

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



**Demonstrate this Saturday, 18 June, anniversary of the Soweto uprising**  
Assemble 1pm, Speakers Corner, London W1

□ ALL SWP members in London and the Home Counties to support and all members of NOISS. **DON'T MOURN, MOBILISE!**  
—turn to centre pages

# THE STRIKE BREAKERS

by John Rose

**AN ORGY of strike-breaking. That's the only way to describe the incredible police assault on the mass picket outside Grunwicks in North West London on Monday morning.**

For ten months now the workers at this factory have been fighting to form a union.

The police cleared space for scabs and scab deliveries only by making wave upon wave of arrests, mounting to almost a hundred.

At one moment Chief Inspector Hay was heard to complain that his men were 'not arresting the right people—they should get strikers.'

So they did. Into the police van went Mahmood Ahmed, secretary of the strike committee. Len Gristey, a London regional officer of the white-collar workers' union APEX, told what happened.

## Punched

'They grabbed Mahmood and kicked and punched him hard. They'd obviously wanted him especially. They took him round the side of the police coaches to boot him in.'

Mrs Jayanben Desai, treasurer of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker the following day: 'Mahmood was hurt so badly that he could not come back to the picket line.'

The police developed a new speciality—dragging women pickets off by the hair.

'They dragged me by mine all the way to the police bus,' said Bernadette Dunne, a railway worker. 'The police inspector told me he'd arrest me if he saw me again on the picket line.'

Roy Grantham, general secretary of APEX, was so startled at the police behaviour that he told every pressman in sight he'd seen the police kicking people on



the ground. He rushed to Wembley police station and offered free legal representation for all those arrested.

News of the arrests spread through London's factories. Shop stewards' meetings, and in some cases mass meetings, pledged to send large delegations for the rest of the week.

**In one magnificent gesture of solidarity, 60 building workers in Camden stopped work for half a day in protest at the arrests.**

After the arrests Grunwicks closed the

main gates for the rest of Monday. A huge white sheet hung across the gates, presumably to stop pickets catching sight of scabs fleeing across the factory yard and abusing them.

Grunwick's management are shaken. Managing director George Ward told the Daily Telegraph: 'We are totally horrified at today's developments. The unions seem to have surrounded us by a ring of steel.'

'We are continuing production but it is not easy. Frankly we are a bit frightened.'

But Ward still has the police on his side. In fact the links go deeper than that, as

Socialist Worker exposed a few weeks ago.

Chief Inspector Johnson, who for 30 weeks directed police activities around Grunwicks from Willesden Police Station, now works on Ward's security staff!

On Tuesday morning many of the scabs went in by private bus. Police prised open the pickets on the back gate. Again there were arrests.

Later in the morning the police charged three white girls and Johnny Patel, from the strike committee, with assault. The use of this serious charge looks like a deliberately menacing escalation by the police.

LEFT: Police hold pickets back from the gates as a scab goes through. Said one picket: 'If you tried even to talk to the scabs, the police arrested you.'

BELOW: Railway worker Bernadette Dunne is arrested, a police inspector holding her by the hair.

Pictures: Andrew Ward (Report) and Phil McCowen



But the situation, after 44 long weeks, is now wide open. Sheer weight of numbers can close this scab factory for good, just as massive solidarity closed the Saltley coke depot near Birmingham in 1972, and helped win the miners' strike.

Let Mrs Desai have the last word. 'Brothers and sisters, we are nearly there. We need you in ever increasing numbers now, every single day. We can beat Ward and all his company policemen. Come now and join us for the final heave.'

## This must be another Saltley

Socialist Worker is calling for maximum support at the picket from all our readers at 7am prompt on Friday (17 June. Bring your workmates and close this scab factory. □ SWP London branches and districts should organise coaches.

# Acquitted!

## JURY KICKS OUT CASE AGAINST ANTI-FASCISTS

AN OLD BAILEY jury stopped the trial of East London socialists Roger Burridge and Michael Fenn even before the judge's summing up on Tuesday afternoon.

For 14 months Michael, a Royal Docks shop steward, and Roger, a barrister at Newham Rights Centre, have had possible prison sentences hanging over them. They were charged with causing grievous bodily harm to two National Front members after the NF members had attacked them outside the Rights Centre.

This was after the fascists were asked to remove the racist stickers they had been seen putting on the Centre window.

But the evidence of the two NF members, John Wells and Terry Mead, who has since left the Front, was so unconvincing that even the prosecution counsel asked the jury to disregard it.

John Wells, who is trained in unarmed combat and jungle warfare, made his racist views clear on the first day of the trial and told a number of versions of the so-called 'attack' on him.

### Threat

He told a doctor who examined him: 'One of the men who did this was a lawyer, I'm going to get him.'

After the trial Michael and Roger went straight off to the Grunwicks picket line.



Faith Foster, mother of one of the Lewisham 23, among pickets at the court last week.

# Police leave racist muggers loose to attack again

by YANA MINTOFF

ABOUT 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, Dula Miah, a young Asian living in Stepney, East London, with his wife and child, was attacked for the second time in six weeks.

Four racists who set on him with a broken umbrella fractured his skull and damaged his lung. Last time the same thugs had cut his head open.

Last time, Dula told the police that he could identify the men who attacked him and he thought they worked in the local tannery.

Four days later, the police at Arbour Square had still not gone with Dula to the tanning factory.

Dula got a solicitor and eventually the police were forced to take out a charge of actual bodily harm against one of the racists. They did no more than that.

There was no summons served for five weeks, and the case may well have been dropped, like so many others against racist attackers, if the attackers had not been so cocky and attacked Dula again in broad daylight.

This is yet another case in our area of a brutal assault against an Asian being ignored, even condoned, by the local police.

The Bangladesh High Commission have asked the Home Office to have an internal inquiry into the racist actions of the police in the East End. Of course they have agreed. The inquiry is no threat to them since they will be controlling it.

## Makarios: £10 tickets for some, jail for others

THE Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference in London has been marked by one particularly nauseating event. Giant posters all over London invited the Greek Cypriot community to attend the first performances of the new drama of their island's history, titled Makarios—The Long March.

For the privilege of attending the premiere with President Makarios in attendance, tickets came at £10 a time. Makarios came to watch himself leading the Greek Cypriot nation to independence, proceeds to the 'national fund'.

Less than a mile from the Rainbow Theatre showing, Cypriots are still in prison. Pentonville Jail has been a deportation centre for refugees of the 1974 war in Cyprus—those who lost their homes and fled to Britain in desperation.

In line with its racist immigration policies, the Home Office has begun deporting both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. After all, they claim, as Makarios has now almost 'settled' the Cyprus problem these refugees can return to their homes.

### Campaign

On Sunday Makarios conducted mass at the Orthodox church in North London. He was greeted by thousands of Greek Cypriots, but also by supporters of the Cypriot Defence Campaign, who distributed an open letter to Makarios.

The Campaign asked: 'What are you going to do about the deportations? Go to see the British Prime Minister now. Tell him to stop these racist attacks against our community.'

'Are you going to do it? Or are you more interested in completing the division of our island. IF YOU DO NOTHING THEN WE MUST FIGHT.'

### WITHOUT COMMENT

□ House/building in the first three months of this year was down by a quarter on the same time last year. The Department of Environment gave a familiar explanation: the rain.

□ A £7000 police station is being built in the grounds of Princess Anne's new home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire. A senior officer will man the station round the clock.

□ The chief licensee at Ascot estimates that 11,000 bottles of champagne will be bought during four days of racing. Cost of each bottle: £10.

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
First-ever picture of the crumbs from the rich man's table

## ...AND THE CRUMBS WHO DROPPED THEM



Leftover beef from the Jubilee Banquet — tomorrow's lunch for the staff



Socialist Worker photographer Phil McCowen found his way into the kitchens of the Guildhall last week while 400 guests were belching away the remains of the Lord Mayor's Jubilee Banquet. He discovered piles of smoked salmon and vats of steaks and ribs of beef which had been too much for the

jaded stomachs of the patriotic guzzlers who included Lord Home, (right) and Maggie Thatcher (left).

The food, Phil was told, 'would be recycled and served up tomorrow for the Trust Houses Forte staff dinner'. THF, it appears, were the contracting firm for the banquet.

## LEWISHAM 23: COURT BID TO DISRUPT CAMPAIGN

CAMBERWELL magistrates court in South East London was fiercely picketed last Thursday when 20 young men and one young woman arrested by police in dawn raids ten days previously, came up for remand. The 21 have been charged with 'conspiracy with persons unknown to rob persons unknown.'

The magistrate still refused bail to nine of the young men. The others are all on 'curfew': that is they are forced to stay indoors from seven at night till seven in the morning.

Inside the court, a barrister asked for an injunction against Flame, the Socialist Workers Party black workers' paper, and against Socialist Worker, to stop what he called 'harassment of the parents of the young people arrested.'

The injunction was refused. SWP members have written to the South London Press pointing out that they have helped the parents of the accused to come together and form a defence committee.

Two of the accused, and probably two others, have abandoned the lawyers who miraculously appeared in court on the day they were charged.

Meanwhile, the head of the Lewisham police, Commander Douglas Randall, has described a Flame leaflet as 'scurrilous'. The charges in the leaflet about the strippings and beatings of the young blacks after they were arrested have not been answered.

### March against racialism

Saturday 9 July in Manchester  
Called by the Trades Union Congress as a national demonstration. Leaves Strangeways Prison, 12 noon.  
□ All SWP North West branches and members to support with maximum turn-out

every morn  
**SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE:** Chapter Road, London NW10 (next to Dollis Hill tube station). 7am every morning this week,  
 continuing all day. **SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE:** Chapter Road, London NW10 (next to Dollis Hill tube station). 7am



RIGHT: Grunwicks, Monday. The police would allow only one striker to stand before the gate. She is Mrs Jayanben Desai, the strike committee treasurer. The police call this a 'peaceful picket avoiding intimidation.' But who is intimidating whom?

PICTURE: Phil McCowen

**SUPPORT THE GRUN**

**THE FACTS ABOUT THE STRIKE**

GRUNWICKS is a film processing company which operates by mail order. The public send in exposed film, Grunwicks develop them and send them back.

The only way Grunwicks could compete against the established firms in this business was to pay even lower wages, and to exploit immigrant labour.

Jayanben Desai, the popular secretary of the strike committee, worked for Grunwicks for three years answering letters and dispatching films.

For a 40-hour week she got £25, taking home £18. The first six hours of overtime were paid at basic rate, the next six at time and a quarter, the next six at time and a half.

The management were not only mean. They were racist bullies.

One woman worker who became pregnant was insulted and threatened with the sack almost every day. Talking between workers was banned. Visits to the toilet were strictly monitored.

On 23 August last year, the hated manager Alden swore once too often as he sacked a young student. Several workers simply got up and walked out of the factory. The Grunwicks strike for union recognition had begun.

# THE SWEATSHOP PROTECTION RACKET



**AT GRUNWICKS on Monday,** Roy Grantham, general secretary of the white-collar union APEX, went out of his way to express gratitude to those who had been arrested for supporting the pickets.

Nothing so strange about that, you might think. After all, it is Grantham's union that is under attack from the Grunwick's bosses.

Except that Grantham is one

of those trade union leaders who have made their names by implacable hatred of everything that smells of militancy.

But there is a problem for Roy Grantham. If his usual opinions were correct the Grunwicks strike should have been won at least eight months ago.

The strikers have the support of all sorts of respectable figures—of right-wing Labour ministers such as Shirley Williams, of the head of the TUC, Len Murray, of the official conciliation service ACAS—even the Daily Mirror gave them a favourable two-page write-up back in October.

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

government money is spent day after day in paying for 300 police who have all along helped Grunwicks get materials and scabs into the factory to break the strike.

When Labour MPs in the House of Commons asked about the behaviour of the police on Monday they were told that their questions were out of order, because the issue is 'sub judice', in the hands of the courts.

In other words, despite all the talk about 'parliamentary democracy', the police and the judges operate in the interests of the employers—and their actions cannot be challenged by those elected to parliament.

The only way to win is to step up the picketing. If every organised workplace in London sent just a couple of delegates to the picket line, the police and management

would face thousands of workers. But no effort has been made in this direction by the official trade union movement.

