

SPOT THE SCROUNGER

Elizabeth Queen, unemployed, £16-88p a week, social security



Ridley Road Market, East London

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

ROBBERY: BY SOCIAL CON-TRICK

PEANUTS. That's what most workers' wage packets have been reduced to by two years of wage controls.

WHY?
When the Social Contract wage controls were introduced in August 1975 the government promised it would lead to a fall in prices.
'Action will be taken to limit prices on some of your basic foods,' said the government.

Inflation

But '1976 proved to be the worst year on record for food price inflation,' says the Grocer magazine. 'Over the last two years food prices have risen by an unprecedented 50.6 per cent.'

Since the wage freeze was introduced, basic foodstuffs such as tea, coffee, milk, butter, cheese, and above all fresh vegetables have more than doubled in price.

Who is to blame?

The government, with Tory support, has slashed food subsidies, even though it had promised to keep them. This has helped force up the prices of tea, bread, cheese and butter.

The government, with Tory support, has insisted that prices rise to Common Market levels. This means you pay taxes that add 16p a pound to the price of New Zealand lamb, 16p a pound to butter, 14p a pound to New Zealand cheese, 12p a dozen to Polish eggs.

Food Bills

The Daily Mirror calculates this adds £1.60 a week to a family's food bill. It means that the price of butter will rise another 6p a pound in April and cheese 2½p a pound.

The government has allowed the Potato Marketing Board and the farmers to cut the area of potatoes planted by nearly a fifth over the past two years, to force up prices astronomically, from about 3p a pound to 14p or 15p.

The government has relaxed the price code again and again to keep big business happy.

Who has benefitted?

The big companies. Profits of the eight top food processing firms rose by £75 million last year.



Picture: Martin Adams

The sugar monopoly Tate and Lyle doubled its profits in the last year alone. They made a cool £6 million on sugar they bought cheap off the government and sold dear to you and me.

Potatoes

The big farmers. 'This year the short crop added £300 million to the receipts of potato growers', said Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers Union.

'Much of this profit has gone to a fairly small number of farmers.'
The typical farmer today is likely to own property worth several hundred thousand. Among the wealthy farmers are leading politicians such as prime minister Jim Callaghan and the Tories' Lord Carrington and Willie Whitelaw.

Every time the Common Market system forces up food prices, it means you pay more to British farmers and food com-

panies. Half our food is British-grown. **The big landowners.** Land prices have doubled in the past three years.

What's in the future?

Wholesale prices rose by a record amount last month. This will soon hit shop prices.

The Price Commission estimates that by spring all prices will be rising twice as fast as pre-tax wages. So for every £1 your take-home pay goes up under the Social Contract, prices will rise by £4.

What can we do?

You need at least a £10 wage rise to keep up with past price rises. The Social Contract has meant cuts in health, education and social services, rising unemployment as well.

Kick out the Social Contract. Demand at least a £10 interim rise now. And insist on no more wage controls, so that you can keep ahead of prices in future.

Queen Elizabeth, unemployable, £90,500 a week tax free



State banquet, Windsor Castle

THE QUEEN and other royal parasites have just received this year's inflation-proof pay rise—£250,000 for the Queen alone. Socialist Worker dedicates this hymn to the royal Jubilee:

Rally round the Social Contract,
No more hospitals or schools.
Millions more are needed
For Royal parasites and fools.

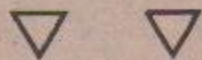
See the Monarch of the nation
In her million-acre grounds.
What's she need to beat inflation?
A quarter of a million pounds.

There's our Princess Anne out riding
(Can you tell which one's the horse?)
She needs more for fines and horse whips,
Ten thousand more tax free of course.

Scrounger Phil, the prince of ponces,
Finds his stable overmanned.
Games of polo on the dole
Cost another twenty grand.

See the anger of the people,
Horrified at Royal greed,
Perched upon the highest steeple,
Spitting on the Jubilee.

PAUL FOOT



□ Could you write a better comment on the deluge of Royal crap that is going to fill the press for the next four months? If so, send it to Anti-Jubilee, SW Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

NAZIS ORGANISE INSIDE PRISON

WARDERS in Strangeways Prison, Manchester, have been openly organising as members of the National Front.

Ex-prisoners have told members of the Socialist Workers Party in Manchester that the warders have been going on duty

chanting racist slogans. They have been openly wearing NF badges and threatening Pakistanis. One black prisoner was kept in a padded cell for three days and tormented by NF warders.

Opposition

Ex-prisoners have told us of being threatened, abused, given the hardest work and being made to wait till last for food and slopping out.

There are about 30 prison officers in the National Front. Racism has been rife among prison officers in all prisons for years, but this is the first time the National Front has dared to organise openly in a prison.

After protests from the Community Relations Commission and the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Home Office has stopped prison officers wearing NF badges—and consider this effectively deals with the situation. Pressuring MPs and going

through official channels has not stopped the activities of the National Front in the prison. It is obvious that the lack of determination by the Labour government to fight fascism has allowed the NF to organise openly.

We cannot stand by and allow this.

Manchester SWP are organising a picket of the prison at 2pm on Saturday 26 February. We urge all our supporters and especially the many black ex-prisoners that we know to join us.

Prison life for 200 immigrants

by JOHN ROSE

RUPI AHLUWALIA, an anti-racist militant from Southall, spoke to Socialist Worker through an interpreter last week about the seven weeks he spent locked up as an 'illegal immigrant' in Pentonville Prison. 'We detainees were never sure of our position. We had good reason to believe that we may be deported at any minute. So every minute we were in suspense. Rupi's daily timetable went like this:
6am: Lights on.
6.30am: Ten minutes outside the cell to use the lavatory. (If you have to relieve yourself in the night then you do so in the cell—in containers provided by Her Majesty's Prison. The cell is about half the size of an average bedroom, with poor ventilation).
8am: Five minutes out-

side the cell to collect tea and a bit of breakfast.

9.30-10.30am: An hour stroll outside if it is fine. If it rains you stay in the cell.

12 noon: Five minutes outside the cell to collect lunch.

Between 1.30 and 3pm detainees can see visitors. But the 15 minutes only in a public visiting room carefully scrutinised by prison guards.

4.15pm: Five minutes outside the cell to collect supper. This is the last meal of the day.

7pm: Ten minutes outside the cell to use the lavatory.

8pm: Five minutes outside cell to collect tea.

10pm: Lights out.

There are over 200 immigrants held in Pentonville at any one time. Socialist Worker demands release and amnesty for every one of them, and the repeal of the whole revolting package of immigration laws.

BORSTAL PICKET

A FULL-SCALE picket of Rochester Borstal is being organised in support of Nathan Williams, who is due to be deported at any moment. Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has already signed and sealed the order.

Nathan was convicted of handing 39 stolen LP records, an offence which a white youth would have been fined for, or maybe put on remand. Nathan is being kicked out because he's black.

Nathan was born in Antigua but his home is here. His parents are here, his friends are here and his job is here. He has no relatives in Antigua.

PICKET Rochester Borstal. Coach leaves King's Cross, London 10am, this Saturday, 12 February. Picket Rochester Borstal 1pm-3pm. Full details, phone 01-739 1878. meeting went ahead, thanks to Luton Town

A BARRAGE of eggs greeted National Front fugehrer John Tyndall when he arrived to speak at a meeting in Luton Town Hall last Friday. They came from 150 anti-racist pickets outside the meeting.

But the police made sure only eggs passed between the two groups and the

Council, who generously provided the room.

No thanks though to the town's Labour councillors, who had known about the meeting for a long time but done nothing.

It was left to the tiny local branch of the Socialist Workers Party to call a picket, and only when it was clear that SWP members would be coming from all surrounding branches did local organisations announce their support.

Turkish and Greek Cypriots unite

THE Cypriot community in London saw something which has never been seen before last Saturday when 200 Greek Cypriots, Turkish Cypriots, Asian, black and English people marched together through North London to protest against the deportations of Cypriot refugees and against the racist immigration laws.

The demonstration passed through the heart of the Greek Cypriot community and ended with a rally in the heart of the Turkish Cypriot community. Throughout the march, Cypriots were coming out of the shops and houses to cheer the demonstration, and in many cases to join it. Passers-by made



Above and right: Saturday's march through London's Cypriot community Pictures: Phil McCowan

donations to the campaign totalling £30. At the rally there were again speakers in Greek, Turkish and English.

One Greek Cypriot speaker, Spiros Christou, said: 'The fight against deportations and racism will only win when we get the support of the British working class.'

'But a good beginning!' Earlier in the week, the Cypriot Defence Campaign held its first public meeting. Androulla Economou opened the meeting, speaking in Greek and English, by referring to cases of refugees who had been imprisoned and deported.

She said the campaign was not merely the concern of Cypriots. It needed to

take up the issue of immigration controls as a whole.

Kadir Pekir, speaking in Turkish and English, described the situation in Cyprus today. He explained that the coming Denktash-Makaros agreement to the partition of Cyprus would lead to a massive increase in deportations, as the British government would now consider the Cyprus problem 'solved'.

Alok Biswas, secretary of Hackney Asian Association, explained how the Asian community faced similar attacks.

Cypriot Defence Campaign, 90 Mountview Road, London N4.



Abortion Report shows working-class women last in queue

by JEAN GRAY

CUTS in the Health Service are making it even harder for working-class women to get NHS abortions.

A shocking Community Health Council Report in Hackney, East London, where hospitals are being savaged by the cuts, only a third of women having abortions are getting them free as is supposed to be their right.

The rest have to pay for the operation. Many of the women who have private abortions can, at the moment, get them through charity organisations.

These organisations have kept the price of private abortions down. They offer a safe, fast service with good aftercare and contraceptive advice.

But if William Benyon MP has his way, they will have to close. Abortion will then be further out of reach for working-class women.

Over the past two years, since James White MP began his tirade against abortion rights, there has been a lot of activity, pickets, meetings, petitions. But the campaign didn't keep up its momentum.

We can't let this happen again. That's why Women's Voice and NOISS, the student organisation which supports the Socialist Workers Party, have organised a demonstration on Friday 25 February—the day the Benyon anti-abortion Bill is introduced into parliament.

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION!

Demonstrate Friday 25 February, 12.30pm, assemble West Smithfield (Farringdon and Blackfriars tubes), London. Rally in Central Hall, Westminster, 3pm. BRING BANNERS AND CHILDREN

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN procession and rally: Thursday 24 February, 6pm, Victoria, Bessenden Place, for lobby of parliament 7.30pm.

This is our last chance. This time they will change the law. We have to start campaigning now among thousands of women. We can't just leave it to someone else.

The latest organisations to declare support for the demonstrations are Lambeth Trades Council, Sheffield Poly Students Union, Portsmouth Poly, Highbury Technical College, South Yorks area NUS and Portsmouth National Abortion Campaign.

Womens Voice will also be supporting the National Abortion Campaign procession which they have called for the previous day.

Democracy, Shirley?

THE so-called democrats in the Labour government struck some important blows for freedom last week.

Just two weeks after Minister for Education Shirley Williams wrote in The Guardian denouncing Socialist Worker for breaking from the democratic tradition,

she was called as a member of the Cabinet to put theory into practice.

Shirley and the rest of her 'democratic' friends in the Cabinet sacked five Labour MPs from their jobs as parliamentary private secretaries.

The crime? In a rare display of political principle they had voted in accordance with their beliefs on devolution and against the diktat of the Cabinet.

So much for the garbage about Shirley's belief in democracy.



CYPRIOT WORKER, paper of the Socialist Workers Party in the Cypriot community (in Greek). Articles include: Cypriot Defence Campaign—a major feature, Hypocrisy of the Cyprus Government, Are the English lazy?, Earthquake in Turkey, EGA etc. By post: 12p for a single copy, 30p for five, including postage. A year's subscription (12 issues) £1. Write to Cypriot Worker, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

WHAT WE THINK

The action begins...

Thousands strike to save hospital

ANGER against hospital cuts is growing fast among rank and file trade unionists—that is clearly the message from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, where an 8000-strong demonstration last week closed down several of the town's biggest factories.

The town has been promised a new hospital for 20 years—while the population it serves has grown from 40,000 to 123,000. Now the Area Health Authority says there will be no new hospital, more cuts will remove the operating theatre, x-ray department, casualty and physiotherapy, and sick people will have to travel seven miles to hospital in St Albans.

The massive response took even the local Hospital Action Group, which originally called the demonstration, by surprise.

Action

A week before the demonstration, shop stewards at Alford and Alder, a British Leyland subsidiary, called a mass meeting at the plant and proposed action to save the hospital. The workers voted for a half-day strike to join the demonstration.

Alford is to Hemel what the miners are to the working class—the town's best-organised factory. Word of the strike spread like wildfire through the industrial estate.

What happened at Hemel Hempstead Engineering is typical.

The Friday before, the demonstration was raised on the works committee by Right to Work Campaign member Dave Trend. The committee decided to support the protest themselves rather than ask the works to come out.

But when a mass meeting was held less than 12 hours before the demonstration, the vote was 5-1 for a half-day strike.

Demonstration

Both factories were shut the day of the demonstration. 1000 workers also walked out at Lucas Aerospace, 750 from the traditionally non-union Kodak, nearly the whole workforce at Addressograph.

A thousand workers marched from Dickinsons, the paper and printing company, and about half the workforce of Atlas Copco, the compressors firm. Some teachers brought

A HUGE upswell of protest is growing, as the government's cuts in health, education and social services begin to bite into our living standards.

The one-day stoppage called in telecommunications, the one-day strike called in Scotland by NALGO and NUPE, the series of stoppages in town after town. The 8000-strong half-day strike in Hemel Hempstead (pictured below) is only one of many planned locally.

Below, we print a list of just some of the protests in the next few weeks. We urge all our readers to join in these, to argue with workmates to support them, to leaflet factories calling for action around them.

But the protests alone are not enough.

The campaigns in different unions and different areas must be drawn together. Otherwise the authorities will play one off against the other, pretending that the alternative to one set of cuts, in hospitals for example, is to make another set even worse.

That's why we urge support for two

conferences in the coming weeks—the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions Conference on 26 February and the Save Our Hospitals Conference of the Right to Work Campaign on Saturday 19 March.

These can provide the impetus for a united one-day strike. The National Right to Work Campaign has suggested Tuesday 22 March, when there is a meeting of all the public sector union leaders.

They will also be a chance to start a campaign for the only thing that will stop all the cuts—an all-out, indefinite strike of the whole public sector.



ACTION LIST

12 FEBRUARY: Conference in defence of Elisabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London.

14 FEBRUARY: National one-day strike called by EPTU and TASS in telecommunications against cuts and redundancies.

15 FEBRUARY: Leyland Combine meeting on Social Contract.

24 FEBRUARY: Leicester NUPE half-day strike. Stockport NUPE day of action.

26 FEBRUARY: Wales NUPE day of action, with demonstration in Cardiff.

9 MARCH: North East Region NUPE day of action. Demonstration in Leeds.

22 MARCH: Meeting of unions in public sector. Demonstration and suggestion of strike to encourage action—Right to Work Campaign.

EARLY APRIL: National conference against Social Contract called by Leyland stewards

25 APRIL-1 MAY: East Midlands NUPE week of action. Demonstrations in Leicester, Nottingham, Lincoln, Northampton, Derby.



The scene in Hemel Hempstead last week when whole factories walked out

their classes down from the schools.

Anger over the hospital has had time to grow in Hemel. The present Victorian buildings have been allowed to run down on the strength of promised future miracles.

The pathology lab, for example, is closed because fungus is growing on the walls.

Improvements that have been made are being wasted. A ward refitted at a cost of £84,000, with a modern operating theatre and the latest equipment, has stood unused since the 1975 consultants' dispute.

The health authority refuses to pay for the staff needed to run it.

Horror stories about the local hospitals service abound—a boy with a burst appendix who had to wait an hour for an ambulance, a man with three broken toes who had to be turned away, a bone operation put off five times.

The threatened closure is a

direct result of the government cuts, of Labour's response to crisis by saying 'Let workers' living standards pay the price'.

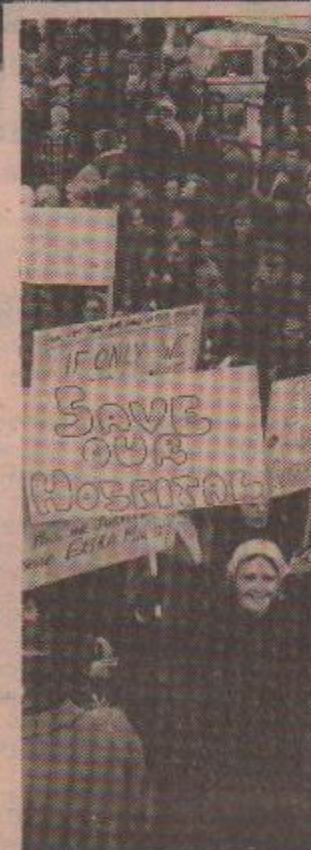
The town's Hospital Action Group, which includes Tories, Liberals, Labour supporters, Communist Party members, for some reason refuse to face this.

