

ABOVE: A tearful and exhausted fireman walks away from the Reading warehouse fire where two firemen died—both were married with young children.

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.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

10P

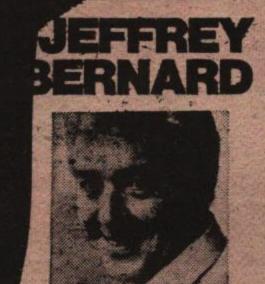
Firemen give their lives for you...Give them a livelihood!

OUR CASE—BY A FIREMAN, see page two.



SUPPORT THE FIREMEN! KEEP THE TROOPS OUT!

Protect the firemen from attacks such as this ...



AMERICANS, I'm have reached new depths or heights depending on which way you look at it-in the

They're selling illicit of the execution of Gilmore, the murwho begged to be and they're also sell-



WINE CROSSMAN ON THE RICH TECACY LEFT BY

From last Friday's Daily Express

THIS IS OUR

THE JATION 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 apalling that on three occasions when I've been on duty recently the new emergency tender for serious car orashes and industrial disasters hasn't even been manned up.

Thus is scandalous. For Clydeside is a high-risk area industrially. At any time one of the big plants could o . 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's 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

Well if it catches fire

I'm not putting it out.

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.

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 40hour 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'

GAS E

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.

After the vote Parry told the press: 'The executive council is not calling the strike. We opposed it with everything we've got.

One trick was to go along with the call from the London firemen's regional committee, which proposed to delay everything for six weeks by calling a strike ballot. But the conference delegates, who are all working firemen, rejected this by 21,000 to 17,000.

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.

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 I 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 assult 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 bodydeliberately dragged its feet. The officials were just as keen to smash the unofficial shop stewards' body as were the

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.

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

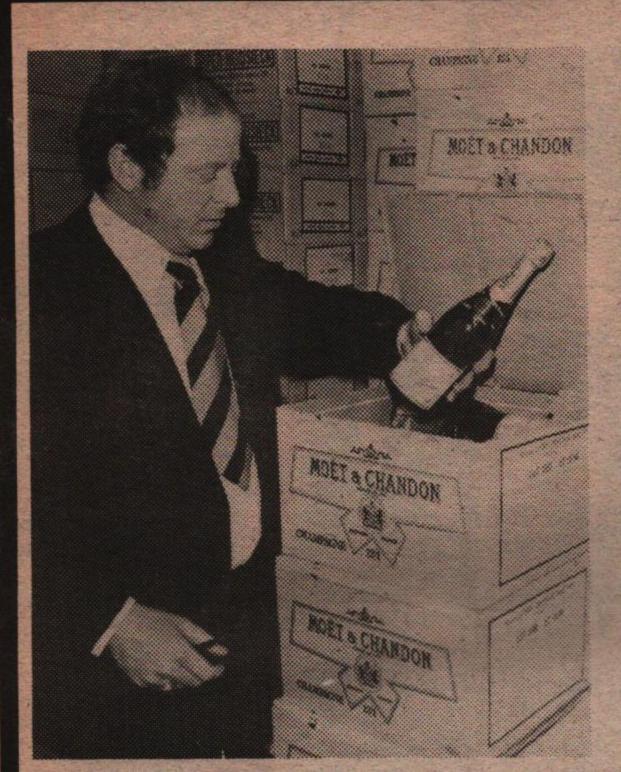
demonstrations.

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 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.

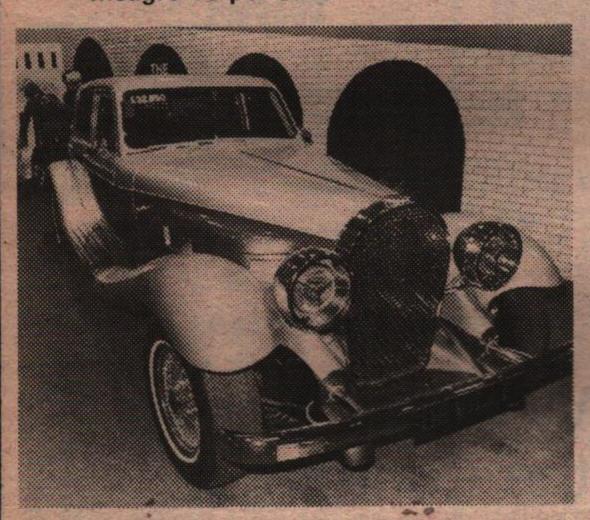
What are the figures. Last year the Coal Board's surplus after paying all costs

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:

AN EEO BOOK

'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 highrise flats, hardship to millions of people.

Yet in all these cases, all workers are demanding is a pay increases 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.

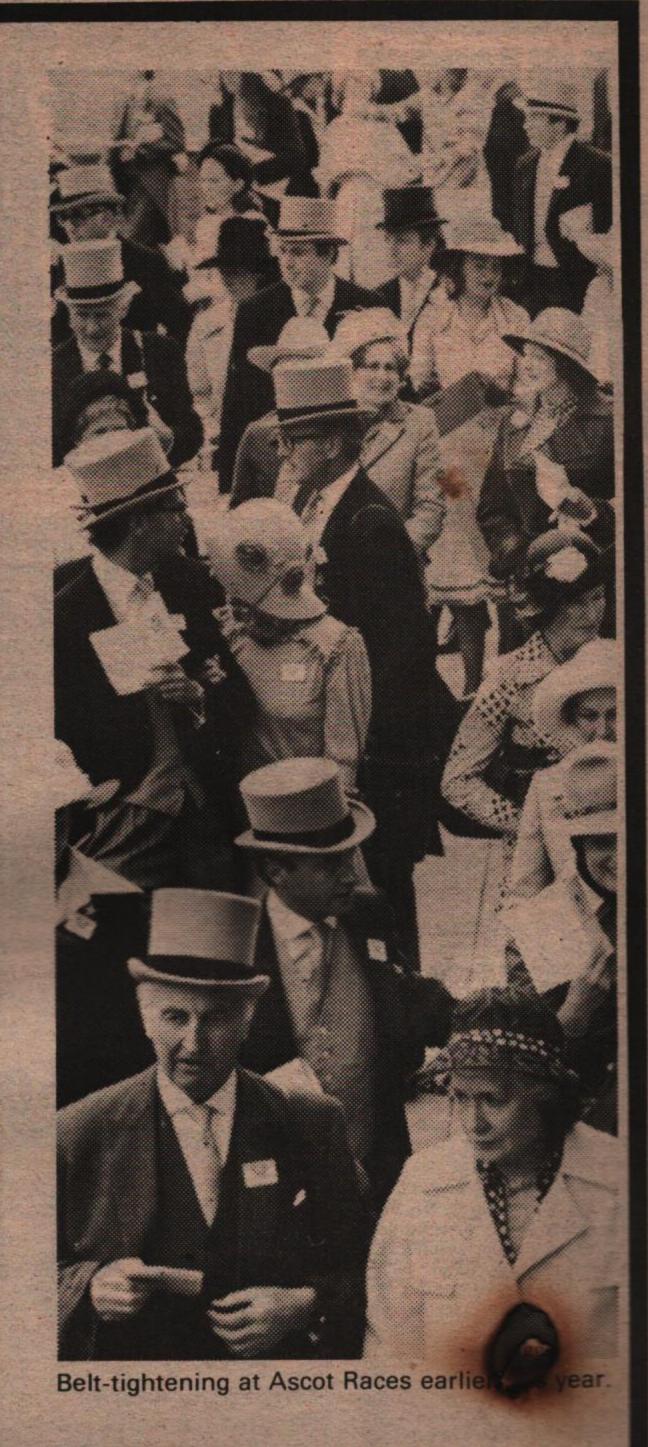
The question is not whether the fireman are going to gain at the expense of the engineers, or the power workers at the expense of the school teachers.