The strike can be won—but only if rank and file trade union activists work now to convince every worker who claims to believe in trade unionism to lend a hand in strengthening the picket line, in resisting the police attacks, and in ending the scabbing.



### REFUSED

Yet the owners of this miserable sweat-shop have refused to make any concessions. And the police and the judges have backed them to the hilt, despite the views of the elected government.

A High Court order forbade the postal workers union from using its industrial strength to help the strikers.

The government may support the strikers. But

### TO ALL NALGO MEMBERS

FIVE shop stewards committees, representing local government workers in NALGO in London, are making a special effort to support the Grunwicks picket this Thursday.

They are contacting other NALGO workers in London. They have appealed to all NALGO members in London to attend the picket on Thursday at 7am. The five committees are Southwark, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets, Camden and Lambeth.

### BEHIND

In September, TUC secretary Len Murray said he was 'right behind the strikers'.

In October, the local branch of the post office workers' union (UPW) blacked Grunwicks mail. The black was swiftly lifted by the UPW executive after Grunwicks, with the help of the ultra-right National Association for Freedom, had threatened court action.

After interminable delay, the government's conciliation service ACAS balloted all the workers and found most wanted trade union recognition. They advised the firm to concede it.

The firm replied with another court action—challenging the legality of the ballot!

This case has yet to be heard. Meanwhile, the Grunwicks strikers still stand on the picket line, while scabs keep the factory going.

## Right to Work marches again

BELOW is one of the many letters coming into the Right to Work Campaign from people who want to join this September's march in protest at unemployment and the Social Con-trick.

The march is from Liverpool to the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool leaving Liverpool on Saturday 3 September, arriving the following Wednesday.

I would like to go on your 1977 Right To Work March. I enclose a slip off one of your leaflets. I am very concerned about my future, and others', even though I still have a year left to do at school.

I am also concerned about

racism. I have too often heard from school mates that 'the blacks' cause unemployment and I have too often tried to explain that it's the bosses who cause it. But they just reject my views, saying I'm a commie.

**Alternative**

I believe that if the Right to Work Campaign are seen to be doing something and offering an alternative to the dole, racism and today's society, lots of young people of today would join us and leave their racial views behind them.

These are my reasons for wanting to go on the march. I have not got much money, but what money I've got I am

willing to spend to get to the march.

Keep up the good work. Michael Rumbold (age 15), Luton.

The next few weeks, as the number of school leavers mounts, are the crucial time to leaflet every place where young people gather—secondary schools, youth employment offices, social security offices, Jobs Centres, dole offices, discos, parks and so on.

For more information, leaflets, posters, stickers, or to join the march, contact the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802 0978).



QPR goalkeeper Phil Parkes in the firing line for the Save Our Hospitals Campaign

## SAVE A PENALTY, SAVE A HOSPITAL!

PHIL PARKES, Queens Park Rangers goalkeeper, turned out last Saturday to save sponsored penalty kicks—on behalf of the North West London Save Our Hospitals Campaign.

The penalty-takers had gone round asking for sponsors who would pay for the shots they got past Phil.

They had varying success. Bill Geddes, NUPE convenor at Hammersmith Hospital, scored nine goals out of ten shots. While John Deason, secretary to the Right to Work Campaign, who fancies himself as a bit of a sportsman, scored nought out of ten.

After the penalty kicks, a 'Socialist Worker Eleven' played a Save Our Hospitals Eleven. The result cannot be published in this newspaper.

Phil Parkes has agreed to do another sponsored penalty competition in August.

WICKS PICKET LINE: Chapter Road, London NW10 (next to Dollis Hill tube station). 7am every morning this week, continuing all day.



# EAGER BEAVERS

The companies that love the Contract

By Seymour Prophet, *the Bug in the Boardroom*

# Going for a Burton

**BURTONS**, Britain's largest tailors, are trying to sack 1,500 workers in their factories, close more than one in ten of their shops and are preparing plans to cut back the staff in their other shops by a fifth.

Burton's was built on selling suits, particularly made-to-measure suits. But people have been buying fewer and fewer of these over the last ten years, so at the end of the Sixties Burton brought in City whizz-kid Ladislav Rice to solve the problem.

Rice could have used Burton's wealth to re-equip their factories for more ready-to-wear suits and casual clothes. He could have spent money to bring the shops up to date. He didn't. Instead, he launched a series of takeovers for other companies—including the Ryman office equipment chain—and started up a Burton property company. The aim was to build up profits in areas other than tailoring so that Burton's traditional business became

less and less important to the firm. The scheme failed. Rice paid too much for many of the companies and the property venture was a flop. Little had been done to modernise the factories, products and shops—and the decline in the suit market has been much sharper than expected.

### Sacked

So Burton workers are now being told to pay the price for management's lack of foresight. Mr Rice and the other directors are not having to pay. Rice, sacked as managing director, says on as £400 a week chairman, where his chief job seems to be reading the daily newspapers. One of his henchmen—Mr Peter

Goro—was paid off with £15,000 and his wife will receive a £10,000 consultancy fee from Burton this year. Despite management's incompetence, Burton is still a rich company with more than £100 million of accumulated profits invested in its shops and factories. This wealth could provide a base for changing fashion lines and providing new equipment—things which should have been done years ago, and would have saved a lot of jobs. But this would have cost money and put off the day when Burton's made large profits. With shares worth more than £5 million, the directors cannot afford to wait, so the workers must join the dole queues.

THE 'back street abortion Bill', introduced by Tory MP William Benyon, has suddenly risen from the dead.

The Bill would make it much more difficult for women to get abortions on the National Health Service.

It would effectively wipe out the charitable agencies, which help to make abortions possible where the National Health Service is controlled by anti-abortion bigots, as in Birmingham.

### Huge

It would allow police access to women's medical files, and put more pressure on doctors (by threatening them with prosecution) not to give the go-ahead to abortions. In the week before last month's huge National Abortion Campaign rally, William Benyon announced to the

# ABORTION SHOCK

## 'Back-streets' Bill jumps Commons queue

By Margaret Renn  
SWP Women's organiser

world that his Bill was 'as good as dead'. Though it had passed its Second Reading in the Commons, the timetable for other bills in Standing Committee made it almost impossible that the Bill would be ready for Third Reading by the end of the session. Without a Third Reading this session, the Bill would automatically have died. Thousands of women everywhere breathed a sigh of relief. But now, by a dubious manoeuvre, the government have eased the passage of the Bill. A Liberal backbencher's Bill on the homeless has been taken out of the committee

lists and given special treatment in separate sessions. This means that the Abortion Bill moves up the queue. It could get its Third Reading by July and be law by the end of the year.

### Pretend

The government—like the Liberal Party, officially against the Bill—pretend that this is all accidental. But, coincidentally, seven influential back-bench Labour MPs (along with five Tories) have tabled a Com-

- mons motion demanding that the government give special time to the Bill. They are:
- RICHARD BUCHANAN, Springburn, Glasgow.
  - STANLEY COHEN, Leeds South East.
  - ADAM HUNTER, Dunfermline.
  - WILLIAM SMALL, Garscadden Glasgow.
  - IAN CAMPBELL, Dumbartonshire North.
  - JAMES WHITE, Pollok.
  - TOM IRWIN, Houghton-le-Spring.
- Buchanan is sponsored by

the railwaymen's union (NUR); Hunter by the miners (NUM); White and Campbell by the T&GWU; Small by the AUEW; Cohen by TSSA; Urwin by UCATT. Every pressure should be exerted on these seven through their unions or by their constituents to get them to remove their names from the motion and renounce the back-street Bill. Get the arguments against the Bill fully aired on your local radio station or in your local paper. The National Abortion Campaign have announced a day of action for 25 June. All SWP and Women's Voice supporters should start organising for it now.



Harass anti-abortion MPs: Women's Voice supporters giving Islington MP Michael O'Halloran a grueling



## Rank and File DIARY



**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN** PETITION OF THE UNEMPLOYED to the Blackpool Trades Union Congress against the Social Contract. Blank copies available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Send stamped addressed envelope.

**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN** BADGES: 35 hours now, Fight for the right to work. Stop the Cuts. Smash the Social Contract. Save our Hospitals. All from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 10p each (+ 7p postage). Cash with orders please.

**STICKERS FROM THE COLLIER**, rank and file paper in the Miners Union. 50p for 50, 100 for £1. Cash with orders to The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

**THE COLLIER** May issue still available, 5p a copy plus 6p postage, from 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, June/July issue out 18 June, bigger issue for 10p.

**STOP THE LONDON FARES INCREASE!** Public meeting organised by July 17th Committee, a campaign run by rank and file transport workers with the active participation of passengers, to fight the 15-50 per cent fare rises due on July 17th, Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Speakers include Alec Reid (busworker from Patrick Garage, Glasgow, leaders of recent fight against fare rises in Glasgow), Jack Aldrich (busworker, Walthamstow Garage, and member of Platform, the rank and file London Transport workers organisation) and Jim Paton (Fare Fight). Further details, phone 01-808 3457.

**RANK AND FILE TEACHERS SOCIAL:** Blend and disco, Saturday 25 June, 8.30pm onwards, Ladbroke House, North London Polytechnic, Highbury Grove (Highbury and Islington tube). Admission 70p (unemployed 50p).

**SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL WORKER PUBLIC MEETING.** End the Social Contract now. How to win the wages we need. Speaker: Steve Ludlum (NUPE Secretary, Moorfields Eye Hospital). Chairman: John Cousins (NUPE Secretary, St Georges Hospital). Tuesday 28 June, 8pm, Manover Arms, Kennington Park Road, London SE11.

**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN AND ROCK AGAINST RACISM** present Buzzsacks and the Verbals at North East London Polytechnic, Barking Precinct, Longbridge Road, Barking. Entrance fee 80p, 70p by ticket and 40p for unemployed with dole card. Saturday 25 June, 8.30pm till 1am, bar extension. All proceeds to Chloride Occupation.

an HGV license, 1-7 September. For further details, apply 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN** collecting tins. Raise funds for the Right to Work Campaign on the streets and door to door. 30p each including postage. Orders to Right To Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**HEALTH WORKERS ALMANACK:** Essential reading for all who care about the NHS. Information and practical advice for all hospital trade unionists. Order now from Hospital Worker, 19 Red Post Hill, London SE24 or phone 01-733 8443 or contribute to the next one.

## NAZIS RUN AWAY

By Brian Martin

**NATIONAL Front Nazis**, elated by the vote they got in the recent Sutton-in-Ashfield by-election, tried last week to set up a branch there. But they arrived at their meeting room in Sutton to find it occupied by about 40 trade unionists, including members of the Nottingham Anti-Fascist Committee and the Socialist Workers Party. The few Nazi contacts to turn up quickly fled followed by the Hitlerites themselves. So much for the courage of the

master race.... The meeting was duly turned into an anti-fascist rally. Many of the comrades who helped stop the Front were young people recruited during the recent election campaign. Before the election, these people were inexperienced, isolated and in some cases demoralised. Now, after the victory over the NF, they are ten foot tall. They have seen what can be done by a determined and efficient socialist organisation.

## We can do it!

By Keith Northeast, Hucknall SWP

**OUR BRANCH** was set up in the wake of the Ashfield by-election. The members are mainly disillusioned Labour supporters who had been praying for years that the Labour Party would introduce stronger socialist policies. The area has been under Labour control for 50 years, which makes our task difficult but by no means impossible. After living here all my life, I am well aware that older people around us are just as militant as ourselves. The sad fact is that before they had no alternative to the Labour

Party. We hope to provide all workers and trade unionists with that alternative. The branch believes this is a clear case for standing candidates in by-election. Not to further our aims in Parliament, but to show workers that they are not alone in their struggle. Especially when there are candidates standing for the Nauseating Fascist Party, as happened around here. As yet, with a small town and a new party, we are relatively few (about 12 members). But we feel confident that, with regular selling of papers in shopping areas, dole queues, pits and pubs, as well as consistent contact work and regular public meetings, we will convince Hucknall people that the SWP are the party with which they can fight and win.

