

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

LOBBY THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Monday 5 September, 11am
Winter Gardens, Blackpool

Called by the Manchester Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, and the Right to Work Campaign.

Transport from rest of country and train (Special train from London Euston £7.50 return/Tickets from the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.)

NOW WHO ARE THE WRECKERS?



Passengers queue at Heathrow—because the government will not allow settlement of a pay claim made five and a half years ago.

WAGES DAM AT BREAK POINT

by MIKE McGRATH
National executive committee member, CPSA, in a personal capacity

THE DAM is breaking.

The frustrations of two years wage freeze are bursting through the attempts of the government and TUC to shore up another year of the Social Contract.

No group of workers chooses consciously to be vanguard in this fight. Certainly not the air traffic control assistants at British Airways. They are a good example of what happens under incomes policies.

Frustration

A settlement was reached with their employers, the Civil Aviation Authority, more than two years ago. The money would be paid from 1 January 1975, they were told then.

It has still not been paid more than five years after negotiations started in March 1972. We are now seeing those five years of frustration exploding.

The government knows that this settlement—not pay claim, as the minister Clinton Davies insists on calling it—does not break the 12-month rule. The control assistants know it doesn't. Even the TUC knows it doesn't.

What frightens the government to death is that other workers will assume that it *does* break the rule.

The government has made a crucial mistake. They assumed that the control assistants would be bullied into submission. They were wrong.

Secret

In a secret ballot they voted 5-1 to strike over the bank holiday, which will bring British airports to a standstill.

The chief danger to the unity and determination of the 850 workers is the trade union leadership.

Rank and file workers are realising more and more that they have three enemies to fight: the employers, the trade union leadership and the government. The air traffic control assistants are among the first group of workers to engage in this fight.

Their struggle is the whole movement's struggle against the government's incomes policy.

Government pay curbs behind holiday chaos

THOUSANDS of people had their holidays ruined last weekend. They were stranded at airports, waiting for flights that never took off, paying rip-off prices for drinks and snacks.

Hundreds of thousands of people could face the same fate this weekend, it seems as we go to press.

The newspapers have been using this as an occasion to witch-hunt trade unionists. Yet the responsibility for these ruined holidays lies with the government.

Two years ago the assistant traffic controllers were promised a pay rise by their employers for taking on extra work.

The government forbade this rise. This week it was still forbidding it.

It has been insisting that they must see their living standards slashed to ribbons, like every other worker in Britain.

Prices don't wait

Price rises are not restricted to 10 per cent, but the government says wages must be. Price rises do not have to wait 12 months, but it says wages must.

Not only the thousands of

unfortunate people stuck in airport lounges have had their holidays ruined by this policy. A report of the English Tourist Board last week showed that millions of people who used to be able to afford a few days abroad in the sun have been forced by low wages to endure a summer of rain here.

Millions more have not been able to afford a proper holiday at all, being reduced to taking the kids out for odd days.

The government doesn't give a damn about any of this.

One of the most important supporters of its policies is The Times newspaper. It urged the government to stand firm this weekend, on the grounds that 'thousands of travellers may have their holidays ruined, but a strike of air traffic control assistants will not bring a nation to its knees.'

Ruined

What it meant was that ruined holidays did not matter, provided profits were not hurt.

The government itself showed what its policy was about last Friday. That day it took two decisions.

One was to beg the management of Heinz, the food giant, to withdraw a wage rise already being paid out to its employees, because it was more than the 4½ per cent allowed under Phase Two.

The other was to give Beechams management permission to pay out to their shareholders an increase in dividends worth 200 per cent.

That sums up the 'Social Contract'—hardship, ruined holidays, shrinking wage packets for the many, a huge boom in profits for the few.

That's why we all have to demand:

- No 10 per cent limit.
- No 12-month wait for wage increases.
- £15 minimum rise Now!



LEFT: Linda Duncan, her arms scarred a year after the explosion. TOP: Mrs Nancy Hobbs: 'We realised it was our skin we were pulling off.' ABOVE: Bernadette Halstead—she still wakes screaming in terror. RIGHT: The factory—San-Mex were fined a mere £350 for causing the explosion.

DERISORY £350 FINE AFTER HORROR BLAST

EXPLOITED by tight-fisted management...

Scarred for life because of dangerous equipment...

And now slapped in the face with derisory offers of compensation...

That's the fate of eleven workers, mostly teenage girls and housewives, who were badly burned in an explosion a year ago at the British Products San-Mex factory in Rutherglen, near Glasgow.

They were turned into human torches and ran screaming into the street, their clothes ablaze and sticking to them.

They suffered months of agony and now face the further ordeal of skin grafting. Their arms

and legs are badly scarred, and the women still have to wear trousers to cover them.

But that's not the only horror story to emerge from behind the doors of San-Mex, a non-union company who have just been fined a nominal £350 for the series of safety contraventions which caused the explosion.

DETECTORS

For the women, who were afraid to join a union for fear of dismissal, were taking home £18 a week for working from 8am until 4.30pm, sometimes in dangerous gas fumes which intoxicated them and left them with hangovers.

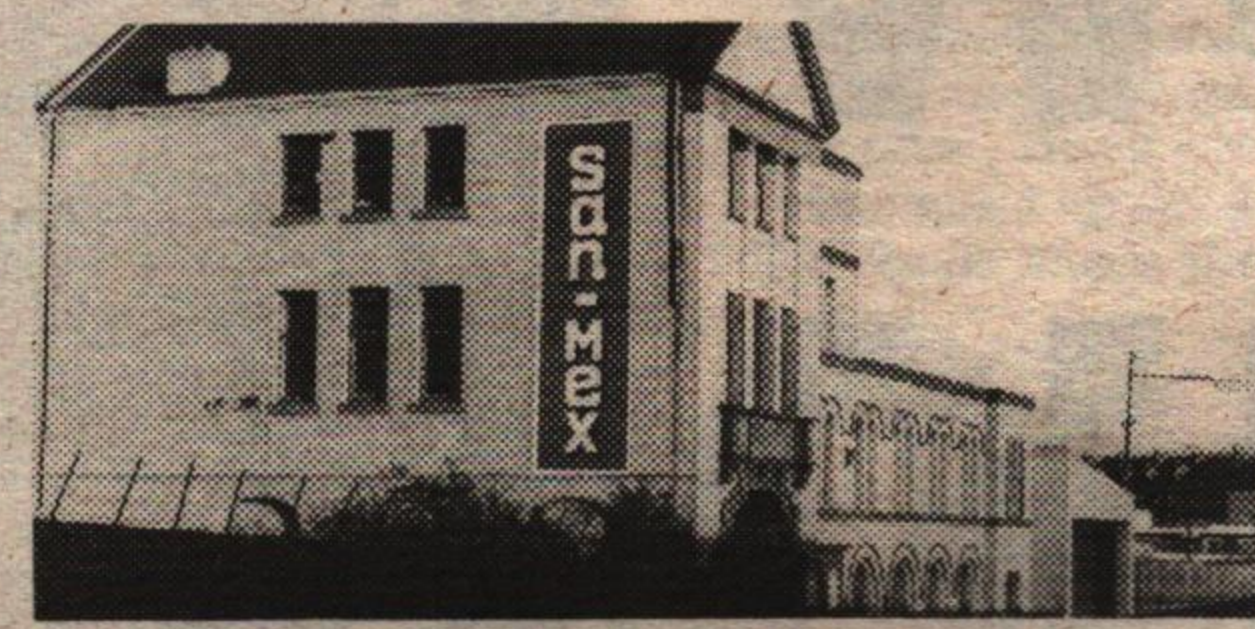
There were insufficient detectors against gas leaks, the machine which sparked off the explosion wasn't flameproofed, and the butane gas being fed into it went through a nylon hose instead of a steel pipe.

The owners of San-Mex, Louis Goren and his family, live in the exclusive Glasgow suburb of Newton Mearns. Their workers live in the crumbling tenements and sprawling housing schemes of the city's East End.

One of them, Mrs Nancy Hobbs, aged 51, described her ordeal this week.

'We were tearing at our burning tights to get them off our legs, then we realised it was our skin we were pulling off as well. We suffered agony.'

'I was in hospital for a month. The management came to see us once and that was the last we heard from them. I even had to send my daughter along to pick up my back pay—they didn't bother to send it on.'



COURT

'It's disgusting the way they have treated us—and that £350 fine is peanuts to them.'

'I'm still off work, my arms and legs are scarred, and I've been offered £1500. I'm thinking of taking them to court as well.'

'On the previous day I had been working for the first time in the section where they make gas lighter refills, and we began feeling drunk from the gas fumes.'

'I was still in that state at home later on, and my husband asked me where I got the drink. When I told him he said that's it, go in in the morning and quit.'

'There was no union in there. They were all too afraid to join for fear of dismissal', said Mrs Hobbs.

As Bernadette Holstead, aged 18, chewed her fingernails and recalled the day of horror, her mother Catherine described how the insurance representative measured the scars on her arms and thighs before offering her £1800.

But he didn't measure the scars on Bernadette's mind, that have turned her from a normal cheerful girl to a virtual recluse, dependent on tranquillisers. Her mother said: 'She still wakes up screaming in terror and can't bear to be left alone.'

PROFIT

'I was furious at the offer but she couldn't face the thought of going through a court case.'

'Before the accident she used to come home heavy-eyed and I couldn't wake her in the morning, because of the fumes.'

Linda Duncan, aged 23, of Dalmarnock, also badly marked about the arms and legs, said: 'The pain was awful. Our clothes were sticking to us. I spent six weeks in hospital and I still have to go back.'

'The San-Mex management came up to the hospital once to see us and that was the last we saw of them. I haven't been offered any compensation yet and I am still on the panel.'

San-Mex's last declared profit, in 1974, was £57,939.

Stewards vote one-day strike to lobby TUC

MORE THAN 150 engineering shop stewards in Sheffield voted last week to support the lobby of the TUC on Monday 5 September.

They will call a one-day stoppage throughout the city's engineering industry to ensure the maximum impact.

Engineering Union members in Sheffield are furious over the failure of their executive over the 12-month rule and the 10 per cent wage guideline.

In May the AUEW National Committee voted for an end to all wage restraint. Members assumed that the AUEW delegation at the TUC would vote against any wages policy and that claims going in on or after 1 August would receive official backing.

More than 20 factories have submitted claims well over 10 per cent, but in July the executive circulated all districts instructing them to stick rigidly to the 12-month rule.

Dennis Hearnshaw, AUEW convenor of Woodhouse Rixson Flanges, told Socialist Worker: 'A packed meeting of stewards voted last Tuesday for a one-day stoppage.'

'We are demanding that the national committee be reconvened before the September TUC to reaffirm its policy of no further wage control.'

The Sheffield local government workers' union NALGO, have also voted to send 12 delegates to the lobby.

The engineers' decision is the start. A fight must take place in every workplace to get the biggest delegations possible to persuade TUC delegates to put an end to Labour's wage controls.

£15 NOW! TO HELL WITH THE 12-MONTH RULE! Lobby the Trades Union Congress, Monday 5 September, in Blackpool.

How to get to Blackpool

THE Right to Work Campaign has published a list of transport arrangements for the lobby of the TUC in Blackpool on Monday 5 September.

GLASGOW: Coaches leave Trade Union Centre, Carlton Place, 7am. Return same day, 4pm. Fare £4 return. Contact J Shaw, 45 Keel Avenue, Glasgow G15.

LEEDS: Leave the Corn Exchange, 7am. Contact Brian Corrigan, phone 0532-789765.

NEWCASTLE: Coaches leave Newcastle Central Station, 6.30am. Fare £3.50. Phone 0632-657806, or

contact 142 Oban Rd, Newcastle 6.

LIVERPOOL: Leave Mann Island, Pierhead, 8am. Contact Stuart Culliford, phone 051-523-5799. Tickets from Merseyside RTWC, 2a Dawson St, Liverpool.

MANCHESTER: Train leaves Victoria Station, 9.39am. Fare £1.50. Contact T U Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3, or phone Jeff or Joyce Howard, 061-431-7541

GRIMSBY: Contact Mike Stanton 0472-68719.

LONDON: Train leaves Euston Station, 7.30am. £7.50 return. Contact Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4 (phone 01-802 0978).

WALSALL: Coach leaves Falkland car park, Wolverhampton, 7.30am.

Picket for Richard Maull

RICHARD MAULL, the man accused of throwing a bottle at a policeman on the Grunwick picket line, appeared at Willesden Magistrates Court last Thursday, to be further remanded till 4 November.

A picket of about 60 outside the court joined a dozen from the Kensal Rise Ten defence group to march up and down the pavement. The four young blacks from Kensal Rise, who have been remanded until 8 September.

Pickets will be held at Willesden Magistrates Court, St Marys Road, London NW10, on both occasions.

Jack Dromey, for the Grunwick Strike Committee, told a meeting of defendants arrested on the Grunwick picket line that the strike committee fully supported Richard Maull.

Richard Maull Defence Committee, c/o Hendon ASTMS, 65 Ashworth Mansions, Elgin Avenue, London W9.

Rats in the house—rats on the council

FOR two and a half years a Birmingham family has had to endure the most appalling living conditions.

Pat and Dave Jones and their four children, of the Wattville Road, Handsworth, are living on top of a cellar full of sewage water. The stench takes over the whole house and the water at times comes through the floor boards of the living room.

There is no bathroom, no hot water and all six are forced to spend their time in the one bedroom upstairs that is free from the stench.

But the Tory-controlled city council refuses to rehouse them.

The most sickening aspect is that in Birmingham there are two million square feet of empty office blocks.

Yet 30,000 people are on housing waiting lists, building workers are being thrown out of work and council houses in good condition stand empty.

On either side of the Jones' house are empty houses. The



people have left and rats have moved in.

Rats are in the Jones' cellar, cockroaches are in the living room. But all this 'won't hurt the children' say the welfare.

Both the physical and mental health of the family are suffering. Chris, one of the twins, has had gastro-enteritis. Jason, the youngest, is sick

most of the time, and all the family have diarrhoea, coughs and colds.

Pat has had a nervous breakdown. She told us: 'I've been to the doctor's. He's given me a note to take to the housing office at Bush House, but he won't give me pills. He says I'm too young.'

'I keep getting on at my

husband. We're quarrelling all the time. I can't help it. It's because of the house.'

Efforts to get the family rehoused have failed, despite approaches to councillors, churchmen, doctors, public health and Bush House, the council refuse to do anything.

Pat and Dave are desperate. They have refused to pay rent,

but the strains are showing. Dave lost his job as a spotwelder at the end of April and has been unemployed ever since.

Pat is living on her nerves and, as Dave says, 'If we hadn't known each other since we were 14, we would have split up long before now.'

During the election campaign in Ladywood, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party occupied one of the office blocks demanding houses for people, not offices for profit.

We were met with fitted carpets, air conditioning, central heating, the whole lot. Compare that with Wattville Road.

We must organise together to change this society which will build office blocks for profit and leave families homeless or living in appalling conditions.

When houses are lying empty, we must fight to take over those houses. Next time we occupy an office block we'll make sure families like the Joneses are with us.

Scarman and Grunwicks: WORDS SETTLE NOTHING

LORD JUSTICE Scarman has reported on the strike for union recognition at Grunwicks in North London—and has settled nothing.

True, he repeatedly praises the union for its 'responsibility': 'In our view Grunwick's management have acted within the letter of the law but outside the spirit of the law. It would benefit both management and employees for the union to negotiate on behalf of members of staff'.

True, he suggests that those workers who have been sacked should be reinstated 'if they want to be'.