It is whether the 20 million people in this country who work for wages ae 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



'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

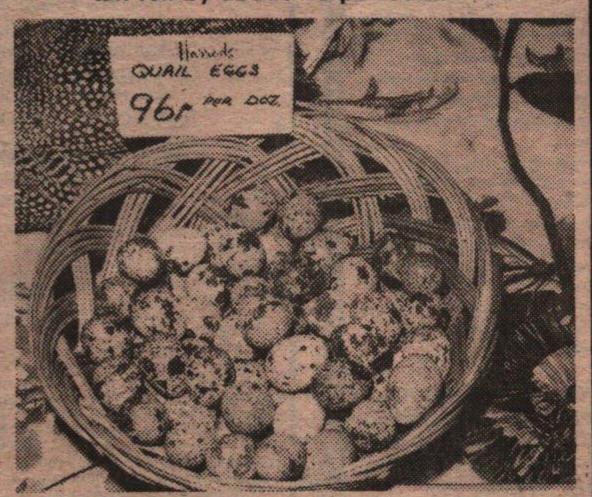
THE power workers' claim for shift and travel allowances would have cost about £15 million, if met in full. Last year the Cen-Electricity tral Generating Board, which employs the power workers, made a profit of £159 million.

The entire electricity industry made a surplace, 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.

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 dind of state-a workers' state ed upon councils of delegates and a worke At most, parlia A ry activity can be used to mak 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

We are for real, social, economic and political equality

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

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

■ 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 firemenand 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 G 5 ES(1) (GAN)

'THIS IS our answer to the government's socalled 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 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 deterincrease. In addition we've got mined to win they can get a agreed to support one another

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

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 decent rise too. Forget the 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

'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

BOC strike bulletin

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

So our workers all over

the country are on strike for a £20 rise. We are also

ears rises. And we are

rong enough to win it.

We have voted in all our

inimous in our determina-

per cent 'limit'. There is no know it. But they are hiding behind the fact that most workers believe there is a

dation of the last two We say that when we win this claim the way will be open for thousands of others tion to win this claim. There



so much cash they hardly know what to do with it. Our whole claim paid for just one year would cost them £3

the fall in the value of the pound! Enough to pay our claim for 29 years. So what are they playing at? They are hiding behind the government and acting like mean-minded actions of the playing at a control of the pound of the p

We at BOC won't have it! That's

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.

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

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, lan Wallace & T. Donaldson — Kettering NUJ

Neville Alibone, 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

Dave Newnham, Sec Eastern Area Council NUJ Paul Nicholl, NGA FoC West London Off-set

Lex Brown NUJ National Executive Robin Bryden Sec S. U. N. Group NUJ Chapel

Branch Jim Workman NUJ FoC Airdrie Advertiser John Hodgman NUJ Scottish Organiser Frank Garraty SOGAT FoC Blantyre Peter Sandy NUJ FoC Radio Steve Childs NUJ Dep FoC Sheffield Newspapers/Clerk United

Newspapers Group NUJ Chapel

Les Stewart NUJ Provincial

Newspapers Ind. Council

Jim Mallory NUJ National

Norrie Ross Chairman Dundee NUJ

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

Roger Currell Sheffield NUJ Branch

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

Bernard LaRoche NGA Imperial FoC and Federated House Chapel FoC Kentish Times (all in a personal capacity)

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 Consett 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

Nottingham University ASTS, Derby General ASTMS, Glasgow Health Service Branch ASTMMS, Manchester Housing Branch NUPE, Epsom 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, S E London Medical Branch ASTMS, Hackney NUT, ASTMS Learnington 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

Branch, Greater Manchester FBU, Crumpsall NUPE, Manchester CWS USDAW, Tursdale Workshops NUM,

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'

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'

Official trade union action is like honey on

the elbow. You can smell it, you can see it.

'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

But you can never taste it.

PICTURE: PHIL McCOWEN REPORT: PAUL FOOT

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 marooned 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.

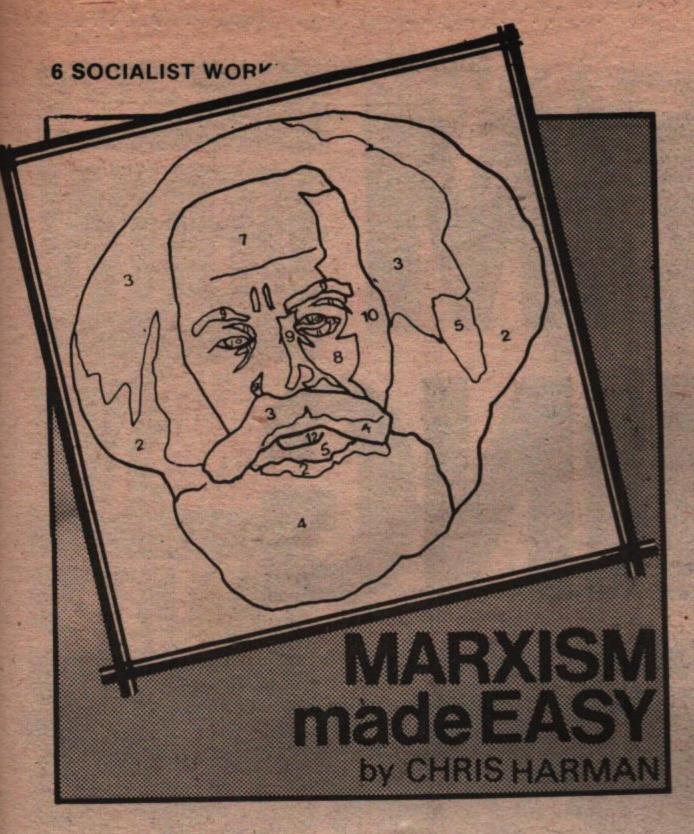
If anyone doubts the need for the rank and file conference called for 26 November, just compare the fine words of the trade union leaders over Grunwicks with their disgusting deeds.



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).

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 elsethe 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.

dle. .

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 nee-

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. Subscrip-

tions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months. £1.75 for three 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

losing his touch.'

they don't have much oppor-

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 Mary ugh offered:
'Art are argill has been

left in st the lurch by his militant s 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 McGahev, 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

Spot the hooligan

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

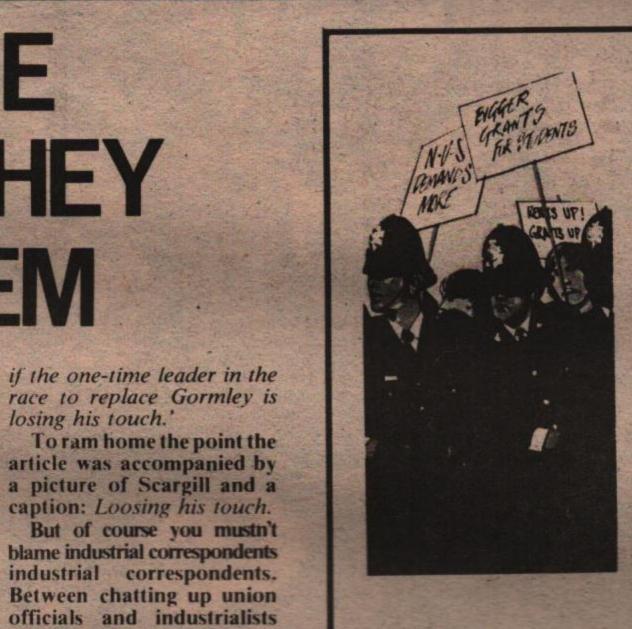
David Bradley, 18, an Ipswich Town supporter was walking along the hard shoulder when a car carrying rival fans swerved and hit him.

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.



