

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

INSIDE

Dobson and Thorpe: Hypocrisy in high places

—PAGE THREE

Sit-in at Chrysler plant

—PAGE 14



Because of strike-breaking...

YOUR FACTORY

COULD

BE A

BOMB!

IF YOU USE oxygen or acetylene in your workplace—and hundreds of thousands of workers do—then attempts to break the strike by British Oxygen workers could cost you your life.

Numerous companies are importing foreign oxygen and acetylene cylinders to keep their

factories going as BOC cylinders run out.

'Incorrectly used these cylinders are highly dangerous. They can become lethal bombs,' John Walsh, convenor at the BOC depot in Hackney, East London, told Socialist Worker.

'Over the years, after some terrible accidents, standards have been tightened. Now all British Oxygen cylinders are of a standard type. It is impossible to connect cylinders in error.'

'Oxygen cylinders of the standard type are right-hand thread. Acetylene cylinders, standard type, are left-hand thread.'

'This means that oxygen cylinders cannot be connected to acetylene cylinders.'

'But in cylinders brought in from abroad there is no difference in threads. Cylinder threads are universal and can be fitted to any connection.'

'If a wrong connection is made the result can only be a major explosion.'

'Our cylinders are regularly inspected. There is no danger of getting oil in the top of the cylinder. That too can cause a major explosion.'

Dangerous

'We warn people not to touch these cylinders. They are highly dangerous. They could cause a major catastrophe.'

'The truth is they want to break our strike and they're prepared to run these terrible risks to do so.'

In Glasgow alone there are 1,800 foreign cylinders in circulation. At least 900 of these have gas connection threads which do not conform to the official British standards. Even the colour codes are different.

Hackney shop steward Mickie Boulter summed up why the government and the employers are so anxious to break this strike: 'There are 3,200 of us in 46 plants and we are absolutely determined.'

'Our strike is the most threatening yet to the government's plans to keep us poor'

Agreed

'We all accepted the £6 and the 4 per cent. We agreed to keep this Labour government in.'

'What thanks did we get? Just wage freeze and millions on the dole. Now they want us to swallow productivity deals—that means more sackings and more of our mates out of work.'

'We at BOC won't have it. That's why the government are getting frightened. We intend to win. Then others can. It's time we all started winning back some money.'

'And whatever you do, don't use those cylinders.'



Flashback to the Flixborough disaster, when 28 workers died in a massive chemical explosion



Michael Fenn

Stop this conspiracy, says docks steward

MICHAEL FENN, a shop steward in London's Royal Docks, was chosen secretary of the Rank and File Conference organising committee at a meeting of its sponsors last weekend.

He told Socialist Worker: 'Only rank and file trade unionists will ever do anything. Grunwicks proves this.'

'The official trade union leaders have got the power to shut Grunwicks tomorrow, and they're frightened to do so. They say it's against the law.'

'But if we dockers hadn't acted against the law back in 1972, the Pentonville Five

would still be in jail—and so would many other trade unionists.'

'We'd like to see shop stewards and convenors at the conference from every industry. We must get people to be involved with other stewards from other industries, so that we can discuss the attacks made on our living standards by the government and how we can fight back.'

Conference

The conference is to be held in Manchester on Saturday 26 November.

Micky Fenn has frequently been a delegate to the National Ports Shop

Stewards Committee. He has played a leading role in the rank and file Dockworker paper since its launch five years ago.

'Trade union officials are hand-in-glove with the employers and the government over wages', he said.

'The whole thing's a conspiracy.'

'The only people who can destroy that conspiracy and get workers the money they've lost are working-class militants.'

'The same goes for racism. The only people who can combat it are militants in the factories and on the streets.'

'I know as a docker that acting unofficially, through

our shop stewards' organisation, we can't win without the support of shop stewards in other industries. That's true for every industry.'

'That's why I've written to the shop stewards in ten ports asking them to send delegations to this conference. We carried it in the Royal, Southampton have voted to support and the others are discussing it.'

'If you're concerned about unions, hospitals, wages, schools, about workers who may not be the same colour as yourself, you can't leave it to trade union leaders who are not affected by these things. You've got to take action yourselves and attend our conference on 26 November.'

ADVERTISEMENT

RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Saturday 26 November, 11.30 am, New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester
Delegates invited from all trade union bodies.
Credentials 50p from Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

JAIL SHOCK FOR GRUNWICK PICKETS

THE MAGISTRATES court in North West London have taken the hints from the Tory Party and the National Association for Freedom to toughen up on sentences for pickets arrested at Grunwicks.

Two trade unionists charged with assault were sentenced to prison terms last week. Neither had any previous record.

Vic Seadon, a shop steward at Keith Blackmans in Tottenham, was sentenced to three months. Roger Green, a civil servant from Reading, got two months.

Two witnesses came forward and testified that Vic Seadon could not have committed the assault he was charged with. But the word of one policeman was enough for the magistrates.

Roger Green also had two witnesses supporting his story. One of them was a solicitor. But the magistrate ignored their evidence.

Both Roger and Vic are now out on bail, awaiting appeals.

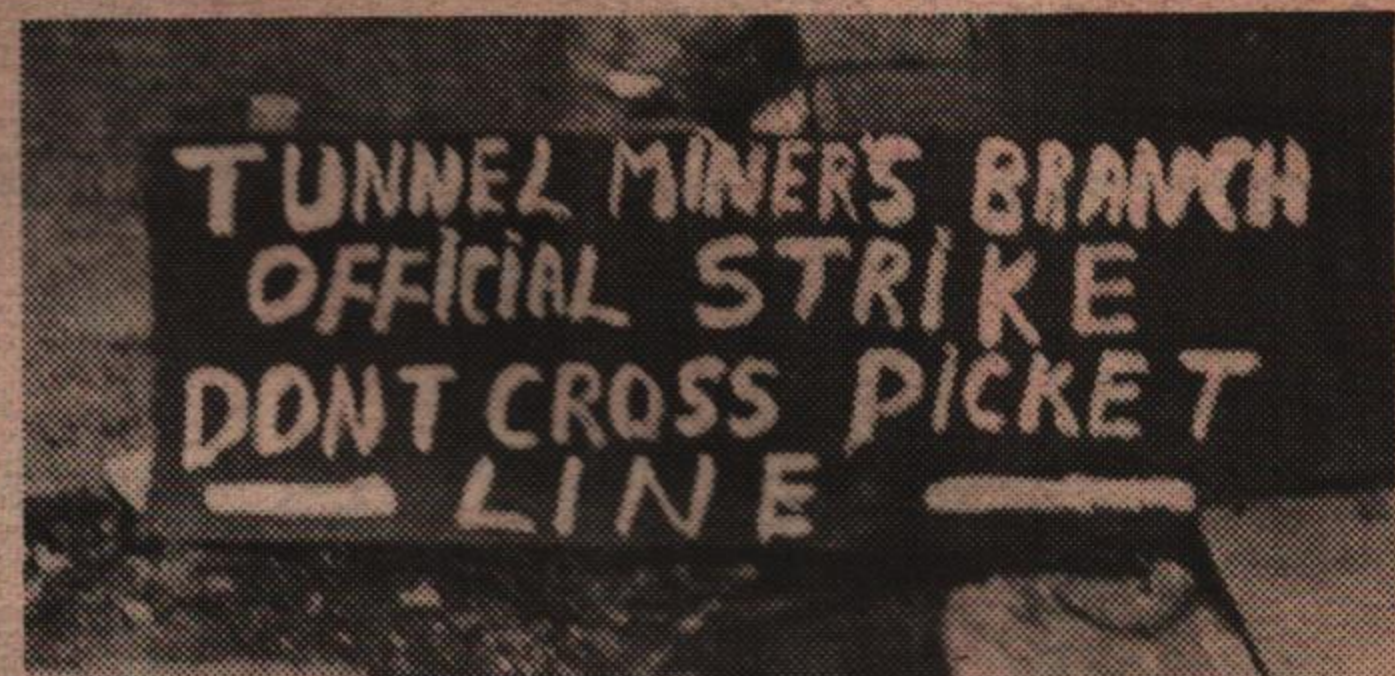
These cases are among the first of a long series of trials resulting from the summer's mass pickets. More prison sentences are likely.

If you were on any of the pickets, and saw anyone being arrested, you may have vital evidence to help the defence.

□ If you saw someone being arrested, write down the details, the day, the names, the exact place and get in touch now with the Grunwicks Strike Committee, 375 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10.



Flashback to before the arrests. Now police guard the site in Finsbury Park to prevent any picketing



Picture: Phil McGowan

TUNNEL MINERS FACE OLD BAILEY TRIAL

by RALPH DARLINGTON

NINE trade unionists face trial at the Old Bailey because they occupied their workplace and refused to leave.

The nine are the tunnel miners who occupied their tunnel in Finsbury Park, North London, in protest at the use of non-union workers earlier this month.

The occupation was ended when some 200 policemen took over the site and hauled the tunnelers to the surface one by one.

All nine were handcuffed and taken to Highbury Magistrates Court. They have been charged under the Sheriff's Act of 1882. The maximum penalty is five years imprisonment, for not leaving the occupation when told to do so by the Sheriff, a court official.

They are on bail until December on condition that they do not go within 100 yards of their site.

The site is now surrounded by barbed wire. A police guard of 50 prevents any picket outside the site. The tunnelers are still on strike to get non-union labour off the site.

Murphys, the contractors, are using the police and the law courts just as McAlpines did against the Shrewsbury pickets, to try to break union organisation among tunnel miners.

The nine are members of the tunnelers branch of the Transport and General Workers Union. Three years ago the branch was es-

tablished to organise tunnelers across the country.

The employers have chosen Finsbury Park for a showdown. The main contractor, Murphys, brought in a non-union firm to work in the tunnel.

Jim Duffy, the tunnelers branch secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'We are fighting for the very existence of our union and we mean to win.'

TUNNEL MINERS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN Social and Dance

Friday 28 October 8pm-1am, bar extension North London Polytechnic, Highbury Grove, London, N5. Minimum donation 50p.

CONVICTED! Because she didn't want a baby

A 14-YEAR-OLD girl who took six laxative pills and had a hot bath in an attempt to end her pregnancy has been prosecuted and found guilty.

The prosecution was ordered by Thomas Hetherington, the new Director of Public Prosecutions. This is

believed to be the first prosecution of its kind since the relevant Act—the Offences Against the Person Act—was passed in 1861.

Under the same Act, the girl's brother, aged 16, was prosecuted, convicted and conditionally discharged for 'procuring' the laxative pills. And a prosecution is pending against a 25-year-old man who is accused of having sex with the girl when

she was under the age of consent.

The pills failed to bring about a miscarriage. Seven months later, the baby was born dead.

But that was not enough for Hetherington and his law-and-order advisors. They insisted on still more misery for the girl. Under their instructions, she was hauled before Leamington Spa juvenile court on 30 September.

David Collins, the public prosecutor,

said that the girl was guilty under the Act because she had used a 'noxious substance in an attempt to secure a miscarriage'.

The magistrate agreed. The girl was put under a two-year supervision order, the equivalent of probation.

Diane Munday of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service told Socialist Worker:

'I was shocked to find out about this case. Many, many of the women who come to this service for help have tried to bring about a miscarriage.

'Sometimes this means that they have had a few stiff gins. Even gin is a 'Noxious substance' under the Act.

'I've always been worried about the Act. I've called for its repeal again and again. That they should use it now, in this case, and under the direct instructions of the Director of Public Prosecutions, is dreadful.

Statute

'I wonder if it's deliberate policy. Has the DPP decided as a matter of policy to harass women with this old, old statute?'

Asked whether it was DPP policy to use the Act against girls who used 'noxious substances' to stop a pregnancy, the DPP spokesman told Socialist Worker: 'The matter is subjudice. No comment.'

WE MUST PROTEST —NOW!

by MARGARET RENN
SWP women's organiser

THERE must be hundreds of thousands of women who have tried something similar at least once in their lives to end an unwanted pregnancy. There will be thousands more if legal abortion becomes even more difficult.

Labour and Tory MPs alike preach of their concern for human life. They *don't* care. They have no idea of the countless lives ruined by unwanted pregnancies.

The government is determined to take away our right to abortion. If they succeed on this who knows where they will stop?

This Saturday we have our first opportunity to show them our campaign is as determined as ever.

Bring your workmates, friends, family and children. Every SWP branch and Women's Voice group should be there with its banner.

That's only the beginning: wherever women get together, at work, on the housing estate, in schools and hospitals, we should be there, organising meetings, petitions, resolutions, demonstrations, to make sure we are not driven back to the backstreets.



symptom of how weak the Nazis are here. They can't do anything else.'

IN LEEDS. John Charlton, a well-known member of the SWP in Yorkshire, was attacked by more than a dozen Nazis on Saturday in the main shopping precinct.

The Nazis were led by Eddie Morrison of the British National Party. John was beaten to the ground, kicked and punched.

He was later taken to hospital by ambulance and received seven stitches. He has lost four teeth.

John told Socialist Worker: 'This is happening because they are desperate and frustrated. They are resorting to these tactics because we are winning the political battle against them.'

'There is only one answer—carry on with our work, and make sure that we have adequate numbers, and that means mass paper sales, to deal with these sort of attacks.'

Nazi firebombers strike again -room gutted

THE HOME of the Newcastle upon-tyne secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, Jon Cowley, has been firebombed by Nazis.

Late Sunday night a firebomb was thrown through the front room windows. Sandra Shepherd, who lives in the house, was on the telephone with her back to the window when the bomb came in.

Everything in the room was destroyed within 15 minutes—a settee, carpets, shelves, books, a table, the telephone,

and even a duplicator were completely destroyed.

Three fire engines arrived, but the fire was too intense for them to do more than stop it spreading.

The address of Jon Cowley's house has been used on leaflets handed out against the Nazis.

The National Front candidate in the recent Newcastle by-election has denied that the NF was responsible. Instead he claims there are other Nazi organisations capable of it.

The NF in Newcastle is pitifully small. Just last week they suffered another humiliation when the local Nazi organiser declared that there would be a Nazi march through Newcastle.

Attack

The local Labour controlled council said it could not tolerate the march and Jon Cowley, for the SWP, said the SWP would stop any Nazi attempt to march. Within 24 hours the Nazis backed down and called off the march.

Mike Simmons, of Newcastle SWP said: 'This attack is a



The barely recognisable remains of a duplicator, TV set and fireplace in the burnt-out living room.

FRONT HUMILIATED IN POLL

THE Nazi Front came a cropper in the council by-election in Spitalfields in East London last week. They received a pathetic 70 votes and came bottom of the poll—compared to 242 for a Socialist Unity candidate.

This crushing defeat was the result of a long campaign against racism and fascism in the area. Four days earlier a 4000-strong demonstration of trade unionists and anti-racists passed through the area, sapping the morale of would-be Nazi voters.

This followed months of campaigning against the Nazis, in which the Socialist Workers Party had been prominent—selling Socialist Worker and leafletting the big Brick

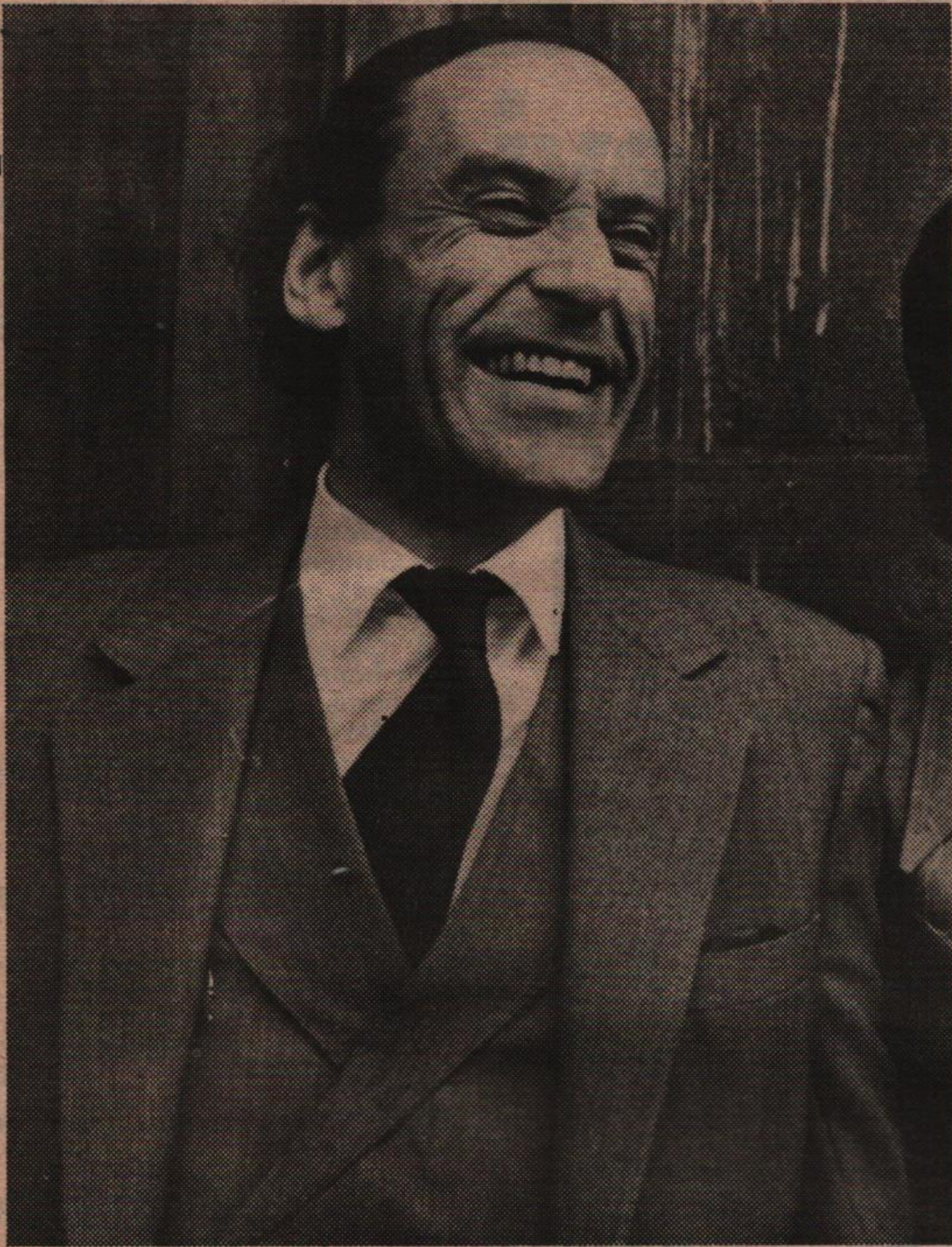
Lane market every Sunday morning, attempting to stop the Nazis pushing out their poison, organising vigilante patrols and protecting anti-Nazi meetings.

