propaganda group.

But, increasingly over the last year, IS acted more and more as an organisation which initiates action.

That is the meaning of the Right to Work Campaign, the Campaign against Racism and so on.

In the course of the last year, our organisation has become a party. But we should not have illusions of grandeur. To use sporting terms, we are still in the fourth division.

For a time, the Communist Party tried to deny the fact that we were more or less the same size from the point of view of active membership. But, if nothing else, the recent parliamentary by-elections proved that we are in the same league.

In Walsall North in October 1974, the Communist Party got 465 votes. In November, our candidate got 574 votes on a lower poll.

Activity

Last November's Right to Work Conference made the point once again. In terms of delegations represented, it was bigger than the last three Liaison Committee conferences, whose main initiator was the CP.

But it is important to be clear that while our capacity for initiating activity is greater than that of the Communist Party, the ideas of the CP and of the Labour Left—which are indistinguishable from one another—are far more widespread than ours.

The ability of these organisations to prevent action is still greater than our ability to get real action going.

For two years after Labour came to power, until last spring, our membership slowly and gradually went down from 3300 members to around 2650 members. In recent months things have changed.

In June we recruited 64 members, in July 77, in August 100, in September 174, in October 192, in November 243, and in the first three weeks of December 155, making a total of over 1000 in just seven months.

Recruitment

For the first time in the history of our organisation, there are more manual workers than white-collar workers. And all of this is indicative that the deepening general crisis of the system, plus the crisis within the Labour movement, gives us great opportunities to build the organisation.

At the same time, the purpose of recruitment must be clearer now than ever before. The events in Portugal, where a revolutionary party has been, and is being, frittered away, underline the key role of a revolutionary party in transforming a revolutionary situation into a victory for the working class.

The greatest victory so far of the international working class, that of the October revolution in Russia, also showed the key role of the mass revolutionary party.

THERE IS no doubt that in a few years' time, perhaps six, perhaps eight, perhaps ten, Britain will face a level of unemployment of three or four millions.

RECRUITMENT is the first task we have to carry through. But an

Under such conditions, two alternative policies will appear as a solution to this unemployment.

One is the revolutionary socialist alternative—the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialist planning. The other is the fascist solution: 'If there are three million unemployed get rid of black workers, the Irish and the Jews'.

If, at the beginning of the revolutionary crisis, there is a mass revolutionary party of sorts, it can grow quickly in the months of the crisis so it is able to lead the working class to power.

In February 1917, the Bolshevik Party had 23,600 members. By July, it had nearly 250,000.

When, at the beginning of July, the capitalist press started a massive slander campaign against Lenin, accusing him of being a German agent, the flood of denigration was stopped by the mass party with one in ten of the workers.

Imagine if the party had only one per cent of the workers. Perhaps every member would have convinced ten or 15 workers that the capitalist press was lying. But the majority of the class would have fallen into the trap.

Size

The conclusions for us are clear. If, when the revolutionary crisis comes to Britain, we have 40,000 members, there is no question that we can grow to 400,000 or perhaps half a million.

If, on the other hand, the revolutionary organisation has only a few thousand members, it is even possible that the party appears as irrelevant and does not grow at all. A certain size is necessary for take off.

army which is simply collected together is no good at all unless it is at the same time involved in struggle.

That is the importance of building our fractions, building the factory and workplace branches, building the rank and file movement.

In building the party, Socialist Worker is one of the most important weapons we have, involving both party members and the periphery in activity in the working class struggle and in building the party.

Policies

In the years 1912 to 1914, the Bolshevik Party had 3000 members in Petrograd. The party paper had a circulation in the city of 30,000.

In 1917, party membership in

Why we need a socialist workers' party



teacher unemployment. But they can carry a no-cover policy and they can build from there.

We have to orient ourselves more and more to the specific, to the factory bulletins. With these you can't start with general statements about unemployment or racism. You have to talk about specifics, about an overtime ban here, a specific instance of discrimination against black workers there.

In February and March this year we will be holding some 200 meetings with the central theme of building the Socialist Workers Party. The aim of them will be to recruit—and recruit quickly.

Pamphlet

To prepare the ground, we have a marvellous new booklet written with compassion and passion titled **Why you should be socialist—the case for Socialist Workers Party.**

We intend the comrades to have a month or so of selling this pamphlet, seeing as many of the buyers as is possible and getting them to the meeting with a clear knowledge of what the meeting is for.

It is possible, and vital, to build the organisation quickly. But it is also a fact that many of us suffer from conservatism in doing that.

As a result of two tough years, many of us are putting the sights far too low. We are afraid of being hurt and therefore look for safety. And, of course, if you try to recruit no-one, you are 100 per cent successful.

Elitism

The present members of our party are not the salt of the earth, the select few. If any elitism exists in our organisation it is necessary to uproot it completely.

Some revolutionaries do suffer from elitist notions. They think the barricades as follows: In the front row there is an Imperial Father of the Chapel representing craft workers in all their glory. He is wearing his gold chain of office to pay homage. Or is it perhaps to say 'you have nothing to lose but your chains'.

And then there are some representatives of section one of the Engineering Union.

Only then if there is enough room in the street they would in their generosity allow some blacks, a few women and some youth—if they know their place, that is.

Revolution has nothing at all to do with this hierarchical concept.

Anyone who is in any doubt about it has no need to look further than the boys and girls of Soweto.

week paid by unemployed IS members is every bit as important as the £5 paid by a well-to-do comrade.

IF WE BELIEVED that the way to socialism was through parliament, the structure of the party should basically be that of branches based on constituencies.

But because we believe that the class struggle is the way to achieve socialism, the revolutionary party has to build itself by and large in workplaces, though we are still far too weak to have the majority of our members in factory and workplace branches.

We have to build there more and more, especially now, when there is a growth of the class struggle and of recruitment.

Promises

But we must be careful how we build. The reformists always have a difference between their words and their deeds. After all, Harold Wilson did not appear on TV to say Vote Labour and Double Unemployment.

Revolutionaries should never have a difference between their words and their deeds.

One can be very 'REVOLUTIONARY' by promising things you can't deliver.