Waste

The anger of the rank and file says differently.

Jill Hutchens, a NALGO member at Eastern Electricity, told Socialist Worker: 'I was amazed. Suddenly all sorts of people who I'd written off as right-wing or non-political started talking about the cuts. The number of people who wanted to go off work and join the demonstration amazed me.'

And if that's the response in Hemel Hempstead, can the rest of the country be so far behind?



Liaison conference hits 300

MORE THAN 300 delegates have now been issued with credentials to the conference on the cuts and the Social Contract called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in a fortnight's time.

Among new delegations last week were Engineering Union branches at Shrewsbury, Stockport, Darlington, Letchworth, Ealing, Kingston, Sheffield no 17, Foundry Section no 8, and shop stewards committees from Chrysler Stoke, GEC Sheffield, and Halewood and Ackroyd, Yorkshire.

The list also includes branches of the building workers' union UCATT from Harlesden, Finsbury Park, Plaistow, Porthcawl, Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City, and trades councils from Leicester, Corby, Newcastle, Nottingham, Hounslow, West-

minster, Lewisham, West Ham, Sunderland, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Bletchley and Warrington.

Such delegations show that the conference, in London on Saturday 26 February, could be an important factor in unifying the growing struggle—particularly if it

agrees to the Right to Work Campaign's call for a national one-day stoppage against the cuts and the Social Contract, and for the setting-up of a united committee between the Liaison Committee, the Right to Work Campaign and the organisers of last year's Assembly on Unemployment.

ADVERTISEMENT

The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade unionists to support

THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF TRADE UNIONS CONFERENCE

in London on Saturday 26 February

Fight to make sure your trade union organisation sends delegates to the conference. Credentials from Brother Jim Hiles, LCDTU, 137 Wanstead Park Road London.

MEETINGS AND NOTICES

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



Right to Work Campaign BENEFIT DANCE: Friday 11 February, 8.30pm, University College, Gordon Street, London WC1. Late bar, disco, and Counteract theatre group play on The Cuts. 70p employed, 30p unemployed.

HOSPITAL WORKER: Orders for issues no 5 and 6, phone business manager Hugh Gurling, 01-733 8443, or write to 19 Redpost Hill, London SE24. Please send money for last issue urgently to above address. Copy date for issue no 6 is 31 January.

LEEDS Right to Work Campaign public meeting: Thursday 24 February, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapelton Road).

POST OFFICE WORKER rank and file pre-annual conference UPW national meeting: To discuss amendments and motions to secretary's report. Saturday 12 February, 2pm, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

LANCASTER Right to Work Campaign meeting: Wednesday 23 February, 7.30pm, The Golden Lion, Moor Lane. All welcome.

MERSEYSIDE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN Defence Fund Grand Social: Saturday 5 March, 8pm, 80m extension till midnight. Tickets 75p in advance/£1 on the door. More details later. No More Shrewsbury—Defend the Right to Work Marchers!

SOUTH AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN public meeting: Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm, AEU House, Orchard Street, Swansea. Speaker: Dzingai Mutumbuka (member of Patriotic Front Delegation to Geneva Talks).

EETPU RANK & FILE CONTACT NO 3 out now. Articles on Telecoms strike, cuts, plumbers etc. Orders to 12a Upper Tooting Road, London SW17. Cash with order. Individual copies 12p including postage. Orders for more than 25, post free.

GRAVESEND Right to Work Campaign MARCH TO SAVE OUR HOSPITAL: Saturday 12 February, 11am, assemble at The Clock Tower, Gravesend.

RANK AND FILE CONTACT CONFERENCE: Against sackings and the Social Contract. Speakers: Billy Williams (Cardiff), Jack McKenna (EETPU convenor, East Kilbride). Chaired by George Kelly (Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workshop convenor). Saturday 12 March, 2pm-5pm, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester.

Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign public meeting: PNP, Election Victory—what now? Speaker: Tony Bogues (Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica). Thursday 10 February, 7.30pm, Westway Luncheon Club, Ladbrooke Grove, London W11 (under Westway flyover).

SAVE HACKNEY'S HOSPITALS! East London health workers public meeting: Tuesday 15 February, 7.30pm, Dalston Public Library, Dalston Lane. Speakers from the EGA and Hackney Hospitals.

THE COLLIER, rank and file miners' paper—February issue out now. 5p a copy plus 6p postage (more than 10 copies post free) from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorks.

Meetings

BRADFORD Ad-Hoc Committee Against Fascism meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm, Meeting Room 4, Bradford University Community Building. All welcome.

DIRECT ACTION AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT: Southern area day conference organised by the Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law. Saturday 12 February, 10am-5pm, Pavilion Theatre, New Road, Brighton. Sessions on the new law, industrial occupations, the state and direct action, students and the homeless, fighting the new law locally and nationally. All welcome. Further details: All England CACT, Group, c/o WFTU, Brighton.

Notices

WORKERS' SOLIDARITY: Socialist Worker Order Book. General with more than 200 titles, which includes over 30 pamphlets ranging from Marxist theory to Workers Bookshelf, 150 Foster Road, Trumpington, Cambridge.

Yes, we stand for school students' rights!

THE SUN attacked Newcastle members of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement last week with a front-page headline 'Trot kids stir up riot school'.

This was sparked off by ultra-right wing Tory MP Neville Trotter denouncing a SWYM leaflet as 'anarchy' and 'subversion'.

While this attack on the right of school students to organise and produce leaflets was going on, a Nottingham headmaster was calling his girl school students 'tarts', and the headmaster of Heaton School, Newcastle, where all the trouble started, was posing for a German scandal magazine holding his cane.

Here is what one of the Newcastle SWYM members, Anne Paley, has written to Socialist Worker:

One morning about three weeks ago I and a few

other SWYM members gave out a leaflet to pupils at Heaton Comprehensive in Newcastle.

The leaflet explained what SWYM stands for and how we organise our activity around cuts and unemployment. It also outlined how we relate to the particular struggle of school pupils, such as those at Heaton.

We started several SWYM demands, including abolition of corporal punishment, school uniform, and compulsory religious assemblies, and called for better education for all, which means an end to the drastic cuts in education, free school meals and transport for all pupils, better grants and so on.

We then, most important of all, finished off by stressing the need for all pupils to be strong and organised if they didn't want to see their demands ignored. If they wanted to fight back, we urged them to join with us in SWYM, where they'd be fighting all the attacks of the system, unemployment, racism and the destruction of our public services.

This is how we in SWYM draw other young people into the movement and therefore give them the support they need in their own struggle.

Harry Askew, local magistrate and head of Heaton Comprehensive, was chairman of a campaign against comprehensive schools. He, like Trotter, wants to keep things the way they are.

Cane

That's why he always has his cane ready for any signs of disorder, that's why he gives his own pupils no say at all in the way the school runs.

Askew and all the local education chiefs are now worried men. They remember well the demonstration at Heaton last year when 300 pupils walked out against corporal punishment, and the successful walkout at nearby Slatyford Comprehensive not so long ago by the girls over not being allowed to wear trousers.

They all know that this type of action is spreading.

Recently at schools in Nottingham and Norfolk pupils have been fighting for their rights. Pupils are just no longer going to sit back.

If you're interested, write to the Socialist Worker Youth Movement at 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Occupy against the cuts —students

A BIGGER and more widespread upsurge of opposition to the cuts than we've seen before.

That was the perspective decided by the National Committee of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS), the student organisation that supports the Socialist Workers Party.

Delegates from Manchester spoke of the occupations against cuts in the university, the Polytechnic and the institute of science and technology (UMIST).

These could be the beginning of a big campaign of occupations. Speakers stressed that NOISS members had to push everywhere for similar actions.

The worst thing would be to hold back, while thousands of students are being forced into struggle over college closures or rising fees.

Maggie Gallagher, president of Lancaster University Students Union, outlined the dispute starting there, where the authorities have got legal advice to try to stop the union paying money to strike funds, welfare services or even affiliation fees to NUS.

Campaign

Students had to be ready for a national campaign in defence of the right of students' unions to spend their funds as they wanted, she said.

The other major campaign facing students this term is against the increase in tuition fees—which hits especially hard at overseas students and many post graduates.

NOISS members should call for occupations on 1 and 2 March—the NUS days of action on overseas students—and continue and spread them into a national campaign.

The committee also decided on the NOISS slate for the NUS elections. As in past years, the emphasis is on candidates with a record of struggle. They are to be:

Andy Durgan for president, Maggie Gallagher for deputy president, Graham Threlfall for treasurer, Mick Butroyd for secretary, Sattnam Lotay for vice-president (education), Val Hart for vice-president (services), Lin James for vice-president (welfare), Pat Stack for vice-president (areas), Liam Duffy for executive officer and Andy Strouthous for committee member.

Airport runs 'workers on board' con

The Bullock Report has started a widespread debate on 'participation'—putting workers' representatives on the boards of companies. Workers at London Heathrow Airport have bitter experience of how 'participation' plays into the employers' hands.

Members of the British Airways Socialist Workers Party branch write:

British Airways management have been practising the 'workers-on-the-board' technique for years—but without having any workers on the board!

It's called the Panel Machinery, which is their fancy term for a negotiating procedure. The idea is to isolate the shopfloor from decisions which affect wages and conditions.

At the top there is the National Sectional Panel (NSP), covering all engineering and maintenance workers. This panel is composed of management and full-time officials for each of the unions involved. They meet every three months at Victoria, miles away from the airport.

This is the *only* body that is allowed to discuss wages and conditions.

Over the years the officials on these panels have signed diabolical agreements.

This maintains credibility because several local panels have been set up composed of properly elected shop stewards, who meet with local managers to discuss 'local matters'—except of course wages and conditions.

Even then any disagreement must be referred 'up-

wards' to the NSP.

When management have a 'problem' or a change they want to make, then they suggest to the local panel that a committee be set up to investigate and make a recommendation. This is as tedious as it sounds and deliberately so.

We've got sub-committees, co-ordinating committees, review and steering committees and even 'Task Forces'.

They frequently spend days, weeks and even months away from the shopfloor. Inevitably they soon start thinking like management.

When the stewards involved finally make recommendations to shopfloor workers they also list the dire consequences that will befall them if any other course is taken.

This, of course, is the role that workers on the board will be expected to fulfill.

Shop stewards in the

Engineering Workers Union (AEU) are trying to change this pernicious system and are hoping to persuade other unions to follow them. Resolutions have been passed at the AEU National Committee instructing the Executive Council to negotiate full negotiating rights to shop stewards.

Although this has now been policy for two years, the executive have still not acted.

Rank and file members of the AEU have decided to take matters into their own hands. At a mass meeting in March last year they agreed to withdraw from the panel machinery locally.

There have already been two stoppages involving all AEU members.

But the real struggle will come in April, when the AEU at the airport will be engaged in a bid to jack up their woeful shift pay.

So don't bank on flying abroad this Easter!

SEND US YOUR IDEAS!

SALES of Socialist Worker are on the up. The Socialist Workers Party is growing.

Growth means new ideas, new ways of selling the paper and pushing socialist politics. It is vital, *really vital*, that this fund of experience is collected and made available to all members.

The SW circulation department is compiling a handbook on how to use the paper.

Let us know how you sell and publicise the paper, how you open new areas for sales, what stories your branch or district got into the paper and how they helped.

Send to John Larkham, SW Circulation Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

THE QUALITY OF MERSEY...

by **STUART CULLIFORD**
MEMBERS of the Socialist Workers Party in Liverpool got a terrific boost from the Why You Should be a Socialist tour.

We had two first-class factory meetings with Paul Foot—at Cammell Lairds and Vauxhall in Ellesmere Port. There were two huge public meetings, one in Central Liverpool with about 170 people, and one at Bootle which, quite frankly, was the best public meeting I've ever been at.

Paul Foot and Margaret Renn spoke really

well, and the meeting exploded in a long, vociferous and friendly discussion which went on for about an hour.

A grand total of 17—yes 17—people joined the SWP after the meeting, and nearly 70 others asked for more information about the party. About 40 copies of the book Why you should be a Socialist were sold and the collection raised £43.

But the real lesson is that the mood of the workers is changing fast. We could not have had these meetings a year ago.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALT



WHERE WE STAND

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 class 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.

WE BUILD IT, BUT WE CAN'T USE IT



Among the Pontins strikers: centre is former Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

IT'S CRAZY BUT IT'S THE STORY OF OUR LIFE

BARRY SCRAGGS, convenor at the occupied Pontins holiday site at Prestatyn, North Wales, pointed to row on row of chalets.

'It's a funny thing' he said. 'We spend all our life building things we can't afford. At the moment, we are converting these chalets to self-catering.'

'What this means is that people bring their own food, and pay for their own electricity. It will cost Pontins almost nothing. Yet he's charging £64 a week

for a chalet for two.

'A large family will have to pay £100 a week. There's few building workers on this site who will be able to afford that, I can tell you.'

'Yet the profit levels must be absolutely fantastic.'

Barry walked through the site to a field full of caravans which adjoins it. 'This is where Pontins want to bring in lump labour' he said.

'He wants to build more chalets here. He's got planning permission for it, but he refuses to tell us when he's building.'

Backed down

'He wants to get rid of organised labour, and build his chalets with lumpers. He's provoked this dispute by pretending that 45 workers aren't working 'up to scratch'.'

'Well, we've got his site now and we're not giving it up without an assurance that organised workers do the work.'

Management backed down from an industrial tribunal and the occupation looks like going on for some time.

□ Donations and messages of support are vital. Send them to: Pontam Site Fund, c/o No. He Witt, 24 Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, North Wales. Cheques made out to Pontam Site Fund.

Our union officials cheer on scabs!

AFTER NINE MONTHS on the picket line, building workers at Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire have discovered that their main enemy is their own trade union officials. Yet the pickets are fighting for official union policy!

Unemployed building workers in UCATT have been picketing the Marshall Andrew's local authority site in an effort to get the sub contractors off, so that all the workers are employed directly by the employer. Instead of receiving support from their own officials, the pickets are being threatened with disciplinary action.

Officials have even appeared on the picket line to get lorries across it and onto the site.

One of the pickets, Bill Kaye, told Socialist Worker: 'This picket was decided on by two mass meetings of 200 building workers from this area. They put the picket on, and only they have the power to call it off.'

'That's been the position throughout the dispute whatever the officials have claimed. There's supposed to be a regional structure looking after it, there's all sorts of carry on. But it's the mass meetings that have the power.'

Victory

Another picket, John Davis, says: 'We already had one victory against the sub-contractors. We picketed one site and forced them to employ direct labour only on a nearby site that was re-opening.'

'The reason it shut is that



PICKET Roger Peel (left) said:

The small employers, the sub contractors on every site, are always much worse. They can suddenly go broke, you lose your bonus, your holiday pay, the lot.

They have to cut costs so they want you to work in the rain, they won't put in drying sheds, there are no decent toilets, or donkey jackets, or Wellingtons. There's no real job security.

the last sub-contractor went broke, leaving our members two weeks' pay and holiday money all owed.'

The pickets had one quick victory. Two sub contractors were driven off the site. 'Both', says Bill Kaye, 'were using lump—that is non union—labour.'

But after this initial success, the union officials did

everything to stop the picketing.

Ivor Jordan, a local UCATT official, spoke at a second mass meeting, saying 'major gains' had been made because two more sub-contractors were registered by the union in London.

Bill Kaye says: 'They should never have been registered. They'd both been using the lump.'



On the picket line: UCATT officials have tried to get drivers to break it.

The union is fighting us so hard because they get over half their income from check-off, and much of that comes from the labour-only sub-contractors.

Some of them in the union would like to get us out. They just want a lot of check-off members who pay up and keep quiet. Coleman and Jordan, can't be re-elected. It's years since they worked on the tools.

They forget what it's like.

The mass meeting ignored Jordan and voted to continue with the picket.

Picket

In November, three full time officials from UCATT arrived on the picket line. At the same time, senior management from Marshall Andrew's came out—and round the corner came a London Brick



PICKET Bill Kaye (left) said:

The employers want to keep the sub-contractors because it breaks up the unity of the men.

The feeling in the branch was that there wasn't a single sub-contractor in the area who didn't use the lump—non-union labour.

That is why this issue is so important. It is fundamental to trade unionism in the building industry.

Company lorry, loaded with bricks.

Two officials, Jim Coleman and Charlie Negus, persuaded the driver to cross the picket line by telling him that UCATT was against the picket.

But after this incident, the pickets heard that the London Brick drivers had decided not to cross the picket line, whether it was official or

unofficial.

Since they couldn't get bricks onto the site, Ivor Jordan decided to have a go with concrete. In January, lorries loaded with concrete arrived.

All the drivers had letters from Jordan saying the picket was against the interests of the union and not supported by the union.

Coleman and another of-

ficial, Dave Hardy, turned up to argue with the drivers again.

Jim Coleman is also the full-time official for Bedford, where he is busy trying to get sub-contractors onto the Shanleys site.

