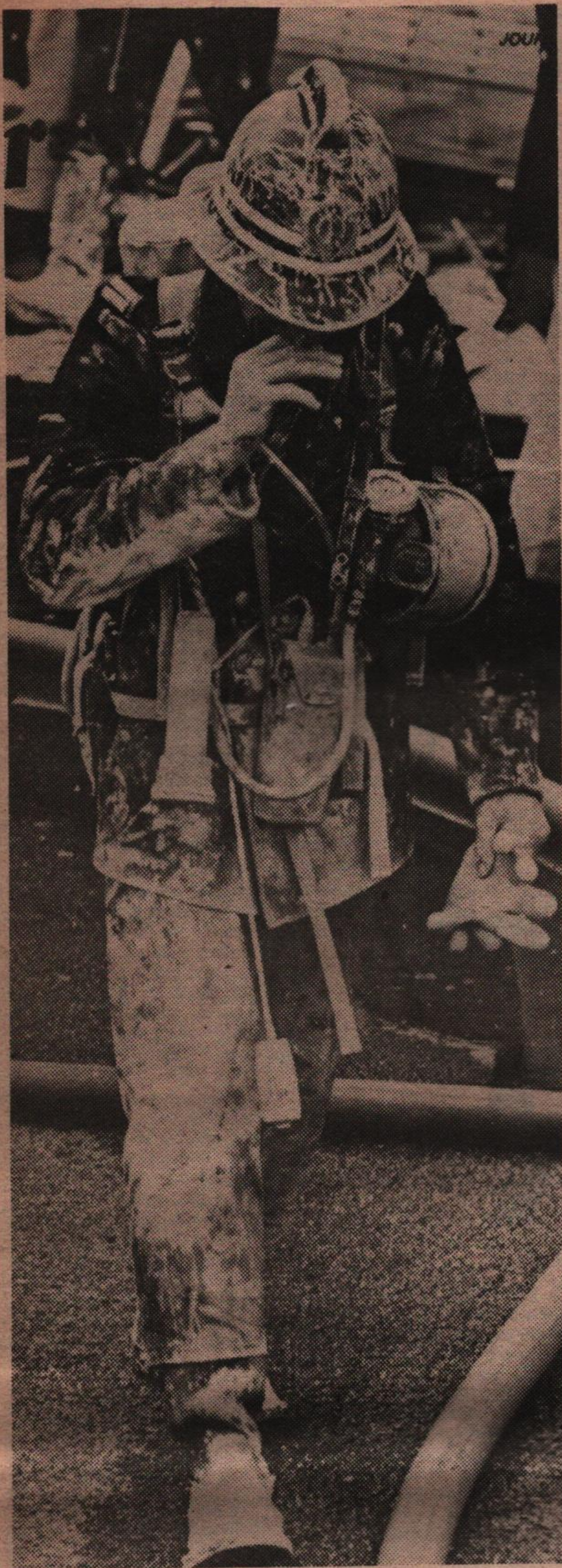


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10P



ABOVE: A tearful and exhausted fireman walks away from the Reading warehouse fire where two firemen died—both were married with young children.
BELOW: London firemen bury a comrade killed on duty. Five were killed and 340 seriously injured fighting fires last year. For this most firemen take home less than £60 for a 48-hour week. That's why they need £20 now.

Firemen give their lives for you... Give them a livelihood!

OUR CASE—BY A FIREMAN, see page two.



SUPPORT THE FIREMEN! KEEP THE TROOPS OUT!

Protect the firemen from attacks such as this ...

POWER WORKERS

PRESS WITCH-HUNT TAKES ITS TOLL

UNDER a barrage of abuse from press, television, parsons and union leaders, the power station workers have retreated on their work-to-rule.

Their claim for better shift allowances and travel allowances was universally recognised in the industry as reasonable. Even Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, in a visit to Eggborough and Ferrybridge C power stations in the summer, spoke of the 'understandable restlessness' of the power workers.

The Board, he said, had followed the government pay policy to the letter, while private contractors had not.

This was especially true of the travel allowances, which have been granted to all the contractors dealing with the power stations, but not to power stations workers.

Extra shift allowances had already been agreed for power station maintenance workers before the government's Phase 1 pay limits knocked it out in July 1975.

Ever since, the workers have been waiting for decent shift payments. They assumed that the end of the pay policy would bring it, but still they were told no.

The campaign against their work-to-rule, which is the only action available to them, plumbed the depths of hysteria and witch-hunt.

Newspapers published cartoons openly inciting people to delay power workers. John Junor, editor of the Sunday Express, said that power workers were worse than skunks.

Clamour

Canon Collins, the former left-winger who led the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, joined in the clamour of abuse from the pulpit of St Paul's Cathedral.

The campaign had its effect. Shop stewards were hounded and attacked, sometimes even by their neighbours. Bert Perriman, the secretary of the power workers' unofficial committee, was fingered by the local press and was forced for the safety of his family, to resign.

The press witch-hunt was aided and abetted by the union officials. The NJIC—the official joint union/management negotiating body—deliberately dragged its feet. The officials were just as keen to smash the unofficial shop stewards' body as were the press.

Steward

This is not surprising. For as John Clarke, an Engineering Union steward at Thorpe Marsh power station, told Socialist Worker: 'Not a single shop steward is allowed into the negotiations'.

The success of the contemptible campaign against the power workers is a warning to the firemen—and to the miners, and to all other workers whose strike action must lead to other peoples' distress.

Industrial action and strikes in these industries can't be won in isolation. The press hate campaign has to be countered—by spreading the workers' case through the entire working class movement. Confidence can only be gained by winning other workers to the strikers' side.

The firemen will have to put up with the same abuse as have the power workers—probably much worse.

But if they stand up straight and argue their case with other workers, they need not be brow-beaten as the power workers have been.

JEFFREY BERNARD



THE AMERICANS, I'm told, have reached new depths or heights—depending on which way you look at it—in the morbidity business.

They're selling illicit films of the execution of Gary Gilmore, the murderer who begged to be shot, and they're also selling video-tapes of Elvis Presley's autopsy.

Washington, there's a lot of players who simultaneous murders from the bench as the Boston Red Sox. I'm told that they've made £10,000 at the box office in the first month of production.

It's past being very surprising that all the crimes perpetrated in the past month of production. What good news, though, is that the particular case of the Red Sox.



"I do beg your pardon, mate—I'd no idea you worked at our local power station."

ANNE CROSSMAN ON THE RICH LEGACY LEFT BY A GOSSIPING HUSBAND

From last Friday's Daily Express

FIREMEN:

THIS IS OUR CASE

THE SITUATION we have been in for the past months is a nightmare. There are just over 2000 firemen in Strathclyde. We are at least 200 short with men leaving every week because of the lousy pay.

Time and time again we found ourselves short-handed. The situation is appalling.

So appalling that on three occasions when I've been on duty recently the new emergency tender for serious car crashes and industrial disasters hasn't even been manned up.

This is scandalous. For Clydeside is a high-risk area industrially. At any time one of the big plants could blow up in a Flixborough-type explosion.

But if it did go up then the lousy wages and the cuts that have been brought through

by PAUL McDONALD, A FIREMAN AT GLASGOW SOUTH FIRE STATION

would ensure that we couldn't handle it properly.

Not that there's been a word of all this in the press who suddenly discover the old and the sick and the poor for a couple of issues during a strike.

Yet a decent wage rise

would save lives. It would mean that we didn't have to turn out to big fires with just one motor tender because of lack of men to man it. We work shifts of 48, 56 and even 64 hours a week. Over the year our working hours average out at 48 hours—the longest compulsory working week in Britain apart from seamen.

Resolution

It's now 59 years since our union conference passed its resolution demanding the 40-hour week. That was 1918. And where are we now? We've still got a 48-hour week.

You get nowhere by being reasonable, signing petitions. It's about as successful as prayer.

These gutter journalists tell us we don't care about people. They make me sick. What the hell do they do for people?

There was a thing in the Glasgow Evening Times last week that showed what these

swines will do. The headline ran: 'Wee Mary hates the power workers'.

She'd been hurt during a power cut, and had been used to further the interests of Sir Hugh Frase, the millionaire who owns The Times.

We do care about people. Christ prove that every day. But we simply can't survive taking home the kind of wages we get—£60 is what you take home if you've been in the force two or three years and have a wife and two kids.

We can no longer flounder away in poverty while people give us sympathy. Sympathy doesn't pay the rent. Or the food and electricity bills.

Lousy

It's the employers and the government who are responsible for the present situation. They're the people who force long hours and lousy pay on us and put in a position where we have no choice but to strike for a decent living wage.

If there's hostility around, then let it pointed in the right direction.

'We strike' vote was 2-1

BY A MAGNIFICENT 25,874 votes to 13,752, the recall conference of the Fire Brigades Union decided to strike from day shift this Monday. This will be the first national official strike since the Fire Brigades Union was formed 59 years ago.

Terry Parry, CBE, general secretary of the FBU, did everything in his power to prevent that decision being taken.

Earlier in the year he warned that NATO troops might be brought in by the government to break a strike. On Monday he quoted the Sun newspaper, which wrote of the dangers to old people and children.

Deals

The executive council's recommendation to accept the 10 per cent offer as a basis for continuing negotiations did not even get counted. Only three of four hands were put up in its favour.

Leaflets produced by the Rank and File Fireman group within the union, calling for support for strike action, were issued. Contacts were built up for a nationwide rank and file daily information bulletin starting from Monday. For information, phone the Rank and File Centre, 01-802 0978, which will be turning its facilities over to the firemen from the moment the strike starts.

Most rank and file firemen are well aware that they can't leave it to Parry and the reluctant executive council to win the dispute. Rank and file organisation holds the key to victory.



Firemen were especially bitter some weeks back at the huge press coverage given to the case of the Victor, the giraffe who did the splits. For the same day, virtually unmentioned in the press, two firemen were burnt to death in Reading. This was one rank and file reaction.

WHAT WE MUST DO

THE GOVERNMENT will do everything in its power to defeat the firemen. It has already mobilised all three armed services ready for strike-breaking. Now it will try to turn people against the firemen, just as it did against the power workers.

This will be indispensable to its efforts to make scabbing respectable. Once it is accepted that troops can be used against the firemen's union, it could be your union's turn next.

It will be up to trade unionists everywhere to deny success to the government's scheme.

Firemen must be taken round factories, hospitals, schools and pits to explain their case to other workers.

Delegations from the shop floor should be visiting their local fire stations this week to arrange this.

The Rank and File Centre is calling on sponsors and supporters of its coming conference to get together now in each locality to arrange such action.

The firemen have no strike fund. Collections must be taken in every workplace and delivered as soon as possible to the strike funds of the local fire stations, where the money will be desperately needed.

Mass meetings must be organised where firemen can put their case to thousands of workers whose only other source of information is the lies of the press and the government. Efforts must be made to get these workers out in support on firemen's

demonstrations.

Socialist Worker is printing 150,000 leaflets in support of the firemen. These must be distributed in every workplace where we have members and readers.

□ Copies from Firemen's Leaflet, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, phone 01-739 6273, price 15p per 100.

The firemen's strike is likely to be the most important industrial conflict since the miners' strike of 1972. We call on all readers of Socialist Worker and all supporters of the Socialist Workers Party to treat this as an emergency, demanding their fullest efforts.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE
Socialist Workers Party



One drink the firemen can't afford. But don't worry. A small minority of the very rich can afford enough of it to push Britain back into top position as the biggest consumer of champagne in the world. That's what the government calls 'putting the country back on its feet'.