During the run-up to the by-election we took the anti-Nazi message into the predominantly white council estates where the Nazis had hoped to get votes.

Although the main stress was opposition to the Nazis, we told people to vote for the Socialist Unity candidate, whose 242 votes stand against 816 for Labour, 133 for the Tories—who don't usually stand in this solid Labour area—and a mere 70 votes for the Front.

Picture: Mike Simpson

NO RETURN TO BACK-STREET ABORTION FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND
Demonstrate, Saturday 29 October, 1.30pm, Victoria Square (Town Hall) Birmingham
SPECIAL TRAIN FROM LONDON: Leaves Euston Station, 10.30am. Return: leaves Birmingham New Street, 6.15pm. Tickets £3 return, phone Diane Watts on 01-739 6273.



THORPE: A life of double standards

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

Thorpe, Dobson, and the 'standards of public life'

THE



DOBSON: £22,000 a year for attending just nine meetings

THERE IS a whiff of scandal in high places the like of which people don't remember since Profumo.

What are we to make of it all?

Shouldn't people's sexual affairs be their own business? Yes, they should.

If, as seems likely, Thorpe did have a homosexual relationship with Norman Scott, so what? Isn't the Thorpe scandal just another witch-hunt of homosexuals by the press?

No, it isn't as simple as that as the following facts make clear.

THE FACTS THEY HIDE

In 1968, when Minister for Social Security, David Ennals promised a Liberal MP and friend of Thorpe that Norman Scott would not be prosecuted for not paying nine years national insurance contributions which he owed.

Ennals instructed his official not to press for payment of these contribution.

At the same time, Ennals and his department started a great 'clean-up campaign' to force people to pay insurance contributions which they owed.

In 1971, Home Secretary Reginald Maudling wrote to Thorpe promising him immunity from prosecution over Norman Scott's

allegations.

In the same year, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner informed a Liberal Party inquiry that the police had no evidence of any relationship between Scott and Thorpe.

This was a lie.

In 1962 Scott had made a detailed, voluntary statement to the police alleging such a relationship. The statement was taken down and signed in Chelsea Police Station.

Yet at the same time the police forces of London and all over the country with the full approval of Reginald Maudling, were starting a vicious campaign against homosexuals.

Police were hiding in lavatory cupboards, and drilling holes in public lavatory doors in order to catch male homosexuals.

□ □

In 1975, Norman Scott made an even more startling allegation. He had, he said, been shot at by a man whom he had never met before, who had enticed him into a car.

The police found the man,

Andrew Newton, who was later found guilty of shooting Scott's dog and intending to shoot Scott. Newton's story at the trial—that he had been blackmailed by Scott—was proved a lie.

Yet the police quietly dropped their investigation into the whole affair until this month, when Newton finally admitted that he was paid to murder Scott—by 'a prominent Liberal'!

DOUBLE STANDARDS

Norman Scott's allegations over Thorpe are not simply that they had sex together. He describes his life as a 'kept man', a sexual plaything which Thorpe used as he liked while preserving his image to society as a decent, married citizen capable of being Prime Minister (or at least Home Secretary—the job Edward Heath offered him in 1974).

When Thorpe got fed up with Scott, Scott alleges, he just threw him over and turned to other amusements.

Over the entire Thorpe story hangs the stench of hypocrisy, of the double

morality and double standards of a divided society.

Ordinary people who do not pay their insurance contributions are hounded until they do. But Jeremy's former friend can be excused.

Ordinary homosexuals must be brutalised and humiliated. The allegations of Jeremy's friends can be ignored.

Terrorists are a desperate threat to society, but a man who tries to shoot Jeremy's friend on the moor should be sent to prison for a year and then let go.

There is absolutely nothing in the Thorpe story which promotes a moment's sympathy for him. The sooner he and his friends in all political parties and the police go out into obscurity, the better.

SNEERS OF THE RICH

ANOTHER belch of hypocrisy came this week from newspapers and television on behalf of Sir Richard Dobson.

Dobson is the only British

director of the Exxon Corporation (the second biggest firm in the world), a director of British American Tobacco, and until recently non-executive chairman of British Leyland at £22,000 a year.

Sir Richard was invited to one of those private dinner parties (£10 for the food, extra for the wines) with which businessmen amuse themselves most evenings.

There he made a private speech in which he admitted that British Leyland were 'bribing wogs' and sneered at British trade unionists' support for 'blackish people' at Grunwicks.

□ □

To their great credit, Socialist Challenge published the text of the speech, which had been tape-recorded by a young Labour Party member at the dinner.

A mighty hulabaloo followed. Doesn't a man have a right to say what he likes in private? Aren't what the Daily Telegraph describes as 'rough words' justified at a private dinner?

Only one 'right' is being defended here: the right to

hypocrisy.

The Daily Telegraph claims the right for all businessmen to say in public that they don't give bribes to foreign businessmen, and to say in private the truth—that they do, the right to be 'multiracial' in public, and racist in private, the right to be pro-trade union in public and anti-trade union in private.

RULING CLASS REVEALED

The great value of the Dobson speech is that it shows us the ruling class in the raw, naked, stripped of the public relations mumbo jumbo with which they protect themselves on radio or on television.

People like Dobson really do despise all foreigners, especially black ones. They really do hate trade unions, They really are a gang of barbarians, guffawing at secret booze-ups at the racist and class bluster of their champions.

Dobson has been forced to resign because Nigerian and Arab businessmen don't like being talked of as 'wogs'. But also in part his resignation is due to the anti-racist atmosphere which socialists and trade unionists have managed to build up over the past few years.

Good. Let's have more exposures and more private speeches published—and more resignations.

One monster down, several thousand to go.

So there's no money in the kitty?

Dear Socialist Worker,

Over the past three years workers' pay rises have been kept to a minimum because is no money in the kitty—or so Denis the menace Healy tells us.

Sold

So you can imagine my surprise when I went along to the Daily Express Motorfair at Earl's Court and saw the toys of the rich being sold at anything from £2,000 to £71,000.

With wide eyes I saw two

overfed people each order the six-wheeled Panther car at £38,000 a time.

I was even more staggered when one person with an American accent ordered a Rolls-Royce complete with colour TV, phone, cocktail cabinet and a quadrophonic sound system—at £71,000.

I blinked and carried on—and nearly walked into what I thought was a bungalow. But no, it was house on wheels, price £32,000.

Well, I suppose it could solve the housing shortage. There seems to be no cut-backs in building these kind of houses. On the contrary, 'We

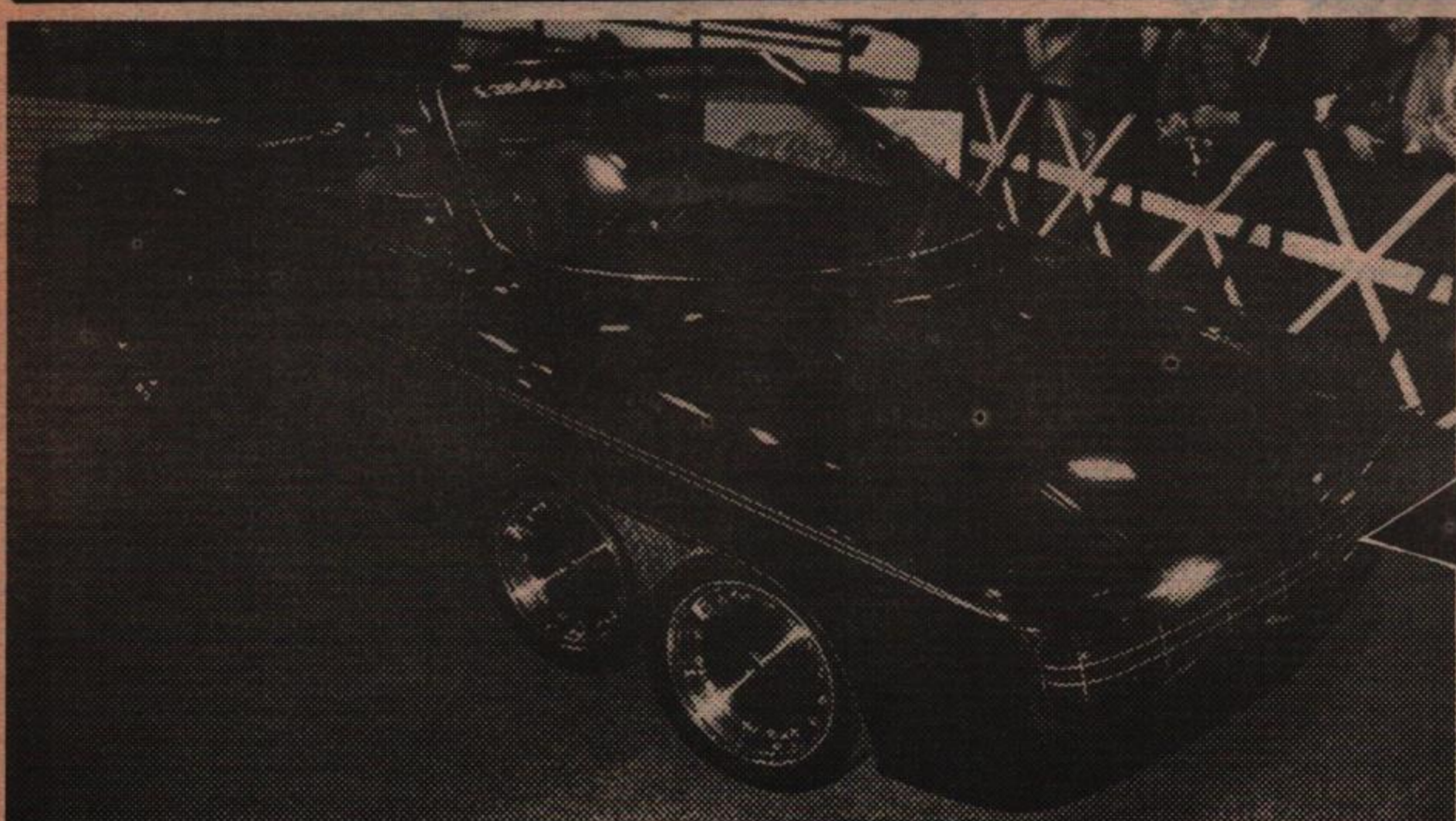
can't build them enough', says the model, flashing her eyes at me.

Able

Nevertheless, I was sick at the amount of money passing hands. There seems plenty of money in somebody's kitty, yet the average carworker wouldn't be able to buy the wheels, let alone the car.

Next time I hear Denis the menace preaching about the 10 per cent wage rise, I'll know what to say.

But my battered Cortina will never look the same. □ Bobby Burds, Teeside.



The Panther Six at £38,000 a time: 'I watched as two were ordered.'

STAR LETTER

SWP WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia. At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

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

- We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.
- We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.
- We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements. 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.
- We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women.
- We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

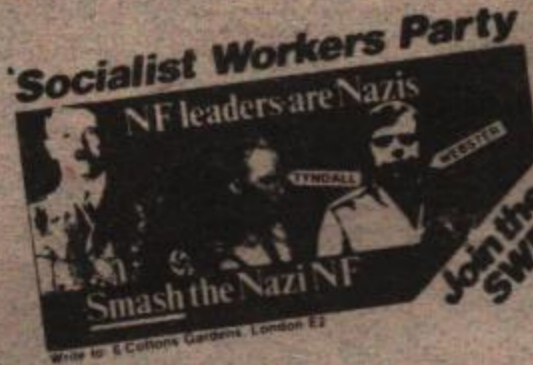
THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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 15.

Nazi attack means eviction for the SWP headquarters



**£10,000 APPEAL
FIGHT THE RACISTS!
STOP THE NAZIS!
£7,992
so far**

OUR THANKS TO:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Lowestoft SWP | Reading hospital workers | F Mann |
| Bradford SWP | Doncaster SWP | Charing Cross Hospital |
| Hammersmith NALGO | South West London SWP | R Raman |
| J Gillman | Reading SW readers and supporters | Glasgow Corporation Central Electrical Workshops |
| Dundee painters | Wigan SWP | N Harris |
| Bangor SWP | Albion Motors, Glasgow | Norwich SWP |
| Swansea SWP supporters | TGWU, Warwick University | Teesside Poly Students Union |
| J Penfold | Warwick NOISS | Taunton SW supporters |
| Leyland Cars, Longbridge | Guildford SWP | N R Graham |
| Maidstone SWP | J D MacDonald | S W Walley |
| Anon, Surrey | S Emmett | |
| Queen Elizabeth Grammar | Inner East London SWP | |
| Wellingborough SWP | Leeds SWP | |
| Hull Docks Port Shop | Royal Docks, London | |
| Stewards Committee | Anon, West Yorkshire | |
| D F Green | Birmingham SWP | |
| Slough SWP | S Bhadra | |
| P Hicks | City and East London College | |
| D Young | | |



Inside Cottons Gardens after the bomb last month

REMEMBER the petrol-bombing of Cottons Gardens, the SWP London headquarters, a few weeks ago? It was splashed all over the newspapers. In London, it was the headline story.

Within hours, agents representing the landlords were inspecting the property. We have been there for eight years and paid the parasite of a landlord £25,000 in rent, and now he is evicting us.

A lot of work has been done in the building—new staircases, wiring, painting. Now he will be able to let it at an even greater rent.

We have never had luxurious office accommodation. Indeed many visitors to the headquarters believe that the building should have been condemned many moons ago.



But there is a reason for such bad accommodation—it's relatively cheap. We believe that the money you send is needed for the movement and the movement alone.

That said, we still have to operate and work from somewhere.

We have four or five weeks. The move will cost us several thousand pounds, your pounds. If you have not yet sent your donation, do so now.

In the next few weeks we will step up activities for the fund. We ask all our supporters and members to take collections, run jumble sales, socials and raffles.

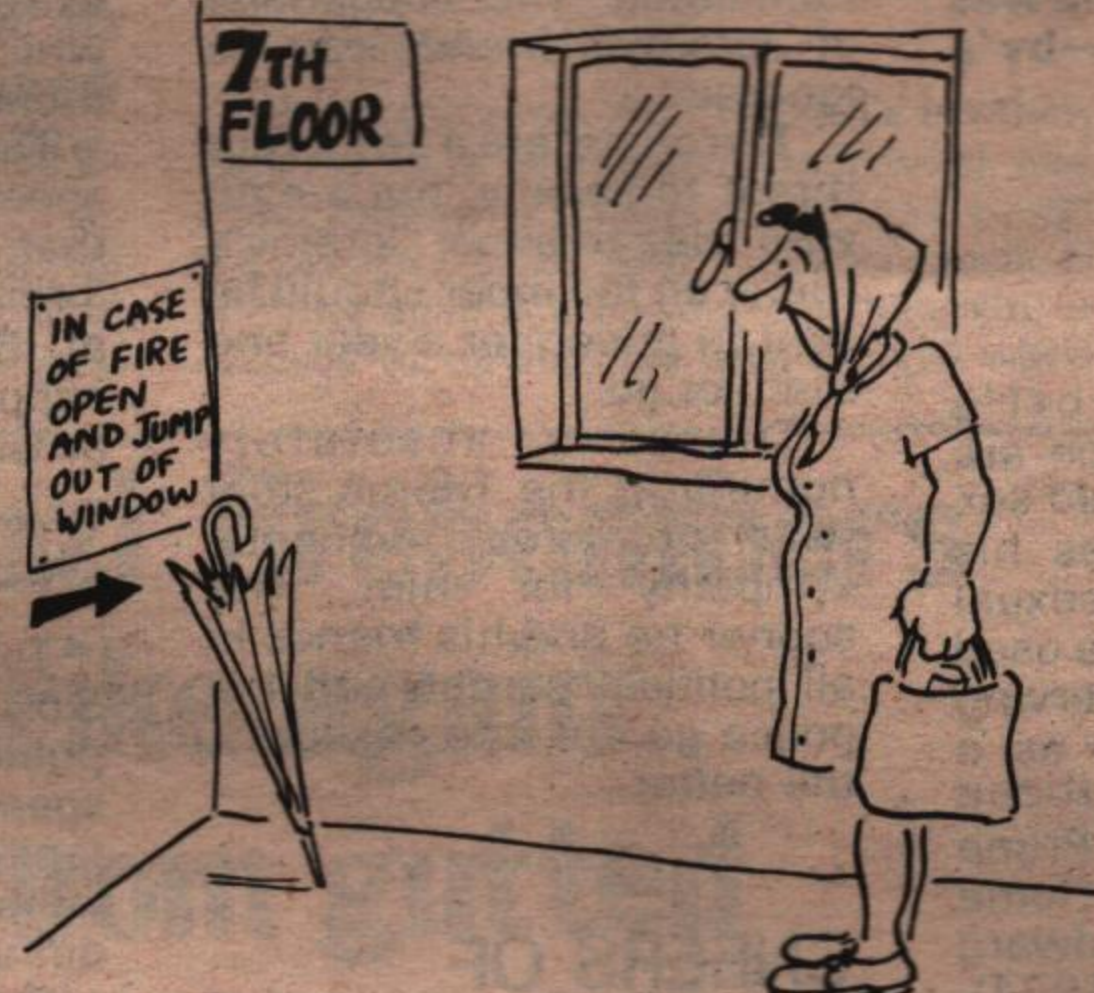
□ Donations and collections please to SW Anti-Nazi Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

REMEMBER CARTOONS

CARTOONS make a terrific difference to workplace bulletins, and it's easy to reproduce them from Socialist Worker.

All you need is to have an electro-stencil made for your duplicator. This will cost under £1. Many bookshops, office equipment firms and stationers will make electro-stencils. Look up their addresses in the Yellow Pages phone directory, or if you live in London go to Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Put typewritten articles, heading, cartoons and so on on to a mock-up for the bulletin, which can then be made into an electro-stencil. This can then be duplicated like an ordinary stencil. The result is much, much easier to read.



MAKE SURE YOUR FIRM'S FIRE PRECAUTIONS ARE ADEQUATE ...