The concrete drivers decided to hold a meeting. John Davis went to it.

'I got there at 7.30 in the morning and there, all the way from Cambridge, was Ivor Jordan.'

'He made a speech asking them to cross our picket line.'

In a few weeks, the site will run out of bricks. Because of the solidarity of the London Brick drivers, the only way Marshall Andrew can carry on is, in Bill Kaye's words, 'to get our picket off the gate—and we're not going.'

Firm

The pickets have been ordered off by regional panel meetings, offered compromises which were never honoured by the union's general secretary George Smith, and now threatened with union disciplinary action.

But Bill Kaye and the other unemployed building workers are quite firm. 'We are staying here until another mass meeting says otherwise.'

The pickets will need all the financial help they can get for the next few weeks. Local building workers in work have already contributed heavily over the past nine months.

Now it is the turn of building workers and trade unionists everywhere. Send donations to John Davis, c/o Welwyn Garden City Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

SUPPORT THE EGA CONFERENCE

This Saturday, 12 February, 11am-1pm, at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Credentials from the EGA shop stewards committee, EGA Hospital, Euston Road, London WC1.

MASS PICKET: Tuesday 15 February, Noon-2pm, at the EGA.



SAVE OUR HOSPITALS

badges available from National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 10p each, plus 9p postage, 20 for £2.50, 40 and more post-free.

SAVE OUR HOSPITALS CONFERENCE

Delegate conference for all trade unionists in hospitals Saturday 19 March, Holborn Assembly Rooms, London

Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards committee etc., is delegated. Delegation fee £1 from Hospital Worker Conference, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Sponsored by Hospital Worker and the Right to Work Campaign

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

As the capitalist system becomes more ailing, the need for a tribe of Public Relations hirelings increases.

The opinion machine

THE CAPITALIST press has been having a field day about the appointment of Harold Wilson's friend, the fortunate Mr Will Camp, to a £15,000 a year part-time job as 'public relations consultant' to British Rail.

And no wonder, £15,000 a year—£288 a week—on a part-time basis. What price the Social Con Trick?

Director

Incidentally, this lucky fellow is also a director (part-time, naturally) of the British National Oil Corporation and runs his own company, Camden Consultants, as well!

The appointment is said to have upset the 150 or so PR men already on British Rail's payroll—no doubt several of them think they ought to have got the job.

Reluctant as I am to join in the clamour for cuts, here is one that would be socially useful. Sack Mr Camp and the other one hundred and fifty—the whole caboodle—and none of the rest of us would be a penny worse off. Certainly BR services would not be affected in the slightest.

For 'Public Relations' is a parasitic activity—or worse, it is actively harmful. What, after all, are all these PR men supposed to do? See that the time-tables are printed? Answer enquiries by puzzled passengers? Not on your life.

These useful, if modest, tasks, are left to others.

Mr Camp and those like him are in

the business of 'moulding' opinion, 'creating a favourable image', 'creative advertising' and so forth.

This means that they are out to get into the media the information—or 'disinformation'—their bosses want known and to keep out of the media the information their bosses do not want to be known.

They are, in fact, in the trade of bamboozling the public. There are, I suppose, degrees of villainy in this disreputable and highly lucrative trade.

Fungus sprouts

Consider the case of Richard Stannard.

The former head of the army's special press and propaganda operation in Belfast, ex-Major Richard Stannard, reports the *Guardian*, 'has been hired by the Smith government to oversee

Rhodesia's crucial propaganda battle.' He had 'master-minded a highly successful campaign in Belfast as 'high-level press contact for off the record briefings.'

Just the man for the Smith gang. From working hard to suppress awkward facts and give currency to a pack of lies in Belfast to the same job in Salisbury.

William Camp, of course, will not be involved in justifying murder and torture.

His line is 'commercial' PR, less pernicious but pernicious enough.

The late George Orwell described Public Relations AS 'the fungus that sprouts on decaying capitalism'. And so it is.

The more irrational the system becomes, the worse it works, the greater the need for the tribe of Public Relations hirelings.

equal pay NOW

womens VOICE

February issue out now.
10p plus 7p postage from Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

The Year of the Cocktail!

HAD one main wish at New Year's Eve: that I could have a rest from writing about cheap wine, my liver deserves a break.

To help this wish along, I shall declare 1977 the year of the Cocktail.

The young generation have already discovered the cocktail and they have made it their drink.

In the 50s, the most successful cocktails were based on Gin. Dry Martini survives to this day, indeed it is No. 1 cracked ice in a mixing glass, plenty of gin, touch of Noilly Prat such preferable to the dry Martini. Vermouth served for a few seconds, more if you are mean and want the melting ice lengthen the drink—and then strained into glasses which you have put in the freezer to really give the cocktail ice-cold.



BERRMANN AT THE BAR... mixing a drink for today.

WHAT THE YOUNG TODAY ARE LEARNING FROM THE 30s

Vodka and a very powerful...
Vodka and a very powerful...
Vodka and a very powerful...

... stirred with ice and...
... stirred with ice and...
... stirred with ice and...

... of a cherry) and...
... of a cherry) and...
... of a cherry) and...

Pina Colada, ideal for...
Pina Colada, ideal for...
Pina Colada, ideal for...

cocktail cream...
cocktail cream...
cocktail cream...

The favourite...
The favourite...
The favourite...

Other past...
Other past...
Other past...

My own...
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My own...

And, having...
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The Bionic Man meets SPG bully boys

I DIDN'T realise I had married a Superman until I went to Walsall Magistrates' Court to see my husband tried for assaulting two police officers and using threatening behaviour on a demonstration in Walsall.

Grabbed

I gasped when I saw the two enormous thugs in the Special Patrol Group who were supposed to have been assaulted during the Socialist Worker demonstration.

Harry, my husband, is five feet 8 inches and they were barn doors.

SPG Constable Hughes claimed that Harry grabbed him by the throat in a stranglehold and pinned him to the wall, attempting to bend him backwards over the wall which had a six to eight foot drop on the other side.

Constable White said he had to strike Harry three times on the collar bone, before he would let go of his victim.

Having kicked the first man mountain and punched him in the stomach and upper body, he is supposed to have laid into the second one who was saving his friend.

They claimed that his collar bone was not broken or

marked because he was wearing a padded lather fly jacket. In fact it is thin, tatty and unlined.

As he said to the two barrels of flesh: 'Who do you think I am, The Bionic Man?'

The truth is that Harry had been grabbed by a policeman doing nothing. He was beaten on the legs with a truncheon and deliberately did not defend himself too much for fear of the consequences.

Police Court

Despite eye witness accounts, the magistrates found the charges proved. He was never allowed jury trial since under the Police Act, charges

brought by the police are dealt with in their own court.

He was fined £25 for threatening behaviour (allegedly shouting 'Smash The National Front!'); £50 for each policeman and £25 costs.

Harry has been unemployed since the hospital where he worked closed down. He gets only £11 a week dole money so the fines are very steep for us.

Any reader who shares the view that the National Front are a dangerous threat to the working class, and can help us pay these fines should send money, large or small, to: The Walsall Defence Fund, c/o Kathy Tait, 14 Burlington Gardens, Acton, London W3 8AB.

— KATHY TAIT

Georgia justice

GEORGIA HAS a fine way of dispensing justice.

A US Supreme Court ruling has just exposed an extraordinary payment-by-results system for Justice of the Peace.

JPs in Georgia are paid \$5 (3.50p) for each search warrant they issue. One 32 year old North Georgia justice, Winston Murphy, of Lafayette estimated he had written about 15,000 warrants in his 4 years as a JP in the Georgia mountains.

Murphy is, however, a strong critic of the system. He complains that the fees are too low. They haven't been upped since 1967.

The Supreme Court decided that a marijuana conviction of a young man arrested on one of Murphy's \$5 search

warrants was invalid because the JP had a financial interest in authorising police searches.

So Georgia will now have to go back to the drawing board and find some new ways of authorising searches and paying their JPs.

THE YEAR OF THE GUINEA PIG: Unemployed youngsters are being used as guinea pigs in an experiment to match personality types with the ability to stay lively during hours of boredom.

For the princely sum of £4 a day, plus egg and chips, they sit in a room for an afternoon to watch a tedious film of an unchanging landscape.

STH COLUMN

ANOTHER 'VICTORY' for the Scroungers Hunters. Ernest Dale, 49, was found dead in a car filled with exhaust fumes in Southport on Christmas Day.

The coroner said he was 'a victim of Britain's economic ills'.

In 1975 he was made redundant by an international telecommunications firm in Liverpool.

His wife said that he had no other problems apart from not being able to get a job.

FANTASTIC FACTS no 672: While more and more workers are thrown onto the unemployment scrapheap, there are 136 unoccupied government factories in England.

SAVING workers' lives in Idaho, is considered 'unconstitutional'. The Labour Department has suspended job safety and health inspections since a court issued an injunction, stopping inspectors from going into work places and inspecting.

JUBILEE JAUNTS no 371: According to Hansard the Queen will be visiting Spithead on 28 June for the NAVAL REVIEW.

'IN OCTOBER the Labour Party in Cornwall failed to get an NF booking of a public hall banned. In a bid to stifle the formation of Bodmin NF group they called in the nearest International Socialist branch (Exeter University—70 miles away!) to 'demonstrate'.

— National Front News.

Socialist Worker

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Is there any alternative?

WHAT ARE the alternatives to the new pay and prices drive?
We could always let inflation rip, of course.
Which would mean creating more unemployment... and damaging investment, the key to long-term recovery.
We could, if inflation isn't controlled, end up like the Argentinians - getting 150 per cent wage rises only to find that prices have shot up twice as fast in the meantime.
More likely, we'd put ourselves in a position where a team of international bankers would come in and administer massive doses of poverty, and unemployment.

Banning a wide range of imports would mean a back-lash against our exports (although the TUC has urged selective action against certain 'dumped' imports).
Of course, it might not come to that. Instead, the Government's water-thin majority could disappear almost overnight, and another government replace it.
And then what would happen? ... to the plans for greater public control of industry and joint planning of investment, contained in the Industry Bill? Or the promise of new rights for working people, contained in the Employment Protection Bill?
What would happen to the better deal for pensioners, to food subsidies, consumer protection, to the new rights for tenants, to the plans for nationalising key industries such as shipbuilding and aircraft?
In fact, what would happen to all the measures which the TUC and the Government have agreed as part of the Social Contract, and have either been put into action or are due to come in soon?
Make no mistake.
These would all go out of the window. And in public expenditure on services for the people - not just for tomorrow, or for a year, but for as long as they can be made to last.



Flashback to August 1975. The unemployed worker looks familiar, but this isn't a Right to Work leaflet, it's from the TUC Information Broadsheet, used to sell the Social Con-Trick to union members.

Rhodesia: One lie after another...

HUNDREDS of black teenagers told the world's press on Sunday what they think of the racist Rhodesian regime of Ian Smith.

'We are going to be freedom fighters and we know what that means', insisted Susan Munhamo, 17.

'I don't mind killing people because look what Smith does to our people. We want to rule ourselves and we will choose our leaders when we have won'.

For five days most British papers had been pretending that Susan and her friends had been kidnapped by black 'terrorists' and taken to Botswana.

According to the Daily Mail: '400 kidnapped in raid on school'.

Guns

The Daily Express claimed to quote a white priest that 'the terrorists marched us away and kept guns pointing at our backs'.

The BBC repeated similar tales, Tory MPs insisted on a special parliamentary debate.

One of their 'experts' Ronald Bell insisted that 'children, priests and teachers were taken at gun point across the border... Abduction has been going on for months'.

The hysteria was joined by Jeremy Thorpe, former Liberal leader, hypocrite extraordinary and vice-president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

He insisted that the government put pressure on the Botswana government to return the teenagers to Rhodesia. 'It is clear that their parents want them back', he said.

Yet the only source for the kidnapping story was the Smith government.

It seems that the papers,

THE 'KIDNAPPED CHILDREN' WHO RAN AWAY TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Life for young blacks: Who needs to be kidnapped to fight this?

the BBC, the Tory front bench and Jeremy Thorpe regard such reports by the Rhodesian government as gospel truth.

The teenagers' statements show that every one of those reports was an utter lie.

Faced with a free choice, out of 400 teenagers, only 53, all under 16, returned to the embraces of the Smith regime.

Susan Munhamo told why they would ignore pleas from parents to return. 'They are too old to fight. We are not. We know they will be very

angry, but someone must fight.'

Ngwenya, one of the under 16s, pointed out that the intimidation was not from the freedom fighters, but from the thugs in Ian Smith's army.

Freedom

He said the Rhodesian Special Branch would interrogate him if he returned. 'They would say I was a terrorist and ask why I was not fighting terrorists in the Rhodesian army.'

'We are not terrorists. We

will be freedom fighters.'

The retailers of lies for the Smith regime—from the Daily Mail and the BBC to Jeremy Thorpe—referred condescendingly to the black teenagers as 'children'.

But the teenagers who trekked to Botswana were no younger than those gunned down by the South African police in the last few months.

They have learnt the hard way, as their sisters and brothers learnt in Soweto last summer, that they have to liberate themselves.

THE 'MASSACRE' THE WHITES STAGED

The murders are the latest of a series of murders carried out by the Rhodesian racist forces. They are probably the work of the Selous scouts, used by the regime to commit atrocities against civilians.

—PATRIOTIC FRONT RADIO, MAPUTO.

HARDLY had one of their lies been proved false than the British press on Monday were repeating more Rhodesian government propaganda.

It was claimed that the killing of seven Catholic priests was the work of freedom fighters.

But the Smith government has a special detachment of black mercenaries, the Selous scouts, who dress up as freedom fighters to commit atrocities that can be blamed on the liberation forces.

This happened before Christmas when they murdered 26 tea plantation workers.

In the past, some Church leaders have claimed that Rhodesian troops disguised as guerrillas have been responsible for atrocities.

—DAILY TELEGRAPH, 8 February

How many more frame-ups?



Donaldson: he scorns the idea that forced confessions had been extracted by police

THREE Belfast men and a 19-year-old English woman were framed by Surrey police and the Scotland Yard Bomb Squad for the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings in 1974. They are now in jail doing life.

Defendants in the Balcombe Street siege trial have now admitted that they planted the bombs. Yet, in October 1975, Paul Hill, 22, Patrick Armstrong, 26, Gerald Conlon, 22 and Carole Richardson, 19, were convicted after a trial before Judge Donaldson.

Donaldson told Hill: 'For you life means life... If you are ever released it will only be in case of great age or infirmity.'

In his confession, one of the Balcombe Street four, Martin O'Connell, said he was involved in both bombings.

He described the interior of the pubs—the Horse and Groom in Guildford and the Kings Arms in Woolwich—and the location of the bombs in precise and accurate detail.

Flashback to the 1974 Guildford pub bombing: four innocent people are now serving life



By EAMONN McCANN

He told how he and another IRA man, Brendan Dowd, went into the Horse and Groom on the evening of 5 October 1974, had a drink and planted the time bomb which killed three women and two men.

He goes on to tell that the

following month he was among those who planted the bomb which left two dead and more than 20 injured in the Kings Arms while an armed companion covered them from the car park.

Brendan Dowd (who is not among the Balcombe Street group but is now in prison for other bombings in Lancashire) has signed a statement confirming his part in the Guildford attack.

Confessed

A second of the Balcombe Street defendants, Edward Butler, has confessed that it was he who, with a .38 revolver, covered the bombers from the Kings Arms car park.

A third Balcombe Street defendant, Harry Duggan, has also confirmed his part in the

The Balcombe Street group have confessed because they now have nothing to lose. They say they had never heard of Hill, Armstrong, Conlon or Richardson until after these four had been arrested.

The trial of Hill and the others took place in October 1975 while the gunfire and the bombing continued all around—not surprisingly, since the gunmen and bombers involved were not then behind bars.

Politicians were howling for action, the press was demanding results and the police rampaged through Irish communities.

Melodramatic

When Hill, Armstrong, Conlon and Richardson were brought to Donaldson's court, melodramatic 'security precautions' added to the

hysteria. They never had a chance.

The prosecution based its case on 'confessions'. All four insisted vehemently that they had made statements only after threats to themselves and their families by Surrey and Bomb Squad detectives.

In his summing up, Donaldson scorned the very idea.

Alibi witnesses for Carole Richardson also claimed they had been threatened by police to dissuade them from coming to court.

These four cases may well now be re-opened. Now and again, tiny fragments of the truth float somehow to the surface, as in Belfast last week when five soldiers were sentenced for planting ammunition on local Catholics.

Grievance

The soldiers may well feel aggrieved. After all, such activity—like the activity of Surrey and Bomb Squad detectives and of Mr Justice Donaldson—is quite commonplace.

And inevitably, as long as Britain stays in Ireland, it will continue, usually undiscovered, and boost the sense of grievance which guarantees no end of war.



SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
Sunday 6 March, Assemble 1.30pm Hyde Park Corner.

