

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

Lewisham - that's why the Nazis have been banned

THE NAZI National Front have been banned from marching and meeting in Hyde, Manchester. Their march, due to take place on 8 October, was banned after a request to Tameside Council from the local Chief Constable.

The ban comes after trade unionists and socialists had made it clear that if the police did not stop the march, they would.

The Socialist Workers Party, which called for the demonstration that stopped the Nazis in Lewisham last month, had made it clear that it would stop them again.

After Lewisham, some people claimed that confronting the Nazis in the streets would help them and frighten away support from the anti-Nazis.

The build-up in Manchester showed otherwise. Thousands of people from all parts of

NOW FOR A VICTORY MARCH!

THE SOCIALIST Workers Party is calling for a large victory demonstration and rally in Central Manchester on 8 October, the day the Nazis were due to march through Tameside.

We have written to the North West TUC, the Tameside trades council and other trade union and black organisations, asking them to join in.

All our branches and supporters in the North are asked to be there.

Britain pledged to take to the streets against the Nazis.

Hundreds of trade union bodies, including the North West TUC, indicated they would be at a huge mass picket.

Aware that he would not be able to keep this number of people from stopping the Nazis, the Chief Constable—a man of decidedly right-wing views—recommended banning the march.

The same awareness led local Tory councillors and Labour Home Secretary Merlyn Rees to agree to the ban.

We said Lewisham was a great victory against the Nazis. Hyde proves it.

SWP meeting cancelled

THE SOCIALIST Workers Party public meeting, due to be held in the Friends Meeting House, London, this Friday, has had to be cancelled.

The management of the Meeting House informed us that they had cancelled the booking for fear of 'disturbances from the National Front' that might damage the hall.

We pointed out that our meetings have always been well stewarded and have never led to meeting halls being damaged.

Unfortunately, we were unable to persuade them to change their minds.

BRUTALITY

If you wonder why black people hate the police, read this

'WHETHER HE'S in bed or not, nick him and bring him in! That was the first message to come across the police walkie-talkie in London's New Cross early last Saturday morning.

The speaker was Inspector Bolton of Lewisham police. He was instructing one of his officers to arrest 16-year-old Christopher Foster, one of the defendants in the ludicrous Lewisham conspiracy case.

The police had gone to the Foster home to check on whether Christopher had kept his 'curfew', a condition of his bail.

Seconds passed and the walkie-talkie came alive again.

'Hold on there you,' said Inspector Bolton, having second thoughts. 'Hold on. I'm coming down myself to turn them over.'

And turn them over he did. Inspector Bolton and four other police officers arrived at the house in Childeric Road, New Cross just five minutes later. He'd chosen his time well.

By that time, Faith Foster was in the house on her own with the children, including Christopher. Her husband David, a bus inspector had left for work.

Faith Foster takes up the story:

Demand

'I was in the bedroom getting dressed. Inspector Bolton climbed the stairs demanding to know where Christopher was.

He entered my bedroom, however. I asked him what he was doing. He didn't answer.

Instead this inspector slapped me across the face and forced me bodily through the doorway.

My daughter Dawn, 15, had just emerged half-dressed

'The inspector twisted my daughter's arm behind her back and then threw her down the stairs'

from her room. She was incensed and demanded to know what the policeman was doing to her mother.

The inspector lost his cool completely, slapping Dawn hard across the face twice. He pushed her onto the banisters, squeezing her neck and bending her head backwards over the banisters.

Another junior policeman tried to intervene, saying all this was not necessary. The inspector ignored him and just said 'nick her'.

The PC didn't move so Bolton first twisted my daughter's arm behind her back and then threw her down the stairs. She landed

crumpled up on the ground floor.

Like a lunatic, the inspector leapt down the stairs after her, and dragged her out into the street.

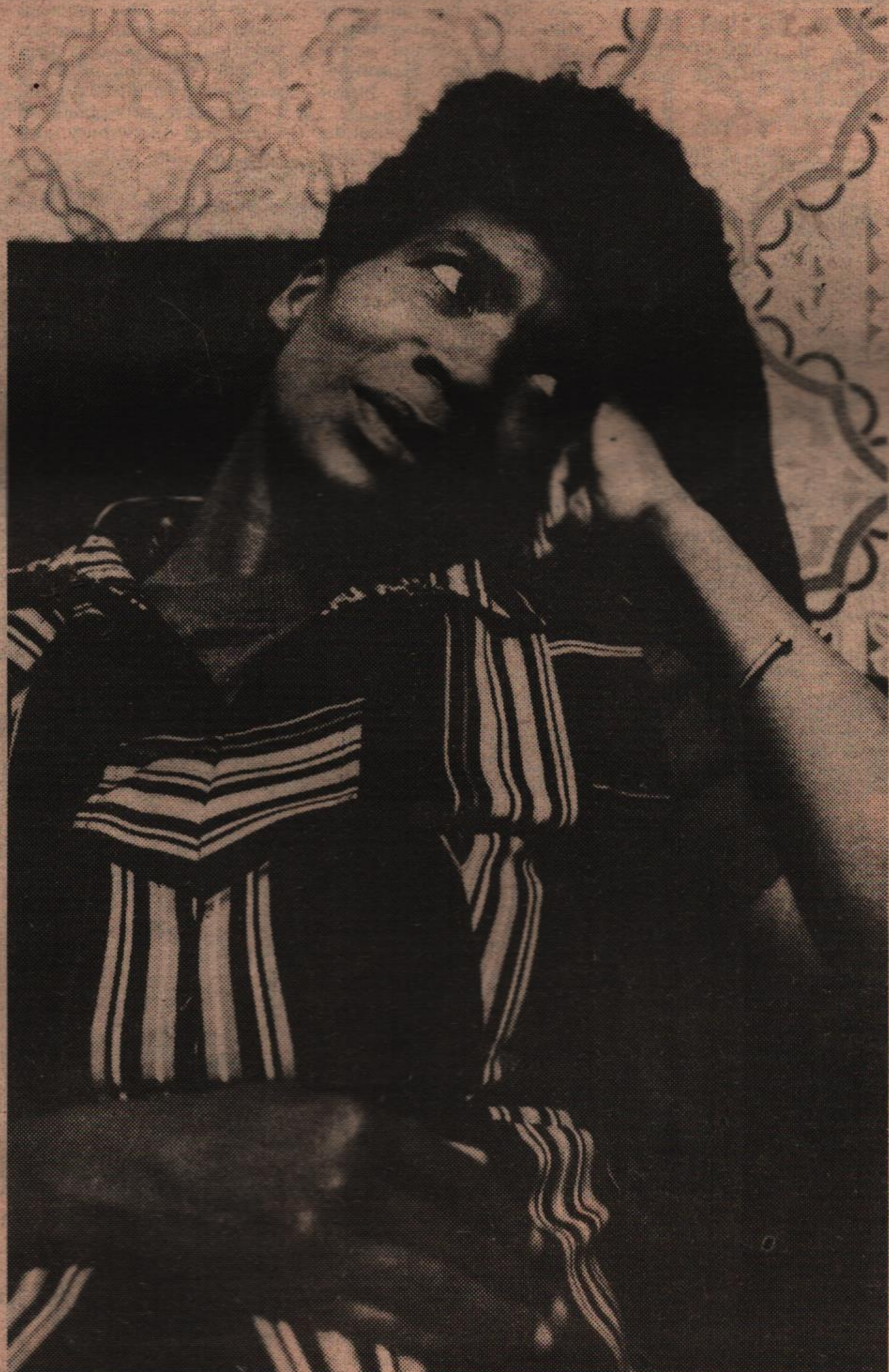
She was dressed only in her pyjama trousers and her bra.

Even though Bolton had got my daughter, they still took me. I was held at Deptford Station with my daughter for three hours.

Arrests

I was not told, and never knew until I got home, about the arrests of my two sons Karl and Christopher as well.

My other daughter Clare,



Faith Foster: We all had to go to hospital for treatment

15, was not arrested but she was hit.

We all had to go to hospital for treatment. It was absolutely dreadful.

And there's more to come. Three of my children have been charged with assault and obstruction!

Christopher was in Camberwell magistrates court later that morning, charged with breaking his curfew—even though he had been in bed when the police arrived.

They asked for him to be kept in custody, but the magistrate refused so he's still on £50 bail.

Dawn, Faith and Karl are

due to appear in court charged with assaulting a police officer and obstruction.

This is the second nightmare the Foster family have lived through in recent months. Both have been courtesy of the police.

Conspiracy

In May, Christopher was arrested on a conspiracy charge after a supposedly 'anti-mugging' operation, the police called PNH 39. PNH stood for Police Nigger Hunt.

What happened to the Fosters of Lewisham is not at all what you find portrayed in

the television series about black London family also called The Fosters.

The television Fosters scarcely ever encounter policemen, never mind have their homes and their lives wrecked by them.

But, then, television policemen have little in common with the real thing.

In real life, the police hassle black youngsters on the street, raid their homes and persecute their parents if they stand up for them.

And they underline their bigoted racialism by calling their operations 'Police Nigger Hunt 39'.

SORRY, MRS WINDSOR BUT YOUR £150,000 JUBILEE PRESENT WILL HAVE TO WAIT

THEY
TOLD
THE
QUEEN
TO GET
LOST
—AND
ENDED
UP IN
COURT

DURING our beloved monarch's Jubilee tour, she paid a visit to Brixton in South London.

To celebrate the 25th year of her reign, unemployment there is at record levels and the cuts are savaging people's lives.

To underline this scandalous state of affairs, SWP members and other socialists tried to hold a picket.

Before they could do so, the police arrested 11 people on charges ranging from obstruction to assault.

Their trial started last week and was still under way as Socialist Worker went to press.

So far one of the 11 has been found not guilty.

WILLESDEN: All 630 production workers at Rolls-Royce Mulliner Park Ward, next door to Grunwicks are on strike for a 17 per cent wage increase.

Over the last three years of wage control, the firm's profits have trebled.

But the workers have lost 30 per cent in purchas-

By PRAVIN SEEDHER

ing power.

Up to eight hand-built cars can be turned out in a week. A 12 per cent rise in production has given the workers the honour of an extra £1.40.

Afford?

The cars are mainly the £30,000 models that you or I may make but can never afford to buy. Among the cars not being produced is the £150,000 Jubilee present for Queenie from the Motor Manufacturers.

Fringe benefits are insulting with 75p a day sick pay after

two weeks, and four weeks holiday pay of £56 a week.

The workers want average earnings of £71 to £77 for holiday pay and the same for sick pay after three years.

The last mass meeting rejected management's offer of eight per cent for wages and £1 a week for sick pay.

These workers never received a Phase One payment under the Social Contract swindle. The 17 per cent claim is only to maintain living standards over the next year.

The other two plants, at Crewe and Shrewsbury, also look set for strike action

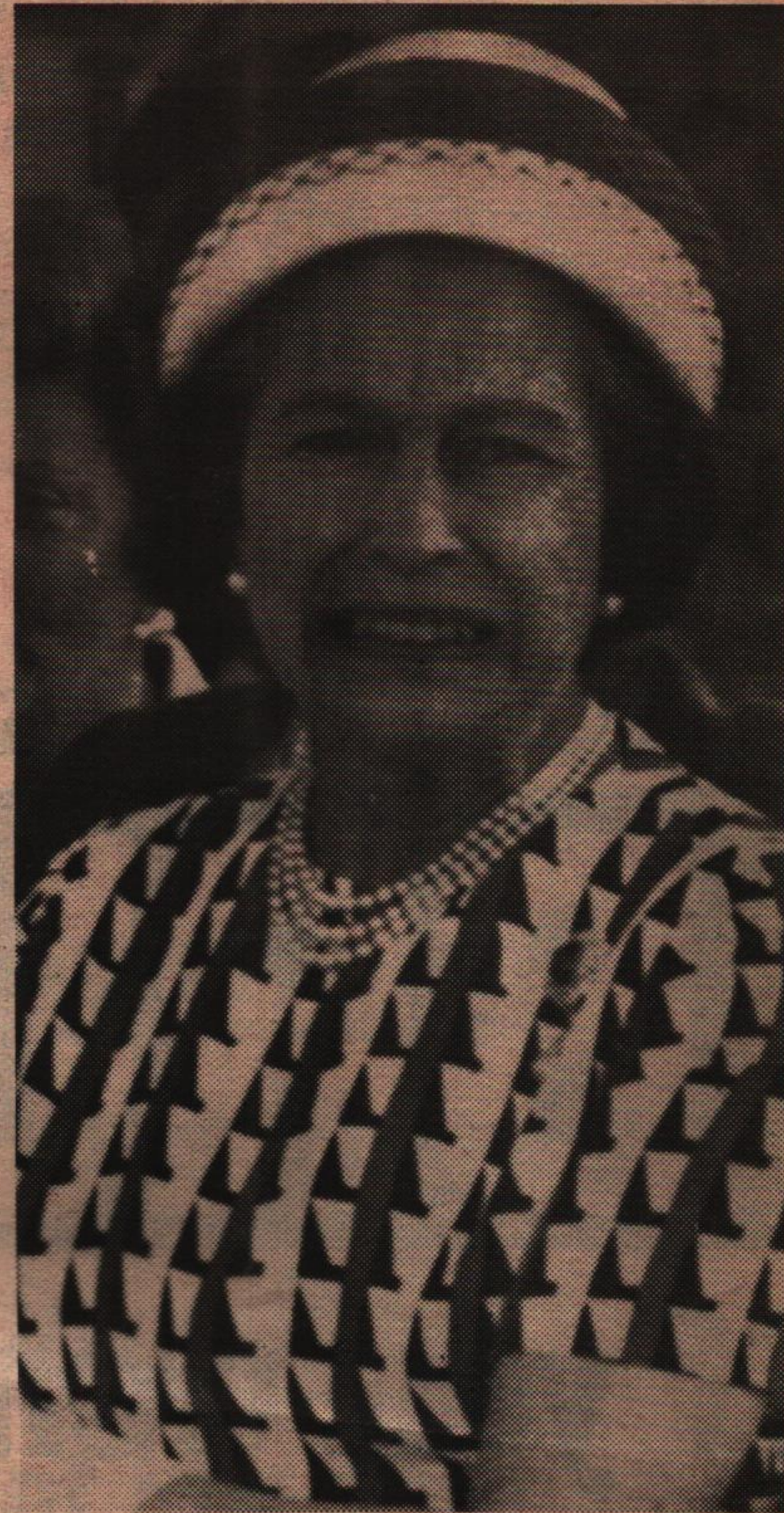
Crewe has rejected management's offer of ten per cent and improved sick pay. And Shrewsbury is putting in a claim for 17 per cent.