The money's there to pay the miners

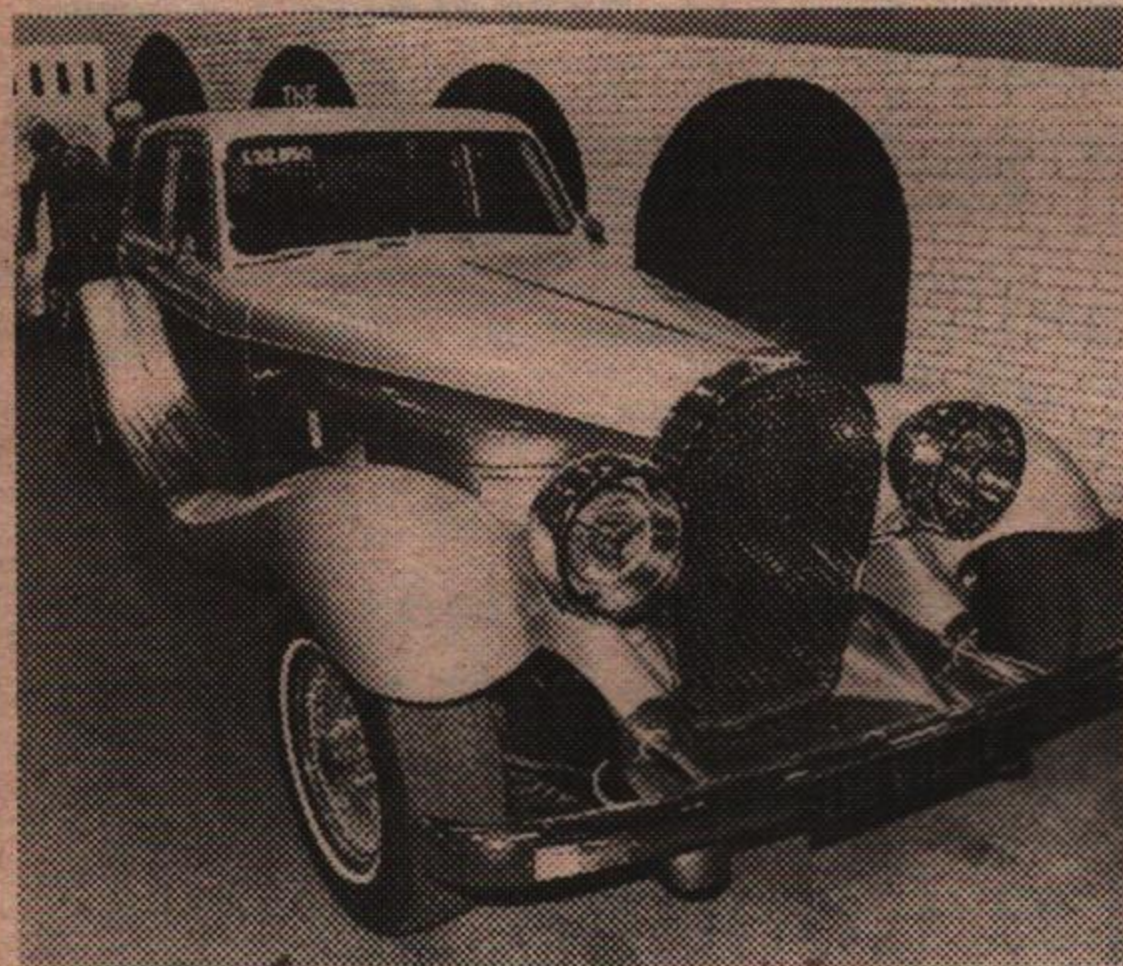
DEREK EZRA, Margaret Thatcher and the government howl that the Coal Board can't possibly pay an extra penny to the miners without the price of coal going up.

What are the figures. Last year the Coal Board's surplus after paying all costs was £168 million. On top of that the board paid out another £80 million in interest.

The total—£248 million—is enough to pay £20 a week extra to every single mineworker without raising the price of coal.

THE Glasgow Herald revealed on 20 October the increases given to their highest paid directors by a number of leading Scottish companies. The Howden group gave an £18,061 increase, Arthur Bell and Sons £15,297, James Grant and Co £13,012, Argyle Securities £13,000.

All these directors are united in demanding that the firemen settle for a meagre 10 per cent.



Some firemen are so well-paid that if they saved every penny of their wages for ten years they would be able to buy this £32,950 Panther De Ville. They'd have to starve to do it, mind. Which is why people who can buy a Panther De Ville cash down now support the government's attack on wages.

GEC's poverty line

SO badly-paid are workers at the GEC Ruston Paxman works in Colchester that the convenor, Ted Pomroy, reckons that one skilled engineer in four is living below the Supplementary Benefits Commission's poverty line. GEC made £277 million profit last year—that's about £25 a week for every GEC

worker. Last year GEC handed out £178 million in cash to their shareholders.

THE electronics and aerospace company Lucas reported on Monday that its profits over the past year have risen by nearly 50 per cent, from £55 million to £77 million.

WAGES: THEY CAN AFFORD IT!

'I'LL FIGHT THE LOT'. That was how last Friday's Daily Express summed up prime minister James Callaghan's approach to the wage demands of workers such as the firemen, power workers, miners, BBC workers, civil servants, lift engineers.

Rather than concede to any of them, he is prepared to see electricity and television black-outs, fires, old people stranded in high-rise flats, hardship to millions of people.

Yet in all these cases, all workers are demanding a pay increase to make up for the increases the government has allowed in prices.

Callaghan calls his outright refusal 'fighting inflation'. But as the graph shows, far from price rises stopping all that has happened is that wage rises have been left far behind prices.

Callaghan claims: 'No group should secure advantages through strength that other groups are

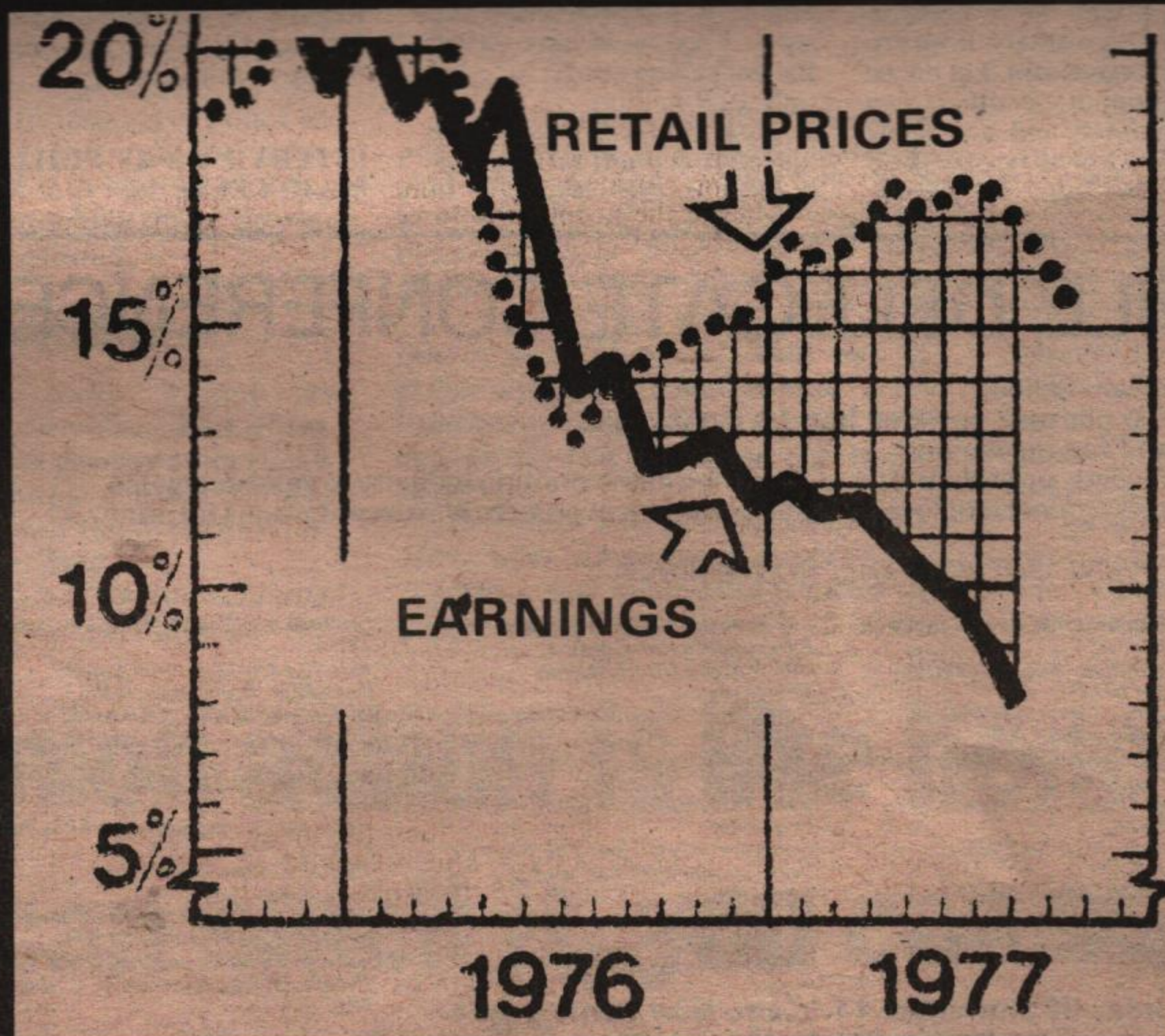
ready and willing to forego'.

But the lag of wages behind prices has already allowed 'certain groups' to seize these advantages—those who live off profits and managerial incomes, as some of the figures given on this page show.

The question is not whether the firemen are going to gain at the expense of the engineers, or the power workers at the expense of the school teachers.

It is whether the 20 million people in this country who work for wages are going to get back some of the loot that has flowed in the last two years into the pockets of the 250,000 people who own 80 per cent of the stocks and shares.

Strikes by workers as the firemen have unpleasant effects for the rest of us. But how else is this government ever going to be forced to stop taking from the have-nots to give to the haves?



SOURCE: FINANCIAL TIMES



Belt-tightening at Ascot Races earlier in the year.

'Many companies gave executives salary rises above the stage two limit, some helped by a sympathetic Employment Department. Executive pay in the year to 10 July, with bonuses, rose by £729, compared with the government ceiling of £208'.

—Daily Telegraph, 22 October.

£729 is just under £15 a week.

The money's there to pay power men

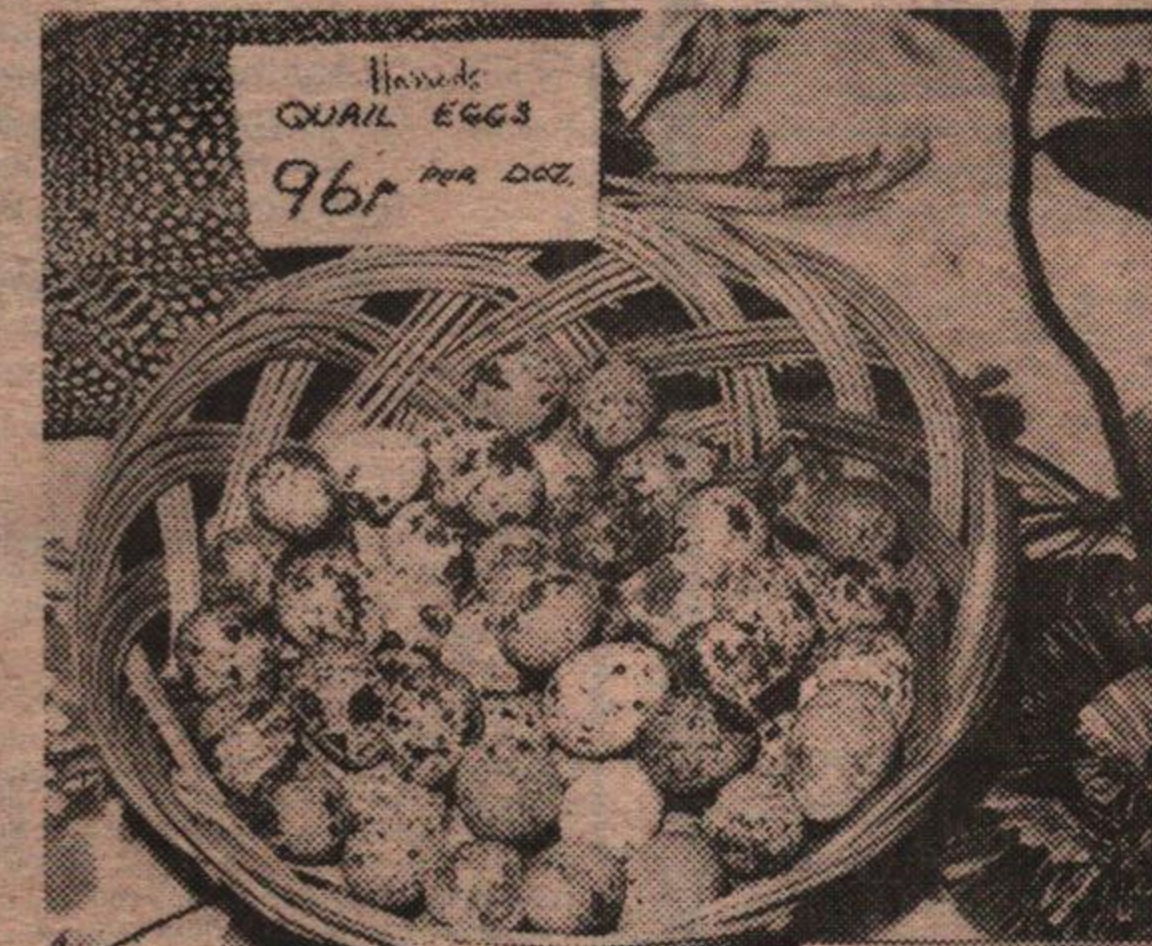
THE power workers' claim for shift and travel allowances would have cost about £15 million, if met in full. Last year the Central Electricity Generating Board, which employs the power workers, made a profit of £159 million.

