

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, every

## Support the postmen!

By FRED JENKINS



spokesman for the Cricklewood postmen, who made this statement on Tuesday after they had voted to continue the blacking of Grunwicks mail and had been suspended by the Post Office

SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, Chapter Road, London, NW10 (next to Dollis Hill tube station).

# GRUNWICKS:

WE HAVE a moral right to break the law.

This is no longer just a question of supporting the Grunwicks' strikers. A fundamental right is now at stake.

Do postmen have the right to take industrial action or do they not? We know the answer.

We'll take action when we feel it is justified. If this means breaking the law—so be it.

There was an ex-miner who voted with us to continue the blacking this morning. He changed sides at the last minute after listening to all the arguments.

He reminded us about the war years when all strikes were illegal. He told us that miners' leaders had gone to prison then rather than forfeit this precious right.

They were apparently considered to have committed treason by the powers that be!

### Provocation

The narrowness of the vote this morning was determined by the press and television. I'm not blaming the journalists. But those that control the flow of information at the top are lined up against us.

Tom Jackson nearly wrecked our movement. We are incensed that he should describe us as the fall-guys of the trade unions.

He is not liked here. If he has the courage to show his face in Cricklewood he'll find out for himself just how strong we are.

Whenever a movement has started and looks like succeeding, he always wants to call it off.

We now expect to be suspended. We are ready to fight. We know that many of our brothers and sisters are ready to support us.

We appeal to all working people to support our action.

- SEND telegrams of support and money now to the Cricklewood postmen.
- MAKE sure your trade union organisation organises an immediate delegation to the local UPW members.
- URGE all UPW workers to support Cricklewood by strike action, and by blacking all mail to Cricklewood Sorting Office.
- URGE all UPW workers to send money and telegrams of support to Cricklewood and telegrams to the UPW executive demanding they support Cricklewood with official action.

Cricklewood Union of Post Office Workers, branch secretary, 243 Cricklewood Broadway, London, NW10.

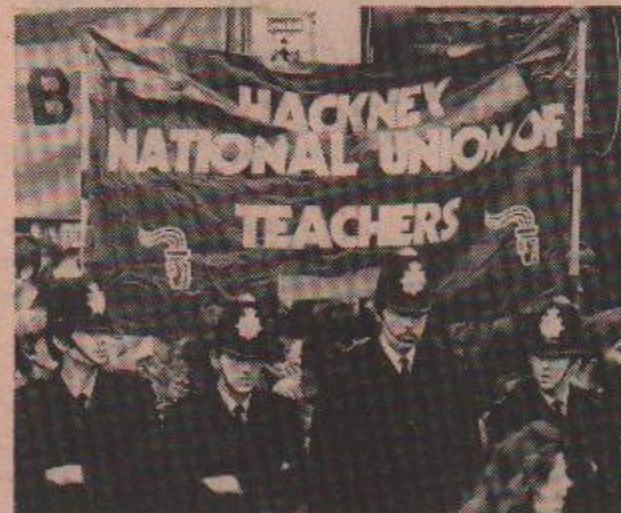
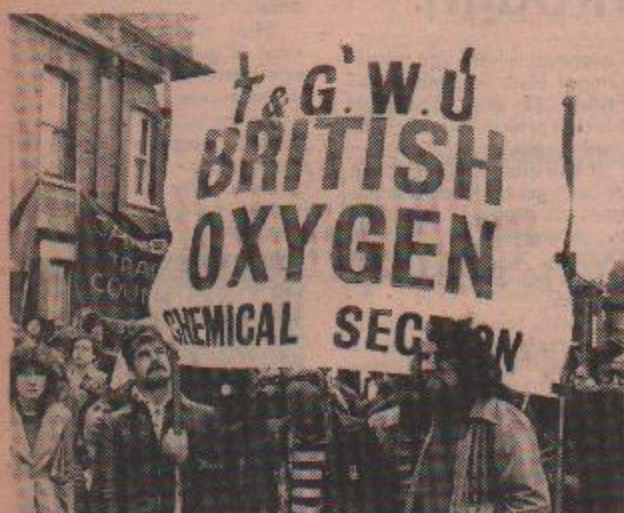
SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS STRIKERS

- ATTEND the daily mass picket at 7am at Grunwicks
- FIGHT for official delegations from your branch, shop stewards committee, trades council. Bring banners
- ORGANISE mass delegations for Monday 11 July at 7am to join the mass picket with the Yorkshire miners.



## STOP THE SCABS' BUS

## JOIN THE MASS PICKET NEXT MONDAY, 11 July, 7am



PICTURES: Andrew Ward (Report) and Laurence Sparham (IFL)

SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, every weekday, (next to Dollis Hill tube station). NW10

**SUPPORT THE GRUNWICKS PICKET LINE: 7am, every**

# GRUNWICKS:

**TONY BILTON, the man who hires convicted criminals to smash through picket lines, is linking up with Grunwicks.**

Bilton visited the factory in North West London on Tuesday and offered his services to George Ward, Grunwicks managing director. He offered to use lorries to bring films straight from chemists' shops to the factories.

Bilton hit the headlines in 1973 when he was hired by Chrysler to take engines through the picket lines of striking electricians to the Chrysler factory at Dunstable.

He hired John and David Walker, both known hoodlums in the East End of London. Both had been convicted many times, including for armed robbery of wages vans.

John Walker was described by police in court as 'a violent man who will stop at nothing'.

These men were used to uphold 'the rule of law'. They drove their trucks through the pickets so fast that a security guard was thrown against the gates and his leg smashed.

## Scab itch

In autumn 1973, Bilton was at it again—this time taking paper through the picket lines of striking journalists at the Sheffield Telegraph.

When he read about Grunwicks, Bilton's scabs started to itch again. He rushed straight from publicising his views on

# Ward calls in

# RENTASCAB

Radio Sheffield to Grunwicks, where he offered his services. So watch out on the picket line. If you see a handful of thugs charging at you in rented trucks, it

will be Bilton and his Bosses' Battering Ram. He will almost certainly have police permission for everything he does. George Ward believes in the rule of law, remember.



Tony Bilton (left) at the wheel of a scab lorry in 1973. Now he's offering his 'rentascab' services to Grunwicks.



RIGHT: John and David Walker, previously convicted of armed robbery, then hired by Bilton to break the Chrysler picket line, talk to the security guard whose leg they smashed.

## Another worker joins the pickets

SUSAN PITTS, a West Indian girl, was a secretary at Grunwicks until last Monday. She started work after the strike started. For the past four weeks she has travelled to work on the scabs' bus.

Last Monday she missed the bus. By pure co-incidence she was walking past another picket, outside Willesden Magistrates Court as Richard Maull was appearing in court accused of throwing a bottle on the Grunwicks picket.

Susan Pitts asked what was going on. Two members of the Socialist Workers Party, Ken and Jan Gablonski, started talking to her.

They argued for half an hour about the Grunwicks strike. She was convinced. They took her immediately to the strike committee headquarters.

'I'm a bit afraid of meeting Mrs Desai,' she murmured before she went in. She need not have worried. Mrs Desai was delighted to see her.

Later in the day Susan spoke to Socialist Worker.

'Ward, the Grunwicks boss, will be really angry with me. I was a protagonist. I helped to maintain the morale of those still going to work.'

'Even though I defied the picket lines. Olden, Ward's leading manager, was rude to me. He once asked me if I was working with my hands or my mouth.'

'Olden drives the bus. He has a walkie-talkie and is in constant touch with the police.'

'I am certain if the pickets were allowed to speak to those still going to work in the way that your people spoke to me this morning then I think many would change their minds.'

'Most do not understand what is going on. Many are newly arrived immigrants who do not even know what a union is.'

'Some people are getting an extra fiver in their wage packets. The students are getting more than the permanent staff.'

## 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

## RICHARD MAULL IS INNOCENT, OK

THE POLICE are going to be sorry they ever heard of Richard Maull. They are certainly going to wish they could have found someone else to blame for throwing the bottle at Special Patrol Group Constable Wilson on the Grunwicks picket two weeks ago.

Richard, the young West Indian trade unionist from Cricklewood in North West London, has now been released on bail after spending several days in Brixton Prison. His popularity in the area means that within hours of his arrest an almost spontaneous movement for his defence had sprung to life.

'Our house is brimming with people all the time,' says his mother, Sylvia Maull. 'The telephone never stops ringing. I never realised he knew so many people.'

'It is the loyalty of his friends that has given me the courage to fight,' Tom McNab, the English team



Sylvia Maull. The loyalty of his friends has given me the courage to fight

athletic coach, wrote to Richard in jail stressing his support for him. Richard was a sports champion at school and all-England schools triple jump champion.

'His workmates are solid behind him,' said Chris Piggot and Taig Flynn, ASTMS shop stewards at Smiths Industries in Cricklewood,

where Richard works. 'The defence committee has the backing of the union branch and we are now receiving support from many trades unionists in the area.'

'That's right,' says Bob Walker, a member of the train drivers' union ASLEF. 'This is a clear case of the police trying to split our movement along racial lines.'

'I've been on the Grunwicks picket line every day, often with up to 16 other railway workers. They are trying to weaken that picket by picking on a black trades unionist in this way.'

## Smears

Last Sunday 130 people packed the first public meeting arranged by the defence committee. Don Trudell, secretary of Richard's ASTMS branch, spelled out the

importance of rallying to his defence.

'There is a press campaign trying to smear Richard. For example the Sunday Mail carried a story headed 'PC's attacker is named'—his guilt already assumed. But we will not be intimidated by this.'

Richard's mother and sister Elaine also spoke at the meeting. 'There are two reasons for this campaign,' Elaine told the meeting. 'One is to free Richard. The other is to educate others about what this system is all about.'

£82 was collected at the meeting, making nearly £400 collected for the campaign so far.

Richard Maull told Socialist Worker: 'When I heard the police were after me I went to the police station. I was closely questioned by the Scotland Yard boys. They named a number of people and asked me if I knew them.'

'All the ones named are members of the Socialist Workers Party. They had all been on the Smiths picket line during our strike several months ago.'

## Informers

'They asked me about my union branch. Questions like how many times did I attend, and so on. They seemed to know a great deal about me already. They even asked me if I owned a gun!'

'I had the clear impression that my employer had fed them information about me.'

□ RICHARD MAULL IS INNOCENT, OK. Contact the Richard Maull Defence Campaign, c/o Secretary, ASTMS 628 Branch, 65 Ashworth Mansions, Elgin Ave, London W9.

## Dissident harassed..

A WELL-KNOWN East European dissident has been subject to harassment by the secret police. But you won't read about it in any of the right-wing newspapers.

For the secret police who harassed Edmund Baluka, leader of a great strike in the Polish shipyards in 1970, were the British Special Branch.

They held him and interrogated him for seven hours when he landed at Dover last weekend—despite the fact that he had previously lived in Britain for several years, working in factories in Birkenhead and Manchester.

Edmund Baluka was subject to hours of rude questioning, to police prying into his address book, to tirades of abuse. A quite different reception to that of other dissidents, of right-wing views, who have been paraded round by Margaret Thatcher and the

NAFF. But Baluka is a left-wing dissident, a workers' leader, who was visiting Britain to speak to a meeting at Marxism 77, the week of socialist discussion organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies.

When he finally arrived, he told the meeting: 'Now I know at first hand what you are fighting against in this country.'

## Marx?

He told how the secret policeman at Dover had asked him: 'How can you, an opponent of Communism, go to speak at a meeting about Marxism?' Baluka replied: 'What exists in Russia and Eastern Europe has nothing to do with socialism and nothing to do with Marx.'

The meeting was one of the high points of a week of discussion at Marxism 77.



Polish strike leader Edmund Baluka speaking at Marxism 77 last weekend

Picture: Derek Speirs (IFL)

## Don't let Benyon's Bill sneak through

by MARGARET RENN

THEY TOLD us the Benyon Bill to restrict women's right to abortion was finished. But it's not. It looks very much as if it could be through the Commons by the end of July.

The government have given it such a massive amount of time, and have appointed such an arch-anti-abortion bigot—Sir Stephen McAdden, from Southend—as committee chairman that the women MPs who are fighting the Bill probably can't stave it off.

This is what we've been dreading for months. And it makes the demonstrations and protests against the Bill very, very important.

The Abortion Law Reform Association is lobbying parliament on Wednesday 12 July from 3pm.

The National Abortion

Campaign is holding a rally in Central Hall, Westminster on Friday 15 July, the night which is projected for the Bill's third reading.

If you don't live in London, or can't get to the demonstration, you should be organising a protest in your area. Organise a picket on your nearest anti-abortion MP, for instance.

Posters for placards for all these demos and activities are available from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

On Saturday 16 July, Women's Voice in London are holding a demonstration to campaign for more out-patient abortion clinics, and against the control by anti-abortion consultants over NHS abortion facilities.

It will assemble at Victoria Park (Parnell Road entrance) at 2.30p.m.

# TRAITOR TOM

## Man of 'principle' who stabbed the strikers in the back

**TOM JACKSON** is a man who likes to parade his principles.

This weekend he is the keynote speaker at the TUC demonstration in Manchester against racialism. But on Monday he proved that his principles are worth nothing.

He went out of his way to stab in the back the strikers, mainly Asian, who have been fighting for 11 months for basic rights at Grunwicks.

He told postal worker delegates who had previously committed themselves to solidarity action with Grunwicks that they should not be 'fall guys'.

For traitor Tom, a 'fall guy' is anyone who carries into practice the principles that he loves to espouse on public platforms.

He tried to justify himself by saying that the blacking of Grunwicks products by postal workers was putting the future of their union 'at risk'. This was because of threatened legal action against the union by the extreme right-wing National

Association For Freedom.

Apparently postal workers should wait until, at some distant point in the future, the law has been changed in their favour before they display basic trade union solidarity.

But all previous experience shows there is only one way for trade unionists to get rid of anti-union laws. It is to defy them and to build up a movement of mass industrial action in support of anyone victimised under them.

The notorious Tory Industrial Relations Act would still be in force today if rank and file London dockers had been as

unprincipled as Jackson and surrendered before the threat of jail sentences.

Can anyone doubt that, if Jackson had defied the law and been jailed, there would have been a massive wave of solidarity from every union and workplace?

Fortunately for trade unionism, there is more courage in the little finger of every sorter in Cricklewood than there is in Tom Jackson and the whole of his executive.



Jackson: pity he doesn't live up to his fine words . . .

## No wonder he's smirking

JACKSON tried to justify his treachery by pointing to the court of inquiry into the dispute under Lord Justice Scarman. But the argument is nonsense.

The Grunwicks management have declared they will not be bound by the inquiry if it finds against them.

More important, the courts can never be relied upon to find in workers' interests.

Scarman, like virtually every other judge, comes from a wealthy family and was educated at a very expensive public school.

His friends and relatives are to be found in boardrooms, not on the shop floor. He shares their deep bias against trade unions.