Suppose I was in the business of making promises I couldn't deliver. I'd promise my child a gold-plated Rolls Royce in 1999. It is a safe promise.

First I'll probably be dead by 1999. If not he'll probably forget my promise by then. And if those two things don't work, I'll have 22 years to think of excuses.

So if we have comrades who are teachers they can't at the moment deliver a general strike against



By
**Tony
Cliff**

Petrograd reached 32,000. And there is no doubt that those who bought the paper in 1912 became, a few years later, party members.

So when we sell Socialist Worker the aim is not by any means only to raise 10p or even make propaganda. Above all it is to organise round our policies.

Our organisation must become an accepted part of workers' lives where they work and where they live.

Money

Finance is also increasingly important. Raising it is a political act. Without it, we could not have printed the hundreds of thousands of leaflets to combat the racists. Without it we cannot do the many more things we need to do.

It is extremely important to raise this money not only from the members, but from workers sympathetic to our ideas. The 5p a



The fight against racism and unemployment: the International Socialists were forced to act as a party, a socialist workers party

1905—A BOOK THAT TELLS MORE ABOUT 'TROTSKYISM' THAN A THOUSAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLES . . .

THE BREAD, commodities, meat, vegetables, fish, and other markets began to issue worried communiques.

Prices of foodstuffs, especially meat, rose rapidly. The money exchange trembled.

Revolution had always been its mortal enemy. Now that they were face to face with one another, the exchange began to behave like a thing possessed. It rushed to the telegraph, but the telegraph maintained a hostile silence.

The post office, too, refused to serve. The exchange knocked on the door of the State Bank, but was told that the Bank could not guarantee transfers at a fixed date.

Shares of railway and industrial enterprises left their perches like a flock of frightened birds, and flew off—only not upwards, but downwards.

Panic, accompanied by the gnashing of teeth, reigned in the shadowy world of stock-exchange speculation.

Money circulation was obstructed, payments from the provinces to the two capitals ceased to come in. Firms operating on a cash basis stopped their payments.

The number of protested bills began to increase rapidly. All the issuers of cheques and bills of exchange, all the guarantors, the payers, and the payees began to fret and fuss and demand the changing of laws created for their use, because it—the strike, the revolution had infringed upon all the laws of economic exchange.

But the strike was not content with the railways. It aimed at becoming universal.

Steam

Having let the steam out of the engines and put out the station lights, it joins the crowds of railway workers on their way to town.

It halts trams, stops the horses of hackney carriages and obliges the passengers to dismount, closes down shops, restaurants, cafes, and taverns, and confidently approaches the factory gates.

Inside, they are already waiting. The alarm whistle starts, work stops, the crowd in the street swells.

The strike marches forward, now carrying a red banner. The banner



Trotsky's triumphant return to Russia in 1917



Making a speech in Moscow

Who was Trotsky?

AMID THE PAGES of press hysteria about 'Trotskyists infiltrating the Labour Party', there is no mention of what Trotsky was. Which is not surprising, perhaps. Because his whole life—his ideas, his actions—present a powerful indictment

of this system and the inspiration to change it. Some of that inspiration is contained in 1905, his magnificent book on the first Russian Revolution. A passage from the book, now available through the Bookmarx Club, is re-printed here.

proclaims that it wants a Constituent Assembly and a republic, that it is fighting for socialism.

It passes the editorial offices of a reactionary newspaper. It glances back with hatred at the infected ideological source and, if a stone happens to be handy, it hurls it at a window.

The liberal press, which thinks that it is serving the people, sends a deputation to the strike, promising to work for 'conciliation' and begging for mercy. Its pleas are left unheeded. The type cases are closed, the compositors come

out into the street. Offices and banks are closed down. The strike rules over everything.

Schools and universities closed down. 'Unions' of the intelligentsia joined the strike of the proletariat.

In many places juries refused to sit, lawyers to plead, doctors to attend patients. Justices of the peace closed down their courts.

The strike organized colossal meetings. The tension of the masses and the dismay of the authorities grew simultaneously, each feeding the other. The streets and squares were filled with mounted and foot patrols.

Sabres

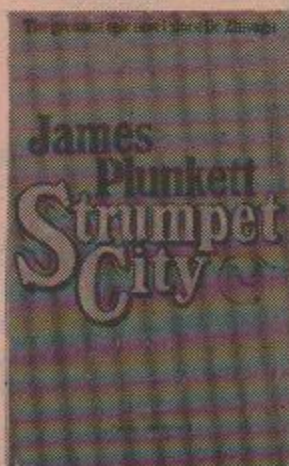
The cossacks provoked the strike to offer resistance; they charged crowds, slashing with whips, striking with sabres, shooting from behind corners without warning.

Then the strike showed, wherever it could, that it was not a merely temporary interruption of work, a passive protest made with folded arms.

It defended itself and, in its defence, passed to the offensive.



Trotsky (left) with Lenin and Kamenev



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BOOKMARX CLUB

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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:

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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.

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POSTAL POINTS

HARROGATE, a bastion of Toryism, had two Socialist Worker supporters six months ago. Now there are five—and, in the same time, sales of SW have risen from two to 25.

A number of regular readers gained on the housing estates are being brought together soon in a discussion group.

We would like to hear from members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in North Yorkshire so as to link up locally.

We are building slowly but surely. The Tory armour in Harrogate has a small but definite crack in it.

□ Colin Vance, Harrogate

I'VE JUST had the Lenin and Chile tapes from SW Recordings and Right to Work record, and I am really delighted with their quality, interest and content. I hope that many more will be produced.

□ F Hackett (NUPE steward), Hull.

□ SW Recordings have cassettes on Lenin, Chile, Spain, Songs of the Portuguese Revolution and Black Power, with Ireland, State and Revolution, and the Labour Party in process. For full details, send stamped addressed envelope to SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

READERS may be interested to know the names, addresses and phone numbers of various CIA agents as exposed by the Agee/Hosenball Defence Committee:

Milton Zaslow, 39 Bryanston Square, London W1. Phone 01-262 9379.

Richard Kahane, 47 Park St, London W1. Phone 01-491 7282.

John Kirkby, 60 Park St, London W1. Phone 01-493 1504.