The entire electricity industry made a surplus, after paying all expenses, wages and

interest charges, of a fantastic £598 million. Add to that the £430 million paid in interest, and the total surplus was more than a thousand million pounds!

A thousand million pounds to fifteen million. Compare those two figures any time anyone tells you that a wage rise for the power workers would cause price rises.

COMPANY profits reported in September were up on last year by no less than 44.3 per cent. And dividends—the pay-out to shareholders—were up by 19 per cent. Meanwhile, real wages after tax fell by about 10 per cent.



Austerity Corner at Harrods: Quails' eggs at 96p a dozen.

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 delegates and a workers' party. 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 racism 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.

NOW LET'S SEE THE FIREMEN WIN THEIR FIGHT TOO

NOW let's see the firemen and powermen win too. It's a national disgrace that the firemen have to work 48 hours for £40 a week. We'll give them all the solidarity we can. Now we have a sense of confidence after our fight.

They thought we'd crawl back after two days—they got the fright of their lives. That's what the firemen and miners and everyone have to do—stick it out, put the frights up them. Show them what the working class feels—that we've had enough of the con-trick.

The firemen and power men must follow us—if the firemen go on strike, no one should work without them. It isn't safe.

The police say they are a special case, but nobody is more important than the firemen. The Government are only concerned about the police force—they are there to put people down.

If the troops go in, we don't work. Troop are troops, not firemen. If that's not true, why aren't the firemen there with guns getting paid the same as the troops. If the troops come in the working class should be solidly on strike.

—Micky Boulter shop steward BOC Hackney



BOC picket line

BRITISH OXYGEN: WE GOT £15 - SO CAN YOU

'THIS IS our answer to the government's so-called pay limits'—we've smashed them to smithereens. We've driven a train through them. Now everyone can follow up and get what we have achieved—the first real wage rise for nearly three years.'

This is how Micky Boulter, shop steward at BOC Hackney describes the result of the British Oxygen strike. And convenor John Walsh spells out what they have gained: 'We've got an overall pay rise of 25 per cent. This will put about £15 onto the average earnings of every worker at BOC.

CLAIM
'First of all we've got a straight rise on the basic. Then there's a £5 bonus for what they call 'past productivity'. That makes about 23 per cent increase. In addition we've got shift allowances up by over 25

BOC workers bust government pay limit

per cent and consolidation of the £6.80 we got in rises over the past two years. All told, at least £15 for all.'

'Some of this is backdated. Everyone will get a lump sum of £70 payable next week. Most important of all, this will not be a productivity deal. Written into the agreement are the stipulations that there will be no redundancies and no changes in working hours. This is a straight rise, with most of it new money.'

'We know that this has been an important strike. We knew that in a way we've been on strike for all workers. If we can get it, everyone can. Let me be clear about it—if others can get organised and are determined to win they can get a decent rise too. Forget the

rubbish about the pay limits.' Micky Boulter adds: 'If people take the time to fight like this they can get a share of the profits they helped to make. We have to strike, and strike very hard—it's the only way the working class can get a pay rise under this present system.

SETTLED
'Our company made nearly £90 million profits last year. This strike cost them £6 million in lost production and sales. They could have settled the full claim—for £20—for only £2.9 million.'

'Now all the 46 depots have agreed to support one another in the future—it's part of

preparing for the next round.' Edie Due, who works in the canteen, told Socialist Worker: 'They're trying to get us back to Victorian times. This management and the government and all of them want it back to the old times of rich and poor. They want it back to the old 'Upstairs, Downstairs' thing, with us like the scullery maids. But there was no way we were going to allow that. We had the solidarity and so we did it.'

Had the BOC workers maintained their all-out strike, however, with all depots 100 per cent solid (about one-third returned to work this week) it is clear that the full £20 claim would have been won.

John Walsh summed up: 'We've done okay, but we'll be back for more. We didn't get the full claim so we go in again in April—for full consolidation, pensions and next year's rise.'

'Meanwhile let's see the others do it. And thanks from everyone in BOC Southern Region to Socialist Worker for everything you have done for us in this dispute.'

INTERVIEWS BY PHIL MARFLEET

BOC strike bulletin

LIKE MILLIONS of workers, we at BOC want to live decently. We want a wage packet at least as good as we had three years ago. Our drivers earn £52 for an average week. We have to work ourselves into the ground for overtime, and then the taxman takes a chunk of that.

So our workers all over the country are on strike for a £20 rise. We are also calling for increased shift allowances and consolidation of the last two years rises. And we are strong enough to win it.

We have voted in all our 46 plants that we are unanimous in our determination to win this claim. There is no way we will take the government's so-called '10 per cent limit'. There is no legal limit. The government know it. But they are hiding behind the fact that most workers believe there is a legal limit.

We say that when we win this claim the way will be open for thousands of others to do the same.

Our management are just like many others. Last year alone they made £87 million profit. They have so much cash they hardly know what to do with it. Our whole claim paid for just one year would cost them £3 million. That's peanuts when you've got hundreds of millions in the bank. BOC made £85 million just from the fall in the value of the pound! Enough to pay our claim for 216 years. So what are they playing at? They are hiding behind the government and acting like mean-minded Victorian employers.

Our strike is the most threatening yet to the government's plans to keep us poor. We all accepted the 10 per cent. We agreed to keep this. We agreed to let the Labour government in. What thanks did we get? Just wage freezes and billions on the side. No they want to swallow productivity deals—that means more sackings—and put 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. They're wishing back some money. Not just for those of us in work, but for those who need more money.

CL HELP US TO WIN

lay-offs

support What you can do to help the BOC strikers

THIS is the bulletin produced by the shop stewards at BOC Hackney during the strike. They sent 10,000 copies to trade unionists throughout the country, explaining why they were on strike.

We're coming to the Conference . . .

SUPPORT for the Rank and File Conference on 26 November is building up.

Among the organisations that have decided to send delegates is the strike committee from W James in Sheffield. They are on strike against the victimisation of trade unionists at the plant.

Among the other organisations that have agreed to send delegates are:

- SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEES: Crofts Bradford, Balfour Darwin Fitzwilliam Works Joint Craft Committee Tinsley Park Steel BSC, Central Electrical Workshops Glasgow District Council SSC, Albion Motors, McDonalds Pneumatic, Uniroyal Chemicals TGWU, BSC Consent EET-PU, Royal Group Docks, Bakelite Southampton Docks, Homerton Rubber and Pye Cambridge.
- TRADES COUNCILS: Newton-le-Willows, Battersea & Wandsworth, Nottingham, Ealing, Waltham Forest, Barnet, Northampton, Crawley, Norwich.
- UNION BRANCHES: 9/302 ACTS York, 9/316 ACTS York, NUPE St James's Hospital, Leeds, AUEW Leeds No 6, Sheffield AUEW No 7, Sheffield AUEW Foundry Section, NALGO Leeds Social Services, ASTMS Sheffield Steel Branch, Chrysler TGWU 7/266a, Aberdeen National Union of Seamen, USDAW CWS Tea Crewe, Ford (Liverpool) AUEW, Wallasey AUEW, Sefton NUPE, AUEW/TASS Manchester
- Branch, Greater Manchester FBU, Crumpsall NUPE, Manchester CWS USDaw, Tursdale Workshops NUM, Nottingham University ASTS, Derby General ASTMS, Glasgow Health Service Branch ASTMS, Manchester Housing Branch NUPE, Egsmom TGWU, Metal Box (Tottenham), NGA, TGWU 5/908, Coventry UCATT (BE22), AUEW (Stoke), AUEW Leicester 16, Guildford EETPU, TGWU 1/1131, Cardiff EETPU, GKN EETPU, Corringham AUEW (CEU), Pontypridd Bakers Food & Allied Workers Union, Tobacco Workers Union Carreras Basildon, Swansea No 2 ASTMS, Sharston High School NUT, Manchester Chemicals Branch ASTMS, SE London Medical Branch ASTMS, Hackney NUT, ASTMS Leamington Spa, Hendon 628 ASTMS, Lancaster University ASTMS, Strathclyde Region NALGO, Lambeth NUT, S W London DHSS CPSA, NATFHE B62 Branch Solihull, CPSA Charity Commission London Branch, SCPS PO Group DPS sub branch, Lambeth NALGO, British Museum Branch CPSA.

RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE

This national conference has been called:
 Against the Government's 10 per cent pay limit and 12 month rule
 For the building of a rank and file movement.

We, the blow listed union activists, urge chapels and branches in the printing industry to send delegates to this conference. We must unite against employers and Government in order to win decent wages for print workers.

- BUILD SOLIDARITY IN THE PRINT. SUPPORT THIS CONFERENCE.**
- Dave Nicholson, Darlington NUJ Strike Ctee
 - Myra Benson, Darlington NUJ
 - Tom McCarthy, East Northants (Kettering) NUJ Branch Sec.
 - Bill Golden, E. Northants NUJ Chairman
 - Ian Hernon, E. Northants NUJ Treasurer
 - A. Moorhouse, Sarah Smith-Peterson, T. Smith, Wynford Perry, L. Cowling, Simon Reed, D. March, Derek Waugh, John Edwards, Sean Durkan, Ian Wallace & T. Donaldson — Kettering NUJ
 - Neville Albone, C. M. Harvey, Graham Hobbs, G. Wade, Wayne Sharman & Chris Wilkinson — Kettering NGA Chapel
 - J. Ward FOC (Father of the Chapel) Market Harborough NUJ
 - John Bennet, Cambridge Evening News NUJ FOC
 - Alan Rusbridger, Sue Thurkettle-Cambridge NUJ
 - Ruth Seeley, Cambridge NUJ Branch Chairman
 - Sue Davis, Cambridge NUJ Branch Sec.
 - Dave Newnham, Sec Eastern Area Council NUJ
 - Paul Nicholl, NGA FOC West London Off-set
 - Lex Brown NUJ National Executive Ctee
 - Robin Bryden Sec S. U. N. Group NUJ Chapel
 - Les Stewart NUJ Provincial Newspapers Ind. Council
 - Jim Mallory NUJ National Executive
 - Norrie Ross Chairman Dundee NUJ Branch
 - Jim Workman NUJ FOC Airdrie Advertiser
 - John Hodgman NUJ Scottish Organiser
 - Frank Garraty SOGAT FOC Blantyre
 - Peter Sandy NUJ FOC Radio Sheffield
 - Steve Childs NUJ Dep FOC Sheffield Newspapers/Clerk United
 - Newspapers Group NUJ Chapel
 - Roger Currell Sheffield NUJ Branch Ctee
 - Eric Gordon Chairman London Suburban Area Council NUJ
 - Aidan White NUJ National Executive
 - Ross Pritchard NGA FOC Metal Box Tottenham
 - Chris Reddy FOC Reuters NATSOPA Clerical Chapel
 - Ron Knowles Editor NUJ 'Journalist'
 - Dave Waller NGA Dep FOC Soman Wherry Press Norwich
 - Selwyn Evans Vice-Chairman Provincial News Industrial Council NUJ
 - Bernard LaRoche NGA Imperial FOC and Federated House Chapel FOC Kentish Times (all in a personal capacity)
- Saturday 26 November 11.30am, New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester
Delegates invited from all trade union bodies.
Credentials 50p from Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4. Phone 01 802 0978

PROMISES ...