# WHERE WE STAND

## INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

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

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

## THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers'

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

## INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries. We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls. We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals. We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women. The experience of Russia

demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party. Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class. We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions. We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

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

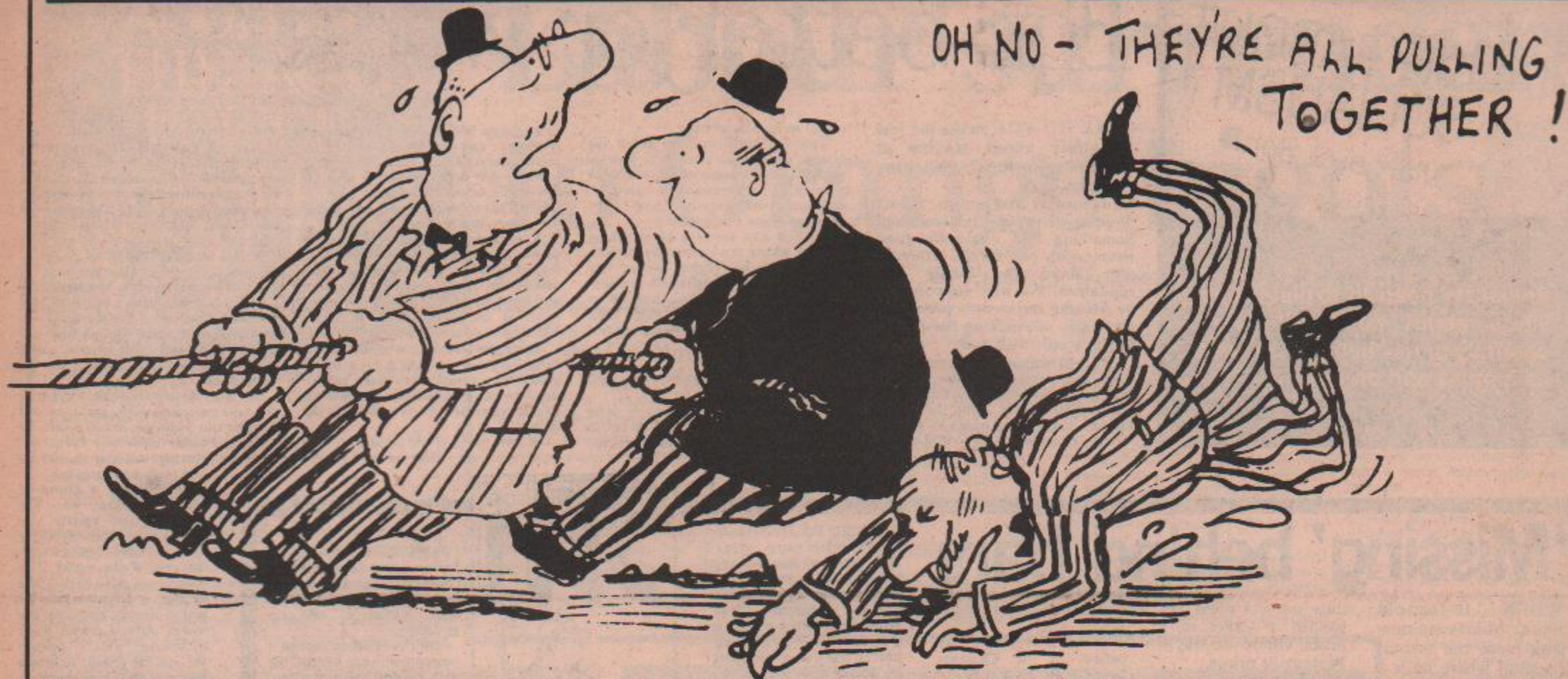
## Labour? Follow me into the SWP

By Mike Jackson, NUPE shop steward

I WAS member of the Labour Party in Grimsby. The things they have not done in the last two years have made me sick. How can any socialist still say that they, the Labour Party, should rule? The last few years of unemployment, massive cuts in public expenditure, and the reduction in real wages, are a reason for every member of the Labour Party to review their position. I urge every socialist who wants to fight unemployment, who wants to fight the cuts, and who wants to fight low wages, to reject the Labour Party and to join a real fighting workers party, the Socialist Workers Party.

## 300 NEW MEMBERS

THREE hundred people joined the Socialist Workers Party in May—a record for any month. They include 20 teachers, 19 members of the Transport and General Workers Union, 19 housewives, 15 NALGO, 16 AUTUM, 16 building workers, ten electricians, and 43 students.



### Dear Comrades

We are writing to you because the attacks against the working class from the Labour government, and the growing confidence of the forces of the right, demands a response from both our parties.

Living standards have been cut in the past two years more than at any previous time this century.

The Labour government has abandoned all pretence and rules openly on the basis of an alliance with the Liberals.

Unemployment is continuing its upward trend, yet the leaders of the TUC sit back and do nothing.

The cuts in the social services are dismantling all the welfare gains made by workers in the past.

And it is not only living standards that are under attack. Basic civil liberties are being destroyed—witness the deportation of Phil Agee, the use of the Official Secrets Act against radical journalists, the use of the Special Branch against trade unionists, the boasting about the use of army 'undercover' terror tactics in Ireland, the use of High Court injunctions against strikes and occupations.

### THE ANGER IS GROWING

At the same time, there is growing official adoption of racist measures—the growing number of deportations of allegedly 'illegal' immigrants, the threat of deportation overhanging many student nurses from overseas, the discriminatory fees charged to overseas students, and blatant racist attacks upon black youths such as the Islington 18 and the Lewisham 24.

Yet these attacks are no longer taking place against a background of working-class passivity and support for the Social Contract. The past few months have seen a growing wave of anger against the effects of the government's economic policies in the factories and the unions.

*The problem is that the response of certain trade union leaders has been to do their utmost to stop this anger. That is why it is by no means certain as yet that the September TUC will throw out the wage controls.*

In recent months, the behaviour of these same trade union leaders has led to a number of important defeats for our class.

The Leyland toolroom workers were forced back to work by the threat of the sack—endorsed by the union leaders.

The Heathrow engineers were threatened with the notorious blacklegs charter—signed by the

# An appeal for united left action

An Open Letter to the Political Committee of the Communist Party from the Central Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

fulltime officials of all unions in the airport apart from the AUEW.

The Times printworkers were forced back to work by the threat of the sack—from their own full-time union leaders.

The defeat of the North Sea helicopter pilots represents a bitter blow for trade unionism among all grades of workers in the North Sea.

The Grunwick strikers have not been defeated—because of the courage of the strikers themselves and because of the aid they have received from other local trade unionists. But it is shame on our trade union movement that they still have not won six months after Len Murray promised them 'full support'.

And just one week ago the Port Talbot electricians were defeated after 10 long weeks of strike action. These set-backs represent a

grave threat to our whole movement. And not just in the factories and workplaces.

### THE TERMITES OF THE RIGHT

They mean that workers have been left with no defence in the face of the biggest cut in living standards this century. They mean that no force has yet emerged in the labour movement capable of giving new hope in the face of the betrayals of the government.

The termites of the right and far right have not been slow to take advantage of this. The hardline Tories around Thatcher have gained new confidence with the smell of electoral victory in the air. The strike-breaking National Associa-

tion for Freedom is to be found aiding the employers in many industrial disputes.

The fascists of the National Front have gained the electoral allegiance of a frightening number of former Labour supporters in places like East and North East London.

Meanwhile, as Labour's vote crumbles, candidates to the left of the Labour party (whether from either of our two parties or from some other group) pick up only a marginal number of votes.

*Yet there should not be any need, in the face of these defeats, for us to despair. For workers are showing a growing willingness to fight.*

### THE WILL TO FIGHT BACK

Despite the blacklegs' charter, the Heathrow workers have not abandoned their struggle for good.

The Port Talbot electricians did hold out for ten weeks.

The Trust House Forte's strikers did stick it out for more than six months.

The Kettering journalists did win after more than six months.

When a lead has been given, the willingness to fight has been there!

What is more, the great mobilisation against the National Front in Wood Green in April came close to driving the fascists off the street. All that was needed was united action from the Communist Party, ourselves and left-wing members of the Labour Party.

This same unity could rapidly reverse the tide of defeats in industry by providing solidarity for groups of workers who are at present being left to sweat it out on their own for weeks at a time, and by countering betrayals like the blacklegs' charter.

We believe a firm call for united action on certain specific issues should be made jointly by our two parties.

Many of the people who could be involved in united action belong to neither of our two parties. Very large numbers are half-disillusioned Labour Party supporters. Yet can there be any doubt that they would respond to calls for united action if such calls were issued by our two parties together?

Such unity in action could provide a focus for the frustrations of many thousands of those who feel betrayed by the government. It could help ensure that the Social Contract is buried for good, and that the left, not the right, begins to advance.

It could begin to recreate much of the energy, enthusiasm and solidarity that defeated the Industrial Relations Act and which led the miners to victory in 1972 and 1974.

There are, of course, profound disagreements between our two parties on many things. We would be the last to want to pretend such disagreements did not exist or were unimportant. But that should not stop us ensuring that our members cooperate when it comes to defending the interests of our class.

Such cooperation is necessary to stop the rot in the wider movement.

We suggest

**1** Joint meetings of the industrial departments of our two parties to discuss how to encourage the struggles for wage claims outside the limits of the Social Contract the moment Phase Two ends on 31 August. We would suggest a joint campaign for claims of £15 across the board—but we would of course be prepared to fight for other figures in concrete situations.

**2** Joint meetings of our active members in particular industries and factories now so that we can encourage such struggles in August and later, as well as provide aid for the many long strikes that are still continuing.

**3** Joint meetings also of our two industrial departments around particular, important industrial disputes. Joint meetings of our members involved in those disputes.

**4** A joint campaign inside the traditional trade union practice in respecting picket lines and in opposition to blackleg's charters of all sorts. Joint meetings of our members in the unions that have put their names to such documents to promote the campaign.

### FASCISTS OFF THE STREETS!

**5** Joint meetings of the committees of our two parties responsible for anti-racist activities, with a view to launching a joint campaign within the Labour movement to drive the fascists off the streets. Joint meetings of our members nationally and locally to implement the aims of this campaign in relation to particular fascist mobilisations.

Such measures would represent the first, modest steps towards the united action that is so desperately needed. We believe, as we said above, they would attract the support of many thousands of militants who are not members of either of our parties, but who see the need for a fightback to begin now.

We trust you will consider them, and give us your reply at the earliest possible moment.

Yours Fraternally,

CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Margaret Renn

Socialists need to explain their views about family life very carefully or risk being dismissed as loonies and cranks.

# For better or worse?

'WHY DO YOU make me feel so guilty about staying at home? I enjoy looking after my children.'

I remember that woman, almost pleading with us at a meeting. Something had obviously gone wrong with our careful explanation about the family and capitalism. We were supposed to be winning the women present to socialism, not making them want to run a mile with guilt.

We need to know how to present our ideas, our vision of the future in such a way that other people don't dismiss us as loonies; cranks with their own, obscure, language; people who want to destroy everything with no idea of what

to put in its place.

And so, when we talk about the family, we seem so often to be just for smashing it—because it's the source of women's oppression, violent, consumer-orientated, bad for children—and nothing else.

We fall into the trap of mouthing politics which are technically correct, but spoiled by clichés where five minutes careful thought and explanation would make the ideas mean something to people who enjoy their families and like or love the people around them.

### Rotten

What makes us socialists is more than just vengeance against this rotten society we live in. We do have a vision

of the future. We do believe that men and women can have worthwhile relationships freed from the petty tyranny that is the substance of most family life under capitalism.

The difficulty is knowing how to put our hopes into words.

A woman came out of a Spanish prison last week who has managed to do just that. She's Eva Forest, who was arrested in September 1974, tortured and imprisoned 'indefinitely' for being involved in the murder of Prime Minister, Carrero Blanco.

There was no evidence against her. If there had been, if she'd been found guilty, she would have been put to death in the most inhuman way known to man, strangled slowly to death by the garotte.

In her three years in prison, Eva

wrote letters to her family.

Her 12 year old daughter wrote to her and said: 'Really, it seems to me that what the family is is a kind of union for several people who love each other, and pass on their ideas and help each other. Isn't that right?'—She replies.

### Thrown

Families, Eva replies, are groups of people thrown together by birth and marriage, and not by choice. If you make a mistake, that's tough, and you live with it. And most couples make mistakes because of the pressure on them to marry.

Without the pressures, choice plays a stronger part than luck, and men and women can begin to live together, in with a good chance that they will get on.

Having children should be free from pressures too.