MERSEYSIDE: ONE BULLETIN LEADS TO ANOTHER

THIS is how we organised workplace bulletins at Robinson Willey in Merseyside.

The bulletin went in on Friday two weeks ago, produced by the Merseyside Women's Voice Group—but all the information for it was given by a woman who

by CLARA ROSADO

works in the factory. She got in touch with us after reading our first bulletin for Robinson Willey.

We got together and found that she is a militant in the union, really interested in the Women's Voice Group activities, and has worked in Robinson Willey for ten years. So she knows all the ins and outs of the factory.

She also has a good chance of becoming a shop steward soon. The cartoon for the bulletin was done by an ex-Robinson Willey worker.

drink on Friday lunch time. We didn't try to sell Women's Voice or Socialist Worker, as we thought that the best way to start contact with these particular factory workers would be to go to the pub, have a drink, give out the bulletins, persuade a couple of women to give us a hand with giving out the bulletins, have a talk with the people and then, the following Monday, go back to the factory gate with Women's Voice and see the reaction.

BUNCH

All the above has happened and the reaction was amazing. The women who took bulletins in the pub took some to the factory and gave them out to the women that weren't in the pub at lunch time.

They also left a bunch of leaflets in the manager and foreman's office, and he is now threatening to sue Women's Voice!

DRINK

Instead of going to the factory gate, where everybody is rushing home, we went to the pub where the workers from Robinson Willey go for a

NORTHERN IRELAND: The Provos move leftwards

by EAMANN McCANN

'WE ARE not engaged in a class struggle but a mass struggle', said one speaker at the annual conference of the Provisional Sinn Fein in Dublin last weekend.

'We should not become entangled in international socialism or Communism'

The interesting thing was that the speaker was heckled throughout and his resolution overwhelmingly defeated by the one thousand delegates. Five years ago he would have been cheered to the echo.

The Provos have moved significantly to the left—though that's far from saying they've become revolutionary socialists.

The tone of the conference was set by Sinn Fein president Ruairi O'Bradaigh, who said

that the Provos were 'struggling for the same things that are being fought for by the oppressed, exploited and deprived people of the whole world'. He called for a mass campaign against the Common Market. He advanced the slogan 'A new deal in a new Ireland'—the type of all-purpose adman's phrase which can mean anything at all.

O'Bradaigh was reacting to the leftward drift of the rank and file. Many, particularly in the North of Ireland, have seen the futility of a military struggle with no clear political underpinning, and in the search for political answers

have shifted far to the left of their leadership.

Rethinking has also been encouraged but the simple fact that the seven-year struggle in the North, based on a combination of nationalist emotion and military daring, has recently been getting nowhere fast.

The result has been fair amount of argument and a willingness to consider new ideas. Hundreds of provisionals now see themselves as revolutionary socialist soldiers.

It is a development certainly to be welcomed—as long as we steer clear of the delusion that revolutionary politics could for long co-exist with light minded blather about 'new deals' and 'new Irelands'.



THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISTS
The National Front and how to fight it.

A Socialist Worker pamphlet, 10p plus 7p postage (more than 5 copies, postage 3p each) from SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

ANOTHER STEP...

FORTY black members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party met last weekend to map the way ahead in the fight against babylon, racism and fascism in the black communities and workplaces. The meeting discussed the leading role of black women and youth in this.

The coming tour of Bill Hampton, brother of one of the murdered leaders of the American Black Panther Party, is a good opportunity to draw to revolutionary socialist politics large numbers of black people in this country.

THE PIT PRODUCTIVITY BALLOT

YES

NO



If you want to know how to vote:

'GO AND LOOK AT THE GRAVEYARDS'

THE TWO valleys of the Rhondda valley merge at Porth.

Take the right hand road through and you are climbing the Rhondda Fach, through Ynys Hir, Wattstown, Tylostown, Ferndale: an unbroken ribbon of low stone houses, most of them without inside toilets, almost all without baths, which were built for the miners in the once rich Rhondda coal seams.

Most of the pits have closed now but the people in those houses still depend for what little work and wages they can get on mining

coal.

At the top of the valley, perched on the edge of the hill past a mountain range of grassed-over slagheaps is Maerdy colliery.

It's known as 'little Moscow' since the Russian revolution, for the militancy in action and the communist and socialist ideas which have inspired that action through generations of Maerdy miners.

Strength

Today, the miners at Maerdy are worried. They fear that the growing strength of their union, and with it the safety and solidarity of miners everywhere, could be poured down the drain in a single vote this week.

On Thursday, they and all the miners in the country will be voting on the Coal Board's proposals for a 'productivity scheme' and a return to piece work in the pits.

'If you want to know what piece work means to the

By Paul Foot

miners in this area', says Haydon Matthews, lodge secretary, 'go and look at our graveyards, look at the ages on the tombstones. Look at the number of men who died in their 40's and 50's.

'Go around these towns up here and you'll see men without hands, with fingers missing, their lips smashed, men wearing corsets, leaning on sticks and crutches. That's all part and parcel of what we knew as piecework.'

Haven't miners always suffered from accidents and illness? And don't they still suffer today, when they don't do piecework?

'Yes,' answers Arfor Evans, the lodge chairman, 'but to nothing like the same extent. The tempo men have to work to trigger off a piecework scheme is far faster, and far less safe.'

'By nature men take short cuts under such a scheme. Men don't put up supports to advance the face.'

'They don't water the coal. They run machines without dust suppression. They don't turn machines off when they see clouds of dust coming out of the face.'

System

'They do all these things properly now because we've got a civilised system where miners get paid for the same time working however much coal they produce.'

In 1966 the miners won a 'power loading agreement' which did away with the old

piecework system and bound them together under a single day-wage system.

Before that agreement, the strikes and stoppages in the pits were usually directed by one group of miners against another, often in the same pit.

'Solidarity was supplanted by squabbles about the rate for different seams.

The power loading agreement unleashed the instinctive militancy and solidarity of the miners.

It led to the great strikes of 1972 and 1974 in which miners felt their strength, and pushed together for wage rises which broke a Tory pay policy and brought down a Tory government.

Solidarity

The new piecework system is a deliberate attempt to break that militancy and solidarity. It offers big increases to any group of miners who can increase their production by 27 per cent.

In some areas, especially the East Midlands, this is possible.

In others, like South Wales and Scotland it is impossible. The scheme would set area against area. It would weaken the national union and inevitably lead to more pit closures as younger miners in Wales and Scotland left for the bonuses of the Midlands.

This is why miners voted solidly against such a scheme in a ballot only two years ago. That is why the NUM Conference this year rejected such a scheme.

But as Haydon Matthews admits: 'We're in a far weaker position today. We've had two



years of wage restraint, and miners are badly hit like everyone else.

'Many of the gains we made in 1972 and 1974 have been taken away. Now, £23 extra for productivity looks really tempting. People won't be so keen to vote against it now.'

'So we're puttin everything into the argument that a vote against the deal is not a vote against more money.'

'No. It's a vote for an increase. We want £135 a week. If we vote down the productivity scheme, we can get that. If we vote in favour of the scheme, almost all the miners in the country won't get anything like that much.'

The lodge officials at Maerdy, like all their fellow-officials in Wales, are furious

with their union executive for overturning conference decisions and threatening the strength of their union by putting the productivity scheme to ballot.

Support

Haydon Matthews says: 'Two thirds of the miners in our union are represented by the 11 men who voted against the ballot on the executive. The other third are represented by the 13 who voted for the ballot.'

'We've got 33,000 miners in South Wales, represented on the executive by two men.'

'In North Wales, they've got one pit and 2,500 NUM members, and a member on

the executive.

'I'm absolutely disgusted by the way some of our officials behave. Eighteen months ago Lawrence Daly, our general secretary, was absolutely opposed to any form of piecework system. Now he's in favour of it.'

'He's done a complete somersault. He's after honours isn't he?'

Harry Bugg, Maerdy NUM's compensation agent, had another explanation.

'If I don't do my job here, he said 'I get thrown out in the next year's election. But Daly's in for life, isn't he?'

'He doesn't have to fight. If he had to be elected every five years, he'd have to listen to the people he represents.'



ARTHUR Scargill, Yorkshire miners President, with one of the posters distributed through the Yorkshire area during the campaign against the 1975 productivity deal.

“ I've worked in this mining industry for 43 years. I started as a boy of 14 on two and twopence halfpenny a shift. I've never seen bloody daylight. It's been a bloody wonderful thing to know you've got a union as good as the NUM is now. To think the likes of bloody Gormley is more or less dragging it down. It galls me.

— Harry Bugg, compensation secretary, Maerdy Colliery, Rhondda Valley.

” — Harry Bugg, compensation secretary, Maerdy Colliery, Rhondda Valley.

Socialist Worker MOVIES present:

October & after

a season of films showing monthly
NE London Poly
Greengate St
(Plaistow tube)

Friday 4 November 7.45pm



A musical with good singin' and dancin' 'cept it's Germany in the 30's and there's something nazy in the air!

The killing machine

WHILE THE basic things needed to keep human beings alive were in short supply, civilisation could only develop if there was a division into classes.

This, we showed last week, was why class distinctions first grew up, about 5000-10,000 years ago after half a million years in which they had not existed.

The majority of the earth's population were too busy scratching the soil for a meagre living to have time to develop systems of writing and reading, to create works of art, to build ships for trade, to plot the course of the stars, to discover the rudiments of mathematics, to work out when rivers would flood or how irrigation channels should be

constructed.

These things could only happen if some of the necessities of life were seized from the mass of the population and used to maintain a privileged minority that did not have to toil from sunrise to sunset.

So the great civilisations of the past were all built on backs of innumerable toilers, for whom their glories meant only the whiplash, the empty belly and the early grave.

No divisions

The toilers did not accept their lot without fighting back. There were slave revolts in ancient Egypt and Rome; peasant revolts in imperial China; civil wars between the rich and poor in the cities of ancient Greece, and Rome and Renaissance Europe.

That is why Karl Marx began his pamphlet, *The Communist Manifesto*, by insisting that 'The history of all hitherto existing societies has been a history of class struggle.'

The growth of civilisation had depended on the exploitation of one class by another, and therefore on the struggle between them.

However powerful an Egyptian Pharaoh, a Roman empire or a medieval prince, however luxurious their lives, however magnificent their palaces, they could do nothing unless they guaranteed that the products grown by the most miserable peasant or slave passed into their possession.

They could only do this if alongside the division into classes there also grew up something else—control over the means of violence by themselves and their supporters.

In earlier societies there had been no army, police or governmental apparatus separate from most people.

Even some 50 or 60 years ago, for instance, in parts of Africa, it was still possible to find societies in which this was still so. Many of the tasks done by the state in our society, were simply done informally by the whole population, or by meetings of representatives of different sections of it.

Such meetings would judge the behaviour of any individual who was considered to have broken an important social rule. Punishment would be applied by the whole community—for instance, forcing miscreants to leave the society and live by themselves.

Since everyone was agreed on the necessary punishment, separate police were needed to put it into effect.

If warfare occurred all the young men would take part, under leaders chosen for the occasion, again without any separate structure for the army.

But once you had a society in which a minority had control over most of the wealth, these simple ways of keeping 'law and order' and organising warfare could no longer work.

Any meeting of representatives or any gathering of the armed young men would be likely to split along class lines.

Tablets

The privileged group could only survive if it began to monopolise in its own hands the making and implementation of punishments, laws, the organisation of armies, the production of weapons.

So the separation into classes was accompanied by the growth of groups of judges, policemen and secret policemen, generals, bureaucrats—all of whom were given part of the wealth in the hands of the privileged class in return for protecting its rule.

Those who served in the ranks of this 'state' were trained to obey without hesitation the orders of their 'superiors' and were cut off from all normal social ties with the exploited mass of people.

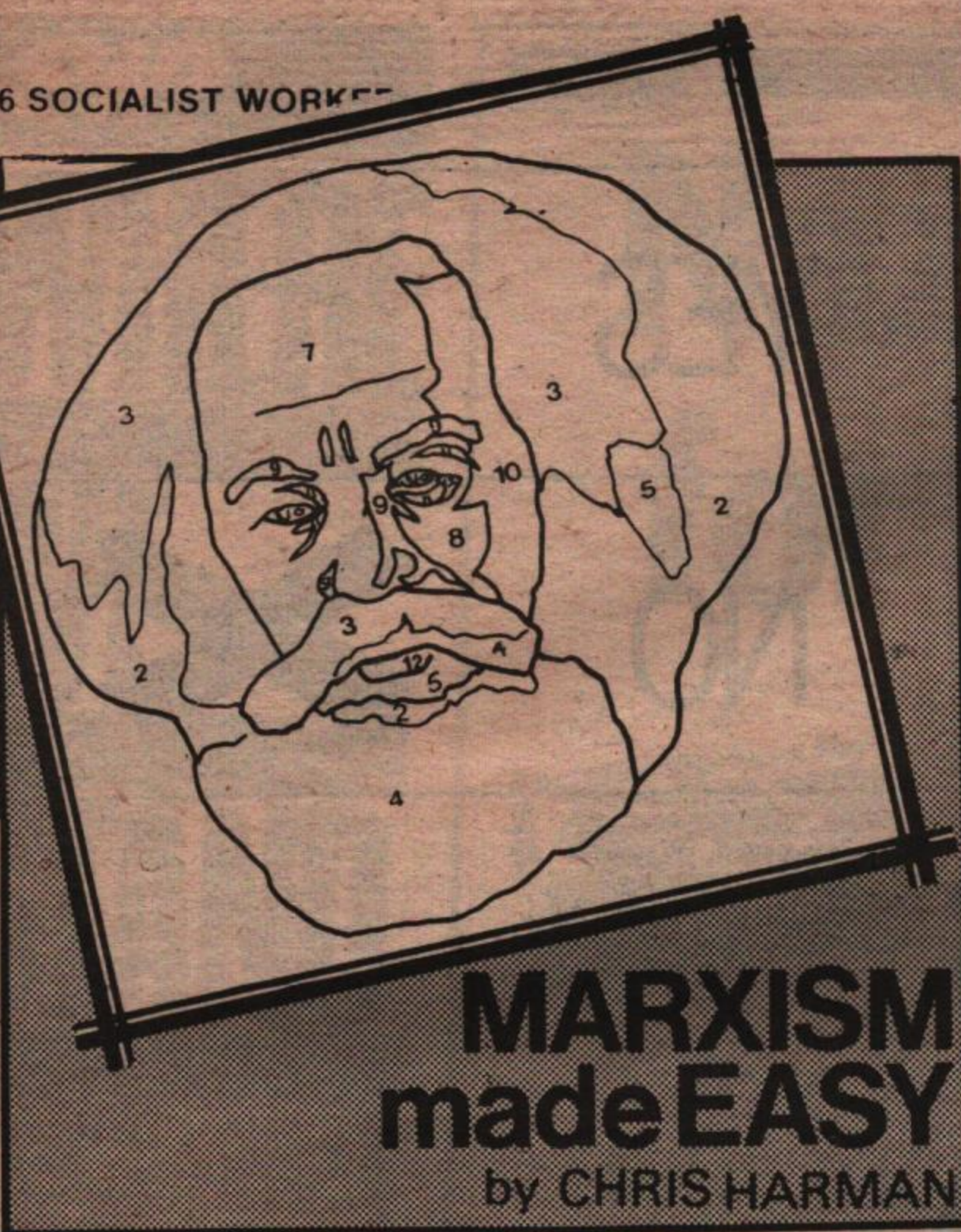
The state developed as a killing machine in the hands of the privileged class. And a highly effective machine it could be.

Necessary

Of course, the generals who ran this machine often fell out with a particular emperor or king, and tried to put themselves in his place.

The ruling class having armed a monster, could often not control it. But since the wealth needed to keep the killing machine running came from the exploitation of the masses, every such revolution would be followed by continuation of society along the old lines.

Throughout history, people who have really wanted to change society for the better have found themselves fighting not just the privileged classes, but also an armed machine, a state that serves its interest.



Dateline Rhodesia...

THE ANGLO AMERICAN PROPOSALS
 SERVICE: APOLOGIES FOR MISSING CARVER STORY BUT LAST MINUTE
 NIGHT MILITARY DUTY PUT ME OUT OF CIRCULATION WHEN IT BROK
 ENDS/F INCE

IAIN MILLS is the man carrying the banner of British Press freedom in Salisbury, Rhodesia on behalf of—among others—that pillar of civilisation (as we know it) *The Times*.

The telex machine at Grays Inn Road is simply dripping with the pearls of wisdom written by the man who also works for the *Rhodesia Herald*.

And in the fine tradition of British journalism, he is of course, simply an observer, there to relay the facts to an expectant British public free from bias and—heaven forbid—

political prejudice.

This is, after all, what democracy is all about old chap. The more cynical may admit that when Mr. Mills talks of 'the brutality to which (black) terrorists have resorted in order to create the illusion of power their Marxist masters expect from them' it might be slightly less than impartial.

But what does Mr. Mills—telex code name 'fingers'—mean when he writes at the end of one of his reports: 'Apologies for missing Carver story but last minute night military duty put me out of circulation when it broke.?'

THE SOUTH African Government, who last week closed down *The World*, a black newspaper, are producing a special issue stamp next year—on press freedom.

Professor Paul Wilkinson who lectures on politics at Cardiff University, is an expert on terrorism and on the list of lecturers with the right wing Institute of Strategic Studies.

The Institute has been trying to persuade Bramshill police college to take lecturers in terrorism, including Wilkinson.

Nazi Portrait

A RECENT edition of the *Sunday Telegraph* contained a profile of Nazi Front leader John Tyndall.

For those who are more discerning about their weekend reading matter, here are some of the gems straight from the Fuhrer's mouth:

'Driving out of Carnaby Street I beheld walking about a species of humanity that I thought only existed in the wider forms of horror fiction.'

'I resolved there and then that if I ever revisited this neighbourhood in the future it would not be at the wheel of a car, but at the tiller of a Chieftan tank, preferably with a flamethrower attached as an extra, and a large refuse can bringing up the rear.'

'I repudiate the whole idea that it is morally right to love. Morality does not come into the question of who you love or hate; it is a question of instincts, of family and race loyalties.'

And this from Front man Richard Verrall: 'When we are knocking at the gates of power in Britain there will be a new generation who are joining us.'

'They will see us for the force we are. And when that happens, they won't give a damn who was a Fascist and who was a Nazi.'



