Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

10P

INSIDE

Firemen say: See you at R&F Conference
How the firemen are running the strike
PAGES 2-3

Why the soldiers break the strike

PAGE FOUR

They can afford to pay this claim

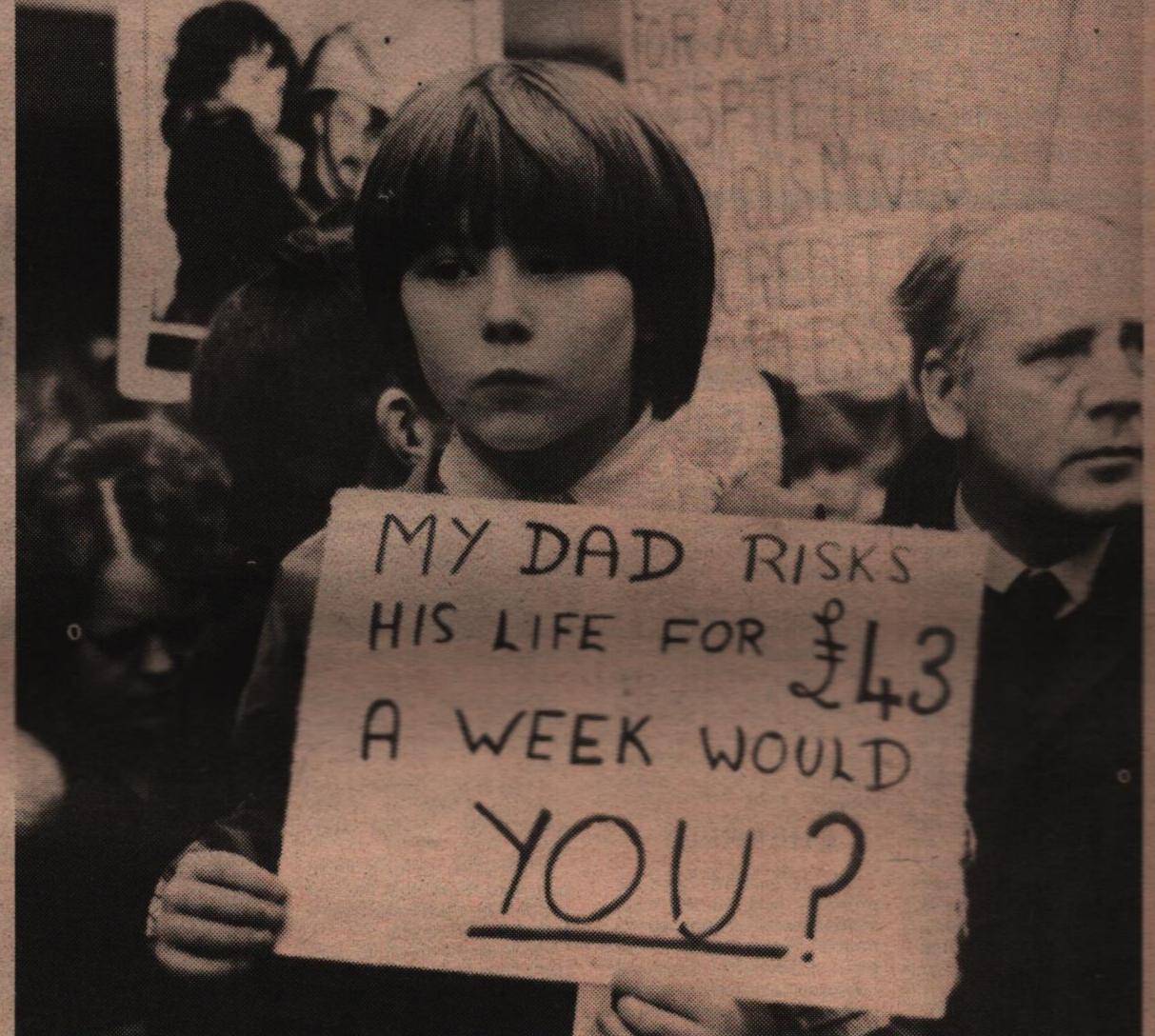
PAGE FIVE

Why I am a socialist, by a fireman

PAGE SEVEN

How many must die before the government see sense?

FORCE THEM TO PAY TO PAY



A demonstrator in Liverpool on Saturday when firemen's families marched in their support.

THE FIREMEN

Firemen picketing Kingsland Road fire station in London cheer local building workers who marched in their support.

Pictures by Phil McCowen



THE GOVERNMENT is waiting for people to burn to death.

That is the desperate ploy it is using in an effort to deny firemen a living wage.

The Financial Times reported on Monday: 'The government hoped to mobilise the force of public opinion against the strike.

'The view was, apparently, that many deaths which arose from inexperienced and ill-equipped troops being unable to cope would be blamed by the public on the strikers rather than the government.'

The government is still following this inhuman tactic. It knows that the Flying Goddesses, the large numbers of inexperienced soldiers, the handful of experienced RAF fire fighters, the wild talk of seizing breathing equipment and turntable ladders from fire stations, cannot deal with any major fire.

It is almost as if it is hoping for a major fire which will burn dozens of people and lead to a witch-hunt atmosphere against the firemen.

On Tuesday an attempt to launch such a witch-hunt was made by newspaper editors who spend as much in one evening wining and dining as the firemen get in a week. They claimed that somehow firemen were responsible for the deaths of two children at Leytonstone

Yet the local firemen had rushed from their picket line to try to rescue the children as soon as they heard about the fire. They left just one fireman behind as a picket. They reached the fire before the army.

If there was any delay, it was the government's fault. Their ramshackle system of dealing with fires involves police checks on suspected burning buildings before any preparations at all are made to rescue those inside.

Press ahead

The army took half an hour to get there because of this.

The government is playing with people's lives.

It is up to all of us to stop the government's antics.

The more other workers join the firemen's demonstrations, the more we take token strike action in support of the firemen, then the more quickly the government will give in to the firemen's demands for a living wage and the fewer will be the number of unnecessary deaths.

THE LEVEL OF ACTION BY THE FIREMEN AND SOLIDARITY SHOWN THEM BY OTHER GROUPS OF WORKERS HAS BEEN MAGNIFICENT. IT WOULD TAKE ALL 16 PAGES OF SOCIALIST WORKER IF WE WERE TO PRINT DETAILS OF EVERY MEETING AND COLLECTION. BUT HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST:

EVERY STRIKE is a victory. It gives workers the time to talk and to think.'

'These are the words of a French poet and song writer speaking on a recent visit to Britain. His words might almost have been a tailor made description of the firemen's strike.

The strike has led to an explosion of activity and creativity among rank and file firemen. They have taken the union by the neck and set it alight with their energy and enthusiasm.

Two incidents from Essex illustrate the process that is at work. One day last week police rushed down to Grays Fire Station to tell the pickets that people were dying in the fire at Tilbury power station.

Firemen who refused to protect property agreed to go and try to protect life.

Once most of the pickets had gone off to help, the police and the army broke into the station and took a Simonitor unit for delivering large quantities of foam or

water. They rushed it to Tilbury. They were proud of their little trick, but they had made a

terrible miscalculation.

Tilbury. He was so outraged at the way he had been conned that he jumped into it and drove it straight back to Grays Fire Station chased by the army and the police. It is now once again held and

blacked by the pickets. Two weeks ago the man who did this was scarcely the most enthusiastic union member. Today he is a changed man, changed by the struggle, by comradeship and by determination to win.

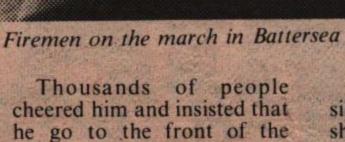
This same tremendous enthusiasm was in evidence at 8am on Sunday morning when strikers staged a mass picket outside Colchester Fire Station.

People came 40 or even 50 miles to picket, even though many of them had been up half the night and even though the picket was organised at a few hours

CHEERED

Those same people probably believed the mass media when they attacked the miners' flying pickets in the past. Now they're enthusiastic about the flying picket because they know that it works.

There's the London Firemen who turned up for



queue. There's the firemen who collected £1000 in Argyle Street in Glasgow last Saturday.

There's the Kentish Town men who found that the first support they got came from a Pakistani newsagent.

He brought his children to the picket line and told the strikers that they needn't worry about paying for their morning papers during the strike.

JAMMED

Imagine what that did to clear out the last remains of racism in anyone!

There's the story of Rank and File Radio in Battersea where firemen used their equipment to relay information on the strike, and, in this supposedly free country of ours, were jammed off the air by order of the government.

The firemen need more than good will to win. They need to translate good will and big collections

So far the TUC has kept silent about what workers should do in support. So has the FBU leadership, Which means that the responsibility lies clearly with the rank and

ROUND THE COUNTRY

CRAWLEY — On the local industrial estate factories have agreed to 'adopt' one fireman each and collect money to cover his wages.

TREDEGAR - Part-timers who are NUM members agreed not to scab on the strike.

CREWE - USDAW members working at the Co-Op tea factory are providing FBU pickets with donations of . . . tea. The Crewe Junction works fire brigade is refusing to answer any outside calls.

WINDSCALE

Whitehaven Cumbria — The Windscale GMWU branch covering the Atomic Energy Plant there has given their members on the Internal Fire Service a very strict instruction not to operate outside unless there is danger of loss of life. If the firemen go beyond this mark they will not be allowed back into Windscale.

READING — A mass factory gate meeting at Prestcolds Ltd (part of British Leyland) voted overwhelmingly for £200 to be given to the firemen's fighting fund.

STRIKING firemen in Swansea were joined on the picket line last Wednesday by engineering workers from a local BSC plant, the Unit Superheater and Pipe Company.

More than 150 men and women walked out on a oneday token stoppage after negotiations broke down over their own 25 per cent pay demand which would give an extra £15 a week to craftsmen.

They decided to demonstrate their solidarity with the firemen by marching through the town to join pickets at Swansea's fire sta-

OVER 50 local shop stewards formed a Leicestershire Support the Firemen Committee as soon as the strike began. The Committee has already provided a network of support throughout the local trade union movement, arranging speakers for branch meetings and organising collections in factories, offices and hospitals.

In addition the Committee has been able to draw together a number of shop stewards involved in disputes over the last 12 months and crucial advice on claiming social security has been passed on to the firemen.

A SUPPORT the Firemen Committee is being formed in the Dudley area by delegates to the trades councils and other trade unionists. Cannon Industries Shop

Stewards Committee have promised a donation of £50 to the firemen's strike fund.

Firemen at Tipton station

ਫਾਇਰਮੈਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਜੱਦਦ ਕੋਰ ! कारी जमत दिस मेरे पर दिस पड़ते होंसे दिसे रे का उंडे में मही। है एक्स में देहें नव प्रते हेवी वह करूर का कहें। दिला कर पंक्रेस माने हे

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have visited a number of

factories in the area to gain

complained of the cold while

on duty. The council sent

heaters, but the driver refused

to cross the firemen's picket

lines. P. BOLTON

Soldiers at Stourbridge

ment find waster 15 15 BEE En Cocu neglin " करें संबंध द्वारिक्षेत्र विकास क्षेत्र मार के साथ के है भी देश है मिस् इसी उसमें क्षेत्र वे मीर मेर है ME SEE WENTE MEN EN 2 ward fee fam at

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SOCIALIST WORKER leaflets in Gujerati are being issued in London. They explain the firemen's case and urge support for their strike.

The man who loves firemen

MR MARTIN BRANNAN the Cumberland Tory councillor who tried to witch-hunt the striking firemen and the Socialist Workers Party on Monday is one of the most, repulsive company directors who ever scoffed a business lunch.

Speaking on the World at One on Monday Brannan chairman of the employers side of the Fire Service national joint council said that 'intimidation, was 'widespread' on unspecified picket lines and unspecified damage inflicted on an unspecified Liverpool fire station was 'the work of extremists'.

POISON

Mr Brannan's touching concern for the firemen is most interesting. He and his three sons who run the Brannan's factory in Cleator

Moor, Cumberland have for years been inflicting physical damage on human beings.

Brannan's make thermometers. To do this they use mercury which is highly tox-

Safe use of mercury involves abiding by tight safety standards. But safety costs money and in the Brannan's factory the concentration of mercury was anything up to seven times the permitted level.

This scandalous state of affairs and the low wages led the workers to join the Engineering workers Union.

Twelve claims for compensation for mercury poisoning were started. A push for safer working conditions was launched. And then the company provoked a strike.

The strike turned into a fierce fight. Mass pickets were called to support the strikers after union leaders in the area had their houses attacked and windows

broken. Leo Golsworthy at the time of the strike district president of the Engineers Union, now full time district secretary, went on record as follows about Brannan on Tuesday:

OBSTACLE

He claims to be concerned for the firemen. It beats me how he even dares to open his mouth on the subject given his past history. He says he's worried about extremists.

But he's so right wing he thinks that Ted Heath's a leftie.' He hopes to divide and confuse the firemen and dreams of reducing them to the same level of impotence as the workers in Brannan's Thermometers of Cleator Moor. There five years after the end of the strike there is no union organisation at all.

NORTHERN IRELAND:

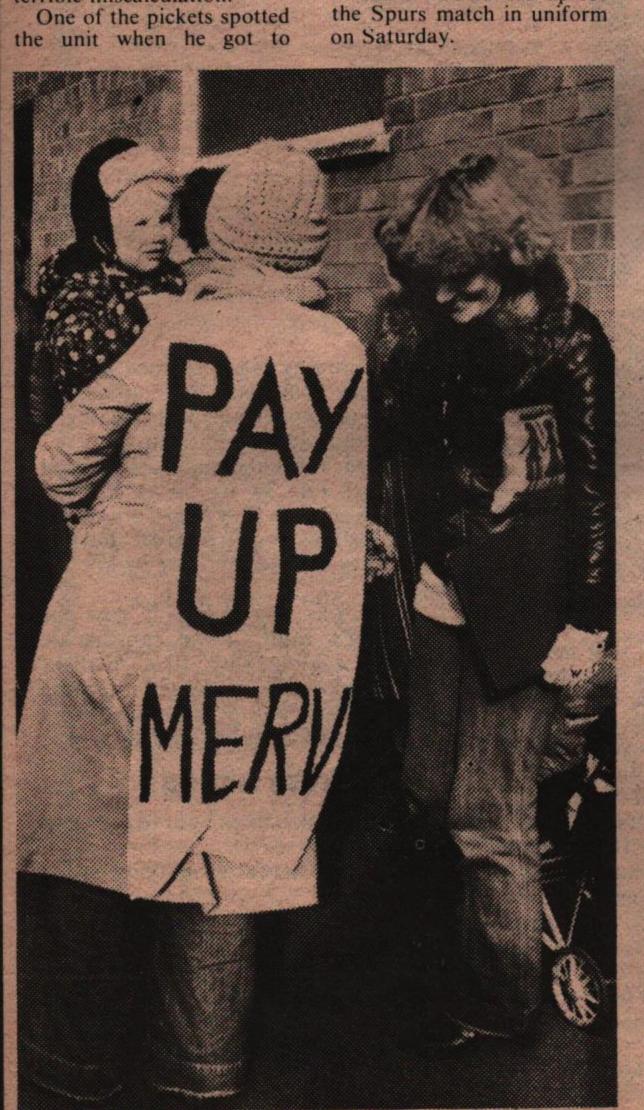
THE STRIKE hardened in Northern Ireland last week when part-time firemen who cover all areas outside Belfast and Derry decided to answer emergency calls only. They had previously been working normally.

Attempts by Merlyn Rees to browbeat the 500 fulltimers back to work by accusing them of leaving the North 'at the mercy of the IRA' have had no effect.

The Provisionals, in fact, have reduced the number of incendiary attacks and the Belfast IRA pledged that they would not 'confuse matters' by taking advantage of the situation.

The men have rejected with contempt an appeal by Rees to stay at work because of 'special problems' here. They remember that when they struck last year for an extra allownace on account of the troubels it was Rees, then Northern Ireland Secretary, who produced a 17-page document 'proving' that they were not a special case!

FIRE BRIGADES UNION MARCH **London Region** Saturday 26 November in London Assemble at 10.30 Temple Tube, Embankment to march to Speakers Corner. * Fight for trade union delegations with banners * All SWP members in London to support

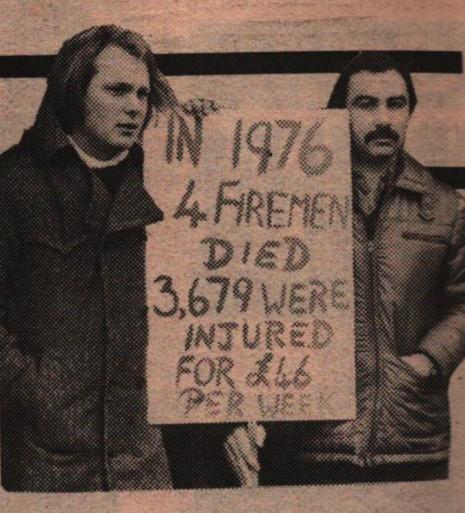


No mistaking the message for the Home Secretary from wives

in Romford.

PAY THE FIREMEN!

running the strike



Why you should support my dad —Lesley Day

MY FATHER is a fully qualified fireman and is based in the East End of London.

After 27 years in the service his take home pay is £51, including London weighting, for a 48 hour week.

His life, and the life of our family, is dominated by the shifts he has to work, two days (9am to 6pm), two nights (6pm to 9am) and two days off.

The rota does not take any account of weekends, bank holidays, Chirstmas.

My sister and I have had many Christmases with only one parent present. Many people think this is counted as overtime, but it is not.

The conditions are bad enough when you talk of any type of work. But most other jobs do not have the constant danger a fireman's does.

I know first hand of a family's worry when a fireman goes out to work or when reports of killed or injured firemen come over the news.

SUPERVISE

You cannot rest until he comes home or phones to say that he's safe, that it wasn't him this time.

One large private company benefitting from the services at my father's station is Fords of Dagenham. They constantly call out the firemen to supervise their own private fire brigade in dealing with their many small fires.

Perhaps the government should look at the profits of these companies before proclaiming that they cannot find £40 million a year to pay the firemen a decent wage. My father is not a militant. But after struggling with his conscience like many other firemen he knows that the time has come for a change.



ABOVE: The firemen's wives' demonstration in Liverpool on Saturday.

