

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10P

INSIDE

- Just a routine fire call
—PAGE TWO
- The ministers who gamble with our lives
—PAGE THREE
- How we can win—by the firemen
—PAGE FOUR
- The strike-breakers' government
—PAGE FIVE

PAY THE FIREMEN



Get the troops out! Save lives!

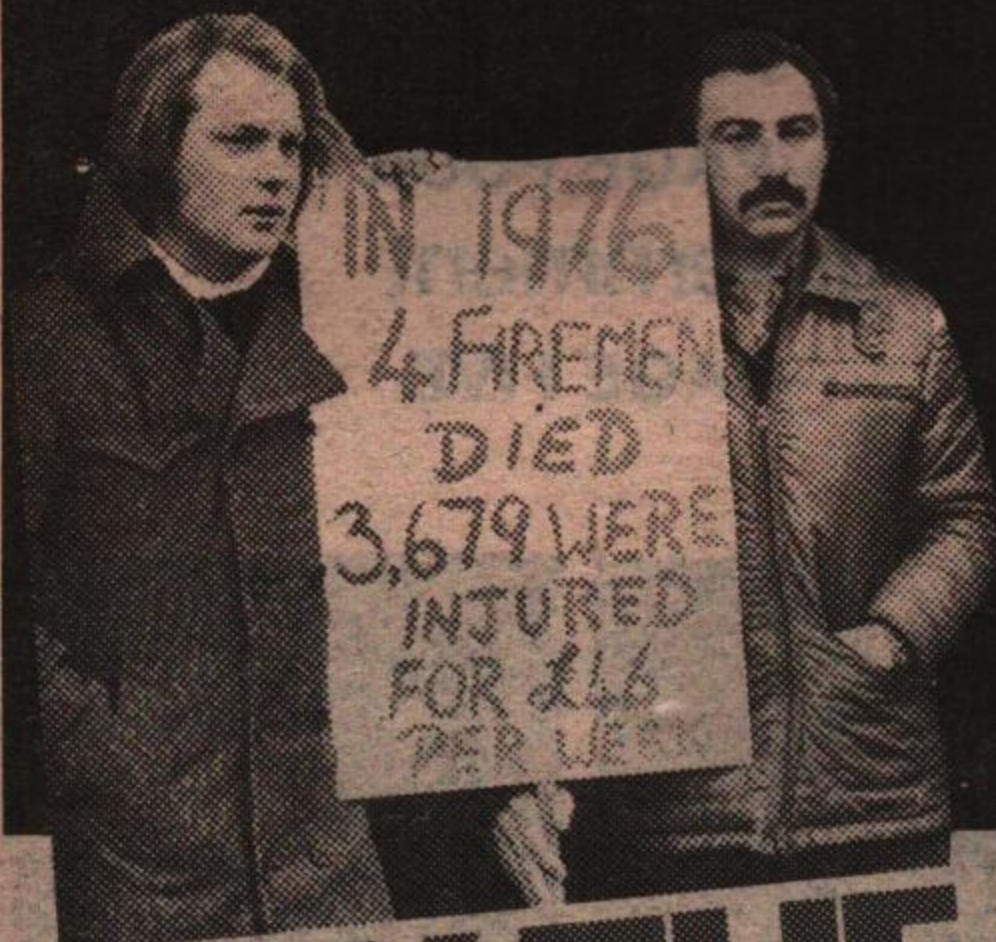
A ROUTINE FIRE CALL . . . ONE OF 300 EVERY DAY



Three nights before the strike begins, Battersea firemen respond to a routine call . . .



And rush to a fire on the 14th floor of a tower block . . .



PAY THE FIREMEN

The firemen state their case

THREE INQUIRIES LATER . . .

Why they have to go on strike

IN 1969, the HOLROYD REPORT agreed with the Fire Brigades Union that firemen should be treated as highly-trained, highly-skilled workers, and paid accordingly.

So the government set up the CUNNINGHAM REPORT, which set out a scale of pay for firemen and recommended that their pay should continue to rise as technology and fire-fighting equipment changed.

In line with Cunningham, the employers granted a rise in 1971 which brought the average fireman's weekly pay to £38—or £3 over the average male industrial wage for that time.

The firemen thought they were at last on the road to a scale of pay which would keep their wages rising year by year and keep their wage rates above the average.

But then came the Tory pay freeze of 1972 and 1973. This pegged the firemen to percentage increases. Since firemen get no overtime, there was no way to push up their average.

Pegged

When the Tory government was chucked out, the firemen started talks again. The talks produced another interim report. Then, just as they got round the table again, the Labour government brought in its pay freeze, and the firemen were pegged for two years to £6 and 4 per cent.

Earlier this year the union and the employers agreed to another report—on the basis for paying firemen after the pay pause.

The MCCARTHY REPORT supported the firemen's case. It made it clear that the firemen's job couldn't be compared with other peoples' jobs, but that a comparison should be made 'with the generality of jobs in the community'.

Now, the government has intervened in the pay policy once more and ordered the employers not to grant a penny over the 10 per cent.

ONCE we went to a children's home where this four-year-old had set fire to four piles of paper and then put plastic on.

There were no windows in the room, so it was full of black smoke. I went in first with a hose but without a breathing kit. Then the blokes behind me had breathing gear and they tapped me on the shoulder to turn round and get out.

I couldn't see anything, but I turned and then I hit a solid object. It was the wall. In those situations you can't see, or hear, all your senses have gone. The smell of burnt plastic is really acrid, it burns up the back of your throat. I just stood there

by JIM FITZPATRICK
Battersea Fire Station

pushing the wall, and then I remembered my training and carried on turning and found the door.

And that was a small fire in one room. The worst thing that ever happened to me was a fire up the road at a prefab. We got the call and it was just 600 yards up the road. We must have been there in 45 seconds.

There was a young woman outside screaming 'My baby's in there.' Two of us had on the breathing kit and went in.

She was shouting that he was in the back bedroom. We went in through the front room—it had already been burnt to a wreck.

There was thick black smoke coming from the back bedroom. We found the kid on his cot, in the corner—what was left of him. There was just three little stumps sticking up in the air. It was like a black plastic model.

Atmosphere

When we came outside they'd taken the mother away in an ambulance.

Most firemen live only an average six years after retiring after 30 years service at around 50 or so.

To become a fireman I had three months' full-time training.

We had to go on an all-out strike. The employers have left us no choice.

Last year we went on to emergency duty only. It went on for four months. By the end of it about half the machines in London were no longer working because they'd broken down.

All the employers did was to say it showed we were over-manned. They've left us no choice.

More

I get 98p an hour—and that's after three and a half years. It's around £47 I take home for a 48-hour week.

The cooks and cleaners in the station house get more than us. In another six months I'll go from 98p an hour to £1.09. And what I get includes London Weighting and a travel allowance.

Blokes in the provinces get up to a tenner a week less. I don't know how a married man can survive on that.

I started this job because the ads looked good on television. But now I'd never leave it. You do get a fantastic satisfaction from it. But that doesn't mean I think anyone should be expected to put up with the sort of wages we get.



Placards on a firemen's picket line on Monday

'We were forced to this'

FIREMEN at Darnall Fire Station, Sheffield, told Socialist Worker:

'The government has forced us into this strike. They set up the McCarthy inquiry into our wages, but now won't accept its findings.

'All it gives us is the average industrial wage plus 10 per cent. When you think of the dangers of the job, the 48 hours a week we work, plus weekends and shifts, it's hardly greedy.

'Blokes are leaving the job, it's so badly paid. We had a bloke leave after eight years'

service. He went to read gas meters. He got a shorter working week, with no shifts—and a pay rise.

'If the government won't give us more than 10 per cent, then perhaps they might arrange for a 20 per cent discount on all the items we buy, because otherwise we can't afford our bills.'

'In the past fortnight we have had five injuries in Sheffield. I myself have been scorched about 12 times. I've broken a finger, been hit on the head from a collapsing roof and had a roof collapse on me.'

STATION OFFICER Tom Hansen has worked as a fireman for 17 years. He is at Bethnal Green Fire Station, in East London.

'We've been trying to get decent wages ever since I remember, and every single time, yes, every single time we're on the verge of fighting, we're told to go back and search our consciences.'

'I remember 1963, when we were nearly out on strike—and 1968

'We've looked at our consciences long and hard. I suppose one day we'll die of hunger looking at them. Some time you have to do something about it. That's why we're here'.

ON SUNDAY THE ROOF FELL IN

THIS IS Fireman Mick George, of Kentish Town Fire Station in North London, pictured on Day One of the strike. He and some mates came off the picket line on Monday for a while to play in a charity darts match in the nearby Grafton Arms.

Mick George is thanking his lucky stars he lived to see Day One of the strike.

On the last shift before it began he and five other firemen were inside a blazing house in Camden Town making sure that anyone who needed rescuing got rescued. The roof fell in.

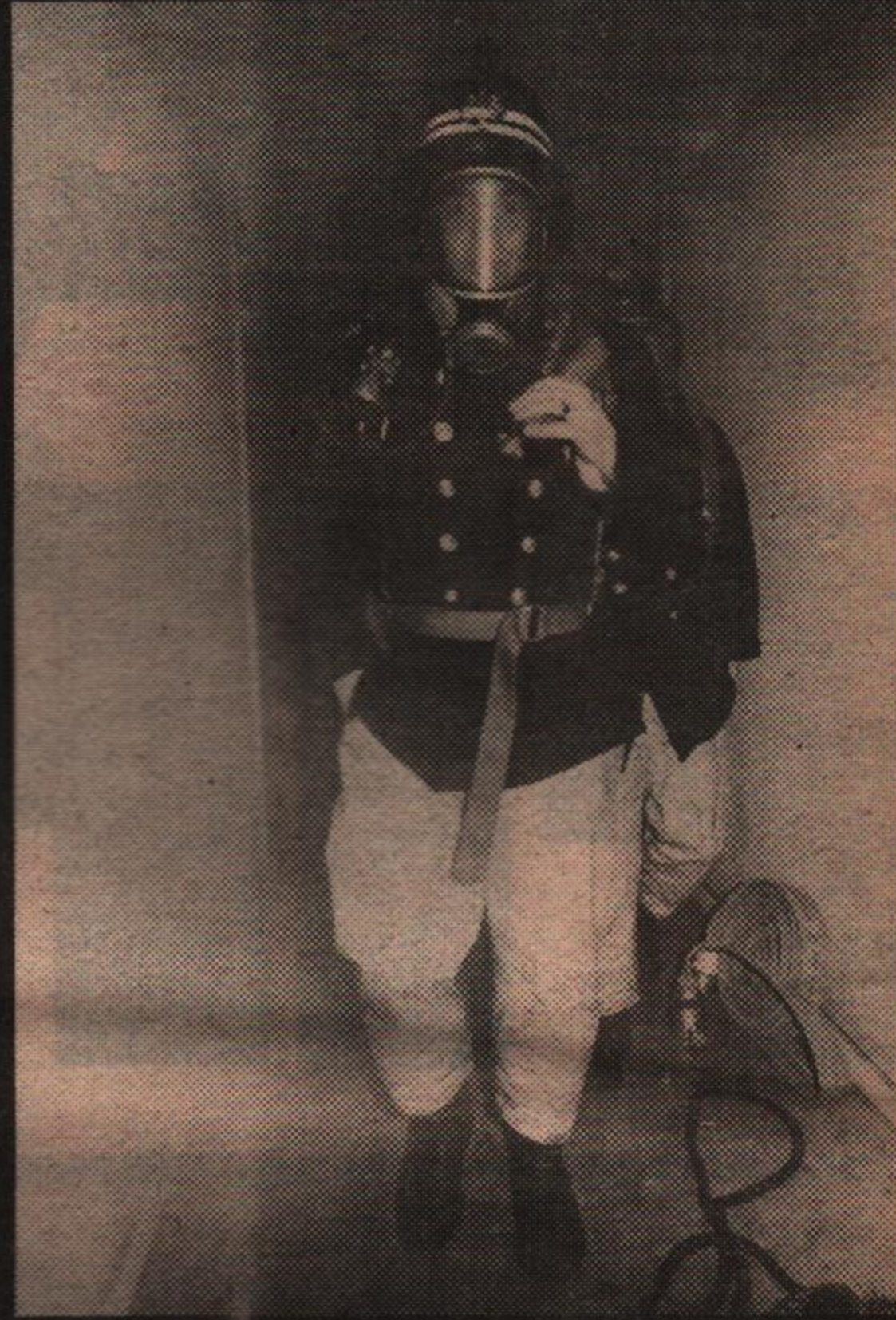
They got slates, burning wood and hot tar in their faces. But luckily they found a way out.

'I thought we had had it' Mick George told Socialist Worker. I really did.

'It was terrible. Yet it's the anxiety that firemen experience many times in their lives, anxiety that shortens our lives.'

Five of those six men were on picket duty on Monday. The sixth, Ken Wheatley from Euston Fire Station, wasn't. He got bad burns on his face and down the back and front of his body.

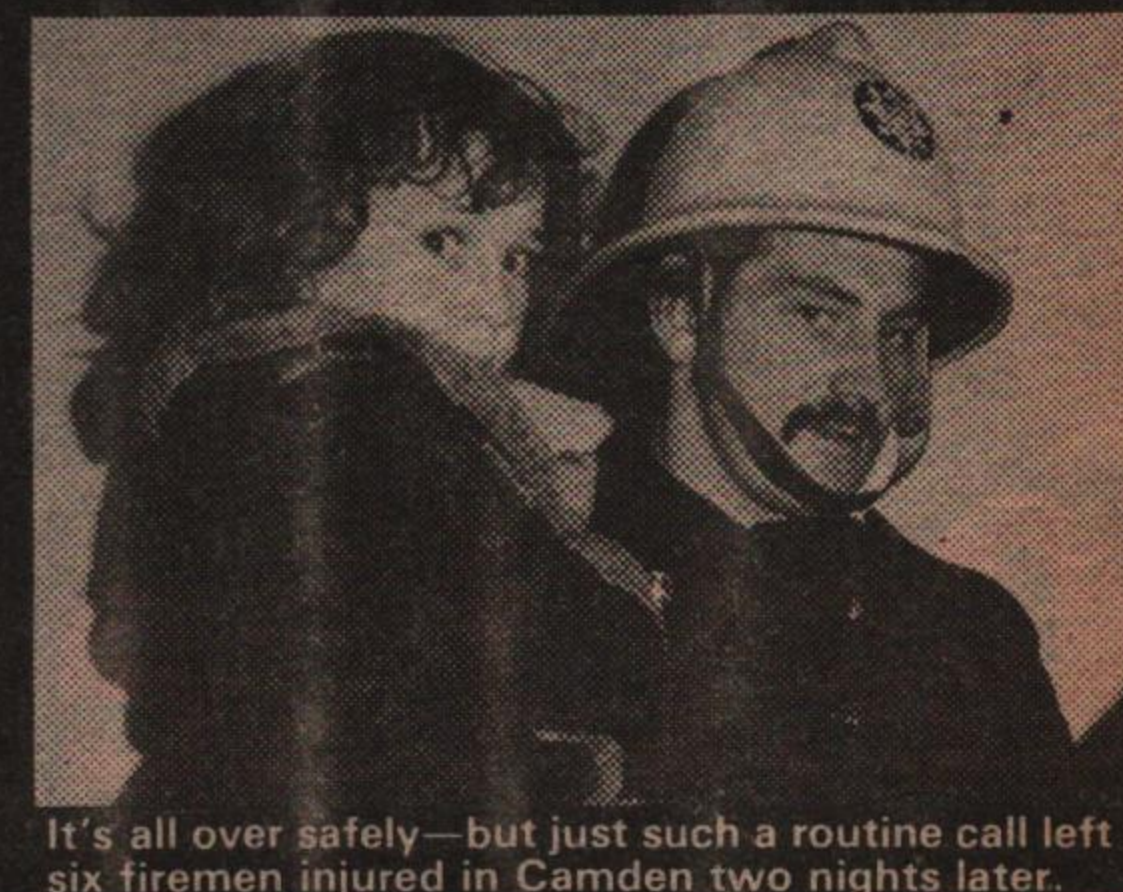
The Kentish Town firemen, like firemen everywhere, are more than a bit stunned by Home Secretary Merlyn Rees's statements that firemen don't care about human life.



They have to wear breathing apparatus . . .