All London production is at a standstill and the other plants are being affected. The strikers have applied to have the dispute made official.

Demand

The main unions involved are the Transport Union and the Sheet Metal Workers. Send resolutions to your executives demanding support for the strike.

□ Donations and messages of support to Ron Buck, 2 Lucas Avenue, Harrow, Middx.



DEATH OF A 'LUCKY' SCHOOL-LEAVER

HUSSAIN Gultaj, 17, was one of the lucky ones.

Unlike most school-leavers, Hussain, from Batley in Yorkshire, actually managed to get a job.

He started with the Heckmondwike Flock Company in Chapel Fold, part of the Silentnight Bedding Company, whose wares are extensively advertised and which you may even sleep on.

These money-grubbers operated the unguarded baler which Hussain worked.

As a result he was sucked into the machine and killed.

For this crime of violence in the pursuit of profit, no teams of squad cars set out to find the directors responsible.

There was no press publicity about this murderous in-

terference with the life of a young man.

Instead an overworked Factory Inspector conducted another routine investigation and the firm was prosecuted.

For killing Hussain they were fined £300 plus £7.26 costs, a fine so petty that it makes continued offences very profitable indeed.

The Silentnight representative told the court that the management were 'very sorry'.

They're crying all the way to the bank.

Why they must be stopped

THE NAZIS showed last week the sort of violence they will resort to if they get the chance.

Malcolm, a 20 year old Manchester busworker, put a Socialist Worker poster in his bedroom window.

He told us what happened next: 'My doorbell rang. Two guys, one about 25, the other 18 or so, stood at the door.'

'They asked if it were my poster in the window. When I said yes, the older one pulled out a knife and slashed me twice across the face.'

'I put my arm up and he carved it open and slashed me across the stomach. I fell back and managed to shut the door.'

'When the police came, they asked me if I had done it myself for publicity!'

Nazis flee

'mini-Lewisham'

THE MASTER Race—including Brian Callow, a member of Fuehrer John Tyndall's bodyguard—were chased through the streets of Southend on Friday night.

100 anti-fascists picketed the National Front's branch meeting in the Leigh Community Centre. And when the 20 Nazis sheepishly emerged at 10pm, only a police escort saved them from a mini-Lewisham.

Rattled police officers arrested two anti-fascists on absurd charges of being drunk and of assaulting the police.

Donations towards their defence costs should be sent to Dave Lambert, Secretary, Harlow Anti-Fascist Committee, 85 Upper Mealdens, Harlow, Essex.

By Michael Maguire

lavatories and working facilities until they accept convict clothes.

Every fortnight they are administratively brutalised, being kicked and punched so as to be forcibly dressed in uniform.

They are then dragged before the governor to be rewarded with three days' punishment diet (bread and tea) and two weeks' loss of remission for failing to cooperate.

Demands for an inquiry, even from the officials of the Prison Board Visitors, have been repeatedly rejected.

Roy Mason, Northern Ireland administrator has vetoed visits by journalists.

This month the relatives' action committee is organising international protest meetings in France, the US, the Basque country of Spain, and Britain.

Public meeting to commemorate the removal of political status from

Republican prisoners. Friday 23 September, 7.30pm, the Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London.

We won't wear it, say Republicans

TWELVE months ago, the Labour government ended the right of prisoners in Northern Ireland to be allowed political status—a right first granted by the Tories in 1972.

The first prisoner to be refused this right was Kieran Nugent. He refused to wear the garb of a convict and was left naked by the authorities apart from blankets.

His stand was widely supported. Now 180 Republican prisoners are held in the same conditions in the aptly named H-Block—H for Horror—in Long Kesh concentration camp.

During the day the prisoners sit in bare cells. Their bedding is removed, they are denied exercise, medical facilities, visits, flush

possible to achieve 'partnership'.

There is speculation here about whether he will form a new party and how that would affect SDLP support.

But the truth is that the real options open to the Catholics are, now as ever, to knuckle under or fight back.

There's a lot more trouble to come and the Labour government can take credit for most of it.

HOW LOW CAN LABOUR SINK? ASK ROY MASON...

THIS WEEK Roy Mason is celebrating one year as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

And celebrating is the word. You can hardly hear yourself speak in the vicinity of his office in Stormont Castle for the sound of his back being slapped by the extreme right wing.

A year ago, the Labour government was committed to a policy of peace through 'power sharing'—encouraging Catholic and Protestant 'moderates' to get together in a coalition.

Surface

It was sheer pie in the sky, but on the surface there was a certain evenhandedness about it. To many Labour supporters, it looked 'fair'.

Mason made short work of all that. The extreme right wing Unionists had six votes at Westminster which could be crucial.

Mason took an option on them. The price? Abandoning power sharing and the promise of an all-out onslaught on Republicans.

In other words beat the Catholics into the ground, so the Unionists can walk all over them again.

It involved the torture of detained Catholics becoming standard practice.

Horror stories are a dime a

dozen here, as people are broken in body and mind until they can scarcely hold the pen to put their names to 'confessions'.

To the Unionists, every 'confession' signed is evidence that Labour is delivering on its side of the deal.

This is how Labour stays in office these days: by a sordid conspiracy with a party which

stands somewhere to the right of the Monday Club which is viciously anti-union, open in its admiration for Ian Smith and which made the torture of innocents as part of its price.

Many British workers must have wondered this past year how low Labour could stink. That's how low.

By Eamonn McCann

THE CHOICE IS SIMPLE: GIVE IN OR FIGHT BACK

THE PARTY of the Catholic 'moderates' in Northern Ireland is in danger of breaking up after a long-running row over how to react to the rightward drift of Labour policy.

On Saturday, the Party executive expelled Paddy Devlin. With Gerry Fitt and John Hume, he has been one of the three main SDLP leaders since the Party's formation seven years ago.

The SDLP has been committed to a policy of power sharing—forming a coalition with Protestant 'moderates' in an effort to isolate 'extremists' on both sides. Until recently, that has been British policy, too.

Bosses

Labour has now done a deal with the Orange bosses and left the SDLP out on a

TROOPS OUT



limb. All this has increased the bitterness within the Catholic community. And in reaction to that, the SDLP declared last month that since the British government was offering no acceptable solution within Northern Ireland, it would from now on put greater emphasis on seeking unity with the South.

Devlin disagreed with this, arguing that it was still

BOOMING BRITAIN? TELL IT TO THE UNEMPLOYED!

Stand by for North Sea oil -and three million jobless

'BOOMING marvellous'. 'It's beginning to go our way'. 'Sunshine day for Britain.'

Just a few of the headlines from the papers at the end of last week.

What was the news that brought such jubilation?

The balance of payments showed a surplus for the first time for a year, and the value of shares on the stock exchange rose to twice the level of three years ago.

This was supposed to bring joy into all of our lives.

But don't smile too soon. 80 per cent of the shares on the stock exchange are owned by one per cent of the population.

The vast majority of us own no shares at all.

The stock exchange boom and the balance of payments meant nothing for us.

Our position was summed up by a different figure that appeared on the same day. It showed the amount of wealth being produced: a fall on this time last year and less than

during the infamous three-day week imposed by Edward Heath in 1974.

The great success the newspapers have been applauding has been a success in preventing the creation of wealth, a success in cutting workers' living standards to the bone, a success in pushing up the official unemployment figure to 1.6 million.

NORTH Sea Oil is going to solve all our economic problems.

The government has been saying it for so long that most people almost believe it.

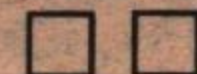
But in the business pages of the posh papers a discussion has recently been taking place on how to stop the wealth from the oil ruining the economy even more.

One forecast, by a body called Euromoney, which uses the government's own figures, claims that 'unemployment could rise to 2-2.5 million. Strangely enough, North Sea oil would be largely to blame.'

Another forecast, by Cambridge economist

Wynne Godley, says that 'domestic unemployment, on extremely plausible assumptions, would reach 3 million by 1985.'

The Financial Times expert Samuel Brittan has a different view. He believes the oil money need not be a complete disaster—provided the government and the rich invest it abroad, but not in Britain.



In other words, the only way to stop ourselves being driven to poverty by a vast increase in wealth is to get rid of it as quickly as possible.

Such is the lunatic system we live under...

The press and free speech: Enough said



Paedophile supporters being beaten up on Monday night: the Press encouraged the violence—and then supported it when it happened

WHEN the Nazis were stopped from marching through Lewisham, last month, the press unleashed a torrent of abuse against the Socialist Workers Party.

It was claimed that we were attacking the basic freedom of people to meet and demonstrate.

In the last couple of weeks the Nazis have petrol-bombed a succession of bookshops and offices of anti-racist organisations—the most recent being the offices of the Community Relations Commission.

And they have broken up meetings, like a recent Labour Party meeting in South London.

But there has been no outcry from the press against their attacks on freedom of speech.

On Monday, the Nazis,

pretending to be 'outraged mothers', attacked a meeting organised at the Conway Hall in London.

According to the Daily Mirror, 'squads' of Nazis 'fanned out in the streets around the hall' and stopped people to see if they were going to the meeting.

'One man was caught and surrounded by six or seven demonstrators who kicked him savagely.'

According to The Sun, 'bible students fled in terror after being manhandled by the crowd.'

Attack

The Daily Mail reported how 'a group of men and women were kicking a middle-aged man rolling helplessly on the floor.'

According to the Telegraph, 'more than 150 people, mainly members of

FLEET ST ADMITS IT: NAZI VIOLENCE IS OK BY US

the National Front, threatened to attack anyone who went into the meeting.'

These vicious attacks were greeted by the press, not by talk of freedom of speech, but by almost unanimous, unqualified approval.

The meeting was on the problems of paedophiles—adults who want sexual relations with children.

For months, the right wing papers have been focussing

on the activities of a small group, the Paedophile Information Exchange, building up an atmosphere of hysteria.

The mob violence on Monday was the climax of that hysteria. Naturally, the papers supported the Nazis who organised it.

Socialist Worker does not believe that the activities of the PIE can lead to sexual liberation. That can only come about when people are

able to relate to one another as equals, without being hamstrung by irrational fears and financial constraints.

Sexual relations between adults and children cannot be based on such freedom and equality.

Given the greater power and sophistication of adults, children will always be open to exploitation. They need consideration and love so that they can grow up to enjoy the sexual pleasures that they choose.

Protect

But the notion that the Nazis want to protect children is too incredible for words.

They hate black and Jewish children. They want to deport them from this land along with their mothers and fathers.

They admire Adolf Hitler, who murdered millions of children in concentration camps.

Nor do the millionaire newspapers care much about protection of the young. They're for closing hospitals and maternity units, supporting cuts which threaten life itself.

Those same newspapers also engaged in the exploitation of children, using pictures of models dressed up as children to titillate readers and sell goods.

Paedophilia is the sad result of a socially and sexually sick society. But the way to overcome the problem is through open discussion, including discussion by the PIE so that the roots of the problem are revealed.

The bullying, hysteria, intimidation and terror organised by the Nazis has no such aim. It must be stopped.

ABOUT ALL THIS PUBLIC SPENDING

THE GOVERNMENT last week offered £1,000 million of 'government stock'.

Buyers get paid back over 25 years—plus 8½ per cent interest every year.

This means that every year the government will pay £86 million to the wealthy gents who stumped up the money in the first place.

By the time they've paid the money back they will have paid out £2,137 million in interest—more than twice what they originally borrowed!

This was only one of the generous stocks offered by the government in recent years.

Altogether, these cost the government £4,437 million this year alone.

That's about three-quarters of the cost of the National Health Service.

There's no pay curb for the rich

MANY people believe that dividends are controlled as well as wages.

But loopholes are now so wide that there is more hole than control.

Beechams recently created a new 'gap' in the controls by pretending they wanted to raise money for investments overseas. Dividends went up by more than 200 per cent.

Last year, the company paid out £8.9 million to shareholders. This year, they're paying out £26.7 million—a difference of £17.8 million.

Yet the same company are denying a decent wage rise to workers in Gloucestershire who earn less than £2000 a year.

Babcock and Wilcox are another firm which went through the Beechams gap. Dividends are up by 150 per cent.

Last year the company paid out £1.9 million in dividends; this year £4.78 million. The eight directors got £77,818 last year; this year £193,515.

SACRIFICE CORNER

DR. DANIEL McDonald, former chairman of BSR and now living tax-free in Switzerland, has sold his stake of 7.9 per cent of the shares of the engineering company, Wilmot Breedon. He bought them a few years ago for £400,000 and he's sold them for £1,400,000. Net profit: one million pounds.

ASSOCIATED SOCIETY OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS & FIREMEN

General Secretary: R. W. BUCKTON

BRANCH SECRETARY:
P. QUIGLEY,
40 Ayr Way,
Rise Park,
Romford,
Essex,
RM1 4UH.

KING'S CROSS BRANCH

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Socialist Workers Party,
Corbridge Works,
Corbridge Crescent,
London, E.2.

Tel. No. 70-64097.

5th September 1977

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

This Branch was shocked to hear of the petrol-bomb attack on the offices of the Socialist Workers Party.

It is becoming apparent that as the racist minorities fail to gain support through the mask of political respectability, they are reverting to the intimidation and violence last seen in the 1930's, the real face of Fascism.

It is significant that the Trade Union Movement is a major target of these people, an indication of the power of working class solidarity, if only it were used effectively.

Trade Unionism has been under attack from the fascists for many years now, through racist propaganda and marches of hate, seeking always to split and divide the workers' fight for better social conditions. It now seems that all Active Trade Unionists are under physical attack as well!