Jos Then, 39 Montague Square, London W1. Phone 01-262 3573.

Elizabeth J Ginal (FBI Secretary), 25 Bryanston Square, London W1.

Dennis Dickson (Legal Attache), 9 Blomfield Rd, Little Venice, London W9 01-286 1843.

□ Ossie Lewis, Cheam, Surrey.

I THOUGHT your front page story in the Christmas issue was first class. The cuts do kill. And there are going to be a lot more youngsters like Andrea hurt and perhaps even killed as a result of them.

I'd just like to add one point. How much does it cost the NHS to operate on and mend the children who are injured. It'll probably cost more than the cuts claim to save in pounds shillings and pence. They're not only obscene, they're insane.

□ P Richards, Glasgow.

WE WOULD like to draw SW readers' attention to the Peace Through Freedom Committee counter-demo against the 'Peace People' on 27 November.

It was essential that the 'Peace People' be opposed, and be seen to be opposed, by an organised, united anti-imperialist movement. Instead, it appeared as individuals and grouplets, which plays into the hands of Betty Williams et al, and the press.

That the counter-demo had a relatively big impact was despite the organisation, rather than because of it.

□ KEN BROWNE and RUPERT WILLIAMS, Colchester.

Letters

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

My life under capitalism



W A Day worked at this factory Vickers in Crayford. How many other men in this picture had their lives devastated by the great god profit?

LOOKING BACK on my wasted life, I realise how my skills were exploited by this evil capitalist system I have lived in all my life.

I have been pushed from pillar to post by Tories and I find this Labour government a shocker, not fit to represent the ordinary working class people of today.

For twenty years I've lived on a small piece of land. A month or two ago a Tory council got back in thanks to the rotten policies of this Labour government.

The result I am to be made to get off my land, drag away my caravan, destroy my workshop and leave the land as it was 20 years ago.

They say this is greenbelt. Yet just a few months ago they allowed a huge building to be erected 30 yards away from my land. I am now 63, have heart trouble and my wife has advanced arthritis. Our position is now quite hopeless.

My hobby is steam engines. I've been a skilled engineer all my life. I was on Tomorrow's World demonstrating my steam push bike. I've had many write ups in papers showing things I've made.

Though a highly skilled man I've nothing to show for it only a humble caravan home.

Yet I must have earned them bastards thousands and thousands working for companies such as Vickers Crayford and many others. And now I won't even have a place to live at all and my workshop will be destroyed and pulled down.

□ W A Day, Headington, Oxford.

Poland: A good investment

I WOULD like to correct two mistakes in your story on Poland (25 December).

First, Edmund Baluka was picketing the Mansion House, not the Polish Embassy. Dozens of chauffeur-driven limousines deposited slimey businessmen there to meet the Polish premier.

He finally went home with £200 million worth of orders, presumably British businessmen like investing in

countries where workers don't have free trade unions.

Secondly, Steve Taylor is secretary of the shop stewards committee at Massey Ferguson (Central Plan Operation). He is no secretary of our campaign. He is a member of our committee.

□ A Paczuska, corresponding secretary, Polish Workers Defence Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

The Cuts: A rich man's easy answer

IS IT A coincidence that the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Donald Coggan came out with his pearls of holy wisdom on the question of euthanasia the day before Chancellor Denis Healey announced another round of savage cuts?

What better way to cut down on public spending than to decide that some people are not worth keeping alive.

This has nothing to do with whether you think people who may well be just vegetables should be kept alive artificially. The implications are much more serious than that.

Useful

Dr Coggan says that it is more 'useful' to spend money on people who will be able to lead active lives as a result of treatment.

What this means is: if you're no use to society you might as well not be treated. Ultimately this would include old people, the physically handicapped, etc.

And it is already happening. An elderly relative of mine had a stroke. She was examined by three doctors in the course of a weekend.

Learn from the Punks

*I am a young man, I ain't done very much
You men should remember how you used to fight
Just like a child I've been seeing only dreams
I'm all mixed up, but I know what's right.*

That's from the Dirty Jobs by the Who. The Who said a lot for me when I was a teenager and maybe I was forgetting what it was like,

The last one told me: 'She needs to be in hospital, but they'll try to fob you off because she's old. Stand your ground.'

Sure enough the doctor at the hospital told us there was nothing medically wrong with her, just old age.

It was only when we refused to leave the hospital that they agreed to take her in.

She died two weeks later suffering from cancer and various other illnesses which could have been treated earlier.

As the cuts become more and more effective, this is a policy which will become more and more common in the National Health Service.

Dr Coggan has come up with one answer to the cuts. But he has completely ignored the reasons why our resources are limited.

Our answer is to fight the cuts and create a health service which offers treatment to all those who need it—regardless of whether or not it will reap its rewards for capitalism.

□ J Lopez, East London.

Punk: A challenge

IT IS very grating the way left and right have united in disapproval of punk rock.

One point in Socialist Worker must be urgently corrected. The writers' suggestion of absorption by the musical establishment. This is incredibly naive.

New Musical Express says: 'Never before have rock bands been so severely restricted in their right to play music.'

You should get off the fence. Punk rock is clearly a challenge to capitalism and against fascism.

□ Dermot McGuinness and Brian McGuinness, Stockport.

until Punk Rock came along. Young people are dangerous to society. They owe nothing to society's morals and so often see them as a sham.

The trouble is this rebellion often never takes a form. Society tempts people into straight-jackets of marriages and mortgages.

Another song by the Who says: 'People try to put us

down, just because we get around.'

It's not just young people trying to do something that's frowned upon, from singing in the street to going on a right to work march. The boys in blue will readily find you a bed for the night.

Learn from the Punks and get up on your feet. Society should be spat upon.

□ Iain Fenton, Dundee

Blame the bosses, not the blacks!

DOES THE reader who argued for immigration controls fail to see that bad housing, waiting lists for council houses and homelessness do not have some natural cause. It's not too many people chasing too few houses.

It's the result of the priorities of a sick society, which puts profits before our right to decent homes.

Housing is cut while the wealthy and powerful have several houses.

If you say housing conditions are the result of immigration you are accepting the bestial priorities of the capitalist system.