ON THE MARCH

by W I Inches, Tayside Fire Brigade Union Secretary

THE DEMONSTRATION and public meeting called last Saturday by the Tayside Fire Brigades Union and supported by Dundee Trades Council was attended by nearly 500 firemen from all over Scotland.

So determined were the firemen from Strathclyde to support the demo that when their second coach broke down not far from Glasgow many of them got out and thumbed the rest of the way

There was standing room only in the Marryat Hall for the public meeting which was opened by Jackie Gordon, Chairman of Dundee Trades Council.

In Battersea 300 firemen and local trade unionists marched in a demonstration called by the trades council.

In Glasgow 2000 firemen marched and held a meeting by a warehouse fire, explaining to the public why they would not put it out.

Wives demonstrate

I'M WEARING a black armband today because I'm grieving for our fire service. I am proud of my husband as we should all be proud of the stand they're taking and of

Kathleen Barton, whose husband has been a fireman for 18 years, addressed a street meeting of more than a hundred firemen's wives, children and supporters, in the centre of Liverpool on Saturday.

'My husband is a station officer,' she told Socialist Worker. 'Yet we are entitled to a rent rebate.

'It has taken a lot of heartsearching and anxiety to get here. Last week we were crying because it had come to this. But this week we're not crying.

'That's our message to Rees. We're not crying any more, we're sticking it out,

'They've shown what they think of the firemen. Well Rees needs our men a lot more than they need him.'

The meeting and demonstration were organised by the Merseyside Firemen's Wives Group and supported by Womens Voice.

Gaynor Burrows is 14. Her dad's a fireman. She and her sister Deborah need new coats this Christmas. They can't have them.

'We get 50p a week pocket money because that's all my mum and dad can afford,' she said. 'Our friends get £1, and my dad risks his life every day.

SUPPORT

'If Callaghan came and lived with us for a week, lived like we do, then he'd know why the firemen need a rise.'

In Merseyside 60 women control assistants, members of the FBU, are out in support and helping on the picket

The wives' group was started from a meeting organised by Jenny Weaver, a fireman's wife and Women's Voice Group member.





150 building workers from Cubitt's Hackney site in London, turned support into active solidarity for the firemen last Wednesday.

They marched off the site and staged a demonstration along Kingsland Road to join the firemen on their picket line.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FIREMENTO WIN

TO WIN this strike in the shortest possible time we've got to step up our campaign. This means:-

 Calling on other trade unionists now for solidarity stoppages—in protest against inadequate fire provisions and to force the government to pay us.

 Asking fellow trade unionists to pay a weekly levy towards the local FS strike fund.

 Organising weekly demonstrations of firemen and other trade unionists to show we are still fighting and support is growing.

 Stepping up the pickets on scabbing NAFO members—their actions are prolonging the strike and causing unnecessary risks.

Picketing depots and barracks where the troops are operating to stop petrol, food and other supplies from going in. The quicker the troops operation grinds to a halt, the quicker the strike will be over and the fewer soldiers will be needlessly injured.

-from the Daily Strike News of Rank and File Fireman,

Saturday.

strike

A daily newspaper

ONE SUCCESS story of the strike is the daily bulletin of the National Rank and File Fireman, Daily Strike News.

This has provided thousands of firemen with details of how the strike is going in different parts of the country, of the odd weak spots that need reinforcing, and of the manouevres of the government.

As the bulletin explains:
'Many firemen have been asking, 'Who is behind Rank and File Fireman?' and 'Why don't any names appear in it?'

National Rank and File

Fireman was formed in April by firemen involved in three local rank and file action groups in Strathclyde, Liverpool and South Yorkshire. Other places also helped.

The first National Rank and File Fireman paper came out in May and all

Your lives

By a Fireman at

Kingsland Road sta-

AFTER FOUR inquiries and many unfulfilled

promises, we have now

been forced into strike

action. Our pay is so bad

tha many of us have to

apply for free school

meals and clothing grants

for our children, and for

Above all there is the

Your life could depend

on a fireman whose mind

is occupied with such

problems. In order to work

as a good responsible

fireman, a man must be

worry about making ends

rent and rate rebates.

meet.

tion, London

Our livelihood—

the names and brigades of contributors were printed in it. The result: a massive witchhunt by the EC against the contributors.

Ronnie Robertson, a Stratchclyde delegate to Conference in Bridlington was actually refused admission to Conference by the EC. Both he and Terry Segars from East Anglia were suspended from office and only reinstated when they gave assurances that they would not break the rules of the FBU.

ATTACK

As a result of this witchhunt Rank and File Fireman apologised to its readers and supporters for the fact that articles now have to be anonymous to protect the writers from attack.'

The Daily Strike News has been able to come out

satisfied he has fulfilled

his responsibility to his

for to provide our families

with reasonable food and

clothing, with a good,

decent home so that we

can concentrate on ser-

ving you to the best of our

the government are

prepared to gamble and

risk your lives. Don't be

fooled. The troops are

almost useless. Your life is

the past; with your sup-

port and encouragement

we can get back to work

ans help you in the future.

We have helped you in

Mr Rees and the rest of

The rise we are asking

family.

ability.

in danger.

Why we must keep the right to

because the National

Rank and File centre has

given over the firemen its

facilities-which is one

reason why many firemen

will be supporting the rank

and file conference this

The idea being floated in a few newspapers to give the firemen money now and then take away our right to strike is definitely a non-starter.

If we are close to the bottom of the wage league now when we have the right to strike, where the hell would we be without it?

The answer is that in a few years we would be even worse off.

And then, when we tried to do anything about it, there would be the prospect of hundreds of us being thrown in jail.

The fact that this vicious

at this early stage is an indication that the strike is beginning to bite and that the Insurance Companies are starting to squeal.

SOCIALIST WORKER
SAYS
SUPPORT
THE
FIREMEN!

Why the press are against us

WE HAVE more than a fair suspicion that there has been some interference in the Press about coverage of the firemen strike.

It looks very much as though the Press are deliberately playing down the fires, especially the big ones which damage property.

'It's not going smoothly, not at all. We know of several huge fires which haven't even been reported. We think there has ben more fire damage to property in the first week of the firemen's strike than there was in the whole of last year.

Lou Lewis, a member of the Fire Brigades Union national executive, summed up the feeling of many striking firemen that there is deliberate news management.

Originally, the firemen had heard that a 'D' Notice, restricting certain kinds of

reporting, had been issued be the Government.

This was denied to Socialist Worker by Rea Admiral Farnhill, secretar

A more likely story come from the two miners strikes of 1972 and 1974. When the editors of all national newspapers were called in the Home Office and asked not to 'blow things up to

much about the strike.

4 SOCIALIST WORKER 26 November 1973

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers. The working class needs an entirely different dind of state-a workers' state 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.



Why soldiers breakthe strike

BY A FORMER SOLDIER

IF YOU'VE been watching the BBC News over the past few days you'll have seen the pictures of young soldiers stumbling out of smoke-filled buildings, choking their guts up, with tears streaming down their faces, and wondering what the hell they're doing there.

I know exactly what they must feel like. Three years ago my unit was told we were getting a special treat.

Glasgow, it seemed, was about to be overrun by a plague of rats. Kids, possibly ours, would be bitten by them and rabies would spread like wildlire.

The reason?

A group of greedy dustcart drivers had decided they wanted more money than the country could afford and were prepared to create a health hazard to get it.

That was how the Lieutenant Colonel put it. And most of the lads believed him.

Refused

After all, it meant a chance to see wives and girlfriends, to get drunk with old mates in a Glasgow pub and generally have a good time.

But some of us, a very small number, saw it differently. We were being used to break a strike by a group of low-paid workers trying to get a decent wage. So we refused to go.

What happened next shows why so few soldiers attempt to organise ás trade unionists inside the army.

We were taken to the notorious military corrective training centre at Colchester and forbidden to tell the other inmates the real reason why we were there. Like everyone else in Colchester we were put on restricted diet which means you're permanently hungry.

daily timetable:

been raining overnight.)

three slieces of bread.

Then more square bashing and PT.

can hardly move.

Six days a week this was the

6am: Rise, make up bed pack, take black boot polish and polish a 3ft-high strip of black matt paint round the outside of the cell block till it shone (almost impossible if it's

After breakfast a mug of cocoa without sugar and two slices of bread - the rest of the day was divided into eight 50minute periods of drill, PT, drill, PT, with a break for lunch a mug of soup and

Troops fight a fire, surrounded by drums of chemicals labelled

By light out, at 9pm you're aching all over and the next morning you're sto stiff you

'Inflammable liquid'

But Colchester isn't the only reason why so few soldiers question what they're doing.

The same Lieutenant Colonel told us that when we reached Glasgow there would be groups of people on street corners handing out leaflets and selling newspapers. These he said were 'Communists'.

Blackmail

If you talked to them or mingled with them at all they would get information out of you about where you lived, how many kids you had, where you were stationed and so on. They would then use whatever information they got from you to blackmail you into giving them more information.

The only way to be safe was to avoid contact with them altogether, he said.

No doubt the young squaddies who have been roped in to do the firemen's jobs have been told much the same thing.

I'd be the last person to pretend it's easy to organise as a trade unionist inside the army. There is a constant barrage of propaganda. through film shows and officers' talks, about greedy workers, communists and trade unions having too much

power. But if a start isn't made soon to organise trade union ideas in the army then soldiers, usually unemployed lads from a working-class background like myself, will find themselves being used more and more as strike-breakers, preventing ordinary workers from winning a decent standard of living.

Today it's firemen that the soldiers are being used against. Who will it be tomorrow?

NGRY Army wives took pot shots at the top brass yesterday

For sending their husbands home "to keep their wives from creating trouble."

The women had protested on Thursday about their husbands' working

conditions. And about 30 of them took up "picket duty" at Sighthill Fire Station,

Edinburgh. The women - all wives of soldiers serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers - live in married quarters in the

Longstone area of Edin-

burgh

A report from Glasgow's Daily Record last Saturday.

By MARGARET CAMERON

Mrs Susan Kane, 22, said: "My husband has been sent home by his officers to keep me in

FREEZING

Mrs George Grant, whose husband is a corporal, said: "Surely it is only fair to ask that our men get adequate training and protective clothing.

"Most of our husbands are still sleeping on floors or in overcrowded, freezing rooms."

After meeting striking firemen, the army wives cooled their anger . . .

They agreed to sign a petition supporting the firemen — and the firemen signed the wives' petition. Douglas Forbes, Fire

Brigade Union branch chairman at Sighthill, said: "The women were quite sympathetic to us. Like us their complaint is with the Government.

An army spokesman said: "Serving soldiers must carry out their duties.

"Nowever, if any petition which raises nume welfare points is presented to us, it will be seriously considered."

WILL A WITCH-HUNT BE THE NEXT WEAPON?

THE FIREMEN have won their first battle-for public sympathy.

The government calculated that the public would turn against the firemen, and calculated wrongly. Everywhere, there are reports of almost unanimous solidarity with the firemen from other

workers. But public sympathy is not enough. Twice in the past 12 years national official strikes have had plenty of public sympathy. The post office workers in 1971 had lots of sympathy-but the Tory government beat them into the ground.

In the seamen's strike in 1966-a closer parallel with the firemen-the Labour government realised after six weeks that it couldn't beat the seamen outright.

WILSON

It set up a public enquiry which recommended a compromise. When this was rejected by a majority of the seamen's union executive, the government, led by Harold Wilson, launched into a violent witch-hunt against seamen's union militants.

Wilson devoted two speeches in the House of Commons to what he called the tightly-knit group of politically motivated men who he said were running the

Communist Party members were named. The contents of tapped telephone calls were revealed. The places where militants stayed and even their conversations with one another were exposed.

The witch-hunt worked. After another three weeks the scamen's executive reversed its vote and called the seamen back to work for no more than the public enquiry had offered.

In terms of money received, the seamen's strike was neither a defeat nor a victory. But by

the witch-hunting tactics, the Labour government managed to isolate the left in the union. The union-and its members-did not recover for ten vears.

This Labour government may soon he forced into the same tactics as their predecessors. If the firemen obviously cannot be beaten down, some sort of half-baked compromise-overtime payments for the six hoursmight be worked out.

SALVAGE

But the government will not let matters rest there.

They will seek to salvage

from the strike a victory against the militants and activists among the firemen who have kept the strike going at such a fine pace.

A glimpse of what is to come was the statement from a Northumberland councillor carlier this week that the Socialist Workers Party is running the strike, and a move to censure one fireman in his FBU branch at the weekend for his activities as a SWP member! (The move failed by the way, after a unanimous vote against it).

The rank and file firemen who have produced their weekly bulletin and campaigned in the open for

spreading the strike and for more militant policies have nothing to hide from a witchhunt.

CONTEMPT

Whatever FBU general secretary Terry Parry may say. most firemen have nothing but contempt for people who go to witch-hunt the socialists and militants among their colleagues.

Let Callaghan try on the firemen what Wilson did to the seamen. He will find, as his colleague Merlyn Rees did over the 'public sympathy'. that his tactics could, to coin a phrase, go up in smoke.

PAY THE FIREMEN!

The firemen need their rise, All workers need a rise, And the country can afford it

THE FIREMEN are not the only group of workers upset by the 10 per cent limit.

Local government manual workers, health service workers, ambulance workers, dockers, miners, seamen, all have pay claims in for much more than 10 per cent.

The government claims the country cannot afford to pay these claims, without forcing up prices and inflation, so creating 'confetti money'.

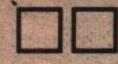
But there are at least two ways of satisfying all these claims without pushing up prices at all.

THE Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth reported last week. It showed that the top 5 per cent of the population share between them nearly 14 per cent of all personal income.

Put it another way: if we really were 'all in the same boat' and the rich were forced to live on the same average income as other people, then

enough money would be released to increase the pay of the 50 per cent of the population who are poorest by 30 per cent each, without prices rising by a single penny.

This is without taking into account the vast amounts of property owned by the rich, or the many perks they receive from the companies they run—cars, company meals, company houses, underhand, tax-free payments paid into bank accounts in the Cayman Islands.



The government's policy is not one of 'equal sacrifice for all'. It is a defence of the existing inequality of wealth, which is forcing down the living standards of those who

work for a living and forcing up the living standards of those who live off directors' fees, property speculation, dividends, and money lending.

THE economic crisis means that less wealth is still being produced in this country than five years ago, or even than during the three-day week imposed by Tory prime minister Edward Heath at the beginning of 1974.

If the shut-down factories were opened up and the 1½ million unemployed were allowed to work, vast amounts of new wealth would be created. A recent estimate by Frank Field of the Child Poverty Action Group is £5000 million a year.

wealth available to pay all workers wage increases big enough to catch up and overtake price rises.

What stops this happening is the present organisation of society, with control over industry lying in the hands of a small group of very rich people, whose only concern is making profits. Because they are not satisfied with the level of profits, they allow factories to shut and force workers on to the dole queues.



The government oc casionally claims to be socialist. But instead of taking measures to deal with the power of these parasites, it is attacking the living standards of workers such as the firemen, using the troops to reinforce its wage controls and risking the lives of hundreds of people.

f72 a week'.

That was prime minister Callaghan's claim when he was heckled by firemen in Cardiff last week.

It was a doubly disgusting retort for him to make.

You are being offered £72 a week and there are

a lot of people in Cardiff taking home less than

Firstly because it is not true that all firemen would get £72 before tax under the government's offer. Only those with more than five years service would get that.

Someone just starting the job would get a mere £57.80—which after deductions would leave them with little more than £40 a week for risking their lives.

Meanwhile there is at least one man in Cardiff who rakes in much, much more than £72 a week-Callaghan himself. He gets £17,500 for being prime minister, plus the dividend on 500 shares owned by his wife in the bank of his old friend Julian Hodge, plus the income from his quarter of a million pound farm in Sussex—estimated to have increased by about 28 per cent in the past year, compared with the 10 per cent limit on wages.

With Labour leaders like that, who needs Tories?

NO LIMIT FOR SOME

Rail fares are going up by 14 per cent in the New Year. No 10 per cent limit

or 12-month rule there.
Nor for the bread
manufactuers. Bread went
up another 2p on Monday.
That means bread prices
have risen by 25 per cent
in a year.

Yet the government says that wage demands of 25 per cent are 'insane'.

THE COUNTRY CAN AFFORD . . .

Professor David
Henderson of University
College, London, has
estimated that two
government projects in
recent years have
incurred losses of £5000
million between them—
that's £250 from each

wage earner in Britain.

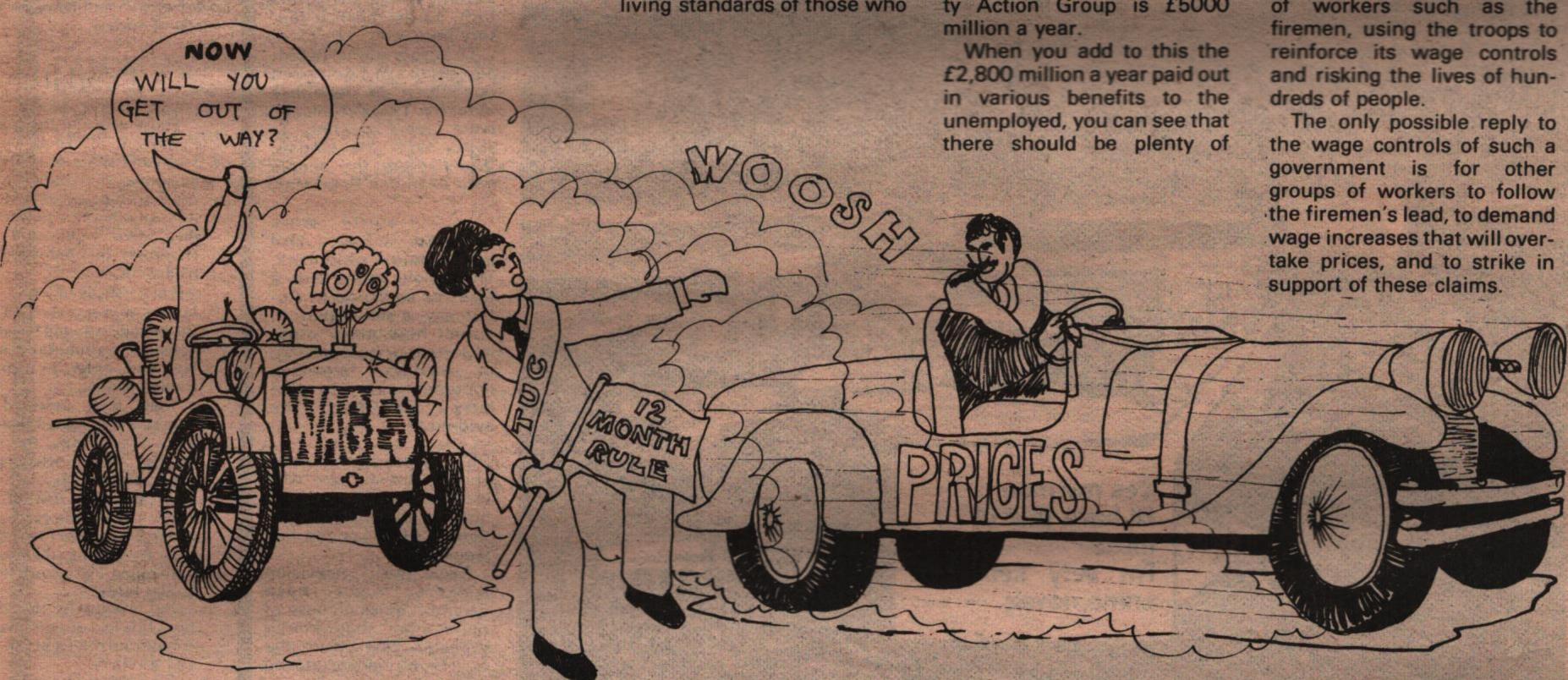
Neither of the two projects—Concorde, for flying the rich at supersonic speeds, and the Advanced Gas Cooled Nuclear Reactor, for producing electricity more expensive than that produced from coal or oil—can be of any benefit to wage earners.