Organised by: Anti-Apartheid Movement.
Supported by: National Union of Seamen, NALGO, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, National Union of Students

The Socialist Workers Party urges all members and supporters to make this a demonstration of massive support for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and black workers throughout Southern Africa.



This pamphlet is a translation into Iranian of Chris Harman's pamphlet on Russia: Why the Revolution Was Lost. Iran is a vicious police dictatorship headed by the Shah. Yet many Iranians fight back, at home and abroad. The SWP Middle East Group aims to publish in Iranian several pamphlets that deal with important issues to the movement in Iran and its political development. The group welcomes all offers of help with this and its other work. We can also provide speakers on Iran and other Middle East countries.
25p a copy, plus 10p post (10 or more copies post free). Cash with order to SWP International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cheques payable to SW International Fund.

We've got the wool.

We've got the machinery.

So why the hell can't we work?

“ I reckon that they've got about 120,000 pounds of wool here and in store. That's enough for about three weeks production of blankets. But the management refuse to put the wool through the machines. The workers begged to be allowed to produce blankets rather than play cards—but they were told they couldn't. Why? Very simple. The price of wool is going up all the time. There's about £50,000 worth of sheer profit here, just on selling the wool. That's much more than they would get if they produced blankets. —RAY STRETTON, Action Campaign Secretary. ”

RADIO PICCADILLY in Manchester are running a regular appeal for blankets for old people in 'desperate need because of the cold'.

Listeners are asked to send their blankets, however old, to 'save an old person's life'.

Meanwhile, at Mytholmroyd in the Calder Valley, not 30 miles away, one of the biggest blanket factories in Britain is to close down next month. Not because the blankets aren't desperately needed. Not because they aren't excellent blankets. Not because the blankets can't be sold. But because a gang of speculators are after a quick profit.

'It's asset-stripping— isn't that what they call it?' says Joan Hill, convenor for the National Union of Dyers and Bleachers to which most of Moderna's 332 workers belong.

PAUL FOOT REPORTS FROM YORKSHIRE

Run-down

'They want to sell off the machinery and the property and they reckon they'll make more money from that than from keeping the factory working'.

Everyone knows she's right. In November, a firm called Sona Consultants, whose three directors live in Gloucester Road, London, bought the factory and, almost at once, announced its run-down and closure.

They intend to import blankets under the prestigious Moderna label

from Kenya—and to sell the Moderna machinery back to Kenya, thus getting money out of Kenya without breaking exchange control regulations.

— They are simply waiting the statutory 90 days until they can shut the plant down and plunder it.

'It's a lovely area this' says Joan Hill. 'I suppose they could build a holiday camp here.'

'But a holiday camp's not much good for us. There's no



Moderna workers: victims of an insane system

jobs here, and not much money.'

And, sure enough, Sona Consultants have just set up a property company, Pidrap Ltd, to collect the cash from selling off their prime property sites, in the Calder Valley and at Witney, near Oxford, where the Moderna blanket factory has already closed down.

The male unemployment rate in the Calder Valley-Hebden Bridge area is 18 per cent.

For women workers like Joan Hill (she has been at Moderna for 13½ years) and for the 80 Asian workers in the factory, the prospects of another job in the area are nil.

Everyone agrees that the proposed closure is an outrage. Yet no one in authority is doing anything about it.

In a Parliamentary debate on 27 January, Bob Cryer, Junior Minister at the Department of Industry, admitted that there was ab-

solutely nothing which the government could do to stop the closure.

The local MP, Max Madden, suggested a takeover of the firm by the National Enterprise Board. But, said Cryer, 'the government have no powers to do this.'

The National Union of Dyers and Bleachers is organising a 'Save Moderna' campaign, based on lobbying MPs and the TUC.

Considering the union's

rotten record in defending textile jobs, that campaign on its own holds out little hope.

On the other hand, among the workers at Moderna, there is plenty of fight.

Omar Farouk is the shop steward representing most of the 80 Asian workers in the weaving department.

Unity

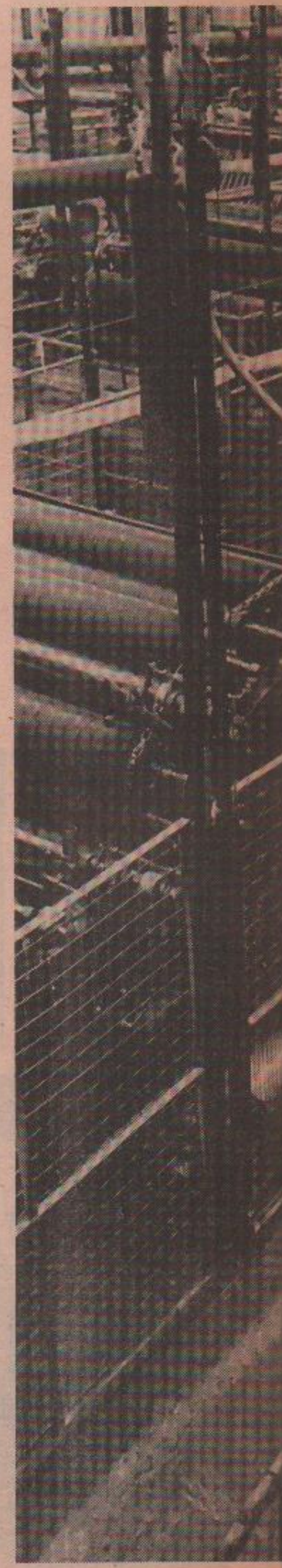
'I want you to write this down' he said. 'We are all workers here, all with the same interests. We work together in this fight.'

'We are not going to let them have this factory, I can tell you. No, definitely not'.

The workers gave a rousing reception to the marvellous new play of the North West Spinner group, *Just a Cog*. The lesson of the play is simple. If working people want to protect themselves from the pickpockets in the boardroom, they will have to act themselves.

There are redundancies and closures planned in mills all up the Calder Valley—at John Cockrofts at Todmorden and at John Shaws.

But, as the Calder Valley Right to Work Campaign argue, if the workers in these three mills, and all the others affected by threatened redundancies, join together, they could start a battle which would save their jobs and drive the speculators out of the valley.



The reason is PROFIT

SOCIAL CONTRACT? WE'VE HAD ENOUGH

Cuts: All out 22 March

THE COUNCIL called for national strike action against the cuts on 22 March, the same day as the special conference of public sector unions. Workers in every industry will be asked to take action to show the delegates that they have support from the whole movement in fighting the cuts.

The Council agreed to call a one-day general strike for the same day as the recall TUC, the date of which is expected to be announced soon.

The strike is to be followed up by a mass lobby of the special Congress and a three or four-day mass march of unemployed workers to the lobby.

PETER CLARK reports from the National Right to Work Council

shop stewards and numerous other groups to demand a return to free collective bargaining and an end to wage restraint.

□ The national public sector conference against the cuts on 22 March.

□ The recall TUC and the Government's attempt to sell the TUC another phase of the Social Contract.

In this change of political climate, the Campaign had to call off the march from Skelmersdale to London, and concentrate on winning and organising unemployed school leavers at East, on 22 March, on the recall TUC.

And it had to re-learn how to intervene around the wave of struggles now bubbling across the country.

March

John Deason went on: 'We are going to have to put more emphasis and work into organising the unemployed, not less. In particular we need to organise a short march of unemployed workers to the special recall Trades Union Congress.'

'On the same day as the march arrives at the special Congress, we shall be work-

ing for a mass lobby and strike action, not just against unemployment, but against wage restraint, against the cuts, against the whole of the Social Contract.

'We'll have to call for similar mass lobby and strike action for 22 March when the public sector unions are calling a one-day stoppage against the cuts.'

Willie Dolan, an unemployed worker from Glasgow, said: 'The Social Contract is now the key argument in factory after factory. People are sick of the wages they have been getting.'

'But the unemployed also have a role in this. It is the Social Contract which caused mass unemployment as well as low wages.'

Links

'On the first two Right to Work marches we called for unity between the employed and the unemployed. The link now is our joint opposition to the Social Contract, and to the people who signed it.'

'It is Jack Jones and the TUC who landed us with the Social Contract. We have to make it absolutely clear to the TUC that we have had enough of the whole Social Contract.'

'That is what we, the unemployed, should be saying to the factory workers, we're united against the Social Contract. We must focus that unity and that anger on the TUC.'

After a long debate the Council accepted John Deason's recommendations.

AND DON'T FORGET NEXT MONDAY

BOBBY BUIRDS from the rank and file organisation in the electricians union, Contact, appealed to all Right to Work Committees to organise support for the 14 February national strike in telecommunications.

'There is a telecommunications sector wherever you are, STCs, Plesseys, GEC and so on. Get there with leaflets and posters urging all the workers to support the call by the EETPU and TASS to stop for the day.'

GEORGE POGMORE from York appealed to all Right to Work Committees to make sure that all local TGWU branches were approached with the TGWU pamphlets, with leaflets about the election campaign, and were offered speakers.

ANNE ROBERTSON called for a special effort to get delegates to the Hospital Workers Conference on 19 March, to organise action against the cuts.

THE COUNCIL also agreed

To make a major effort to organise and mobilise larger numbers of the unemployed.

To set up an Anti-Jubilee Celebrations Committee to ensure that the unemployed make their voice heard during the Queen's junketings. Demonstrations, pickets, protests and more colourful activities are expected to be organised wherever the Queen goes.

To approach and organise school-leavers at Easter, when around 200,000 more will leave school and find they have no jobs to go to.

To enlist unemployed from all over the country for the short march to the special congress of the TUC. Each Right to Work committee will be contacted about the minimum numbers they will be expected to mobilise.

To tour the country with a special Right to Work bus. It would be a flying picket of unemployed workers, campaigning for the Right to Work.

THE NATIONAL Right to Work Council met in Manchester on Saturday to discuss what the Campaign's secretary, John Deason, called 'an enormous change in the mood and expectations of workers in the last two months, a clear upturn in the struggle.'

He added: 'The continuation of the Social Contract, of wage restraint and mass unemployment, is now an issue for workers everywhere.'

'We have to respond to the rising struggle.'

'We need to look at our resources and strength in every area of struggle. We have to consider where we focus our strength.'

'Last year we were the only organisation that took up the question of unemployment. Now we're faced with battles against every aspect of the Social Contract by groups of workers everywhere.'

'Mass unemployment is still part of the Social Contract. Even Albert Booth, the Minister of Unemployment, now says it could reach two million by the end of this year.'

Organise

The whole political climate had changed since November. The Campaign had to respond and organise around the national stoppages against the cuts, such as:

□ The 14 February stoppage in telecommunications called by the electricians union.

□ The massive wave of strikes and stoppages against the cuts in schools, the civil service, in the hospitals.

□ The demonstrations by whole towns like Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead.

□ The decision by Leyland

Defend the Marchers!

WILLIE DOLAN and BOBBY BUIRDS were both at the Council meeting after their prison sentences arising from last spring's Right to Work March were suspended on appeal last week.

Willie Dolan warned: 'This isn't the end of it. They are really slamming up the costs.'

Bobby Buirds reported: 'There have been 17 acquittals so far. But fines and costs are already over £2,000. The other expenses are enormous.'

'Getting unemployed workers down to court as witnesses is very expensive. We spent £550 last week alone in arranging to get witnesses and defendants to London for the hearings.'

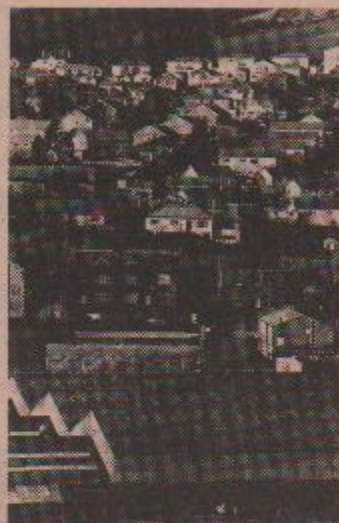
He appealed to everyone to

□ Take and sell the new fact sheets on the case which will be out at the end of the week.

□ Start organising collections around factories and workplaces. 'If you've been round once, go back again and point out that Mike Lynch is in jail and John Deason's trial starts on 2 May.'

□ Write letters to Mike Lynch in prison.

□ Begin to organise delegations for a massive demonstration at the Old Bailey on 4 May in support of John Deason.



MODERNA, the factory facing the axe, and the Calder Valley that is the scene of one closure after another.



JOAN HALL, convenor: It's asset-stripping. Isn't that what they call it?

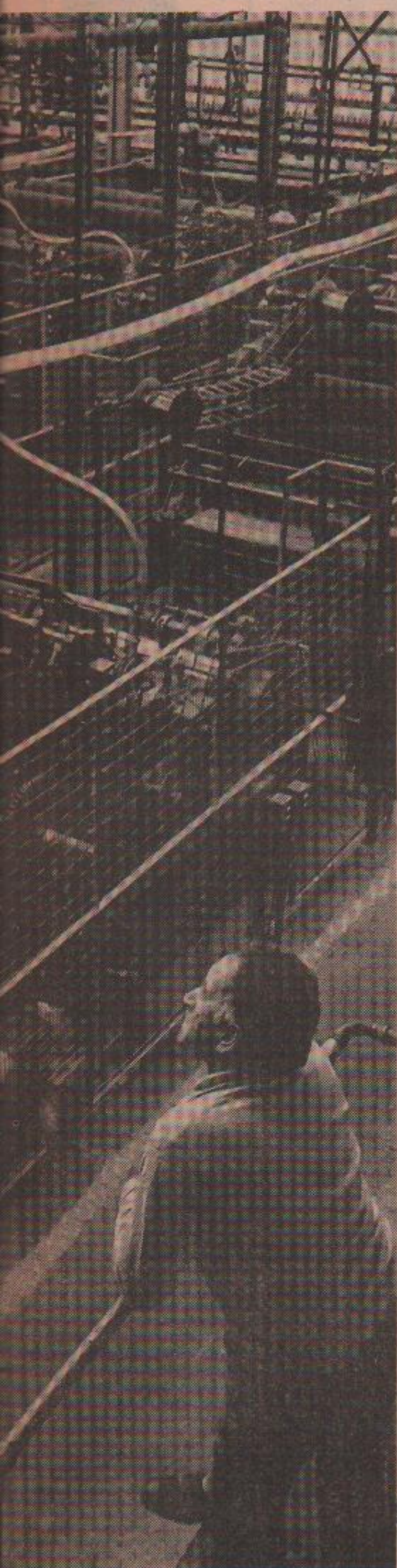


DORA ROBERTSHAW, 59, senior shop steward: I want to fight. I haven't worked all my life to see a factory closed like this



OMAR FAROUK, shop steward: The workers feared management might have used the Christmas holiday to move machinery. So they put a 24-hour picket on all the gates.

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)



Flashback to the police attack on Right to Work March

NATIONAL PICKET

AFTER hearing from the Sheffield hotel workers on strike for union recognition, the Council decided to

□ Organise a national picket of Trust House Forte hotels and property, including Motorway service stations, for Saturday 19 February, from 7-9pm.

□ To contact trade union branches in every area to black Trust House Forte and to ensure that no trade union functions are held in Trust House Forte catering.

□ To follow the example of Sheffield factories and organise to get THF's subsidiary, Gardner Merchants, out of all factories where they are responsible for the catering.

□ To organise a national delegation of hotel workers and other TGWU members to Jack Jones to demand that the union executive endorses the trade group's call for official national blacking of Trust House Forte.

Skegness is here again.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY... BOOK TODAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Socialist Worker Skegness Weekend

8-11 April at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Centre, Skegness. Full board and accommodation and free entertainment for £18.50 per adult—300 free children's places. Apply now to your local Socialist Worker seller. MORE DETAILS NEXT WEEK

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

GLASGOW RAILWAYS Socialist Workers Party branch meeting: Wednesday 23 February 5pm-6pm, Sherry's Bar, Springburn Road, Springburn.

EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every Saturday, 11.30am, Societies Centre, 21 Hill Place (off Nicholson Street). Open to all SW readers.

PAISLEY Socialist Worker Rally: Saturday 12 February, starting 11am, Paisley Students Union. **SPEAKERS** include Jimmy McCallum (ISWP central committee former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering), Peter Bain (chairman, TGWU branch, Chrysler Linwood, in personal capacity) and other local trade unionists. **FILMS** include: Blow for Blow, Fight the Cuts, and others. **SESSIONS** on: The Broad Left, Ireland, The Right to Work Campaign, Scottish Nationalism, Women, Students, Why we need a Socialist Workers Party. Entrance 30p (tickets available from SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow G1).

GLASGOW Socialist Worker Youth Movement public meeting: Apprentices—Stop the wage cuts! Speaker: Pat Gilligan (IEETPU apprentices' shop steward). Wednesday 16 February, 5.30pm, SW Books, 64 Queen Street, G1.

GLASGOW Socialist Worker Youth Movement Disco: Tuesday 22 February, 8pm-12.30am, The Strand, 183 Hope Street. Tickets 60p (unemployed 30p) from SW Books, 64 Queen Street, G1.