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

True, he accepts that the Grunwicks management has been 'mistaken', that it did place unnecessary conditions on workers going to toilets, talking to one another, and so on, that manager Alden gave workers cause to dislike him, that managing director Ward conducted an opinion poll about trade unionism in such a way as to make many staff feel their jobs were in danger if they supported unions.

True, he accepts that the wage

of workers who did not join the strike rose only because of the actions of the other workers who did strike.

Boom

But Scarman does not, and could not, provide any settlement for all the strikers' grievances—however justified his report might decide they are. For George Ward and the Grunwicks management have repeatedly made it clear that they will not give in to the strikers merely because some inquiry tells them to.

The only thing which will make them give in is when they find out that there is no other way they can run their business.

Yet a week before the Scarman Report was due out, the Daily

Telegraph could claim: 'Grunwick business booms'. The Grunwick plant in North London is processing about one million colour prints a week,' it reported.

There is one simple reason for the success Grunwicks management are enjoying. Union leaders in both the strikers' union, APEX, and the postal workers' union (UPW) have used the court of inquiry as an excuse to drop militant action against Grunwicks.

Mass picketing

The postal workers' leadership forced local postmen to stop blacking Grunwicks mail. The APEX leadership ordered that there should be no mass picketing and no stopping of the strike-breakers' bus. They claimed they

wanted '800 pickets a day'.

But workers prepared to fight to the end to stop the scab factory saw no point in organising large numbers of pickets merely to wave at the scabs' bus as it went by, and the numbers of the pickets declined to a few dozen.

Now the Grunwicks management feel confident of victory, despite Scarman. That is why a call must go out now for renewed mass picketing with the aim of stopping the scabs' bus.

There is talk of a resolution to the TUC calling for other unions to cut off the firm's gas, electricity and water. That is all to the good—so long as it is not an excuse to postpone yet again the calling of massive pickets to stop the bus and the firm.

SOCIALISTS FORCE FRONT CANDIDATE TO TURN TAIL

THE National Front have taken a defeat in Dundee this week. Their prospective candidate, Ian Bunce, a Dundee bus driver, has announced in the local press he is standing down.

The reason is the concerted local campaign by the Socialist Workers Party.

Steward and blind man attacked by Nazis

by ANN ALDEN (NUPE shop steward)
I WAS selling Socialist Worker with a friend, Des Loughney, in an Edinburgh pub last Friday, when two men who said they were in the National Front followed me out. They knocked me to the ground and kicked me.

When we found out Bunce was standing and that he worked on the buses we immediately produced a leaflet exposing him as a Nazi supporter. We distributed them at the bus depot, where he was described by the busmen as an idiot to whom no one listened anyway.

When we talked to Bunce we discovered that he hated being labelled as a Nazi. This prompted our members to step up the pressure. Last Sunday evening we sprayed the walls of his home with slogans in 2ft high letters, 'Nazis live here' and 'Fuehrer Bunce is a Nazi'.

Statement

The following day he made a statement to the press saying that he did not intend to stand because he was afraid that the scenes of Lewisham and Birmingham might be repeated in Dundee.

He said he did not know whether he would leave the NF altogether, but he thought he might be kicked out.

Racist

We have stopped one man from peddling his racist filth, but the campaign in Dundee and Scotland must go on.

The NF intend to hold a rally and march through Edinburgh. It must be stopped. Trade unionists and socialists must come out in force and stop these Nazis while they are weak.

One stood with his foot in my face while the other urged him to kick me again.

They saw my shop steward's badge on my jacket. Among other threats they shouted: 'Shop stewards and trade unionists are responsible for bringing the country to its knees.'

They also said they would smash us. Then they ran off and, according to observers, jumped into a taxi.

The following evening a blind SWP member, Alan Balfour, was in the toilet of a pub and was punched for belonging to the SWP. He was told: 'There is no place in society for mutants.'



LEFT AND ABOVE: Centreprise, a left-wing community bookshop in Dalston, East London, was attacked by Nazis last week. Petrol was poured through the letterbox, followed by a lighted match. Extensive damage was done. £300 worth of books were destroyed.

THE SLOGAN PROTECTORS

PROVOCATIVE acts by racists are all too common in Bethnal Green, East London, so it came as no surprise when for the fourth time in a year racists decorated the local railway bridges with slogans. Local socialists and anti-fascists resolved to wipe out these blots, and chose to do so

in a public manner. So about 20 of us set off with a ladder and some paint on Sunday. We had just painted out the first bridge, and were about to start on the second, when the police swooped and arrested five of us.

They then proceeded to charge us with causing criminal damage. Since no racists have ever been charged

with these nasty daubings, it appears that the police believe that Nazis slogans do not constitute criminal damage, but wiping them out does. Some law!

Needless to say, those arrested intend to make a fight of it in court.

Messages of support for those arrested to 19, Redmans Road, London E1 (phone 01-790 2454).

THE CARNIVAL GOES ON

JOIN Socialist Workers Party members and supporters enjoying themselves at the Notting Hill Carnival in West London this weekend—providing the police stay away. If you're going ring 01-739 1878 before Friday evening.



Tenants angry over asbestos

FIFTY angry tenants from Springfield estate in Lambeth, South London, heard Councillor Derek Prentice, chairman of the council health committee, claim: 'Lambeth's history in the area of health is second to none.'

He was defending the council's actions following the illegal dumping of asbestos waste on a demolition site in Union Grove, opposite the estate.

At the meeting, called by the Socialist Workers Party and Lambeth Trades Council with the support of Springfield Tenants Association, those who lived around the dump repeatedly challenged Councillor Prentice's claims, demanding:

'Why were no tenants told of the dangers?'

'Why were our flats overlooking the site not tested for asbestos fibres?'

'Why was the only barrier to the children playing on the site a piece of white cotton strung across the open side of the site?'

'Why was this replaced with corrugated iron 2 days after the site was cleared of asbestos?'

'Why was the children's nursery, a few yards away, allowed to remain open while workers in full breathing apparatus were cleaning the site?'

Alan Dalton from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science told the meeting there was no known safe level for any kind of asbestos in the air and that the council's precautions were seriously inadequate.

Brian Hodges (ASLEF) president of the trades council, held up a piece of asbestos, picked up at the entrance to the 'cleared' site only minutes before the meeting. 'Is this what the council called completely safe?' he asked.

He also held up photographs showing skips containing waste contaminated with asbestos and only partially covered with polythene sheeting driving through the streets of Lambeth.

The councillors and their experts were asked to leave, and the meeting decided to draw up a petition.



EAGER BEAVERS

THE COMPANIES THAT LOVE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

THE 6,600 workers of C A Parsons have scored a famous victory. They have stopped the company, which makes turbo-generators for electricity power stations, falling into the hands of Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC.

But a document sent recently to shareholders in Reyrolle Parsons, who own C A Parsons, shows that any assurances the Reyrolle management have given about jobs are worthless.

For while the C A Parsons workers' jobs hung in the balance, the Reyrolle Parsons

Growing rich on Parsons

BY SEYMOUR PROPHET

The bug in the boardroom

management were hatching a plan to greatly enrich Reyrolle shareholders and make their own jobs secure.

The plan is for Reyrolle (chairman Sir James Woodeson) to merge with engineers Clarke Chapman (chairman Sir James Woodeson). Sir James says the idea is to make a big engineering company which can compete for international orders.

But that's not the real aim. Reyrolle, despite what they

say, want to ditch C A Parsons.

In a letter to shareholders Sir James Woodeson talks of 'the loss of business and profit in C A Parsons'. He says: 'The resources of C A Parsons will be slimmed down to a size which ensures viability.'

Talking of the government's order for the Drax B power station, which is going to C A Parsons, he says: 'This development does not alter your board's resolve to achieve a reduction of scale

to a level which is realistic.'

Sir James also says he broadly supports plans to rationalise the power plant manufacturing industry.

To persuade Reyrolle shareholders that C A Parsons is virtually worthless a complicated scheme has been devised to give Reyrolle shareholders a 60 per cent increase in their yearly dividend. Government policy is meant to limit dividend increases to ten per cent per year.

The merger with Clarke Chapman has proved a bonanza for Reyrolle shareholders. Since April the shares have risen in value by 40 per cent.

Also since April five directors of Reyrolle—Coughtrie, McDonald, Bell, Lock and Mole—have signed new service agreements with Reyrolle guaranteeing their jobs for the next three to five years on pay of between £250 and £500 a week.

So whatever happens to the workers of C A Parsons, the jobs of the Reyrolle management and the money of the Reyrolle shareholders are safe.



Those the press called 'left-wing rentamob thugs' on the Lewisham demonstration, and (right) jubilation over the tassels torn from a Nazi banner.

Lewisham wrong? It depends how you look at it...

SEVERAL TIMES last week the Communist Party's paper, the Morning Star, bitterly attacked the Socialist Workers Party for organising to stop the National Front in Lewisham.

In Saturday's issue Jon Bloomfield wrote: 'The tactics adopted by ultra-left groups in the struggle are misguided. Pitched battles with the police [which is how the Star sees the events in Lewisham] may give vent to people's frustrations, but it's not the way to build a mass anti-racist campaign and isolate the Front.'

But many black people in Lewisham have a completely different estimate of what happened. One indication is an interview with a group of black girls from Lewisham—which also appeared in Saturday's Star.

They told Star-reporter Helen Hewland that 'they did not originally intend to demonstrate against the National Front last Saturday but in the end nearly all of them joined the rally in Clifton Rise.' That was the rally called by the SWP to prevent

the Nazis marching. The girls were clear what the confrontation with the Nazis had achieved: 'If the National Front got away with it, they'd be back for more. Like Hitler did with the Jews, there'd be raids and fires and murder,' said one.

Another thought that 'many more black people would take part in future demonstrations against the Front'.

And a manual council worker, Sid Spearing, told the Star: 'The National Front won't be showing up round here for a long time.'

...and Socialist Worker is a sell-out

MANY BRANCHES of the Socialist Workers Party begged for extra copies of Socialist Worker last week in the wake of the battle of Lewisham. They were beaten by those branches that were quick off the mark and had organised extra sales in advance.

Top of the selling league was Danny Phillips, from Brixton, in South West Lon-

don, who sold 63 copies of the paper at Brixton tube station last Thursday. This was followed up by his district, who sold another 150 on Saturday morning.

In East London no fewer than 120 copies were sold outside Ford Dagenham. 26 were sold in less than half an hour at Old Street tube station and 120 at the Naz Cinema in Brick Lane.

In Southall, scene of one of

last year's racist murders, 70 copies were sold in the street in two hours.

August has often been a lousy month for sales. But despite the holidays our circulation is only just short of 30,000. The point of the story is get cracking and organise your sales. There are people out there who want to read Socialist Worker.

JOHN LARKHAM
SW business manager

Fighter for safety killed

by MIKE RENWICK (Gateshead SWP)

ALL Socialist Workers Party members in the North East express our deep regret at the tragic death of one of our best comrades, Ted White.

He had only recently been elected shop steward on the railways, and one of the first tasks he set himself was to improve safety. To reach that end he had set a meeting for 11 August to take on another 20 men.

Those 20 men were to be look-outs for railway repair gangs, but the meeting never took place.

For at 12.15 on the morning of that Wednesday a train hit Ted while he was doing a job he considered too dangerous for other men.

British Rail are conducting an inquiry. So are we. Ted shall be avenged.

Ladywood election: What the figures show

THE NATIONAL press claimed that the Ladywood election result last week was a great victory for the National Front.

The implication was that harassing the Nazis only gave them publicity and pushed up their vote.

But the figures tell a different story.

True, the Nazis did better than the Liberals. But their vote of 888 was less than the combined vote of the three black candidates (1032) and only a little more than their vote last time they stood in the seat, in February 1974.

Their vote fell by 2 per cent compared to the last Birmingham by-election, in Stechford.

For the Socialist Workers Party, the election campaign was quite successful.

Identify

As we made clear in Socialist Worker, our main aim in standing a candidate was not to win votes, but to aid the building of our party by putting across our total politics to an increased number of people and by encouraging the fight back against racism, unemployment and the wage controls.

As it turned out, we made 15 new members for our party, and were able on one day alone, last Thursday, to sell 200 copies of Socialist Worker to people who had not bought it before.

On Sunday we recruited another nine members.

Our candidate, Kim Gordon, was the only one to take part in the mobilisation against the Nazis in Lewisham.

The result was that he, and the SWP, were continually attacked in the Birmingham press which gave the impression that the SWP stood for 'thuggery' and 'random violence'. No other candidate was subjected to such abuse.

The day before the election, the Daily Mirror carried an editorial which gave the impression that our party was as bad as the National Front.

Total

Despite this, 152 people were prepared to identify themselves with us by voting for the SWP. In one of the smallest constituencies in the country, that was a creditable performance.

We began the campaign with virtually no members or organisation within the constituency. We have now laid the basis for further building.

When account is taken of the 534 people who voted for the rather vaguer politics put across by the Socialist Unity candidate, and the 336 for the black nationalist politics of James Hunte, it is clear that there are large numbers of people in the area who can be won to the building of a revolutionary party.

RF RANK AND FILE DIARY

STICKERS in support of Right to Work March now available, printed in red and green. 20p for a sheet of 12. Ideal for street and pub collections for the Right to Work March Fund. From Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WEST MIDDLESEX Right to Work Campaign film night: 'Leifny Bruce on TV' and 'Salt of the Earth'. Saturday 27 August, 8pm, Ealing Technical College (South Ealing tube). Admission 60p (25p with dole card).

COLLECTION SHEETS to raise support for the Right to Work March where you work. Available from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

RANK AND FILE CONTACT No 5: EETPU rank and file paper out now. Articles on cancelled election result, no 12-month rule, Port Talbot and defending direct works. Also Fight the JIB, Rank and File Contact pamphlet for all sparks and plumbers in construction. Sections on officials, blacklist and next steps in the fight. Both 5p each from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

OXFORD ROCK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK: Saturday 27 August, 8pm-midnight, Cowley Community Centre, Barnes Road. Chellis rock group, disco, bar. Tickets 25p unemployed, 50p otherwise. All welcome.

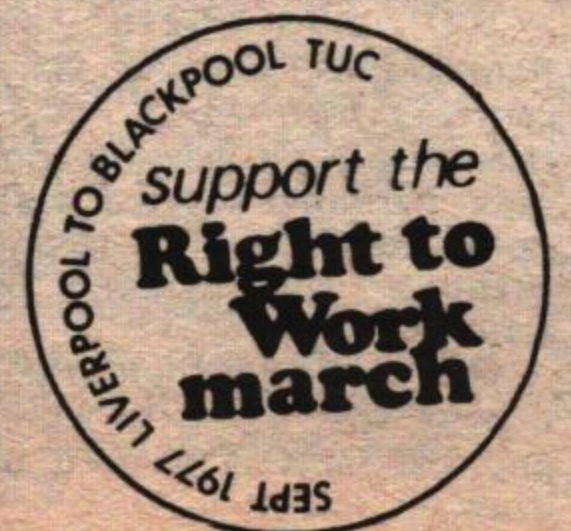
BOLTON RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN DISCO: Monday 29 August, 8pm-11pm, Balmoral Hotel, Bradshawgate. Admission 40p (unemployed 20p).

HOSPITAL WORKER: Rank and file paper for all health workers. No 9 will be available at the end of August. Please order now. Money for No 8 should be sent urgently, payable to 'Hospital Worker', 19 Red Post Hill, London SE24 (phone 01-733 8443).

LEA VALLEY fund-raising party for the Right to Work Campaign. Saturday 27 August, 8pm onwards, 93 London Road, Enfield, Middx (phone 01-366 0466).

