

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

Prices: Labour lets 'em rip!

THE Labour government has abandoned all pretence at price and dividend control.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Labour Minister for Rising Prices, Roy Hattersley, gave details of just how cynical a fraud the government's promises to control price

rises have become.

He admitted that since Labour came to power three years ago prices have gone up by an amazing 69.5 per cent. What's more, while wages were held down, the rate of price inflation has actually speeded up!

Increases in the past

three months alone are equivalent to an annual rate of 30p in every £1.

Hattersley also made it absolutely clear that the government was determined to push through still more increases.

New regulations from the Common Market would be implemented, he said. These will add 70p a week to the family budget this year alone. And the government is still determined to introduce VAT on food.

Profits

Hattersley insisted he could do nothing about rocketing tea prices, now heading for 38p a quarter. This is even though the Bank of England accepts that there is the most phenomenal speculation in tea, coffee and cocoa 'futures'. Unbelievable profits are being made.

INSIDE

Why we are standing a candidate in Stechford
—PAGE THREE

Plesseys—a ghost town?
—PAGE FIVE

British soldiers planted bombs
—PAGE SEVEN

Who will keep down the workers if the police won't?
—PAGE 11

The convicts we call carworkers
—PAGE 13

ADVERTISEMENT

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Conference against the Social Contract

Sunday 3 April, in Birmingham called by the British Leyland shop stewards combine. Full details—page nine.

Special train from London to Birmingham for the conference leaves Euston 8am. Organised by the Right to Work Campaign. Tickets £4 return from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 (phone 01-802 0978). There is no scheduled train that will arrive in Birmingham before the start of the conference.

MASS LOBBY of the public sector unions' conference

Tuesday 22 March, 9.30am onwards, Central Hall, Westminster, London, SW1.

Blackmail!

THREAT TO TOOLROOM WORKERS IS A GRIM DAY FOR TRADE UNIONISM

BLACKMAIL—that's the only word to describe how the government threatened to sack the Leyland toolroom workers on Tuesday.

The toolrooms strike has been about the workers' right to negotiate for themselves an increase in their miserable £50 and £60 a week wages. The men who tell them they had no right to strike are Ryder, Callaghan, Varley—all on more than £300 a week and who knows how many perks on the side.

The toolroom workers were treated to this crude intimidation in an interesting week.

It's the week when Leyland's profits for the past year of more than £70 million were to be announced. These do not even include the massive sums paid out in interest to moneylenders and other parasites.

Even without this they are £500 from every



The blackmailers...

RYDER: £20,000 a year from the National Enterprise Board, which holds the government's stake in Leyland, plus a fortune out of land speculation.

CALLAGHAN: £17,000 a year, plus two free houses and much else.

SCANLON: £7,000 a year plus expenses plus an estimated £5,000 a year from businessmen's lunches, Financial Times conferences and television appearances.

He said the decision to sack his own members 'has the full backing of all the unions' in the engineering confederation.

'We accept the company's decision to reopen the plants', he said, even though the plants can only be reopened if union members walk through the toolroom workers' picket lines.

Scanlon's statement is tantamount to an official call for scabbing.

It is the last desperate ploy of someone who has for two years supported an onslaught on the living standards of all his members, skilled or unskilled, which leaves them nearly 20 per cent worse off than they were in 1973.

In the meantime Scanlon himself has been able to supplement his £6000 a year plus expenses from the union with an estimated £5000 a year from businessmen's lunches, television broadcasts and so on.

If Scanlon, Ryder, Varley and Callaghan can get away with behaviour like this, it will be a black day for every rank and file trade unionist in Britain. It will mean that any strike can be broken at the say-so of any bureaucrat.

□ The toolroom workers should call the blackmailers' bluff, say out and picket the plants.

□ Other workers in Leyland must respect those pickets. If the toolmakers lose, everyone else's ability to fight the Social Contract will be destroyed.

□ Members of the AUEW all over the country, whether skilled workers or production workers, must take action now against the disgusting behaviour of leaders such as Scanlon and Terry Duffy, the AUEW executive member for the Midlands.

Support Leyland workers!

'Scanlon, instead of attacking the Social Contract, is attacking people who oppose it. Again the so-called left-wing leaders of the AUEW are supporting government policy against their own members.'

'And that policy is wage controls.'

—WILLIE LEE, AUEW steward, press shop, Chrysler Linwood, and Engineers Charter candidate for AUEW national organiser.

'As a former Ford shop steward I'm not a bit surprised at anything Scanlon gets up to. We've got to get the real story over and get away from all the hysteria in the press.'

'If you really look at their argument and see the differences between what various toolroom groups are getting, it's clear they've got a good case for their demand to negotiate parity.'

'In any case they've set the Social Contract trembling. Anyone who takes on the Social Contract must be supported.'

—TED BLOOD, AUEW shop steward, Greenings and Warrington AUEW District Committee member.

'The struggle by the toolroom workers is a central issue of this by-election. We are absolutely clear that if the toolroom workers win it will be a victory for all workers fighting against the present wage controls.'

—PAUL FOOT, Socialist Workers Party candidate in this month's parliamentary by-election in Stechford, Birmingham.

PHASE 3 IS THE ISSUE

'I HOPE this will harden people's hearts. As far as I'm concerned it's do or die.'

The campaign against Phase 3 could peter out if we're beaten—and Phase 3 could then be much tougher than anyone realises.'

—Jack Sheldon, toolroom convener at British Leyland's Tractors and Transmissions Plant, Birmingham.

Leyland worker.

What makes the blackmail even more disgusting is that it is being promoted and encouraged by the national trade union leaders.

Hugh Scanlon, president of the Engineers Union (AUEW), has resorted to tactics that used to be associated with the strike breaking gangster leaders of certain American unions.

Look closely - a mob is beating up a helpless MP...

'MP REFUSES to meet constituents'... 'MP calls constituents Yobs'... 'MP takes a swipe at constituents'

These are some of the headlines that *could* have appeared in the national press after last Friday's pro-abortion picket in Islington, North London. Instead, they told a pack of lies.

He just could be lying...

MP 'KNOCKED OUT BY DEMO MOB'

AN MP accused left-

MP 'KO'd BY A DEMO MOB'

ABOVE: The headlines in Saturday's Mirror and Sun. RIGHT: One of the pictures the Mirror and Sun refused to print. O'Halloran makes his exit, seconds before aiming a swipe at some of his constituents, and falling backwards. There was no retaliation.



By Aileen Knowles

Our North London Womens Voice Group organised the 70-strong picket, at the surgery of North Islington Labour MP Michael O'Halloran, to ask why he had voted for the restrictive Benyon Bill. If passed, the Bill would make abortion more or less unobtainable for working-class women.

A delegation of five went in to ask Mr O'Halloran to meet us.

He first told us that he couldn't see us and refused to let us wait in a room upstairs. So we waited for two hours outside.

It seems unlikely, therefore, that what he told the Daily Mirror could be true: 'They burst into my interview room as I was talking to a constituent. When I told them to leave, they grabbed me.'

Door

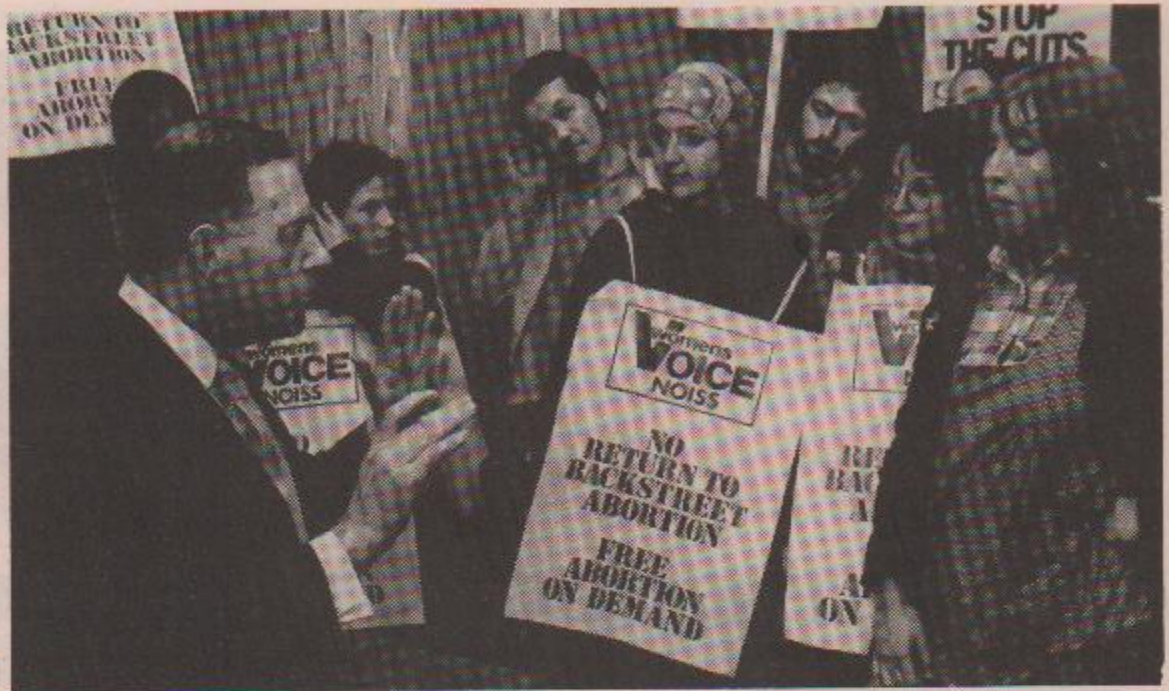
The truth is that the door opened to let one constituent out. Since it was our turn, we went in.

We then asked Mr O'Halloran why he had voted for the Benyon Bill.

'It's nothing to do with you' we were told. 'I have my own views on this. It's a private matter.'

Now what sort of answer is that to working class women who elected him?

Many people believe an MP is there to represent their interests. How can an MP turn round and tell us that it's not



ABOVE and TOP: O'Halloran we can see, but where's the 'violent mob'?

for us to voice our views on abortion to him?

According to him, it's up to himself to decide for us.

We asked more questions. He still refused to answer. It revolted me to see this man with his big, fat cigar resting on the table, standing there and telling me that the abortion issue was nothing to do with me.

Then he tried to push past us. But we wanted some answers to our questions. He swung out his arm, no doubt to get people out of the way.

Two of us stumbled trying to get out of the way of his arm. After regaining his

balance, and somewhat upset by his swinging his arm round. Mr O'Halloran shoved his way out of the room and upstairs. We then filed out into the street.

You can imagine our amazement, on seeing the daily papers the following day: 'MP knocked unconscious by mob', 'Islington MP beaten up by mob'.

Punched

The Daily Mirror quoted him saying: 'I was punched to the ground and then they put the boot in'.

According to the London

Evening News, 'Mr O'Halloran's wife said: 'They started it, not him'.

Mrs O'Halloran wasn't even there. The North London Women's Voice Group wish to state that Mr O'Halloran is a liar.

We have 30 witnesses. Mr O'Halloran is apparently thinking about taking legal action. We would like to suggest that he first considers who is more entitled to take legal action against who.

We would also like to let him know that we are going to keep up the fight to keep abortion safe and legal.

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

NOW FRAME-UP POLICE SLAP CURFEW ON BLACK TEENAGERS

INCREDIBLE bail conditions have been imposed on 11 of the 18 black teenagers in Islington, North London who are facing conspiracy to rob charges.

The other seven are still inside, five months after being arrested.

But those now on bail not only have to report to the police daily. They are not allowed to leave home before a certain time. And they must return by tea-time. They are living under curfew.

The police unsuccessfully

By Jim Cronin

opposed bail and then insisted on these conditions because, they said, the defendants were 'dangerous criminals'.

Let's look at one of the 'dangerous criminals'. He had to spend nearly two months in prison before he finally got bail. His name is Clive Whiteley, 16.

The police opposed his bail on the grounds that he is a convicted criminal with a police record.

The defence committee investigated—and found that Clive's record amounted to stealing goods worth 4p five years ago!

Clive is still at school, studying for his O-levels. He must not leave the house before 7am and must be back by 7pm.

Mark Carter can't leave before 7am either. If all goes well he can just get to work on time. Then he works all day, reports to the police station on his way home, and steps through the door just before the appointed time of 7pm.

David Willoughby, another of the accused is 14. He, too, is under curfew—and has to report to the police twice a day. The bail has been set at amazing levels—all part of the police scheme to give their conspiracy frame-up a phoney air of seriousness.

Clive Whiteley is on £3000 bail. For Noel Mackintosh, it's £1000. For Anthony Rodney, £500.

Policemen have been posted, day and night, outside the homes of several defendants, hoping to catch one of them outside the 'curfew'.

This disgusting attempt to isolate and intimidate the parents and defendants makes it difficult for them to organise a defence campaign. The defendants cannot attend meetings.

Despite the harassment, the parents and defendants are

fighting back. They are determined to expose the frame-up and put a stop to the victimisation of young blacks.

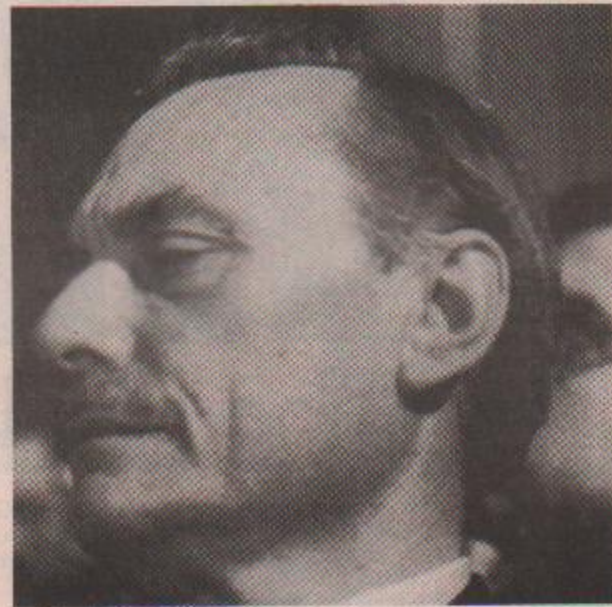
They need the widest possible support.

Campaigns hot up

Fifty delegates attended the SWP national race work meeting last Saturday. After hearing Clem, from the Islington 18 Defence Committee, we discussed producing a factsheet, leaflets and organising meetings about the campaign all over the country.

Nicky Siew, NUPE shop steward from Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham, introduced the discussion on the campaign against the deportations, and Nigel Harris talked about solidarity with the struggles in the West Indies, South Africa, India and Pakistan.

After a long discussion on the Rally of Black Revolutionaries, it was pointed out that the work done around the various campaigns must be linked to building for the Rally on 30 April.



Enoch
Powell,
the
'workers'
friend'
who
wants
180,000
of them
sacked

J. ENOCH Powell, who likes to pose as a friend of the 'English worker', has come up with a 'solution' for British Leyland.

The firm's 180,000 workers should, he says, be flung on the scrapheap.

Leyland, he told the Maidstone Chamber of Commerce for a fat fee last week, 'was past help' and should 'be allowed to go bust.'

'The symptom of becoming obsolete is loss-making', he added, 'and the means of replacing an obsolete combination by a modern one is called bankruptcy. That is why, as cannot be repeated too often, there is no substitute for bankruptcy.'