JORDANHILL COLLEGE, Glasgow. NOISS public meeting: Nationalism or socialism? Speaker: Laurie Flynn. Tuesday, 15 February, 12.30-1.30.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY NOISS public meeting: Nationalism or socialism? Speaker: Laurie Flynn. Wednesday 16 February, 1pm, QM Union.

North East

NEWCASTLE ROCK AGAINST RACISM CONCERT: Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm-12midnight, G. A. Hall, Quayside Newcastle. Top local bands Life Mask and The Scratch Band, plus disco bar. Admission 60p (35p unemployed).

DURHAM Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Collops pub, Sinton Street, Durham City. All welcome. 17 February: Racism—what it is and how we fight it.

North West

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party day schools for new members. What is socialism and how do we fight it? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Saturday 12 February, 10.30am-5pm, place to be announced. Working as a socialist in your workplace. Speaker: John Deason. Saturday 13 March, 10.30am-5pm, place to be announced. Social in evening. Limited number of places available to surrounding branches and districts. £1 employed, 40p unemployed, students, etc. Send money to book place to: Merseyside SWP organiser.

Manchester Area

MANCHESTER AREA Socialist Worker school: Duncan Hallas on The History of Working-Class Papers, and Alan Borrell on Increasing the Influence of Socialist Worker. Sunday 13 February, 2pm, Committee Room, Polytechnic Students Union Building, Cavendish House.

WARRINGTON Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, Bowling Green Inn, Liverpool Road (by Crossfields). All welcome. For details phone Padgate 811584 or Newton 16-Willows 21284.

LANCASTER Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 7.30pm, Ring of Bells pub, opposite Studios 1 and 2 cinemas. All welcome. 16 February: Industrial democracy.

LANCASTER Socialist Worker Disco: Saturday 12 February, The Park Hotel, Late bar, all welcome.

CENTRAL LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 8pm prompt, Here and Hounds, Commercial Row (just off London Road across from St George's plateau). Meetings finish at 9.30am.

16 February: Is unemployment necessary? How can we fight it? 23 February: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

SALFORD Socialist Worker public meetings: Every second Wednesday, 8pm, Kings Arms Hotel, Whit Lane. 23 February: Marxism and history. Speaker: Jules Townsend.



January issue of FIGHT, paper of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement, out now. New eight-page edition. Price 5p. In this month's issue—SWYM Rally in February, Apprentices, Job Creation Schemes, Rock Against Racism, and more. Orders to: FIGHT, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker public meetings

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

Scotland

DUNDEE: Thursday 24 February, 7.30. The Music Centre, 1a West Bell Street. Speaker: Jim NICHOL (ISWP central committee).

Clydeside

EASTERHOUSE, Glasgow: Tuesday 8 March, 7.30pm, Blairtummock House, off Wards Road. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

GLASGOW RAILWAYS Socialist Workers Party branch: Wednesday 9 March, 5pm, Sherry's Bar, Springburn Road. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

ALL GLASGOW RALLY: Thursday 10 March, Patrickburgh Halls (near Merkleland Street subway). Speakers: Paul Foot and local trade unionists.

JORDANHILL COLLEGE, Glasgow: Thursday 10 March, 12.30pm, College Common Room. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: Wednesday 9 March, 1pm, Queen Margaret Union, University Gardens. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

PAISLEY: Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm, Watermill Hotel. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

Yorkshire

LEEDS: Wednesday 2 March, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Seville Mount (off Chapel Lane). Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Chaired by Mike Fitzpatrick (AUEW shop steward, Harwood and Ackroyd).

YORK: Tuesday 15 February 8pm, Lowther Hotel, Kings Staith. Speakers: Tony Cliff and P Household (York trade unionist).

North West

WARRINGTON: Wednesday 16 February, 8pm, Red Lion, Warwick Road. Speakers: Steve Jefferys (ISWP central committee) and Sadie Blood (NUPE).

CREWE: Thursday 24 February, 7.45pm, The Angel Hotel, Victoria Street. Speaker: Paul Foot.

CHESTER: Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm, Railway Inn, Brook Street. Speakers: Steve Jefferys (SWP central committee) and a local trade unionist.

PRESTON: Thursday 17 February, 8pm, The Golden Cross, Lancaster Road (near Market). Speaker: Jim Nichol (SWP national secretary). **NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE**

Merseyside

CAMMELL LAIRDS: Wednesday 16 February, 12 noon, Castle Hotel (opposite main yard gates). Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

BIRKENHEAD: Wednesday 16 February, 7.45pm, Central Hotel, Clifton Crescent (opposite Birkenhead Central station). Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank) and Keith Ross (AUEW district committee).

LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC: Thursday 17 February, 1pm, meeting organised by NOISS, watch noticeboard for details. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

MERSEYSIDE SWP district meeting for all members: Provisional date Sunday 20 February, 12 noon, keep this date free. SWP members only.

BOTLE Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 7.30pm prompt, St Hilda's sub, County Road, Walton. Meetings finish 9.30pm. 17 February: The trade unions. 24 February: What causes the crisis?

BANGOR Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Fridays, 7.30pm, Liverpool Arms, High Street. All welcome. 11 February: Nationalism or socialism?

South East

CHELMSFORD Socialist Worker public meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Royal Steamer (behind Chelmsford Station).

10 February: **PUBLIC DEBATE.** Can the Labour Party achieve socialism? Speakers: Nick Reynolds (Labour Party) and Teresa Trant (SWP).

MIDSTONE: Socialist Worker is sold every Saturday morning, 11am-12noon, in Week Street (outside



The case for Socialism

Public meetings on building the Socialist Workers' Party

Greater Manchester

C. F. MOTT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: Thursday 17 February, 8pm, details to be announced. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

KIRKBY: Thursday 17 February, 7.45pm, Tower Hill Community Centre, Heathfield, Tower Hill. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former AUEW TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

CRAWLEY: Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

HARLOW: Wednesday 23 February, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair, Harlow. Speakers: Maggie Renn (SWP women's organiser) and Alan Watts (AUEW shop steward, M K Electric, North London).

OLDHAM: Friday 11 February, 8pm, provisionally at The Bath Hotel, Union Street. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a local trade unionist.

BANGOR: Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm, Glasrafon Arms. Speakers: Duncan Hallas, Bob McCann (secretary of Bangor Bauparis and Llangefni Trades Council), and branch secretary of UCATT) and Graham Colwell (ASTMS).

TOWER HAMLETS: Thursday 3 March, 8pm, Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Wednesday 23 February, 7.45pm, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4 (nearest tube Clapham Common). Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

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HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Wednesdays, 7.45pm, Rose and Crown, Old High Street. All welcome. 23 February: Save Our Hospitals! Speaker: Robin White (campaign to stop closure of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London) and a NUPE hospital worker.

WEST MIDDLESEX Socialist Workers Party Schools Branch discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 7.30pm, Ealing Tech Students Union. 16 February: Ideology and revolution.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: On The Meaning of Marxism: Alternative Sundays, 4pm, Carib

Midlands

PETERBOROUGH: Thursday 24 February, 7.30pm, The Still, Cumbergate (off Cathedral Square). Speakers: Chris Harman (editor, SWP), John Toomey (NUPE) and Dean Johnson (AUEW shop steward).

East Anglia

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 3 March, 8pm, College of Further Education, St. Peters Street. Speaker: Paul Foot.

CAMBRIDGE: Monday 28 February, 8pm, Mawson Hall, Mawson Road (off Mill Road). Speaker: Tony Cliff (ISWP central committee). Admission free.

DURHAM: Tuesday 22 February, 8pm, Durham Town Hall. Speakers: Dave Ayre (branch secretary, Crook UCATT) and a national speaker.

South East

WITHAM: Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

HARLOW: Wednesday 23 February, 8pm, The Green Community Centre. Speakers: Margaret Renn and local trade unionist.

CRAWLEY: Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

HARLOW: Wednesday 23 February, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair, Harlow. Speakers: Maggie Renn (SWP women's organiser) and Alan Watts (AUEW shop steward, M K Electric, North London).

London

LEA VALLEY: Tuesday 15 February, 8pm, Tottenham Community Project (large hall), 628 Tottenham High Road, London N17. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

TOWER HAMLETS: Thursday 3 March, 8pm, Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

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MARDS AND SPENCER: Maidstone SWP meet every Monday, 8.15pm, The Lamb pub, Fairmeadow.

CROYDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane). All welcome.

10 February: Labour and the parliamentary road to socialism. Speaker: Linda Quinn. 17 February: Abortion—a woman's right to choose. Speaker: Dr Kambiz Boomi.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Wednesdays, 7.45pm, Rose and Crown, Old High Street. All welcome. 23 February: Save Our Hospitals! Speaker: Robin White (campaign to stop closure of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, London) and a NUPE hospital worker.

London

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Worker discussion meetings on Leninism (Mondays, 8pm, Thames Polytechnic Students Union, Thames Street, SE18. 14 February: Internationalism and imperialism.

WEST MIDDLESEX Socialist Workers Party Schools Branch discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 7.30pm, Ealing Tech Students Union. 16 February: Ideology and revolution.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: On The Meaning of Marxism: Alternative Sundays, 4pm, Carib

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Wednesday 16 February, 7.30pm, The Barons Arms, Oldfield Grove, SE15 (near Surrey Docks station). Speaker: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign).

EAST LONDON: Monday 28 February, 7.45pm, Manor Park Library, Romford Road, Manor Park. Speakers: Paul Foot and Michael Fann (London Royal Docks shop steward).

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday 22 February, 7.45pm, Princess Mary School, Kingsland High Street (just off from Dalston Junction). Speakers: Paul Foot and John Clark (NUPE hospital shop steward).

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 17 February, 8pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road, Southampton. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Tuesday 15 February, place and time to be announced.

EXETER: Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm, Oddfellows Arms, New North Road. SOCIAL with Staverton Bridge folk group and speakers: Margaret Renn (SWP women's organiser) and Jimmy Rule (AUEW district committee). Members from all over Devon (Ilfracombe, Torquay, Totnes, Taunton) welcome. Accommodation will be supplied. Phone Exeter 34427 for details. Admission 25p (unemployed 10p).

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Club, Cricklewood Lane (above Burtons tailors shop), NW2. 20 February: Fascism and how to fight it.

HAMMERSMITH and **KENSINGTON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Jamaica—what next? Speaker: Tony Bogues (RCL, Jamaica). Thursday 10 February, 7.30pm, Westway Luncheon Club, Ladbroke Grove, London W11.

NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE GROUP: Southern Group: 14 February 8pm: Abortion which way now? Speaker: Nikki Mellor. 14 March 8pm: Why revolutionary socialism is just women's lib. Speaker: Margaret Renn. These meetings will be held at the Florence Pub, Florence Road, N1, just off Upper Street.

Northern Group: 21 February 8pm: Abortion Italian Style. Speaker to be announced. 21 March 8pm: The Womens Rights Campaign. Speaker: Margaret Renn. These meetings will be held at The Beehive pub, Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham, N17, just off Tottenham High Road near Woolworths.

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SOUTH EAST LONDON: Wednesday 16 February, 7.30pm, The Barons Arms, Oldfield Grove, SE15 (near Surrey Docks station). Speaker: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign).

EAST LONDON: Monday 28 February, 7.45pm, Manor Park Library, Romford Road, Manor Park. Speakers: Paul Foot and Michael Fann (London Royal Docks shop steward).

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday 22 February, 7.45pm, Princess Mary School, Kingsland High Street (just off from Dalston Junction). Speakers: Paul Foot and John Clark (NUPE hospital shop steward).

SOUTHAMPTON: Thursday 17 February, 8pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road, Southampton. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

ISLE OF WIGHT: Tuesday 15 February, place and time to be announced.

EXETER: Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm, Oddfellows Arms, New North Road. SOCIAL with Staverton Bridge folk group and speakers: Margaret Renn (SWP women's organiser) and Jimmy Rule (AUEW district committee). Members from all over Devon (Ilfracombe, Torquay, Totnes, Taunton) welcome. Accommodation will be supplied. Phone Exeter 34427 for details. Admission 25p (unemployed 10p).

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ROCK AGAINST RACISM concerts: **NORTH LONDON:** Friday 4 March. North London Polytechnic, Ladbroke House, Highbury. Joint Rock Against Racism/icebreakers benefit. Tom Robinson Band.

EAST LONDON: Friday 18 February, Queen Mary's College, Mile End. Benefit for Brick Lane anti-fascist demonstrators. Special Brew and Bamboo.

BADGE in Red and Yellow. 22p including postage of ten for £1.50 post free. From Rock Against Racism, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

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THE REBEL HEROES

JOHN PREBBLE has told something of the terrible story of the Highland Clearances.

In his new book Prebble blows the gaff on the myths surrounding the famed Highland soldier.

Mutiny* probes the role of the Highland Scottish Soldier first raised in the 18th century to police their own hills, then expended in Imperial wars.

They were unwilling soldiers, recruited by force or threat and as hostages for a pledge against the eviction of their families.

They were not only unwilling, they were unique, since

they had obtained terms of enlistment which laid down that they would serve only in Scotland.

Whipped

The mutinous soldier faced court martial, punishment by the lash of 500 to 2000 strokes in daily doses of 250, death, or extradition to the East or West Indies.

Scotland formed a fifth of the population of Britain and was to provide during these years three-fifths of the nation's foot soldiers and nearly two-fifths of its cavalry.

The Highlander formed

only three per cent of the nation yet of the 37 battalions found by Scotland, 23 were Highland. Racism? Yes.

Doubly damned and doomed were the Gaelic people by the bloody-minded efficient use, dispersal and disposal of their numbers as a minority race.

The experience so gained was to be repeated in Britain's overseas colonies by the use of other minority races.

But miracles do happen. The dead speak. Who has heard of the common heroes Corporals Samuel and Malcolm Macpherson or of Private Farquhar Shaw? They are soldiers whose

records in this book breach the silence of the grave and the burial vaults of the secreted military records.

Their voices and those of the many other brave men resound in these pages. Singled out as incendiaries, as leaders, they were to be courtmartialled in drawn-out proceedings conducted in what was to them a foreign tongue, judicially murdered and silenced as an example to their comrades in arms.

Heroism

The trials marvellously evoke the men, their officers and commanders, the cruelty,

the heroism and the pity of it all.

In Mutiny Prebble has raised spectres and they cast long shadows.

Appearing now, when the structure of Britain shows fractures in many places, the book is embarrassingly revealing of the military mind, of British racism and the class nature of our society.

* Mutiny, by John Prebble (Secker and Warburg) £6.90. Order it from your library.

ANN FLYNN



A Highland chief: his men were less keen

How Scotland's gentry landed so much wealth

AND WHY THEY NOW WANT TO DISOWN THEIR FORBEARS, IF NOT THEIR ACRES

SPARE A THOUGHT for Elizabeth Millicent Sutherland, Lady Strathnaver the 24th Countess of Sutherland.

She's been subjected to a clearance. The poor woman has been driven off the organising committee for this year's Mod, the Scottish equivalent of the Eisteddfod.

'Nice wee woman'

Her departure came after the West Highland Free Press indicated that she was about as fit a person to sit on the organising committee of a festival of Gaelic culture as Edward Heath was to be on a committee to commemorate the 1972 miners' strike.

Since then, the letters column of The Scotsman has been full of people pleading the Countess of Sutherland's part. They've been saying what a nice wee woman she is, that she has no real connection with what her forbears did in Sutherland a century and more ago when they cleared the land, driving people out to make way for more profitable creatures called sheep.

No connection indeed. The woman is still living off the proceeds. She still owns vast acres of the land her forbears cleared by theft and force.

The Highland clearances were not more savage than the crimes committed against Irish peasantry; but whereas the Irish were burned out by alien plantations as an act of war, Highlanders suffered those terrors at the bidding of hereditary chiefs, whom they looked on as foster-parents and to whom they were often related by blood.

Driven

In the first clearances, the dispossessed were driven to barren land at the sea's edge.

Water bailiffs were employed to see that streams were not fished and mussel bailiffs to ensure the peasants got no bait for sea fishing.

The people's places were turned into sheep grazings. Many of the harried people decided to emigrate, especially to Canada.

Their desperate decision opened up new opportunities for quick gain to exploiters. Shipping agents crammed the

Highlanders onto rancid, leaky boats.

One evil brute in Fort William made a fortune with a tale that Canada, if not the land flowing with milk and honey, had a magical tree (the maple) which would give them sugar and soap, and even tea from its roots.

The boat bunks were 18 inches wide, in three tiers, and two feet apart. In one boat with 400 passengers, all the

cooking had to be done in two 23-pint pots.

Death quickly thinned the ranks and eased the overcrowding.

It was left to the Duchess of Sutherland and her husband, the Earl of Stafford, (she had mated her vast estates with his broad English acres) to rivet the bloody crown on the achievements of their kind.

In their fell work they had



Cutting sea-tangle on the Isle of Skye in the 1880s: the Clearances brought destitution

By VINCENT FLYNN

the eager service of a sadistic monster, the factor or agent Patrick Sellar.