ALONG with your packet of PG Tips from the supermarket 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.



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.



FANTASTIC FACTS no 639: Cauliflower growers in north west France have destroyed more than two million of the vegetables this year to keep prices up, after a record harvest. -Reuters.

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.

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

THE ABOVE heading was

in the London Evening

News. The press seem to

have given up any illusions

as to the supposed 'impar-

Front police? I couldn't

have put it better myself.—

■ ROBERT MOSS, master-

mind 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 can-

didate for NAFF

prosecutions in the law

the City of London recent-

ly, he quoted an article by

former policeman Eddie

Bessant. Eddie had

lightheartedly informed

readers that he could

tactic to counter its use by

police

This offer was, accor-

ding 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.

teach them the 'wedge'

At a public meeting in

courts.

the

demonstrations.

Paul Turner, Croydon.

tiality' of the police.

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.

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 lan 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



The E1 Teniente mines in Chile during the Allende period.



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.

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 ortured 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

ecuted.

up in jail, tortured and ex-

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 Iranian students all over Europe and America 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.

Argentina: troops take

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

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 byword 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'.

over tube trains But the generals failed.

After 19 months of military rule, with strikes illegal and all trade unions directed by army officers, the workrs 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

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 byairline, 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 miliatry.

Jews anti-Jewish?

☐ THE PRESS campaign to smear the SWP as anti-Jewish goes on. The Daily relegraph ran the neadline '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.

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-

natinal 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 scream-

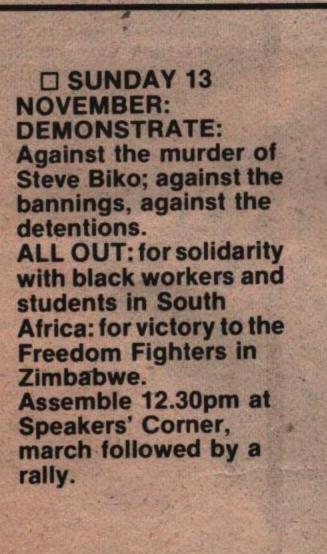
ing to get the wheat shipped. The employers would have

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 akjusted-wheras, 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.





Argentina

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,

SOUTHERN AFRICA-WHAT'S AT STAKE?

New pamphlet from

NAZIS UNITED?

Former Auschwitz interrogator fails to address new fascists

E10,000
appeal
FIGHT THE

RACISTS! STOP THE NAZIS!

E9,002 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 antiracist 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 meting.

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

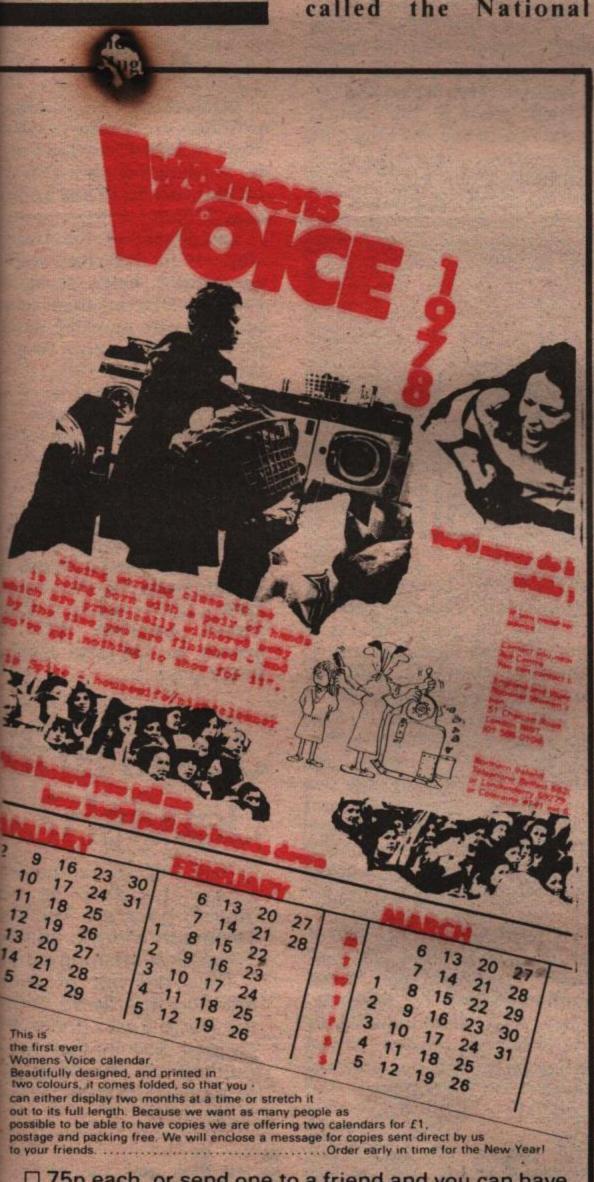
R Greenwood R Keeley D Hart

A Lawrenson

Asian shops, Slough
Pirate Jenny Theatre Company
Kingsdale School
Dewsbury Socialist Club SW readers
Manchester Students Union

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,
Dewsbyry Wakefield, Bradford,
Hornsey, Black Country, Luton,
NELP, Exeter University, Nottingham, Leeds Students, Hull,
Middlesex Poly, Stockport.



☐ 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.



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.





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 moneygrabbing employers throughout the

As these pictures show, the Busy as land. 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

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

tion. 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



BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

EDINBURGH Heriot-Watt International Socialist Society public meeting: Victor Haines on Workers' Struggles in Eastern Europe. Wednesday 9 November, 7pm, Grindlay Street Union.

Yorkshire

HALIFAX Socialist Worker discussion group: Thursday 24 November, 8pm. All SW readers welcome: Ask SW seller for details, or phone Halifax

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Party Teachers are holding a series of meetings about educational issues. It is vital that socialist teachers counteract the right-wing in the education debate. Alternate Thursdays, 5pm, Meeting Room 1, Communal Building, Bradford Univer-

17 November: Examinations—in whose interest are they?

North West

CHEETHAM/CRUMPSALL Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Details of places and time from SW sellers. Thursday 24 November (provisionally) The Meaning of Marxism. Speaker: Colin

BIRKENHEAD Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm. All welcome. Details from your SW.

17 November: Reform or revolu-

24 November: The Social Contract

ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm. Details from your SW seller. / November: Nationalism.

24 November: Immigration in Bri-

HUYTON Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday, 8pm. Details from your SW seller. 17 November: Abortion.

24 November: Southern Africa.

LIVERPOOL CENTRAL Socialist Workers Party open discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm. All welcome. Details from your SW

16 November: Southern Africa. NOTE: Discussion meeting cancelled this week. Instead we will be going to the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign me and on the same night. 23 Nover: Rank and File Move-

BOOTLE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm, details of place from your SW seller. All welcome. 17 November: Southern Africa.

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party meeting for all members: Monday 14 November, 7.30pm prompt. Meeting place details from branch secretaries. Agenda includes: Building in the workplace-an assessment of the experience to date, election of new district committee. All district members should attend. Observers from Skelmersdale, Wigan, St Helens, Warrington, Chester and Wrexham are welcome.

GARSTON: Anyone interested in helping form a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in the Speke/Garston area, or anyone interested in coming to discussion meetings, please contact Garston (Merseyside) SWP, c/o6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

WITHINGTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Sundays, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW

13 November: Crisis in the Middle East, Speaker: Eddie Cayle. 20 November: Ireland. Speaker: Rob Jess.

27 November: The courts, the police-are they neutral? Speaker: Chamdresh Bhatt.

LIVERPOOL SOUTH Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, All welcome to informal discussions. Details from

16 November: Unemployment, Job Creation Schemes and the Right to Work Campaign. LANCASTER Socialist Workers Par-

discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 8pm, ask SW sellers for details. All welcome.