Only two years ago he said that a new law, a 'Bill of Rights' was necessary to 'curb irresponsible power', such as 'that of trade unions'.

The last inquiry Scarman presided over covered up for the police Special Patrol Group after they murdered anti-fascist demonstrator Kevin Gately in Red Lion Square.

There is only one condition in which a court of inquiry will find for the workers—if the judge is worried about the consequences of not doing so.

A colleague of Scarman's, Lord Justice Wilberforce, admitted this after the inquiry into

BUT WE CAN MAKE HIM AN OFFER HE CANT REFUSE



Scarman: anti-trade union bias

miners' demands in 1972.

'I looked into the whites of their eyes,' he said, 'and thought what I could get away with'.

If the blacking and the mass picketing continue, then Scarman will know that he won't be able to get away with anything.

SEVERAL months ago, a man wrote a poem about a carpenter who was executed for upsetting the local priesthood about 2000 years ago.

The poem suggested that the carpenter might have had sex with other men.

Today in the High Court a judge and jury and a lot of men in wigs are arguing whether or not the editor who published the poem should be sent to prison.

The 'crime' is blasphemy. In its strictest sense it means 'any published material which brings the Christian religion into disrepute'.

The prosecution lawyer told the court that it was all right to suggest that Jesus Christ (the carpenter) was a charlatan or a liar.

But to suggest that he engaged in homosexual practices is 'so vile that it would be difficult for the most perverted imagination to conjure up

anything else'.

The prosecution has been brought by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the anti-enjoyment campaigner. In the dock is the editor of Gay News.

### Permission

If Mrs Whitehouse, and the judge who allowed her permission to bring the case, really wanted to shield the young from corrupt literature she

should look to the bible.

The Old Testament contains possibly the nastiest collection of mass murders, tortures, and unashamed pornography ever published.

But of course Mrs Whitehouse isn't interested in anything of the kind.

She wants to uphold the 'rules' of the society and the 'rules' depend on blind superstition.

The judge, Mr Justice King-Hamilton (known on the

Queens Bench as 'the Janie Jones' judge) obviously agrees with her. 'Homosexuality' he once said, 'caused the downfall of the Roman Empire.'

The more our society disintegrates, the more the rules matter to its rulers.

What was permissible ten years ago is now criminal libel, blasphemy, a breach of official secrets, or an offence against any of the repressive laws which decent British democracy keeps up its sleeve.



## Nazareth: Carpenter held on sex charge



## EAGER BEAVERS

THE COMPANIES THAT LOVE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

# Excess profits—it's no gas!

BY SEYMOUR PROPHET

The bug in the boardroom

THE GAS and electricity industries—so fearlessly exposed by the capitalist press as making excess profits—have been ripping us off for years.

And the excess profits they are making at the moment look like small change next to those of private industry.

The press have suddenly discovered that British Gas made excess profits last year of £30 million. They are not telling us what

these profits are needed for.

In fact British Gas profits are much greater than this. Probably £150 million. But by a change in the accounting policies under which they draw up their accounts, they will manage to hide much of this.

Last year they salted away £40 million in this way—and hardly one

newspaper mentioned it.

British Gas surplus—what's left after paying for materials, wages and services—was about £550 million last year. Of this something like £190 million was paid out in interest payments—mainly to the government, who pass it on to the money-lenders, the big banks, finance houses, and their shareholders.

A further £150 million of the surplus was needed to repay some of those loans.

In all, over the past five years British Gas has paid over £800 million in interest payments.

And the cost of keeping the capitalists fat and rich has been borne mainly by the ordinary gas customer. Household customers pay about three times what the

average industrial customer pays for his gas.

In the electricity industry interest payments have been an even bigger burden for the consumer.

Over the past five years the Electricity Council has paid out something like £1,727 million in interest payments. That is almost £100 for each customer. During 1975/6 alone the interest bill came to £430 million.

That means that 12p in every £1 you paid to the electricity board was handed over to the rich as interest.

When the front pages of the newspapers were getting hysterical about the £30 million of British Gas excess profits, something rather different was going on inside the paper, on the business pages.

### Decision

There readers found that, on the very same day Prices Minister Roy Hattersley promised the gas profits would be handed back to the consumer, one of Britain's biggest builders' merchants was making the same sort of profits but had no intention of handing over anything.

British Plaster Board have a virtual monopoly of the plaster board industry—there will be some of their plaster board in your house or flat. In 1976 they made profits of £27 million—about 11p in every £1 worth of goods they sold.

We read nothing of this profiteering in the newspapers.

Indeed, this year British industry will make profits of over £10 billion, on which they will pay tax of about £2 billion. Nothing will be written about that in the newspapers.



Equal pay strikers from Yardleys meeting equal pay strikers from Laird Portch, East Kilbride, earlier this year. Joan Penfold is second from the left.

# Dear Mr Jones,

## WHY HAVE YOU SOLD OUT OUR EQUAL PAY?

For the attention of Mr J Jones Transport & General Workers' Union Transport House Smith Square London SW1.

Dear Sir,

**YARDEYS COSMETICS DISPUTE—DETAILS ALREADY KNOWN TO YOU**

I am sending you a copy of my Arbitration Papers—we lost!

The Arbitrators walked around the firm, observed the women at work and told them that the boxes they carried looked heavy and said to each other that the work was one hundred per cent inspected

IN THE spring, 400 women at Yardleys cosmetics factory at Basildon in Essex—a subsidiary of British American Tobacco (BAT)—came out on unofficial strike for equal pay.

They had been so graded as to get less than all the men workers, and they were angry. Eventually they were bullied back to work by trade union officials who begged them to go to arbitration.

The result of arbitration shocked the women strikers. Joan Penfold, then a shop steward, now acting convenor in the factory, wrote this letter to Transport and General Workers Union general secretary Jack Jones.

Joan has also written a circular to all TGWU delegates at this week's union conference at Scarborough, denouncing the union for paying £15 each to the scabs who crossed the picket lines.

and then agreed that the lipstick girls did need experience but proceeded to judge us on the Job Evaluation Scheme, which is 25 years old.

We knew there was no place for us on it and told the

union's officials Mr R Todd and Mr Ferryman so why the hell you sent us to Arbitration to lose, I just don't know.

Mr Ferryman saw the Job Evaluation three years ago and said he would 'suck it and see'. I would have thought that

he should have studied it. One of the key factors for us is dexterity and that is not on it.

We feel we have been cheated by the union.

We work hard, some of the belts run at 70 talcum powders per minute—you imagine this

for eight hours per day. They have to be washed, therefore the girls have wet hands for eight hours per day. We cannot leave the belt unless relieved.

The girls in soaps work in the mills and the belts run at 100 per minute. The lipstick girls work with flames and the room temperature cannot be less than 80 degrees.

Before the Job Evaluation Scheme was looked into we were one of the highest paid. Now the male cleaners are on Grade 4—previously we earned the same as them.

Grade 6, which is the lowest paid man, is a lift boy and two shutter operators—the lowest grade in the firm and we cannot get on it! I think you must agree with me that something is wrong.

I am now asking for your help. The TGWU is supposed to believe in Equal Pay.

You'll agree we have been cheated, we think, by the union as well as management, and arbitrators are a governor's tool. Another week outside the door and we would have had Grade 6.

### Sisters

Something should be done to the Job Evaluation Scheme, perhaps this is something you can recommend in Phase 3 to ensure that employees cannot be cheated by governors with union's sanction.

I want you to look after my interests now while I am still young with a family to bring up and educate, not when I am old.

I would like to hear from you to establish what you are going to do for the 400 women I represent.

By the way we lost 18 months back pay with the Arbitration and BAT's came down to Yardleys to celebrate what a win they have had! Management had more help from the TGWU than we had.

I await your reply.

Yours faithfully  
J Penfold (Mrs)  
DEPUTY CONVENOR

## Moving in on the Tories!

by ALAN WILKINSON

A NEW branch of the SWP is being formed in Bury St Edmunds, a small town in Suffolk, and last week we sold Socialist Worker on the market place for the first time ever.

Twelve copies were sold in two hours and many people were interested in what was going on. This is in the middle of Tory MP Eldon Griffith's country and we urge anybody in Bury who would like to help us build the branch to contact Jan Barker on Ipswich 51134.

□ Socialist Worker will be sold every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.30pm and a public meeting is being planned soon.

### Bulk orders by post for SW Supporters.

Socialist Worker has a special POST-FREE SERVICE for SW Supporters who wish to take two or more copies each week to sell at work, on the estate or to friends.

If you would like a bulk order by post, FILL IN THE FORM BELOW, and we will send you further details.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED EACH WEEK .....

When complete, send this form to Socialist Worker Circulation, 6, Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# 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.



### Rank and File DIARY

### SUPPORT GRUNWICKS STRIKERS

Socialist Workers Party

STICKERS in support of Grunwicks, 25p for a sheet of 12, proceeds to the strike fund. FROM Support Grunwicks Strikers, 10 Fairclough Street, London, E1.

HACKNEY NALGO ACTION GROUP Social Friday 8 July, 7.30pm, Chai's Palace, Brocksby's Walk, London E8. Women's Theatre Group with Out, Out, Out on the Costa del Trico, plus disco and drinks. Admission, 80p, or 50p with dole card.

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN LEAFLETS for Dole Queue distribution. Join the march to the Blackpool TUC. £1.50 for 500. Money with orders to the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

JUST OUT—2nd edition of RANK AND FILE FIREMAN. Articles on: Witchhunt against R & F Fireman, The Fight for £15, The Lessons of Glesgow 1973. Individual copies 15p, 10 for 50p, 20 for £1 (all post free) from Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Cash with orders.

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.

# POISON!

**THE LONG** hot summer began in South London last Saturday.

One hundred Nazis poured out of the pubs and charged us as we were assembling for a demonstration in support of the Lewisham 21.

Among the bricks, eggs and missiles that came sailing over was a bottle of a stinging substance which burst on the loudspeaker truck and splashed over a woman. This was identified by a chemist on the demonstration as Paraquat, a deadly poisonous weedkiller.

Despite heavy police pressure to call off the march, it proceeded as planned. As we marched through the streets of Deptford and Lewisham, the demonstration grew to about 400, including 30 to 40 young blacks who joined us in the streets.

The Front hecklers dwindled as the effect of the drink wore off.

## Tactics

The march was called by the Lewisham 21 Defence Campaign as a protest against systematic harassment and frame-ups of black youth in the area by the police. In Brook Mill Road, Deptford, as the march was nearing its end, we experienced the tactics of the Lewisham police at first hand.

The police had angered everyone by snatching a black boy and girl out of the march. But this incident had passed and we were drawn up ready to move off again when they came in at us in wedge formation, several police kicking and punching at demonstrators.

This attack resulted in 15 arrests personally ordered by the senior officers present, including Commander Ran-

Report: DAVE PEERS  
Pictures: PHIL McCOWAN



On the Lewisham 21 demonstration last weekend.

## Nazis spread it, Nazis throw it -STOP THE NAZI FRONT

dall of Prince Charles fame. The attacks on the demonstration by the Nazis—and in turn by the police—are the culmination of a month of growing fascist and police harassment in the area.

We have received well-founded reports that this represents a change of tactics by the Nazis. They are concerned by the rising level of workers' resistance and by the renewed growth of socialist organisation, especially the SWP.

Their base among the workers has been built on despair and demoralisation. They have nothing to say on the fight for wages and jobs, but they realise that we are fighting for both. Their campaign of intimidation is designed to nip our fight in the bud.

## Defend

We have been informed that their South London branches have been given a free hand to attack left-wing demonstrations. This is a danger that no anti-fascist—SWP member or not—can ignore.

The local SWP will be contacting trade unions, Labour Parties and all anti-fascists in the area to defend the right to demonstrate and to meet in public free from fascist harassment.

We appeal to all other organisations in building a front against the Front in the area to contact us through Socialist Worker right away.

**□ In particular we call for maximum support for the Lewisham 21 Defence Campaign's next march: Saturday 23 July, assemble 3pm, Lewisham British Rail station, for march to protest rally in Lewisham Town Concert Hall.**

RIGHT: NF members following the protest march. Note the man giving the Nazi salute—the white object in his hand is either an egg or a golf-ball.



TONY CLEARY:

School was just a joke. Conditions were terrible. The classes were overcrowded and the teachers were soft. You could talk over them.

The lowest classes always got the worst teachers. If they thought you were thick, that was that.

I was supposed to take two English O-levels, Language and Literature. But the teacher only put me in for Language.

It was because the teacher said we had to use his interpretation of this poem he was talking about. I argued back with my own interpretation and he stopped me taking the exam.

Now it's so boring. You do the same thing every day. Parents make it really terrible, saying 'go out and get a job, it's easy.'

My mum was off work for a month. Then she found out what it's all about and changed a bit.

The march is the only way we can cause a shake-up and start getting in the papers. It's our only chance to fight back.



TONY MURRAY:

When I left school it was over a year ago. I was totally unprepared for what it was like. I got this job and because I worked hard, slogging my guts out, they put me on piecework.

Then I rebelled and said I'd had enough. They took me off piecework. Even then we were only getting 8½p for assembling a pushchair.

I passed all the tests for

## FIVE FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

FIVE more marchers for the September Right to Work march.

All five went to St Boniface's School, in Plaistow, East London. Four have no jobs to go to. The fifth has spent a year at West Ham College and still doesn't have a job.

All five will be setting off on the four-day march from Liverpool to Blackpool to protest at the Trades Union Congress this September.

Pictures: Andrew Ward (Report)

this job, but they wouldn't give it to me—no CSE's, no O-levels. So I went to West Ham College for a year. And now I've still got to find a job.



LAURENCE FENOGLIO

When I first heard about this march I thought it was a load of rubbish. But now I'm unemployed you can see what it's all about.

It's really hard. You're totally unprepared for all this when you leave school. They don't tell you. It's so boring, doing the same things every day, taking part time jobs for a few pounds.

The march will make people look up and think and see that we're there.



GRAHAM DUNSTER

I went to the careers office and said I was interested in biology, so they said become a male nurse. I said no way.

Then the way my exams went meant I've no chance at all. I left some of them after half an hour. They gave me a labouring job,

that are full already. You don't stand a chance most of the time.

At home my parents complain all the time about getting up late in the morning or getting in late at night. Either you get good exams or that's it, you get any old job that's going.

This march has got to have an effect for all our sakes.



MARK HAYNES:

Most of my friends at school haven't got jobs. There's one, he's working in a pub for almost no money, picking up glasses. I was grabbed by the

police one day in the West End with Tony. We were by a newsagent's stall. The police leapt out a car and rushed at us. One grabbed me by the throat, then punched me in the mouth. Then they bounced me off the railings.

They took me to the police station. They made me stand facing a wall, with my arms and legs spreadeagled.

Then they kned me in the bollocks. Then they punched me and threatened to punch my kidneys if I wouldn't talk to them.

I think I might have a job lined up for the autumn. But I've not heard definitely. I wrote off to quite a few addresses. Some never bothered to reply at all.