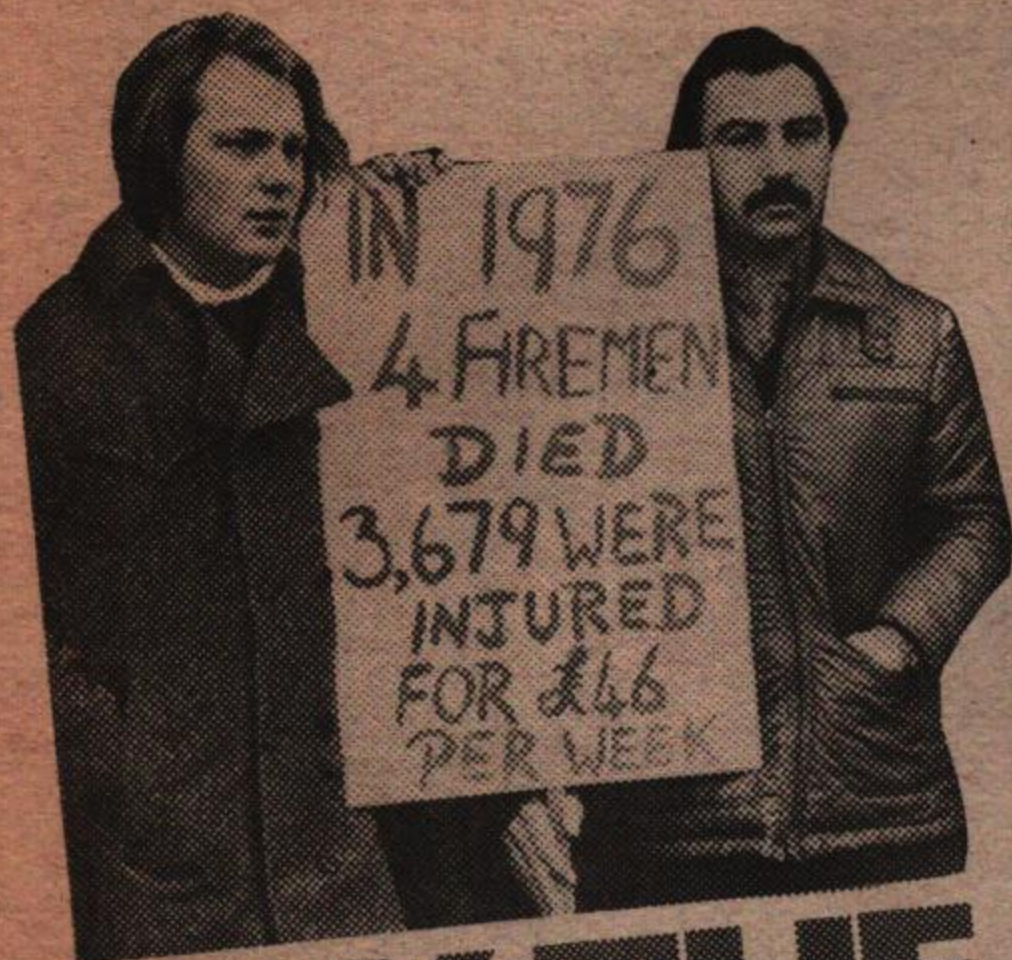
Because of the poisonous fumes given off by a burning mattress . . .



It's all over safely—but just such a routine call left six firemen injured in Camden two nights later.



Mick George



PAY THE FIREMEN

TROOPS 'AS LIKELY TO CAUSE HARM AS GOOD'

PETER GOBEN, of the South Yorkshire Brigade Committee, told Socialist Worker:

The troops are going to be completely ineffective. They're as much likely to injure themselves as put fires out.

Fighting fires today in a lot more involved than squirting water through a window. Furniture, and even televisions, are full of plastics which give off highly toxic fumes and often dense smoke.

We nearly always use breathing apparatus. As far as I'm aware the troops haven't been provided with any of that equipment.

TOXIC TV

That means if you get a room filled with smoke the troops won't be able to get in to find the actual fire.

They have no turntable ladders, so how will they reach fires over the first storey? They have no professional training, so how will they deal with a highly skilled job?

Not long ago there was a case of a television catching fire. A bucket of water was thrown on it, but the lady involved died from the toxic vapours given off.

Just imagine a school laboratory catching fire. Chemicals such as potassium, sodium and mercury are dangerous and without skilled personnel explosions or dangerous vapours will result.

DANGEROUS

These are some of the reasons why it takes four years for a fireman to qualify. The use of untrained personnel could be disastrous. It is more likely to cause harm than any good.

The Nottinghamshire fire chief has called for volunteers to help during the strike. If these are used to attend fires it will be highly dangerous to the people involved and to those they are trying to help.

FACT

EVEN when firemen aren't forced out on strike by government policy people die in fires. On average there are 14 deaths a week from fire.

In 1973 838 people were killed by fires in England and Wales, in 1974 the figure was 863, in 1975 there were 880 deaths.

For years the number of deaths among public and firemen has been rising. Why?

This government and their Tory predecessors have allowed the petro-chemical companies to market polyurethane foam for use in furniture.

When this combusts it gives off poisonous fumes. Deaths and serious injuries result.



Prime Minister James Callaghan at the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday. He is prepared to take any risks with our lives to break the firemen's strike. His 'justification' is that firemen and other workers must get no more than 10 per cent increases on their £50-a-week wages. Callaghan himself gets £500 a week.



On the left is Home Secretary Merlyn Rees, another man who's playing with your life. He too is prepared to sacrifice lives to keep the firemen on less than a living wage.

Picture: Phil McCowen

THE GUILTY MEN

Ministers gamble with our lives

YES, these are the guilty men.

THESE are the people who've driven the firemen to take strike action.

THESE are the people who've shown they're prepared to take any risk, no matter how big, to break a strike of some of the worst-paid workers in the country.

THESE are the people who must be held responsible for any deaths and injuries that result from the withdrawal of fire services.

They're hoping against hope that you won't see it that way. Indeed they're hoping they can cynically profit, from a serious fire or the tragedy of someone's death, to turn you against the firemen. Don't be fooled.

Home Secretary Merlyn Rees knows that he's gambling with people's lives. He may go on television and say that he cares about young children and old people and

how essential it is for public safety to use troops.

But in his heart he knows that the troops can't cope. He knows their equipment is old and defective.

He knows that he is involved in a crazy gamble which must result in tragedy.

If you doubt this just look at the state of the emergency force the government claims will protect us. The Green Goddesses you hear so much about would be better named Green Hopeless.

They have neither hydraulic platforms nor extending ladders. The highest they can reach in any house or office is the second floor.

As far as most people are concerned the government might as well rely on Dinky Toy fire engines.

Shabby Farce

One fact alone indicates what a con-trick it all is.

In 1973, Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath tried to break the Glasgow firemen's strike by sending 2000 soldiers into that one city alone. Now Merlyn Rees expects exactly the same number of soldiers to cover the whole of Scotland!

Not that the use of troops in 1973 was anything more than a shabby farce.

One Senior fire officer, Station Officer, John Faulds, described his reactions on BBC Radio One last weekend: 'I wrestled with my conscience for a long time and in the event I decided that I had to join the strike.'

'I did this because it became clear to me that the establishment were deliberately propagating a myth that the troops were giving people protection when they were doing nothing of the kind.'

The truth is that the Labour government cares about as much for human life as their Tory predecessors cared about the miners. They have closed hospitals, cut back on the ambulance service, they've even cut the Fire Service they now pretend to care so deeply about.

No fireman!

If they really cared about our safety, they'd pay the firemen.

On the picket lines this week, one fireman spoke for many when he said: 'If we don't get this pay rise, we won't be able to afford to do this job. If we don't get a decent wage, the country soon won't have a fire service.'

Today the situation is so bad that on Clydeside, for instance, the fire brigade is 200 men short of staff—one in ten. As a result crucial emergency equipment could not be manned properly for months before the strike.

If anyone dies in a fire during this strike it won't be the fault of the firemen, who for years have sacrificed themselves and gone short out of a profound sense of social responsibility.

On the contrary any death certificates will have to be signed in the name of Merlyn Rees. As for cause of death, Rees should write: 'Incomes Policy'.

Four easy ways to pay the firemen

'THE COUNTRY COMES FIRST'. That's the Labour government slogan about the firemen.

They mean that 'the country' can't afford to pay the firemen—which is utter rubbish.

If all the firemen were paid an extra £20 a week tomorrow, it would cost £40 million a year. Here are some ways the government could raise the money.

1 CANCEL THE PAYMENT TO HAWKER SIDDELEY FOR THEIR BANKRUPT AIRCRAFT BUSINESS.

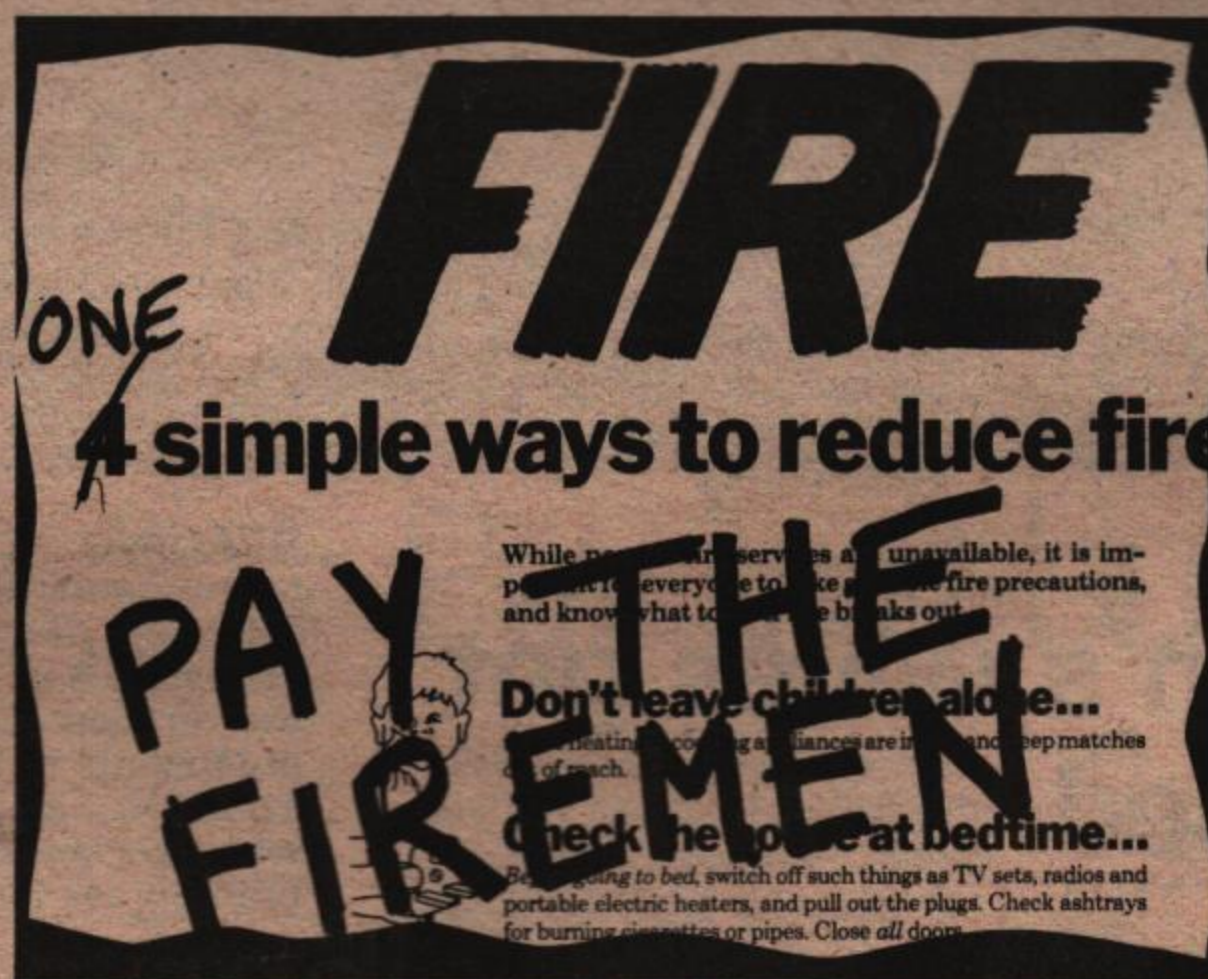
Earlier this year the government nationalised aircraft and shipbuilding. They are still working out how much compensation to pay to the private companies for their business.

But they have already paid £40 million to Hawker Siddeley in advance—because of a simple trick by the company.

The nationalisation Acts say that the government will pay companies immediately for any loans made by the companies to their aircraft subsidiaries.

So, shortly before nationalisation took effect, Hawker Siddeley loaned its aircraft subsidiary a cool £50 million.

So the government had to pay back the loan at once: £40



A slightly changed version of the advertisement which the government plastered all over the press this week.

million has been paid out already, in cash, on the nail, with no control whatever over what happens to it.

2 CONFISCATE THE DIVIDENDS OF THE FOUR BIG INSURANCE COMPANIES WITH PROFIT FROM FIRE COVER.

Four great insurance companies benefit from insuring

companies and houses against fire. These were the dividends they paid out to the shareholders of these companies this year.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: £10.7 million
EAGLE STAR £7.3 million
COMMERCIAL UNION £21.3 million
SUN ALLIANCE £8.8 million

The total comes to £48 million, well and enough to pay the firemen.

Last week General Acci-

dent, the country's biggest insurance company, announced profit figures up by a fantastic 89 per cent.

3 TAKE BACK THE PERKS WHICH LABOUR CHANCELLOR DENIS HEALEY GAVE TO THE RICH IN OCTOBER.

In his October 'give-away' budget, Denis Healey increased personal allowances on income tax. This was mainly heralded as a 'gift' to the poor. In fact, a lot of the money went to people who do not need it.

There are, for instance, 1,300,000 taxpayers who pay more than the standard rate of income tax—that is, they earn more than £150 a week). The total concession to these people comes to more than £60 million, enough to pay the firemen £30 a week!

4 CANCEL LAST WEEK'S GOVERNMENT STOCK ISSUE—AND THE INTEREST.

A new government 'stock' was issued last Friday. By this the government hopes to raise £600 million.

In the year up to next November, the government will pay back £60 million in interest to the people who buy this stock.

LEAFLETS HANDED OUT TO SOLDIERS

AFTER chatting with soldiers in Glasgow, some firemen have produced a leaflet for distribution to the troops.

Headed 'Some questions about the firemen's strike', it asks questions such as:

'Would it surprise you to learn that 340 firemen are seriously injured on duty every year, compared with 384 soldiers in Northern Ireland?

'Did you know that a fully qualified fireman, after four years, takes home £46.71 for a 48-hour week?

Have you heard that a fireman's real wage, taking in inflation, has fallen 20 per cent in the last four years?

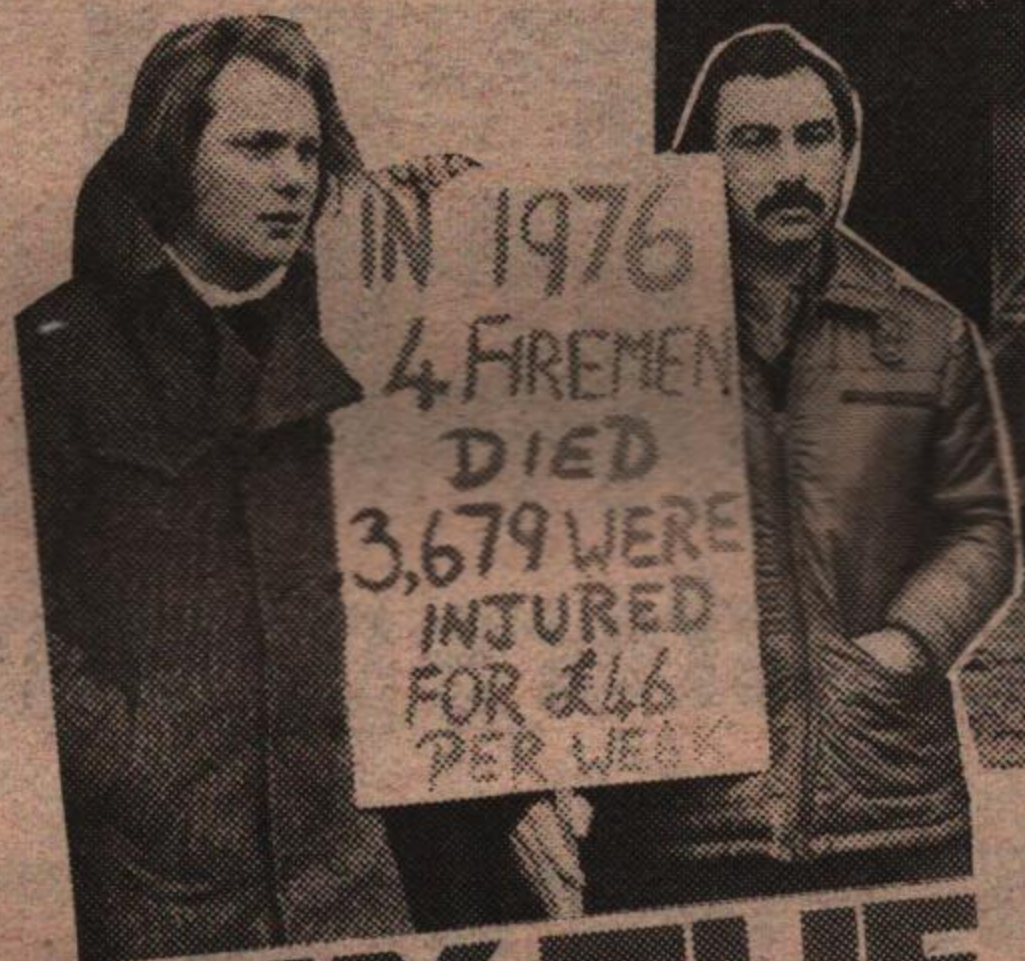
Do you remember in 1972, when the government refused wage increases, inflation still rocketed?