In this way a group of people develops who live together and enrich one another; and this develops into a communication with the rest of the world. The solidarity of their life together is projected into the world outside, and from the world outside comes fresh experience which enriches the central group. A group who feel and think together. That is the real key!

That is our vision of family life. Not just a great hollow, but a hope that all our lives will be that much richer under socialism.

She continues: 'Many people believe that the family can be a good or bad thing in itself. I don't. I think the family may be a good thing or a bad thing depending on the society it is in.'

### Nursery

In a more just society, there would be a fairer division of labour. Men and women would have the same opportunities for work and therefore could both look after the children. All the relationships would be much richer and more complex.

Instead, men and women fight between themselves because wages are so low they can't make ends meet, or because women can't find work that would take them out of the home, or work long and tiring hours for a pittance, or because there are no nursery schools which would relieve them from the constant presence of their children, or because shift work reduces married life to a physical nightmare.

### Freed

Without the constant economic constraints of a system which robs workers of the wealth they produce, family life would be freed from endless bickering and tyranny, and intimate relationships between adults and children would be able to develop outside the family.

That's how Eva Forest put it. And for me, that's a much better way of explaining a socialist attitude to the family.

\* Eva Forest's letters from A Spanish Jail, are published by Penguin at 60p.

## Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

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## 'Missing' behind bars

WHEN 18-year-old Shiraz Miah went missing from the mental hospital where he is a day patient, his parents covered the area with leaflets and offered a reward to anyone who helped trace him.

They discovered where

### When the police don't want to know

JIM SHARPLEY has plastered Woking with leaflets accusing the police of harrasing him and his family, and of corruption.

The police are not amused. Chief Superintendent Maurice Jackson has described Mr Sharpley's allegations against named police officers as 'scandalous criminal libel'.

But this is one prosecution they haven't been so quick to undertake. In effect it would mean an inquiry into the police campaign against Jim Sharpley.

His leaflet explains how he was sent to prison for a robbery he was not involved in.

And more. Just before Christmas he was hauled off to the police station on suspicion of 'illegal handling'. No charges were pressed. He has been on two identity parades at which other people were picked out, and is expecting more to come.

Says PROP, the prisoners organisation newspaper: 'Presumably if they go on long enough somebody will pick out Jim.'

'KURON WAS arrested and charged with having contact with foreigners hostile to the Polish state—a charge frighteningly reminiscent of the Stalin period of 25 years ago,' said David Sells, BBC East European correspondent on Radio 4.

True. But where was the BBC's horror and outcry when similar charges were made against Philip Agee by that well known freedom lover Merlyn Rees?

their son was when they handed a leaflet to a prison visitor—he was in Pentonville prison.

It took repeated phone calls to the police before they would confirm that he had been picked up as a suspected illegal immigrant and thrown in jail.

### Why

The family want to know why the police didn't check with them and ask to see Shiraz's papers which prove

he has permission to live in Britain.

Shiraz has been a day patient at St Clements hospital in East London since May 30. He was on his way to see a doctor for assessment when he ran out of the gate. The doctors contacted the police because they feared for his safety.

It was eight days later that his parents discovered where he was.

The Home Office have refused to discuss the case with the local papers.

□ THREE YOUTHS in East London were carrying a gun and two pickaxe handles when they went out 'looking for niggers'.

They threatened three black men and a girl on a pedestrian crossing before they were stopped by police in Stratford.

They appeared at the Old Bailey recently for sentence.

Keith Scaffell was sentenced to six months imprisonment suspended for two years. Derek Scaffell was given seven months suspended for two years and Phillip Church was given a conditional discharge for a year.

## In 1977 who calls who the idle rich?



TAKE A LOOK at the two men in this advert. The one in the three piece suit clutching his bicycle is meant to represent the poor, downtrodden managers whose living standards have taken a dive in recent years.

The one with the boiler suit and flash car on the other hand is quite well-off. He just dresses differently.

This full-page advertisement appeared in the Daily Telegraph on June 9. It is obviously aimed at the cyclist.

Because according to Colt International, who make ventilation equipment, there is a very simple way for the hard-up executive to regain some of his lost wealth.

Should he work harder, invest in a sound commodity like coffee? Oh no. He doesn't even have to get up out of his swivel chair to get an increase in his income.

All he has to do is buy a Colt Ventilation system.

Keeping the temperature at the right level will apparently ensure that the car owner on the right will work harder, producing more profits for old bicycle clips on the left.

It's a mad world...

□ WHAT A PITY that a really good union newspaper like the Yorkshire Miner has to resort to page-three pin-ups to further its bright and lively image.

Yorkshire miners' leader Arthur Scargill says in the local newspaper that there is 'nothing wrong with it' but one miner's daughter has written in to complain.

Her letter was apparently received with relief by the editor Maurice Jones

who is quoted as saying: 'My wife has been threatening to write a similar letter for months—and that could have caused all kinds of problems'.

'TWENTY YEARS AGO I came to the rostrum at conference as a presser and demanded the same rates as male pressers. Conference cheered. I went back to my factory

and said 'girls, you've got it'. Twenty years later they still haven't got it'.

Anne Spencer—London and Southern Divisional Officer speaking at the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers conference.

But there are some aspects of the Sex Discrimination Act that you don't have to fight for, illustrated at the conference. Women now

have to pay the same rate of subscriptions as men under the law.

A FIFTH COLUMN JOKE, courtesy of our Glasgow readers: A man in a pin-stripe suit and bowler hat goes into a pub carrying a pig.

The barman asks: 'Where did you get that?' and the pig says: 'Eton'.



**CAUGHT IN THE ACT... POLICE DRESSED UP AS 'STUDENT TERRORISTS'**

**GANGS OF ARMED left-wing youths are, according to much of the British press, terrorising Italy.**

But these pictures tell a different story. They show police dressed up as students, armed with clubs and guns.

They were taken on 12 May in Rome. On that day Giordina Masi, a 19-year-old supporter of the women's movement, was shot dead by 'an unknown gunman'. Almost certainly he was one of the disguised police.

Giordina had joined in a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the third anniversary of the referendum that voted massively for divorce. This vote, carried through in the face of bitter opposition from the heads of the Catholic Church, was the women's movement's greatest victory.

The police went wild — beating up demonstrators, left wing MP and journalists, as well as taking pot shots at the left.

The photos prove something often suspected in such situations. Those who scream loudest about 'left-wing terrorism' are often those trying to justify right-wing terrorism of their own.

**Hard**

The government has taken full advantage of the police-provoked violence to strengthen the hand of the police. They have cracked down hard on the left, arresting militants, banning demonstrations and closing down the free radio stations.

In this they have been followed by the Italian Communist Party, who have regularly denounced the students and tried to prevent them from joining any workers' demonstrations.

Indeed, they went so far as to call a 20-minute general strike in solidarity with the police after one had been shot.

**SQUALID SELL-OUT OVER ABORTION LAW**

ITALIAN women have just been sacrificed for the sake of parliamentary manoeuvring.

In February the lower house of the Italian parliament passed a new Abortion Bill, rather less vicious than the old fascist law.

They were forced to do so by the strength and militancy of the women's movement that had mobilised tens of thousands.

**Clear**

But last week the new law was thrown out in the upper house of the parliament. This surprised everyone, since the pro-abortionists seemed to have a clear majority.

Some members of the centre parties that claim to support abortion voted against the Bill.

Why? Simply to prove their own importance to the other parties, to stop them forming a coalition that did not guarantee them lucrative posts.

# Labour surrenders to Orange bigots

By Eamonn McCann

**THE LABOUR Government earned the applause of every right-wing bigot in Northern Ireland last week.**

Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason announced that the British Army will put greater emphasis on 'covert' activities.

Three hundred more of the British army's undercover terrorist unit, the SAS, are being drafted in. The Royal Ulster Constabulary will be strengthened and given a 'spearhead' role. The number of full-time members of the Ulster Defence Regiment will go up to 2,500.

A delighted Ian Paisley crowed that most of the security denials of last month's loyalist 'strike' have now been met.

'Covert activity', as many families here know, to their cost, means spying on harassing and occasionally assassinating persons suspected of IRA sympathies; the SAS specialises in abduction, torture and murder; the RUC is an openly political force with a long record of sectarian gangsterism; and the UDR is little different from the old B Specials.

**Promised**

It is the increased use of the UDR which tells most about Mason's policy. When the British Army first intervened

directly in the North in 1969—after riots caused by RUC attacks on Civil Rights marchers—the then Labour government of Harold Wilson promised wide-ranging reform to end Catholic grievances. One of the first things promised was the abolition of the B Specials.

For 50 years, the B-men had been the private part-time army of the Protestant sectarian organisation the Orange order. They were 100 per cent Protestant, kept their uniforms and guns at home, and were officially mobilised when needed to back up the RUC.

In fact, they frequently mobilised themselves and, in particular rural areas, roamed the country inspiring fear and hatred in Catholics.

In October 1969 Wilson announced

that the B-men were to be replaced by the new non-sectarian UDR which would be open to Catholics and controlled from London rather than Belfast, so that Orange politicians could not manipulate or divert it.

Socialist Worker pointed out at the time that this was pie in the sky, that the Northern Ireland state was so deeply steeped in sectarianism that any force existing to defend it would inevitably become sectarian itself—just as, say, a force set up to defend the apartheid state in South Africa would inevitably be racist.

And so it has turned out. As the violence mounted, the few Catholics who had joined the UDR dropped out, while more and more ex-B men joined. By the beginning of this year the force was more than 98 per cent Protestant, most of the few non-Protestants being British officers seconded from other regiments.

More than 100 UDR men have appeared in court on charges ranging from assault to membership of illegal paramilitary groups to murder—including the murder of three members of the Miami Show Band in 1975.

At road blocks at night they regularly mock, threaten and assault Catholics. Within the Catholic community once again they are hated and feared and rightly regarded as the B-Specials in new uniforms.

By putting 2,500 of them on full-time duty and promising them a more prominent role, Mason has signalled clearly that we are back to square one.

**Divide**

After eight years of 'reform programmes' and blather about 'ending terror', the same age-old battle lines divide Northern Ireland: the forces of the state on one side, cheered on by Ulster loyalists and the British far right, and the Northern Catholics on the other, browbeaten and repressed until they either solemnly accept it or rally to the IRA as the 'only hope they can see'.

Wilson's government sent the army in—so we were told—to defend the Catholics against the Orange extremists.

Now the army and the Orange extremists combine against the Catholics.

That, in a nutshell, is the reason for the existence of the Provisional IRA and the reason they will continue to exist.



Police dressed up as left-wing students parade behind police lines before moving into action with guns and (top right) clubs



## WHY THE MOLUCCANS TURNED TO TERROR

THE MASS media gave us daily on-the-spot reports on the plight of the hostages held by the South Moluccan terrorists in Holland.

They kept fairly quiet, however, about who the South Moluccans are.

**Empire**

This is not surprising. Because the problem first arose out of the dirty practices of Western colonialism. In some ways, it was like the problem of Protestant sectarianism in Northern Ireland.

For nearly 300 years, Holland had a very big and rich empire. It ruled over the East Indies, now Indonesia, a

collection of islands with a population much greater than that of Holland.

The Dutch army was not nearly big enough to control these islands alone. And so the Dutch recruited local soldiers and policemen. These were rewarded with many privileges, and in return identified with the ideas of the colonialists and adopted their Calvinist religion.

Most came from South Molucca. Naturally, they were hated by the vast mass of the local Indonesian people, who they helped oppress.

Thirty years ago, an uprising finally threw the Dutch out of Indonesia. The South Moluccans fought to the last to defend their colonial masters, committing atrocities in the process.

When the Dutch finally left, they fled the country with them.

They relied upon the gratitude of the colonial nation they had served for 300 years to provide them with a new home in Europe. But the gratitude has not lasted long.

**Against**

Many of the Dutch are treating them with the racialism that used to be reserved for the rest of the Indonesian population.

And so now some of the younger generation of Moluccans are using against the Dutch some of the nastier techniques the Dutch taught their ancestors to use against the other Indonesians.

**STOP POLICE MURDERS**

**SOLIDARITY WITH POLISH WORKERS AND STUDENTS**

Rally organised by the Polish Workers Defence Campaign in Britain

Speakers: Oliver MacDonald (editor, Labour Focus on Eastern Europe), Andy Durgan (NUS Executive, in a personal capacity), Billy Williams (Sec'y, Cardiff EETPU and rank and file candidate for EETPU presidency).