WE'LL WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE



LEN MURRAY!

JOIN THE MARCH

I would like to join the march/have more information about the march.  
Name .....  
Address .....

Send to 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 (phone 01-802 0978)

With thanks to TEMPORARY HOARDING

# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Peter Clark

It suits the judges to have convicted rapists roaming the streets of Belfast in army uniform. But if you're a gypsy, you get seven years in jail.

# Rape and the judges

**RAPE IS** among the most horrible offences that any one individual can commit against another. It involves personal humiliation for the victim to a degree that is true of almost no other crime.

The courts and the judges have for years been biased against the victims of rape in case after case. Many cases are not taken to court each year because women fear further humiliation in the witness box.

The bias of judges against women extends well beyond rape cases. According to the Probation Officers' journal women are five times as likely as men to be sent to prison for a first offence. On a

wide number of offences women are likely to be sent to prison while men receive suspended sentences or fines.

These were not the questions that concerned the editorial writers of the Daily Express, the Sun and the Daily Telegraph when they denounced the three High Court judges who two weeks ago released a soldier convicted of rape.

## Law and order

For the Express and the Sun, and their supporters in the Tory Party, the issue was 'law and order'. The supposed 'softness' of the judges was another excuse to hammer home their familiar warnings about the 'rise in crime', the 'overpressed police force' and the 'need for sterner measures to safeguard law and order'.

The tone and content of much of

their comment was indistinguishable from their denunciations of football hooligans, or alleged 'black muggers at Notting Hill'.

Just two months ago there was very little press publicity about a similar rape case. A judge freed four men found guilty of raping a young girl.

The circumstances of the case explain why the judge freed them, and why there was so little press comment.

The four soldiers were members of the English army, they were on duty, in uniform, manning a checkpoint in Belfast when they raped the young girl. The judge who freed them was a former army officer.

In sharp contrast just last week another judge sent a 17 year old boy to prison for seven years for rape. The boy happens to be a gypsy.

If he had been black he would

probably have got 10 years not seven.

The same double standards exist throughout the law. Last month an Old Etonian and former Guards Officer, who went around holding up banks with a sawn off shot gun, got a suspended sentence.

## Reactionary

If he had come from the East End of London, like George Ince or George Davies, he would have got 15 to 20 years.

Judges look after their own. They protect society as it now exists, whether they are sending social security 'scroungers' to jail or granting injunctions against trade unionists on strike.

It is foolish and dangerous to believe that on the one question of rape judges will behave any differently, or that the

law will suddenly exist to protect and help people.

The laws on rape, and the apparatus that exists to back them up, cannot be separated off from the rest of the law, the judges, the police, the prisons.

Many societies have had severe laws on rape. In the United States the Supreme Court has just ruled that the state of Georgia cannot execute a man for rape.

Georgia is one of the most reactionary states in the deep south. The oppression of women has always been much worse there than in many states.

The law on rape in Georgia has nothing to do with protecting women. It is part of the apparatus of repression created in the deep south after the civil war freed the slaves over one hundred years ago.

The law on rape in particular comes from the racist mythology about blacks created to allow the whites to control society after the civil war. It made legalised lynching of blacks commonplace for 70 years.

## Precedents

No single law exists in isolation from the society that created it. The English judges that interpret the law, and to a large extent make it up as they go along through what they call precedents, are the most bigoted viciously reactionary and elitist ruling class representatives it is possible to find anywhere.

More and more they are the real front line defenders of capitalism. Injunctions, writs, contempt of court, Public Inquiries, the judges are there, steering a way through, but not for us.

These men will not change their spots just on the issue of rape. Instead they will continue to be lenient towards serving soldiers, officers, old Etonians and all the rest of them.

They will continue to impose savage sentences on working class people, and on young blacks in particular, whether they have been 'found guilty' of rape, mugging, football hooliganism or anything else.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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WATCH OUT for Constable Peter Jones from Widnes in Cheshire. He's a man with a great future.

Known as 'supercop' PC Jones has already earned a commendation from his chief constable and a promise of CID job after only 18 months in the force.

His claim to fame is that he has arrested 145 people so far which is something of a record.

He told the Sunday Times recently: 'Most of the offenders we lock up are 16-19, unemployed labourers who would be in the forces if we had conscription.'

PC Jones takes a genuine pride in his 'work' and does

# PROFILE OF A SUPERCOP

not of course believe in the police officers' right to strike.

He boasts that only three of his victims lodged complaints over strong arm tactics. One of those was dropped.

Last word from the man who has been honoured for his dedication:

*'To me locking somebody up is just like going for a couple of pints.'*

THERE ARE more police than pickets outside the Grunwick factory gates—and that's official.

Figures released by Merlyn Rees in the House of Commons reveal that on July 27 there were 900 pickets and 1356 police.

Overheard on the first day of the picket: 'Hey lads, what are you trying to do, get a century before lunch?'

THE FOLLOWING notice appeared under company letter head paper on the notice board at L Whitaker and Sons mill in Lancashire. 'Patrick' is the son of the managing director:

'Patrick celebrates his 21st birthday on June 29 and, as is customary, company employees make their own presentation.'

'A collection will be made this week and, as before, an amount of 30p has been suggested. This is only a guide and it is entirely up to each individual to give whatever he wishes.'



## TIGHTENING OUR BELTS

The caviar bar opened by Viscount Newport in London last year is thriving. According to the Evening News large quantities of caviar are being dished out 'at prices that could feed a small family for a day or two.'

It's apparently such a successful idea in these hard times that another similar establishment is being opened at the Empress Club this week.

Members can stuff their faces with Beluga caviar at £4.50 an ounce, washed down with champagne at £4.50 a bottle.

## TO-DAY'S DILEMMA



To get a Shirt, must I join the Fascists?

1934 . . .

FROM AN exhibition of cartoons and pictures from the thirties and seventies at the Half Moon Gallery in Alie Street, London E1.

. . . 1977



Picture: Tom Picton

## The freedom to do what they're told

VICTOR MATTHEWS, deputy chairman of giant Trafalgar House Investments, has joined the ranks of the press barons since the company have taken over Beaverbrook newspapers.

But he obviously hasn't been properly schooled yet.

The new boss of The Daily Express, Sunday

Express and Evening Standard, is quoted in the Daily Telegraph as saying:

*'By and large the editors will have complete freedom as long as they agree with the policy I lay down.'*

And what is this policy?

*'Believe in Britain and look for the good things.'*

SCOTLAND has just got itself another member of the nobility—at a cost of £5,650 and a two and a half day court hearing.

Sir John Makgill of Kemback and Brackmont has proved he is entitled to the Viscounty of Ox-fuird, succeeding the second viscount who died in 1705.

There have been moves to set up a committee to investigate the archaic law which entitles people to claim these titles at great public expense, but this has sparked off a string of protests from several Lords.

Lord Fraser said in the House of Lords: 'To deprive a small group of people of a vested right would be entirely wrong.'

## Spot the scrounger

JOHN McALEAVEY was described by Judge Bingham at Liverpool Crown Court as a 'professional cadger'.

His 'crime'—he obtained £93 from social security by forging his war pension order. He was entitled to a princely £18.75 a week.

He was jailed for two years.

IMPORTS of French champagne to Britain increased by 63 per cent last year.

GROWING unemployment is putting tremendous stress on local Citizens Advice Bureaux. They have issued a statement saying that more than half their inquiries are now about social security rights and unemployment.

# POLICE TORTURE!

● Man, 64 beaten senseless  
 ● Woman made to 'confess'

● Cigarettes stubbed out on neck  
 ● Vomit forced in mouth

**IN THE LAST three weeks, 64-year-old Peter McGrath has said only three words: 'home . . . bath . . . hospital'.**

Doctors at the Tyrone Mental Hospital in Northern Ireland, where he is detained, say they do not know when, if ever, he will be able to speak again.

## BARRACKS

Mr McGrath was arrested at 6 am on 13 June by detectives investigating the killing of three Royal Ulster Constabulary men in an ambush at Ardboe on 2 June and taken to the 'interrogation centre' 40 miles away at Castlereagh Barracks.

For the next week, his relatives, a solicitor and a doctor made frantic efforts to get in to see him. All were refused.

On 20 June, after a habeas corpus action, he was brought before the Lord Chief Justice. Mr McGrath was driven by police to a hospital in Dungannon. Doctors there refused to admit him and referred the police to the mental hospital at Omagh. Mr McGrath had no previous history of mental illness.

*What happened was that Peter McGrath had been driven mad by the RUC. It is impossible to say what exactly was done to him; he cannot, and the RUC will not, tell.*

## SUSPECTS

He is the latest in a long list of cases which leave no room for doubt that it is RUC policy to torture 'confessions' out of suspects. Neither can there be much doubt that the torture is approved by Labour's Secretary of State for the North, Roy Mason.

Mason said last week that the RUC's detection record is 'remarkable' and produced statistics to prove it—63 'Provisional officers' arrested this year and so on. Such statistics are the basis of all the national press stories about the RUC 'getting on top of the terrorists'.

But the story behind the statistics is savage.

Two weeks ago, for example, a Belfast court refused to admit a 'confession' by 21-year-old Terence



Photomontage: Red Wedge Graphics

## Eamonn McCann reports

Magill of Turf Lodge after he showed burn marks on his back, arms and neck where Special Branch men had stubbed out their cigarettes.

Three weeks ago, Peter McKenna was awarded £4000 for having been beaten non-stop for 24 hours by RUC men at Cookstown. Five policemen were acquitted of causing grievous bodily harm after each in turn refused to give evidence against the others.

Brian Grugan of Draperstown has described how RUC men in Derry flung him around a room by the hair,

kicked and beat him and made him do press-ups until he collapsed, then tore off all his clothes and made him stand with legs outstretched while police mocked and jeered at his body.

Owen O'Neill, held for seven days in Cookstown last month, had hair pulled out in tufts from his head and moustache, ripping away skin. One doctor reported detailed injuries to his testicles. Owen said that when he vomited after being forced to do press-ups, an RUC man soaked up the vomit with a tissue and then

forced the tissue into his mouth.

On 23 June, 18-year-old Brenda Murray of the Short Strand in Belfast was released on appeal against a 15-year sentence of firebombing a boutique on Good Friday last year—'which she confessed to'.

Evidence at the appeal court showed she could not possibly have been guilty. Brenda told journalists after the case that a RUC man in North Queen Street Barracks had presented her with a ready-made confession and that a police-woman called Angela had simply beaten her until she signed it.

*There are literally scores of such cases which could be quoted.*

And scores of people, not as lucky as Brenda Murray or as resilient as Brian Grugan, Peter McKenna and Owen O'Neill serving long sentences for 'crimes' they did not commit.

In a statement last week RUC Chief Constable Kenneth Newman insisted that prisoners were inflicting all these injuries on themselves—tearing out their own hair, stubbing out cigarettes on their backs, kicking themselves in the testicles. . .

The torture is now so widespread that priests, lawyers, doctors and eminently moderate politicians have joined the protest.

Three Sundays ago, priests at all the masses in a Tyrone parish read a statement appealing to Mason to stop it.

A delegation of lawyers and doctors is to visit the new Southern Prime Minister, Jack Lynch, to ask him to intervene.

But there is little chance the torture will be stopped by these methods. Mason knows already it is happening and clearly accepts it.

It is part and parcel of 'security policy'.

## Spain: The crisis votes cannot solve

From Luis Planas in Valencia, Spain

MANY socialists who work with us in the struggle in the factories and cities voted for the Socialist and Communist parties in Spain's recent elections because they seem more credible when it comes to 'grand politics'.

But we also saw, from the meagre vote for the extreme right-wing Popular Alliance, that most Spanish people are against Franco and everything he stood for.

### Masses

The revolutionary Left used the elections to put across its ideas to masses of people who hadn't been reached before.

Four or five times as many people went to revolutionary socialist meetings as voted for our candidates.

The four different revolutionary lists only got 1.2 per cent of the votes. Only in the Basque country did a coalition of revolutionary nationalists and revolutionary socialists succeed in winning

one seat in congress and one in the Senate.

A constitutional debate is now opening. The new parliament has to draw up a constitution in place of Franco's fascist laws.

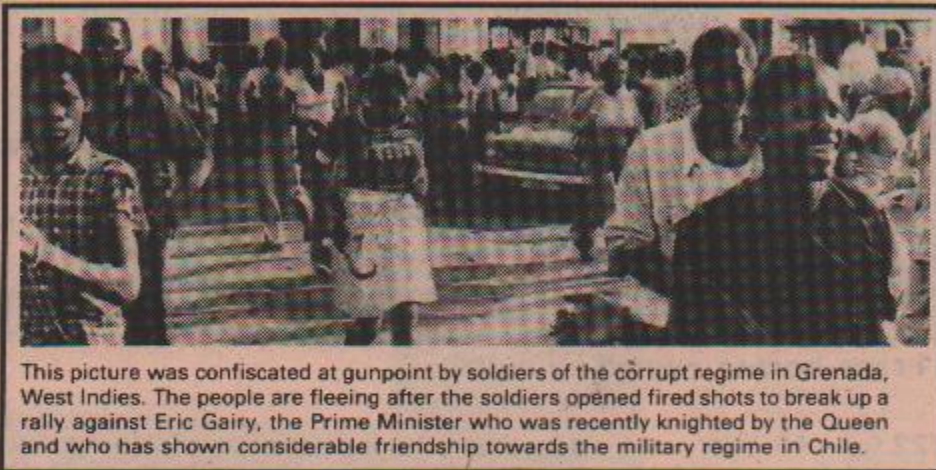
The main debate will be: should we accept a caricature of political liberty as the most we can get without provoking a reaction from the conservative sections of the army?

The caricature is not much use as long as the economic situation remains so desperate.

Prices are up this year by 30 per cent. One in ten of the population are out of work.

There has been no real truce in the class struggle, and it will intensify as people realise that the parties they voted for can't stop prices rising, or raise wages or find jobs for the unemployed.

**LENIN: BUILDING THE PARTY**  
 Three excerpts from the first volume of Tony Cliff's biography of Lenin published for the first time in farsi (Iranian). They deal with the early period of the struggle in Russia, the internal life of the Bolshevik party. 40p (inc. postage) or 30p each for orders of ten or more from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cheques/bankers' orders payable to SWP International Fund.



This picture was confiscated at gunpoint by soldiers of the corrupt regime in Grenada, West Indies. The people are fleeing after the soldiers opened fired shots to break up a rally against Eric Gairy, the Prime Minister who was recently knighted by the Queen and who has shown considerable friendship towards the military regime in Chile.

## ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE SHAH?

SIX WEEKS ago, Ali Shahriati managed to get out of Iran.

Travelling on a false passport, he came to London. Two weeks ago, his wife and three children were supposed to have come to join him—yet only the elder two children were on the plane.

They told their father his wife and the other child, aged three, had been arrested.

The following day Ali was found dead in his flat—with

no indication how it happened.