SALFORD Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursday evenings, details from S W sellers.
17 November: The role of Women's
Voice, Speaker: Anne Robertson.

BRITAIN OUT

HOW AND

OF IRELAND-

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

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

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

PAISLEY: Tuesday 22 November, 7.30pm, for meeting place ask your SW seller. Speaker: Henry Maitles.

SOUTH EAST ESSEX-Tuesday 15 November, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

BANGOR Socialist Workers Party

public meeting: What is a revolutionary party? Speaker Gerwyn Evans. Friday 25 November—place

CARDIFF Socialist Workers Party

discussion meetings: All at SWP

Bookshop, 58 Bridge Street, Cardiff. 21 November: Labour Party.

PONTYPRIDD Socialist Workers

Party meeting for members and

supporters: The Marxist theory of the

family. Speaker: Alan Screen. Thurs-

day 17 November, details from SW

SWANSEA Socialist Workers Party

sell Socialist Worker in College Street

every Saturday, 11.30am to 1pm.

Pamphlets, IS Journals and Rank and File papers also on sale. Come along

BANGOR Socialist Workers Party

public meetings: Fridays, 7.30pm,

South East

London

place from branch secretary or paper

ASHFORD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a

socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 17 November, 8pm; for

meeting place see your your SW

SWP Day School on WEST GER-

MANY: Saturday 3 December, Central London. Sessions on: Terrorism,

the left and state repression. Nuclear

power and the struggle against it, The way Forward? For further details

please write to SWP International

Dept., (Germany), 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. Fund-raising Ger-

man food event in the evening! Watch

OUTER EAST LONDON Socialist

Workers Party fortnightly meetings:

The revolutionaries, a Alternate

Fridays, 7.45pm, for meeting place

11 November: Trotsky: Speaker:

25 November: Mao. Speaker: Nora

see your SW seller.

Chris Harman

for a chat and help us to sell SW.

and time from SW sellers.

Speaker B Dumbleton.

Wales



BRADFORD: Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm, Room 5, Central Library. Speaker: Chris Harman.

LENIN Volume 1 'Building the Party' from political obscurity to leader of a mass working class party. £3.30 including postage. LENIN Volume 2 All power to the Soviets! through to the first victorious proletarian revolution. £3.90 including postage.

From Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road,



Part of a painting of the Grunwicks picket line by Dan Jones. Available now. are full-colour prints of the painting, published by Bethnal Green and Stephney Trades Council at £2 each, with all proceeds to the Grunwicks

☐ Send £2 to SW Recordings, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.

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.

21 November: The struggle for socialism in Spain.

HACKNEY Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: 'Terrorism'-Why it isn't the answer. Thursday 17 November 8pm, for meeting place see your SW sellers.

ILFORD Socialist Workers Party meeting: Socialism and terrorism. Speaker: Colin Sparks, Wednesday 16 November, 8pm, North East London Polytechnic, Barking Precinct.

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

man. SWANSEA: Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm, for meeting place see your SW seller. Speaker to be announced. All welcome.

GLASGOW: Sunday 20

November, 7.30pm, for

meeting place ask SW sellers. Speaker: Chris Har-

RESISTANCE—a new anti-racist play. With Reggae group, Misty, disco and bar. Friday 11 November, 8pm-12 midnight. Ealing Technical College, St Mary's Road, Ealing, London, W5. 60p. Organised by T Huxley and Ealing Colleges NOISS.

INNER EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party meetings on Why You Should be a Socialist. All welcome. Alternate Fridays, 7.30pm, details from SW sellers.

18 November: Because there wouldn't be any oppression. Speaker: Norah Carlin.

LEA VALLEY Womens Voice Group Public Meeting: What is Pornography? Speaker: David Widgery, Monday 14 November, 8pm. For further details of place, see your Womens Voice/Socialist Worker sellers.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Women's Voice Group meets alternate Tuesdays, 8pm, details of meeting place from WV sellers. Further information phone 01-673 1329.

15. November: What a pair of knockers! Does this offend you? Aileen Knowles will speak on sexism.

South West

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings on Marxist Economics: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW

24 November: Capitalist crisis.

Action in the unions

AUT: Socialist Workers Party members in the AUT meet outside Central Hall Westminster, Wednesday 16 November, 3pm.

NALGO: Meeting for all Socialist Workers Party NALGO members in London, Monday 14 November, 7pm, for details phone SWP industrial department, 01-739 6273. Agenda includes Tony Cliff speaking on building in the workplace. All NALGO and GLC Staff Association SWP members to attend.

rationalism & soci INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION Articles on the National Question in Ukraine and Quebec, interview with a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Failure of Workers' Power in Portugal, Punk Rock. 20p a copy (plus 10p postage) from SWP International Department, 6 Cottons

SW Notices

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. Aricles 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

IS SOCIALISM POSSIBLE? Socialist Worker Pocket Pamphlet No. 2. Price 5p, 3p if you order more than 10 and pay in advance. From SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



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

MUSIC. STREET THEATRE POSTERS, FILMS, POEMS FOR SOCIALISM ... tell us what you're doing. Second issue of Rentamob, the agitprop bulletin of the SWP and supporters, out soon. Send your reports to Dave Simmonds, Counter-Act, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London,

SEMINAR ON ZIONISM

Glasgow, G1.

how to fight it. Saturday 19

November, in Newcastle. Subjects

include Arab Boycott of Israel, Zionist

oppression of Oriental Jews, Israel-

South Africa co-operation, The Law of

'Return' and Aliyah. Admission by ticket only. Organised by British Anti-Zionist Organisation (in association with Arab Students Union). Contact

George Mitchell, 90 John Street,

Any Socialist Workers Party MUSICIANS want to form a punk band? Contact Martin Millar, 15 Severus Road, Bttersea, London,

INTERNATIONATIONAL

DISCUSSION

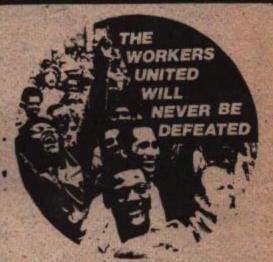
Socialist Workers Party PHILOSOPHY GROUP foundation meeting: Oxford, Sunday 20 November, 10.30am. Open to all SWP members and supporters and NOISS. Pooled fare. Overnight Saturday ac-commodation can be arranged, also creche. Come to Oxford SWP social on the Saturday night while you're about it. Details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

Socialist Worker Youth Movement London and Home Counties MEETING FOR ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS interested in building SWYM in schools Saturday 19 November, 12 noon to 5pm, for details please ask your branch secretary or phone Liz on 01-739 9772.

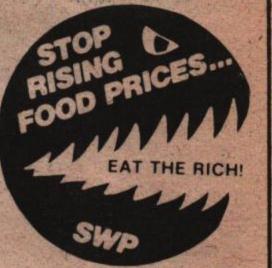
Socialist Worker needs REGULAR HELP on Wednesday mornings. Anyone able to do this work should phone John

Larkham on 01-739 2639.

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**, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London, E2 9DS.

Notices and meetings

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.

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

STATE RESEARCH collects and publishes information from public sources on state policy, particularly in developments in policing, internal security, and espionage, and the links between these fields and business, the Right and paramilitary organisations. A series of seminars will be held at 9 Poland Street, London W1. The first is on Friday 18 November, 6.30pm, The reform of the Official Secrets Act.

Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign DAY OF ACTION: Friday 11 November, North East London Polytechnic, Barking Precinct, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex. 3pm Film: Last Grave at Dimbazaadmission 50p. 6pm Play: Scenes from Soweto-admission £1. (Claimants, schoolkids and outside students 50p, NELP students free).

