

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



THEY KILLED OUR DAD, BUT WE'LL KEEP FIGHTING ON

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THE CROOK WHO HELPED MAKE A PRIME MINISTER

IS THERE a top politician in Britain who was not in the pay of Sir Eric Miller?

Miller, the crooked property tycoon who last week shot himself, once said:

'I never believed how wickedly people of power and substance can behave.'

So who were the 'people of substance and power' who enjoyed Miller's loot?

First, during the days of the Heath government, there was

REGINALD MAUDLING

Miller called him the Caviar Kid, an interesting nickname for a man who, like all good politicians, is anxious about the need for people to make 'sacrifices in the interests of the country.'

There was also a small matter of a mansion—rent: £2 a week—with a luxury swimming pool specially fitted by Maudling's other crooked friend, architect John Poulson, and paid for by Miller.

An intriguing state of affairs for a Home Secretary in a Tory government obsessed by the need for 'law and order'.

But while Maudling was diving in to his caviar, Miller was moving on.

By 1974, Labour's bandwagon was clearly on the move—and the least any self-respecting parasite could do was to offer their National Executive the run of a five-star Churchill hotel.

FRIEND

Which Miller did—and more besides. For the general election campaign, he laid on a helicopter for

HAROLD WILSON

and made a friend for life. Soon, says the Observer, Miller was 'almost a permanent feature at 10 Downing Street'.

Wilson had good reason to be grateful. Some years earlier, Miller had joined with nine other rich men to finance the '1970 Research Fund' which had paid for Wilson's political office while in opposition.

And there was also Eric's



Miller's best-known friends—the Caviar Kid and the man who made him Sir Eric.

kind offer of his services as honorary treasurer to the Socialist International, the world-wide organisation to which the Labour Party belongs.

He gave it free use of premises owned by his company in St John's Wood. From there, he went on to join the board of Labour's own

attempt at land speculation, Labour Party Properties.

Other important people in the Labour Party came Miller's way, people like

JOHN and SAM SILKIN

currently Minister of Agriculture and Attorney General, respectively.

Their family law firm

received a fixed lump sum from Miller's company, Peachey Properties.

According to the man who is now head of that company, Lord Mais, another MP had free use of a car and a number of others 'were paid a retainer'.

Miller's reward came last year when plain Eric became Sir Eric, in Wilson's last

honours list.

His connections continued. 'He helped the Callaghans with their party for handicapped children'. He 'sought the company of senior policemen, entertaining some of them at the Churchill'.

Maybe that explains why, when he died, a confidential Scotland Yard file relating to

his and other top people's currency speculation was found in his possession.

While courting law chiefs, police chiefs, Prime Ministers and Home Secretaries, Miller kept his links with company of a different sort.

He is said to have handed over £130,000 to a little known lawyer, Judah Binstock, who



Sam Silkin: his firm got regular payments

is currently hiding in Spain and wanted for alleged currency offences.

Binstock claimed three months ago that if he ever returned to Britain, 'it would cost them £200 millions for a start and uncover a scandal that will tear the City and the Treasury apart.'

CLAIMED

Yet even at the end, Sir Eric Miller continued to have his admirers in high places. They claimed that this man who had made his fortune by hounding working people out of their homes, had been 'hounded to death'.

No doubt such people are worried about who will now provide them with £6 an ounce caviar to munch while they preach sacrifice to the rest of us.

HE ROSE TO FAME ON THE BACKS OF THE POOR

AND HOW did Miller, the friend of Labour Ministers, come to be a force in the land? By terrorising ordinary, hard-working, Labour-voting people, that's how.

His rise to fame and fortune began in the Fifties. Last Sunday's Observer described it like this:

'The company bought up blocks of flats where

tenants paid low rents and gave them a choice: move out with a compensatory payment, or pay much higher rents. The tactics brought protest rallies in London boroughs.'

The Observer did not report that property tycoons engaged in these antics often 'hurried' tenants out in a number of ways. Alsatian dogs and hired thugs were

among the most notorious.

Not surprisingly, Miller gravitated first towards the Tory Party. They had, after all, passed Rent Acts at that time which

made his exploitation of the weak and needy possible.

But it wasn't long before he was turning his attention towards the Labour Party...

ADVERTISEMENT

LOBBY THE LABOUR PARTY

Fight for the Right to Work!

Let's make sure the Labour Party and the leaders of their government hear the voice of the unemployed.

This government was elected on the slogan 'Back to work with Labour'. Since then unemployment has doubled. Like most election promises it was a sick joke.

If you want to wipe the smile off Sunny Jim Callaghan's face join us when we protest at the Labour Party Conference at Brighton. Fight for the Right to Work!

Places still available in the Right to Work Camp. Food, dances, discos, tents all free for the unemployed. Paid for by trade unionists.

Those wanting to register contact 265a Seven Sisters Road, or their local Right to Work Committee.

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER: 8pm, Right to Work marchers registration, Brighton Municipal Campsite, Sheepcote Valley.

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER: Morning march from camp to Labour Party Conference. 12 noon: Joint lobby of delegates by Right to Work Campaign and Campaign against Youth Unemployment. Evening: Dance at the Buccaneer, Marine Parade.

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER: Morning march from campsite via Brighton centre to conference. Afternoon: Marchers' meetings, Basement, Glenside Student Union, Brighton Art College, Grand Parade. Meetings include Tony Cliff on the 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Plus film, Last Grave at Dim-baza.

Evening: public meeting, 7.30pm, The Hungry Years pub, Marine Parade. Fight Racism. Support the Freedom Fighters. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Majakathati Mokoena, student representative from Soweto. 9pm to 11.30: Disco in the Basement, Glenside.

WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER: Morning march to conference via seafront. Afternoon: Meetings, Basement, Glenside. Law and Order—speaker Peter Chappell. Fight racism, stop the Nazis—speaker Kim Gordon.

Evening: 8pm, public debate on Which way to socialism. Speakers include Paul Foot and a Tribune speaker. Resources Centre, North Road.

9pm till 12 midnight: Farewell disco and party, Basement, Glenside.



Solidarity by workers in the face of death

From last Saturday's edition of the Times.

By Philip Howard
A dispute in the funeral industry in London has led to attempts to impose a closed shop after death.
During the past four weeks members of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) and the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE) have been on strike.

A wage cut or the dole

-GOVERNMENT THREATENS 4000 ENGINEERING WORKERS

From EAMONN McCANN in Belfast

THE government has threatened workers at the big Mackies engineering works here with the dole if they don't agree to a wage cut.

That's the effect of the decision to withdraw export credit guarantees from the firm unless a 22 per cent wage rise, paid since 1 August, is dropped.

Without the guarantee a £6 million order for machinery for Vietnam, on which many of the 4000 workers are employed, could collapse.

That would also threaten the jobs of Taylor Woodrow workers in Britain who are fulfilling part of the same contract.

The government feels that if Mackies workers break through the Phase 3 wage guidelines other workers here and in Britain will insist on the same sort of figure and make a nonsense of wage

restraint.

Mackies' workers need the rise more than most. Even with it their rates are still £8 to £10 below other engineering wages in Belfast. And Belfast's rates as a whole are below the UK average.

Even on commercial criteria the firm is well able to pay. It publishes no accounts—it is a family business rather than a limited company and doesn't have to—but does not deny that its coffers are bulging from profits built up through the long years of low wages.

'Without argument'

Shop stewards say Mackies could comfortably have paid 50 per cent and might have come near that figure had union officials harnessed the militancy of their members and bargained a lot harder.

'We got the 22 per cent almost without argument,' said one shop steward. 'The next step is to go for more—there's no way we'll give up what we've already got.'

Events at Mackies are being closely watched by other workers in Belfast, where the wages queue is long—and increasingly impatient.

Grundig workers are claiming 45 per cent, Sirocco workers want 40 per cent. The government controlled shipyards, Harland and Wolff, and the Short and Harland aircraft factory both have claims in for 30 per cent on the basic rate.

In all there are 15 major wage claims outstanding in Belfast and only four are for less than 30 per cent.

Mackies' workers are making the running and have been assured of massive solidarity action should they have to strike. Nothing in the past ten years here could so dramatically unite Protestant and Catholic workers in struggle.

Unfortunately the union officials most prominently involved are wilfully blind to this aspect of the issue.

Profits

Instead they are insisting, in the words of Jimmy Graham, secretary of the area Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions that since the claim has already been conceded 'management and men are standing together'.

This narrows the issue and isolates Mackies' workers from others in the wages queue. The chairman of the Confederation, Andy Barr—like Graham, a leading member of the Communist Party—boasted on local television that the unions are at one with the CBI 'and leading Tories'.

The CBI and Tories such as Peter Walker have criticised the government handling of the increase. They would prefer to see the rise pass unremarked at Mackies—where there is an 'eccentric' private management snowed under with profits.

Instead they would like the stand against workers to be taken ideally at the shipyards, where the government holds the purse strings and could plausibly plead poverty.

Lining up with management is a certain recipe for disaster in the big battles to come. City-wide solidarity will be the key.

What is needed now is action to co-ordinate every engineering claim in Belfast—and beyond—and to make it clear that the city will stop if Phase 3 is used to prevent any group of workers getting a settlement which keeps pace with prices.

NAFF get the OK from MI5

THE extreme right-wing National Association for Freedom has members working in key posts at a top secret government security base in Cheltenham. Their job includes the security vetting of new job applicants.

Civil servants working in 'sensitive' security areas are forbidden to belong to 'extreme' political organisations. Yet a spokesman for the

security base told the Guardian on Tuesday: 'Membership of the NAFF is not incompatible with the correct performances of their duties as civil servants.'

In other words membership of extreme right-wing organisations is beneficial to state security.

The Cheltenham base gathers intelligence by intercepting communications in Europe and in Africa. Its activities came to light as a

result of a detailed investigation in the magazine Time Out last year.

American journalist Mark Hosenball was involved in the story and it is thought this as one reason the government was so keen to have him expelled from Britain.

The civil servants union, the Society of Civil Servants, which has members at the base, has complained about the employment of NAFF members.

Grunwicks boss buys £45,000 racehorse

GEORGE WARD, the Squire of Grunwicks, has bought himself a little present to celebrate the success of APEX general secretary Roy Grantham at getting the mass pickets outside Grunwicks called off and the remarkable display of TUC impotence ever since.

He has paid £45,000 for a racehorse.

The horse, a Habitat colt, will be stabled alongside Valour, the £50,000 colt that this poor harassed Willesden businessman who stands up for freedom bought last year.

Endorse

Ward's celebratory mood may also be related to persistent reports in the past two weeks that the top union leaders want to 'drop' Grunwicks. A front page article in The Times last Friday reported that Grantham was thinking along these lines.

In a letter to The Times on Tuesday, Grantham denied this but nevertheless the Grunwicks strikers are understandably edgy.

'We are not going to give in so easily', strike committee treasurer Mrs Desai told Socialist Worker.

On Monday afternoon the strike committee declared that it would reimpose mass picketing and call for unofficial action if Wednesday's meeting of the TUC General Council fails to endorse a co-ordinated assault on Grunwicks water, electricity and mail.



STRIKERS from the Cannon and Stokes engineering plants in Leicester, who are fighting for a 40 per cent wage rise in breach of the 12-month rule.

When the managing director arrived at one factory last week the strikers started singing Christmas carols! What they meant was: 'We'll stay out till Christmas if necessary!'

Viking Road AUEW convenor Steve Grimley told Socialist Worker: 'We're some of the lowest-paid engineering workers in a low-paid area. We don't care if we last got a rise in February. We don't

accept the 12-month rule, and we're quite sure our union—the AUEW—doesn't, whatever way Scanlon voted at the TUC.

'They've offered us £7.51 extra as part of a so-called productivity deal, but that's not enough.'

The strike is well organised. The 24-hour picket line is used as a base for sending delegations all over Leicester. When the district committee delayed about making the strike official, the strike committee organised a mass lobby, which included 60 shop stewards from other factories in the city.

When is racism, not racism?

THE Labour government and the Inner London Education Authority has made a miraculous discovery. Racism isn't racism when they practice it themselves.

In a letter sent out to the principals of all colleges and the directors of all polytechnics during the holidays, the ILEA has justified its policy of cutting back on overseas students, who are mainly black.

The first paragraph of this masterpiece reads: 'Under Section 41(2) of the Race Relations Act 1976, discrimination on the basis of a person's nationality or place of ordinary residence, or the length of time that he has been present or resident in the UK is not in contravention of the Act if it is done in pursuance of arrangements made with the approval of a Minister of the Crown.'

The finishing touches to this nauseating operation include a new definition of overseas students as 'specified students'. Use of this new term, it is claimed, will ensure that the government's racism isn't racist.

The definition now covers more students than it did before. So there is more discrimination than there was before, not less.

CALL FOR UNITED PROTEST

DELEGATES to the Labour Party Conference, which starts in Brighton on Monday, may face a united protest lobby of the Right to Work Campaign and the Communist Party-led Campaign Against Youth Unemploy-

ment. John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, said this week he was hopeful of united action.

Camp

He has written to the

CAYU proposing a joint lobby of the conference and offering all CAYU supporters the facilities of the Right to Work Campaign—camp at Brighton. CAYU has also been offered representation on the camp organising com-

mittee.

A joint advertisement, written and paid for by the two bodies, has also been suggested—to be inserted in Labour Weekly, Morning Star, Socialist Worker and Tribune.

WAGES: TIGHTER GO THE THUMBSCREWS

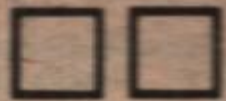
Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

'IT DOESN'T matter what the TUC thinks. We're going to make sure that increases in take-home pay are only half as much as increases in prices over the past year'.

That, put crudely, is what the government has been insisting with its measures against firms that give in to pressure from

their workers by granting wage increases of more than 10 per cent.



The government knows well what will happen to the money that would have gone in wage increases if it is successful. The firms will use it to put up their profits.

What are the trade unions going to do about this?

At the TUC Congress a month ago the 10 per cent norm was rejected by an even greater majority than that which accepted that workers had to wait 12 months between pay increases.

Since then unions such as the Transport Workers ratted on their members and instructed them 'in the interests of TUC unity' to support the 12-month rule and to oppose strikes against it.

But that does not mean that the union leaders are taking any action

in support of workers fighting the 10 per cent limit. Far from it.



Unity for them, it seems, only matters when it's a question of a majority to stop action. It is hardly mentioned when there is a struggle for wages which the whole movement is supposed to support.

No wonder increasing numbers of workers are taking about the need for a rank and file movement.

'Fiction' that's the Labour Party

IF THE Labour Party Conference next week runs true to form, we can expect massive press headlines about 'the growth of the left', 'nationalisation of the banks', 'Trotskyist infiltration' and so on.

In the smokescreen of abuse directed against the left wing in the party, the most obvious fact will be hidden—that this government has done more than any government in living memory to cut real wages and increase profits.

In the last couple of weeks, figures have come to light which show what a sham the 'fight' inside the Labour Party is. The figures were revealed in the Sunday Times last week, and now they have been repeated in a pamphlet by two full-time Labour Party officials.

These claim that individual membership of the party has fallen to less than a third of the level of 25 years ago, that Labour has long since 'ceased to be a mass party', and that official membership figures are 'entirely fictional'.

They point out that there is not a single full-time agent in any one of the major industrial conurbations.

According to the Sunday Times, some trade union leaders are so worried by this, that they are demanding an organisational shake-up of the party.

But it's not organisation that's wrong with the Labour Party. It is the policies of successive Labour governments.

Active workers have been voting with their feet by leaving the party wholesale. They know that whatever resolutions are passed at the conference next week will simply be ignored by the government.

Anti-Jubilee: £380 fines

THE TRIALS of nine of the eleven socialists arrested by the South London police for daring to demonstrate against the Queen on her Jubilee visit to Brixton finished on Tuesday.

The result was seven guilty verdicts on various trumped-up charges of obstruction and assault, and only two acquittals. Two other defendants will be tried later.

Fines so far total £380. □ A defence fund has been set up. Donations to Anti-Jubilee Fund, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.



THE police murdered our dad . . . but we are going to keep on fighting—and so are 17 million others.

A huge demonstration of black people took place when South African black consciousness movement leader Steve Biko was buried on Sunday. Steve had been murdered while in police custody. Police claims that he had died from a hunger strike were proved to be lies when

it was revealed that he had suffered from head injuries. After the funeral angry crowds began taking their revenge on his murderers by stoning to death two policemen.

Our picture shows Steve's widow, Ntsiki, with their children Samora and Nkosinathi, showing their determination to fight on.

Hyde: Stay on your guard

THE NAZI National Front were banned last week from marching through Hyde in Manchester, on 8 October.

As Socialist Worker said last week, there can be no doubt that this was a victory for the opponents of the Nazis.

It happened because the authorities knew that if they did not stop the Nazis, then socialists, trade unionists and black people would do, as in Lewisham.

But the Nazi threat in the Manchester area will not go away. The anti-fascist offensive must be kept up.

That is why the SWP urged trade union and black organisations to join us in a victory march and rally.

Since the most influential trade union bodies in the area declined this request, there will be no rally. But the Nazis are still a danger—as shown at the weekend when Nazis broke up an anti-racist meeting at Rochdale College.

Support

It is now clear that the Nazis intend to try and have some presence in the Manchester area on 8 October.

Their would-be fuhrer, Martin Webster, has said he will be marching 'by himself' through Hyde. No doubt many other Nazis will be there, to give the impression he has widespread local support and to harass local black people.

There will be a strong need for anti-fascists in the area to be on their guard on the day to counter such action by the Nazis.

All demonstration in Hyde are banned, and strong forces of police will be present. They would be only too pleased to pick on an anti-Nazi

demonstration that defied the ban, while the Nazis stood on the sidelines laughing.

In those circumstances it would be silly to accept the idea put out by some people in the area, of a counter-demonstration outside Hyde Town Hall to greet Webster.

Anti-fascists in Manchester on 8 October must be organised, ready to deal with the Nazis, without falling into any police traps.

That is why the Manchester District of the SWP will be on the pavements selling Socialist Worker and holding street meetings, ready to react if the Nazis move into action.

Anti-fascists accused

TWO trade unionists face court charges in York after being attacked by Nazis.

A group of anti-fascist campaigners, including members of the SWP, had just finished leafletting in the city on Sunday last week when they were attacked by a sizeable gang of National Front members.

The police, soon on the scene, predictably arrested three anti-fascists and let all the NF go. One of the three socialists, Annie Barber, was released after an hour, but the other two are to appear in court on 6 October.

Paul Lannen, a building worker and member of UCATT, has been charged with causing actual bodily harm. George Pogmore, a bus inspector, is accused of 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace'.