Police have refused a request for an autopsy because no relative still in Iran will dare authorise one.

### Prison

Ali had spent 18 of the 42 years of his life serving different prison terms. He was tortured savagely on many different occasions and at the

time of his death, he was preparing a book on one of Iran's most notorious torture centres, the Komite in Tehran.

Once his family were safely here, Ali had intended to give extensive interviews to the press and to allow them to photograph the marks of torture still on his body.

Ali Shahriati was a Muslim leftist and held ideas very different from ours on many issues. But his murder is a loss for us all.

**VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS**  
 southern africa

BADGES, in red and black, 20p each (plus 9p postage) or £2 for ten £15 for 100. From SWP International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (cheques payable to SW International Fund).

**Southern Africa after Soweto**  
 ALEX CALLINICOS AND JOHN ROGERS

A book that maps the fantastic changes in Africa, changes that affect the whole world system—and the world struggle for socialism. £2.22 including postage.

PLUTO PRESS, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcott Road, London NW1.

# The 65,000-d question:

## WHAT'S GOT THA STRIKER

### ANSWER



GEORGE WARD: Money to burn

£60 a week  
of  
George Ward's  
money



KELLY'S CORNER: Bought for 65,000 dollars, one of 11 race-horses owned by Ward

ON THE LEFT, Kelly's Corner, bought for 65,000 dollars in the Saratoga Sales, has spent 1977 chewing grass in the Berkshire Dales.

Trainer's fees: £60 a week. Owner: George Ward.

ON THE RIGHT, Yasu Patel, hired to work in sweatshop, has spent 1977 and much of 1976 being harassed by police on picket line in North West London.

Take-home pay: £22 for a 40-hour week. Owner: George Ward.

*There, in a few words, are the two sides of George Ward. They are not unconnected.*

Kelly's Corner is one of 11 racehorses owned and maintained at sky-high cost by the slave-driver of Grunwicks.

Yasu Patel is one of 90 men and women fighting the savage exploitation that helps to foot those bills.

George Ward is only able to enjoy

the Sport of Kings because his hirelings are forced to endure the Sweat of Slavery.

Yasu and her comrades struck last August when they could endure it no more.

Workers would be sacked at the whim of a manager. Abuse and contempt were part of every working day. If you wanted to go to the toilet, you had to put your hand up and ask permission.

And, on top of this regime to affront

human dignity, the breadline wages.

Much has, of course, changed since the strike and the mass pickets put Ward's sweatshop under the glare of publicity. The factory has been cleaned up, wages have been pushed beyond the poverty line.

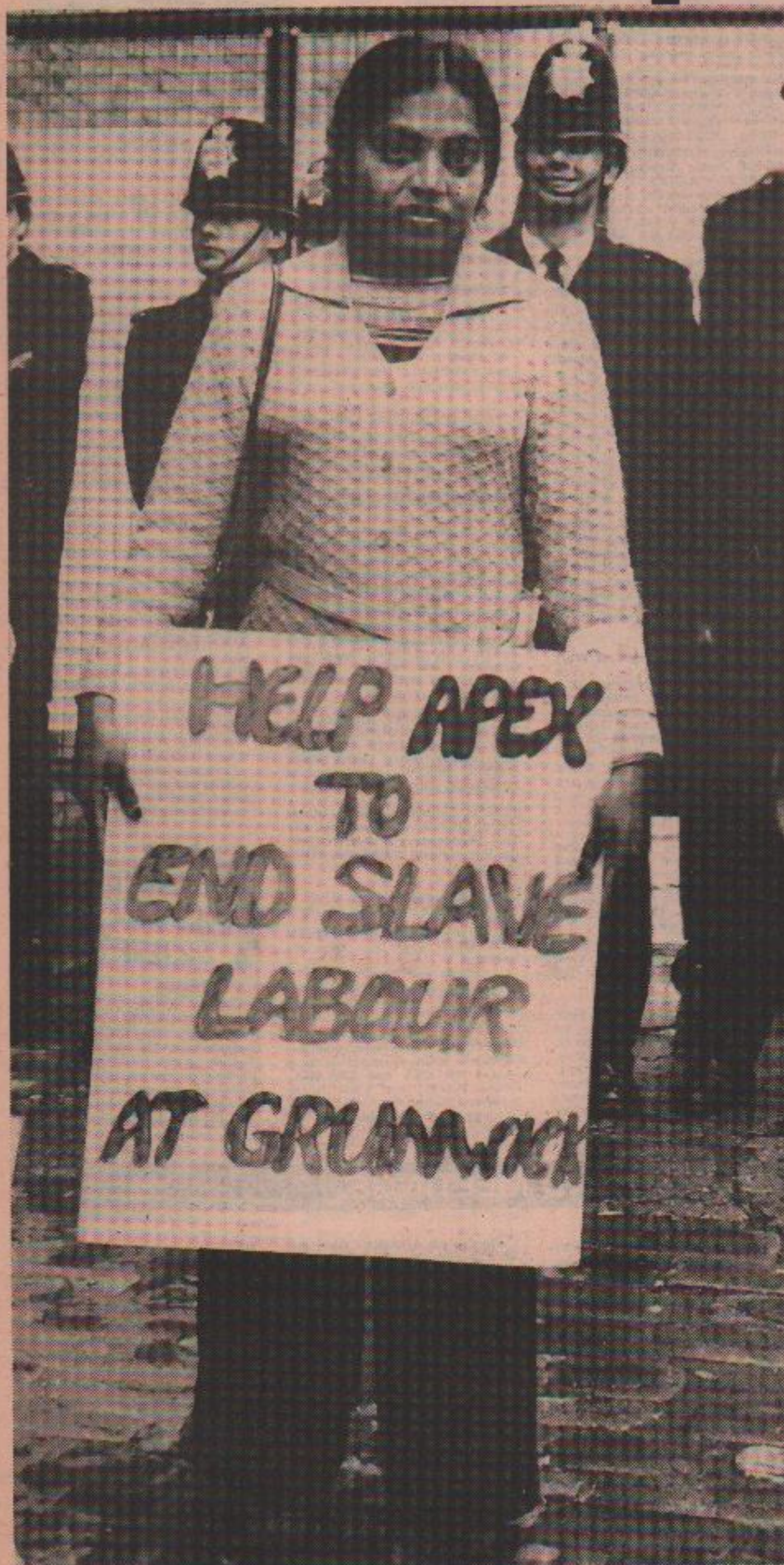
That much Yasu and the others have achieved, so far for others to enjoy.

Victory will mean much more: a triumph for human dignity—and perhaps, parity with a racehorse called Kelly's Corner.



# Dollar

THIS HORSE  
AT THIS  
R HASN'T?



YASU PATEL: Take-home pay, £22 a week

## Death—the other side of the North Sea Oil story....



WHAT'S at the bottom of the North Sea oil boom?

Diving is many times more dangerous than mining or trawling. You're 32 times more likely to be killed if you work on a rig than in a factory—with 12 workers killed in 1974, rising to 15 last year.

Deaths receive a few lines in the press and inquests use strange terms like 'hyperthermia' and 'nitrogen saturation'—when they really mean being boiled to death and other horrors.

When exploration started in the North Sea, 400ft was the deepest working depth and the men involved were mainly experienced, navy-trained divers.

But such was the thirst for

greater profits that drilling rigs went deeper and deeper. Knowing the risks, most of the experienced divers went home, leaving the work to the more desperate and less experienced.

### Horrific

Diving is now often deeper than 1000 feet. At such depths the darkness is complete and the temperature a permanent 1 degree centigrade.

*The few fish that can survive at such depths can explode if brought to the surface—so can the divers.*

To compensate for the depth, divers breathe a mixture of gases with 95 per cent Helium. The decrease in oxygen to the brain can make

mistakes more common.

The dangers aren't limited to the horrific and spectacular accidents but also include the effects of massive pressure on bodies not naturally adapted to them.

Divers now spend 24-30 hours de-compressing after a work period of less than 30 minutes. Jacques Cousteau is one of many authorities who have predicted that many will die in agony, crippled by arthritic diseases of the joints.

Nobody in Britain will speak about this because capitalism needs that oil so badly.

Accidents are numerous. Department of Employment figures show 50 serious accidents a year—but this ac-

counts only for those reported. No doubt the real figure is many times higher.

What is the government's attitude to these appalling conditions?

In 1974 the Health and Safety Act passed through parliament. But its provisions do not cover offshore installations.

Now the government is extending the Act to cover the oil rigs and to transfer responsibility for safety to the Health and Safety Commission.

### Worse still

But these new regulations will not automatically apply to the offshore oil and gas industry and a further decision is awaited to apply them to offshore pipelines, installations and so on.

Worse still, the part of the extended Health and Safety Act which concerned the appointment of safety representatives and safety committees at places of work has been deliberately held up by none other than Albert Booth, Minister for Unemployment. His excuse—'. . . the estimated costs involved and the current need to restrict expenditure'.

*Perhaps this is his method for bringing down unemployment. Kill off a few with jobs?*

Divers needn't face these appalling risks. There is plenty of oil in safer areas.

### Squalid

Work on North Sea oil could be slowed down were it not for the anarchic logic of the balance of payments. Automatic tele-guided submarines could do much of the divers' work, but only at greater costs in terms of lost production time.

Recently John Gouriet of the NAFF, the right-wing organisation that's behind Grunwicks management, came to Aberdeen to speak to divers. To tell them how to organise to save their lives?

No, how to dodge income tax more efficiently. That is the only squalid type of 'freedom' his type will ever support.

By Barney Crockett and Christine Matheson

## The firms who love profits and hate trade unions

MOST oil companies have long histories of virulent anti-unionism.

Many are from the southern states of America and have extreme, racist attitudes towards both blacks and Scots.

Any attempts at even the most rudimentary organisation, such as collections for injured men, can be met by immediately despatching the

culprits on a helicopter.

Sackings are as common as accidents. Men are sacked for being ill, 'cheeky', 'lazy', long-haired or unhappy.

Hours are long—84 a week with overtime on top. Conditions are desperate. Men are often not allowed to leave the wind-swept platform, even if they are injured.

Because management don't like the men co-operating or having ideas there is little for

them to do when they're not working, except eat, sleep and play cards.

On some rigs, the doors are taken off the toilets to prevent masturbation!

The racial divisions between the workers are ruthlessly exploited by the bosses.

The few American workers who are Cajun or Red Indian are treated like shit by the foremen. Scots are 'lazy bastards', but are expected to take it out on Spanish and Portuguese kitchen staff, who are forced to stay on the rig for as long as six months without a break.

Thousands of young workers come north looking for work. They find it hard to get, and accommodation on shore almost impossible.

The hideous sell-out of the recent action by rig helicopter pilots by their union, BALPA, which has formally agreed that pilots can be victimised for joining BALPA, is the latest setback.

## BOOM? WHAT BOOM?

IF YOU think oil has brought prosperity to Aberdeen, you are wrong.

Few people involved in oil production have benefitted, and most of these represent American oil companies.

Landlords and shopkeepers have cashed in on the 'boom town' image of Aberdeen. The result is extortionate rents and food prices well above the national average.

Queues for cheap food have become increasingly common

and second-hand clothes shops have multiplied.

Housing conditions are disgraceful. Aberdeen can boast the largest number of houses with outside toilets in Britain.

In 1971-2, only 92 council houses were built—and three blocks of multi-storey office blocks went up.

The office blocks are still empty. Thousands of people are on the waiting list for council houses.

# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

## Scotland

**EASTERHOUSE** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why the Labour Party stinks. Speakers: Willie Dolan and a local trade unionist. Thursday 14 July, 8pm, Blairtummock House.

## North East

**TEESSIDE:** Any unemployed members with time on their hands urgently needed to help build Socialist Workers Party on Teesside. Phone Alan Borrell, Middlesbrough 86474.

**JARROW/HEBBURN** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 13 July, 8pm, Crown and Anchor, Chapel Rd, Jarrow.

**NORTH SHIELDS** and **WALSLEY** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 14 July, 8pm, Neville Hotel, Ruddy Street, North Shields.

## Humber side

**HULL** Socialist Workers Party public meeting. Lenin. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Friday 15 July, 8pm, George Street, Hull. Admission 10p.

## Yorkshire

**LEEDS** Socialist Workers Party new members' meetings: A series of fortnightly discussion meetings. Thursdays, 8pm, Leeds Trades Council Club, Savile Mount, Chapeltown Road.

14 July: Is there really a communist world? Speaker: Brian Parkin.  
28 July: Ireland—is there a solution? Speaker: Fred Milson.

**ROTHERHAM** Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 7.30pm, High House pub, Ship Hill. All welcome.

**PONTEFRAC** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 21 July, 8pm, Pontefract Town Hall.

## North West

**WARRINGTON** Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursday fortnightly, 8pm, Red Lion, Winwick Rd.

14 July: Jack Robertson, (AUEW steward, Massey-Ferguson) on working in Trade Unions. All welcome.  
E For further details, phone Padgate 61584 or Newton-le-Willows 21284.

**NORTH EAST MANCHESTER** Women's Voice Group **GRAND BARBECUE:** Food, booze (please bring some too!) and music in the open air (inside if wet). Saturday 9 July, 8pm sharp, 6 Pensby Walk, Collyhurst (opposite the old Collyhurst estate). Entrance by ticket, 50p from WV Group members. **KIDS WELCOME** (free).

**MERSEYSIDE** Socialist Workers Party meeting for all members: National Conference report-back. Sunday 10 July, 8pm, The Triton Hotel, Paradise Street, Liverpool (opposite the Holiday Inn). All Merseyside members to attend. Members from Chester, Wrexham, St Helens, Warrington, Wigan, etc welcome.

**MERSEYSIDE** Socialist Workers Party day school: Why we need a rank and file movement. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Sessions on organising in your workplace, factory bulletins, etc. Sunday 17 July, 11am-5.30pm, Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool 8. Creche available. All Merseyside SWP members to attend—50p unemployed, 20p students and unemployed.

## Socialist Worker public meetings

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

**WALTHAMSTOW:** A debate between South Essex Communist Party and Outer East London Socialist Workers Party. Thursday 21 July, 8pm, Ross Wyld Hall (corner of Hoe Street and High Street), Walthamstow, London E17. Everyone welcome to come, listen and join in debate.

**PRESTON:** A debate between the Labour Party and the Socialist Workers Party. Thursday 14 July, 8pm, The Golden Cross, Lancaster Road (near the Market). All welcome.

**SHEFFIELD** Rock Against Racism presents **A STUFF THE JUBILEE SOCIAL**, featuring High Flame reggae band, disco, late bar, food. Friday 8 July, 8pm till late, Bar 2, University Students Union, Sheffield. Tickets £1 (unemployed 60p).

**SOUTHAMPTON** Socialist Workers party **STUFF THE JUBILEE ROLL ON THE RED REPUBLIC**. Speaker: Paul Foot, plus North West Spanner's play Jubilation. Friday 8 July 7.30pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road.