This cartoon was sent in last week by Roger Cray, from Ely. If you think you can do as well, send us a cartoon. SW Cartoon Slot, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

OAF OF THE WEEK

A GLASGOW school teacher who refused to use corporal punishment on his pupils has had his provisional registration withdrawn.

Denis Docherty appeared before a General Teaching Council last week after his headmaster complained that he had failed to maintain discipline.

Earlier he had refused to use violence on the kids.

Mr Docherty has appealed against the decision but if it is upheld he won't be allowed to teach any longer.

THIS WEEK's winner must be a contender for the annual Golden Oaf title awarded by Fifth Column.

He is Mr George Crozier, Dumbarton solicitor and member of the Labour Party who has threatened to break away from the party.

Mr Crozier, a Roman Catholic, says he will leave the party (a great loss) because of the call for abortion on demand

at the Party conference.

He claims, among other things, that it will lose 814,000 votes from Scottish Catholics (it hasn't yet filtered through that not all Catholics are as bigotted as he is).

He also says in the *Lennox Herald*: 'I think practising Catholics and committed Christians would say this was a direct contravention of the 5th commandment—Thou



Tightening our belts



Great quotes of our time...

AT THE moment Britain is still a long way from being such a workers' paradise, and the Conservative Party exists to prevent its ever becoming one; even to make it less like one that it is already.

—Peregrine Worsthorne, *Sunday Telegraph*, October 16

'HOWEVER badly you feel on occasions it is no god setting about a police officer because, behind him, stands the police force, behind them the army, navy and air force, and behind them the whole state. You cannot fight the state.'

—Judge Neil McKinnon, jailing five men at the Old Bailey for assault on police.

Vintage Scanlon

ENGINEERING Union leader Hugh Scanlon did it in style the day his daughter Janet was married.

Hughie was loaned a 1912 Rover by—surprise, surprise—British Leyland.

Three days later he did the company a favour by making an impassioned speech to persuade Leyland shop stewards to change their minds and accept the company's proposals for corporate bargaining.

Yours for only £300, this jersey and diamante dress. Why not throw in the grey frilly bag, too, for only £25?

SACRIFICE CORNER: What better delicacy to put a smile on the faces of the fat cats than a nice plate of roast mouse. This is the new delicacy popular in the 'better' restaurants at only £15 an ounce.

offend the 5th commandment.

It's not all history either. Mr Crozier has conveniently forgotten the bishops in Chile who supported the murder of thousands of socialists and trade unionists.

Still, he needn't worry. Callaghan's dirty deal with the Tories will put paid to abortions on demand for working class women.

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LAST WEDNESDAY the Russian Embassy in London was besieged by a mass picket of over 500. The pickets, including the parents of Andrij Klymchuk were demanding the immediate release of Andrij from a Russian jail where he is languishing on the trumped up charges of carrying subversive literature and smuggling. The Russian ambassador refused to accept a petition organised by Andrij's mother. Andrij is a student teacher at Hull college and Hull College Students Union led a march to the Royal College of Art. At a rally at the RCA, Andy Strouthous, NOISS and

SWP members of the NUS executive, stressed the importance of carrying the campaign on in the local areas, the need to picket local Russian offices and visiting officials, and raise the issue at Trades Councils and NUT branches. At a NOISS meeting afterwards over 70 students heard Edward Baluka, leader of the great Polish strike seven years ago. Petitions and resolutions demanding Andrij's immediate release should be sent to Andrij Klymchuk Defence Campaign c/o NUS Endsleigh St, WC1.

NO to anti-semitism NO to Israel as well

A THOROUGHLY dishonest campaign has been waged in the press against NOISS, the student organisation that supports the Socialist Workers Party.

The message of the campaign is that NOISS is against the rights of Jewish students. The Observer last Sunday went so far as to claim that NOISS had been campaigning alongside the National Front 'against Jews'.

Members of NOISS, together with the Palestinian students organisation, GUPS, have been protesting at the use of student union funds or facilities in support of the state of Israel.

Refused

The issue leapt into the national headlines after the students union at Salford University refused to allow the use of a room to a meeting urging support for the state of Israel.

What none of the papers mentioned was that the successful resolution was moved by a Jewish member of NOISS, Dave Glanz.

A press statement reiterating these points was

handed out to reporters from several national newspapers on Sunday by Andy Strouthous, a NOISS member on the NUS executive. The press failed to print a word.

Andy later explained to Socialist Worker what the real issues were. 'We are not anti-Jewish. How could we be, when many leading members of the Socialist Workers Party are Jewish?'

'At York University, where a small secret group of fascists have been distributing anti-semitic leaflets for two or three years, the NOISS members have been in the forefront of the hunt to find these fascists and stop their propaganda.'

'But there is a difference between Jewishness and Zionism. Zionism is the view that Jewish settlers have the right to drive the local population out of Palestine.'

Among those persecuted for opposing Zionist policies in Israel are not merely thousands of Arabs, but also many individual Jews.

'Throughout the world there are Jewish people subject to racial abuse. But the Zionists will only help them if they agree to go to Israel. Otherwise the Zionists are not interested. The American civil liberties lawyer Morris Ernst used to tell how, after World War II, the Zionists used their influence to oppose immigration of Jewish refugees into

the US—they wanted them all to be forced to go to Israel.

Today more than half the Jews who flee Russia do not want to go to Israel. Zionists are quite happy if these rot in transit camps in Vienna.

'I a white person from anywhere in the world could settle in England, a person born here were forced to live in refugee camps in Normandy, no-one would deny that England was racist.'

'Yet a Jew from anywhere can settle in Israel, while Palestinians born there are in refugee camps just across the border.'

Provided

'The National Union of Students leadership are claiming that it is a question of 'democracy', that any group of students who believe in anything should be provided with union facilities to put their case across.'

'Sue Slipman says that this should even apply to supporters of Pinochet in Chile.'

'Well, we regard the NUS as a union. How would you react if the funds or facilities of your union were being used to propagate support for Pinochet?'

'And let's be clear, the Israeli government's treatment of the Palestinians is very similar to the behaviour of Pinochet or Vorster.'

'Just look how the Israelis helped to provide the knowledge needed for the South African atom bomb.'

'We think pro-Israel government meetings should be treated like the one in Salford last term.'

Confused

'Of course, many people of the left are confused over the question of Israel. But it is no solution to the persecution Jewish people have suffered for so long to support an Israeli state based on the persecution of the Palestinians.'

'Concentration camps are concentration camps, whether they contain Jews or Palestinians. We have been raising the issue in the colleges so that Jewish students who are confused over the issue can get a chance to hear the arguments for the first time.'



VORSTER: THE MASK IS OFF

THE TRUTH about South Africa was revealed last week—by the South African prime minister Vorster.

With a single decree he banned two newspapers and every black organisation in the country—from the Soweto Students Representative Committee right throughout to the Christian Institute.

For years we were told by newspapers and politicians in this country that given time, South Africa would gradually move towards greater rights for the black population.

It has been claimed that the vast finance pumped into South Africa by British companies would help bring this about.



THE BLACK freedom movement in South Africa has spread to Swaziland, the country completely surrounded by South African territory and run by a black puppet government. Police attacked students who demonstrated in support of striking teachers.

The British Labour government sent ministers to chat with Vorster about joint initiative over Rhodesia. When South Africa invaded Angola only 18 months ago, its troops were supported by the American CIA and received favourable publicity in the

British press. Now Vorster has declared that there will never be any possibility of black people enjoying equality with whites in South Africa.

Even those who have in the past preached non-violence to the black majority now admit

that 'there can be no peaceful change.'

But that only leaves one alternative—full support for those prepared to use any means, including armed struggle, in the fight to overthrow the South African reich.

November 11: Students day of action

THE NATIONAL Union of Students have called for a day of action on Southern Africa for 11 November. Students should organise occupation, strikes, pickets of Barclays bank and boycotts of South African Oranges and other goods in refectories.

Three more student unions have backed the call of a demonstration in support of the freedom fighters for two days later, on 13 November.

Support

ASE, Manchester Poly, UMIST, Bradford University, Aberdeen University, and Lancaster University are supporting the demo, and motions are being put to a number of student

union general meetings this week.

The 11th November coincides with the twelfth anniversary of UDI—the illegal seizure of power by the white settlers in Rhodesia. It is also the day the extreme right march in support of White Rhodesia.

Start now

Start organising now. Book coaches and sell tickets, organise a meeting, or a filmshow, or a collection in your college.

The Southern Africa Campaign can provide speakers, leaflets, posters, badges, pamphlets and lists of films you can book. Contact us at 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.

BET YOU never expected to see a Victory to the Freedom Fighters placard right in the front window of South African Airways!

Well if you'd been in Manchester last Thursday you would have seen a picket outside and Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign leaflets and posters inside the closed office.

We called the picket as soon as we heard of the vicious banning of 18 black organisations in South Africa.

A MEETING of more than 700 students at Aberdeen University voted to occupy the administration building until the university got rid of its investments in companies like BP and ICI which bolster the apartheid regime in South Africa.

On Wednesday the South Africa consulate will be in Aberdeen inviting people to emigrate to South Africa.

'We are hoping to arrange a mass interview,' said Neil Stewart, President of the Students Representative Council.

OVER 100 students attended a meeting organised by the Southern Africa Solidarity Tour in Sheffield Polytechnic. One of the speakers, Barney Motgate, from Soweto, was interviewed on Radio Hallam and on BBC Radio Sheffield.

The tour raised £100 through activities organised in Sheffield and Manchester. This week it is visiting Aberdeen, Stirling, Edinburgh, Dumfries and Glasgow.



SOUTHERN AFRICA—WHAT'S AT STAKE?

New pamphlet from the Southern Africa Campaign, with chapters on the Myth and the Reality of Southern Africa the armed struggle and why we must support the freedom fighters; Order it now and start selling. 20p a copy (plus 10p postage). Ten copies for £2.00. Post free, from Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.



VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign Badge, 20p each (plus 10p postage), 10 for £2.00 post free. Cash with order to Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign, 21 Mayall Road, London SE24.

GO TO JAIL, GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL, DO NOT PASS GO...

WAS walking down Chancery Lane in London when a terrible feeling came over me. Maybe I was being misled by a miniaturised KGB agent secretly transplanted into my parolobe.

Maybe Maggie Thatcher and Keith Joseph were right. What's wrong with Britain isn't that it's a capitalist country, but that it isn't capitalist enough.

Surely if we removed all the controls and restrictions and let things rip, the market would take care of us.

Surely dozens of thrusting entrepreneurs would empty the dead wood out of the boardrooms and set about putting the Great back in Great Britain.

The cause of this inexplicable outburst of patriotic feeling in one who normally contrives a fair appearance of sanity was a bold black-and-white political poster pasted on to the hoardings in front of a bankrupt restaurant (people don't need to eat nowadays).

The poster showed the white dove of British enterprise held tightly in a fist of steel, doubtless representing trade unions, safety regulations and the Employment Protection Act.

'Release Free Enterprise and Create Prosperity' ran the legend on it.

I asked myself what kind of image would best sum up what unrestricted private enterprise would do for us, or rather to us. A pigeon high over Trafalgar Square immediately came to mind.

There it was, letting go in mid-flight and laying shit all over the mere mortals down below.

EVADE

For free enterprise 'freedom' means the freedom to evade tax and currency regulations, such as they are. It means the freedom to pollute the environment and to market untested drugs.

It means the 'freedom' for the few to pile up massive fortunes, then to disguise the piracy, the 'freedom' to bring out lying newspapers that tell us it's all in the public interest.

Anyone in any doubt about this should turn to a new book on the subject. It's called Slater Walker: an investigation of a financial phenomenon, by Charles Raw.

This devastating document chronicles the rise of two typical self-made men, Peter Walker, and Jim Slater, who exploited the market and its so-called freedoms to the full.

Walker's road to the top was through the massively profitable middle and upper-



Laurie Flynn looks at the rise and fall of financier Jim Slater, seen here (far left) playing Monopoly with other City tycoons. One big illusion ...



The exploitation that was Slater's foundation—the Hackney factory where his financial operation started.

class closed shop of insurance broking. Slater's ran through the bus and truck company AEC, on to Leyland and then to higher things.

The higher things were eventually packaged into one giant gift box of illusions: Slater Walker.

ENTERPRISE

Throughout the late 1960s, when Tony Benn was encouraging mergers, into the early 1970s, when Edward Heath was regenerating Britain, Slater Walker was synonymous with 'progressive management', 'innovation' and 'enterprise'.

But it was all illusion. In 1975 the great investment banking and finance house

collapsed into a worthless pile of paper which it is costing £110 million of public money—the cost of food new hospitals—to shore up.

It was on the takeover of Crittall Hope, the Midlands and Essex-based window frame manufacturers, that Jim Slater rested his tremendous reputation for industrial innovation and dynamism.

Yet on close examination all that was done at Crittall Hope amounted to the making of exaggerated, wildy exaggerated claims about profitability and then speedily cashing in the profits based on them.

Despite all the carefully cultivated press bullshit about the company, Slater Walker was, according to Charles

Raw 'about one thing: the manipulation of share prices.'

From the very beginning of Slater's career that is precisely what the man excelled at doing. Slater, as Raw unveils, got his lift-off for the big time via a share-tipping column in the Sunday Telegraph.

But as he was recommending Sunday Telegraph readers to buy shares, he was getting ready to sell his holdings in those very companies. As soon, that is, as the shares had risen as a result of his own tips.

Slater the self-made man got his stake money by ripping off the readers of the Sunday Telegraph and the companies which he tipped. He knew the shares would rise when he tipped them and he acted accordingly, pocketing a rather large quantity of loot.

ACTING

Once established he started acting for big blocks of institutional cash. Among these was the Leyland workers' pension fund.

Worth around £500,000 when he started managing it, the fund was £100,000 down when he finished.

Meantime the Leyland workers' money had been put into shares which Slater himself had been coming in and out of as it suited his own personal fortunes.

Not long after this, Slater and friends took over H Lotery and Sons. They were up, up and away.

LATEX

Their first move into the big time involved purchase of Productofam, a latex glove concern in Sheep Lane, Hackney, East London, just a hundred yards from the Socialist Worker print shop.

This operation was no great success. It caught fire and was merged into a company in Lancashire which also caught fire. After this the money machine moved on.

Then Slater Walker went into James Halsteads, in Manchester, a floor tile and waterproof clothing operation. Here too Slater had high hopes of sucking out vast profits from a firm notorious for high turnover of labour, lousy conditions and lack of safety.

Slater didn't want to change any of that. It was his ostensible purpose to intensify

exploitation, while really manipulating shares for his own and others' enrichment.

Slater drew others into his web, becoming investment advisor to Edward Heath and, according to Private Eye, to Harold Wilson.

Heath certainly benefitted from Slater's market manipulations, now taking place on exactly the same principles as devised by 'Capitalist' on the Sunday Telegraph but now on an infinitely grander scale. He pocketed the proceeds of the Tokengate manipulation just shortly before he bought his first yacht.

As the empire grew, so to our self-made man became a guru. If he picked his nose or broke wind his creatures in the financial press analysed 'new omens'.

He wrote on company law reform in the Financial Times. He appeared alongside Billy Graham, Anthony Barber and Lord Goodman at the Institute of Directors' beano at the Albert Hall.

RIPPED

Slater's bank was ripped apart by the world economic crisis and the self-made man was turned into a system-made bankrupt.

An outrageous rip-off committed by Slater Walker in Hong Kong and Singapore finally caught up on the guru and his 'reputation'.

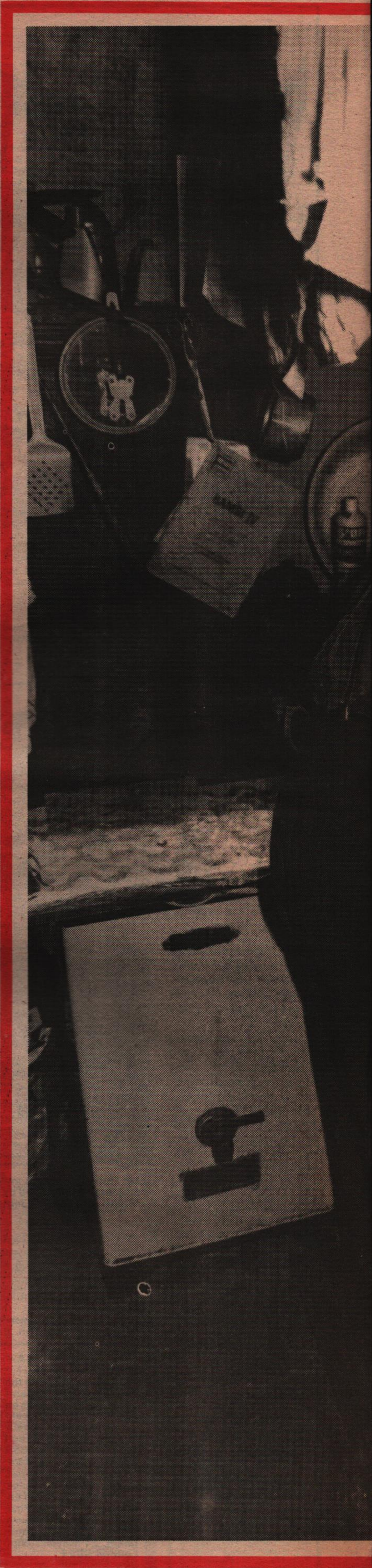
Massive quantities of public money had to be pumped in. The Slater Walker board had to be stacked out with Rothschilds, Hambros and others determined to save the reputation of something bigger than Jim Slater.

In the pile of paper that was left behind can be found a death certificate for all the talk about 'Releasing free enterprise' and 'taking away the restrictions and controls.'

That kind of freedom simply means the freedom to rob, the ability of the few to pick the pockets of the many in order to fill the wallets of the rich.

In sum, the Slater Walker saga testifies to the insight of the great Irish writer Brendan Behan.

Behan said of criminals that they were only businessmen without offices. Which makes businessmen . . .



WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST

PAUL FOOT

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

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

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

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

This pamphlet puts our case. Will you read it?

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

the case for the new Socialist Worker Party

One old man who won't be getting the Xmas bonus this year

THIS IS Ronald Hanson, a 68-year-old retired pensioner, pictured in his rented 'home' in Birmingham a few weeks ago. He won't be there to collect his pensioner's Christmas bonus this year.

According to the official enquiry into his death in the coroner's court, he died of 'natural causes'. In fact like thousands of other pensioners, he died of unnatural causes, of poverty and misery and exploitation.