The firing of your offices is the latest in a long line of attacks on Socialist and Trade Union organisation, it will not be the last; it is an indication of the mentality of these people, that they cannot see that such extreme acts will only serve to strengthen our resolve and determination to win.

The answer is not simple or easily achieved, will not be implemented over-night, but must succeed. Through inter-personal contact, conversation and education, the wounds will be healed, it is our task to organise that healing and see that it succeeds.

We would like to extend our solidarity to the Socialist Workers Party in the fight against fascism, please find enclosed our donation of £5.00 towards your rebuilding appeal.

Yours fraternally,

Alan Hardy
Assistant Branch Secretary.

£10,000
APPEAL

FIGHT
THE RACISTS!

STOP
THE NAZIS!

£2,099

so far

THIS LETTER is typical of the many now being received from trade unionists.

The sentiments expressed in Brother Hardy's letter have again been confirmed this week.

An SWP member in Manchester was stabbed by a fascist. In London the offices of the Community Relations Commission were bombed in a similar manner to our own.

In York, Paul Lannen, a building worker and SWP

branch secretary, has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm following an attack by the National Front on anti-Nazi canvassers.

Paul was fingered while standing at a bus stop by the local Nazi candidate who, would you believe, was touring in the back of a police car looking for possible suspects.

If you want to stop this pay up your insurance premiums to the party that fights fascism.

DON'T JUST send a donation, use our pamphlets, leaflets, stickers, to expose the Nazis for what they really are.

□ DONATIONS and COLLECTIONS to Socialist Worker Appeal, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

□ PAMPHLETS: The Fight Against the Racists, 10p plus

7p postage, 10 copies for £1.30 including postage.

□ LEAFLETS: Nazis: Enemies of Trade Unionism. £2 for 1000.

□ STICKERS: Red and black, various designs, £2 for 1000.

All from Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

OUR THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

Post Office, Manchester
Bath SWP
J Appleyard
ASLEF, Kings Cross
APEX British Airways
Warrington SWP
M J Birkin
Letchworth SWP
B Jones
S Wise
A Simmitt
F A Postelwaite
PRK Rap
P J Sills
Indian Community, Grays
South Kensington SWP
A Khan
K D Harding
J Walkv
G Sainthouse, Convenor

Massey Ferguson
F Dean, Manchester Trades Council
Dougie Daniels, AUEW
Convenor Chloride
T Teeling
A Cloughlin
P Cloughlin
H Povo
P V Cowens
H Harwood
S Ferguson
F McConnolly
B Redfern
A Regan
N Rowey
P Whealey
G Robinson
B Catram
Edward Upward

ASTMS Tyneside Health
B Brett
J Price
Edinburgh SWP
F Barnham
L Kline
D R Merman
K Jones
F Mann
Islington SWP
Barnsley SWP
M W Bede
Farrars Buildings
Hammersmith SW Readers
Reading SWP and supporters
J Tocher, divisional organiser AUEW div. 11
J Bunting, ass divisional organiser AUEW/11 div.

HOW WE STOPPED NAZIS IN SHEFFIELD

THE BRITISH National Party, one of Britain's most vicious Nazi parties, were forced to call off a rally in Sheffield on Saturday.

They had called all their members to a rally outside the Cathedral and a mass meeting in the town. But Sheffield Socialist Workers Party called a counter-rally one hour before in the same place.

The local police put pressure on the Cathedral authorities to ban both rallies, but the Provost allowed the anti-racist rally to go ahead.

Last Friday the BNP were forced to put out a statement calling off their rally in the face of opposition likely to number 500.

Hundreds turned up to the anti-racist rally from many organisations including the Socialist Workers Party, the Labour Party, the Communist Party the New Communist Party, the Anti-Fascist Committee and the Yemeni Workers Association.

Thousands of anti-Nazi leaflets were distributed.

The BNP have a record of acts of violence in Yorkshire, but sheer weight of numbers in opposition forced them to disappear.

If they try to appear in Manchester on 8 October, we can do the same again.

Ormskirk founder dies

JOHN MELIA of the Ormskirk Socialist Workers Party died on Monday 12 September after a long and painful illness.

Throughout the last year he had fought hard against his increasing weakness and maintained his sense of humour for which he was famous.

He was a founder member of the International Socialists in Ormskirk and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.



What jobs, Gormley?

By Mike Butroyd
I HAVE been unemployed for a couple of months now, and so when I heard Joe Gormley shouting about how easy it is to find work (presumably

down the mines) I thought why not?

Unlike the vast majority of the Right to Work marchers, I live within range of a pit.

It is the only one in the Manchester area—Agecroft Colliery. It is fairly long

journey from where I live, but that didn't bother me if it meant work.

So I gave the colliery a ring, but I had hardly got the word out before the bloke on the other end apologised and said there was no chance of work because they were making 400 men redundant.

In last week's Socialist Worker a London docker urged people to write to Joe Gormley. Maybe when people write to him they can ask him what he did to save those 400 jobs at Agecroft.

Or was he too busy looking after his business interests and abusing socialists?

The copper's jangling in their pockets



EAGER BEAVERS

THE COMPANIES THAT
LOVE THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

YOU KNOW how rising prices are caused by increasing commodity prices? Last year, when prices were rising at a rate of almost 30 per cent, we were told it was caused by the increased price of oil, tin, coffee, sugar from the less developed world.

Businessmen shrugged their shoulders in a sympathetic way, but said there was nothing that could be done about it. After all, the poor people of India deserved something better and if we paid a high price for their cotton, they would get it.

Remember also how the falling value of the pound made things worse?

As international bankers and companies sold the pound on foreign exchange markets, so that it was worth fewer and fewer dollars,

francs, marks and so forth, and the cost of Britain's imports rose. Prices in the shops went up but again, they said, nothing could be done about it.

Remember all that? Prices in the shops are still rising, but this time commodity prices are collapsing and the pound is much stronger.

Coffee, which at the turn of the year cost £4,000 a ton, now costs about half that. But a pound of coffee still costs £3 in the shops.

While most share prices rocket, the price of shares in commodity companies hardly move, as City speculators know commodity prices are falling.

The price of copper has collapsed this year from £900

a ton to £650. But, curiously, the prices of copper pipes, wire and strip—which are used in our houses and by industry—have kept on going up.

One of the big manufacturers of these copper products is Imperial Metal Industries—part of the mammoth chemical company ICI. They recently announced their profits for the first six months of this year—£18 million, up 80 per cent on the year before.

Over the past 12 months they have made almost £40 million profit.

When the price of these raw materials was rising much of the profit went into the pockets of the capitalists in the 'developing' countries. Now it is falling, it goes into their pockets over here.

●●●●●
BY
SEYMOUR
PROPHET
THE BUG
IN THE
BOARD
ROOM
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Notices

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

National Conference, 15 October to discuss and co-ordinate DEFENCE OF GAY NEWS. 11am onwards, Birmingham Gay Community Centre, 9-10 Bordesley Street, Digbeth. Phone 021-643 7889.

THE FIRST MAN INTO BLANKETS: Public meeting to commemorate the removal of political status from Irish prisoners, organised by Prisoners Welfare Group. Friday 23 September, 7.30 pm, Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1. Speakers from Relatives Action Group, PACTA and the International Tribunal on British War Crimes Against the Irish People.

COVENTRY'S LABOUR MOVEMENT. History Workshop, 29-31 October. Details from WEA, 81 Berkeley Road, Coventry.

BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION demonstration committee: Planning meeting for representatives, Friday 30 September, 7pm, Northumberland Arms, Kings Cross Road, London WC2.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN needs help urgently in the London area. Please contact Peter, phone 01-582 3486, or write to SASC, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.

The age of the revolutionary party is over! argues Bob Dent in the October LEVELLER. Plus the Politics of Contraception, Denim, Car industry, Canaries and the £1m drug swindle. Now monthly, 35p from left bookshops, good newsgroups or direct from us at 155a Drummond Street, London NW1.

RF
MERSEYSIDE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN: Office now open at 2b Dawson Street, Liverpool 1 (phone 051-709 1844).

LOST PROPERTY ON RIGHT TO WORK MARCH: Sunglasses and case found at Tichfield Street on Thursday night (1 September). All inquiries to Merseyside Right to Work Campaign, 2b Dawson Street, Liverpool 1.

HALIFAX ENGINEERS CHARTER public meeting: Sunday 18 October, 12 noon-2pm, Griffin Hotel, George Street. Interested in joining the SWP? Then the SWP discussion group immediately after is for you. Details, phone Halifax 67209.

National ENGINEERS CHARTER meeting for all workers in the motor and engineering industries: Saturday 1 October, 11am-5pm, Manchester Town Hall. Smash the 12-month rule!

Why Chrysler stewards put the brakes on a £20 claim

PRICES are now rising more than twice as fast as wages.

But in the last couple of weeks some of the most powerful groups of workers have caved in to the government's demand that they wait 12 months before pushing any wage claim higher than the five per cent allowed under Phase Two.

The collapse began at Leyland's Longbridge, Birmingham factory. Then it spread to the docks. Last Wednesday was the turn of Chrysler Linwood in Scotland.

The joint shop stewards'

DAVE SHERRY INTERVIEWS THOSE WHO STOOD FIRM

committee accepted by 152 votes to 137 a recommendation from the top union negotiating body, the Joint Representative Committee, to accept a Phase Two settlement.

Afterwards AUEW convenor John Carty, a member of the broad left, told the press: 'There was a proposal

to take strike action, but it was defeated.

'Personally, I am relieved, because it would not have helped Linwood. Chrysler Scotland is not going to be the plant to smash the government's pay policy.' This retreat has now to be voted on by a mass meeting.

■ ■
Dave Sherry talked to members of the Socialist Workers Party branch in Linwood about why the call for strike action was defeated.

QUESTION: Was the original decision to break through Phase Two unrealistic—did it represent the views of the workers on the shop floor?

ANSWER: There was real enthusiasm for the claim.

In June, the Joint Shop Stewards Committee voted unanimously to throw out Phase Two and go for a substantial increase that would restore 1972 purchasing power.

In reality, this meant an increase of more than £20 a week. The claim also included the 35 hour week.

The stewards were recommending that we would defer our settlement date from July to August and simply ignore Phase Two.

6,000 for, one against

At the end of June, we held a mass meeting. Jimmy Livingstone, the Transport Union convenor, moved the stewards' recommendation.

He made it clear that members should not vote for it unless they were prepared to strike.

Out of about 6000 workers only one guy, a loyal Labour Party member, voted against. The rest of us voted to fight for the claim.

Q. What was Chrysler's response to your claim?

A. Just as we expected: a ridiculous offer that amounted to a Phase Two deal of five per cent, free overalls slight improvements in sick pay, and a worse lay-off agreement.

They also offered us national negotiations on a productivity deal.

The national combine met and each plant agreed that we would refuse to negotiate nationally, and that we would



Chrysler workers on the march: will the shop-floor follow the stewards' surrender?

LEYLAND...DOCKS...THE RETREAT CONTINUES

each determine our own conditions plant by plant.

The company refused to budge. At a shop stewards meeting in mid-August, there was a move for strike action.

But the senior shop stewards on the JRC argued that they wanted to go on negotiating, go through procedure, and bring in the full-time officials.

We asked the JRC what they could discuss. They agreed that the only thing they could talk about was sick pay and the lay-off agreement.

The vote at this meeting was crucial and it was close. After a lot of confusion, the motion for further talks was narrowly carried.

One of the old tricks

Q. What effect did this decision have?

A. The company launched a big publicity campaign, using the press and TV to frighten us about the future of the Linwood plant and to force us

to accept their offer.

In fact, we know management had letters made up ready to send out to the family of every employee—one of their old tricks.

Fortunately, the white-collar workers refused to send them out. The factory leadership hedged on the claim.

Then the TUC, which the JRC said we all had to focus on, kicked us in the teeth when they voted to accept the 12-month rule.

But after all these set-backs,

it was clear to many stewards that large numbers of workers were ready to take action.

Q. During this period, what did the trade union organisation do to keep support going for the claim?

A. The best shop stewards continued to take up the arguments and keep their sections up to date with events.

But the JRC failed to conduct the kind of campaign that was needed to combat the rubbish the press were throwing at us nearly every day.

During this period, our Socialist Workers Party branch was producing a weekly bulletin, countering the bosses' propaganda and arguing that strike action would have to be taken if the claim was to be won.

When the time came . . .

Q. Why did the shop stewards drop the claim?

A. At the Joint Shop Stewards meeting last week the JRC put forward a recommendation which reversed their previous decision, and the decisions within Phase Two. They were now saying we couldn't take on the government and the TUC. Three months earlier we had all understood differently.

Now the time had come to fight, the JRC collapsed. Most of the stewards who

spoke argued to reject the JRC recommendation and to fight for our original claim.

A leading Communist Party member moved the JRC recommendation that we should accept Phase Two and if the company wouldn't budge on a number of points within Phase Two, then we should take strike action.

Beaten by 15 votes

Nonetheless, 137 shop stewards voted to reject this and argued for a mass meeting to call strike action on the initial claim. We were only beaten by 15 votes.

Q. Did the factory leadership retreat because they felt Linwood would be isolated?

A. If they did, then they've got short memories. A month ago, we sent a delegation to a huge West of Scotland shop stewards meeting. Every major factory was represented.

More than 500 shop stewards voted unanimously to oppose any further wage restraint, regardless of what the TUC did, to urge every workplace to get a wage claim in now, and to support any group of workers who fought.

Our delegation supported that position. So much for isolation.

All over the West of Scotland, companies are bluffing that they will shut or pull

out if workers fight for higher wages. If we all vote together, we will call their bluff.

Q. What will happen now?

A. That all depends on the mass meeting. This latest decision does not reflect the feeling in many sections, particularly those tied to production. And the vast majority who are on shift work won't be happy either.

It may lead to sectional disputes for better shift pay. That fight could win real support.