WHERE THERE'S FLAMES THERE'S BRASS

The Royal Insurance Company announced its profits last week for the first nine months of this year. They have grown by £50.8 million on the same period last year.

Compare that with the mere £40 million needed to settle the firemen's claim.

By the way, a considerable hunk of those profits come because of the success of the firemen in putting out fires in industrial properties.



UNTIL 1904, A MAN WITH A RED FLAG WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO WALK
IN FRONT OF ALL MOTOR CARS...

Cartoon by Roger Crossley

COME TO THIS CONFERENCE -FIREMEN'S LETTER

An appeal from Fire Brigades Union brigade and branch officers:

Dear brother/sister,

We are firemen on strike to win a living wage. Rank and file support from other trade unionists is vital if we are going to win. Ours is a fight against the government's 10 per cent limit.

This is why we urge you to make certain that your union organisation is represented this coming Saturday, 26 November, at the National Rank and File Delegate Conference in Manchester.

Yours fraternally,

(in our personal capacities)
Strathclyde: J Delargy,
branch secretary, South Fire
Station, Centre Street FBU,
A Begg, branch delegate,
Castlemilk FBU, J Hamilton
branch chairman, Ingrams
Street FBU.



Merseyside: M Melia, branch chairman, Banks Road FBU. R Hatton, branch chairman, Conleach Road FBU. B Roxborough, branch secretary, Strand Road FBU. J Weaver, branch rep, Warrington FBU.

Tyne and Wear: John Miller, FBU brigade secretary. M Twigg, Brigade Committee secretary, Heddur Branch FBU.

West Midlands: G Poxon, brigade committee.

Yorkshire: R Tomkins, branch chairman, Elm Lane FBU. J Cox, Bradford branch FBU.

London: J Fitzpatrick, branch rep, Battersea FBU. Les Higgs, chairman, Plaistow FBU. J Rabbits, branch chairman, Hendon FBU.

RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Support the firemen Smash the 10 per cent limit

Saturday 26 November, 11.30am, New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester.

LATE CREDENTIALS: Delegates with letters of authorisation from their branch/shop stewards committee secretaries will be able to get credentials at the door of the conference.

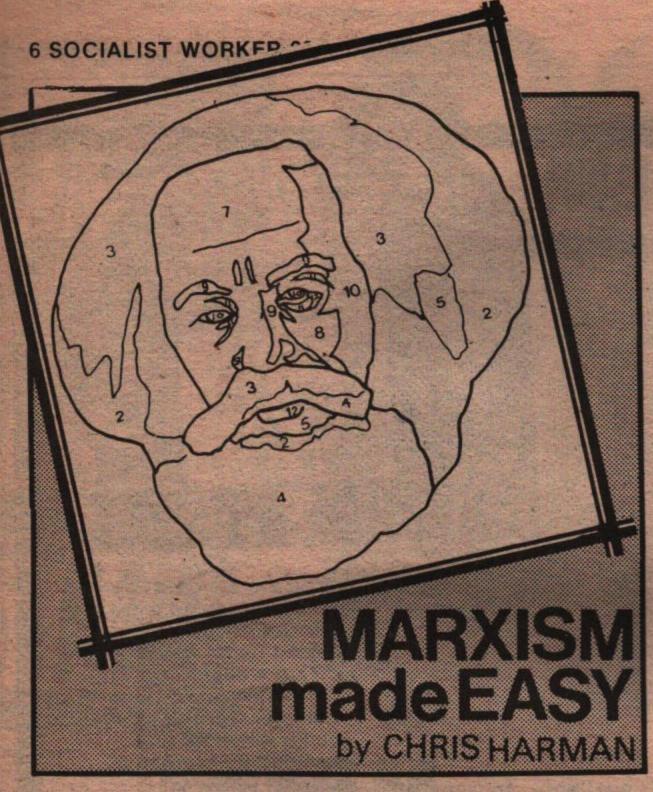
Transport to the conference:

LONDON: Special train leaves Euston, 7.30am. £5 return. Tickets from the Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone reservations now, (01) 802 0978 or 0977.

BIRMINGHAM: Coach leaves 9am, Hall of Memory.

SHEFFIELD: 9.30am, Harmer Lane, near Pond-Street bus station, £1 return.
GLASGOW: George Square, 7.30am, £4 return.
HULL: 9am, Socialist Books, Springbank, Hull.
CARDIFF: 7am, Central Station.
NOTTINGHAM: 8.30am, Salutation Inn, Maid Marion Way.
DERBY: 9.15am, Guildhall.
YORK: Minibus details, phone Anne Barber 52619.
NEWCASTLE: 8am, Central Station, coach £3.
SUNDERLAND: 7.30am, outside Joplings, coach £3.

LEICESTER: For details, phone Elspeth Alcott on 660883.



How the system began

ONE OF the most ludicrous arguments you hear is that things could not be different to the way they are now. Yet things were different. And not on some distant part of the globe, but in this country, not so long ago.

A mere 250 years ago people would have regarded you as a lunatic if you had described to them the world we live in now, with its huge conurbations, its great factories, its planes, its space expeditions, even its railway systems.

For they lived in a society which was overwhelmingly rural, in which most people had never travelled outside their

local village, in which the pattern of life was determined, as it had been for thousands of years, by the alternation of the seasons.

Go back a few hundred years further, and little of what we take for granted today existed. Cities were not only few and far between-they were also hardly bigger than many present day villages.

Civilisation

Reading and writing were skills confined almost entirely to some of the inhabitants of monasteries, 99 per cent of the population tilled the land, working from sunrise to sunset, using methods that had hardly changed since the collapse of Roman civilisation, 800 vears before.

If you had talked to people about nations, or 'the rule of law', or 'wages'

or 'dividends', they would not have known what you meant.

The horizon of most people's lives was set by the village in which they lived. They spoke a dialect that was virtually incomprehensible to people who lived only a few miles away. They certainly did not feel they belonged to the same 'nation' as these strangers, still less as the local feudal lords, who spoke a version of what we would call French, or the monasteries, where writing was still in Latin.

In return for their right to till bits of land for themselves each peasant household had to work a certain number of days each year for the local lord, and in addition had to give him certain of their own produce as 'gifts'. No money passed between peasant

and lord. There was no legal system as we

office.

demands.

ONE HUMAN tragedy as a

result of the lift engineers'

strike hasn't received

One woman office

worker's lift has been out

of action for 12 days now.

As a result she has to walk

up 12 floor every day to her

woman concerned is

Shirley Williams, Educa-

tion Minister, and a

notorious hard liner

against union wage

In a recent programme

The programme includ-

The i-shirts were

Just how many other

tion in West London last

viewers might have

caught a quick glimpse of

none other than Martin

Webster, king pin in the

Nazi Front, nipping into the

THE FOLLOWING peo-

ple are on the Christmas

list of the Economic

League. The League

provides employers with

information on trade un-

ion activists. If you know

one of these people, let

Those who will receive

G H Webber from

Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex;

W A Whitehead from

Longwick, Aylesbury,

Bucks; E D France from

Farnham Royal Slough;

Mrs V Broad, Fareham,

Hants; P Lagden, Valonia

Gardens, West Hill, Lon-

don, SW18; H Tarrant,

Reigate Surrey; Major LA

A Newman, Dolphin

J J G Geary,

Smallfields, Horley, Sur-

rey; E Clarke, West

Green, Crawley, Sussex.

Square, London, SW1;

a bottle of Bisquit

Dubouche VSOP are:

Fifth Column know.

For your

Christmas

Eagle-eyed television

week?

list

by the

But don't weep. The

enough publicity.

know if, with courts, judges, policemen, prisons. The lord of the manor was also the person who decided what could and

could not be done in the village. Finally, the role today performed by the mass media, of giving the lower classes some overall view of the world in harmony with the interests of their

Non-Christians

'betters', was performed by the church.

It was only through its services and chatecisms that most people derived some idea of how their little village fitted into some wider order of things.

The content of the teaching was quite different to that which you would get from any church today-for instance, lending money for interest was regarded as a mortally sinful activity which only non-Christians (Jews) could engage in.

> Seven or eight hundred years ago a development began which was eventually to challenge this whole setup. In isolated areas groups of craftsmen and traders began to establish the beginnings of towns, no longer giving their services gratis to some lord, but instead exchanging products with different lords and serfs in the surrounding region for foodstuffs and increasingly using precious metals as a measure of that exchange.

> It was not a big step from that, to seeing in every act of exchange an opportunity to get a little extra of the precious metal, to make a profit.

> At first the towns could only survive by playing one lord off against another. But as time went on the skills of thier craftsmen improved, more wealth was created by them, and the basis was laid for greater influence on the rest of society.

Feudal

Those who ran the towns could now afford to make arms and employ soldiers. Beginning as termites in the crack within feudal society. they soon became powers in their own right-and increasingly in opposition to feudal society.

They disliked the arbitrary power exercised by the feudal lords and began to demand a national system of law and order to protect

trading routes. And they resented a church which forced them to act according to the dictates of a society they were outgrowing.

At first the rich of the cities, the 'burgers' (or (bourgeois') tried to get their way by allying themselves with monarchs against lesser feudal lords.

But eventually the kings used this increased power to trample on the 'rights' of rich city dwellers.

In anger, the cities rose up

against the kings, and tried to take control of the whole of society for themselves.

Where they succeeded, as in Britan, with the English revolution and later in France with the French revolution, society was reestablished on a new basis that could carry it forward.

But elsewhere they failed at first.

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We know, we know

by Murray Armstrong

COMMISSIONER NcNee's policy of confrontation at Grunwick's is making it clear to everyone whose side the police are on, and exactly what they are protecting.

The Dixon of Dock Green image of the British bobby is quickly being replaced by something nearer the truth—a boot swinging thug on the take.

But that's not the only place where our attitude to the police is being changed. It seems that most of the senior officers are spending their time facing juries, being suspended, or resigning to dodge the rap.

Since 1969 the scum has been rising to the top of the pool. It was in that year that the Metropolitan Police were forced into an inquiry by that subversive newspaper 'The Times'.

Disaster

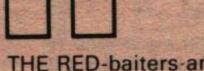
Two South London detectives were eventually sent down for corruption and extortion. Another one disappeared and hasn't been seen since. Of course we were told at the time that it was just some rotten apples'

But then there was the Drug Squad inquiry, which got another three inside. And finally came the porn squad enquiry which is still knocking down the odd top cop and making many more squirm behind their magazines.

It's all cleaned up, you

might think. Not a chance! The interesting thing about these inquiries is this: the pillar of society who headed the first inquiry into the Times allegations, DCS Moody of the Yard, became four years later one of the main suspects in the Porn

The inquiry into corruption in the Drug Squad was conducted by the Lancashire police-a 'neutral, outside body'. Wait for it ... the Chief Constable of



Squad case!

THE RED-baiters and Nazi supporters seem to be adopting a new propaganda tactics.

Recently a letter appeared in the Evening News saying that the National Front should be banned. It was signed A. Skornsky Cottons Gardens (SWP headquarters).

So far there have been two letters in reply saying that the SWP should be banned.

Needless to say A. Skornsky does not exist.

Lancashire, Stanley Parr, was charged with 37 separate offences after a confidential report on him, compiled by the Chief Constable of Hampshire, had been published by the Lancashire Evening Post in February.

Parr was suspended and brought before a disciplinary tribunal last month. We are anxiously waiting for its result.

But it seems now that Chief Constable Parr wasn't on his own. Last week another inquiry was

set up to 'investigate corruption in local government and business circles in Lancashire.'

This information, concerning graft over planning permission and building contracts has apparently come to light as a direct result of Parr's exposure!

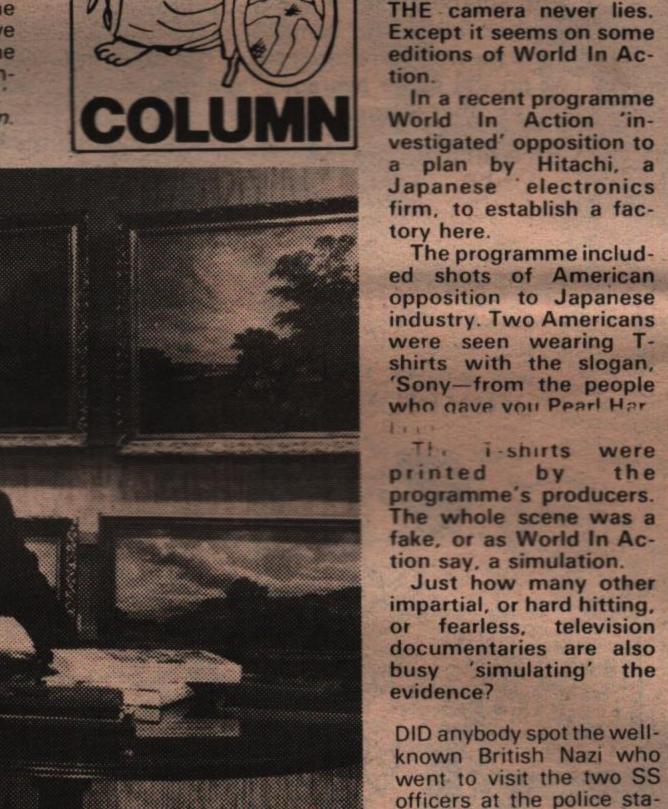
Respect

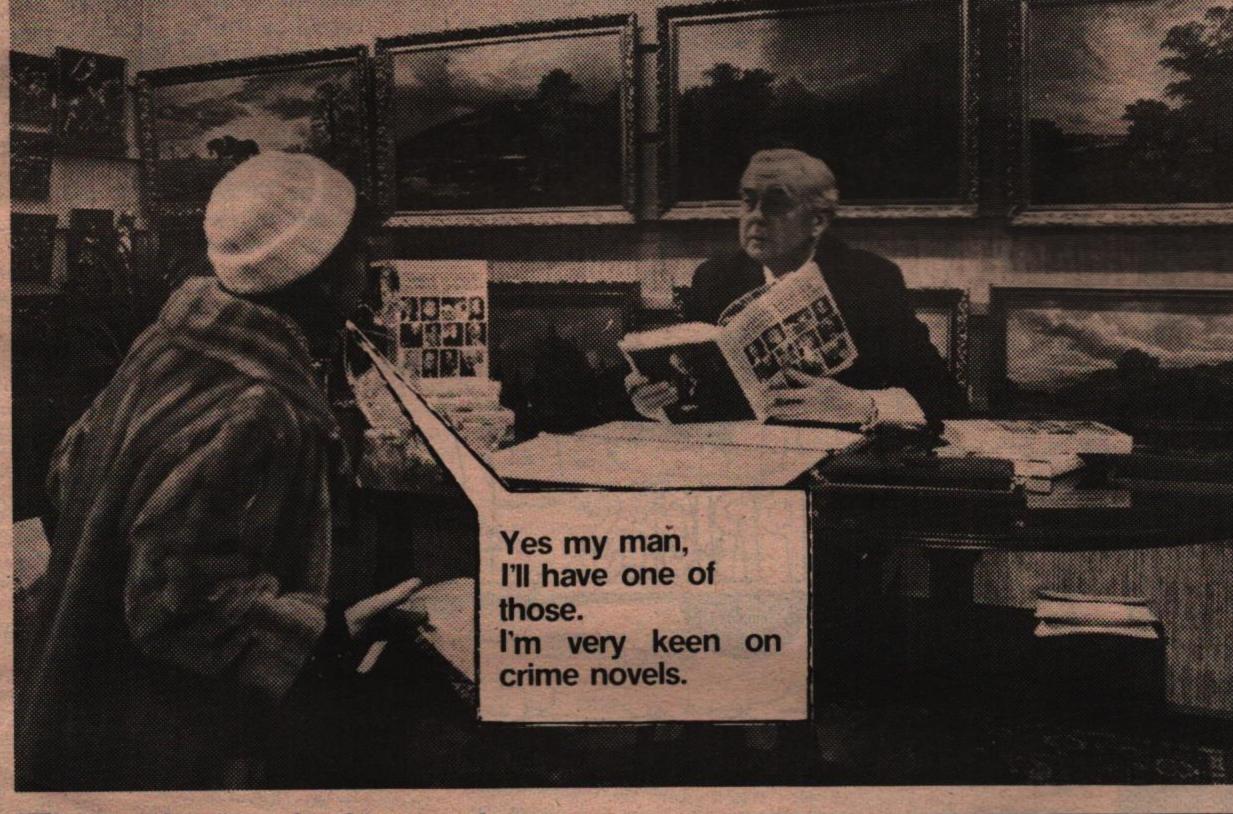
But don't worry, two senior officers from Nottinghamshire have been called in to conduct the investigations!