Ronald was bronchitic. He suffered from heart trouble.

His house was owned by Fellden Development and H. Cartwright (Oldbury), property companies. It had no electricity, no hot water, no adequate ventilation, an outside lavatory, no bathroom and it was lit by gas mantles.

Plaster was falling off the ceiling and damp was so severe that in places the walls were sodden to the touch.

In April this year, Ronald Hanson and a number of other people living in the same street in houses owned by the same landlords approached the Small Heath Community Law Centre for help fighting rent increases and getting essential repairs done.

The landlords point blank refused to carry out works. Legal actions were begun alleging that the condition of the properties was a danger to the health of the occupants.

The other cases are still going on — Ronald Hanson's has been withdrawn.

The inquest heard evidence from Mr Hanson's 84-year-old brother, who described the house as 'not fit for a pig'. He heartily resisted suggestions made on behalf of the landlords that his brother didn't want improvements or would have refused repairs.

This line was trotted out to the local and national press and faithfully reproduced.

Stubborn?

It was all the fault of a stubborn old man who would not allow his landlords to provide him with decent living conditions.

This is not just consistent with other evidence which was given. The community worker at the Law Centre, told the inquest that Mr Hanson certainly did want work done to make his house habitable. She produced a letter from the former landlords promising a visit from

workmen to carry out certain repairs.

The letter was sent in January 1974. Mr Hanson had shown it to Jeanette with anger—until his death the work had still not been done.

Guidance

Evidence was also given by Mr Hanson's doctor, Margaret Austin, who agreed that the house was not in an appropriate condition for someone like Mr Hanson to live in. She said damp, ventilation and an outside toilet could all affect a patient.

Public Health Inspector David Ormandy likewise testified to the conditions in the property, which he said must have affected Mr Hanson's health.

What came out at the coroner's inquest was that a person living in conditions such as we have described does not have the chances of survival of someone living in decent quality housing.

There are thousands more like Ronald Hanson. Again Chancellor Denis Healey is promising them a Christmas bonus this year—their thanks are a measure of how desperately the money is needed.

The world is ill divided.

LEFT: Ronald Hanson in his kitchen a few weeks before he died of 'natural causes', as the inquest said. For thousands upon thousands of pensioners, poverty is 'natural' so it seems.

BELOW: Gas lighting and plaster falling from the permanently damp walls of Ronald Hanson's rented house.



BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

ABERDEEN Socialist Workers Party meeting: Spain Today. Speaker: Des Murphy (recently back from Spain). Monday 31 October, 7.30pm, Trades Council 21, Adelphi (off Union Street, near ABC Cinema).

DUMFRIES Socialist Workers Party public meeting: South Africa since Soweto. Thursday 27 October, 7.30pm-9pm, Dumfries Trade Union Centre, Nith Place. Further details, phone Dumfries 62406.

PAISLEY Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Fortnightly on Tuesdays, 7.30pm to 9.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 8 November: What is fascism—how do we fight it? Speaker: Mike Gonzalez (Chilean Solidarity activist).

North East

TEESIDE Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm. Details of meeting place from SW sellers. All SW readers welcome.

DARLINGTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

27 October: Destruction of the Environment under capitalism. 3 November: Physiology, its role under capitalism.

TEESSIDE Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

Yorkshire

HULL Socialist Workers Party presents CAST in their new play, Goodbye Union Jack, followed by a disco. Monday 31 October, 8pm, Hull University Students Union. Admission 75p.

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Party Teachers are holding a series of meetings about educational issues. It is vital that socialist teachers should counteract the right wing in the education debate. Meetings are on alternate Thursdays, 5pm, Meeting Room 1, The Communal Building, Bradford University. 3 November: Streaming—is it necessary? What are the alternatives?

North West

BOOTLE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm, details of place from your SW seller. All welcome. 3 November: Ireland. 10 November: Southern Africa.

LIVERPOOL SOUTH Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm. All welcome. Details of place from SW seller. 2 November: Rank and file movement—why we need one. 9 November: Will the Labour Party bring socialism?

ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm. All welcome. Details of place from SW seller. 3 November: Women—second-class citizens? 10 November: Ireland—Troops Out!

HULME/MOSSIDE Socialist Workers Party/Women's Voice meeting: Thursday 27 October, 8pm. Discussion meeting on abortion. See your SW seller for place.

KIRKBY Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every other Thursday, 8pm prompt, finish by 9.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 27 October: Rock against Racism.

WOLVERHAMPTON Socialist Workers Party Thursday night meetings: The meeting place has been changed, consult your SW seller. Discussions start at 8.30pm. 27 October: Women in Russia—the position of women has got worse over the years, what went wrong?

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party fund-raising social: Saturday 29 October, 8pm-4am. Tickets £1, includes disco, live band, hot meal, pub prices till midnight, club prices after, surprise guests, all in the plush surroundings of a Liverpool 8 night club (ours for the night). Limited number of tickets. Phone 051-709 1844.

CHEETHAM/CRUMPSALL Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Details of places and time from SW sellers. Thursday 3 November: The Russian Revolution. Why do we celebrate it? Speakers: Brian Rose (vice-chairman NATFHE liaison committee) and Anne Robertson (secretary, Crumpsall Hospital shop stewards committee). Wednesday 9 November: The case for socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot.

CRAWLEY Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Fortnightly on Fridays, 8pm, place from SW sellers. 4 November: A broad look at student politics and introduction to NOISS.

CRAWLEY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The rise of fascism in Europe in the thirties. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. Monday 31 October, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road, Crawley.

ASHFORD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 17 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

Polive V Black Panther Party USA
... racist murder and harassment.

Bill Hampton, brother of Fred Hampton, one of the murdered Black Panther Party leaders, will be touring Britain next month with the support of Flame, the black workers' paper of the Socialist Workers' Party. Come and hear him expose his brother's murderers. See the new film about the FBI's attempts to wipe out the Panthers.

Admission to all meetings 30p (unemployed/students 10p).

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Wednesday 16 November.
BRADFORD/LEEDS: Thursday 17 November

Next week's Socialist Worker will be a **SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE 1917 REVOLUTION**. This is a unique chance to get the socialist message across—every branch should think of ways to sell extra copies. Phone your extra orders to John Larkham, 01-739 2639. Speakers are available for anniversary meetings from Liz Balfour, phone 01-739 6273.

What's On entries for next week's issue arrive by first post Friday morning, 28 October.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

How it was won —and how it was lost

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY MEETINGS TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1917 REVOLUTION

MANSFIELD: Monday 7 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker: Dick Williams.

LEEDS: Thursday 3 November, 8pm, Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapelton Road. Speaker: Tony Cliff

LEAMINGTON: Wednesday 9 November, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker: Peter Binns.

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 10 November, for meeting place ask your SW seller. Local speaker.

HACKNEY, East London: Thursday 3 November, 8.45pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker: Paul Cunningham.

CHEETHAM/CRUMP-SALL: Thursday 3 November, for meeting place ask SW sellers. Speakers: Brian Rose and Anne Robertson.

NORTH LONDON: 10 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker: Tony Cliff



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 requires a GENERAL LABOURER, packer, driver, at its London office. Party membership, enthusiasm for hard work, plus initiative essential.

Socialist Worker Printshop requires a resident MAINTENANCE ENGINEER or fitter to work on various printing and binding machinery. Reply to Mel Norris, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS, or phone 01-739 1413.

London

EAST LONDON Women's Voice meetings: Thursdays, 8.30pm, details of meeting place from SW sellers. 3 November: Women and the law. Speaker: Lindsay German.

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS Socialist Workers Party branch meets alternate Thursdays, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 3 November: Discussion on Rosa Luxembourg.

INNER EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Why you should be a socialist. Alternate Friday evenings, 7.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 4 November: Because we wouldn't be frustrated. Speaker: Paul Foot.

Socialist Workers Party GAY GROUP public meeting: International gay struggle. Tuesday 15 November, 8pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, London, WC1. For further details ring 01-790 2454.

Socialist Workers Party public meeting: **PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT IN CRISIS**. Tuesday 1 November 6pm, Room LG60, SOAS, Malet Street, London, WC1.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Every Thursday 5.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 27 October: The family. Speaker: Joan Smith. 3 November: Muggings and their causes. Speaker: Sandra Peers.

OUTER EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party fortnightly meetings: The revolutionaries: an Alternate Fridays, 7.45pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. 28 October: Lenin (2). Speaker: Tony Cliff. 11 November: Trotsky. Speaker: Chris Harman. 25 November: Mao. Speaker: Nora Carlin.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Women's Voice group meets alternate Tuesdays, 8pm, details of meeting place from SW sellers. Further information, phone 01-673 1329. 1 November: Why Prices rise. Speaker: Judith Hamilton.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party district meeting for all members: Wednesday 2 November, 8pm to 10pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Reports from Hendon, Finchley and Desouters, Ian Birchall on Terrorism. All members welcome with supporters.

CENTRAL LONDON Women's Voice public discussion meeting: The Women's Movement in Italy. Renata, an Italian comrade, will lead off the discussion. Thursday 27 October, 6.30pm. For details ring 01-739 9772.

All-London gay groups **GAY BLASPHEMY BALL**: Saturday 5 November, 8pm till midnight, Manning Hall, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1. Julie Bedford Band and disco. £1 admission (60p unemployed and students).

THE CUTS SHOW, by Counteract, now in its third year and still fighting the cuts. Positively your last chance to book the show for your public meeting/union branch/etc. between 23 October and 2 December. Contact: 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT, 01-251 4977.

LAMBETH Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Meetings on Sundays, details from your SW seller. 30 October: The Thirties, fascism and unemployment. Speaker: Joanna Rollo.

Hackney and Tower Hamlets District

GALACTIC FILM CLUB

programme for 1977/8:

- 28 October: Winstanley, plus the Right to Work film
- 25 November: Quisquada
- 6 January: Sleeper, plus The Occupiers
- 3 February: The War Game, plus Asterix the Gaul
- 7 April: A Fistful of Dynamite
- Monthly, on Fridays, starting 7.30pm prompt, ending 9.30-10pm. Membership £3, guests 60p per showing. Interested? Phone Martin Adams, 01-806 5903.

BRENT Socialist Workers Party meetings: Black Nationalism. Speaker: George Black (Birmingham Flame/SWP). Wednesday 2 November, 8pm, details of meeting place from SW sellers.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party series of international meetings to commemorate 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Alternate Mondays 7.45pm, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, London SW11. 7 November: Workers' struggles in Eastern Europe. Speaker: Andy Strouthous.

ANTI-NAZI DEFENCE FUND for those arrested on the 8 October demonstration in Manchester: 28 were arrested, £1000 target for defence fund. Raise money through resolutions and collection in your workplace/union branch/student union etc. Collection sheets from and donations to fund secretary Liz Barber, 8 October Defence Fund, c/o Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, Manchester. **WITNESSES NEEDED:** Anyone who witnessed any of the arrests please contact Cherry, Manchester Law Centre, 595 Stockport Road, Manchester 13.

PICKET SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS: This Thursday, 27 October. Against the murder of Steve Biko/Against the bannings/Against the detentions/Against the sell-out in Zimbabwe. Solidarity with the black workers and students/Solidarity with the freedom fighters. Assemble 4pm, outside the South African Airways office at Oxford Circus tube station, London W1. Called by Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign, supported by NOISS.

South West

POOLE Socialist Workers Party public meeting: What the Socialist Workers Party stands for. Speaker: John Rose. Tuesday 8 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: What Socialist Worker stands for. Speaker: John Rose (a journalist on Socialist Worker). Wednesday 9 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

BATH Socialist Worker discussion group meets every Thursday 7.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. All SW readers welcome. SW sold 11am to 12.30pm, every Saturday, outside Littlewoods.

Action in the unions

HOSPITAL WORKERS: Important meeting for all SWP hospital workers in London. Wednesday 9 November starting at 7pm sharp. Place from your district organiser/industrial department. Don't go sick!

ASTMS: Meeting for all Scottish members of the Socialist Workers Party in ASTMS. Saturday 29 October, 10am to 5.30pm, Central London Poly, New Cavendish Street. Speakers: Ross Pritchard, Mike Heym, Jack Robertson. History of print unions, differentials, and new technology, how to organise your chapel. A pooled fare system will operate. Social in the evening.

PRINTWORKERS: Day school for all Socialist Worker Party members and supporters in the print. Saturday 29 October, 10am to 5.30pm, Central London Poly, New Cavendish Street. Speakers: Ross Pritchard, Mike Heym, Jack Robertson. History of print unions, differentials, and new technology, how to organise your chapel. A pooled fare system will operate. Social in the evening.

NOISS

National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies.

NOISS weekend school: 5-6 November, in Sunderland. Why we have NOISS, organising NOISS, and how to intervene in a dispute. Leaflet writing and production, public speaking, government, economic policy and the cuts. Saturday night social, plus CAST with Goodbye Union Jack ideal for new NOISS members. Details: IS Society, Newcastle Poly Students Union, Sandford Road, Newcastle 1 phone 0632 813877

CYPRUS: Development over the past three years. Day school organised by NOISS. Saturday 5 November, North London Poly, Holloway Road, London N7. All NOISS members make sure you bring any Cypriot, Greek and Turkish supporters.

SW Notices

BOOKMARKS London bookshop will be closed all day Thursday 3 November—come to the Socialist Book Fair instead. Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1, 12.30 to 9pm.

Socialist Worker requires a comrade who is experienced in roof repair to advise us. Please ring 01-739 1870 as soon as possible and ask for Colin.

Socialist Workers Party PHILOSOPHY GROUP foundation meeting Sunday 20 November, 10.30 am. Open to all SWP members and supporters and NOISS. Pooled fare. Overnight Saturday accommodation can be arranged, also crèche. Come to Oxford SWP social on the Saturday night while you're about it. Details from SWPhil, Oxford SWP, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN or phone 0865-5200. Agenda suggestions welcome, but draft agenda available now.

Copy date for the November edition of FIGHT, paper of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement, is Sunday 30 October. All articles and letters must be sent to SWYM (Fight), 21 Mayall Road, London SE24, or phone 01-733 0629.

ROOM WANTED for comrade in SWP house, North or East London preferred, but anything considered. Please phone SW Recordings, 01-739 9043.

The latest issue of FLAME is out. Articles include: Black Women, Carnival, South Africa, and police rampage in Lewisham. Get your copy now. Order from Flame 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 17p including postage.

DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH? If so contact the Socialist Workers Party International Department at 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, immediately.

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.

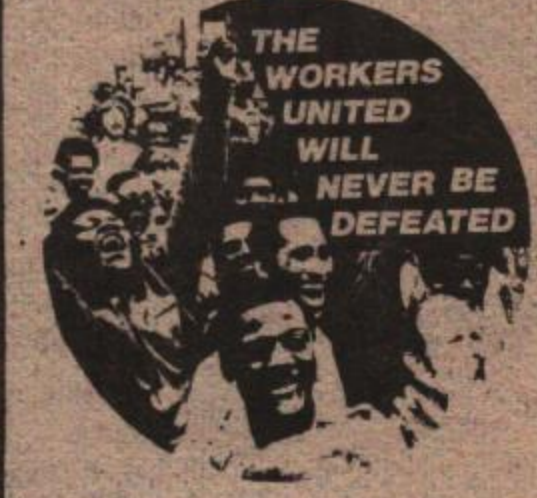
HOUNSLOW HOSPITAL Occupation Committee **EMERGENCY FIGHT BACK CONFERENCE:** Saturday 5 November, 1pm-6pm, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2. For details phone Hounslow Hospital (01-570-4448) and ask for Carl Brecker.

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE STOP THE BEGIN VISIT! Demonstration Sunday 30 October. Assemble 12.30 pm, Speakers Corner, London. Called by Palestinian Solidarity Campaign. Supported by Socialist Workers Party Middle East Group and NOISS.

THE £10 MILLION CONSTRUCTION BRIBE: Exclusive inside story of British capital's corruption in the Gulf. Plus: Black youth and white left, Judges Tom Robinson interview and lots more in November's LEVELLER 35p from left bookshops or direct from 155a Drummond St, London NW1.

RED WEEKEND: Second Communist University of Manchester, 4, 5, 6 November. Nine Courses. Details: 63 Clyde Road, Manchester '20, phone 061-445 3755.

RED BADGERS



A Flame/SWP badge in red and black, extra large size. One for 22p by post, 10 for £1.70, 50 for £8, 100 for £15.



STOP RISING FOOD PRICES—eat the rich! Printed in green and red. 20p each, 10 for £1.50, 50 for £6.50, all prices including postage. Cheques made out to RED BADGERS please.

All from RED BADGERS, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



BADGES AVAILABLE NOW! RAR badges in new colours—green and red 24p (inc postage), or 10 for £1.50 post free. Orders to 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



RENTAMOB, agitprop bulletin of the SWP and supporters: First issue includes articles on starting a socialist film club, making banners, badges for fund-raising, street theatre, video, Rock Against Racism and others, PLUS a full-size poster. 10p a copy, plus 7p postage, from Dave Simmonds, Counter-Act, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1. (Cheques/POs made to SW Recordings please).



Tour of the NORTH EAST BY CAST socialist theatre group with their latest play **NEWCASTLE:** Tuesday November, 7.30pm, Arts Centre, Charlotte Street, Wallsend. **DURHAM:** Wednesday 2 November, 7.30pm, Town Hall, Market Place. **MIDDLESBROUGH:** Thursday 3 November, 7.30pm, The Buttery, Polytechnic. **JARRROW:** Friday 4 November, 7.30pm, The Viking, Grange Street. **SUNDERLAND:** Saturday 5 November, 7.30pm, East Community Centre.



ROCK AGAINST RACISM in East London at North East London Poly, Longbridge Road, Barking Saturday 29 October, 7.30pm to 12 midnight, bar. £1 entrance. Bands are Bethnal Merger (Reggae) and Headache.

CONFERENCE ON KURDISTAN: Saturday 12 November, 10am to 4pm. Speakers: Stan Newens and others. Film: Voice of Kurdistan. Imperial College Union Building, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (near South Kensington tube) For further details contact Brunel Students Union.

★
PRE VIEW

By NICK HOWARD

BRIMSTONE and Treacle is a TV play that was meant to shock people.

It succeeded so well that the controllers of BBC-TV banned it.

Having seen the finished play, they refused even to discuss with its author, Dennis Potter, ways of making it more acceptable for family viewing.