The shop-floor are more likely to strike for real cash than for the present recommendation. If sections do want to go ahead and fight, it will be up to the stewards to get support and united action off the ground.

The shop-floor still have their say and at the mass meeting they are entitled to insist on the original claim.

More workers agree with us

We in the Socialist Workers Party argued for all of these things through a regular bulletin, through the Socialist Worker and by constantly going back to the members we represent.

Inside the factory our organisation is growing, the sales of Socialist Worker are rising and it is comforting to know that more and more workers agree with us.

But our resources are limited. We need more bulletins, more shop stewards who are prepared to operate as socialists and counter the bosses' arguments.

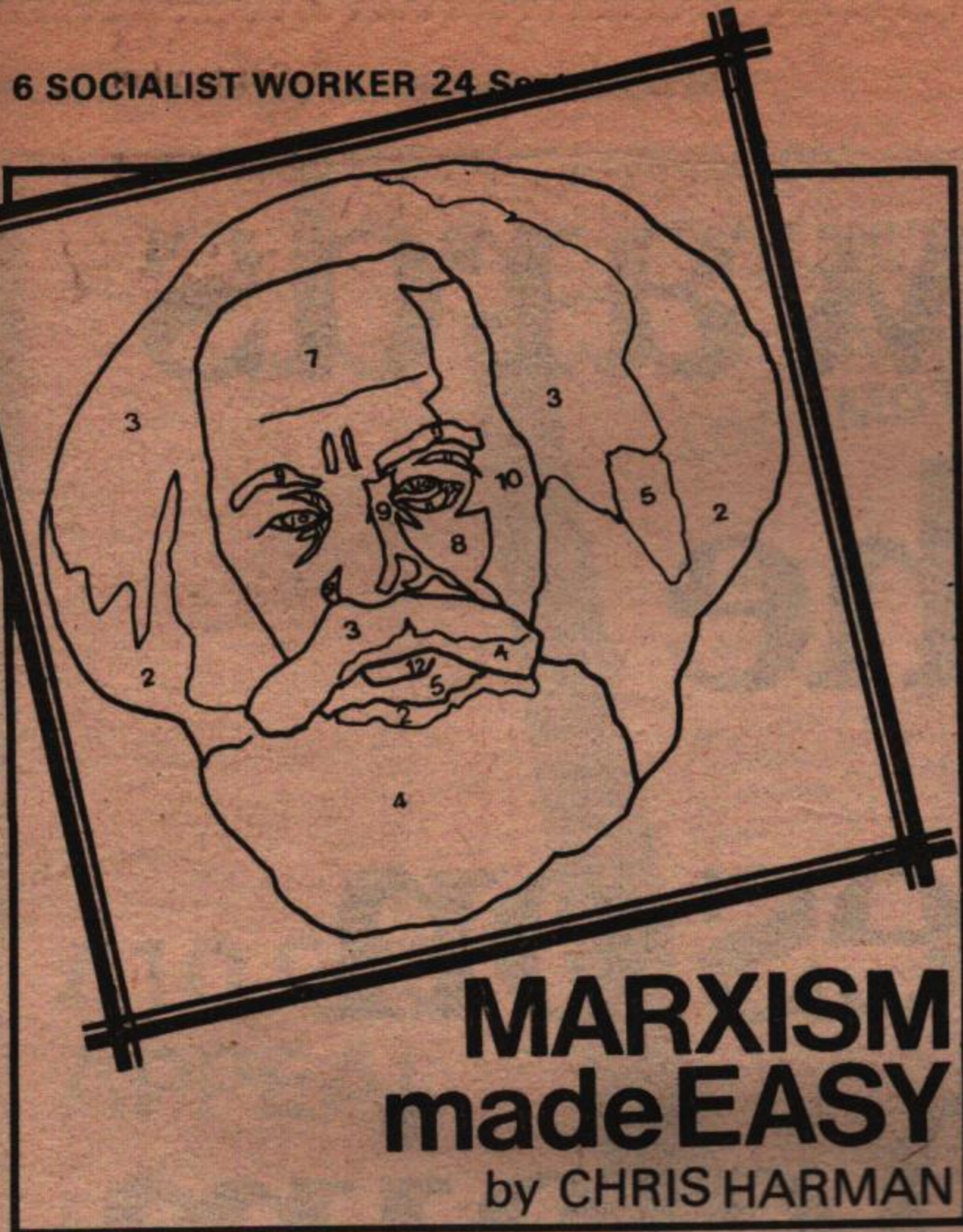
We need more people to join us.



The stewards' vote may lead to sectional disputes for better shift pay

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Why we need a theory



'WHAT DO we need a theory for? We know there is a crisis. We know we are being robbed by our employers. We know we are angry. We know we need socialism. All the rest is just for the intellectuals.'

You often hear words like this from militant socialists and trade unionists.

Such views are strongly encouraged by antisocialists, who try to give the impres-

sion that Marxism is an obscure, complicated and boring doctrine.

Socialist ideas, they say, are 'abstract'. They might seem to be all right in theory. But in real life common sense tells us something else completely.

Refuse

The trouble with these arguments is that the people who put them forward usually have a 'theory' of their own, even if they refuse to recognise it.

Ask them any question about society, and they will try to answer it by making some generalisation or

other.

A few examples: 'People are naturally selfish'. 'Anyone can get to the top if they try hard enough'. 'If it weren't for the rich, there would not be any money to provide work for the rest of us'. 'If only we could educate the workers, society would change'. 'Declining morals have brought the country to its present state'.

Listen to any argument in the streets, on a bus, in a factory canteen. You'll hear dozens more such sayings used to justify things.

Each and every one of them contains a view of why

society is like it is and of how people can improve their condition. Such views are all 'theories' of society.

When people say they do not have a 'theory', all they really mean is that they have not clarified their own views.

Dangerous

This is particularly dangerous for anyone who is trying to change society. For, the newspapers, the radio, the TV, are continually filling over minds with attempted explanations for the mess society is in.

They hope we will accept what they say without thinking more about the issues.

But you cannot fight effectively to change society unless you recognise what is false in all these different arguments.

This was first shown 150 years ago, in the 1830s and 1840s. The development of industry in areas like the north west of England led to hundreds of thousands of men, women and children being drawn into miserably paid jobs.

They were forced to endure living conditions of unbelievable squalor.

They began to fight back against these with the first mass workers' organisations—the first trade unions, and in Britain the first movement for political rights for workers, Chartism.

Along side these mass movements were the first small groups of people dedicated to socialism.

Achieve

Immediately, the problem arose as to how the workers movement could achieve its aim.

Some people said that it was possible to persuade the existing rulers to change their minds through peaceful means.

The 'moral force' of a mass, peaceful movement would ensure that benefits were given to the workers.

Hundreds of thousands of people organised, demonstrated, worked to build a movement on the basis of such views—only to end up defeated and demoralised.

Other people recognised the need to use 'physical force', but often thought this could be organised by fairly small, conspiratorial groups cut off from the rest of society.

These too led tens of thousands of workers into desperate struggles that ended in defeat and demoralisation.

Confront

Still others believed the workers could achieve their goals by economic action, without confronting the army and the police.

Again, their arguments led to mass actions. In England in 1842 the world's first general strike took place in the industrial areas of the north, with tens of thousands of workers holding out for four weeks until forced back to work by hunger and privation.

It was towards the end of this first stage of defeated workers struggles, in 1848, that the German socialist, Karl Marx, developed his own ideas fully, in his pamphlet, the Communist Manifesto.

His ideas were not pulled out of thin air. They attempted to provide a basis for dealing with all the questions that had been thrown up by the workers movement.

What the best dressed scrounger is wearing...



YOUNG people on the dole should smarten themselves up, says Richard O'Brien, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

Fifth Column has one or two suggestions for anyone who might feel that Mr O'Brien is on the right lines.

If you really want to know how to dress, invest in a copy of Harpers and Queen, or even The Tatler, Bible of the idle rich.

Mind you, you have to be careful, a good proportion of their readers don't actually have to look for work at all. So it's a case of being selective before following their



example.

But you should be able to impress a prospective employer in this very snazzy little outfit on the right. A pure silk sports jacket made specially for Fortnum and Mason at only £110.

Or wow the boss in this drawstring cotton jumper only £36 from Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge.

On £9 a week you should be able to afford to go for an interview in about three months time, if you don't go outside the house to spend money on anything else at all that is.



THE FOLLOWING quote appeared in the Middlesborough Evening Gazette from 'a TUC official':

'I am not sure if the Right To Work youngsters are not more attractive than those attending the cocktail parties going on at the TUC this week.'

..... the Moral Re-armament Movement is apparently now very active in Rhodesia, much assisted by the support of Ian Smith's son Alec, who is a member.'

—Peregrine Worsthorne, Sunday Telegraph, September 11.

What every pregnant woman should know—the Royal 'secret'

THE DUCHESS OF Gloucester and Princess Anne, who are both expecting babies in November, have been given special blood tests to check whether their unborn children are likely to suffer from Spina Bifida, a crippling, spine disease.

If it is detected early enough in pregnancy, something can be done about it.

This test is not available to most women, who probably don't know it even exists. It is only carried out in a few hospitals and, it seems,

on royal women.

The Alpha-Feto Protein Test is simple. It involves a sample of blood being taken from the mother's arm after four months of pregnancy.

The fact that the Duchess and the Princess had been given the privileged tests in their 17th weeks 'slipped out' at a medical conference in the United States.

So if you are about 17 weeks pregnant, ask your doctor for the test. If it's good enough for the royals, it ought to be right for every pregnant woman.

For the man who has everything

LORD COWDRAY is reported in the Daily Express to be giving his son Michael Pearson 'a large slice of Sussex' as a wedding present.

Lord Cowdray, head of the giant Pearson Longman publishing company, says he hasn't worked out how many acres Michael will get because it is still being worked out by

the Bank of England.

No doubt this will be a welcome gift for Michael, who has probably made quite a hole in the £7 million he got for his 21st birthday by now.

Westminster Press, the company which employs some of the lowest paid journalists in the country on its many newspapers, is part of Cowdray's empire.

PRESS FREEDOM part 921:

After the Notting Hill Carnival Scotland Yard called a press conference to put their view of things to the media.

Reporter Jack Gale and photographer Martin Mayer, both from News Line, a left wing paper, arrived to discover that they had been banned.

A senior Yard press officer told them: 'We

don't want your paper here. We discussed what we wanted at the press conference. We invited only those newspapers that we wanted here.'

Another press officer said that the conference had been included in the Press Association diary of events 'by mistake'.

The journalists' union executive is being asked to take it up with Merlyn Rees.

NAZI NEWS

'I am a racist' he (Derek Day ex-chairman of Hackney National Front branch) is fond of saying. He has also been charged with 17 cases relating to assault, offensive weapons and physical damage over the past two years and he has been acquitted of every one.

'Our opponents in the establishment would be quite frightened if they knew how much sympathy we have in the police.' John Tyndall, National Front chairman. —both from the Observer Magazine, September 11.

Seven years old and killed by racism

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Mellanie Turner was murdered by racism.

Mellanie was one of many black children 'bussed' from poor inner-city areas to schools in outer white areas of New York.

When she turned up at Stevenson elementary school on Thursday morning last week she was jeered and jostled by white youths who were protesting about black children being 'bussed'

to white schools.

There were chants of 'Go back, go back to where you belong.'

Less than two hours later she was complaining of chest pains, shaking and crying.

Later that night Mellanie died in a children's hospital. Her parents said her last words were the chants and jeers she had heard at school.

Doctors said that racist abuse could have sparked off an attack of sickle anaemia a disease which changes the shape of blood cells and

blocks the supply of blood to body tissues.

It can be brought on through stress.

Voluntary bussing was introduced in the city a few days ago. Thirty people have since been arrested in scuffles with the police at racist demonstrations.

On hearing the news of Mellanie's death, were the white school students who had been demonstrating, filled with remorse?

According to newspaper reports there were cries of 'Hooray for the sickle cell'.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

Circulation department: 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 01-739 2639. Published weekly except final week of December. Subscriptions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months, £1.75 for three months. Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU all departments), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

This is just one torture they could have used to kill Steve ... I know he was murdered - so does every black in South Africa



STEVE BIKO, a leader of the Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa, died in prison last week. He was 30. The South African authorities claimed he had died after a hunger strike. Socialist Worker asked a representative of the Soweto students, Majakathata Mokoena, 19, what he thought about Biko's death.

STEVE BIKO was one of the greatest and bravest of our leaders. He was a fighter for the freedom of our people.

He has been murdered by the white racials of South Africa.

Murdered just as surely as Abram Tiro, another of our black leaders who was killed when a parcel bomb blew up in his face.

Murdered just as surely as all our other brothers who have 'died by accident' in the racist prisons of Pretoria, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

They try to tell us he died of lack of food after eight days hunger strike.

But everybody knows you can last much longer than that on hunger strike. Steve would not go on hunger strike. He

would never present the racists with an excuse for his death.

There are lots of ways they kill you in those prisons. They have all sorts of inhuman tortures which they carry out on black resistance fighters, sometimes for information, sometimes just for punishment.

The torturers get excited, and often go too far.

They can beat you to death with karate chops. They can electrocute you to death with their electric shock 'treatment'.

You can die in the 'invisible chair' in which you sit on a stick against the wall until the bones in your body begin to crack.

I don't know which torture they used on Steve. We can't have his body to find out. But I know he was murdered, and so does every black person in South Africa.

The racists are glad he is dead. At the all-white Transvaal Nationalist Party Congress the day after Steve died, the Minister of Justice, Kruger, said that the death had 'left him cold'.

Congratulated

Chris Venter, a delegate, congratulated Kruger for being 'so democratic that those who wanted to starve themselves are allowed to do so.' The whole Congress laughed.

Yes, they laughed! These people are savages, worse than savages. When someone threatens them, they kill, and then they laugh about it.

Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement did threaten the racials.

After Sharpeville, a racist massacre of our people in 1960, the whites used all their brutal power to keep the black people down. It was the Black Consciousness Movement that restored black peoples'

confidence and self-respect.