DIARY OF PALESTINE 1978: packed with information about the Palestinians and the Middle East conflict. Buy one yourself and copies for your friends. By post only, price £1.25 (inland) and £1.50 or 3 dollars (overseas) including postage, from Palestine Action, Box 3, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

BRIGHTON ROCK AGAINST RACISM: Saturday 19 November, 8pm till late, University of Sussex, Old Refectory, Falmer House. With The Piranhas, The Plastics, Joby and the Hooligans, The Squares, plus reggae disco. Admission 75p. Organised by

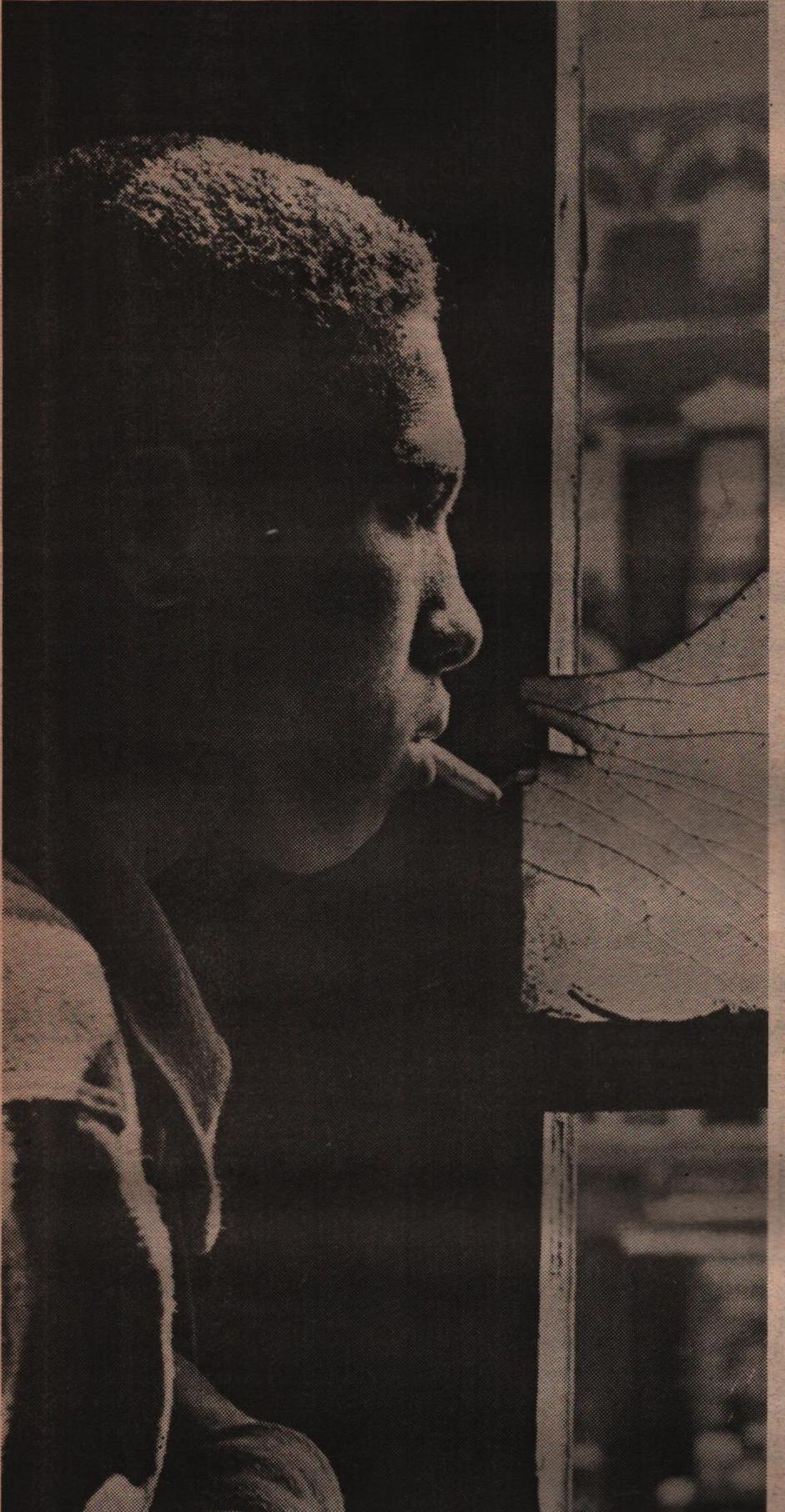
BADGES AVAILABLE NOW! RAR badges in new colours— green and red 24p (inc postage), or 10 for £1.50 post free. Orders to 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

ROCK AGAINST RACISM: X-Ray Specs and Black Slate, Friday 11 November, 8pm to midnight, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Bar. £1.50 (unemployed 75p with card).

OCCUPATIONAL & CRIMINAL TRESPASS National Conference: 25/27 November, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Credentials £2.50 (£1.50 for claimants) from Campaign Against A Criminal Trespass Law, c/o 35 Wellington Street, London WC2.

MANCHESTER Women's Torchlight procession: This Saturday 12 November, 9.30pm, Strangeways Prison car park. Protest against the magistrates who say women and children shouldn't be out after dark. Bring banners.

LEVELLER FIRST ANNIVERSARY PARTY: Celebrate with us this Saturday, 12 November, 8pm, at Ludgate, Cellars, Apothecary Street, London, EC4. Live: Dire Straits. Plus disco and real ale. 75p. Claimants/students



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 fiancee, 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



SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY black workers paper

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)

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

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

22 with

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

Serfbender pressed the button on his machine—the latest model imported from the Netherlands in 1653—and inserted the first of the day's scraffling rods into the wiggitting 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 scraffle by tea-time.

As the bamboo cogs reach-

ed 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 bootsplitting roar of the scraffle 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 scraffle-wightstankers 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.

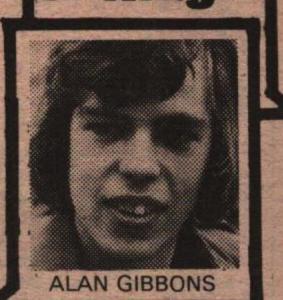
Figure

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







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 accobean fireplace. How does a fancy that on your £35-a-week takehome 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

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 abbout 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.

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, cen-tral 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 offen-

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 operative in the time were operative then they ever could have been in the factories given the German political situation of cooperation 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

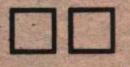
PAUL Foot's uncritical praise of the National Coal Board's Power Loading Agreement showed that you need a good industrial reporter.

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.



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 windmills there's no need to step up security, ie spend more money, to survey everyone to the left of Harold Wilson. ☐ Peter Myatt, Denmark.

Gay News demo

THE ALL LONDON Gay groups, as well as Gay groups from throughout the country are contacting Trades Unions to gain approval and support for the following motion:

'This branch/group deplores the use by Mary Whitehouse of the antiquated blasphemy laws to attack GAY NEWS and calls for the quashing of the sentences on GAY NEWS and its editor, and the repeal of the blasphemy laws. It calls for the widest support for the forthcoming demonstration

on these aims. We would like to call on your support by including this motion in Socialist

Worker. 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

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

CAN THE

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



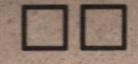
☐ HAVE you heard the expression—a proper Charley? I should think with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, on the prowl it should come right back into popularity. ☐ Brian Silversmith, Wolverhampton.

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 Move-



HOW much longer must we put up with Chris Harman's columnpatronising 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.

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.