Powell didn't go unchallenged. 100 people joined a picket of the meeting called by the Maidstone branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

End this racialism, Labour!

LONDON hospital workers have hit out strongly against the Labour government's racist schemes to cut back on work permits to foreign workers.

At a special London Division Branch Delegate Conference of NUPE last Tuesday, Jonathan Neale from Moorfields Hospital, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, moved this tough motion:

'Conference feels that any refusal of work permits is a redundancy part and parcel of the cuts, and should be fought as a redundancy. We call on NUPE to mount a national campaign for the automatic renewal of work permits and make this demand an important part of our demonstration on 11 May.'

The motion was passed with only one of the 146 stewards and branch officers present voting against.

STECHFORD: WHY WE ARE STANDING

THE SOCIALIST Workers Party has a candidate in the by-election at Stechford, Birmingham. Polling is due on 31 March.

He is Paul Foot, a journalist with Socialist Worker for the last four and a half years.

Paul says: 'We are standing to build an alternative to Labour. The government's policies are now seen as a disaster. All their central promises have been broken.'

The Social Contract, on which the government bases its entire strategy, is in ruins. It is being used to attack workers' living standards at a time when the rich and powerful are

growing richer and more powerful every day.

In Birmingham today, the Leyland tool room workers are under vicious attack from the government, the Tories, the Liberals, the newspapers and the trade union leaders.

ALTERNATIVE

'Yet they are in the front line of the fight for the higher wages all workers need to match the fantastic price increases of recent times.'

Many workers can see that Labour's strategy is in ruins. But they don't see an alter-

native.

'Our purpose is to build a socialist organisation of working people which can carry out the fight for socialist politics *all the time*, not just at election times.'

'Our central purpose at this election is to search out and bring together all those people in Birmingham who are fed up with years of Labour betrayal and who want to take part in a fight back: a fight against the Social Contract, the cuts, unemployment, racialism and every other aspect of a corrupt society.'

'Our campaign will be short.

We have only two weeks for this huge task. We urgently need the help and support of Socialist Worker readers everywhere.

CAMPAIGN

'If you have a spare day or a spare week-end in the next two—come to Birmingham to help us.'

'If you can't come, then send us money to help fight the campaign.'

'If you can help in any way—please ring us at 021-643-5717.'

We aim to search out and bring together all those people who are fed up with years of Labour betrayal and who want to take part in a fight back against the Social Contract, the cuts, unemployment, racialism and every other aspect of a corrupt society.

—PAUL FOOT, SWP candidate, Stechford parliamentary by-election

Now Gill puts the knife in



Gill: 'toolroom strike not helpful'

SOCIALIST WORKER has supported the toolroom workers from the beginning.

Regrettably, some other sections of the labour movement have chosen to stab them in the back.

On Saturday, for instance, the Morning Star claimed that 'the strike can only lead to division'. On the same day, Ken Gill, general secretary of TASS, the white-collar section of the engineering union and, as far as we know, still a member of the Communist Party, said the strike was 'not helping those pressing for an end to pay curbs.'

Gill is the man who, two years ago, withdrew from the TUC Congress his union's motion calling for an end to the Social Contract.

Of course, the best thing today would be an all-out strike of wide sections of workers against the Social Contract.

Against

But that is not taking place. As in any struggle, someone sets the ball rolling and the others have to follow.

Often those who lead see themselves as different to everyone else.

The way to overcome that is not to line up against them with the government and the right wing.

It is to show solidarity and to spread the struggle to other groups of workers hit by the same problem of falling living standards.

WITHOUT COMMENT

Toolmakers are at a premium. If the company decided next week to dismiss them it is apparent the toolmakers could not be supported by the union, but there would be a question of replacing them. It appears there are not enough toolmakers on the dole to take the jobs. That is the problem we have got.

—Terry Duffy, AUEW executive member for the Midlands, speaking last Friday.

Student revolt grows as police smash sit-ins



Some of the 20,000 students who marched last week; the college occupations must be spread

AT LEAST 20,000 students demonstrated last week against the increase in student fees and racist discrimination against overseas students.

College authorities often claim to sympathise. But in at least four cases they have used police to smash college occupations.

Armed

At Kent University an 800-strong meeting backed the occupation. Last Monday, the authorities called in police armed

with pickaxes, iron bars and dogs to evict the students.

But another part of the university was occupied and support for the struggle is growing.

Police

Police also broke the occupation at City University.

At LSE they were called in for the second time in a month after the students re-occupied for 24 hours. The administration block was swarming with police, but no eviction took place.

At Portsmouth Poly students

outmanoeuvred police who surrounded one block by running to another building and seizing that.

The authorities then went for an injunction to Britain's most reactionary judge, Melford Stevenson, who in 1970 dished out 18-month sentences to students who protested against fascism in Greece.

The authorities are clearly getting worried by the scale of the occupation.

Vice-chancellors have already warned the government that the universities will be uncontrollable next year if the fees are

increased.

So it is regrettable that despite massive support for the occupations the leadership of the National Union of Students has refused three times to implement a call from the two NOISS members of the executive to spread them.

Shouted

But many students are beginning to see this—which is why NUS President Charles Clarke was shouted down on last week's demo.

ANOTHER HAND-OUT FOR BIG BUSINESS

IT BECAME clear on Monday that the Labour government have decided to exempt some of Britain's richest and most profitable companies from any form of dividend restraint.

The news leaked out over the weekend that the giant Inchcape trading house had been exempted from all dividend control.

Other major trading concerns expected to get a similar waiver are Lonrho, Esperanza Transport and Trading, Booker McConnell and James Finlay.

Untold

The last two companies are major coffee and tea concerns who as an extra bonus will be making untold fortunes out of the present price explosion and speculation on those commodities.

The relaxation of dividend control put 42p a share on Inchcape stock overnight.

According to Monday's London Evening Standard, it made company chief Lord Inchcape richer by £1.5 million overnight.

Lobby this Conference!

ONE event that should be linking up the fight-back against the cuts and the Social Contract is next Tuesday's joint conference in London of delegates from public sector unions.

But the union leaders seem to be shying away from any fight that goes beyond half-day strikes.

Action

They have changed the name of the meeting from a 'conference against the cuts' to a 'conference on the social wage'.

Rank and file members of these unions should be outside the conference demanding action—

- Opposition to the social contract
- Support for the one-day national strike called by Leyland stewards for 19 or 21 April
- Preparation for an all-out strike against the cuts by the whole public sector.

Cuts: NUPE still in Wonderland

THE destructive results of the Public Employees Union's Alice In Wonderland policy on the cuts was again apparent at last week's branch delegate conference of the London Divisional Council.

The conference was called to discuss the council's motion backing its call for the one-day strike on 11 May.

Divisional officer Harold Wilde made efforts to keep all his hats on straight when he discovered that some delegates had come to talk about taking on their employers and the official line about taking on public opinion. They made it clear that going for a walk on 11 May was not going to solve their problems.

Wilde explained that these were 'local problems' and the divisional council could not impose a policy on local disputes.

He has to prevent NUPE members from mounting a serious fight against government cuts. On the other hand as secretary of the lay elected divisional council he has to adopt a protest posture and call all-London action directed at Oxford Street shoppers.

The conference demonstrated the chaos that NUPE's official line is causing and the effect it is having on morale.

Only 46 of the 224 branches were represented. The conflict inherent in the union's position of opposing cuts



PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

by STEVE LUDLAM

NUPE shop steward, Moorfields Eye Hospital

without challenging the Social Contract means that each successive token protest punctures NUPE's leaders in the eyes of yet more members. It gets more and more difficult to get members out on the next ramble.

The only resolution to the conference was ruled out of order because it called for opposition to the Social Contract, on the grounds that we could not vote on matters already union policy.

A move to bring the day of action forward to 19 April to support the Leyland workers was narrowly defeated after full-time officer Gerry Corby explained that the Liaison Committee Conference, which called for support for the 19 April, did not want us to move our date.

A motion was passed committing the London Division to a policy of treating any refusal to renew work permits as a redundancy. The area and divisional officers were committed to leading and spreading strike action against redundancy.

And the conference called for the union office to produce a monthly bulletin listing cuts and demanding that the executive call the strike on 11 May.

The following unions are supporting the strike: NUSMW, NALGO, NUFLAT, FTAT, USDAW, GLCSA, London Confed, CPSA, SPCS, UCATT, COHSE, CLATC, South region TUC, ASLEF and SLADE are also interested.



Rank and File DIARY

Smash the Social Contract

All out Tuesday 19 April! NATIONAL STRIKE AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, called by the British Leyland combine committee, endorsed by the Right to Work Campaign and the Liaison Committee of the Defence of Trade Unions. MOVE RESOLUTIONS NOW endorsing the strike call and arranging delegations to mass lobby of parliament.

HUDDERSFIELD: End the Social Contract, for speedy return to free collective bargaining. All Huddersfield trade unionists are invited to a meeting organised by the ICI joint shop stewards committee at the Friendly and Trades Club (room 31) 7.30pm, Tuesday 22 March.

Hospital Worker

SAVE OUR HOSPITALS Conference: Delegate conference for all trade unionists in hospitals. Saturday 19 March, 11am-4pm, Portland Hall, 16-22 Riding Horse Street, London W1 (Great Portland Street tube). Make sure your trade union branch or shop stewards committee send delegates. Observers from hospitals also welcome. £1 delegation fee to Hospital Worker Conference, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

MANCHESTER Save Our Hospitals! Auction postponed. Watch for further details.

Right to Work Campaign

WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS AT HENDON LAST MARCH?

Read the new Right to Work Defence Campaign FACTSHEET. Minimum price 5p—proceeds towards paying the remaining fines and the cost of John Deason's trial. Available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN second national conference. Saturday and Sunday 19-20 March, South Bank Poly, London Road, London SE1. An action-oriented conference on how to defeat the Benyon Bill, future focus and positive action for the next year. All welcome. Registration fee £1. Canteen and food available. Offers of accommodation wanted for women from outside London. Evening social. All inquiries to 30 Camden Road, Phone 01-483 4303.

BELT AND BRACES ROADSHOW. Highly-acclaimed production of Bertolt Brecht's THE MOTHER. The Civic Hall, Middleton, Manchester, 8pm, Friday 25 and Saturday 26 March. Tickets £1 (pensioners, claimants and students 50p). Book now—box office phone 061-643 2389.

Engineers Charter

New issue of ENGINEERS CHARTER out now. Full report on the fight back against the Social Contract. 10p a copy (plus 7p postage, more than ten copies post free) from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. PLEASE RUSH IN MONEY FROM LAST ISSUE.



New ENGINEERS CHARTER BADGE, in yellow, black and white. 10p each plus 7p postage (10 or more post free) from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Collier

THE COLLIER, rank and file miners' paper—latest issue out this week. Articles on the Social Contract—what you need to catch up the Productivity Deal. 5p a copy plus 7p postage, more than 10 copies post free. From The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Stop the Cuts

NATIONAL Right to Work Campaign MASS LOBBY of public sector unions conference. Stop the Cuts! Smash the Social Contract! Tuesday 22 March, 9.30am, Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Organise delegations and transport now (make sure free transport is arranged for the unemployed). Transport details, phone 01-802 0978.

LEAFLETS calling Support for 22 March Public Sector Lobby. Stop the Cuts! Now available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 30p for 100, including postage.

Post Office

POST OFFICE WORKER, newspaper of rank and file UPW members, issue no 4 NOW OUT. Reports on wages, appeal court's attack on UPW, EDO strike, annual conference, Grunwicks, Bullock Report, ORDER NOW (money in advance please: one copy 10p, ten copies 90p, 50 copies £4) from Post Office Worker, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

MIKE LYNCH COMES OUT OF JAIL... come and welcome Right to Work marcher Mike Lynch on Friday 18 March, the anniversary of the police attack on the march, after three months in Pentonville Prison.

MASS WELCOME: 7am prompt, Pentonville Prison, Caledonian Road, London N1.

ANNIVERSARY DANCE: 8pm, The Cock, Phoenix Road (off Eversholt Street, near Euston Station), London NW1. Live band—Junction, bar, disco. Tickets £1 (unemployed 30p).

£40,000 FUND

£7,869 IN ONE WEEK!

MESSRS Jenkins, Chapple, Comerford and Mills (of the Bank Employees Union) will have to do a little rethinking. This massive support in the first week of our appeal spells it out loud and clear to the trade union hierarchy—HANDS OFF OUR PAPER!

Their use of the courts in an attempt to silence us is rebounding on them. Donations and messages of support have been pouring in. Some of the letters we will publish in coming weeks, but one we print here in full.

It comes from dockers who were shop stewards in London's Royal Docks at the time of the jailing of the Pentonville Five in 1972. They refer to a statement signed by three of the five jailed dockers, which is printed in a special appeal brochure urging financial support for Socialist Worker.

Royal Docks London E16

Dear comrades,

We see that three of the Pentonville Five signed the appeal for money, and we are glad that they did. Although they may have known about Socialist Worker's exposure of Vestey's involvement in Midland Cold Store, unfortunately for them they couldn't see the more important work that Socialist Worker did, because they were in prison. We did. We were all involved in the actual organisation of the picketing of Pentonville Prison, and the involvement of fellow trade unionists in our struggle (particularly in Fleet Street, shutting the national press).

We know that when we desperately needed posters and leaflets to state our case they were produced in thousands overnight by SW Litho, the Socialist Worker printshop, at no cost to our shop stewards committee. These leaflets and posters played an essential part in winning our struggle. Maybe that's why the likes of Jones, Chapple and Jenkins want to close the SW printshop, and that's why all militant trade unionists should fight to keep it open.

Alan Williams (NASDU)
Tony Delaney (TGWU)
Graham Thackum (TGWU)
Tony Banfield (TGWU)
Ian Olley (TGWU)
Colin Ross (TGWU)
Georgie Scott (TGWU)
Dickie Desmond (TGWU)

In East London no less than £3020 has been raised. Yes, that is not a misprint, £3020 from readers and SWP members—a large donation of £1,000, scores at a fiver, many at £100 or £50.

From Sheffield, likewise, has come £1,500 to date. Many, sensing the urgency of the situation, have given anything from £50 to £500, spread over a couple of months by postdated cheques.

YOU CAN HELP!
Pass a copy of the new brochure—'Defend Socialist

Worker, Defend the socialist printshop—our record and case stated—around your workplace and trade union branch and then take a collection.

Ask your Socialist Worker seller for a copy of this brochure. We believe that having read and seen our record you will think we are the best thing since sliced bread.

If you would like to pledge yourself to give a specific amount over the next two or three months please let us know and we will tell you how to do it.

Defend Socialist Worker!
Defend the socialist printshop!