They taught us to stop feeling black in relation to white men, but to feel black on our own, and proud of being black on our own.

It was the Black Consciousness Movement which taught us to rejoice at the victories of our brothers and sisters in Angola and Mozambique, and inspired the rising in Soweto last year.

That's why they killed Steve, and why they'll go on killing any of us they can get their hands on.

You ask whether it was wise of Steve to let his name be known. Shouldn't he have protected himself by staying anonymous, or working underground?

I don't think you understand. We are not trying any longer to protect ourselves.

Thousands of us are pledged to serve, sacrifice and suffer until the racials are beaten in South Africa.

Torture

We know that they will torture and kill us if they find us.

At times some of us must say we are the leaders. When Steve did that, he knew he would suffer for it.

Was that an unnecessary risk? Look. Every black man and woman in South Africa is at risk all the time.

A thousand of our people have been killed in Soweto alone since the rising last year. If we are always trying to protect ourselves, we will forget about the need to struggle.

No. Steve Biko's courage is

the courage of thousands of us all over my country.

And this is where the racials are wrong. They think they kill our spirit when they kill one of our bodies. But the opposite happens. People feel angrier, and braver.

Steve Biko's spirit is spreading all the time. The racials can't get away with what they used to get away with. Every killing, every eviction meets fiercer resistance than before.

Soweto has been turned into an armed camp, so frightened are the racials by our spirit. Steve Biko is dead. But the movement to avenge his death gets stronger every day.

And this is what I'd like to say to you British workers and socialists.

I've said that the people who

rule our country are savages, and worse. That's right. But they're not just savages.

They're watchdogs for their employers. Without their employers, they wouldn't have any teeth.

And their employers are here, here and in the other capitals of Europe and America where rich men invest in my peoples' slavery.

But especially here, in London. There are people in this city who are paying and arming the fascist and racist regime in my country.

We want them out. We want their money and their investments out. Because these keep the racials alive and confident.

If you get that money out, you can leave the South African racials to us.



Majakathata Mokoena, in exile from Soweto, demonstrates the 'invisible chair' torture. 'The bones in your body begin to crack', he says.

NUN SPEAKS OUT FOR ARMED STRUGGLE

IT IS not often that Socialist Worker praises members of Roman Catholic religious orders. But last week an American nun made a courageous stand before the courts of white Rhodesia that deserves all our admiration.

Sister Janice McCloughlin faces charges of 'spreading alarm and despondency'. Instead of hiding behind some technicality, she stated outright her conviction that

the armed struggle against white Rhodesia deserves the widest support.

'In the context of minority rule in Rhodesia, I believe a revolution is necessary,' she said. 'I support liberation. I support the need for change in society. I support those who are fighting to bring this about.'

'I feel I have fulfilled my vows by

supporting the liberation of all peoples.'

The prosecutor read to the court extracts from her private diary in which the same sentiments were expressed.

'I admired the priests who went to join the boys [freedom fighters]. If I had a black skin I would join the boys ...'

'I don't want to go to Europe and plead for negotiations that would sacrifice the armed struggle.'



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

SPAIN: Strange friends

THE Spanish minister of the interior was savaged from a humiliating vote of censure in parliament last week by a strange combination of friends.

Three weeks ago an MP belonging to the main Spanish Socialist Party, the PSOE, was grabbed by the police and beaten up. A parliamentary inquiry condemned the police but the minister, old time fascist Martin Villa, refused to take disciplinary action and criticised the MP for 'provocative behaviour'.

The PSOE censure motion was lost only because both the Communist Party and the 'moderate' Basque nationalist party abstained.

TURKEY: Police killings

THREE PEOPLE were killed and 40 injured when slum dwellers in a suburb of Istanbul, Turkey, tried to stop police tearing down the homes to evict them.

Police said they arrested three student socialists in the riot. The three killed bring Turkey's total of political killings this year to 164.

PORTUGAL: Farm clashes

FARM WORKERS in Portugal continue to resist efforts by the Soares government to drive them off their land and restore the former landowners who were expropriated two years ago following the fall of the fascist dictatorship.

In a demonstration by farm workers against police violence at Evora, Alentejo, the National Guard was turned out and injured 70 workers. There were later mass demonstrations outside Evora courthouse at the many arrests made of militants.

There was another counterattack — the Lisbon headquarters and five regional centres of the 'Land Reform' offices, were bombed, so destroying the records of old land holdings.

USA: Miners stay out

IN West Virginia and East Kentucky, USA, 7,000 miners—of the originally 80,000 unofficial strikers—are still refusing to return to work despite all the efforts of the union leaders to drive them back.

The long and bitter strike was over employer cuts in health benefits—varying with hours worked and tonnage mined. Now union leaders demand a return to work before a new settlement.

Southern Africa after Soweto
ALEX CALLINICOS AND JOHN ROGERS

'Southern Africa after Soweto is a magnificent piece of work. It should be read and used by every socialist and black revolutionary'
Tony Cliff

£2.20 including postage

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

Build the Socialist Workers Party in the workplace!

THE Socialist Workers Party has shown its ability to initiate struggles.

Our intervention at Lewisham against the Nazis was successful. So was our efforts to organise the campaign of the unemployed and employed for the Right to Work.

In both these fields we are far from achieving our aim, but an important beginning has been made.

But not so in another field—in organising the party around workplaces: factories, miners, docks, hospitals, offices and schools. This is an extremely hard task, which demands outstanding perseverance.

Let us start by putting the task in the context of the class struggle.

There is an abyss between wage claims and actual wages struggles.

By
TONY CLIFF



Doubt

The main reason is workers' lack of confidence in their own ability to achieve their claim, although they have no doubt about its justification and importance.

The years of the Social Contract led not only to a swing to the right by the top trade union leaders, from Jack Jones to Hugh Scanlon, but also a serious weakening of shop organisation.

In many cases the factory convenors became more and more estranged from the rank and file, more and more involved in collaboration with management.

That is why the big battalions of the working class, the traditionally organised sections, have proved the slowest to move. The main battles have been at the edge of the trade union movement—Grunwick, Desoutter, Beechams or Batchelors.

Expose

A MAIN TASK for socialists and militants is to strengthen rank and file organisation in every workplace.

This is not only, or even mainly, to expose the top trade union leaders. The disgusting behaviour of Engineering Union president Hugh Scanlon at the TUC, when he violated his union delegation's democratic decision against the 12 month rule, the attacks by Transport Union leader Jack Jones and David Bassnett of the General and Municipal on the demand for a £50 minimum—these things angered workers and will continue to anger them.

But this anger should be directed to the following general aims: To smash the 12-month rule, to fight racialism, and to build the rank and file movement.

The largely unofficial strikes will lay the basis for unofficial rank and file unity. The trade union work and support work of the SWP in disputes will be crucial to many strikes, important to others, and relevant to all.

Task

Under these circumstances our main political task in the labour movement this autumn will be to win support for the launching of the Rank and File Movement to a national delegate conference.

Most disputes in the next few months will be long and bitter. The collection of money for strikes, the helping of strike delegates to go round the country to raise funds, to encourage blacking and so on will become decisive for the success of workers in struggle.

In each branch and district of the SWP not a single opportunity to intervene must be overlooked.

The old maxim, 'If it is a picket, get onto it', must be applied with enthusiasm. For the way we support and organise around workers out on strike will be decisive in winning strikers and strike committees to the idea of a Rank and File Movement.

We have already an appreciable experience in building rank and file papers and groups.

Through these papers we

attempt to break down the isolation of plant from plant, combine from combine within the same industry.

The rank and file organisation and movement are central to our concept of the advance towards workers' power and socialism. We are trying to develop the influence of our ideas beyond the ranks of those who can be persuaded to join us at a particular time.

A rank and file movement tries to bring together workers who agree about the need to fight for a limited number of demands in an industry or union but who are not yet agreed about the need for a revolutionary party.

Or again, they may be agreed about the need to fight particular cases of racial discrimination without being entirely clear about the question of rejecting all immigration controls.

Build

The revolutionary socialist party has to operate through—and build—such movements but without its members making any compromise about what they believe themselves. We have to agree to differ from many militants on some important questions in order to unite with these same militants for some immediate aims.

But building the rank and file movement—a long and hard task—is not enough. A big effort is also necessary to build workplace branches of the SWP.

To start with, we must work hard to establish workplace bulletins. In every factory, pit, dock, hospital, school or office, where workers are together and there are SWP members or supporters, a workplace bulletin should be produced.

The goal should be to win as many workers as we can to our revolutionary socialist politics and to convince all the rest of the need to fight against the ruling class.

Argue

The bulletins should argue our national politics—for example, calling for mobilisation against the Nazis on October 8, arguing in support of the bakers—and also arguing our detailed politics about the workplace, what size of wage claim we should put in, fighting lousy conditions, and so on.

Around these bulletins and around a regular sale of *Socialist Worker* we can bring into the SWP many militants who want to fight on wages and are against racialism.

A revolutionary socialist organisation must be built not as a collection of local branches, but as a union of workplace branches.

The workplace branch should be the driving force in raising the class consciousness of the workers round it, developing their political education, their organisation, their initiative, enthusiasm and fighting ability, so that from the workplace they are drawn into the struggle of the working class as a whole.

One characteristic of our time is that many small industrial disputes involve crucial social and political issues.

Power

Take Grunwicks. Who better than Jayaben Desai could expose the nonsense about black workers being backward or women workers being inferior? What better exposure of the vicious role of the police and the National Association for Freedom, or the impotence of trade union bureaucrats?

So in every industrial dispute the bulletins should point out the link between the particular and the general issues facing the class.

In dealing with racialism the bulletin should not argue only the general case, but also how racialism affects discrimination in the specific workplace, how the Nazis are subservient to management, and so on.

The widespread production of bulletins should lay the foundation for the widespread building of workplace branches of the SWP. That is where workers' power lies.

What

LAST WINTER'S fanfare about Social Security 'scroungers', begun by Tory MP Ian Sproat, found an echo among countless thousands of workers. Now, at last, the facts have emerged—in the shape of the Supplementary Benefits Commission's 1976 report. We compare the arguments of Sproat with the actual comments of the report:

SPROAT: The trouble with people on social security is that they get far too much money.

COMMISSION: An unemployed or sick man and his wife, without dependent children, have to feed themselves and meet all other expenses, apart from their rent, on £20.65 a week. If they have two children aged two and four they must manage on £27.85 a week.

Persuade

SPROAT: Most people on Social Security are better off than they would be at work.

COMMISSION: A very small proportion indeed of our non-pensioner claimants would be worse off at work than they are on supplementary benefit. Those who have tried to persuade the country during the past year that many people choose to live on supplementary benefit because it gives them a higher income than they get in work have produced no evidence to support that conclusion.

Most of them reveal only their ignorance of the living standards, the feelings and frustrations of the vast majority of unemployed claimants.

SPROAT: Most people out of work prefer to live on Social Security.

COMMISSION: We report with authority and conviction that the great majority of people are only out of work because there are no jobs for them.

SPROAT: The worst Social Security scroungers are the ones with large families.

COMMISSION: In December 1975, there were 40,000 claimants with four or more children... less than 4 per cent of all allowance cases.

These very families, far from living comfortably on our benefits, are the ones who find it hardest to manage on the amount they receive.

Relative

SPROAT: If anyone's living on Social Security benefit which is more than wages at work, then the benefits should be cut.

COMMISSION: The answer to the problems caused by the relative incomes of people on supplementary benefit and people in work lies not in reducing or holding down the levels of benefits which would



Tory MP Ian Sproat: one lie after another



Carol Hurwood

At last-

INTERVIEWS:

Angela Phillips

PICTURES:

John Sturrock (Report)

penalise everyone who receives them at a time when all the evidence suggests that they are too low rather than too high.

Instead we should be directing our attention to the need for an increase in the income which people can command in work through higher wages, a higher tax threshold and a more generous level of family support for everyone.

SPROAT: These people on Social Security all have cars, washing machines central heating, telephones and fridges. What more do they want?

COMMISSION: Of adults on supplementary benefit: 76 per cent don't have a telephone; 52 per cent don't have a washing machine; 87 per cent don't have a car; 81 per cent don't have central heating; and 52 per cent don't have a fridge.

SPROAT: You can always tell Social Security scroungers by their fine clothes.

COMMISSION: More than 70 per cent of claimants with children have less than the minimum necessary stock of clothing.

SPROAT: Most of these people have lots of money stashed away.

COMMISSION: Only 3 per cent of the sick men with two or more children and only 4 per cent of unemployed men with three or more children had any savings at all.

69 per cent of claimants with three or more children are forced to borrow money....

SPROAT: These people should get a job. There's plenty of jobs around if you look hard enough.