Friday 24 June, 8pm, Room 94, Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street, London, W1 (nearest tube, Oxford Circus)

# SOWETO

## 12 MONTHS ON



# Don't mourn

**SIR ERNEST Oppenheimer, the richest man in South Africa, was shocked when he visited the slum shanty towns of Johannesburg in 1958. He started a fund to rehouse the 'poor people' of the shanties.**

The all-white Johannesburg town councillors agreed at once to help. They had been trying for some time to push the thousands of black workers out of the city.

A city was built outside Johannesburg—and the town council dedicated a 30ft tower 'to Sir Ernest Oppenheimer and his slum removal system'.

Sir Ernest, keen to find a suitable name for his lovely new city, settled on a combination of the first two letters of what had been there before: South Western Townships: Soweto.

Today, 20 years later, Soweto means something very different.

*It means resistance, rebellion, a people risen against the foulest racial tyranny on earth.*

It has provided a beacon for the 16 million black people of South Africa, from whose poverty and sweat the four million whites live in comfort, and employers like the Oppenheims made incalculable fortunes.

Exactly a year ago the school students of Soweto led a revolt.

They marched out of Morris Isaacson High School in protest against compulsory teaching in Afrikaans (a form of Dutch).

By  
**PAUL  
FOOT**



a protest against the teaching of Afrikaans.

It was a protest against the stinking hell-hole which Oppenheimer's 'dream city' has become; against the never-ending repression, poverty, squalor, corruption, crime and despair in which all black people in Soweto and in South Africa are forced to live.

Unlike their 'elders and betters' in the past, the Soweto school students refused to knuckle under.

In the weeks following the

first demonstration, more than 1000 of them were arrested. Many were tortured.

Half of them were never seen again. Their leaders were betrayed by government spies.

*Yet the demonstrations continued. They spread across the country and developed a resistance the like of which the South African government had never known.*

In the year since that first march, the students' council of Soweto, forever replacing its members as they were arrested, and operating in secret through the powerful network of the schools, has

called three 'stay at home' strikes. Each time, 300,000 people—about three out of four of all Soweto's workers—refused to go to work.

Forced the government to postpone rent rises. In April, the government announced rent rises of

between 40 and 80 per cent to compensate for beer halls burnt down during the summer rising.

The students council called more demonstrations. Three people were shot, and many more arrested. But the students didn't mourn.

They went on mobilising. Three times, the rent rises have been postponed.

Toppled the local authority. The entire local 'Bantu authority', spokesmen for the hated Botha, Minister of Community Affairs in the racist government, have now resigned under pressure from the students council.

The heroism of the young people of Soweto has spread far outside the city.

There have been similar protest riots in black townships and Coloured areas (the homes of the 'mixed race' South Africans who, until now, have always imagined they were 'a cut above' the blacks).

The American and British governments and their business communities, whose investments sustain apartheid, have changed course.

They have sent their diplomats scuttling round Africa to try to find a 'solution' to the South African 'problem': a 'problem' which,



Botha... hated

before Soweto, they noticed only in rhetoric at United Nations assemblies.

But their 'solution' is very different to the one the black people of Soweto are fighting for.

The American and British governments, supported to the hilt by Harry Oppenheimer, son of Sir Ernest, want to make South Africa a place safe for their investments.

They want to paint places like Soweto with a gentle gloss. They have offered to provide electricity for the houses and allow Africans 'the right' to buy their own homes.

Oppenheimer has admitted that Soweto is 'a disgrace', and has even been to talk to student leaders there.

Somehow he forgot to mention that his well-meaning father had built the city in the first place!

Oppenheimer wants to do

for Soweto what his father did for the Johannesburg shanty towns: to provide what seems to be better conditions, but at the same time to maintain a ready supply of cheap black labour for his factories and mines.

But the school students of Soweto have created a resistance movement which can't be shot down by policemen's bullets or smashed by spies and show trials.

Their strength is in the mobilisation of the black masses, and it will grow stronger to the extent that their spirit and courage is infused into the rising black trade union movement.

At least two major strikes by black workers in the past year—both of them in subsidiaries of British companies—have been inspired and held together by the spirit of Soweto.

And those of us who demonstrate this weekend in solidarity with the young people of Soweto can do no better than to take their simple message into the heart of our own working class.

Into the factories and offices which are owned by the same people who feed off the repression and poverty of black South Africa.

**Don't mourn. Mobilise.**

## BRUTAL BACKGROUND

**SOUTHERN Africa after Soweto traces the history of South Africa and its apartheid policies.**

**And it explains why the system is necessary for the perpetuation of South African capitalism.**

It shows why black struggles in South Africa have made little progress in the past. While the workers form the basis for the nationalist movement, the leadership has always come from an elite class of teachers, clergymen and traders.

**FRANCIS BUTENDA, a Zimbabwean student in London, reviews the important new book Southern Africa after Soweto.**

The authors explain how Rhodesia was carved up and emerged 'as a by-product of the South African gold-mining industry'.

As for the church, the book says: 'Rhodes is said to have encouraged missionaries to have settled in Zimbabwe, saying that they were cheaper and more efficient than policemen.'

The authors trace the three black nationalist movements

in Zimbabwe from the emergence of a working class with the industrialisation of the country up to the now defunct Kissinger deal.

This is a fine book, though there is too much statistical detail and at times it appears like a college text-book.

But it is worth ploughing through.



£2.22 (inc postage) from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Also available through the Bookmarx Club





# n. Mobilise



**ALL OUT THIS SATURDAY!**  
London and Home Counties SWP branches to support

## SOWETO

the struggle continues

demonstrate June 18th  
1pm Speakers Corner

VICTORY TO THE  
FREEDOM FIGHTERS

NO SS

● I remember as a toddler we dreaded being shunted from house to house because of the shortage of grannies. When there were no grannies available, our mothers were forced to leave us locked alone in a room. They would remove anything dangerous, leaving us with a plate of mealie pap, a mug of water and a chamber pot. Peeping through the drawn curtains and closed windows with window bars was the only enjoyable game. We did it in turns. Otherwise we had fights, cried and slept. ●

—from *A Window on Soweto* by Joyce Sikakane, 80p from *International Defence and Aid*, 104 Newgate St., London EC1



### WHAT WE CAN DO TO LEND A HAND

SELBY SELEMA, one of the exiled leaders of the Soweto Students Representative Council, has just finished a speaking tour in Scotland. One of the highlights was a meeting with the General and Municipal Workers Union shop stewards committee at the British Oxygen plant in South Glasgow. The stewards made it clear that the fight

for solidarity with the black BOC workers of South Africa was part of the fight to build a rank and file committee in BOC in Britain. Selby's tour, and his meeting with many stewards and workers in firms which operate in South Africa, shows that we can build a solidarity campaign with workers in South Africa based on workers' delegates.



# Why in the name of glory are they proud?



A LAST WORD ON THE JUBILEE BY  
JOHN KEATS (1797-1821)

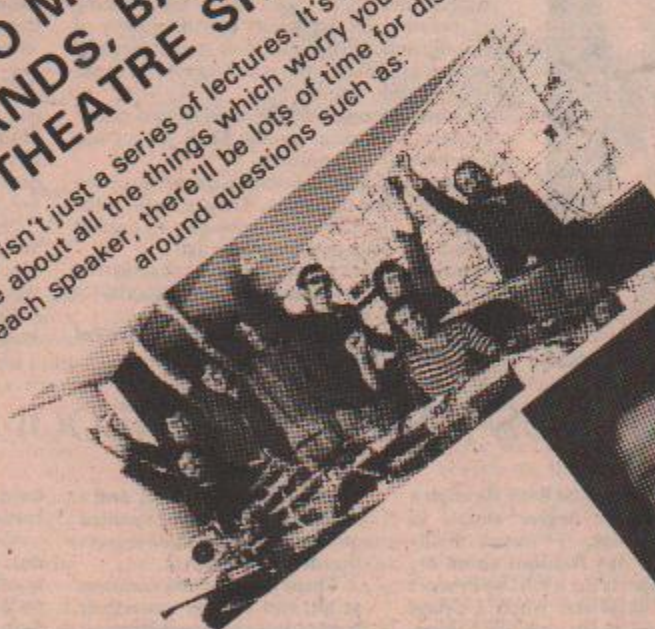
With her two courtiers this fair lady dwelt,  
Enriched from ancestral merchandise,  
And for them many a weary hand did swelt  
In torched mines and noisy factories,  
And many once proud-quivered loins did melt  
In blood from stinging whip;—with hollow eyes  
Many all day in dazzling river stood,  
To take the rich-ored driftings of the flood.

For them the Ceylon diver held his breath  
And went all naked to the hungry shark;  
For them his ears gushed blood; for them in death  
The seal on the cold ice with piteous bark  
Lay full of darts; for them alone did seethe  
A thousand men in troubles wide and dark;  
Half ignorant, they turned an easy wheel  
That set sharp racks at work, to pinch and peel.

Why were they proud? Because their marble founts  
Gush'd with more pride than do a wretch's tears?  
Why were they proud? Because fair orange-mounts  
Were of more soft ascent than lazar stairs?  
Why were they proud? Because red-lin'd accounts  
Were richer than the songs of Grecian years?  
Why were they proud? Again we ask aloud,  
Why in the name of Glory were they proud?

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**MARXISM 77**

## POSTAL POINTS

CONGRATULATIONS on the excellent Stuff the Jubilee edition of Socialist Worker. When I passed my copy to some bourgeois friends, they, like Queen Victoria, 'were not amused.' But at least they got the SWP message!  
 E J HINTON, Newport.

CONGRATULATIONS on the excellent anti-Jubilee Socialist Worker. Pity it was spoiled by the silly and way-out slogan 'Roll on the Red Republic.'  
 CHRIS PORSZ, Peterborough

AS A supporter of the Socialist Workers Party (not quite yet a member), I think it would be marvellous if you started an election fund as soon as possible so we can field as many candidates as we can — the general election can't be far away.  
 In Norwich the right-wing goons have been active for some time. We should smother working-class districts with our leaflets, not just once, but regularly.  
 I hope you consider the issue, seriously now. You can be sure of support from myself and several of my mates.  
 SW reader, Norwich.

CAN WE have some more articles in Socialist Worker discussing the greatest threat faced by humanity in the modern world—nuclear weapons?  
 After a successful socialist revolution in Britain, carried out and supported by the vast majority of the people, not only would we be relying on workers' revolutions in the other major industrial nations to prevent the destruction of the revolution from the outside, but also we would face serious internal problems.  
 For there would undoubtedly be a minority of ex-generals, right-wing fascist fanatics and so on, who would have a philosophy such as 'better millions dead than red'. These people would quite possibly possess or obtain the nuclear materials and know-how that could cause disaster for a workers' state.  
 So let's not sweep the nuclear problem under the carpet. Let's start discussing now the way to solve the problems posed by nuclear weapons for the world's future and for the socialist revolution.  
 PHILLIP WEBSTER, Blackburn

## THE PAPER THAT SETS ITS STANDARDS HIGH!

HERE are two newsstand placards about the NUPE one-day strike last month in protest at public spending cuts. There is an old saying in the 'print' that it's not what you print but how you print it. These two are a clear example.  
 For the past two weeks there has been a discussion about the future of the London Evening Standard, which could mean the loss of a lot of jobs. So the press barons who don't want to see the demise of the Standard—not because of the likely loss of jobs, mind—embark on union-bashing.  
 And to prove they're even better than the Evening News they doubled the number of schoolchildren affected by the strike.  
 But those who were out protesting against the cuts had the last laugh, because for that many school kids to be affected it just goes to show how many were involved in the strike.  
 L HAYES (NATSOPA), London.

STRIKE HITS 200 000 LONDON CHILDREN

Evening Standard

STRIKE HITS 100 000 LONDON CHILDREN

Evening News

## Why should we support the hack writers of the press?

A GROUP of academics at Glasgow University have described in detail how the media is biased against the working class.  
 Bung ho, old chep. At last the academics have confirmed what the workers have been saying for years.  
 All that remains is for the press to hire another group of academics to compile 'evidence' to refute the findings of the first set of academics. After all, it must never be said that editors of big papers are biased in their interpretation of the news.  
 A good writer can get a very

comfortable standard of living thank you—for upholding the status quo. They do not like having their consciences jolted by unknown writers like myself, who assert that they have taken the nice fat salary given them by the capitalist class, and have fallen asleep in their presentation of the injustices prevailing inside this capitalist society.

