

COMMONS ASBESTOS LOBBY

TENANTS and workers campaigning against asbestos lobbied parliament this week to draw attention to the five deaths every day in Britain caused by exposure to the lethal fibre.

More than 5 million tonnes of asbestos have been used in Britain. Funds are needed urgently so that council estates, schools, hospitals and other buildings can be cleared of asbestos.

Much of the asbestos used in buildings is now ageing and flaking,

releasing the tiny particles which cause the crippling lung clogging called 'asbestosis' and a variety of cancers including the untreatable mesothelioma.

Laggers (thermal insulation engineers) from Runcorn and Glasgow were prominent in the campaign.

Joe Mullin, a former lagger, from the Clydeside asbestos campaign is permanently disabled from his exposure to asbestos at work.

He campaigns both for the removal of asbestos from buildings and for proper compensation for victims.

Marie Pytharas was at the centre of a tenants' campaign on Loughborough Estate in Lambeth, which won a standard-setting safe removal programme for their estate. She now works for the London Asbestos Campaign, which assists a growing number of tenants', community and workplace campaigners.

CLASS ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICA!

Last Monday, the racist government of South Africa mounted terrorist raids against innocent victims in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, the so-called front line states.

They bombed a refugee camp near the Zambian capital, Lusaka, and attacked ANC offices in Harare, Zimbabwe. Helicopters bombed a village near Botswana's capital, Gaborone, then landed troops who opened machine-gun fire at random. It was the second South African attack there in a year.

There was a great deal of hypocrisy among politicians who raised their hands in horror. What is frightening this unholy chorus, with Thatcher at one end and Owen and Kinnock at the other, is that as the repression by the doomed South African regime grows, so also grows the resistance and heroism of young Africans.

Police with sjamboks, shotguns and dogs were sent into Witwatersrand university on Monday, to break up a protest by 4,000 students over the raids and the continued imprisonment of Nelson Mandela.

In the Crossroads shantytown near Cape Town, pitched battles were fought between militant youth and right-wing lumpen thugs mobilised as 'vigilantes' by the security police.

'It is worth making every effort to stop South Africa dissolving into a cauldron of violence', declared Thatcher, in her best sugary accent.

For her, there is no cauldron of violence in South Africa when police and army beat up or torture young African children of seven, eight, nine or ten.

For her there is only a 'cauldron of violence' when brutally suppressed youth are driven to fight back.

While Africans lie bleeding or murdered, Neil Kinnock keeps it in the Parliamentary family.

He also is concerned at African rebellion. He is a cowardly neutral on the side of Botha, as he was a cowardly neutral on the side of state violence against the miners in their recent strike.

He expresses the same concerns as Thatcher.

He wanted a non-violent revolution and a non-violent removal of apartheid. His call for sanctions was to bring this about.

'Isolation of South Africa' he pleaded 'is the only possible means remaining to pursue the possibility of a non-

BY BILL HUNTER

violent revolution and a non violent removal of apartheid.'

The only duty of a socialist today is to rouse the British working class to support the South African people revolting against the brutal attacks by whip, baton and rifle.

There is a revolution taking place in South Africa. Nothing is left but to take sides.

Kinnock pleading with Thatcher only reveals that he is closer to her as a British parliamentarian than he is to the oppressed youth of South Africa in the vanguard of the fight for freedom.

'Please put on sanctions' he pleads to the woman who would like to place the workers of Britain under apartheid.

Kinnock pleads with a Tory Government which is representing bankers and businessmen of Britain who are intimately bound up with the exploitation of the black population of South Africa.

If they should impose sanctions it would only be to seek a solution to preserve their investments.

The only sanctions worthwhile are sanctions of workers.

Instead of labour and trade union leaders weeping crocodile tears over apartheid their duty is to organise, assist and direct workers in their organisations to black South African goods and give full support to the revolution of the oppressed Africans.

But the rank and file of the labour movement have a duty.

They must expose the hypocrisy of their leaders — but they must take action themselves. The African revolution is gathering strength.

Already there is dual power.

SHIPBUILDERS LONDON MARCH



Over two thousand shipyard workers marched through London last Wednesday for a mass lobby of parliament in protest at British Shipbuilders plans to axe 3,495 jobs and three yards.

The men from Smiths Dock on the Tees, Clarke Kincaid works on the Tyne, Sunderland shipbuilders and Austin and Pickersgill on the Wear joined more than 500 men from other yards. See full story on back page

The 'comrades', young revolutionaries, control some of the African townships, organising, and dispensing their own justice. The firms which benefit from apartheid are firms which exploited the British workers and in some cases left thousands of them unemployed to transfer their factories to South Africa.