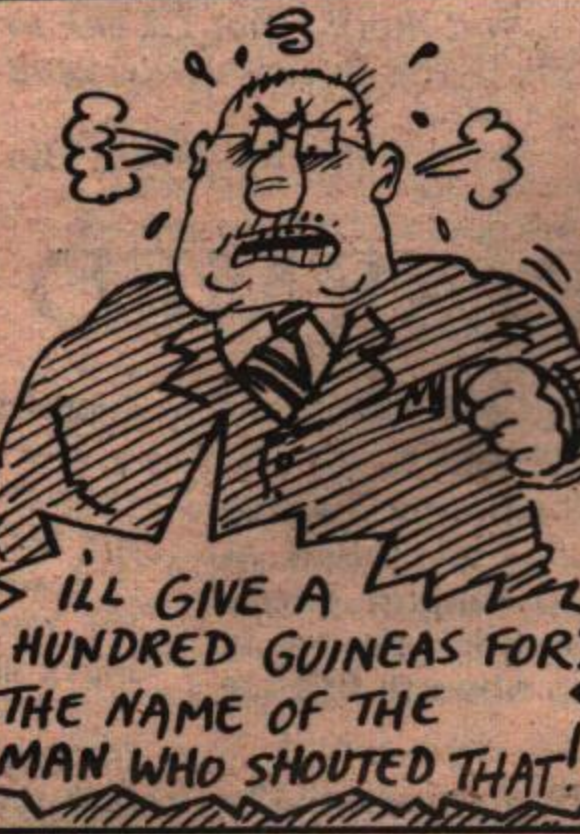
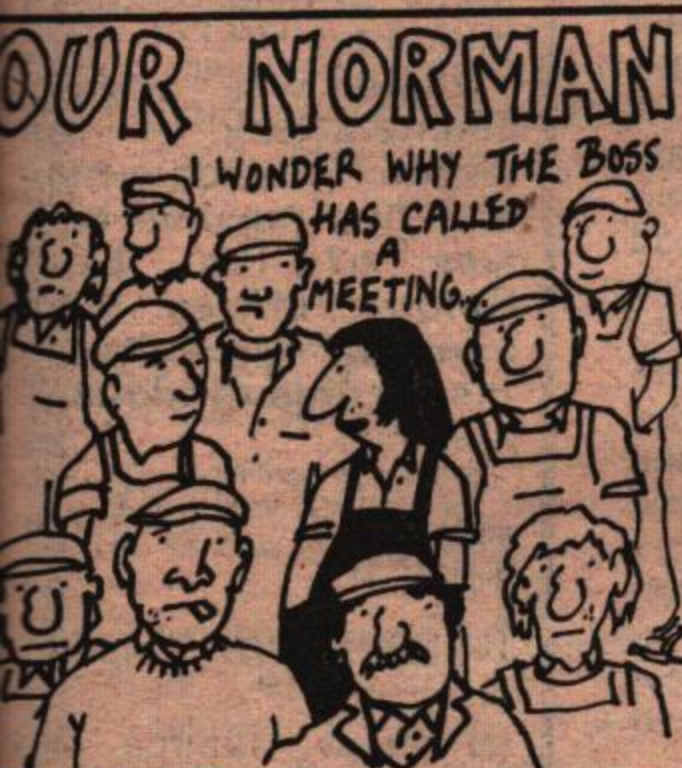
COMMISSION: If people are to find jobs, vacancies must be available. In September 1976, there were nine unemployed people for each vacancy—but 54 for general labourers, which includes most of the unskilled and covers well over a third of unemployed people.

In the North West there were 128 unskilled workers for every vacancy....

QUOTE:

We have to bear in mind that there will always be some people in this country who fail to manage on their weekly allowances. Some of them will have children, they may be deserted by their spouses, and they or their children may then be found some wintry day virtually without clothes, food, or fuel..... What does the local official do then?

—from the Supplementary Benefits Commission Annual Report 1976



scroungers?



th (right) and two of her four children, Darren and Carol: poverty almost forced her to miss her daughter's wedding.

all the myths are torn apart

All my clothes are other people's cast-offs

LINDA WISE has been on supplementary benefit for three years.

It started when her husband left her with two children aged four and five: first she didn't expect to be on SB for very long but she soon realised that the money wouldn't come from anywhere else.

The local factories weren't interested in taking a woman with young children.

The sort of part-time work she was doing before her marriage ended would provide too little to cover expenses, but enough to get her benefit stopped.

Need

In any case, she feels that her children need her at home. Last week she started a job working three hours a day washing up, £6 a week, the maximum she can earn before having her benefit stopped.

Out of £33.03 plus £2.50 family allowance, Linda puts aside £11 for the rent,

£5 for gas and electricity, and a week's food for three comes to £9.

The SBC do give a bit of help in 'discretionary grants'. They've helped with blankets for the children, but they will only pay for one pair of trousers per year. Linda's boys grow out of them in a few months.

Advice

'All my clothes are other people's left-offs' she says. As long as she doesn't indulge in luxuries like the occasional evening out, Linda can just about manage.

She can't allow for the unexpected. Last month she got a gas bill for £85, because her two previous bills had been 'underestimated'.

The advice from the Social Security people was 'give up smoking'.

They could only help her if she had a young baby or a sick relative.



Linda Wise and son Steven: last month she got an £85 gas bill—and Social Security's advice 'give up smoking'

I get
£23
—and
half
goes
on
rent

CAROL HURWORTH has been on supplementary benefit since her marriage ended 11 years ago, leaving her with four children to care for.

At first she got £11 a week, including maintenance. It was a struggle but at least she didn't keep sliding into debt as she does now.

Only Darren, her youngest child, is still at school. Each week, she sends him off with a note explaining that he can't do Physical Education (PE), because she can't afford the clothes.

Money

They are not covered by a school uniform grant.

The two older children, still living at home, are now paying the rent as well as contributing to their keep. Her money is reduced each time a child leaves school.

Carol doesn't like asking her children for money. 'They've been short of money for so long why shouldn't they enjoy some of it now they're earning?' she says. 'But they have to pay up or we all face eviction'.

At present Carol gets £23 a week. Rent is £11.38, and her last quarterly electricity bill came to £3.50 a week.

When she pointed out that it was impossible to live on that money, the SB people shrugged and said: 'Other people manage'. They couldn't say who.

Regular

The house hasn't been decorated in five years. The furniture is falling apart, and there's no way Carol can save for repairs. She hasn't had a holiday for 11 years.

Darren is doing well at school. Carol hopes he will stay on to do technical drawing.

But she's very much afraid that after so many years of poverty the thought of a regular wage will lure him away.

This week, Carol's eldest daughter is getting married. Carol can't afford a wedding present, let alone help pay for the wedding.

In fact, she would have stayed at home if a neighbour hadn't given her the material for a new dress.

★
**PRE
VIEW**

By **ROLAND
MULDOON**

DO YOU know the capital of Nicaragua? Are you interested in running around an army assault course?

If you can sort out a pile of blocks in a giant IQ game, and things like that, then you could be a contender for Superhumanhood.

It must be right because ITV are televising such a contest on Wednesday nights BEFORE Coronation Street. It's the *Krypton Factor*.

Personally, I've not been asked, and if I was, I would have to turn them down. I realised as a child that I was an also-ran.

When I was chased for stealing apples I used to burst out laughing and nearly wee myself with apprehension and if I got caught I used to

IT'S ONLY A GAME, BEING A SUPERHUMAN MASTERMIND

cry before I got hit. Weak from the start, that was me.

Ponder for a while on the hell it must be to win, to be labelled Superhuman. I mean nothing magic would happen to you—you're not going to land up with a Swiss Bank Account. World Statesmen aren't going to come round

and ask your opinion.

I suppose you could be asked to present your company's silver cup to the winners of the staff rugby tournament and have your picture taken for the local paper. You might even be asked to stand as Liberal candidate for Hampstead.

No, the real value would come home to you when you found yourself sitting on your own in the canteen and pinned to your back would be a remark, such as, 'ask me another' or, 'Has anyone got a hat that will fit my head'.

Positive delight would be shown by those around you if

you fell over in the snow, or if you had a spot on the end of your nose.

People would remember in ten years time, just when you'd hoped they'd forgotten, up would come 'weren't you Superhuman Krypton Factor Man (or Woman) in 1977. Is it true you became a hermit?'

I would like to believe that there wasn't anyone that dumb. That it's all an invention by the TV company to fill in a bit of space before we go to work again, and that they've hired actors for the parts, used trick photography and told them the answers.

Unfortunately, it is true. There are people who are that desperate for self-confirmation.

Allowed

Why be surprised? All our lives, anyone who kept his socks in place ended up as perfect and was allowed to stand by the Headmaster at assembly.

At work, one is often asked to make superhuman effort.

In fact, come to think of it, life is presented as one great competition, where we scramble for Green Shield stamps to be spent in the gift shop in the sky.

As you enter heaven, your ticket will no doubt be torn by a winner of the Krypton Factor.

Still, their mums will be proud of them and the shareholders of Granada will applaud. Besides, everyone knows it's only a game.

SUNDAY

The War Lord (BBC1) is about how the Normans screwed the poor. ANNA KARENINA, Tolstoy's classic, should be worth watching.

MONDAY

PLAY IT AGAIN SAM (BBC1). Woody Allen deliberately treads on the thin ice of sexism. THE LONG SEARCH (BBC2) is about the 57 different varieties of Protestantism poisoning the minds of America. The programme visits Indianapolis, whose Baptist Temple teaches 'the literal truth of the Bible and considers Darwin and Marx to be agents of Satan.'

WEDNESDAY

POWER WITHOUT GLORY (Thames, 11.55pm). Ben returns blinded from the Spanish Civil War.

THURSDAY

TORRENTS OF THE MIND (BBC1): the life of Balzac, the greatest French author, even Marx found him funny. A HYMN FOR JIM (BBC-2) the mob save rock star, by the author of the Rocky Horror Show.

Nazi 'socialism': and the bosses cheered...

TOM Jackson says it, the Daily Telegraph says it and—some opposition this—Aims of Industry says it:

'There is no difference between the National Front and the Socialist Workers Party: their aims and methods are the same.'

As arguments go, it's got all the sophistication of a Beano comic strip.

But it's likely to catch the imagination of every ivory tower intellectual anxious to put socialists in general, and the SWP in particular, in their place.

So it's worth remembering what the Nazis—the inspiration of the National Front—did in Germany. Was it, in any way, worthy of the name of socialism?

Laugh

Most people, recalling films of the Auschwitz and Dachau death camps, would laugh at the very suggestion. But didn't Hitler's thugs call themselves National Socialists and didn't they make a lot of anti-capitalist noises?

True. But the strangest of parties can make the strangest of noises at times. And the Germany of the late Twenties and early Thirties was no ordinary time and no ordinary place.

Capitalism was falling apart and devastating the lives of millions of workers. Hitler's party, if it was to exploit every discontent, had to make radical noises, even support strikes occasionally.

There is, however, a world of difference between words and deeds—and the Nazis' powerful backers knew it. After all, sticks and stones are what break your bones—names never hurt you.

Hitler's sticks and stones were reserved for the workers, not the capitalists.

He came to power in January 1933. Within weeks, trade union leaders were



May Day 1933, organised by the Nazis and supported by trade union leaders: the next day Germany's unions were destroyed.

offering him their co-operation. It was spurned—and soon they were to find out why.

May Day 1933 saw huge labour demonstrations throughout Germany. The next day, the Nazis smashed every union in the country, marching their leaders and thousands of their members off to concentration camps, and seizing their funds.

The difference between the Nazis' rhetoric and their deeds was shown by Robert Ley's first speech as head of

the Labour Front, the Nazis' 'trade union' organisation:

'Workers! Your institutions are sacred to us National Socialists. I myself am a poor peasant's son and understand poverty ... I know the exploitation of anonymous capitalism. Workers! I swear to you we will not only keep everything which exists, we will build up the protection and rights of the worker even further.'

He then proceeded to help create an employers' paradise: Communists, socialists and trade unionists in jail, workers' organisations destroyed, wages frozen and labour militarised.

Soared

The results were predictable. Between 1933 and 1938, profits soared from six and a half billion marks to 15 billion.

Their defences crushed, workers faced longer hours (by 25 per cent among lead miners, for example), more industrial accidents (up by 150 per cent), more occupational diseases (up by

325 per cent)

And all the time, almost standing over the workbench, was the chilling discipline of the Nazis' uniformed thugs.

When workers at the IG Farben film factory at Wolfen started slacking, the management turned over 'undisciplined employees' to the Gestapo.

Such was the 'socialism' of Adolf Hitler, for which grateful employers like Krupp and Thyssen lined his pockets.

Just after coming to power, Hitler told a friend: 'We have no scruples ... They regard me as an uneducated barbarian. Yes, we are barbarians. We want to be barbarians. It is an honourable title.'

And yet it was the Tom Jacksons of the day, working class leaders—political and industrial—whose 'moderation' allowed it to happen.

Their reward was a place in the concentration camps.

The rest we know ...

**GEOFF
ELLEN**

BOOKMARX CLUB

These are the books for the fourth quarter, 1977.

LIST A

WORKER IN A WORKER'S STATE, by Miklos Haraszti
A first-hand account of working on piece rates in a Budapest engineering factory. The author was put on trial because 'he claims the situation of the workers is identical with that of the proletariat under classical capitalism'.

WE SHALL BE ALL, edited by Laurie Flynn
New essays on four episodes in Scottish working-class history: The Glasgow Rent Strike 1915, the Clydeside engineers struggles of 1917, the Methil workers' committees of 1926, and the recent upsurge of militancy in Glasgow and the

LIST B

HOW CAPITALISM WORKS, by Pierre Jalee
At last a thorough and really readable account of the Marxist analysis of capitalism.

FONTAMARA, by Ignazio Silone

This remarkable novel condemns forever the lies, corruption and violence of fascism.

possibilities it holds for the future. In all a worker's answer to the tartan nationalism of the SNP.

JOHN S CLARKE, by Ray Challinor
Clarke was a socialist, lion tamer, gunrunner, shop stewards' spokesman and much more.

LIST C

THE SUFFRAGETTES, by Sylvia Pankhurst
Unique as the only history of the suffragette movement written by a major participant, and still one of the most complete records of women's struggle for the vote, particularly in the East End. This is also a memoir of the remarkable Pankhurst family by their one socialist member.

For the subscription of £4.50, saving about £2 on the retail price, you get List A plus List B or List C (please state preference)—or all 3 lists for £6.75. PLUS special offer to members on Trotsky's HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION. □ Send subscriptions or request for details to: Bookmarx Club, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2DE.



Summer, 1933—and leading industrialists pledge their support

Mary Bell: The press stinks

IT SEEMS this has been a particularly good week for The Sun. Tuesday, The Sun launched hysterically into the story of Mary Bell's escape from Moor Court open prison, backed by none other than Tory extremist John Stokes. Wednesday, the Mary Bell story continues without the hysterics of Tuesday's edition and with a slight hint of rationality. Thursday, back to hysteria and hints that all the influence at it's disposal will be used by The Sun to ensure that Mary Bell stays behind prison bars. To quote the last paragraph of the article: 'They are certain to consider claims made in yesterday's Sun by Bell's former approved school boyfriend Joey Wallace, 19, that she is a sex-mad sadist.' It seems that The Sun published no such claims as none have appeared in this week's editions (September 12-15). In fact what did appear was a letter from Mary Bell repenting her crime and asking for a chance to lead a normal life and

atone for what she had done. The Sun's handling of the Mary Bell story stinks of malice and bigotry and cannot be believed, so it is vital for both working class freedom and Mary Bell's future that the facts are examined by an independent paper like Socialist Worker. PETER SHELLEY, Barnsley.