LEN MURRAY,
TUC general
secretary:

We're not just behind you—we're up there with you all the way.



ROY GRANTHAM,
general
secretary of the
strikers' union,
APEX:

The strikers are fighting 19th century conditions. Their case is one of the strongest I've seen.



TOM JACKSON,
general
secretary of the
postal workers'
union:

If we can't win at Grunwick, then we can't win anywhere.



HUGH SCANLON,
president of the
Engineers'
Union:

Greater efforts must be made by the entire movement to win this strike.



JACK JONES,
general
secretary of the
Transport
Workers Union:

These strikers must win. WIN. No effort must be spared to make sure they do.



FRANK CHAPPLE,
president of the
Electricians'
and Plumbers
Union:

Cut off electricity? What for? That would be like taking a hammer to crack a nut.

GRUNWICKS A GRIM RECKONING



The police charged in, fists flying. There were six to every picket

PICTURE: PHIL McCOWEN
REPORT: PAUL FOOT

'THEY SAID this would be the day of reckoning. Well, this is the reckoning.

This is what the trade union leaders wanted last summer. Now they've got it

These words from a Ford shop steward summed up what happened at Grunwick on Monday. The authorities used thousands of police to break their way through the mass picket. They laid into lines of pickets, pulling people, punching them, throwing them to the ground.

Random

There were more pickets at Grunwicks on Monday than three weeks ago. But the police numbers had tripled, perhaps quadrupled. Something like half the Metropolitan police force was there.

The Special Patrol Group was there too, leading heroic charges into the

crowd at Chapter Road, and beating up suspects at random. I saw blood flow in the gutter.

The police had orders to be tough, and, as soon as they sized up the numbers, they obeyed.

Welsh miners and Birmingham car workers were stopped from marching past the factory gates with their banners. More than a hundred demonstrators were shoved into Dollis Hill tube station and arrested.

At 9.45am they brought the scabs' bus in at the top end, with five big police vans in front and behind. A few hundred pickets made a spirited surge across the road, causing the bus to stop.

The police charged in, fists flying. There were six police to every picket.

After a few seconds of scuffles the bus rolled on in. A wave of abuse

started up spontaneously from the pickets all over the road: 'Company police! Company police!'

A senior inspector literally jumped for joy. 'Go, on, shout as much as you like!' he jeered impartially. 'You've lost, you've lost and you know it.'

Weeping

The angry murmur in reply rose only for a moment, and then fell again. Most of the people there knew that the 'impartial' policeman spoke the truth.

Plunged in gloom, the workers broke off to prepare for the long journey home. Many were openly weeping.

For this was a sad and terrible anticlimax to the battle of Grunwicks. The victorious cheering of 13 July seemed a long way back.

Then, the Grunwick management were on the verge of defeat. Their scab bus could only get through after the most strenuous police efforts.

The company's mail was maooned in Cricklewood post office. The postmen prepared to be locked out rather than help the scab firm keep going.

But the trade union leaders snatched defeat from the jaws of victory: On 11 July the union leaders exerted all their efforts to pull people away from the mass picket, allowing the scabs' bus to get through.

Then on Black Friday, 29 July, the leader of the strikers' union, Roy Grantham, of APEX, forced them to call off the renewed mass picket. The leaders of the postal workers forced their members to start handling Grunwicks' mail again.

George Ward and his union-busting friends in the National Association for Freedom were saved.

If anyone doubts the need for the rank and file conference called for 26 November, just compare the fine words of the trade union leaders over Grunwicks with their disgusting deeds.



Just off the press: GRUNWICK, a new Socialist Workers pamphlet by John Rose. In 16 hard-hitting pages of words and photographs it tells the truth about this historic struggle and how and why the trade union leaders have sold it short.

10p a copy. Rush your orders for this indispensable pamphlet to Pete Fysh, SW Distributors, (phone 01-739 2639).

Official trade union action is like honey on the elbow. You can smell it, you can see it. But you can never taste it.

MRS JAYABEN DESAI, GRUNWICKS STRIKE COMMITTEE TREASURER

And man created God

IN PREVIOUS articles we have seen how the division of society into classes began 5-10 thousand years ago, and with it the growth of cities and of organised bodies of armed men—a state—cut off from the rest of society.

Something else also developed at the same time—organised religion.

Way back in the most distant past of humanity, men and women lived very harsh lives, in continual danger of all sorts of natural calamities—floods, forest fires, plagues, starvation, attacks by wild animals.

This only protection was their ability to group together, to work socially to protect themselves. But this protection was often minimal. All their efforts

could hardly provide them with certainty as to their future. Indeed, often the effort could hardly seem worthwhile.

They sought reassurance by telling stories of what their tribe had achieved in the past, of previous heroic deeds, of how invincible it was if only things were done rightly.

Elaborate

They insisted that if only they acted together in the future as they had in the past then things would turn out all right, however difficult the circumstances. The point was hammered home in songs and dances that brought the tribe or village together, in elaborate ceremonies that passed the traditions of the tribe on to a new generation of young people.

In these ceremonies, the tribe, or a section of the tribe, would identify itself with its ancestors, seeing in their success a magical remedy for any present difficulties. So as to emphasise the point the ancestors would often be identified with some seemingly powerful animal, perhaps an animal on which they depended for food.

None of this should surprise us. After all, even today millions of people seek reassurance in their everyday lives by consulting the 'stars' in the popular papers, by identifying with the fortunes of 'their' football teams, or by believing stories about miraculous alleged cures at Lourdes.

In societies in which uncertainty was much greater than in our own, the element of religion and magic was much more important. It prevented people abandoning tasks essential to

society each time their individual efforts seemed unrewarding.

Not surprisingly, in a purely agricultural society, many of the religious ceremonies were concerned with fertility, with trying to ensure that there would be adequate food to feed everyone.

Complex

At that stage religion was not a specialised activity. Everyone was directly involved in getting food, and would take part in similar ceremonies. Any organisation would be by the most senior member of the tribe or family.

But once there were carpenters and potters and metal workers and traders as well as farmers, organisation of religious ceremonies became a more complex task.

Each craft might have its particular ceremony for its particular 'god'. But practitioners of each craft had to cooperate with other people if society was to keep going—the carpenter with the copper worker, the potter, the farmer.

So ceremonies and myths had to show them how their god was related to other gods, their craft to other crafts.

A whole pyramid or family of gods came into existence, as with the gods of Greek mythology or the saints of the Catholic Church.

Growth

And the complex task of linking these gods and ceremonies together became the job of a specialised social group, the priests.

But, as we have seen previously, the growth of civilisation was accompanied by something else—the division into classes. If religion provided people with a picture of how they related to the rest of society, then control of religion became an important means of controlling society.

Religion became inseparable from the class struggle.

Christianity, for instance, began as the religion of certain oppressed classes in the Roman Empire. It told them that although they could not carry through a revolution, the day would come when they would achieve salvation and the rich would have no more chance of going to heaven than the camel of going through the eye of the needle.

Message

The wealthy classes did not like this message, and did their utmost to persecute the early Christians. But then they found that it was possible to buy off sections of the Christian priesthood, to persuade them to change the 'blessed are the poor' of the earliest gospel, Mark, into the 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' of Matthew.

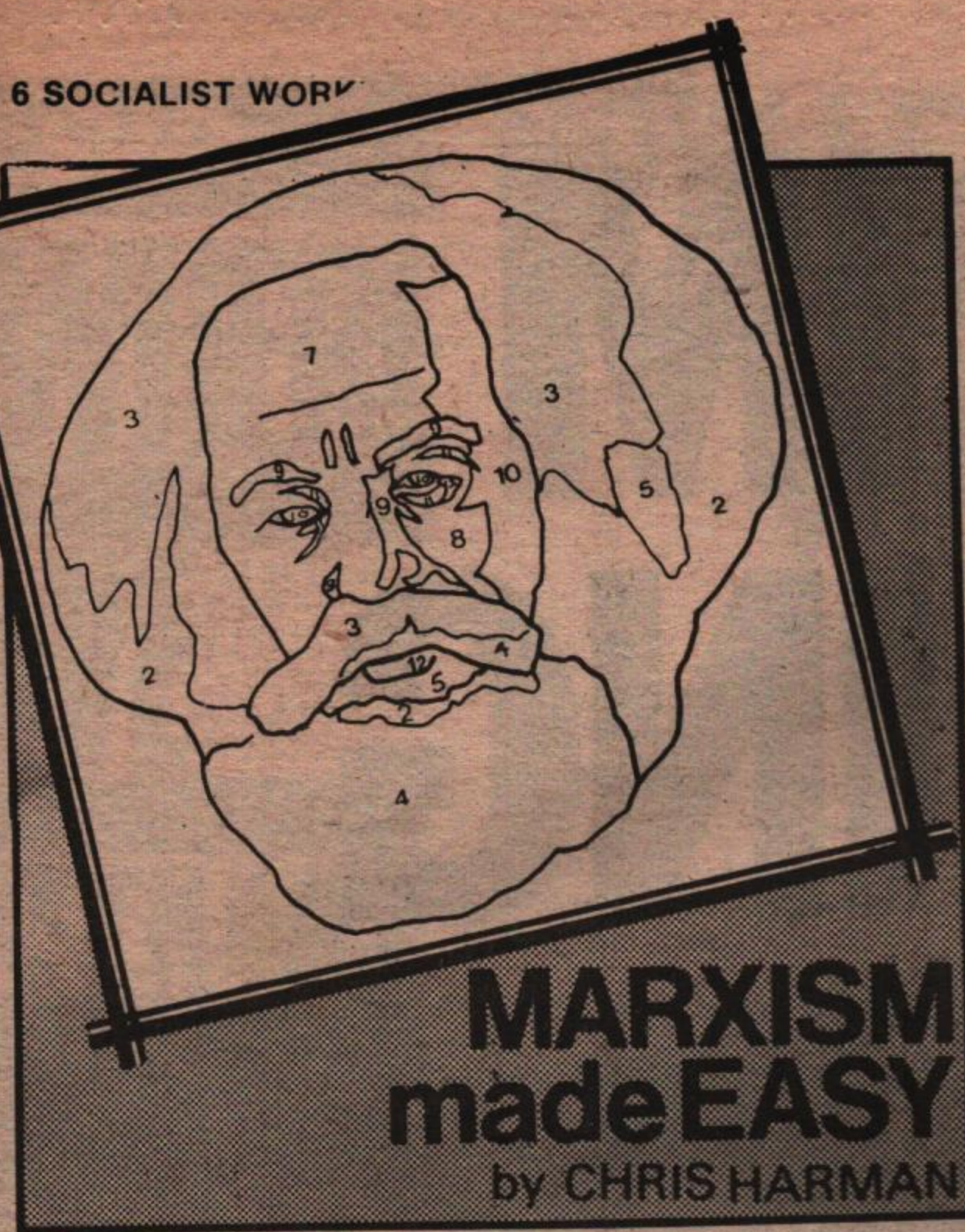
Finally, the Roman empire took over Christianity as its state religion, working with the church to persecute viciously anyone who still propagated the original message.

Socialist Worker

Socialist Worker
Editorial, London E2 9DS.

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

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



IT'S THE WAY THEY TELL 'EM

THAT well-informed breed of people, the industrial correspondents on national newspapers, conveniently forgot about their 'predictions' when the result of the miners' ballot was announced last week.

A few days before, The Sun's Inside Industry by Peter M. ... offered:

'Article Scargill has been left in the lurch by his militant ... over the Coal Board's productivity plan.

'The final votes in the pit-head will be cast tonight and by next Monday Scargill could find himself facing the first real defeat since he took over the Yorkshire job.