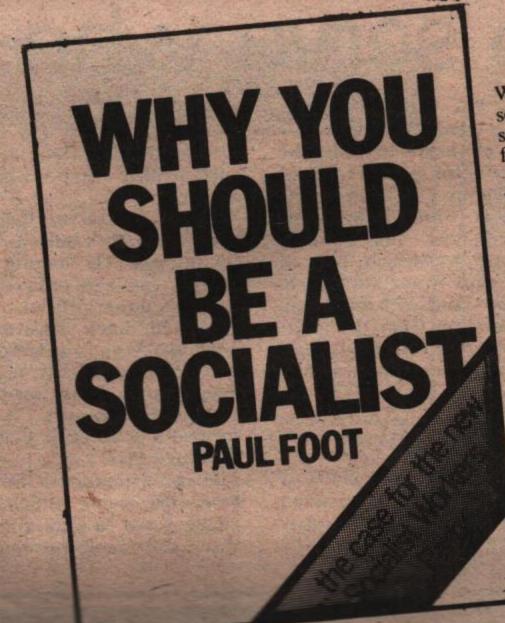
What we should be doing-and the NOISS resolution provides an excellent starting point for doing so-is a campaign which puts the Zionists on the defensive in the colleges.

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 thiswhich 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

REBUINS US. ☐ Alex Callinicos.



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

We do not have to spend the rest of so many lives. 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.

SOCIALIST WORKER 12 November 1977 13

PAGE THIRTEEN

4 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 crepecovered 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 'Glasca' 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-shuffleshuffle.

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 to 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

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 Nazional Front and how to smash

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

UNION **OFFICIALS** DIVIDE **BREWERY** WORKERS

by JULIE TURNBULL 'MY BASIC WAGE is £32 a week. I've got a wife and a kid. So what's the point of talking in percentages? A 10 per cent increase for me wouldn't even cover the rise in beer prices.'

That's a Scottish and Newcastle Breweries worker talking about why the production workers at Newcastle are on strike.

They're striking for £20 a week across the board and better shift allowance. Management, who've just clocked up £17 million profits for their latest half year, are trying to foist on the workers insufficient and divisive increases ranging from £5.95 to £13.

Alan Dixton, the local Transport Union official, addressed the meeting last Friday to try to persuade the strikers to accept this.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to stay out. Workers in the Edinburgh

brewery are still working. This

is due to the brow-beating tactics of full-time officials Two mass meetings have been held in Leith Town Hall to discuss wage settlements.

The first voted 725-to-1 against the offer. The second also rejected the deal by 800to-80.

Not content, the full-time officials organised a ballot, giving them the chance to spread around amazing rumours such as that Newcastle had voted to accept the deal

The result was acceptance of the offer in Edinburgh by a Since Sen the full-time

officials have refused to call any more mass meetings. One even told management to implement the wage offer before the ballot result was

Paper lock-out

RADCLIFFE, Lancs: 150 maintenance workers in the Engineering Union have been locked out by management of Radcliffe Paper Mills for two months now.

Pickets are on duty all day. They are also sending pickets to another paper mill in Bolton, Arthur Turners, where 22 maintenance workers have been on strike for three weeks after refusing to end a work-to-rule.

Socialist

Please rush me my weekly copy of Socialist

Worker. I enclose a cheque/postal order

(Please tick) to pay subscriptions and

When completed post to Socialist Worker

Subscriptions, Circulation Department, 6

Subscribe!

Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

made payable to Socialist Worker for

£7 for one year

£3.50 for six months

£1.75 for three months

postage, so start sending them to:

Morker



POWER CUTS-THEN PATIENT DIES: that was the headline in the Daily Mail on Tuesday. The story below itwas told to the entire nation on television the night before: how an 85-year-old woman had died during an operation in

a power cut. But one small fact was left out of all the reports. The woman died at the Prince of Wales Hospital, in Tottenham,

North London. The hospital is scheduled for closure.

Before long, there won't be any operations at the Prince of Wales. Many people will die for lack of such operations. And the press publicity for that will be nil.

PICTURE of Prince of Wales Hospital workers demonstrating against the closure plans earlier in the year, by Phil McCowen.

EETPU suspends three thousand sparks

THREE THOUSAND electricians have been suspended from all rights in their own union-by their union leaders.

A photostat copy of a letter from Frank Chapple, EETPU president, informed Cardiff branch chairman Pip Jones that his entire branch has been suspended with immediate effect from 1 November.

The letter gave as reasons the branch's support for the Right to Work Campaign and the attendance of the branch chairman and other officers at an 'unauthorised meeting'.

The decision means that Billy Williams, who stood against Chapple as a rank and file candidate for the presidency earlier this year, cannot go as the branch's delegate to the union's rules revision national conference on 20 November.

Union?

Pip Jones told Socialist Worker: 'The members of the branch have been treated with utter contempt by the union

'When we went to see the executive officer for this area he hardly deigned to talk to us.

When we asked about the payment of union dues, he showed some interest, and told us that the reasurer still had to collect the dues.

'Well, that's our union in a nutshell. Collect the dues, but don't care about the members' rights.

'We've been elected by our members, not by the union officials, and we intend to stand by them'.

Bitter

The Cardiff EETPU branch continues to meet. Next week they plan a mass meeting.

Another elected delegate to the conference has had his branch rearranged with the result that he cannot attend.

He just happens to be Wyn Bevan, convenor of the electricians at Port Talbot steelworks, who defied their union executive in a long bitter strike earlier this year.

The conference is held only every two years, and has been postponed for six months already this year. It is now 21/2 years since the last EETPU National Conference.

A lobby of the conference has been called for Tuesday 22 November in Blackpool. Electricians employed by Holiday Halls and pipe-fitters employed by William Press, both on the Monsanto site in Teesside, have voted to stop work for the day to attend.

The Port Talbot electricians, delegates from Otis and Hammonds in Londonnow taking action for £3 an hour are among others to be

☐ LOBBY OF THE CON-FERENCE! Tuesday 22 November, 12 mid-day; Norbreck Road, Blackpool.

Aberdeen: 800 laid off

by MICHAEL COPP, **USDAW** member at Robert Wilson and Son.

ABERDEEN: 800 production workers at Robert Wilson and Son were laid off last week

after pay negotiations broke down. Members of the shop and distribution workers' union,

USDAW, have put in a claim for a 30 per cent flat-rate increase. Management replied with a package deal which offered only a 10 per cent increase on gross earnings, a self-financing productivity deal and reorganisation of the trade union structure within the factory. At a mass meeting this was

almost unanimously rejected. Blacking of certain products began. Management replied by closing down the factory.

SMITHS STRIKERS TAKE OWER UNION!

A GREAT transformation is taking place among 600 workers sitting-in at the Smiths Industries motor accessories plant at Cricklewood, North West London.

Their dispute seems on the surface simply a protest against rotten bonuses. But underneath the sit-in is striking at the heart of the twisted factory trade

union leadership that has ruled in the plant for years.

Strong words? Read on. Emmie Garvey has been General and Municipal Workers Union convenor for longer than anyone can remember. She was 76 on Bonfire Night. She is taken into work every morning in a company car.

PICKETS

RANK AND

FILE DIARY

RANK AND FILE CONTACT

meeting: Saturday 12 November,

Club, Leazes Terrace. Agenda: Rules

Revision Conference lobby, Un-

employment and the Holiday Halls

blacklist. Speakers: Billy Williams

(Cardiff), Frankie Graham (Dundee),

lan Macdonald (Teesside), Eric Brit-

tain (Newcastle). All EETPU members

FETPU: Rank and File Contact are

calling a National Lobby of Biennial

Conference: Tuesday 22 November,

12 noon, Norbreck Road, Blackpool.

For: £15 minimum now, No 12 month

rule, Union democracy now, elect all

officials. Followed by a mass rally in a

nearby hall. Speakers: Billy Williams

(Cardiff), Bill Ronayne (Senior

Steward, Otis), Chris Watson (Senior

Steward, William Press), Peter

Porteous (Senior Steward, Yarrows).