Police corruption is just a small corridor in the gravy train. 'Society as we know it' thrives on it, the wheels of government are oiled by it, the Labour Party is decomposing in it.

When the Home Secretary was asked to set up an inquiry into police violence at Grunwicks he replied, 'The police have my full confidence and the confidence of the government, and I stick to that."

We know why, Merlyn. We know why.





The closed shop they don't want to ban.

EARLIER this year police raided a health studio in Littleborough, Lancashire. A summons was issued alleging that solicitor Robert Vining had sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old

girl. When he appeared in court. the charge was dropped and police offered no evidence as a result of the Director of Public Prosecutions intervening.

Reason: Vining is a solicitor, part of that wellknown closed shop, the legal profession.

As the Oldham Chronicle comment piece put it: 'We would like to be able to assure people that all is well. that justice really was done. Unfortunately we cannot.

The (hronicle gives a comparison with another man, charged with the same offence with the same girl. He has been committed

speaking to the

'IN RHODESIA the white people are so keen to look after the blacks that they even do their voting for them.'

for trial at Manchester

Crown Court. But then he is

You cannot get a decent

I have to earn £4,800

needed to pay insurance on my Rolls.'

just to clear the £800

Mr Alf Gooding, who

earns £30,000 a year,

Industry Conference.

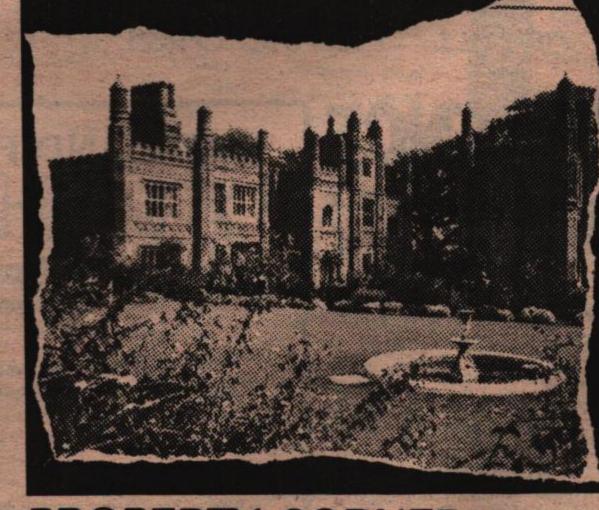
Confederation of British

just a foreman mechanic.

package holiday for

under £2,000.

-from Sunday Mirror letters page, 20 November.



thousand to spare might be interested in making a bid for this 16th century manor house at Walsingham in Norfolk.

heated swimming pool.

PROPERTY CORNER:

FIFTH Column readers with a few hundred

Six acres of gardens, minstrel gallery, seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, tennis court and

A FIREMAN SPEAKS OUT:

Why am socialist

TERRY SEGARS is regional chairman of the East Anglia Fire Brigades Union representing 2,500 firemen. He has been a member of the Socialist Workers Party for ten years. Last Thursday he took time off from the firemen's strike headquarters in Chelmsford to talk about his life and why he became a socialist.

I AM the oldest son in a family of three living in North London. From the age of about eleven my mother had to bring the three of us up by herself.

I suppose one of my earliest political recollections is how I came to see the welfare state.

My mother had to rely on it. She worked occasionally in the local factories. But she couldn't work and see to us at the same time.

I remember the welfare worker coming round from what was then called the 'Assistance Board'. I can still see the welfare worker criticising my mother for smoking cigarettes.

'How can you afford it?' she demanded to know.

The welfare worker didn't know that smoking was the only thing keeping my mother sane. She didn't know that and she didn't care. It was horrible.

Dressed

My family was very proud of me. I'd got myself to the local grammar school. Only my mother couldn't possibly afford to keep me dressed in the same way as all the middleclass kids.

Things haven't changed, by the way. My daughter is at comprehensive school—there are reactions about the colour of her gym slip.

Every Tuesday morning I

INTERVIEW John Rose

always arrived late for school. The other kids and the other teachers knew the reason. I had to go and collect the family allowance from the Post Office.

Some sneered. Others were nice about it. Maybe a few didn't notice. But I noticed.

I failed my O-levels. I didn't really know where I was. There were dreadful dramas at home all the time. It was a terrible period of my life, a dead period.

After I left school I got a job in one of the local factories. I gravitated towards the Labour Party. I had become a socialist at school. The Labour Party seemed the

place to be. The International Socialists (now the SWP) had members in the local party. One of them arranged a series of lectures on Marxism with Tony Cliff speaking. These made a really

big impression on me. I began to understand world problems and how they could be solved. I felt that I had my part to play in solving them. That is what struck me most. Me and all the others sorting things out.

I soon got fed up with humping glass around in the glass factory I was working in.

Hooked around for something more interesting.

THE fire service caught my eye. It seemed more worthwhile. I liked the idea of helping people. So I joined.

I quickly worked out that I didn't want to become an officer. Even though such a prospect would be held out to an ex-grammar school boy like me. I didn't like the rigid hierarchy. I could see it was a reflection of the class-system.

Active

That sounds glib. But that's why I hate it.

In 1970 my wife and I moved out of North London and came to East Anglia. I became much more active in the union and in the International Socialists.

There is one great advantage of being a fireman. The job itself may be tough, but there is plenty of time in the mess room. People want to talk. That means that I could and can talk politics.

Of course very very few agree with my point of view. But they will listen. Your point of view is much more credible if you are union activist and have worn real gains for the

Terry Segars talking to fellow firemen picketing the fire station at Brentwood in Essex.

Lewisham caused lots of discussion. I was really uplifted by what happened there.

No one can defeat the argument that the National Front and violence are the same thing. My watch realises that the National Front are Nazis. They can see why they have to be put down.

Of course the men didn't like the way policemen were injured. On the other hand there is less sympathy for the police than is sometimes realised.

Firemen do not identify with the police. They resent the publicity the police grab. The firemens' role is often ignored.

It's we who pull the bodies out of the crashed cars—while the police get the credit.

Women cause lively arguments in the mess room too and not only in the way that you would imagine. The page 3 of the Sun attitude leads naturally to the view that women are the weaker sex and hence are not strong enough to be firemen.

This provides for some excellent arguments. I always argue that if women pass the

tests then they should be employed. This of course is the legal position—though I don't know of any firewomen.

PAY THE FIREMEN!

Of course for most people it seems like a 'Man's Job'. Yet firemen have to do the things on the station that are thought of as 'womens' work'. We buy our food and cook it and we wash up.

BUT ONE subject above all others has dominated discussions in the mess room over the past months. Pay and prices.

The resentment just mounted daily. An increasingly keen interest was taken in strikes by other workers. There was by no means always agreement with other groups, but everyone began watching the industrial scene.

There is no doubt in the minds of most firemen, we are not something apart, we are workers.

Joke

There is no sympathy for he Labour government and its pay policy. The pay policy is a

Firemen cannot see the difference between Labour and Tory. They really can't. different responsibilities. The trouble is there is no It was as though they'd

Suspended

Industrial power is the only

way. But this ties in exactly

with the need for a rank and

file movement, a point well

understood by the FBU ex-

ecutive, who suspended me

from the union for five months

for being associated with

The strike has confirmed

the speed with which workers

can realise their capacities.

Men who for weeks wrestled

with their consciences about

striking are now into it with

strikers the other day. Three

they were, sitting down calmly

and coolly deciding on ways of

making the strike a success.

Everyone was volunteering for

I walked into a room full of

boundless enthusiasm.

Rank and File Fireman!

obvious alternative. This leads it all their lives. to a feeling of simple in-A fire station had rema difference to the government. open somewhere in the tryside. There was no que But it also leads to the feeling about it. A flying picket that we must use our force to change the pay policy

be arranged to sort it ou When Tilbury power tion went up in flames a days ago the troops lure firemen away from the p line. They told them

human life was at risk. It was a trick. The tr took the fire engine from

station where the pickets been. The pickets were fur

One not a trade union ac particularly, was so angry he slipped into the driver's of the fire engine when army driver wasn't loo He drove it right back to fire station with the sol and police giving chase!

The man broadcast ove engine's radio. The engine been reclaimed for the st he said.

The other firemen as pleased as punch.

If we ran society, far fewer would die in fires



by Glasgow fireman RONNIE ROBERTSON

IN A SOCIALIST society, highly profitable and apparently cheap synthetic materials like polyurethane foam and plastics, which are used in the making of furniture and which give off deadly toxic gases when involved in fire, would be subject to far stricter control.

The criminally large number of deaths which occur

because of these materials, mainly in working class homes, would be greatly reduced.

Regulations which lay down standards for building materials; means of escape in case of fire; and the provision of equipment to fight fires, in which architects like tax accountants, spend their time finding loopholes in order to cut costs, would be strictly enforced and new buildings made safer to live in.

Our skills as firemen would be used to design for living rather than have us come along in the wake of avoidable tragedy.

The real tragedy of fire in terms of human lives lost is that it strikes mainly those people in society who already have little or nothing.

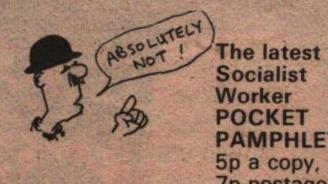
Fire hits the old living on bare pensions, the poor and inadequate living in the ghettoes, people who cannot afford to pay electricity bills and

so instead use paraffin heaters or even candles which, with cheap furniture, add up to incendiary bombs

The role of the fire service in a socialist society will not differ all that greatly

But the role of firemen will be to unite with other working people to eliminate the conditions of squalor, misery and deprivation which not only deny these people a dignified life but also a dignified death.

SOCIALISM POSSIBLE?



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

post free.

FROM SW Distribuors 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Official Secrets: You're guilty until proved innocent

ARS CAMPBELL was ery angry indeed. She pproached a court oliceman and bellowed thim: 'You've got no eart, have you? No eart at all.

'You've taken them to e cells and you're going lock them up in Brixton r the weekend, aren't ou? You ought to be hamed of yourself.'

The policeman did look a t ashamed, though, to be ir, it wasn't anything to do ith him. If Chief Superintenent Nicholls, head of the pecial Branch, had passed by irs Campbell at Tottenham agistrates court in North ondon last Friday nehtime, I wouldn't have neied his chances of sur-

Nicholls had opposed bail or Mrs Campbells son Dunin, for Time Out reporter rispin Aubrey and for social

The three men have been at on bail for several months and Nicholls had no new reason or opposing bail. They were tout on bail in the evening.

Police

Yet Nicholls' action was a im reminder of the real aim this Official Secrets trial: e imprisonment of journalists in their informants for fining out or revealing the facts out Britain's secret police. After lunch, the three men ere committed to trial at the ld Bailey on all the charges dged against them.

These include the first ever larges against journalists and their informants under ection One of the Official ecrets Act, which was drawn for use against spies and gents of foreign evernments. It carries prison thences of up to 14 years.

What has led to this

Duncan Campbell is a pecialist in telephone chnology. He is worried bout the use of communication in his own words ad out in court, 'to create a plice state in this country vernight'.

John Berry is a former NCO Signals Intelligence in the



Part of the government's hardened communications system, an underground control centre in Holborn, Central London, being used this week as strike-breaking HQ against the firemen. It is the extent of this network the Official secrets trial is trying to protect.

British Army. At the time of the deportation of ex-CIA agent Philip Agee and journalist Mark Hosenball last year, he made a brave statement to the National Council of Civil Liberties.

People, he said, ought to know more about the secret use of Signals Intelligence not merely for intercepting foreign calls, but against dissenters in Britain.

Campbell and Crispin Aubrey interviewed John Berry in his flat last September. The Special Branch tapped thier telephones and raided the flat.

They took away a tape which Crispin Aubrey had made of the conversation. This tape is now the main prosecution evidence against the three men.

Power

What is in the tape? Is secret? Could it be of use foreign power?

Or is it the sort of material which we all ought to know about?

We can never know. For the entire Official Secrets case is conducted under a classic Catch-22 formula.

The material, says the prosecution, is secret.

by PAUL FOOT

what the material is.

...d the only people who can
say whether or not it is secret
are the witnesses for the
prosecution.

Michael Combe, prosecuting counsel. explained to the magistrates that they had absolutely no power to make any judgments about the case. 'Any court must accept the views of the executive as to what the interests of the state are. You cannot consider when those interests are '16

Enemy

Simple as that, old boy. What the colonel says goes. And who is a miserable Labour Party magistrate in Tottenham to deny him?

Duncan Campbell also faces a charge of 'collecting

information about defence communications'. This arises from thousands of documents taken by the Special Branch from Campbell's flat.

None of the material, the prosecution admitted, is classified. But, Combe reminded the magistrates, we're concerned not with whether this is in fact useful to the enemy, but whether it might be . . .

Proved

What's more, 'any sketch, photograph or diagram of any communications post shall be deemed to have been collected for interests prejudicial to the the state unless the

Office Tower in your house, you've 'collected' it.

house, you've 'collected' it.

And you're 'deemed' to have collected it to subvert the country unless you can prove otherwise!

You are guilty, in short, unless you can prove your innocence.

And by the way, who decides whether the material could be useful to the enemy? Right again, the prosecution witnesses representing 'the state'

Let us suppose that Duncan

Campbell is right—that the unelected officers of Signals Intelligence are constructing a system of total control over communications—telephone, radio, television—which could 'turn the country into a police state overnight.'

Let's suppose that that system is aimed mainly at people who protest or disagree with the government: at the very heart of democracy itself.

Should that be made

Public

public?

Of course it should. Every vestige of freedom we have depends on it being made public.

Yet the Official Secrets Act can be used by army officers and Special Branch to stop every publication about these matters and to imprison the journalists who even try to find out about them.

Socialists often talk and write about the 'state machine'. It sounds like jargon, like the product of a conspiratorial imagination.

The Official Secrets trial lights up what it means. It means bodies of men, unchecked and uncheckable by any form of democratic process, building ramparts round the property of the few and their control of our society.

In this case, it means Nicholls and his Special Branch men guarding their control over communications with the most brutal reprisals against anyone who dares on to ask a question about

It took ten minutes for the pathetic magistrates, chaired by the chairman of the Tottenham Labour Party, to sweep away six days of legal arguments that these were unique charges, and should not be allowed to continue.

Crispin Aubrey, John Berry, and Duncan Campbell come up at the Old Bailey next autumn. In the interim, a mighty campaign must be waged by socialists and radicals of very description to force the Labour government to drop the charges.

WE'RE THERE! BUT ...

£10,000 fund reaches £10,152

WELL, we bust through the magic £10,000 this week. Your contributions brought it up to £10,152.

But the eviction from our headquarters at Cottons Gardens was something we hadn't expected. The 'damage' to us as a result of the Nazi bombing is still to be paid for—until we can find another headquarters.

What we need is to make it

All over the country SWP members have responded to the fireman's strike call with leaflets, posters, demonstrations. These things cost money. And you're the only source of it.

So send us something. Let's make that £12,000 by Christmas.

☐ Donations to SW Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PAYTHE Would YOU do his
Job for £47 JUEEK!
Job for £47 JUEEK!

SOCIALIST WORKER

Socialist Worker

Socialist Worker

Posters produced by the SWP in support of th firemen. Our fund helps us support workers in struggle when they need it.

THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

Manchester

Polytechnic Students Union Glasgow School of Art P Foster SW readers, Australia University of Warwick, Coventry W Brown Western District Office UPW Anonymous, Edinburgh Anonymous, Solihull J McBarnet SWP branches in: Lea Valley Carlisle Central London Pontefract Loughborough Durham Merseyside Central London Poly Glasgow South London



heating in this tower block flat is centrally heated, but bills are rising so fast that many working-class people use paraffin stoves and Valor heaters to save money.

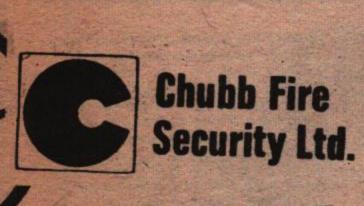
A paraffin heater, easily kick-

A paraffin heater, easily kicked over by children, is the quickest way to an appalling death.



What stops uprofit-oriented introduces immuhile with the onfire insurar

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The largest mutual life assurance company in the European Community. They proff From Wour loss

Picture: Red Saunders

CEILING TILES: Made of highly profitable polyurethane foam to keep the room warmer.

In a household fire they burn to give off poisonous gas. They also melt and drip from the ceiling on to anyone below who is attempting to escape the fire.

The result is very like napalm.

FURNITURE: When set alight, this combusts into deadly gases which choke you and blind you and kill you.

For years the Furniture Workers Union and the Fire Brigades Union have been campaigning against this deadly foam-but getting nowhere.

The big petro-chemical companies like Shell and BP have been making vast fortunes out of the stuff.

ELECTRICITY: Foreign critics of the British electrical system say they don't understand why such a high-powered current is used for domestic purposes, increasing the chances of being electrocuted and the risk of fire:

> CARPET: Probably foambacked, again producing poisonous fumes when on fire.

TERNATIVE

is at all necessary. Human skills and the knowledge and build safe, spacious and hich minimises risk.

is the chaotic, unplanned, ystem. With one hand this nse fire risks into your home her it encourages you to take ce policies for protection.

There's profit to be made from both.

In a society run under workers' control we would do away with this obvious stupidity.

If the priority was human need not private greed, houses would be ten times better designed using solar heating for a start. Nor would power stations blow off massive amounts of heat into thin air-it would be conducted to heat local housing.

ASBESTOS: What's your fire door covered with? Asbestos sheeting probably—which may be fireproof, but is deadly if dust from it is inhaled. Your ceiling tiles may be asbestos too.

Like fire, asbestos kills.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

ALL GLASGOW Socialist Workers Party Rally: Victory to the firemen. Speakers: Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker), a Strathclyde fireman, a fireman's wife. Monday 28 November, 7.30pm, Woodside Halls, Georges Cross, Glasgow. All

GLASGOW Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Pay the firemen. Monday 28 November, 7.30pm, Woodside Hall.

PAISLEY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The General Strike and the struggle today. Speaker:
John Glen (Glasgow Building Dept
Shop Steward). Tuesday 6
December, 7.30 to 9.30pm, Paisley. Town Hall, Paisley. All welcome, questions and discussion. For further details contact SW Books, 64 Queen Street (top floor). Glasgow G1, or phone 041 221

PAISLEY Socialist Workers Party film night: Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion, a political thriller about state repression plus short films on labour history. Wednesday 30 November, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall. Have a socialist night

GLASGOW: Sunday 20 November 7.30pm, meeting on Russian Revolution. Details from SW seller.