### Prostitute

In every sector of the media there are workers who have sold their talents (I almost said talons) to the highest bidder, and prostituted themselves to

the master-class in their task of smearing and dividing the working-class.  
 An example of what I mean is found in the Scottish edition of the Daily Express.  
 For years the working-class served the owners of that rag, cooperating fully with them in their attacks on the organised workers in Britain. From the men who set up the presses, to the men who wrote the stories, there was complete collaboration with the plan to set forth workers as greedy hogs, seeking far too much of the national cake in their unjust wage-claims.  
 When the owners of that rag found themselves unable to make enough profit, they shut down their premises in Glasgow, and sacked all their faithful class-collaborators. All the hack writers who had worked up articles which cast pails of excrement upon the working-class found themselves without a job.

### Brown-stuff

What did they do then? They turned to the workers who had been insulted by them for years, and asked them for help.  
 Is this not strange? Shall a man heap pails of the old nauseating brown-stuff all over my head for years, and then ask me for help, and expect me to give it to him with alacrity?  
 The workers of this country have to realise their class position in society. High salaries now don't ensure that you will not be a victim of the contradictions of the capitalist system in the future.  
 High salaries are only an inducement by the capitalist class to get workers on the media to stab others in the back, and uphold the capitalist class in their privileged position in society.  
 The hack writers in the capitalist press all deserve our help. But they should acknowledge what they have been doing for all these years.  
 H C MULLIN, Cranhill, Glasgow.

A CAPTION to last week's review of Jack London's book, *The People of the Abyss*, described it as a 'great socialist novel.'  
 There is nothing fictitious in the book. It is a factual account of the conditions he found during his visit to the East End.  
 As Jack himself said: 'This beats anything I could ever have imagined.'  
 FRANK JENN, Camberwell, London SE5

DOES the Socialist Worker support the cultural nationalists? If Not, then why the middle page headline 'Black is Beautiful'? By saying 'I'm black, I'm beautiful', you are projecting a puritanical concept of blackness... you are in fact saying all black people are good and all white people are bad...  
 Maybe a better headline would have been 'Black is black and blue... (from being brutalised by the police and the racials)... and bloody angry.'  
 DAVE BISIO, Stirling.

# Letters

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

## DOCTORS ARE TOLD: PUT UP YOUR PRICES

THE British Medical Association has put forward suggestions for an increase in prices for services from family doctors which are not covered by the National Health Service.  
 This includes:  
 Incapacity certificates to employers and schools, 65p.  
 International certificate of vaccination, £1.25.  
 Immunisation for travel, if not a recommended one, £2.60.  
 Examination and certificate of fitness (which elderly drivers must have before the

insurance companies will re-insure their cars), £8.05.  
 Private prescriptions for oral contraceptives, £1.25.  
 Examination for a heavy goods driving licence or for a public service driving licence, £8.65.  
 Examination for adoption procedures, varying from £3.15 to £9.15.  
 Most of these are between 50 per cent and 100 per cent up on old prices and no doubt will be quickly implemented by most general practitioners.  
 The one which will hit hardest is the price for the 'private certificate' which patients send to

their employers. The patients dare not risk not sending this, in case they lose their jobs while they are off work.  
 If they send their NHS certificates it often results in a long delay in getting sickness benefit. The 'private note' is an absolute necessity in a lot of cases.  
 One way to fight this is to pass a resolution through union branches deploring the cost of this certificate and insisting that the employers pay since they requested it in the first place. It might even stop them asking for them!  
 We should fight for all items of service concerning health to be free.  
 DR JEAN LEWIS, Pontefract.

## Punk: Is it revolutionary—or is it rubbish?

'THEY can shut us out but they can't shut us up! Heard the slogan before?'  
 On the picket line of workers whose boss has enforced a lockout? Perhaps it was the chant of workers being evicted by coppers from some seab union leader's office?  
 You'd be wrong this time. It's a quote, headlined in last week's Melody Maker, from some guys who've been unemployed most if not all their lives. The Sex Pistols.

To say that the Sex Pistols are politically aware as we understand it would be silly. However, considering that nearly all Punk artists and fans have had few, if any, jobs, and therefore none or little appreciation of trade union activity, and considering the inbred racism among working people on which the National Front lay their base, the fact that Punk bands can come out with anti-fascist, anti-racist and anti-establishment lyrics throughout their songs surely demands more respect from those in SWP who still dismiss them.  
 The Clash chant 'Paint the walls'. The fans react with slogans like: PUNKS + DREAMS RULE, OK and NF = COPS, WE HATE BOTH.

### R.A.R.

The Chelsea have just released a single demanding 'The Right to Work'. Heard it yet?  
 Punks are turning up on anti-NF demos—such as Turnpike Lane.  
 Punk Rock bands have been some of the first people eager to offer time towards Rock Against Racism.  
 Yes London's burning. Soon Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Sheffield, Liverpool... will be burning too, but it'll all burn



James Stevenson, guitarist with the punk band Chelsea

into ashes of nihilism unless we face up to the fact that these kids want action, our kind of action, anti-establishment action, anti-fascist action, from the dole queue to the streets... or is there No Future, as the Sex Pistols in their single could be asking us?  
 BILL FORSTER, London E5.

THE RECENT suggestions in Socialist Worker that Rock is revolutionary are the worst load of rubbish I've heard in a long time. The very structure of the Rock music business makes it impossible.  
 The Clash may promote a kind of self-indulgent anarchy within the capitalist system, which it pays capitalist businessmen (like the owners of the Rainbow Theatre) to encourage and foster, but they can do nothing for socialism.  
 In fact, ultimately they exploit the working class, because the band may use the money of their followers to become rich and successful while the exploited dupes who support them are left on the dole queues.  
 It's not so long since the well-known multi-millionaire and social poodle Mick Jagger was calling himself a socialist.  
 The only difference between Jagger and Joe Strummer is one of degree. They're both in the same game, for the same reasons—to exploit people financially and emotionally.  
 To present Rock music as being constructively revolutionary is to connive at the exploitation of the working class.  
 JAMES KEOGH, (Brent and Park Royal SWP), North West London.

## THERE'S ANGER IN THE DOLE QUEUES

HAVING just been through a three-year degree course in economics, I wasn't really under any illusions about my prospects for a job. So I wasn't too surprised when I found myself at the dole on 2 June.  
 But what did shock and disgust me was the large number of schoolkids registering for the first time.

I had to wait an hour and a half and in that time I counted at least 30 school-leavers wander in and out.  
 There was no work for them at all, and I could sense their frustration and bewilderment. I stopped feeling sorry for myself for a moment, and thought, 'God, what kind of future does this shitty system

hold for all the 16-year-olds leaving school this summer?'  
 We need to be at all those dole centres and social security offices publicising the Right to Work march on the TUC in September. There's a lot of energy, youth and anger in those dole queues.  
 RALPH WHITE, Portsmouth

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**THE HEALTH SERVICE**  
**THE BRITISH ROAD DEBATE**

**International Socialism**

# Which way to socialism?



'THIRD, that this socialist revolution can be carried through in Britain in conditions in which world war can be prevented, and without a civil war, by a combination of mass struggles outside Parliament and the election of a parliamentary majority and government determined to implement a socialist programme . . .

. . . the winning of the proletarian class and its allies will not be a single act, but a process of struggle, in which the next important stage is the winning of a Labour government which will carry out a left policy to tackle the crisis and bring about far-reaching democratic changes in society, opening up the road to socialism'

These are two key passages in the new draft of the Communist Party's programme, *The British Road to Socialism*.

The CP executive committee called for 'the widest possible debate within the party and the labour movement' on this draft.

## Important

They are getting a much wider debate than they bargained for—not least in the CP itself. And this debate is very important.

Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? What are the real lessons of Chile? Can there really be a British version of the Italian 'historic compromise', or the French 'common programme' and, if there could, would it lead to socialism? Can the Labour Party really be captured for 'left policies'?

These are matters of concern to socialists far beyond the ranks of the CP and the SWP. They are of

## THE DEBATE GOES ON ELSEWHERE TOO . . .

'WHOEVER expects that socialism will be achieved without social revolution is not a socialist.'

This magnificent quotation from Lenin was written on a huge banner in bold red letters above the platform of the most important Communist Party meeting since 1956.

The meeting was called last Thursday night by the Surrey District Committee of the Communist Party. Its purpose was to challenge head-on the new draft of the Communist Party's programme *The British Road to Socialism*.

The meeting was packed. About a thousand opponents of the new draft cheered and clapped enthusiastically at every reference to the Com-

## THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES TO WHICH READERS ARE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE.

fundamental importance and any large scale discussion about them is bound to be valuable.

One significant contribution is the pamphlet by Charlie Doyle\*, a CP member of many years standing, which is circulating in CP circles.

Doyle says bluntly: 'There can be no socialist revolution within the structures of bourgeois democratic institutions.' Parliament is, of course, one of those institutions.

**'It is one thing to drop the term dictatorship of the proletariat. It is quite another to lose its essence, its content, and fail, as the draft does, not only to recognise the class nature of the bourgeois state, but the need to break and replace it.'**

That is a simple restatement of the original political basis of the British Communist Party and, indeed, all the other Communist Parties. And, of course, Doyle is absolutely right.

The British Road formula is deliberately misleading. World war is dragged in by the hairs. What socialist

\* *The British Road to Socialism Draft: Revolutionary Path or Diversion?* by Charlie Doyle, 10p, Cassidy Publications, 111 Aslett Street, London SW18.



in his or her senses wants a world war—or a civil war either if it can be avoided?

Can civil war be avoided? It depends on the balance of forces and the policies of the working class organisations. If the power of the right is not destroyed they will inevitably resort to force.

## Defeat

Civil war was not avoided in Chile by the Chilean CP's version of *British Road* policies. Those policies led to the working class being disarmed, politically and militarily, in the face of

the civil war launched by the right. Hence the shattering defeat.

As Doyle says: 'An analysis in-depth of the Chilean and Portuguese events have lessons of great import. Unfortunately *The British Road* ignores them for the simple reason that the lessons to be learned do not fit the main theme of pluralism, evolutionary gradualism and the exclusive parliamentary path.'

All this is on the level of fundamentals, the basics of Marxism. What about the strategy of the British Road, the winning of a Labour government to 'a left policy'?

It 'puts the Communist Party as a

tail to the Labour Party kite,' says Doyle.

True. Much more important, it is totally unrealistic.

Everybody knows that it is possible to get left-wing resolutions through Labour Party conferences every now and then—especially when the party is in opposition. Everybody knows what has happened to *this* Labour government, which was elected on what *The Times* called in 1974 'the most left-wing programme ever put before the British electorate.'

And the previous Labour government? And the one before that?

The fact is that the Labour Party is thoroughly wedded to capitalism—the party, not just a few villains in the leadership.

Many socialists still do not accept this—although they are a dwindling band. One effect of the CP's British Road idea is that it reinforces their illusion instead of trying to dispel them. Far from helping to develop the forces for what the new draft still calls 'a revolutionary change', it props up reformism.

## Stalinist

There are many other things in Doyle's pamphlet, and many things we disagree with. There is no analysis of the problem of the trade union bureaucracies or of the need for rank and file movements in particular.

There is a hankering after the 'good old days' when the British CP was a thoroughly Stalinist party, untroubled by glimmerings of the truth about what Doyle calls 'the socialist countries.'

'The first British Road was adopted in 1951 and we sold 200,000 copies. Now we will be cheering if we sell 10 per cent of that.' But that first British Road also advocated the parliamentary path Doyle now criticises.

Nonetheless the opening up of the discussion is a positive development. *Socialist Worker* invites comment, criticism and contributions on these vital issues. As has been said, they go far wider and deeper than the question of the CP programme itself and some of them have not been touched on here. Our columns are open to all those interested.

DUNCAN HALLAS



BRITAIN 1964

unist Party leadership's 'emasculated' version of socialism.

'It's like whisky without the alcohol,' Sid French, the Surrey district secretary, told the delighted audience.