Could you pick two of the following who would be most likely to get their views across on TV and in the papers? a) Merlyn Rees, b) A punter, c) A fireman, d) A fire insurance company e) An ordinary soldier.

Do you realise that the majority of firemen would support higher wages for soldiers, and for that matter for every underpaid worker?

After reading this do you think it would be in the public interest a) For the government to continue using you to do firemen's work? b) Settle with the firemen?



PAY THE FIREMEN



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

How we can win this strike—by firemen

Warnings ignored

INSTRUCTIONS to pickets from FBU headquarters last week warned the firemen 'to keep radical factions from infiltrating the picket line to cause trouble (remember the Grunwick trouble).'

Eddie Bassant, secretary of Enfield FBU, told Socialist Worker: 'The instruction was just silly. We want as much support as we can get on the picket line.'

'The men themselves are certainly welcoming anyone who turns up to give support. Even the full-time officials are saying the same. The instruction has already been forgotten.'

It's a hoot!

AT ENFIELD fire station they have a huge banner over the road which reads: 'Hoot your horn if you're with us.' Says fireman Eddie Bassant: 'So far we've had one out of three hooting, and if you reckon on another one in three horns defective, we've got two-thirds of the public on our side!'

DUNDEE Fire Brigades Union calls on all trade unionists to support their demonstration this Saturday, 19 November. Assemble Blackness Road Fire Station, 10.45am, for march through city centre to a public meeting at the Marryat Hall.

CORRECTION

Last week's Socialist Worker stated mistakenly, because of a typing error, that most firemen take home less than £60 a week. This should have read 'less than £45 a week.'

THE MOST amazing aspect of the firemen's strike is that the Fire Brigades Union leadership is not even giving the impression of leading the strike.

It opposed the call for strike action at the special union conference in

Eastbourne last week.

Now it has issued advice on picketing which says *nothing* about how the strike can be won.

Instead it tells firemen to stand passively outside their stations, without uniforms on. There is no mention of such crucial things as visiting local factories to counter the press's lies or taking collections for a strike fund.

That is why Rank and File Fireman, the paper written by working firemen, is producing a

bulletin, Daily Strike News, with information about what's happening all over the country, and advice about picketing, winning public support, fund-raising and so on.

The bulletin is able to be produced because the Rank and File Centre has given its facilities to the firemen for however long the strike lasts.

The bulletin outlines how the strike can be won.

The main tasks of the next few days are:

1. To get a demonstration organised—calling upon other trade unionists to turn out with us.

2. To make sure all stations are actively campaigning for victory, distributing The Firemen's Case—a leaflet of which thousands were printed by Rank and File Fireman, raising collections for branch or brigade-strike fund, touring factories and offices explaining the firemen's case.

3. To spread the occupations of fire stations throughout the country—so as to make rank and file communication 100 per cent easier.'



Two firemen from Battersea, Kevin Attwell and Jim Fitzpatrick, using the facilities of the Rank and File Centre on Tuesday to produce the second issue of the Daily Strike News. Striking firemen should phone reports to 01-802 0978.

THE PERILS OF SCABBING ... from Tuesday's Daily Telegraph

'Part-time firemen at Waterlooville, Hants, defied the strike and turned out to a house fire yesterday. They had no trouble putting it out. But two of them were bitten by the family dog.'

Firemen's wives get organised

LEAFLETS addressed to firemen's wives and produced by Women's Voice, the SWP women's paper, have been an outstanding success. Thousands of the leaflets have been delivered and handed out at fire stations.

At the fire station in Manchester Square, Central London, one fireman told Anna Potrykus of Women's Voice: 'I don't know where you get your facts from, but this is all spot on.'

The most startling success was in Liverpool. Jenny Weaver, a fireman's wife who wrote the leaflet, has been busily organising scores of

NEWS FROM FIRE STATION PICKETS

THESE stories appeared in Tuesday's edition of Daily Strike News, the bulletin produced by Rank and File Fireman paper:

BIRMINGHAM:- NUPE workers in the Social Services blacked a request by the army for provisions like toilet rolls, ash trays etc to make their stay more pleasant.

Ward End FS visited Tractors and Transmissions, part of British Leyland; other firemen are to visit the Longbridge complex and speak to the East Works and West Works.

BANGOR:- Bangor Right to Work Campaign is organising collections through meetings and collections on local housing estates.

TOWER HAMLETS:- London: Gestetners of Aldgate stopped work because of lack of adequate fire cover. Firemen are speaking at an open meeting organised by NATFHE (the college lecturers union) at City and East London College.

MERSEYSIDE:- At Ellesmere Port Fire Station a driver stopped and put £1 into a picket's hand. Delegations are visiting the factories.

READING: A Strike Support Committee has been formed of local shop stewards and delegates to the Trades Council. It is organising a fund for the strikers and to give whatever kind of support the firemen ask for.

CARDIFF: The joint shop stewards' meeting of the Bakers' Union covering South Wales and Hereford took place on Sunday. It passed a motion of support for the firemen and took a collection.

PLUMSTEAD, London: Outside the station firemen are collecting petitions in support. Response so far is excellent. At St Nicholas Hospital the shop stewards have promised a weekly collection and firemen are due to speak to a meeting of nurses on Thursday.

In **BIRMINGHAM** FIREMEN ARE PICKETING St Georges Barracks, Kingstanding. In Chorlton, Manchester, the Territorial Army are being picketed. In Cardiff the barracks at Maundy were being picketed.

MANY Fire Stations were occupied on Monday. Among them are: Plumstead Fire Station, London; Battersea, London; Harlow; The five main stations in North Wales - a Gwynedd strike committee member said, 'The men are angry and determined to fight for the 30 per cent. Twenty four sit-in pickets will man the main fire stations at Holyhead and Bangor. This is what we've been pushed into by this Government.' Support is 100 per cent from full-time firemen in the Bangor, Colwyn Bay, Holyhead, Caernarvon and Llandudno stations. Crawley firemen are also occupying their station.

SOUTHWARK, London: FBU delegates warmly received by GPO sorting office. Going back to speak to both shifts on Tuesday.

CANLEY, Coventry, one fireman visited the Social Security to find out how much he was due. He has a wife who is pregnant and a young child. He was told that he would receive £2 more on the dole per week than he gets at work.

MONSANTO chemical plant near Cleveland has closed down production because of the fire risk and has put its 2,000 production workers onto maintenance.

□ Copies of THE FIREMAN'S CASE, produced by Rank and File Fireman paper, are available at 2p each from the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
□ Collection sheets for trade unionists to collect for their local fire station are also available from the same address.

THE CITY CAN BURN —BUT PEOPLE WE SAVE'

RONNIE ROBERTSON, vice-chairman of Strathclyde FBU Committee, told Socialist Worker:

'There is universal approval here for the action by firemen who helped put out the fire at the East London Hospital on Monday night. They responded as citizens not as firemen.'

'Of course we will help to save life. We are human. And we are not going to allow the press to turn the public against us.'

'A couple of the Glasgow lads made this clear on television last night. They said the city could burn to the ground as far as they were concerned, but they would help to save innocent lives.'

WOMEN'S VOICE

NOVEMBER ISSUE

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 Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

THE STRIKEBREAKERS'

GOVERNMENT

A NEW SPORT has gripped the imagination of right-wing political commentators: CALLAGHAN WORSHIP

Peregrine Worsthorpe, probably the most reactionary Tory newspaper columnist in the country, wrote in last week's Sunday Telegraph:

'If an Identikit picture were to be drawn up of the ideal leader needed to cope with a trade union confrontation then surely it would look the spitting image of Uncle Jim'.



Hugo Young, of the Sunday Times, was just as sonorous:

'Conservative businessmen, who do not want him to win, concede that Callaghan has many of the qualities they most admire: realism, unfancy ideas, a compromising spirit and reactionary social

opinions'.

At the Lord Mayor's banquet on Monday, the massed ranks of belching businessmen cheered Callaghan as one of their own.

But for hundreds of thousands of Labour Party supporters it's a time of deep distress and doubt.

They have stood by in dazed distraction while the government has carried through the economic policies of its Tory predecessors, cut back on jobs, production, hospitals and schools and the social services.

Many have accepted the argument—which Socialist Worker has consistently rebutted—that these measures were necessary to 'get the country straight'.

These people hoped that one day 'things would come right again' and

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

that Labour would be able to carry out the policies promised at the last election.



But now the government are hell-bent on a practice which turns the stomach of all decent trade unionists everywhere: STRIKEBREAKING.

Now they are waging deliberate

war on trade unionists who have never been on official strike before, and whose case for more money and better conditions is universally accepted, even in the Tory press.

Many good Labour supporters don't believe it. They ask: Are these really the same Labour Party leaders who said, in a statement in the 1971 postmen's strike: 'We are a hundred per cent behind the postmen'.

Can Wedgwood Benn, the man who marched with the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders workers in 1971 and who called for 'workers' control of all our industries'—can he be numbered amongst the strike-breakers?

Can this Industry Minister who calls out troops to break the firemen

be the same Eric Varley who at the time of the miner's strike in 1972 told the House of Commons: 'Those of us who have had the honour to be sent here to speak for the miners are speaking for Britain's workers tonight'.

Yes, these are the same men.

Each and every one are members of a government dedicated to solving the problems of British capitalism at the expense of workers such as the firemen.

Their occasional references to 'working-class' interests are no more serious—however much they may upset the Tory press—than their claim to be worried about the welfare of the public this week.



That is the lesson to be learnt as we throw all our solidarity behind the firemen, collecting money for them, taking them round our workplaces building Firemen's Support Committees of other trade unionists.

Only one thing will stop the Labour government attacking firemen and every other group of workers—the building of a powerful rank and file organisation.

And if you want socialism, not strike-breaking, you won't get it until we've built a new socialist party and broken completely with Callaghan's gang of scabs.

RIGHT: Troops ready with their strike-breaking fire engines at London's Chelsea barracks.

Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)



We NEED the rank and file - fireman

ANDY BEGG is a fireman at Castlemilk Fire Station in Scotland. He is delegated to the National Rank and File Conference in Manchester on Saturday week, 26 November.

'We can only be sure of winning if we get active support from trade unionists all over the country.

'Strathclyde pickets are already touring factories in the area.

'This sort of work needs to be done nationally. The Rank and File Conference will give us the support and strength of shop floor workers everywhere, without our having to rely on trade union executives and full-time officials.

'Firemen have the newspapers, the media, big business, against them. To win we need the rank and file.'

Another 70 trade union bodies have applied for credentials to the conference.

At the top of this week's list are shop stewards' committees from the Leyland Longbridge North Works, the North Manchester General Hospital, Keith Blackman's engineering works in London, George Angus AUEW shop stewards committee in Newcastle, the

Parsons Newcastle Joint Office Committee, Gateshead Boilermakers branch and ASLEF branches from Kings Cross and Wood Green in London.

The other union bodies to apply for credentials in the past week are:

GMWU Selby, 9/85 TGWU, CWT UPW York, NUPE United Sheffield Hospitals, Derby Trades Council, NUPE Social Services Birmingham, Storage and Haulage Ltd, TGWU, West Midlands Roadway TGWU, TGWU 5/156 Leicester and District Trades Council, Countesthorpe Upper School NUT, Blackwells TGWU (ACTSS) 5/833, ASTMS Manchester Health Service, Manchester DHSS CPSA,

Reddish USDAW, 6/27 TGWU, Manchester Local Government District Committee NUPE, Newcastle Trades Council, Sunderland NGA, Durham Colleges ASTMS, Brixton UCATT First, St Nicholas's Hospital NUPE, NALGO GLC, Greenwich Trades Council, Central London Medical astms, NUJ Incomes Data Services, TGWU/ACTSS 1/0524 London Area No 2 Committee, CPSA, Ealing No 1 AUEW, NATFHE City and East London College Pitfield Street, Hackney Trades Council, TGWU 1/373 Tottenham Bus Garage, Starcross School NUT, Holloway School NUT, Shelburne School NUT, Torrington Park School NUT, Haringey Trades Council, Hendon College of FE NATFHE, AUEW Cricklewood, Brentwood, MATSA, ASTMS Edinburgh Health Service, East Fortune Hospital COHSE East Lothian, Edinburgh CPSA.

Pay limit-buster they try to hide

THE newspapers blacked out the news that British Oxygen workers have smashed right through the 10 per cent pay limit.

That is why the convenor of the British Oxygen Hackney depot, in East London, John Walsh, has written a letter which is being circulated by the Rank and File Centre to

shop stewards' committees and trade union organisations throughout the country. Five thousand copies have gone out.

Workers on strike at Dunlops in Newcastle took the letter to management to prove that the government couldn't prevent them from offering more money.

The letter reads: The 'Social Contract' is finished for good. After a month of determined strike action we at BOC have succeeded in winning a real wage rise for the first time in nearly three years. British Oxygen management have agreed to:

1. A 12 per cent increase on the basic wage,
2. A £5 increase as a

bonus for 'past productivity', 3. Increased shift allowances—up to 15 per cent,

4. Consolidation of the £3 and 5 per cent of the last two years.

There will be no redundancies or changes in working hours. Despite what the press may say, this is not a productivity deal.

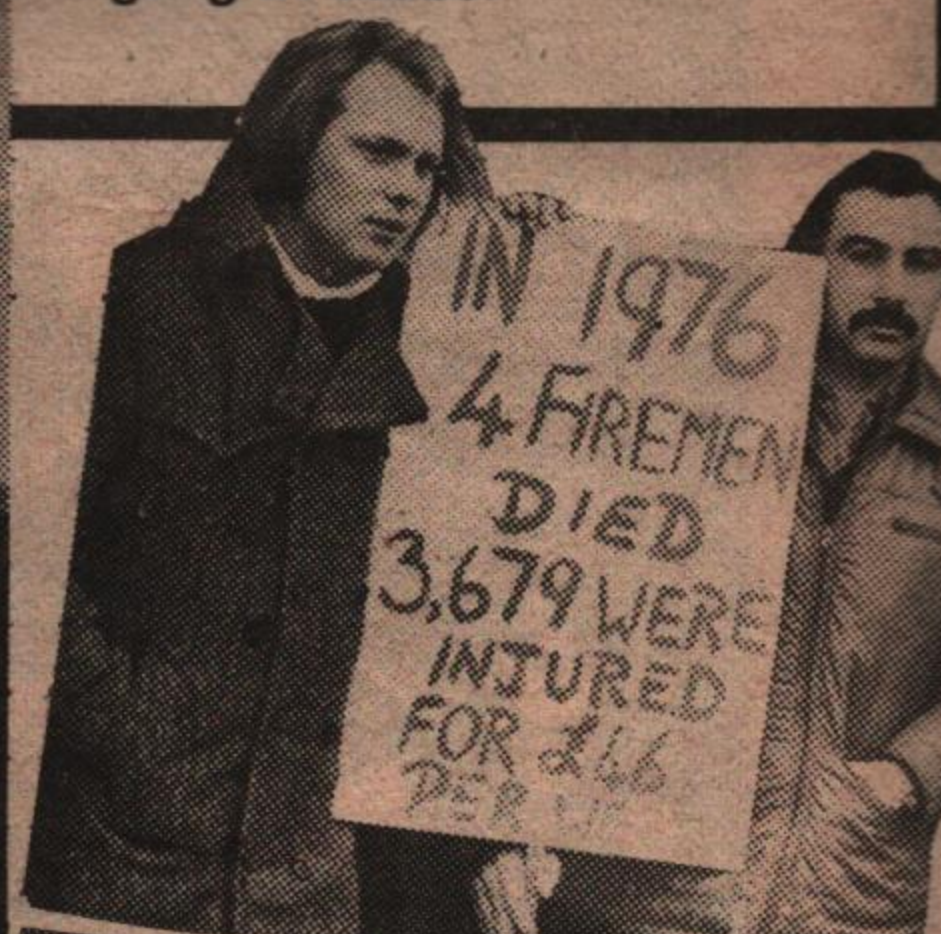
In cash terms this will bring us £15 weekly increases for all BOC employees. This is straight 25 per cent increase over previous wage levels. We have well and truly smashed the government's pay 'limits'. We have known from the beginning of our claim that there is no legal limit. A month's determined strike, well organised at the plant

level, has proved that a united workforce can win a serious rise.

We are not a 'special case'. Now it is the turn of the firemen, the powermen, the miners and others.

We need to spread the experience of those who have fought back over wages and won. There will be an excellent opportunity to do just that at the coming Rank and File Conference in Manchester. We urge all those who have been or will be taking on the pay 'policy' to send delegates to this important conference.

Yours fraternally, J Walsh, Convenor TGWU, British Oxygen Company, Hackney Depot.