THE press reached new heights of hypocrisy over the 'sex case' teacher Sandra Mayhew. For days on end they crucified her during the trial, with every detail of her personal life filling page after page. She was acquitted. Then we were treated to a series of pious articles advocating that defendants in these cases should not be named! It's worth nothing that male members of the nobility involved in the Janie Jones trial were protected from publicity by the judge. C BIRD, East London.



A silver goblet for the Queen...

'A HOLIDAY for the working people' was the pretext used for the money squandered on Jubilee celebrations. Thousands of pounds were spent on doing up towns and cities for the Royal Tour. Now we can witness the outcome. A block of houses in Glasgow are to be pulled down, half way through construction, due to 'government lack of funds'. 'Once again we see another Jubilee farce. Housing for the needy is not seen as half as important as treating the Royal household and hangers-on to sumptuous meals and entertainment. SWP supporters, Belfast.

JACKSON? HE HAS FASCISTS OF HIS OWN

IN RESPONSE to Tom Jackson's attack on the Socialist Workers Party and comparing it with the Nazi National Front, we must ask how much he has done in tackling the planned NF infiltration of his own union—which must be one of the worst affected.

THE BATTLE AGAINST NAZIS

Norman Stagg, intervened to complete the job for them.

In the International Telex Branch they succeeded in having two of their members elected to the branch committee, one a parliamentary candidate in the last election. The members of a fascist 'cell' are easily distinguishable by the small enamelled brooch of a Union-jack they often wear. Right-wing influence was marginally successful in the West London District Office in helping to sabotage the Cricklewood sorters' efforts in backing Grunwick mail, until Jackson's lieutenant,

Each year the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) renews its affiliation to the PTTI, the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone International which Philip Agee has exposed as a CIA front.

Nonetheless, UPW bureaucrats go on regular junkets at their members' expense to various conferences in European capitals where they rub shoulders with CIA agents from USA



purporting to be fraternal delegates to PTTI. Next year it is proposed they step firmly into the spider's parlour at the world PTTI conference in Washington. In the past, Jackson's union has royally entertained other CIA agents at its annual conference. One such notable was the late Joseph Biernie, the 'Labor Adviser' to President Kennedy and the founder of another CIA front, the 'American Institute for Free Labor Development'—for 'free' read 'anti-socialist and collaborating with employers.'

On the fourth anniversary of the fall of Allende in Chile it is as well to recall the important part played by the scab unions set up in Chile by this and the PTTI to undermine the Centra Unica de Trabajadores the equivalent of our TUC, whose support helped Allende triumph in the 1970 elections.

The scab telephonists had a most vital role to play in the 1973 coup, when they kept the lines open and cooperated with Pinochet's troops.

Jackson has always been stragely silent on the PTTI's involvement in helping to bring to power a fascist dictatorship on the other side of the world. OSSIE LEWIS, Surrey.

BBC slur

THE BBC showed their bias last Thursday, joining the general 'red fascists' barrage against the left with a nasty bit of reporting from Germany.

Their reporter Clifford Luton, not content to talk of 'the dangers of a return to the days of the Nazis', made special emphasis of saying 'the danger of a return to the days of the National Socialists'.

We need to answer these slurs with hard facts about how the Nazis used the name 'socialist' as a smokescreen to hide their right-wing viciousness. PAUL WILLIAMS, London E2.

Great work!

I HAVE no racial hang-ups. I'm half black and half white. After going to Lewisham I discovered what a mess our country is getting into and what those NF pigs are up to. I'd never heard of your organisation before until the Lewisham march. Since then, seeing the courage and faith you people have, I have spread around your name (SWP) to my friends who were ignorant of you. Keep up the great work. HILLARY PHILLIPS.

In defence of Carver

I FEEL I must protest at the tone and content of your report on Field Marshal Carver's appointment as Commissioner Designate in Rhodesia.

Apart from making a number of unsubstantiated accusations against a man decorated twice for bravery in action against the armies of the fascist powers in the Second World War, your report takes on a simplistic view of the situation within the army.

My impressions, based on conversations with several senior officers, is that in fact there are substantial divisions of opinion over the issues raised in General Kitson's book. Some regret deeply the role which politicians have ordered the army to play in Northern Ireland and indeed the extent to which some officers have been politicised by experience there.

Field Marshal Carver would appear to be profoundly opposed to any assumption of a political role by the army. Better-informed sources than yours,

elsewhere in the press, have recently indicated that he has enemies within the army for this reason among others. Perhaps you forget that the first victim of the Chilean right before the coup was an army general loyal to the Popular Unity government. In Spain, moreover, after 1936, the Republic owed as much to the loyalty of many regular officers as to the justly celebrated services of the International Brigade. The danger of reports like yours is the extent to which they could strengthen the very elements within the army which you and many senior officers rightly guard against. Ian Wood, Portobello, Edinburgh.

Who's the boss?

WHEN the Lord made man, all the parts of the body argued over who would be boss..... The brian explained that since he controlled all the parts of he body, he should be boss. The legs argued that since they took the man wherever he wanted to go, they should be boss. The stomach countered with the explanation that since he digested all the food, he should be boss. The eyes said that without them, men would be helpless, so they should be boss. Then the ass hole

applied for the job. The other parts of the body laughed so hard that the ass hole became mad and closed up. After a few days the brain went foggy, the legs got wobbly, the stomach got ill, the eyes got crossed and unable to see. They all conceded, and made the ass hole boss. So you see, you don't have to be a brain to be boss..... I THOUGHT you might appreciate this—it's the latest thing going round my office. SW reader, East London.

We must oppose nuclear power

NEARLY all industries are dangerous for workers—as things stand. But with a few exceptions—asbestos, for example—most processes could be made safe.

Given a high enough priority, deaths and injuries could be virtually eliminated. This of course requires that workers are in control.

Nuclear power is different. It is an inescapable consequence of creating energy by nuclear means that radioactive material is produced. There is, in theory as well as in practice, no way of making radioactive material safe—whether in a workers' state or any other.

It takes hundreds of thousands of years for it to decay and nothing can be done to accelerate this process.

Radioactivity, as the inhabitants of Hiroshima know to their cost, undermines the health of those



exposed to it in insidious ways.

Since the war the major part of energy research has gone into nuclear power, research which has had connections with the arms industry.

Do other Socialist Worker readers agree that we should oppose all aspects of nuclear power? KEVIN WINGFIELD, Hackney, London, E8.

South Africa's bomb

THE article on South Africa's nuclear bomb (SW, 17 September) is terrifying.

Just who are the South Africans planning to use their nuclear weapons against? The answer is clear enough—Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, once the Smith settler regime has been destroyed.

But where are the South Africans going to get the uranium from? Your article says Rossing. This isn't in South Africa. It is in Namibia, South West Africa. The South Africans con-

quered this land from the Germans in the First World War. In spite of United Nations resolutions telling them to get out, they have refused to leave.

Instead the South African army patrols throughout the country. The black people of Namibia are held down by intimidation and torture, including frequent public beatings.

While the United Nations talks and does nothing, the South Africans have the uranium they need ready to make the bombs to blow up half of Africa. GEORGE JOHNSON, Ealing, London W5.

WE ARE sorry to hear of your victimisation by fascists. We are Catalans and Republican Spaniards. We offer our solidarity and we hope that when Spain is free of the monarchy, who are every day attacking the Basque, Catalan and Spanish civil population, and when we have back the Republic, you will be able to work in Catalonia, Spain as freely as you wish. GENERALITAT, Spanish Republic in Exile, London SW4.

IN THE struggle between Capital and Labour there may be those who are not sure which side Lord George-Brown speaks for. He now has his own radio programme—it's title is Capital Comment. Say no more. BRENDAN SALISBURY, Hitchin.

I SEE that some socialists still believe in turning the other cheek to the NF. Unfortunately experience shows that this masochistic practice allows the capitalist and fascist element to strike the proffered cheek with twice as much vigour and glee. M. FARRELL, Portsmouth.

THE photograph of the burning of the books in Chile after the military overthrow of Allende (Socialist Worker, 27 August), was by Dutch photographer Koen Wessing, whom we forgot to credit.

THE CAUSE OF CANNABIS

ONE cause many Marxists don't seem to be bothered with is the rights of cannabis users.

It has been shown time and again that cannabis is a harmless drug. Potentially addictive drugs like valium and barbituates are available on the National Health, while cannabis users are continually harassed by the drugs squad.

After the thalidomide tragedy, the producers of this drug are allowed free. Yet last year thousands of people were jailed for the possession of cannabis. The majority of the work by the drug squad is now over cannabis.

The argument is that it leads to physical and mental damage (not proven). It is interesting that the system doesn't spend such a lot of time and money investigating work conditions or the conditions which enable so many old people to suffer during the winter.

If cannabis were legal, some socialists say that people would be too doped up to realise the injustice of he system. Cannabis is not a downer, it makes the users more aware of their surroundings.

The SWP are anxious to defend the rights of black people, and of Irish people, but what about the 3.8 million people (1973 figures) who have tried cannabis? MIKE SHANKLAND, Dorset.

YES, IT IS TOO STRIDENT

I AGREE with the readers in Brighton who are put off by Socialist Worker's strident tone (Letter 10 September).

At times it seems the only emotions we talk about are those connected with smashing anything we dislike (from Social Contract to National Front), anger and frustration (the working class, in general) and magnificent (of anything good we do, from whist drive to annual conference).

This is playing the journalistic piano with two fingers. Socialist writing ought to aim at precision, freshness and genuine forcefulness, our rhetoric thoughtful and our anger ringing.

At present it too often sounds like public school boys pretending to be workers than the genuine article.

Socialist Worker can't afford to rest on its laurels. Please re-read some Orwell and William Morris and freshen up some of the verbs and adjectives!

And let's have more of SW readers own writing* to give the paper more texture and reality. DAVID WIDGERY, Inner East London SWP.

* Like David Widgery's—let's have the articles, Dave!—Editor

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISTS

The Nazional Front and how to smash it

A SOCIALIST WORKER PAMPHLET 10p, plus 7p postage (more than 5 copies, postage 3p each) From SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2



Us men have nothing to lose but our dirty macs!

I WAS turning the pages of the News of the World recently (you can hardly read a rag like that).

After Stripper Sheila, the Amazing Grannie and Her Youthful Sex Partner, and other world-shattering news items, I came across the editorial.

Being a bit of a masochist, I always read the rantings of the Hang 'Em, Flog 'Em Brigade.

I suppose it's a bit like booing the villain at a kids' pantomime.

It wasn't the muggers or the red fascists of the SWP who were the culprits this week, though. The editor was pretty chuffed about

the 20 per cent fall in sales of sex magazines.

We had to be protected from 'this glossy load of filth', we must turn our backs on 'the pornography that enriches few, exploits many and impoverishes all'.

Buttocks

I thought my eyes must have been deceiving me. Surely this wasn't the opinion of the same newspaper which flaunted all those bared breasts, buttocks and thighs? But there was our Sheila—the 'stag show queen'.

By ALAN GIBBONS

chairman, CWS Tea Branch, USDAW, Crewe

It never fails to surprise and disgust me, this morality of a group of people who frown their public disapproval of the exploitation of women but aren't averse to using the odd naked body when there are fat profits to be made. It is the morality of a corrupt, hypocritical society.

But what really saddens me is that the millions who make wealthy men of profiteers like Rupert Murdoch are the very working people who have most to gain from sweeping away the old moral code of deception and double-think.

It is our workmates who buy and believe The Sun and the News of the World, who think women work for pin money and who are always complaining that the women wouldn't back us in a strike.

The factory I work in is mostly women and the management's best ally is the distrust between the men and the women.

The lads are always saying the women wouldn't support our wage claim. After all, their wages only pay for luxuries while their husbands' pay supplies the necessities.

Struggle

And when the girls see the elitism of the men it serves to reinforce their conservatism. No wonder so many women end up accepting that they should be the 'little lady', fit only to cook, clean, lie down and think of England.

And no wonder the odd young woman makes the logical conclusion and strips, thinks of England, and puts a reasonable price tag on herself for doing it.

Now, for the first time, we are beginning to forge some unity in the workforce with our 33 per cent pay claim, thanks to the fight shown by the women shop stewards and the arguments of the handful of socialists in the plant.

As yet, it is a fragile unity and no wonder when we are bombarded every day by the TV and Press with a degrading seaside postcard humour and an image of women as passive, the one who waits at home while her husband provides.

But the experience of struggle could begin to change all that, to break down the old barriers.

The sight of women workers fighting for their rights could help undermine the men's prejudices.

We have nothing to lose but our dirty macs!



Women workers: the sight of them fighting for their rights could help break down male prejudices

Sheila Parkin



Socialist Workers talking

CAN YOU imagine being locked away at the age of 11?

And then going from reform school to reform school until you are 16, when you are locked up in prison, never knowing when you might be released?

That's what happened in 1968 to a little girl called Mary Bell.

The story goes that she murdered two little boys. Asked why she did it, she said: 'I watched The Saint on TV and it showed you a man choking another man'.

Declared a psychopath, she was then locked up. End of Mary Bell. Everyone except her parents forgot she even existed.

Then, bang! It's all over the newspapers and TV: 'Mary Bell, the notorious killer, escapes'.

How disgusting, that a mere

IMAGINE IF MARY BELL HAD BEEN YOUR CHILD

child should be locked away indefinitely for something which, I think, she did not realise she had done.

My daughter is 11 and when I saw Nationwide discussing how dangerous Mary Bell is, I looked at her and tried to imagine myself in Mrs Bell's place. I felt very angry.

No hospitals would have

her. Yet they could have treated her as adequately as this society allows.

Perhaps, by the age of 14, depending on her progress, she could have been allowed home at weekends and so got back to some kind of normality.