The struggle of the African people is our struggle.

Condemn the 'neutral on Botha's side' labour leaders.

Full support for all those workers — Dunne's shopworkers in Ireland, hospital workers in Portsmouth, and others — who have refused to handle South African goods.

Demand the unions organise a real campaign in support of the African masses beginning with a blacking of all South African commerce, goods, air and sea links.

Stop all strategic goods to the racist regime! For workers' sanctions!

HANDSHAKES AND STALIN

WORKERS PRESS has received enquiries from readers and supporters of the Workers Revolutionary Party concerning documents issued in the name of the WRP and given to the staff of Progressive Books in Liverpool for public distribution.

Progressive Books is associated politically with the Communist Party.

The editor wishes to make it clear that these documents are not legitimate documents of the party, were not published by a constituted committee of the party, infringed established conditions for internal circulation and were neither sanctioned by nor submitted to any party body prior to their dissemination.

They were issued by a small 'clandestine' faction in the Workers Revolutionary Party grouped around the Banda brothers.

The material consisted of resolutions and decisions carried at an unconstitutionally convened meeting of members in the North-West area and made allegations against individual party members which those named strenuously deny.

The affair has been investigated and

charges laid against those held responsible.

A basic principle is involved. The Workers Revolutionary Party is a Trotskyist organisation, part of the Fourth International, which was founded in 1938 because the Stalinist 'Communist' parties had, since 1933, become the instruments of the Soviet bureaucracy and its counter-revolutionary policies.

Gravedigger

The Stalinist bureaucracy framed and liquidated thousands of Trotskyists and has betrayed the working class in every major struggle since that time.

The group of people who distributed their attack on the WRP through a Liverpool bookshop associated with the Communist Party thereby declare their politics.

Not only have they broken party discipline — they have gone to that political force whose historical role has been that of gravedigger of the revolution.

The WRP will act decisively and swiftly.

As the cowboys raid London bus routes: BUS JOBS FIGHT IS ON

BY DAVE DOWSETT

DR KEITH BRIGHT, chair of London Regional Transport, has been handed a £7,500 pay rise as part of a deal made two years ago when London's public transport was snatched from GLC control into the hands of the government.

Other Board members are also getting hefty increases, including part-timers who will be receiving an extra £500.

These rises were only revealed after Labour MP Tony Banks received a written answer to a parliamentary question — at a time when London bus crews are facing cuts of up to £50 a week.

Management are using the excuse of having to be competitive with private coach firms to introduce the pay cuts and lengthen working hours.

The Tory's 1984 London Regional Transport Act made it necessary for all bus routes to be tendered out on the open market.

Routes

The LRT subsidiary, London Buses Ltd, has been losing routes at every layer of tendering.

Management has been telling the T&GWU that it is because costs, especially wages, are too high. Neither bus workers nor the people of London can find out if this is so because LRT hides be-

hind a clause in the Act which prevents publication of successful tender figures.

Since the inception of LRT there has been a rush to convert bus services to driver-only operation, despite the fact this is disliked by passengers, results in job losses and is against the advice of an independent report by the Oxford University Transport Studies Unit.

The public transport system is being fragmented into smaller and smaller component parts ready for selling off.

Even in individual bus garages, the operating side is separated from the bus engineering side, each being expected to act as individual economic units.

The result is even more service cuts than those planned.

Catering services are being tendered out and the LRT computer services have been handed over to Dupont, a private company with senior LRT management on

the Board.

At last month's London Bus Conference, delegates heard plans to introduce a three-tier wage structure for busworkers, with cuts of £20 a week in outer garages; a loss of London weighting for all busworkers and the ending of weekly and Christmas bonuses.

Also proposed were cuts in overtime payments, sick pay, cuts in annual leave and productivity measures.

Conference sent the negotiating committee back into talks with management with instructions not to accept cuts in the basic wage rates or a worsening of working conditions.

The past couple of months have seen busworkers leaving London Transport in droves, even with the present wages and conditions, as bus inspectors and officials exhume petty rules, long outmoded, to justify their own existence.

Jobs

In south west London, the number of staff leaving has been particularly heavy as experienced bus drivers have been taking up better paid jobs at Heathrow's Terminal Four.

As this paper goes to press, delegates to the May Bus Conference are expecting to hear of management's

withdrawal from their more draconian plans for pay cuts, but the news of the massive pay rise for LRT Board members will make busworkers even more determined to resist any attempt to reduce their living and working conditions.