In a carefully considered speech, Sid French launched into a bitter and defiant assault on the Communist Party's programme and performance.

## Acute

And what a performance it is. Membership is collapsing and sales of the *Morning Star* are falling at a rate of 1 per cent a month.

'But what is the reaction of the leadership to this situation?' French asked the meeting. 'It is to surrender the

vanguard role that our party should be playing.'

He argued that in a situation of acute capitalist crisis such as Britain now faces, the need for a hard Marxist-Leninist party that conscientiously seeks to win the leadership of those groups of workers moving into struggle was an absolute necessity.

Instead the Communist Party was leaning ever more heavily on the Labour Party and its reformist policies.

'Think of all those trade union leaders like High Scanlon and Clive Jenkins, formerly Party members, that now litter the head offices of the unions.'

Their class collaboration was a direct result of the revisionist policies of the

Communist Party. The Party, he concluded, had fallen for the myths about democracy perpetuated by the Labour and Tory parties.

## Echo

Sid French's words clearly found an echo among most of the people in the hall, who felt that the party they had long supported was somehow abandoning the struggle.

But among some of them at least, two things about French's own arguments must have left a feeling of unease.

First, there was no mention of the recent wave of strikes against the Social Contract, such as at Heathrow, British Leyland and Port Talbot.

There was no indication as to why these strikes had been

left isolated, with trade union officials trying to scab on their own members. There was no attempt to outline a strategy that could counter such betrayals in future struggles.

Yet it is precisely the growing disillusion with the Communist Party's leadership's performance around such strikes that is leading many industrial rank and file members of the party to sympathise with French's opposition.

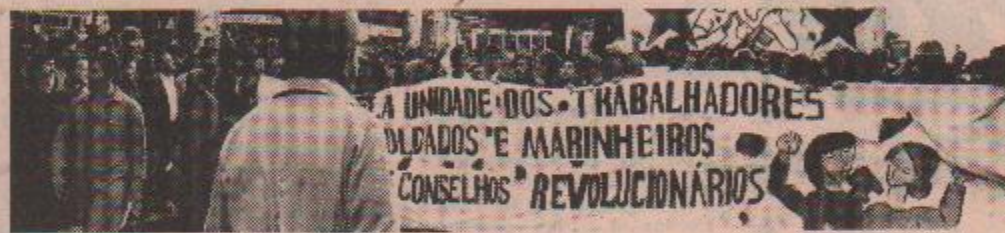
The other problem with Sid French's argument is that he sees the alternative to the present policies of the Communist Party leadership as lying in a return to support for everything done by the governments of Russia and Eastern Europe. 'The best

card the Communist Party has is the Soviet Union,' he said.

There is no doubt that the fight is on for the future of the Communist Party. When Sid French was asked by Mick Hicks, from the Communist Party executive, whether he would abide by conference decisions in November, he stated unequivocally: 'I will give no guarantee.'

## Absolute

Intervening in the discussion and proposing agreement on issues where agreement can be found is going to be an absolute priority for revolutionaries in the next few months.



PORTUGAL 1975



CHILE 1973

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

**Dustmen walk out**

By Jill Moorman

**THURROCK:** Dustmen walked out on unofficial strike last Thursday after it was announced they would lose two hours' pay for attending a union meeting.  
 The meeting—of all unions at the depot—had been held to discuss clearance of the Jubilee rubbish.  
 A £10 lump sum bonus was mentioned.  
 Management refused and so the dustmen refused to clear Jubilee street party rubbish and to work as a normal Bank Holiday week.  
 This meeting lasted 2½ hours and the crews went out and completed the full day's rota of work.

**Deducted**

When they signed their time sheets, they discovered that they would be deducted two hours' basic pay for attending the meeting and doing a full day's work.  
 Negotiations came to nothing, so they launched an unofficial strike, although still covering emergency services such as sewers and cesspools.  
 Nicky Collington, convenor of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, said: 'We have now decided to seek support from all the other council depots for the dustmen's dispute.'  
 Donations and messages of support to: Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Thurrock Borough Council, Stanley Road Depot, Grays, Essex.

**TYNDALE HEARING A FIASCO**

**N. LONDON:** The appeal of the six teachers sacked for going on strike at the William Tyndale Junior school opened this week—and was promptly adjourned for a month.

The teachers objected to the composition of the committee appointed to hear their appeal. It was made up of three Labour and three Tory councillors.

But it was the same group of Labour councillors who had first decided to pursue disciplinary action against the teachers back in September 1975.  
 The chairman of the appeal committee, Labour Councillor Branagan,

issued a statement saying it would be "impossible to find any persons qualified and able to serve (on the appeal committee) who could not be said rightly or wrongly to be biased."

**Approach**

The last phrase had been deleted in pencil and changed to "who would not be able to approach the matter without prior knowledge of the facts of the case."

The Tyndale Defence Committee are calling for maximum support for the six teachers. They stress that the Auld Report, set up to look into charges against them, at no time proved that

Maths, reading and English in the school were poor.

In fact, they had a higher than average record for teaching reading, and were commended for their work in drama and music.

The report also stated that the school managers 'were largely responsible for the crisis to which the junior school was brought by the summer of 1975.' It added that the conduct of the Labour councillors involved "called for censure".

Of Dolly Walker, the part-time teacher who first stirred up trouble for the six teachers, and who is now teaching in a prep school in Dulwich, the report says: "The action she took

was totally wrong and caused lasting damage to the school."

There is no doubt that these teachers were sacked for the crime of going on strike. Now only a strike will save them from being the most black-listed members of the 20,000-strong ranks of unemployed teachers.

With the executive of their own union, the NUT, refusing to support them, their only hope is for rank and file strike action, and it must be this term.

Collection sheets and petition forms are available from the Tyndale Defence Committee, 32 Clifton Court, Biggerstaff Road, London N.4.

**Workers foil hospital closure**

**SHEFFIELD:** Quick action by hospital workers has saved a children's hospital.

Thornbury Annexe, a children's unit specialising in spina bifida cases, was threatened with closure by the Area Health Authority because of the cuts.

The issue was quickly taken to trade unionists and patients in the area. Within two weeks, 58,000 signatures were collected on a petition.

**Allowed**

On Monday a picket of the area Health Authority was called by Thornbury Committee and the Sheffield Hospital Workers Group. Delegates were allowed into the meeting to hear part of the discussion.

After some barracking from angry parents whose children are at the hospital, one member of the authority began to lose his temper. He let the cat out of the bag:

'Don't you people understand, these measures will mean a deteriorating Health Service? If you want a decent service, you'll have to put your hands in your pockets and pay for it.'

**Voted**

But at the end of the meeting the authority voted 10-5 not to close Thornbury. This is an excellent start to a fight against the cuts in Sheffield, but it is marred by the behaviour of the NUPE area officer David Wild.

Despite NUPE policy on the cuts, Wild circulated a statement urging NUPE members to accept the closure.

**CoHSE: NO MORE WAGE CONTROLS**

By Pat Duffy, CoHSE

AN ARTICLE in last week's Nursing Mirror about the conference of the health workers' union CoHSE was headed "CoHSE Chief Seeks Flexible Pay Deal". But the members are two to one against a third year of pay policy.

This year's conference was supposed to decide the direction the union would take.

100 hospitals have been closed with a loss of 40,000 beds, 680,000 people are on waiting lists and 4,000 nurses on the dole. The union estimates the health service is understated by 75,000 nurses alone.

**Tougher**

There has been no lead against the threat of tougher abortion laws, or fascism and the National Front, although 150,000 of our members are women and many belong to minority groups.

We must reject the Con Trick on a huge scale or the executive will be off the hook again.

**BOOST FOR CLOSED SHOP BATTLE**

**DARLINGTON:** The fight by journalists to defend their post-entry closed shop got a boost this week.

The 107 members of the National Union of Journalists on strike in the North East were joined by London journalists.

**Picketing**

The Darlington journalists, now in their third week of picketing, came out when press barons Westminster Press hired an anti-union sub-editor.

The NUJ Executive voted them £30 strike pay and ordered the London office of

Westminster Press to boycott news wire services to the North East.

When they obeyed, the Westminster Press bosses stopped their wages. On Monday these 16 members were instructed to join the strike.

Westminster Press, a leading light in the bosses' Newspaper Society, which has set up an anti-NUJ fund to fight the closed shop, now faces massive escalation of the dispute.

All 39 chapels (office branches) throughout Britain have been ordered not to handle wire news to or from London.

Some have already called for an indefinite strike at Westminster Press. The bosses will have to start sacking journalists all over the country.

**Refused**

In Darlington and Durham, members of the Transport Workers Union, the Post Office Workers and the public employees' union NUPE have all refused to cross the picket line.

The railway workers union, NUR, has refused to touch the papers and drivers from Walker Wilsons left 30,000 copies of the Northern Echo to rot last week.

But the print unions are keeping their heads down. The NUJ originally put back the Darlington strike date to allow the print leaders to meet at the TUC. They never met—the General Secretaries were in Brussels.

**Excuse**

When they came back, they demanded even more time, but the strike went ahead. Now the print union bosses are using that as an excuse not to help.

The journalists will stay out for as long as it takes to win. All readers are urged to lobby print union members to support.

A mass picket takes place every Friday at 6pm in Darlington outside the Northern Echo building.

Messages of support and donations to: Darlington NUJ Strike Committee, 7 Victoria Road, Darlington.



Part of the picket outside the Weir Maternity Hospital in Balham, South London. It has been occupied to stop the Area Health Authority turning it into offices

**LEEDS VICTORY!**

**LEEDS:** 'We've won just about everything we wanted', said NUPE steward Margaret Ketteridge as ten laundry workers went back to work at Seacroft Hospital last Friday.

The workers, mainly women, had been out since 27 May in defence of their jobs. Management have been threatening for some time to close the laundry as part of a 'rationalisation' of services.

Matters came to a head when laundry that had been done at Seacroft was moved to Leeds General Infirmary and then farmed out to private contractors.

From the moment the workers struck, the full-time union officials put all their energy into getting them back to work. As late as Thursday morning, they were trying to get the laundry workers to accept another formula which would have meant they'd won nothing.

And yet, just 24 hours later, management caved in.

They agreed to take on more workers in the laundry, to cancel outside contracts and to send at least some laundry to Seacroft from St Georges - and all of it if the LGI couldn't handle it.

By Tim South, NUPE St James Hospital

They agreed to pay the strikers for the bank holiday even though they hadn't worked Friday. And they undertook to negotiate with NUPE before any further steps were taken to close the laundry.

Rank and file hospital workers gave the strikers tremendous support. Hospital workers and other trade unionists supported the picket line every day.

St James' Hospital branch

of NUPE and the local ASTMS branch both supported the strike by giving money and holding collections among their members.

This support and the determination of the strikers defeated management.

The Health Authority now know that any attempt to close the laundry is going to be met with determined resistance.

The workers at Seacroft Laundry would like to thank everyone who donated to the strike fund during the week long strike. A total of over £94 was raised.

**Poisoned—by the cuts**

By Mick Jones, ASTMS steward, St James Hospital

and inadequately equipped as well as to generally low standards of cleanliness throughout the hospital.'

The West Riding Health Service branch of ASTMS soon supported NUPE's call for an inquiry and made it clear that they too blamed the outbreaks on the cuts. Management, who have

tried to hush up news of the infections, admitted last Friday that 17 patients were affected and that patients and staff on 28 wards were hurriedly being screened in case there were others.

But workers in the hospital are determined there won't be a cover-up. Said one shop steward: 'We've got to make sure everyone in Leeds gets the message that when they cut the health service, people start dying.'

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# UNITY - ONLY WAY TO STOP CHOPPER WEINSTOCK...

**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY Eric Varley is trying to lie and cheat his way to co-operation with the dreaded 'Weinstock plan' for the turbo-generator industry.**

Weinstock, managing director of GEC, wants control of the industry, which would mean 6,000 sackings out of 16,000 workers. Varley and the Labour government agree. They want to hand the industry to Weinstock.

But the workers, especially the CA Parsons workers at Newcastle, disagree. Massive demonstrations at Newcastle have made it clear that the workers there intend to fight for their jobs.

Last week, the union leaders in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, met in Varley's offices in London. Within half an hour, they agreed to throw out the Weinstock plan.

Instead they demanded a controlling interest for the government's National Enterprises Board.