The stage production at the Crucible Studio in Sheffield contained two realistic rape scenes, which no doubt provided the excuse needed by those who take our TV licence fees, to deny us a sight of the play.

The act of rape symbolises all that is wrong in human relationships. For *Brimstone and Treacle* is an old-fashioned morality play, set in a 1930s living room in which a decent middle-aged, middle-class couple yearn for the pre-war England when old ladies were safe on the streets and everyone knew their place.

To complete their hopelessness, their grown-up daughter lies dumb and totally crippled, a hit-and-run victim and a permanent warder in the prison of their home.

Foul

Enter the Devil, in the guise of a tennis-playing smoothy, who manipulates himself into the girl's bed, with the persuasiveness of Jimmy Young, to the music of Mantovani's Singing Strings.

His foul deed is even made therapeutic, in that he restores the girl to normality.

But the real evil that Potter singles out in the last act, is the National Front and its policies. Prompted by the way that the girl's authoritarian father blames his lack of hope on the Irish, the blacks and on strikers, long-haired hippies and people in general, the Devil makes a long speech.

He can't wait, so eager is he, for the appalling consequences of NF policies. With great glee, he points out to the girl's father, a recent recruit to the Front, that 'Send Them Back' slogans will bring on the cattle-trucks, the concentration camps, riots, CS gassing, shootings and black bodies all over the streets.

The prospect is so much more horrible than even the present state of England, that the 'decent' middle-class father says he will cancel his subscription to the NF.

But the Devil's work is done. He still wants the blacks to go.

The final scene shows that depravity can dwell, even behind the lace curtains of 'decent' families, in the ways that people do not stop to think out the consequences of their own actions and beliefs.

The play, which is very well acted and directed, doesn't pretend to analyse fascism.

But it says loudly and clearly that the grey-flannel suit fascism of the National Front is not only evil, but stems inevitably from all the attitudes to society's scapegoats that are churned out by the middle-class and respectable folk who run our mass-media and who are its main target audience.

The BBC should be made to show this play.

The only reason women are called 'birds': because of the worms they pick up...

By NEIL PEPPER

'NO, Ah can't come, Ah'm off out wit' t'bird'.

A common enough saying throughout the country on a Saturday night (apart from the fact that not everybody's lucky enough to live in Yorkshire, of course).

But what's wrong with it? Why would it tempt supporters of women's liberation to throw the nearest bottle at the

speaker?

One of things that's wrong (there are others) that socialists and feminists can't accept is using 'bird' as an alternative for 'woman'.

Agree

It trivialises women, implies that all they're good for is perching on the arm of a bloke, gazing up into his eyes and telling him how wonderful he is, or fluttering around, coyly waiting to be picked up by the oh-so-powerful male.

'OK', our Saturday night reveller might reply, 'I agree with you. But what does it

really matter?'

In fact, when you start to think about it, it matters a lot. For instance, at Lewisham there were some black cops. But none of the anti-fascists taunted them by shouting 'Niggers'.

They understood that nigger is not only deeply insulting to black people, but the word itself has a powerful emotive influence on the way people react.

Get people to think of

blacks as 'niggers' and you're half way to your NF member's card. The fascists understand this very well, of course.

Capitalists values soak into every corner and crevice of our society. We are tied to capitalism not only in our actions, in the work that we do, but even in our thoughts—in order to think we have to use language, and that language is affected by capitalism.

Look at the words surrounding the wedding service: 'I now pronounce you man and wife', says the priest.

Ritual

What does this imply? Quite clearly that while the man's station has not been changed by the ritual—he went in and came out a 'man'—the woman is changed to wife. Now she's defined only in terms of her husband, and loses her independence.

Or think of the words bachelor and spinster. Are they the same, apart from one being an unmarried man and

the other an unmarried woman?

No, of course they aren't—when you think of bachelor you think of a young man, someone who probably has affairs.

Think of spinster, on the other hand, and you think of a cold, prissy, fussy old woman, someone to be pitied as having been 'left on the shelf'.

Even the word 'worker'. We tend to think of a male working in heavy industry like the pits or steel, or perhaps a skilled engineer.

Strikes

We don't usually think of the woman who goes out on the twilight shift, even though in the past couple of years it's been the strikes at places where mostly women work that can be remembered—Trico, Laird-Portch, Grunwicks and lately Bachelors and Beechams.

Naturally, I'm not saying that if we all remembered to say chair-person instead of chairman, then women's oppression would be at an end.

But what really matters is not so much the word itself but the thought behind it. Until we can remove from our minds the idea of blacks as 'niggers', of women as 'birds', with all the connotations that go with it, there's going to be no change in our attitudes.

Chip

And one way in which we can chip away at those attitudes is by making a conscious effort to say chair-person instead of chairman, because every time you say chairman, or refer to workers as if they are exclusively male, you say to women: this is no place for you, this is men's work, you stay in the home.

Of course, it's not easy. As I wrote this article, I had to make a conscious effort to remind myself that black police can be women as well as men.

But then, nobody should expect the fight for socialism to be easy.

PS: As my Grannie used to say—the only reason women are called birds is because of the worms they pick up. Linda Quinn, typesetting.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

SCENES FROM SOWETO, which is showing this week at London's Round House, near Chalk Farm tube station, is well worth a visit. It's a horrifying story of a black South African who goes to an English university and from there back to South Africa. He thinks he can 'get on' without getting politically involved, but—well, you better go and see for yourself.

Special offer for SW readers

Bookmarks have got together with a number of socialist publishers to put on the first socialist bookfair.

Most major publishers of socialist books and periodicals, and many of the smaller ones, will be there to display their publications.

There will be meetings to discuss the special problems of radical bookshops and the setting up of socialist bookstalls at colleges and universities.

Lea Valley and North London Women's Voice groups are providing food, and the bar will be

open from 2-9pm.

The fair will give you the chance to meet the publishers, grouch about prices, browse, buy, or even sell that book you mean to finish some day.

Special offer to Socialist Worker readers

The Fascist Movement In Britain by R Benewick the most complete record of the fascist movement led by Mosley before (and after) the Second World War available to SW readers at only 50p (original price £2.50) on production of this advert at the Book Fair.

Socialist BOOK FAIR '77

Thurs 3rd Nov
Camden Townhall
Euston Road
London NW1
12.30-9.0pm

for all booksellers, trade unionists, librarians, teachers and members of the public

CHRISTIANITY ITSELF IS WRONG

SEVERAL letters, in response to my article on Christianity, asserted that we should condemn the Church, not Christianity itself, for the 2,000 years of hell that we have suffered from this pernicious religion.

On the contrary. Unlike Marxism, the doctrine of Christianity itself is corrupt. The Christian liberals who wrote seem to be unaware that the four so-called Gospels were selected from the hundreds circulating in the 4th century, by a majority vote of the bishops at the Council of Nicea and Ladocea (Some word of God!).

The information they did not want us to know, they destroyed.

A fragment that remains is the Gospel to the Egyptians, in which Jesus, replying to a woman who asks how she can serve in this new religion, says: 'I am come to destroy the work of the female.' (Perhaps misogyny, rather than homosexuality, is the reason why he never married).

Why should we disregard this saying of Jesus, simply because it is unpalatable?

Christians warmly congratulate Jesus on his 'compassion' towards prostitutes. He tells one to: 'Go away, and sin no more.'

He didn't also tell her how she was going to eat, if she followed his advice. Why didn't he attack the social system which compelled her to 'sin'? Why didn't he condemn her clients, the real 'sinners'?

□ □

Christianity is the religion of the oppressed par excellence. It teaches you to positively love your chains, because, by definition, the most oppressed is the most blessed: 'Blessed are the poor, for they shall inherit the earth.' (But not in *this* life!)

Instead of arguing for a juster social system, Jesus preached *personal* salvation for the rich, advising them to give all their goods away, and become poor themselves!

He considered a devoted love of himself, and an unquestioning belief in his impossible divinity, to outweigh every other consideration.

All Christian scholars agree that he, in common with the majority of his contemporaries, believed that the end of the world was at hand.

That is why he spoke so often of the Day of Judgement. That is why he advised the rich to give up their goods: it was a short-term loss for a long-term gain.

How can this Son of God

Turn the other cheek?

IT IS perhaps convenient for Christians to deny the Church because of its rather embarrassing history.

The Church regards property rights, as enshrined in the Bible, as sacred—and all real socialists know exactly what that means.

We should all be meek and mild and wait for justice to be delivered to us by some mystic process. Perhaps

have been so mistaken about the end of the world?

In the parable of the talents, where the one who was given most at the distribution of his father's wealth invested it, and increased it 100-fold, while the one who was given only a little buried it, Jesus utters the epitome of the capitalist ethic: 'For those who have will be given more, but from those who have not, it will be taken even that which they have.'

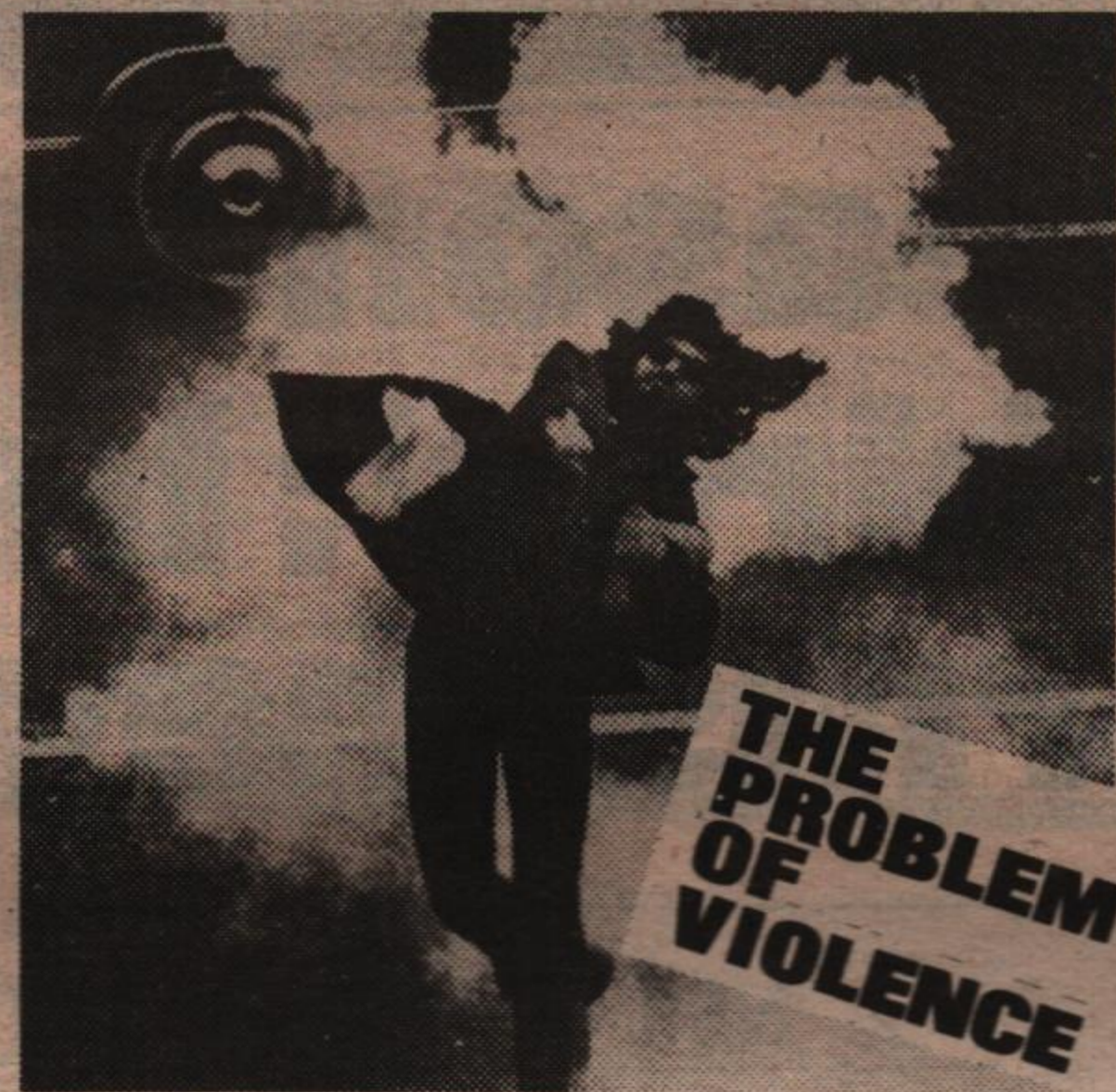
And it is precisely this doctrine of Jesus that faithful Christians have been putting into practice ever since they gained power. It is wishy-washy liberal Christians who misread the Gospels, not the Church which, unfortunately for us, interprets the 'Good News' to the letter.

□ LYN HOPKINS, Handsworth, Birmingham 20.

someone should try explaining that to the Zimbabwe freedom fighters or the children of Soweto.

Recently we have had Chile to remind us that the bourgeoisie does not often allow you to turn the other cheek—it takes the whole head with the first swipe.

□ ANDY HARRISON, Salford.



But it doesn't stop there...

IT SEEMS that the Socialist Workers Party is generally agreed that the use of violence in certain circumstances forwards the cause of revolution. But to what degree the SWP advocates violence is not clear.

I do not imagine that the violence envisaged is the mad murder and kidnapping of the Baader Meinhof group or certain Irish factions. But isn't there a certain sympathy between the SWP and these violent extremes?

The point I am trying to make is that once you accept any violence you accept all violence, because violence is a spiral, violence begets violence, it escalates, it cannot be packaged in neat, limited parcels.

The standard reply to a plea for non-violence is that Gandhi succeeded because he was opposed to an enemy that at least paid lip service to certain virtues, such as decency, legality, etc. But Gandhi's appeal was not to middle-class sentimentality but to basic human truths.

Gandhi was a realistic man, not at all the idealistic fool some political people try to pretend today. His realism was deeper than the realism that pretends you can bring a just society by being violent.

□ JOHN CASSON, Leamington Spa

TERRORISM: NO ROAD

I DON'T understand how any socialist can be at all sympathetic to what the Baader Meinhof group tried to do.

Every year tens of thousands of ordinary working people, from Britain as well as Germany, fly to Majorca on cheap package holidays. How can anyone excuse threats and, it seems, a near attempt to blow them up and murder all of these innocent people?

Socialism means the emancipation of the working class by the working class itself. Nothing is achieved by the antics of this small group of people from rich backgrounds with no connection with the socialist movement.

□ WILL HOLFORD, Deptford, London SE8.

Keeping freedom safe?

I AM STILL so cross I don't know how to begin. By now you may have heard of the incident in Lincoln today (15 September) when two men were apprehended by the police.

Usually on a Saturday I have seen several people selling your paper and I buy a copy. I walked up the road today. I first saw the Guide Dogs collection, I heard the sound of the fairground organ further up the road.

Then I saw a large crowd and a policeman. I worked my way through the crowd. I could hear people saying: 'What's going on?'

I then saw two policemen, one with his arm in a man's arm, and a young woman in tears, saying: 'He hasn't done anything'.

□ □

With her was a child in a push-chair and another (from whom I buy your paper) who said: 'Don't be intimidated, you can still buy the paper.'

Later on I saw a policeman watching the organ, and various side-shows, and the guide dogs collection. I wondered if they would be arrested for obstruction.

It makes me think of the letter to the Times (14 October) from the organiser for the Campaign to Repeal the Obscene Publications Act. This concerned 'current mass raids on London private cinema clubs by the police, at the request of, or in collusion with, at least a caucus of members of the Greater London Council.'

The letter goes on to refer to the 6,250 police at a cost of £250,000 in Manchester to protect the individual freedom of one man... and quotes article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Great Britain is a signatory.

□ ANNE JACKLIN, Lincoln (member of Caythorpe Constituency Labour Party)

Letters

Send your letters to Letters Page, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

Stage army? We've had enough!

STEVE JEFFERYS (SW, 15 October) rightly points out that the public sector unions' 'Autumn Offensive' against the cuts—a mammoth lobby of parliament—is a complete paper tiger, and one with no teeth at that.

What he gets completely wrong though is to say that this constitutes a retreat. It cannot be a retreat because there was never an advance.

The 'days of action' against the cuts, including the 80,000-strong march last November, were no more than token activities called by the union leaders to make it look as if they were doing something.

□ □

They will not be repeated, not because the union leaders are retreating, but because our members are fed up with losing a day's pay and marching along Oxford Street demonstrating to Japanese tourists so that the

likes of NUPE general secretary Alan Fisher can appear on television.

If Steve Jefferys was a bit more in touch with the rank and file, he would understand this.

□ □

Public sector workers do want to fight the cuts, but not in Oxford Street or the House of Commons. They want to fight them where they are happening, in the schools, in the hospitals, in the local councils' services and in the communities.

And the time to do it is now. And it is around places like Hounslow Hospital that the fight will be built.

□ Robin White, Lynn MacRitchie, Dave Ling (NUPE stewards, Royal Free Hospital), Kate Truscott (COHSE chairperson, Charing Cross Hospital), Dave Blane (ASTMS chairperson, Charing Cross Hospital), London.



... and out of schools!

THE Nazi Front may find it more difficult than they imagine to recruit among school students in South London. SWP's anti-Front propaganda seems to have got there first if my class of 13 year olds is anything to go by.

Some of the class were chanting 'Workers united will never be defeated' and 'Black and white unite and fight—Smash the National Front' among themselves before the lesson started, which was surprising as the usual version is 'Manchester United will never be defeated!'

The real surprise came at the end of the lesson though, when a crowd of boys surrounded one of their mates who was huddled crying over his desk. They were laughing and jeering at him, and shouted to me 'He's a member of the National Front. He's a moron, miss!'

The boy stammered out that his father was a member of the Front.

I tried to comfort the victim and sympathise with the mockers simultaneously by stating that he couldn't be blamed if his father was an idiot.

In spite of the pity I felt for the boy involved I was very pleased by this incident as it is the first spontaneous anti-fascist gesture I have seen. The students of this school make in the two years I have been there.

The incident, by the way, was totally non-violent and all the boys involved were white.

□ South London teacher.

AS ANOTHER season of foxhunting begins this month, we would like to suggest that all socialists should experience some direct action in the 'field'.

The notion of sabotaging the gentry's weekly 'sport' may seem to socialists a trifle remote from the class struggle in factories, hospitals and dole centres. But we think a day out in the countryside directly confronting the ruling class and their lackeys helps politicise anyone. It is also good for your physical and mental condition.