London Transport was itself formed by 'municipalising' the public transport in London, after experiences up to the 1930s proved that private enterprise was incapable of providing the services needed by Londoners.

Since then the people of London have paid for the network through rates and fares.

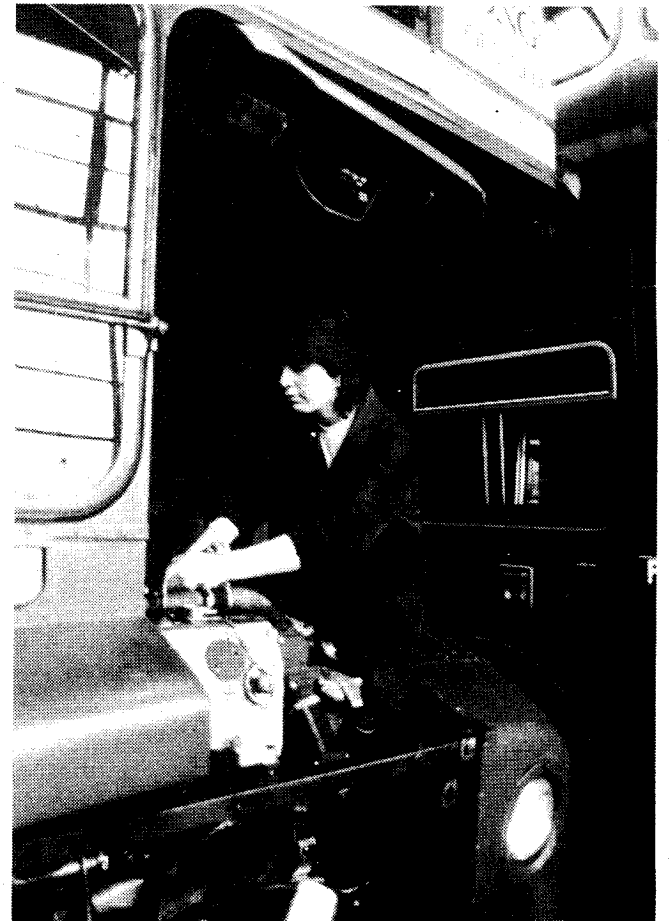
Privatisation of services, whether by direct sales or tendering, is nothing short of theft.

A start towards the integration of bus, tube and overground rail services was made by the last Labour administration of the GLC.

It was proving what a valuable and integral part of life public transport is for the working class.

There is a real and immediate need for it to be under the control of those who have the practical experience of running it — the workers — and those who use it — the passengers.

● Public transport services belong to the people — let the people own them.



Next Sunday, May 25 at 8.15pm, Channel 4 features a programme on London Transport's female employees. Helen Clifford (above) appears — what will her future be now that privatisation threatens more and more vital transport services?

Complex issues pose leadership challenge CIVIL SERVANTS IN CONFERENCE

BY PETER MONEY

THIS MONTH'S conference of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, the second largest civil service union, met at the end of the biggest non-event pay campaign civil service trade unions have ever had.

In 1981 civil servants had a major confrontation with the Tories over pay. It lasted

months, involved thousands of civil servants in strike action, many for the first time, and cost the government billions in lost revenue.

Since then, civil servants' pay has fallen nearly 30 per cent behind.

Thousands of jobs have gone, services have been cut and many have left or are considering leaving for better pay in private industry.

This year, the five major unions had agreed a com-

mon claim (about 17 per cent) and a common plan of industrial action.

However, only a week before the conference, the leadership were recommending acceptance (or in the case of the SCPS, not to oppose) a pay rise of only 6 per cent.

The offer had been made conditional upon the leadership recommending acceptance.

Although many delegates had been mandated to oppose the offer, conference speakers expressed surprisingly little opposition. The Executive motion was carried.

The union's main policy on the anti-union laws, decided last year, is that it is against any outside interference in the union's affairs.

However, the Executive Council proposed new temporary regulations so that union elections do not contravene the law.

This manoeuvre caused something of a split in the left.

Some thought that any compliance with the anti-trade union laws should be opposed. Others saw it as an opportunity to introduce more democratic procedures into the union, e.g. election addresses.

This was the dominant line of the Broad Left, which was also supported by the newly emerging SDP right-wing.

In the event the 'regulations' were accepted but, much to the annoyance of the Executive, so were election addresses.

The Executive is dominated by an alliance of CP, Morning Star and Tribune supporters.

After a long debate, delegates voted for the immediate closure of the Sellafield nuclear plant.

The motion was carried on a card vote despite opposition from both the Executive and from members in British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

They argued that because there were union members in the nuclear industry they could not support a call for its closure.