Both are members of York Trades Council executive committee.

THE SICKEST SHOW ON EARTH

HORACE CUTLER, Tory leader of the Greater London Council, got great publicity for his latest scheme to 'solve the housing shortage' on Monday.

He was running a lottery which gives the winners a ramshackle council house. They then have to slave away repairing it in their spare time for three years—enabling the GLC to sack more building workers.

At the end of that time they can begin buying the house on a mortgage, which will mean

they hand over large weekly sums in interest payments to money-lenders.

Cutler was eloquent on what a great step forward his scheme was, in offering young couples the chance of a home at last.

What he did not explain was that so desperate is the housing shortage that 11,000 families put their names down for his slave labour scheme, but only 200 could win. Apparently, to the Cutlers of this world, what happens to the other 10,800 is of no concern.

SHEILA PARKIN



Socialist Workers talking

YOU MAY have read that Life, the anti-abortion group, are threatening private prosecutions against doctors who carry out abortions.

That news reminded me of the ordeal of a friend of mine.

She was married with a three-month-old child, a husband who could not get a job and with debts up to her eyes.

She then discovered she was pregnant again and was very distressed about it.

I asked her if she was using contraception and she replied: 'I could never afford to get the pill. Every time I should have gone for it I had no money' (it was in the days when you had to pay).

So she tried to get an abortion on the National Health Service. A consultant gynaecologist asked her why she wanted one and she explained that another baby, in her circumstances, would result in her going to pieces and her marriage breaking up, with the other child suffering.

After the interview, the gynaecologist told her she had to have the child.

Who the hell do these people think they are? He is no better than anyone else and in some things a hell of a lot worse.

That's what it's like living in a man's world. But women do not have to accept this kind of treatment from a pompous bum like him.

It's alright for him, he has no children, a salary of about £10,000 a year, a wife who is also a consultant on roughly the same salary.

People like that don't understand about poverty, yet they can dictate to us. It's not as though he doesn't do abortions regularly—he does. Mind you, if you were a private patient and willing to pay, you don't need any reason for an abortion, you just get one—especially if you're rich and middle-class.

But the working class woman does not stand a chance, so let's not forget the question of abortion on demand.

Socialist Workers Party
Smash the Nazi NF
Houses & Jobs
for **Socialist Workers Party**

Black & White Unite
Smash Racism
& the Nazi NF

Socialist Workers Party
Smash the Nazi NF
The Nazis gassed
6million jews
The NF threatens
2million blacks **Join the SWP**

£10,000 APPEAL

Fight the racists!
Stop the Nazis!

£3,399 so far

LEFT: Socialist Worker's new anti-racist stickers, in red and black £2 for 1000, from SW, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2

JEAN BOWIE lives in Barrow-in-Furness. She is a member of the Communist Party.

Trouble began for Jean after the local paper published a letter she had written. First there was a note through the door: 'NF will rule—Reds best dead, watch out'.

Then one day she was cleaning her living room when she was attacked from behind. She turned round, was punched and then someone started to throttle her and she passed out.

Another note followed: 'Death to you reds and you black

bastards. You were saved by the bell but not next time.'

This is a small story, but an important one. Each day of each week similar attacks are taking place.

Nazi thugs are frustrated—frustrated because they were beaten at Lewisham, frustrated because they were beaten at Hyde, frustrated because thousands of ordinary people, trade unionists and socialists are organising against them.

That is why they are turning to individual attacks, like the one on Jean Bowie.

Because of the role the Socialist Workers Party has played in the fight against the Nazis, our headquarters was firebombed, causing many thousands of pounds of damage.

We are proud of our record in the fight against the Nazis and we will not be intimidated. When these attacks happen we can only turn to you, our readers and supporters, for help.

We need £10,000 urgently. Take a collection, rush in your contributions today to: **SOCIALIST WORKER FUND, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.**

THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

- Seddon Atkinson Vehicles
- Northampton SWP
- P Wylie
- Chester SWP
- Easter Ross SWP
- A Mann
- Black Country SW readers
- Bangor SW readers
- S Armbruster, USA
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- South London District SWP
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- Crawley SWP
- High Wycombe SWP
- Harlow SWP
- Warwick AUT
- Central London Women's Voice
- Wembley SWP
- Reading SWP
- Aberdeen SWP
- Brighton SW readers
- Brighton SW readers
- D Lewin, Germany
- Inner East London SWP

WORKPLACE BULLETIN BANNED BY CO-OP

THE EVANS GUIDE TO SAFETY AT WORK

A FACTORY bulletin produced by Socialist Worker supporters in the Co-op Tea factory, in Crewe, has been banned by the management.

They were upset when the bulletin appeared

calling for a 'no' vote in a factory ballot. The ballot had been organised by management to try and win approval for their offer of a 10 per cent wage deal.

One supporter of the bulletin was called before the shift manager and ordered to stop distributing it.

The shift manager declared he was worried by the 'power of the written word'.

He ought to know. He has the Sun and the Daily Mirror on his side, urging workers every day to accept the 10 per cent pay limit. We have to fight even for the right to hand out duplicated bulletins.

Despite the management

attack on free speech, the ballot rejected the 10 per cent. The workers are now demanding 33 per cent.

The drive for more Socialist Worker workplace bulletins is already having success. In the past week four new bulletins have been sent to Socialist Worker.

At British Leyland in Preston a special bulletin calls for support for the present strike for a £15 rise and argues the need for special picketing to enforce the strike.

On Fleet Street, three Socialist Worker bulletins are now organised. One by Socialist Worker supporters on the Financial Times, another by supporters in the Daily Mirror Clerical Chapel of the print union NATSOPA, and the third is produced for printworkers throughout Fleet Street.

Supporters of Womens Voice in Birmingham are producing a new regular bulletin at the Lucas Great King Street factory, where most of the workers are women.

We know these are only a few of the many bulletins being produced. Send a copy of your workplace bulletin to us now.

Send to Socialist Worker Bulletins, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 8DN.



GET THE STEWARDS COMMITTEE TO INVEST IN A LITTLE MACHINE FOR MEASURING NOISE LEVELS...

Most workplaces are dull enough already—so don't make it worse with a dull workplace bulletin. Include as many cartoons as you can.

Student victory over 'cancelled' course

THREE WEEKS before the start of term 30 social work students at North East London Polytechnic received letters telling them their course was cancelled.

But two days before the start of term rank and file student action has forced the authorities to back down and reopen the course.

With blatant disregard for students, staff and the law, the Poly authorities—fully backed by director George Brosan—had threatened to close the course unless they had their own way over the admission of a particular student.

Intervention by NATFHE, the college teachers' union, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work and the Ministry had failed to move the authorities. The National Union of Students remained inactive.

Students affected by the closure threat formed a rank and file fighting committee and applied for a High Court injunction restraining the authorities from closing the course. Legal aid was refused by the Law Society, who advised the students to give up and apply for courses elsewhere.

In the face of Broad Left indifference within the union hierarchy, students made plans for a work-in if the authorities had not backed down by the start of term.

Then, at the last possible moment, the High Court ruled that closure of the course was unjustified and instructed the authorities to reopen it.

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

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NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED EACH WEEK

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

WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers'

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

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women.

The experience of Russia

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

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

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

RANK AND FILE DIARY

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!

DESOUTTERS STRIKE BENEFIT DISCO: Saturday 1 October, 8pm-midnight, White Horse, Church Road, Willesden, London NW10. Admission 50p (unemployed, with card, 30p, strikers free) Organised by the Right to Work Campaign and LPYS.

£15 NOW! A new pamphlet from the NALGO Action Group, 5p each, plus 7p postage (post free for orders over 20). '£15 now!' stickers: 1p each, 12p for sheet of 12. Available now from NAG, 61b Farleigh Road, London N16.

SOUTH WALES BENEFIT for the Right to Work Marchers: Wednesday 12 October, 8pm to 1pm, the Bierkeller, Aberavon Seafront, Port Talbot. Alkatraz, plus Red Dog, plus licensed bar and extension. Tickets 75p from Derrick's Records in Port Talbot, Derrick's Records and Picton Music in Swansea, Paul Michael and Falcon Music in Llanelli, and from Right to Work Committees at 12 King St, Port Talbot, 149 Rhydydings Terr, Swansea, and 46 Brynhyfryd, Llangennech.



CALLING ALL RAILWAY WORKERS! Urgent conference to build a rank and file organisation on the railways, weekend 15-16 October, Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapelton Road), Leeds 7. Saturday 11.30am prompt. The need for a rank and file movement, building local Railway Worker groups, the national Railway Worker paper, Disco in evening, Sunday 10.30am-2.30pm: Wage claims 1977, cuts and the White Paper, Railway Worker programme, health and safety. Accommodation can be arranged, contact Rank and File Centre, 265a Sevens Sisters Road, London N4, in advance.

Greedy carworkers?

You try living on £39 a week

ANYONE who claims British Leyland carworkers are lazy and greedy, getting vast sums in wages each week, should go to Leyland in Lancashire. For at British Leyland's bus and truck plant Pete Kermath takes home just £39 after a 40-hour week. He told Socialist

Worker: 'I went to Leyland for security and good wages. People think because you work at Leyland you take home £60 or £70 a week, but it's not true.' Pete Kermath works as a labourer. There are hundreds of other workers at Leyland on the same basic rate. Pete and 9000 others are now on strike for a £15 rise.

Pete is married and has two children. Another child is expected in November. 'It is really hard. We're so poor we can't afford for the two of us to go out together. The last time was at Christmas. All the money goes on food and clothes, there's £7 rent, then food, then clothes for the kids. They

always need something. Julie here has only got one pair of shoes—look at them, they're already too small. 'If I'm left with 50p in my pocket on Thursday I'm lucky. 'I need another £15. A £5 rise is no good to me at all. 'I was earning more on the building as a painter and decorator than now.

It's even harder work here than on a building site. I do the same hours for less wages. 'I'm glad we're on strike. I've no time for bosses. The bus and truck division made a massive profit last year, so why should we have to suffer. 'Let anyone see if they can manage with £39 a week'.



Pete Kermath: £39 take-home pay, and only one of many low-paid carworkers

LEYLAND: 9000 STRIKE FOR £15

WHILE, in a blaze of publicity, workers at Chrysler, British Leyland Longbridge, in the docks and the pits have backed away from challenging the government's continuing wage controls, one big group of workers has gone ahead.

With little publicity, 9,000 workers at British Leyland's bus and truck division in Lancashire have been on strike for three weeks for a £15-a-week pay rise.

Like the miners—and many others to come—they have been offered a productivity deal.

Instead all 9,000 are sticking out for the full £15. They are the first major group of workers to strike for higher wages after the end of Phase 2.

Shop steward Harry Burgess told Socialist Worker: 'Of course we wish someone else had been first. It would have been nice if it had been the miners.'

'But now we have to stick to it and go on. We can't leave it to others now.'

'THIS STRIKE is a marvellous opportunity to bring us all together. It's the first major strike here for eight years,' Engineering Union shop steward Harry Burgess told Socialist Worker.

'In 1969 we were on strike for six weeks—the first big strike for 40 years, and we won. After that we had the management rattled.

'Wages doubled in three years. Working conditions improved, people had money in their pockets and the foremen off their backs.

'But in the past four years the management have been on top. In 1974 there was the question of Leyland's bankruptcy. Everyone else got big rises, but we lost out.

'Then came the Social Contract. That weekend morale everywhere.

'First there was the £6, then we had the 5 per cent. Inflation was then at least 20 per cent. We got murdered, and it was done by the Labour government, the TUC and the executive of my own union.'



Harry Burgess: 'The Leyland plants must get together.'

Trouble

The strike has now gone on for three weeks. British Leyland offered a small cash rise and a productivity deal that Harry Burgess describes as 'pie in the sky'.

Now, after three weeks on strike, the national officials have finally consented to turn up. The trouble is all they'll

say is don't rock the boat, remember there's a Labour government. 'They will just try to get an improvement on the productivity deal offer. That would be cutting our own throats—it means cutting corners to save time, and that raises the safety issue.

'It means a recipe for more unemployment. They call it natural wastage, but it means

jobs lost.

'It means weakening our organisation.

'We want the national officials to state clearly that we are in a period of free collective bargaining. People believe there is a 10 per cent norm. Blokes really believe it's official, they think it's there.

'The militancy is there. It can be tapped, but you need the organisation.

'This is the first strike here of real significance for eight years. If we can win it will be a fantastic boost for trade union organisation here.

'But you have to work for that organisation. There must be regular report-backs by every shop steward to his men. I always go to the Joint Shop Stewards with a mandate from the men. We have a meeting first.

'It's obvious what happened at Longbridge the other week. There were a couple of hundred shop stewards supposed to hold departmental meetings, no mass meeting for the convenor to

put the facts to all the men. Some of those departmental meetings could never have happened.

'You get stewards that come in ties—they don't even wear overalls.

'If the shop stewards have a meeting in the afternoon, they must stay in the plant until everyone finishes work. You can't have them nipping out early after the meeting to get clear before the main traffic goes.

Contacts

'I'm sick to death of the different Leyland plants being picked off one by one. We're isolated here now and it will be a few weeks before anyone moves to make contacts.

'It's only ever done under duress—never from the start.

'The plants must get together. The trouble is some of the plant leaderships like to be captains on their own little tug boats.'



'Of course we wish someone else had been first to challenge Phase 3. It would have been nice if it had been the miners. But now we have to stick to it. We can't leave it to others.'

BRITISH LEYLAND STEWARD HARRY BURGESS

ABOVE: The picket line outside the Leyland plant on Monday.

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN CAMP
At Brighton to lobby the Labour Party Conference

Sunday 2 October to Thursday 6 October

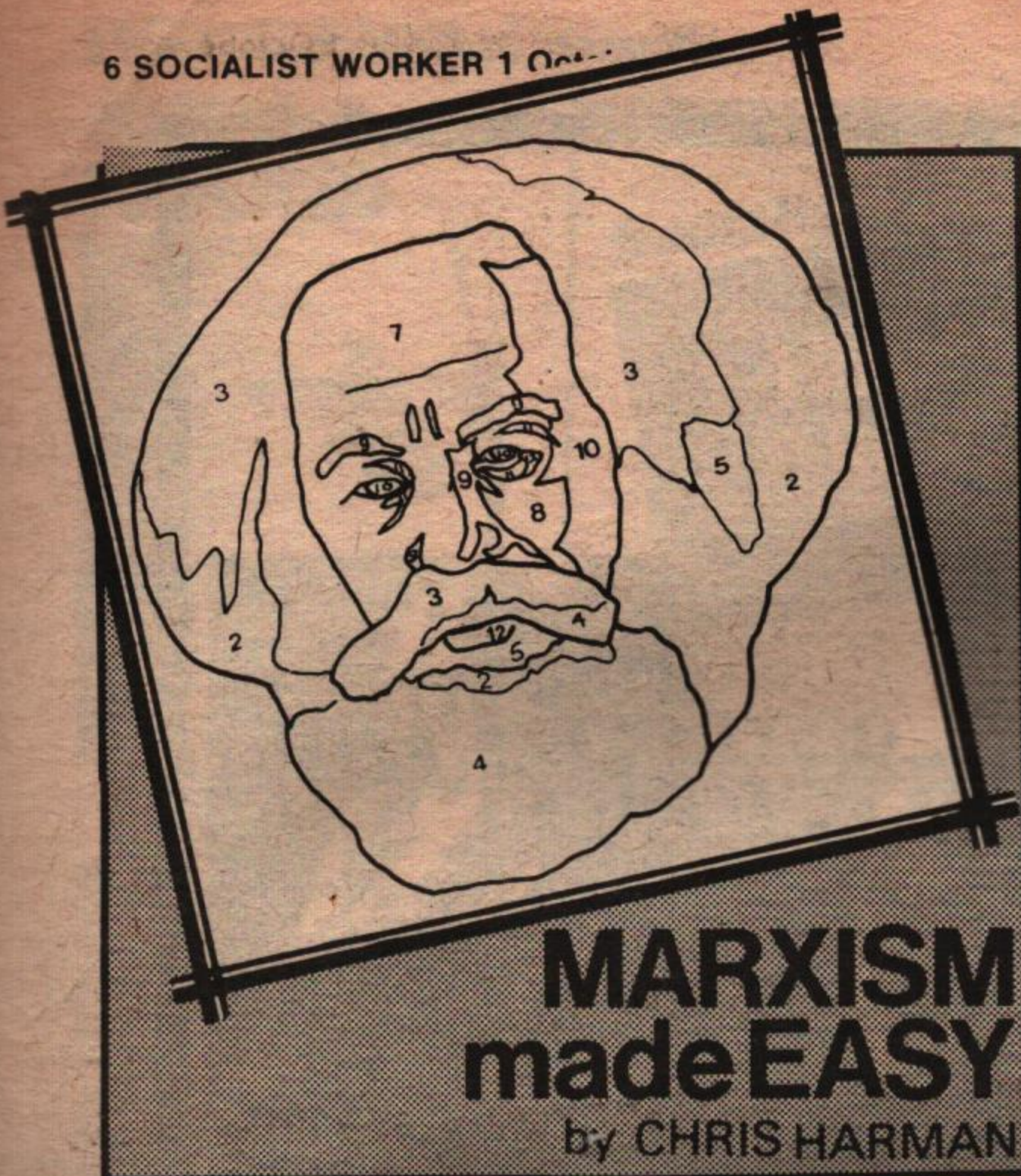
All unemployed are invited to join the camp. Write to Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

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.

Are ideals enough?



WHEN KARL Marx began working out his ideas in the late 1840s civilisation was developing by leaps and bounds.

Thousands of new factories were producing wealth on a scale undreamed of in previous ages.

New inventions gave people the power to defend themselves against the hazards of nature for the first time.

Yet this did not mean any improvement in the lives of the majority of people. Quite the opposite. The men,

women and children who manned the new factories led lives much worse than those led by their grandparents who had toiled on the land.

Their wages barely kept them above the bread line; periodic bouts of mass unemployment thrust them well below it.

Misery

They were crammed into miserable, squalid slums, without proper sanitation, subjected to monstrous epidemics.

Instead of the development of civilisation meaning general happiness and well being, it was giving rise to greater misery.

Marx was not the first thinker to try and explain the contrast between the massive expansion of wealth and the deep misery of vast numbers of people.

Many had tried to come to terms with this - just as today many non-marxists have their own explanations.

In Marx's time the most popular explanation of what was wrong with society were still of a religious kind.

The misery of society, it was said, was because of the failure of people to do what God wanted them to. If only we were all to 'renounce sin' everything would turn out all right.