Compare the terraced houses where my workmates and I live with the nearby rolling plains of Cheshire where our local notables hunt down foxes. There's no overcrowding in the rustic playground of these vermin.

□ Alan Gibbons, Crewe, Cheshire

Queen of Scroungers

NEWSPAPERS RECENTLY carried the rumour that Prince Charles would marry a member of the Luxembourg royalty. I would like to ask the Home Office, Nazi Front and Prince Philip—that self-confessed expert on scroungers—if this potential immigrant, as a person who will never work in her life, a definite Queen of Scroungers, be allowed into the country?

I somehow think she will manage to get through our racist immigration laws.

□ M WARD, Leeds

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'Superscab' won't sell us out, say cleaners

by GARRY BUSHELL

EAST LONDON: 'You can go to hell—and put that in the Socialist Worker'.

That was General and Municipal Workers Union regional official Bill McCall's advice to five of his members last Thursday.

The five are cleaners at the Holbrook annexe of the North East London Poly. They've been on strike for 14 weeks to have lethal asbestos dust removed from the building, a sacked striker reinstated, a compensation register set up and an end to lump labour in the Poly.

Six weeks ago the director agreed to their demands, saying the Poly's ruling body would ratify them the next night. This still has not happened.

To show their good will the cleaners agreed to work until the council met, providing the building was made safe by industrial cleaners.

Refused

Instead of industrial cleaners, on 22 December two removal vans turned up to move out equipment. But the non-union removal men refused to cross the women's picket line, despite frantic pleas from management—and Bill McCall.

The cleaners met the Poly director with McCall last Thursday. They were begged to let management move equipment from the building—without their demands being met.

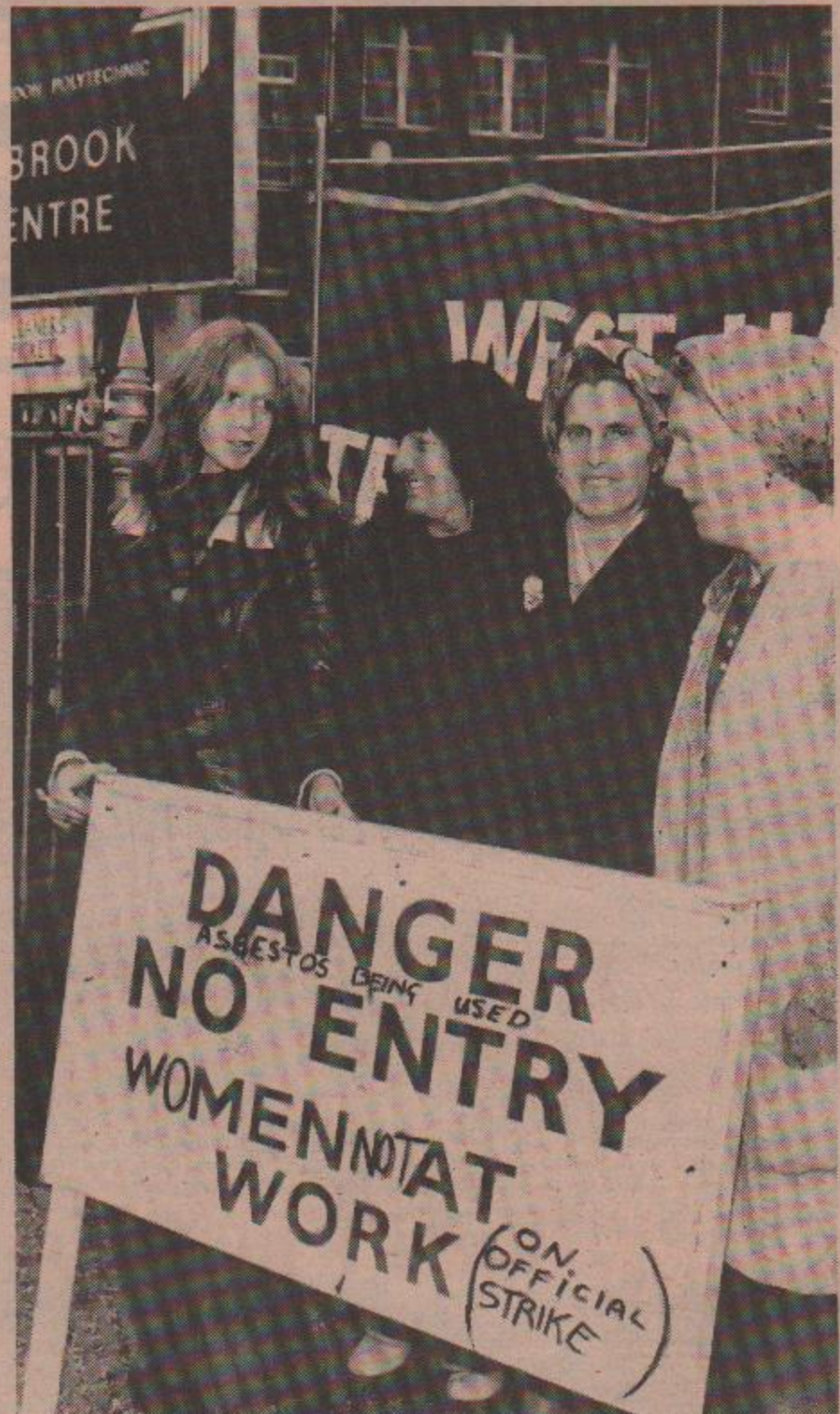
'We said no,' explained Mary Pelling. 'The Poly wants equipment out and they're building portakabins at another site—they're planning to close the building and leave us here till doomsday.'

So McCall turned on them, saying 'If you won't sign, I will'. And he wonders why he's earned the nickname 'Superscab'.

Said striker Queenie Webb: 'He says go to hell. We say bollocks. On Wednesday we're having a mass picket to turn away the portakabins. And on 7 January a strike support committee is being set up.'

'McCall won't sell us out. We've not sat here 14 weeks for nothing.'

□ **Donations and messages of support: c/o NELPSU, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, London E15.**



Four of the 'Magnificent Five' picketing outside the building: from left, Lorraine Webb, Mary Pelling, Queenie Webb and Ann Nicholson.