ST ALBANS benefit disco for Right to Work March: Saturday 27 August, 8pm-midnight, ACT, 1a Spicer Street, St Albans. Admission 30p unemployed, 60p others.

SOUTH WALES Right to Work Campaign ROCK CONCERT, with Normal and the Lunatics, and featuring Ample Thighs!! Saturday 27 August, 8pm-late, The Hall, Windsor Place, Cardiff Central. Unemployed 15p, employed 40p.



WE ALL NEED £15 NOW! TO HELL WITH THE 12-MONTH RULE!

A VITAL trade union meeting takes place on Clydeside as we go to press this Wednesday.

Called by nine shop stewards committees, representing 40,000 engineering and shipyard workers, it could provide the spark to ignite a massive wages explosion on Clydeside.

Andersons Strathclyde, Govan Shipbuilders, Babcock and Wilcox, Singers, Marathon, Rolls-Royce, Prestcold, Yarrow Shipbuilders and Weirs Pumps are the sponsors. They have circulated every shop stewards committee in the West of Scotland urging a maximum turnout.

More than 400 shop stewards are expected to be there.

Action

The meeting can lay the basis for a united offensive on wages. Its sponsors are urging shop stewards committees to lodge big wage claims now.

Already many groups of workers are moving into action.

□ TV repair engineers, members of the electricians' union (EETPU), are out on strike and picketing for a 30 per cent wage rise at the Wishaw depots of British Relay.

□ 200 workers at Essex International in Kilwinning are occupying their factory to win equal pay.

□ 8,000 car workers at Chrysler Linwood have launched a claim that would mean a £20-a-week rise. Chrysler management have refused to meet the offer and all the signs are that the workforce will be on strike within the next few weeks.

Increase

□ At Yarrow shipyard 7,000 workers have launched a claim for a 50 per cent across-the-board rise.

□ At Honeywells in Lanarkshire, one of the biggest employers in the area, shop stewards are about to put in a claim for an increase of over 25 per cent.

□ It's not just the big battalions who are ready to have a go. At Hall & Hall, in East Kilbride, 200 TGWU members are lodging a claim for £30 a week.

The story is repeated in factory after factory throughout the area.

Willie Lee, AUEW shop steward at Chrysler Linwood, told Socialist Worker: 'Most workers going in for a wage increase now still feel isolated. The first step to taking in-

A spark to ignite the wages explosion?

by **DAVE SHERRY**

dustrial action seems a big one.

What Wednesday's meeting can do is show our workforce and every other group of workers that they are not alone, that tens of thousands of trade unionists are now ready to fight.

'From the meeting we must organise support and solidarity for groups like ourselves who are about to move into action.

'Wednesday's meeting must channel the anger that is undoubtedly there on the shop floor and transform it into united action to break through on wages.

'This is an exciting period. The movement is beginning to flex its muscles. You get the feeling that if we can link the fight then nothing can hold us back.'

Three years ago, right at the start of the Social Contract, 50,000 workers throughout Clydeside took part in a massive strike wave that threatened to kill the Contract at birth. Busworkers, lorry drivers, engineering workers, teachers and local authority manual workers all struck for higher wages.

Combat

That massive wave was dissipated because each fight was isolated. There was no coordinated leadership that could link the strong to the weak and combat the betrayals of the fulltime officials.

An even bigger wave of

opposition is now building up. Three years of falling wages have created an anger that threatens to explode.

The organisers of Wednesday's meeting have an enormous responsibility to make sure that this time the anger is not dissipated.

On Wednesday the shop stewards must decide

ONE: To encourage every group of workers to bang in claims now for a minimum rise of £15 across the board.

Fighting

TWO: To call regular mass meetings of Clydeside shop stewards to organise support for workers in struggle.

THREE: To produce a regular West of Scotland Shop Stewards Bulletin to link the fight.

FOUR: To establish a fighting fund as big as that of UCS in 1971 to back the strikes.

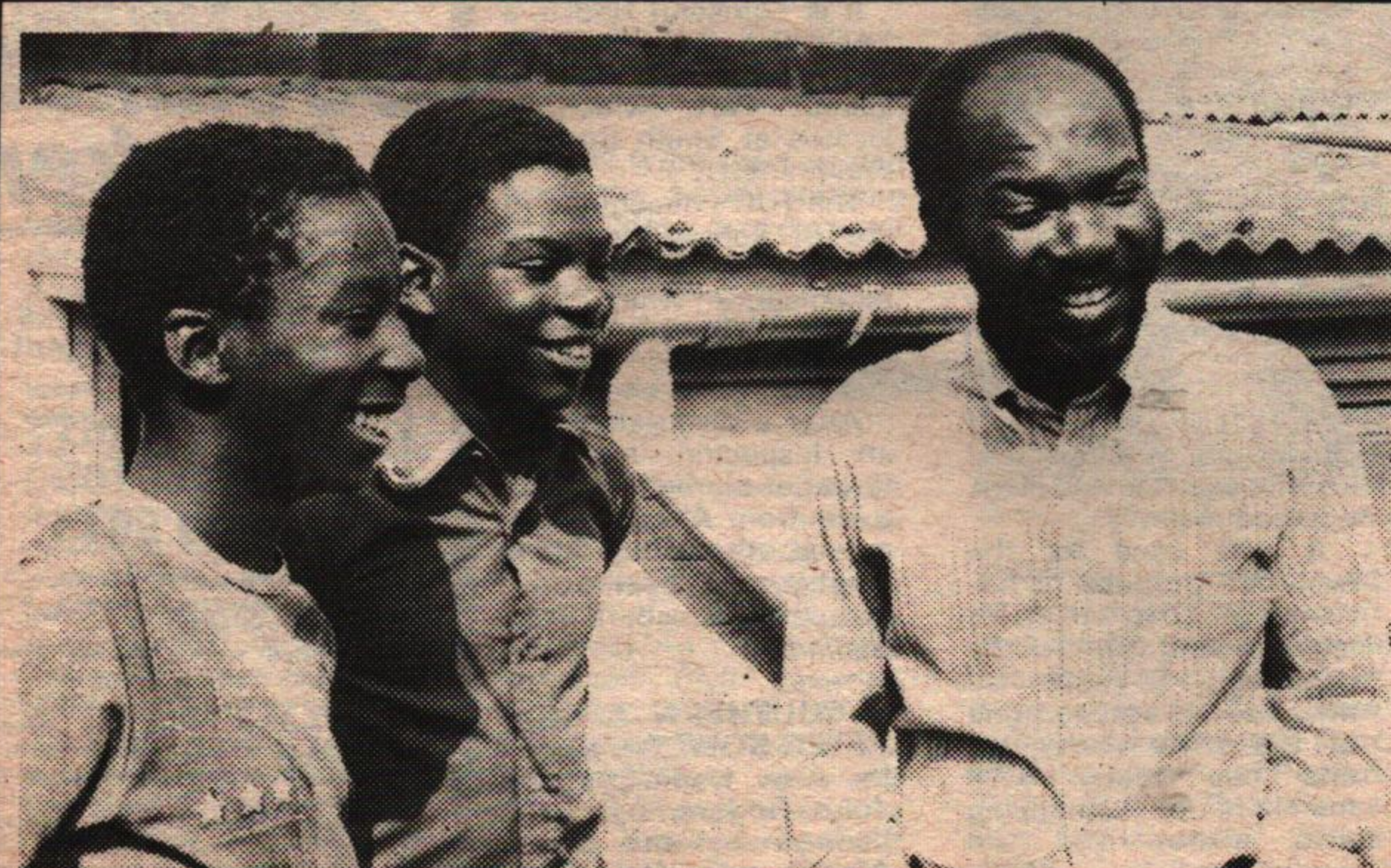
FIVE: To organise the biggest possible lobby of the TUC at Blackpool on Monday 5 September and to join shop stewards in Sheffield organising a one-day stoppage for that day.

The possibilities for rebuilding the Clydeside Shop Stewards Movement have never been better. It's that kind of movement that can counter the TUC's attempt to sell out with the 12-month rule, and lift the confidence of the rank and file for the battles that lie ahead.

□ Next week's Socialist Worker will carry a full report of the meeting.



We need a wage increase NOW! Top: Batchelors food factory, Sheffield. Centre: British Relay engineers, Battersea, South London. Bottom: Lucas toolmakers, Birmingham.



Roy Nesbitt (right) with his two sons: 'It's our children we have to fight for—that's why I'm taking them on the march'

We're marching for the right to work

ROY NISBETT and his two sons, Keith aged 15 and Kirtley aged 14, are going on the Right to Work March from Liverpool to Blackpool in September.

Roy came to this country 17 years ago from St Kitts in the West Indies. He lives with his two sons in Reading and works at Robert Corts—a local engineering factory.

Roy told Socialist Worker that he was taking his sons on the march because 'with so many thousands of youngsters out of work they'll be ultra-lucky to get a job.'

'Unemployment affects everyone. When a wage

earner is out of work, the whole family suffers. It's our children we have to fight for—that's why I'm taking them on the march.'

His son Keith said: 'I got worried when I read in Socialist Worker that there were 800,000 school leavers unemployed. I knew it would be difficult for me to find a job. They never talk about it at school.'

Workers at Roy's factory have just ended a five-week strike for a closed shop. Though they are still short of money, they collected £7 for the march.

TEMPORARY HOARDING
12 MONTHS UNDER
HEAVY MANNERS
10p No 3

CARNIVAL ISSUE
PLUS: ELVIS, LEWISHAM.

Temporary Hoarding Carnival Special 10p. Bulk orders 15 for £1 from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Street sell emergency issue of Rock against Racisms slim but visually excellent fanzine at Carnival. Bundles from steps of Ladbroke Grove tube mid day Sunday and Monday.

Why we stop the Nazis

MICHAEL FOOT, Deputy Prime Minister, says that you don't 'stop the fascists by behaving like them'.

Others who have attacked us say they hate the Nazis as much as we do. Only, they say, there are other ways of stopping them.

Suppose we decided to wait for the Michael Foots and the Jim Callaghans to stop the Nazis. What would be the result?

We don't need to look far

for the answer. There was a party just like the Labour Party in Germany before Hitler came to power.

It was called the Social Democratic Party. It's leaders had identical policies to our leaders in the Labour Party.

As long as the Nazis stay within the law, they said, then they must have the same rights as everybody else.

Believe it or not they went on saying this after Hitler

By John Rose

had come to power.

Rudolf Breitscheid (head of Social Democrat parliamentary group) said on the day of formation of Hitler's government, 30 January 1933 when millions of social democrat workers were calling for armed resistance:

'As long as Hitler keeps to the path of the constitution, he will be leading a lawful government which we can and must oppose, but which is still a lawful government.'

Rudolf Breitscheid went to Czechoslovakia to organise underground opposition to the Nazis. He, too, was denounced by the other Social Democratic leaders.

Later the Nazis captured and executed him. It is a sickly story. Breitscheid should go down in history as the man who quite literally defended to the death the right of his opponents to have their say!

This is the nightmare logic of relying on law and order and the peaceful democratic process to halt the Nazis. Go

on doing this and you'll end up in your grave.

In a period of deteriorating economic conditions the Nazis can grow very fast.

The National Front could get 5% of the vote if there was a General Election tomorrow in Britain.

In 1928 the German Nazis polled 810,000. This was a mere 2 1/2% of the vote. You can be sure, too, that many of those who voted Nazi did so out of frustration and the desire for a dramatic alternative.

They were by no means all fully fledged Nazis in outlook just like many NF voters today.

Within just four years the Nazi vote shot up to nearly 14 million.

The other argument that is thrown at us is that we are picking on the National Front as an excuse to fight the police.

There is, after all, plenty of evidence of direct street fighting between anti-fascist demonstrators and the police.

The answer is this. If the police go on protecting the Nazi marches then inevitably they will clash with the opposition.

Armour

Lewisham was a good example of this. Our side quite peacefully occupied the starting point of the Nazi march. An area, incidentally, that is heavily populated with West Indians who have been constantly subjected to physical racist attacks in the last few months.

The police were hell-bent on prising open the demonstration to let the Nazis through. That alone started the violence.

The press have cited a comparison with 'rentamob' at Lewisham and 'rentamob' at Grunwick.

We need not be afraid of this comparison.

We need to establish the principle of physically stopping the fascists in the same way as we're establishing the mass picket as a natural part of the armour of the labour movement.

The rebirth of mass activity is bound to include more and more brushes with the police.

The best way to short-circuit this process is, oddly enough, to intensify mass activity. Three things will happen.

One, the Nazis will not dare march—already their marches are smaller.

Two, the government will not want to lower police morale by constantly asking them to risk ending up fighting with thousands of people.

Three, the police themselves will start not wanting to go.

AND THE WAY TO INTENSIFY MASS ACTIVITY TO STOP THE NAZI MARCHES IS TO THREATEN A REPEAT OF LEWISHAM EVERY TIME THEY MARCH.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

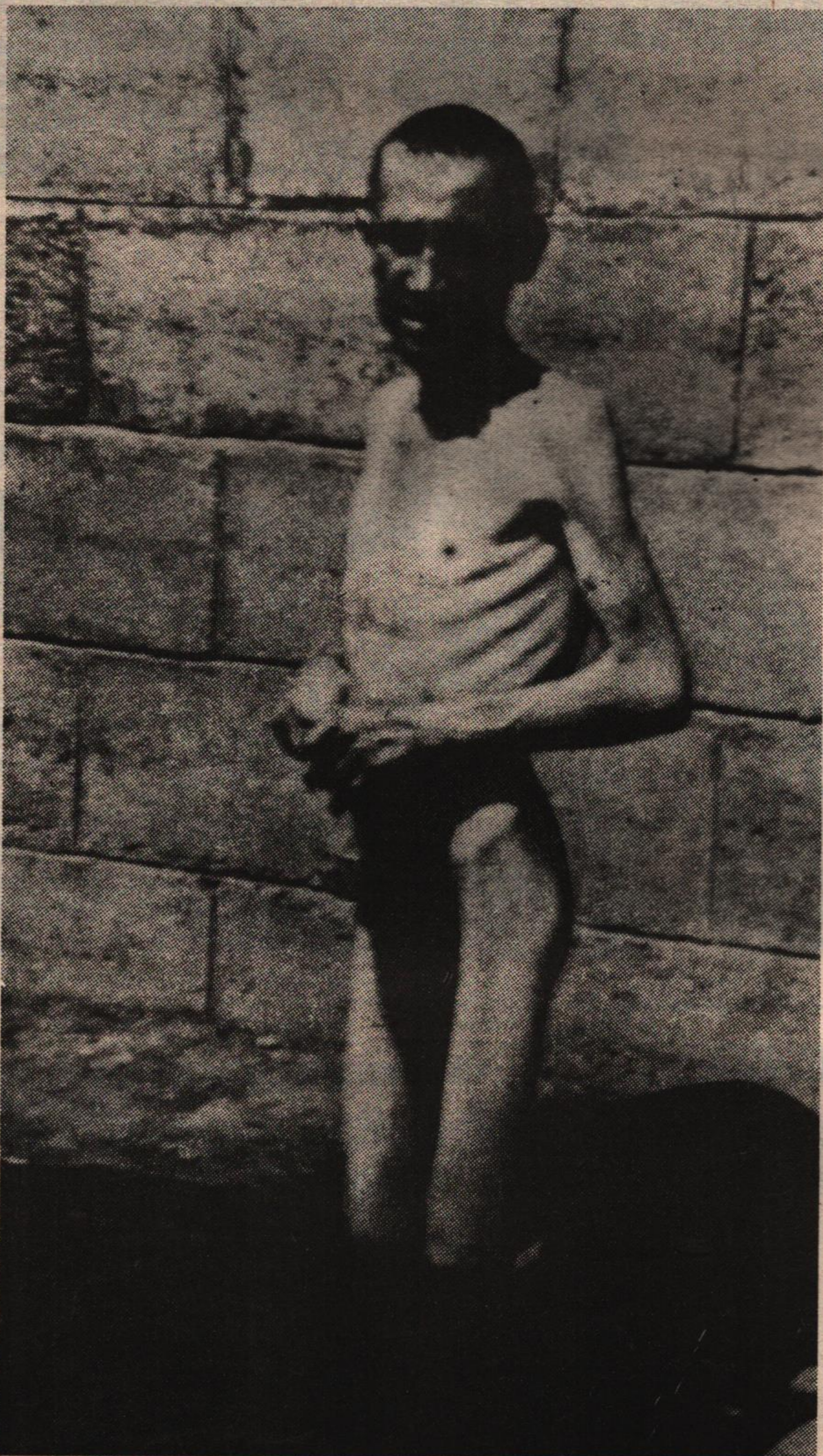
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'The Jews have had a heyday in jerking sympathetic tears from another generation of gullible Gentiles'

-Andrew Fountaine, NF President



THESE disgusting words were spoken by Andrew Fountaine during the time that Hitler's man Eichmann was on trial for his war crimes. He was responsible for the death of millions of Jews, like the man in this picture who was executed for trying to escape from Buchenwald.