Sellar's first victim was a soldier's widow. She had to remove her own furniture as his men fired her house.

Burned

The wind blew the flames on her furniture, which was burned. An old, crippled woman had to be removed in a blanket. She died within three months.

Isabella Graham, aged 80, slept in the open fields for 15 weeks. An old man was turned out of a rude shelter in a graveyard.

Why did the people endure all this in silence? There were those who resisted and gave good account of themselves, but the great mass, among them some of the toughest fighting men in Europe, were cowed not by bailiffs and bully-boys, but by the contemptible clergy, who preached that the evictions were God's punishment for sin.

Who will punish the land thieves and their greedy descendants? Perhaps the Scottish National Party will dispossess them? Yes, and pigs might fly.

To settle the score will need the power of the organised working class.

THE CHEVIOT THE STAG AND THE BLACK, BLACK OIL

John McGrath's outstanding play about the Highland Clearances and the continuing exploitation of Scotland's workers.

Now available from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1. Price 90p (inc. postage).

Soweto, Poland, now Cairo -where are British workers?

I WOULD like to comment on the wonderful fightback of our Arab brothers in Cairo last week, similar to that of our Polish brothers and sisters last year, against rising food prices.

Too often we have looked on people of the Third World as 'backward'... or are they only 'wogs'? Or even in my parents' time, during the Second World War, 'Johnny Arab, he's no fucking good, lazy so-and-so', who stood by and watched as the war went

back and forth where German was killing British and vice-versa. And 'Johnny Arab' was just a spectator.

Well look at us, now who are the spectators? Why, it's the British workers, the very people who led the way in the workers' struggle for trade unionism and rights for the workers.

OK, so we are still struggling for workers' rights. But what a showing-up we're getting—first Soweto, second Poland, and now Cairo.

These aren't just struggles, it's victory for the workers.

They are taking the initiative and doing something while we in Britain stand by and let bastards like the IUC and the government walk all over us.

Fight

OK, so we seem to be getting out of our lethargic attitude, but we must bear the embarrassment label for not acting before now while our brothers and sisters abroad show us the way to take on the criminal system of capitalism, by demonstrations in the

streets, factories, schools, universities.

If we are awakening to the corrupt goings-on of the ruling classes, well then brothers and sisters, you have been shown the way.

Must you stand by and be trodden into the ground again? The answer is in your hands. *What are you going to do about it?*

□ STEVE TAYLOR, shop steward, Massey-Ferguson, Manchester, and committee member, Polish Workers Defence Campaign.



Ramses Square, Cairo, after police clashed with workers demonstrating against rising food prices. The price rises were withdrawn.

TRESPASS BILL IS A DANGER!

FOR the second time in 18 months, the law was used last week to smash an occupation at Massey-Fergusons in Coventry, by use of an injunction.

The ruling class are now taking on new powers to arm themselves against occupations of workplaces, colleges, empty houses by the homeless, in the Criminal Trespass Bill. This would make it unlikely that new occupations would not be met with direct action by the police.

It seems to me that this threat by the ruling class to our power to take direct action must be bitterly opposed. Workers cannot afford to lose one of the most powerful weapons in their armoury, the occupation.

Since the SWP is now operating as a revolutionary party, I believe we should join the demonstration organised by the Campaign Against a Criminal Trespass Law in London on Saturday 19 March.

□ COLIN KNOWLES, Tower Hamlets SWP, London E1.

Letters

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

Worker-directors and strikes

CHRIS HARMAN wrote of the Bullock recommendations on 'industrial democracy' SW 29 January that 'if there is an industrial dispute of the clash between the company's drive for profit, and the workers' living standards and jobs, the shareholders, representatives on the board will be able to vote, but not the workers' side'.

This is not the case, Bullock (majority report) suggests that there is no reason why the law should prevent worker-directors from taking part in board decisions concerning strikes, lock-outs, and collective agreements.

There are three reasons for this.

Firstly, worker-directors wouldn't need to have their voting rights curtailed on these issues. They can simply be out-voted by the shareholder representatives and the co-opted directors.

Secondly, strikes, etc, are by no means necessarily discussed at board level. More often than not they're dealt with solely by senior management.

Thirdly, as the Bullock Committee is well aware, the trade union machinery would do its best to ensure that only 'responsible' workers and not militants get on to boards.

In Sweden, worker-directors are legally excluded from decisions on strikes, etc, but whether it's the case that militants do not get elected, or are tamed once they arrive in the boardroom, only very rarely is the law put into operation.

Bullock reports that shareholder representatives in Sweden actually find it valuable to involve the worker-directors in decisions on strikes.

Enough said.
□ JOYCE McNALLY, London N7

Fascists dented

THE Nazi Front have begun operations in Keighley. This was the second week they had peddled their poison in the shopping precinct, after disrupting a Labour Party meeting on racism.

By the end of the day their confidence had been severely dented, though not entirely shattered. Five Socialist Worker sellers won the propaganda war and more than doubled our paper sales.

The policy of the local trades council and Labour Party towards the Front has previously been 'ignore them and they'll go away'. It is clear that the fascists must be defeated now before they grow stronger.

We shall be pressing for union branches etc, to channel the strong anti-Front feelings that their members have expressed.

□ SWP members, Keighley.

Pull the other one, Jones...



AT A recent meeting in Glasgow, Jack Jones claimed that fears of a right-wing coup staged by 'private armies' in the summer of 1975 drove the trade union leaders to accept the Social Contract pay curbs.

Now that must surely be the daddy of all time! Has he forgotten that our union alone includes nearly two million trade unionists, never mind the rest of the working class?

Peril of a coup, by Jack

By GEOFFREY GOODMAN, Industrial Editor

A COUP which might have ended democracy in Britain was on the cards two years ago, union chief Jack Jones claimed yesterday.

The threat came, he said, from 'private armies' when the Wilson Government was forced into the economic crisis of July, 1975.

It was the fear of a coup which drove the trade unions to agree to the Government's pay curbs of 4.5 per cent, said Mr. Jones.

From the Daily Mirror

'Comrade Jones of the International Brigade' would have us believe that a few cracked colonels and assorted loonies are responsible for his sell-outs. The Kitsons and Stirlings of this world need watching all right, but don't go overboard.

No, Jack, you above anyone else in the trade union movement are to blame for this mess. The architect of the Social Contract, you remain the most ardent supporter of wage cuts, worse social services and lower living standards—for us, that is.

Thankfully your reign is soon coming to an end, though a life peerage (at least) seems a likely retirement present for your tireless efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

And imagine, for the fifth time in 53 years we will now have the chance to elect a new general secretary. Let's ensure the biggest vote for Tommy Riley, the Right to Work Campaign candidate, a man who really knows what socialism is about.

□ IAIN BROWN (TGWU), London N15.

It's exploitation —white or black!

As a keen reader, I look forward each week to Fifth Column and the priceless mine of information it provides. But recent errors undermine your efforts. Such as the black landlord story (Fifth Column, 29 January).

In no way would I call myself a racist, but I am an anti-capitalist, and the mis-reporting of this piece of news ruins an anti-capitalist story.

Whitter bought the 70 slum properties for £33,000 and is selling them for nearly £½ million. This is after he let them decay, and he has installed tenants who, being black, he was able to intimidate.

OK, so the media story of the black landlord fits and should be included, but blacks in London have nothing to thank this capitalist for. Indeed many will be glad to see him in Bermuda just as long as he takes his henchmen—black and white—with him.

PS: Please don't publish my name as I'm a very disillusioned Communist Party member who is close to leaving, but doesn't want to be expelled.

□ SW reader, Galgate, Lancs.

Police brothers?

WHILE on the demonstration against the cuts and unemployment on 17 November, we started chatting to the police escort about the right of rank and file police to strike for better pay and conditions. To our surprise, one or two responded.

So we started chanting 'Rank and File Police for the Right to Strike'. This soon brought a senior police officer to the scene. He told us we had no right to talk to the police in this manner.

He was told to fuck off and mind his own business as we were only interested in talking to the rank and file.

The police round about were amazed. One or two looked quite pleased at the utter consternation on the face of this man they'd been taught to think of as at least equal to if not senior to God.

There is a gut reaction to low wages among rank and file police which we should not ignore, but should relate to by argument and such chanting.

The sequel, I should add, was that we ended up with the highest-ranking escort on the whole bloody march!

□ BRIAN HIGGINS, Northampton.

POSTAL POINTS

IN AUGUST 1976, Socialist Worker printed a story of a clash between anti-racists and fascists in Gravesend, in which two anti-racists were arrested.

Myself and an Asian building worker were the ones arrested. I was fined £70, plus £10 police costs, and the Gravesend Sikh Temple has raised the money to pay my fine and costs.

Members of the Sikh Temple took a leading part in the fight against racism in the autumn. I would be grateful if you would print this, as it may encourage other Sikh Temples, who often say that they are concerned with religion rather than politics, to take a more active role in the struggle against racism.

□ SW reader, (name supplied), London SE2.

AGAIN one of our most revered upholders of 'law and order', Lord Justice Gibson, has demonstrated what male, class justice is all about.

Robert Surch, a soldier in Strabane, Northern Ireland who admitted to the rape of a woman, was given a two-year suspended sentence—

This again illustrates the almost apologetic way in which our ruling classes, legal lackeys dispense their justice towards British soldiers committing crimes against the Irish people in Northern Ireland.

And following the amazing statement by Lord Justice Gibson that the women was 'in a large measure responsible' for being raped, it underlines the hideous attitude of the courts towards rape victims.

□ CHRIS HOGAN, Manchester.

THERE may be two different types of people who join the police force (Letters, 22 January) but once in uniform and on duty they are the same.

It has been shown in well-publicised experiments that if you put people into roles, such as policemen, they react according to their status and what is expected of them in that status.

It is because of this corrupting influence the role of policemen has on people that the police cannot be adjusted to suit a socialist society and must be abolished.

□ MATTHEW REES, Southampton.

RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
1 Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.

RAISE FUNDS INSTANTLY

A guaranteed £13 clear on a £2 outlay. Our pocket-size punchboards will raise quickly the much-needed funds for your local Right to Work Campaign, rank and file trade union organisation, or branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

It contains 600 tickets at 5p each, with 43 winning numbers. Takes in £30—pays out £15, winnings paid on the spot. The board only costs you £2, so you make at least £13 clear.

OK under Small Lotteries Act—no legal problems. Easier, faster and better than raffles or draw tickets. Give it a try—you can't lose.

ORDER FORM
Please send by return post - - - punchboards, price £2 each postage included. Enclosed total cheque/postal order to value of - - -

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
Please print address clearly in BLOCK LETTERS.

SEND THIS FORM TO:
Rank and File Organising Committee, 1 Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.

ALWAYS BLOODY SUNDAY?

ON Tuesday morning, at 7.15am, my door was almost smashed in when I opened it, and I was surrounded by four men who said they were from the police anti-terrorist squad and had a warrant to search the flat.

So they emptied all the cupboards all over the floor,

read all letters they came across—and then asked me to go to the station for questioning.

I immediately asked my wife to get in touch with the local SWP organiser, but as it happened I was only held for one hour.

I'm wondering if this treat-

ment is going to go on every year just before the anniversary of Ireland's Bloody Sunday as I was raided the same time last year.

□ R McLOUGHLIN, chairman, Willenhall branch SWP.

Lonrho: The only face of capitalism

IT'S NOW nearly four years since the great Lonrho business scandal burst into the open.

It disclosed corruption of every kind, and fraud on a massive scale.

Guilty men—rich, powerful, guilty men—were named. And that was that. No prosecutions were brought in this land where newspapers tell you that everyone must obey the rich man's rule of law except, of course, the rich man who made the Rule of Law in the first place.

But Lonrho hasn't gone from my memory. To me, it represents not the exception but the rule.

Murder

To me, it tells the story of what big business is really doing with its fantastic power, not just to our lives here in Britain but to our fellow workers throughout the world.

It was with great pleasure therefore that I read the new Pelican book *Lonrho: Portrait of a Multinational*.

Lonrho has grown from a small ranching and mining concern in Rhodesia into a massive company with interests in all types of mining including platinum gold and diamonds, newspapers, sugar, oil, railways, you name it, and Lonrho were interested in it or they owned it.

Investments were based on a high return for capital invested. This depended on the exploitation of black workers in South Africa, Rhodesia, Zambia, Ghana, Sudan, in fact most countries in Black Africa.

A prime example of Lonrho's interests in the well-being of their black



THE EXPLOITERS: Tiny Rowland, Edward Du Cann and Duncan Sandys

THEY'RE NO EXCEPTION,
THEY'RE THE RULE, SAYS

TOMMY GORMAN Shop steward, Albion Works, Glasgow

workers was displayed in the Ashanti Goldfields miners' strike in 1969.

Lonrho acquired Ashanti Goldfields in late 1968 and agreed with the Ghana government to 20 per cent state participation. The miners went on strike claiming that the takeover would deprive them of benefits under a collective agreement.

The company offered 15 days' pay. The men stayed out. Sticks and stones were hurled at 'moderate' union officials. The police moved in and two miners were shot dead and another 28 people wounded.

The government fully supported the company and the police. Six strike leaders were arrested. A Lonrho delegation later held talks with the mine management and the miners were

paid three months' basic pay.

The company issued a statement saying it did not agree with the police decision to shoot. How humane of them!

Tiny Rowland continued his activity as Lonrho's entrepreneur-in-chief in his personal Mystere jet, flying across Africa to woo the leaders of the underdeveloped nations in the interests of profit.

Rowland's tactic was to gain influence with leading families in countries where Lonrho had interests and then to use this influence to build his company into a monster under his control.

In 1973, Lonrho's economic power in Kenya provoked J M Kamuku, the Assistant Minister of Tourism and Wildlife, to declare in Parliament:

'I found that they have taken over very many

businesses in this country. I understand that even when we are discussing this matter here today, they are negotiating to buy some African liquor businesses.

'Very sorry, Sir, if you are not going to be careful, you will go back home only to find that even the utensils which your wives are using have been bought by the Lonrho group companies.'

Corruption

The whole web of Lonrho corruption is extensively spelled out in great detail by the authors of this book. But it would be a mistake to suppose that this was characteristic of Lonrho alone.

You only have to look towards British Leyland, Rio Tinto Zinc and other multi-national involve-



THE EXPLOITED: The black workers of Africa.

ment in the African Continent. The reason for their concentration in this area is the high return for capital invested.

How is this achieved? By exploiting my brothers and sisters, the black workers who are forced to work and live like animals in the name of profit, paid well below the minimum subsistence levels. They are forced to live in hostels cut off from their families.

It is illegal for migratory labour to bring wives or families from the Bantustans. Some of the larger mines have barrack-type compounds. Overcrowded, underfed and underpaid. And for what? For the creation of vast profits for the parasitical privileged few, such as the Lonrho board.

Then, once they have got their sweaty hands wrapped around the spoils, they salt them away in the Cayman Island or numbered bank accounts in Switzerland.

This of course, is exactly the same 'purpose' to which our lives here in the factory of Britain are subjected. It is nothing but another chapter in the vile history of the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many.

Despots

The whole Geneva farce is about continuing the exploitation of Africa but on a slightly changed basis. It will do nothing to improve the lot of the black rank and file worker in Rhodesia and South Africa.

The purpose of the operation is to consolidate the position of the multinationals who dominate this and every other economy.

These same multi-nationals have built up a strong industrial economy based on sweated black labour.

In doing so, they have also created a black working class with the strength to overthrow them and their puppets.

As that class grows in confidence and anger, it must change its direction of thought from Geneva to Angola and follow the example of the MPLA. The despots will not give in to constitutional change.

They will use every weapon at their disposal to retain white supremacy. Only a true revolutionary working class movement can smash them.

I hope that day comes soon. It won't be a second overdue.

*Lonrho: Portrait of a Multinational, by S. Cronje, M. Ling and G. Cronje (Pelican), £1.80 (inc. Postage) From Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

THIS IS THE NEWS?

A FEW WEEKS ago, we had a couple of visitors—one Spanish, one French.

Among their first impressions of this country was the delight in being gloomy that was a feature of most news bulletins on radio and TV.

Hardly a broadcast would pass without a piece from, say, our Industrial Correspondent, Ian Ross, reporting the latest strike in tones of bewildered exasperation, while over on the radio Our Economics Correspondent, Dominic Harrod, would be spelling out his view of the strike's implications for the pound with a funeral gloat.

In Spain it's all very different, apparently. A recent news programme began with a triumphant announcement that the country was well on the way to solving its economic problems—the first time that the existence of such problems had been officially admitted.

Like getting congratulated on being well again without ever having been told you were sick in the first place.

There was a famous occasion a couple of years ago when the Spanish swimming team was whitewashed by a visiting French team. The Madrid press headlined their report: 'French Visitors Full of Praise for Spanish Organisation of Swimming Match'.

Suggestion: we may not win everything—who cares about swim-



ming anyway?—but even foreigners have to admit that we Fascists can make the trains run on time.