A similar view is often heard today, although it usually purports to be non-

religious. This is the claim that 'to change society, you must first change yourself.'

If only individual men and women would cure themselves of 'selfishness' or 'materialism' (or occasionally, 'hang-ups') then society would automatically get better.

Power

A related view talked not of changing all individuals, but a few key ones—only those who exercise power in existing society.

The idea was to try to make the rich and powerful 'see reason'. One of the first British socialists, Robert Owen, began by trying to convince industrialists that

they should be kinder to their workers.

The same idea is still dominant today among the leaders of the Labour Party, including its left wing. Note how they always call the crimes of the employers 'mistakes', as if a bit of argument will persuade big business to relax its grip on society.

Marx referred to all such views as 'idealist'. Not because he was against people having 'ideals', but because such views see ideas as existing in isolation from other aspects of society.

He meant that they ignored the way in which people's ideas are intimately linked to the sort of lives they are able to live.

Take, for instance, 'selfishness'. This is not something that can be considered apart from society. Present day capitalist society breeds selfishness - even in people who continually try to put other people first.

Struggle

A worker, who wants to do his best for his children, or to give his parents something on top of their pension, can find that the only way to do so is to struggle continually against other people - to get a better job, to get more overtime, to be first in the queue for redundancy.

In such a society, you cannot get rid of 'selfishness' or 'greediness' merely by changing the minds of individuals.

It's even more ridiculous to talk of changing society by changing the ideas of 'top people'. Suppose you were successful in winning a big employer over to socialist ideas and he then stopped exploiting workers. All that would happen would be that he would lose out in competition to rival employers and be driven out of business.

Even for those who rule society what matters is not ideas, but the structure of the society in which they hold these ideas.

That is why Marx insisted: 'It is not consciousness that determines being, but being that determines consciousness'.



PRIVATE PATIENTS who have had medical treatment at National Health hospitals in Merseyside owe £28,147 to the Area Health Authority.

A statement issued by the region shows that in many cases no legal action is taken to recover the money owing.

Said Colin Barnett, NUPE divisional officer: 'It would appear the well heeled wish to have the advantages of private treatment without being prepared to pay for it.'

THE ITALIAN Communist Party announced last week that they have given up Marxist ideology. The stalwarts of Eurocommunism say that Marxism has disappeared from the vocabulary of the Italian Communist Party 'in a natural way'.

'Like a dead branch it is necessary to cut it off to avoid misunderstanding later,' said Lucio Lombardo-Radice one of the party's theoreticians.

ADRIAN BLACKWELL plucked a flower from a pensioner's garden to give to his wife—and ended up in prison.

Adrian, 27, admitted stealing the blue delphinium and told Billericay magistrates court: 'It was a silly thing. I did it on the spur of the moment.'

He has been remanded in custody at Brixton prison while medical and psychiatric reports are compiled.

SCOTTISH judge Lord Cameron warned people who used guns in robberies that they would be in for heavy prison sentences in the Glasgow Herald on September 7.

He jailed six men who were convicted of carrying guns during a robbery for a total of 57 years.

Either Lord Cameron has a short memory or it would appear that this does not apply to those who have found the Lord.

Just a few days before he decided to give James Lavery a 'second chance' after hearing that Lavery had been converted to Christianity and was now a regular church-goer.

Lavery held up a school girl and two shop assistants with a gun. Judge Cameron has postponed sentence until October, during which time Lavery will be on bail.

POLICE were called three times to a council meeting at Thanet in Kent on Friday to eject 'rowdy' Labour councillors. The Tory-controlled council eventually approved spending £6,000 on a council car, a hospitality fund of £2000 and to double the chairman's allowance.

The whole Labour group walked out.

OAF OF THE WEEK: Despite stiff competition the accolade goes to Chief Superintendent Alfred Bowley of Nottingham City police who attacked young girls who 'roam about' at night and end up as rape victims.

'If the girl doesn't expect to be approached for some sort of sexual intercourse then she is clearly too naive to be let out of the house,' he said.

Mr. Bowley feels that if a woman allows a man to take her home after a dance she is, in effect, asking for it.

He added: 'While they may not encourage the early stages of sexual attack the girls are perfectly aware that they have placed themselves in a vulnerable position.'

In other words, the only way to stop attacks on women is for women to stay at home after dark!

WHEN JACK THE Rat, leader of the TGWU, retires next March, his successor will be Moss Evans, another dyed-in-the-wool bureaucrat.

Fifth Column is pleased to reprint this article from The Dockworker rank and file paper.

It is an exclusive recording of Jack the Rat telling Moss the Mouse that he is the new boss.

J.J.: Soon all this will be yours, Taffy Boyo

The Mouse: ... I know O Great One.

J.J.: And to follow me you will need certain things.

The Mouse: Such as Master?

J.J.: Well ... a good 'no's' for a start.

Mouse: Oh dear, I've got a bit of sinus trouble.

J.J.: Not your nose! Your 'no's'. No to the dockers. NO to the airport worker. NO to the workers on strike at Yardley in Basildon. In fact NO to anyone who wants support. Get it?

Mouse: No.

J.J.: Good boy, thats the idea. Now you'll be wanting this cloth cap.

Mouse: But I don't wear a hat.

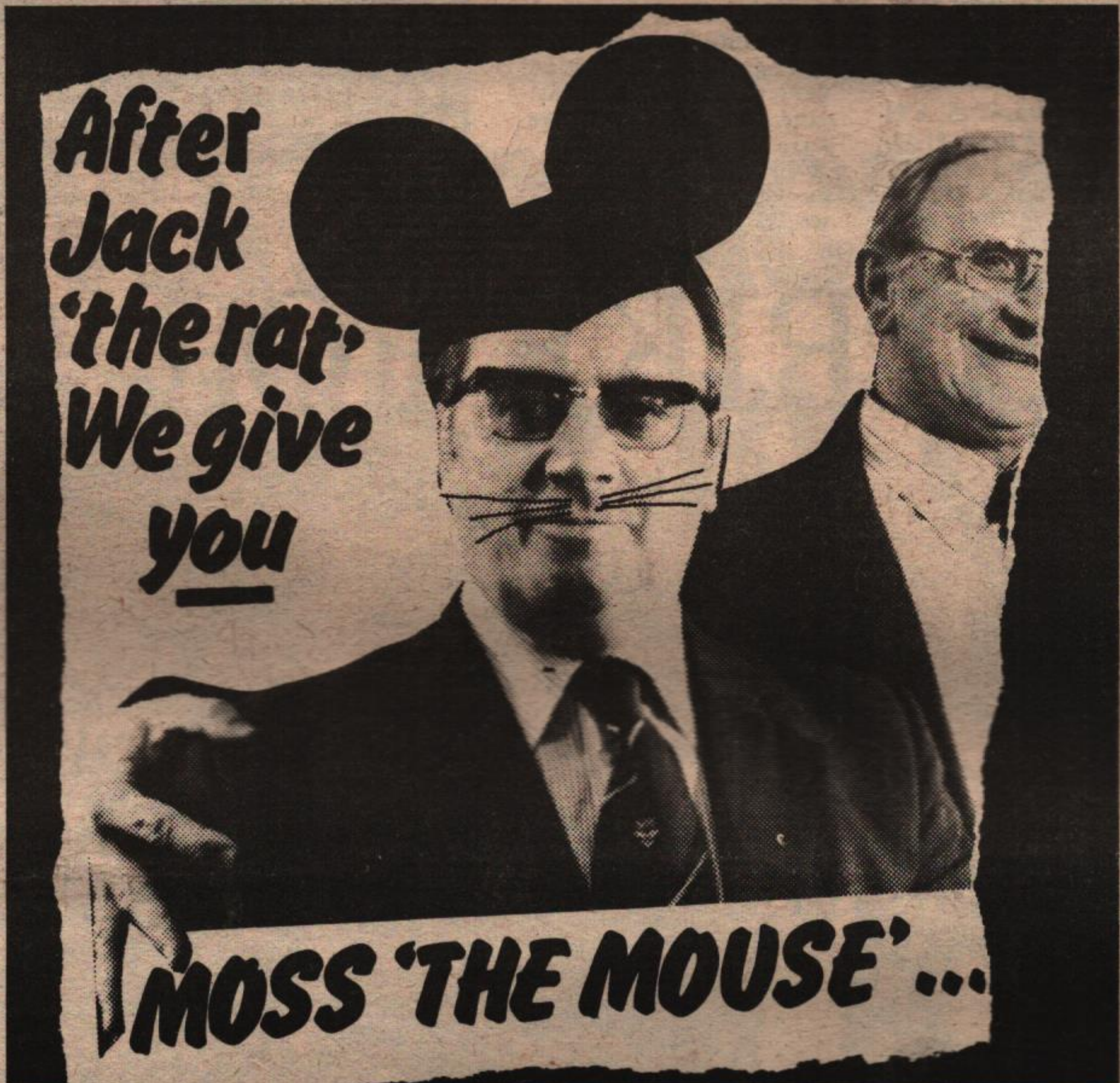
J.J.: Hat? This ain't a hat. And that's anudder ting you got to drop your aitches.

Mouse: Ho Kay, Boss.

J.J.: Good boy, you're learning. Now here's a list of books you should read. The Hostage for when the dockers come to Transport House.

Lucky Jim for when the Prime Minister comes. And A Road Map to South America for when the Revolution comes.

Mouse: Right Boss, check.



J.J.: Is it ... oh good ... put it with the others. Its probably my kickback from the Stock Exchange.

Mouse: Will do.

J.J.: Well, my little Welsh Rarebit you are all ready. Now get off my lap and put my old coat on.

Mouse: But ... it's got a hole in the back.

J.J.: Course it has you silly boyo ... that's where

you can be manipulated from behind ... still the pockets are deep.

MOUSE: But I thought I was going to be in charge.

J.J.: In charge! You! You must be joking. The Labour Party and the TUC will be operating you by remote control before you can say Harry Corbett. Now, I'm off on holiday don't do anything

anything silly while I'm away.

Mouse: ... But ... but where will you be if I want advice chief?

J.J.: I'm going on a walking tour of the Norfolk Broads with Len Murray.

Mouse: God Almighty!

J.J.: No, Moss, Len Murray ... Tom Jackson couldn't come.

Billy Gates T&GWU

So now we know . .

WELLINGBOROUGH AND East Northants Conservative Party's 'think tank' has come up with a solution to the Grunwick 'problem'.

'An armed riot squad should be formed to put down extremists and union mobs like those in the Grunwick dispute,' they say.

The armed force should use 'any force necessary'.

Their document, which is to be presented to the constituency party, states:

'Freedom is not an end in itself, but it demands responsibilities and sometimes restrictions.'

'Think tank' chairman Bruce Brown says in the local paper: 'Effectively there would be a riot squad, armed if necessary.'

'We expect a row about it in the party, but then democracy is about different opinions, isn't it.'

What Margaret Thatcher didn't say on TV

MARGARET THATCHER, leader of the Tory Party, says that if she becomes Prime Minister she might call a referendum if one of the trade unions calls a national strike.

What she did not say is that she got this idea from Robert Moss her pal in the National Association for Freedom.

Moss, who has written Thatcher's foreign affairs

THE QUEEN will probably be spending the most expensive penny on record when she visits the sports stadium in Edmonton, Canada for the Commonwealth Games.

The royal loo provided especially for her ten-day visit will cost £29,000.

speeches in the past, devoted a whole chapter in his book 'The Collapse of Democracy' to the need for a 'People's Veto'.

Here he specifically calls for what Thatcher suggested on television.

The book, written in 1975, spells out the ultra-right wing philosophy behind the NAFF. It explains how Trade Union Power and the

growth of Marxist ideas will destroy the country unless something is done urgently.

The need for the referendum on Trade Union Power is part of a wider strategy for crushing the aspirations of organised workers.

What Moss really wants is a referendum to endorse a Bill of Rights which will be enshrined in law beyond the reach even of

Parliament or as he puts it could not be 'swamped by the tide of socialist legislation.'

In the 'Bill of Rights' he 'would certainly include the right not to belong to a trade union, the right to own and bequeath property and the right to individual choice in health and education.'

In other words middle class and upper class privileges are to be made permanent and are no longer to be considered legitimate political issues by our rulers.

This is the road to the authoritarian dictatorship—which Moss also defends elsewhere in his book.

We may be sure that Thatcher will keep her lips firmly sealed about some of the wider plans of her buddy ... at least for the time being.

Great Auk gets the bird

YOU MIGHT think that £4,200 is quite a high price to pay for a stuffed bird. But you'd be wrong.

The long-departed Great Auk that was sold at Sotheby's last week was expected to go for £9000. TV cameras were lined up in the auction room. Reporters were ready with their microphones. But nothing appeared on the box.

Presumably the price wasn't high enough to warrant a mention.



AGITATOR, journal of NOISS, student supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, 10p a copy, plus 7p postage (more than five copies, post free) from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Socialist Worker

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

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

Circulation department: 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 9DS. 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.

Why Israel backs Lebanon's 'Nazis'

By the SWP Middle East Group

ISRAEL has stepped into the bloodbath in the Lebanon with open support for the right-wing militias against the Palestinians and the forces of the left.

And she is arming and protecting an organisation inspired by Adolf Hitler.

The Lebanese Right are Arabs, but they come from the Christian Maronite population to whom the French gave control after independence.

The main Christian party is the Phalange, founded in 1936 when Pierre Gemayel, the present leader, came back from the Olympic Games in Berlin ('Hitler's Olympics') inspired by what he had seen and keen to found an organisation meant to 'give something to Lebanese youth'.

STRIKE WAVE SHAKES BOSSES

THE GOVERNMENT of Premier John in the Caribbean island of Dominica has been shaken by a huge wave of strikes.

John's government was already notorious for its repressive measures, which included police powers to shoot on sight 'dreads' rebellious youth who adopted a special hairstyle and the framing of Desmond Trotter on a murder charge.

The strike began when the government refused to pay civil servants a pay rise it had promised three years before.

When their union, the Civil Service Association, struck, the government mobilised the Defence Force who threatened striking nurses with sub-machine guns.

But it seems to have had difficulty getting the police to help the scabs. According to the New Chronicle paper, 'many policemen are in sympathy with the strike'.

A day of solidarity with the striking civil servants brought widespread support from other unions despite the government's threat to use its Industrial Relations Act against solidarity strikes.

Police kill 15 in mass strike

AT LEAST 15 people were killed, and 3,000 injured during a one-day general strike in Colombia.

Thousands more were sacked in a wave of repression by the police and military.

Nonetheless, the unrelenting pressure on living standards, alongside the conspicuous fortunes made by the rich, forced a temporary collaboration between the four trade union federations which made the strike an overwhelming success.

JUST as participants in an international congress on civil rights were gathering in Manila, Philippines, armed police baton-charged the first major student demonstration against the five-year-old dictatorship of President Marcos and his wife, Imelda.

The student agitation began in July over increased tuition fees, but spread in August to include protests against martial law, police rule on the campuses and the banning of independent student organisations.

The Phalange became a para-military organisation with flags, uniforms, processions, the fascist salute, and leader-worship of the Nazi sort—all features they retain today.

The Phalange see themselves as the true representatives of Lebanon's Christian population.

They defend, they say, the Maronite traditions, religion, and of course their wealth and political privileges—their control, for example, of the Lebanese presidency and command of the army.

By law, both are *always* to be held by Maronites, although they make up only a third of the population.

The Phalange motto since the Thirties has been 'God, the Nation, and Family'.

Religion and the poor Maronites' fear of any threat to their few privileges over the Muslim majority have enabled the Phalangists to keep working class Christians within their influence.

Support

But it is within the Maronite lower middle class that the Phalange has found its greatest support.

It is not only the Phalange, of course, who want to see Lebanon rid of the Palestinians.

Israel, who originally expelled them there nearly 30 years ago, now wants to eliminate the Palestinian forces on its northern border.

So Israel has come to an agreement with the Phalange despite the fact that it is modelled on the Nazi party that murdered six million Jews.

They are supported with arms, food and money, and receive Israeli medical aid. They cross Israeli borders freely.

Israel has always rejected the criticism that her Zionist state is racist. Now she has as her best ally an openly fascist organisation.

HOLIDAY STUDENT IS SEIZED BY RUSSIANS

THE NATIONAL Union of Students is campaigning for the release of Andy Klymchuk, a student of Ukrainian descent who was arrested while on holiday in the USSR at the beginning of August.

He is in prison for allegedly 'keeping or distributing defamatory literature against the USSR'.

Friends who went on holiday with Andy emphatically deny that he took part in any political activity—'subversive' or otherwise. His parents say



Last weekend's anti-nuclear protesters, faced (below) with machine guns and riot gear

Exactly who are Germany's 'terrorists'



ARMED POLICE GREET NUCLEAR PROTEST

WE ARE often being told that West Germany is a fine democratic society, whose only problem is a small number of 'terrorists' who are threatening 'civilised values'.

The latest exploit of these terrorists is the kidnapping of Hans Schleyer, the head of the German CBI and formerly a card-carrying Nazi who was imprisoned after the war as a war criminal.

But these pictures show a different face of violence in Germany—the violence deployed by the state last weekend against a peaceful protest at the building of an extremely dangerous fast breeder nuclear power station near the Dutch border.

Tanks, machine guns, tear gas and barbed wire were all on hand to deal with those who voice the growing alarm at the dangers to the health and safety of millions of people.

PICTURES: PHIL McCOWEN

By Andy Strouthous, NUS Executive

he could be described as 'non-political'.

Unfortunately, the last time a student was arrested in the Ukraine it led to large-scale repression.

A Belgian student of Ukrainian origin was released nine months after his arrest in 1972—but only after signing forced confessions that named more than 1,000 other people and led to the arrest of 200, including leading socialist dissidents.

The National Union of

Students are calling for a 'fair trial' for Andy. The National Organisation of IS Societies, which contains student supporters of Socialist Worker, say a 'fair trial' is an impossibility and demand his immediate release.

Resolutions demanding his release should be sent to the Soviet Embassy, with copies to the defence campaign headquarters at 3 Endsleigh St, London.

NOISS and the Polish Workers Defence Campaign are picketing the Soviet Embassy on 19 October at 1.30pm.

We stay open - our ranks are

THE FIGHT TO SAVE THREE HOSPITALS FACING THE AXE

TELEPHONISTS, clerks, porters, ward orderlies, kitchen staff, cleaners and, of course, nurses can run our hospitals better than any bunch of faceless government officials.

And they're proving it—at hospitals which the authorities have tried to

close.

With public and trade union support, the staff insisted: 'No, you cannot close this hospital. It is immoral and it is not in the interests of the public.'