6 Cottons Gardens
London E2.

Thanks to:

- Dumfries SWP
- Dumfries SWYM
- Lancaster students
- Ian / Nora
- Ann Robertson
- Frank Harris
- Dave Ohlson
- Peter Foster
- Pat Owen
- APEX members, British Airways
- Sue and John Greves
- N Taplin
- North West London SWP
- R Mainwood
- Thames Poly students
- Mary Miles
- Charing Cross ASTMS
- A college R&F conference
- South West London SWP
- Milton Arms supporters
- Black Country SWP
- South East London SWP
- W Kelbie
- Maidenhead SWP
- N Wheeler
- J Richardson
- Wendsworth SWP
- Salop SWP
- Lancaster SWP
- Hatfield Poly NOISS
- Welwyn and Hatfield SWP
- Pontefract SWP
- International School, Edinburgh
- Kingston SWP
- Central London SWP
- F Murray
- Mike Marriott
- Hull SWP
- J Dixon
- SOAS students
- Crawley SWP
- Durham SWP
- Cambridge SWP
- Brantwood SWP
- William Mason
- Teeside SWP
- V & A Sugar
- Teeside NALGO readers
- Tyneside Industrial Group
- A Davies
- Roy Mayo
- CA Parsons, Tyneside
- W&K Collins
- Halifax SWP
- Dr J Bruegal
- Dr Martin Brewer
- Geological Science Dept
- Sangor SWP
- David Joseph
- Bruce
- Roy Smith
- D Lambert (ASTMS)
- Lambeth SWP
- North West London SWP
- West Yorks students
- Huddersfield SWP
- Bradford SWP
- Grays and Tilbury SWP
- Denise Macshane
- Dave Spencer
- Stockport SWP
- E Thompson
- Kathleen Jones
- ASTMS Charing X Hospital
- Nat Ex Committee CPSA
- C Sigal
- Edinburgh SWP
- Paddington and Hammersmith SWP
- Gravesend SWP
- West London SWP readers
- Basilton SWP
- Two SW supporters in Newcastle, Staffs
- Will Harris
- Southwark SWP
- South East London SWP discussion group
- Paul Ginsborg and Peter Household
- Colchester SWP
- Portsmouth SWP
- Bristol SWP
- Southampton SWP
- M Stanton
- S Cullinford
- P Myatt, Denmark
- York SWP
- Slough SWP
- B E Lewis
- Outer East London SWP
- K F
- Kilburn SW readers
- Leeds University NOISS
- Derby SWP
- Oxford SWP
- North London SWP
- Hemel Hempstead SWP
- Ben Besney, Maidstone
- Lowestoft SWP
- Chesterford SWP
- Inner East London SWP
- D Evans
- Mr and Ms Mellish
- Preston SWP
- Ray Gordon
- Lea Valley SWP
- J Carter, Bury
- Cardiff SWP
- Easter Ross SWP
- Harrowgate SWP
- Doncaster SWP
- Islington SWP
- Guy Feighan, ASTMS
- Vicky Steel, ASTMS
- John Roberts, ASTMS
- Angelo Martin, ASTMS
- Nick Jeffrey, ASTMS
- John Harrison, ASTMS
- Jonathan Schiffer, ASTMS
- James Anderson, ASTMS
- Ted Parker
- Burnley SWP
- Alastair Hatchett
- Glasgow SWP
- NALGO headquarters
- L Coleman
- Scott Lidgett School
- F Lindop
- Judith Hamilton
- Three Stockport SWP readers
- L Whelan
- J Derry
- Norwich SWP
- David Edgar
- E Neill
- Don Trudell
- S Samek
- M Dodd
- Edinburgh discussion group
- Institute of Education
- Reading SWP
- Cynriot workers
- J Rasser
- SWM Ireland
- Roger Crossley
- Central London Women's Voice meeting
- Lewis Hewdle
- J Wilkinson
- T Thompson
- A Gilding
- Bristol students
- Bill and Jenny Fakes

Plesseys: What do they want, a bloody ghost town?

THE PLESSEY plant in Kirkby has been taken over by its 387 workers.

Management have been locked out.

That is how the workers have reacted to threats by Plesseys to sack 1,700 workers on Merseyside, and to shut the Kirkby and Speke plants.

In Sunderland, another factory is threatened with closure and the loss of more than 2,000 jobs.

Lilly Allen, who chairs the Action Committee in Kirkby, told Socialist Worker:

Keep

'We want to keep every job, and this site going. We don't want to expand the dole queue. It's the only place that is expanding in Kirkby.'

'We were numb with shock when we heard. It has been talked about for a long time, but it was like a bombshell when the announcement came.'

'But we come from Liverpool, we've got a bit of backbone. Of Friday morning we stopped the management from coming in. They were shocked, but put it this way, they went quietly.'

But work is still going on at the plant. Essential raw materials are coming in from other Plessey plants. Lilly Allen explained:

Hired

'We hired our own transport, paid for from the fighting fund, so we can carry on.'

'In my 13 years here, absenteeism has never been so low. We're getting far more out of this site than Plesseys ever did. Everyone is pulling together. We've got to, it's cold outside on the dole.'

Another member of the Action Committee, Alan Rockett, said: 'We've been around local factories—Fords, Kraft, Birds Eye,



Clocking off at Kirkby: in the last three years, 135,000 jobs have been lost on Merseyside—and now Plesseys want more.



Action Committee members Alan Rockett and Lilly Allen: 'We don't want to expand the dole queue—it's the only thing growing round here'



Margaret Murray has worked at Plesseys, Kirkby, for two years. 'I've got a widowed mother to keep on the wages I get from here. I can't afford to be on the dole.'

BY PETER CLARK

Hygena, everywhere and I've yet to find anywhere that won't support us.

'One local factory is organising a 10p a week levy to help us.'

On the table where the Action Committee meets is a pile of letters and telegrams of support.

In the last three years, 135,000 jobs have been lost on Merseyside. Worst hit of all is Kirkby with nearly three times the national unemployment rate.

More than one person in five is without a job.

Alan Rockett added: 'It's probably 75 per cent of the workforce here are women. Now sometimes there's not so much sympathy for a factory when it's women's jobs. But just about everyone in here is the only breadwinner in the family. Most of the husbands in Kirkby are on the dole.'

Elizabeth Fitzsimmons says: 'I've got seven lads to keep. They aren't working, they can't get jobs, I'm the breadwinner. I need this job.'

John Gallagher, a Labour councillor, was present in the occupation. He used to work on the Kirkby industrial estate.

'Once, at five minutes to eight in the morning, there was a queue to get onto this

industrial estate. Now you can get straight in. There's empty factories everywhere. It's like a ghost town.'

There are 15 factories standing empty in Kirkby.

Alan Rockett added: 'It's diabolical the way one man can sit at a desk, sign a piece of paper and put 387 people out of a job.'

At the Edge Lane plant, 1,100 jobs are threatened, but the factory will remain open. At Speke all 331 workers have been told they will be sacked and the plant shut.

Locked

In both plants, office staff locked out management for five days last week.

Dave Newnes is on the Action Committee at Speke. He says: 'The Post Office is to blame. What you see is a nationalised industry making £400 million profit, and putting people out of work to make the profit.'

'They should cut the charges to phone users,' says Ken Hawken, another member of the Action Committee. 'There should be a nominal charge.'

'How can they put more people out of work like this? Look around this area at the unemployment, it's ridiculous. Four years ago, they shut



Plesseys in Edwards Lane near here. That factory is still standing there empty.'

The sackings at Plesseys are just the beginning. Because of the massive cut-backs announced by the Post Office, 20,000 jobs in telecommunications are threatened over the next few years.

If the Plessey workers on Merseyside give way, STC and GEC workers will be next.

I've got seven lads to keep. I'm the breadwinner in the family.

The lads can't get work, they're on the dole.

—ELIZABETH FITZSIMMONS

PICTURES: JOHN STURROCK (Report)

'LET'S SPREAD THE FIGHT FOR NATIONALISATION

'WHAT'S happening in Liverpool is that for the first time someone has stopped playing by the rules. That is why the action is so important.'

That is what Jack McKenna, convenor of STC East Kilbride, told last Saturday's conference of supporters of Contact, the rank and file paper in the electricians union, the EETPU. Sixty EETPU members attended from all over the country.

'I want to talk about what's happening at Plessey's Liverpool—and what we as a rank and file organisation can do about it', he said.

'The sackings in telecommunications are not new. The first sackings occurred two years ago.'

'The government said two years ago that the Post Office had to make a profit. It makes huge profits, but much of

them is hidden. It works like this.

The government lends the Post Office money at huge interest rates. Meanwhile, the Post Office pension scheme buys government stocks that have a low rate of interest. So some of the huge profits disappear.

The Post Office could provide cheap telephones—at present they cost £45 here as against £4 in America. More people would want them and you wouldn't have the sackings today.

Crisis

'As it is, the Post Office management don't have a clear policy, they run from one crisis to another.'

'The manufacturers also make huge profits. I don't know what they do with them—probably use them to speculate in cocoa.'

'Two years ago the industry employed 75,000 people. We've lost 25,000 of them. Now the Post Office says there's going to be another 20,000 sackings.'

'The union has followed a policy of fighting redundancies plant by plant, working with the employers to try to pressurise the government to change its policy on orders.'

'We've played that game for the last two years. We've seen MPs, we've had a united front with the employers. Now we've got another 20,000 redundancies.'

The government promises a toothless inquiry—and the trade union treats this as a victory. Meanwhile the employers have kept their side of the united front—they've carried through the sackings.

At Plessey's in Liverpool there's talk of a co-op, of special employment supplements and so on. But if

Plessey workers follow this, they'll go up a blind alley.

The real problem is that the telephone industry is dominated by three firms, who can move production where they wish. You can't fight that without a rank and file movement throughout telecommunications.

The work in should be used as a platform for this, to demand nationalisation of the industry.

Meeting

This is what we should say to Plessey's, Liverpool—call a meeting of all telecom shop stewards in one of the factories.

'If you talk of a workers' co-op, you're going up a blind alley. You need a national rank and file movement to fight—with the demand for nationalisation of the whole industry to save the jobs.'

Don't miss it

This May Day is going to be special. Socialist Worker is bringing out a special issue. Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards committee, trades council or other trade union organisation gets its May Day Greetings in. For only £1 you could reach over 100,000 trade unionists and their families.

Send in your greetings NOW

RATES
 Special Classified 20 words £1
 Semi-Display 3cms single col (1x3/4cms) up to 20 words £1.50
 Display 3cms single col (1x3/4cms) up to 15 words £2
 6cms single col (6x3/4cms) up to 30 words £4
 6cms double col (6x7cms) up to 60 words £8
 For special positions or size rates or any enquiries ring 01-739 2639
 Valid exp. date Friday 22 April

Fill in this coupon and attach it to your greeting (typed if possible) and send it to: Socialist Worker May Day, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

- I would like the following size of greeting (please tick) Special Classified
 Semi-display 3cms single display
 6cms single display
 6cms double display

Name and Address of Organisation

Socialist Worker

I enclose cheque/PO for

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM Duncan Hallas

'Life is not determined by consciousness, but consciousness by life', wrote Marx and Engels. But this has been interpreted by many so-called Marxists who believe ideas rule the world.

Who makes history?

ONCE UPON a time a valiant fellow had the idea that men were drowned in water only because they were possessed with the *idea of gravity*.

If they were to knock this notion out of their heads, say by stating it to be a superstition, a religious concept, they would be sublimely proof against any danger from water. This honest fellow was the type of the new revolutionary philosophers in Germany.

These words come from the preface to the *German Ideology*, a book written jointly by Marx and Engels in 1845 and 1846.

Never a best seller—apart from a short excerpt it was not even published in the lifetime of the authors—it is noteworthy because it contains the

earliest explanation of the marxist theory of how and why society changes, of what later came to be called *historical materialism*.

There are still those who share the 'innocent and childlike fancies', as Marx and Engels called them, of the philosophers who supposed that if only people could be persuaded by preaching that they had 'false conceptions' then existing reality will collapse.

Reasons

Some of these folk nowadays even call themselves Marxists—for perfectly understandable material reasons. They nonetheless appear to believe that ideas rule the world and speak of establishing the 'hegemony' of their ideas!

'Life is not determined by

consciousness, but consciousness by life' wrote Marx and Engels. In other words, it is not what you think that makes you what you are. It is what you are that determines what you think.

And what you are is largely a matter of what you do, of your activity—in the broadest sense.

Does this matter? It matters enormously. It is the starting point, although only the starting point, of a realistic and scientific understanding of society and social change, of what is happening, what has happened, and what can happen.

Historical materialism is, as Engels said, not a dogma but a guide to action.

Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past.'

There are, Marx is saying here, no superhuman forces. Everything is the result of human activity. As he puts it elsewhere: 'History does nothing, it possesses no immense wealth, fights no battles.'

Point

It is rather man, real living man who does everything, who possesses and fights... History, is nothing but the activity of men in pursuit of their ends.

This emphasis on activity is fundamental to marxism.

'The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways, the point, however, is to change it'. You cannot be a Marxist and a sidelines commentator—though many such call themselves Marxists.

At the same time all human activity is conditioned and moulded by

Now the most basic, most fundamental, human activities are 'the production and reproduction of the immediate essentials of life' as Engels put it.

'This again is of a two fold character. On the one side, the production of the means of existence, of articles of food and clothing, dwellings, and of the tools necessary for that production; on the other side, the production of human beings themselves, the propagation of the species.'

Epoch

The social organisation under which the people of a particular historical epoch and a particular country live is determined by both kinds of production: by the stage of development of labour on the one hand and of the family on the other. As we shall see, these two are connected with each other.

What Engels calls 'the stage of development of labour depends largely on the tools and techniques available. These means of production shape the mode of production—the way production is organised and so the relationship between people in society.'

'In acquiring new forces of production, men change their mode of production, their way of earning their living; they change all their social relations.'

Feudal

The hand mill will give you a society with the feudal lord, the steam mill a society with the industrial capitalist. And, of course, ideas change accordingly.

But this is not a smooth, peaceful evolution. It is a process of class struggle, often violent struggle. Forty years after the first outline of historical materialism Engels tried to trace the process from the earliest times in *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

Circulation department: 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 01-739 2639.

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

'THE REASON there hasn't been research into sleeping sickness is because it usually affects very poor people and drug companies are hardly likely to spend money on research which will not produce profit.' —Dr. Walter Ormerod of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine talking in the *Guardian* about the disease which threatens millions of people in Africa.

□ DESPITE THE health service cutbacks our health board have fund some £9000 for renewing asbestos roofing and providing a covered way.

The work is being carried out by contractors who are observing none of the safety regulations associated with asbestos, nor is there any indication of the dangers carried with their work.

In our attempt to draw management's attention of the responsibility to patients and staff of the hospital—East Fortune Hospital, East Lothian—we have met various rebuffs.

A contractor threatened my wife and my young son with a hammer and the local administrators refused to acknowledge this as official union business despite being informed on official COHSE stationery.

Our full-time official has promised all assistance he can. —Pat Duffy, chairman East Lothian COHSE.

The Other Great Debate

YOU MIGHT think that the National Union of Teachers contribution to the Great Education Debate would be to insist that every unemployed teacher was given a job so that no child was in a class of more than 30.

But some of the teachers' leaders have noticed greater 'outrages' than teacher unemployment.

One of them wrote to Education Secretary Shirley Williams to object to the one representative of the National Union of School Students being invited to the Great Debate regional conferences.

She has refused to withdraw the invitation, but because of the union's protest, she has written to the NUSS to emphasise that their circular claiming official recognition 'was open to misinterpretation'.

Quiztime: Spot the dummy...



SIR ROBERT MARK, who retires on a massive pension next week after five years of protecting 'law and order' in London was presented with this bust by Chiswick police. Picture: *The Guardian*

All the President's men...

THE WORLD has been waiting with bated breath to see how Jimmy Carter 'the people's president' would change America's foreign policy, and turn his election promises into 'action'.