PAY THE FIREMEN

INSTANT FIREMENS BENEFIT

Goldsmiths College
New Cross, SE13
Saturday 19 November
8pm/Bar
Bands and Disco

Organised by trade unionists supporting Firemens Cause

SUPPORT THE FIREMEN
THROW OUT THE WAGE CONTROLS
BUILD A RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

National Rank and File Conference
New Century Hall, Corporation Street,
Manchester

Saturday 26 November, 11.30am
Delegates invited from all trade union bodies.

Credentials 50p from
Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven
Sisters Road, London N4.
(Phone 01-802 0978)

Strength is victory

MOST ACCOUNTS of society's problems begin by taking for granted the existing ways in which people behave, the legal system the 'rights of property', the structures of the state, the influence of religion, the 'power' of individual personalities.

Marx, as we have seen in previous weeks, began a radically different approach. Not that he claimed, as some enemies of Marxism pretend, that none of these things mattered.

But he insisted they did not grow out of thin air. They arose as successive generations of 'real human individuals' tried to cope with the problem of

survival in a hostile world.

In order to cope they had to co-operate together, and out of this cooperation grew up established ways of behaving.

As Marx himself summed up his conclusions in 1857:

'In the social relations which men carry on they enter into definite relations that are indispensable and independent of their will; these relations of production correspond to a definite stage in the development of their material powers of production.'

'The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society — the real foundation on which rise legal and political superstructures and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness.'

'The mode of production in material

life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual processes of life.

'It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness.'

Survival

If this was all that Marxism said, it would not be a very revolutionary view. It would virtually justify the present order by saying that, although based on exploitation and backed up by absurd religious fairy stories, it was necessary for human survival. But Marx also recognised something else that was very important.

Ruling classes, together with the priests, generals, policemen and legal systems that backed them, all grew up

in the first place because without them civilisation could not develop.

But once they are established in power, they come to have an interest in hindering the further development of civilisation.

Their power is dependent upon their ability to force those who produced wealth to hand it over to them.

They become very wary of new ways of producing wealth, even if more efficient than the old, lest control escape from their hands.

They fear anything that could lead to the exploited masses developing initiative and independence. And they also fear the growth of new privileged groups with enough wealth to be able to pay for arms and armies of their own.

Beyond a certain point, instead of aiding the development of production, they began to hinder it.

For example, in the Chinese empire, the power of the ruling class rested upon its ownership of the land and its control over the canals and dams that were necessary for irrigation and to avoid floods.

This control laid the basis for a civilisation that lasted some 2000 years.

But at the end of this period production was not much more advanced than at the beginning—despite the flourishing of Chinese art, the discovery of printing and gunpowder, all at a time when Europe was struck in the Dark Ages.

The reason was that when new forms of production did begin to develop, it was in towns, through the initiative of merchants and craftsmen who were not under the thumb of the old ruling class in the same way that the peasants of the countryside were.

So periodically the imperial authorities took harsh measures to crush the growing economies of the towns, to drive production down, and to destroy the power of the new social classes.

Crude

Sometimes the outcome, as in China, was that new forms of production were prevented from emerging, and society remained more or less stagnant for very long periods of time.

Sometimes, as in the Roman empire, the inability of new forms of production to develop meant that eventually there was no longer enough wealth being produced to maintain society on its old basis.

Civilisation collapsed, the cities were destroyed and people reverted to a crude, barbaric, agricultural form of society.

Sometimes, a new class, based upon a new form of production, was able to organise to weaken and finally overthrow the old ruling class, together with its legal system, its armies, its ideology, its religion.

Then society could go forward.

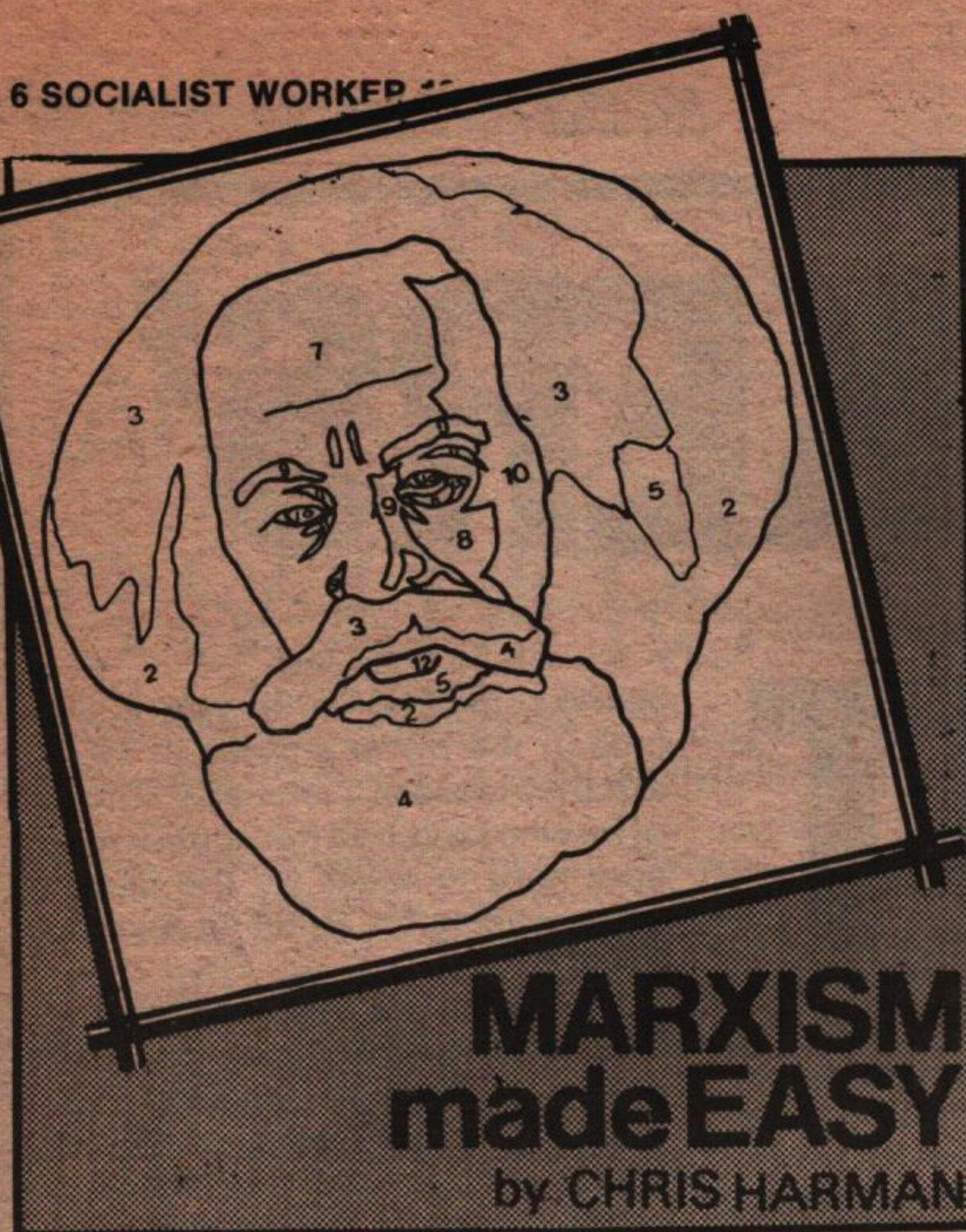
In each case whether society went forward or backwards depended on who won the war between the classes. And, as in any war, victory was not ordained in advance, but depended on the organisation, cohesion and leadership of the rival classes.

Socialist Worker

Socialist Worker
Editorial, London E2
9DS.

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

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



Be the pig of your dreams!

With the great Vladivar Capitalist Pig Competition.



LOOK WHAT YOU WIN! FIRST PRIZE:

FIRST: We'll give you a fabulous Capitalist Pig Outfit, comprising a Savile Row suit, silk shirt from Turnbull & Asser, shoes from Church's, umbrella by Swaine Adeney Brigg PLUS a Vladivar Pig Desk Calculator, Wallet and Briefcase. And a plastic pig's head to complete your appearance.

THEN: Once you're properly dressed, we'll give you a tour of the Stock Exchange, with the advice of one of England's top brokers and £250 to invest as you decide.

THEN: After a hard day with the bulls and the bears we'll stand you a restorative dinner for four at the Ritz.

(And your wholesaler/supplier will receive £100 to invest, as well).

2ND PRIZE:

£100 invested by you with the advice of one of England's top brokers, plus a Vladivar Capitalist Pig Desk Calculator to top up all share dividends.

25 3RD PRIZES:

A Vladivar Capitalist Pig Desk Calculator for you to reckon and relish all the profits you make selling Vladivar.

FIRST and SECOND prizes and supplier's prize to be presented at a sumptuous Pig's Breakfast at the Cafe Royal. All prizewinners to be announced in the trade press and the Competitors Journal.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO!

Simply place in order of importance the qualities you think most necessary to become a successful capitalist pig.

- 1) A sty in the country.
- 2) A snout for business.
- 3) A trotter in every business pie.
- 4) A known face in the world's finest troughs.
- 5) Spats.
- 6) A litter at Eton.

Then complete the following in no more than twenty words. I am uniquely qualified to make a pig of myself at Vladivar's expense because

Send this coupon to: A Porcer, G&J Greenall Ltd, P.O. Box 3, Causeway Distillery, Warrington, Cheshire. (Competition closes Jan 31st.)

This competition is open to all trade stockists of Vladivar. If you are not currently a stockist phone Alan Dixon at G&J Greenall on (0925) 50111.

Name _____

Address _____

Name of usual Vladivar wholesaler/supplier _____

VLADIVAR. Go on, make a pig of yourself.

FIFTH Column readers are invited to send in their nominees for Capitalist Pig of the Year—with reasons—to the makers of Vladivar Vodka.

Foxing with the racists

THE NATIONAL Front are allowed to use council facilities in Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Recently there has been some controversy in the local paper since the Front held a meeting and invited Dr Edward Fields of the American Ku Klux Klan to speak.

Among his words of wisdom were these: 'Negroes can mate with apes, say scientists.'

'In South London it is actually possible to smell immigrants from the street.'

And so he went on. At the end of his 'speech' this animal received a standing ovation from Front members. Publicity in the local papers was not favourable to the Front. It was suggested that it might be time for the council to ban them. Then the Community

Relations Officer Mr. Fred Fox, wrote a letter saying this:

'The National Front have the right if they so wish to form a political party. To coin a phrase 'I may not agree with what they do but I would defend their right to do it.'



TIGHTENING OUR BELTS: A bottle of wine 'one of the finest and rarest' clarets was sold for £8,300 at Christie's in London last week—to a mystery buyer from Washington.

EETPU LEADER, Frank Chappel's definition of a normal human being, in an interview on Radio 4, November 9, after the Yorkshire power workers' call for a national stoppage:

'These fellows are usually normal human beings in that they understand what's said to them by their trade union leaders.'

A Lesson in Democracy

JULIUS Gould's warnings on the threat to freedom and democracy in education are not to be taken lightly, as secret files that have come to light at North London Polytechnic reveal.

The files disclose a plot hatched by directors and governors to sack the liberal head of business studies. To carry out this plot, Director Terence Miller and cohorts subverted and distorted every academic and democratic procedure at NLP in their obsession with victimising Wycliffe Jenkins.

Miller and co are ruthless bullies who don't give a damn for freedom or democracy, that's why Miller went to the High

Courts to stop NLP students union publishing the documents.

Since 1971 Jenkins has been subject to harassment from Miller because he preferred to act by Academic Board decision rather than Miller's personal diktats.

Having failed to remove Jenkins by any of the formal procedures, Miller and co began to investigate different methods of sacking him.

Miller in a memo headed 'Method for dealing with Jenkins' advises 'Assume almost complete inability to co-operate as the root cause of Jenkins almost complete inability to co-operate with anyone or anybody in NLP.' He then suggests putting Jenkins on a MSC course, there would be no immediate proposal to sack him. 'This might come later if he (a) made an immediate commotion, or (b) failed the MSC (which is very likely).'

Oaf of the week

NURSE SALLY Thomas was driving her mini home one night when she went into the back of a Rolls Royce, parked outside a block of luxury flats in London's West End.

The repair bill for the Rolls, paid by her insurance company, was £3,000. But not content with this, the car's owner Eric Lewis, is suing Sally for a further £3,600—the amount it cost him to hire another Rolls while his own was being repaired.

Not that Lewis would have had to let it without his Rolls. Oh no. He also owns a huge American job for running about in.

He explained in the *Sunday Express*: My other car, an American one, is nice and big. But it is not a Rolls. 'I am connected with show business. I have visitors from abroad and as far as I am concerned, I need a Rolls-Royce. There is no point in discussing why I need it. It is enough that I say that I do. I don't tell other people what cars to drive.'



I'VE JUST had this dream. The firemen went on strike, there was a fire at the House Of Commons and it spread halfway down Whitehall. The firemen reckoned they'd made their point and were about to return to work—but public opinion forced them to stay out. The Guardian

NEVER AGAIN!

THIS is one of the posters now appearing all over Bournemouth East during the parliamentary by-election

Factsheets detailing the real views of the Nazi National Front, exposed by the words of its leaders, are being handed out throughout the town—25,000 of them.

In London, where the Nazis are trying to influence schoolkids, tens of thousands of leaflets are being circulated in schools warning that NF means No Future, No Freedom, No Fun.

The leaflets, fact sheets, posters, are the first effort of an organisation that held its first press conference last week, the Anti Nazi League.

Left-wing Labour MPs, left-wing trade union officials, revolutionary socialists and other anti-Nazis, including playwrights, actors and actresses, have all signed the founding statement.

The organising secretary is Paul Holborow. He told the founding press conference:

'We want firstly to inform as many people as possible what exactly the National Front stands for, and secondly to encourage them to take up actively the campaign against the Nazis.'

'We know they are organising in this way for next year's local elections—in London alone this year they won 119,000 votes and now they are trying to push their influence into schools. The Anti Nazi League has been set up to stop this.'

Our founding statement says: "In every town, in every factory, in every school, on every housing estate, wherever the Nazis attempt to organise, they must be countered".

PETER CLARK REPORTS ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE ANTI NAZI LEAGUE



LEFT: One of four hard-hitting posters produced this week. BELOW: The leaflet being handed out in the Bournemouth by-election—exposing the NF Nazis in their own words.

STOP THE NAZI NATIONAL FRONT!

Published by the Anti Nazi League c/o 9 Poland Street London W.1
Printed by Feb Edge Litho 3-4 The Oval London E2

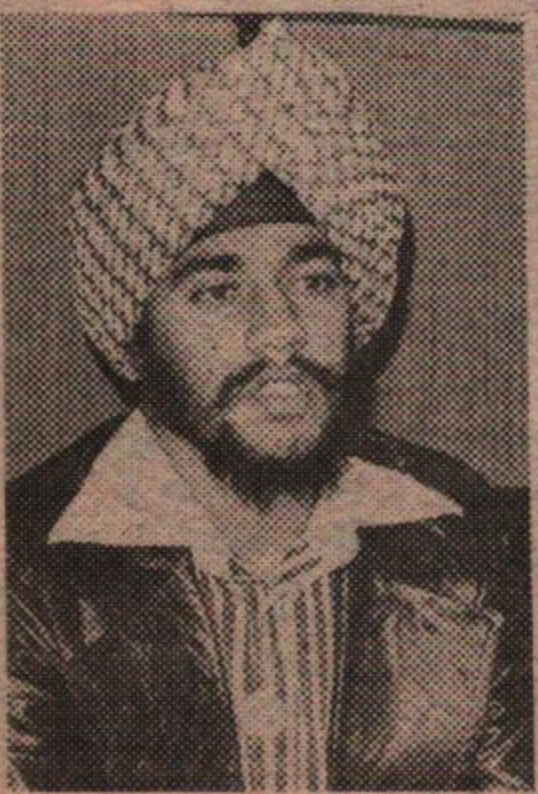
'All this will require a campaign on a massive scale. We have launched a £100,000 appeal that will pay for the millions of posters, stickers, and leaflets and the permanent office and staff that will be necessary.'

Ernie Roberts, former assistant general secretary of the engineering union (AUEW), continued: 'We are especially looking to the trade union and political organisation of the labour movement'

'Where anti-racist and anti-fascist committees already exist, we would want to work alongside them and help them as much as we can. Where such committees do not yet exist, we would like to assist in bringing people together who want to be involved in the campaign against the Nazis. Whatever organisational form, our most important task is to convince local people to work with us against the

Nazis.' The Socialist Workers Party is giving full support to the Anti Nazi League. No single organisation could begin to hand out 25,000 leaflets in Bournemouth alone. The resources of the Anti Nazi League will make it possible for propaganda against the Nazis to reach everyone in the country.

RANJI BHASIN (left), 18, spoke for ten school students at the press conference: 'Black youngsters can no longer visit discos or the cinema on a Friday night in some parts of London unless accompanied by white friends. If we are alone or with others of the same colour, we get mugged.' The Anti-Nazi league is bringing school students together to combat potential support for the Nazi publication, titled Bulldog, which the National Front



NF: No Future

Everybody who is about to leave school is worried about getting a job. The NF are trying to help us get jobs. They do not campaign in any way to help the unemployed. It is not our fault that there are no jobs. And the NF are the first to call an unemployed person a scrounger and lazy. And the policies of the NF lead to more unemployment, not less.