Yorkshire

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

1 December: Standards—the big

North West

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

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

LANCASTER Socialist Workers Pardiscussion meetings: Wednesdays, 8pm, ask SW sellers for details. All welcome.

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

S E MANCHESTER District Social. Friday 18 November, 8pm to midnight: Counteract presents The Cuts Show. Disco. The Anson Hotel, Beresford Road, Longsight. 50p or 30p unemployed.

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

1 December: Southern Africa.

BOOKS

ARE A

IN THE

FOR

WEAPON

STRUGGLE

SOCIALISM...

... and this is where to

get your ammunition:

CARDIFF: SWP Books, 58 Bridge Street (open afternoons on

BIRMINGHAM: Socialist and TU Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12 (open 10am-6pm, Monday—Saturday).

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, all day Saturday)

COVENTRY: TU Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road.

walk from Haymarket Station).

HULL: Socialist Books, 238 Springbank (open 10am-5.30pm,

SOUTHAMPTON: October Books, 4 Onslow Hoau

open 10am-6pm, Wednesday-Saturday, 6.30 Thursdays).

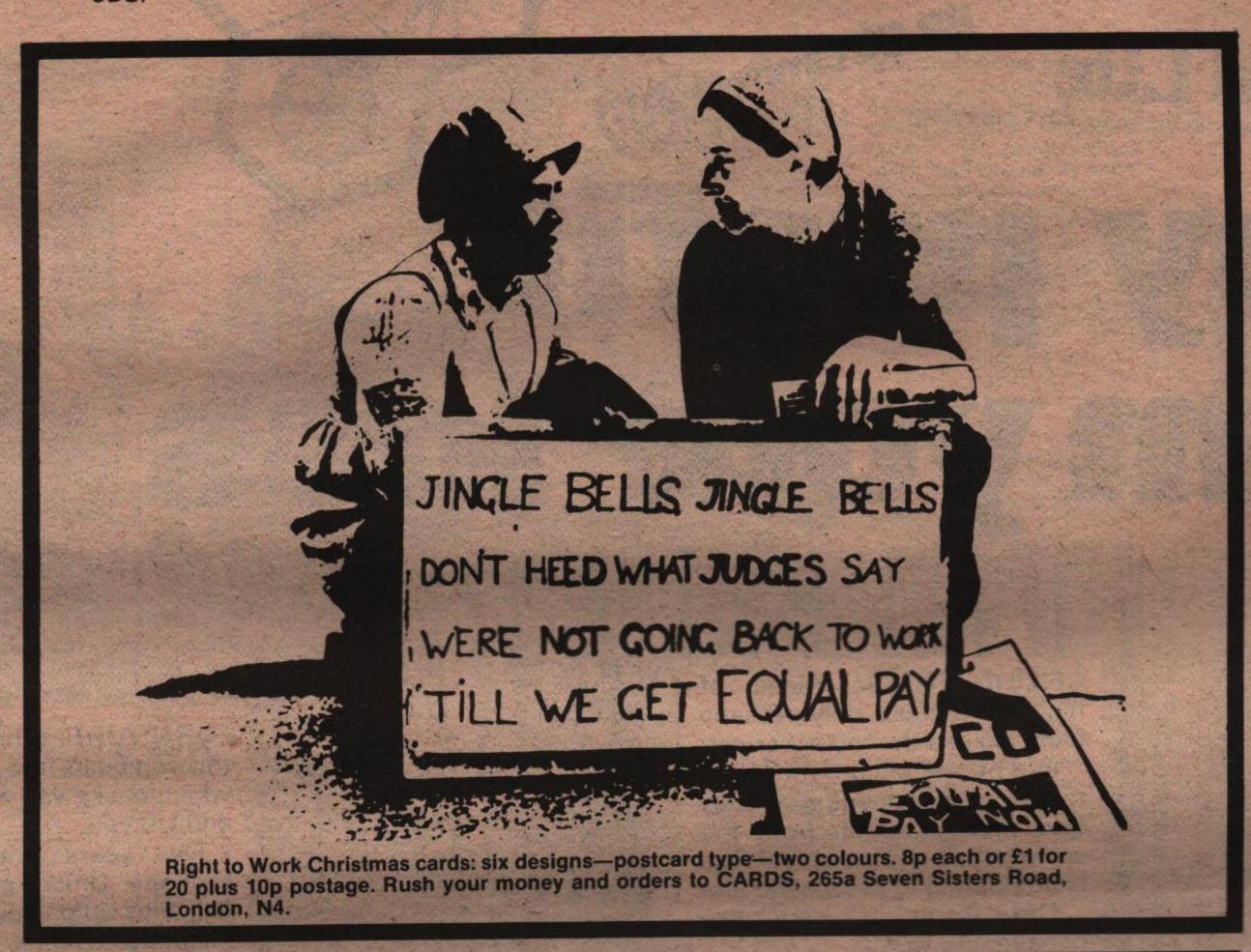
LONDON: Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

(near Finsbury Park tube) (open 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday-

MANCHESTER: TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester 3.

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

☐ Send details of meetings and notices to reach us by first post Monday at the latest, to Whats On, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E2



KIRKBY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The socialist alternative and the case for the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 1 December, 7.45, details from SW sellers.

LIVERPOOL CENTRAL Socialist Workers Party open discussion meetings, every Wednesday, 8pm, all welcome, details from your SW seller 30 November: Nuclear power.

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

24 November: The Social Con-

8 December: Women in capitalist

tract lives! 1 December: Southern Africa.

MANCHESTER Socialist Workers Party training school, for revolutionaries in the workplace, Saturday 3 December, Mitre Hotel, Nr Cathedral, 2 to 6pm: The struggles to come. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Establishing credibility.
Speaker: Les Kay. Session on factory bulletins. 25p registration fee. Contact Pete Robinson at R&F Books, 260 Deansgate, 832 8102, or Eddie McDonnell, 861 9165.

ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers

Party meet every Thursday 8pm.

24 November: Immigration in

1 December: Fascism in Britain.

8 December: Rank and File Move-

HUYTON Socialist Workers Party

meets every Thursday, 8pm, details from your SW seller.

24 November: Southern Africa.

1 December: Pay controls.

Details from your SW seller.

Britain.

WITHINGTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Sun-days, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

27 November: The courts, the police - are they neutral? Speaker: Chamdresh Bhatt. 4 December: Nationalism. Speaker: Dave Richards.

Wales

BANGOR Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Fridays, 7.30pm, place from branch secretary or paper

BANGOR Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 30 November. Details of place and time from SW sellers.

ABERYSTWYTH Socialist Workers Party and NOISS public meetings Tuesdays 8pm:

8 December: International meeting. Speaker: Tim Potter.

13 December: Joint debate with the Labour Party: Roads to

ABERYSTWYTH Socialist Workers Party meeting for members and supporters every other Wednesday. For meeting places for above see your SW

LAMPETER Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Nuclear power. Speaker: Martin Goldschmidt. Thursday 24 November 8pm, meeting place see SW seller.

SWANSEA Socialist Workers Party sell Socialist Worker in College Street every Saturday, 11.30am to 1pm. Pamphlets, IS Journals and Rank and File papers also on sale. Come along for a chat and help us to sell SW.

South East

Part of a painting of the Grunwicks picket line by Dan Jones. Available now

are full-colour prints of the painting, published by Bethnal Green and

Stephney Trades Council at £2 each, with all proceeds to the Grunwicks

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

ASHFORD Socialist Workers Party sell SW at the entrance to the Tufton Centre every Saturday 11am to 12.30pm. Come along for a chat and help us sell SW.

CRAWLEY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Do wage controls work? Speaker- John Deason Wednesday 30 November, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road.

CRAWLEY Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings fortnightly on Fridays. Next meeting: 16 December, 8pm. Place from SW

S E ESSEX Socialist Workers Party meetings at 8pm every fortnight. See your SW seller for details. Wednesday 30 November: Women fight back! Speaker to be announced.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Low wages, high prices—we want £15 now. Speaker: John Deason, Thursday 24 November 8pm, WGC Trades & Labour Club, Bridge Road East.

South West

EVESHAM Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Paul Foot, Thursday 24 November, 8pm. For meeting place see SW sellers, 2-4pm Saturdays, National Westminster Bank, Bridge Street, or ring 021-643 5717.

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

24 November: Capitalist crisis. 8 December: World capitalism

today. 8 December: World capitalism

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Russian Revolution - how it was won and how it was lost. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 1 December, 8pm, for meeting place see your SW seller.

SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings on our politics, Fridays, 8pm, October Books, 4 Onslow Road, Soton.

27 November: How do we change capitalism into real socialist society by reforms or revolution? 4 December: Why we need a revolutionary party.

London

CENTRAL LONDON Womens Voice public meeting: The suffragettes - votes for women and socialism for all. Speaker: Margaret Renn. Thursday 24 November, 6.30pm. For place see your SW

SOUTH WEST LONDON Womens Voice meet alternate Tuesdays. 7.45pm, 91 Bedfored Hill, Balham, London SW12. 29 November Women at work. Speaker: Linda Quinn.

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

2 December: Because there is no alternative. Speaker: Duncan Hallas

LAMBETH COUNCIL Socialist Workers Party: Counteract drama group. Thursday 24 November, 12.30pm, Lambeth Town Hall.

NORTH LONDON Socialist Worker/Flame public meeting: Police and the Black Panthers. Speaker: Bill Hampton/Tony Bogues, with film. Thursday 24 November, 7pm, Central Library, Holloway Road,

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Workers Party branch meetings every Wednesday 8pm, Oxford House, Devonshire Street, Bethnal Green. All SW readers wiecome.

HACKNEY & TOWER HAMLETS Galactic Film Club next show will be at Tower Hamlets Town Hall, not the Music Library (It's the building next to the Library), Friday 25 November, 7.30pm: Quiemada.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Workers Party Civil and Public Services Branch public meetings alternate Wednesdays, ask your paper seller for times and places of meetings. 30 November: The Russian

Revolution. 7 December: The Paris Com-

CROYDON Socialist Workers

Party public meeting: The womens movement around the world. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. Thursday 1 December, 8pm, Ruskin House, Croydon.

BERMONDSEY Branch Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday 8pm at Bede House, Southwark Park Road (Nr John Bull Arch).

CAMDEN Socialist Workers Party branch, speakers every fortnight. Wednesday 23 November Wednesday 7 December:

Southern Africa - what's at stake 7.30pm. For venue see your SW **HACKNEY Womens Voice public**

meeting: Education cuts - what about the kids? Speaker: Jeannie Holborow (NUT). Wednesday 30 November, 8pm, Centreprise, Kingsland Road.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party series of international meetings to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. On alternate Mondays, beginning 7.45pm, Battersea Library, Lavender Hill, London SW11. 5 December: Womens movements across the world Speaker: Joanna Rollo.

GLC branch public meeting. Why you should be a socialist. Wednesday 30 November 7.30. Jubilee Tavern, York Road, London SE1. Speaker Nigel Harris.

SW Notices

BRADFORD Socialist Workers Par ty jumble sale: Saturday 1 December, jumble needed now please—contact SW sellers. Books records, tools, toys etc.

ANTI-FASCIST greetings card for Christmas or the New Year. Celebrate the victory at Lewisham. Proceeds to Rock Against Racism Coventry Socialist Workers Party and the Lewisham Defence Fund. Price 17p each including postage, five cards for 60p including post, 10 cards for £1 post free. From Box A, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry. Cheques/POs to Trade Union and Socialist Books.

LOST at Grunwicks. An automatic watch, black cheap strap, number on backplate. Lost when our section of picket attacked. Contact Steve Campbell, 62 Crawthew Grove, London SE22.

DAY SCHOOL ON GERMANY: Saturday 3 December, all day in Central London, Sessions on: Repression and terrorism, The fight against Nuclear Power, The way forward. Please write to Germany, c/o SWP International Dept, for further details of speakers, time and venue, 6 Cottons Gardens London

LABOUR HISTORY CALEN-DARS 1978: printed and published by Sheffield Socialist Workers Party. Each month highlights an event in working class history. Sheffield Outrages 1850-58, Suf-fragettes 1900-1914, Shop Stewards Movement 1915-20, General Strike 1926, River Don Work In 1971, Kill the Bill 1972, and others. Limited edition of this fine calendar. Not just useful but a marvellous catalogue of our traditions. Rush order to Simon Ogden, 1 Portsea Road, Sheffield 6, 0742 34674. Price including postage £1.80.

CHEAP accommodation urgen needed in London for Sowe refugees. Phone Joanna 01-7

THE 1978 BLACK and White Cale dar with 12 superb photographs Robert Golden produced by N London Socialist Workers Party the right against racism and fascis Only 50p from Bookmarks and oth bookshops soon or direct from Black White Calendar, c/o 214 Roundwo Road, London, NW10. Cash w order. Postage and packing 10p each 10 or more post free. Chequ payable to Black and White Calend

MUSIC. STREET THEATP POSTERS, FILMS, POEMS FO SOCIALISM . . . tell us what you doing. Second issue of Rentamob, agitprop bulletin of the SWP a supporters, out soon. Send y reports to Dave Simmonds, Count Act, 27 Clerkenwell Close, Lond

Any Socialist Workers Pa MUSICIANS want to form a pu band? Contact Martin Millar, Severus Road, Bttersea, Lond

Socialist Worker needs REGULAR HELP on Wednesday morning

Anyone able to do this work should phone Joh Larkham on 01-739 263



CHANCE TO SEE THIS PLAY IN LON-DON.

Thursday December 1 8pm at The White Horse, Willesd junction of Church Street and Roundwood Road, NW10). Friday December 2, 8pm at The Highbury Roundhouse, Ronalds Road, Nr. Admission £1 (50p un-

Proceeds in aid of the Right to Work Campaign and the Rank and File Centre.

Notices and meetings

□ Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post Monday before publication. We cannot take details over the phone. CASH WITH COPY ONLY to Classified, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E2 9DS.

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



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

ROCK AGAINST RACISM disco

Friday 25 November, 8 till late, Mote

Park Pavilion, Maidstone. Licensed bar, 70p on the door. **ROCK AGAINST RACISM concert,** Watford. 3 December 8pm Carey Place (off Queen's Road) with The

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

Bears. Local punk band. 50p. Bring a

NORTH WEST Peoples Festival: A celebration of popular culture and struggle. A day of fun and politics. Sunday 27 November, 11am-11pm, at Belle Vue, Manchester. Tickets from £2 reduced for OAPs and others. Details: 28 Hathersaye Road, Manchester 13. 061-224 5378. Organised North West Communist

DIARY OF PALESTINE 1978: packed with information about the Palestinians and the Middle East conflict. Buy one yourself and copies for your friends. By post only, price £1.25 (inland) and £1,50 or 3 dollars (overseas) including postage, from Palestine Action, Box 3, 182 Upper Street, London N1.

CHRISTMAS holiday in Devon. Few place left in quiet holiday house for Christmas week. Share rent/food etc. Reasonable cost. Kids welcome. Ring Chris 808 3200

BENEFIT IN SUPPORT of Lewisham 200: Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger. Friday 25 November, St Pancras Town Hall (Camden Centre), Euston Road, London, NW1.

HANDS OFF IRELAND! No 3 now. Articles include: Jackie Kaye - Irish Political prisoners in British iails. James Martin - The RUC and torture, Diane Fox - Building an anti-imperialist movement in Britain. 20p plus postage from RCG Publications (SW), 49 Railton Road, London SE24 OLN. FREE! Big Red Diary for all

subscribers from December's Leveller. Out now with: Provisional IRA interview, Baader Meinhof writings, Italian left, Hong Kong corruption, Advertising industry, Farm drugs, Politics of punk. £5 subscription, 35p single copy from good newsagents or direct from us at: 155a Drummond Street, London NW1.

STATE RESEARCH is organising a series of seminars which will be held at 9 Poland Street, London W1, starting at 6.30pm. Wednesday 7 December: National Association for Freedom (NAFF).

ORGANISE a film show and discussion around THE MNERS FILM, 45 mins (16mm) available from Cinema Action 01-586 2762.

DARLINGTON: The Bookcentre, Winston Street (off Duke Street) (open weekdays 12 noon-2pm and 4pm-5pm, all day EDINBURGH: Bookmarx, 130 Morrison Street (two minutes GLASGOW: SW Books, top floor, 64 Queen Street, C1.

GREENWICH and BEXLEY have the biggest hospital cuts in London. Support the demonstration when David Ennals MP visits Woolwich on Friday 25 November. Assemble outside the RACS Restaurant, Powis Street, London SE18 (near Woolwich Arsenal Station). Called by Greenwich Trades Council/St Nicholas Hospital Staff Action Committee. SE London SWP to support.



Reclaiming the night

by ANGELA PHILLIPS

THE NUMBER of times I've walked through London's Soho and been whistled at, commented on, leered at by those little creeps who haunt the doors of strip joints, uuk!

But this time they were scared, scared of us, scared of women, it was great!

There were hundreds of us, all women, charging through the late night, neon-lit streets of Soho. Some were dressed as witches and vampires, some banged tin lids, cymbals, blew whistles, screamed, yelled, whooped.

Leaflets handed out along the way proclaimed the fact that women were Reclaiming the Night, demanding the right to walk alone without fear, demanding an end to rape and to the exploitation of our sexuality.

Damage

At last, with the safety of numbers, we were able to protest, to put stickers on sex-shop windows, throw stink bombs through letter boxes, spray-paint displays.

There was instant retaliation. A strip-club bouncer, astonished and alarmed at the damage to 'his property', lunged out, striking women as they passed.

For an instant they drew back, used to cowering and feeling afraid. But then realisation dawned: this time there were more of us, this time we were stronger than him. He disappeared behind a crowd of angry, kicking, fighting women.

A feeling of sheer exhilaration took hold.

Just for once they were feeling a tiny fraction of the fear and anger that women are forced to feel when they walk alone at night.

There were some people who conclude that we are Mary Whitehouse types. They couldn't be more wrong.

Sexuality

The Women's Movement isn't interested in her tight-arsed attitude to sexuality. We don't want to ban sex, we want to enjoy it, on our own terms and without exploitation.

We were marching not to get laws changed or to punish porn peddlars, but to show that we recognise the connection between the sexual, social and economic exploitation of women-and violence against women.