They didn't have to wait long to discover that the change to Carter is really just a case of same meat, different gravy.

The man of many lies and much hypocrisy has gathered around him a

'clique of recycled men whose credentials include the Cold War, the permanent war economy and the Indochina War, to mention only the major disasters of our lifetime.'

Tom Hayden reveals the background of Carter's key men in an article in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Study

He quotes Richard Barnett's study of the foreign policy elite, *The Roots of War* which concludes:

'Never has a self-defining, self-selecting and self-perpetuating group ever held

power so long in American politics.'

Barnett found that between 1940 and 1967 all the first and second level posts in a huge national security bureaucracy were held by fewer than 400 individuals.

Carter's men are of the same ilk.

There is Dean Rusk, Johnson's top spokesman for the escalation of the Vietnam War, now Carter's top foreign policy advisor.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, now national security advisor, was on Rusk's policy planning council in the Vietnam days.

Hallo Mentmore House

DUKES, EARLS, and a host of landed gentry packed the House of Lords on Wednesday last week for an important debate on a matter of great concern to the nation.

They want to save one of their stately homes—Mentmore House, home of the Earl of Rosebery. And they want the Government to pay for it.

The Earl says he can't afford the £3 million needed to keep the place open.

The debate took place the day after the shocking Yorkshire Television documentary *Goodbye Longfellow Road* appeared on ITV.

The film showed the effects of the housing shortage in the East End and the

appalling conditions some families are forced to live in—if they are lucky enough to have a home.

Baroness Birk, under secretary for Environment, told the aristocracy in the House of Lords that the Government is prepared to pay £1 million towards the cost of saving Rosebery's home.



COLUMN

□ THE racialsists have 'scientific facts' to prove that blacks are inferior. Look, they say, scientific surveys have shown that blacks have far lower IQs than whites.

And there they stop... because a bit more science proves they are wrong, viciously wrong.

For the scientists have also proved that malnutrition in a mother during the final stages of pregnancy produces brain-damage in the child. The vast majority of the world's 500 million undernourished people are black. Divide people by class and the fact is proved: one survey in an underdeveloped country showed that of poor children, from families suffering malnutrition, 62 per cent had low IQ. Of the well-fed middle class, the figure was 1 per cent.

Source: *The Malnourished Mind*, by Dr Elie Schneour.

Cyrus Vance, now secretary of state, was a special foreign policy representative to Johnson.

Special

And defence secretary Harold Brown is the former Air Force Chief who personally directed the largest bombing campaign in history, and the man who deliberately bombed civilians while saying in public that the targets were military 'steel and concrete'.

Brzezinski once wrote: 'The use of force must be designed not only to eliminate the surface revolutionary challenge but to make certain that the revolutionary forces cannot later rally again under the same leadership.'

Centres

'If that leadership cannot be physically liquidated, it can be expelled from the country or areas in which revolution is taking place.'

He now tries to dismiss this as 'hypothetical'. No comfort to those facing potential 'liquidation'.

□ ONE LAW FOR THE RICH Part 864: Two Cambridge University hockey players who 'committed acts any football yob would be proud of' after celebrating being picked to play against Oxford, appeared in court.

Did they receive the sentence that magistrates are proud to give football hooligans?

Andrew Cairns and Christopher Bond turned over stalls in Cambridge Market and Cairns was said to have hit a man. They were each fined £25 with £10 costs.

□ BLACK youth Melvin Armstrong couldn't afford to pay the £14 it cost to put stitches in his injured arm — so the doctor in Alabama took them out again.

He sued the doctor for £29,000 damages and was awarded £12 by an all-white jury.

The doctor, Bobby Merkle, lost his appeal and the judge has ordered a retrial.

□ SACRIFICE CORNER: Car lovers can now buy the new Porsche for a modest £17,000. Or for the more wealthy there is the new Rolls Royce Camargue at £40,000. It does a cool 10 miles to the gallon around town.

□ JUBILEE NEWS: 200 children at Maltby Comprehensive School in Rotherham have been canded since Christmas. Their crime? They walked on the grass, the same grass they have walked on every day for years.

But this year it's different. This year the Queen is planning to visit the school as part of her jubilee jaunt and the authorities are anxious the grass doesn't have that walked on look.

□ WITHOUT COMMENT: 26-year-old Margaret McGovern was found dead at her home in Edgbaston, Birmingham. She had taken an 'overdose' of gin.

The pathologist told the inquest that she was in the early stages of pregnancy.

Here sister Bridget said she had been worried about being pregnant and had made an appointment to see the doctor. But before she saw him she went out and bought a bottle of gin and drank most of it in about an hour.

The next morning she was dead.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, the coroner said: 'There is no evidence to suggest that drinking gin will induce an abortion. This is a case of 'forlorn hope'.'

Strikes over police killings

THE government may be preparing to hold rigged elections, but Spain's police haven't forgotten how to murder their opponents.

On Thursday last week two members of the Basque nationalist group ETA were machine-gunned by the police as they drove near the city of San Sebastian.

Tens of thousands of workers struck in protest. A 10,000 strong demonstration broke into the European Indoor Athletics competition on Sunday. To the applause of the crowd and some of the participants they marched round the stadium.

Their protests were broadcast throughout Spain and to much of Europe until the authorities hastily stopped transmission.

Poverty

On Saturday the police demonstrated their brutality at the opposite end of Spain, in the impoverished southern province of Extremadura. Franco's personally-chosen heir, King Juan Carlos, was out on a 'meet the people' tour.

But the people were more concerned at protesting their poverty. They carried placards saying: 'Our land is rich. Why are we poor?'

Other placards pointed out that while they starved, the landowners kept huge tracts of land for hunting.

This was all too much for the King's police. At the town of Plasencia hundreds of riot police brought in from Madrid charged the crowd, injuring many people.

Some of the 15,000 who demonstrated in San Sebastian last week.

Bombs planted by British paratroops

Plain-clothes soldiers opened fire with a machine-gun

BRITISH ARMY paratroops in Northern Ireland planted a bomb which destroyed a bridge near Killeen in November 1974.

The explosion was blamed on 'persons unknown' and put down to the IRA by the newspapers.

This is just one of a series of incidents organised and carried out by the army over the

past five years that the Sunday Times exposed in a lengthy article last weekend.

In November 1974 a group of 40 paratroops went out on patrols at night in the Armagh area armed with explosives. One police spokesman told of the high number of 'unexplained' explosions at this time. 'Explosions were going off all the bloody time,' he said.

They were all ascribed to the IRA.

These incidents were not the result of a few troops 'getting out of hand.' The Sunday Times was told by an army officer that the idea was discussed at Army Headquarters in Lisburn.

The Sunday Times revelations go much further. Incidents are detailed where 'suspects' had ammunition planted on them. The Sunday Times says this practice has been widespread. The maximum penalty for illegal possession of ammunition is 14 years.

The article details two occasions when troops used non-regulation weapons to open fire on civilians.

On one occasion in Andersonstown two soldiers, in plain clothes and in an unmarked car, used a Thompson machine gun to fire on a group of civilians. The Thompson is not used by the army but is known in Northern Ireland as an IRA weapon.

At the end of 1974 a special committee was set up with representatives of the Northern Ireland Office, the Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

One subject discussed was how to discredit politicians thought to be hostile to the government's policies. On the committee was Michael Cudlipp, appointed by Harold Wilson to look after 'public relations' in Northern Ireland.

The army is also shown to have sabotaged government policies it didn't like. For instance during 1974, while internees were being gradually freed, senior army officers waged a campaign to stop the releases.

Fiction

Journalists were told that the release of internees was directly responsible for the increase in violence, according to 'army intelligence reports.' They reported this without a murmur. But, according to Sunday Times sources, the stories were 'a complete fiction.'

The minister responsible to Northern Ireland during the period dealt with by the Sunday Times is the present Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees.

Of course this sort of army activity had gone on since well before Merlyn Rees went to Ireland. What is significant is that a national British newspaper had been prepared to detail a few incidents out of the welter of stories that papers like Socialist Worker have been printing for years.

Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, Airey Neave, denounced the BBC for not backing up the 'propaganda war' in Northern Ireland. What he was objecting to was the first filter of light coming through the lies and distortions that the BBC and most of the press have produced for years.

RALLY Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act: Sunday 27 March, 4pm, Hammersmith Town Hall, London.



Missionaries 'killed by Smith's troops'

REMEMBER the missionaries in Rhodesia who were, according to the press, 'murdered by guerrillas'?

At the time Socialist Worker argued that Smith's forces, not the freedom fighters, were the murderers. Now many leading members of the Catholic Church in Rhodesia are saying the same, according to David Martin of

the Observer. Members of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission told him 'it was improbable that the guerrillas would have killed these missionaries.'

Stressed

'All but one of the priests to whom I spoke stressed that their African congregations were convinced that the killings were being carried out by the Selous Scouts, an elite counter-insurgency unit', wrote Martin.

The Selous Scouts is made up of one white to every four

blacks, and included British, American, German and French mercenaries. Its members, according to a former senior officer of the Rhodesian army, dress up in guerrilla uniforms and then kill civilians so that freedom fighters get blamed.

Evidence of the atrocities committed by Smith's army has come from a white American mercenary who deserted from it after being sickened by the 'brutality and racism' he witnessed.

He said that the raids into Mozambique, claimed to be in response to guerrilla attacks, were carefully planned in

advance, and told of the terror used on black villagers.

There was one British officer in particular who enjoyed whipping small children. 'It kind of made his day,' he said.

Borders

No wonder growing numbers of black people see their only hope in a military victory for the freedom fighters.

Huge numbers of African teenagers have left Rhodesia to join the liberation forces across the borders. In a desperate attempt to persuade them to return the Rhodesian air force has been leafletting Mozambique. But that has not stopped 25,000 teenagers from the area around Umtali who were enrolled in schools last year, from joining the freedom fighters this year.

FRANCE SWINGS LEFT

THE RESULT from the first round of the local elections indicates a substantial shift to the left, with the left-wing parties getting a majority of the votes.

Significant is the degree of support for the united revolutionary left, which got an average 2½ per cent of the votes—about twice what the Communist Party gets in British elections.



Victory to the Freedom Fighters stickers now available. Two colour (red and black), 3p each, 25p a sheet (of 12). Send cash with order to International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. (Make cheques payable to SE International Fund.)

STOP THIS SHOW! Picket Ipi Tombi. South African musical. Friday 18 March, 7.30pm-8.30pm. Cambridge Theatre, Earls Court, London W1. Organised by SASC.

101-103 Gower Street, London WC1

Apartheid tightens

A NEW attack on black workers is being planned in South Africa.

The Bantu Laws Amendment Bill aims to tighten up the pass laws, the notorious laws which force every black worker to carry an identification pass at all times. Failure to carry it, or presence in an area without permission means arrest and imprisonment.

This new law will raise fines from £10 to £75 and increase terms of imprisonment.

Black unemployment is already 25 per cent of the workforce and rising. The change in the law is an attempt to keep the number of unemployed black workers in the cities as low as possible by

expelling to almost certain starvation in the rural areas.

As more than a million workers are arrested each year for infringements of the pass laws, there will probably be fierce resistance to this latest attack.

The government is also cracking down even harder on the press, with tighter control over what is printed and harsher penalties for defying state censorship.

For despite the censor and the arrests of many black journalists during the Soweto uprising—some of whom are still in prison—reports and photographs showing the reality of police brutality and murder were printed.



Students in Rome stand prepared for a police attack.

Students battle in Italy

ROME was turned into a battleground on Sunday. Tens of thousands of students were protesting after the murder of a student by Bologna police on Friday.

There were similar demonstrations in Bologna, Milan, Florence, Naples, Turin. In Bologna armed police used armoured cars to throw out thousands of students who had been occupying the university since the murder.

The students have been attacked from all sides. The Tory, Christian Democrat government condemned them, as did the Pope. But so did the Communist Party, which keeps the government in power through a policy of 'benign neutrality'.

The student demonstrations began a couple of weeks ago in protest at fascist attacks and at a 'university reform' which is aimed at cutting down the number of students.

After a week of betrayals, the answer to the Scanlons, the Drains and the O'Briens

The rage of the rank and file

THREE thousand Leyland toolroom workers gave vent to their anger in Birmingham last week when they voted down Hugh Scanlon's call for a return to work.

From the beginning, the meeting displayed bitter anger against the union and Leyland on the one hand, and powerful solidarity of the strikers on the other.

The platform tried to start the meeting before the coaches from Oxford had arrived. There was a huge cry of 'No'.

When the Oxford men finally walked in, they were greeted with a standing ovation.

By contrast, when Scanlon began by addressing those present as 'colleagues', he was met with laughs and shouts of derision.

Scanlon and right-winger Terry Duffy, executive member for the Midlands, had

a single message to put across, despite their alleged political differences.

'The livelihood of so many other workers depends on your decision,' said Scanlon.

'If you make the decision not to return to work, your job is at stake and thousands of others,' claimed Duffy.

Rules

They said they could not concede anything because this would contradict 'union rules'.

But then Scanlon admitted that it was not only the union, but the company that would reject separate negotiations for toolroom workers. That would wreck all of Leyland's

BIRMINGHAM: The toolroom taunt

schemes to move towards a single date for all pay negotiations in the company with full-time union officials replacing the stewards of individual sections in those negotiations.

It has been claimed since that the line of Scanlon and Duffy was one of insisting on the unity of the toolroom workers with other workers.

But both men did more than anyone else to encourage sectional, craftite feelings.

'The fight for the restoration of differentials is going to be a mammoth task,' said Scanlon. 'It requires the unity of you and other skilled workers, of action with other unions that cater for skilled workers.'

He was the only speaker in the whole meeting to suggest that the wages of other workers did not matter, boasting that:

'On the executive there's not one of us who's not a time-served man, aware of the importance of differentials. There's nothing between us on the question of differentials, parity, incentives.'

Suggestion

Not from the president of the union the faintest suggestion that the majority of the union who are not 'time-served men' (indeed many of them have the nerve to be women) are hurt by the Social

Contract and need a wage rise now.

The toolroom workers who replied to Scanlon were often confused as to what exactly they were fighting for. They felt bitterly angry at years of betrayal, at being left on low wages, at not being able to lead the lives they were accustomed to in the past. As one steward put it: 'They tell us to make moderate claims, to accept a moderate wage. When I take the missus out, I don't want to have to eat a moderate meal.'

Misrepresent

They resented the way national officials, the district committees, and many of the full-time convenors did not represent their interests.

They roared with approval when a steward from Castle Bromwich put the question:

'I want the people on the platform to make up their minds whether they represent the government, the management or us.'



Strikers from all over Scotland on last Wednesday's march in Glasgow against the cuts: only hours before, NALGO leader Geoffrey Drain bowed to a court order and instructed

WHY should other workers support the toolroom men?

The press says the strike is about 'differentials', to make the toolroom workers superior to those who work alongside them.

Now there was a current at the meeting that saw things in this light. Years of people like

YES, WE SHOULD SUPPORT THIS STRIKE

Scanlon and Duffy telling skilled men that they are an elite, different to other workers, has had its effect.

And to many people it seems easier to say they are a

special case than to say they are going to take on the whole policy of the government which the union supports.

But in general there was little talk of differentials. The

talk was of anomalies, of the absurd situation where Leyland expects workers in one factory to manage on £40 a week less than workers in other places.