They're continuing working past the date of closure, carrying reluctant doctors

and consultants with them.

So far the authorities have avoided a showdown and carried on paying the staff, hoping their efforts would fizzle out.

They've been proved wrong, as they always are when they dismiss the ability of ordinary people to do things for themselves.

Interviews: JOHN ROSE

Pictures: LAURENCE SPARHAM and ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)

CATH Cooney, a staff nurse at Hounslow Hospital, said:

Our main problem is that there is terrific pressure on the doctors not to admit patients.

Unfortunately the doctors are submitting to this. This is the tactic of the authorities. We are already below capacity.

However, there are long-term patients who cannot leave. This is the stumbling-block for the authorities.

MOVE

How are they going to move the very old patients and the orthopaedic ones—if we say no?

The ambulancemen are supporting us to the hilt—they will not co-operate with

'NURSES SEE THEMSELVES IN A NEW LIGHT'

the administration.

It's going to be quite an effort for them to move these patients who do not want to go. They cannot use private cars.

Maybe they could do it with vans and agency staff. But they risk arousing the wrath of every trade unionist in the area.

If they try this on, we are well prepared. We have emergency pickets ready to be called out at a moment's notice.

London Airport is on our doorstep. There are plenty of workers who do not want to see this hospital go under.

A tremendous change has come over the people who work here.

Some of the nurses were worried at first. But when it came to the crunch they stood firm.

They were issued with instructions for eight nurses to move to the main West Middlesex Hospital. Only two went. The others refused.

They said it would leave Hounslow with inadequate staff.

This was an act of defiance. It is the sort of thing they would not have dreamed of doing before. But they are amazed at the attitude of the authorities.

They are starting to see things and themselves in a new light.

All the employees—porters, kitchen staff and so on—have supported the work-in all the time.

REFUSED

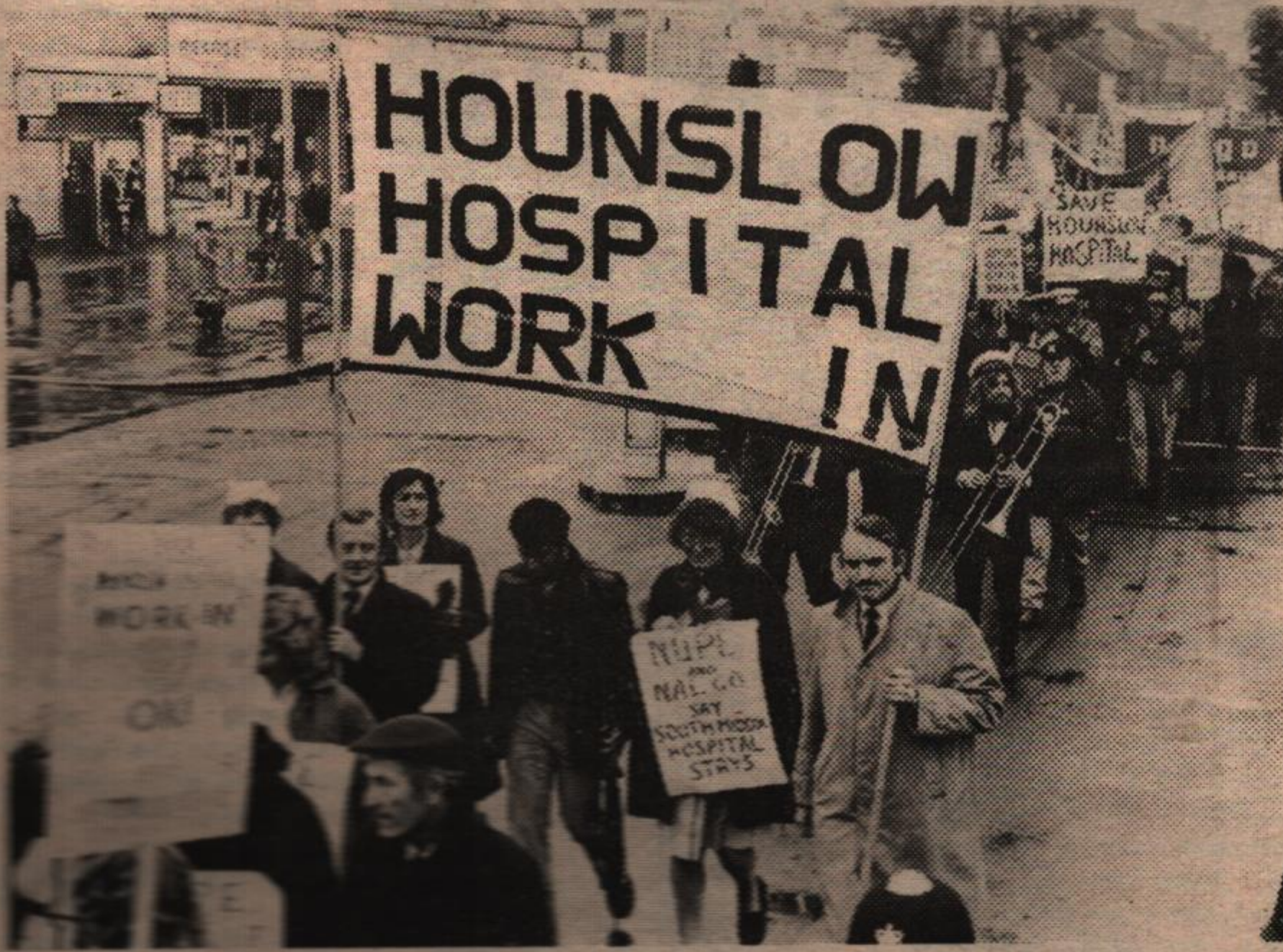
Some of them were also expected to leave the hospital, but they have refused. Some should have retired—but they insist on coming in to work!

Everyone is very optimistic. The inspiration comes from the realisation that if we'd left it to the management, there would be no patients here at all.

Now we've kept some of the patients on past the closure date. That makes people feel very, very proud. Now they feel superior to the people who are supposed to be their superiors!



FACING THE AXE: Plaistow Maternity and (top and right) the EGA. But Pam Jones (above)



On the march: the Hounslow nurses produced an act of defiance

'WE'VE KICKED OUT

DOROTHY Potter and Pat Varney are telephonists and members of COHSE and Brian Walker (NUPE) is the Head Cook at Plaistow Maternity Hospital.

It has an average intake of 40 patients a week. All three are on the work-in: Action Committee.

The work-in is now ten weeks old. The staff believe

that the authorities were planning a closure at Christmas. Dorothy, Pat and Brian said:

This part of East London has the highest number of kids dying at birth in Europe and yet the authorities can seriously consider closing a maternity unit!

It makes you shudder. If we closed down, patients who would have a long journey to the other maternity unit, pregnant mothers could easily miss ante-natal care.

The people who take these decisions are government officials with no understanding of the feelings of the area. They are instructed to cut regardless of human considerations.

They even had the nerve to suggest that the buildings here be used as an administration office after clearing out of the hospital.

We are fed up with these sort of administrators. In fact since the work-in we've kicked them out of the hospital

altogether!

We have had to allow one administrator in for legal reasons. But if any of the others want to come, they have to have our permission.

We have shown that the hospital can run without the management. One reason for standing firm on this is that those administrators are capable of starting to move equipment out of the building.

Of course, this is a possibility anyway. However,

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because closed

NOUGHT OUT OF TEN, MUST TRY HARDER

LAURIE FLYNN WITH SOME ADVICE FOR JULIUS THE EMPTY MINDED PROFESSOR

I AM the child of a liberal education.

My parents scrimped and saved and I went through High School and on to university.

But something went wrong. I didn't go on to be an executive with a piped muzak company or a labour relations advisor to Turner Brothers Asbestos.

I succumbed. I came under the baneful influence of marxism and ended up an active socialist instead.

According to Professor Julius Gould of Nottingham University, and his friends in the Institute for the Study of Conflict (a stable companion of the NAFF of Grunwicks fame) this is a serious complaint.

DESTRUCTIVE

Marxism, insists Gould in a 20-page report published last week at £5, makes you dogmatic, authoritarian and destructive.

Curiously enough, it was these very qualities I kept encountering among the Julius Goulds who were giving me my liberal education.

When I went to the London School of Economics in 1964, the liberal academics tried to drum the following dogmas into me:

Marxism was old-fashioned and unworthy of consideration. Capitalism, which was older by far, was not unworthy at all. It was bringing home the bacon, and would continue to do so.

Any challenge to this dogma was met with incredulity. I remember a lad in my economics class who just couldn't get it out of his mind that while he was being taught about affluence and marginal utility, half the world was starving.

He tried to get some sort of debate going and was promptly shown the door and asked not to come back to these economics classes.

For expressing my disagreement with this petty piece of intolerance, I too was shown the door. I had started to succumb.

Quite another matter made my condition acute. It was called the Vietnam War.

Conceived and executed by liberal American Friends of the Open Society, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the war was carried through with liberal doses of napalm and other forms of barbarism, including sociological barbarism.

The author of one of the leading anti-Marxist books on economic development, Walt W Rostow helped to coordinate the murder of children as a special presidential advisor.

I cannot recall hearing a single cheep of protest from Julius Gould, or others like him. I heard it from my parents, old-fashioned socialists who had succumbed years before.

I heard it from porters in the LSE cloakrooms, humble men who didn't have fancy salaries and the tied tongues that go with them.

So I broke with sociology and any 'science' which worships at any shrine in the corridors of power in Washington, Moscow or Whitehall.

GLOSS

Since I succumbed, it has never ceased to surprise me what depths the supporters of the establishment will plumb to put a philosophical gloss upon their complacency.

In his foray against the Marxists, Professor Julius Gould denounces us for feeling 'obliged' to criticise society here at home.

He, of course, would rather ignore injustice at home because it exists in even bigger portions elsewhere.

In his wall-to-wall-carpeted mind, servility equals freedom. He'd do fine in Moscow University.

His pamphlet pretends to

defend human reason. But it is a shallow pretence. At least a third of it is composed of names of left wing academics who have spoken in their spare time at various gatherings like the Communist University.

The purpose is plain. This man of 'tolerance' and reason is hoping university administrators and others in the corridors of power will take note of the names, refuse jobs to those on the list and generally tighten up all round.

The publication is, in short, a warning or black list of exactly the kind the Economic League provides to freedom-loving building employers like Taylor Woodrow, who care so deeply for human dignity that they brought you T Dan Smith and Ronan Point.

Over the years ahead the Institute for the Study of Conflict will be working hard to lengthen Gould's list of names.

CRITICAL

And, make no mistake, it won't just be Marxist academics who'll find their way onto it. Anyone with a genuinely inquiring and critical frame of mind will be a candidate.

Norman Moore of the Monks Wood experimental station will probably find his way on to it. For in his way this gentle liberal has torn to shreds the notion that Marxism is an obstacle to scientific inquiry and endeavour, and identified a part of the stranglehold that Ministry of Defence contract research and big business funding exercises on the academic world.

Mr Moore is one of the team of scientists at Monks Wood who set out to save Britain from the disastrous consequences of DDT.

'I was', he says, 'quite determined to get over one idea in particular, the question of persistence (that DDT stays around in ditches and water supplies or whatever for a very long time).

'I spoke at the British Association and it caused quite a stir that we were taking this critical line.

STAKED

'Immediately we ran up against big business and also what one might call the agricultural establishment, people who didn't like the idea that something as useful as DDT could have any snags at all; a lot of them had staked their reputations on saying DDT was really quite safe.'

It was a very exciting time and really pushed quite hard. I have a suggestion for Mr Gould. Now that he has advertised his wares via the M16-backed Institute for the Study of Conflict, he might find another freedom-loving body anxious to use his services.

He will find the Asbestos Information Committee in Rochdale, in offices shared by and paid for by Turner and Newall.

Perhaps Mr Gould could come to an arrangement. Turner and Newall share his hatred of Marxism.

It interferes with their profits and their much prized freedom to kill people.

EGA: 'FANTASTIC —OUR HEADS ARE HELD HIGH'

THE BEST-KNOWN of the hospital work-ins is at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for women in Central London.

The work-in there has been going for nearly a year. Pam Jones, a clerical worker and a member of NUPE, explains:

They have been trying to run the hospital down since the mid-Sixties. Last year when the threat of full closure became known to us, we set up the action committee.

BROKEN

The lift, which had broken down, gave the authorities the 'Excuse'—they 'had' to close the hospital because the building was falling apart!

But we, the staff, have kept it open, even though we couldn't take patients past the first floor.

Things appear to be running as normal. But there has been a fantastic change.

Everyone is walking around with their heads high.

All of us, clerks, nurses, cleaners, kitchen staff, assistants in the wards, have a special feeling of being involved in this together. If there is a crisis, say for

example the central heating broke down, we all get together and try to solve it.

You can see the way the change has affected the doctors. They were as nervous as hell at first. They thought the whole thing would end up in one big mess.

Now they've been drawn to us. They're much calmer.

It's funny to see the behaviour of the administrator. We've had to let her stay on the premises for legal reasons and as a way of keeping the support of the senior medical staff. But she is a shadow of her former self!

Before the work-in began, the pathology lab wanted to join the union so I went to recruit them.

Someone told the administrator that agitators were causing trouble in the lab. She came across and escorted me out of the hospital!

Now I'm one of the people keeping the hospital going. The administrator hides herself away in her room. Even she has to admit to herself that we're doing a fine job.

We have two forms of organisation. There is the Joint Shop Stewards Committee and there is the Action Committee.

The JSSC has responsibility for the work-in and ties in with the trade union movement outside.

The Action Committee overlaps with the JSSC but is much bigger. It includes representation, department by department.

PREVENT

This means we can include the medical staff in a way in which simply relying on union organisation would prevent.

The Action Committee provides for participation across the board. It allows us to include those who have fears about trade unions.

Not everybody may be a committed trade unionist, but all of us know we must keep the hospital open.

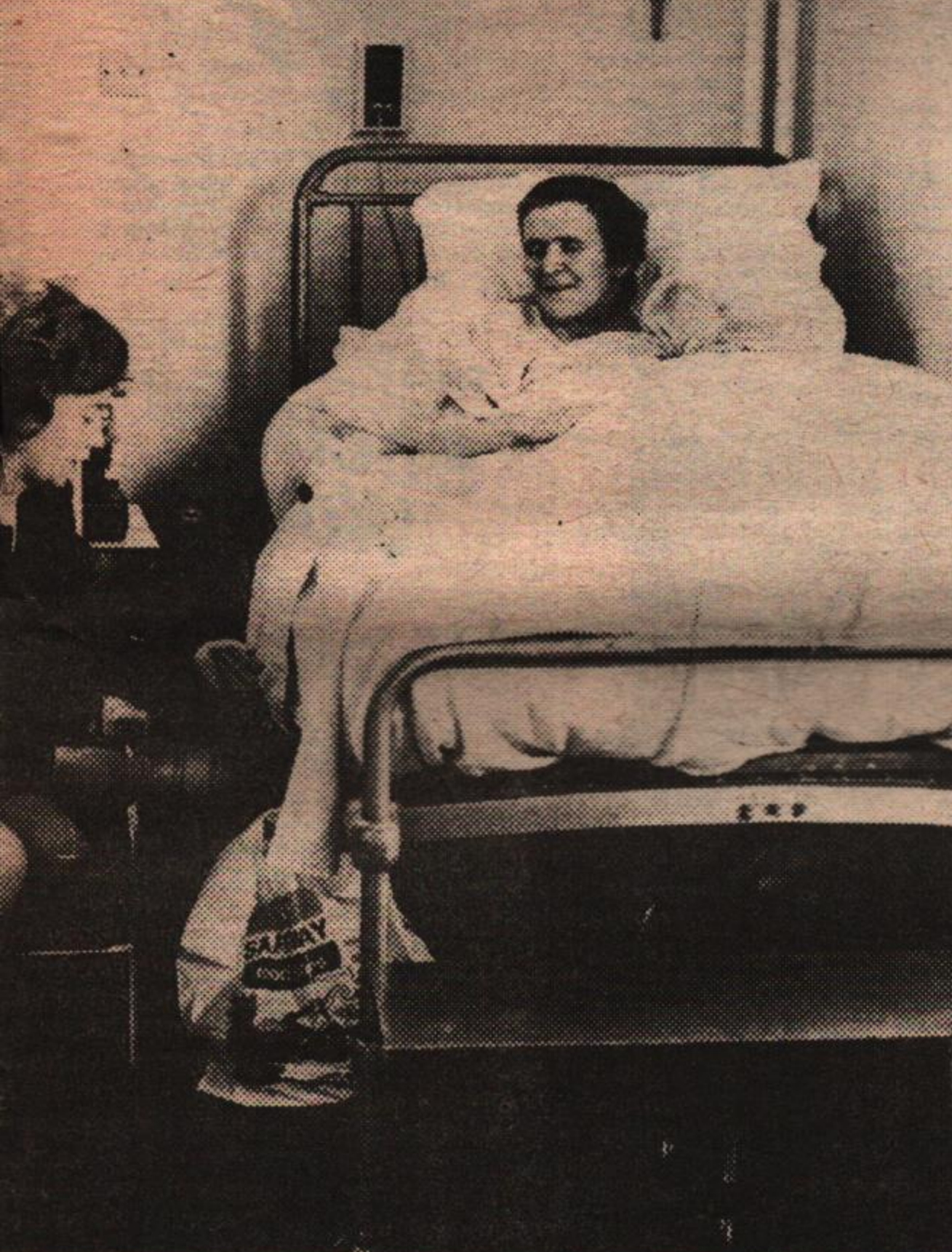
We met Ennals recently, the Minister responsible for the Health Service. Ron Keating, Assistant General Secretary of NUPE, threatened him with another Grunwick if he tried to close the EGA.

'I'm not Mr Ward' he spluttered. He was scared stiff. He said he supported the Grunwick strikers!

Ennals is now saying things like 'I personally believe in the concept of a woman's hospital', and 'The work-in is making us think again about our plans'.

Well, they're going to want us out here by the beginning of the new financial year. But I don't think they're going to dare do it. I think we're going to win.

SAVE
E.G.A. Hosp.
PETITIONS AVAILABLE HERE



... says: 'I think we're going to win'

THE BOSSES'

... an emergency picket ... ready if they do ... try to force a ... enormous support ... movement is pledged ... us. The dockers in ... we know, will ... to our aid. ... action committee, ... of the head cook, ... onists, clerks, ward ... es and nurses, is ready ... full responsibility ... the hospital in the

... event of a closure. The doctors and the consultants are with us completely. As long as they go on sending patients, they'll be a place for them. The bookings are heavier now than at this time last year. This proves local people are with us. We have a different morality to those above us who give the orders. We say simply this: 'If there is a need, then we must afford ...'