'The union's left wing had hoped for a winter wages clash with the Government over the £135-a-week pay claim.

'But veteran politicians like Scottish miners leader Mick McGahey, chairman of the Communist Party, knew they were on to a loser.

'They knew their members would go for the deal.

'Scargill's fervent fight against the plans has left NUM moderates wondering

if the one-time leader in the race to replace Gormley is losing his touch.'

To ram home the point the article was accompanied by a picture of Scargill and a caption: *Loosing his touch.*

But of course you mustn't blame industrial correspondents industrial correspondents. Between chatting up union officials and industrialists they don't have much opportunity to talk to real people.



ALONG with your packet of PG Tips these days, you get a little something extra, courtesy of Brooke Bond.

A picture card for your kids which tells them all about the wonderful things our policemen do. For instance, the Special Patrol Group are involved in helping at major train accidents aren't they?

And it's all pally with the police on demonstrations, of course, except when the protesters get 'rowdy' in which case 'mounted officers can be especially effective in controlling a crowd.'



Riot gear for Front police

THE ABOVE heading was in the London Evening News. The press seem to have given up any illusions as to the supposed 'impartiality' of the police.

Front police? I couldn't have put it better myself.—Paul Turner, Croydon.

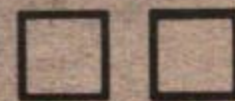
□ ROBERT MOSS, mastermind of the National Association for Freedom, is a keen reader of the Socialist Worker. So keen in fact that he has taken to noting named writers who he thinks might be candidate for NAFF prosecutions in the law courts.

At a public meeting in the City of London recently, he quoted an article by former policeman Eddie Bessant. Eddie had lightheartedly informed readers that he could teach them the 'wedge' tactic to counter its use by the police on demonstrations.

This offer was, according to Moss, illegal. The fact that Eddie hasn't been prosecuted is just one more example of how deeply the reds have penetrated the system.

CHARLES SMEDLEY, leader of Chelsea Young Conservatives, has a plan to cut public expenditure by 25 per cent and save £200 million.

He told a conference in London: 'I do not suggest that old age pensions should be cut, but we should ensure that only those who need them receive them.'



A GROUP of industrial doctors in Germany have suggested that old people should be used to work with processes which have a cancer risk.

They say that since some cancers take a long time to develop old people would die first anyway.



□ JEAN QUINN is an unemployed teacher. Her husband Don has got a job.

He is Labour Party agent in Colchester. So when Jean joined a protest demonstration by unemployed workers at a parasites' beano—an oyster feast lead on by the local council—guess which champion of the toiling masses crossed the picket. Right first time.

But don't quote me on that . . .

LISTENING to supposedly neutral news programmes one notices constant bias. BBC's NEWS Extra had an item about shooting buffalo in Rhodesia because of the danger that they would transmit foot and mouth disease to domestic cattle.

Harmless, you would think; yet in the space of 10 minutes or so there was frequent reference by the BBC commentator to the activity of 'terrorists' which of course made buffalo hunting rather more hazardous than usual.

I took SW's advice and rang the BBC (01 743 8000) and asked to be put through to the programme editor (see your copy of Radio Times). Why did they

refer to opponents of a racist and illegal regime as terrorists, I asked, when some newspapers were already referring to them as guerillas, and nationalists?

Back came the reply: 'If we didn't call them terrorists the Rhodesians wouldn't allow us to make films there.'

ME: Do you realise what you're saying? The BBC is allowing Ian Smith to censor its news output.

BBC man: It's very difficult. I've been there.

ME: The BBC is putting out distorted news because that's the only kind of news it's allowed to put out—is that what you're saying? Can I quote you?

BBC Who is that? —Elwyn Williams



A POSTER designed by Roger Huddle for the first issue of Rentamob, the SWP's new agitprop bulletin. If you want a copy, send 10p plus 7p postage to Dave Simmonds, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London, EC1.

Spot the hooligan

TWO COACH drivers have filed complaints against police in Northampton after a football fan was seriously injured in a motorway accident.

David Bradley, 18, an Ipswich Town supporter was walking along the hard shoulder when a car carrying rival fans swerved and hit him.

The coach drivers who were bringing Ipswich fans back from a match in Manchester say it would never have happened if police hadn't ordered them to drive away from a service station, leaving some Ipswich fans to hitch home.

Steve Grimwood, was dragged off the coach by the police beaten up and told to hitch home, say drivers John Mitchell and Trevor Sharp.

The drivers were told by the police to drive off and leave some of their passengers behind. They protested but eventually left.

After the accident about 100 fans stopped traffic on the motorway until an ambulance had arrived.



The El Teniente mines in Chile during the Allende period.

Iranian students plan a welcome for the Shah

by Elaheh Povey

TWO IRANIAN students, M. Tavakoli and Jafari, both from Bradford University went to Iran on holiday this summer, in the middle of their post graduate course, and they have not returned.

They have been arrested, kept in jail and tortured. This is not the first time that Iranian students in this country have gone on holiday to Iran and not returned.

In July '74 Sadigh Zibakalam chemical engineering student from Bradford University went home. He is still in jail and been tortured severely.

In October '76 Nader Langerodi, until two years ago a chemistry student at Sussex University, was executed by the SAVAK.

The Iranian students and the S.U. in Bradford University have organised a demo in Bradford on Saturday 26 Nov.

All students and trade unionists in Yorkshire are urged to support this demonstration.

The SAVAK, the secret police, whose reign of terror, has taken the regime of the Shah to the top of the world torture league, must be stopped in this country, otherwise the Iranian students who are active will always end up in jail, tortured and executed.

Rolling

While thousands of political prisoners are rotting in jail the Shah of Iran is visiting Carter in Washington on a two day official visit on 15 and 16 Nov. to talk about human rights.

Last week all the Iranian students in America received an official letter from the embassy, offering them return plane tickets plus 300 dollars to go to Washington to greet the Shah.

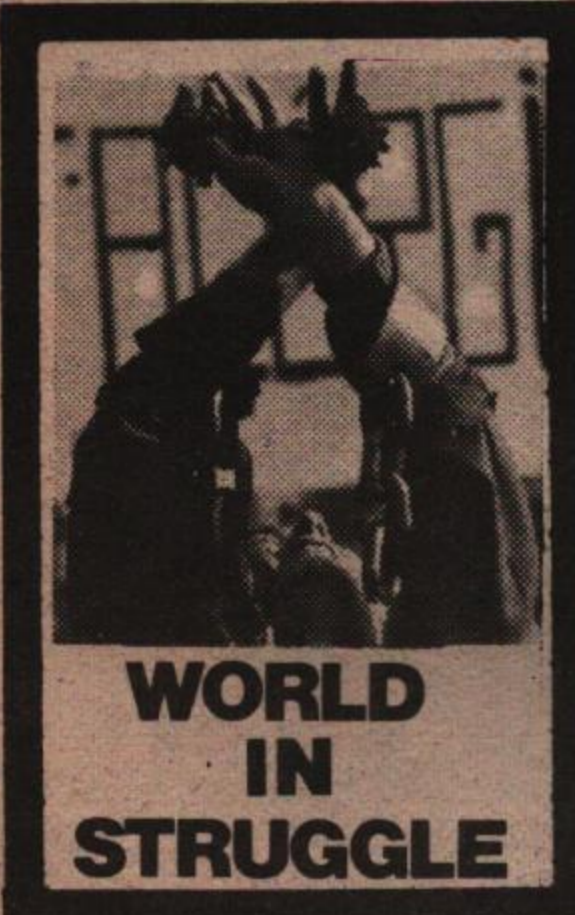
The Iranian students all over Europe and America have organised demonstrations to greet the Shah in the manner he deserves.

Iranian Students Society in GB. (members of CISNU) have organised a demo on Wednesday 16 November 2pm from ULU, Malet Street, London WC1 to march to US and Iranian Embassies.

Jews anti-Jewish?

THE PRESS campaign to smear the SWP as anti-Jewish goes on. The Daily Telegraph ran the headline 'Zionists at meeting of hate'. They did not of course mention that Steve Cedars, the North East London Poly student who moved that no union funds should be used to support the state of Israel, is Jewish.

SOUTH AMERICA: FIGHT BACK BEGINS



Support this day of action

ONE HUNDRED and twenty students came to a meeting organised by the Southern Africa Solidarity Tour, at Liverpool University last week.

North East London Poly students union have donated £50 to the armed struggle in Zimbabwe. NELP are one of the ten student unions now backing the demonstration on Southern Africa on 13 November.

Around 30-40 colleges are organising activity for the National Day of Action of Southern Africa on 11 November, with film shows, speakers, collections for the freedom fighters, and in some cases pickets of Barclays Bank.

There are only a few days to go now before the demonstration. That means the maximum effort to mobilise now as it is an absolute disgrace that eighteen Black South African Organisations have been banned without any major show of solidarity in this country.



CHILE's workers are beginning to stir again. Four years after the military coup that brought about the murder of more than 50,000 trade unionists and the imprisonment of tens of thousands of others, the regime's press has been forced to admit to a strike in the copper mines.

The strike in the El Teniente mine is in protest against low wages, and is taking place in defiance of the government run 'union'.

The copper miners were traditionally the most militant section of the Chilean working

class. Their strikes spearheaded working class opposition to the right wing government that ruled Chile before the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende took power in 1970.

One of the worst mistakes of Allende's government in the spring of 1973 was to force sections of the miners into the arms of the right wing by breaking a strike for higher wages, claiming 'the country cannot afford it'. When the military coup came some of the miners, out of bitterness with Allende, even welcomed it.

The generals tried to win the miners' allegiance—while the rest of the working class were butchered—by putting a right wing union man, Medina, into the government.

But now the miners have clearly broken with the generals, as they broke with every previous right wing government, and resumed their place as the leadership of the Chilean working class.

Argentina: troops take over tube trains

THE WORKERS of Buenos Aires have answered the generals back. In March of last year, the Argentinian military swooped on the country.

There was a reign of terror as they physically rooted out not just all opposition, but any sign of independent thinking.

Within a few months, the new regime had become a by-word for barbarity, as notorious as the military in Chile.

Thousands of refugees scattered round the world, mocked by the sickly tones of 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina'.

But the generals failed. After 19 months of military rule, with strikes illegal and all trade unions directed by army officers, the workers have still rebelled. They had no choice when wages have been frozen since the generals took power but price increases are currently running at over 150 per cent a year.

Losses

The railwaymen took the lead. They had been threatened with 150,000 redundancies as the nationalised industries management solution to making continuous losses. The railway strike was quickly followed by action by airline, underground railway and electrical workers.

President General Jorge Videla twice ordered a return to work, on pain of the sack and prosecution in the courts for all workers who remained on strike. It did not work.

On November 2, troops took over the tube; armed soldiers rode beside the drivers. But even so only two of the five lines in Buenos Aires could be reopened, and then only operated irregularly. On the third, they began sacking railwaymen.

After the devastating defeat of 1976, the reaction of Argentina's workers has been nothing short of fantastic. They have rebounded with vigour, and refused to be intimidated. On the contrary they have frightened the military.

Docks strike for jobs

UNITED STATES: The strike by 50,000 dockers on the US east and Gulf coasts is now in its sixth week without any sign of a settlement.

The dockers are fighting to protect jobs against the effects of containerisation. As in Britain, the dock employers have taken the work of packing and unpacking containers ('stuffing' and 'stripping') away from the docks, employing non-dock labour at wage rates well below those of dockers, and then trying to sack the resulting 'surplus' of dockers.

But the union, the Inter-

national Longshoremen's Association, has tied a ball and chain round the feet of the militants. First of all it is not a total strike, but a blacking only of container ships, so that ordinary 'bulk break' cargoes have not been touched.

New Orleans dockers unofficially made the strike total since only 25 per cent of the cargo they handle is in containers. It was a good move since New Orleans deals with a large share of the export of US grain, and since the harvest is just in, the farmers are screaming to get the wheat shipped. The employers would have

been forced to settle. But the ILA forced the southern dockers to call off the total strike and let through everything except containers.