Women provide material for porn and pin-ups because the opportunities for earning good money, with flexible hours to accommodate child care, are few and because we have always been taught that the best way to make money is by selling our bodies ... models, stripppers, dolly secretaries, receptionists, prostitutes, wives, our faces are our fortunes and, we are told, the fastest way out of poverty.

On the other hand, the existence of porn and pin-ups serves to reinforce the idea that bodies are all we are, objects, bits of flesh

with convenient holes in them. While men keep on buying Tit and Bum magazines, keep on supporting the industry, they are contributing to the exploitation and degradation of female workers-the models-and all women.

Conspire

It isn't only that the existence of 'sexploitation' is degrading to women, it is also dangerous.

Television, films, records, books and magazines all conspire to tell us that women are sexually passive and men are sexually aggressive.

The sight of nude female

bodies in attitudes of totally passive receptivity, is so commonplace that it is not surprising that real women are also treated as passive objects or that rape and battering are seen as extensions of red-blooded virility.

The demonstration, organised without publicity (nobody wanted to be outnumbered by the police), by word of mouth, meetings and discreet announcements in the women's liberation press, brought together hundreds of feminists in nearly a dozen British cities.

It was an expression of anger, and a demonstration of strength. It didn't give us answers but it certainly gave us more courage to confront the questions.

TOP: Women demonstrators pass a Soho club. ABOVE: A porn cinema gets treated to a mass of 'This degrades women' stickers.

THE PUBLIC

The Public is not people—it has no fixed abode and yet you'll never see it out tramping on the road.

It shifts around from place to place, and still you will not spot it in the dwellings where homeless people squat.

The Public is not people it's not your next door neighbour or any other person who has to sell his labour. The Public's not a miner or a fireman, doesn't work upon the land—when ships are loading and unloading it doesn't drive a tractor or a train, lay a brick. tile a roof, clean a sewer, dig a drain.

The Public's not a teacher, not a seaman, not any kind of clerk—in short, you'll never find it where the common people work.

For the family of millions always fighting just to get a living wage, will always be excluded from this phoney Public's stage—where its selfappointed spokesmen, with sobs and tearful eyes, for the divide and triumph, tell their half-truths and their lies.

HUGO DEWAR

THE TRIAL AND DEATH OF A POLITICAL AGITATOR

THIS true story is of a little Jewish boy from London's East End who, confronted by a Christian laddie claiming Your people killed our Saviour', asked: Why?.

On being told Jesus Christ, he replied: Tve never heard of the bloke'.

Some devout churchgoers must have received a shock if they saw BBC2's 'Chronicle-The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ'. To have it stressed that the New Testament Gospels were not written as historical documents, that they were compiled at least 70 years after the crucifixion, when no eve-witness accounts were available and that all the evidence is hearsay, may have caused some to switch to

TELEVISION Ossie Lewis

another channel.

The trial of Jesus Christ was shown as a political one, very much rigged, something we seem to be coming accustomed to today in the

civilised 'Free world'. The argument in the documentary production of Dr Hain Cohn's book was that the evangelists found it expedient to appease the Romans during a period of

very fierce repression and twisted the story of the execution, inventing a few untruths on the way so as to shift the blame from the Romans on to the Jews themselves.

Dr Hain Cohn certainly puts forward a convincing thesis and has to refer to the class structure in Judeah by showing that the High Priesthood, which had always symbolised Jewish nationa. pride, was confined to a few aristocratic families.

Following the suppression of the Jewish rebellion, the High Priests were seen to be collaborators of the occupying power and were losing their popularity as the masses became more and more outraged by their arrogance and display of wealth.

Jesus, an idealistic reformer who never claimed to be a supreme being, was giving hope to a repressed people in preaching about his 'Kingdom of God'.

Escaped

Had he capitulated to the High Priests and agreed to abandon his messianic pretensions or 'stop causing trouble', he would have escaped trial and the consequences. Thus frustrated, the High Priests, typical of any ruling class, conspired with the occupying power to have him pout out of the way.

Twas ever thus . . . Like Gay News, he was eventually charged with blasphemy (are you there,

Mary Whitehouse?) for which he paid the supreme penalty. At the same time there were some 2000 underground fighters who were rounded up in Jerusalem and who also suffered death by cricifixion.

The influence of the domination of church and state must definitely be on the wane for a programme such as this to be shown on TV-or have the BBC governors decided to risk excommunication?

Can we look forward to some more reasoned arguments on other New Testament stories—the virgin birth, miracles and so on?

Or better still let us have some debate between theologians and secular Marx-



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

LET'S HAVE A BIT MORE CARE TOWARDS EPILEPTICS

WHY DOES Alan Gibbons have to spoil an otherwise witty column, Socialist Workers Talking, by referring to some newspaper 'throwing epileptic fits of idiocy'.

Epilepsy nothing to do with idiocy and I'm amazed Socialist Worker allowed such rubbish to go unedited.

Epileptic fits occur for many reasons. They're connected with stimulus

W McKEE (Letters, 12

November) got it wrong

about the miners and the

National Power Loading

Agreement. He states that

under piece work the pit men

working? The five to ten

shilling a week rises we

accepted in this period? Plus

the fact that there were no

major stoppages in the

end local stoppages. But

surely the solidarity of a

unified National Union of

Miners instead of a federa-

tion of geological areas ade-

quately compensated for

must be concerned about the

wages of all our members not

just an elite. He also doesn't

attempt to take away some of

the little bit of power at

would they be trying to

introduce an incentive

scheme to try to break the

reader, Warsop Main

Colliery, Derbyshire.

☐ Socialist Worker

The agreement was an

mention safety.

union's unity.

As NUM members, we

He is quite right that it did

coalfields from 1926.

What bloody struggle? The acceptance of Saturday

led the wages struggle.

Power

Loading:

Wrong!

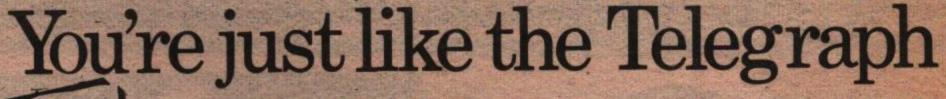
of the brain's electrical currents. Many sufferers like myself can now be controlled by anticonvulsant drugs.

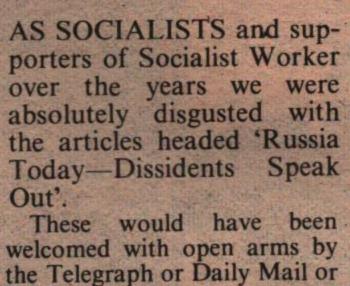
Given the fear and suspicion of epileptics, however, even among socialists, it's no wonder most of us hide it from other people. When I was

first diagnosed the consultant told me I was in good company-many famous people, such as Julius Caesar, were epileptics.

Well stuff Julius Caesar! The lives of thousands of ordinary men and women are literally mutilated because of the anxiety and prejudice this illness

D PENNY KAB, Manchester.





similar extreme right-wing

press, as perfect examples of

what they churn out to the

Send your letters to:

Letters Page,

PO Box 82,

Socialist Worker,

London E2 9DS

THINK

I WAS disappointed at the

back page headline in last

week's SW. It's been my

experience when selling the

paper in the docks that

people have many criticisms.

of the kind of language we

buy the paper said that they

didn't feel that they could

take it home

In this case people who

This isn't a criticism of the

article itself but it seemed to

me that the headline was

totally unnecessary.

brain-washed masses. Obviously, expelled dissidents will distort the facts: one of them seems to be attempting to describe conditions in pre-revolution Russia. Even the capitalist press has to agree that conditions have vastly improved. To run a vast country like Russia

there must be some people in control-call them bureaucrats if you like. But surely, despite their mistakes, the Soviets have achieved in a very short time what millions in the so-called free world regard as the most desirable basic requirements for all of us:

☐ A reasonable job coupled with security and stability,

> prospects of improvement. ☐ free education for everybody without special schools for the rich,

a reasonable home with

☐ good social services, including a good health service and hospitals, pensions for all at 55 for

women and 60 for men, ☐ good public transport and excellent leisure facilities.

□ food for everybody, although there may still be some queuing.

To the ordinary worker the above represent a good standard of living for the masses which is impossible to obtain under the capitalist system with it's stock exchange, business tycoons, landed gentry.

Neither is the average worker interested in rejected dissident intellectuals who talk vaguely about 'mental torture' because they have not been allowed to write and propagate what is regarded as subversive.

Try writing what is regarded as subversive stuff in the 'free world' and see what happens! TWO PERPLEXED

READERS. ☐ Socialist Worker invites

readers' comments.

☐ EDDIE PREVOST, London. Is this a police shortage?

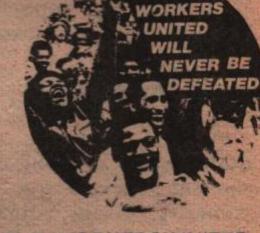
SOME SAY that there is a severe shortage of police in Britain. One would hardly believe it when 6000, repeat 6000, of them were present at

Grunwicks two weeks ago. These were the same police who a few weeks ago booed Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, and banged on his

Don't the police realise they are only workers themselves? That they are cutting their own throats by clobbering trade unionists fighting for what they themselves wantdecent trade union conditions

and wages? Wake up, workers, and let us unite together. United we win and divided we fall. That's the capitalists' biggest headache and nightmare-a

united working class. ☐ J BEAN, Sutton.



THE WORKERS UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED—the Grunwicks picket line chant on a badge produced by the SWP and its black workers' organisation, Flame. Red and black, extra large size. One for 22p by post, 10 for £1.70, 50 for £6.50.

☐ Red Badges, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London, E2 9DS.

IT WASN'T THAT GRIM

YOUR article about Grunwicks, 'The Grim Reckoning', was defeatist. You effectively told thousands of people supporting unofficial action for the first time that all their effort was useless No mention was made of the great feeling of solidarity and the spirit of the trade unionists who faced the brutal onslaught of the company police.

That day two coachloads of moderate pacifists left Brighton for the Grunwicks picket line. On Monday night two coachloads o newly-inspired socialists came back.

Grunwicks isn't dead. So don't murder it. ☐ Mike, Steve and Glynis, Brighton.

THE ATTEMPT of the anonymous letter writer from Brighton to defend the Baader Meinhof group (Letters, 12 November) must be refuted. Socialist Worker was absolutely right to con-

Jackson

ban on

Rank

and File

TOM JACKSON, general

secretary of my union, the

Union of Postal Workers,

has just given me a good

reason for going to the

Rank and File Conference.

delegate, but lo and

behold, within two days we

received a bulletin from

head office which said that

any member who attended

the Rank and File Con-

ference could not go as a

delegate or represent the

union in any way, nor

could union funds be used

by my union branch has

been completely over turn-

ed by the official

It's just that kind of

leadership we can do

without-and another

reason why we need a Rank

and File conference to

build the strength of the

membership to get rid of it.

TRISH SYKES,

In other words a democratic decision taken

to finance delegates.

leadership.

York.

My branch elected me a

attacks on innocent people.

demn the terrorist tactics. No socialist can justify Every terrorist attack only serves to lose support for the left and cut us off from the

'Anon' laments the cooperation between workers and the employing class in Germany. But the terrorism of the Baader Meinhof Group can only serve to strengthen that cooperation and make the achievement of socialism

It is no coincidence that in Italy and Spain fascist groups have carried out bombings under the guise of

being 'left-wing' groups. Terrorism might be sign of frustration and of the weakness of the left in Germany. But it also has disastrous effects for the working class and the

revolutionary left

emancipation of the working class itself led by a mass revolutionary party.

W PHILLIPS,

Socialism is the self-

Blackburn.



LISTENING to the radio recently heard someone on about how necessary the present cuts in public expenditures were, how further outs might be necessary and how important it was to stick

the country. I thought to myself this is familiar. Is it Denis Healey or Merlyn Rees?

together for the good of

It wasn't. It was a spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry. A rather ironic sign of the times. D JOHN McINTOSH,

branch level by centralising Salford. wage negotiations. But it was also the instrument of building our national union. If this is true, why else

1'VE BEEN on some of the demonstrations against the fascists in Britain. We don't have any similar active Nazi movement in Germany. The NPD is fascist but they don't yet

POSTAL

dare to do too much.

KUCHENBECKER, Heidelberg Germany.

some layoffs at Wilsons' of Scotland. The firm was Dyce. Sorry if I didn't speak clearly enough over

☐ Michael Copp, Aber-

the phone.

The Society for the Welfare of Black Youths and the West Indian Welfare Association are now operating a Supplementary School Project from The Family Centre, 50, Rectory Road, Stoke Newington,

The Supplementary School caters for all age

We have sessions for

POINTS

All my solidarity with you and your fight.

YOU recently reported factory here in the North of course Lawsons of

London N16.

ranges and ability groups. It offers free education to

youngsters on Saturday

mornings (10am-12noon) when we concentrate on reading, writing, history, cultural understanding, recreational pursuits etc. During the week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (7pm-8.30pm) we cater for those needing support in examination subjects, youngsters who wish to DIRK enter Colleges of Further Education but need help to pass entrance examinations, anyone who wishes to expand their general education and for anyone who wants to improve their reading and mathematical skills. CR Chung.

Russia socialist?

THE long-term interests of mankind and the shortterm interests of big

business oppose each other. If the Windscale project goes ahead there will be no end to nuclear proliferation.

Decades after Hiroshima deformed babies are still being born thanks to the bomb. When will we ever learn?

The high and mighty only consider their bank accounts, thus jeopardising our very existence. Let us show the powerdrunk politicians and mad scientists that we stand up and fight for those yet unborn, for life itself.

We must oppose Windscale by all the mans

at our disposal. GILA ALLEN, Glasgow.

I ENJOY Marxism made

Easy, as I enjoyed Duncan Hallas' Meaning of Marxism. It's not patronising. Keep it going.

M WILLIAMS Middlesbrough

A PARTY with the courageous flair and practicality of the SWP must be attracting new members. To these I say read George Orwell's book Homage to Catalnia.

George Orwell went to Spain and in the traumatic conditions of the Spanish Civil War achieved a remarkable clarity of thought. I'm ashamed to admit it took me 30 years to reach the same conclusions.

This splendid book, first published in 1938, is still bang up to date. All the poitical fauna described in it are still around.

If we can learn the lessons of Spain, perhaps the suffering will not have been in vain.

☐ K D HARDING London.

■ WILLIE BENNET, Glasgow.

PIE IN THE SKY

'Give your loyalty to the Contract

Parasites, monarchs and popes,

And make our families thinner.

And always get their dinner.

They know the ropes

When the social contract merchants come by

They will sing, they will shout, they will cry

And you'll get pie in the sky when you die.'

But we who produce, our wages they reduce

Choose two or more books from the following list

before Christmas, and you can have them at half-price: State Capitalism in Russia, by Tonly Cliff, 75p (usually

Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe, by Chris Harman, £1.35 usually £2.70). Workers against the Monolith, by lan Birchall, £1.35 (usually £2.70).

Communist Politics in Britain, by Hugo Dewar, 90p (usually £1.80). The Balham Group, by Reg Groves, 60p (usually £1.20).

Capitalism and Theory, by Michael Kidron, £1 (usually Rosa Luxemberg, by Paul Frohlich, £1.65 (usually £3.30). Lenin's Last Struggle, by Moshe Lewin, 45p (usually 90p). Them and Us in Literature, by Paul O'Flinn 45p (usually

Origins of the International Socialists, 50p (usually £1). Chile: The Gorillas are amongst us, by Helios Prieto, 38p (usually 75p).

Lenin's Moscow, by Alfred Rosmer, £1.20 (usually £2.40). The Emancipation of Women, by Eugene Thonnessen,

98p (usually £1.95). The Occupation of the Factories, by Spriano, £1.20 (usually £2.40).

The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution, £1.80 CHRISTMAS OFFER

Add 50p flat-rate postage on all orders, send money with order to: PLUTO PRESS, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.

Terrorism: Yes, a dead end

more difficult. working class.

Socialist Workers talking

I ALWAYS get a strange reaction when people ask

me where I come from. I

ALAN GIBBONS

say Crewe and they burst out laughing.

But for the old music hall song 'Oh Mr Porter', I doubt if the town is mentioned anywhere in the annals of the British people. Not as though it deserves a mention.

It is one of your original dirty old towns, all faded headscarves, drab raincoats and runny noses. No plaques to commemorate great men, no heroes, no past. You might change trains here but it isn't the sort of place you actually live in.

Mention Cheshire, though, and you get a different reac-

Cheshire, ch? You aren't one of the Beeston Gibbons?"

Farm

It smacks of Aston Martins. pretty villages, and obedient peasants. Leaf through Cheshire Life and you'll see them, the big farmers and the masters of the hunt.

I was brought up in the Cheshire countryside but as a farm labourer's son. I saw the other side of the rich man's place in the country. We lived in a fied cottage just up the tane from the farm. My dad worked long hours for lousy Wages.

Injuries were common. He was gored by a bull once and almost lost his foot after a bad

But there was one incident that seems to sum up real Cheshire life.

My dad answered the door one night. I was about six and had never seen anything like it. Some people, including my father's employer, were guffawing in front of the door in their running sports cars—the original gin and tonic Monty Python brigade.

Fright

It turned out that they were voiking across the country playing a stopid game and wanted to borrow a toy to hide

It was their sheer arrogance that frightened me.

Yet foolish and pathetic as they were, my father had to recognise them as his betters. More than the barshness and boredom of the life, it was this casual belief in their own superiority which humiliated

By the way, they never returned the toy. They don't seem very good at observing anyhody's property rights but their own!

International Socialism monthly journal of the Socialist **Workers Party Russia** 1917-77 Soviet Power/ The Soviet **Working Class** Today/ The Russian Revolution and India price30p

Ask your Socialist Worker seller for a copy.

SADA



PEACE! blares the publicity machinebut what secret deals are Sadat (left) and Israeli prime minister Begin making?

ARCHAPEASER

IN THE NAME of peace brotherhood, **President Anwar Sadat** of Egypt has addressed the Knesset—the parliament of Israel.

Two thousand journalists were there to trumpet cliches across the world, and to pretend that his visit brought a 'glimpse of hope' to the Middle

For millions of Palestinian and Arab people in all Middle East countries, it has brought exactly the opposite.

A week earlier, the Israeli government had shown what it meant by peace. It unleashed its bombers to pulverise refugee camps in neighbouring Lebanon.