Cheap Labour

'BRITAIN'S labour costs are now, from a multinational's viewpoint, dirt cheap.

'According to a new West German study, for every £1 a British worker earns, an Irishman or a Japanese earns £1.13, an Italian £1.27, a Frenchman £1.40, an Austrian £1.47, a Swiss £2.07, an American £2.13, a West German £2.27, a Belgian £2.33, a Dane £2.40, and a Swede £2.73.'

— The Observer, 14 August.

Why I will fight these hell-holes

THE DHSS recommendations to local authorities on maximum security 'prisons' for problem children were reported in the Guardian recently.

The DHSS says these prisons would 'end the much criticised practice of remanding children to adult prisons'.

They should be built with such features as 'sheet steel facings for bedroom doors, observation panels, and exercise yards surrounded by brick wall as least 13 feet high'.

I am a third year student nurse at a local psychiatric hospital where only three years ago we still had 'refractory' wards.

The atmosphere was aggressive. No one cared for anyone.

I was subjected to many sexist remarks and when it came to encouraging my patients to bring plants and ornaments I was told: 'they throw them at each other.'

But they enjoyed them a lot. Most of the men responded to a person who did not meet them with hostility or the fear that a fight may break out.

After the wards were reorganised in our hospital, the doors on the wards where I worked were unlocked, the shutters taken down, staff of both sexes were employed.

Now a homely atmosphere has been created, the same men care for each other.

Whenever these places are on the plans I personally will be organising leaflets for the workers constructing them. KATHY GOTT

Out of place . . .

□ THE OFFICIAL Map/Guide of the London Silver Jubilee Walkway (25p) gives the following information in its paragraph 14 'Houses of Parliament':

... It is significant that the Trade Union Congress, like the Conservative Central Office, the great engineering professional headquarters and those of leading national industries such as ICI and Vickers, are clustered west of the Walkway, just beyond Parliament, where they can discreetly keep in

touch with what is going on, and where necessary intervene to influence it.'

The London Celebrations Committee for the Queen's Silver Jubilee apparently stands in need of a little education. It is Transport House, a T&GWU building and the Headquarters of the Labour Party which is located at Smith Square, Westminster.

The TUC's headquarters are of course Congress House, Gt. Russell St., Bloomsbury which was opened in March 1958.

MALCOLM ALDEN of Grunwicks management lost the use of an old plank of wood recently.

It was used for the exclusive purpose of hitting pickets in the legs, sticking it under the gate with a rusty nail attached. He accused one of the strike committee and two young SWP members of kidnapping and abducting this precious article.

After a discussion with an Inspector, and the threat of a private prosecution from Alden, it was agreed that the plank might mysteriously reappear—which it did. Nailless.

□ SOUTHERN AFRICA AFTER SOWETO, a book by Alex Callinicos and John Rogers, has been banned by the South African authorities.



• Eichmann



• Hitler



• Fountaine

Torture - the RUC's law 'n order

EAMONN McCANN REPORTS

WITH a fanfare of trumpets that echoed across the front pages of the daily papers, the Royal Ulster Constabulary last week published its report for 1976.

This predictably included figures to prove that law and order was at last triumphing over 'terrorism'—more arrests than ever before, more 'terrorists' convicted.

But buried away in the report were the statistics which show with appalling clarity just what this success really means.

There were 1834 complaints recorded against the RUC last year—500 up on 1975. 875 of the complaints were of assault (others were for drunkenness, theft, obscenity and so on).

Until 1975 most assault complaints centred around the time of arrest or 'incidents' at checkpoints—people beaten up when being 'taken into custody' or just thumped and kicked about when cops at checkpoints discovered they came from places like Anderstown and the Bogside.

Assault

But last year most assault concerned people being 'interrogated'.

And it is this which explains the 'success' of the RUC. More than 70 per cent of political prisoners convicted in 1976 were found guilty on the basis of 'admissions' made during questioning. For 'questioning', read 'torture'.

Many of the torture cases have been highlighted in Socialist Worker. But most cases never come to light at all. Few tortured people who manage to get free choose to make a fuss about it.

Bruises

But one case belatedly emerged the day the RUC report was published was that of James Rafferty, from County Tyrone, who was held for three days in Omagh last November.

An examination by two local doctors and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons showed that on his release he had multiple black bruises where he had been beaten and kicked, 'severe reddening' of the scalp where he had been thrown around the room by the hair and a 'split in the posterior' where his backside had literally been kicked open.

Amazingly James Rafferty



did not confess to anything.

Even a Protestant councillor and former member of the notorious B Specials, Jack Hassard, has now asked to know how exactly James Rafferty sustained these injuries in police custody.

Almost certainly he will get the standard reply, that

Rafferty, like the other 874 complainants, is part of a massive IRA propaganda plot to discredit the RUC...

But every Catholic in Northern Ireland knows that police torture is now happening on a bigger scale than in 1971, when the cases which led to Britain being convicted

at the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg took place.

Any British worker who reckons that this isn't really relevant to him or her could think profitably about the fact that opinion polls suggest that the discredited Labour government will make way at the next election for

Margaret Thatcher's thugs.

And that last Friday the Tory front bench spokesman on Northern Ireland, Airey Neave, speaking on local radio about Lewisham and Ladywood, said that the RUC had shown the British police just how to deal with 'subversive elements'.



The Silver Jubilee crowds the press would rather ignore

The Queen's loyal troops making sure her subjects in Belfast are kept well and truly subject during the Jubilee visit earlier this month.

Australian bid to make strikes illegal

THE Australian government has pushed a measure through parliament aimed at destroying the right to strike for hundreds of thousands of workers.

This is the government's attempt to stop a strike by Sydney postal workers. If it is successful, 210,000 other workers will lose the right to strike as well.

Union leaders have warned that the new law could 'plunge Australia into widespread industrial conflict'.

But it is not yet clear whether they really intend to fight the anti-union law, or whether they will try to fob their members off with talk of a possible general election in the autumn.

Australia has a right-wing Conservative government, brought to power after the Queen's representative, Kerr, dismissed the Labour government of Gough Whitlam two years ago. But its position is remarkably like that of our own Labour government.

For two years it has promised its policies would solve the crisis. Yet unemployment and inflation are as bad as ever. Now it is trying to cut living standards of government workers.

As The Times remarked on Saturday: 'The crunch comes in the public sector. Mr Frazer's fate in both provoking a showdown and in raking up a challenge to fight, will be watched with interest in Britain'.

LEGALISED TERROR—THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT: A pamphlet, written by Steve Berry (SWP Irish committee). 10p a copy (plus 8p postage) from SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. More than 10 copies, post free.



Every year on 19 August the Shah of Iran celebrates the C.I.A. supported coup of 1953 in Iran.

The Confederation of Iranian Students (National Union) has organised a protest demonstration on Saturday 27 August, 10.30am. Malet Street, Outside ULU. All trade unionists and students are urged to support.



AMERICAN DIARY

From John Charlton in the United States

HUNDREDS of policemen, many of them mounted, charged into a demonstration of 1000 people this week in San Francisco.

The demonstrators were protesting at an eviction order served on 45 elderly Asian and Chicano residents of a downtown hotel. The residents, many of them over 80 years of age, have been resisting the eviction order for nine years.

A local police chief was jailed earlier this year for refusing to carry out the eviction order, which even he found too distasteful!

This time, however, the police showed no restraint, clubbing and brutally beating through the demonstrators. The

old folk were then carried from the hotel, sobbing and helpless, and dumped on the sidewalk.

The building is owned by a giant property group. They want to demolish it—to provide extra car parking space.

AMERICA continues to be obsessed with the need to reveal its seamy side.

The latest sensation is news that in the McCarthy red-baiting era the American Civil Liberties Union (equivalent of the British National Council for Civil Liberties) provided information on its clients to the FBI. These were people harassed by the FBI for their radical or alleged radical opinions and activities.



Demonstrators defending an old people's hostel confront mounted police in San Francisco

EVEN the most right-wing of Americans now admit that the Nixon era was one of unbridled corruption in high places. But now evidence is coming to light that the coming of Peanut Carter to the White House has not changed things much.

A key man in Carter's government is Bert Lance, director of the Office of

Management and the Budget. Lance used to run a bank in Georgia. (How could anyone get into the US government if they didn't use to run a bank?) Now a report of the 'controller of the US currency' reveals that he used 'unsafe and unsound banking practices.'

In fact, Lance 'borrowed' money people had put

into the bank in order to finance his unsuccessful campaign for governor of Georgia in 1974. He also helped himself to 50 other 'loans' from the bank.

Carter, however, won't hear a word said about Lance. He has told the press he has 'undiminished confidence in Lance's competence and integrity'.

Pyramid of des

Suicides, evictions, people driven mad and to

a financial trap
that made
bankers rich

THEY buried Herbert Mackintosh as decently as they could.

He worked in a polythene bag factory in Huddersfield, and his wages were always low.

The death certificate called it 'heart failure'. But the people who knew him call the cause of death something else.

They call it 'pyramid selling disease' or 'Hodgitis'.

For Herbert Mackintosh was a victim of the pyramid selling boom of the early 1970s, whose chief financier was Julian S Hodge.

That company took its name from the Welsh banker, close friend and business associate of the Prime Minister, James Callaghan.

In 1972, Herbert Mackintosh, a happy-go-lucky man with three children, borrowed £1,100 from an agent of Julian S Hodge. Interest, payable over eight years, was £1,046.

Herbert wanted the money because he'd been attracted by an offer from a firm called Golden Chemicals.

A Golden Chemicals agent, meeting him in the street, asked him if he'd like to make a little money in his spare time.

All he had to do was to sell Golden Chemical products (soap, shampoo and cosmetics) to his friends or family. He could, the agent assured him, make a fortune. The money for buying the products, he was assured, could easily be found.

Before long, an agent from Julian S Hodge arrived and agreed to lend Herbert the necessary £1,100.

The agreement was signed; then Herbert's troubles started.

He found that there were 'expenses' which he hadn't bargained for—payments for storing the goods and payments for attending sales 'pep-talk' conferences.

He had to pay £30 a month—a third of his take-home pay.

Worst of all, he could only sell a tiny proportion of the goods he had bought. He could not begin to pay the loan back.

Demand notices and eviction threats started to pour in. Herbert Mackintosh

couldn't stand the strain. He died, leaving three children, in May.

RIGHT: The Virgo family. Four burly men arrived one afternoon to throw them out of their home. BELOW: Part of a form filled in by Herbert Mackintosh in despair over his pyramid-selling debts. Now he's dead. BELOW RIGHT: A recent headline from Westindian World.



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

1. (a) NAME (BLOCK LETTERS) *HERBERT STANLEY MACKINTOSH*
 (b) ADDRESS *249 A. K. ROAD, ST. B. N. B. Y.*
HOVE, ST. ALBANS, Herts.
 (c) Place of Birth *TRINIDAD*
 (d) Family Background *WELSH ESTABLISHED*

2. (a) Date of entry into this country *12 May 1962*
 (if applicable)
 (b) Position of Family before involvement *WELSH*

3. Give details of all representations made by any representatives of Holiday Magic to ensure writing and terms:



Road, Southall, to find all the locks changed. The bailiffs from Uxbridge Court had forced their way in through a back window and 'taken possession'.

They were claiming Mrs Forde's house as repayment for £600 of £800 borrowed by her husband from Julian S Hodge in 1974. The money was borrowed to buy goods for pyramid selling from Holiday Magic. Mrs Forde's husband, who had had a nervous breakdown after constant harassment from the Hodge organisation, abandoned her long ago. Mrs Forde is out of

THE VICTIMS

IN THE LAST two years, 29 victims of pyramid selling are known to have died prematurely or committed suicide.

Harold George Facey, an engineering assembly worker, died in June last year, aged 41, owing £1,346 to a fringe bank called Cedar Holdings. Cause of death: 'hypertension'.

Two months later,

Melbourne Brown, a black worker from South East London, died, aged 35, from 'exhaustion', owing money he'd borrowed to sell goods from Holiday Magic, another pyramid-selling outfit.

Last week alone, three victims of pyramid-selling confessed to the secretary of their action group that they had had enough, and intended to take their own lives.

233 people are now in mental hospitals who almost certainly would not be there if they hadn't fallen foul of the pyramid sellers and their agents.

Thousands of people, especially black people, have lost their homes.

For the nastiest trick of the crooks who lent money for pyramid selling was to secure the loans on their victims' houses. And when they couldn't pay, the Hodge Group (or the lending bank) claimed the house.

THE DEBTORS

MARIE Virgo was at home with her two

children one day last month when four burly men hammered at her door.

'We're the bailiffs', they explained. 'We've come to take your house away.'

They were claiming £233.56, the remainder of the £1000 debt that David Virgo (Marie's husband) had run up with a Julian S Hodge agent in 1972.

'I started trembling,' says Marie. 'It was such a shock. I begged them to go away. I said we could find the money.'

They replied: 'You've got 48 hours'.

David Virgo, a press operator at Smethwick Drop Forge, rushed around friends and family, and managed to raise £100.