GMWU deserts Aquatel strikers

by GERALD BENNETT

GMWU branch secretary, London Hotels (3)

BASILDON: The General and Municipal Workers Union has deserted strikers at the Rentaplay-Aquatel Leisure Centre.

Nine weeks ago GMWU official JC Tilston called them out on strike. He hasn't been seen since.

Eleven members have been sacked by Aquatel managing director Reg Treble. Two people have been served with eviction notices and one of them, strike leader Bill Naylor, is to have his gas cut off because he can't afford to pay the £75 bill.

The workers are not getting strike pay.

Treble has refused to recognise the strikers despite the Government Arbitration Service (ACAS) ruling that

original union membership was 23 out of 29.

The strikers have mounted a 15-hour picket to stop deliveries, but the GMWU officials have made sure they get through.

Basildon Trades Council has pledged full support for the strikers. The cutting off of gas, water, electricity and an approach to the Transport Workers Union to stop deliveries would have ended the strike long ago. Why hasn't the GMWU requested this support?

But it seems there are some loyal people left. Basildon Council's Labour leaders refused to cross the picket to go to a dance at the leisure centre. Is there no one at the GMWU regional office with a sense of shame?

Action conference to back hospital

CENTRAL LONDON: Shop stewards at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in Euston Road have called a delegate conference to discuss action against closure.

The call came at a mass meeting where John Deason, national secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, was

invited to speak.

Workers at the EGA, one of two women's hospitals in London, have been working in against closure since November. They have decided to 'physically but passively' resist attempts to move equipment and patients to another hospital.

The Department of Health has said that they will start moving equipment in January and patients in mid-February.

The conference will be held at the hospital on 12 February at 11 am. It is open to delegates from shop stewards committees. 'If the management try to move patients earlier, then the conference will be brought forward,' said John Deason. 'It is vital to offer solidarity to the workers at EGA.'

□ **Delegates' credentials from the Action Committee, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, London NW1.**

Solidarity saves teacher

EAST LONDON: The attempt to victimise teacher Joe Linehan has failed.

Joe was one of four members of a delegation from his National Union of Teachers Association to the opening session of the William Lyndale School Disciplinary Tribunal.

But Joe's headmaster refused to give permission for his 'unauthorised absence' of two hours. Joe was charged with 'gross insubordination' and 'openly challenging the head's authority'.

He is the school representative, shop steward, a branch committee member and trades council delegate. It was a clear case of victimisation.

But the employers, the Inner London Education Authority, cancelled the Special Governors Meeting called to hear the charges.

They got cold feet when resolutions and expressions of support came in from Joe's own NUT group, from other schools, from parents and pupils and members of other unions at Joe's school.

Said Joe: 'The ILEA caved in because we were only prepared to argue the case on trade union issues, not the legal niceties of 'indiscipline' and 'insubordination', and because of the great solidarity shown by teachers and others, which was helped by all the publicity.'

'In particular the local Rank and File Teachers supporters were active in my defence and many other Rank and File militants throughout London.'

Two factories march against closure

MERSEYSIDE: Two factories in Widnes, Bowaters and United Biscuits, are joining together this Friday to march through the town to demonstrate against the threat to close the factories and put 500 workers on the dole.

They have also contacted representatives from other factories in the area that have closed recently to join them to protest about the high level of unemployment.

The demonstration will end with a meeting at the Town Hall, but on the way the workers intend to visit the local 'Ministry of Unemployment'.

'We'll be showing them what a further 500 people will be like on the dole in an area already hard hit by high unemployment,' Mike Sinnet, convenor at Bowaters, told Socialist Worker.

Workers at Bowaters are angry about the closure, which they see as deliberate 'rationalisation' by the company—profitable work has in the past been moved away to other factories. Bowaters claim they cannot afford to keep the factory open, even though they made £70 million profit last year.

Bowaters management are trying to buy off the workforce and avoid any trouble over the closure. As well as good redundancy payments, they also offered to pay any worker who would agree to leave at Christmas right up to the beginning of March when the factory is due to close.

But only a handful left and the rest are determined to stay and fight to keep the factory open.

'We have no alternative. We know there is no chance of another job in this area' said Mike Sinnet.

It is important that all trade unionists in the area support the Bowaters and United Biscuits workers in their fight.

□ **DEMONSTRATION leaves The Barracks, Peel House Lane, Widnes, at 2pm, Friday 7 January. For further information contact Mike Sinnet, 82 Bechers, Hough Green Road, Widnes.**

Steward fights for job

by PHILLIP WEBSTER

BLACKBURN: Shop steward Tommy Miller has been cleared by Preston Crown Court of stealing three chickens from Brockhall Hospital. But he is still having to fight to get his job back.

Tommy, who worked at Brockhall for eight years, was sacked for the alleged 'theft' shortly after he had found a bugging device in the catering department. He is a shop steward in the Public Employees Union (NUPE).

He is now fighting through the official conciliation procedure, but if this doesn't work there is likely to be militant action on his behalf.

He is not just fighting for his job, but also to keep the house that goes with it.

Hospital staff see the sacking as victimisation because of Tommy's union activity. They have already threatened to strike if the official procedure fails.

NURSES SIT-IN AT HOME

by STEVEN ROSE

NUPE convenor, Tatchbury Mount Hospital

SOUTHAMPTON: Nurses at Tatchbury Mount Hospital are occupying part of the nurses' home to demand accommodation for two women nurses' assistants. There are 14 empty rooms in the nurses home and several empty hospital houses, but the management won't give them accommodation.

We are also demanding an end to discrimination for accommodation on the grounds of staff grade. Everyone who wants accommodation should be eligible. There should be an end to sex discrimination in the allocation of rooms.

ENGINEERS CHARTER, the rank and file organisation in the engineering union AUEW, has brought out a special leaflet on the latest scandal in the union—the letter written by anti-union Tory MP Winston Churchill to AUEW general secretary John Boyd.

The letter was about the 11-month-old strike for union recognition at Automat in Manchester. The leaflets expose the right wing in the AUEW.