Workshops supporting include Otis

Lifts, Port Talbot Steelworks EETPU,

TOUR OF THE HOSPITAL CUTS IN

BRENT: Your chance to see the

waste. Following a successful tour of

the cuts in April, the Brent and

Harrow Save Our Hospitals Campaign

is organising a second coach tour on

Tuesday 15 November. The tour will

leave the main gate of Central

Middlesex Hospital in Acton Lane,

London, NW10 at 5.30pm. We invite

representatives from trade union

branches, tenants' associations and other organisations and individuals to

join us. There will be no 'fare' but we

appeal to organisations to sponsor the

tour at a cost of £1. Also donations

welcome. Phone Dave Love 01-450

6992) by Friday 11 November to let us

know how many seats you need.

Holiday Hall, Monsanto.

And she personally called the police to clear pickets away from the gate at the start of the sit-in. Most of the senior shop stewards support her.

The leadership of the other unions is just as grim. Bill McCloughlin is full-time divisional organiser of the Engineers' Union (AUEW). He used to have a reputation in North London as a good left-wing socialist. He is still a member of the Communist Party.

Yet he told a mass meeting of those sitting-in: 'No small group of workers is going to overthrow the 12-month rule.

The dispute began a month ago when 106 assembly line workers started a work-to-rule for 121/2p on the bonus rate. Bonuses were so

DISPUTE Most of these workers are

pay was lost.

women. They are having the time of their lives. They are feeling that they are in control. They treat management, full-time union officials and the senior stewards with utter contempt.

bad that during the go-slow only £2

workers that they were breaking

their own contracts. This provoked

the sit-in. But it also provoked the

500 remaining pieceworkers to join

Management warned the

They have just elected a new dispute committee, in direct challenge to the old Works' Committee. A Socialist Workers Party member at the factory started work at the factory said: 'It's just amazing. I've never seen anything like it.

FORCE

'I thought the full-time union officials would force the workers back. But they were just ignored. The sense of collective feeling is overcoming everyone's fears and doubts.

'I've never seen such enthusiasn in all my life.'

Donations and messages of support to: Smiths MA1 Dispute Committee, c/o T Lutterbuck, 295 Sheepcot Lane, Leavesden, Watford, Herts.

Asians

BARKING, Essex: Most of the Transport and General Workers Union members on both shifts at William Warnes have been out on strike for a week. The workers, mainly Asian, do an average 50 hours a week making industrial rubber products—but there is no extra payment for overtime or night work.

Although the strike is still unofficial, lorries are turning back at the picket line. Pickets expect those still working inside the plant will soon be

Hercules strikers win extra

A HUNDRED and fifty workers at the three Hercules Powder Company food additives plants in South East London and Manchester have returned to work after a short strike for more

Management had offered shop floor workers 11 per cent and staff 121/2 per cent. The shop floor demanded 121/2 per cent plus consolidation of their Phase 1 and 2 increases. In a factory where most of the workforce are on shifts or a seven-day cycle, this could mean rises of up to £20 a week.

The workers walked out last Tuesday. On Friday, management caved in and coughed up the extra money.

Bloxwich women fight for the union

TWO NEW 'Grunwick' strikes are looming in the West Midlands town of Bloxwich.

At Gormans ten women who joined the Transport and rest are determined to stick it General Workers' Union were sacked after they had tried to encourage others to join the

One of the pickets said:

'The majority of us who were sacked by Patrick Gorman had been with him the longest, almost since he had started in the scratchings business (bits of fried pork rind eaten in pubs). We worked for him under conditions no one else would have stood

'More often than not wehave no heating facilities, if we complain he'd say "work harder and you won't feel it."! Very often we'd have to wait for scratchings to come down from the Number One factory, sometimes waiting up to two hours, but he wouldn't pay us any day work for this waiting time. He also stopped money out of our wages for waste on the floor, in one instance he stopped £1.

At Tunnicliff 18 women joined the General and Municipal Workers Union and went on strike for recognition. The company offered

them £11.60 a week to go back and forget the union. Five accepted the offer but they have been only given £2. The out. The women are paid £21 (top rate) for a 40 hour week. One of the women said:

'In 1974 the boss promised us a canteen and we are still waiting. We do not get the full amount of holidays to which we are entitled. He didn't even give us jubilee day! We were only given the day after asking twice. Accidents are not recorded in the accident book.

'At Christmas we are not

the same amount for the 40hour week. Holiday pay is not paid holiday rate, so those on piece work were paid day work money, which is not nearly enough (as you can see even dogs have to live!)'

Basic

allowed to go for a drink or have a Christmas party or bring drink on the premises! It we do we are threatened with the sack. Some girls were paid a basic rate and others not paid a rate at all. The machines in use are not up to safety measures and are dangerous.

'17 to 23-year-olds get paid

BRIEF

by Bryan Rees, SCPS, 100,000 members of the civil servants union, SCPS, went on strike for half a day on Tuesday. In Swansea a mass meeting of 500 called on the government to revise the Civil Service National Pay Agreement.

If it is not revised the Society is mandated by its conference to submit a minimum pay claim of 20 per cent from April 1978.

The strike affected immigration, ports, customs and excise, employment offices, ministry of defence, courts, vehicle licensing.

by Paul Stevens, Department of Trade & Industry THE AIR traffic control assistants' eight week strike was ended by a vote of 315 to 238 to accept the Civil

Aviation Authority's offer. The Strike Committee had only agreed to put the offer to the members after four hours of argument from their fulltime officer, John

Macreadie, Even so, five out of the 11 strike committee members rejected the offer. The CAA can now go forward with their plans to drastically reduce staff numbers with the full support of the Civil and Public Services Association.

WE ARE going to turn this into a Sheffield Grunwicks if we have to-that's what the strikers at James Engineering in Sheffield are now saying.

Eight weeks ago 23 union members were sacked and the strike began.

On Tuesday pickets were grabbed by the management and held down so that they could not talk to a **BOC** lorry driver crossing their picket line.

Police refused to act afterwards, saying that they could only do something if one of the pickets had a black eye

Mass pickets continue this Thursday at 7.30am. Support has been promised from the massive Firth Brown steelworks.

☐ Messages of support and donations to: Boilermakers and AUEW Strike Committee, Ian Broadbent, 47 Conniston Road, Sheffield 8.

AINTREE: Courtaulds are threatening to close the plant at a cost of 1200 jobs. Only last November they enforced wholesale closures throughout the country, including throwing 1100 workers on the dole in nearby Skelmersdale.

It was at that time when they applied to the government for a Temporary Employment Subsidy to 'tide them over at Aintree for 12 months.

Yet, 12 months later, they are again holding the government to ransom to get an extension of the TES

WED BEBETTER OFF ON THE DOLE!

COLCHESTER: Dozens of shop stewards twice stormed management's offices last week as anger erupted over the poverty-line wages paid by one of Britain's most profitable firms.

And on Monday hundreds of workers at the GEC Ruston Paxman works in Colchester walked out.

Over the last month they had already staged walk outs to take the gloss off management beanos—one of them the presentation of the Queen's Award for Industry.

GEC made £277 million profit last year. But wages at Paxman's are so low that, according to Shop Stewards Chairman Ted Pomroy, one in three skilled engineers is either eligible for supplementary benefit or already claiming it.

The average rate for a skilled engineer is £56.28. After stoppages, a married man with two children takes home less than £44—low enough to qualify for government handouts.

Ted Pomroy spelled it out: 'We pay, for those supplementary benefits in tax. And then, because our wages are so low, we get them back.'

'Our wages once used to be a target for workers in other local firms. Now they're way behind.

'We've tried getting together with the management to sort it out but they won't budge.

'Last week we had some strikers down from Kelvin Motors in Glasgow. They thought their pay, £62 a week, was the lowest in the GEC Diesel Group.

'Then they saw our wage slips. "What an embarrassment," they said.