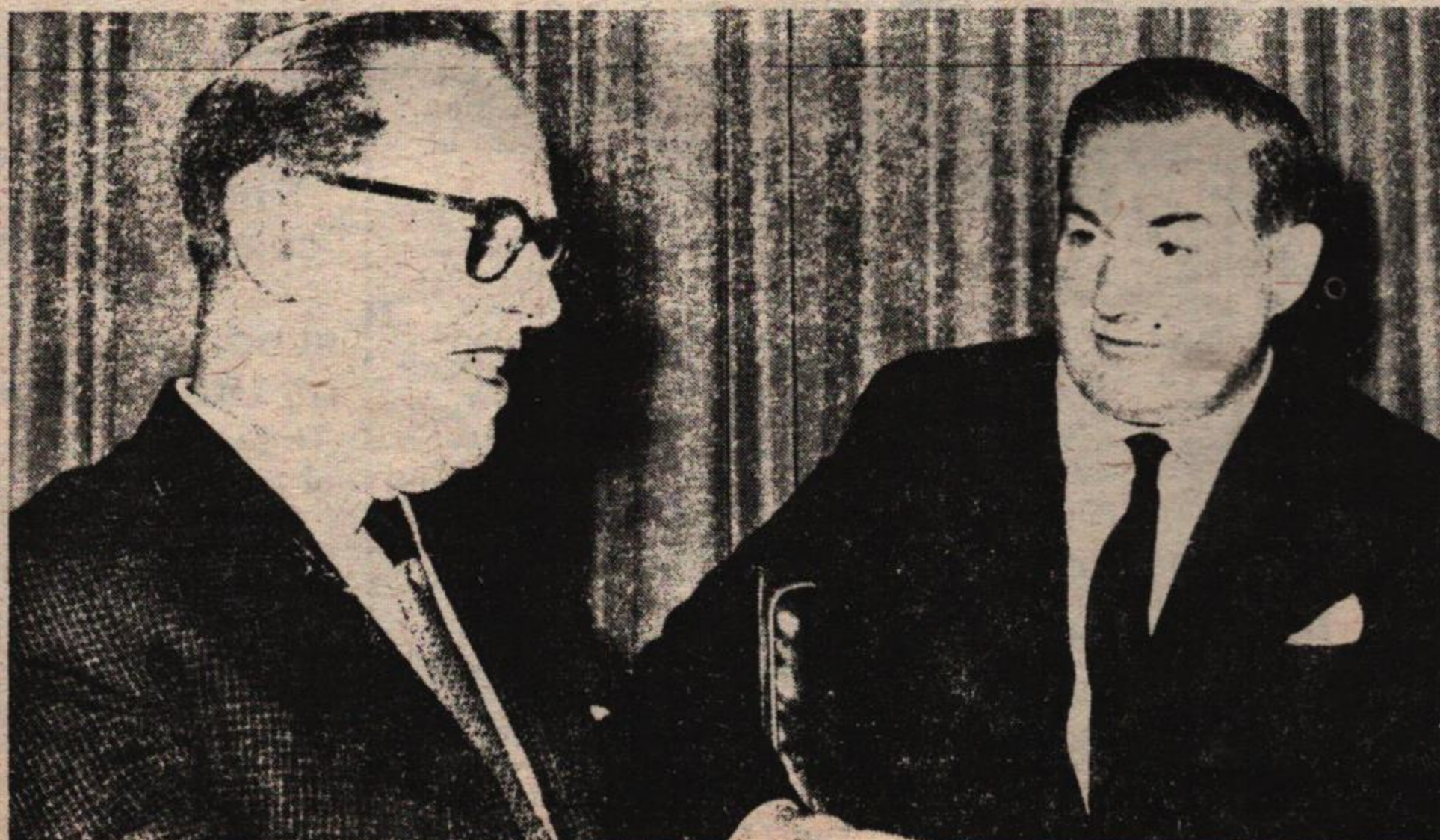
'I phoned the bailiffs at Moseley' he says. 'The man there said: 'You owe £233.56. Even if you paid £233 and owed the 56p, I'd still come for your house in 48 hours'.

'There seemed nothing to stop us getting evicted.'

In the same week, Mrs Catherine Forde, 43, who was born in Dominica, came home to her house in Allenby

Report: Paul Foot

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)



A banker and his friends

THE NAME which most of the victims of pyramid selling associate with their persecution is Hodge.

Sir Julian Hodge denies that he ever knew that his agents were arranging loans for pyramid selling.

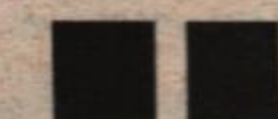
Yet banks and companies which bore his name entered into millions of pounds worth of loans for pyramid-selling.

Sir Julian Hodge has always had close contacts with the Labour Party. He is a leading member and benefactor of the Party in Cardiff, where James Callaghan sits as member of the city's south east constituency.

Hodge and Callaghan have always been the closest of friends.

When Callaghan was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1964 to 1967, Julian Hodge regularly accompanied him as adviser at financial gatherings.

In 1970, Hodge was knighted for public services under the Labour Government on Callaghan's recommendation.



In 1971, Callaghan joined the board of Hodge's newly-formed Commercial Bank of Wales. He encouraged MPs to take shares in the bank.

The response was enthusiastic. Many Labour MPs snapped up shares.

They included the present

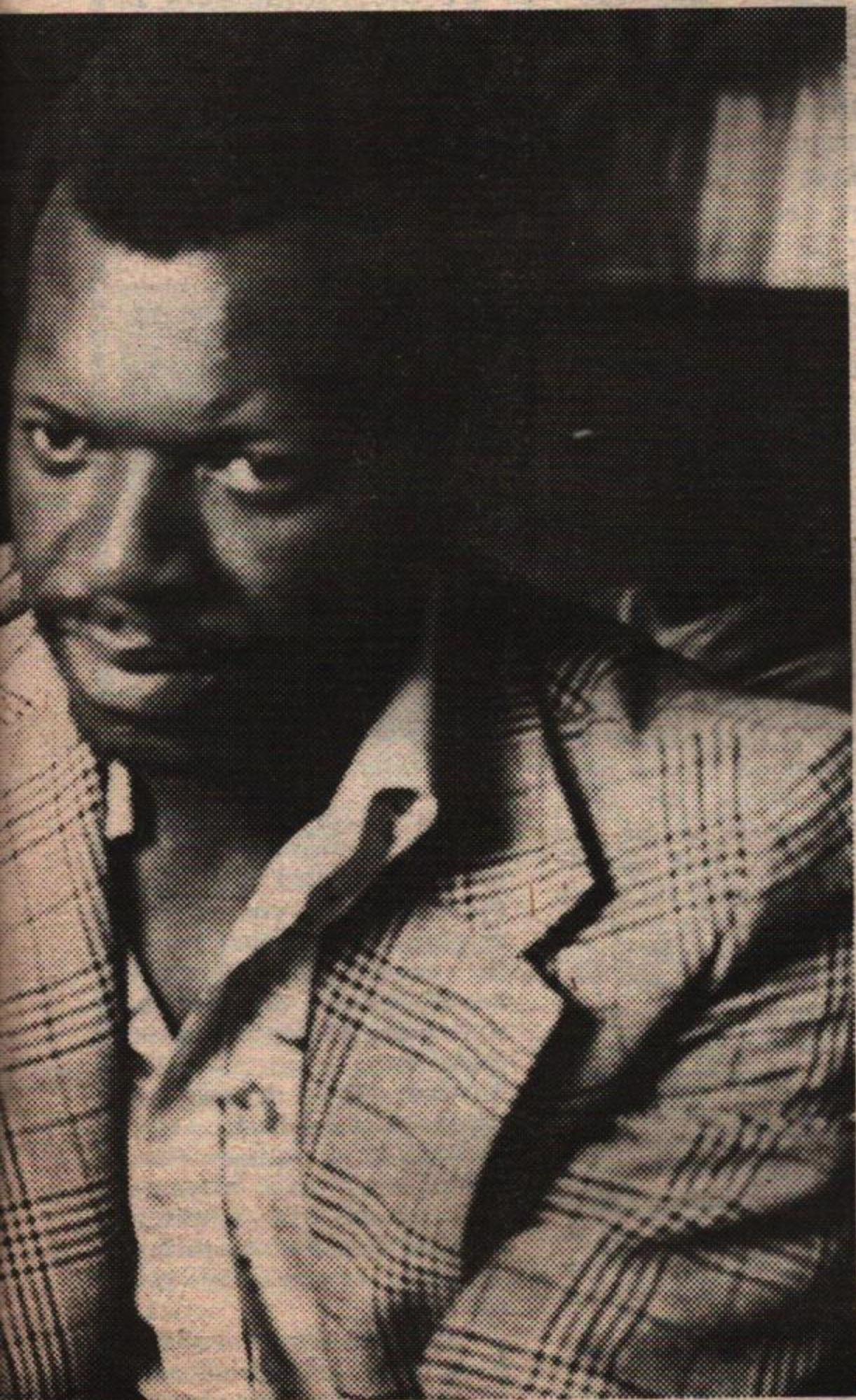
speaker of the House, George Thomas; the present Lord Chancellor, Elwyn Jones; the wife of the former Labour deputy leader, Edward Short; the anti-abortion campaigner, Leo Abse; and the present chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Cledwyn Hughes.

The bank was launched with a fanfare at precisely the time that Hodge agents swarmed over England in the track of the pyramid swindlers.

Small wonder that many poor people in Birmingham who feel they were cheated and threatened with eviction by agents of Julian S Hodge Ltd are cynical about the Labour government's willingness or ability to stop the rot.

spair

their deaths-by



have been thousands, yes I really mean thousands, of evictions which we never heard of.

'There must be evictions going on this week, this day, because of pyramid selling.

'We can only stop the ones we hear about. And many many people who borrowed money are too proud to contact us.

'They just leave their homes to Hodge and others in the middle of the night. Hodge and the others occupy it, sell it, and no-one ever knows about it'.

THE SYSTEM

THE MACHINERY for forcing people to pay back debts does not distinguish between pyramid-selling victims and others.

Unless people get in touch with the association, unless their case is raised personally with the bank or mortgage company, they are forced to pay up—like any other debtor. In thousands of cases still outstanding, this spells eviction.

For years, James Hunte and others like him have been pressing the Labour government to wipe out pyramid selling debts.

work, and lives on social security.

Eviction threats like this have been pouring out of magistrates courts every week this year.

In February, R C Duckworth of Waverhill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, got an eviction order.

In March, R May of West End Avenue, Smethwick, got the same treatment.

Both men had borrowed money for pyramid selling. Mr May owed £53 out of £975 borrowed (with £911 interest) in November 1972.

All these people have now been saved from eviction—but only because they contacted the Pyramid Sellers Defence Association, which

stopped the evictions.

The Hodge Organisation, now owned by Standard and Chartered Bank, agree not to evict anyone who borrowed money for pyramid selling.

So the Defence Association, when it hears of an eviction or a heavy debt, can, through contacting the Hodge organisation, stop the eviction or save the debt.

Some 31,000 people have now contacted the association. Thousands have been saved from eviction and at least £11 million of debts have been written off.

But James Hunte, the secretary of the Action Group, reckons: 'There must

They demand new laws to annul the debts of pyramid-selling victims. They point out that tens of millions of pounds have been made available by the Bank of England so that the shareholders and depositors of bankrupt fringe banks do not lose from the greed of their founders.

Meanwhile some of the chief victims of those banks—the poor, black people who were duped by pyramid-selling crooks—have no laws, no government action to protect them.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OFFICE
DOOR E



From dole queue to Right to Work March

750

ON THE ROAD TO BLACKPOOL

ONE week to go before the Right to Work march on the TUC at Blackpool. This will be the third march of unemployed workers in the last two years. All the signs are that it is going to be bigger and make more impact than the ones before it.

There are already 750 marchers. Trade union sponsorship is now pouring in every day. The trade union leaders have good reason to start panicking. Hundreds of employed workers are expected to converge on Blackpool on the Monday to lobby delegates about wages. They want to make sure that no new wage restraint deals are cooked up behind closed Congress doors. Now they will be joined by the hundreds of young unemployed workers.

Len Murray and his pals may be sure of a rough few days in Blackpool this year.

Keep the money coming in . . .

The post in the Right to Work office in the last week has brought in £1,962. £30 was collected outside Chrysler Linwood by some of the unemployed going on the march. Next payday should see marchers outside factory after factory raising collections. Last Saturday in Hackney people were turned away at the door from a packed Rock Against Racism/Right To Work Campaign concert. £250 was raised for the march. £95 was raised from a jumble sale in Glasgow.

One final effort needs to be put into workplace collections. Every reader of Socialist Worker can make sure the aims of the march

are realised with their workmates, and ensure the target is reached.

Among the collections received in the last week has been £20 from RWS Engineering in Stratford, East London, £13.50 from Mitchell Library, Glasgow, £7.26 collected at University of London Union Library, £11 collected at Moorfields Eye Hospital, £5 from Charing Cross Hospital workers, £20 collected in Llanelli, £30 collected from Manchester NATFHE members, £30 collected in Southampton and £50 collected from workplaces in Leeds. £100 was raised at a successful Right To Work dance in Southend. A street collection in North London raised £3.58 and a disco for unemployed marchers raised £4.

Write to: Right to Work Campaign 265a Seven Sisters Road London N4

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST
PAUL FOOT

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?

50p, including postage, from: Socialist Worker Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

FULL DETAILS OF MARCH PAGE TWO

Cable Street: When 100,000 stopped a fascist menace

MICHAEL FOOT, deputy Prime Minister and formerly leader of the left-wing in the Labour Party, had this to say about the successful disruption of the National Front march in Lewisham:

'You don't stop it (ie the Nazis) by throwing bottles or bashing the police. The most ineffective way of fighting the fascists is to behave like them.' But in the 1930s, the Nazis of Oswald Mosley were stopped, above all at the famous battle of Cable Street on 4 October 1936.

AND THE PRESS WERE JUST AS HOSTILE

ONE THING hasn't changed in 40 years—the hostility of the national newspapers to those who fight fascists.

The day after Cable Street, The Times complained of 'tedious and burlesque' events that were making the lives of 'ordinary East Enders unbearable'.

Over Lewisham, The Guardian defended the National Front's 'right to demonstrate'. In 1936 it praised the police for showing that 'fascists had a right to hold a demonstration'.

Over Lewisham, the Telegraph and the Express claimed the Socialist Workers Party was a 'greater threat' than the Nazis. In 1936 the Telegraph claimed that 'those who assembled to resist the fascist march threatened free speech'.

Over Lewisham, Labour leaders denounced 'hooliganism'. In 1936, the Times demanded: 'This sort of hooliganism (from the anti-fascists) must be ended.'

Labour's 'peaceful' protests

EVEN in the 1930s, when the full horrors of a Nazi regime could be seen in Germany, there were people who called only for 'peaceful' protests against the fascists.

The most notable were the right-wing of the Labour Party. Again and again, they attacked the Labour left and the Communists for physically confronting the Nazis.

Before Mosley's Hyde Park rally in 1934, the National Council of Labour—made up jointly of the Labour Party and TUC leaderships—urged people not to have anything to do with anti-fascist demonstrations.

They took the same attitude before Cable Street. Lansbury, the Labour leader, advised all anti-fascists to stay away—advice echoed by the TUC paper, the Daily Herald.

The general attitude of the Labour leadership was summed up by the arch-right winger, Morrison, using words almost identical to Michael Foot's today:

'I have no more sympathy with those who desire to stimulate violence from one side than I have with those who desire to provoke it from the other.'

And that involved both 'throwing bottles' and fierce fighting against police who defended the Nazis.

The Daily Herald described the scene:

'At Cable Street, Stepney, a crowd of men dragged a lorry from a builders' yard... and built a barricade across the roadway. Lengths of timber, corrugated iron and barrels were added. In front, broken glass was sprinkled to check police horses...'

When the police tried to stop the men they were greeted by a hail of stones...



'Paving stones were torn up and smashed to pieces to be used as ammunition. Fireworks were thrown and showers of marbles hurled under the hooves of the police horses...'

Outside Mark Station, the crowd closed in on six of Mosley's men and before the police could do anything three of the fascists had been knocked down and were bleeding profusely from headwounds. One had been hit with a bottle...

'After the affray, iron bars, chair legs wrapped with barbed wire and broken bottles were picked up from the gutter.'



1936—and police try to clear a way for the fascists, just as they did at Lewisham: but 100,000 anti-fascists stopped them.

JUST LIKE LEWISHAM

By Francis Day, who was present at both

mounties.

The charge down Cable Street was really frightening—and it was no good seeking refuge on the pavement, because then you were confronted by a rearing horse and a flailing truncheon.

The police didn't take prisoners in those days. If you were lying on the

ground, they just cracked your head and passed on.