Speakers from the floor said that the ultimate aim must be the closure of the whole nuclear industry and criticised the House of Commons Select Committee Report on nuclear power and nuclear waste reprocessing.

They argued that a 'balanced energy policy' means a balance between nuclear and other forms of power generation, and that no such 'balance' was acceptable.

An Executive motion condemning the attack on Libya deplored the British government's support for the raid but made no positive demands, such as the closure of American bases.

It proposed 'seeking a meeting at government level to express opposition' and a 'campaign for an international forum to seek to resolve the problems of the Middle East.'

These proposals were seconded by the East Anglian branch of the Ministry of Defence.

There is obviously a problem developing for the leadership of the union in relation to the state.

Many members work directly in areas to which there is growing opposition in the working class.

Nuclear power and US

bases are two cases in point. However, the same thing came out in relation to South Africa.

Many civil servants work to promote trade with the apartheid regime, while union policy is to oppose the regime.

It is becoming clearer what the leadership's response is: to avoid the issue.

A call from the Department of the Environment to ask members involved in South African work to consider non-cooperation was kept off the agenda in favour of one which kept activity to the level of protest and boycotting South African goods.

There is mounting discontent to this fence-sitting; the first motion discussed by conference was one censuring the Standing Orders Committee for conspiring with the Executive to produce an agenda which consisted of nothing but anodyne and self-congratulatory motions which commit no-one to anything.

The censure vote was lost but received a great deal of sympathy. Clearly lacking at the conference was a consistent opposition to the opportunism of the existing leadership.

The most consistent challenge, at least in terms of leaflets produced, came from the Broad Left, although they by no means represented the only opposition.

Whether a successful challenge will be mounted to the present leadership remains to be seen. What is not in doubt is that it is urgently needed.

Blow to London Hospital Fight

By Gerry Downing

ANGRY pickets gathered outside the Brent Health Authority (BHA) meeting at the Central Middlesex Hospital on Monday night (May 19).

The contentious issues were the closure of Neasden Hospital and the proposed merger of the BHA with the Paddington and Kensington and Chelsea Health Authority.

A huge petition against the closure was strung out around the room.

Neasden Hospital has been a focal point for the struggle against the run-down of the NHS.

A 13-week occupation was betrayed by bureaucrats in NUPE and COHSE after court injunctions were taken out by the BHA under Tory anti-union laws.

Staff were disgusted at this sell-out but continued to fight for the retention of this vital resource.

The meeting was packed with representatives of community groups, political parties, hospital workers and the Brent active pensioners.

After three hours of furious discussions, the controversial vote was taken.

At eight votes to eight chairman Ivan Kingston cast his vote to close the hospital amidst uproar from the audience.

● St Mary's in the nearby Harrow Road is to be closed even earlier than Fowler has demanded!

Many of these reactionary health authorities have 'saved' and cut back far more than even the Tories have demanded.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence, Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence, Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

KENT

TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent.

CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three year sentence from January 1985. A29398, Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

ROBERT HOWE: 22 — Affray, attempted not guilty (Judge refused to allow change of plea) 21 months.

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD: 24 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.

JOHN ROBINSON: 21 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.

GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.

ANTHONY HOWE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.

WILLIAM BELL: 20 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months Youth Custody.

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424, Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

N. DERBYSHIRE

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough.

Workers Press

INTERVIEWS

FURNITURE TRADES IN BITTER STRUGGLES

MORRIS MEN VISIT LONDON EXHIBITION

IN MAY 1985, twenty-nine workers at the Morris furniture factory in Glasgow were sacked for fighting for trade union recognition and trade union conditions. Six more were later sacked for refusing to cross the picket line.

JOE WALKER, RAYMOND DOHERTY and BRYAN RILEY were in London last week handing out leaflets at the furniture exhibition in Earl's Court and spoke to Workers Press.

I'm Joe Walker from the Morris Strike Committee. We're down in London leafletting the furniture exhibition at Earl's Court. Robert Morris has a stall down there.

Our dispute started about three and a half, four years ago. Morris asked us to do him a favour — the favour was to work a year two and a quarter hours over the time we used to work, which was 39 hours, to help him financially.

After the year was up he got back on to his feet and he was okay so we asked to get back on to our 39 hours. He just said 'no'. You've worked 41 and a quarter hours and you'll just go on doing your 41 and a quarter hours.

Union

After that we got the union involved — FTAT (Furniture, Timber and Allied Trade Union) — Morris is against trade unions. There was no way he was having the union in. But we got the union in anyway and he still ignored us.