Varley begged and pleaded with them to take a 'softer line.'

When they refused, he called in the correspondents of the Guardian, the Telegraph and the Financial Times and coolly told them that the CSEU had agreed the Weinstock plan.

The gentlemen of the Press, plied with Varley's gin, faithfully reported his 'briefing'. The next day they were forced to recant after a vigorous CSEU denial.

This Thursday a three-man subcommittee of the CSEU meets the National Enterprise Board to discuss the turbogenerator industry.

The NEB, however, have already made it plain through land-speculator chairman Lord Ryder that they want 'nothing to do' with the industry. They want it handed over to Weinstock.

## Pressure

Gentle negotiations in London's Victoria Street will not stop 'Chopper' Weinstock's plans. The pressure must come from below.

The corporate committee of trade unionists at CA Parsons who have led the fight so far are planning mass pickets of next week's CSEU Conference in Scarborough, and of the NUM's conference in Tynemouth in the first week in July.

But the most important initiative is to spread the fight from Parsons into GEC's factories.

In GEC Rugby, for instance, where the shop stewards have a record of devoted loyalty to their own management, there are signs of worry.

Frank Badger, the works convenor, has been heard to say that Weinstock might close the Rugby factory.

The fight for jobs in the industry must be taken up by all its workers. As soon as Parsons workers start squabbling with GEC workers, Weinstock is the winner against both.

The Right to Work Campaign have produced and distributed 4000 special leaflets for GEC workers at Rugby and at Trafford Park: **TURBO NATIONALISE THE TURBO GENERATOR INDUSTRY.**

## Parsons to axe 192

By Willie Black, shop steward Parsons Peebles, and secretary Edinburgh Anti-Redundancy Committee

PARSONS Peebles Edinburgh intend to sack 192 women and men after 90 days' notice.

The response is not 100 per cent solid in the attempt to save these jobs, mainly because of lack of leadership from most shop stewards.

The CA Parsons factory in Newcastle have shown the way with the whole factory coming out to demonstrate their anger at their redundancies.

The Edinburgh stewards must strengthen their position by again stating their policy of

## Night Out strikers face legal battle

**BIRMINGHAM:** Four strikers at Trust House Forte's club, the Night Out, have received summonses for assault.

The strike there has been going on for three months. It began when a shop steward and other workers were sacked for joining the Transport and General Workers Union.

The summonses have been taken out privately by one of the scabs, Carol Johnson. The four women charged with assault are Barbara Harwood, Roase Quirk, Liz Morgan and Margaret Hall. Margaret Hall was six months pregnant at the time of the alleged assault.

Another picket, Elaine Pritchard, has received a similar summons for allegedly assaulting the manager's wife, Mrs Pritchard.

The day of the so-called assaults on the manager, Mr Preston, organised a demonstration of scabs up to Transport House to protest against the picketing.

Preston led the scabs back to the Night Out, but instead of going inside led his crowd in an assault on the pickets.

Some of the pickets got knocked about and Preston's wife shook the tent sheltering the pickets' small children.

The pickets immediately took out private summonses against the people involved, but the hearing was deferred to allow time for management to take out summonses against the pickets. So much for British justice.

The strikers at Night Out are still awaiting the outcome of the inquiry by the government's arbitration service, ACAS.

Donations and messages of support to Night Out strike committee, Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.



On the picket at Chloride, Manchester: the strikers are solid

## CHLORIDE SIT-IN STILL SOLID

**THE CHLORIDE** Batteries factories in Manchester and Dagenham were still under occupation this week while shop stewards negotiated with management in London.

Chloride workers in Cannock, Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow

and Wembley are also out.

The strikes began when management broke previous agreements and tried to impose a new productivity deal and pensions scheme.

They also reneged on an earlier agreement about the siting of a new production plant.

This is the first time that the

union, the Transport and General Workers, has organised across the combine to take on the Chloride bosses. They are still solid.

Donations and messages of support to: Chloride Strike fund, Chloride, Chequers Lane, Dagenham, Essex.

## IN BRIEF

**PRODUCTION** line and warehouse workers from three Sainsbury's depots at Basingstoke, Buntingford and Hoddersdon are on strike.

They are demanding a wage rise which breaks the Social Contract.

The union involved are the TGWU and USDW. Neither has made the strike official.

Ken Weaving, a warehouse worker at the Basingstoke depot, told Socialist Worker: 'We're demanding a rise of £3.75 on top of the Phase Two rise we've already got—we're not worried by the fact that this breaks the Social Contract.'

The workers from Basingstoke have been picketing the goods entrances of a number of shops in the Southern area. Support for these pickets is welcomed by the Strike Committee.

Donations and messages of support to: Sainsbury's Strike Committee, Basingstoke Labour Club, Sandys Road, South Ham, Basingstoke, Hants.

Womens Voice supporters around the country should organise pickets outside Sainsbury's in support of this important strike. Raise collections and produce leaflets explaining the dispute.

**GARSTANG, Lancs:** As the strike by building workers in the construction union UCATT at Laings Water Treatment Site reaches its 14th week, management have repeatedly tried to recruit scab labour from as far away as Stoke-on-Trent. So far they have had little success.

They have paid six month's union fees to the T&GWU for the strikebreakers working inside the plant, but T&GWU officials have refused to accept their membership.

Since the strikers have received no strike pay or social security or dole, funds are desperately needed.

Send them to: J. Harrison, Convenor, c/o 10 Belmont Avenue, Blackpool, Lancs.

ESSEX University are vying with North East London Poly for the award of the most reactionary educational establishment for 1977.

So far they've been unable to legally imprison anyone. But they've managed to get some results.

The Proctor and chief security officer, with the help of other members of staff, grabbed one student and locked him in a room for three hours.

## Support Greenwich sit-in!

'FANTASTIC'—that was Jamie Campbell's opinion after touring the Swansea and Llanelli area arguing for support for the occupation at BSC Greenwich Reinforcements.

Jamie was part of the three-man delegation to meet the electricians at Port Talbot. He

By BSC workers at Swansea and Llanelli

was amazed by their high morale.

'Who would have believed they had just had a ten-week strike smashed by their own officials?' he said after the shop stewards had donated £50 to the occupation.

Paul Lutener, works rep at Greenwich, said the support they received from the area was 'absolutely tremendous'.

The delegation toured BSC plants, addressing meetings at Port Talbot, Trostre and Unit Superheaters, getting promises of support, collections and pressure on BSC management.

Swansea, Llanelli and Ammanford Trades Councils declared support and have collected money and taken the issue to affiliated branches.

Support was also given by fellow members of the steel union, the ISTC, at the large Dupont steelmaking plant in Llanelli.

Apart from the success of their visit, which was well covered in the local press, the

tour showed how important it is to build links within the rank and file of British Steel workers.

We call upon all areas in the country to support the Greenwich occupation and to use this opportunity to start work around the steel industry.

The Port Talbot strike has proved that this work must be done now.

The occupation is in support of six workers sacked after the factory struck for a day in protest at the closure of local hospitals.

In the occupation, files from the Special Branch on trade union activists inside the factory came to light.

## 90 walk out

**WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants:** A note from management accusing workers of not working hard enough led to a walk-out of 90 AUEW members at British Labour Pumps on Tuesday. The strikers say they will stay out until management withdraw the note.

## Strike Call

**BLACKPOOL:** The multinational, Delta Metal—whose profits last year were £24 million—are going to close their Blackpool-based subsidiary Delglo Appliances in September, putting 200 people out of work.

A mass meeting of the Delglo workers has voted to fight the closure. It called on workers in Delta's 94 other sites to support their fight by strike action.

Socialist Worker readers in the Delta group are urged to raise the threatened closure in their factories and union branches and support the call for strike action.

Messages of support to: Mrs Ada McNamee, Secretary Delglo Action Committee c/o T&GWU District Office, Cookson Street, Blackpool, Lancs.

**BIRMINGHAM:** 15 drivers at Reeds Corrugated Papers have agreed to go to arbitration.

Brian Mathers, TGWU regional secretary, and general secretary Jack Jones tried last week to force the drivers back to work, but they stood their ground, arguing that after three months on strike for money they are owed they weren't going to give up the battle.

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Please send me more information

Name .....

Address .....

Trade union .....

Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Carlton Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

**Just look! 95p for a four-ounce jar of coffee. It was 58p at Christmas. Someone's making a fat profit.**

MRS ROSINA REES in Tescos, Edmonton Green, North London.



# PRICES WAR?



I'm a pensioner so I spend a lot of time going from shop to shop to get the cheapest I can. It usually takes me three days a week to do my shopping. It's stupid. It's a real waste of time. But on a pension what else can you do?  
I only buy meat once a week on a Saturday. It's not long since you could get a chop for 35p. Now chops are £1.35 a pound.  
**JOHN HALL,** Willesden, North West London.

# IT'S A RIP-OFF!

by JUDITH CONDON

**PRICE WAR!** declared the newspapers. It was the day Tesco switched from giving Green Shield Stamps and promised low prices instead.

'Housewives go on a shopping spree' echoed the Daily Mirror. 'There will be a party for housewives in the High Street today' said the Daily Express.

## THIS IS WHERE THE MONEY GOES

THE GIANT food firms are doing very nicely thank you. Sainsbury's profits shot up this year from £15.4 million to £26.1 million—an increase of 65 per cent. Our wages have been held back—by government order—to 5 per cent increases.

Tesco turned in a profit of £28.5 million—an increase of £3.5 million. Associated British Foods, which owns Fine Fare, topped the lot with £80 million, an increase of £14.3 million.

Meanwhile came the news that milk, bacon, and tea are to go up yet again . . .

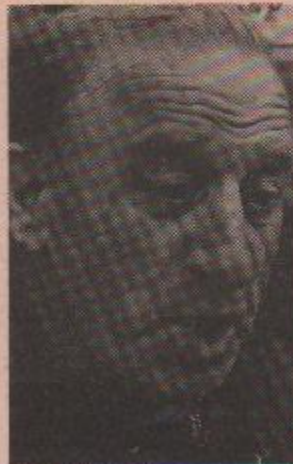
Here are some of the people we spotted singing and dancing their way home from the shops.

'They've reduced some of the prices here because they've stopped giving stamps', said Mrs Elsie Jones outside Tescos in Willesden, North West London.

'But I don't think it will last. Later on they'll all be back up again.'

'Giving stamps was a con anyway,' said David Cornell. 'It made the Green Shield people millionaires.'

'Tesco's have been paying thousands of pounds for stamps. Let's face it, they're not a philanthropic society. So we've been paying for them all this time, knowingly or unknowingly.'



David Cornell



Elsie Jones

**How right they are! The only price war that's going on is the war against us.**

Tesco's used to spend 2½ per cent of their yearly turnover, about £17 million, on Green Shield Stamps. They always claimed that stamps didn't put prices up—that they were paid

for by the extra custom they brought in.

Now they've taken the stamps away and they say they can reduce prices. So they're spending thousands on a massive advertising campaign to convince us how cheap their shops are. What we lost on

stamps we now lose on advertising.

Whichever way you look at it's a swindle.

The real reason behind this phoney 'price war' is that we are all buying less. With wages pegged, most of us are having to cut down on food, especially meat and cheese and eggs.

### Tremble

The turnover of the big supermarket chains has gone down in the past three months and they're beginning to tremble. The only way they can keep sales up is by stealing customers from each other. So Tesco's has taken a calculated risk.

The name of the game is 'loss leaders'. They reduce a few items and advertise them widely. So baked beans, cornflakes, and McDougalls flour are down. That's how they try to lure you in.

But other things stay the same or go up.

As Leslie Porter, chairman of Tesco's put it: 'If a housewife buys things like cream crackers and flour, the saving on a £10 shopping basket could be as high as £1.'

Which is all very well if you want to live on cream crackers and flour.

But it's no answer for the rest of us. Whichever way you turn, prices are going up. Just this week postage is up a halfpenny on first and second class and that will filter through to everything else as firms pass it on.

Most people feel something akin to shell-shock at the prices explosion. Yet there is a way to fight back.

But it has nothing to do with re-decorated supermarkets and halfpenny off special offers. It's to do with higher wages—the money in our pockets to buy the goods we need.

The kind of offer we're looking for is fifteen pounds now, just to keep us level.

**...that's why we all need a £15 pay rise NOW!**