The toolroom workers were certainly prepared to listen to, and applaud, talk which stressed unity with other workers, as long as it was unity in action.

Jack Sheldon, from Tractors and Transmission in Birmingham, put the argument straight: 'Our union has let not only us as toolmakers down, but other workers at British Leyland as well.'

GOLD

'We've been told ever since the war that if we behaved and held back wages there'd be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It's not there yet.'

'Of course there are differentials. But the biggest problem is the anomaly between one Leyland factory and another.'

'The national officials claim they support us. But they're not being sincere.'

'When they want an increase in wages, they recall the national committee. But they won't do it for the toolroom workers. They don't believe in it.'

'They went along with Phase One and Two. And if I know them they'll go along with Phase Three, unless we prevent them.'

JOIN THE THE SOC

The National Right to Work Campaign to organise for these

NATIONAL THE S

Called by the B

Sunday 3 April, 10.30

Credentials from P. N

Birmingham (phone O

stamped addressed en

SMASH THE SOCIAL FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT

TGWU Right to Work C

National Protest F

Saturday 26 March, 11.30am,

Trade Hall, Peter Street, Man

THE SHOUTING down of Geoffrey Drain in Glasgow.

The anger directed at Scanlon and Duffy in Birmingham.

The vicious action of Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the print union NATSOPA in threatening to break the strike of his own members on The Times newspaper.

Three incidents from the last week with a single message: We can't rely on the trade union leaders to fight.

We desperately need a national rank and file organisation that brings together shop stewards from the different sections of industry.

Only such an organisation

of those prepared to fight can defeat the miserable indifference of Scanlon, the crawling to the judges of Drain, the disgusting betrayal of O'Brien.

Only such an organisation can provide the support to sections like the toolroom workers which will make them recognise that they are not a 'special case', that they're giving a fighting lead that others can follow.

That is why the Right to Work Campaign stands for rank and file organisation.

In a letter last week, it urged affiliated bodies to get the maximum number of delegates to the conference against the Social Contract

called by the British Leyland shop stewards' combine in Birmingham on 3 April.

It urged them to back the stewards' call for a national one-day stoppage against the Contract on the day after Parliament reconvenes from Easter, either 19 April or 21 April.

It went on to urge them to insist at the conference on support for all sections fighting the Social Contract, including Plesseys and the Leyland toolroom workers.

It urged support for the call for a national all-out public sector stoppage against the cuts.

And it urged the setting up of local joint Liaison—Right to Work committees of workplace delegates and

representatives of the unemployed.

As part of the campaign for a rank and file movement, the Right to Work Campaign has been helping to organise conferences of its supporters in different industries and unions.

The first, for the electricians union (EETPU) in Manchester last Saturday, was highly successful.

This weekend it is the turn of hospital workers, and the weekend after the Engineers Charter and the TGWU Right to Work Campaign.

These meetings can provide the basis of extending the campaign for a real rank and file movement.



Scanlon, AUEW



Drain, NALGO



O'Brien, NATSOPA

GLASGOW: Jeers for union leader who crawled away

GEOFFREY DRAIN, general secretary of the local government workers' union, NALGO, got the shock of his life last Wednesday.

When he rose to speak to a huge Stop the Cuts rally in Glasgow's Apollo cinema, he was greeted with a storm of boos, whistles and shouts of 'Scab Off!'

Drain's smooth complacency vanished. He gabbled pathetically about 'the need for a display of unity'.

Fury

As he started an intricate argument against public spending cuts, the fury from his own members rose to a climax.

The previous evening Drain had authorised telegrams to every NALGO branch secretary in Scotland calling off the official NALGO strike against the cuts.

This was his response to Lord Cameron's decision in the Court of Sessions to grant an 'interim interdict' stopping the strike.

Tommy Quinn, a member of NALGO's Scottish Central Regional Council, told Socialist Worker:

'Our union leaders have lost all credibility. It'll take a long time to get back the impetus we built up for the strike today.'

'In the Central Region last week we had a huge meeting of 700 people which agreed to the strike. Now all that enthusiasm has gone.'

'Can you imagine the miners accepting an interim interdict? Well, can you? They would have told the judges where to stick their bloody interdict!'

Defiant

At least 500 NALGO members defied their union leaders and joined in the demonstration — described everywhere as the biggest since the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders marches in 1971.

At least half the marchers were women. Many had never been on a demonstration before.

It was a huge display of fervour and enthusiasm from a cross-section of Scotland's lowest-paid workers—and it was met in the Apollo by a dribble of cold water from union leaders.

Stumbled

One after another, the bureaucrats stumbled through self-congratulation and platitudes. Not one of the speakers was affected by the cuts.

Confused, angry and muttering about 'a disaster', the workers left the hall. 200 of them stumbled across the city through the rain to the City Halls where the Right to Work Campaign held a meeting.

There they heard a group of speakers who were affected by the cuts: Ian Ferguson, a NALGO shop steward from Greenock; Paul Macdonald from the Glasgow Fire Brigade; Ian Gedley, a NUPE shop steward from Stobhill Hospital and Tommy Gorman a shop steward from British Leyland.

Each spoke about the cuts at their workplace, and called for rank and file organisation across the workplaces of Scotland.

After the debacle at the Apollo, the workers there could see what they meant.

REPORTING:

CHRIS HARMAN
in Birmingham,

PAUL FOOT
in Glasgow

Pictures:

JOHN STURROCK
(Report)



his members to stay at work.

FIGHT AGAINST SOCIAL CONTRACT

Right to Work Campaign calls on its supporters to attend conferences:

CONFERENCE AGAINST SOCIAL CONTRACT

British Leyland combine committee

10 am - 4 pm, Birmingham Town Hall.

John Nicholas, 88 Newbridge Road, Small Heath,

Birmingham (021-783 2987). Enclose 60p per delegate, plus

envelope.

CONFERENCE AGAINST SOCIAL CONTRACT

Right to Work

Campaign

ally

Lesser Free

chester

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Engineers Charter/ Right to Work

Campaign

National Protest Rally

Saturday 26 March, Noon, AUEW Offices,

The Crescent, Salford, Manchester



Homeless: What that TV 'probe' cut out

By
JEAN GRAY

AFTER DAYS of looking for a home, nights in hostels with her two children and being fobbed off by the council, who said they had no accommodation, Irene Thompson was shown a block of half-empty council flats round the corner from her own derelict home.

This was a scene from Good-bye Longfellow Road, last week's TV documentary which showed the appalling state of housing in London.

Irene was offered help by local squatters. Instead she decided to play it by the book and give the council another chance.

Her reward? She was taken into hospital, seriously ill, her children were put into care. The doctor said that none of the houses in her road was fit to live in.

The programme exposed the so-called charity organisations who are making vast profits out of homelessness, at the same time providing a let-out for local authorities.

'Empire'

Tower Hamlets in East London has been called 'the squatting empire of the western world', by the Greater London Council's Tory leader George Tremlett.

More and more homeless families brushed off by the council are just taking over some of London's 100,000 empty houses, instead of playing the waiting game and walking the streets as Irene Thompson did.

But these people may soon be turned into criminals. The Criminal Trespass Bill, the same legislation that will make factory occupations illegal, will also outlaw squatting.

'We have to fight this law and we have to fight with the trade union movement, because we are all affected,' Chris Hope, the 'housing

manager' among Longfellow Road's squatting community told Socialist Worker.

'Homelessness is a condition that hits the working class. They want to stop us taking houses that are empty and occupying factories to save our jobs. But they can't offer us an alternative.'

Chris fears that the Tories may make political capital out of the TV programme. It attacks the Labour-controlled GLC at a time when elections are coming up.

The main target was GLC Alderman Paddy O'Connor, elected by the council members, not local people. He chaired the GLC's one-parent families housing committee and had close links with the housing associations the programme showed to be corrupt.

Said Chris: 'I tried to make it clear to the interviewer that it is the system which cannot provide homes for people, these individuals just take

advantage of it. But this was edited out.

'The housing system is probably the most crazy and vicious in our society.'

'A family knocked on my door, one woman and three children looking for somewhere to live. She had come from Ireland in search of her husband. Her caravan in Ireland had been burned out.'

'The council and social services told me 'send her back to Ireland, we can't help'. But I told them that I could find her somewhere to squat.'

'There are plenty of homes for her and people like her, but to get one you have to take it yourself, and in future, for taking that basic human right you may well be labelled a criminal and punished.'

Many

'These housing associations were supposed to prevent the need for squatting, but look what happened to them. It isn't only Second Genesis and Novo, the two on the programme. There are many more like them.'

'They get money from the council for homes that don't exist or repairs they haven't done. They operate in the same way as private landlords.'

'The housing problem will not be solved while landlords can make money out of shoddy accommodation and while housing is in the control of people who want to make money out of it. You have to change the system.'

**'IT'S NOT A QUESTION
OF THIS OR THAT
INDIVIDUAL... THE
SYSTEM IS TO BLAME'**

If the police won't keep the workers down, who will?

'THIS COUNTRY', Prime Minister Lloyd George let it be known later, 'was nearer to Bolshevism that day than at any time since.'

It was 31 August, 1918, and marching on Downing Street were thousands of London policemen doing the unthinkable: striking.

There had been other strikes, in 1872 and 1890, but they had been small and easily crushed.

Defeat

This was different. This time nearly all of London's 20,000 policemen—including, astonishingly enough, the Special Branch—were out.

No wonder Lloyd George was worried. As the leaders of the semi-clandestine Police Union filed into No. 10, word reached him that Grenadier Guards were fraternising with the strikers and announcing that they would refuse an order to clear them from the street.

It seemed, to those who had reason to fear such things, that Bolshevism was indeed rampant.

Who could be relied upon to protect the power of the rich, to break strikes or baton-charge pickets, if the police would not?

It couldn't be the Army—they were locked in a bloody world war that showed no signs of ending.

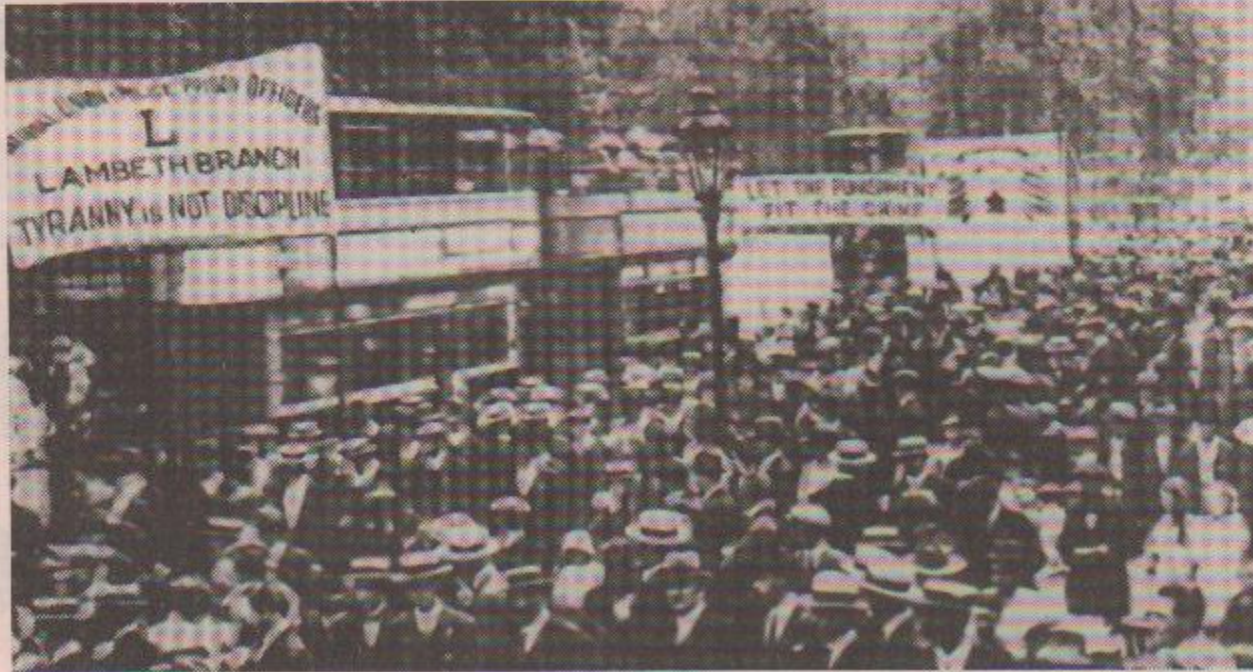
And all the time, bitterness with the war and the misery it had brought was steadily fuelling the flames of industrial unrest and igniting a new, socialist awareness.

Republic

It was an awareness that, amid the slaughter, squalor and treachery of capitalism and its leaders, there was now a living alternative: the new workers' republic of Russia.

Lloyd George knew all this—and dared not risk provoking it. The police would have to be crushed, just as the workers would have to be crushed. But this was not the moment. He and his class needed time.

And so, as slippery as ever, he offered the Police Union



London policemen marching on Trafalgar Square, May 1919: nine months earlier they had terrified Britain's rulers

AS TODAY'S POLICE VOTE FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, A LOOK BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN THEY CAME OUT TWICE IN 11 MONTHS

most of what they wanted, but tricked them on the vital question of union recognition.

That, he said, would have to wait until after the war had ended, leaving the union's leaders in no doubt that peace would bring official sanction.

It seemed a great victory. But even as the triumphant strikers were pouring out of Downing Street, Lloyd George, having secured the breathing space he so badly needed, was preparing to counter-attack.

The aim was simple—to smash the union. And the reason was simple. An official statement on the talks noted:

'... The Prime Minister... pointed out that the trouble in Russia had to a great extent risen from the existence of a union or a committee among the soldiers... he would not have a repetition of what had happened in Russia.'

Within days, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police had been sacked and replaced by General Sir Nevil Macready, a man best known for the brutal way he had put

down the South Wales miners' strike eight years before.

He was just the man for the job. Quickly he set about drawing up plans which, he said, would be made 'known only to two or three people'.

Macready added, in a letter to the Home Secretary: '... a few hot-heads may attempt a [second] strike and, if so, it must be smashed. I suggest that the line to take with the men should simply be the sack and no reinstatement.'

After all, as he told an approving Lloyd George, recognition of the union would lead to a similar state of affairs in the Army. Already agitators were 'making insidious efforts to undermine the discipline of the troops.'

By November, 1918, the war, suddenly, was at an end. The class war would now begin in earnest.

Discipline

Still the leaders of the Police Union believed they would get the recognition Lloyd George had 'promised'.

But the tables were being turned fast. Victimisations of known activists in the force increased, along with the tyrannical 'discipline'.

By March, 1919, the Cabinet was confident enough to announce in public what it had been saying all along in private: the Police Union would not be recognised.

A second strike was inevitable. When the leaders of the powerful Triple Alliance of railwaymen, miners and transport workers pledged their support, the Police Union voted overwhelmingly: 44,359 for a strike, 4,324 against.

This time it would be a national strike, and surely it would be unstoppable?

But things quickly began to go wrong. Several members of the Police Union executive took fright at their own power and, sensing the divisions growing within their own ranks—divisions exploited to the full by Macready and the government—they postponed the strike.

By 31 July, when it finally began, the government had successfully ensured its defeat.

A government committee proposed pay increases and the setting up of the Police Federation. A Police Bill was rushed through parliament outlawing the union.