The ILA has made no effort to close the West coast ports, so most of the country is still being supplied. The employers have adjusted—whereas, 87 ships were immobilised in the first few days of the strike, now it is only about 40.

The only good thing is that the employers have fallen out—New York made a dash to settle without the other ports, but it fell through.

□ SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER: DEMONSTRATE: Against the murder of Steve Biko; against the bannings, against the detentions. ALL OUT: for solidarity with black workers and students in South Africa: for victory to the Freedom Fighters in Zimbabwe. Assemble 12.30pm at Speakers' Corner, march followed by a rally.



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.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN 20p

NAZIS UNITED?

Former Auschwitz interrogator fails to address new fascists

£10,000 appeal

FIGHT THE RACISTS! STOP THE NAZIS!

£9,002 so far

A MOTLEY collection of Nazis met in Leeds last Saturday to discuss the formation of a new Nazi party to rival the Nazi National Front.

They included the leading thugs from the British Movement, would-be Adolf Hitler Colin Jordan, and the National Party Fuehrer Kingsley Read.

This meeting is a sign of the success of the anti-racist campaign. The small groups of Nazis are huddling together for comfort and warmth.

Their intention is to launch, on 1 January 1978, a new Nazi organisation called the National

Democratic Party. Everyone knows that when filth gets warm it also begins to stink. The 'National Democratic Party' will be no exception.

The meeting, we understand, was to be addressed by a former Auschwitz concentration camp 'interrogator' Manfred Roeder. But his presence was too much for the British authorities to stomach and this murdering swine was turned back at Dover.

His absence was 'compensated for' by others who wore Nazi uniform at the meeting.

The first plan of this outfit is a demonstration in Sheffield under the slogan 'Curfew for the blacks after 9pm'.

A united march against racism will be held on 10 December to answer the Nazi plans. It was called unanimously by a meeting of representatives from local trade unions, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and the Labour Party.

This is just the sort of filth our 'Fight the racists! Stop the Nazis!' fund was set up to combat nine weeks ago. Each week since then we have tried to illustrate reasons for your continuing to support us.

We need new offices because our landlord wants us out since the Nazis firebombed our present offices. To get those premises and carry on the anti-fascist fight we need every penny we can get. Dig deep brothers and sisters, take our fund beyond that £10,000 target this week as a message to the New Nazis: They shall never pass!

Donations and workplace collections to Socialist Worker Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

OUR THANKS TO:

- Paul Ware
- George Calder
- Daily Mirror news sub-editors
- Wandsworth and Battersea Trades Council
- J McGaire
- J Hale
- R Greenwood
- R Keeley
- D Hart
- C Lynn
- Asian shops, Slough
- Pirate Jenny Theatre Company
- Kingsdale School
- Dewsbury Socialist Club SW readers
- Manchester Students Union
- A Lawrenson
- Andy Wyme
- Hugo Dewar
- Aberdeen Teachers SW readers
- Charlie, Stoke Newington
- R and L Howe
- SWP branches: Rochdale, Grays, Tunbridge Wells, High Wycombe, Canterbury, Northampton, Dewsbury Wakefield, Bradford, Hornsey, Black Country, Luton, NELP, Exeter University, Nottingham, Leeds Students, Hull, Middlesex Poly, Stockport.



Womens VOICE 1978

“During working class to be being boys with a pair of hands which are practically useless and by the time you are finished - and you've got nothing to show for it”.

“You heard you tell me how you'll pull the business down”.

JANUARY

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 | |
| 11 | 18 | 25 | | |
| 12 | 19 | 26 | | |
| 13 | 20 | 27 | | |
| 14 | 21 | 28 | | |
| 5 | 22 | 29 | | |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 |
| 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
| 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |

MARCH

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 |
| 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 |
| 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |

This is the first ever Womens Voice calendar. Beautifully designed, and printed in two colours, it comes folded, so that you can either display two months at a time or stretch it out to its full length! Because we want as many people as possible to be able to have copies we are offering two calendars for £1. Postage and packing free. We will enclose a message for copies sent direct by us to your friends. Order early in time for the New Year!

75p each, or send one to a friend and you can have two for £1. Cash with order to Womens Voice Calendar, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Womens VOICE

NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW!

The revolution of the women—the 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, is the pill really safe, more about maternity leave.

Copies from SW sellers or 20p including postage from Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

...AND THEY DARE TO TALK OF 'FREEDOM'

CAUGHT, on camera. Pictures that show exactly what your workplace would look like if the 'menace' of union power was curbed.

Yes, brothers and sisters, places like this, the Beehive Foundry in Hackney, East London, are George Ward of Grunwick's secret dream. This is exactly what the National Association for Freedom and their friends on the media have in mind when they talk of freedom for businessmen, freedom from closed shops and union organisation.

In the Beehive Foundry there's no union. There's no pressure to abide by safety regulations. There's no such things as expensive, unnecessary extras like a washroom, changing room or canteen.

There's nothing but work in the

most revolting conditions, a thought that must bring delight to money-grabbing employers throughout the land.

As these pictures show, the Busy as a Bee Beehive is a shambles. Men do finishing work on castings with power tools just inches away from the cups out of which they drink their tea.

OBSTACLE COURSE

It isn't just the tea that is metal enriched. So is the air, so are peoples' lungs, so is your skin and your sweat.

Hot metal and the vile gases it burns off are the other main hazards of the 'Busy as a Bee Beehive' foundry owned by J Hoyle and Sons. In the Beehive the men have to pour it into moulds and then carry the mould across the floor. But the floor is covered with clapped-out old

castings and rubbish of every description. It's an obstacle course to be navigated while you're carrying hot molten metal.

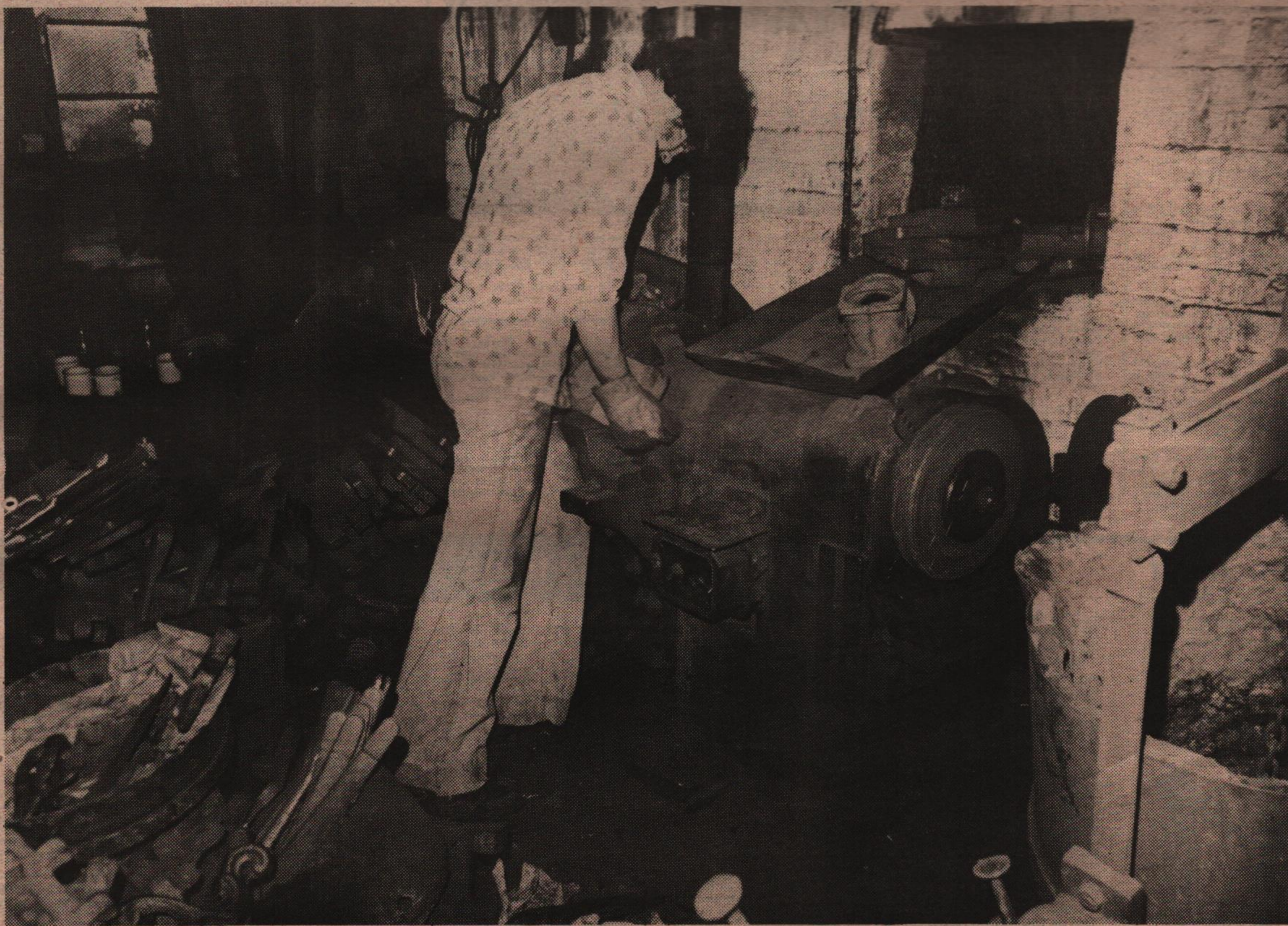
There are hundreds of such lousy little ratshops in Hackney. There are thousands more in Britain as a whole, places that are crying out for union power and organisation.

In these places the union means simple things. It means life instead of death, five fingers on a hand instead of four. It means clean air and overalls and washbasins, less pollution of the neighbourhood.

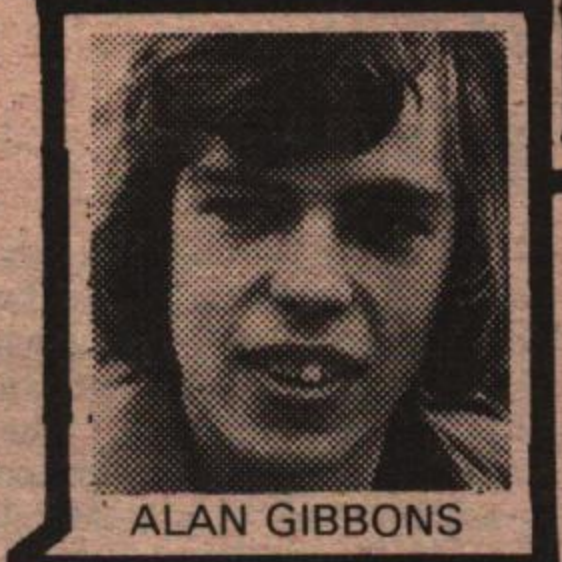
It means in short *our freedom* to live and work in decent conditions rather than *their freedom* to pile up profits.

Obviously, our kind of freedom is a cause worth fighting for. That's why it's so resolutely resisted by the National Association for Slavery.

PICTURES BY PHIL McCOWEN
WORDS BY LAURIE FLYNN



Socialist Workers talking



ALAN GIBBONS

OUR SUNDAY morning is a long lie-in, then reading the Sunday papers over breakfast. This week I was reading one of the 'quality' newspapers.

Quality means the middle class can persuade themselves they have still got their noses in the air while they drag their minds through the gutter.

There was a long feature on 'Surviving the winter blues'. What was it about?

NOT about getting up at five o'clock on a Monday morning and crawling into work soaked to the skin and freezing.

NOT housewives on a decaying inner-city housing estate struggling to keep the damp out of their kids' bedrooms.

NOT the unemployed worrying about paying the heating bills.

No, this was a collection of the pathetic ramblings of a bunch of pampered worthies.

Advice

Keith Grant, director of the Design Council, suggests central heating and a Georgian fireplace. How fancy that on your £35-a-week take-home pay?

Or maybe you ought to take the advice of novelist Laurie Lee and winter in Tangier of the south of Spain. I'm sure they'll tell you at the Social Security which form to fill in.

Or maybe like Molly Parkin and Fiona Richmond you find casual sex the best solution. That is, of course, if you haven't got the flu from getting wet through or if she hasn't. Or if you don't have to get up early next morning, or if she doesn't.