NF: No Fun
The NF don't like good music like Rock, Punk, Reggae and Soul. They want this music banned. They want all white discos, no black, Irish, Jewish, Cypriot, Turkish or Greek. All would be allowed in even Bob Marley would not.

NF: Nazi Front
The NF supports Hitler and the Nazis who murdered six million Jews in gas ovens in Germany thirty years ago. Anybody who disagreed with the Nazis, including many schoolkids, were put into torture camps where they suffered terribly and millions of them died. A leader of the NF has said:

'We are building a well-oiled Nazi machine in this country. The Nazis in Germany were led by thugs just like the NF today. John Lyall, Chairman of the NF has been sent to jail twice for building a private army, possessing offensive weapons and threatening behaviour. Martin Webster, another NF leader, has been jailed for physical assault. John Condell, who has just left the NF in disgust, has told of plans to bomb Asian Cinema, and many other acts of violence. This is what the NF really stands for. Don't be taken in by the Nazi National Front. They are distributing their poisonous leaflets in schools because they think they can manage to convince school students to turn to Hitler Youth Movement. This is what the NF Nazis are trying to do. But they are not going to get away with it. The Nazi NF means NO FUTURE NO FREEDOM NO FUN.

Don't be cowed by NF facts lies—Don't be taken in by the Nazis!

Anti Nazi League

Published by School Students Against the Nazis, together with the Anti Nazi League c/o 9 Poland Street London W1

The leaflet the Anti Nazi League has produced for schools

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Get your trade union organisation, shop stewards committee, students union, anti-racist committee, trades council, to sponsor the Anti Nazi League.
- Get donations to the £100,000 fund. Approach individuals, trade unionists, academics, sympathetic businessmen, to give money and personally sponsor the League.
- Order posters, leaflets, sponsorship forms now. Posters £1, plus 50p postage, for 30. Leaflets £2.50, plus 50p postage, for 1000.

WRITE TO: Anti Nazi League, 12/13 Little Newport Street, London WC2.



Present itself as a for democracy, order. Best ways to find of the National Front.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY DRIFTING TO THE RIGHT

AS DELEGATES assembled for the Communist Party Congress in London last weekend, the press was celebrating its success in turning near-lynch mobs against the power workers.

The government was preparing to move 12,000 troops in to deny the firemen a modest wage claim.

But this was hardly reflected at the Congress, though for 50 years the Communist Party has been the natural organisation of trade union activists to turn to when fed up with the disgusting strike-breaking activities of successive Labour governments.

An emergency resolution on the firemen's dispute was taken—after being amended by its movers to remove a reference to the recent pay increase given to the Queen. It condemned the government's actions—then urged 'maximum pressure on MPs and the government by telegram'.

Hardly the sort of fighting lead in solidarity with the firemen that many thousands of trade unionists are looking for.

Airbourne

The firemen's issue was just one example of what I found most remarkable about the entire proceeding. The discussion was completely up in the air, hardly ever making contact with the real world outside the meeting hall.

For the leadership of the Communist Party the answer to every problem seemed to be 'broad unity', leading to 'left advance' and an 'alternative government strategy'.

Now, 'broad unity' used to mean unity with specific named people, such as Jack Jones, leader of the transport workers union, Hugh Scanlon, of the engineering union, Lawrence Daly of the

miners, Energy Minister Anthony Wedgwood Benn. That was the way it was put at the last congress and the one before it.

The trouble this time was that Jones and Scanlon are fully backing the government in its attempts to hold back wages. Daly is manoeuvring with arch-right winger Joe Gormley to hold the miners in check, and Benn, a member of the cabinet committee concerned with enforcing the wage controls, was in the front line against the power workers.

Disaster

Rather than face these embarrassing facts, the delegates debated as if the real world was an afterthought. Unemployment and the cuts were disposed of in ten minutes out of a four-day agenda—as were the firemen. Not that controversy was absent.

Some 40 or 50 delegates argued vehemently against the new draft programme of the party, The British Road to Socialism. It was, they said, a reformist programme, a 'British Road to Disaster'.

Yet they avoided references to what was happening in the real world nearly as much as the leadership. To the leadership's talk of a 'broad democratic alliance', they merely countered an 'anti-monopoly alliance'.

For many of them, the key issue was not the strategy in Britain at all, but their horror at the leadership's criticisms of Russia and the East European

Report from the Communist Party Congress by CHRIS HARMAN

But the leadership seemed prepared to meet them half way on this, giving a long standing ovation to the fraternal delegate from the Soviet Union—a man with a long record of repressing dissidents.

Watching the leadership and the 'official opposition' you could wonder what really divided them, apart from terminology.

But as the Congress proceeded, it became clear that within the forces on the side of the leadership, there was another deep divide.

On the one hand, there were those, chiefly the elder, more working-class delegates, who want the party to continue in the future as in the past.

Trendy

On the other were a body of perhaps 120 delegates who believe the leadership has only half-way changed in the direction they desire. They call themselves 'the revolutionary democratic trend', but are more accurately described as 'the new right'.

They were outraged when, by a bit of procedural juggling,

the leadership prevented them discussing a resolution critical of what they call the party's 'economism'—apparently its concern with events such as the firemen's strike.

They criticised the draft programme for retaining elements of a 'sectarian' conception of the party, of not understanding, in the words of Judith Hunt, women's official in the white-collar union TASS, that 'our party has to be transformed, to develop new practices.'

What this meant was not spelt out clearly. You could only guess at what is behind jargonised demands for 'more cultural struggle' and for 'a British Marxist tradition' as opposed to a 'Marxist tradition in Britain', or behind attempts to delete from the draft a reference to the 'Labour movement.'

Respect

Or what was behind the bitter denunciation by Ken Gill, leader of the white-collar union, TASS, of 'some of our comrades who call themselves economists, who talk of wage controls and adorn their views with a false red flag?'

What seems to be happening is that the party is increasingly influenced by younger members, ex-students who have now got jobs as lecturers or trade union officials—and few of the younger members who spoke were not like this—and want a more 'respectable' politics. They want to turn the party away from its old image of being associated either with

militancy or with the Russian system.

The leadership are afraid this would upset the pro-Russian sentimentality of many members and make it difficult for the party to maintain its reputation as a force in industry. So they try to look in both directions at once.

That the leadership itself is no better than the 'new right' opposition was shown by its opposition to a call that under socialism there should be no private ownership of the press.

It rejected this, lined up with the new opposition, and voted that under socialism 'no one would be allowed to own more than one national newspaper.'

The same refusal to face up to the issues was shown in the debate on fascism and racism, when the whole party voted unanimously for a single resolution—although some of its movers denounced the slogan of 'No platform for fascists' and some praised it.

Boring Star

The 'new right' had one notable victory when they overturned an executive resolution on the Morning Star. They insisted that its content and style need a drastic look at because—although no one had the honesty to say it—it's boring.

This is the first time the executive has been defeated at a Congress since 1929. It is a portent for a future in which the 'new right' will increasingly dominate the party.

If you exclude reality from the front door, it has a habit of creeping in round the back. Reality intruded in this Congress with reports of a loss in party membership of 3000 in the past two years and a loss of Morning Star sales of nearly a thousand in the past six months.

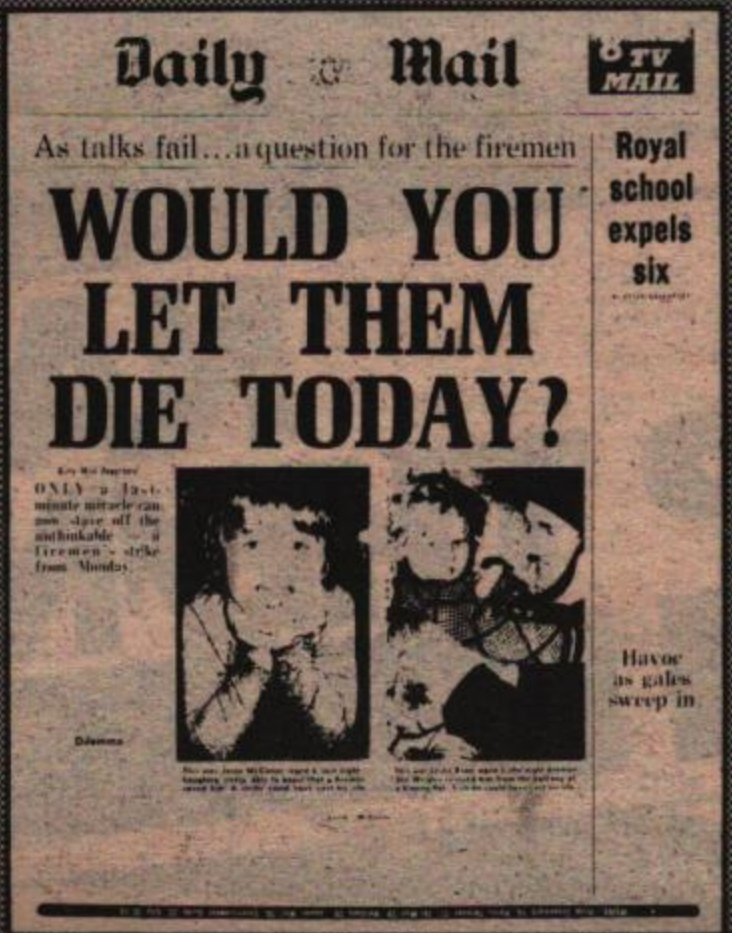
What no one seemed to recognise was that this had a lot to do with the same policies that allowed the Congress virtually to ignore the struggle outside.



Take a good hard look at the news stories and leaflets on the right and ask yourself: Is the Socialist Worker and its printshop worth supporting? We are all aware of the power of the newspaper barons against workers who try to win a decent livelihood. WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN FIGHT BACK.

£9,652 so far

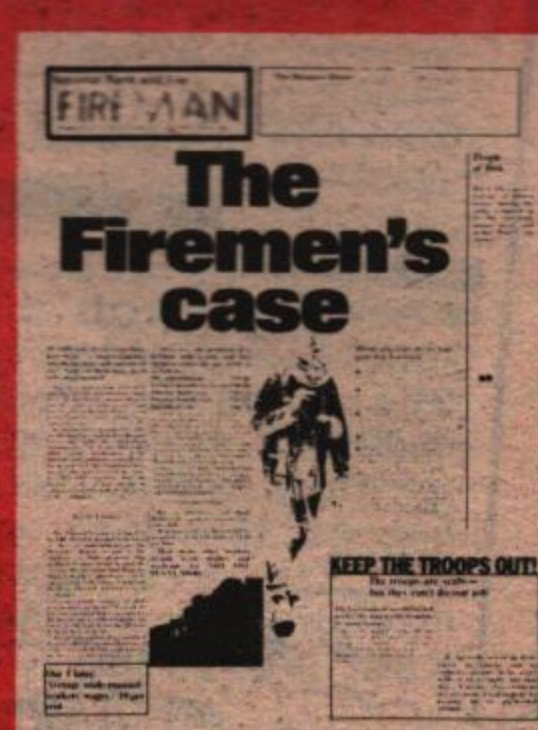
THE EMPLOYERS' ATTACK



OUR ANSWER



... plus of course Socialist Worker, with articles, interviews, reports and appeals for solidarity and financial support for the firemen every week.



AND THE FIREMENS!
We proudly open our presses to the fighting firemen who used them to produce their own broadsheets. Any other workers who want to use our facilities are welcome.

THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

- SWP members and supporters in:
 - Shropshire
 - Norwich
 - Nottingham
 - York
 - Slough
 - Merseyside
 - Edinburgh Teachers
 - Durham
 - Northampton
 - Bradford
 - Blackburn
 - Derby
 - Hammersmith
 - Plymouth
 - Cambridge
 - Birmingham
 - Lancaster
 - Aberdeen
 - Lowestoft
 - North London Polytechnic
 - Anon, Edinburgh
 - Anon, Slough
 - Anon, Dundee
 - P. Keegan
 - E. Gordon
 - Anon, Cleveland
 - City University IS Society
 - Financial Times NATSOPA
 - Clerical Chapel
 - Daily Mirror NATSOPA
 - Clerical Chapel
 - Reuters NATSOPA
 - Clerical Chapel
 - SW Readers, France
 - Paul Kneufsey
 - J. Cronin
 - G. Williams
- DONATIONS PLEASE to Socialist Worker Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



THE BRUTAL FACE OF ISRAEL

THESE pictures show the villages and refugee camps of southern Lebanon—after three days of bombing by Israeli planes.

At least 150 men, women and children have been killed. More bodies are still being dug out of the rubble.

In some villages the Israelis dropped delayed action bombs. As the villagers who survived returned to their homes to dig out their possessions and rescue friends and relations, the bombs went off.

Apartheid

Those who fled from the bombs last week have had plenty of practice getting away from the Israelis. Among them are some of the million and a half Palestinian Arab refugees who fled in 1947 when the Israelis took over their land.

They were driven out by the Zionist Jewish settlers from Europe, who treated them in



A Palestinian mother with her two children, both wounded in the Israeli bombing raids. The Israelis claim they hit 'only military targets'.

much the way that white settlers from Europe treated the black population of Southern Africa.

One Zionist organisation, the Irgun, organised a terrorist campaign to 'persuade' the Palestinians to leave. They

attacked the Arab village of Dair Yassin, killing 250 people and destroying the village. The wells were poisoned by dropping women and children into them so that they drowned.

News of the massacre started off the first great exodus of Arabs from Palestine. For 30 years Palestinians have waited on the borders of their homeland, in refugee camps, living off hand-outs from the United Nations and the oil rich Arab governments.

There are now some two million Palestinians in the camps.

Seized

More arrived in 1956, when the Israelis began another attempt to enlarge their territories, and still more arrived in 1967 when the Israelis seized half of Jordan, the Sinai peninsula and part of Syria.

The Israelis have no intention of leaving the conquered lands. New Jewish only settlements are being organised.

Inside Israeli-held territory Arabs are second-class

citizens. Last year there were three general strikes organised by Arabs to demand Israeli withdrawal. Instead the police opened fire on the demonstrations.

Racist

There are thousands of Arab political prisoners. The Sunday Times has revealed that torture of political suspects is widely practised as a matter of policy by the Israeli police and army.

The fundamental law of Israel is racist. It is called the Law of Return. Any Jew, from anywhere in the world, can go to Israel and stay.

But the Palestinian Arabs, who were born in Palestine, whose homes and land have been seized by the Israelis, can never return as long as the state of Israel continues to exist.

That's why anti-racists inside Israel as well as the Palestinian movements, demand the replacement of Israel by a free Palestine where Moslems, Jews and Christians can live in equality.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE MAN RESPONSIBLE

Begin, Israeli Prime Minister and the man responsible for the bombings and massacres of unarmed civilian refugees in camps in southern Lebanon, is coming to Britain this Friday as guest of the British government. PROTEST this Sunday against his visit and against the massacres. Assemble 12.30pm Speakers Corner, London, W1 (nearest tube Marble Arch).



ABOVE: Rescue workers dig a body out of the ruins. Some bombs had delayed-action fuses, killing those who ran to help the injured.

LEFT: Before the raid . . . poverty and squalor are all the Palestinians have after being driven from their homes and their land.

BELOW: After the raid . . . refugees flee the rubble of their village as the Israeli planes make a second bombing run.



The men who built a bodyguard of lies

AT Teheran in 1943, when Britain, America and Russia were planning the division of the spoils of war, Churchill told Stalin, 'In wartime truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies.'

It was the British and American secret services that built the bodyguard for Churchill. Only now, 30 years after the end of the war, are some of the methods being revealed.

Anthony Cave Brown's recent book* tells how MI6 and the OSS (which became the Central Intelligence Agency after the war) gained experience in the use of spies and informants through their intelligence gathering operations in Nazi Europe.

The book is about how Churchill's 'troops of the hunter class', the private armies of the Commandos and the Special Air Services, were formed to undertake sabotage and assassination missions. And it is about how highly advanced technology and electronics were first developed in a battle of eavesdropping and deception.

Use of murder

The men who ran these organisations were all from the same class — men like Colonel Bevan, son in law of the Earl of Lucan, grandson of the founder of Barclays Bank, and chief of the London Controlling section of the secret service during the war. His deputy was Colonel Sir Ronald Evelyn Leslie Wingate.

In America the OSS recruited only men with a 'blend of Wall Street orthodoxy and sophisticated American nationalism.'

Wall Street is where the American Stock Exchange stands. The lessons they learnt then, explained in this book, are used now in MI6's infiltration of trade union and socialist organisations in Britain, in the SAS's brutality and use of murder and terror in Northern Ireland, in the activities of the CIA throughout the World.

— JOHN DEE

* *Bodyguard of Lies* by Anthony Cave Brown. A Star paperback at £1.95.



The big three at the Tehran Conference.



The SAS. Well known in Northern Ireland today

Socialist Workers talking



ALAN GIBBONS

THE SUN is pretty obnoxious at the best of times, but just lately it has been throwing epileptic fits of idiocy.