The pay increases would be back-dated for four months. Every policeman would get a £10 lump sum immediately.

To many, it was tempting—and it became irresistible as the promised support of the 'Cripple' Alliance and of other union leaders melted away.

The strike was a shambles. Even members of the union executive scabbed. Only London, Birmingham and Liverpool came out, and in derisory numbers.

Thousands of policemen simply ignored the strike call. Those who didn't faced an impossible task. All 2,400 of them, as Macready had promised, lost their jobs.

Worried

The union, out-maneuvred but its enemies, and betrayed by its 'friends', was crushed.

None of the strikers was ever taken back. And when they sought other jobs, all too often they were confronted by employers' notices that warned:

'No Police Striker Need Apply.'

GEOFF ELLEN



A scene from Just a Cog

Another Spanner in the works for capitalism...

By LEN BLOOD

Last year's Engineers Charter candidate for AUEW assistant general secretary

NORTH WEST Spanner's latest play, Just a Cog, has been playing for some months now, mostly to packed houses.

And, as usual, the cast have done the rounds of local disputes, local factory audiences and strike benefits.

All Spanner's plays are based on real-life struggle. Just a Cog is the story of four engineering workers faced with redundancies, and some of the background to the play comes from the year-long strike at Automat in Manchester.

But it's more than the story of one strike. The four characters typify many of the attitudes found on the shop floor.

Mary, a 50-year-old shop steward, doesn't feel she has the energy to fight what she considers the inevitable redundancies. And anyway, she has seen the world change from war time rationing and austerity, to now when many workers have cars and colour tellys.

Defeat

But Pete, the young steward, has never seen things get better, only worse. The redundancies are the final straw for him.

And, of course, there's the lad not much interested in the union, but a fanatical Manchester United supporter.

The air of frustration and defeat workers have experienced over the last few years comes over clear, but in Pete's attitudes there is the rumbling of a fight back.

Just a Cog moulds all the arguments and ideas into an hour's thoroughly enjoyable entertainment, but it shows there are no easy answers, either.

Fighting redundancies and

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM 96

OUT NOW

Articles on

WOMEN;

Immigration;

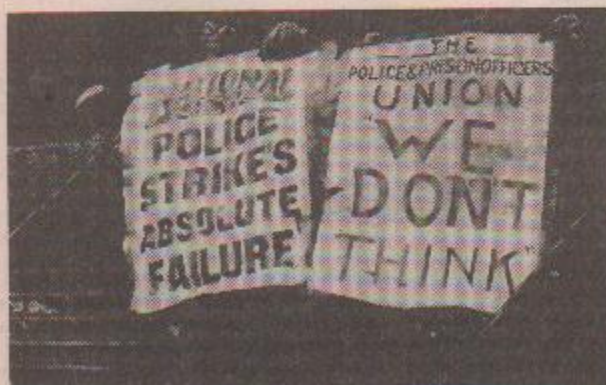
ALAN FISHER,

NUPE and the

New Reformism

40p (inc post) 6 Cottons

Gardens London E2



Two views of the 1919 strike: Sadly it was an absolute failure.

Bookmarx Club

Selections for the second quarter of 1977 (starts 1 April)

The First Shop Stewards Movement by James Hinton. This excellent study of the shop stewards movement which arose at the end of the First World War has, until now, only been available in an expensive hardback edition. Bookmarx have persuaded the publishers to issue it as a paperback.

The Dispossessed by Ursula LeGuin. An unusual science fiction novel which, by its presentation of an imaginary society, forces the reader to view our society in new ways.

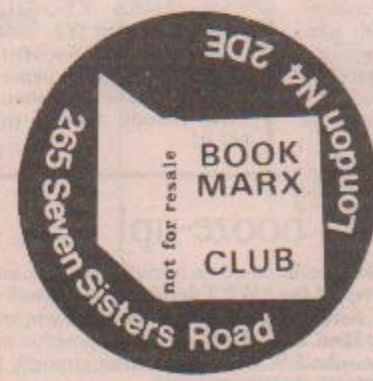
God's Bits of Wood by Sembene Ousmane. In 1947-8 the railway workers on the Dakar-Niger line in the French Sahara came out on strike. This novel is the story of the strike, the strikers and how their success showed them that they could regain control of their country.

Stella Browne by Sheila Rowbotham. A biography of this women's leader of the inter-war years which brings home the fact that there is nothing new in women's struggles and the issues they raise.

HOW TO JOIN THE BOOKMARK CLUB: You have to join for at least one quarter during which you will receive all the books advertised. The cost of joinings £4.50 a quarter.

Bankers' orders are available on request. In addition to the advertised selections we are often able to offer members special prices on books eg in the first quarter on Renshaw's *General Strike*, Ehrenburg's *Life of the Automobile* and Bartrop's *Jack London*.

Write to: Bookmarx Club, Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE



Letters

LETTER
OF
THE
WEEK

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

A V-sign for her ladyship

SPARE a thought for Lady Spencer Churchill. According to the Guardian she's having to sell paintings, furniture and silver to make ends meet.

But don't worry too much. Two Tory MPs are trying to get some public money to give her. And quite right, too. After all, the Churchill family has been one of the most reactionary and ruthless in the history of capitalism, and one of the biggest upholders of this present system.

Lady Churchill's grandson, Winston Churchill, MP for Stretford, is again upholding that tradition.

It is really terrible that a member of a family with traditions like that should be in financial difficulties.

It brings tears to my eyes—particularly when I think of all the welfare state scroungers.

Lady Churchill's war-mongering husband would certainly have done something about these lazy people on the dole.

His record politically was amazing. Even if what we normally hear makes him out to be a hero.

His political thoughts can be summed up by his attitude to Mussolini: 'If I were an Italian I'd don the black shirt myself.'

There was also his breaking of the South Wales miners' strike—and his enthusiasm to break the general strike by sending in tanks. Alas, even he had to admit that he could only really rely on one battalion in the entire British Army at the time. Otherwise who knows what may have happened?

Let's put the record straight about the Churchill family. They're some of the biggest

bastards that we, the workers, have ever had to serve under.

All this crap about the glamour of statesmanship is one of the greatest cover-ups in history. Working people remember Churchill for what he was—an idle, vicious, nasty parasite who, given a chance, would probably have become

Britain's Hitler.

And to Lady Churchill, and the Tory MPs, as well as 'Young Winston' in Stretford, let's turn that 'V' sign round and tell them what they can expect from the working class in future.

□ PETE HALSALL, Ormskirk.

FROM
letterpost
The Lancashire
Evening Post
Preston

THE HAZARDS OF FOOD

FOOD colouring is a fact of life and has been used by the food industry to cover up poor food technology for years. But how many people realise the sacrifice to the health of the workers employed in making the various colours, such as tatrazine, sunset yellow, black PN? Such an eminent food scientist as Dr Magnus Pike has written that food colouring can cause cancer.

However, he was referring to the finished article—which in some cases is 'safe' for the British market, but a 'hazard to human health' for the US market. How can such double standards exist?

What about the effect of these chemicals on the workers? Nitrous acid, used in the initial preparation, is quite deadly to the lungs, a point which the capitalists seem to have ignored completely by installing inferior or non-existent extraction units.

Other nasties include powdered esters and hydrochloric acid fumes.

If this isn't a case of worker exploitation, then what is?

□ ASTMS member, Tyne and Wear

Violent resistance likely

the
into
and
opa-
ream
the
are
ashed
out
ter
the
adu-
few
vice
IMP
really
ances
kers'
sals
jobs
ated
are
am
truc-
just
how
ed to
when
shed.

I AM all for reading in your newspaper the misdeeds and wrong-doings of others. However, I do think

myself I... as a serious... curacy and a garbled... sion of what I actually said... in court.

MR SCOWCROFT (January 27) is wrong when he says that the Socialist Worker Party "believe in a violent revolution followed by the formation of a Marxist - Leninist - Trotsky state". (What a mouthful!) We do believe that the system we live under at the moment is no good, and that to change it will mean workers taking control of their factories and workplaces and using the wealth that is produced for the benefit of all workers. The people who control

that wealth at the moment, the speculators and the financiers, are not going to take too readily to this and it will be they who use violence to prevent it ever happening. It will be they who call out the Army when workers are on strike; or the police when workers are effectively picketing; or the courts and jails when workers are getting organised. In Spain and South Africa workers are shot dead so that the property and power of the privileged can remain intact. As for the Marxist -

Leninist - Trotsky bit, again you've got it completely wrong. Marx, Lenin and Trotsky wrote about capitalism and socialism and understood that it would take a strong workers' party, in a time of crisis, to overcome capitalism. What is needed is a strong workers' party. And it will be the workers who say what goes, through their own organisations. Not Marx, Lenin or Trotsky. — Mary Baker, Secretary, Preston Socialist Workers' Party, West Cliff, Preston.

Another... your courage... sional to rely... tain situation... higher perfor... be safe. For... is the better... "To race on... ditions in Jar... me, have beer... go to the mo... loon. With a... about, it w... brain told it... have had to... not to have... and I never... solely on his... "I was he... that he w... happier still... was killed or... Lauda is u... award as a... launch a... better all-r... motor racin... committee o... with drivers... decide whett... tions are sui...

Thanks for the insight

MY OWN political experiences have been formed from bitter experiences which have left scars that will stay with me as long as I live.

On the whole I have found my fellow workers to be hard-working, honest, sober and possessing a remarkable toughness. I have found the bosses to

be grabbing, selfish, vain individuals, for want of a better word, whose sole aim in life seems to be to become wealthy and thereafter protect that wealth.

I have only recently come across your paper. It brings a much-needed insight. I enclose £2 for your fund.

□ K QUINN, Manchester.

Don't let your local paper get away with attacks on the left—reply! And send your cutting to Socialist Worker.

EXPLAINING THE CRISIS

OF THE many excellent passages in Why You Should be a Socialist, I was particularly struck by Paul Foot's explanation of economic crisis.

'The lower the wages, the

higher the profits. But low wages bring another set of problems to the employer.

'If wages are low, who is going to buy the goods which come out of the factory? That's the central problem for

the capitalist.'

This is the answer to those members of left-wing groups (including some in our own party) who always try to explain crisis by the tendency for the rate of profit to fall.

I have always argued that the effects of the 'tendency' are very uncertain, because of the 'counteracting influences' described by Marx, that the 'tendency' cannot explain the sudden onset of crisis, the often rapid descent from boom to slump.

But this can be explained by over-production, which in most cases is really under-consumption.

Under-consumption is not just accidental, as Keynes implied. It does not just depend on the policies of various governments, or on whether capitalists decide (quite arbitrarily, apparently) to invest their wealth in industry or hold it as cash, and so forth. It arises inevitably from the workings of the capitalist system, as Paul Foot shows.

Hence the ten-year slump which was only ended by the Second World War.

Hence the present gloomy outlook.

The full force of the words of Engels emerged: 'On the one hand are immeasurable riches and a superfluity of products which the purchasers cannot cope with, on the other hand the great mass of society proletarianised, turned into wage-workers, and precisely for that reason made incapable of appropriating for themselves this superfluity of products.'

□ JIM PARKES, Walsall.

Training? This is lunacy!

SOME time ago, I applied to do a government training course. I passed a maths test and an interview.

Three weeks later I received a letter saying: 'I have to inform you that your application cannot be accepted at the time because of your long period of unemployment.'

Maybe I'm just dense, but I think it's weird that the government, which bleats about its efforts to fight unemployment, should establish a scheme supposedly to help the unemployed—and then reject people for the very reason of being unemployed!

(Incidentally, I'm not unemployed, and haven't been for the last six months.)

Anyway this experience was not the least of the reasons which inspired me to join the Socialist Workers Party to help work for a real socialist society.

□ JAMES KEOGH, Acton, London W3.

PS: I think Socialist Worker is a great paper and it will take more than Clive Bloody Jenkins to kill it!



Terror in Belfast—British troops in action

IRELAND BEHIND THE BOMBINGS

READING a past copy of Socialist Worker (5 February) I find you oppose bombings as they could only in the long run injure and kill British Workers, who are in no way responsible for the acts of imperial aggression by the British army in Ireland.

While I agree that such bombings do not benefit the interests of the British and Irish working class, I do understand why bombings in Britain happen. Because of the murder and torture by the British army and the RUC, because of the brutal treatment of Irish political prisoners in British jails.

But the political reasoning behind the bombing is more than just revenge or blind hatred, although this could be a factor.

As a Marxist I understand that the British working class are in no way responsible for the acts of its ruling class—but though the militants of the Provisional Republican movement may be mainly working class, their leadership is most definitely not. It is they who see terror as a central weapon in their war against imperialism.

Of course Marxists reject individual terror. In the long run it leads to mass apathy towards the struggle.

Only when the struggle for national liberation in Ireland is on a 32-county, all-Ireland basis can there be a victory for the Irish workers. Indeed, this would also speed up the liberation of the British working class.

□ P NESBITT, Belfast.

POINTS

I'VE just finished reading Why You Should be a Socialist, and am sufficiently impressed to want to join the Socialist Workers Party.

I have always thought of myself as a socialist, but my various fragmentary ideas never seem to point in one direction sufficiently for me to commit myself positively.

Now the book has come like a new wonderdrug and sorted out the muddle! It is a compulsively readable, clear, persuasive and surprisingly comprehensive little book.

□ JOHN KINGSTON, London SE2.

I AM a socialist, a trade unionist, and a firm believer in women's rights. I have followed the anti-abortion laws campaign with interest.

I am also aware of the physical, mental and financial burdens that an unwanted pregnancy can force on a woman. I am aware that it is not possible for women to be released from their oppressed role while forever subject to the problem of unwanted pregnancy.

Throughout all our arguments for and against abortion, I wonder if we all forget the most helpless citizens of our society, the conceived human beings. As socialists, should we be thinking of their rights as well?

□ STEVEN RACE, Southampton.

AS A regular reader, I commend the paper on its high journalistic standard. Of the papers on the left, Socialist Worker leads the field.

In the Where We Stand column, SW gives full support to women's rights. This has more than been proved by the full support SW gave during the Trico equal pay dispute last year.

SW also states: 'We are against all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.' Can we have more support for gay rights and how about some articles on gay oppression? □ EH, Newport, Gwent.

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.