'There's only one way to treat these GEC bleeders: get together throughout the Diesel Group—and then attack.

'47 stewards stormed the management block here last Wednesday and demanded that they should meet us over pay.

'They met us on Thursday. It was another waste of time, just an exercise to keep us quiet. So we stormed

the offices again on Friday. They tried to lock the door but three stewards

forced it open. 'The minimum increase satisfactory to the shopfloor is £15. But even that would leave us £13 below average for skilled engineers.

'I'll tell you how bad the wages are. We've got skilled men leaving to go on the dole—what a bloody

'You're just a number on a clock card at GEC. Let me give you an example.

'If a person is off sick for too long, even if he's got a medical certificate, he gets a warning.

'There was a man who worked a crane above where they did the shotblasting. It's a filthy joke.

'In two years or so, he had a couple of spells off sick with chest trouble, about three months and then about 20 weeks, I think it was.

'They gave him notice to quit. 42 years he'd worked there, 42. You'd have thought they'd have fitted him in somewhere, a big firm like GEC.

'So now the poor bugger can't get a job anywhere. He's about 60 and no-one will have

'We win a sick pay agreement and then they come in with that sort of nonsense. What can you do with a firm like that? The only answer is to nationalise it.'

Dockers save jobs

by EDDIE PREVOST, TGWU shop steward, London Royal Docks.

THE Port of London Authority tried and failed to reduce manning in gangs in London's Royal Docks last

Their attempt was met by an immediate stoppage by all men employed by the PLA. The next day the PLA backed down.

Recently the PLA has been paying men £1500 to transfer to Tilbury Docks, or £350 to go to West Ham. This in spite of protests from the shop

stewards. We have defeated this attempt to cut the number of men in a gang on the first round. But there will be more coming. It is part of a concerted attempt by managements everywhere to

break shop floor organisation. That is why the Royal Docks shop stewards committee is sending a delegation to the Rank and File Conference in Manchester on 26 November. Join us there.

crash by Peter Bain, Chairman TGWU shop stewards. Chrysler Linwood RONNIE DRYSDALE, an EETPU shop steward at Chrysler Linwood was killed in a car accident on Friday 4 November. Ronnie had been an active trade unionists for several years before working

Chrysler

steward

killed

at Linwood where he soon became a shop steward and a member of his union's negotiating committee. Shortly after the forma-

tion of the IS factory branch he joined our organisation, and was our first member from the town of Linwood itself.

In the years since then Ronnie has been fully involved in both the town and the factory and was delighted at the advances the SWP had made.

Many workers have talents which they never get the chance to express. In his teens Ronnie had gone to evening classes in the Glasgow School of Art, in order to pursue his desire to paint.

He developed as a cartoonist and regularly contributed to Contact, the rank and file electricians' paper. and to our own SWP factory bulletin.

Despite the pressures of working in a car factory of shift work, and of the many bitter struggles in the plant over the last few years, Ronnie never bent. He managed to retain his commitment sense of humour. and a gentleness that was a million miles from meekness.

Ronnie's death at the age of 30 is a tragedy for his family, his wife and two children. Only those who knew him can appreciate how great a loss it is for the socialist movement, but the struggle of the oppressed and the exploited goes on.

Ronnie didn't live to see that socialist society in which working people everywhere could for the first time fully develop whatever talent they possess. Son of a Clydeside socialist household, he em-

bodied all that was best in the tradition. His death can only make the rest of us strive to attain that socialist society.

SACKED AND EVICTED-BY LONRHO

by John Bruce, GMWU Metropole Hotel Strike Committee

DESPITE arrests and sacking notices the strike at the London Metropole continues. The strike for a minimum wage of £50 at the London Metropole Hotel has now entered its fifth week.

Along with all the other strikers, Sadie Levis (featured in last week's Socialist Worker) has been sent a letter by the management to return by Friday or be sacked, and in Sadie's case thrown out of the staff hostel.

Threat

This threat has only made the remaining strikers more determined to continue the fight and put pressure on the union officials who sold them out. Centre Hotels, who have a similar claim in, have been offered a derisory 131/2 per cent (present minimum wage £32.50) and Rank Hotels after weeks of talks have been given an ultimatum that the company's final offer is 10 per cent (present minimum wage £36.50).

So far despite the claim for £50 being in since August Grand Metropolitian Hotels, the union (General and Municipal Workers Union), and management have still not had talks on the claim.

Slave

It is clear that the bosses of this low paid industry think that with the help of tame GMWU officials they can continue to operate with slave labour rates.

The fight at the London Metropole Hotel must be continued and spread to other hotels. A lot of strikers have been driven back to work because of financial hardship. Support the strike by sending

contributions to the Strike Fund and support the daily picket and the mass picket on



Friday 11 November, 6 to 11pm outside the hotel.

□ Donations to: Strike Treasurer, 98 Fordwich Road, London NW2. The **London Metropole Hotel is** just off the Edgware Road at the junction with Praed Street by the Harrow Road flyover, nearest station Edgware Road tube Bakerloo Line.

*All SWP members in Central, West, and North West London must support the mass picket.

VICTORY!

SOUTH EAST LONDON: At the Francis factory, in Lewisham, a particularly obnoxious foreman had been complaining about the volume of a transistor radio in the workers' rest-room. When they refused to turn it down, removed the radio.

The shop stewards demanded a written apology from the foreman. When this was refused, 500 members of the General and Municipal Workers Union walked out. After two days, they got their apology.

Chrysler: future in doubt

LAST MONDAY the threeweek lockout at Chrysler ended but as far as the 7,000 workforce are concerned nothing is solved. Chrysler's future plans are still very much in doubt.

The return to work settlement, cooked up by national fulltime officials, and senior Chrysler management was done behind the backs of the Linwood shop stewards

It represents a serious setback, for the militant wellorganised Linwood factory.

Throughout this companyprovoked dispute Socialist Workers Party members and supporters, along with other shop stewards, argued that the company out to destroy

by Chrysler Linwood SWP branch

shopfloor organisation at the factory, and if that fails then they'll have no qualms about pulling out of Linwood and throwing 7,000 workers on the dole.

The majority of senior stewards have failed to understand the implications of this dispute. That explains why, despite initial enthusiasm for a fight at a big mass meeting, the stewards played it low key and backed off from taking on the com-

pany. Chrysler management, aid-

ed by national union fulltimers, have succeeded in opening the door to further attacks on conditions. The Joint Shop Stewards have been pressurised into accepting a document agreed and signed by those national fulltime officials before the shop stewards themselves were properly consulted.

The document includes proposals for the setting up of a working party to investigate any problems raised by the company and to make recommendations to the

workers concerned.

The decisions of this working party will be binding.

In addition the Conciliation and Arbitration Service will act as 'an independent monitoring body to ensure that satisfactory progress is being made'.

For the first time an outside. agency will have some say in how working conditions at Linwood will be determined.

At last management have been given the green light to go on the offensive and unless rank and file shop stewards organise in their sections the company could run amol..

The long-term future of Linwood is certainly in goubt.

Stop the bus!

READING: Bus crews and maintenance workers at Alder Valley's Bracknell depot have been on strike for a week after a driver refused to take out a bus which was too noisy and 100 members of the Transport Union walked out in support.

The TGWU branch secretary, Sam Hosgood, says half the buses should not be on the road because they are either in poor mechanical condition or unsafe for passengers and crew. The noisy bus exceeded the acceptable decibel level of noise.

The bus workers believe penny-pinching by the Alder Valley bus management is putting defective vehicles on the road

ting strike pay. Donations and

messages of support are essential. Send to Sam Hosgood, 36 King's Road, Reading, Berks.

The workers are not get-

2832 \$333 x, 43 223 123 124 43 74 15



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.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

10P

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!