**BIRMINGHAM** Socialist Workers Party **STUFF THE JUBILEE FESTIVAL**. Films, theatre, meetings, food, books, evening social, creche and kid's fun. Saturday 9 July, 1.30pm-6pm, Friends Meeting House, Bull Street, City Centre. Single ticket £1, double £1.50.



**STUFF THE JUBILEE!**

**STUFF THE JUBILEE** badges, posters and stickers still available.

The Queen and other royal scroungers are visiting various towns and cities throughout the summer—make sure they get the welcome they deserve! **BADGES:** 20p each, 10 for £1.50; 50 for £7.

**100 for £13. POSTERS** (Spot the Scrounger) 30 for £1 (plus 50p postage), 100 for £3 (plus £1 postage). **STICKERS** (eight different designs) 800 for £1.50 (plus 50p postage). Cash with orders to SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**IPSWICH** Socialist Workers Party jumble sale. Saturday 16 July, 2.30pm. All Hallows Hall, Landseer Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

## South East

**WATFORD** Socialist Workers Party inaugural public meeting: The Case for Socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 13 July, 8pm, Trades and Labour Hall, Woodford Road, Watford. All welcome.

**SOUTHWEST** Socialist Workers Party social: Disco, food, raffle, fun. Saturday 9 July, 8.30pm onwards, 33 Rothwell Close, Leigh. Tickets 50p (20p claimants and unemployed) and bring a bottle.

**OXFORD** Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Fortnightly, in Thursdays, 7.30pm, The Greyhound (by bus station).

14 July: Can socialism come through parliament?  
28 July: Women, equal pay, and housework.

## London

**OUTER EAST LONDON** Socialist Workers Party trip to Camber Sands—a socialist Sunday on the beach. Sunday 10 July, tickets £2.25 employed, £1.25 unemployed, kids free. For more details phone 505-0584 (Potluck: Newham and Newham Teachers SWP bring sandwiches, Ilford and Romford SWP cakes and biscuits, Walthamstow SWP salads and fruit. Enough for four please).

**ISLINGTON COUNCIL WORKERS** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: China. Speaker: Nora Carlin. Thursday 14 July, 6.15pm, Bread and Roses, 315 Upper Street, London N1.

**LEA VALLEY** Socialist Workers public meeting: Workers' revolution—what does it really mean? Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 20 July, 8pm, West Green Library, Vincent Road (off West Green Rd) London N15 (Turnpike Lane Tube).

**SOUTH LONDON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Education—social service or social oppression? Speakers: Rick Noss (NUT) and a local primary school teacher. Thursday 14 July, 7.30pm, The Wheatstheaf (opposite Tooting Bec tube).

**NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE** Public Meeting: RAPE—IS THERE ANY JUSTICE FOR WOMEN? British justice recently decided that a Guardsman's career was more important than the vicious horrendous attack he carried out on a young woman. Alison Kirton (NUT), opens the discussion on the ways the law discriminates against women. Monday 18 July, 8pm, The Beehive Pub, Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham N17 (nearest tube Seven Sisters). If you would like to come and have babysitting problems, please phone Mandy on 607 8067 or Di on 348 2041.

**NORTH LONDON WOMENS VOICE** Jumble Sale. Tuesday 12 July 7.00pm onwards. YWCA (Tottenham Community Project, Tottenham High Road, N17. We need as many helpers as possible. Please phone 607 8067 or 348 2041 with offers of help or details of any jumble you have.

**SLINGTON** District SWP Fund Raising Mid Summer Party. Tuesday 9 July from 8.30pm onwards, 90 Mount View Road, N4. Don't bring a bottle! Don't spend all your money in the pub! A great time to be had by all! Plenty of food and drink available. Tickets 25p.

**SOUTH LONDON** Right to Work Campaign / Women's Voice presents: Whistling at Milestones, a play by Alex Glasgow, performed by Pirate Jenny, about unemployment in Jarrow between the wars. Thursday 14 July, 7.30 Stockwell Hall, Brixton.

## Action in the unions

**TGWU** Meeting for all SWP members in the Transport and General Workers Union. Saturday 16 July, 1pm-5.30pm in Manchester. Report back from TGWU Biennial Conference, future TGWU work.

**ASTMS** Meeting for all SWP members in the white-collar workers' union ASTMS. Saturday 23 July, 1pm-5.30pm, in London.

**NALGO** Conference for all SWP members in NALGO. Saturday 16 July, 10.30am, Theatre 1, Chapman Building, University of Salford, Manchester and Sunday 17 July, Students Union, University House, University of Salford. Disco on Saturday night. Accommodation: phone Dave Gibson, Bolton 33699 (home).

## NOTICES AND MEETINGS

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

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS FOR NEW MEMBERS** Discussions on The Roots to Reformist Politics. The Communist Tradition. Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism. Revolutionary Politics Today.

**LEEDS:** Weekend 30-31 July. Director: Fred Milson.  
**BIRMINGHAM:** Weekend 13-14 August. Director: Sheila McGregor.  
**LONDON:** Weekend 3-4 September. Director: Fred Lindop.  
Fee £1. Accommodation provided. Open to all members of one year's standing or less. All districts to send students.

**WRITE TO:** Pete Fysh, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Details will be sent individually.

**CIVIL SERVICE:** Meeting for all civil servants in the Socialist Workers Party in the North West. Sunday 10 July, 2pm to 6pm, 28 Dawson Street, Liverpool 1 (just off Whitechapel, near Liverpool Playhouse). Topics for discussion include: Being a revolutionary in the trade union movement, what do we mean by rank and file, building Redder Tape groups. Speakers: Jack Robertson, Caroline Conway. Any problems, phone 01-800 8550.

Will any comrades attending the **TUC NATIONAL COURSES** in Sheffield, 9-15 July, 16-22 July, 23-29 July, please phone Lesley Klein, Sheffield 686312 in advance to arrange SW sales/meetings.

**HEALTH SERVICE:** Meeting for all London SWP members working in the NHS. Wednesday 13 July, 7.30pm, The Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, London N1.

## SW Notices

**SOCIALIST WORKER YOUTH MOVEMENT** members who are delegates to the National Union of School Students Conference on 9/10 July please contact the SWYM office: 64 Queen St, Glasgow (phone 041-721 3428) immediately.

Would all SWP members going on holiday to, or interested in working around the USA and CANADA, please contact the SWP North American Group, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878).

**COMMITTEE AGAINST BRITISH BRUTALITY IN IRELAND** public meeting: A delegation of three Belfast women, campaigning for open inquiries into the deaths of their sons, will be visiting London on 18-20 July. Public meeting, Tuesday 19 July, 7.30pm, NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields (off Theobalds Road, nearest tube Holborn).

**RUSKIN COLLEGE, OXFORD** requires ACTION RESEARCH OFFICER for extra-curricular work with TRADE UNION MEDIA GROUP on preparation and use of development education material in workers' education, for the college years 1977-79. Salary range £2904-£3761. Details from General Secretary, Ruskin College, Oxford. Closing date 5 August 1977.

**WOMEN IN EASTERN EUROPE NEWSLETTER** No 2 is now available. Send stamped addressed envelope to Barbara Holland, CREES, Birmingham University.

Are you going to ITALY, SPAIN, FRANCE or SCANDINAVIA this summer? On Saturday 16 July, 1.30pm-5pm, Students Union, LSE, Aldwych, London WC2 (nearest tubes Temple and Holborn) we are organising discussions with members of the SWP International Committee on the situation in these countries. Details, contact SW International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878).

**COMING TO HELP IN SEPTEMBER?** Please contact Elaine and Jen, 976 Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex (phone 01-554 8591).

**BOOKMARKS BOOKLIST 1977/78** now out! It lists hundreds of books of interest to socialists, ranging from novels to Marxist theory, sexual politics to science fiction, children's books to Rosa Luxemburg—all in print and available. Send large stamped, addressed envelope to Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Socialist Worker needs a smooth efficient RECEPTIONIST, experienced in typing, filing, and other office work. Reply to Mel Norris, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 (phone 01-739 1413).

July issue of **FIGHT**, the paper of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement, out now. Articles on Out of School, Out of Work, Job Creation, Right to Work March, NUSS, Lewisham 21 and much, much more. Single copy 5p plus 6p postage. Orders over 10 go free, sale or return from 64 Queen St, Glasgow C1 (phone 041-221 3426).



**FLAME STICKERS:** 100 for 25p, from Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**ROOM AVAILABLE NOW** Share non-smoking SWP house, Hounslow, West London. Phone 01-890 3255.

**TWO SWP MEMBERS AND DOG**, moving to Cambridge, urgently need temporary accommodation. Phone Hatfield 64119.

**WANTED URGENTLY!** Room or rooms for SWP member and her daughter, aged 3, in East or South East London. Phone 01-985 1406.

**WANTED! A DUPLICATOR** for Allos SWP. Phone Jim Tierney, Allos 723304, as soon as possible.

**CHINGARI**, paper of the SWP in Urdu—latest issue now out. Articles on Revolution in Pakistan, Grunwicks, Indian elections, Social Contract phase 3. Albon Bottles dispute. 5p a copy (plus postage) from Chingari, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWSPAPERS** available from Bookmarks: **L'ETINCELLE** (France) formerly Revolution weekly. **LUTTE OUVRIERE** (France) weekly. **SOZIALISTISCHE ARBEITERZEITUNG** (Germany) fortnightly. **THE BATTLER** (Australia) monthly. **WORKERS' ACTION** (Canada) monthly. **THE WORKER** (Ireland) monthly. **SOCIALIST WORKER (USA)** monthly. **WORKERS' POWER (USA)** will continue to be available. Subscription rates £1.75 including postage for 10 issues of any paper. Send to BOOKMARKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



**CYPRIOUS WORKER**—latest issue now out, in both Greek and Turkish. Articles on illegal workers, cuts in hospitals, workers' unity of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, deportations, police harassment, the struggle against the National Front and news from Cyprus. 10 copies for £1 from Cyprius Worker, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST**  
PAUL FOOT

**NOW BACK IN PRINT**

We socialists are not fanatics or time servers. We are socialists because we see the prospect which life holds out for all working people.

We want the commitment of workers who laugh and live and want to end the wretchedness and despair which shuts love and laughter out of so many lives.

We do not have to spend the rest of our lives, and leave our children to spend the rest of their lives, wrestling in the struggle against a mean and despotic ruling class.

Society can be changed, but only if masses of working people abandon the rotten shipwreck of the 'leave it to us' reformers, and commit themselves to change from below.

This pamphlet puts our case. Will you read it?

Please send me . . . copies of **WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST** at

- One copy for 50p
- Five copies for £2
- One copy of the book, plus Socialist Worker each week for the next two months for £1.50.

Please tick appropriate box - all prices include postage.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

I enclose £..... (cheques and postal orders made payable to SW Distributors please).  
**SEND THIS SLIP TO: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.**

**SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN:** Red pens: 10p each, plus 10p postage (10 for £1) from SASC, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.

FILM from the Clyde\* is about the 1971 work-in and occupation by the workers of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

It is a powerful, moving account from working people about their determination to fight for their jobs.

Cinema Action have made an admirable film, showing the Clydesiders' ability to defeat all odds and realise some of their aims.

UCS workers provided a grant out of their fighting fund for this film to be

## SO MOVING, THIS STORY OF UCS

By ALISON LANGAN

started. Cinema Action had partly finished the film and approached the head of the British Film Production Board for financial support to complete it.

They were turned down, being told that the way to make a film of the UCS was to reconstruct the drama with real actors.

But, last year, Danish

shipyard workers (two in three now redundant) and dock workers collected enough money to restart the film.

UCS workers and the fighting fund provided the rest of the money to complete it.

Go and see it. Discuss it. Judge it for yourself.

\*Available for hire from Cinema Action, 35a Winchester Road, London, NW3 (01-586 2762). Lists of other Cinema Action films for hire from same address.

# Crushed and humiliated, she fought to be free

TWO working men ran towards the mine, one shouting to the other 'They're shutting the air shafts, the God damned . . .

The mine was belching smoke like some primeval Fafnir.

Men were drawing ropes round the base of the slag dump and were trying to beat back the women, who fought with the savagery of wild beasts.

Their men were penned in the mines. I heard the air shafts were being closed to save the coal, but the fumes would smother the men to death . . . Coal was dear, life was cheap.

That horrific experience was commonplace in American mining towns early this century.

It was a fearful existence for working people. For women, it was a savage slavery.

Crushed at the bottom of the pile, they harrowed their miserable lives away. Ambitions and hopes faded as their hands blackened with overwork. They died young and ugly. Wasted lives.

Agnes Smedley's novel\* is set against this background. It is the story of how one woman, Marie, grew up and fought against the kind of life that was inevitable for all women in those towns.

### Marriage

As a young girl, she overheard a typical row between a young married couple. The girl was pregnant and dependent on a man for the first time.

'Give me back the clothes I bought you', he bellowed at her one day. 'Damn it kid, you know I love you', she begged through her tears, for now she could not go back to work even if she wished.

These sentences summed up for Marie the position of husband and wife in the marriage relationship.

How could women escape

## ANNA PACZUSKA ON A NOVEL TO INSPIRE MILLIONS OF WOMEN

being servile, dependent and unfree?

Marie was determined to find a way out. She looked around at the women she knew. Aunt Helen had independence. She was a prostitute. 'She paid for her room and board and no man had a right to 'boss her around'.

But Helen paid dearly for her independence. She committed herself to a life of loneliness rather than marry the one person she cared for.

She knew that once she was dependent on him, he would inevitably remind her of her past.

Her mother had once tried to fight for her independence. When the vote was granted for women she felt that 'at last a weapon had been placed in her hands.'

She refused to tell her

husband how she had voted. In disgust, he left home.

She held out all winter, until illness prevented her from working and supporting her children. Then the father moved back.

'When the right of women to vote was mentioned in the presence of my mother after that, her eyes sought a crack in the floor and followed it back and forth in silence. And her silence was heavy with bitterness.'

Marie found her own way out. She left home and refused to accept the responsibility of family ties. It was tough and lonely.

She joined the Wobblies, at that time running their free speech campaign. Later she became involved in the Indian Nationalist movement. She was imprisoned for her activities.

There, in prison, a visiting priest told her: 'It's women like you who land in prison—you women who believe in study instead of a home and children.'

She had rejected women's role, and bought a measure of emancipation. But she also had pain and unhappiness.

Daughter of Earth is an autobiographical novel. Agnes Smedley says at the beginning:

'What I have written is not a work of beauty created that someone may spend an hour pleasantly, not a symphony to lift up the spirit to release it from the dreariness of reality.'

Maybe not. But it is a powerful and passionate tribute to millions of women. It is an inspiring, sensitive, feminist book.

\* Daughter of Earth, by Agnes Smedley (Virago) is a current Bookmarks Club selection. It is available to non-members, price £2.10 (inc. postage) from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

## TV? IT'S A FIX.....

By ROLAND MULDOON



A YEAR ago, I saved up and bought a colour telly because I was told it would be cheaper than hiring in the long run.