Whole camps were destroyed by the bombs, thousands were made STRUGGLE

homeless, and 150 people killed. Beigin, prime minister of Israel, went on television to rejoice at the slaughter. 'We have taught these savages a lesson', he said.

As for 'brotherhood' and 'love', all the actions of the Beigin government

have been directed to two aims:

☐ To tighten the discrimination against hundreds of thousands of Arab people who live in Israel and in the occupied territories of the West Bank of

Jordan, the Gaza strip and Sinai. This is one of the most brutal occupations in the world. Any sign of resistance is met with a standard punishment: the blowing up of the suspects' house, and their enforced removal to the nearest refugee camp.

SUBSIDISE

In the face of even the American government's protests, Beigin has announced a huge government plan to subsidise more Israeli 'settlements' in the occupied territories, requisitioning Arab land.

☐ To continue harassment of the other two million Palestinian people most of whol still live in conditions of unspeakable poverty in the camps set up after their expulsion from Palestine in 1948.

Cut the newspapers' cackle, and the

truth is clear.

Sadat is the arch-appeaser. He is shaking hands and giving comfort to one of the most oppressive and racialist regimes in the world.

As for 'hope', his appeasement, like all appeasement, will not harness the

Israeli tiger. With the Egyptian front secure, Beigin will turn his forces with redoubled ferocity on Lebanon and on Syria, and above all on the Palestinians and on the Arabs in the occupied territories.

For years the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinians and the Arab workers have been pinned on the warlike noises made by Arab leaders like Sadat against the imperialism and racialism of the Israeli government. Now those protests are shown for what they are.

Only one good can come from Sadat's posturing-if Palestinians, Arabs and Jews all over the Middle East cut loose from the regimes which have suffocated them for so long and begin to find a new strength and confidence in themselves.

Whyhe went to Israel

by PHIL MARFLEET

SADAT'S visit to Israel was a lone venture, and an act of desperation. It was not, as the press wants us to believe, a heroic act of courage to open a new phase in Middle Eastern political life.

It was the act of a man who knows that his time is limited, and who is willing to gamble to win himself an extra

For Sadat is a man who loves power. He is the man who has moved his family into the old royal palace in Cairofrom which the Egyptian workers' movement expelled

almost hysterically anti-Communist and pro-American. From the beginning he threw Egypt fully into the western camp.

He brought in American

The policy failed dismally hardly a penny arrived.

The Egyptian economy is now among the world's weakest, with international debts of 16 billion dollars, inflation still at over 30 per cent a year a huge military budget, a rapidly rising pop-

Sadat's wealthy Arab 'friends' in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf have done little to bale him out. They are more interested in profitable investments in London's

But the warning Egyptian workers gave Sadat last January has not been forgotten. Then, when he tried to raise food prices, they rose throughout Egypt in huge

Bodies

being cut off for months at a

tion by the royal family and

other parasites, rents have

jumped to 75 per cent of

wages-often for a single

resistance against all this.

Last week 2000 students at

the Arymehr Technical Un-

iversity in Teheran occupied

their campus and

demonstrated against the

brutality of the police

There's protest and

room in a slum!

As a result of land specula-

These were the largest public demonstrations since 1963, when, as I remember, the streets were left strewn with the bodies of the demonstrators.

The Shah needs to keep this protest down. So he's delighted to be promised continuing help from his democratic friend Jimmy Carter.

□ Iranian students and the Students Union in **Bradford University have** organised a demonstration in Bradford in protest at the arrest, jailing and torturing of two Iranian students who did not return from holiday in Iran this year. It will start from the union building on Saturday 3 December at 2pm.

breathing space. King Farouk 25 years ago. Sadat had always been

Display

advisors, and made a deal with President Nixon which he was told would at last set the crisisridden Egyptian economy on its feet. Nixon promised 2500 million dollars of investment.

ulation and dreadful poverty.

Mayfair or Park Lane.

demonstrations of anger.

More

Sadat backed down, while the army watched closely, undecided whether they should move to take power. Sadat survived, just.

The visit to Israel was a desperate attempt to win further American support, to convince his 'friends' that he, Sadat, is the strong man of Egypt, to reach a deal with Israel, 'stabilise' the Middle East conflict, and attract to Egypt the cash Sadat desperately needs.

It will achieve nothing. It will create only more suspicion among Egyptian workers.



THE SHAH: I wish he'd choked

ABOVE: A small taste of their own medicine for the Sha, President Carter and diplomats caught by the tear gas used against human rights demonstrators. BELOW: Demonstrators chase an Iranian official cross the White House flower beds.

by ELAHEH POVEY

I WATCHED the television report of the Shah of Iran's recent visit to America. I watched the demonstrators charging down on the White House ceremony, and I saw the Shah and President Carter and all their aides crying from the tear gas.

I loved it! Only one thing. I wished they'd all choked.

When he got round to his



welcoming speech, Carter spoke of 'enlightened leadership'. I was born and grew up in Iran and I know all about the Shah's enlightened leadership.

It means tens of thousands of political prisoners rotting in jail, and the savage torture of anyone who dares protest against the government. So this is what Carter's

'human rights' campaign means. It stops at a handful of dissidents imprisoned in Russia and Eastern Europe. The rest can rot while Carter entertains their jailers.

Why was the Shah in America? To buy more arms. He managed to buy seven of the world's most sophisticated radar warning and control systems.

Resist

He'll use these to make himself into an even bigger super-power in the Gulf. He'll also use them against anyone who dares to resist his government.

The American government, which is pretending to have talks for 'strategic arms limitations' with Russia, has agreed to supply arms worth 23 billion dollars in two years.

The Shah lashes out that sort of money for arms. Meanwhile at home in Iran my friends tell me that water and electricity to homes is outcry, they tried in

desperation to recruit

members from local

A small group of

school students had

already got together to

oppose the Nazis in-

filtrating our schools. We

called ourselves Reading

Schools Against Nazis

and we leafleted schools

about the dangerous

policies of the NF and

how they affected school

The reaction of the school

authorities was predictable.

Some members were

threatened with expulsion

and leaflets were banned.

schools.

students.



BILL HAMPTON brother of the murdered American Black Panther, Fred Hampton. Bill is on a speaking tour around Britain to demand the prosecution of the Chicago police who murdered his brother while he was sleeping.

Enthusiastic meetings have drawn 70 people in Leeds, and 60 in Birmingham. For more details contact Flame on (01) 739 1878, or write to 6 Cottons Gardens, London

Metropole: Support picket!

SUPPORT for strikers at the Metropole Hotel in Central London has been growing. The picket line has been supported by strikers from Rolls Royce, workers from Desoutters and from Fleet Street.

The strikers have also decided to hold a meeting in support of the firemen, this week.

But they desperately need support from other hotel workers. The strike is for a £50 minimum wage for all hotel workers. Workers in one hotel chain Centre Hotels which includes several London hotels and the Old Kentucky restaurants—is meeting this week to decide on strike action for the £50 minimum.

A strike in the Centre group could transform the Metropole, giving those strikers the support they need so badly. It could also trigger action in many other London hotels, where wages for a whole week are usually less than one night's bed and breakfast.

☐ Mass picket this Friday 6pm onwards. Metropole Hotel, junction of Edgware Road, and Praed Street.

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Reading school students

Front were banned from meeting in drive out the Nazis Reading after a public

by COLIN COLDMAN

But we refused to be intimidated. Support grew in schools and we received coverage in the local press.

When we heard the Nazis were trying to recruit from the schools we decided to call a meeting for all school students opposed to the Nazis.

We produced another leaflet and again got publicity in the press. We printed membership cards with a subscription of 10p. We put a lot of work into preparing the meeting so we expected it to be a good one. But the response surprised everyone.

About 25 school students came along and most of them joined at the end. In addition another five people joined since the meeting and the present membership is about 30, representing five schools in the area.

There was tremendous enthusiasm at the meeting. As well as fighting the Nazis everyone decided to fight against the wearing of school uniform, corporal punishment and other oppressive measures used in schools.

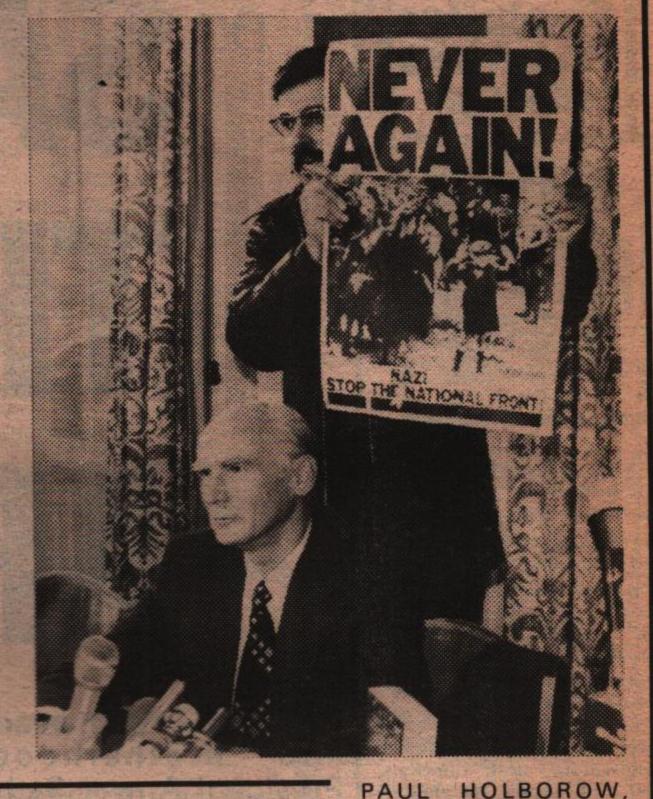
We all left the meeting feeling more confident about

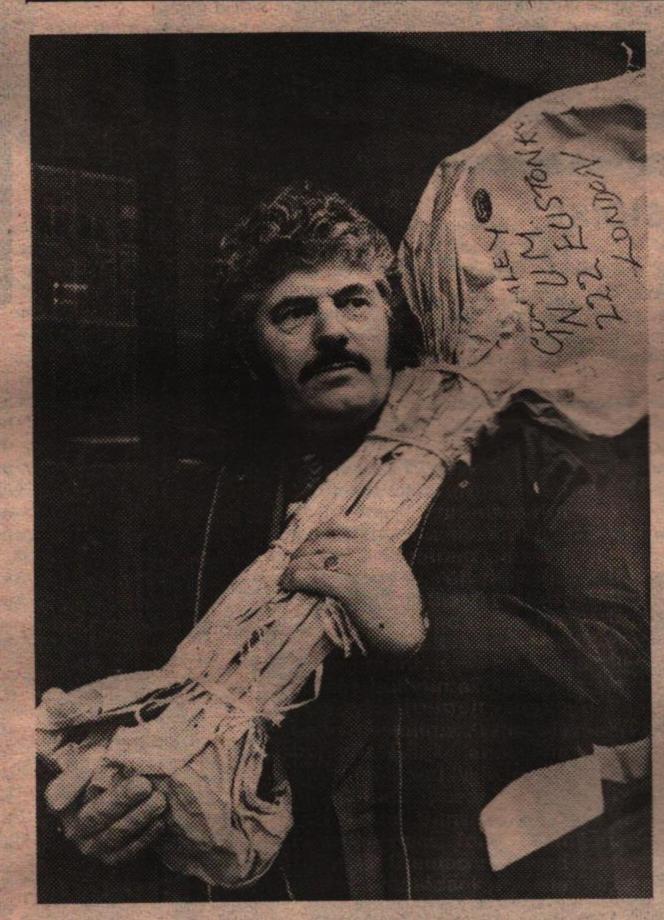
fighting the Nazis in schools. The National Front, on the other hand, have been completely demoralised. If there are any Nazis in our school,s they are too scared to come out in the open.

The reason Reading Schools Against Nazis has been successful is because it has united all anti-fascists in schools. This is why the Anti-Nazi League has been formed. What we have done in Reading should be taken up all over the country.

The Anti-Nazi League has produced tens of thousands of leaflets for distribution in schools.

Chris Trimby, from Reading Schools Against Nazis, said: 'These leaflets are bloody great. They are just the thing we need to bring home to school students exactly what the Nazi National Front stand for.





A miner delivers a heartfelt message to Gormley. Daley and McGaheythree shovels.

THEMES? ANSWEK...

by BILL MESSAGE

'FROM THEM that do to them that don't'. That was the message that accompanied three shovels delivered to the HQ of the National Union of Mineworkers last week.

The shovels, one each for the three NUM national officials, were delivered by Sammy Thompson, branch delegate at Markham Colliery near Doncaster.

They were sent as an expression of anger by the branch at a letter bearing the signatures of Joe Gormley, Lawrence Daly and Michael McGahey that has been circulated to all NUM branches. The letter blames the men for the drop

The men at Markham are particularly angry that the letter was signed by Mick McGahey. They feel that his time would be better spent dancing on the grave of the productivity deal rather than cracking a whip over the heads of the rank and file.

in output and appeals for greater productivity.

At the NUM executive meeting right wing Nottingham Area President Len Clarke provocatively moved for a ballot on strike action. He could not find a seconder. But the broad left offered no alternative apart from sitting tight till the next executive meeting just before Christmas.

The terms of this letter, which were dictated to

NCB chairman Sir Derek Ezra by Energy

Minister Tony Benn, rejected any increase

above the government's 10 per cent norm and

In a secret letter to Ezra, Tony Benn has made

it clear that he expects the Coal Board to

approach the TUC for their help in holding the

The reason behind Benn's secrecy is his

preoccupation with maintaining his image as the

'friend of the miners'. Like Pontius Pilate he is

now publicly washing his hands while privately

outside the 12 month rule.

miners to the 12 month rule.

plotting to defeat the miners.

The longer the left holds back on mounting a campaign for the claim the greater chance the right wing has of encouraging certain areas and pits to go it alone with local

productivity deals. There is certainly no enthusiasm for productivity deals as such among the membership but there certainly is deep frustration over the low wage levels that have come about as a result of the

social contract. At a few high productivity pits there is talk of negotiating local productivity schemes, even at pits like Solsgirth in the militant Scottish Area.

Mosley. The Nazi who Guinness was, entertaining, like Meyer, was in Britain to publicise a new book that whitewashes the SS and pretends that they were simple soldiers who didn't know what was going on.

Not only did the SS know what was going on, they were responsible for most of the murders.

secretary of the Anti Nazi

League, welcoming the

Nazi Colonel Meyer when

he tried to hold a press conference in London last

Meyer was a member of the Waffen SS. This was one of the military sections

Among their other activities the Waffen SS

provided guards for the concentration camps, they led the mass murder of

tens of thousands of Jews

in the Warsaw Ghetto,

they murdered the entire

populations of villages in

occupied France and

One of these animals

was discovered last week

staying in the house of

Johnathan Guiness. He is

a former chairman of the

right wing Monday Club

and a Conservative

Guinness's mother is

now married to the former

leader of the British

fascists, Sir Oswald

Parliamentary candidate.

Czechoslovakia.

of Hitler's Nazi Party.



□ Get your trade union organisation, shop stewards committee, students union, antiracist committee. trades council, to

forms now. Posters £1, plus 50p postage, for

League, 12/13 Little

If the firemen win, we can win

MORE THAN seven thousand university teachers demonstrated in support of their pay claim. It was unprecedented for a quarter of the membership of the union, the Association of University Teachers, to make any public commotion at all.

University staff had their 1974 claim blocked in 1975, and pay has been frozen ever since. As a result real pay has gone down by 25 per cent. Junior staff are now lucky to be offered £70 gross-or roughly £40 take home pay.

The AUT leadership has tried throughout the campaign to limit attention to the 1975 'anomaly', and play on the members' fear of doing anything not respectable.

The meeting and lobby of parliament on Wednesday was designed to wear out the militants so that there would be no more action.

The SWP University teachers distributed leaflets calling for a straight pay increase for all grades of £24 per week, opposition to the public expenditure cuts hitting universities, and an all out strike to win not only the 1975 claim but also a massive

increase now. University teachers know-

as the leaflet said-that our claim depends on the firemen winning. Straight self-interest means they should be doing everything they can to help the firemen win.

managers. This was one occasion when the workers had bread and the

bosses had no cake. During the occupation 12 strikers were seen off by their wives and families to go to the heart of the British Gypsum sanctum, Ferguson House in Central London.

We learnt a hard lesson from this impulsive visit.

The strikers were met by three members of the Board of Directors, and had just one cup of coffee for two hours of negotiations.

After failing to reach an agreement, one of the directors offered a fiver to see the pickets back to Boltonobviously unaware of inflation. The fiver just bought eleven pints in the city.

The ensuing weeks of the strike brought home the grim reality that we were faced with a very long struggle.

We would like to appeal to all readers to support our strike.

by Terry Taylor and Please rush me my weekly copy of Socialist May Taylor, Geoff Worker. I enclose a cheque/postal order Jones and Doreen Jones

THE FOUR of us decided to pen this article in the local working men's club with the hope that our experience gained at British Gypsum will help other families in similar disputes.

Our strike began eight weeks ago. The management tried to bring in contract labour when the engineering union workers were working to rule.

The engineers went on strike. The 100 members of the Transport and General union, with no history of militancy refused to a man to cross the picket line.

In the first two weeks, the euphoria was sustained by a flying picket linking up with other major strikes in the Bolton area.

The strikers showed a militancy far above their experience. This was helped

by the full understanding and support of most wives. Some even came picketing with the flying picket.

When the management tried to use scab office staff to restart production we occupied the factory for three days.

It was handed back to the management at 2.00pm on Saturday, at one hour's notice, to enable our members to enjoy their Saturday afternoon sport.

The occupation was a success because of the comedy. When the senior management refused to leave the office premises, the strikers barracaded all exits, leaving acess through one window.

Management climbing in and out provided a hilarious spectacle for all.

The management had no food, so the strikers ate in full view of the locked in



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

30. Leaflets £2.50, plus 50p postage, for 1000. WRITE TO: Anti Nazi

Newport Street, London WC2.

EETPU bans its own delegates

WHOEVER coined the phrase 'It's as hard for a rich man to get into heaven as it is for a camel to get through the eye of a needle' should have been in Blackpool on Monday.

He or she would have seen. how damned hard it is for elected delegates to get into an Electricians Union conference if the leadership think you're an awkward customer.