● £2.70 for 200, £4.85 for 500, including postage, from TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

Cinemas occupied in bid to save jobs

DUBLIN: Forty cinema workers found a new way to greet the New Year. We occupied two cinemas.

by GENE KERRIGAN
ITGWU shop steward, Ambassador Cinema, Dublin.

The Ambassador and the Academy were due to close on Thursday 13 January. The managing director, a man who glories in the name of St John, stands to gain £27,300, as 'compensation for loss of office'. The two cinemas, valued at over £200,000, were down to be disposed of along with another cinema valued at over £100,000.

The company—Capitol and Allied—uses 'shortage of money' as one of its reasons

for putting 40 people on the dole.

On New Year's Eve we occupied both cinemas. We've been there since.

Within hours, the first gesture of solidarity arrived. A local butcher left a large parcel of meat. It provided a fine celebration meal and the workers in the two cinemas exchanged New Year greetings by phone at midnight.

The occupations are in the centre of

Dublin and can provide a focus for a fight against soaring unemployment in Ireland.

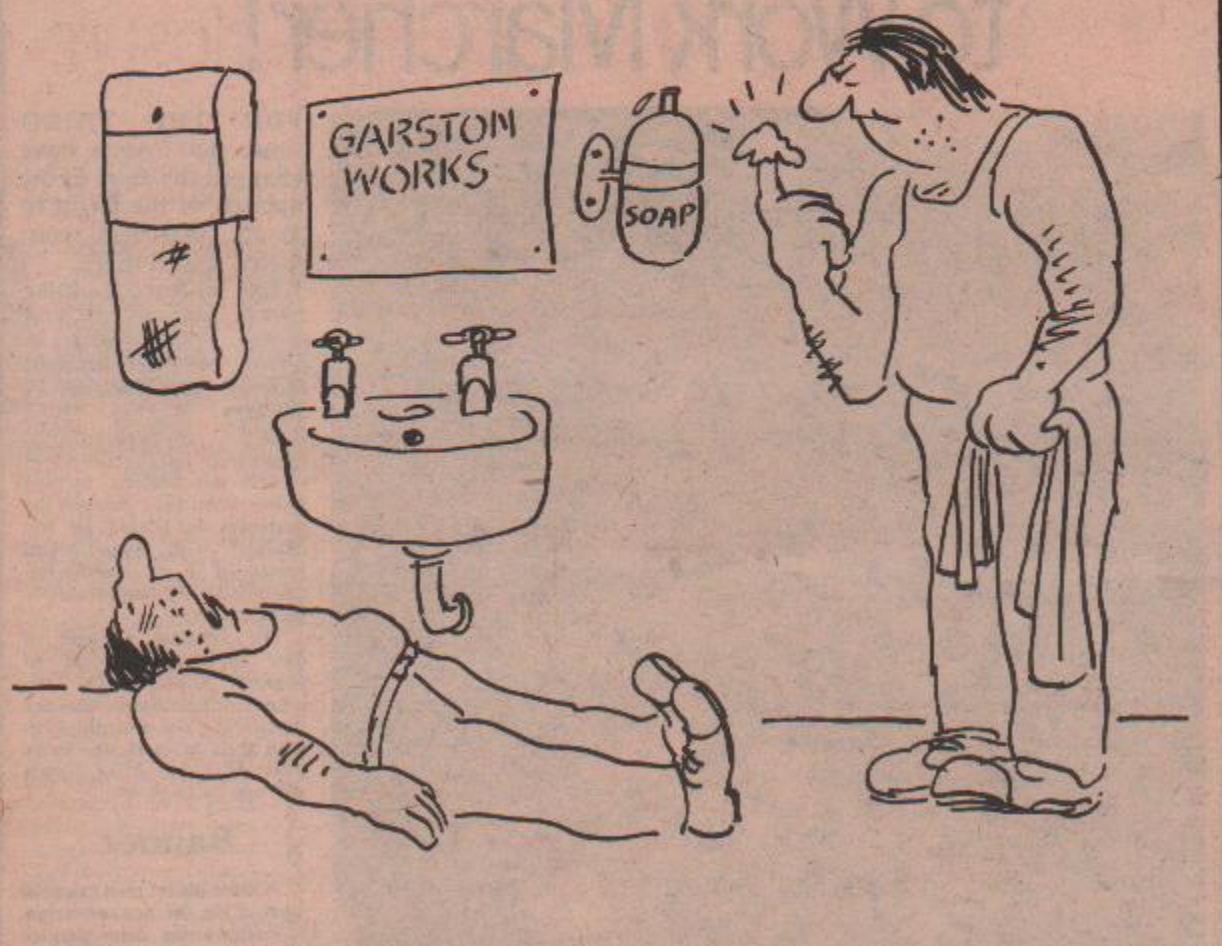
The fight will not be an easy one. 'We're behind you,' say the Irish Transport and General Workers Union officials—but how far behind? Too far to be of much help. The sit-ins are left unofficial in order to protect the tender skins of the union bureaucrats.

This fight can be a crucial test and only rank and file solidarity can help. For a start, we urgently need finance.

□ **Donations and messages of support c/o Gene Kerrigan, 15 Ventry Drive, Cabra West, Dublin 7.**

THE PHIL EVANS GUIDE TO SAFETY AT WORK

BEWARE OF STRANGE CHEMICALS...



BINGO! IT'S A VICTORY

by ANNE COFFEY
TGWU senior steward, Club One Bingo

COVENTRY: We have won our fight for union recognition. Victory for women workers at the Club One and Rialto bingo halls came after ten weeks on strike.

Both unions will have joint negotiating status on a proportional representation basis, the proportions fixed according to membership just before the strike. This is an advantage to the TGWU, which claims majority membership in both clubs.

This peace formula was accepted without controversy by the management of Orr Enterprises, which had been trying to use NATTKE to keep the TGWU out. The women returned to work on Monday.

This protracted and increasingly bitter dispute was resolved by a high-level inter-union agreement formulated at Transport House in London on 21 December.

During the discussions the cinema workers' union NATTKE gave in to the claims of the strikers, who were represented at the talks by a senior steward from each club as well as Transport and General Workers Union officials.