Or if she isn't on Librium because of the drudgery of another British winter...

But if you are cold this winter, just remember this piece of invaluable advice from Alex Dingwall-Main, who says: 'I grow my hair'. Of course, that'll really keep the North Wind from blowing.

Now, if that doesn't keep you warm by making your blood boil, nothing will.

See this play

THE Aldwych Theatre in London is probably not the sort of place you would normally take your workmates. But think hard about it, for a marvellous socialist play is being shown there.

The Days of the Commune is the great German playwright Bertold Brecht's account of the Paris Commune of 1871. He tells how the working people seized control of one of Europe's great cities, how they ran it, the mistakes they made, and how they were finally defeated.

It grips the audience from beginning to end with a combination of narrative, humour, songs and debate.

In 1871, as now, there were many in the working-class movement who argued that providing you had the votes and providing you set a moral example, the enemy would leave you alone. Brecht's play shows how tragically mistaken this view was.

So if you live anywhere near London, get along and see it.

A hundred police bullets -to kill a sleeping man

IN December 1969 Chicago police fired more than a hundred shots into an apartment where seven men were sleeping. Among those killed while asleep in bed was the chairman of the Chicago branch of the Black Panthers, Fred Hampton.

The police had a plan of the apartment which showed where Fred Hampton and the other Panthers were sleeping. The attack on the group was cold-blooded execution.

The Black Panthers were founded in 1967. Their ten-point programme included free medical care, the right to be tried by their peers, and the demand for a plebiscite among blacks in America to discover if they wanted a nation of their own.

In two years they won some support and enormous publicity. In Oakland, California, they took to following police around, accompanied by lawyers. Police harassment of blacks fell dramatically.

In 1969, a systematic nationwide campaign was launched to wipe out the Panthers. Among the dead was Fred Hampton. The December 4th Committee is still trying to bring the murderers to trial.

Oppressed

Among the campaigners is Fred's brother, Bill Hampton, who is starting on a speaking tour in Britain this week.

Bill says of his brother: 'He was young, just 21, a good speaker, respected by blacks and whites. Fred organised a Rainbow Coalition of all oppressed groups, because the Panthers were interested in organising all people, they worked with all organisations.'

'He tried to politicise street gangs, Southern whites, Puerto Ricans, and all repressed people, to get them to fight, but not on racist terms.'

'He organised free breakfasts, free medical care, food and clothing. In a country like America nobody should be starving or without medical care.'

'He was eliminated because he was giving people the self-confidence to fight the system, the self-confidence to overthrow it.'

Informant

'He was murdered when 14 cops came into the house. They had been told by an informant exactly where he would be sleeping.'

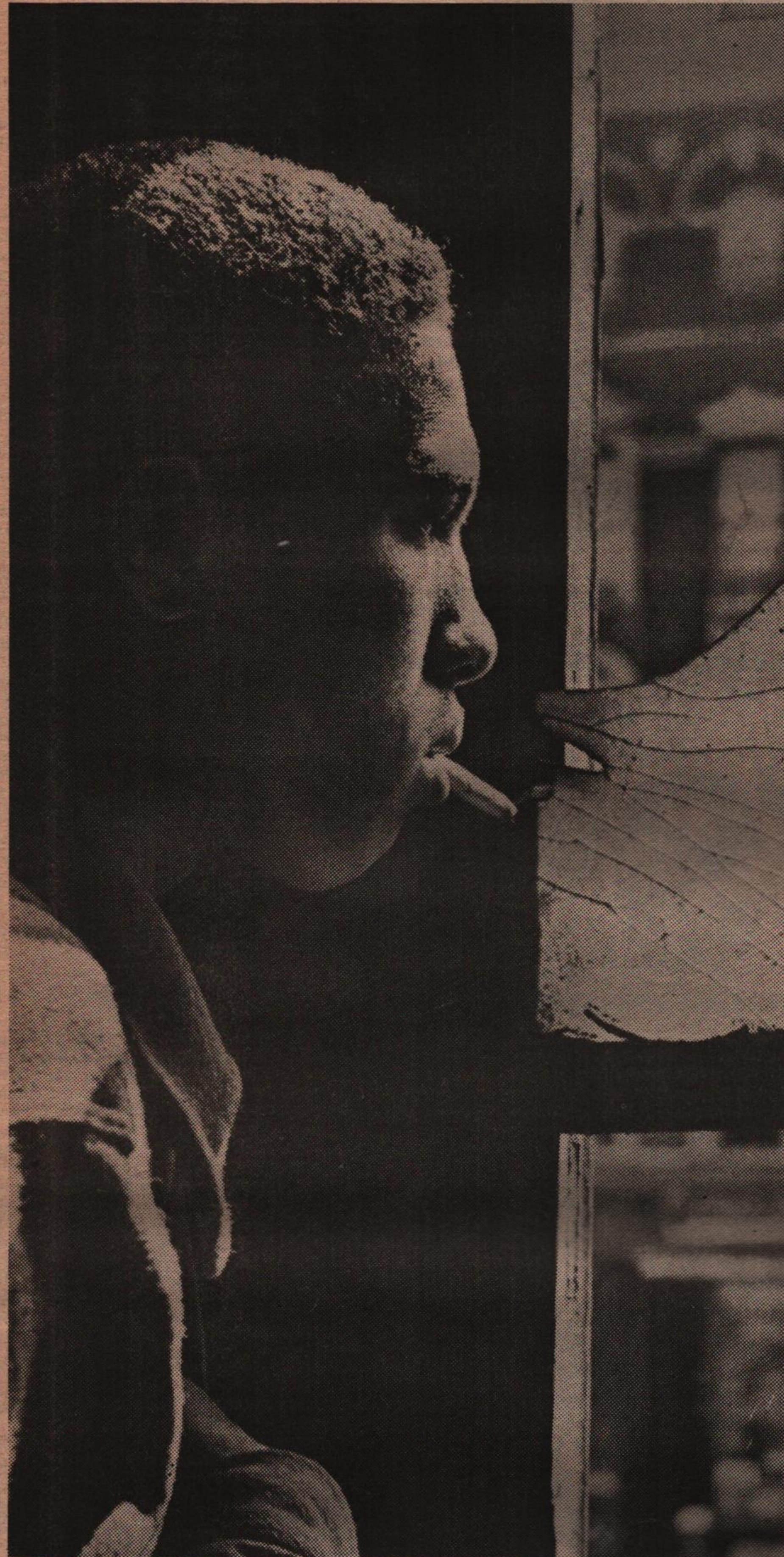
'They fired a hundred shots. Fred was in bed with his pregnant fiancée, Deborah Johnson. She didn't get shot.'

'The apartment was open two weeks after the shooting so everyone could see it was murder. Even the Congressional Black Caucus saw it was murder.'

The case against the police came to court. Bill Hampton explains why it was thrown out. 'The judge was Federal Judge Perry. He is 81, from Alabama in the racist Deep South. He hates blacks, young people, progressive lawyers. He threw the case out saying there wasn't enough evidence.'

□ You can help the campaign to bring Fred Hampton's murderers to trial and expose what happened, by sending money to the December 4 Committee, Room 1362, 53 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois, 60604 USA.

SHEILA MITCHELL



POLICE AGAINST THE BLACK PANTHERS

Bill Hampton, brother of Fred Hampton, one of the Black Panthers murdered by the Chicago police, is in Britain this month on a speaking tour organised by Flame. Each meeting also includes a showing of a new film about the FBI attempts to wipe out the Panthers.

□ Admission to all meetings 30p (unemployed and students 10p)

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
black workers paper

EAST LONDON: Wednesday 16 November, 7pm, All Nations Club, Mortello Street, E8.

LEEDS: Thursday 17 November, 8pm, Hare Hill Country Primary School, Round Hay road, Leeds 8.

BIRMINGHAM: Friday 18 November, 7.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth.

CENTRAL LONDON: Saturday 19 November, 6.30pm, benefit show at

The Other Cinema, Tottenham street, WC1.

MANCHESTER: Monday 21 November, 8pm, Brooks Bar, Wally Hotel.

SOUTH LONDON: Tuesday 22 November, 7.30pm, in Brixton.

NORTH WEST LONDON: Wednesday 23 November, 8pm, in Harlesden.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Friday 25 November, 7pm, Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way, New Cross.

FUND-RAISING SOCIAL: Friday 25 November, 8pm, till late, North London Polytechnic, Kentish Town, with Soul Phoenix.

GRAND DANCE: Saturday 26 November, 8pm till late, St Matthews Crypt, Brixton, South West London, with Steel Pulse and the great Coxon Sound.

They also serve who stand and wait

EIGHT O'CLOCK. Harold Serfbender pressed the button on his machine—the latest model imported from the Netherlands in 1653—and inserted the first of the day's scuffling rods into the wiggling flange.

Stacked in 117 trucks beside him, each carved from a solid piece of granite with triangular flint wheels, were the seventy-three million rods he had to scuffle by tea-time.

As the bamboo cogs reached a nose-shattering crescendo Harold's mind flew back to the day 76 years before when he had first stood in this great hall of manufacture, as the foreman shackled him to his

bench. The years of apprenticeship seemed an age away—all 26 of them—in which he had learnt the ancient crafts of sweeping-up and clocking in.

A tear coursed down his wizened nose and plonked into the waist-high pile of paper cups round the bench. His arm shook with more than the vibration from the boot-splitting roar of the scuffle weight. (The other arm had been shaken off in 1947.)

Caught

It wasn't the thick cloud of asbestos oil which dimmed that rheumy old eye (the other eye had fallen out when he

caught it in the scuffle-wight-stankers in 1953). The other men on the shop floor nudged each other and winked, coarsely.

'Look at Old Serfbender, the old sod. He's getting soft in his old age. He should have retired years ago, or become a full-time union official.'

Harold knelt before the machine. Tears trickled down his wrinkled cheeks leaving deep runnels in the lead and cadmium deposits which formed a solid crust over his upturned face.

He paid homage to the Iron God—the being which had enabled him to walk home at the week's end on Sunday

night and proudly lay his wage packet before his wife as she assembled plastic flowers. A round seven and sixpence, come rain or shine. The old man's heart was full.

Figure

And now a figure in white seemed to stand before him, beckoning. Harold rose, slowly, stiffly (one of his legs had fallen off in 1966) and advanced, gropingly. A shining scroll was placed in his hands and the foreman said: 'Here's your cards. You're sacked'.

PHILLIP EVANS



Baader: ahead of their time?

I DO not think that the recent article in the Socialist Worker on the German hijacking and kidnapping did justice to the Red Army Faction. They were in a very impotent position and in a relatively politically stable capitalist society.

Therefore they resorted to terrorism in the attempt to change society, not by themselves, but by initiating a revolutionary response from the workers when they realised the State was not totally in control.

This did not happen because the group did not adhere to the urban terrorists rule of selective assassination and destruction of the pillars of capitalist society, such as the headquarters of Parliamentary parties, central offices of multinationals and so on.

Instead they allowed themselves to be forced onto the 'defensive' path of trying to free their imprisoned comrades. In this they were mistaken, for the terrorist must always be on the offensive.

In the early days the group did work in the factories, on the shop floor. But they found it impossible to work freely and effectively because of official oppression. So they bypassed that approach for a more directly offensive one.

Although the terrorist policy was not always effective it can be argued that they were more effective in the time they were operative than they ever could have been in the factories given the German political situation of co-operation between the workers and the bourgeoisie.

The Baader Meinhof group were ahead of their time in Germany, but as the Group used to say, 'when the time is right for armed struggle it will be too late to prepare.' Perhaps that is something we should remember.

□ Anon, Brighton.

The NCB cut my pay by 40%

PAUL Foot's uncritical praise of the National Coal Board's Power Loading Agreement showed that you need a good industrial reporter.

Under piece work pitmen led the wages struggles. The introduction of the Power Loading Agreement cut my wages by nearly 40 per cent, ended strikes and restored management control. It may have been good for the surface workers and some coalfields, but it was also good for the National Coal Board.

Foot was right in one respect. The PLA did lead to the 1972 strike. It pushed miners so far down the wages league that even the NUM had to fight.