But all was in vain. For such an immense crowd had built up in Aldgate, that the Commission of the London police (his name wasn't McNea) had to order the fascists to disperse.

Certain parties and groups—to excuse their own shameful inactivity—declare that Cable Street and Lewisham were totally different situations.

That's absolutely untrue. In both,

the fascist march was planned provocation against a racial minority, routed through areas where the greatest resentment would be caused.

In both, the march was preceded by weeks of intimidation. In both, the police showed clearly which side they were on.

There were differences, of course, such as the general political climate and the degree of mobilisation.

But this, I think, only reflects greater credit on what we were able to achieve at Lewisham.

The CP and the 'shock brigades'

THE COMMUNIST Party was notable by its refusal to join us in stopping the Nazis at Lewisham.

Forty years ago, its attitude was quite different.

When the fascists tried to hold a Nuremberg-type rally in Hyde Park in 1934, the party called for a huge counter demonstration and urged anti-fascists to 'organise themselves in shock brigades'.

After Cable Street it issued a statement:

'East London workers, supported by all London, have barred the road to Mosley...'

'On the eve of the Labour Party Conference, East London has torn neutrality to shreds and given the lead to the whole labour movement.'

'Mass action has exposed the pro-fascist attitude of the Home Office, which sought till the last moment to enable Mosley to march and which is responsible for the baton charges and the arrests.'

The Daily Worker headlines summed it all up:

Mosley did not pass East London routs the fascists

Barricades raised in Stepney Streets

Police Forced to Ban March



Fascists smashing up a Jewish shop in East London: their leader, Oswald Mosley (pictured right with Mussolini), was as anti-semitic as Adolf Hitler



No, no, no!

CONGRATULATIONS, SWP!

I TOOK part in the non-violent march against the National Front in Lewisham. I am opposed to the use of violence.

If a private individual, preferably someone in a public position, could prosecute the NF and make them pay a large fine, this would be the best type of opposition to racism to undertake at present.

□ SW READER, E London

THE WORKING Committee of the Immigrants Association, Southend and District, congratulates all the organisations, especially the Socialist Workers Party, which organised a large and successful demonstration against the National Front at Lewisham.

The Committee also regrets the violence which

took place because of the unruly and provocative behaviour of the National Front marchers.

These unpleasant incidents could have been avoided if, as suggested by many well-meaning persons, the National Front march had been banned.

The Committee feels fully convinced that the fascist

organisations like the National Front have no claim on democratic rights as they do not believe in the fundamentals of democracy.

To gain power by creating hatred among different people on the basis of colour, creed or race is against all the democratic principles.

It is not wise to allow such organisations to create hatred

and then more hatred by organising their meetings or marches especially in the areas which have dense coloured immigrant population, believing that it is their democratic right to do so.

Their words, actions and deeds defy the democratic principles.

The Committee feels convinced that such marches and

meetings should be banned in future, of course, in the interest of democracy, as it is now well known that the main aim of these fascist organisations is to create anarchy, and lawlessness in the country.

□ SOM NATH PRASHAR, General Secretary, Immigrants Association, Southend and District.

Rubbish

WITH all the rubbish that is now being written about how the police are being intimidated by demonstrators, and how they are really scared to go out and do their duty on political demonstrations, it's perhaps worth remembering some of the times when they did manage to go and do their jobs.

Throughout the Twenties and Thirties they constantly attacked the unemployed on the Hunger Marches.

To move a bit closer to the present day, they didn't appear to be scared to murder Kevin Gately at Red Lion Square.

And don't let us forget their supreme heroism on the first Right to Work March, and the Grunwick picket line.

□ B JONES, Swinton

Remember

WE SHOULD have recalled how workers stopped Oswald Mosley's fascists at Cable Street in 1936.

That way we would have gained far more support from the older generation.

Headlines such as 'The workers smashed the Nazis at Cable Street, we will do it again at Lewisham', could have been used.

□ S. QUILTER, Romford.

A good cause

A SOCIALIST from Durham called Dave Cheesmond walked into our bookshop for a copy of SW—and paid £4.50 for it.

He told us: 'I won the money on a slot machine and thought what better than to donate it to a really good cause—stopping the Nazi National Front'.

□ EUNICE SHARPLES, Darlington

Spell it out

THE SWP have got a lot of publicity, some good, most bad. But any publicity is good for your party.

Now is the time to go ahead and state the SWP's full case, through mass leafletting, flyposting and stickers.

I am a supporter of the SWP—there are an awful lot here—and we would be only too willing to help.

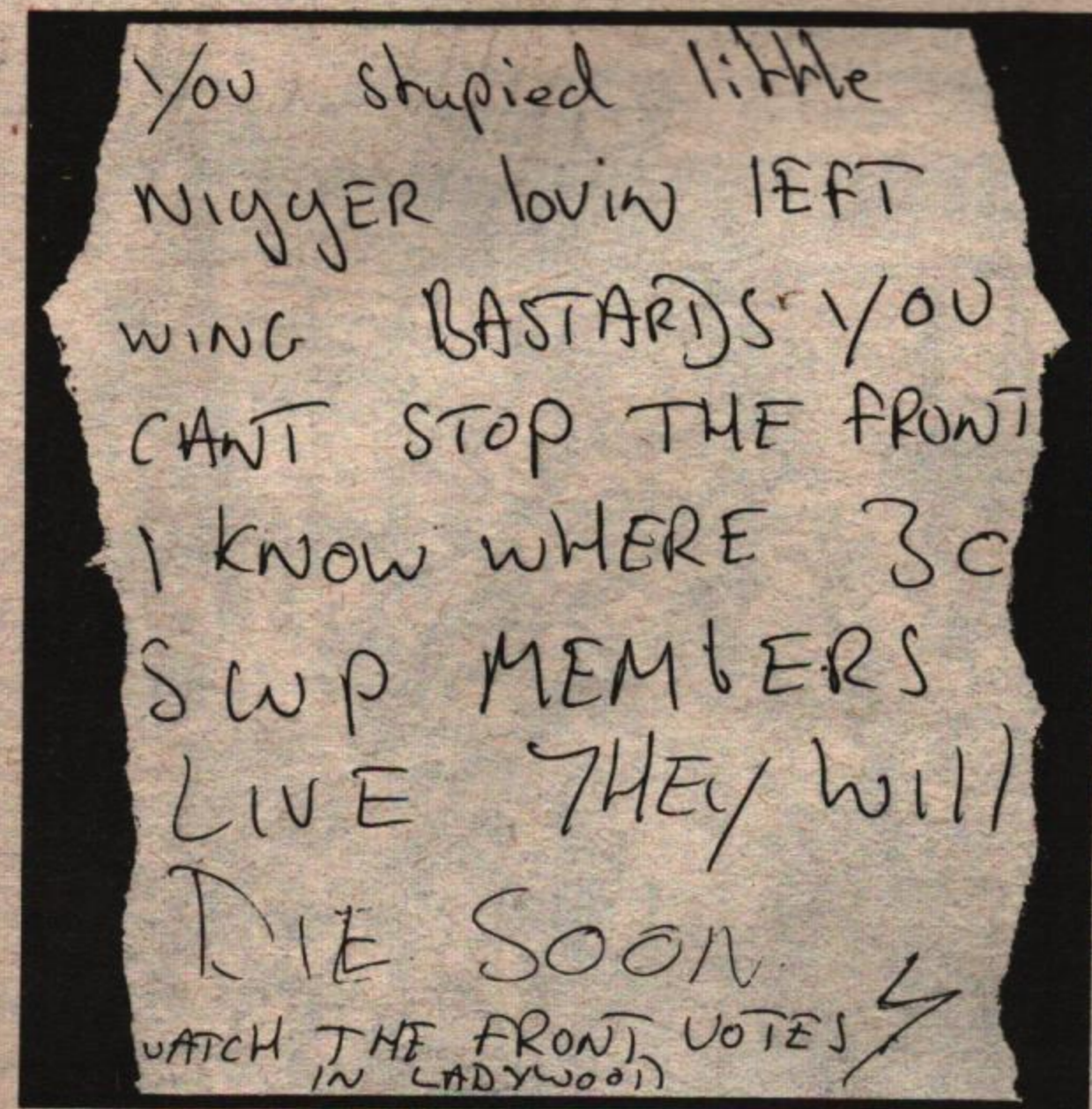
□ SWP SUPPORTER, Norwich

I HAVE ALWAYS favoured the more reasoned approach of argument and persuasion, even against such organisations as the National Front, in place of what nearly always turns out to be violent demonstrations.

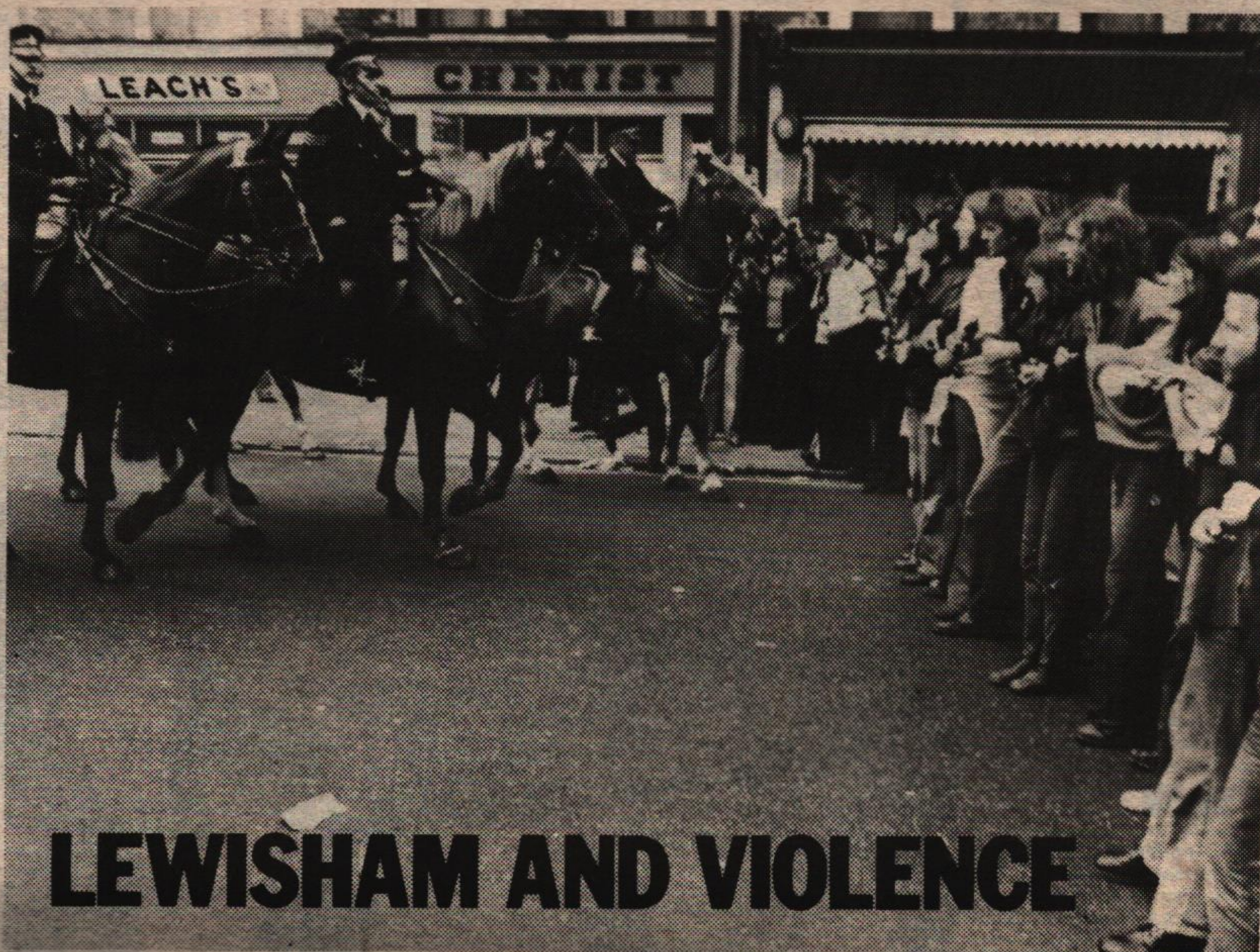
Natural justice gives everybody the right to express their viewpoint, no matter how repugnant it may be to others. Violent demonstrations invariably prove counter-productive. This certainly appears to be so in the case of Lewisham.

When I read of incidents involving knives and ammonia, allegedly by SWP members and supporters, I felt really sick.

□ JOHN FARQUHARSON, Manchester



One of the many letters on Lewisham which SW has received: can the 'force of argument' shift people like that?



LEWISHAM AND VIOLENCE

Dear Mr Reporter a confusion I am in, Who was sinned against and who did sin?

I think in your report resentment than truth was higher

For it was one of your staff's motor bike which was set on fire.

You said at Lewisham weary police were attacked by the mob

But coming from their coaches they looked keen and fresh for the job.

The crowd were peacefully in the road

Their plan to stand and wait To stop the Front returning With their messages of hate.

The Front meanwhile in 'disarray' Or so the Beeb did say Had given up the High Street march And decided to call it a day.

Oh what a fix the police were in What could be done

For if they told the crowds this A victory they'd see they'd won.

And as they realised their riot shields they hadn't tried

If the Commissioner got to hear of it, they'd surely all be fired

And so it was decided, or so it seems to me That more violence was provoked, just to please McNea.

□ RUTH BECKER, SE London, written after reading the Sunday Times' report of Lewisham.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Write to Letters, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Letters

NEXT SUBJECT-THE DOLE

AS SOMEONE in the same position as David Rockwell, your front page article (13 August) made me even more determined to fight against unemployment.

Having had a series of boring typing jobs, and struggled at night school for ages, I finally got my 2 A-levels and got a place at a well-known snotty university.

The images of universities being places of high-powered and valuable knowledge soon flew out the window. And I was left with a load of Oxbridge rejects rar-raring in my ears day and night.

Three years of that. I stuck it out only because I kept thinking about the struggle I'd had to get there. And I said I won't let the future ruling class get me down.

I kept thinking my dad would have loved this chance, but he had to spend his life slogging away in a factory.

I knew about the cuts and

unemployment, but it's different when you feel these things in your gut and hear three times a day on the phone 'due to the economic situation... bla bla... no job for you'.

I've been trying for things I wouldn't have touched with a barge pole. Even the Civil Service. What did they tell me? You're too old for the

Administrative Trainee scheme (for graduates).

I'd really like to do community work. But we all know how hard it is to get jobs like that.

So I'm trying for trainee social work but the cuts again! Actually, I'm not trying so hard any more as the grain of hope I had is rapidly dwindling away. I'm back typing again now, for £1.20 an hour.

The parasitic employment agency gets £1.70 an hour. And I could be on the dole any day.

If I am, I'll see my fellow dole scroungers on the Right to Work March.

□ JAN FENIUK, Southampton

ing away. I'm back typing again now, for £1.20 an hour.

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If I am, I'll see my fellow dole scroungers on the Right to Work March.

□ JAN FENIUK, Southampton

WHERE MUSIC IS AN OFFENCE

WE ARE members of the James Connolly Flute Band. We went to Belfast two weeks ago to protest against internment and the Queen's visit.

Our demonstration was attacked by the Greenjackets. Without provocation, they sent snatch squads into the crowd and fired rubber bullets at us.

One of our members was hit. One of the organisers who was trying to regroup the march was assaulted.

We were also harassed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Special Branch, both on arriving in Larne and when we left.

After detaining us in the barracks with no charge, they tried to force us to walk out into a Ulster Volunteer Force crowd, after telling us that they would kill us.