I spent six months watching it in case it broke down. Now I've been asked to try my hand as the Socialist Worker telly 'critic'. It's given me new rights, I can switch over to any programme and no-one can object.

The real truth behind my terrible addiction is that, like most people in this country, I can't afford to go out.

So there it is, a flick of the switch and I'm transported into an Aladdin's cave of triviality, where the police kill people to keep the world safe; where Rhodesian 'gentlemen farmers' point to the bodies of 'black terrorists'; where picketing miners at Greenwich are shown as if they were intruders from outer space; where bank

robbers always get caught and the capitalist robbers appear as reasonable men pointing out the facts of life.

Best of all, if you can't go out Saturday night, there are programmes where others go out for you—to clubs, football matches and we can meet Jimmy Saville or Russell Harty.

Just when you can't stand your imprisonment any longer, along comes a glimmer. It might be an old movie, or a play or maybe a documentary insight into the

machinations of this system. It could even be a real worker who has been allowed a moment to complain (very rare).

Anyway, I've applied to the TV companies for their future briefing material. It felt like sedition, ringing up and asking 'could you please send Socialist Worker your information?'

Some have complied and I hope to be able to warn you in advance what might be worth staying in for, or switching over for.



### WOMENS VOICE July issue out now!

10p a copy from your Socialist Worker seller, or 17p by post (10 copies for £1, post free) from WV, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



### FRIDAY

Don't miss I CLAUDIUS (BBC-2) now being repeated.

### SATURDAY

Mutilated aliens worship H-Bomb BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES (ITV, 8pm). If only we had listened to reason and everybody had loved everybody.

### MONDAY

HUSTLING (ITV, except Anglia and Thames, 10.30pm). Lee Remick finds that prostitutes are the victims. THE CHASE (Thames, 10.30pm), a very tough movie indeed.

### TUESDAY

LOVE LIES BLEEDING (ITV, 9pm). Left-wing gourmet sculptor meets future right-wing leader at a dinner party. . . wow.

### WEDNESDAY

SEVESO: THE POISON CLOUD (ITV, 10.30pm), a This Week special, could be revealing.

# NEWS HACKS? YOU'RE OFF TARGET

WHY support the hack journalists? sneers H C Mullin of Glasgow (Letters, 18 June), taking a side swipe too at the redundant Express workers who fought for their own paper.

He's off target on two counts.

His sweeping generalisation that all journalists are capitalist hacks is an insult to thousands of NUJ members working to reverse the distortions of a comparative handful of proprietors, editors and hand-picked lackeys.

He may as well have said that all Glaswegians are to blame for the SNP cancer...or even razor-slashing attacks.

Hasn't he heard of the journalists at Darlington, Kettering and Ilford, where magnificent closed shop battles have been and are being waged? And what of the Hackney members who are fighting racism under the threat of their own jobs?

Of course the Fleet Street daily horrors make us sick...they make me a lot sicker than they do Mr Mullin, whose failure to persuade the papers to print his stories doesn't help. The fight on the inside needs his support, not his sarcasm.

He's way-off course too on singling out the Scottish Daily Express. That was the only NUJ chapel in Britain to support the AUEW strike call against the Tory freeze in 1973.

The Glasgow Express chapel is in the history books as the only band of journalists in this country ever to have stopped their own paper over fascist content in the editorial columns. And the SDE chapel never lost a trade union battle in ten years.

Mullin vents his anti-Beaverbrook spleen against men and women who struggled for 17 months on the dole to launch the Scottish Daily News, an exercise doomed to disaster because capitalism and revolutionary socialism shared the view that it was not the way forward. I wonder what Comrade Mullin's reasons were for holding them in contempt?

If he really believes that all journalists are so vile that they don't deserve help when thrown on the scrapheap, then I fear too for the munitions workers, the asbestos producers... and even the tobacco handlers.

JOHN HODGMAN (Regional organiser, NUJ), Crosshill, Glasgow.

IT IS great to see excellent anti-fascist posters appear in Socialist Worker. But are there organisations or SWP branches producing decent anti-fascist stickers?

If anybody does, can they please advertise them in SW so we can all benefit.

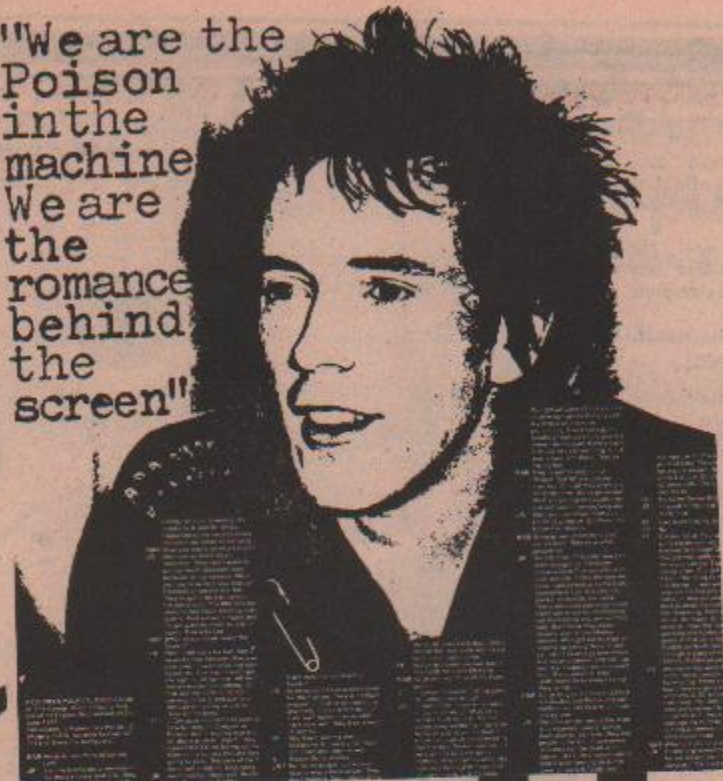
JANET RICHARDSON, Crawley, Sussex.

## Socialist Workers Party INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN.



ISSUE NO 4 OUT NOW! Exclusive interview with a revolutionary from Argentina, plus articles on Workers Government and the Revolutionary Press, and the Joint Revolutionary Programme for the Spanish elections. 20p per copy (plus 10p postage). 10 or more copies post free. From SWP International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E28DN.

"We are the Poison in the machine We are the romance behind the screen"



LEFT: The exclusive interview with Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols as it appears in the latest Temporary Hoarding, 20p a copy or 10 for £1 from ROCK AGAINST RACISM, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# The power of punk

I AM a 19-year-old punk and last Saturday I took the unprecedented action of buying your paper from the sellers on the corner of New Street, Birmingham. I was particularly interested in the letters on punk.

Punk is an explosion of working-class youth's dissatisfaction with this country in the 1970s. The old ways have been thrown aside.

Led Zeppelin and Rolling Stones have been replaced by the Sex Pistols and the Clash. Melody Maker and New Musical Express have been deserted in favour of Sniffin Glue and other 'home-made' punk mags.

Punk bands and magazines

were formed by an urge to be creative, not to make money. Rock'n'Roll has always offered an escape route from the dole/factory/office (delete where applicable). In 1977 more kids than probably ever before have turned to it.

What's more you can also get rich quick (if you're lucky and/or good) but....

And the 'but' is that principles and ideas seem to fly out of the window when record contracts come through the door. Career opportunities certainly knocked for the Clash when CBS offered them a (reportedly) six-figure contract.

The legend 'This page was paid for by Track Records' appears with alarming regularity in the premier punk magazines.

So we have punks rebelling against the establishment, but as soon as the cheque books appear they become remarkably tranquillised (George Melly explains in full in his book Revolt into Style).

Punk is neither revolution nor rubbish. It is not a socialist movement. However, the Nazi Front have been rejected and with the correct approach socialist policies will be listened to and accepted.

The power of the punk movement cannot be understated. Johnny Rotten did more to point out the privileges allowed by this nation to the royal scroungers than any number of Stuff the Jubilee badges did.

JOHN BRESLIN, Birmingham B26.

# Letters

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

## ULSTER'S SPECIAL ARMY

FOR 50 years (Eamonn McCann writes in your 18 June issue) the B Specials had been the private part-time army of the Protestant sectarian organisation, the Orange Order.

Quite so, and any Six-County Catholic and/or Republican can tell you how they used their power. But perhaps in view of the line which the Socialist Worker has always taken on Northern Ireland (more or less unconditional support for the Provos) it might surprise some readers to know that some sections of the left—the British and Irish Communist Organisation mainly I believe—see the whole thing rather differently.

A Derry communist wrote to me some years back making the point that the B Specials were in fact a 'peoples' army'.

And that the working-class majority of the six north eastern counties of Ireland had every bit as much right to remain in the UK as the rest of us had to opt out of it.

In the 1918 General Election the Sinn Fein candidates got something like 73 per cent of the votes of all Ireland, but the Ulster Unionists said 'NO' and things have rested so ever since.

It is a problem which I can see no way out of but there is no doubting what Eamonn McCann says in the heel of his article. Mason's measures will ensure support for the Provisional IRA. How could it be otherwise?

DONALL MACAMHLAIGH, Northampton.

## An elementary principle of warfare

SIR — Well done, Rhodesia! By attacking your terrorist enemies in their lairs you have shown the true British spirit and have, of necessity, carried out an elementary principle of war.

You have merely done what Britons with more guts than now, including many of you, did during the war — hit the enemy in their bases.

It is not surprising that your valiant action has been condemned by those British politicians and their associates who are friends of the Mozambique accomplices of your terrorist enemies. Good luck, and may God be with you.

Major C. W. de L. FFORDE, Okehampton, Devon.

## Kith and killers...

ENCLOSED is a letter which appeared in the Rhodesia Herald recently. No doubt Major C W de L Fforde writes letters to The Times too, approving the British ruling-class efforts to 'hit the enemy at the base' — for example police brutality on the Grunwicks picket line.

The capitalists' 'international solidarity' is at present far stronger than ours. The British press repeatedly presents the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) as 'terrorists', and churns out sob stories about our white Rhodesian 'kith and kin' — while pressing for a 'moderate' negotiated settlement that will enable the Rhodesian whites and Western capitalism to wield their economic power through a black puppet government.

It is crucial that we show our solidarity with the armed struggle being waged by the black workers and peasants in Zimbabwe — raising money for the liberation armies and building the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign.

When the Smith and Vorsters of Southern Africa are defeated, we will be one step nearer getting rid of the Major C W de L Fforde of Britain!

VICKY PASSANT, South West Manchester SWP.

## Is there danger in the family?

FOR BETTER OR WORSE? Margaret Renn's article (18 June) is good, but she omits some important points in reply to the woman who asks why she shouldn't stay at home because she loves looking after her children.

The woman should realise that in 20-30 years time the situation in the family will be entirely different. She will no

longer be so physically attractive and her children will be grown up. Both husband and children may find her redundant.

Every young, happy housewife thinks this could not possibly happen to her, but unfortunately it can. It frequently happens, and often to the utter astonishment of friends of the family.

It is therefore essential 1. That a wife should be financially independent of her husband.

2. That she should have an interest, or interests, her home.

It is a grave mistake for a woman to accept the view that she exists for her husband and children. If she is discarded by them, she should have besides

her independence, other friends and other interests in life.

Under the present cruel system, a wife and mother going out to work usually has to work round the clock, after which she will certainly be the worse for wear.

If she chooses to stay at home, even if she has been able to qualify for other work before marriage, the years spent in staidness at home are not experience in this field, and if she has to start again she goes back almost to square one.

And what about her pension?

Marriage and the family, under the present system, are all wrong. A woman with children should be paid by the state, firstly for the keep of the children (more than £1 per child!), secondly pensionable wages for looking after the children, and thirdly pensionable wages for housework, if she does it, or the provision of a 'home help'.

Unless a workers' state will help women in this way, women can hardly be expected to be enthusiastic about a workers' state.

KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

## POSTAL POINTS

I AM surprised the history of the past half-century has not taught A J Eggs (Letters, 25 June) that policies of gradual reform simply do not work.

By such methods we may advance a few inches over many painful years, then along comes a crisis of capitalism and we are pushed back a yard. Even in the 1930s we did not witness attacks on the public and social services as vicious as those we are witnessing today.

A J Eggs accuses Socialist Worker of trying to convince us there is nothing to lose. On the contrary, the paper tries to convince its readers that

without socialism we shall lose what few gains still remain to us.

JIM PARKES, Walsall.

PERHAPS I am a bit thick (although I possess an O-level and budgerigar) but I gave up after the first paragraph of McShane's article (SW, 25 June).

With all due respect to this great man, I found it too long, boring.

I know many readers who skipped this page, and relate to articles on the social con trick, unemployment etc and not what Trotsky said before he had a bath.

What do other readers think?

CHRIS PORZ, Peter-

borough.

I NOTICED one of your posters about the Queen, 'Spot the Scrounger'. I wish I had realised earlier that you produced them because one would have had pride of place in our front window. It says just what I think!

However, I tried to buy one from our local left-wing shop and they hadn't got any, so for the first time I paid over 10p for your paper — which I might add is very interesting and I might just fork out for it again.

NENAGH WATSON, Leamington Spa.

I AM 15 years old and angry. I support my local football team, Sunderland, and have seen many acts of violence on the terraces. However, none so vicious and unprovoked as those of the police.

I have been herded like an animal and pushed almost to the ground, and for no other reason than being in the path of a policeman.

I am amazed by the Labour Party. They pretend they are part of the working class yet as soon as they are in parliament they are no longer our servants but our masters.

In a few years I hope to start work. Big hope! My own village has no employment whatsoever for the young since the colliery closed some years since. I am worried that I will be forced to leave my family and area to look for work in the already overpopulated and underemployed cities.

TERRY KIMMIT

## Which road to socialism?



IT IS only now and again that I see your paper on sale, but when I do I find it interesting and constructive.

I entirely agree that all left organisations should meet and work out a programme of activity, thus giving a real lead to the seething mass of workers who are shocked at the open and continual betrayal of the Labour government and the trade union leaders.

We must show that it is only the workers who are making the 'sacrifices', that profits are allowed — indeed encouraged to soar. Everything the workers must have, food, rent, gas, electric, fuel, bus fares, increasing every few weeks — but wages are frozen.

I believe entirely in your 'Where We Stand' column, except your statement on Russian. Give me some details why you claim that country to be 'state capitalist' and why they still have a 'bureaucratic ruling class'.

I believe we must face facts and realise they must go more steadily towards socialism than the leaders and people desire. Because the strength of the United States and other capitalist countries force them to use money on armaments. They would dearly love to improve more rapidly their standard of living.

S T SMITH, West Bromwich.

## THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S REPLY TO THE RECENT LETTER FROM THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

# United action is growing... but you hinder it

Dear Jim Nichol,

In reply to your letter of June 10th addressed to the Political Committee of the Communist Party.