You see, somebody decided it was time to prove Prince Charles was human. It must have been the nearness of Bonfire Night.

It turns out that Charlie really is everybody's darling, the royal superstar. To prove just how interesting and witty he is, The Sun came up with two gems: he enjoys Buck's Fizz—a mixture of champagne, fresh orange juice and grenadine—and he likes Malvern Water. Not ordinary water, you'll notice—Malvern water.

Then, to make sure you really are convinced by these super-exclusive revelations, we are told 'Prince Charles does have real chums.'

Good stuff, eh? He has friends. Real friends. None of your cheap, foreign imitations for our Charles. And just in case you don't believe it, The Sun names them.

But hang on, they are all men.

Oh God, the readers might think he's queer. That would be too bad. A gay Prince just would not fit the royal job description—healthy, horsey and butch.

So we are told about his kind of girl. Davina Sheffield is his kind of girl, or would be if she hadn't shared a cottage with Old Harrovian James Beard.

When I finished the story I paused at the thought of the second part of this enthralling series: 'How the hunting, shooting, fishing Prince gets away from it all.'

I could just hear the reporter oozing with admiration as the Prince romped around, killing lots of small, furry animals in the most witty and interesting way possible.

In The Sun's world, where every woman's dream is to drop them on Page Three, heartless firemen whistle while Britain burns and extremists and wreckers kick policemen at Grunwick, the one man who puts one foot in front of the other when he walks, opens his mouth when he drinks and only marries nice girls is a superstar.

By the way, don't worry if you think The Sun's picture of the world is pathetic and degrading and Prince Charles a hot contender for the Crashing Boor of the Year contest. It just means you have a better than average chance of being sane!

BEHOLD THE CONMAN COMETH

Smooth-tongued and very glib. He is by turns a Tory, a Liberal-lab, or Labour-lib. Just tell him what the problem is, the answer he'll provide it, if only you'll keep quiet and allow him to decide it.

If strikes are unofficial he appears as union leader; a bleeding heart for Public woes — he's such an awful bleeder. 'Go back, my friends, go back,' he begs, 'I'll fix a compromise'. Go back, go back — he thinks that's where the future lies.

His voice is heard in Paris, Bonn, in London, Moscow, Rome; from capital across the world it wafts o'er land and sea and foam — Be patient working people. Wait, your reward is nigh — we'll hand it over on a plate . . . not now, but by and by.

On every side you'll hear it, wherever you may roam — Be patient working people. Wait — till the cows come home.

Hugo Dewar.

Big Red Diary: Our daily bread

LOOK AT the food business and you see in miniature everything that the system we live under is about.

There's the lunacy of pensioners unable to afford butter—while 260,000 tons of it deteriorates in cold storage to keep the price up.

There's the crime of food intentionally contaminated with chemicals to make it grow faster or look better. A 1972 local authority survey found only one foodstuff that wasn't contaminated—honey.

There's the appalling wages paid out by some of the richest

employers in the world—£19 a week in the hotel industry, less than £35 for farmworkers working very long hours.

There's the horror of world starvation—as the US government pays out millions of dollars to its farmers to persuade them not to sow wheat. If they did it would bring the price down.

There's the production of plastic food because it's cheaper and more profitable than the real thing. Bread processing takes out 24 natural nutrients—four are then put back chemically to comply with government regulations.

There's the scandal of high-pressure food marketing—

which has created whole new diseases. Thousands of babies in African hospitals suffering from 'Lactogen Syndrome', a form of malnutrition caused by being bottle fed on Lactogen dried milk.

So it is excellent to see the latest Big Red Diary, for 1978, taking its subject as 'The Politics of Food.'

Search

But where is the anger?

The world food system is the greatest crime against humanity ever committed. The hunger and poverty of 400 million people throughout the world is directly linked to the unrelenting search for profit

that is the driving force of the system we live under—but this diary doesn't do it.

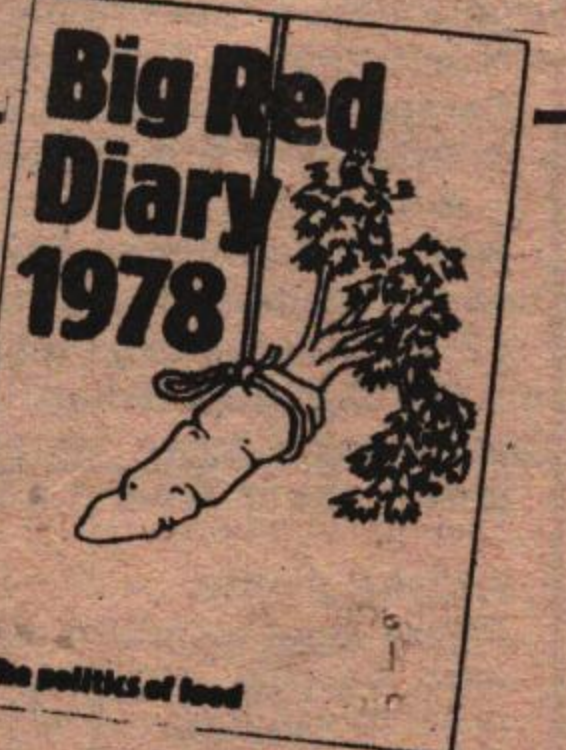
There's a special section on Real Ale—but where's the section on how the grain dealers kill thousands of people every day by forcing up the price of wheat? It means extra profits for them—but that millions cannot afford to buy bread.

There's a special section on allotments—but where's the account of how the multinational food companies are directly increasing the hunger of South America, Africa, and Asia by forcing people to grow food for export on land they desperately need themselves?

Yes, buy this diary, because it does start on the road to exposing this crime—and because if you buy it through Socialist Worker the proceeds go to the SWP international department, our small contribution to the effort to build an international workers' movement that can sweep this criminal system away.

But also find out more about what John Steinbeck described as 'a crime that goes beyond denunciation'. Because it's the best argument for sweeping this system away you'll ever need.

— PETE MARS DEN
* *BIG RED DIARY 1978: The politics of food, published by Pluto Press.*



Big Red Diary 1978
£1.50
Proceeds to SWP International Dept.

Name.....
Address.....

No. required.....Amount.....
To: SWP International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

TIME TO BE TOUGH ON TERRORISM?

THE RECENT 'What we think' on the Baader Meinhoff group, I felt, illustrated the very weak and diluted attitude that SWP has towards such terrorist groups.

Apart from alienating themselves from the German working class, the Baader-Meinhoff group have probably retarded any socialist movement's progress in West Germany for years to come. From now on any 'leftish' organisation will be branded terrorist—and so support will not be there from the people.

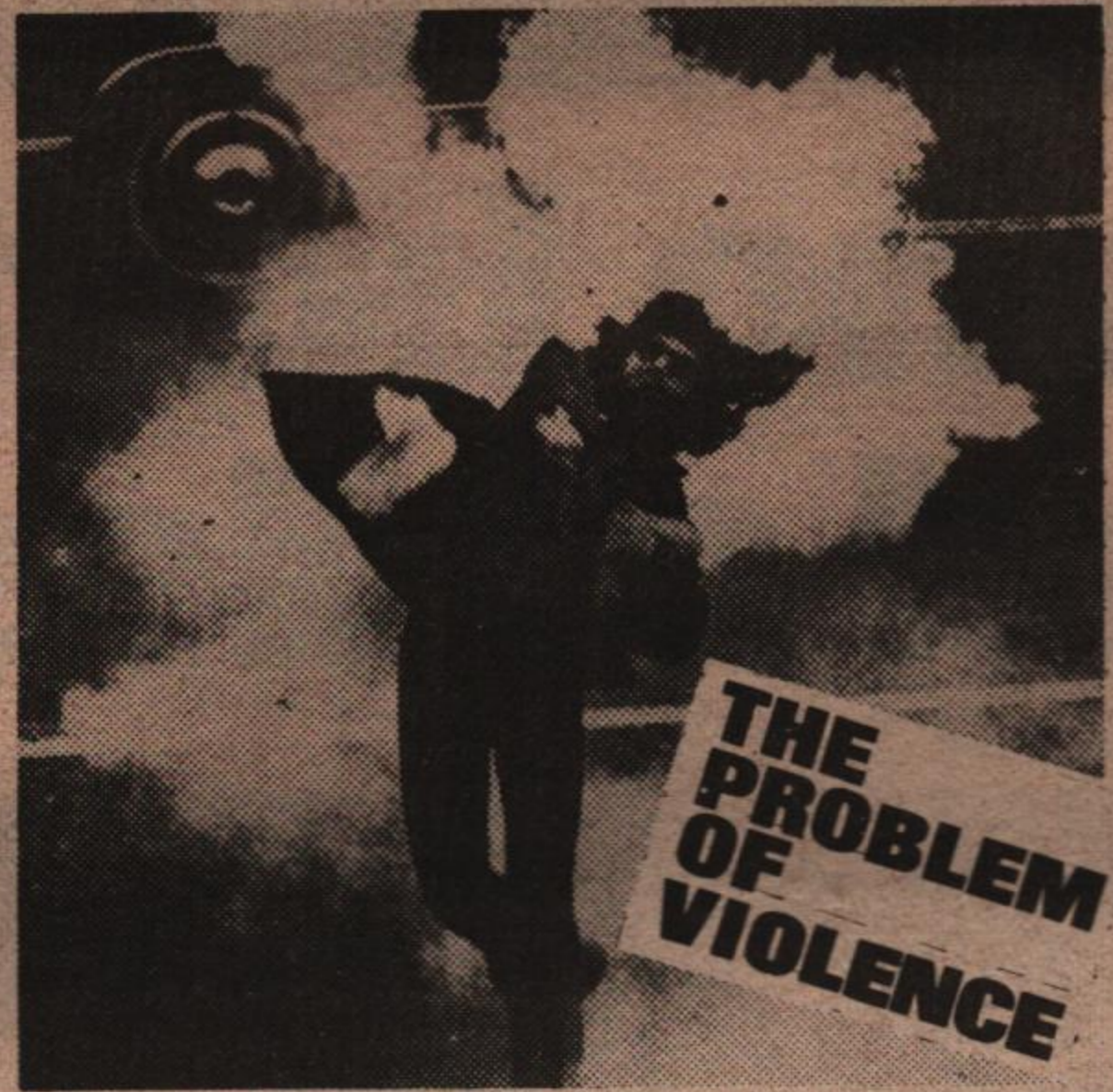
What working-class person would want to support an organisation that uses the lives of ordinary people to achieve its aims?

In the same way, I feel that the SWP should condemn, most strongly, any 'bomb plant' by the IRA.

It is all very well to have abstract discussions on supporting those groups fighting imperialist forces, but when it comes down to it, who would think of that when their son or daughter has just been blown to pieces in a nearby pub?

If the ordinary working man picks up a copy of Socialist Worker and sees any sort of support of such terrorist activities he will undoubtedly remember the Birmingham pub bombings, throw the paper in the bin and label us as 'terrorist'.

□ LENA CALVERT, Hendon, London NW4.



Fighting the NF in schools

I AM WRITING after reading your article (Socialist Worker, 22 October) on the National Front's attempts at forming a Youth Movement in schools. I am in my fifth year at a comprehensive school in Newham and know only too well of the effect that the National Front can have on school students.

We feel that it would be a good idea if the SWP printed a monthly paper for the socialist youth of the country and include more articles about youth unemployment, discrimination and so on in Socialist Worker. Many of us would be quite prepared to write articles for the paper.



In a school such as mine we find that gradually youth are splitting into race groups—Indians, West Indians and Whites. Although I and several of my West Indian and Indian friends have tried to stop this, we have found it

increasingly difficult because of the provoking and corrupting influence of the Front.

There has in the past year been an increasing number of racist teddy-boys in my school who are, with the aid of the Front (unofficially) trying to provoke others.

Without a Socialist Youth Movement we cannot do anything to stop things like this happening. Our union, the NUSS, is powerless—as certain teachers find the time to clamp down on any member who may seek to crumble his or her authority.

As you can see we are in a quandary. Please help us! Please reply to my desperate letter now! Please give me details of how we can join and form ourselves into a mass group.

□ M THOMAS, Stratford, London E15.

Beware the web of lies

CONSIDERING the amount of publicity given to the activities of the Baader Meinhoff group in the national press, I was rather disappointed that Socialist Worker only referred to it once in an editorial a couple of weeks ago.

You clearly stated that the SWP does not support individual acts of violence.

But I think much stronger emphasis must be put on this.

The attitude of all socialists should be that escalating violent acts when there is not a strong enough working-class movement to overthrow the establishment, simply plays into the hands of the ruling class, and in consequence, makes it much harder for the rest of us.

It is easy for them to pass harsh 'anti-terrorist' legislation and end up using it on everyone they dislike. Until we've got a free press, it's easy for them to carry the weight of public opinion behind them.

So unless SW states more clearly—and more often—that blowing up trains, planes, pubs, and bumping off the odd capitalist is not the way to do things, the SWP will quickly find itself meshed in the web of lies and distortions that we all had to face after Lewisham.

□ GEOFF PARKER, Hendon, London NW4.

Letters

Send your letters to: Letters Page, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS

POSTAL POINTS

WHAT a great idea to have a book fair, but when you mentioned Lea Valley and North London Women's Voice groups providing the food, you did make them sound rather like the Womens Institute.

□ JENNIFER HAND, Canterbury Women's Voice Group.

□ □

IT'S ironic that immediately under Neil Pepper's article on sexism and language (SW, 29 October), the story on the Bookmarks Fair states, 'Lea Valley and North London Women's Voice groups are providing food'.

I was horrified when I read this. Socialists should be fighting sex-role stereotyping, not expecting women to fulfill their traditional role of serving

others. Or is the bit in Where We Stand on fighting for real equality for women meaningless? Is serving up the food really the task of Womens Voice groups?

□ Judith Summers, Warrington

● Note from Gerry Norris, typesetter: (a member of Lea Valley Womens Voice group):

We were pleased to see that several comrades are, quite rightly, very concerned that North London and Lea Valley Women's Voice groups were serving and making food at the Bookmarks Fair, ie playing out the traditional role of a woman's place in the kitchen—serving others!

At the Bookfair several comrades, male and female, expressed the same concern, but as we explained to them, we volunteered for the job because our Womens Voice groups desperately needs the money and we got all the profits. It was a fund-raising effort, to give us the means to produce posters and leaflets etc.

It should have been made much clearer in the advert about the Bookmarks Fair, and I must take some of the blame as I typeset the advert.

□ □

THE South Wales Echo published one of my letters last month. It was in reply to recent claimant-bashing editorials in the paper.

Last week I received a letter from the prospective Labour Party candidate for Cardiff North constituency inviting me to a meeting. As I live in this constituency it was quite a shrewd move for him to make.

Why doesn't the SWP do the same? All it needs is for someone to look through the local letters column and reply to correspondents who seem sympathetic to our politics, say, inviting them to one of our meetings.

It's cheap, doesn't take up much time and is a simple way of making a few more contacts. That newspapers don't publish full addresses is no problem. They will forward letters.

□ TERRY JAMES, Cardiff.



LEFT: The days of Stakhanov—'Complete the five-year plan in 2½', says the slogan.

STAKHANOV is no more! This Hero of Socialist Labour, who, in the 1930s, tore 1000 tons of coal from the rock face in eleven minutes with his bare hands, has passed away. The Russian news agency Tass discretely informs us that he died after a 'grave and prolonged illness'.

Actually, the scientific name for it—as every Polish and Hungarian worker will tell you—is Stalinism.

□ N DE MARCO, Merton, London SW19.

Inside Class Russia

I HAD a great thrill going to Russia, land of the first successful workers' revolution, this year. But I soon saw as totally false the official Russian view of their society as a classless one.

We met academic 'middle-class types' who were officially attached to us, whose parents were top bureaucrats or academics. I asked one how many of her group were of working-class origin. She told me that of the twelve or so, only one was working class.

Material differences are great too. The flats we stayed in were originally to be a workers' communal living experiment—one tiny room per family, badly built, cockroach-infested!

Yet when we went to the flat of a top academic, the difference was immediate: flash lift, five rooms, expensive furniture and wall-to-wall carpets.

We went round a textile mill, probably a 'model factory'. Pointing to a woman at her machine, I asked the management man who was our guide about how much control the woman had over her machine, its speed, what it produced, who should get the finished goods.

He said: 'None. We have a plan; we give directions.'

Bemused, the Russian asked me why the concern. I told him my family were workers and that socialism was about workers' control of their lives. He said this was utopian for a complex economy like Russia's.

We were told that half the management were women, yet when pointing out that all the machinists were women, we were simply told that 'women were best for dull, repetitive jobs.'

□ □

A top engineer from an engineering enterprise admitted that there were social differences within Soviet society, but that the leaders needed privileges because they had to deal on equal terms with their capitalist counterparts.

In his expensive imported suit, he told me that he didn't mind not having a car or having to queue. But I felt that here in front of me was a member of a self-confident and privileged class.

Russia, in its own way, is a class society with an aggressive, self-confident elite which protects its position by deception and secrecy (the special shops are kept hidden...) and by a massive internal army.