One immediate impact of the strike will be an increase in wages to at least 71 an hour, instead of the 56½p we had been offered, to bring them into line with the Wages Council for non-residential licensed premises. Another is an end to the management policy—not legally enforceable—of making good till and float shortages out of wages.

This dispute, which was born in an atmosphere of ill-organised and timid apprehension and was won finally by determination and militancy, sets a precedent for all unrepresented and lower-paid workers.

In particular, the girls of Club One and Rialto have created a clear avenue for bingo hall workers everywhere to gain the union recognition previously denied them by management and in the process win an immediate improvement in pay and conditions.

The Licensed Bingo Halls Association, which previously discouraged any union but NATTKE, have now stated that they have no objection to the TGWU.

The women of Club One and Rialto wish to thank Chrysler, Massey Ferguson, Silcox and Collins, and Wickmans workers, local community organisations, individual trade unionists and especially the members of the International Socialists without whom at many times throughout this strike we would have collapsed.

AN EYE FOR THE PRINTERS

THE millionaires who own the daily papers find their friends in the strangest places. Private Eye is the latest publication to defend their attempts to avoid paying decent holiday pay to printers.

The magazine seems to think that the demands for adequate holiday pay entitle the print unions to be called names like SLAG, SLOTH and BUM.

But then the editor knows all about holiday entitlement. He has seven days holiday, with pay, once every two weeks.

Socialist Worker

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Massey wage challenge

by STEVE TAYLOR, secretary, CPO shop stewards committee, and JACK ROBERTSON, BDR shop stewards committee, Massey Ferguson, Manchester.

MANCHESTER: A joint shop stewards committee meeting of the Manchester Massey Ferguson factories decided unanimously to negotiate wages after July on the basis of full, free collective bargaining.

At the coming wage negotiations we will tell management that we grudgingly accept the present pay policy until July, but after that we go back to free collective bargaining.

We want to say to other trade unions, shop stewards committees and branches that we will not stand for further cuts in our living standards. We are now starting a publicity campaign to get other rank and file members to follow the same lead as British Leyland and ourselves.

It is imperative that we do not let the TUC do similar deals with this government. We have to show them that multinationals like Massey-Ferguson are making astronomical profits and are only too pleased to give what the TUC and government think best for us.

GRUNWICK STRIKERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

NORTH-WEST LONDON: Members of the white-collar union, ASTMS at Smith's Industries in Cricklewood have rallied round the Grunwicks strikers. They have organised a special Benefit Social with Barnet Trades Council to help raise support for the five-month strike for union recognition.

The government's arbitration service, ACAS, is now issuing ballot papers so that the strikers can vote on the issue of recognition. Voting will be on 12 January.

Grunwicks, a film processing firm, has for years been a non-union sweatshop, paying appallingly low wages.

GRUNWICK BENEFIT SOCIAL: Saturday 8 January, 8pm, Main Hall, Middlesex Polytechnic at Hendon, The Burroughs, London NW4. Tickets 75p (35p strikers and unemployed).

Donations and messages of support to Grunwick Strike Committee, Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willesden High Road, London NW10.

Charity for Rubery Owen

DARLASTON: The sit-in by electricians at Rubery Owen has ended.

The 60 electricians have been abused by the newspapers, some trade union officials and by the management. The Sun and Daily Express printed articles accusing someone of sabotaging machinery in the factory. The management declared that the factory might have to shut and 2,500 jobs be lost.

This was nonsense. The factory is so important that any major strike there leads to hold-ups and lay-offs throughout British Leyland.

Animosity

The issue which aroused such animosity is one that nearly every group of workers in the car industry has taken action over at some time or other. The electricians were

demanding lay-off pay for time lost due to another dispute, which was provoked by the management.

All the electricians were saying was that they were not prepared to lose money because the Rubery Owen management caused strikes.

The men voted to return to work after an hour-long speech by an official from the Electricians Union. Management have agreed to pay some money, £5,000 in all.

But the money is not going to the strikers—it is going to a charity! This ridiculous offer was accepted by 32 votes to 22, with nine abstentions, after a two-hour meeting.

The management have nevertheless accepted that some money ought to be paid. This could be turned into an important concession by the rest of the Rubery Owen workers who were laid off.

Every section should now demand lay-off pay for time lost.

Builders battle on

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Workers who have been picketing the Marshall Andrews viaduct site for seven months are to launch a national tour of building sites to raise support for their struggle.

The dispute is over the use of a sophisticated form of the lump. Scab sub-contractors include Duffy and Kerr, and Stephens and Carter. The pickets are eager to know where else these sub-contractors are operating.

This long and important battle can be won if the men get the moral and particularly the financial support they deserve.

Send messages of support and donations to: John Davies, c/o Welwyn Garden City Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road, East Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

News Millionaire steps in

by IAN REINECKE

KETTERING: Journalists on strike have been treated to a 'who does what' dispute among East Midland Allied Press management.

New managing director, former Guardian editor-in-chief John Ryan, tried to open talks with NUJ general secretary Ken Morgan over Christmas. He was slapped down by Richard Winfrey,

head of the millionaire family which owns the Evening Telegraph and two weekly papers.

Winfrey put responsibility for the dispute back in the hands of his hand-picked 'wonderboy', Robin Miller, who refused to negotiate for seven months before the strike.

Management's only tactic now is to hang on in the hope that the NUJ chapel (office branches), which have been out for five weeks, will crum-

HOTEL WORKERS REFUSE OFFER

SHEFFIELD: Forty-six workers at Trust House Forte's Grosvenor Hotel have been on strike since 14 December to force management to recognise their union, the Transport and General Workers.

'Without the union we'll never be able to improve our conditions. We kept the picket going over Christmas and we won't give up now,' women on the picket line told Socialist

Worker.

Management's response to this attempt by workers to organise was to sack them all. Then, just before Christmas, knowing how desperately those with families would be struggling to survive, they offered re-employment on a 'trial' basis with even worse conditions than before, while still refusing to recognise the union.

Trevor Jones, one of three

shop stewards in the hotel, said: 'The offer is absolutely ridiculous. They will take us back but only with a noose around our necks.'

Test Case

The management are prepared to lose money to smash the union. This is a test case.