Other bonuses include the likelihood of getting beaten up, arrested and then facing a hunting magistrate.

Hunts—staghunting, otterhunting, harecourting and so on—take place nationwide, usually on a Wednesday or Saturday. If you are interested get in contact with your local Hunt Saboteurs Association via the national Hunt Saboteurs, PO Box 19, Tonbridge, Kent.

□ ROBIN SMITH and JANE TURNER, Hove, Sussex.

MARGARET THATCHER and her merry men stated that her party will oppose the closed shop and protect the individual worker sacked for refusing to join a union. But what, may I ask, is she planning to do for the Grunwick workers who were sacked for wanting to join a union?

□ T Robertson, Dundee.

I WAS surprised in your article on Fords (15 September) that you said nothing about the fact that the advert (which often appears in the daily comic papers) which you showed, requires men production workers.

Surely this is breaking the law as set up by the Sex Discrimination Act?

□ THEREMIN LEG, Wimbledon, London SW19.

Freed! Thanks to protest petition

YOUR readers might like to know that a protest petition organised by British publishers to secure the release from prison of Ana Maria Miler and Daniel Divinsky of Ediciones de la Flor did not go unnoticed by the Argentinian authorities.

Daniel Divinsky was able to attend the Frankfurt Book Fair and asked me to relay

the following message: 'To all the signers of the petition for our freedom:

'In my name and in the name of my wife, Argentine publishers recently released in Argentina. I want to thank very specially to all the signers in England of the petition as sent by Pluto Press.

'I am wholly convinced

that the international pressure expressed through this kind of petitions and letters to our government was decisive in our being released. In the "Argentine case", petitions respectfully addressed are considered and in many cases lead to the freedom of the captives.'

Daniel J Divinsky
□ Michael Kidron, Pluto Press, London NW1

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.

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 (CPSA national committee) (all in personal capacity), TGWU 1/281.

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



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



In the neighbouring Borough of Hammersmith there are about 4,000 to 5,000 young people unemployed. At least they haven't wasted £57,000 on a 'Jobcentre' (or is it government money, in other words yours and mine?)

Those who have, get the right to drink sherry—those who have not, don't even get the right to work. That's the Labour government running capitalism, ensuring the bosses get a good rate of profit out of the workers, cutting back public expenditure to the bone and forcing, with some exceptions, workers to swallow wages increases of only 10 per cent for fear of being unemployed—the con-trick still works for some people!

□ JOHN LAW, West London.

'Today the talk is over and we are in battle'

TODAY Merthyr Tydfil seems the bastion of left politicians in South Wales.

It's the stronghold of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, with numerous Communist Party candidates contesting local elections.

Surrounding towns and villages have been represented in Parliament by self-confessed leaders of democratic socialism for years. Keir Hardie, Nye Bevan, Michael Foot, Ted Rowlands and Neil Kinnock to name but a few.

With such leaders past and present, the massive centuries-old slagheaps of Dowlais overlooking the same steel and coal-massacred valleys must surely marvel at the little change parliamentary socialism has given its slaves of industry.

The people who have worked and fought to elect and retain those leaders hoped that Labour or radical parties would alleviate their problems and win for them a decent life.

Work and fought the valleys' ancestors certainly have. Many militants have suffered imprisonment, transportation and execution, not forgetting the men, women and children massacred in the streets by the forces of law and order, the special constables paid out of the pockets of the local iron and steel barons.

Riots

Against this background of turbulence and violence, Alexander Cordell has written the novel *The Fire People**, which is inspired by the Merthyr Riots of 1831 and the hanging of Richard Lewis (Dic Penderyn) at Cardiff.

Although a story-teller, Cordell, through historical research, gives a credible account of the life-style of the workers of Merthyr in that period and leaves the reader with a sense of alarm and anger at the degradation and suffering heaped upon the working class of that era.

In 1831, as today, attempts by workers to organise and better their livelihoods were smashed by the forces of law and order. Subsequent resistance and retaliation were described as 'riots'.



The miners of South Wales: a glorious past but what of the future?

Indeed, the history of Wales shows that riots were not uncommon before 1831 and certainly disturbances occurred on a vast scale, culminating in the Rebecca Riots.

The rioters of Merthyr in 1831 were classed by many Justices of the Peace as looters and plunderers or rabble. The Tory press spoke of 'revolutionary forgers, democratic colliers and demagogue furnace-men'.

However, the so-called rabble were organised and succeeded in waylaying and disarming detachments of troops and, on one occasion, a force of 100 cavalry was beaten back by musket fire.

Troops

Professor Glyn Williams, the Welsh historian, has stated that he knows of no other occasion in recent British history when such defeats were inflicted on regular and militia troops by rioters.

Merthyr Tydfil was no ordinary town in those days. It had grown in 30 years from 7000 inhabitants to 30,000. Secret political gatherings were held and the works of Tom Paine and Voltaire were avidly read.

The appearance of the political union paper, the *Twopenny Trash*, the more violent pamphlets and placards denoun-

cing in bold letters the oppressions of the poor, and the work of agitators, all led to the gradual realisation of the workers that they should fight back.

The company stores, which were illegal but still operated openly, the Court of Conscience which seized and sold people's furniture for small debts, the 'reduction' in wages, all culminated in action (rather than words from the respectable leaders of reform) resulting in the destruction of the Court of Conscience and seizure of belongings from the yards where debtors' furniture was stored and sold.

Bailiffs' homes were ransacked and the more hated shopkeepers' stores were broken into, even though the Riot Act had been read to the workmen by the stipendiary magistrate.

As in other riots in other countries, it is significant to recall that the 'Mob' was composed chiefly of women, boys and very young workmen.

At the now famous Castle Inn, a detachment of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had

halted and a hostile crowd gathered. Many speeches were made.

The bosses were also there, along with the magistrates. The High Sheriff read the Riot Act to the crowd, who had now grown to thousands.

It was suggested that a delegation of 12 men be chosen to talk to the ironmasters and magistrates inside the Inn. The meeting was fruitless, though the demands were by no means extreme.

Remands

The ironmasters insisted that the complaints would only be dealt with after the crowd dispersed. This was relayed to the waiting crowd and many of them tried to speak, including Lewis Lewis who urged them to stick together until all the demands were met.

A young miner, said to be Richard Lewis, shouted to the bosses that the crowd had waited long enough and wanted an answer. The crowd were told again to disperse and return to work, resulting in a 'great push' against the soldiers, who had fixed bayonets.

An order to fire was given, resulting in a rush to disarm the soldiers. The subsequent deaths and injuries have long been debated but 20 civilians were killed and 70 injured by shootings or bayonetings.

The further rioting in Merthyr would take pages to relate. A mass meeting on the hillsides of Merthyr was attended by tens of thousands from all over Glamorgan.

Flinging off the immaturity of centuries, the home-made banners and flags were dipped in calf's blood and a loaf of bread impaled on the leading banner.

'See this then, the Freedom Flags will strike off the shackles that bind us. We have argued long enough, today the talk is finished and we are in battle.'

'To the cry of Bora neu waed (Bread or Blood) they converged on the town of Merthyr'.

The Merthyr Historical Society state that hundreds of troops and cavalry emerged, along with tens of thousands of men from all over Glamorgan and Monmouth who called for general insurrection in support of the workers.

There were police raids on the homes of many people. Bodies were buried at dead of night and widows did not come forward to claim poor relief.

The arrest of Lewis Lewis, a known agitator, and Richard Lewis (Dic Penderyn) is now Welsh folk lore. Many arguments have resulted as to whether Penderyn was involved in the riots or not. What is certainly true is that he was framed for stabbing a soldier at the Castle Inn.

Cordell implies that he was one of the 12-man delegation and, if so, had the respect of the colliers who delegated him and was a cause for concern to the bosses, which is a most grievous crime.

Penderyn was hanged at Cardiff in 1831. It leaves little wonder why the Tories cry out for further stringent laws regarding strikes and so-called Prevention of Terrorism and freedom of enterprise.

The Merthyr Riots and the martyrdom of Penderyn was a culmination of frustration and anger by ordinary workers and their families who had nothing to lose by trying to better themselves and get a fair deal.

Then, as now, such attitudes cannot be tolerated by the supporters of capitalism.

Rampant

Merthyr is now a quiet town compared to those days. The iron works have gone and many of the mines have been closed. Massive redundancies are taking place at nearby Ebbw Vale steelworks and at Courtauld's in Merthyr itself. Unemployment is rampant in the Welsh valleys.

It seems that the working class of Merthyr are again being hit, although led by the bastions of the left. With 1400 families on the waiting list for homes, it seems the Plaid Cymru council are not improving things.

As I said, the slagheaps have seen little change in over 100 years. As a resident of Merthyr states, Powlais has worn its uppers out and nobody'll give us a new pair of shoes.

Parliamentary reform has not and will not solve their problems. True socialism is the only answer.

**The Fire People, by Alexander Cordell (Coronet) price £1.20 (inc. postage) from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.*

Sheila Parkin



Socialist Workers talking

THIS WEEK I thought I would write about what my thoughts were about writing articles for Socialist Worker.

When I was asked to do the column, my first thought was: 'You must be joking! Me write for SW? You must be mad!'

Eventually I agreed to do it based on everyday happenings (although at the time I didn't think people would be interested in little things like that.)

I also thought 'why me? I'm not a journalist. I had a rotten education. I can't spell or punctuate. never mind articulate'.

Anyway I gave it a try, sat down and thought: 'Well, I will write it as I say it and if it's no good, it's no good'.

I was surprised that it only took me 20 minutes to write it, bad spelling and all.

When I got SW the following week, I didn't think it would be in. I got such a

shock, not only was the full article in but also my name in massive letters, and, to cap it all, a terrible picture.

I waited for comments from friends. Some took the micky in the nicest possible way but liked what I had done, and others thought it was great.

SPACE

I was really relieved and quite proud of myself. With each article I wrote, up to the fourth, I got more confident. But the last two I was not too pleased about because they had to be cut through lack of space.

The person who had edited them had cut the wrong bits

IF I CAN DO IT, SO CAN YOU!

out and connected it up wrong. But never mind, you win some, you lose some.

Just think if I had written even a letter to *The Times* or the local *Evening Post* never mind an article on my feelings about things. It would never have seen the print room.

People like me always think you have to be a professional journalist to write in a newspaper, but I have shown that you don't.

Now I feel confident that I can write what I feel at any time and that I will get it printed in SW.

The difference is that I feel SW is my paper, a workers paper, and that gives me

confidence. The other papers belong to anyone but the workers.

Why don't you have a go and send something in about what you feel, or a funny encounter, or even a letter?

It does not matter how you write it or if, like me, you can't spell. It's your thoughts that count, so get pen to paper and send them in because I'm signing off now for a while and that column wants filling.

PAPER

But I might add that you won't hear the last of me because now I feel that any time I want to put pen to paper about anything, I can. Writing in the column has helped me a lot.

Now it's your turn. PS: If you do write an article and it seems a bit long, edit it yourself and then you can't complain like I did.

International Socialism

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Black youth in revolt
Fascism and the working class/
British Leyland reviews, letters, notes

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CHRYSLER: WE DEMAND AN INQUIRY

STOKE: FIVE DAYS WARNING OF LAY-OFF

By Gerry Jones TGWU Chrysler Stoke

By Peter Bain, chairman TGWU shop stewards and John Mooney AUEW shop steward
THE CHRYSLER management deliberately provoked a dispute in the car assembly building at Linwood. Days after launching their new Sunbeam car—a period in which they would normally require maximum production—they shut down the whole factory and tried to lock out the 7,000 workforce.

The workers have replied by occupying the factory and demanding an inquiry into Chrysler's misuse of public funds. The press have tried to make it appear as if the dispute is over the shifting of four inspectors 30 yards along the track. The truth, as usual, is rather different.

Last Tuesday afternoon the management attempted to move inspectors, change the track speed of the car conditioning line and cut manning levels. When shop stewards failed to agree and informed the company that they wished to consult their members, they were ignored by the management, who immediately tried to implement their proposals.

When workers refused to move until the company had gone through the laid down procedures, they were given a series of warnings and then taken off the clock.

But that night the company went through a carbon copy of the afternoon's fiasco. Refusing to take the issue through the agreed procedure, management walked round every area with the exception of the press shop, taking everyone off the clock. When the supervisors were asked why, they couldn't answer.

The night shift refused to leave the plant and remained there until the day shift arrived. On Wednesday morning, while the Shop Stewards negotiating body were trying to get some sanity out of the company, the whole day shift



were informed that their wages were stopped. The company announced that they were shutting the plant and the workforce have been sitting in since then.

Many of us believe there is method in Chrysler's madness. Five days before the Linwood dispute it was let slip that layoffs and movement of labour were being arranged at the Stoke Engine Plant in Coventry, where nearly 1,000 workers are now laid off.

The changes at Stoke tie in very nicely with the company's moves at Linwood. The way in which Chrysler

have conducted their business since the government's £162½ million pound rescue deal in January 1976 has been to be seen to be believed.

This company-provoked dispute is just the last one in a long series at Linwood. During the last fiasco the unions forced the company to back down and the Transport and General Workers Union Shop Stewards demanded a public inquiry into the mismanagement going on here. Other unions have since added their voices to the demand.

Many workers fear that as soon as the government money runs out then so will Chrysler. Whatever happens the workforce at Linwood are involved in a struggle which they must win.

This is the biggest attack on trade union organisation since the shoddy work dispute at Ryton.

Last Friday the workforce unanimously accepted a shop stewards' recommendation to sit in until management agree to abide by the laid down procedures.

A discussion is taking place on the shop stewards committee about the need to throw management out of the premises and put total control of the factory in the hands of its workforce. On Monday 24 October the shop stewards agreed to convene a West of Scotland shop stewards' meeting within the factory as soon as possible. This will be crucial in winning support for our fight.

The workers' attitude is perhaps best summed up by the slogan painted along the outside of the press shop building six feet high, lettering 30 feet up in the air: 'Another fine mess you've got us into, Stanley!'. Stanley Deason is the plant manager.

The issue now is the job of every Chrysler worker. We must mobilise to throw out the Detroit mafia and to demand that the government guarantees every job by nationalising Chrysler under workers control.

□ Donations and messages of support to: T Doyle, Treasurer, Occupation Committee, Convenors Office, Chrysler Linwood.

□ Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Crisis at Linwood. Tuesday 1 November, 7.30pm, Tweedie Halls, Linwood. Speakers: Chrysler shop stewards. All welcome.

AN EMERGENCY issue of the Socialist Worker Chrysler Stoke Bulletin, produced in Coventry last week, had the news of the Linwood occupation in the factories before any national newspaper had a report of the occupation.

The success of the bulletin meant that the real facts about Linwood were known to Coventry Chrysler workers in spite of the lies and nonsense in the newspapers and on the television.

COVENTRY:- Arrangements for lay-offs were made here last weekend, before the strike at Linwood. This is clear proof that the Linwood affair was planned in advance by Chrysler.

Last Friday the company gave us five days notice of lay-offs, clearly with the attack on Linwood in mind.

It's no wonder that the company refused to negotiate with our convenors on wages and fringe benefits. They had nothing to lose at Stoke—their minds were on Linwood.

What is the company up to this time? It's only speculation but this is what the Guardian had to say at the time of the Rescue Deal in 1976 when millions of pounds were given to Chrysler by the Government:

'There is nothing (in the rescue deal) to stop Chrysler pulling out on January 1 1978 if it concludes that the outlook is bleak.'

'Ministers have conceded privately that the rescue may have only brought a limited breathing space.'

Leyland: a warning from Ford

by an AUEW shop steward at Ford Dagenham

THERE'S A lesson in what happened to Ford workers, for Leyland as they get ready to vote on whether to have a single national bargaining structure like we do at Ford.

Throughout our claim there was one meeting, in April, between shop stewards and full time officials to discuss the claim. Otherwise shop stewards, let alone the shop floor who elect us, were not consulted until last week.

If we wanted to know what was going on all we could do was read the Daily Mirror. The shop stewards simply weren't involved. It was all in the hands of the convenors and the full time officials.

There's so little information that you stop believing it's your claim. It's just something else on the television.

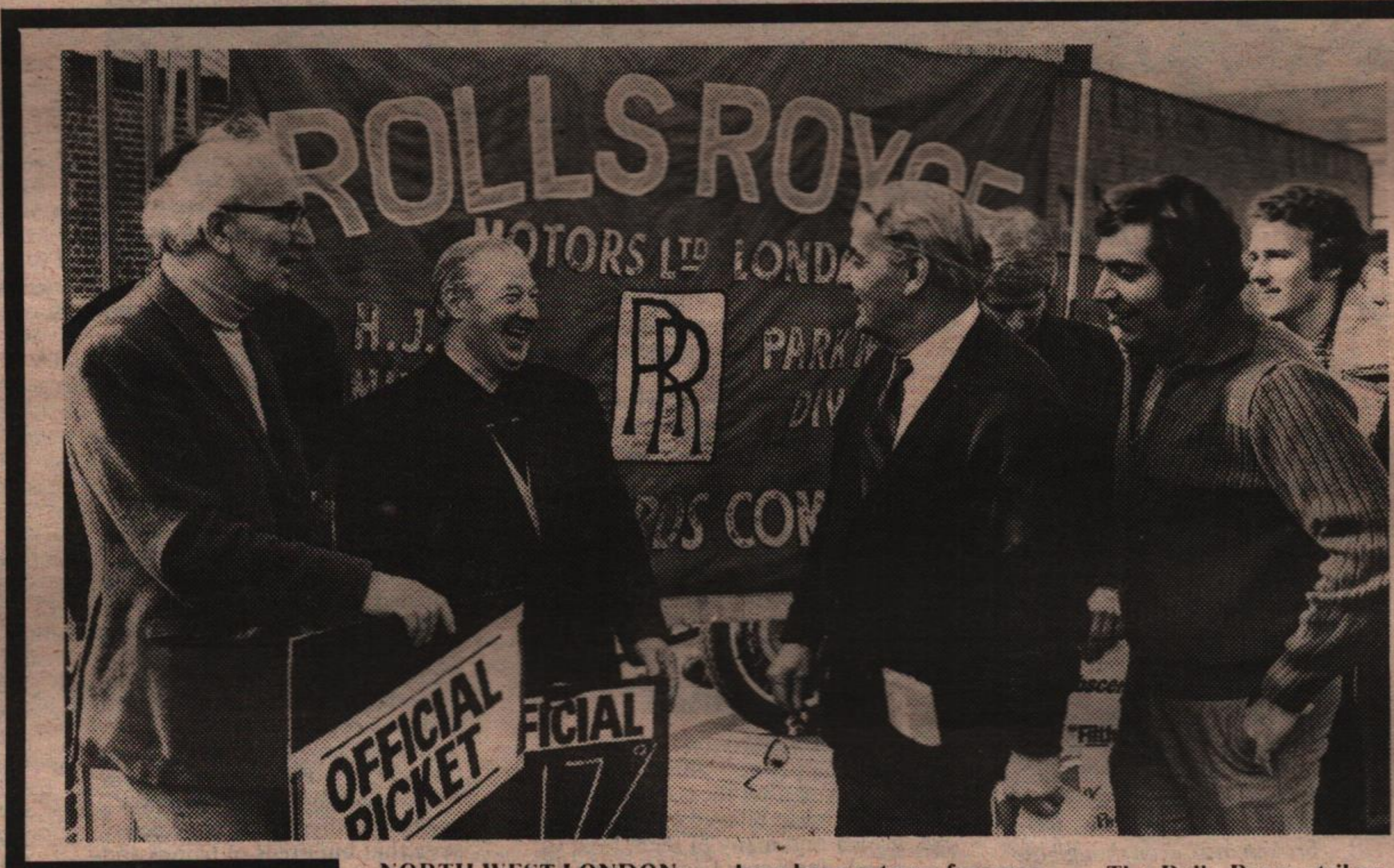
'We're for a fight'

THE TRANSPORT and General Workers Union/branch committee (the factory branch at Linwood) is recommending to its members that the branch should send a delegation to the National Rank and File Conference in Manchester on 26 November.