Piecework was bad, but the Poverty Loading Agreement was even worse.

□ William McKee, Battersea, London SW1.

□ □

A GREAT thought of James Connolly was that if state ownership and control were socialism, then the army, the navy, the police, the judges, the jailers, the informers, would all be socialist functionaries.

□ Bill House, Bradford.



Police harassing mourners at the Baader-Meinhof funeral

Nuclear Power: If you're left watch out!

CONGRATULATIONS on your article opposing nuclear power. Its weakness is that in stressing the valuable point that nuclear power stations can be used to provide the raw materials for nuclear bombs, as countries like Israel, South Africa and India are well aware, it fails to provide an answer as to why the USA, Britain, France and the Soviet Union they can use in nuclear bombs.

The point to stress is the enormous investment which has been placed in nuclear power and from which a good profit is

demanded. Building nuclear power stations is a very expensive business. The capital requirements are such that only a small number of firms and governments can afford to enter the market as suppliers.

This means that there are monopoly profits to be made, and control over and insight into the workings of nuclear power stations can effectively be restricted to 'reliable' groups.

The same is not true of the alternatives—insulation, sun, wind, tidal energy. With the exception of tidal energy, capital requirements for producers are low.

A competitive market could be expected with relatively low profits.

So, of course, the pressures for nuclear power are enormous. And after all if the power is coming from wind-mills there's no need to step up security, ie spend more money, to survey everyone to the left of Harold Wilson.

□ Peter Myatt, Denmark.

Letters

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

CAN THE TORIES BEAT THIS?

MARGARET RENN (Socialist Worker, 29 October) is quite right in saying that hundreds of thousands of women must have tried to do it yourself abortions.

I knew three such cases myself intimately. One woman killed herself, but her death was certified as being due to ulcers. The boy lived.

The two others were seriously ill—one had a bad miscarriage, the other had a dead foetus removed in hospital.

In my own case, I went to my doctor at a very early stage and he gave me some medicine—in those days doctors made up their own prescriptions. I suffered a very severe 'period'. All this happened between 30 and 40 years ago.

Women are now in danger of being pushed down even further than before. I am one who misguidedly voted Labour at the last election. But I think now that all socialists and feminists

should let the Labour Party know that they have no intention of voting for the return of a Labour Government, unless it ceases its attacks on women's rights.

The prospect of losing their seats is what worries these Tory collaborators.

And let the Tories in? Yes, if the Tories were in, the organised working class would know what they were up against and act accordingly, instead of keeping 'their' government all costs.

I have never before in my life known an MP in any party get up and say, like James White, that women don't mind being whacked around the head by their husbands.

This is in keeping with rape in the home and is part of the denial of a woman's rights over her body, as is the refusal of safe abortion. Can the Tories beat this?

□ Kathleen Jones, Shrewsbury.



□ HAVE you heard the expression—a proper Charley? I should think with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, on the prowl it should come right back into popularity. □ Brian Silversmith, Wolverhampton.

Greetings

MAY WE once again invite your readers to send greetings for Christmas and the New Year to the families of political prisoners, detainees, the banned and the banished in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Lists of the above are available from the Anti-Apartheid Movement, 89 Charlotte Street, London, W1P 2DQ.

□ Anti-Apartheid Movement.

□ □

HOW much longer must we put up with Chris Harman's patronising column—Marxism Made Easy? □ Jerry Lake, Aberystwyth.

LEYLAND'S MAN

THERE'S NO mention in your last issue of the man replacing Dobson at British Leyland—Michael Edwardes.

As director of Chloride he recently helped to cause a nine week strike over productivity. He lists his club as the Rand in Johannesburg. He

calls for the abolition of the Price Commission.

Not exactly the person to break the Leyland links with Apartheid. As you rightly say we have seen the departure of Dobson but there's still thousands like him to go.

□ Dave Stockton, TASS, Reading.

Full details of the demonstration are not yet known but when they are finalised we will contact you and let you know the arrangements.

□ A. A. Deane, North London

Argue with Zionists

UNFORTUNATELY, Andy Strouthous, in his interview in Socialist Worker, did not deal with the main issue exploited by the press—does the Socialist Workers' Party have a policy of no platform for Zionists?

The answer is—no. The NOISS resolution for NUS conference which caused the row in the first place simply states that student union money and facilities should not be used for activities whose aim is to further the Zionist state's interests.

We are not in favour of physically preventing Zionists from meeting. Although Israel is a racist state we do not believe that its supporters are the same as the Nazis. We believe that there are many Jewish students

who, although they may have illusions in Israel can be won over to revolutionary socialist politics and it would be disastrous if we closed off any possible debate with them by appearing to deny their right to organise.

□ □

What we should be doing—and the NOISS resolution provides an excellent starting point for doing so—is a campaign which puts the Zionists on the defensive in the colleges.

The focus of this campaign should be 'Against the Racist Israeli State—for the Palestinian Resistance'. What we want to do is to force the

Zionists to explain why the Law of Return, etc, are not racist, because by having that debate we can win people over to an anti-Zionist position.

It is vital that this debate is not sidetracked into an argument about no platform for Zionists. To prevent this—which will undoubtedly be used by the right wing and the Broad Left leadership of NUS to discredit our policy of denying free speech to the Nazis—we must make it clear that we are for the right of Jewish students to organise.

The Zionists will try to brand us as anti-semites in any case. It would be disastrous if we provide them with ammunition to use against us.

□ Alex Callinicos.

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.

'I have sometimes wondered if the dead got a better deal out of the army than I did'

I DON'T KNOW whether you will consider this suitable for publication in your paper—probably not. But I wanted to write it anyway.

I have not given my name and address. When you read these words you will see why. I can't take the chance that the faceless bureaucrats of the civil service would take action against me.

I have just read the story you printed three weeks ago about a Scottish soldier, written by a prisoner in Long Kesh prison camp in Northern Ireland. It was just like reading the story of my life.

The 'paddy' in Kesh only had one fact wrong. I did not die. I was discharged as a cripple with a 100 per cent disability pension of four guineas a week.

I have sometimes wondered if the dead got a better deal than me. They had a military parade, and every soldier on it did the slow march.

I have been on four. They are very impressive. The black crepe-covered drums beat out on a slack skin. The note of the silver trumpets sounding the Last Post. Hardened men shed tears over the graves of friends.

It was beautiful, if you appreciate that sort of emotion-ripping art.

IT IS getting along to 30 years since I first signed on as a regular. Like the Kesh man said, I was out of work, and in trouble with the police.

The army was much bigger in those days. Once in it I was convinced there was no way they would get me back to the slums of Glasgow.

My own bed and locker. Good clean clothes. Plenty of good grub. Great comradeship from the men in the billet. What more could a young man ask?

Commies

I had known poverty and hunger all my boyhood days. The army was a great life for me. It is hard for young working-class men to realise the attractions of such a life, unless they have known similar poverty and hunger.

In those days the army fought 'the dirty commies'.

We shot 'the yellow slant-eyed bastards' in the hills of Korea,



chasing them back to the Yalu River, where 'some bastard politician' stopped us going over and finishing them off for good.

We went into the jungles of Malaya, and 'routed them out'. It cut us to the quick to see 'that evil bastard' Chin Peng get all that cash for surrendering.

He and his will-o-the-wisps had given us a lot of trouble and sweat. Now the government was giving him a load of cash.

It was crazy. If they'd turned him over to us we would have chopped him into cubes and fed him to the dogs that ran around in packs in Kuala Lumpur.

Out in Kenya we hated that 'black cannibal' Jomo Kenyatta. The officer from Intelligence who gave us our political lectures (did you know they gave such things in the British army?) told us Jomo wrote for the Commie paper, the Daily Worker.

If we'd caught him in the forests of the Aberdares we would have

BY AN EX-SOLDIER NOW ON A 100 PER CENT DISABILITY PENSION OF £4.20 A WEEK

chopped him up with blunt fangs.

In Cyprus we fought that 'little murdering bastard' Grivas. It was strange how nobody would turn the 'little wall-eyed bastard' in. It did not matter how much we kicked and beat them. The Greek Cypriots would never divulge his hiding place.

CAME the day when I copped a packet. It was not pleasant. They took me on a stretcher, all strapped down, and flew me back for medical attention.

I was paralysed from the waist down. Every jolt I got caused

racking pains to tear through my body.

Lying beside me on the plane was a young Scottish lad. He came from my native city of Glasgow. I guess they put him beside me because I spoke 'Glasgow' like him.

Native

Maybe they thought the sound of his native accents would quieten him down. He was as mad as the proverbial mad hatter.

When he looked at me out of his mad eyes, I felt myself shrink back in fear. After all, I was only an arm's

length away from him, and partially paralysed.

In different hospitals in various countries, experts prodded and poked me. They caused me a lot of pain. But months later I was still affected with terrific pain if I got any sudden movements.

At last they discharged me with the immense sum of cash mentioned above.

I WENT back to civvy street like an old man—shuffle-shuffle.

It was in the Union Jack Club opposite Waterloo Station that my position was brought home to me. A young soldier like myself was lying dead drunk. His documents had fallen out of his jacket.

I saw he had been in places out East that I had been in. He was discharged just like me. But he could get no work.

I felt a wave of despair wash over me. How could I survive?

Back in Glasgow I went to sign on at the Labour Exchange. They had no work for ex-killers.

'So what if you do have ribbons from half a dozen campaigns? We need men who can work all day and every day. You can hardly walk!'

These clerks were all throw-backs to the means test days. They could not even manage a look of pity for a young man with a pale face, all complete with dark rings under the eyes for added effect.

How I hated mankind. Here I was, reduced from being a hard soldier, six feet tall, twelve and a half stone in weight, down to nine stone something. Yet nobody gave a damn about it.

Problems

These men had the power to give me a job. But they wouldn't. They were all Scotsmen as well.

I just cannot understand the silly bastards who imagine the Scottish National Party will sort out our problems, because 'they're Scottish as well, you know.'

My fellow Scots sat with a stone face when I asked for cash to help me live. My fellow Scots tried to argue me out of the money I was legally entitled to get.

They thought I was malingering if I said the reason for being late on signing-on day (three times a week) was because I could hardly walk.

Even the ex-Regulars Association would not attempt to find me a job. The fat bastard ex-sergeant major had just the job I could have done.

Nobody would help me. I would have to look out for myself.

I MADE IT. No thanks to the bastards who run the country. They took my youth and young manhood.

Today I still suffer pain. But my muscles have toughened up a lot. As of now, they are able to bear me up.

But what will happen when I get old and they become less strong? I just don't fancy the idea of sitting out the remainder of my days in some establishment for infirm soldiers, raving away about the days when we were young.

Oh! I forgot to tell you. I could not find a wife. You see, I am rendered impotent.

Yip Ming was my last bed-mate. She was a Chinese prostitute I lived with, out in the Far East. She bore me two sons.

But I could not marry her. The army would not permit it. She went back to China and I have lost touch with her.

My sons will be in their twenties now. Probably they read the thoughts of Chairman Mao and curse their white-skinned father.



THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISTS

The National Front and how to smash it

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



BENEFIT FILM SHOW

for the completion of the film about the 1977 Right to Work march
UNION MAIDS—a rarely shown documentary from the USA in the 1930s, based on three women who came from the rank and file to become union organisers.

plus Bunuel's LAND WITHOUT BREAD
 Plus extracts from the filming of the Right to Work march

plus a speaker
Saturday 12 November, 6.30pm, The Cinema,
Tottenham Street, London WC1.

Tickets £1.50 (unemployed £1). Bar and food available.

RANK AND FILE FILMS

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10P



ABOVE: A tearful and exhausted fireman walks away from the Reading warehouse fire where two firemen died—both were married with young children.
BELOW: London firemen bury a comrade killed on duty. Five were killed and 340 seriously injured fighting fires last year. For this most firemen take home less than £60 for a 48-hour week. That's why they need £20 now.

Firemen give their lives for you... Give them a livelihood!

OUR CASE—BY A FIREMAN, see page two.



SUPPORT THE FIREMEN! KEEP THE TROOPS OUT!