Who can blame her for running away? It must be terrible growing up in prison, never seeing the outside world.

Then comes the outcry from all the Mary Whitehouses, that she should never have been put in an open prison and that they must catch her quick before she murders again, and when they catch her she should be locked up for ever.

The Whitehouses of this world talk about society being violent, and police chiefs say how terrible events like the Lewisham demo are, and the TV interviewer agrees.

Then the next item on the programme is something like

an interview with a producer of James Bond films, with violence from start to finish. But, of course, that's middle-class violence, so it's OK.

So what will happen to Mary Bell now? She will lose any chance of parole and,

because of the hysteria of the press, she'll probably go back to a closed prison and be forgotten by everyone.

She doesn't stand a chance. And yet, just think, your child could easily have been a Mary Bell.

September issue out now!

Womens VOICE

Faith Fosters says 'We win' at Lewisham; Rape crisis; Elvis; news, reviews and letters

Available direct from Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 19p including postage. Or from your Socialist Worker seller. SWP branches collect their copies from the stations this week.

Only 10p, and worth every penny!

SUPPORT THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER 26 NOVEMBER

CPSA members must help air traffic strikers

by MIKE THOMPSON (CPSA)

THE air traffic control assistants are being used as an example to the rest of the public sector, said Martin Gillate, chairman of their West London strike committee.

The control assistants have been on strike for nearly three weeks, since they struck for four days over the August Bank Holiday and three were suspended.

Said Martin Gillate: 'The government was looking for a fight. But we are determined to win. There will be no return to work until the three are reinstated.'

The Bank Holiday strike was to get a wage rise agreed in 1972, long before the incomes policy started. It should have been implemented in June 1975.

The strike is now effective at every airport. Drivers and Post Office workers are refusing to cross picket lines.

But more help is needed for the strikers within their union, the CPSA. The rank and file civil servants group Redder Tape, is calling on its supporters to spread support by issuing special bulletins, by organising donations to the strike funds, by helping on the picket lines, by organising local solidarity strike action.

There are airports in every part of the country. At every airport there are members of every major union. The air traffic control assistants need support now.

Their strike leaflet, handed out to passengers delayed at airports, sums up their case: 'Hours delay for you—and five years wait for us.'

Dirty tricks

EAST LONDON: Management at Greenaways printworks have been expanding their dirty tricks department during the three-week strike by members of the print unions NGA and SOGAT.

They tried to get NGA officials to persuade SOGAT members back to work, promising negotiations would then begin.

The strikers want a £15 wage rise to bring them parity with other printers in the area. Management offered £7 and a shopping list of unacceptable demands.

LEYLAND £15 CLAIM

LEYLAND, Lancs: 9000 truck and bus workers at British Leyland are continuing their strike in support of the annual pay claim, demanding a minimum £15 increase and a 35-hour week. Management have offered a deal which they claim is worth 25 per cent, based on the government's guidelines.

The 25 per cent figure is a mystery to the workers—the actual offer is 7.6 per cent plus a productivity deal.

CRANE: £22.50!

NORTH WALSHAM, Norfolk: Several hundred engineering workers at the Crane Fruehauf container factory walked out on unofficial strike a month ago.

Crane used to be the pacemaker for wages in North Norfolk but inflation has now bitten into their living standards. They are demanding a £22.50 wage increase.

The company, which is making huge profits, has made a pathetic offer, claiming that the Social Contract prevents them paying more.

Miners' leaders' two fingers to conference

WE ARE used to National Union of Mineworkers president Joe Gormley selling us down the river, but the latest trick he's trying to pull beats the lot.

Only in July the NUM Conference rejected a productivity deal.

by DAVE BARKER

Armthorpe NUM, Yorkshire

According to union rules, conference is the supreme policy-making body, but Gormley and the right-wing majority on the national executive are just waving two fingers at us. They are continuing their talks with the Coal Board about a productivity deal.

The records show that anybody who's ever

been involved in productivity deals has lost out on their basic wages in the end.

There can be no industry worse suited to a productivity deal than mining. What Gormley and the Coal Board are saying is that a man's wages should depend on geological conditions laid down millions of years ago.

They are out to split the union, there's no doubt about that. What Gormley wants is to take the pressure off himself and get a situation where he can turn round to the rank and file and say: 'If you want more wages you've got to work harder.'

There is nothing Gormley hates more than being in the spotlight of the annual wage negotiations. It always shows him up for what he really is.

The accident figures speak for themselves. Since the power loading agreement abolished the piece rate system, accidents have decreased.

Accident

Outside contractors who are employed at some pits are on a bonus system and their accident rates are many times higher than those of NCB workers.

The rank and file have got to get control of the union—that's the only way to stop these permanent officials selling us out time after time. That's why The Collier meeting on Saturday 15 October is so important.

I would like to see every SWP member and supporter in the coalfields, non-miners as well as miners, getting out to the pits over the next few weeks to get this message across to the rank and file.

Full details of the conference from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

STRIKE OVER BLACKMAIL

LABOUR GOVERNMENT BLACKMAIL—that is why other drivers are on strike for a 15 per cent wage rise.

Drivers at two Midlands haulage firms, OCT and ACL, were offered the full 15 per cent. But the Department of Employment stepped in and threatened to withdraw government contracts if the two firms gave more than 10 per cent.

Tommy Shields is chairman of the Container Hauliers and Container Base Co-ordinating Committee in Birmingham. He told Socialist Worker:

'Our union conference, the TGWU, voted overwhelmingly for a return to free collective bargaining and that's what I intend to do. I'll do my own deal.'

'I've had enough of government ministers telling me what to do. When I saw on telly last night that prices had risen twice as fast as wages I knew the government's system has failed.'

'Jim Callaghan can keep his 1p in the pound tax concession, I'd rather do my own negotiations.'

'How can Callaghan, with 2,000 acres down south, have any interest in any bloody workers? He probably spends his time watching Princess Anne jumping over fences.'

'We've done our two years of the Social Contract, now we're determined to stick out for the 15 per cent, however long it takes.'

50p an hour!

BRIDGEWATER: Skilled arc-welders with college certificates receiving only 50p an hour... 71p as the top rate for all workers... weekly bonus dropped from £15 to around £10.

These are some of the reasons 40 Transport and General Workers Union members have for taking strike action in their fight for union recognition at Coates Fencing.

This official strike has been going on for nearly seven weeks. Workers are manning a 24-hour picket.



On the picket line at Goodyear Tyres, Drumchapel, near Glasgow. For four weeks 143 white-collar workers, in the Transport Workers Union, have been on strike in support of a demand by fove women to be upgraded.

The women take home only £33 a week for a 37½-hour week. The regrading would give them £9.65 a week.

The company has tried to split the strikers by diverting discussions to the annual wage claim. They even sent

letters to each striker urging them to return to work.

Said Joe McGinty, ACTSS branch secretary: 'The letter only angered our members. They saw it as an attempt to divert the issue of regrading. The last branch meeting voted unanimously to stay out on strike.'

Donations and messages of support to George McDonald, 17/4 Ashtree Court, Old Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire.

Crown House sack 73 sparks

SHEFFIELD: 73 electricians employed by Crown House Engineering at the BSC site have been sacked.

Their crime was to stand by eight electricians who Crown House were trying to transfer

off the site, causing a minimum loss in wages of £7 per week and five hours' extra work.

But there is plenty of work on the site for at least four to five months. Just 24 hours before the transfer, stewards had been discussing bonuses with management, to try and get more work done, and the possibility of seven-day working.

Dave Lawford, shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'Under normal circumstances we are liable for transfers under our contract.'

Management use this to manipulate labour.

'But we can't expect blokes to accept it if it means to lose money.'

'If there are jobs needing to be done there are plenty of sparks on the dole. It would be beneficial to Crown House to use these unemployed sparks rather than cause disruption on such a large site.'

Donations and messages of support to: Dave Lawford, 11 Venetian Crescent, Darfield, near Bamsley, South Yorkshire.

Smiths step up the fight

CHELTENHAM: The 900 production workers at Smiths Industries, Bishops Cleeve, are continuing their seven-week-old unofficial strike.

They are demanding that management increase their pathetic offer of a 5 per cent wage rise. The 5 per cent is already owed from last year.

The shop stewards committee agreed at a mass meeting this week to hold more regular meetings to keep everyone informed. They also decided to step up the pickets.

THE BATTLE FOR UNION RIGHTS

Thermos out

BRENTWOOD: American bosses of Thermos Flasks were greeted with boos and catcalls as they passed through the picket line at the factory last week.

The workforce, mainly women, are fighting for union recognition. They are on strike for the first time in the factory's history.

PRINTERS: WE STAY OUT

DARLINGTON: It's not often printers come out on strike in support of journalists. But when they do, they don't throw the towel in easily.

National Graphical Association fathers of the chapel (shop stewards) held a mass meeting in Darlington

this week to discuss the future of the 16-week dispute.

More than 100 Darlington journalists have been on the streets since early June. Their fight for a closed shop is supported by strikers at Westminster Press's London office.

Eight weeks ago the printers—in NGA, NATSOPA and SLADE—closed the plant,

refusing to go on crossing the picket lines.

The print union leaders thought it would be all over in a few days. But Westminster Press, backed by the Newspaper Society, which controls the English provincial press, decided they could starve the strike out as long as it was not spread to their other 30 offices.

Yet the print general secretaries refused to step up the strike. When they met at the TUC at Blackpool it was to tell the National Union of Journalists that unless it paid them £12,000 a week strike pay they would send their members back to work.

In Darlington more than 60 delegates from NGA shops throughout Westminster Press have now vowed that there will be no return to work until the strike has been won.

Desoutters: This picket needs you!

JOIN the mass picket of Desoutters on Friday 13 October. That call has gone out to trade unionists everywhere from the Engineering Union members at Desoutters, in North West London.

They will that day have been on strike for the right to belong to a trade union, the AUEW, for six months. They are suffering hardship for their stand—some have already been starved back to work for lack of financial support.

To ensure local support for the mass picket,

the strike committee have called a local trade union conference.

Conference: Sunday 9 October, 11.30am - 1pm, Brent Trades Hall

Donations and messages of support to Barry Moroney, 27 Springfield Mount, Kingsbury, London NW9.

SUPPORT THE MASS PICKET: Friday 14 October, 6.30am, outside Desoutters, The Hyde, Edgware Road, London NW9.

FTAT strike

NOTTINGHAM: 17 members of the furniture workers' trade union FTAT, have been on strike for six weeks for union recognition at the Langley Mill firm of E and H Architectural Products.

Donations and messages of support to Dennis Paine, 163 Broad Lane, Brinsley, Nottingham.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Please send me more information

Name

Address

Trade union

Send to: National Secretary,
Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cottons
Gardens, London E2 8DH.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN CAMP
At Brighton to lobby the Labour Party Conference
Sunday 2 October to Thursday 6 October
All unemployed are invited to join the camp. Write to Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

NATIONAL RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Saturday 26 November in the Co-op Hall, Manchester
Credentials for delegates from all trade union organisations from the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

POVERTY WAGES - BY ORDER

Government fixes Phase 3 for millions of low-paid workers

FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND hotel and catering workers—the lowest paid in the country—have been condemned to another year of starvation wages.

The sentence has been passed by the government, which pretends that its wages policy helps the low-paid. The employers have

enthusiastically agreed.

And three million other low-paid workers whose wages are decided by government-controlled wages councils will now follow them.

Last Thursday the Licensed Residential and Restaurant Wages Council met to decide wages for 300,000 of the lowest paid workers in Britain.

The workers' representatives, led by Fred Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers Union, argued for a £15 increase on the present minimum, £30 for a 44-hour week.

The employers refused. The government, they explained, had laid

down clear guidelines for 'an unofficial Phase 3 of wage policy'.

They produced a letter written from the Department of Employment on 10 August to all wage council secretaries. 'The general level of new settlements in 1977-78', said the letter, 'should be well within single figures'.

The trade union side quickly collapsed. By the end of the day their £15 claim had shrunk to £4.

This was agreed by the 'independents' on the wages council, but the employers still insisted it was too much!

In a statement, their spokesman, Clive Derby, said: 'We consider that the wages council proposals break the government guidelines and should be

resisted to the utmost as being inflationary and against the national interest'.

Chairman of the wages council is Colin McGrath of Ind Coope, part of the Allied Breweries combine. Allied paid £17 million in dividends last year—up from £9 million in 1974.

Another council member is Rocco Forte, son of Sir Charles, chairman of the Trust Houses Forte hotel chain. Last month Sir Charles gave Rocco a million THF shares. Rocco became a multi-millionaire overnight.

These hoteliers are some of the greediest, wealthiest gentlemen in the country. A secret survey by the Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management Association (cost per copy: £85) discloses that the fringe benefits of the average manager of even small hotels come to £1,541 a year.

Sponsored

Yes, that's right, the fringe benefits—company car, accommodation allowances, free meals, free hospital treatment, free clothes—come to more than the total earnings of the chambermaids, chefs and washers-up who keep the hotels and restaurants going.

These are the patriotic enemies of inflation who are forcing their workers to spend another year watching their pay and living standards being cut back by rising prices.

These are the parasites who are getting full support and encouragement from Albert Booth, the formerly 'left-wing' Minister of Unemployment—and meeting with nothing but token resistance from the trade union leaders, such as David Basnett of the GMWU.

Basnett is president of the TUC this year. The boat must not be rocked and the best appearances must be kept up. If his members are starving, why should he care?



ROCCO FORTE (right) earned the life-long gratitude of his father Sir Charles when he masterminded the fight against trade union recognition at the Night Out Club in Birmingham. 'We were determined not to give in', Sir Charles explained in the Daily Express on Monday. 'Rocco was in charge of our counter-measures and we won'.

FACT

MINIMUM wages for workers covered by wages councils are fixed by law. Government wages inspectors carried out a special survey in eight towns last year, interviewing hotel and catering employers. They found that 43 per cent of employers—nearly half—were breaking the law by paying less than £30 a week. No one was prosecuted.

...and hotel workers are first to suffer



Picture: Derek Speirs (FL)