Over in France the situation is not all that different. Paris is often brought to a standstill by one strike or another but by and large French TV responds to the event not with the sustained heckling and moaning that characterises the BBC but rather by ignoring it all.

Everyone knows there's a strike on but French TV pretends that it isn't there and hopes that it will go away.

Which left me wondering about the reasons for this. Why is the selection and presentation of the news in this country so relentlessly miserable, to the extent that on occasion even the odd rhinoceros or hartebeest in the Tory party or the CBI is moved to protest, rearing up on his hindlegs and grumbling about the 'sell Britain short brigade'?

It's not as though, from an establishment position, things really are

much worse here than elsewhere.

Our crisis differs in degree but not in kind from that which grips France, while Spain is on the brink of a revolutionary explosion that has the ruling class hysterical to the point where recently they were even punching each other at a state funeral.

Perhaps the answer is that in Gaullist France or post-Francoist Spain, the aim of state-controlled TV is relatively simple: to convince the viewer that he or she lives in the best of all possible worlds and hence to churn out cheer-up programmes as opposed to genuine news.

Here things are different. We have

a government whose fierce socialist noises in its manifesto made the establishment very nervous, yet a government faced with a crisis that demands the socialist solutions it has no intention of supplying.

A government too left wing in its rhetoric to command the confidence of bankers and the City. In short, the worst of all possible worlds.

It's on that depressing stalemate that the BBC feeds with masochistic relish, fingers crossed for the day nice Mrs Thatcher gets in to solve all our problems.

PAUL O'FLINN



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SELL-OUT-SO UNION CHIEFS GET A WHITE FEATHER

SHEFFIELD: Disgusted journalists have sent a white feather to their union executive following the biggest sell-out in the history of the National Union of Journalists.

The message from Sheffield Branch has been echoed by other branches and chapels.

Despicable

The day before a national strike of 800 BBC journalists was due to begin in support of 12 NUJ members at Radio Sheffield, the union's executive called a special meeting and caved in.

The strike was called off and the Sheffield journalists, on strike since 13 December, were ordered back to work without a single concession from management.

The executive, including broadcasting member Denis MacShane, who has built himself a reputation as a left-winger collapsed in the face of a despicable anti-union campaign by 12 highly-paid BBC journalists in London.

The strike started after the Radio Sheffield FoC (shop steward) Roger Currell was suspended for carrying out a union instruction to refuse to broadcast any sport.

This was being done to protest at the way freelance journalists are being deprived of work by a wealthy greengrocer who is regularly used as a sports reporter by Radio Sheffield.

But instead of immediately organising all-out action, the executive stalled for seven weeks before finally agreeing to the national strike.

MacShane finally joined the right wingers and gutter press, allowing himself to be quoted in the Daily Mail that he had been wrong to propose strike action.

Disgusted by the executive's handling of the dispute, the Radio Sheffield journalists stayed on strike unofficially for an extra half day.

The sell-out was made easier by the lack of any organisation among principled trade unionists in the BBC.

Now the rank and file group Journalists Charter is forming a broadcasting section to start a fightback against the right wing.

Details from: Journalists Charter Secretary, 61a Farleigh Road, London N16.



MacShane: surrendered

£9,500 Jubilee spree-then council axe hits pensioners

N.W. LONDON: "Something's all wrong with these cuts. The Council's got their priorities all wrong," Mrs Burke, a pensioner, told Socialist Worker at last week's picket of Westminster Council.

Twenty women, mostly pensioners, were demonstrating against the Council's proposed closure of the public laundry facilities at the Seymour and Porchester Baths.

This cutback hits hundreds of pensioners who rely on the cheap and efficient laundries.

As the uniformed chauffeurs delivered the Councillors to the meeting in gleaming Rolls Royces, Mrs Burke said:

"Look at this lot. It's disgusting. We pay £2500 in rates for the upkeep of the mayor's cars and ceremonial robes, and they tell us they can't afford to keep our laundry going. What rubbish."

"Of course they can. They just don't want to—they want to force us into the commercial laundrettes—at twice the cost."

"We've been told there's no demand for these laundries. That's a dirty lie."

"There's always a queue and there's a notice up inside 'Owing to the great demand for washing facilities, customers are only allowed to use one machine per day'."

The council's priorities were clear. Proposed spending for the Silver Jubilee—£9,500. Lord Mayor's Civic reception (pensioners not invited)—£3,900. Overall cuts, including the laundries and £50,000 cut from Council housing maintenance—between £500,000 and £600,000.

FRAME-UP FOILED

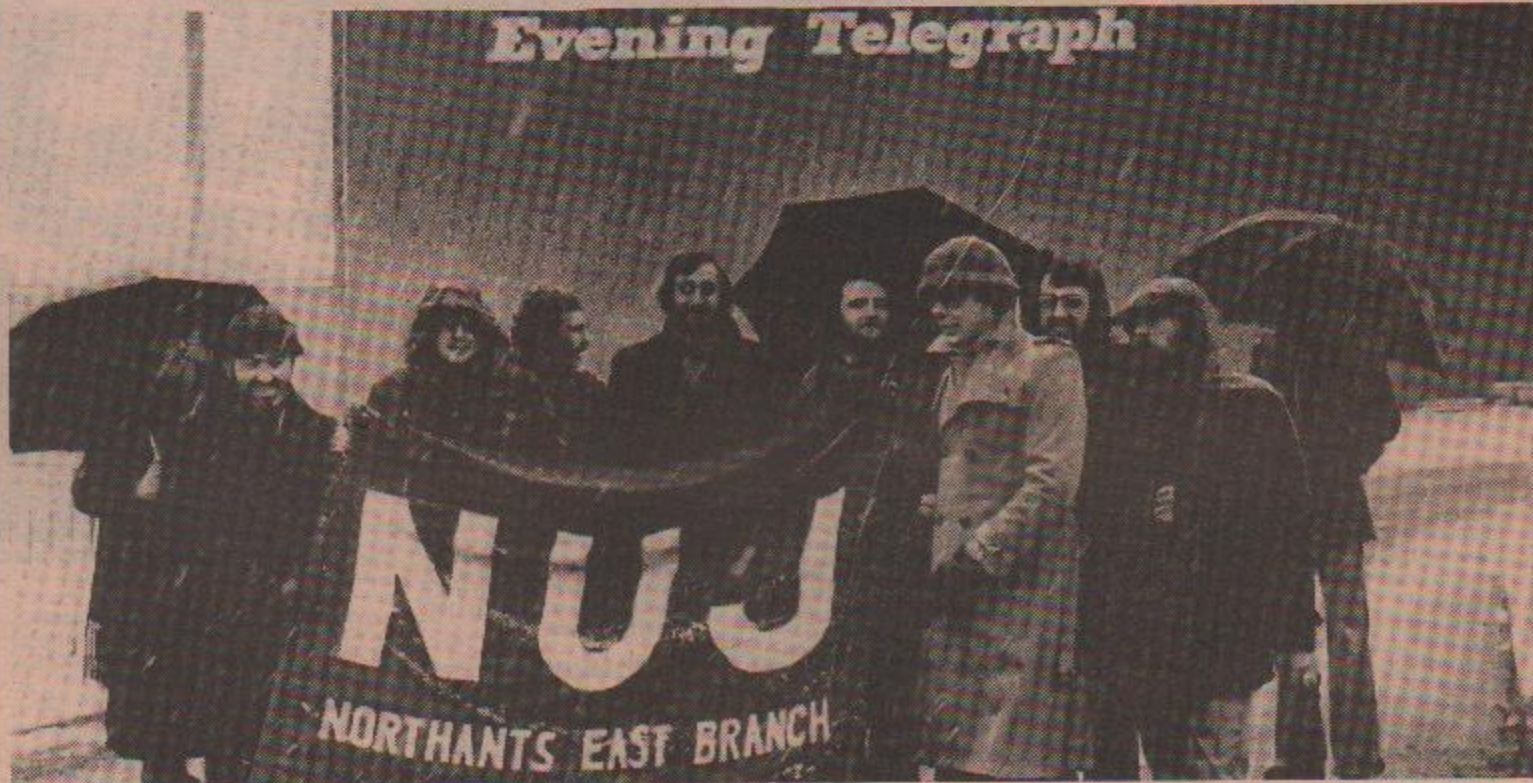
WEST LONDON: A lightning strike by 400 angry workers, mostly Asians, paralysed the British Airways Overseas cabin services centre at Heathrow Airport when management suspended a night shift worker.

Amrit Singh was suspended for allegedly stealing two lemons and a toilet roll. M. S. Randhana and S S Gill, for the strike committee, told Socialist Worker: "We are demanding that Amrit is unconditionally reinstated."

"Security officials pretended they had found the two lemons and the toilet roll in his car."

As another night shift worker, Tony Welch, said: "It's a frame up." A shaken management reinstated Amrit the next day.

But these journalists are fighting on



KETTERING: The ten-week strike by 70 journalists becomes the longest dispute for provincial newspapers in NUJ history this week.

Since they came out on 6 December, the strikers have braved the worst of the winter weather and defeated all attempts to force them back to work.

A meeting last week decided by the largest majority yet—only two against—to continue the struggle for a better house agreement.

By the NUJ strike committee

Management of East Midland Allied Press badly miscalculated the journalists' mood by offering paltry improvements on insurance and maternity leave. They rejected further conciliation talks and will now be pressured by the TUC Printing Industries Committee to get back round the table.

Pressure is beginning to tell on the scabbing editor of the Northants Evening Telegraph, NUJ member Ron Hunt, who told

the Guardian: "Well—what I'm doing—it's a dream, isn't it? Complete authority and control..."

His dream looks more like a nightmare unless management can get the printworkers' union, the NGA, to work with scabs.

The Kettering NGA chapel has handled work declared black by the NUJ but has so far drawn the line at the journalists' scab club—The Institute of Journalists.

Strikes on other group papers at Peterborough, Stamford, Kings Lynn, Bury St Edmunds, Spalding, Sudbury, Newmarket and Haverhill now begin on 11 February. NUJ members on EMAP's national publications, Motor Cycle News, Angling Times, Bike and Garden News, have also been ordered out.

Donations and messages of support to: NUJ Strike Committee, c/o NAAAW Offices, Cattlemarket, Kettering, Northants.

Hospital fight-back

GUILDFORD: Angry hospital workers have launched a campaign against the cuts in protest at the intended run down of five local hospitals. 34 nurses face the sack, one in six of hospital beds are being cut, three wards face immediate closure.

Already local branches of the Health Service Workers, the white collar union ASTMS, the local government workers in NALGO, the electricians union, Guildford Trades Council and the Surrey Association of Trades Councils have come together.

There is a demonstration in Guildford on Saturday 26 February. Assemble Guildford Station, 2pm. Speakers from the campaign are available to speak at meetings. Contact D Hughes, 24 Overbrook, Godalming, Surrey.

Strikers: We want action

ALL THREE strike committees representing hotel workers at Oxford and Sheffield have written to the national executive of their union, the Transport and General Workers, to demand national blacking of Trust House Forte.

At two Trust House Forte hotels, the Randolph in Ox-

ford and the Grosvenor in Sheffield, and at another hotel in Oxford, the Linton Lodge, workers have been on strike since before Christmas for union recognition.

Part of their letter says: "We have considered a report of a meeting with the Food, Drink and Tobacco Trades Group national secretary on Thursday 3 February at which it was

stated that national blacking of all Trust House Forte companies and subsidiaries was not being implemented due to its being illegal.

"We wish to protest in the strongest possible terms at this decision. The process of national blacking has the support of every relevant Transport and General Workers Union body in both

Sheffield and Oxford and was backed by delegates to the last trade group committee meeting less than three weeks ago.

"We demand immediate action is taken to put this process into action. We regard the refusal to do so as a blatant and unacceptable disregard of all the democratic procedures within our union and the interests of our members who have been on official strike for the basic demand of union recognition and reinstatement

ADVERTISEMENT

TGWU Right To Work Campaign

TOMMY RILEY, rank and file candidate in the TGWU General Secretary election, is going on tour to meet union members up and down the Country.

Public meetings are taking place in the following places to which all T&G members are invited:

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

- Monday 14 February, 7.30pm. Iona Community House, Clyde Street, Glasgow City Centre.
- Tuesday 15 February, 7.30pm. Trades Council Club, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.
- Wednesday 16 February, Newcastle.
- Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm. York.
- Friday 18 February, 7.30pm. The Foresters, Sheffield.
- Saturday 19 February, noon. Derby.
- Saturday 19 February, 5pm.

- Leicester.
- Sunday 20 February, 7.30pm. The Smiling Man, Dudley.
- Monday 21 February, 7.30. Digbeth Civil Hall, Birmingham City Centre.
- Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm. Coventry.
- Wednesday 23 February, 8am. Homerton Tyre and Rubber Co., Treforest Trading Estate, nr Pontypridd, S. Wales.
- Wednesday 23 February, Bristol.
- Thursday 24 February, 8pm. Joint meeting with Engineers Charter. Golden Fleece Pub, Fore Street, Edmonton, London N18.
- Friday 25 February, 7.30pm.

- Pre-Liaison Committee Conference Meeting, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1.
- Speakers include: Tommy Riley, John Deason (Secretary Right to Work Campaign) Eddie Prevost (Dockworker) Jack Aldrich (Plat-form)
- BADGES
- 10p each from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, N4.
- T&G Election Campaign—Why Vote for Tommy Riley? Leaflets, £1 for 500 from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

SUPPORT THE HOTEL WORKERS
Picket the Linton Lodge Hotel director's London home. Saturday Noon-2pm, 30 Crescent Rd., London S.W. 20.

SHEFFIELD
Demonstration called by Sheffield Trades Council in support of the hotel workers, Saturday 12 February, 10am. Assemble Carlisle Street. The Right to Work Campaign has called another national picket of Trust House Forte for Saturday 19 February. See page 9.

ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE

Saturday 2 April, 11am, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Smash the Social Contract, Free Collective Bargaining—£10 now. 35-hour week with no loss of pay, equal pay, job opportunity and equal grading for women, the right to work. Credentials from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4

Polish Workers Defence Campaign Film Benefit THREE DAYS IN SZECZIN

Wednesday 23 February, 7pm, The Other Cinema, Tottenham St., W1, near Goodge St Tube off Tottenham Court Rd. Proceeds to the Polish Workers Defence Campaign in Warsaw.

GRAVESEND Right to Work Campaign March: Save Our Hospitals, Saturday 12 February, 11am, the Clock Tower, Gravesend.

Official! Boost for Massey engineers

COVENTRY: The strike and lockout at Massey Ferguson's Banner Lane plant has been made official, thanks to a lobby of the Engineering Union National Executive last Tuesday.

'Without our lobbies of the district and executive committees there was no chance of the strike being made official' said Terry Lindsay, AUEW steward.

'When we got back we did a victory tour of the gates. It was the turning point of the strike. But now the TGWU have to do the same.'

Pickets have now stopped the Baginton and Maudsley Road plants in Coventry. Support is coming in from other factories in the town and nationally.

Delegation

A delegation went from the factory on Tuesday to Tilbury and Felixstowe and contact has been made with the Royal Docks.

Keep the support coming in. It's vital that Masseys don't get away with using lockouts to smash agreed procedures and union organisation.

Leyland tried the same thing this week at the Coventry Triumph plant and locked out a paint shop gang for 'inadequate effort'.

This is what Callaghan's call for increased productivity is all about. It's our wages and conditions that are at stake. It could be you next.

Money and messages of support to: Massey Fergusons Assembly Shop Strike Committee, c/o AUEW Halls, Corporation Street, Coventry.

Hospitals on strike

WEST LONDON: Workers at three hospitals were planning a half day strike on Wednesday to protest against the cuts.

Ealing, Hounslow and Hammersmith Area Health Authority were meeting to rubber-stamp cuts in hospital services, including three closures.

Workers from West London hospital, Hammersmith Hospital and Hounslow were there to demand speaking rights.

Staff from the Hammersmith hospital had expected to hear a discussion about the sacking of Bill Geddes, chairman of their NUPE branch and Right to Work candidate in the union's coming executive elections.

But this particular cuts item has been put off for another month. Bill, the hospital baker, and Michael Kurton, the hospital butcher, have both been told that their departments will close.

Battle for a union

LEICESTER: 30 members of the clerical union, APEX, are on strike at the Leicester Photo Company for the reinstatement of Bob Shaw.

The sacking came three days after Bob had signed up all 30 into the union.

An industrial tribunal accepted management's ludicrous claim that Bob wasn't a union member and that therefore his sacking was not connected with such union activities.

The strikers are staying out until Bob is reinstated and the union is recognised.

Donations and messages of support to Gerry Veart, 47 New Walk, Leicester.

EAB: IT'S OVER

SHEFFIELD: The strike at Edgar Allen Balfour ended this week with considerable gains for the 2,800 strikers.

After nine weeks of bitter dispute, management have been forced to back down.

The redundancy notices issued in November to workers at the

Capitol Tool Works have been unconditionally withdrawn.