Pat Varney: Huge support

LESSONS OF LEWISHAM IN DEFENCE OF VIOLENCE

International Socialism 101
40p (inc postage) from 6 Cottons
Gardens London E2 or 30p from
your Socialist Worker seller.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

PAISLEY Socialist Workers Party film night: Chile—the reckoning, and The Tiger pounced and killed, but he'll die, he'll die. Followed by a speaker on fascism. Thursday 6 October, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall.

PAISLEY DISTRICT Women's Voice group public meeting: Women, tranquillisers and the NHS. Speaker: Liz Hall. Monday 3 October, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall.

EDINBURGH District Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Case for the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Paul Foot. Chair: Tom McDonald (AUEW). Thursday 13 October, 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, George Street.

KILMARNOCK Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Nazis—build the socialist alternative. Speaker: Johnny Miller. Thursday 6 October, 7.30pm, Grand Halls (near bus station).

EASTER ROSS Socialist Workers Party disco: Friday 30 September, 9pm-1am, Muir of Ord Hall. Odyssey Disco and light show.

CLYDESIDE Socialist Workers Party industrial meeting for all trade union and unemployed members: Tuesday 4 October, 7.30pm-9.30pm. East Room, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow. Agenda: political perspectives, workplace organisation and workplace bulletins, the National Rank and File Conference. Area discussion document on these proposals available from SW Books, 64 Queen St, Glasgow C1. For further details phone Dave Sherry or Allan Borrell 041-221 3426.

EDINBURGH district Socialist Workers Party half-day school on Labour History: Allan Armstrong on Chartism—the first working-class revolutionary movement? And Jim Dunningan on The Shop Stewards Movement—an early rank and file organisation. Sunday 2 October, 11am-2pm, Trades Council, Picardy Place. All SWP supporters welcome.

CLYDEBANK Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The fight against the fascists—the need for a socialist alternative. Monday 3 October, 7.45pm, Clydebank Town Hall.

North East

TYNESIDE ROCK AGAINST RACISM: Thursday 6 October, 7.30pm-1am, Guildhall, Quayside, Newcastle. Two bands and disco. Admission 75p (45p with dole card).

DARLINGTON ROCK AGAINST RACISM concert: featuring Dangerbird. Friday 7 October, 7.30pm, The Bowes, Skinnergate. Buffet. Tickets 70p (unemployed 40p) from The Bookcentre, Barnard Street.

DURHAM Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm, Colipitts Hotel.

Yorkshire

HALIFAX Socialist Workers Party meeting: The SWP and sexism. Speaker: Geoff Robinson. Thursday 13 October, 7.30pm, Plummet Lane, 5, Bill Green. For details of weekly meetings, phone Halifax 67209.

HALIFAX Women's Voice meeting: How we fight back. Tuesday 18 October, 7.30pm, Plummet Lane, Bull Green.

BRADFORD CENTRAL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursdays 7.45pm, Textile Hall, Westgate. Cassette tape recordings followed by discussion.

29 September: Lenin. Speaker: Tony Cliff.
6 October: The State. Speaker: Harry McShane.
13 October: Why Russia isn't socialist. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

PONTEFRAC T Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Case against productivity deals in the pits. Speaker: Alan Bailey (NUM Armthorpe). Wednesday 5 October, 8pm, The Turks Head, Southgate.

PONTEFRAC T Womens Voice public meeting: Family life—who rules? Speaker: David Widgery. Thursday 20 October, 8pm, Town Hall.

North West

NORTH WEST Socialist Workers Party Black Caucus: Sunday 2 October, 12 noon onwards, TU Books, Basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. All North West SWP branches to send one delegate. Details, contact the bookshop, phone 061-832 8102.

CREWE Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Socialist alternative to racism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 6 October, 8pm, The Angel Hotel, Victoria Street, Crewe Town Centre.

Public meetings and events organised by the Socialist Workers' Party and its fraternal organisations.

□ Send notices, to reach us by first post Monday at the latest, to Whats On, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

SUB/EDITOR with experience of design needed for Socialist Worker.

Experience in socialist politics needed. Apply in writing with full details of experience to the editor, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS (phone 01-739 0185).

Socialist Workers Party WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Saturday 1 October 11.30 am, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham

Organising in the workplace. £15 now for women workers, maternity leave, abortion, election of SWP women's committee. Delegates one for every five women members. Creche. □ More details from SWP Women's Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. (phone 01-739 1878). All branches should send at least one delegate.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM Weekend workshop on Marxism and Modern Capitalism Warwick University, 1-2 October Registration 20p (5p unemployed)

Including: Kidron-Harman debate continued (introduced by Peter Binns), Holland-Benn and the economics of Reformism (introduced by James Anderson), Women, the Family and Capitalism (Elana Dallas). □ Accommodation, details and advance papers from Colin Barker, 19 Chatfield Road, Manchester 21 (phone 061-881 1070).

BLACK LIBERATION weekend school organised by Flame, black workers' paper of the SWP 22-23 October, North London Polytechnic, Holloway Road, London N7 (Registration 50p, 11am Saturday)

Sessions include: Black liberation and revolutionary socialism, Black women in struggle, The revolutionary socialist party. Special appearance by RAPP. Speakers include Tony Bogues, Jackie Bogues, Alock Biswas, Duncan Hallas, Balwinder Singh. □ Details from FLAME, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Workers Party weekend meeting HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK 15/16 October, in Leeds Organised by the SWP Science Group/Health and Safety Group

Sessions on The Politics of health and safety, The asbestos story, The drugs industry. Women, health and work. Organising health and safety in the rank and file movement, Health and safety committees and reps. Starts 12.30pm, Saturday Cost £2.50 (£6.50 with bed and breakfast). For further details and to register, contact Derek Howl, 3 Granby Grove, Leeds 6 (phone 0532-789920). □ All SWP districts please send at least one member

SALFORD Socialist Workers Party meets Thursdays, 8pm, Church Inn, Pendleton. All members and readers welcome.

BURY ROCK AGAINST RACISM presents The Nosedogs and Exodus. Wednesday 5 October, 8.30pm-1am, Crystals, Bury Precinct. Tickets £1 (students and unemployed 50p) from Vibes (Openshaw Records) or through Bury SWP.

BURNLEY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Thursdays, 8pm, Old Red Lion. All welcome

6 October: Health and safety at work
13 October: Blame the bosses, not the blacks!

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Fascism or workers' power. Speaker: Eddie Prevost (TGWU) shop steward, London Royal Dock. Thursday 6 October, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Old High Street.

London

CROYDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: to mark the anniversary of the Russian Revolution: Sixty Years after 1917. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 6 October, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane).

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The SWP needs you! Speaker: Chris Harman. Tuesday 4 October, 8pm, Toyndee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1.

BRENT Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Fortnightly on Wednesdays, 8pm, Willesden Junction Hotel.

5 October: Democracy—ballot box or factory floor? Speaker: Cathy Tait (shop steward, Landis and Gyr)
19 October: Police—muggers in blue or workers in uniform? Speaker: Steve Forey (NUJ).

OUTER EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party series of fortnightly meetings: The Revolutionaries. Alternate Fridays, 7.45pm, North East London Polytechnic Greengate Precinct, Greengate Street, Plaistow, E13.

30 September: Marx. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.
14 October: Lenin (1). Speaker: Tony Cliff.
28 October: Lenin (2). Speaker: Tony Cliff.
11 November: Trotsky. Speaker: Chris Harman.
25 November: Mao. Speaker: Nora Carlin.

ISLINGTON COUNCIL WORKERS Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: The Revolutionary versus the Parliamentary Road to Socialism. Speaker: Steve Jefferys. Thursday 13 October, 6pm, Central Library, Holloway Road, London N7 (near Highbury and Islington Tube).

FAREWELL 76 FOYLE ROAD! Party: Saturday 1 October, 10.30pm, with Youngs best bitter and special guests from Radio Caroline.

HAMMERSMITH Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Monday 7.30, Hammersmith Town Hall, Fulham Broadway, London SW6.

10 October: The Rank and File Movement. Speaker: Bernie Dunne.
SOUTHWARK Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road.

29 September: The trade unions. Speaker: Joy Letting.
6 October: Is pop music sexist? Speaker: Roger Huddle (Rock Against Racism).

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Every Thursday, 5.30pm, Right to Work Centre, Mayall Road, Brixton.

29 September: Fascism. Speaker: Dave Peers.
6 October: Eastern Europe. Speaker: Mike Marriot.
13 October: The law and the police. Speaker: Danny Phillips.

SOUTH LONDON Socialist Worker Youth Movement meets for weekly informal discussion on Tuesday evenings, 6.30pm, Right to Work Centre, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.

PLUMSTEAD Socialist Workers Party branch meeting: Monday 3 October, 8pm, Thames Road and Information Centre, Harrow Manor Way, London SE2. All welcome.

WANDSWORTH Women's Voice open meeting: The Fight for Abortion Rights. Plus new version of the play Bouncing Back, with Pirate Jenny theatre group. Thursday 13 October, 8pm, Wheatshaft pub, Upper Tooting Road (next to Tooting Bec tube). Admission 25p, bring your friends.

South West

BRISTOL AREA Socialist Workers Party meets Thursdays, 8pm, Crown Tavern, Pennywell Road, Lawford's Gate, Old Market, Bristol 2.

NOISS

National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies.

GOING TO COLLEGE NEXT TERM? The Socialist Workers Party and its fraternal student organisation, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOISS), have members and supporters in most towns. Contact us at the following numbers:

ABERYSTWYTH: Jane Hanscomb, 10 Cambrian Square, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.
BANGOR: University College of North Wales: Allan Williams, 2 Friars Terrace, High Street, Bangor. MEETING: Wednesday 5 October, 6pm, Students Union, UCNW.
BIRMINGHAM: Dave Owens, 021-643 5717.
BRADFORD: P Wiggins, c/o Students Union, phone Bradford 34135.
BRISTOL and BATH: Tom Archer, IS Society, University Union, Queens Road, Bristol 8 (phone Bristol 284550).
CAMBRIDGE: Phone Derek, 0223-65477.
CANTERBURY and EAST KENT: Chris Hale, Keynes College, University of Kent, Canterbury.
CLYDESIDE: Contact Ewan Robertson, SW Books, 64 Queen Street,

Glasgow C1 (phone 041-221 3426). MEETING for all SWP students and NOISS members: Thursday 29 September, 6pm prompt, SW Books, address above.
EDINBURGH: George Higgins, c/o 2 Elm Row, Edinburgh.
ESSEX UNIVERSITY: Meeting Saturday 24 September, for details phone Colchester 67908.

GUILDFORD: Surrey University or Guildford Tech: Howard Miles, phone Guildford 77363.
HULL: L Pritchard, c/o 238 Springbank, Hull.
LAMPETER: Hilary Thomas, SDUC, Lampeter, Dyfed.
LONDON:

North East London Poly: Phone Gary, 01-555 8447 (daytime). Meeting of all SWP and NOISS members and supporters, Monday 19 September, 1pm, The Quiet Room, Students Union, Barking Precinct, Longbridge Road. First branch meeting: Wednesday 28 September, 6.30pm, Greengate Street bar.

City University: Einde O'Callaghan, 15 Eye Road, Tottenham, N17 (phone 01-808 6774).

Ealing Tech, Thomas Huxley, St Mary's: Owen Gallagher, 8 Gunnersbury Avenue, W5 (phone 01-993 1777).
Garrett College: Contact Philip Naylor, phone 01-961 0591.

LANCASTER: Steve Parsons, c/o Lancaster University Students Union (phone 0824-65201 ext 268).
LIVERPOOL: SWP district secretary, 2b, Dawson Street, Liverpool 1.
LEEDS: S Smith, 2 Chesnut Avenue, Leeds 6.

MANCHESTER: Dave Richards or Marie Durkin, Manchester Polytechnic Students Union (phone 061 273 3200).
NOTTINGHAM: Phone Nottingham 600760.

NORTH STAFFS and SOUTH CHESHIRE: Alan Gibbens, 41 Stoneley Avenue, Copenhall, Crewe (phone Crewe 4015).
NORWICH: Dave Arthur, 76 Norwich Road, Wymondham, Norfolk.

OXFORD: Ben Ross, 29 Richmond Road, Oxford.
PORTSMOUTH: Phone Portsmouth 33301 or contact NOISS Bookstall, Union House Hall, St Paul's Rd, from 3 October.

READING, Bulmershe College: Brent Curless, 7 Denmark Road, Reading.
SHEFFIELD: Phone Sheffield 584561.
SWANSEA: Brian Rees, 9 Bath Villas, Morrision, Swansea.

SOUTHAMPTON: Sian Jones, 210 Derby Road, Southampton.
SOUTH WALES: Contact SWP Bookshop, 58 Bridge Street, Cardiff.
SALFORD: Alan Franco, c/o External Affairs Office, Salford Students Union, University House, Salford 5.

SUSSEX: Greg Norwood, 37 Rayner Towers, Albany Road, Lexton, London, E10 (phone 01-556 6415) or Sue Spicer, 26b West Hill Road, Brighton (phone 0273-21060).
YORK: Geoff Holden, Wentworth College, York.

□ All others phone NOISS, 01-739 1878.

Action in the unions

HOSPITAL WORKERS: Yorkshire and North East regional day school for SWP members and supporters in the Health Service. Saturday 1 October, in Leeds. Sessions on building a Hospital Worker Group, writing for Hospital Worker, workplace branches, working in the NHS unions, etc. For details, phone Leeds 620350.

SW Notices

FOUR STRIKES IN THE PAST FOUR WEEKS— and no duplicator to help us intervene. If you have one available cheap (or better still free) please phone Halifax 67209, or write to Halifax SWP, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

HARLOW SWP seek return of their banner lost at Lewisham. Please phone 0279-37205.

Socialist Worker HISTORY GROUP: Anyone interested in setting up a new SWP History Group (really, this time) please contact Norah Carlin, 109 Croly Road, London N9 (phone 01-807 1741).

CHEAP AMPS, SPEAKERS and DRUMKIT NEEDED for punk rock band. Please contact J.R Patterson, 17 Buckland Hill, Maidstone, Kent (phone Maidstone 4442).



COMING SOON!

SWP badges, in metal and enamel, red and silver. Ready mid-October—watch this space.

STUFF THE JUBILEE BADGES still available: Be ready for the Queen and the other royal scounders, visiting various towns during the summer. 20p each, 10 for £1.50, 50 for £7, from SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

THREE NEW POLITICAL CASSETTES from Socialist Worker Recordings: Dave Widgery on RACISM AND THE BLUES, 55 minutes, £1.40. Paul Foot on SHELLEY AND REVOLUTION, 87 minutes, £1.50. Duncan Hallas on WHY RUSSIA ISN'T SOCIALIST, 42 minutes, plus 34 minutes discussion, £1.50. Prices include postage. From SW RECORDINGS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS: Order by post from Birmingham SW Bookshop. Phone Jerry Mason, 021-643 5717, or write to Socialist and TU Books, 224 Deritend High St, Birmingham 12. This week's post free offer: Rosa Luxemburg: Reform or Revolution 45p, Junius pamphlet 60p. Send £1.05 for return of post service.

JOHN HARDY please contact Geoff Eilen immediately.

FOR Caroline and John Breedon: Welcome to Mark Stephen from all his Oxford comrades.

ACCOMODATION NEEDED by social worker, SW supporter, moving to London. In or near Tooting area, as soon as possible. Phone Duff Stewart, Hitchin (0452) 59679.

ACTIVIST URGENTLY NEEDS ROOM in North London. Please phone Steve Bassindale, 031-556 9422.

SWP MEMBER urgently needs room in South or South East London during term time. Phone Mary Phillips, 01-739 9043.

At last! The SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY JOINER'S KIT: The Socialist Workers Party Handbook, with one-page summaries on our position on:

Notices and meetings

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

EDINBURGH PUBLIC MEETING: Fight racism! Stop the Nazi Front! Thursday 6 October, 7.30pm, Nelson Halls, St Leonards Street. Sponsored by Edinburgh Anti-Racist Committee, Edinburgh LPYS and Anti-Fascist Defence Campaign.

HACKNEY: Come and debate with Mary Whitehouse on Thursday 29 September, 6.45pm, Hackney Town Hall, on 'Whose Freedom?'

STOCKTON: A Woman's Place? A Durham University course.

Why we need a revolutionary party. The origins of the SWP. The structure of the SWP, Russia—a Marxist analysis, is China socialist? The Right To Work Campaign, The Cuts, The struggle for women's rights, Socialist Worker, plus a further reading list. Available from Socialist Worker Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow G1. Individual copies 15p plus 10p postage, 10 copies £2 including postage, 100 copies £15 including postage.

Socialist Worker

TROOPS OUT NOW!

TROOPS OUT and SMASH THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT stickers, printed in red and black, four designs. 500 for £1 plus 20p postage, post free to SWP members (state which branch). CASH WITH ORDER to Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NAZIS OFF THE STREETS stickers, printed in three colours, black, green and red. Three sheets of 12 for 50p, 7 sheets for £1, post free from Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cash with order only.



READ Socialist Worker WEEKLY

SOCIALIST WORKER STICKERS in red and black. £1 for 500, plus 20p postage. Post free to SWP members (state which branch). CASH WITH ORDER ONLY, from Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker needs REGULAR HELP on Wednesday mornings. Anyone able to do this work should phone John Larkham, 01-739 1878 for further details.

BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND—HOW AND WHEN?

Labour Movement Delegate Conference Saturday 19 November, 10am-5.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Credentials £1 per delegate.

SOUND OF THE CITY, by Charlie Gillett. Urgently need a secondhand copy. Will pay in advance or would borrow for one week and return. Any offers to Ferruccio Gambino, Via del Santo 26, 35100 Padova, Italy.

Sponsors include: Phil Flynn (deputy general secretary, LG&PSU, Ireland), Matt Merrigan (Dublin district secretary, ATGWU), Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Aidan White (NUJ executive committee), Jim Murray (AUEW executive), Paul Foot (NUJ), Dick North (NUT executive), Mick McGrath (CPUSA national committee) (all in personal capacity), TGWU 1/281.

Organised by NLD, 1 North End Road, London W14.

Outer East London district in association with **Socialist Worker MOVIES** present **October&after** a season of nine films showing monthly NE London Poly Greengate St (Plaistow tube) Season ticket only £2 Details from O&A 31 Bedford Rd E6

FRIDAY 7 October 7.45pm
To start the season:
OCTOBER
Eisenstein classic film of the Russian Revolution that occurred 60 years ago this October.
Next month: CABARET



Jimmy Boyle, the prisoner who refused to surrender

MANY years ago, as I sat in a pub in Govan, a mate pointed out Jimmy Boyle.