United action to reverse the disastrous policies of this Government is developing on a wide range of issues. Our constant concern is to contribute all we can to this united movement so that it generates the necessary power to force the Government to change course.

In our view, and indeed in our experience, your activity and propaganda is divisive and disruptive, making more difficult the development of united mass struggle.

You refuse to differentiate between roles played by different trade union leaders, Members of Parliament and others in the Labour Movement, thereby weakening the struggle against the Right Wing in the Labour Movement.

Similarly on policy questions. Criticism of class collaborationist and anti-working class policies is not enough to develop and mobilise the movement.

It is also essential to propose an alternative policy credible to working people and assisting the process of them moving into action for left,

## It would be beneficial to the left...

Dear Bert Ramelson,

It is, of course, perfectly true that there are very great political differences between our two parties.

A particularly crucial one, in connection with the joint actions we propose, is our conviction that the development of self-reliant rank and file activity in the workplaces and the unions is absolutely vital.

The support of the vast majority of the trade union leaders, left as well as right, for the Social Contract makes this glaringly obvious.

Nonetheless, we are convinced that there are a number of areas where co-operation between your members and ours is both possible and important in furthering the interests of the working class.

The struggle at Grunwicks and the whole issue of the attack on basic trade union rights (Desoutters etc.) is an obvious example where co-operation can only be beneficial to the movement.

Resistance to the attempts to impose yet another round of wage cutting in the name of the Social Contract is another.



The Wood Green anti-fascist demonstration: united action showed its value but, says Bert Ramelson (right) the SWP are 'divisive and disruptive'

socialist change.

Yet the alternative policy our Party advocates is constantly misrepresented and attacked in your press and meetings.

The incorrectness of your approach is demonstrated by the fact that there is growing agreement in the Labour and Progressive movement on key demands which are part of the Communist counter-crisis programme. These demands are increasingly the basis for mass united action.

Your disregard of decisions adopted by meetings of the Left, in which you participate, is further evidence that far from contributing towards developing united struggle,

you create disunity and play into the hand of the Right Wing and Tories.

Our approach, determined by the interests of the working class and Labour Movement, as well as wider progressive forces, is completely different from yours.

We will continue to develop mass struggle and solidarity with particular emphasis on activities in the workplaces and localities, which, allied to official organisations of the Movement, aim to bring the whole power of the Trade Union Movement into action for Left policies.

Far from being divisive and disruptive, the activity of SWP members on all these issues has made a substantial contribution.

We are concerned to develop the maximum unity in action in the working class movement, notwithstanding political differences.

You say that we misrepresent the policy of the Communist Party in our press. Certainly that is not our intention. The columns of Socialist Worker are open to any spokesman of the Communist Party who wishes to correct what is seen as a misrepresentation.

Naturally we criticise your party where we believe its policy or actions to be wrong. We also print replies to our criticisms.

Who can doubt that united work by your members and ours on the specific issues we have suggested (and doubtless on others) would be beneficial to the whole left?

Who can doubt that it would aid that development of mass struggle and solidarity of which you speak, particularly where both parties have members in the same workplaces or union organisations?

We regret your rejection of our suggestion of a joint meeting to discuss the practicalities of such



On combatting racism: in addition to any independent initiatives we take as a party, or action in co-operation with other progressive organisations, we consider the critical question is to win maximum support for the activities of the Labour Movement which oppose racism.

Only in this way can the widest unity of all forces against racism be brought into action with the Labour Movement exercising its necessary leadership.

These briefly are reasons for our rejection of your proposals for joint meetings with us.

Bert Ramelson,

National Industrial Organiser,  
Communist Party of Great Britain

united action and invite you to reconsider.

Meanwhile our branch, district and union fractions will strive to achieve the maximum common actions with yours wherever basic agreement on objectives makes this possible.

Yours fraternally,  
Jim Nichol,  
National Secretary,  
Socialist Workers Party

TWO weeks ago, the Socialist Workers Party sent an open letter to the Communist Party. It said a call for 'united action on certain specific issues should be made jointly by our two parties' and made four suggestions:

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 claims 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 unions for the defence of traditional trade union practice in respecting picket lines and in opposition to blackleg's charters of all sorts. Joint meetings of our members in those unions that have put their names to such documents to promote the campaign. The Communist Party have now replied to our original letter. We publish their reply in full, together with another letter from the SWP to them.

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100

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RIGHT and BELOW: Police at Darlington struck with 'Grunwicks fever' last Friday when they broke up the mass picket on the Northern Echo offices. Among the 26 arrested were NUJ executive member Aidan White (right, centre).



# Police smash NUJ mass picket - 26 arrested

**'IF WE go back for anything less than a closed shop, we might as well tear up our union cards.'**

In a simple sentence, Joan Finley, night news editor on Darlington's Northern Echo, summed up the reasons for the strike of more than 100 journalists on newspapers throughout the North East.

The strike has resulted in two mass pickets. The first stopped almost all copies of the Northern Echo two weeks ago.

But by the second, last Friday, the bosses and their protectors in the police force had learned a few lessons. Several pickets were arrested, including the NUJ North East and Scotland organiser, John Hodgman.

### Compromise

And the papers got through. The closed shop is vital to trade unionism in newspaper offices. Unless all journalists are in

trade unions, the ability to fight for better conditions with strike action is hopelessly compromised. A handful of people, even one person, can get out a newspaper of sorts for a very long time.

Yet the bosses, who readily concede closed shops to print workers, are reluctant to give it to journalists for fear that their treasured right to print whatever drivels they please should be interfered with.

So the big newspaper combines gave the green light to their editors and owners to take on non-union journalists and challenge the NUJ to a fight.

## Flying pickets ensure firemen's victory

by a Merseyside fireman

**MERSEYSIDE:** The firemen's strike was a total victory last week. The Tory-controlled council, having provoked the strike by ordering sackings, caved in when flying pickets brought out 900 men in protest.

For eight weeks the firemen had been operating an unofficial work to rule calling for the rejection of phase 3 of the Social Contract. Then they decided to suspend the action from 4 July to see what the national negotiators would deliver at the recall Fire Brigades Union conference in September.

The newly-elected Tory council took this as a sign of weakness. Last Tuesday senior officers were sent to every station operating the work to rule with instructions to sack anyone who refused to return to normal working immediately.

By 9.30am about 30 men had been sacked from the Strand Road, Crosby and Derby Lane stations. By mid-day this had risen to 150.

The response of the firemen was fantastic. Despite threats from the chief fireman that anyone going on strike would automatically be sacked, 900 men had struck by the end of the day.

### Support

Hundreds of firemen organised into flying pickets to go round the whole Merseyside district to gain support for the sacked men. These flying pickets were on duty well into early Wednesday morning.

In the face of this militant rank and file response, the council caved in. The sacked men were all reinstated without loss of pay.

The local press attacked the firemen for endangering lives by going on strike. But they neglected to mention that the firemen were covering for emergencies before they were sacked. The responsibility lies with the employers who provoked the strike.

This dispute was won without any help from the local Brigades Committee, which was quoted in the local press as saying they could not take action on behalf of the men because the strike action was unofficial.

### Strength

It is clear that the rank and file firemen cannot rely on their union officials. Only their own strength and organisation won this dispute.

Feelings are running high in Merseyside. The firemen are determined not to be conned again. We want at least £15 extra in our pockets in September.

The Merseyside strike committee has decided to send a large contingent to the FBU conference to make sure delegates know the feelings of the Merseyside men.

Ernie Pannell, editor of the Darlington and Stockton Times, part of the huge Westminster Press newspaper group, which also owns the Financial Times, responded by hiring Josephine Kirk-Smith, a stated anti-trade unionist. The Westminster Press has promised Pannell and his new scab sub-editor full support.

But the chapel for North of England Newspapers, which includes the Northern Echo, the Darlington and Stockton Times and other local papers, responded with strike action.

The NUJ leadership, as ever, has responded to the enthusiasm of its members with an attempt at sabotage. At a meeting last week with Mike Duggan, the father of the chapel (shop steward), and his deputy Ewen Campbell, general secretary Ken Morgan warned them to 'cool it'.

### Wrong

Morgan presumes that the strike can be won by making as little fuss as possible and calling off the mass pickets.

He is wrong. The strike can only be won if the action is escalated.

The strike committee has decided to hold a mass picket on Friday (15 July). The entire labour movement in the North East needs to be mobilised for this picket.

Even more important, the lesson of the closed shop victory at East Midlands Allied Press, Kettering, earlier this year needs to be learnt at Darlington.

Kettering was won because the entire newspaper group was called out on strike in sympathy. Similarly, victory will come to Darlington as soon as the board of Westminster Press feels that the profit from the whole of group is threatened.

**MASS PICKET: Friday 15 July, details phone Darlington (0325) 50282.**

## Save school meals!

**BRANCHES** of the public employees union NUPE, are this week getting copies of leaflets, petitions and posters opposing the increase in school meal charges from 15p to 25p in September.

But of the nine unions involved in the National Steering Committee against the Cuts, most are doing nothing to support this, its biggest initiative since the day of action it organised last November.

Even the leaders of NUPE see the campaign in terms of press conferences and resolutions to local Labour Parties rather than action against the increases. Even the time they've chosen to launch the campaign—three weeks before the end of the school year—suggests they want at all costs to prevent members taking things into their own hands and launching the sort of fight that can defeat these increases.

## stop the cuts!

### Oxford: 400 teachers out

FOUR HUNDRED teachers are on strike in Oxfordshire, with 28 of the 36 schools in Oxford itself shut down and 14,000 children affected.

But despite occasional bluster, the national NUT leadership seem anxious for an early compromise. Their 'limited action' in Oxfordshire is against the cuts, and the resulting loss of jobs and increased class sizes.

The NUT leaders and Tory

county councillors who made the Oxford cuts are meeting Education Minister Shirley Williams this week. An NUT-sponsored petition says nothing about support for their own strike action, but instead places all emphasis on the abstract justice of the teachers' case, then calls for an immediate resumption of negotiations.

The local Labour Party, the Head Teachers Association and the predominantly middle-class Oxfordshire

Education Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, are also pressing for the soonest possible conciliation of the dispute.

The council want the teachers to go back to work, but the NUT say they want the council to put staffing levels back to the pre-cuts norm, if necessary by hiring new teachers.

So far, the council have 'found' £100,000 to prevent 60 of the 160 threatened redundancies, on top of natural wastage. But with about 400 teaching posts still at risk, this concession is a long way short of meeting the NUT's demand.

Two pieces of news this week are badly timed

### Deferred

First, a secret decision to finalise the previously deferred closure of two nurseries in the city has leaked out in time for resistance to be organised by the Oxford Campaign Against Nursery Cuts.

Second, the Whitehall demand for a further reduction in Oxfordshire's budget of 1978/79 of £800,000 has made it plain to all opponents of the present cuts that, far from them being 'only temporary', there isn't an ice-cream's chance in hell of any of them being restored in the foreseeable future.

### THREAT TO STEWARD

by PAT DUFFY  
COHSE shop steward,  
East Fortune Hospital,  
North Berwick

WHEN I came back from the conference of my union, the health service workers, COHSE, I found I had been suspended for 'offences' that included leaving the hospital because I was sick, and working to contract.

This all began because our

### Monklands NALGO —action!

LANARKSHIRE: Ninety members of the housing department in Monklands are on official strike following attempts by the Labour-controlled council to sack them all and make them reapply for their jobs, with the threat that certain members would not get their jobs back.

Employees in the department are sick and tired of councillors changing the housing policies—there have been eight changes since January. Cut-backs, staff shortages, rent increases, these are the real causes of the housing problem.

The council are trying to make the local government workers, members of NALGO, the scapegoats. They have provoked them into strike action to stop the sackings.

Monklands are particularly ruthless. But if they get away with this every local and regional council will find the way open to attempt similar intimidation of trade unionists.

Barney Wheelan, president of the Monklands branch of NALGO, told Socialist Worker: 'Our union will not stand by and see people being thrown out of a job. We are prepared for a long strike.'

'As a life-long member of the Labour Party I believe that NALGO should affiliate to the Labour Party. But this council's performance fills me with disgust.'

branch began to work to rule in April following the closure of an experimental wing for the mentally handicapped, the only one in the country.

The management are claiming that they haven't shut the ward. But this is a play on words. The ward was converted at a cost of £160,000 for the mentally handicapped. Now it is being used for elderly ladies and rehabilitation.

### Skeleton staff at hospital

by WENDY PLIMLEY

BIRMINGHAM: All Saints Hospital, one of the city's biggest mental hospitals, was covered by a skeleton staff last Wednesday when staff flocked to a two-hour mass meeting.

Management is intent on admitting dangerous patients from special hospitals such as Broadmoor and Rampton, an enormous risk for All Saints patients and staff.

A new £2 million unit should have been built in Birmingham, with special facilities and trained staff to deal with this type of patient, but the health authority has axed this because of the cuts.

Now they are trying to bring these patients into existing mental hospitals through the back door. This way they save not only the £2 million but the extra pay for specially trained staff.

Workers at All Saints have made it clear to management that they are not having it. Their prompt action forced management to stop admission of a Rampton patient last week.

### Action for nurseries

STRATHCLYDE: Teachers and local government workers have joined parents to fight cut-backs in the nursery services.

Some 500 nursery nurses who have just finished their training are to be made redundant. 35 new nurseries are to be scrapped, 50 unfilled vacancies for nursery teachers are not going to be filled.

Our first day of action was a big success. The Nursery Action Group leafleted, petitioned and collected signatures in the shopping centres. We were amazed at how much support we had.

Message of support and donations to: Strathclyde Nursery Action Group, c/o Colin Turbett, 28 Atholl Gardens, Glasgow G12.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS)

# MINERS: NO MORE WAGE CONTROLS!

**TYNEMOUTH:-** Delegates to the Annual Conference of the National Union of Mineworkers voted unanimously on Tuesday to oppose any Phase 3 of the Social Contract.

They demanded that when Phase 2 ends 'there should be a return to free collective bargaining'.

The question of the length

By Bill Message

of Phase 2 agreements however was neither mentioned nor raised in the debate.

A militant compromise resolution from South Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire, demanding a wages structure of £110 for face workers, £90 for other underground workers and £80 for surface workers was narrowly defeated.

This resolution was uncom-

promising in its demands that these figures should be achieved by 1 November this year.

Lawrence Daly, the NUM General Secretary, complained that the militant resolution 'would tie the hands of the executive too rigidly'.

A resolution from Nottinghamshire, calling for a wage of £135 a week for face workers, was passed by a narrow majority.

This resolution received the support of the executive, despite the high figure, because the 'loose wording

allowed them sufficient escape routes.

Moving the resolution, both Henry Richardson, a Notts delegate, and Len Clarke, Notts Area President, were insistent on the need for greater differentials between face workers and other pitmen.

A bitter blow was dealt to the plan of NUM President Joe Gormley and NCB chairman, Derek Ezra, to introduce a productivity deal that would make a return to the days of the vicious piece-rate system.