One department of the tool works will remain open, but the rest will be closed but not sold by the employers. Negotiations will now start over the redeployment of those whose jobs no longer exist.

However, a number of important demands have not been won. The closure of part of the Capitol Tool Works is a permanent job loss within the EAB group, but the principle issue still not settled is the wages of the

redeployed workers. From the start, EAB have been determined to close the tool works because it is the highest paid factory in the group. The Sheffield employers have been worried that Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act could be used to claim parity with the wages Capitol Tool Works.

The full-time union officials who negotiated the settlement failed to obtain any guarantee that there will be no loss of wages for those redeployed.

Although the Confed officials have

been supporting the dispute they have dragged their feet in organising supporting actions and limited the demands of the strike merely to a withdrawal of the redundancy notices.

But the morale of the strikers is high. They have forced an arrogant, asset-stripping management to retreat. Trade union organisation is incomparably stronger than ten weeks ago.

This will now have to be used to force management to keep to their concessions and to fight for parity of wages with the Capitol Tool Works.

Nigg: Say No to this deal

By Lorne Anton
READERS of the national press could be excused for thinking that the Nigg Bay oil rig construction site has got another order.

But management say there is no order until contractual negotiations are complete: in other words, until a savage productivity agreement is accepted by the workers.

Last November, union officials signed a confidential productivity agreement.

It calls for interchangeability and flexibility of members of the same or different unions, shop stewards to deal severely with time-wasters, and a bonus scheme related to productivity (a 40 per cent improvement in productivity is assumed).

There is great opposition to this deal on the site. But the union officials are trying to force senior shop stewards to accept a slightly modified version of it.

One senior steward has already resigned rather than accept such a deal.

Conditions have been steadily eroded on the site over the last year. We must throw out the deal, clause by clause, and fight to maintain full employment.

Asbestos danger? No, we always dress like this . . .



THE BUILDING they said was safe. Workers in special clothing, prepare to clear up deadly asbestos dust at North East London Poly. Five women cleaners struck for 17 weeks while management denied the building was dangerous. The cleaners stuck it out, and have now won the right to work in safety.

By Brian Higgins, UCATT
BEDFORD: Jim Coleman, regional organiser of the building workers' union, UCATT, arrived on our site, Shanleys, on Tuesday morning to answer allegations that he had an arrangement with the employers, allowing six weeks for self-employed men to come off the lump.

He was immediately asked to address a mass meeting, where he denied the allegations. But to his amazement he discovered that the men preferred to take the work of the sub-contractor, Michael Peters, who claims to have made the agreement.

Coleman then proceeded to attack Mick Presland, site convenor, and Brian Higgins in a personal manner, and also to make a particular attack on the Socialist Owrker.

After Coleman's attack, the men passed a 100 per cent resolution of support in Mick Presland. We also demanded that Mick attend the next meeting of our Regional Council Committee.

We have tried to write direct to the executive about the matter. But Joe Smith, an executive member, has sent the correspondence back to the regional secretary.

We are fully paid up members of UCATT. Why can't we communicate direct with our executive?

Union officials who cheer on the scabs—page 5.

JOHN CLIFFORD

JOHN Clifford, a UCATT member, recently stood and won an election as a full-time official in the union.

He stood as a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

We wish to make it clear that he is no longer a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

IN BRIEF

BIRMINGHAM: 1,800 workers at Castle Bromwich Body Plant voted to strike on Monday until 30 workers sacked over redeployment have been reinstated. A 24-hour picket is turning everything back.

EAST LONDON: The lock out at Whitbread depots continues. Management have broken all agreements and suspended drivers who refused to work a new system which hadn't been properly negotiated.

MANCHESTER: 250 Transport Union members at Doulton Glass Industries are on strike for the second time this year. They walked

out over the victimisation of a member of their negotiating committee.

HARLOW: Engineering Union members at Blackedales struck last week to demand the reinstatement of a worker victimised for allegedly retaliating against a foreman. Convenor Joseph Noellen said: There is only one decision I want—reinstatement.

HUDDERSFIELD: The strike of office workers at Hopkinsons for the reinstatement of six colleagues victimised during a pay dispute is being stepped up. The national executive of TASS is calling for an extension of

blackening of the firm's products.

COVENTRY: Ten boilerhouse attendants at Leyland's Climax factory are now in their second week of strike over grading.

Money and support are urgently needed by the strikers, who belong to the Transport Workers and Engineering Unions. Send to: Coventry Climax Boilerhouse Strike Committee, c/o Transport House, Parkside, Coventry.

COVENTRY: The Joint Shop Stewards Committee at Chrysler's Stoke plant voted last Monday to reject any more wage controls. Their unanimous decision was for a return to free collective bargaining.

CHELTENHAM: 17 workers on strike for a 25p bonus payment at Telehoist decided last Friday to lock the bosses out. Three hours later they came up with a 24p payment.

Meanwhile, 700 TGWU and AUEW workers are working to rule at Dowty Mining Equipment Ashchurch plant for sick pay and a five per cent increase on basic pay.

Students defy High Court

THE OCCUPATION by students at Manchester Poly—in protest at rising canteen prices—is continuing despite legal threats from the administration.

A High Court injunction comes into effect at noon on Thursday. The students are going to resist it.

The students were given a

big boost on Monday when NUPE, ASTMS and NATFHE members from the campus—and some UCATT members from Pochins site next to the Poly—joined students from the Poly and other Manchester colleges in a mass picket to stop police going into the occupation.

They have promised to come back on Thursday when the injunction is served.

They won't break our union!

BASINGSTOKE: Management at Haskins have had to resort to the courts to break the occupation by 85 Engineering Union members.

The workers have been locked out after protesting against a new bonus scheme for more than ten weeks.

Martin Byrne, of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The whole operation is an attempt to break the union in the factory.' Engineering Union shop stewards from local factories met on Monday and called for a series of two-hour stoppages. This is a good start.

Stoppage

But a one-day stoppage of all AUEW members in Basingstoke would really show the local Engineering Employers Federation the rank and file strength behind the Haskins workers.

A delegation from the strike has gone to Manchester to get support

Donations and messages of support to F Kitson, strike committee treasurer, 13 Lundy Crescent, Popley, Basingstoke, Hants.

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Socialist Worker

Another blast rocks Clydeside -move these danger plants!

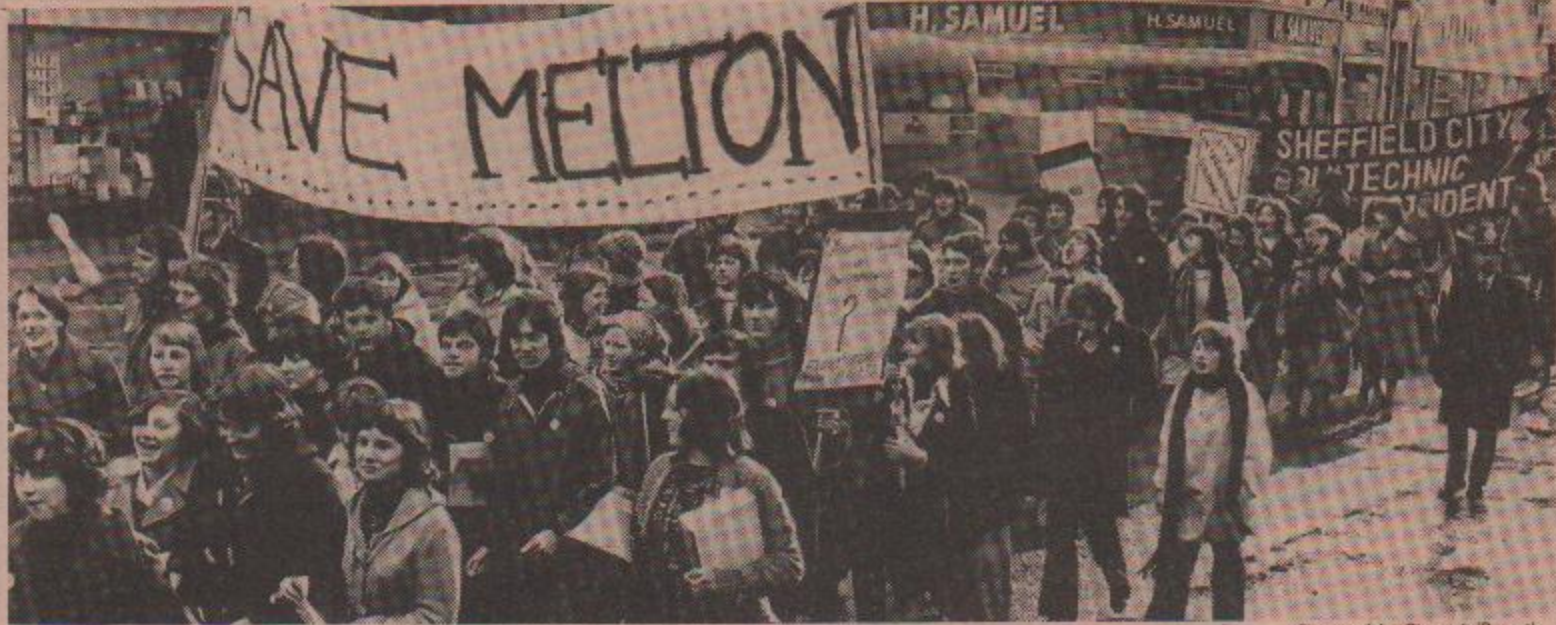
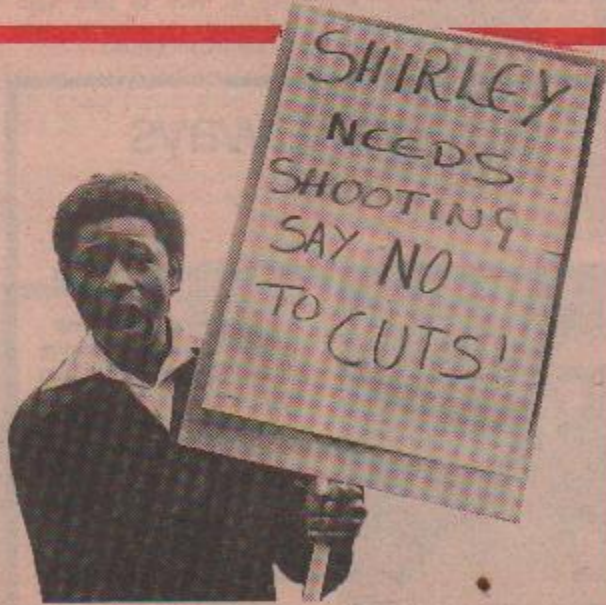
Students march to save colleges

A LIVELY demonstration of 200 students protested in Doncaster on Monday against the latest round of education cuts.

They came from Doncaster's two teacher training colleges, High Melton and Scawsby, with support from Doncaster Technical College.

Both colleges are to be closed with the loss of 600 places, leaving no teacher training facilities in the area. The average primary and secondary class sizes in Doncaster are 41.

After the demonstration a protest meeting in the Doncaster Arts Theatre was addressed by Malcolm Lee, local NATFHE rep, Bob Haig, chairman of the education committee, and Paul Foot from Socialist Worker.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

ANOTHER massive explosion has rocked Clydeside.

Families living within a mile of the British Oxygen plant at Polmadie, near the Gorbals, were evacuated from their homes on Monday as fears grew that the whole plant might go up.

The explosion killed one woman and injured an oxygen

tank driver. It was followed by a huge fire.

Exactly a month ago Paul McDonald, a Glasgow fireman, wrote to Socialist Worker about a massive chemical explosion which shattered windows four miles away.

When the firemen and Strathclyde Emergency Operations Group arrived at the BOC plant this week the flames were already 100 feet high.

Workers on the nearby Dixons Blazes industrial estate were evacuated, along with children from local schools, patients from a physically handicapped centre and people from their homes.

John Todd, a member of the local TGWU Insulating Engineers branch health committee and a lifelong campaigner for health and safety at work, once worked at the plant.

He told Socialist Worker: 'This plant could be another Flixborough. Places like this should not be sited in areas where workers live.'

One angry resident, Mrs Traynor, took a petition round the area calling on local residents to attend a protest meeting on Monday evening.

Answers

This was the fourth evacuation since 1963. Two years ago residents were told to put out all naked lights, which left them in the cold and dark in mid-November.

When fireman Paul McDonald wrote about the last explosion he had this to say: 'We want answers, not excuses, that's why we don't trust official inquiries.'

'We want prevention, not righteous speeches at gravesides. That's why we insist that fire hazards must not be stored in or near working-class areas.'

Flixborough

'We remember Flixborough and the recent chemical explosion at the Sanmex factory in Glasgow. That's why we are sick and tired of hearing about how it couldn't happen again.'

There will probably be yet another public inquiry. There will probably be the usual newspaper editorials about the dangers and the need for safety.

The only guarantee that anything can be done to remove these dangers will be if local tenants and workers get together and organise to insist that if necessary this and other hazards are removed from residential areas, and are made safe for the workers inside the plant, no matter what cost to the employer.

The alternative is for people to live permanently in danger of being blown to bits.

Dockers move to save Preston

by BOB LIGHT
TGWU shop steward,
London Royal Docks

THE National Ports Shop Stewards Committee voted on Saturday to call for a one-day national dock strike to stop the closing of Preston docks. The date will be fixed when the committee reconvenes in three weeks' time.

If Preston docks are allowed to close, 450 registered dockers and another 1,300 men in connected industries will be forced on to the dole. Already one worker in ten is unemployed in Preston.

The Tory-controlled council claims the port is a loss-maker and a burden on the ratepayer. That is a lie. For 18

of the past 23 years the port has made a net profit. With compensation owing to port users with long-term contracts, like Sealand Containers, it will cost £7½ million to finance the closure. Add to that the social and financial cost of putting 1,750 men on the dole and it is obvious that it will cost much more to close the port than to keep it working.

Conclusive

Two independent surveys—the most recent by Lancaster University—reached that same conclusion: that the port should remain open.

But this closure is not a financial move: it is a political move, part of the conspiracy between port employers and the Tory Party to eradicate the registered docker.

The conspiracy tasted blood when it mutilated the Bill to extend dockwork. Now they

are going in for the kill—the Dock Labour Scheme itself.

Under the scheme, dockers have a half control over hiring-and-firing, and that gives us a unique measure of job security.

But if Preston is allowed to close, then the whole scheme becomes valueless: for the first time since 1947 registered dockers will have been sacked.

That is the importance of Saturday's meeting. It was by far the biggest national stewards meeting since 1972—with 78 delegates from 22 ports. With that kind of support, we can save Preston docks.

Not that it will be easy. After five years of defeats and industrial inertia, militancy cannot just be switched on again like an electric light. It will take an aggressive campaign by the stewards' movement to rekindle in dockers the determination and confidence to fight.

We will not just have to contend with the employers. Jack the Rat Jones will pull any filthy stroke to save 'his' government from a dock strike.

It's probably going to take more than token strikes to win—the Tory conspirators will not bend, and the government is not going to pull out its chequebook voluntarily.

It gives us our chance again, the chance to unite again and

rebuild a fighting national stewards movement, the chance to save Preston and to protect our scheme and our right to work, and from there a chance to take the offensive and win back the conditions and wage-rates we have let slip in recent years.

But if we blow this chance, then the future of the docker will be a thing of the past.

Eggs for the Nazis

A HUNDRED people picketed Digheth Civic Hall in Birmingham on Saturday when the National Front held a public meeting to launch their prospective candidate in the Stechford parliamentary by-election.

This is the first time the local council had agreed to book the National Front since they were banned a

few years ago. Rumour has it that the local police put pressure on the council to allow the Front to have the room.

Some Front supporters got egg on their faces as they went into the hall.

Four people were arrested on the picket and have been charged under the Public Order Act.

FUND: THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD

FIRST the good news. Post Office workers in Whitechapel, East London, have joined the growing numbers of workers fighting against cuts in their living standards.

Now the bad news. Because of their industrial action our post this week has been held up, cutting down donations to the

Socialist Workers Party-building fund.

But it has still been a good week. Among the money we received was £300 from an anonymous woman supporter and £200 from a London member.

The SWP needs the money our members and supporters send every

week to sustain our campaign against the cuts, against racism, for women's rights, and to aid the building of a rank and file movement in the unions.

Our thanks this week to:

Ipswich Civil College SWP £1.50
Edinburgh membership levy £80,
Poole meeting £5, Bradford meeting

collection £32, Tottenham SWP branch jumble sale £54.25, JR Gilding £1, Islington meeting collection £40, Mike Wagstaff £7, Central London meeting £60, anonymous woman supporter £300, London member £200.

□ Please rush donations and collections to the Treasurer, SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PRESTON Socialist Worker public meeting

THE CASE FOR SOCIALISM

Speakers: Michael Fenn (shop steward, London Docks), and Jim Nichol (SWP national secretary).

Thursday 17 February, The Golden Cross, Lancaster Road, 8pm.

All SW readers welcome.

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