Peter Bain, Chairman of the TGWU shop stewards at Linwood and a member of this branch, said: 'This Conference provides an ideal opportunity for those who want to fight for higher wages to link up and fight together.'

'Clearly if our occupation at Linwood continues for any length of time, the conference could be useful in assisting our struggle.'



NORTH WEST LONDON: 'It looks as though Queenie will have to wait for her car until the Golden Jubilee.'

Rolls Royce Convenor Brian Eagles told Socialist Worker.

Her Jubilee present from the motor industry was due for delivery in the middle of next month, but she'll have to wait until the Rolls Royce strikers win their 17 per cent increase and a better deal for holidays and sickness.

The strikers at the Rolls Royce factories in Willesden

have been out now for seven weeks.

Their wages were among the lowest in the country for highly skilled work. Aston Martin, which was supposed to be going broke only a while ago, is now offering £100 a week plus overtime, and workers were leaving for that every week.

The best possible support you can give to our strike is to publicise it as widely as possible. The national press has scarcely mentioned the strike.

The Rolls Royce strikers are determined to carve their way through the 10 per cent barrier so that other workers can follow. Support up and down the country has been magnificent.

Messages of support to: Rolls Royce Strike Committee, Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willesden High Road, London NW10. Donations to: Strike Treasurer, Mr Arbuck, 2 Lucas Avenue, Harrow, Middx HA2 9UJ.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Picket hurt

SHEFFIELD: Management at W James Engineering have threatened pickets with violence, and even knocked one over.

The workers at this small family steel firm were sacked after striking in support of fellow painters. All supplies of steel going into the plant have been cut off. The main steel firms have blacked James, but a few firms such as Thomas W Ward or J M Roper of Sheffield, and Hoveringham of Nottingham have refused.

You can tell what sort of boss James is when he openly brags about the £8,000 redundancy money he saved by sacking the men. Even his former works managers have successfully sued him for unfair dismissal.

By SWP members at Ford Dagenham

LAST WEEK Ford workers voted overwhelmingly for a company pay offer that means a cut in living standards of 7 per cent. The final settlement is worth about nine per cent after deductions. Inflation over the last year has been running at 16 per cent.

The main reason Ford workers voted in very large numbers for acceptance was simple. It doesn't make sense to strike for 15 per cent when you haven't been offered 12

per cent. In fact this outcome of the wage negotiations has been obvious since the 15 per cent claim was stitched up between full time trade union officials and some convenors in the Spring.

Package

The officials argued for a very moderate claim, fully in line with Jack Jones' plans for an orderly return to free collective bargaining.

They concocted a complicated package dressed up the 15 per cent with a dozen other demands, like threshold payments, 37½ hour week,

and so on.

They of course were all dropped when negotiations got going. They even took the unusual step of calling a national shop stewards conference in April to forestall any criticism at a later stage.

Supporters of the Ford Worker argued at the conference and in the plant for a claim of £15 and 35 hours.

This claim for a single money figure not percentage, and one major improvement in conditions would have set the scene for a very different campaign at Fords.

But senior convenors argued that a moderate claim was needed to ensure maximum unity on the shop floor.

Ford: A wage cut!

What they mean was maximum unity with full time officials and their friends in the Government.

Mass

There was no campaign, apart from leaflets from the Ford Worker, against the 12 per cent settlement. The shop stewards committee at Dagenham didn't even make a recommendation to the mass meeting.

As it is Ford workers have been manoeuvred into accepting a wage cut, and the company can look forward to an increase in profits to over £200 million this year.

SUPPORT THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER 26 NOVEMBER

IN BRIEF

50 WORKERS at the Metropole Hotel in West London are in the third week of their strike for £50 minimum wage.

Ann Linehan, the chambermaids' shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'When we first came out two weeks ago, two thirds of the workers—over 150 of us—were prepared to fight and win the claim.'

Tilston, our GMWU official, was at the meeting when the strike vote was taken, he didn't say a word. But once we were out he and Ted Romp, the GMWU regional official, brutally sold us out.

Before the strike the officials assured us that we had a strong case, but once we were out they collaborated with management and sent us back because our case wasn't strong enough.

'We were sick—it was disgusting. When they told us to go back about 100 workers obeyed them. They were inexperienced and didn't know that we could carry on, get support from other workers, and force the union to make us official.'

The scabs are staying in the hotel now, rather than in our hostel or at home, so we can't talk to them and explain it to them. But management told them to stay inside the hotel because we 'had threatened them.'

They are paying casual workers double wages and taking them to and from work.

The strikers have appealed to other hotel workers for support and are urging that the £50 claim be spread throughout London and they are calling on all GMWU branches to demand that their strike be made official.

Donations and messages of support to: Allan Gager, Metropole Strike Committee Treasurer, 76 Hatherley Road, Walthamstow, E17.

MASS PICKET AT THE METROPOLE This Friday 6.00pm until 10.00pm, Edgware Road, near Paddington.

Support this mass picket!



OCCUPIED! AND WE'RE STAYING PUT

CO. DURHAM:- The workers at Axles, Aycliffe, barricaded every door and gate of their factory and don't intend to be budged, even though the management succeeded in obtaining a civil court order granting them repossession.

The management are clearly using the 12-month rule and Labour's pay guidelines to rat on wage

BBC militant

THOUSANDS of television workers at the BBC are in militant mood following the rejection of their 30 per cent pay claim.

In an unusually businesslike move for our extremely slow and cumbersome union, the ABS, has formed a strike committee. Your television screens may be blacked out at any time!

The ABS represents a fantastic variety of employees—like cleaners, technicians, cameramen, scene shifters, announcers, news readers—even managers.

and bonus agreements which have been frozen now for nearly three years.

In order to fight this the workforce of 900 voted unanimously to pack in all bonus work until the agreements were met. The shop stewards made it clear to management that they intended to 'work normally' apart from refusing to do bonus work at the old rates. There was no mention of strike action.

Management went bananas, adopting provocative tactics.

Then without warning or consultation management issued all hourly paid workers

Only about fifty per cent of the staff are organised. Because of this it is relatively easy for the top management to 'carry on' with programmes in the event of a strike—by using non-union staffs.

The only way round this is by the use of 'guerilla action'. It takes only a few key people to paralyse the screens. But they will only move if they are certain that the mass of the union membership are going to endorse their action.

This now seems certain to be the case—though a full scale token stoppage for a day may take place to prove it.

with layoff notices from 4pm that day. Whilst a mass meeting discussed this they attempted a lock-out! The workers quickly occupied

Bombard

Management withdrew the layoff notices, but continued to bombard the workforce with anti-union propaganda to such an extent that one worker remarked that the Post Office should have been included in the bonus scheme.

Management tried to sneak in axles from the United States but unofficial action by the Liverpool Port Shop Stewards Committee put a stop to this. Completed axles are being ferried in from Spain and as yet the National Union of Railwaymen hasn't done a thing about it.

The crunch came when the 30 shop stewards were summonsed to appear in Newcastle on the question of the legality of the occupation. Nobody was surprised when the ruling went in favour of the bosses, who were granted repossession.

The courage of these workers deserves the support of trade unionists everywhere.

Send messages of support to: Brian Meely, 21 Watson Road, Aycliffe, Co Durham.

Airport offer: the hidden catch

By Mike McGrath executive member of the CPSA

THE LATEST pay offer to the air traffic control assistants, who have been on strike for eight weeks, on face value looks quite good.

It breaks the government's 10 per cent pay norm by offering the equivalent of 20 per cent pay increase plus a lump sum payment of about £300.

But, and it is a very big but, there are two conditions that make the offer totally unacceptable.

First there is the little matter that the offer is dated from April of next year.

Second, and this is extremely serious, the offer is conditional on the assistants scrapping their hard-won regrading agreement.

The offer is being put to a ballot of all the members. The situation is complicated by an alternative offer which allows the assistant to keep the regrading agreement but offers only 4 per cent on top of the pay norm rather than 10 per cent.

If the assistants can hold out they can get much more. Our national committee considered ways of pulling all our members out at the airports when we met two weeks ago.

Attitudes have hardened after the government allowed the Royal Air Force to bust the picket lines. This is a time to go on the offensive rather than settle.

BOLTON: Workers are still locked out at Eatons Walken. The manager sent out letters to all hourly paid workers requesting them to attend a meeting to be addressed by the Managing Director.

The shop stewards called a meeting immediately afterwards. A vote was taken, which was overwhelmingly in favour of no capitulation to management threats, and this was seen as a massive vote of confidence in the Shop Stewards Committee.

Rush donations and messages of support to: F Senior, 15 Harper Street, Farnworth, Bolton.

by Mick Tew

TASS rep, Alfred Herberts. COVENTRY: Just two years after a £25 million bail out by the Government the management of Alfred Herbert are threatening workers at the company's largest factory with redundancy.

The company told the unions that 460 out of 1840 employees on the site budget were to be made redundant.

By Peter Porteous

Yarrows Shop Stewards Committee GLASGOW: Last Monday, 5,000 shipyard workers at Yarrows stopped for the day. They were protesting at management miserable 10 per cent offer in response to their 50 per cent pay claim.

1200 members of the shop workers union, USDAW, including 800 women, are on strike for union recognition at Greddon biscuit factory Kinning Park Glasgow.

18 months ago the 35 left the General and Municipal Workers Union because they were fed up with the attitude of the fulltime officer who repeatedly met management without shopfloor representatives.

The company have said they will only accept the workers back under conditions which mean a £20 per week reduction in wages. They are attempting to recruit scabs.

Please send donations to: Brother D Milne, District Treasurer, Boiler-makers, 1 South View, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear.

Bus strikes unofficial

report that our action has not been made official by the TGWU executive. So much for conference decisions!

SHEFFIELD: Busworkers are entering their fifth week of industrial action to win £15 increases.

Last week management called in our union representatives to make a new offer. They asked for all sorts of sacrifices from the busworkers for an increased offer, above the 10 per cent, of precisely 25p per week.

Unfortunately Rotherham and Doncaster have agreed to suspend action but in Sheffield the one day strikes are continuing.

We are saddened to have to

SUFFOLK: The 30 strong shop floor at Hobal Engineering in Sudbury walked out last Monday in protest at the 'redundancies' of three workers. Two of the men just happened to be shop stewards negotiating the tail end of a package deal on wages.

BIRMINGHAM: Workers at Wilkinsons are on strike for the reinstatement of Transport Union member Kevin McGilligan.

Kevin was sacked for refusing to do someone else's job.

Please send donations and messages of support to: Derek Everett, 25 Mead Way, Bordesley Green, East, Birmingham 9.

GATESHEAD: 35 production processors at Fairey Stainless have been sacked for going on strike for union recognition.

After registering 'failure to agree' on a wage claim, the workers called in their union district official, but management refused to recognise the Boiler-makers and said that under no circumstances would they allow him into the factory.

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Out for £24

TYNESIDE: George Angus, part of Dunlops, have threatened to sack 170 engineers who have been on strike at their Wallsend factory for six weeks.

The strikers, members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, are demanding a £24 rise to bring them up to the average rate for comparable Tyneside workers.

Messages of support and donations: Harvey Graham, AUEW Convenor, 224 Churchill Street, North Shields, Tyne & Wear.



RANK AND FILE DIARY

TUNNEL MINERS DEFENCE COMMITTEE Social and Dance: Friday 28 October, 8pm till late, North London Poly, Highbury Grove, N5. Minimum donation 50p. Further info: Jimmy Duffy 01-407 1664.

BENEFIT, with disco Friday 28 October, 8pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1, in aid of ACTSS Legal Workers Branch (nearest tube Warren Street). Tickets 50p in advance from Nic Madge, 41 Durham Road, London N2, or 75p at door.

October issue of **THE COLLIER**, rank and file miners' paper, out now. Articles on Stuff the Prod Deal, Rockingham—we won't let them shut our pit, US miners fight gun thugs on picket line, Prod deals in Poland, Coal Board profits, Jack Lally. 10p a copy plus postage (more than 10 post free) from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

RE-OPEN HOUSLOW HOSPITAL! Emergency broadsheet produced by Hospital Worker rank and file paper.

with full details of the Houslow kidnap, trade union action, and the continuing occupations at the EGA and Pleistow Maternity Hospitals. 2p a copy (plus postage) or 50 for £1 post free. Also stickers (while supplies last) 12 for a sheet of 12. From Hugh Girling, 19 Red Post Hill, London SE24 (phone 01-733 8443).

HOUSLOW HOSPITAL Occupation Committee EMERGENCY FIGHT BACK CONFERENCE: Saturday 5 November, 1pm-6pm, LSE Houghton Street, London WC2. For details phone Houslow Hospital (01-570-4448) and ask for Carl Brecker.

COLCHESTER public meeting in support of the Right to Work: CAST presents Union Jack Summer, the story of the Jubilee, the Social Contract, Lewisham, Grunwicks and much more besides. Wednesday 9 November, 8pm, Recreation Hotel, Military Road, Colchester. Admission 30p.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Please send me more information

Name

Address

Trade union

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

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

**GRUNWICKS
NEEDS
YOU!**

National mass picket
Monday 7 November
6.30am onwards,
Chapter Road,
London NW10 (next
to Dollis Hill tube)



Ward pursues private court case

THE GRUNWICKS VAMPIRES TURN ON MRS DESAI

AS THE trade union leaders turn their backs on the Grunwicks strike, the company itself is pursuing a vendetta against its favourite target—Mrs Jayaben Desai.

On Wednesday Mrs Desai, the strike committee treasurer, appears in court to face a private prosecution brought by Grunwicks following her arrest last May.

On the last Tuesday of May managing director George Ward and his sidekick Malcolm Alden were standing behind the gates insulting the pickets. There was one policeman present.

by JOHN ROSE

Alden told Mrs Desai that she was an 'old crow', an 'old bitch' and an 'ugly old woman'.

Mrs Desai, who had been warned not to allow herself to be drawn into slanging matches, replied simply 'Same to you', 'Same to you', each time she was insulted.

Suddenly Ward shouted to the policeman that Mrs Desai had just hit Alden.

Charged

Police officer Cole duly arrested her and charged her at the police station with threatening behaviour!

But Ward and Alden were not satisfied with such a trivial charge and decided to bring an additional, private prosecution for assault!

These charges are now being heard in Willesden Magistrate's Court. Mrs Desai was in court two weeks ago and

she appears again this Wednesday.

Police collaboration with the company is so close that the police lawyer told the court that he would not bring any evidence of his own. *Instead, he said, he would simply rely on the evidence brought by company's lawyer!*

No fewer than six company directors came to court to watch the 'show'. A good measure of the sadistic mentality of the barbarians that run this company.

The case provides an ominous warning of the way the employers will turn the screws if the trade unions allow the Grunwick strikers to go down in defeat.

There is only one way to avert such a disaster. That is to make Monday 7 November—named by the strike committee as the 'Day of Reckoning'—the most gigantic picket yet.

□ All London Socialist Worker readers should support the mass picket this Monday too, 1 November. Full details—see top of page.

Police and firemen in front line

THE POLICE and the firemen are now in the front line of the fight to break the government's 10 per cent norm and restore working-class living standards.

I'm having great difficulty keeping my sympathies with the policemen's claim. They've behaved disgustingly towards trade unionists in recent years. Yet now they find themselves trapped by the same system that is keeping ordinary trade unionists pinned down.

I'm particularly annoyed by what has happened at Grunwicks. A week last Monday on the Grunwicks picket line, speaker after speaker appealed to the police to leave

by EDDIE BASSANT,
former policeman and
secretary of Enfield
Fire Brigades Union

the pickets alone.

They were urged to recognise that policemen's living standards are tied to the trade union movement.

But the speeches were in vain. Again the police waded into the pickets with gusto. Again the scabs got to work.

Deep down I believe the police are nothing more than 'workers in uniform'. If they went on strike for higher wages I'd be delighted.

They could make their case

very powerful indeed by refusing to go to the Grunwick picket line.

Our own claim for 30 per cent is launched this week. Our case is stronger than that of the police. We want the average weekly wage of adult men workers, plus 10 per cent to take account of the danger and unsocial hours.

Shift

The police already get a shift allowance. We don't.

They're already getting more than the average weekly wage. We're not.

Don't forget they're asking for about 70 per cent, whereas we're going for 30 per cent.

Finally, our job is more

dangerous than that of the police. Last year five firemen were killed on duty—but not one policeman.

Fighting fires today is extremely dangerous because of escalating use of chemicals in the home—plastics, polythene and so on. One whiff of these when they catch fire and you pass out.

The police join us when we fight fires. But their job is to sit around and watch—waiting to make a report on the security situation.

Still, if the police rebel against the pay norms we'll support them.

If they don't, we'll be just as determined to get justice for ourselves.



Mrs Desai on the picket line earlier this month.

Picture: Phil McCowan