'We have tried talking to the staff who are scabbing, but they've been brainwashed.

The management treat them like dogs and they are too frightened to fight back.

'We must win this dispute because it is now a battle between the whole THF empire and the union. It affects hotel-workers everywhere. We must show them we are stronger than they are.'

The conditions at the Grosvenor Hotel are disgusting. Kitchen workers are earning only £25 a week and

no overtime pay for weekend work. THF, notorious for anti-union activities, have been operating sweatshops for too long.

The strikers are determined to stick it out.

All donations and messages of support to: Trevor Jones c/o Grosvenor House Strike Fund, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Socialist Worker

CLYDE JOBS CRISIS

By Laurie Flynn

GLASGOW: If you read the Evening Times or the Glasgow Herald, Christmas on Clydeside was not so bad after all.

Faced with the threat of unemployment growing higher still, Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Alec Ferry, of the Clyde Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, performed a miracle.

They convinced the Government to place a new rig order with the Marathon yard in Clydebank.

According to the press, it was the best possible Christmas present for Clydeside

And it's the same in Edinburgh and Dundee

THE ROBB CALEDON Shipyard in Leith has started sending out redundancy notices. About a third of the workforce of 900 face the sack from April, with little prospect of work in the area for most of the trades involved.

The same thing is happening at a similar-sized Robbs yard in Dundee, further up the East coast. But, faced with this threat, the yard convenors have not begun canvassing local trade union support.

Instead they have been busy contacting the local bosses organisation—the Leith Chamber of Commerce. The other main activity of the Joint Shop Stewards and 'Action Committee' has been to send letters to most of the MPs in Scotland asking for support.

Support for what? A joint campaign with the local Chamber of Commerce—who call for higher unemployment nationally—to plead for Robbs to be kept open? Or support for what's really necessary—an occupation of the yard and a forceful campaign inside the local trade union movement for the withdrawal of every redundancy notice?

shipbuilding and engineering workers.

In reality, the order is nothing more than a stop gap to ensure no militant fight for jobs is launched from the yard.

Sadly the leaders of the Marathon workforce have fallen for it.

And a mean trick it is. Out of a workforce of nearly 1100, 300 have been told there is no work for them and the remaining 800 are only guaranteed

work for a few months.

Marathon is only the first of many places threatened with sackings.

Already Govan, once the centre of shipbuilding and engineering in the West of Scotland, has been laid low, with factories, docks and yards closed.

Any threat to Govan shipbuilders would be the last nail in the coffin.

Greenock, a company town if ever there was one, is under serious threat because Scott-Lithgow or their nationalised successors are looking to sack between 2000 and 3000 skilled workers.

This disaster is an appropriate tribute to the con men of the Maritime Fruit Carriers Company, who have pocketed millions of public money in return for ordering ships at Greenock and

Public Meeting organised jointly by the Glasgow Shipbuilders and Clydebank branches of the Socialist Workers Party. Crisis on Clydeside—the socialist alternative.
Speakers: Jimmy McCallum, former TASS convenor, John Browns, and Peter Bain, TGWU Shop Stewards Chairman at Chrysler.
Thursday 13 January, 7.30pm, Lecture Room, Clydebank Town Hall.

elsewhere which they now claim they cannot pay for.

With every job lost in the yards, one job will go in the ancillary trades. And the slaughter won't stop there.

Babcock and Wilcox, a fabulously wealthy company, plan to sack 5000 workers at Renfrew, bringing the area into line with the dreadful poverty of Greenock and Govan.

The working class leadership in the trade union

machine in the factories and yards have chosen to deal with the problem piecemeal.

That's why the arguments have been about a new rig for Marathon or a new oil tanker for Scott-Lithgow's—issues that don't get to grips with the underlying problem affecting workers.

Repeatedly, the leaders of the Clyde Confed have claimed they will fight against unemployment and for the right to work.

Solution?

Late last year, shop stewards from yards throughout Britain met in Govan to discuss how to fight redundancies. They agreed to oppose them by industrial action.

Nationalisation of the shipbuilding industry on the Government's terms—when it comes—is not an adequate solution.

Instead of scraping about for stop-gap 'solutions' for this or that workplace, it is now the job of the labour movement on Clydeside to tackle unemployment head on.

That's why we need a West of Scotland Shop Stewards meeting now, to discuss building such a campaign and to organise action.

Don't let them jail this Right to Work Marcher!



Mike Lynch, after being savagely beaten by police last March: he was charged with assaulting police!

FOR THE THIRD time, the Courts have changed the dates of the appeals of the Right to Work marchers convicted in October.

The appeal of Mike Lynch, out on bail and facing six months in prison, has been brought forward to Monday 17 January.

Mike, an unemployed miner from Dunfermline, was beaten unconscious by the police when they charged the marchers last Spring. He was charged with assault and sentenced to six months imprisonment by magistrates at Hendon.

The constant changes in date make it difficult to organise support. But the more trade unionists who are outside the court on the 17th with their banners, the more likely it is that Mike Lynch will not go to prison.

Banner

A mass picket is an essential part of the defence campaign.

Every extra demonstrator and every extra banner will make a difference.

Socialist Worker Party branches should be discussing this week how to make sure the picket is well supported.

The Right to Work Campaign has called on all trade union organisations and local Right to Work committees to make a special effort to change transport arrangements to ensure a mass attendance outside the Court.

On Tuesday 1 February, the other two marchers sentenced to terms of imprisonment will make their appeals. Another picket and demonstration is being arranged for that day.

Meanwhile every effort is needed to get a big picket in support of Mike Lynch on Monday 17 January. Organisation for that picket must start now.

For details of transport to the picket, contact the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4. Phone 01-802 0978.

National Right to Work Campaign Advertisement

Defend the Right to Work Marchers
STOP THE JAILINGS DROP THE CHARGES
 Mass picket

Monday 17 January

Organise now for official delegations. Make sure your trade union organisation is represented. Make sure your trade union banner is present. A big display of banners will have a major effect on the Court.

BRING BANNERS
 Middlesex Crown Court, by Westminster Tube, from 9.30am.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
 Name
 Address
 Trade union
 Please send me more information
 Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cornons Gardens, London, E2 6DN