□ JIMMY BENN, London W3.

Three Nazis in my school

DO THIS for us, the teenagers. Get the Nazi National Front off the streets. Stop them at any cost.

It has to be done. It can be done if we get together.

Stop them going into schools and brainwashing us. Three of them in my school persecuted us for carrying Socialist Worker and admitted being in the NF.

We have to get rid of them now. Take action in self-defence.

□ DAVY HOSSACK (age 14), Pilton, Edinburgh.

I AM a school student and an SWP supporter. I am worried by the recent growth of fascism among my friends. Despite the fact that we destroy their 'arguments' every time, this cancer still continues.

Please send me information on what I can do to help the struggle.

□ DON CAMPBELL, Ormskirk.

LAUGH AT THE POLICE?

AT FIRST when I began reading your paper I thought reports of police action were exaggerated. But since being involved in pickets of two Nazi Front meetings I know different.

Another thing I learned is that the best action is to treat the police the way the Right to Work marchers in Blackpool did, have a laugh at them.

□ G BURNETT, Southend

NF stops here!

I'M A school student at Tavistock Comprehensive here in Devon and I would very much like to know what I can do to counter the racialism of the NF.

Last week the most disgusting envelope was sent round the class, though before long I did manage to get it and destroy it. But no doubt there will be more.

I phoned Plymouth SWP and have received badges, leaflets and stickers which I'm going to start selling. The leaflets were a bit muddled I thought. Have you produced

any specially for school kids?

My friends and me write 'Smash the National Front' on desks and walls. But usually someone crosses out the Smash part.

I also received an excellent poster from Plymouth SWP but someone has told me it's illegal to put up political posters in school and that I could get expelled for putting them up or for handing out leaflets. Is this true?

Keep up the good work.

□ KATE WHITFIELD, Tavistock, Devon.

35-HOUR WEEK? DON'T WANT TO KNOW

PRIMARILY for our readers' information, but perhaps because coverage might be given to other publicity sources allied to the ministry of propaganda in Fleet Street, I relate my experience on the telephone at 5.30pm today:

In response to a Reports

Action TV campaign to provide jobs for school-leavers, I suggested that a national 35-hour week be established at no loss of pay and that all overtime be abolished. This would provide an estimated 800,000 jobs.

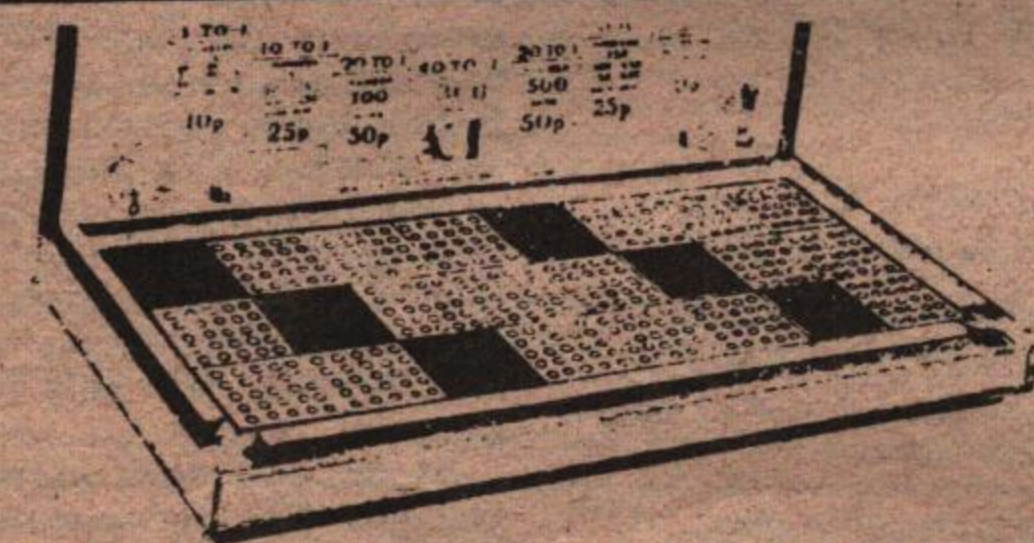
The response was that 'we

are only taking names and addresses of callers for further use', and 'We are only considering serious suggestions.'

I enquired whether the Confederation of British Industry had made any similar suggestion and was promptly cut off. My name

and address were not taken. So much for Independent Television's hypocritical publicity for their social engineering.

□ EDDIE HEBDEN, ASTMS Shop shop steward, International Computers, High Wycombe, Bucks.



RAISE FUNDS INSTANTLY

A guaranteed £13 clear on a £2 outlay. Our pocket-size punchboards will raise quickly the much-needed funds for your local Right to Work Campaign, rank and file trade union organisation, or branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

It contains 600 tickets at 5p each, with 43 winning numbers. Takes in £30—pays out £15, winnings paid on the spot. The board only costs you £2, so you make at least £13 clear.

OK under Small Lotteries Act—no legal problems. Easier, faster and better than raffles or draw tickets. Give it a try—you can't lose.

ORDER FORM

Please send by return post - - - punchboards, price £2 each postage included. Enclosed total cheque/postal order to value of - - -

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Please print address clearly in BLOCK LETTERS.

SEND THIS FORM TO:

Socialist Worker (Punchboards), 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

RIGHT: The 'parliament' of the Outer Hebridean island of St Kilda. It was the poverty of the countryside from which he came that made Burns such a strong republican and supporter of the American and French revolutions.

Why should we idly waste our prime,

repeating our oppressions?

EVERYONE knows at least one verse of a poem written by Robert Burns—Auld lang syne.

What you certainly won't have been told at school was that Burns was an enthusiastic supporter of the American and French revolutions and the great political upheavals that took place in his lifetime.

Robert Burns was born near Ayr in 1759—14 years after capitalism had blasted the remnants of Scottish feudalism into the hands of the historians. The 37 years of his life saw not only the first rumblings on industrialisation, and with it a whole new social order, but revolutionary upheavals that rocked Europe and North America.

Political songs and poems

He was a tenant farmer and throughout his life he was in trouble because of his political songs and poems.

'The Jolly Beggars' was omitted from editions of his work simply because of the final chorus:

A Fig for those by law protected!

*Liberty's a glorious feast!
Courts for cowards were erected,*

Churches built to please the priest.

These four tremendous lines would possibly have been enough to get Burns jailed, had they been published during his lifetime. Nowhere else has such a brilliant indictment of the state been put so simply or effectively.

Changes necessary

The Edinburgh middle class tried to seduce Burns. They put him on display in the capital. Here was a rustic peasant, who wrote romantic poetry—how marvelous. But obviously a few changes were necessary.

They tried to get him to drop his use of everyday Scots language, write longer narrative poems, and of course forget these silly radical notions.

What they wanted was a sterile lapdog—a Scottish Poet Laureate. Fortunately they failed. Burns may have enjoyed the attention, but he hated the patronising.

Burns left Edinburgh and



Hugh Robertson writes on the poet ROBERT BURNS

returned to farming in 1788. A short time later he was given a job as an Exciseman. Obviously the Excise was not the most popular profession around, but it provided Burns with a regular income, and left him enough time to both keep the farm going and write.

Why should we idly waste our prime
Repeating our oppressions?
Come, rouse to arms, 'tis now the time
To punish past transgressions.
'Tis said that Kings can do no wrong—
Their murderous deeds deny it;
And, since from us their power is sprung,
We have a right to try it.
Now each true patriot's song shall be,
'Welcome Death or Libertie!'

Proud Priests and Bishops we'll translate,
And cannonize as Martyrs.
The guillotine on Peers shall wait,
And Knights shall hang in garters:
Those despots long have trod us down,

The outbreak of the French revolution in 1798 rocked all Europe. In Britain, men were being transported in chains for selling Tom Paine's *The Rights of Man*.

Burns had no qualms about what was happening, and dismissed the execution of the King and Queen of France as 'the delivering over a perjured Blockhead and an unprincipled Prostitute to the hands of the hangmen.'

Not be tolerated

Around 1792, Burns was accused of 'Political Disaffection', which is not really surprising. He had taken part in a riot in a Dumfries theatre, when 'God save the King' was drowned out by the French revolutionary song 'Ca Ira', while on another occasion, he sent four carronades (fast loading guns) to the French National Assembly.

Obviously such conduct could not be tolerated in an Exciseman.

Following the seizure of one of his letters, an inquiry was launched into his politics. The outcome appears to be that

And Judges are their engines;
Such wretched minions of a crown
Demand the people's vengeance.
Today 'tis theirs—tomorrow, we
Shall don the Cap of Libertie!

The golden age we'll then revive—
Each man will be a brother;
In harmony we all shall live,
And share the earth together.
In virtue trained, enlightened youth
Will love each fellow-creature;
And future years shall prove the truth
That man is good by nature.
Then let us toast, with three times three,
The reign of Peace and Libertie!

Burns received a private warning, although no disciplinary action was taken.

Burns was shaken, but not broken. He was more careful now.

He wrote several excellent pieces after the inquiry. One is 'The Tree of Liberty', a celebration of the French Revolution, which begins:

*Heard ye o' the tree o' France,
And wat ye what's the name o' it?*

*Around it a' the patriots dance,
Weel Europe kens the fame o' it.
It stands where ance the Bastille stood,*

*A prison built by Kings, man,
When Superstition's hellish brood*

Kept France in leading-strings, man.

Not the sentiments one would expect from a broken man.

The 'Tree of Liberty' was circulated anonymously throughout Scotland, and first inserted in his collected works only in 1838. Even this century, several 'Complete Works' have omitted it.

Likewise 'Why should we idly waste our prime'. When this song was included in the 1935 edition of Burns' songs and poems, the editor commented: '(I have) little doubt that this production, and also the Tree of

Liberty, if really taken from Burns' manuscript, have merely been transcribed by him from the pages of some wild Magazine of the period.'

What nonsense. Had there been the slightest doubt as to their authenticity, these literary prigs would not even have mentioned the poems. 'The Tree of Liberty' is certainly Burns', and there are far more dubious works attributed to Burns than 'Why should we idly waste our prime'. The suppression of the song is completely political.

Not all Burns' songs are in the same vein. He also wrote 'Scots wha Ha'e', 'Charlie, He's my darling', and many similar examples of romantic nationalism.

Burns was an idealist, who believed history was a combination of great deeds, battles, and strong leaders, rather than the result of social forces and conflicts. As a humanist, he

No way forward

believed that man should be free, equal, and live in peace and harmony.

He despised what he saw around him, but was unable to envisage a way forward.

He latched on to anything which seemed to be an alternative. When the cry of 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' rang

throughout France, Burns rushed to support it, just as he had previously given wholehearted support to the American revolution.

As one of the first humanist poets, Burns could give magnificent accounts of human suffering, the finest example of which is 'Man was made to Mourn', but when he wrote his class analysis, 'The Twa Dogs', he left the ending open. There are no conclusions, nor could there be, for Burns had hope for mankind at a time when there was no hope.

Despite all his revolutionary fervour, it was capitalism, and not Robert Burns, that was progressive. He could never have seen that what was happening in Scotland, as in France and America, was that a new order was emerging, which was bringing with it a great new force, the industrial working class.

We should see Robert Burns, not as a rustic bard, but as one of the world's greatest poets, who was trying to go forward, before the road had been built. *Then let us pray that come it may,*

*As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,*

*May bear the gree and a' that:
For a' that, and a' that,*

*It's comin' yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,*

Shall brother be for a' that!

IS SOCIALISM POSSIBLE?



The latest Socialist Worker POCKET PAMPHLET. 5p a copy, plus 7p postage, or 30 copies for £1, post free.

FROM SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SWP WHERE WE STAND

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

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.
 ■ We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.
 ■ We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.
 ■ We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.
 The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.
 ■ We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.
 ■ We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women.
 ■ We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party. Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.
 ■ We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.
 ■ We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.
 ■ We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 15.

Dolphin: £250 a week Keeper: £21

YOU MAY have seen dolphin shows at your local Safari Park. Would you imagine that the men who do this seemingly glamorous but in reality dangerous and demanding work, take home as little as £21 a week.

That's what the workers at Windsor Safari Park get. They work six days a week from eight in the morning until dark—in the summer that can mean an 80 hour week. They are on 24 hour call.

But there's no overtime, no Bank Holiday pay. And take home pay is between £21 and £26. The job is so dangerous that recently one man was killed and eaten by tigers, and another hurt by a killer whale.

Display

That's why most of the workers at the Safari Park decided to join a union, the Transport and General Workers.

The management refused to recognise the union, and instead they shut down the dolphinarium and sacked the four workers there.

Windsor Safari Park is owned by Trident TV who also own Yorkshire television, and have a stake in Anglia and Australian television.

These workers need support from everyone—particularly from other workers employed by Trident, but from everyone who supports all workers rights to be in a trade union.

According to the London Zoo it costs £12,500 a year to keep a dolphin. That's £250 a week!

□ Messages of support and donations to Doug Carridge, c/o the TGWU, 36 King's Road, Reading.



This cartoon was sent in by a reader signed J.L. If you could do as well, or have ideas for cartoons, send them to: Socialist Worker, PO box 82, London E2 9DS



BLACKLISTED!

BLACKLISTED - that is what has happened to workers in the construction industry for years and years.

And now there is some proof. Forms discovered on the massive Monsanto Petro Chemical site in Teeside show that the electrical contractor, Holiday Hall, one of the biggest in the country, is operating a blacklist.

On one of the forms it said 'disruptive attitude when acting as shop steward representative'. On the other form it says, 'present site activities suggest a break in employment with the company would be beneficial.'

One of the men blacked by Holiday Halls went to Dundee to find work. He knew that a firm building modules for the oil industry had taken on all the local unemployed sparks.

Even so he found it difficult to get a start. The management wouldn't see him and the

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT THE HOLLIDAY GROUP

Operative's Name
 M. TRAINOR 06

(a) Ability * Good/Average/Poor
 (b) Timekeeping * Good/Average/Poor
 (c) Conduct * Good/Average/Poor
 (d) Would you re-employ * Yes/No
 (e) Type of work employed on * Industrial

One of the blacklist form found by workers at Holliday Hall.

local EETPU officials apparently couldn't help.

However the rank and file in the union took a different attitude. The steward on the site eventually threatened to cut the time of shifts worked from 12 hours to 8 hours.

The man started the following morning.

What is particularly angering the electricians is the part played by some of the EETPU officials in co-operating with

blacklists.

Ian McDonald told a rank and file electricians' meeting in Teesside last weekend of remarks made to him by his official: 'Listen lad' he was told by the official, 'when you've finished this job, you won't be finding another in construction around here.'

Ian was a steward working for Haigh and Ringrose on the Phillips Petroleum Simchem site on Teeside.

He described how the men learnt to simply bypass the official and negotiate agreements themselves.

Ian continues: 'The official didn't like being shown up for what he was. He tried to discredit me. He used to maintain that no steward would ever be on the dole in his area, but after I'd finished on the job I went to see him twice.'

'The first time I said I was having difficulty finding work he just said "good" and told me to get out. The second time he told me to find a driving job or emigrate. I've not bothered with him since—I approach the shop steward directly.'

LOBBY THE EETPU CONFERENCE

A lobby of the joint rules revision and national EETPU conference is being held in Blackpool on Tuesday 22 November, at 12 midday, Norbreck Road, Blackpool.

Throw out the rule book

by Piers Freelove, Department of the Environment, Department of Transport

THE FIRST Rules Revision Conference to be held by the Civil and Public Services Association in 21 years will start on Sunday 20 November in Southport.

The right wing, who currently control the National Executive Committee, are trying to push through a new rule book designed to take power away from the rank and file.

Proposed rules include longer terms of office for President and Vice-President, scrapping the right of appeal to Conference in discipline cases, and the introduction of postal ballots and referenda.

The Conference procedure effectively rules out discussion of any alternative to the right wing draft rule book.

A two thirds majority has to be given to their rule before amendments can be discussed.

Alternative procedures were ruled out by threats of court injunctions.

At such a rigged conference there is no alternative but to vote against the whole rule book, and propose amendments at the next Annual Conference.

'BRAVE' NAZIS

By Brian Parkin

LEEDS student, 19-year-old John Wilson, is in hospital fighting for his life after being attacked by a gang of Nazis.

He was beaten up after 20 SWP members picketed a meeting of National Party, British Movement, and British National Party members.

The brave Nazi storm-troopers gathered outside the Leeds University Union building later that night.

Forty of them picked on small groups of students and beat them up, chanting NF, BNP, anti-Jewish and anti-Communist slogans.

SWP students in Leeds are calling for the widest possible protest action against the attack.

DONCASTER: A member of the Nazi master race was fined £60 last week for the litter he caused when tearing down SWP posters in Doncaster. He was said in court to have told the police, 'You have caught me red-handed.'

RANK AND FILE DIARY

EETPU: 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, Holiday Hall, Monsanto.

BRADFORD Right to Work Campaign/Trades Council Anti-Fascist Legal Defence Fund Social. Featuring North West Spanner theatre group, and the Iguanas, plus disco. Tuesday 22 November, 7.30pm, Textile Hall, Bradford. Admission 60p in advance (75p on door). Bar extension midnight.