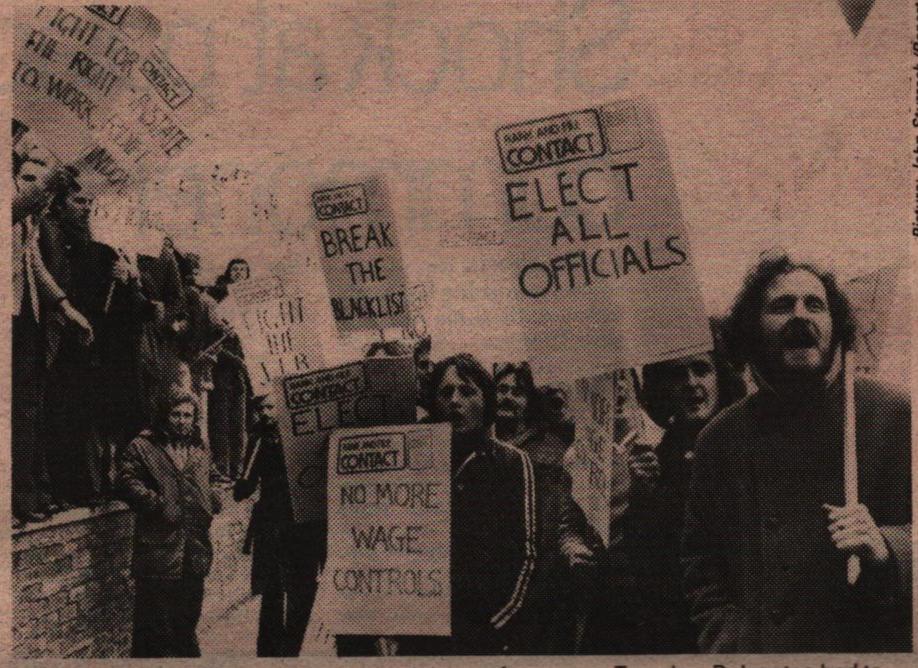
First Billy Williams, the delegate from Cardiff, tried to get in. He was duly elected in September but never received his credentials.

Branch

Then three weeks ago the union executive arbitrarily suspended the whole Cardiff branch of the union for supporting the Right to Work campaign and because its officers attended 'unauthorised meetings'.

Despite repeated inquiries to area office, executive councillor Bernard Clark and the standing orders committee before the conference, Billy still didn't know where he stood before going to Blackpool.

Then when he got there he was mucked around for hours before he could finally ask EETPU general presi-



Five hundred EETPU members picketed the conference on Tuesday. Delegates had to enter the conference through a gauntlet of pickets chanting 'Elect all officials.' The lobby had been called by EETPU Contact, the rank and file paper in the union.

dent Frank Chapple what his chances of getting in were. 'Not much', replied Chapple.

Next it was the turn of Jack Ashby of the West London Supply branch of the union. His branch had submitted a rules revision motion urging a ballot of the membership or a special conference when the rules are silent.

Agenda

The resolution never even appeared on the printed agenda when it was sent out earlier this month.

Then, five days after the agendas were sent out, Jack

Ashby was contacted by a union official who was concerned about a shortcoming on the dues Jack Ashby pays in for the union.

The shortcoming, amounting to thegrand total of £5, had been brought to the union's attention by Jack Ashby himself.

When Jack arrived at the conference he was refused delegates credentials and told that he was being charged for misappropriation of funds.

Wyn Bevan, one of the electricians involved in the recent Port Talbot strike. has also had his credential voided.

He was duly elected as a delegate by his branch. Then in the wake of the Port Talbot strike the union executive reorganised the branches and transferred Bevan to another branch. This meant that he could no longer be a delegate to conference.

1300 members of the Swindon branch were denied a delegate for the second conference running because they refuse to accept a branch secretary appointed from on high.

Motion

This manoeuvring was only the icing on the cake. The conference was due to take place months ago. But it was postponed by general President Chapple.

As a result it came last of all the union conferences and many of the motions are very dated.

The refusal to seat elected delegates provoked some controversy at the conference on Monday. One delegate, Rab Jeffreys managed to get to the rostrum and speak out about the victimisation of the 3000 members of the Cardiff branch.

But his attempt to refer back the report of the standing orders committee was defeated.

Rank and file militants in the union also lobbied the conference on Tuesday protesting at the lack of revenge.

CPSA: FAILURE FOR RIGHT

SOUTHPORT: The attempt by the TRUEMID-backed right wing in the Civil and Public Services Association to shackle the membership with an oppressive rule book has been well and truly sunk by delegates at the Special Rules Revision Conference.

The key rule, which would have introduced postal ballots, extended terms of office, and a strengthening of bureaucratic control, not only failed to get the required two-thirds majority but was decisively defeated by 116,094 votes to 94,793.

An amendment to the rule book 'to oppose any force in society which seeks to foster divisions based on race, creed or religion' was overwhelmingly carried after a Department of the Environment Southwark delegate declared: 'I'm proud to be a racialist . . . I

believe in the superiority of the white race."

The uproar this caused brought the debate to a temporary halt. Socialist Workers Party supporters reacted promptly by giving out anti-fascist leaflets and organising a public

On pay, the mood of the conference seems to have been predetermined by the national executive committee's refusal to give a lead. A Civil Service week of action on pay is

planned for next week and reports coming in from CPSA branches indicate mass support. In Manchester week-long strikes are planned and elsewhere day strikes are seen as the

beginning of a real pay campaign. The demand for £25 seems to have caught on. The prospect of real action being taken by the membership must undoubtedly embarrass the union bureaucracy.

democracy in the union, of which this is only the latest

members at Paisley, Dalmuir, and Balgray have now been on strike for six weeks over wages and conditions. The strike has been made official by AUEW

Although General and Municipal Workers Union members are continuing to and foremen in the whitecollar union ASTMS have been sent home because they

These are now being operated by management. □ Donations and

messages of support to:

Tony Mitchell, 3a Black Hall

Court, Paisley.

Closure! Howards turned orders away

THEY'RE CLOSING down a whole factory and sacking about 400 workers in the Howard Machinery group, one of East Anglia's biggest manufacturing firms.

In a brief message to the workers last week Howard management gave notice of:

☐ The closure of their plant at Ipswich, with 140 jobs to go by the spring.

☐ The sacking of 140 workers in the foundry at Howard's factory at Halesworth.

☐ 59 redundancies at Washington, County Durham.

David Brown, an AUEW steward at Halesworth, told Socialist Worker: 'It's disgusting. The manager of the employment exchange at Lowestoft told the press the other day: 'The jobs for these men just don't exist'.

That's right. This is the

worst-paid area in the country. Wages in East Anglia are lower than any other area in Britain. Unemployment's almost the ighest.

'We know that they've been planning to do this for some time. 'They've been turning away orders because they want to close down the lpswich plant and flog off the property to pay interest on a bank loan.

Dole

'They've got to raise a million quid to help their pals, andwe've got to go on the dole to help them pay!"

Last year, Howard Machinery made £3.2 million profit compared to £2 million the previous year, and paid out £642,000 in dividends compared to £472,000 the previous year. Their seven directors paid themselves £102,000.

STRIKE PRONE **BRITAIN? RUBBISH!**

IS BRITAIN more prone to strikes than other countries?

The International Organisation Labour has just produced a list of days 'lost' through strikes and lock-outs in 1976.

The list reads: Canada: 2.27 days lost per worker. Italy: 2.2 Australia: 1.5 Finalnd: 1.3 United States: 1.19 New Zealand 0.94 Republic of Ireland 0.84 France 0.42 (excluding general strikes) United Kingdom 0.30 Japan 0.15 Holland and West Germany—less than 0.1.

Picket hit at Chivas

PAISLEY, Scotland: A manager who refused to stop his car at the picket line outside the Chivas Regal bottling plant knocked down a picket last week. The man was taken to hospital and his leg X-rayed and bandaged.

The 150 Engineering Union and EETPU.

cross the picket, TGWU drivers have refused to do so, refused to work machines.

mittee told Socialist Worker: 'We would like to thank shop stewards committees for

The ghost of Grunwicks beats Warnes

BARKING, East London: Whatever the outcome of the Grunwicks dispute, the ghost of George Ward is already haunting sweatshops throughout industry.

Workers at William Warners Rubber Products returned to work last week after three weeks on strike. Management, using the Grunwicks technique, had threatened each of the 380 Transport and General Workers Union members by letter-warning that unless strikers reported sick, complete with medical certificate, they could consider themselves sacked.

The threat worked.

The solidarity shown by the Asian and white workers had held good until the threatening letter, but this intimidation was too great, and by midweek only 70 strikers attended the final meeting.

All were bitter over the lack of union support. Shop steward Harjinder Flora pointed out: 'We know that our wages are perhaps the worst in East London—£38

'Our overtime rate, if you can believe it, it less than the basic-8p less per hour! I work 60 hours on nights and

get £26. 'We wanted to improve the basic by 10 per cent, and do something about the overtime, sick pay and shift allowance. Our district official, Millichope, had just one thing

to say-Get back to work!" 'Our people are angry. They are all very bitter. Many are saying they will tear up their

union cards. 'What do we pay our subs for? Millichope has always been the same-always on management's side. He sets with them, and then tells us to

go back, or give up.' Since the strike management have rubbed in their victory. There have been attempts to victimise the TGWU branch secretary and a shop steward. These were successfully forced off, but Warnes are clearly out for

Most seriously, many Warnes workers have spoken of the impact of Grunwick, of George Ward's tactics against his workforce, and the fears of many workers in more poorly organised workplaces.

'We don't want another Grunwick,' said a disillusioned steward as the last mass meeting broke up.

Ward's ordeal for accountant

ACCOUNTANT Rasheed Mohamed walked through picket lines for Grunwicks boss George Ward. He worked day and night and at weekends too to help keep Grunwicks going.

But even his loyalty cracked when he was humiliated by Ward. It happened in March this year after he decided to take a stand against police who he had seen unjustly arrest four pickets.

He announced that he would act as witness against the police—and immediately Ward asked for his resigna-

When Rasheed Mohamed refused, the humiliation

began. He was put in a room and given 7,000 letters to open and sort into alphabetical order.

☐ He was barred from morning coffee sessions with the firm's directors.

☐ Parts of the factory were

made no-go areas for him. Six weeks' leave promised so he could sit his final accountancy exams were cancelled.

☐ And he was ordered to report to the works manager when he came into work, when he went to tea break, when he came back from tea break, when he went to lunch, when he came back from lunch, and when he left the factory at night.

After two days of being stripped of his accountancy duties and being constantly humiliated, he quit when told by Ward that he would not get his previous job back.

These facts about life inside Grunwicks emerged at an industrial tribunal in London this week. Rasheed Mohamed, who is seeking compensation for unfair dismissa!, told the tribunal: 'If you speak angrily to Mr Ward, you can expect a slap in the face or the sack. I know his temper.'

FLOOD OF PROTEST FOR JAILED PICKET

THE JAILING of shop steward Vic Seadon for an assault charge at the Grunwicks mass picket, has brought a flood of protest from friends and workmates.

Arthur Griffiths, a member of Vic's union the National Society of Metal Mechancis, in Warrington, told Socialist Worker: 'It is scandalous that a worker should be put in prison for this sort of offence.

'Every NSSM shop steward in Warrington has signed a petition to the union protesting at his arrest and asking for a national levy to pay his wife his wages while Vic is in prison. The executive will have to respond in some way within two weeks'.

In London, Vic's workmates at Keith Blackmans have also been collecting money and protests. The Lea Valley Socialist Workers Party has set out to collect £40 a week for Vic's wife and child while he is inside. So far, the sum has been easily met. .

New Irish party formed

by EAMONN McCANN

FOUR HUNDRED delegates met in Dublin at the weekend and voted to set up a new party, the Socialist Labour Party.

Many delegates were former members of the discredited Irish Labour Party, which spent four years in coalition government with the right-wing Fine Gael and paid the price with a disastrous showing in the general election last June.

The new party, which has one member of parliament, voted for a socialist programme but rejected a motion which would have committed them to direct intervention in industrial struggles.

The new party has already attracted numbers of all sections of the left including the revolutionary left. Whether it can develop into a genuine alternative to the existing

Blacking brings victory at James

SHEFFIELD: Workers at W James have won a victory after eight weeks on strike.

The dispute started when 23 members of the Boilermakers Union struck in support of two workers who were unfairly dismissed. Management, in an attempt to destroy union organisation in the firm, sack-

ed them all. They managed to take on

scab workers and at one stage it looked bleak. The owner, W James, claims to be a friend of George Ward of Grunwicks and looked prepared to sit the strike out. But the strikers toured the firm's suppliers and buyers and got shop stewards

there not only to black W James but also firms that persistently crossed the picket.

The blacking was so effective that the strikers have been taken back and compensation paid for wages lost. A dispute has since arisen about when sacked workers who have found other jobs can restart.

The W James strike com-

blacking so effectively and for collections received. We would also like to thank the Socialist Workers Party for support.

'With similar support to what we received the Grunwicks dispute would have been won months ago."

"在水水""海水水水",水水水""水水",水水水水水水""水水水"

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

B I WAY

GRANGE ASE

HE GRUELLES

Shock at palace as commoner is born

THE NATION was plunged into mourning last week as the news came through that Princess Anne was delivered in hospital of a commoner.

This is the first time for 500 years—and the first time ever in the Hanoverian dynastythat so dreadful a deformity has been born to a royal person.

Doctors and midwives gasped as the appalling spectacle emerged from the royal womb. It had two arms, two

legs a head and body.

'There's no coronet!' muttered the Queen's Doctor through sobs.

Nor was was there any sign of a tiara!

The creature was entirely naked! No ermine or linen clothed its small body!

The worst shock came when the tiny being started to cry. There was no sign of any royal accent in the cry!

Said a statement from the Royal College of Physicians: 'It might for all the world have been the cry of a servant girl's

The Queen and Prince Philip cancelled all engagements as they sought to recover from the shock.

Shape

Every possible effort is being made by the royal family's considerable resources to put the matter right. The 'commoner' has been rushed to Gatcombe Manor in Wiltshire, Princess Anne's new home, where it will be treated with every known luxury.

Elocution experts will be brought in to shape the commoner's speech suitable to royalty. The commoner's attitudes will be moulded to show the correct arrogance and contempt for his fellow creatures.

Hope was expressed in palace circles last week that the nation would soon forge the shock. Prince Philip said 'A few years at Gatcombo

Manor should put the little scrounger straight.

Cornish workers occupy!

by JIMMY RULE

CORNWALL: 250 workers a Teddington Auto Controls, in Redruth, are occupying their factory in the fight for a living wage.

The workers, 50 of then women, have been banning overtime and declining to de piecework because their wage are so low. A toolmaker take home about £39 and labourer a mere £27.

This is at least £20 below the district rate in engineering which in Cornwall is in any case one of the lowest in the country.

Area

Management's response to their action was to suspend a the workers. This move led t the occupation.

Teddington Auto Control is part of the United Ga Industries Group. This outfi specialises in opening u plants in the most depressed areas of the country, for which they can pocket governmen grants and get away wit

paying lousy wages. Workers occupying the plant on a rota basis fear that the company will just shut u shop rather than pay then their due. The statutory sever years the company has to sta in the area after receiving government grant is up.

This means that th workers, members of th AUEW, desperately need sup port and blacking. This is a the more urgent since no union official had, by Mon day, even visited the plant.

Messages of suppor and donations to, and infor mation from, Gordon Wragg, 8 Northpool Close Illogan Highway, Redruth Cornwall.

The airport committee re-

jected these findings and

declared there was no racial

discrimination at the airport!

London Airport: Hundreds out against racism

The hunger-strikers outside the TUC Congress House. For this their union has suspended them.

country drumming up support.

HUNGER STRIKE

on picket lines, joined mass pickets, gone

on demonstrations and travelled the

AFTER 15 months on strike

for the right to join a union,

four courageous men and

women have been slung out

They are Yasu Patel, Vipin Magdani, Jayanben Desai and

Grunwicks, the firm which is sup-

ported by the National Association of

Freedom and the right wing of the

Fifteen months ago they and 86 other

workers walked out on strike in protest

against appalling conditions and a bullying

They joined APEX, the clerical workers'

For fifteen months, the four have stood

union, which officially supported their demand that Grunwicks recognise the

Johnny Patel. They are on strike at

of their union!

Tory Party.

management.

union.

In September, they stood in the gallery while the entire Trades Union Congress

applauded them. On Monday they went to the TUC again, this time to sit on hunger strike in the cold, demanding the action against Grunwicks which the TUC had voted for!

And for their action the APEX leaders suspended them for four weeks, and denied them strike pay for that time.

Mrs Desai, blue with cold, fatigue and hunger, said: 'They told us not to have a mass picket because it would lead to violence. Now they tell us not to take nonviolent action. They don't want us to do anything'.

☐ Kamlesh Gandhi, chairman of the Grunwicks strikee committee, is attending the Rank and File Conference this Satur-

day in Manchester. Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Tory Party, has dined twice this month in secret and in private with George Ward, the Grunwicks managing director.

A WHITE supervisor gets

into an argument with an

Asian employee. He orders

him up a spiral staircase on

to the roof of the building.

wants to kill him.

He challenges the Asian

This incident happened at

Asian workers in the cater-

London's Heathrow Airport.

ing units at Heathrow have

been putting up with this sort

of harassment for months. But

on Friday last week they'd had

450 workers stormed out of the gates after two shop stewards had been told to 'Bugger off' by a laundry supervisor called Shephard.

worker to a fight. The Asian Sick worker asks if the supervisor

Shephard had arbitrarily changed the shift of a laundry worker who had been sick. When two shop stewards, Gurbhajan Sekhon and Amrik Rai, complained, he just abused them.

If the bosses take the same

attitude throughout the airport, nearly a thousand Asian workers could be on strike in the biggest Asian strike protest ever.

This is not the first such strike. Three summers ago hundreds of Asian workers struck at the South side catering unit over appalling working conditions and

racialist management. The Race Relations Board referred the case to the Race Relations Complaints Committee of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport.

The catering unit shop stewards submitted a document packed with information.

Threat

They describe unbelievable incidents of constant harassment of the Asian employees by the white supervisors. Rudeness to the women workers, threats of physical assault on men employees are the norm.

☐ For more information and to send donations and messages of support, write to British Airways Catering Cabin Services Centre Strike Committee, c/o Southall Indian Workers Association, Featherstone Road. Southall, Middlesex.