Even at 18 or 19, he had a fearsome reputation in the South Side of Glasgow.

Now the same man who has spent—and will continue to spend—much of his life in High Security institutions, has written a book.*

It's about his upbringing and experiences in those places the media are so fond of calling places of rehabilitation.

Drift

His youth was a pretty normal one for a working class boy from these parts—a drift into petty crime.

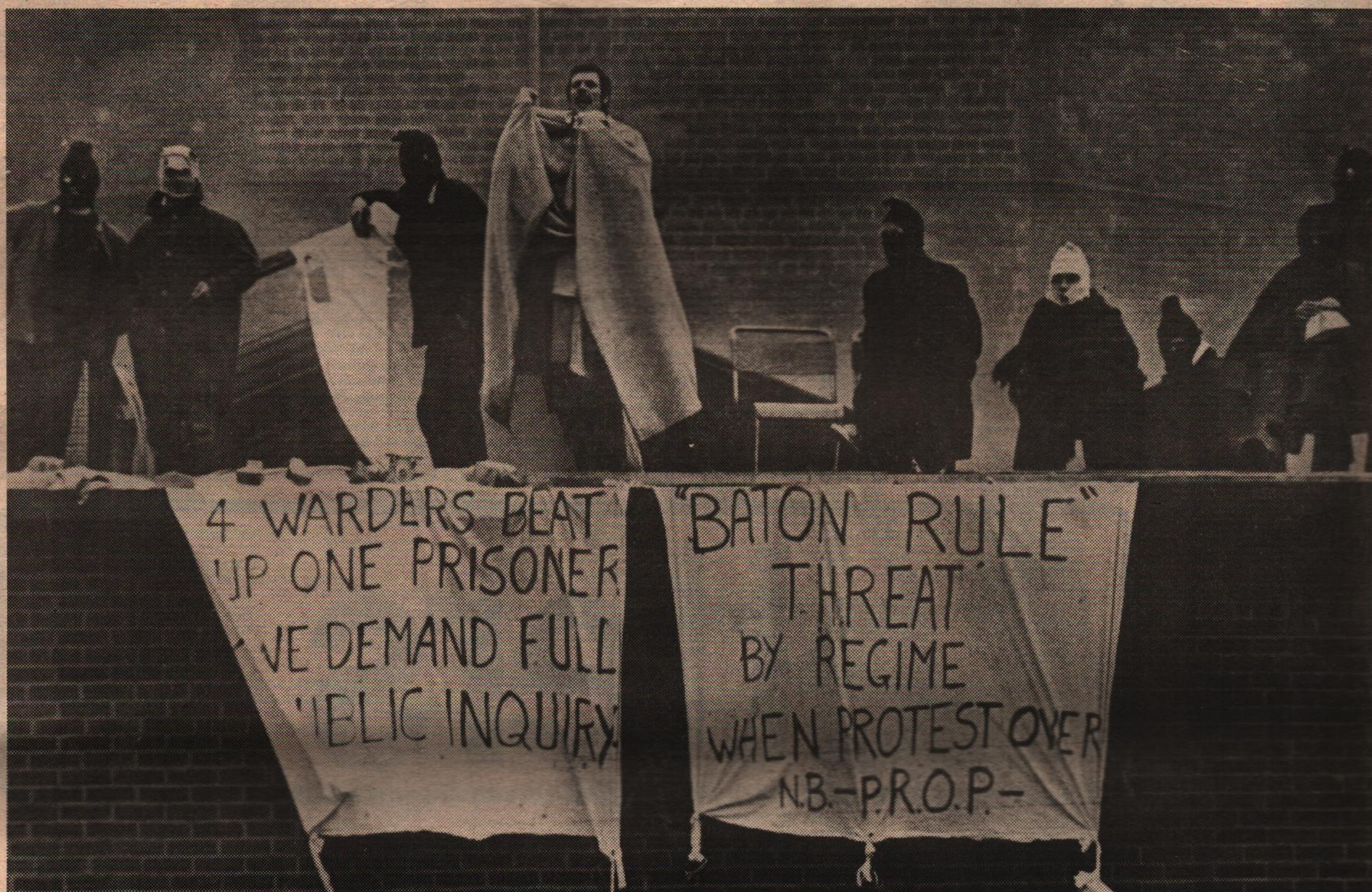
But for Boyle it didn't stop there: violence became the prime factor. The Glasgow hard man image could give you a respect lacking in the young unemployed with nowhere to go.

But what is central to the book and to Jimmy Boyle is the experience of prison, the degradation prisoners are subjected to, no matter what the crime, the acceptance by the guards that people like Boyle had been labelled dangerous criminals and should be treated as such, the beatings by the heavy mob, wearing overalls so they would not get blood on their uniforms.

To quote Boyle: 'From now on I would totally reject everything and everyone and label them the 'Dangerous Majority' and the 'Perpetuators of Fascism.'

Media

'Who was society? I described them as being like every para-military organisation on the government payroll and all those silly ignorant bastards who would be brainwashed by the media, accepting their every word as



being gospel.

'From now on the world could go fuck. I hated everyone and distrusted everyone. They made it plain that they felt the same about me so we all knew where we stood.'

From the minute he entered prison he refused to accept the way it was run. Assault on guards brought more years to his life

sentence. After the riots at Porterfield Prison he was transferred to the special unit at Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow.

What I found interesting in the book was the way I could

By ALAN WILSON

EETPU steward, Glasgow Council

relate to Boyle, our age and background, the fact that he went one way and I another.

As a socialist, the book shows up for me the system the state has created to deal with the failures it creates. It

is no more interested in helping these men than it is in creating a society that works for those who create its wealth.

I would recommend this book, not just for socialists

but for anyone. Maybe you can feel the rage felt by Boyle.

Perhaps some day the rage that I'm sure exists in many people can be put to use in sweeping away this rotten system and building a new society.

* *A Sense of Freedom*, by Jimmy Boyle (Pan) £1 (inc. postage) from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

A prison protest: 'I hated everyone and distrusted everyone', says Jimmy Boyle

SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOKMARX CLUB

□ HOW does it work?

Buying books in bulk means we get better terms from the publisher; we then pass some of the discount on to our members.

Members thus get some of the best reading available—cheaply.

You can join for a minimum of a quarter (three months) during which we will send you books worth about £7.

The quarterly subscription—£4.50 can be paid in one sum or as three

monthly payments of £1.50—though we ask for an initial payment of £3 from monthly paying members.

Members can pay in cash or, more convenient for them and us, by Bankers Order.

Each batch of books is sent out with a newsletter about the club, occasional background notes on the books and lists of recent publications and occasional special offers.

□ What sort of books do

you send out?

Two sorts—those of a factual or historical nature which socialists will want for their information; and novels and the like which present socialist ideas or historical events in a way which many people find more interesting and entertaining.

□ What reactions do you get from members?

Some 560 people have been members for at least one quarter. To these we have sent 5,000 books in the first three quarters of this year. The response has been almost entirely favourable.

□ Would it be possible to give members more choice?

While our membership remains relatively small, we are not in a position to give many choices. This is because we cannot be sure of selling the numbers which would make our orders interesting to the

publishers. This is especially so as we use books in their cheaper, paperback format to begin with.

□ What of the future?

We are hoping to introduce a number of our own publications. The first of these is *We Shall Be All* by Laurie Flynn which is offered in our fourth quarter selections. We visualise these as a series of short, cheap and committed books of around 100 pages.

□ How can members help to build the club?

Members could have local meetings to discuss the books. With local organisation it should be possible for people such as the unemployed, who cannot afford the £1.50 individually, to club together and pass the books around.

□ Bookmarx Club, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 2DE. 01-802 6145

A fine tradition

THE LEFT Book Club, started in 1936 by a small group of socialists, numbered 57,000 members by the outbreak of the Second World War.

It was more than simply a book club. Members were organised into 1,500 Left Discussion Groups which were forums for debate and action.

• The club enabled socialists to get important books regularly for about £1 at today's prices. Classics such as Orwell's *Road to Wigan Pier*

The LBC clearly had an immense influence on the political ideas of thousands of socialists before the war.

It is an example which socialists must learn from.

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

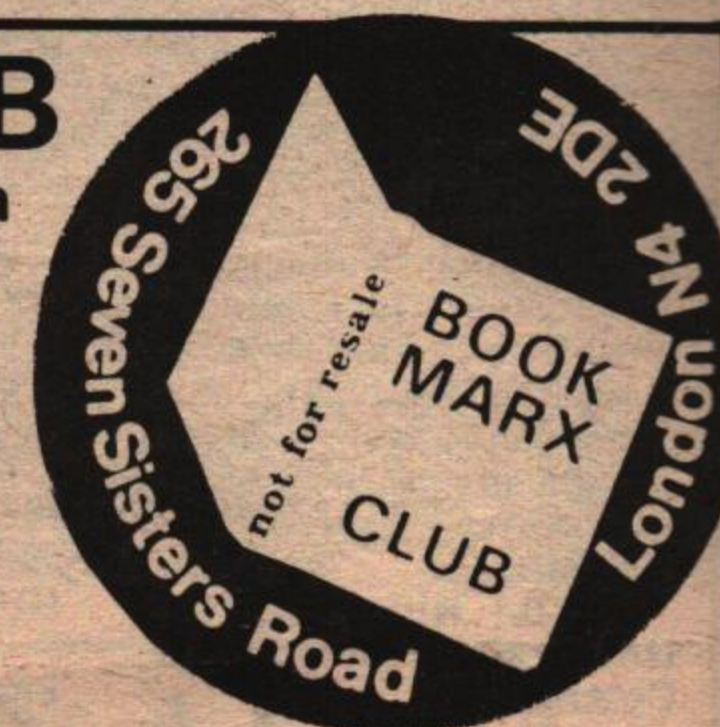
This remarkable novel condemns forever the lies, corruption and violence of fascism.

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.



Chile: Yes, very like Britain

OLI RICHARDSON (Letters, 10 September) raises some misguided points about Chile.

Firstly, there's no way we can divide the world into convenient little chunks: here capitalism hasn't taken root, there it's rotten ripe. It's a world system.

Its unpleasant face is more visible in some countries than others, but it grips everywhere. Gunboats, missiles and Kitson-trained commandos are as important to the Chilean junta, Smith's ugly regime or Callaghan in protecting

big business.

A workers' occupation in Thailand is the same as one in Hyde, Cheshire—it may even be the same employer.

Secondly, Chile had as long a 'democratic tradition' as any supposed 'fully capitalist' country.

And if anyone hopes Britain's 'democracy' is any protection from 'authoritarian disadvantages', what about the police Special Patrol Group attacking trade unionists at Grunwicks, or protecting the Nazi NF? And British

troops in Ireland?

We must learn from Chile now, when we still have the chance.

One lesson is that without clear independent workers' leadership, spontaneous direct action loses course and falls apart. We have the base for such a revolutionary socialist party here. Let's build one!

□ DEBBIE GOLT, Old Trafford, Manchester.

THE STATE WON'T PLAY GAMES

I'M FLABBERGASTED by John Webster's arguments (SW, 10 September) in which he displays no understanding of the state in capitalist society. Where is his Marxism?

Two lines underlie his arguments:

Firstly, that the working class must first win a parliamentary majority! What about Lenin's argument that 'bourgeois democracy', which is what we have today, is 'incapable' of expressing the aspirations and will of the organised working class?

And where would a parliamentary majority leave us anyway?

Ah! Second point... We would then look to winning the state away from the domination of the ruling class.

But surely the state is the

direct product of that class, and inseparable from it. The function of the state is to preserve the domination of the ruling class and when this is threatened, the state, other functions notwithstanding, is reduced to its essence—repression by the armed forces and police.

John Webster makes the revolution sound like TV's 'It's a Knock-out'! There is only one prize for failing to smash the state, and that is the bloodshed and repression that happened in Chile.

One final word. The inability of capitalism to survive, in the long run, its own internal contradictions is the basis of our scientific socialism—without which our hopes and struggles for a socialist future are but sandcastles awaiting the tide.

□ STEVE CAMPBELL, (NALGO), London SE22.



The end of Chile's 'road to Socialism'—the burned-out palace where President Allende died in the coup.

Education before revolution?

ANY unconstitutional or unlawful annexation of power would inevitably lead to a crisis, and civil war.

Under such circumstances the revolutionary working class would be faced with the army, the police and the remaining sector of the population who had been brainwashed by the mass media—whose adherence to 'law and order', the slogan of the ruling class, would suffice as a justification for their insurrection.

Socialism, therefore, must be brought about in its initial stages through parliament, in order to re-educate those repressive forces who act as the defenders of the ruling class.

A parliamentary majority would indicate the strong popular support and allow socialists to prepare an election programme through greater integration into the mass media, a secondary education programme, and finally a further education programme.

Revolution after this would either come naturally through evolution or would at least gain support from a significant and relevant section of the population, now on realistic terms with their struggle.

□ OLI RICHARDSON, University of Essex, Colchester.

The day the Commandos called on Wee Mary...

THE DAY after Her Imperial Majesty ended her visit to the rebellious colony of Northern Ireland, the Marine Commandos who had dutifully protected the royals saturated Turf Lodge.

Turf Lodge is a working-class, predominantly nationalist housing estate in Belfast with 40 per cent unemployment. Like the people in similar working class ghettos their attitude to 'Elizabrit' and the jubilee was 'STUFF IT!'

With the announcement 'You've insulted our Queen. You've got no rights and we are here to prove it', the Commandos took a sadistic and cowardly revenge.

On a rampage that lasted two days they inflicted, in the words of one resident 'total terror' on the community.

An old age pensioner of 73, known locally as Wee Mary,

had her home pulled apart.

Her front door, recently replaced after the former one had been smashed in three years previously, was kicked in. Mary offered the key to the Commandos but they refused.

A foul-mouthed thug roughly shoved the barrel of a rifle to her lips, then they broke the door in and proceeded to tear her small home apart. A woman who tried to intervene was dragged by her hair and punched in the face.

□ □

Wee Mary, still in a state of shock and terribly upset, broke down and wept when she recounted the story to eight supporters of the Campaign Against British Brutality in Ireland who were investigating.

Later 16-year-old Paul Reid told how he was trailed to a jeep where he was made to lie like a log of wood, so that when the jeep moved he was bumped and banged. If he tried to steady himself he was kicked on the hands.

He was trailed from the jeep by the hair and while being questioned was kicked



in the genitals and beaten. When he was released he was threatened: 'Take a good look at your dad, it's the last time you'll see him.'

The eight campaign members, who included Pat Arrowsmith and myself, took statements on tape and in writing from dozens of people who all told the same story.

Although the campaign's visit only lasted just over two days they encountered intense harassment.

Some soldiers also took part, one with the slogan National Front prominently displayed on his jacket. Apparently many soldiers have this or UVF on their uniforms.

□ BRIAN HODGE, president, Lambeth Trades Council, London SW6.

WORDS will not stop the NF, nor are there any 'subtle' ways to destroy the filth and unhuman evil of the fascists.

To stop the campaign against the fascists with ditherings and pages of 'facts' and speeches from church leaders and politicians would be a victory for the NF and their 'moderate' allies. None of these tactics stopped Hitler in the 1930s, and it won't work now.

□ J WORTH, Blackpool.

AT SCHOOL last week we read an excerpt from the Observer about the National Front and discussed it. One girl said: 'If they get the immigrants out, then they'll start on the Irish, and so on.'

The teacher asked people what they should do to get rid of the National Front without causing trouble, and one girl said, 'Just ignore them,' but I think there will be trouble whatever happens, and people will just have to fight for their rights.

There are a few kids in our school who are actual members of the National Front, but when they are on their own and they meet up with any black kids from our school they are friendly towards them.

□ NINA PHILLIPS (16), South East London.

THE MARCH THEY IGNORED

AS ONE of the 750 marchers for the Right to Work I was disgusted to get back to Stoke and find the newspapers and TV had ignored the greatest unemployed march since the Depression.

750 people marching more than 70 miles, SWP, IMG, YCL, middle-aged, school-leavers, graduates, punks had organised themselves to highlight the problem of 1,600,000 on the dole, a figure that will rise as long as the capitalist system is allowed to remain.

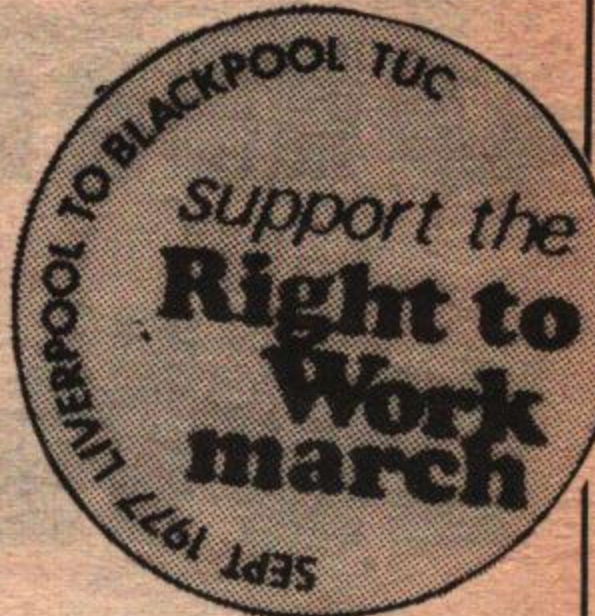
The spirit of the march was summed up for me by what one marcher had written on his jacket: 'Unemployed but not destroyed.'

On the Sunday we marched 20 miles from Wigan to Preston in a continual downpour. At the end several people needed hospital treatment.

But the hospital refused treatment, saying the marchers had 'self-inflicted wounds'.

Is this how low the National Health Service has fallen? Does 'self-inflicted wounds' mean they would not attempt to save the life of a suicide attempt?

The march secretary, John Deason, arranged for all the unemployed nurses and hospital workers on the march to accompany the



injured marchers to the hospital. This time they were seen to.

The only press coverage came after the 'Gormley incident'. Did anybody spit on him?

Yet how the national press chose to ignore the unbelievable reaction from the massed trade unionists and the general public when we arrived in Blackpool just beats me.

Then John Deason and Robbie Marmion were arrested, for what none of us know. The hours that followed I will never forget.

□ □

We organised ourselves in an attempt to get justice. We didn't have to resort to violence, all the 750 of us marching on the fortress-like police station. 750 voices chanting 'Deason, innocent!' and 'We want justice!' can be very effective.