HOSPITAL WORKER: Rank and file newspaper for all health workers No 11 (Nov/Dec) out now. Get your union branch to subscribe regularly. Orders to Hospital Workers, 46 Danecroft Road, London SE24.

EAST LONDON Firemen's support committee benefit. Saturday 19 November 8-12. Bar and music. St Hilda's East, Club Row, London E1. 50p minimum. Claimants 25p. Firemen and families free. All proceeds to firemen's strike.

Boycott victory

BRENTWOOD:—When local greengrocer, Mick Maynard, announced he was forming a branch of the National Front in Brentwood, the local Socialist Workers Party organised a picket of his shop in under 24 hours.

A leaflet called for a boycott of his shop. His windows were daubed with slogans.

Maynard couldn't take the pressure. One week after announcing, 'I chose the Front as the party for me because it puts the country first.' He changed his tune.

He said instead: 'I was led up the garden path.' He added, 'I object most strongly to the extreme aims of the party and the violent attitude they have adopted.'

He has been forced to resign from the local of Chamber of Commerce, the Round Table and the Carnival Committee.

And he says he has severed all connection with the Nazi Front.

Socialist Worker

Please rush me my weekly copy of *Socialist Worker*. I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to *Socialist Worker* for

- £7 for one year
 - £3.50 for six months
 - £1.75 for three months
- (Please tick) to pay subscriptions and postage, so start sending them to:

NAME

ADDRESS

When completed post to Socialist Worker Subscriptions, Circulation Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

Subscribe!



THE LEAD banner of the 1,000 strong demonstration last Sunday in support of the armed struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and in solidarity with the black workers and students in South Africa.

The demonstration was called by the South African Solidarity Campaign and the student organisation of the Socialist Workers party, NOISS. Students came from as far away as Aberdeen.

At the rally after the demonstration, the

speakers included Majakathata Mokoena from Soweto, and Gilbert from Zimbabwe and Joanna Rollo of the South African Solidarity Campaign, and Andy Strouthous of the National Union of Students executive.

Glasgow bomb: when is a riddle not a riddle?

By Jamie Dockery

GLASGOW: At 9.30pm on Saturday night after the Celtic versus Rangers game, a bomb was thrown into a crowded Glasgow pub.

'Derry Treanors Bar' in the Gorbals had a traditionally Irish and catholic clientele.

Luckily, as the bomb was thrown in, it was kicked out of the door by one of the customers. This kept the casualty list down to six injured, one seriously.

While this type of incident happens regularly in Northern

Ireland, this is the first time it has happened in Glasgow, the next biggest potential trouble spot for sectarian violence.

So far in Scotland, the press have presented the incident as a 'pub bombing riddle'. To the catholic community of Glasgow there is no riddle.

They know it was the work of right-wing protestant extremists. They also know that the Strathclyde police have a

reputation for turning a 'blind eye' to the Orange paramilitaries.

The number of catholics in the police force in the region is very small, the number of Orange Lodge members is very large.

At the Celtic versus Rangers game on Saturday I saw the police, with evident enjoyment, confiscate Irish tricolours from the Celtic end of the ground, while red hand of Ulster banners were allowed to flourish at the other.

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

BSC plan mass sackings

BUTCHERY—That's what the British Steel Corporation is planning. They want to sack at least 20,000 workers, out of a total workforce of 210,000.

The redundancies are likely to happen in areas where there is already mass unemployment—North Wales and Scotland.

The Guardian newspaper reports: 'If the BSC has its way the policy of maintaining plants in areas of high unemployment would be readapted if not reversed.'

The British Steel Corporation blames 'low productivity and overmanning' for the enormous losses of British Steel. At the moment they are losing £8 million a week.

The truth about the losses is very different.

For three years workers have been sacked and factories shut down, not just in Britain but throughout the world.

Industrial production in Britain is now lower even than during the three day week imposed by the Tories in their war against the miners. That is why there is no demand for steel.

In the United States, Bethlehem Steel is the same

size as the British Steel Corporation. Their productivity is said to be twice as high as BSC's.

But they are shutting down their second biggest plant. Why? Because they can't sell the steel.

It's nothing to do with productivity. It's certainly not the fault of workers 'not working hard enough.'

Instead too much steel is being produced at a time when world production is very low.

Mercy

And the workers in the steel industry are being told to take the blame.

The British Steel industry has been nationalised. But it's still at the mercy of the madness that passes for a world economic system.

Steel workers must organise now to make it clear to their union and to the British Steel Corporation and the Government that they won't accept any more redundancies.

KEEP THE NAZIS OUT OF SCHOOL!

I AM writing about the great success of Reading Schools Against The Nazis's public meeting organised by Socialist Workers Party school

students. It was our first meeting. Twenty-five school students attended, these represented three schools in the Reading area.

Two comrades gave speeches on what the National Front stand for and the socialist alternatives, which lead to an hour long discussion on how we should organise our defences against the National Front, although at present there are not any Fronters operating in Reading schools.

We set up an organisation solely run by school students. Of the 25 who attended all joined.

J PARTICK

OVER 100 anti-fascists gathered outside Bournemouth School for Boys to picket the National Front by-election meeting and to welcome Fuhrer Tyndall to Bournemouth in the manner he deserved.

Contingents from Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth and Southampton let him know exactly what we thought of him, while his 'honour guard' of thugs whisked him in and out.

We also plan to leaflet local estates. If you can help please phone Broadstone 697406.

WARNES FIGHT THE 12 MONTH RULE

BARKING, EAST LONDON: Management at William Warnes Rubber products are out to create another Grunwicks.

by Phil Marfleet

They have informed the 380 TGWU members on strike, most of them Asians—that they had until Thursday to report sick, complete with sick notes. All those failing to do so would get their cards.

Warnes workers are amongst the worst paid in East London. Their basic rate is £38 a week. Women workers

take home £25 for a week. The strikers have been demanding a 10 per cent increase on their basic wage, plus improved sick pay, consolidation of the last rise, and an improvement in overtime rates.

The strike, in its third week, is solid, though some mill workers returned last week. All production of the rubber seals and gaskets has stopped, and some sections not striking have been laid off. But G&MWU members have remained, largely idle, inside

the factory. TGWU district official Millichope is determined to fix a sellout with management. He has told the strikers that their demands are in breach of the 12 month 'rule'.

He told branch secretary Tom Martin, 'I'm not having Warnes the first through the 12 month rule. Get back to work.'

And shop steward Harjinder Flora says, 'Millichope is always with management. He told us 'If they sack you, it's your own fault. I won't support you'.

Tom Martin said: 'Millichope is forever letting us down. Well, this time we decided to stay out. And we will until we get money.'

Management have attempted to split the strike on racial lines—80 per cent of the workforce are Asians—spreading 'complaints' about the 'Asian leadership'.

Tom Martin reports that 'all our lads out here are solid.'

Donations and messages of support to: The Treasurer, TGWU, Mr Bunet, 31 St Erkenwald Road, Barking, Essex.

Grunwick Benefit Folk Evening with Ewan McColl, Peggy Seeger, Leon Rosselson and others

plus SLIDE SHOW, film and speaker. Late bar Thursday 17 November, 6pm, SOAS Malet Street, WC1.

Admission £1 (75p for the unemployed).

METROPOLE HOTEL STRIKE

Join the mass picket to support the strikers out for a minimum wage of £50. Metrople Hotel, Praed Street, nearest tube Paddington. 6.00pm until 10.00pm this Friday.

ALL SWP members in Central, West and North West London must support.

Dunlop workers snub threats

WALLSEND, Tyneside: After 10 weeks on unofficial strike Engineering Workers at Dunlop's George Angus factory voted 147 to 4 to stay out at a mass meeting on Monday.

The 150 strikers are toolroom workers, fitters, earning between £53 and £61 a week, which is way below the average for Tyneside.

Management had been confidently expecting a return—to work after the mass meeting and had called in the 1,000 General & Municipal Workers who'd been laid off because of the dispute.

Despite six personal letters from management to each striker in the ten weeks, three of which threatened to sack them if they didn't return, the strikers have refused to accept that all they can get is the £3 Phase Two deal they are being offered. They are demanding their full £24 claim.

After the mass meeting stewards met management armed with a copy of the Rank and File letter from the Hackney BOC depot where they got a £15 rise.

The district committee of the AUEW have refused to recognise the strike, because they say it breaks the 12 month rule, which they claim the union supports.

Support is therefore urgently needed, especially from other AUEW members and Dunlop factories.

Send to the George Angus Shop Stewards Committee, c/o Community Development Project, Reservoir House, Waterville Road, North Shields.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

'I'M A friend of George Ward' was the claim made in the local paper by W James, the boss of the small Sheffield engineering firm that has been on strike for nine weeks. But the mass picketing and blacking is driving this particular Scrooge out of business. Last week none of the usual 30 steel pans were completed and he himself has admitted he faces complete closure. The 23 strikers are winning through their determination and the support they are getting. Mass picketing continues every Thursday 7.30am at Lyon Street. Donations to: Ian Broadbent, 47 Conniston Road, Sheffield.

Tax workers: off with their heads?

AT MASS meetings held last week all over the country the main tax workers' union, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, voted by massive majorities to take action against the refusal of the government to come across with hard cash in return for the ever-increasing workload they face.

Continued use of budgets and mini-budgets as a political

gimmick to attract public support for the government's pay policy, produced the present situation. Extra work from budgets in 1977 could have provided 2,000 jobs. Instead almost 2 million hours of overtime have

been worked in order to implement budget policy and effectively hide staff shortages. In return for this, the IRSF members demanded £100 per head and extra holidays. The government refused but freely admitted that it 'recognises the exceptional burdens placed on staff as a result of successive changes of tax... but future budgets may continue this trend.'

Like the miners, powerworkers and firemen, we have had enough. 1700 of us met in Newcastle last week. The union executive attempted an unusual form of intimidation.

The proposed overtime ban and work to rule would, they explained, by holding up tax rebates, lead to the possibility of a 'constitutional crisis'. A gentle hint perhaps that a refusal to implement the budget changes could amount to breaking the law. So where do the taxmen go from here? To the Tower perhaps.

The work to rule and overtime ban were carried overwhelmingly up and down the country and will take effect immediately.

used to be a leading shop steward and a Labour councillor. Their only offer so far has been deliberately divisive—'like throwing a carcass to a pack of starving jackals', says Transport and General Workers Union steward Tony Beck.

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers convenor Mick Judson agrees: 'This is a trial of strength. They're deliberately trying to take us on. But if they get away with it, this won't end here. There'll be one sectional dispute after another.'

Brewery offers £2 bonus for beer to Iran

GLASGOW: Two hundred workers at Allied Breweries are on strike for £25. They have been out for two weeks.

No beer is being distributed and transport union drivers are respecting the picket lines.

The management have made an offer. But it amounts to very little. It is just 6 per cent, plus consolidation onto the basic rate of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 increases.

Budget

More serious, they have offered a £4 productivity bonus if productivity rises by 16 per cent, and if there are no strikes or industrial disputes.

Another £4.50 is on offer, but only if they accept new plant and machinery, process

changes, and a 12 month ban on further increases.

On top of all this they have the cheek to offer a bonus of £2 a week for producing beer for Iran—a country where no trade unions or other human rights are tolerated.

10% and bowl of soup

KILMARNOCK: strikers at Glacier Metals, who have been out on strike for two weeks for a wage increase, unanimously rejected management's first offer—a free cup of soup on the picket line!

The 200 workers at Glaciers strike a fortnight ago for a wage increase of £8.40 or 17 per cent after management refused to improve their paltry 10 per cent offer.

830 shopfloor workers at Colchester Lathes are now in the second week of a strike which has become a trial of strength with a new manage-

ment regime. The strikers are demanding a wage increase, improved holiday pay and night shift premiums.

Their claim falls within the government's 10 per cent limit. But although management can easily afford to pay—the firm is one of the most profitable in the machine tool industry—strikers are sure they are looking for a fight.

They point to the new regime of managing director Evans and industrial relations director Harry Jacobs, a get tough merchant who once

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Please send me more information
Name
Address
Trade union

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

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10P



Vic Seadon

PICKET JAILED

VIC SEADON, a shop steward from a North London factory, was jailed for three months last Tuesday.

Vic was arrested on the Grunwick picket line and charged with assaulting a police officer.

He was given a three-month prison sentence but was released pending an appeal. The sentence was confirmed at the appeal court.

Vic, the first Grunwick picket to be jailed, worked at Keith Blackman. He was on an official delegation from the factory to the picket line.

He is married and has a ten month old child. His wife has high blood pressure and is due to go into hospital.

These things were pointed out to Judge Dewar who chose to ignore them. The jailing is certain to add to a sense of victory that is being felt by the police, Grunwick management and the National Association for Freedom.

□ Grunwick Strike Committee lobby of the TUC General Council 8.30 am Wednesday morning, 23 November.

NEVER MIND THE

BOLLOCKS!

Drop the charges!

IT WAS bollocks all week at Tottenham magistrates court in the trial of two journalists and a social worker under the Official Secrets Act.

The three men had a conversation. The police raided the flat where they were talking, after tapping their telephones.

They took away a tape recording and the three have been charged with giving away (and taking) information which could be useful to the enemy.

What is useful to the enemy and what isn't? The public can't judge. We must take the word of senior army officers, like Colonel B who gave evidence from Signals Intelligence.

The colonel didn't even have to give his name. The key recorded conversation can't be played in open court.

The colonel told the court of a 'policy decision' to keep all knowledge of Signals Intelligence from the British public.

Was it right or was it wrong? Defence lawyers can't even ask.

A lot of the material which is regarded as secret has already been published in America. And anyway none of it has been published here.

The trial would be a big joke if it weren't for the fact that three young men stand in peril of very long prison sentences.

For the Solicitor General, former property speculator Samuel Silkin, has given the nod to a prosecution under Section One of the Official Secrets Act—which carried sentences of up to 14 years in prison!

Why is this farce going on? Because top bureaucrats in the



Duncan Campbell (left), Crispin Aubrey, Philip Agee, who was deported under the Secrets Act, and John Berry.



The Sex Pistols

army and the Special Branch are anxious to hide more and more of their activities from the public who they pretend to protect.

In particular, they are sensitive about their secret plans for attacking that public, especially in time of industrial unrest.

On the sixth floor of the Home Office, for instance, a secret operations room has been set up to co-ordinate strike-breaking activities during each major industrial dispute.

They are plotting against the firemen now. *In secret.* And they want their secrets

kept. The liberty of all of us depends on journalists like Duncan Campbell and Crispin Aubrey searching behind the veils of society—and people like John Berry disclosing what they know.

The persecution of these three men is the greatest blow against individual liberty

launched by a Labour Government committed to the opposite.

It will be a long time before the men finally face criminal trial—time in which everyone of even remotely radical temperament must campaign for the government to **DROP THE CHARGES.**

YOU HAVE JUST BROKEN THE LAW

YOU HAVE just committed an offence. You have read the headline on this page.

It is, according to certain policemen in the East End of London and in Northampton, illegal under a very old act which guards the public against 'moral depravity'.

Yes, that's right. The same police force which tolerates mass public pornography in Soho—against which hundreds of women demonstrated last week—regards the expression 'bollocks' as offensive.

Now, of course, they don't really mind people saying 'bollocks'.

But they do mind some of the tracks on the Sex Pistols latest record, whose sleeve is entitled NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS.

They don't like the song: 'God Save the Queen and Her

Fascist Regime'. They don't like singers who proclaim 'I'm an Anti-Christ', especially when the song's called Anarchy in the UK.

They don't like the line: 'There no future for England's dream'.

They don't like a song which takes the pants off the record monopoly, EMI.

And they don't like the whole sacrilegious, piss-taking atmosphere which the Sex Pistols and so many other punk musicians create.

And so the songs have been banned on the BBC, and banned on commercial radio and television.

Two shops have been prosecuted for displaying the record sleeve. But the record's still top of the charts. No fifth-rate police hack or BBC censor is going to stop people buying what music they like.

Exclusive FIRST VAMPIRE EVER TO SUE



SOCIALIST WORKER is proud to reveal that on Tuesday we received a writ from a Mr George Ward and a Mr Malcolm Alden.

They are respectively managing director and personnel manager at the scab firm of Grunwick's, where more than a hundred workers have been on the picket line for 15 months.

The writ alleges that we printed an article three weeks ago that contained

libels against the two union breakers.

The article was headed 'The Grunwick Vampires turn on Mrs Desai'.

CONSTRUED

Re-reading the article we find in it nothing that could be construed as libellous. It did contain references to Ward and Alden as 'vampires', and 'barbarians' with a 'sadistic mentality'.

But the Concise Oxford Dictionary tells us what these words mean.

'Vampire—a blood sucking-ghost; person who preys on others.' 'Sadist—one who derives pleasure from inflicting or watching cruelty.' 'Barbarian—who is savage, brutal, uncivilised'.

If anyone can think of a more accurate description of Ward, Alden and Co, we would be very glad to hear it.