One of us was stood against the wall for 13 hours and ordered to sign a confession—a blank piece of paper.

We were told: 'If you come back, we'll find something to get you for, you bastards!'

In spite of your threats, we will be going back to help the fight for political status.

They can't treat our brothers and sisters who are fighting British imperialism as criminals but we want to know why no Orange band ever gets the same treatment.

□ JAMES CONNOLLY FLUTE BAND, Glasgow.

WHAT TRIPE!

I CAN ONLY describe your article on the Queen's visit to Northern Ireland (SW, 13 August) as hysterical tripe with not one ounce of socialist principle behind it.

There are many socialists in Northern Ireland and the rest of the country who are trying to heal the wounds that history has brought to that unfortunate land.

Your paper, with its continued reference to the woes of Catholics and to the power of the Protestants only encourages religious bigotry.

Reconciliation is what the people of Northern Ireland want, not hate and bloody murder.

It's time your paper came out of the gutter and wrote a little more socialism and less hate.

□ GERALD WATT, Elland, Yorkshire

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6 Cottons Gardens
London E2

Trotsky re-assessed

Can socialism come through Parliament?

THE FINAL PART
OF CHRIS
HARMAN'S SERIES

IN THE PREVIOUS two articles, Chris Harman showed that continued economic crisis is going to produce convulsive struggles that will no longer be containable within the existing structure of society.

Millions of workers can begin to move along the revolutionary road as they are forced to challenge big business' control of property and the power of the police and army.

But, many readers ask, if workers begin struggling on such

a scale, won't that lead to them voting for a majority of revolutionary MPs who will begin the transition to socialism?

If we cannot get workers to do something simple, like cast their votes for us, how are we ever

going to get them to inaugurate socialism?

Chris Harman takes up this question this week. Next week we hope to publish the comments of some of our readers on the points made in all three articles.

WHEN YOU talk about a society in turmoil on the scale we can expect in this country within a few years, you are also talking about a society where people's attitudes are transformed.

As large numbers of people become won over to socialist ideas, this will be reflected among other ways, in national and local elections.

It is even conceivable that an election in the middle of a great national struggle could see the revolutionary left doing extremely well. But, and it is a very big but, that could not win the struggle for the revolutionaries.

Armed

No robber ever gives up his loot merely because someone passes a resolution asking him to. The big fry who run the giant companies are no different in this respect than the small fry who rot in Pentonville or Brixton. They will turn to a Hitler or a Pinochet before abandoning what they regard as their rightful privileges.

Their friends and relatives fill all the top positions in the armed forces, the judiciary and the police, and can be relied upon to help them out in a deep crisis.

While parliament was putting resolutions to the vote, big businessmen would create unemployment, move their money abroad and force up prices—all with the connivance of the men in the civil service. The press would blame the left for this chaos. The police would be ordered to arrest demonstrators and pickets—even if they stood for policies that had got a majority at the election.

Government orders to the police, the army or the heads of the civil service to take action against the upper classes would be more or less ignored.

No doubt, the judges would find sufficient loopholes in any laws to justify the disobedience of these key people in the state machine.

Attacks

None of this is speculation. It is exactly how things worked out in Chile—a country which people used to claim had a record of 'constitutional', 'parliamentary' government like Britain's.

There is only one way a left-wing parliamentary majority could counter these attacks. It would be to organise the workers who elected it to fight back on the terrain in which these attacks were being carried out.

And that would not be in the parliamentary, electoral sphere, but at the rank and file level in the economy and the different branches of the state machine.

Such a struggle could not be



ABOVE: The end of Chile's road to socialism through Allende and the ballot box (TOP RIGHT)

argued through the slow, cumbersome, disjointed mechanisms of parliament. The House of Commons is a debating chamber, where, at best, workers' representatives argue issues out with political representatives of the great companies. It is more like a joint negotiating committee with management than an organ of workers' struggles.

You can no more organise a workers' revolution through parliament than you can organise a strike through a joint committee with your employer.

What is more, in the case of the British parliament it takes literally years to get any laws passed, because of the right of the House of Lords and the Queen to delay legislation and of the judges to interpret it as they wish.

Yet, in the modern world, billions of pounds can cross national frontiers in a day. To try to stop that by parliament is like trying to catch up with Concorde using a horse and buggy.

But that is not all that's wrong with parliament.

Parliamentary elections always understate the degree of support there is for socialist struggle.

Socialism is not about someone doing something for the working class. It is the workers doing something for themselves, taking control of society so that they can determine their own future.

Attempt

Parliamentary elections, on the other hand, are based on the principle that you elect someone to do everything for you—and then, for five years, you cannot do anything to control what they do. The British constitution regards any attempt to control your MP between elections as a serious offence, 'contempt of parliament'.

Workers can only learn that they are capable of running society themselves when their own struggles lead them to begin to change things. The moment you tell them to drop those struggles and rely on someone else to do the

job for them, you reinforce the worst prejudice of existing society—that workers are incapable of running things.

That is why so many workers still feel they have to vote for 'superior' upper-class types with upper-class views.

Active trade unionists know that the best sort of strike vote is one taken at a mass meeting, where workers are together, where they can feel their collective strength, where they can discuss each issue at stake.

This can give a quite different result to that of a postal ballot, filled in by workers in isolation to others, unable to discuss the issues with his workmates, no longer feeling powerful, but weak and, above all, subject to the lies and distortions of the media.

That is why employers always prefer secret ballots and why experienced trade unionists opt for mass meetings.

The only thing the boss likes more than a postal ballot is a postal ballot plus a three-week cooling-off period, in which

workers have to abandon their strike before they vote.

He knows that they no longer feel the joint strength that comes from struggling together, that many of them will get demoralised and do anything the employer tells them.

That was why, for instance, the notorious Tory Industrial Relations Act included a provision for compulsory secret ballots and cooling-off periods.

Illusion

Parliamentary democracy is the secret ballot plus the cooling-off period writ large. Its basic notion is that workers vote separately from one another, cut off from the day-to-day struggles in the factories and on the streets.

Nothing is more dangerous than to spread the illusion that workers would win a decisive social struggle by sitting back and waiting for an election to take place.



In May 1968, ten million French workers were united in the biggest general strike in history. For a whole month, the government was helpless. Then it called an election, and the unions told their members to return to work so that the elections could take place in an atmosphere of 'tranquility'.

All the unity and solidarity of the struggle was dissipated and the government regained all the ground it had previously lost.

In Chile in October 1972, the first 'bosses' strike against the Popular Unity government was defeated by the massive response of workers in occupying their factories and keeping production going. There was a feeling of unity and confidence.

Struggles

Then the government told everyone to return to normal, so that there could be 'peace' in the run-up to the Congressional elections.

The elections solved nothing—but the 'cooling off period' destroyed the momentum the workers' movement had gained in the October struggle.

None of this is surprising. Parliamentary elections encourage passivity. And passivity means workers falling back into all the old, reactionary ideas they begin to challenge in struggle.

The working class needs democracy if it is ever going to change society. But it will need to be a quite different sort of democracy than the parliamentary fraud.

It will need to be the democracy of a struggle in which only those engaged in the struggle, the workers and their allies, vote.

It will need to be a democracy in which those appointed to positions earn no more than those who elect them, in which they can be removed the moment they do something those who elect them don't like, in which there are no faceless bureaucrats they can hide behind when they fail to deliver the goods.

This sort of democracy begins to develop in many, many of the small struggles that take place today—through the election of strike committees.

In its fully-developed form, it will be the democracy of a vast network of workers' councils, that will enable workers to determine how the working class is going to impose its dictates on those who have lorded over it for so long.

Water workers strike for £15

MANCHESTER: Striking water authority workers have been out for ten days and are stronger than ever. National union officials. Bevan, Arnison, and others were shouted down when they appealed for a return to work as a mass meeting.

The strikers are out for the first time in their lives—for a £15 rise and the consolidation of the increase of £6 into the basic rates. One striker offered to accept 10 per cent—of the union officials' wage!

The officials want to keep negotiations national and out of the hands of the rank and file. But the Manchester workers have had enough of that. Their take-home pay is now as low as £32 a week, well below that of workers in the gas and electricity boards.

The authorities are trying to keep quiet about the bursts and leakages—but it is known that parts of Rusholme, Old Trafford Moston, Bowden and Moberley are without water. The authority is considering bringing contract-slab labour—and there is even a chance of troops being called in.

There is no doubt whose side union officials such as Arnison of the GMWU are on. He circulated a letter through management calling for a return to work, and crossing of picket lines.

As one shop steward said at the mass meeting: 'The national officers shouldn't be preaching to us. They should be preaching to management.'

'We are getting £36 a week basic and we are going around cap in hand even on the day we get our wages. We are better off on the dole than we are working here. The public sector workers have never had a good rise yet.'

Donations and messages of support to the Manchester District Waterworks shop stewards committee, c/o 112 Mottram Rd, Hyde, Cheshire.

37pc BUS

SHEFFIELD: 3,000 bus workers are lining up for a fight over a 37 per cent pay claim. The transport authority have offered 10 per cent.

This is the same authority who fought the government over fares and continues to subsidise services from the rates. But they are not prepared to fight to pay their employees a decent wage.



Beecham's strikers lobbying the TGWU in London last week.

Kenwood stopped

by ROLAND HAIGH (Kenwood TGWU Departmental Rep)

HAMPSHIRE: Workers at Kenwood Manufacturing in Havant staged a one-day strike last Monday for a 17½ per cent pay rise. A total stoppage this week is on the cards.

On our first day back after a two-week holiday shut-down we found notices saying that we'd been awarded a 5 per cent rise under Phase Two—with no consultation with the un-

ions. We've had no rise since a £6 supplement in 1976, and there's been no increase in bonus payments since 1974.

Compare our 5 per cent rise to the 150 per cent profit increase the Havant branch of Kenwood Manufacturing made in 1975 and the increased productivity in 1976.

A meeting will be called on Friday to review the situation. Most workers I've spoken to see a total stoppage as the only way we'll get our demands met.

Reeds occupied

NEW HYTHE, Kent: 300 workers at Key Terrain, on the massive Reed International site, have been staging a sit-in for two weeks.

The men, members of the Transport Workers Union, decided to work to rule until

their pay claim was met. The first two to start the action were given the sack.

The management have now decided to reinstate the men but they are refusing to pay wages for the duration of the sit-in, so the action will go on indefinitely.

Please help with messages and donations to: Mick Eade, TGWU branch secretary, 120 Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.

Levers' strike

by LEN BLOOD, (AUEW) WARRINGTON: Maintenance workers at the Lever Brothers section of the giant Crossfields plant are leading the struggle in their area against the 12-month rule.

The men are striking over a wage agreement which gave a clear commitment to consolidate 240p onto the base rate when legislation allows.

Management are claiming that this means next January, but the strikers are standing firm for 1 August.

Donations and messages of support to Paul Tyler, c/o AUEW House, Froggall Lane, Warrington.

Smiths: 'Plenty of money' boast

CHELTHENHAM: the 1300 workers at Smiths Industries are still out on strike for more than the company's 5 per cent offer, despite intimidation from both the company and the union official.

A letter has been sent by management to all workers suggesting that the company's future is in danger if its Phase Two pay offer is not accepted. Such statements are seen by the workers as downright deception.

Last week's Sunday Express revealed that Smiths Industries' profits quadrupled since 1970—and so did their overseas sales. This year's expected profit is £20 million, compared with £16 million last year.

Return

'Smiths have plenty of money in the bank,' boasted Benson, director of APV Holdings. Despite this, management refuses to negotiate, with help in its intimidation from a GMWU factory representative, whose call to the strikers to return to work on the grounds that his members didn't want to stay out was emblazoned across the local daily paper's front page.

Rank and file members of the GMWU on the picket line are outraged. A statement from the joint shop stewards committee 'treachery' and 'an act of betrayal.'

LABOUR THREATENS THE LOW-PAID

BELFAST: The government is carrying out an outrageous attack on low-paid workers in Northern Ireland.

4000 workers in Mackies engineering works, in West Belfast, successfully negotiated a 22 per cent pay rise this month. The govern-

ment moved against them by threatening to withdraw government subsidies because they are breaking the pay code.

After Phase Two ended the workers wanted an increase in basic pay from £31 to a mere £50 a week—still far below

BEECHAMS: 5pc for you -200pc for us

COLEFORD, Gloucs: Beechams, the giant toiletry and drugs firm, has driven coach and horses through the government's dividend limit of 10 per cent to give shareholders a 200 per cent rise.

Share prices shot up from 548p to 600p, small comfort for the 450 strikers at the Coleford plant.

The government is prepared to relax the controls on dividends, but they are backing the company all the way in their fight against the Coleford workers' demand for a living wage.

At a mass meeting on Wednesday night the strikers heard Bryan Weston, the Transport Workers Union full time official, give them the cold hard facts. It seemed that 'no one could blame them if they returned to work', even though management had not budged on their 5 per cent offer.

Not only were Beecham's management against them, but the TUC, the government and the leadership of the TGWU.

The convenor, Dave Squires, then read out the report in last week's Socialist Worker which exposed the impending dividend fiddle. He was interrupted several times by the cheers of the strikers.

Official

Only 12 people voted to go back, much to the surprise of the TV, who earlier had predicted a return to work.

A delegation from the strike committee travelled to London on Monday to lobby officials at TGWU headquarters. Some met Marie Patterson, chairwoman of the TUC, who told them that the TGWU was waiting for the decision of next week's TUC before they could make the strike official.

Jack Jones promised them distress pay from this week.

If the workers at Coleford are to continue this strike against the government pay limit they desperately need your help. In the words of Tom Jones, strike committee leader: 'Our fight is your fight. If we win you can win.'

They receive no strike pay and have been out for nearly four weeks. Money is starting to trickle in, but there are now some real hardship cases.

Rush donations to Tom Jones, 22 High Nash, Coleford, Gloucestershire.

ITT bluff?

BRIGHTON: 900 members of the Engineering Union at ITT Creed have blacked subcontract work, banned overtime and implemented a series of four hour wildcat strikes, in support of a 30 per cent wage claim.

Management claim that the government would force the Post Office to withdraw its 4 million contract, threatening jobs, if any payment was made over its derisory 5 per cent offer.

CHRYSLER: IT'S A NEAR-MISS!

by PETER BAIN (TGWU)

SCOTLAND: Shop stewards at Chrysler's Linwood plant voted narrowly against recommending immediate strike action after hearing the company's reply to our demand for a substantial, across-the-board increase in wages and other improvements in conditions.

The stewards agreed to the convenors' request for another meeting with management to see if anything more could be won. So far Chrysler have offered a 5 per cent wage increase plus a non-contributory sick pay scheme.

They've put improvements in lay-off pay on the table, tied up with so many strings that the stewards found the package unacceptable.

They're also prepared to discuss a self-financing productivity deal covering every Chrysler UK employee from track workers down to the directors.

The Linwood workers decided to forego their Phase Two increase due on 1 July

and to demand a rise from 1 August.

Chrysler are hiding behind the commitment they gave 18 months ago under the so-called rescue plan to comply with government wages policy.

Many Linwood workers believe there is little point in further talks with the management. They understand clearly that strike action will be necessary to convince Chrysler that we're serious.

Hardened

COVENTRY: A mass meeting at Chrysler engine plant voted almost unanimously to go for an £18-a-week pay increase. This follows the end of the wage agreement on 1 July.

The vote took place after Chrysler told combine senior stewards that they would not move away from a Phase Two offer. There was also a veiled threat that the government would not put any more money into the company. This only hardened the men's attitude.