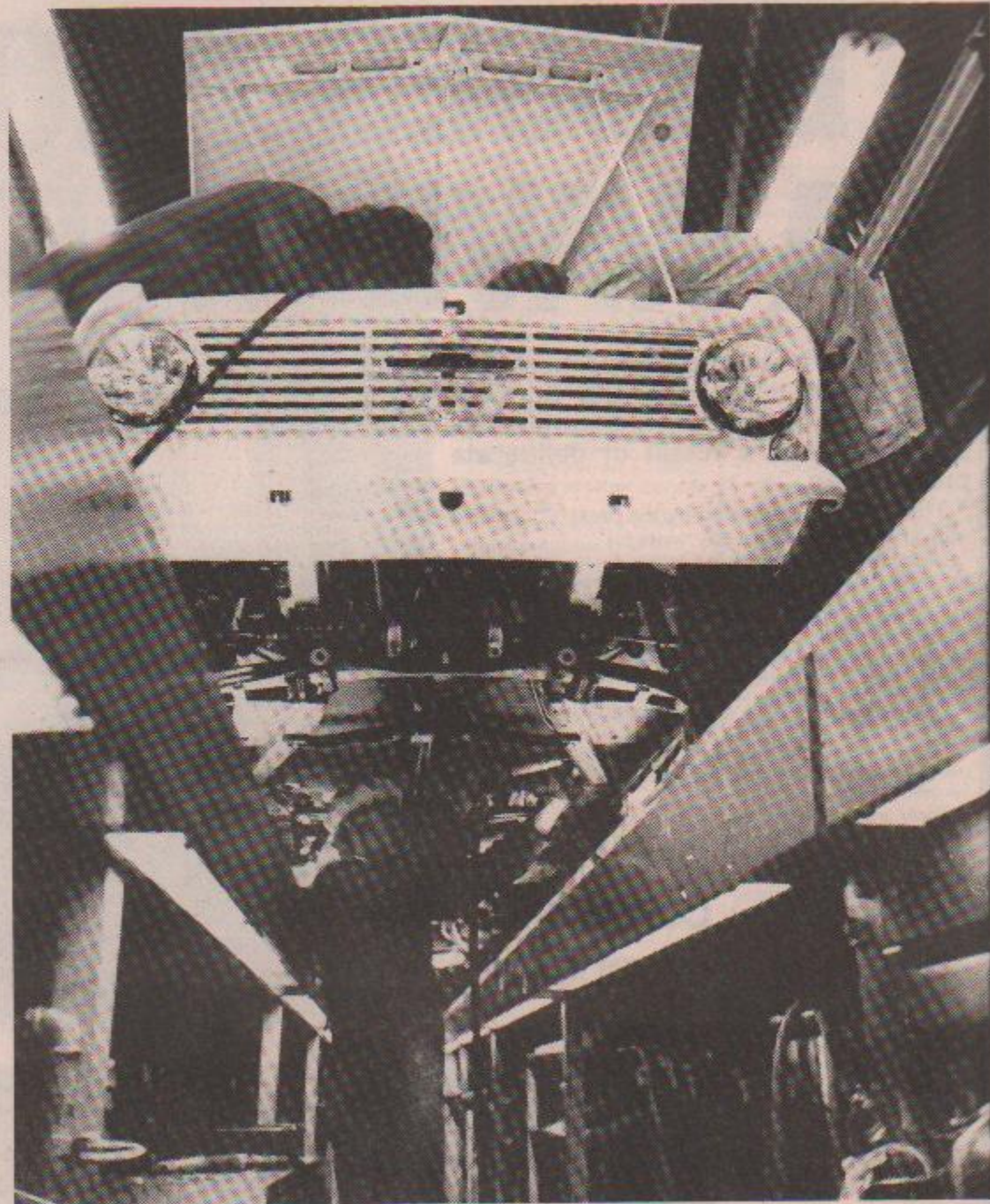
Enclosed, one booze-up!

I WAS sorry to read of the fines imposed on Socialist Worker, and being a staunch supporter of the SWP I decided that instead of going out for my usual Saturday night booze-up I'd sfay in and give the £2 or so to your fund. If all the people in my position did this—and not just once—the SWP would go from strength to strength in no time.

□ SW reader, Norwich.

THE ASSEMBLY LINE: It's a chain. It's a miracle of technology, a victory of human intelligence. It's a maker of profits. But it is an ordinary iron chain. It chains together 25,000 convicts.

Chained together: The convicts we call car workers



IT HAS been said that the stampings plant here at Chrysler Linwood is one of the not-so-bad areas within the factory.

If so, then someone forgot to tell the new employee who arrived in the plant some while back. On his first day after being shown his job, which consisted of removing car body panels from the press, he asked the foreman how long he would be on it.

Speed

When told that he would be there for the whole shift, he simply said 'Aye. That'll be right'. Then he picked up his coat, walked out and never returned.

Why? Was he a doper, an obvious scrounger, someone who didn't want to work?

The speed he would be required to work at, the ear-splitting and ear-damaging noise of the hydraulic presses and the other noticeable hazards of the job couldn't have had anything to do

CHRYSLER LINWOOD WORKER JIMMY BURKE TAKES A LOOK AT A BOOK EVERY SOCIALIST SHOULD READ

with it. Perhaps this man might even have read Working for Ford or heard of an earlier indictment of the car industry—Life of the Automobile* by Ilya Ehrenburg, written in 1929.

Until he came and saw for himself, he would have disbelieved the author's disclosure that an accident report covering just one month showed that the presses at Andre Citroen's St Ouen stamping plant claimed 33 human fingers.

(I have taken the liberty of counting a chopped off hand as five fingers.)

Admittedly since the hey-day of Andre Citroen and the inception of assembly line production, certain improvements in working conditions have been achieved, though only when the working class showed some kind of fight.

However, even in 1977, stamping plants still have problems. The stop watch still dictates the work speed. The

excessive noise is as offensive and damaging as ever. And danger is never far away from the unwary.

In fact, just how near this last hazard is can be shown by some recent remarks of supervision here at Linwood!

'For Christ's sake, Jimmy. This is a press shop. Getting cut is part of the job.'

And he didn't have shares in Chrysler or Elastoplast!

Another time we noticed that the bolts screwing the die to the press had slackened off. The remark was: 'I wish you shop stewards would spend less time looking for faults.'

Injuries

Needless to say, this is to be expected from people whose only purpose is the attainment of more production. Does it matter if a lost bolt injures a worker? Not to them.

From the 'not-so-bad' area let's

move on to the 'not-so-good' area in the factory—the car assembly, the brainwave of one Henry Ford.

To describe the plight of the track worker it should be sufficient just to read these words from Ilya Ehrenburg, attacking Ford's invention:

'It's an iron belt. It's not even a belt. It's a chain. It's a miracle of technology, a victory of human intelligence. It's a maker of profits. But it is an ordinary iron chain. It chains together 25,000 convicts.'

It's interesting to note that the author of this book believes that Citroen, Ford and the rest are also shackled to the same chain. Because their lives are solely geared to attain more and more wealth and the power it brings, they are also convicts.

Shame

To get confirmation for Ehrenburg one has only to look at the arch-capitalist Howard Hughes. He had the means to escape. But because of his inability to abate an obscene lust for more and more, he died on the chain.

The shame is that these people only need a small percentage of their vast wealth. Yet they live in fear that you and I who produce it might get a fair share of it.

Because my job is throwing car body panels through presses, I

sometimes forget that a car must have tyres and that these are made from rubber. Where does the rubber come from? Surely from Dunlop, Goodyear or the Michelin Man.

Police

Not according to Ehrenburg, it doesn't. It comes from the ruthless exploitation of coolie workers in Penang, Malaya.

There, in stinking, steaming hot plantations the coolies sweat their guts out, planting, pruning and watching rubber trees. Their reward? Enough to sustain them until clocking-on time next morning.

Having been brought to the plantations by the police and the agents of the British capitalist, the good news to the coolie was a few fingers chopped off. The bad news was that some smart bugger might come along and sew them back on again.

So much for the Michelin Man. Anyway, next time I turn on the telly and hear the umpire call for new balls, I'll be asking myself who they belonged to.

Later in his book the author shows again his deep regard and concern for the workers—or rather, slaves—in the emergent

countries. He describes the ruthless exploitation of the blacks in the diamond mines. Diamonds, the Las Vegas of Rubber.

As workers, we can afford to buy a tennis ball or even a tyre. But can we afford to buy a diamond? Do we want diamonds? Do we need diamonds?

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, provided you are not a girl who is married to the poor bugger who hauls them from the bowels of the earth.

Ehrenburg defines diamonds as the bold of the tormented and the delirium of the stock exchange. The diamond is turned into a trinket for the rich and then copied in glass.

The glass adorns the neck or the finger and the diamond lies in some vault or safe deposit box. Insanity? Yes capitalist insanity.

In the year 1800, the patentee of the internal combustion engine was convinced that his invention was the answer that would solve all the problems of the French peasant. And why not? Let a machine do all the work and we can all relax!

However, his socialist friend had foreseen that under a profit-making system that same invention would, by creating envy and competitiveness, eventually lead to a profound increase in the exploitation and oppression of working people.

Some time ago the Socialist Worker invited readers to submit articles telling the story of how or why they became socialists. Some of the replies published attached importance to books, particularly the Ragged Trousered Philanthropists.

This book, Life of the Automobile, comes into that category. Though not as simply written as Tressell's book, the author's anger at, and hatred of, the capitalist system is on every page.

Nothing has escaped his bitter pen. And what he wrote in 1929 is still valid today.

* Life of the Automobile, by Ilya Ehrenburg, is available through the Bookmarks Club (see page 11).



Womens VOICE

No. 3

Articles on Equal pay, NUPE, Soweto, rape, abortion and childbirth. Interview with Carol Grimes.

Price 10p. Available from: Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Orders for SWP branches will be sent out by rail this Friday 11 March. London branches to collect early Friday evening.

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, JIMMY, THIS IS A PRESS SHOP. GETTING CUT IS PART OF THE JOB. . .

SCOTLAND

BOSSSES PROVOKE A WAVE OF STRIKES

A WAVE of attacks on workers has been set in motion by the Scottish employers. A series of disputes has broken out as a result of deliberate provocation.

These are either ignored by the press—or turned into abuse against 'greedy workers'.

The most notorious case is at Chrysler, Linwood—but there the management have come a cropper. On Tuesday they agreed to pay strikers in the K block the money they were demanding.

And they withdrew their demand that TGWU members accept a four point plan which would have severely restricted the right to strike.

After every TGWU member was either laid off or on strike and TGWU shop stewards had threatened to call a mass meeting to discuss further action, the Chrysler management caved in.

The strike was clearly provoked. Dave Sneddon, a Transport and General Workers Union shop steward in the K block, told Socialist Worker:

'There are four men on a hoist job at the end of the track. For a long time they, and the stewards, have been saying that the job is too much for them. They were under heavy pressure from cars coming down the line which had to be sent back.

'Eventually, they stopped work and we went into management and asked for two more men to be put on the job. Management asked for an adjournment—and kept us waiting for an hour and a half.

'When they came back, they agreed that two more men would be put on the track.

'But just as we got up to go, they announced that they were docking the four men's pay for the hour and a half which they—the bosses—had taken to decide that the men were right!

But they come a cropper at Chrysler

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



The picket line at Anderson Strathclyde last week.

Decide

'This had never happened before—and of course we told them they were mad: they were causing a strike. But they stood firm—and the whole block stopped work.'

The stewards in the factory demanded a full-scale union inquiry into management incompetence at Linwood. As Rab Read, an AUEW press shop steward, put it: 'They are much better at manufacturing strikes than they are at manufacturing cars.'

'In the eight years I've been at Linwood I've never seen so



Shop stewards from Chrysler Linwood interviewed by Socialist Worker last week

many cars on stock waiting for rectification.'

Jimmy Burke, another press shop steward, says: 'Since last January, this lot have had 55 different plans for production, many of them completely different from the last, and each entirely useless. The factory is chaos.'

This is the background to the so-called 'Crazy K' dispute. The management have agreed to an inquiry, but the K block workers still refuse to go back until the two men are paid the £8 owing to them.

On the day the strike started, a letter was sent to all workers defending the bosses' record. The postage charge was £486.

OCCUPATION BID TO SAVE GARAGE

THIRTY members of the Glasgow Right to Work Campaign occupied the headquarters and boardroom of the Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive in the centre of the city last week. The occupation was supported by the Partick Garage Action Committee and bus workers from other garages in the city.

Johnny Miller, from the Right to Work Campaign, told Socialist Worker: 'We planned the whole thing in conjunction with the garage action committee. The bus workers have been campaigning for months against the closure of Partick Garage, planned for April.'

Last year Bridgeton Bus Garage was closed, services were cut and fares went up. Now they want to close another garage, cut back the

services by another five per cent and put the fares up another 10p in the pound. While the boardroom was occupied, shop stewards from Partick Garage and other trade unionists leafleted

Messages and donations to Partick Garage Action Committee, Hayburn Street, Partick, Glasgow.

Andersons: Strike they seem to want

FOUR HUNDRED workers at Anderson Strathclyde, in Bridgeton, Glasgow, are on strike. For weeks management have been provoking small disputes.

John Kay, General and Municipal Workers Union convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'The other day they suspended a guy for two days for carrying a cup round the factory. They didn't say what was in the cup or anything. Just for carrying a cup!'

A few days later, the bosses installed a new, faster welding system known as CO2. Kenny Gormal, AUEW convenor, explained: 'They didn't even agree to discuss new payments with us—not even notional new payments to be paid after the wage restraint is over.'

'They intended simply to bring in the new scheme at the old rates of pay. Naturally, we had to resist it. We voted for a strike.'

'Ever since then, management seemed to bend over backwards to keep the dispute going. A fortnight ago—after two weeks on strike—we went in there with five full-time officials, all wanting to do a deal.'

'Every time an official

suggested a deal, the bosses extended the problem. The talks broke down and we are still on strike.'

'The lads have been great. There have been unanimous votes for the strike. They know that if we give way on this one, we might as well not have a trade union in the place.'

Donations and messages of support to: Gordon Clarke, 55 Dalwhinnie Avenue, Blantyre, G72 9NQ.

SIMILAR disputes have been provoked at AYR STAMPINGS, where new machinery has been installed without consultation, and the workers are on strike—and at BRITISH STEEL, Ravenscraig, where two electricians refused to climb scaffolding which has been declared unsafe, and were sacked. All the electricians walked out.

All these disputes show a new militancy by employers who want to get new techniques and new disciplines rushed through before the 'next round' of the Social Contract—just in case there isn't a 'next round'.

Stewards collapse—but Nigg workers fight on

by ALBERT FRASER (Boilermakers Union)

NIGG BAY: The strike by 1800 workers at Nigg Bay oil rig construction yard continues over management's cutting the agreed bonus by about 75 per cent.

After pressure from management, the multinational oil company Chevron, and officials of the AUEW, Boilermakers and EETPU, the shop stewards' commitment to win collapsed last Wednesday.

Jimmy Kelly, senior Boilermakers shop steward, said in an interview for BBC radio that the strike was being run by a militant minority, opposed to the shop stewards' position. He thought management should sack the labour force and take back only those prepared to work.

Return

At a meeting last Thursday the shop stewards recommended a return to work but militants who had been picketing opposed this on the grounds that the meeting was unconstitutional. The travelling men and many of the local men didn't know the meeting was taking place.

A further meeting was arranged for Tuesday morning, when the shop stewards again recommended a return to work, but despite all the odds the recommendation was thrown out by a clear majority of three to one.

The shop stewards have now been clearly instructed by the workers to stay out until the demand for the full bonus as negotiated has been met.

Contributions to the strike fund and messages of support to: Rab Wilson, (convenor), 135 Coul Park, Ainess, Ross-shire.

Press stops

OXFORD: Members of the white-collar union ASTMS at Oxford University Press held a one-day strike in support of their claim for a 35-hour week without loss of pay.

The stoppage backed up their work to rule and overtime ban, started last month, and was the first strike at OUP in 499 years. Some non-union members joined the action.

TASS strike

HALESOWEN, West Midlands: Nine TASS members are still on strike at Precision Presswork for a backdated rise which would give them parity with other workers in the area.

Messages of support and donations to: R Tyrrell, 43 Broadway Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands.

Students on the road to socialism...