Appeals were heard from delegates from South Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire for the right to negotiate local productivity deals.

Delegates from South Wales, Yorkshire and Scotland spoke vehemently against any productivity deal, pointing out that it would destroy totally the unity that made the advances of 1972 and 1974 possible.

Delegates voted by 137-134 against the introduction of any productivity deal.

## Ford's: Sell-out by union officials

'THE OFFICIALS have sold us out.' That was the reaction to last week's settlement by pickets who had brought Ford's Dagenham plant to a standstill.

They were demanding a guaranteed 40-hour week or 80 per cent lay-off pay.

But when their determined picketing was having a serious effect not only on Ford's UK plants, but also on some of their European operations, the officials worked up an agreement with the company over the heads of the stewards, saying that 'the fight for lay-off pay could go no further at

this stage.'

Against the unanimous recommendation of the PTA shop stewards committee, the officials rammed the agreement through a mass meeting on the misleading basis that it would guarantee against further lay-offs for PTA workers. In fact it comes nowhere near their main demand.

It took three mass meetings for the officials to get a return-to-work decision.

But one shop steward, a supporter of the rank and file paper Fordworker, said: 'The PTA, after years of being pushed around, have proved they can fight. We have won back our self-respect.'

### Organised

'The pickets have been very effective and it shows what strength we have when we are organised.'

'We have the pay claim coming up in the autumn, as well as the attempted victimisation now of one of our fellow stewards, brother Ravi, which we must fight.'

'We have seen that we cannot rely on union officials. We can only rely on ourselves and rank and file organisation. That is what Fordworker must now help to organise.'

For further information about the rank and file bulletin contact Fordworker c/o 42 Middleton Road, London.

## LUCAS ON THE WARPATH

**BIRMINGHAM:** Lucas management are on the warpath. They have stopped the bonus of all their toolroom workers, ensuring they each lose £7.89 a week.

The 1200 toolmakers in the Lucas factories in the Birmingham area, including Cannock and Telford, walked out on Monday in support of their claim for a substantial increase in their bonus payment.

The toolroom committee started negotiations for a substantial increase in the bonus and, when they found management were simply dragging out endless meetings, the toolroom workers started a policy of non-cooperation. Management then stopped the bonus.

The men started picketing on Monday and most of the transport is respecting the official picket line.

### 400 are locked out

**WOLVERHAMPTON:** 400 workers at Lucas Aerospace in Wolverhampton have been locked out.

They are members of the AUEW. 500 other AUEW members have refused to cross the official picket line.

The dispute is over the interpretation of an agreement on incentive schemes. Management refused to negotiate and laid off workers claiming low productivity even though the workers had been on maximum bonus.

When workers turned up for work a fortnight ago their cards were not in the racks. There was no power for the machines and the fuse boxes were padlocked.

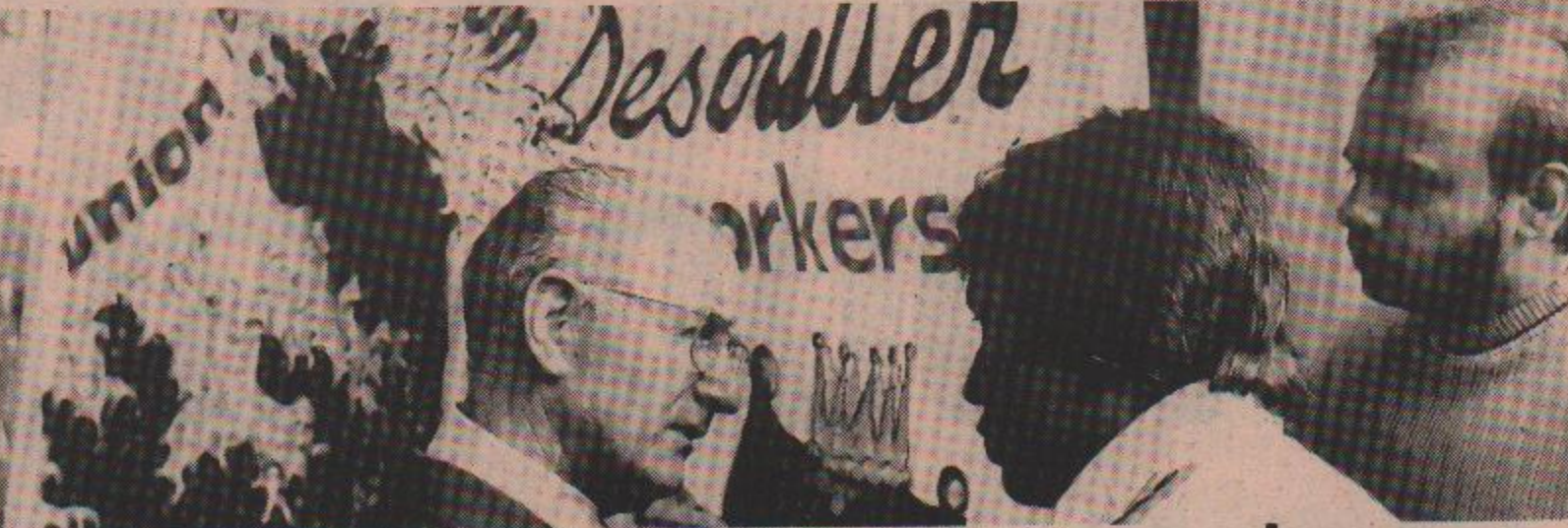
The T&G is supporting the Lucas workers and no transport is entering the factory gates. Other Lucas Aerospace factories are blacking. 30 canteen workers have come out in support.

Donations and messages of support to: The Treasurer, Mr Turner c/o A.A. Round, Convenor AUEW, 44 Victoria Rd, Bradmore, Wolverhampton, WV 3 7EU.

## VICTIMISATION BATTLE

**HUDDERSFIELD:** 27 night shift workers at Fred Lawton's have been on strike for two weeks. It is the third strike over victimisation in the Huddersfield textile industry in the last year.

The strikers, all Pakistanis, originally made three demands for a break in a 12-hour shift, for the full wage rate for all workers and for an end to harassment by written warnings from management.



Hugh Scanlon, President of the Engineering union, talking on the picket line at Grunwicks to Fred Hopper, Engineering Union Convenor at the nearby Desoutters factory

**AT LONG last,** the AUEW North London District Committee is beginning to move in support of the Desoutters strike for trade union recognition.

A North London convenors meeting agreed last week to organise regular collections in the factories, to impose effective blacking, and to call for support for the picket line.

At a meeting outside the factory on Thursday,

By Barry Moroney, AUEW shop steward, Desoutters

divisional organiser Bill McLoughlin called for regular mass pickets of engineers every Thursday lunch-time, beginning this week.

'From 7 July onwards,' he said, 'we are calling on all London workers to come and strengthen the picket line'. The District Committee has circulated leaflets to shop stewards

throughout the district, and stewards at nearby Frigidaire and CAV are calling for a big turnout by their workers.

Our strike for union recognition is now in its eighth week. Despite approaches by the union and a representative of ACAS, management adamantly refused to take part in any discussion. Only mass

support will force them to stand down.

Two mass pickets last week, one called by the rank and file paper Engineers Charter, and involving 80 pickets from Grunwicks, were a good start.

We now need massive support for the district initiative. Noon-2pm, Edgware Road, Colindale, NW9. Financial support desperately needed: 16 Yew Grove, London NW2.

# TEESSIDE: 3,500 STRIKE

**TEESSIDE:** 3,500 members of the electricians union, the EETPU, struck on Tuesday in support of 90 EETPU members on strike at Dock Point.

Altogether 1,500 electricians turned up to a mass meeting called in solidarity. To their surprise, the executive member for the strikers, Ramshaw, finally showed his face even though the EETPU executive has still not made the strike official.

The seven-week strike is an effort to stop boilermakers squeezing out EETPU members from the big site on Teesside. 'They are taking every pipe over two inches and are even doing electricians' tray work', a steward told Socialist Worker.

The EETPU executive committee has done nothing for the lads in this area but repeat that their hands were tied by

the JIB.

Ian MacDonald, a steward on SimChem, said that the clear message to general secretary Frank Chapple from the meeting had to be 'throw out the JIB and give us back the union we once had'.

Ramshaw then threw the meeting into uproar. 'You're outside the JIB taking this action. I'm not saying you will be fined. But you could be.'

### Strength

Billy Williams, an unemployed spark and Rank and File candidate against Chapple in last year's General Secretary election, took the platform. He said:

'This can be the start of the fight to throw out the JIB. We've got the strength here. We need to use it. It's no good relying on appointed officials to do the job for us.'

'The JIB came from the

United States after our union's last visit there to confer with fraternal delegates to the Mafia.

'This year all but two of the EC are going back to see what more they can learn. Christ knows what they'll bring back this time.'

'We'd not be in this mess now if our officials were elected. If they were accountable to us and not Chapple.'

'We need to tell Chapple and the JIB:

□ We demand the right to work.

□ We demand decent rates. 'And we won't get either without democracy in our own union.'

### Democracy

Ramshaw said he was for elected officials but it was in the hands of the members. He went on: 'I know who my employer is. You lads are my employer.'

'You're sacked' cried 1500 voices.

Finally the meeting got back to the immediate issue. It was agreed unanimously that support would continue, that the area stewards committee should attempt to spread the struggle. CEU member who were not involved had come out in support.

All EETPU members should make sure support is total. Almost £5,000 is needed weekly to give the strikers a living wage.

support will force them to stand down.

Two mass pickets last week, one called by the rank and file paper Engineers Charter, and involving 80 pickets from Grunwicks, were a good start.

We now need massive support for the district initiative. Noon-2pm, Edgware Road, Colindale, NW9. Financial support desperately needed: 16 Yew Grove, London NW2.

## Night Out: Mass pickets on again

**SURPRISE, surprise!** ACAS, the government conciliation service, has arbitrated in the Night Out dispute in Birmingham—and come up with nothing.

The women at the Trust House Forte night club came out in February for union recognition. The response from the union, the TGWU, was tremendous: mass pickets every Saturday night, blacking of service stations belonging to THF.

Then came the offer of ACAS to investigate. Blacking, except of the Night Out, was stopped and the mass picketing on Saturday nights

was called off.

Many thought this was the end of the fight. But the strikers have said all along that they would stick it out. And that's what they're going to do.

### Mass picketing

The mass picketing is being started up on Saturday 27 July. All trade unionists in the Birmingham area must make it a success.

Money and messages of support to: Night Out strikers, Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.

## Walk-out over sacked steward

**DEWSBURY:** Workers at the roof tile factory of Marleys—the massive consortium which made £40 million profit last year—have come out on unofficial strike for the reinstatement of a sacked shop steward.

Marley have prevented unionisation until now. Six weeks ago, the victimised steward organised 90 per cent of the workforce into AUEW. On 20 June, official shop steward credentials were received by management.

Four days later, management finally met the steward over a minor problem on fitters' wage rates. They told him he was not acceptable, and refused to discuss the matter.

The workforce heard of this while the steward phoned the union, and they called a mass meeting which decided on a one-hour stoppage.

The next day, the steward learnt he was 'suspended', and on Monday 27 June was told that he was sacked for 'gross industrial misconduct'.

An immediate mass meeting gave full support to demands to reinstate and to recognise the union before a return to work.

# Socialist Worker

Please send me more information about the Socialist Workers Party

Name .....

Address .....

Trade Union .....

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

Support!

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

From the International Herald Tribune, 5 July

## Bumper Grain Harvest Around World Raises Fear of a Food Crisis

By Dan Morgan

WASHINGTON, July 4 (WP)—Two years after the world emerged from the shadow of famine and food scarcity, a new world food crisis threatens.

This crisis is one of too much wheat, not too little, and its dimensions and statistics are the reverse of those that prevailed when food supplies were disrupted from 1973 to 1974. Grain is engulfing storage depots as this year's harvest swells.

# THERE'S LOTS OF FOOD - BUT LESS TO EAT!

TAKE a long look at the headline reproduced at the top of this page. It comes from the front page of Tuesday's International Herald Tribune.

Then look at the two people in these pictures. Their faces tell a desperate story of hunger and starvation.

There are more hungry people in the world today than ever before. About 500 million people, most of them children under five, live on the edge of death by starvation.

Even in so-called 'rich' countries hunger is increasing. In last week's Socialist Worker we printed a letter from a family of five who were cut off from food for half a week because they hadn't filled in the right form at the Social Security.

In Britain this year, almost all working families are eating less than they ate last year.

For the first time for 30 years, thousands of working families are daily racked with the problem: have the children got enough to eat?

This week from the top food experts of the world comes a rather different account.

'A new world food crisis threatens', proclaims the International Herald Tribune. Then comes the explanation: 'The crisis is one of too much wheat'.

### Security

Yes, you read it right. Too much wheat.

All over the world there are bumper harvests.

Enough is being produced to free every man, woman and child on earth from hunger.

Yet the food doesn't reach the hungry.

The 'crisis' is caused because it can't be sold at a profit. Poor people can't buy it anyway.

by PAUL FOOT

A fifth of all the wheat produced in the world this year is rotting away in barns. The farmers and merchants are complaining about the cost of storage.

So this week Bob Bergland, Secretary for Agriculture in President Carter's government, warns that he will have to stop food production on 16 million acres in America—that's a fifth of all the arable land!

The only remedy which these gentlemen can think of is to stop producing food. They can't give the food away, because that might bring down the prices of what they have left.

And they can't bring down the prices without affecting their enormous profit margins.

So they stop producing food, make even more people hungry, and sack thousands of farm and food workers into the bargain.

Madness? Yes it is madness. Horrible, destructive madness at that.



## SO WE'VE TURNED THE CORNER?

'WE'VE turned the corner,' Prime Minister Callaghan told a Labour Party rally last week.

It depends who you are. If you're a Cabinet Minister you got a pay increase of £10 a week.

But if you're a mentally-handicapped child at Cell Barnes Hospital, St Albans, you won't be getting your usual fortnight's holiday by the seaside.

It's called the cuts. The Hertfordshire Area Health Authority decided recently to cut the 'non-essential duties' of nurses in mental hospitals. And taking kids on holiday was definitely 'non-essential.'

Turning the corner, in fact.

It's called the 'free market', 'free enterprise' the 'national interest', 'society as we know it' and all the rest of the bullshit which pours daily from our television screens.

So next time you find yourself trapped in the supermarket trying to choose between a loaf of bread and a pound of potatoes, next time you meet a young girl who's left school and can't get a job,

next time you hear some gonk on the television warning of the need for 'another year of restraint', remember. Remember the rotting mountains of wheat on the American plains, the wine lakes of France, the beef

mountains of Northern Ireland. Remember the fat butchers and complacent corn merchants and the Agriculture Ministers who urge their children to 'think of the starving millions and finish up your steak', while they carry out policies which double the starving millions and consign their steaks to the multi-storey refrigerator.

## Food surpluses—but not for the hungry