After we had sat outside the police station for four hours the two were released on bail. As we sang, 'the workers united will never be defeated'.

I was at the back entrance of the Winters Gardens in Blackpool, where the TUC was meeting, when Prime Minister Callaghan made his 'getaway', protected by about 60 police ('A handful of police', said the local Blackpool paper).

The BBC news cameraman filmed it all but because there was no violence, nothing was shown.

Although the media refused to tell the truth about the march it was definitely worth it and should be even stronger next year.

It has also given a lot of people hope for the future. So long as 'The employed and unemployed unite', we are not fighting a lost cause.

□ DAVE NORCOTT, Stoke-on-Trent.

Barbarism at the SS

WHILE I was walking down Station Road, Wood Green, on 20 September, a man called me for help. He had fallen off a ladder and his arm, possibly broken, was causing him alarming pain.

I immediately offered to phone for an ambulance, but the nearest public phone was engaged. I went to the Social Security office, a few yards away, to ask them to phone for an ambulance.

I was appalled. The attendant stated categorically that it was not possible for him to phone from the office, although I explained why I couldn't use the public phone.

Another Social Security employee, on hearing the details, hesitated, then said he thought it would be all right for the attendant to phone.

The attendant disappeared into the office—and emerged five minutes later to say the supervisor could not allow the emergency call.

I find this behaviour abominable. It epitomises the concern for the welfare of the individual by a public body which calls itself the Department of Health and Social Security.

□ S McPHERSON, Wood Green, London N22.

THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCH AS SEEN BY THE MEDIA

Did you see us marching, The screaming scrounging mob?

Did you see us marching, The punks, the reds and the yobs?

Did you hear us shouting, Lenny,

Souting for some jobs? But of course you're very clever,

And you know we're only yobs.

Did you hear us shouting, Scablon,

For a decent wage? But of course you know better, We're just a load of yobs.

And if you didn't see our desperation

Or didn't see our pain, Well you've got it coming... You'll hear from us again.

□ RED ROY DAINITH, Right to Work marcher, Newton-le-Willows.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISTS

The Nazional Front and how to smash it

A SOCIALIST WORKER PAMPHLET

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UNEMPLOYED—AND ONLY CAT'S FOOD TO EAT

I AM unemployed, but also on the disablement register since 1974 with nervous debility, depression and vertigo. I receive £13.90 sick plus £1.49 supplementary, total £14.39.

I have to pay £3.53 a week mortgage, pay my own electric, food, coal and get second-hand clothes.

My only companion is my pet cat, who's 10½ and has recently been seriously ill with pneumonia. I paid £16.50 fees for that, but still owe £8. I

asked the Social Security for help with this but was refused.

I worked in May, June and July this year, but was sacked even though I had a sick note when I was off. They said it was a temporary job.

Some days, especially just before Giro day, I've bought codneck or yesterday's fish for the cat, baked it with potatoes and shared it with him.

Some weeks for vegetables I've had rose petals done in Yorkshire pudding.

Or pig's tail, vegetables and chrysanths to eat. I swear this is true.

When a Social Security man called recently about a mattress with springs stuck out, he said darn it and told me to use old overcoats as sheets. Luckily I stoked up food-wise when working.

But how does one live alone like this and on this bit without getting depressed? It is definitely true I've shared cat's codneck and eaten flowers.

I love animals and despite my poor

income I've taken two guinea pigs in to ease my loneliness. And if I have to share their food too I will.

But I hope you print this letter in full to show life on the sick for a single householder in 1977.

I try to buy your paper whenever I can, which sometimes is weekly, some weeks missing. Before the buggers beat me, help me get decent sick pay.

□ D E FAZACKERLEY, Wakefield.

Onward Christian savages, marching as to war...

MOST socialists think Christianity is absurd and reactionary, but don't know enough about its history to condemn it with confidence.

Christianity has always allied itself with the oppressor, and when Church and State managed to become identified, civilisation and human rights went into abeyance for a thousand years.

Europe suffered under the most terrifying and enduring dictatorship it has ever known.

Particularly to suffer were women, Jews, blacks and homosexuals—only 'traditional' scapegoats, incidentally, since the inception of this obnoxious religion.

Few people even know that Jesus Christ probably never even existed.

The only 'evidence' for his existence is contained in the (somewhat biased!) Gospels, which we know now to have been written 100 years after the supposed event—hardly a first-hand account.

Heroes

Not a mention is made of Jesus by the prolific Roman and Jewish historians of the time. The only paragraph on the subject in the writings of Josephus been proved to be a Christian forgery.

If Jesus was having the revolutionary effects he was supposed to be having around the Sea of Galilee, walking on water, raising the dead and the like, he would at least have rated a mention alongside the other, much lesser heroes of the time, whose stories are dealt with in some detail.

Take the Virgin Birth as an example of how myth has come to be accepted as fact. Christians, of course, believe Christ was born of a woman who had not had sex. But the Virgin Mary probably never existed.

The virgin mother was a familiar concept in 'pagan' mythology. Races as far apart as the Mexicans, the Chinese, the Indians, the Etruscans, the Teutons and the Scandinavians all knew a virgin-mother goddess.

There can be little doubt that the Virgin Mary has been modelled directly upon the Egyptian Isis, for the two are virtually indistinguishable.

Other titles of Isis include 'Our Lady', 'Queen of Heaven' and 'Immaculate Virgin', all appropriated by the Christians.

Figures of Isis nursing the

to war...

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST,
NINE MILLION WOMEN HAVE
BEEN SLAUGHTERED

LYN HOPKINS

infant Horus were taken from the temples to serve as the Madonna and Child. By Roman times, Isis had assimilated the names and attributes of every female deity in the Egyptian pantheon.

One of these was the Nile goddess Meh or Meri, a name suspiciously similar to Mary.

Again, Christians believe that Jesus Christ performed the impossible and rose from the dead at a time the Church calls Easter. But at just the same time of year in Roman times and long before, the priests of the 'pagan' Cybele celebrated their 'holy week'.

They carried a sacred emblem through the streets to the temple, and this emblem was the figure of a god, pale in death, bound to a tree.

Jesus Christ? No, the god's name was Attis and his religion was very old. The next day, Attis was mourned. The day after, he rose from the dead.

In the Roman calendar, 25 December, the birthday of Jesus Christ, was called the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun.

That was when the sun, three days after reaching the lowest point of its annual course through the heavens, once more began to rise higher in the sky, the first indication that winter would come to an end, that the animal and plant life on which humanity depended, would flourish again.

Virgin

The sun-god Mithra, it was believed, had come from heaven to be born as a man, in order to redeem men from their sins, and he was born of a virgin on 25 December. Shepherds were the first to learn of his birth.

The Egyptians who lived in Rome would also have been celebrating. Horus, they said, was born of a virgin as the saviour of mankind.

In the temple would be found the crib or manger with a figure of the infant Horus lying in it, and a statue of his virgin mother Isis standing alongside.

We are told of the wonderful

conversion of the Emperor Constantine, who inaugurated the Christian era. What we are not told, is that Constantine adopted the Christian faith as a political manoeuvre to keep control of the Empire: he needed all the support he could get, because he was hated by the Romans for his cruelty and barbarity.

The Christians in the next 200 years destroyed all the libraries and schools in the whole of the Roman Empire, exterminated all adversaries and inaugurated the Dark Ages which were to last for a thousand years.

Jews were the victims of systematic pogroms on the part of these gentle, loving Christians. They were prevented by law from taking up any profession other than money-lending, for which they were castigated right up to the Second World War.

Fight

If an epidemic struck, Jews were automatically suspected of poisoning the wells, and were judicially murdered in their thousands. After all, they had murdered the (non-existent) Christ, hadn't they?

As for women, who had achieved some measure of equality by the later days of the Roman Empire, their rights were ruthlessly extirpated.

It has been estimated that, from the accession of Christianity until the beginning of the 18th century nine million women were burned alive on suspicion of being 'witches', which 'crime' was just a rationalisation of male Christians' fear of women's sexuality and their fight to win basic human rights.

'A woman is nothing but a bag of muck' charitably remarked one Christian divine.

With their filthy attitude towards sex, Christians are responsible for the deaths of thousands of women who still die in agony today from self-induced abortion because they cannot get a legal one.

The Church is behind the ban on contraception in many countries because it holds that child-bearing until a woman drops dead is God's punishment for Eve's sin.

In the days before there was a cure for syphilis, the Catholic Church laid it down that a wife must have sex with a syphilitic husband, even though it meant that children she bore would be syphilitic.

The present Pope has ruled that a woman may not have an abortion even to save her life.

Until the 1940s, the Church ruled that a woman with a pregnancy in the Fallopian tubes (where the foetus will grow until it ruptures the tube and kills the woman) must not be operated upon to remove the danger.

In other words, they sentenced her to death—and not out of respect for the 'sanctity of life', because the foetus perished with her: it was a direct attack on women.

It is still the avowed policy of the Catholic Church to exterminate all 'heretics' (Anglicans, Jews, Hindus, Rastafarians, socialists, atheists, etc) and the only thing that stops them is that, at present, it lacks the power to do so.

Bogus

Only 40 years ago, it thought it might achieve power again by supporting the Fascists, and for that reason, the Catholic Centre Party helped Hitler to power, as it also aided Mussolini and Franco.

In 1935, the top Catholic in England, Cardinal Hinsley, said: 'If Fascism falls, God's cause goes under with it.'

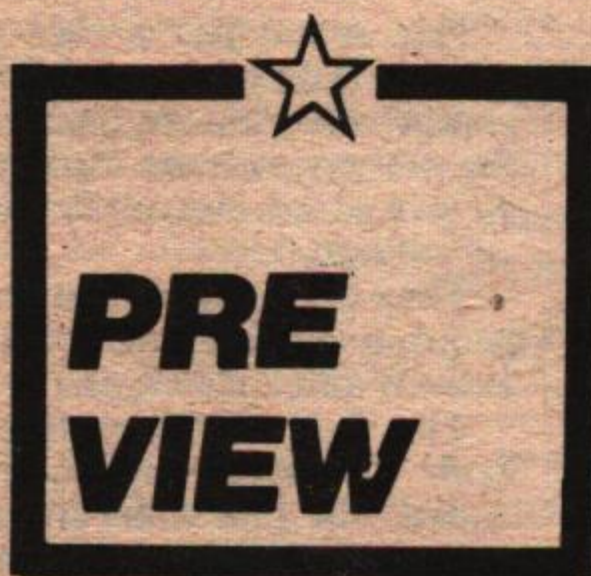
It was the Catholic Church which helped Nazi war criminals and S.S. men to escape to safety on Vatican passports.

It should be abundantly clear by now that this bogus religion, founded upon a non-existent deity, is the enemy of socialism, not the friend of the poor.

Christianity has a bad criminal record, and though it always pleads that it will go straight from now on, we should not be deceived again.



POLDARK—A SHINING EXAMPLE TO US ALL



By ROLAND
MULDOON

VIEWERS can't help liking Ross Poldark, for he's a good man. A man of the world and of his word. Even his enemies find it hard to conceal their grudging respect.

Poldark lives for justice and is even prepared to die for it. In short, this man is an example to us all. If not all the time, then at least for an hour on Sunday evening on BBC1.

Let me just list his credits: he married beneath his station, and although Demelsa was not his first choice he never holds it against her.

He always goes out of his way to help the poor—as long as they're honest with him.

He has become the mortal enemy of the land grabbing new rich, who show no regard for the ancient customs of 19th century rural Cornwall.

If he isn't helping Methodists who are against the hypocrites of the Church of England, he is trying to reunite loved ones.

He can be callous and at times contradictory, but then again can't we all?

He has been known to leave his wife alone while he goes off on one of his adventures,

disregarding her pregnancy—a man must do what a man must do—returning though to rekindle the fire of love.

I think of the millions watching this weekly well-made sermon from the romantic past who then spend the rest of their week trying, with great difficulty, to follow his example.

If I had an income of, say, £100,000 without having to do much for it, I could be like him.

I could flip coins at beggars, let a homeless family squat in one of my garages, pay some drunken old fool to dig my

garden.

I could have a home help to look after my wife when I flew out to save a misunderstood White Rhodesian, or whatever..... I would most certainly be against big companies who were trying to take my money from me.

Yes, I would be a friend of 'progress' as long as the economy was safe. Even if it wasn't there would be an old lady who would receive my help crossing the road—unless, of course, I was in a terrible hurry.

The truth is, I can't somehow manage to be like

him. In fact, I seem to spend most of my life calling the Poldarks of today middle-class do-gooding lazy capitalist bastards.

SATURDAY

LA GUEULE OUVERTE (BBC2). 'An instant classic'. A penetrating view of a woman's death.

SUNDAY

EVERYMAN (BBC1). Religion in the USSR, where card-carrying Christians outnumber Party members. SIZWE BANSI IS DEAD (Open University, BBC2) a new production of the South African classic.

Sheffield sparks' victory

SHEFFIELD: 73 electricians sacked last week by Crown House Engineering have won a complete victory.

Crown House tried to transfer eight men from the site to other jobs which would have cut their wages by £7 a week for five hours extra work. Because the site refused to allow these transfers the entire shop was sacked.

But a well-organised picket and strike forced the management to change their minds. All the men have been reinstated.

Verbal and written warnings, issued like confetti over the past two weeks, have been withdrawn and the transfers lifted.

Dave Lawford, EETPU shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'It is now clear that management were being hasty, although we have lost a week's money. It would have been rather better if they had started talking before sacking.'

'But it has been a good victory and through Socialist Worker I would like to thank everyone who has supported us.'

'The response has been great from the rank and file. We will be writing letters to all those who supported us.'

Giro threat

BOOTLE: 'The first large scale system of its kind in the world'—that's how Computer Weekly described the American equipment which will lead to 500 Post Office workers being sacked at the Bootle Giro Centre.

Local branch officers of the two civil service unions, the CPSA and the SCPS, have accepted this without argument.

Union officials, who are talking vaguely about a 'lead-in' payment, are expected to get trips to the United States to see the new machinery at work.

Goodyear OK

GLASGOW: The 143 white-collar workers on strike for five weeks at Goodyear Tyres, Drumchapel, voted unanimously to stay out last Friday. They are determined to win their claim for regrading of five women workers in the wages section.

MOLERS UNITE!



Workers occupying the tunnel in North London on Tuesday. PICTURE: Phil McCowen.

Tunnel occupied in fight against the lump

THIRTY TUNNELERS have occupied a tunnel in Finsbury Park, North London, since their employers tried to bring in non-union lump labour.

The High Court has now granted the employers, Murphys, an injunction against the tunnelers. But pickets of local trade unionists and tunnelers from other parts of the country have so far stopped them trying to enforce the injunction.

Two years ago a new tunnelers branch of the Transport and General Workers Union was set up to fight for better conditions and money.

For some time now the construction bosses have been trying to pick a fight to smash this branch.

They have chosen the £250,000 site in North London carefully. There was only one tender for the job—Murphys, a well-known employer of lump labour.

Lumpers

Last week 12 lumpers were brought in to work in the tunnel.

The employers' power to maintain a blacklist of union militants must be destroyed once and for all in this important test case. Branch secretary Jim O'Hara said: 'We will picket this site every day and night and will picket every other firm in the country until union men are employed. We aim to fight this matter to the bitter end if necessary.'

□ 24-hour-a-day support is needed from all trade unionists on the picket line at the Murphys site, Finsbury Park Road, London N4.

□ Donations and messages of support to T Gallagher, 29 Deanhouse, Woodbury Grove, London N4.

500 defend St Nick's

FIVE HUNDRED angry workers demonstrated outside the threatened St Nick's Hospital, in Plumstead, South East London, on Monday as Health and Social Security Minister David Ennals came to visit.

The workers, from ten local factories, the sewage works, bus garage, power station and Co-op milk depot, were joined by tenants associations and representatives of the Sikh Temple congregation.

As Ennals was visiting the hospital, a glazier was brought in with his thumb severed and losing blood. If Ennals does close the hospital, this man and others like him might die on the longer journey elsewhere.

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

FTAT battle goes on

NOTTINGHAM: The fight by 17 workers for the recognition of the Furniture Worker Union (FTAT) continues at the Langley Mill firm of E&H Architectural.

After seven weeks out, the strikers received a welcome boost when over 40 local trade unionists, including delegates from Derby Trades Council, turned out to support the picket line.

At a meeting after the

picket, Brian Simister, vice-president of the trades council, urged trade unionists to take the fight back to their workplaces and raise support for the strikers. A further mass picket has been called for this Wednesday, 5 October.

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WHY IS the London North district committee of the AUEW doing absolutely nothing for the Desoutters strike?

That is the question that the strikers are asking as their bitter fight for recognition drags into its 19th week. The same question is being asked in factories throughout North London.

The district discussed the simple proposal for a levy in support of the strike last Wednesday—for the third time.

The proposal only got this far as a result of a strong lobby by angry Desoutters strikers, which ensured its reference to the general purposes committee. Don Cook, convenor of the London Transport Acton Works, was sent to look at the strike committee's books.

by ROGER COX
London North AUEW district committee delegate

Yet, despite his statement to the strike committee that a levy was essential, the motion to the district was heavily voted down.

Even AUEW president Hugh Scanlon has described this strike as the AUEW's Grunwicks. It's not about money. It's about the basic right of shop stewards' organisation to represent its members.

Enormous sacrifices have been made by new members of the union in order to keep the strike alive.

It is through the failure of the union to act like a union that they are being driven to make concessions.

At a mass meeting on Monday

strikers overwhelmingly agreed to accept the new recognition agreement offered by Desoutters. This contained a number of improvements on previous offers but made no compromise on the question of shop stewards' organisation.

The union will not even be in a position to negotiate on wages or conditions, only on grievance procedure, something that is going to have to be fought for.

Sacked

Even so, the strikers are still refusing to return to work until there is an equitable agreement on the position of sacked convenor Fred Hopper.

What has happened to Desoutters has shocked many militants in the area.

revealed the miserable wages paid in an industry where the multinationals make enormous profits.

For example, a shift worker at Smiths in Stockport receives £43.08 for 40 hours, before tax. This is the national rate for the Joint Industrial Council covering the industry.

It was agreed to set about compiling information across the industry and produce a bulletin which would also give information on disputes.

Rank and file food!

'THE EMPLOYERS already have their organisation.

'We need to build this rank and file committee throughout the food, drink and tobacco industry, for long ago our union officials have moved upstairs away from the shop floor.'

The words of one delegate to the Rank and File Food, Drink and Tobacco Workers Meeting in Manchester last Sunday.

The discussion soon

Although they have been defeated, their eight-week strike was still a magnificent achievement.