Jaguar at a halt

COVENTRY: Carworkers, pressing ahead with a claim to bust the pay freeze, brought the production to halt at Jaguar's Radford plant.

At the nearby Browns Lane plant the main assembly line was also stopped as over 1,000 workers were laid off as a result of the Desoutter strike.

The Jaguar workers want £20-a-week pay increase, plus staff conditions. Staff workers are also putting in for a substantial interim award.

John Villiers, ACTSS representative at Browns Lane, said: 'The action of the Jaguar workers is in line with the TGWU policy, a return to collective bargaining and no 12-month rule. Our own staff claim will be for at least as much as they win in the present dispute.'

Leyland parity con

BIRMINGHAM: Derek Robinson, convenor at British Leyland Longbridge, reported back to the stewards on Monday on the Joint Working Party's recommendations on wages.

The company is offering parity based on group negotiations and incentive schemes from November—but parity increase would have to be self-financing through increases in productivity.

Payment towards parity would be made every six months subject to increase in productivity. In other words, no increase in productivity, no money.

Instead of completely withdrawing out these

proposals—which would also involve the introduction of a three-shift system, total job mobility and a new grading structure—Robinson proposes to continue negotiations within the working party. He refused to take a resolution to withdraw from the working party on the ground that this was not possible.

Scheme

So much for his honesty, as several plants in Coventry already have withdrawn.

The working party is accepting in principle the idea of a self-financing productivity scheme, but arguing it should be done on a plant basis, not group basis.

Unless Longbridge workers and all other Leyland car workers withdraw from the working party they'll be landed with worse working conditions and pitiful wage increases based on six-monthly increased productivity. They should demand immediate withdrawal from the working party and a fight for £20 now without strings.

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BLOCK CAPITALS!

NIGHT OUT STRIKE ENDS

BIRMINGHAM: The Night Out strike for union recognition and the reinstatement of Pat McGuire is finished.

The case for the reinstatement of Pat McGuire, sacked for organising the union, is to go to arbitration, while the rest of the strikers get a small cash settlement from Trust House Forte.

The strike started with a bang in February. The Transport Workers Union locally organised 24-hour picketing, mass pickets of the Night Out on Saturday night, and extensive blacking, including several motorway service stations.

The women fought a barrage of press publicity, picket-breakers and the like. With two further strikes in Sheffield and Oxford for union recognition at Trust House Forte, it looked as if the stage was set for the largest union in the country to crack Forte.

In all three strikes the strikers were determined to win. All ended in defeat.

No action

The reason: the union did not use the opportunity of the three strikes to get Trust House Forte unionised. Instead of linking the three, they were handled individually.

In Birmingham the turning point of the strike came when the blacking of the service stations was lifted and the mass picketing was stopped as a 'goodwill gesture', while the arbitration service ACAS investigated the case for the reinstatement of Pat McGuire. The case for union recognition was not considered.

Everyone thought the strike was over, and when the ACAS report was rejected by both sides it was difficult to regain the momentum of the first few months.

The TGWU has lost a golden opportunity for unionising thousands of catering workers and improving the disgusting pay and working conditions of women workers.

ENGINEERS' CANDIDATE SUSPENDED

WEST LONDON: Ian Morris, engineering union shop steward at Heathrow Airport and Engineers' Charter candidate in the coming election for president of the AUEW, has been suspended for two weeks with loss of pay by British Airways.

He was still working last week, pending an appeal.

Ian was disciplined for putting out a statement supporting another Heathrow steward Jack Gatsky, who had complained to the press about safety standards at the airport.

In retaliation British Airways sacked him, then reinstated him following a strike threat last week and an apology from Gatsky. Gatsky is now suspended for four weeks.

Walls cut wages -1000 on strike

MANCHESTER: Have you noticed a furniture van at the local supermarket recently? It may be delivering sausages.

For scab drivers are actually turning up in furniture vans to move Walls products from their factory in Godley,

where 1000 TGWU members are on strike following a wage cut by management. Not only are un-refrigerated vans being used, but untrained staff are driving stack-a-trucks and other vehicles.

The wage cut of £2.40 occurred following a work-to-rule in the butchers department.

The £2.40 was an old bonus payment consolidated in 1975—bringing basic wages up from £30.25 to £32.65. It is now earned by every TGWU worker in the factory—even those not on a bonus system.

As soon as the wage cut was announced the butchers walked out, followed by other departments, who came out in sympathy.

The strike is having considerable effect—instead of 17 wagonloads a day leaving the factory, only two are now going out.

This is the first time the workers at Walls have been out on strike, and their grievances against Walls, part of Unilever, are considerable. The bonus rate is 14 years old—it used to be 5/10d and became 27p after decimalisation.

There is now a 24-hour picket on duty outside the factory. Tempers flared when one scab driver crashed through the picket line, nearly injuring two of the pickets. That particular scab had to be rescued by the police and taken away for his own protection.

Plaistow 'help!'

EAST LONDON: Plaistow Maternity Hospital 'work-in' to stop closure, now in its sixth week, is calling for maximum support for a demonstration through Newham on 1 October.

The key to keeping the hospital open is ensuring that the doctors in the area keep referring patients to the hospital. So far 13 out of 30 practices in the area have pledged their support and the others are being chased up.

A delegate trade union meeting is to be held on Wednesday 14 September to build support for the hospital. In particular a mass picket will be needed when any attempt is made to move equipment.

Messages of support to: Action Group, PMH, Howards Road, London E13.

Lucas laugh

BIRMINGHAM: The Lucas toolmakers, on strike for seven weeks for a substantial increase in their bonus, have been offered £3. This is twice the company's last offer.

£3 is a laughable increase with the present rate of inflation and Lucas's ever-increasing profits.



BINMEN TO MARCH

WOLVERHAMPTON: Dustmen are planning a protest demonstration through the town on Saturday in support of their strike for parity with binmen in neighbouring boroughs.

Their local Transport Workers Union has voted to withdraw its levy from the Labour Party and are planning to put up their own candidates in local elections next year.

Their typical take home pay is £32 a week. The Labour-controlled council has so far not come up with a decent offer.

Donations and messages of support to: R Upton, Crown Street Depot, Wolverhampton.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

NUJ: One victory won, one to go

From **STEVE CHILDS** Clerk (secretary), United Newspapers NUJ Group Chapel

DARLINGTON: Striking journalists and printers at the Northern Echo got a boost this week with the victory of journalists at another newspaper in defending one of their victimised colleagues.

Bosses at the Lancashire Evening Post, Preston, sacked

reporter Brian Best because they claimed he had kept secret his court appearance after being one of the 40 arrested during militant mass picketing of the Darlington papers.

Brian's chapel (office section) saw this as a pathetic excuse to victimise a trade unionist supporting mass picketing. NUJ members stopped work twice in one week and disrupted many

editions of the paper.

This forced the firm—part of the big United Newspapers Group—to overturn a sacking notice issued by editor Askew.

Brian is now fully reinstated with no loss of pay during the ten-day dispute.

Meanwhile, the 106 NUJ members in the twelfth week of their closed shop at Darlington are waiting for NUJ leaders to call out the rest of the Westminster Press

Group.

Despite printers joining the strike the bosses have shown no signs of cracking. They know that victory at Darlington for the NUJ will encourage journalists all over the country to fight for closed-shop agreements.

Worse for them if they give in is the effect on coming pay talks where a claim of £23-a-week is likely to be put for all provincial journalists.

Crisis day at Hounslow

WEST LONDON: Wednesday 31 August will be a crucial day for Hounslow Hospital. This is the date the health administrators have set to close it.

For seven weeks local trade unionists and hospital workers have picketed the hospital. Their action has meant that all but a few of the threatened 66 beds are still being used. We intend to see that they remain that way after 31 August.

One hospital has already been closed in our district. There they decided against militant action.

The bed shortage in our area is already chronic.

On 31 August at 2pm there will be a mass rally and demonstration at Hounslow Hospital. It is vital that there is as much support as possible.

Help is also needed on the picket line. If you can help, phone Chris Potter, 01-560 2121 ext 679.

NORTH WEST LONDON: We are now in our fourth month of strike for union recognition

We are calling on all trade unionists to support our picket on 1 September and show their solidarity in backing us to win our fight. All trade unionists and supporters should turn up at Desoutter Brothers, The Hyde, Hendon, at 12 o'clock.

All donations to Barry Moroney, Acting Treasurer, 27 Springfield Mount, London, NW9.

NEWS IN BRIEF

COVENTRY: The eight-week strike of press operators at GEC's Stoke plant is beginning to take effect. Other workers are laid off for 2½ to four days a week.

The strike was caused by company action in cutting piece rates.

Attempts are being made to prevent the shifting of work to other factories at Hartlepool, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy.

Said press operator Doreen Horton: The company's caused this strike. It's part of the plan to create disruption among workers to get them to leave.

The intention is to cut the labour force to a fraction, and the more workers they can harass into leaving, the cheaper and easier will be the eventual redundancies.

Messages of support and donations to: Dennis Adler, Transport House, Ringway St John, Coventry.

NOTTINGHAM: In the nearby town of Langley Mill, 17 workers are on strike for the right to belong to a union.

The firm, E & H Architectural, is owned by two men who have admitted they intend to hold out against a union as long as possible. Scabs and management, including the boss's son, are still working in the factory.

A continuous picket has turned away most incoming lorries, although the bosses have used a local one-man firm to get

some supplies through.

The firm produces wooden fire surrounds which are used by Berry Magicoal and Valor at Liverpool. Steps must be taken now to ensure that goods from E & H Architectural are blocked.

BIRMINGHAM: More than 4000 production workers are picketing Cadburys over lay-offs.

Only last week a dispute arose over manning levels among the stokers in the boiler house. One man refused to work 12 hours without a meal break to cover the men off through illness and holidays.

The stokers banned overtime and went on a 34-hour week. This led to production workers in the Transport

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Please send me more information

Name

Address

Trade union

Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DH.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

INSIDE:

Cable Street and Lewisham—PAGE ELEVEN
Nazis and 'violence'—PAGE SIX
New Nazi attacks—PAGE THREE
Pyramid of Despair—CENTRE PAGES

KEEP THE NAZIS ON THE RUN!

WANT to stop racism? Are you willing to stop Nazis marching in the black communities?

If so you will be called a monster and a sub-human.

Incredible as it may seem that is how most newspapers and TV programmes chose to describe the tremendous anti-Nazi demonstration in Lewisham.

Hack journalists and cartoonists have done their damndest to make anti-racists who are prepared to confront the Nazis in the streets seem as bad as the Nazis.

In this week's Socialist Worker we discuss these arguments thoroughly. But one point should be made very clear at the outset to anyone who wants to stop the racists. The Battle of Lewisham was not simply a clash between left and right whatever the press may say.

The reason the police were forced to re-route the Nazi march was because of an enormous groundswell of local feeling.

Hundreds of local people who had never heard of the Socialist Workers Party, let alone were members, took to the streets that day. Of course most were black—the Nazi march was aimed against them—but many of them were white.

Certainly the SWP provided a rallying point for all those who wanted to stop this public expression of organised filth—we were proud to do so and we'll do it again.

On this page and elsewhere in this issue we publish horrifying stories of racist persecution that has taken place in the past few days. There can only be one conclusion.

We need to do a 'Lewisham' every time the Nazis show their faces.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

'IS THAT the Socialist Workers? Can you tell me how ordinary citizens, ordinary members of the public can join your organisation?'

That was a telephone call we received last week, typical of many others in the days immediately after the Nazis were stopped in Lewisham.

Another caller who wanted to join the SWP was told someone would call and see her in a couple of days. 'Far too long to wait', she said. 'Give me the address of the local organiser and I'll go today.'

We received a membership slip with the words 'want to join' the SWP crossed out and replaced by 'love to join'.

Because of this rush to join our party, we have sent out to our branches a thousand extra membership cards this week.

We are also producing hundreds of thousands of leaflets and stickers which say 'Smash the Nazis, Join the Socialist Workers Party'. These are available from our office for £2 for a thousand.

But you don't need to wait for these if you haven't joined yet. Join today by sending this form to 6, Cottons Gardens, London E2.

I want to join the Socialist Workers Party

Name

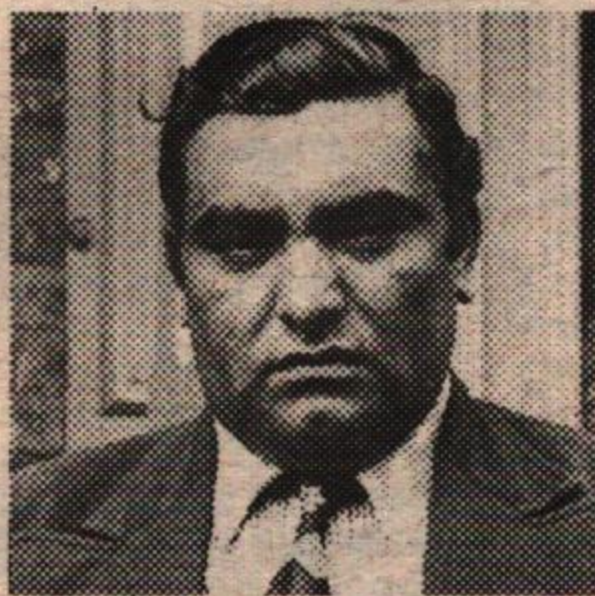
Address

Trade union

Contribute to our anti-Nazi fund

One phone call we received last week was from a representative of an Asian organisation that has agreed to contribute to our anti-Nazi fund with a regular cheque for £100. If you want to help but are not ready to join our party yet, send donations to the address above.

Thirty racists attack one man



KHADIM HUSSAIN, a former textile worker who was disabled by an industrial accident, was attacked by a gang of 30 racists armed with sticks, stones and other offensive weapons last week.

The racists had approached Mr Hussain's house in the Harehills district of Leeds chanting: 'Paki bastard go back home'. Hussain suffered serious internal injuries, a damaged ear drum and a stomach rupture.

Intimidated neighbours called the police. Descriptions of some of the attackers who live in Harehills were given to the restorers of Law and Order. But the police did not charge any of the attackers on the grounds that Hussain's injuries were 'not serious'.

In fact the police refused to call an ambulance, saying that St James Hospital was not far and Mr Hussain could walk the half mile to get treatment.

The Asian community has been harassed daily for the past month.



Nazi daubings near where Khadim Hussain was attacked ...



... and a window broken by a Nazi brick.

Ulster gang threatens SWP

A SINISTER leaflet was issued in Scotland this week by a man who calls himself 'C McGranaghan Area Commander of the Ulster Defence Association.'

Part of it reads: 'Demonstrations against the Socialist Workers Party

will be taking place shortly. Look what has been happening in the last few weeks, ie our police have been kicked, stabbed, missiles have been hurled at them and ammonia tossed in their faces, to their severe and sometimes permanent injury.'

The UDA are a bunch of gunmen in Belfast whose main

hobby is to maim and kill as many Catholics as possible. Exactly the kind of allies we would expect for the London-based Nazis

However, previous attempts to form an alliance between the UDA and the Nazis have come to nothing. Concerted action by anti-racists can keep it that way.

LET IT BE A RED, WHITE AND BLUE SWASTIKA

JOHN TYNDALL, leader of the Nazi National Front, told last week's Sunday Telegraph:

The main idea of wearing the uniform is that some of us felt that we needed to capture the imagination of youth. We wanted glamour and excitement.

'Later Jordan [Colin Jordan is leader of the openly Nazi British Movement] went one step further and decided the symbol on it should be a swastika. I was against that. I was against anything foreign. But his mind was made up.

'I said let it be a red, white and blue swastika, not a black one.'