'WE HAVE to fight not only as the people calling for action in the colleges but also on the ideological front to bring tens of thousands of students to revolutionary socialism.' This was the call from Chris Harman, who addressed the conference of the National Organisation of International Socialist Student Societies in Manchester last weekend on behalf of the SWP central committee.

Earlier the 200 delegates and observers had discussed the wave of occupations and how best to run them. Most people talked about the massive support the actions had received—and many thought there was a good chance of reoccupation next

term. Sheffield Poly delegates described how they were occupying their local education authority offices and suggested this as a tactic to continue the campaign, and as a way of involving local

technical colleges. Everyone condemned the role of the NUS executive in not spreading and linking up the occupations. It was also agreed that all students had to try to resist court injunctions. The conference, and the

growth of NOISS, are further indications of the growing vacuum between the Tories and the revolutionary left among students—and of the need for students to organise politically to win students to socialist ideas.

IN THE HOUSE OF JIMMY GOLDSMITH

IF YOU want to know what sort of a firm is run by Jimmy Goldsmith, millionaire boss of Cavenham Foods, listen to what happened at Cavenham subsidiary Allied Suppliers, a huge food warehouse outside Paisley in Scotland. On 5 January the 132 workers in the warehouse were

ordered to do stock-taking. On the advice of the convenor, they refused. By order of the management, they were all sacked.

Since then 50 men have been reinstated, 82 others, all with long service, including the convenor, are still sacked.

They are all members of the Transport and General Workers Union. They have been promised by Raymond Macdonald, TGWU Scottish secretary, that the union would 'act' in the event of victimisation. But the union and Macdonald have 'acted' by doing nothing at all.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Name
 Address
 Trade union

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary,
 Socialist Workers Party, 6 Clifton
 Gardens, London E2 6BN

Court action threat by Trust Houses

TRUST House Forte, the hotel and catering giants who refuse to recognise trade union organisation, are threatening to sue the Glasgow Right to Work Campaign over a leaflet produced to support hotel strikers.

Strikes are still going on at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Sheffield, the Randolph Hotel in Oxford and at THF's Night Out Club in Birmingham.

The Birmingham management have offered recognition without a written agreement.

Said one of the pickets: 'We're not going back for less than what we came out for—union recognition and the full reinstatement of Pat McGuire, our shop steward who was sacked.'

A mass picket will be held at Night Out, in Bristol Street, this Saturday (19 March) at 7.15pm.

The THF workers, plus others from the Linton Lodge Hotel in Oxford, also on strike for TGWU recognition, met in

Birmingham last weekend and have called a mass picket of the TGWU head office at Transport House, Smith Square, London, on Wednesday 23 March at 12 noon.

This is their reaction to the executive's refusal to introduce national blacking of THF, and the shocking treatment they have received from the union's bureaucracy.

□ □

DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO:

□ Linton Lodge Strike Committee, 127 Botley Road, Oxford.

□ Night Out strikers Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.

□ Randolph Hotel Strike Committee, 41 Bridge Street, Oxford.

□ Grosvenor House Hotel strike committee, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.



□ □

Workers at the Shanley's site in Bedford voting unanimously to strike in support of workers sacked for claiming £2.50 an hour.

Brian Higgins, a member of the building workers' union UCATT, told Socialist Worker: 'The brickies and hoddies have taken a unanimous decision to demand £2.50 an hour in order to protect living standards. Because of bad management it has been impossible to earn a decent wage on the present payments.'

The demand for £2.50 is spreading to other groups on the site.

The employers were quite prepared to offer £2.50 to get scabs across the rank and file picket line in Welwyn Garden City. If they can afford to pay it to scabs they can afford to pay it to us,' said Brian Higgins.

Shop floor support for TASS strikers

HUDDERSFIELD: Office workers at Hopkinsons, members of the white-collar engineers union, TASS, have been on strike for five months now.

Originally for the £6-a-week pay claim, the crucial demand now is the reinstatement of six men sacked during the dispute. Everyone now knows that this is an attempt by a union-bashing firm to break effective union organisation in the factory.

Interesting help for the office workers has come from the West Yorkshire police. When a gang of about 100 men were employed by a manager to intimidate the pickets at midnight one night, four police squad cars arrived in good time to frighten them off.

Isolation from the shop floor has been the office workers' biggest weakness. 250 foundry workers have now been laid off because of the dispute.

But there are signs that the strikers are beginning to win support.

One supporter in a machine shop, Joe Vanyuczak, refused to handle a job which had been blacked by TASS. He was laid off and 25 workers have come out in his support.

Some delivery drivers have refused to accept the contemptible advice of local TGWU officials to cross the picket lines, and good support has come from office and manual workers in other local factories, such as Holstons Engineering, who have refused to handle blacked work.

□ Money is still urgently needed. Please keep sending it and messages of support to: Bill Sales, AUEW/TASS Divisional Office, Vassalli House Room 1, 20 Central Road, Leeds.

VICTORY AT MASSEYS!

COVENTRY: After 12 weeks we've won complete and total victory at Massey Ferguson. Management have been forced to recognise our agreement and pay us for the Christmas holiday.

Our victory is extremely important in Coventry. It will make other employers think twice about imposing discipline the way ours tried to do.

We also now have the basic machinery—our stewards conference—to ensure future

and voted on by all assembly shop workers. The bulletin was intended not only at the strikers but their wives and families, so we couldn't be isolated by the press as they had tried with an 'angry wife campaign' at Cowley and Chrysler.

The work of rank and file trade unionists achieved not only national but international support. We've shown that a multi-national company can be beaten—and we've learned that a combine organisation is absolutely necessary to do this.

Still our fight was only defensive. Now we, like others, have to take up the fight for gains. That above all is the fight against the Social Contract, which means ensuring attendance at the 26 March AUEW and TGWU Right to Work Conferences and by arguing with

workmates for delegates to be sent to the 3 April Leyland Combine Conference—and, of course, All out 19 April!

workmates for delegates to be sent to the 3 April Leyland Combine Conference—and, of course, All out 19 April!

Pay demand

TOOLROOM workers at Massey Ferguson, Manchester, struck for one day on Monday in support of an improvement in their pay.

Before they went on strike they held a collection around all 60 members and raised enough money to put an advertisement in the Manchester Evening News. The advert explained why they were taking strike action and offered 'moral and financial support to the Leyland Toolmakers.'

solidarity action whenever it is needed.

The way our strike was won is also important. The tremendous solidarity was achieved by the work of a strike committee which included most active trade unionists in the shop—not just the stewards.

And through weekly bulletins and regular mass meetings everything was explained, argued and voted on by all assembly shop workers.

And through weekly bulletins and regular mass meetings everything was explained, argued

Pit sparks refuse 'under table' deal

YORKSHIRE: Electricians at Dinnington Colliery are in the second week of their strike to increase pay by 25p an hour.

Three times the pro-employer Joint Industrial Board (JIB) has thrown out the claim. They say the work at the National Coal Board is not heavy industrial and isn't applicable for the payment.

This was totally rejected by the shop.

Also on the same site fellow members of our union employed by Johnson Pipe Works were receiving £2.48 an hour. We could not accept that there should be a differential of £1.38 between two members of the same union, as we are paid only £1.10 an hour.

EETPU officials negotiated a site agreement of 35p an hour increase and received an assurance from the management that they would apply to the JIB for a dispensation order.

But the pay packets later revealed that the payment being made was not 35p on the rate but a bonus for unworked hours.

Now we are out of the gate and feel isolated by the attitude of our union. Fortunately within the first week of the strike we have had offers of support from all parts of the country and all sections of our trade.

By not accepting an under-the-table agreement and making a stand against the devious tactics of JIB wage policies we can make a breakthrough for all EETPU members.

We have already received backing from the Sheffield Central and No 2 EETPU branches, who are calling on the executive to make the strike official. Other branches should follow suit.

□ Contributions and messages of support to: HENDON: Phil Baron, 36 Clive Lodge, Hendon Way, London NW4. SIDCUP: Schweppe's Strikers, 39 Belmont Road, Erih, Kent.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

PICKETS outside the occupied Kelvinators factory on Merseyside. More than 500 Engineering Union members have taken over the factory and refuse to let the management in.

The workers are demanding payment of two days wages and withdrawal of two written warnings issued to a paintshop worker who refused to do another worker's job.

Blitz by Cubitts

LONDON: Cubitt's are trying to blitz the Shelgrove site with labour.

We are not against extra labour, but we are against management taking on builders for five weeks and then forcing them on the dole again.

Since Christmas the men have forced management to take on 30 extra builders by reducing working hours to 40. And they are now demanding an extra £12 severance pay as there is no chance of these strong union men being transferred to another site when the job finishes.

Painters out

WEST LONDON: Five painters, members of the building workers union, UCATT, are on their seventh week of strike at the Sindalls site, Acton.

The strike started when Sindalls, a vicious anti-union firm, sacked three of the painters who had been trying to organise the site.

□ Messages of support and donations to: John Hurrigan, 157 Horn Lane, London, W3.

RACIST VICTIM JAILED

SOUTHAMPTON: Workers at Tatchbury Mount mental hospital are mounting a campaign to free charge nurse Gooroodooth Singh Guddy, who has been jailed for three years for alleged cruelty to patients.

The other staff at the hospital are convinced he is innocent and that he is a victim of racial prejudice.

They have held a one-day strike and are boycotting the

area health authority inquiry. They have set up their own committee.

Rank and file Hospital Worker leaflets have been distributed and hundreds of signatures collected on a petition.

Recently it came to light that a member of the jury at Guddy's trial has approached her MP to complain that the trial was biased against Guddy.

The REAL education debate

THE Labour government's education debate is on the road. So far two so-called regional conferences have been held to discuss the 'great educational issue of our time.'

A whole succession of head teachers, professors of education and industrialists have been debating the future of our kids' education. There is no truth in the rumour that a classroom teacher has been invited to the next conference. The arguments about

education are becoming more and more widespread. Socialists must argue that a system which produces for profit and not need is incapable of treating every child as an individual.

Bosses

When the bosses talk about 'falling standards', they mean that there are not enough well-behaved, docile, disciplined kids coming out of the

schools. Some have ideas above their station, such as striking and questioning authority.

On the day the great debate comes to London, Rank and File, the teachers' organisations in NUT and NATFHE, are staging the real debate. Come and take part.

□ THE REAL EDUCATION DEBATE Friday 25 March, 6.30pm, Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock Place, London WC1.

Socialist Worker

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

- £7 for one year
 - £3.50 for six months
 - £1.75 for three months
- (Please tick) to pay subscriptions and postage, so start sending them to:

NAME

ADDRESS

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

Subscribe!

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Why are these men smiling?



Because this picket has just been beaten up

VIOLENCE came to a picket line on Tuesday.

But it wasn't the sort you're likely to see denounced in the press.

This was 'respectable' violence, the violence of the bosses.

Picket Kanti Patel, 22, was alone outside Grunwick's in North West London when the fearless four above struck.

He was dragged inside the factory—where workers have been on strike for nearly seven months—and beaten up. Managing director

WHEN ARE THE UNIONS GOING TO STAND UP TO THIS?

give the company two weeks to comply with the report. If not, APEX will take the issue to the TUC General Council next Wednesday. The company and the NAFF are obviously getting

George Ward (above left) did the dirty work. Admiring his 'courage' from the safety of the iron fence are personnel manager John Stacey and directors Malcolm Olden and Ken Pearson.

These 'freedom fighters', remember, are backed by the right-wing National Association for Freedom. Enough said...

rattled and are using the law to intimidate the strikers.

If, as has happened in recent disputes, the Labour movement shy away from confrontation over the law courts, the Grunwick strikers will receive platitudes from the TUC but no action.

Local trade unionists are concerned by the reluctance of the official movement to act over the strike. All trade union members are asked to pressurise the leadership for the whole movement to act now.

'Defend Deason' call by officials

THREE leading members of the Engineering Union are calling for a mass picket and demonstration outside the trial of Right to Work marcher John Deason, who is also in the AUEW.

John Tocher, Manchester Divisional Organiser, Laurie Smith, AUEW National Organiser, and Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary, have issued a letter which is being sent to

trade union organisations throughout the country.

John Deason is one of 43 unemployed workers arrested on the Manchester to London Right to Work march last Spring. Police at West Hendon made four baton charges into the march.

Prison

One marcher, Mike Lynch, is in Pentonville Prison, following trial. He is due to be released this Friday at 7 am. Others have had suspended prison sentences or are paying heavy fines.

But all the most serious

charges have been reserved for the secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, John Deason.

They include causing grievous bodily harm, with intent.

The letter from John Tocher, Ernie Roberts and Laurie Smith says: 'this trial is not just another police assault case, but bears all the hallmarks of another Shrewsbury-type set-up.'

The letter appeals for the maximum possible demonstration outside the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May, the day after the trial begins. Picket begins 9.30 am.

Bring banners.

GREET MIKE LYNCH

Pentonville Prison, Caledo-

nian Road, London Friday 18 March, 7 am. Fund-raising Social in the evening, 8 pm, Highbury Roundhouse, Ronalds Rd., London N.5.

NALGO SCABS TRY IT ON AGAIN

THE NALGO members who last week got an injunction to stop a one-day strike in Scotland have struck again.

This time they are planning to apply for an

injunction to stop an overtime ban against the cuts.

The ban, decided on by NALGO's special conference, is due to start on 1 April.

ALL OUT IN THE DOCKS!

By Eddie Prevost
TGWU shop steward,
Royal Docks

DOCKERS in London's Royal Group have voted overwhelmingly to join next Monday's one-day unofficial dock strike.

Stronger

Closure would mean 150 registered dockers losing their jobs.

Up to a further 1600 jobs will also be axed if they are allowed to get away with it.

West India Dock and Tilbury are due to hold meetings this week and a recommendation to support will be put by their shop stewards.

It's as if Tory Party Central Office plotted the closure of Preston Docks.

They are jubilant at their success over the dismemberment of the Dockwork Regulation Bill in the Lords and Commons.

The Tories now want to use the Preston closure as a Trojan horse to make way for a future Tory government to wrap up and deliver on a plate our registration scheme (which means job protection) once and for all.

Again

Dockers are not so naive as to believe that Preston is an isolated case. We will respond to this kind of attack in our usual manner.

If it's a fight they are looking for, we will be happy to oblige. Any doubts on that score, ask Ted Heath.

The TGWU General Secretary, Emperor Jack Jones, and Docks Secretary Tom Cronin meekly accepted the debacle over the Dockwork Regulation Bill and now intend to stand by while a registered port is attacked.

Not only have they refused to act in support of Preston but when the National Port Shop Stewards Committee took up the cudgels Cronin was busy visiting the ports backstabbing the Committee and the Preston lads.

Manner

Despite the efforts to kill off the Preston issue, the National Port Shop Stewards' Committee is healthy and stronger than ever.

The officials are running scared, for the rank and file, led by the Shop Stewards, have tumbled that their only concern is to keep in office a right-wing Labour government carrying out Tory policies.

What a spectacle. The bosses must be laughing all the way to the bank.

That's why the rank and file have to rely on their own strength, and their own organisation, to defeat threats like the attack on Preston.

Emergency resolutions and telegrams should be sent to the NALGO executive urging them not to give in to the right wing and their courtroom allies for a second time.

PICTURES: Andrew Ward

PICTURES: Andrew Ward (Report)