They were ignored by the press and by their own union, the Transport and General Workers. But it was the longest strike in the Forest of Dean since the miners' strike of 1926.

If the strike had been made official, and if there had been more support from the rest of the Beechams combine, all the demands could have been won. But lack of money began to tell after eight weeks.

Beechams go back

COLEFORD, Gloucs: The eight-week strike at Beechams is over. A mass meeting voted by about 150 to 70 to return to work.

The strikers have accepted a Phase 2 settlement of £2.50 and a productivity deal payment of £4.30. The decision to return to work was put to the mass meeting after just 10 minutes.

It is not clear what the productivity payment means. Negotiations on this are now beginning.

The Beechams workers were demanding £24 in-



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

A POSTMAN talking to pickets outside the Marconi factory at Leicester before agreeing not to deliver the mail. Twenty-five members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union are on strike for the reinstatement of shop steward Alan Mee.

The official reason is that he was sacked for standing in a gangway of the factory without eye protection! The real reason is that he has distributed copies of a Socialist Worker bulletin about wages and conditions in the factory.

SUPPORT THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER 26 NOVEMBER

Air traffic lock-out: Solidarity vital

REPORTS coming in from airports indicate that they are in a state of siege as a result of the lockout of the Air Traffic Control Assistants.

Glasgow pickets, reinforced from other CPSA branches, have stopped the delivery of oil and provisions, and TGWU members in the airport have refused to cross to get to work.

Both the local POEU and UPW branches are supporting the strike and not crossing the pickets.

By Rob Skinkis, DHSS, Manchester

Birmingham airport has had no provisions or oil delivered for some days. At Manchester the pickets have been reinforced by members of the local DHSS branches and the local UPW branch has given fantastic support.

Clinton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Aviation, has lifted the ban on night flights by jets (normally

enforced from 11pm to 6am) which means that airlines can still shift planes even though they are hours behind schedule.

This has effectively undermined immediate impact on flights of the ATCAS action.

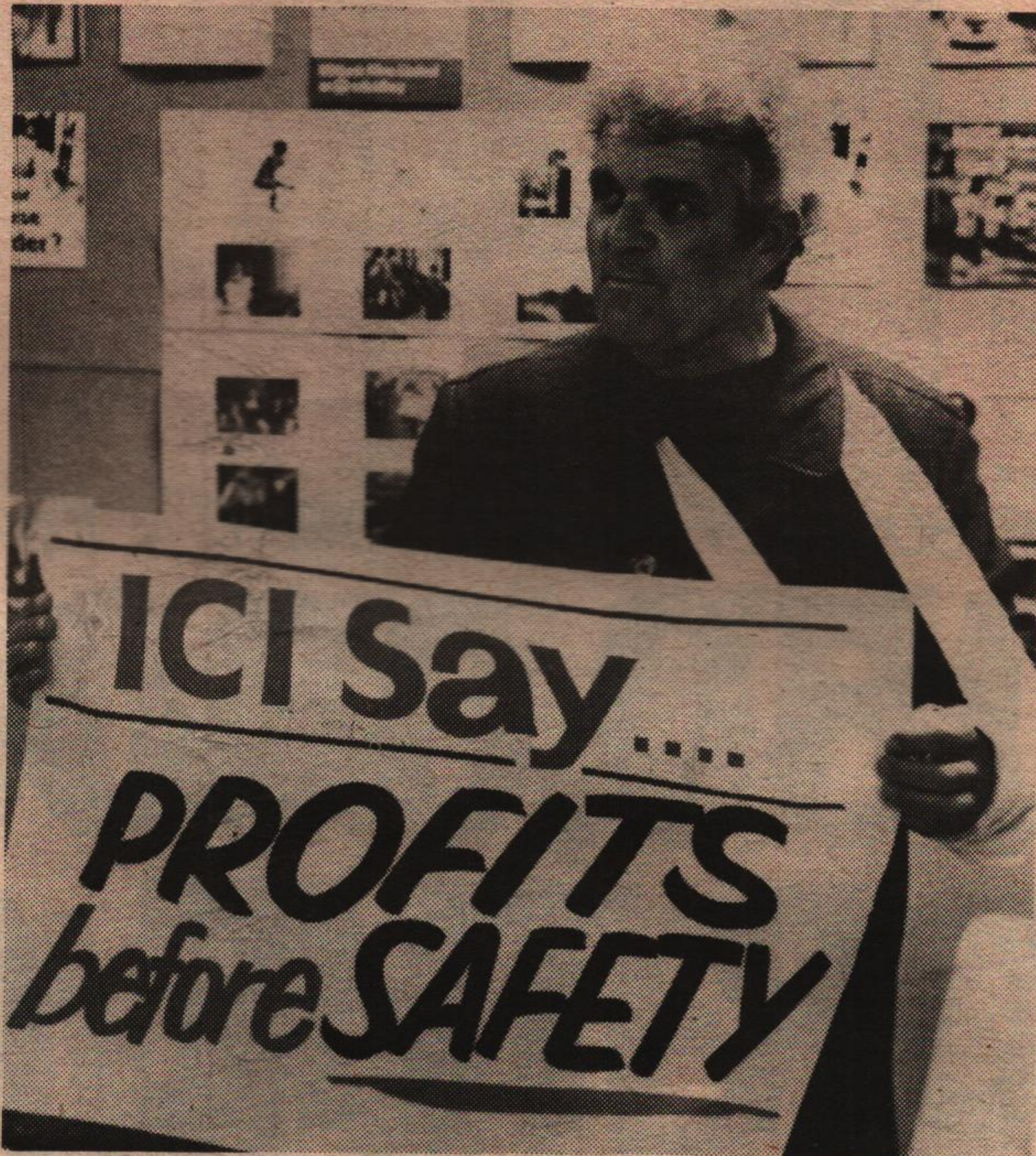
At Heathrow, where picketing is limited to the Control Tower, planes are leaving anything up to six hours behind schedule but are still getting away.

At other airports, with far less traffic, the delays are minimal. The start of the winter schedules at the end of September will lessen the impact, even at Heathrow.

Only massive solidarity action by other CPSA grades will win the dispute. So far more than 20 clerical members working in the Accounts Section of the CAA HQ have come out in support.

Solidarity action from Specialist Teleprint Operators is crucial and CPSA branches should be putting pressure on the union executive to call out all CAA grades.

Messages of support and donations to: John Macreadie, CPSA CAA Group 215 Balham High Rd, London SW17



The placard sums it up: a protester at last week's safety exhibition

SAFETY AND ICI: WHAT A JOKE!

WORKERS from ICI in Hyde occupied the ICI stand at a safety exhibition last week to expose the company's hypocritical attitude to safety.

And they confronted Bill Simpson, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, who unsuccessfully tried to evade the strikers.

The protest was made by men who have been on strike since 1 September.

On 3 August, Keith Buxton was badly injured on a machine in the Hyde plant. That machine had been found unsafe by a Factory Inspector in July 1974. In the three years since then, nothing was done to put it right.

After the recent 'accident', shop steward Charlie Owen's call for an immediate inquiry was refused. Management insisted the machine was safe.

Section

They even ignored the recommendations in yet another Factory Inspector's Report.

Management asked the steward to instruct the lads to use the machine. He refused and was sacked. The men immediately occupied their section, demanding reinstatement.

Although it is a safety issue, the strikers are convinced that the management have adopted an even more provocative stand than usual so as to try and smash the section, which is the best organised in the factory.

The lads are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union. But the union has tried to get them back to work without reinstatement of the victimised steward.

Full-time officials have had secret meetings with management and have condoned drivers crossing the picket line. TGWU drivers however, are supporting the strikers.

Donations to Fred Robinson, 2 Lovell Drive, Newton, Hyde, Manchester.

Firemen set for action

BRITAIN'S FIREMEN are angry and on the move over their disgusting low pay. A fireman with four years experience, working 48 hours a week nights and weekends, takes home the magnificent sum of £46.50. Before qualifying, he takes home £6 less!

Which is why on Friday Merseyside's firemen marched through Liverpool City Centre to put their cast-iron case for higher wages and better conditions to the public.

Firemen provide the only full emergency and rescue service to help you 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Year by year, we are being looked into, investigated and analysed in an endeavour to find out what can be done about the long hours we work, the poor pay we get for it, and the unpaid shift work that we do.

The Holroyd Report came and made no difference. Then someone called Cunningham had a go, leaving us with very little to be happy about, unless you can get any comfort from the fact that we have had £15 on the table, 'frozen solid' for the last two and a half years.

We got that from Cunningham. The truth is we've been screwed into the floor by wage control.

It was hoped by all firemen that the latest investigator, Lord McCarthy, would point out to our employers that we do not get any shift allowances, pay for weekend work, pay for fire prevention work. But he hasn't even done that.

Agreed

We in Merseyside say to Lord McCarthy and the executive of the firemen's union, that unless a £25 a week minimum rise on the lowest scale is agreed, and made payable by 7 November, the Merseyside brigade will take strike action.

The Executive Council of the FBU has lodged a £20 claim without any consultation with the membership. Not surprisingly therefore it falls short in several areas.

What happened to the claim for extra pay for weekend working and shift pay?

But the most serious short-coming is that the £20 is for qualified firemen, those with at least four years service and with specialist qualifications.

About 50 per cent of firemen would therefore get less than the £20.

What action is the executive going to organise to win the claim? So far it has been limited to attempts to talk to local authorities and chief fire officers into supporting a decent pay rise. Clearly much more is needed.

In 1973 the Glasgow firemen proved once and for all that we do have the muscle to win.

Firemen must meet to discuss the claim and the best tactics for winning it.

Delegates to the recall conference in October must be mandated to support all-out strike action if the full claim is not met.

BOLTON: NOW IT'S A STRIKE WAVE!

By Jack Cummins, AUEW

TWO STRIKES, two occupations and one lock-out should be enough to bring any union leader to a town. That is the scene in the engineering industry in Bolton.

Earlier this month, Engineering Union general secretary John Boyd did come to Bolton. Not to see his members, of course, but to attend a luncheon date at the Park House Hotel with the Central Lancashire Engineering Employers Association. Early next month, it is brother Scanlon's turn.

What Boyd said to the bosses hasn't been made public.

But they seem to think they now have the union in their pockets. Since his visit, their attitude has hardened.

The employers are now only too eager to take on the workforce in any dispute. Long established procedures are being ignored, long standing agreements torn up.

Dispute

Now that brother Scanlon is coming to the local Engineering Employers Federation, I would like to make him a fraternal suggestion: tell them where to stick their luncheon.

He should come and visit his members now in dispute. There is a lot of ill-feeling against him following his impersonation of a sewer rat at the TUC in Blackpool. The Bolton Right to Work Committee would be happy to provide brother Scanlon with an escort to help him round the picket lines.

Quinton Hazel Silencers has been occupied and the

Boyd and (far right) Scanlon: lunch with the employers...

management turned out of the factory. The gates have been blocked by fork lift trucks.

When workers arrived at the factory on Monday morning they went to the canteen to wait for the factory to warm up.

Under a long-standing agreement, workers are paid when this happens. It is dangerous and difficult to operate the pressing machines at the required speed in the cold.

When work resumed, management announced they would not pay for the time lost—about 25 minutes.

Barry Francis, works convenor, said the workers were so incensed by the breaking of this long-standing agreement that although just 60p was involved they took over the factory.

Later on, the night shift arrived and joined the occupation.



Money and support is desperately needed. Send to Barry Francis, Quinton Hazells, Lever Street, Little Lever, near Bolton, Lancs.

At Eatons Transmissions, 700 men are locked out. For six weeks there had been an overtime ban and a work to rule in support of a claim for parity with Eatons at Aycliffe. They earn an average of £30 a week more for the same jobs.

Workers arrived last week to find their clock cards had disappeared and the power supply had been cut off. They are reporting for work each day and being sent home.

At Charles Turner, maintenance men are on strike for a living wage. Electricians union shop steward Bill Edwards, and Ken Crompton, Engineering Union shop steward, said: 'Turners refuse to make an offer.'

Messages of support and donations to AB Electronics strike committee, AUEW House, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan.

1700 WALK OUT FOR 20 PER CENT

S. WALES: 1700 production workers walked out of the three AB Electronics Components factories in South Wales last weekend. Twenty-four hour pickets are now turning back all transport.

Virtually all the workers belong to the Engineering Union and the AUEW District Committee has made the strike official.

Peter Price, convenor at the Abercynon plant, told Socialist Worker: 'We have already agreed to accept a 10 per cent rise on our basic rates. But our minimum demand is a 20 per cent overall increase.'

The management have suggested a productivity bonus scheme to us, and we want that to guarantee at least another 10 per cent.'

Management has been quick to tell the world that the government has threatened to withdraw regional employment subsidies and to black AB's products if the full 20 per cent is granted.

Messages of support and donations to AB Electronics strike committee, AUEW House, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan.

Sheffield buses: 3,000 out

SHEFFIELD:- There were no buses throughout South Yorkshire on Tuesday as 3,000 busworkers took part in the first of a series of lightning one-day strikes.

They are demanding a wage increase of £20. They have been offered ten per cent.

A ballot of South Yorkshire busworkers overwhelmingly rejected the offer. In Sheffield, the vote was 1,200 to 500.

The Sheffield busworkers branch of the Transport Workers Union has called for a meeting of all public sector workers to fight against the ten per cent pay limit.

Platform public meeting HOW TO BEAT THE 10 PER CENT INSULT

Speakers: Steve Womack (Sheffield busworker) and Les Kaye (Manchester busworker). Friday 30 September, 7.30pm, New White Lion, the Wicker, Sheffield.

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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



The facts behind our strike

£150,000 ROLLS FOR THE QUEEN, PEANUTS FOR US

MENTION the word 'sacrifice' and you'll get an interesting response from the Rolls Royce luxury car division workers now on strike at the firm's Willesden and Park Royal factories in North London.

They'll tell you that at this time when mere workers are forcibly having their belts pulled in by the government and the TUC, the wealthy are laughing all the way to their next £50,000 plus Rolls Royce.

They'll also tell you how, out of the firm's record profits which they've produced, our needy Queen is to be given a brand new £150,000 Rolls-Royce free of charge as a little token of the management's appreciation.

Bill Kane, one of the strikers, puts it this way:

'Of course in this time of public expenditure cuts this is just what she needs.'

'She's only got six other Rolls-Royces and what with the terrible bus service around Buckingham Palace definitely needs a seventh.'

The Queen isn't the only member of the Royal Family who's met with generosity from the Rolls-Royce management.

Some time ago, her needy sister Margaret dropped in for a visit. At vast expense, the management brought down an antique Rolls from their Crewe factory for her little ones to play on for an hour.

And they spent thousands of pounds doing up a lavatory for the Royal backside to sit upon just once.

DISEASE

No such generosity is extended to the people who build the luxury cars. The lads on the build line have been complaining for years about the poisonous fumes.

They've been demanding an extraction system. But the management who can meet the momentary needs of the Royal Arse have done nothing about a known health hazard that diseases lungs and stomachs.

But there are compensations for working in the plants. When you've worked there for 25 years you get a replica of the Spirit of Ecstasy statuette that graces the bonnet of every Rolls-Royce.

When you've been there for 50 years (difficult that, given

STOP PRESS: The Rolls Royce strikers learned on Monday that the millionaire purchaser of the £84,000 Rolls has taken the hump at all the publicity and wants to sell.

He has already been offered £26,000 more than he paid for it but is holding out for £125,000.

Socialist Worker readers contemplating purchase should remember not only that the car was completed by foremen scabbing on a strike but that as a result of their shoddy work the hood goes up when you slam the door.

that working class life expectancy is ten years shorter than those in middle class occupations) you get the loan of a Rolls with chauffeur for a day!

In between times, you just use your ingenuity and skill to make beautiful toys for the rich.

'Everyone should get it straight' says Bill Kane. 'It's not only or even mainly oil sheikhs who buy the cars. Sure, plenty go to foreign parasites.'

'But plenty go to our own domestic parasites. You can tell because they're right-hand drive.'

'Many of the lads think that we'd be out of a job if there weren't rich people. But my line is that we could be building first-class ambulances for the old and the sick.'

'Our strike is for more money. We're stuck with a productivity scheme that

Lewisham film 'shows police violence'



Flashbacks to Lewisham: now police violence has been exposed on film

STARTLING evidence that the police provoked the violence at the Lewisham anti-National Front demonstration in August is in the hands of the Lewisham Labour Council.

Last week's South East London and Kentish Mercury carried this sensational story on their front page.

Expose

The council, it appears, are in possession of film which exposes police behaviour.

Local Councillor Jim Dowd told the paper: "I saw one scene where a policeman throws a brick. None of the officers with him seemed perturbed by this act."

'I wouldn't say the police would get many recruits if the film was shown to them.... the police do look a bit clumsy. They appear to be acting without direction and purpose.'

The video-recording was commissioned specially by the council who had unsuccessfully pressed the government for the National Front demonstration to be banned because of the potential violence.

Crucial

The government also refused the council's request for a public inquiry into the violence. The council is going ahead with its own inquiry in which the film will play a crucial part.

The government clearly did not want to be associated with damning proof that the police are implicated up to their necks in the riots.

For weeks, anti-fascists have been abused and hounded in the press as evil freaks bent on assaulting innocent policemen. Now the truth is beginning to emerge.

enables the management to get an extra car out of the workers at a net cost of just £2.40 a man.'

DEMANDS

The workers are on strike for a change in this arrangement, for a revision of the scandalous sick pay agreement which gives them £2 a day, and for holiday pay based on their average earnings.

☐ **Donations and messages of support to Ron Buck, 2 Lucas Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex.**

POLICE SEIZE PETER CHAPPELL

PETER Chappell, the man who led the George Davis Is Innocent campaign, was seized by police on Tuesday—just hours after Davis had appeared in court in connection with last week's mysterious bank robbery in North London.

Chappell was questioned and, though not charged, released on £500 bail. He told Socialist Worker:

'I have been questioned today by the police in connection with an alleged offence in

1973.

'I feel that it is no coincidence that my arrest has taken place immediately following the events of the past few days and on the same day as George Davis has appeared in court.'

'I am also aware that the regional crime squad has threatened George Davis with my arrest on a number of other occasions unless he admitted to certain crimes.'

'As far as I can see my arrest is simply an attempt to finally

discredit the campaign which I led.'

The campaign won the release of George Davis, who was serving a sentence for a crime he did not commit.

Now Davis has been charged in connection with a bank robbery which, it seems, the police allowed to happen.

According to the Sunday Times, they made arrangements three weeks before to get access to a house, from which photos were taken of the alleged robbery.