One thing led to another and we put an overtime ban on and he said perhaps he would meet the union if we stopped the overtime ban. So we stopped the overtime ban and we asked him again to speak to us and he said 'no'.

So we had a ballot and it was 82 per cent in favour of taking some sort of industrial action.

Action

On May 24, 1985 we decided to work our 39 hours and walk out, hoping before that action that Morris would come around the negotiating table. He didn't so we walked out.

He was sitting there trying to tell each and every individual person, 'You're sacked'. He was panicking because there were so many walking out.

At the time 29 walked out. There had been an 82 per cent ballot but a few of them held back, frightened of doing something against Morris.

Later on a further six refused to cross the picket line and they were also sacked. So it was left in the hands of

the union.

The union spoke to the Lord Provost (mayor) of Glasgow and asked him to speak to Morris to see if he'd get around the negotiating table to get our jobs back. Morris didn't meet the Lord Provost. We got in touch with the Scottish Labour Group and they were on to him but he still refused.

Morris is importing stuff from Italy so we've been over to Italy to try and stop that. But he's going further afield, he's going to Germany. We've been to five or six exhibitions where Robert Morris has stalls to get people to stop buying his stuff produced by scab labour.

Blacked

The Glasgow Council has blacked his orders. He used to have orders from them and other district councils as well. But he sells his stuff down south. It's getting the support of the people down south. Not many people know about it down south. It's all right being interested in it, but it's getting trade unionists and Labour groups to move themselves and black the stuff down south.



Bryan Riley (left), Joe Walker and Raymond Doherty: the three are down in London to picket the furniture exhibition at Earls Court. Morris' men are inside

We've had support from the Labour up north. The Lord Provost had a reception for us and our families at the City Chamber. We were piped down with a band to the City Chamber and Robert Morris had organised two coachloads of scabs picketing us. The placards were saying 'Feed the world, not the pickets', 'Let us work in peace' — placards like that. They were thinking we were going to have a nosh up meal. In fact it was only a cup of tea and a biscuit.

The union has done the best that they can do. They've gone as far as they can. They've said they'll

back us all the way. But they're looking for further ideas how to get into this thing. Some way you can stop this man getting his stuff in or out and stopping him producing it altogether.

Docks

We've been to the docks and the dockers said they'd do their best to black his stuff but it's in big containers and they don't always know what's in them. Drivers are just driving through Europe.

Silentnight is in the same struggle as us. We've had discussions with them.

They're in much the same situation as we are. Thatcher loves employers like theirs and Morris.

We've been out just about a year and we won't give up the struggle now. We're all still solid. There's no way we'll leave that picket line and let that scoundrel get away with it. No one has gone back that walked out.

In their leaflet FTAT calls on all trade unionists and the general public to boycott Morris of Milton Street's furniture and to send messages and financial support (made out to Morris Fund) to R.T. McCallum, FTAT, 46 Carlton Place, Glasgow G5 9TQ.

SILENTNIGHT CAMPAIGN BUILDS UP:

INTERVIEW BY
SIMON PIRANI

'PASS ON LESSONS OF OUR STRIKE'

STRIKERS from the Silentnight bedding company, based at Barnoldswick, Lancashire, have now been out eleven months.

'We have an unanswerable case and we have tried every possible means of arbitration and conciliation', Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union (FTAT) branch secretary Steve Burns told Workers Press.

'The management's mentality is "do as we say or you will be sacked". They are dictatorial.'

Silentnight Holdings Ltd — whose chairman Tom Clarke won an OBE for services to industry in 1979 and was described by prime minister Thatcher as 'a wonderful man' — say the dispute ended last July when they sacked 346 of the strikers, who are now pursuing cases through an Industrial Tribunal.

In addition to these, nearly 100 workers with less than a year's service were not entitled to appeal to a Tribunal and 80 members of the T&GWU returned to work under threat of dismissal. Barnoldswick, a small town of only 8,000 population,

is now 'split down the middle' as Steve Burns describes it.

'People, particularly young people from the dole queues, have been brought in to do our jobs.

'We know, although this is being denied, that they are being told to take the work there under threat of having their dole payments stopped.

'The cause of most of the friction is the very small number of people who, together with all the rest of us, voted to take action last July — and then didn't have the courage of their convictions, and didn't join the strike.

'The company says they don't have a policy of anti-trades unionism — but there is not one union member working there now.'

The lasting impact of the miners' strike on the working class movement in Britain is evident at Silentnight.

The sharply-divided village of Barnoldswick is reminiscent of many pit villages in 1984-5.

The active role of the Women's Support Group — composed both of strikers' wives and others determined

to support the struggle — shows the profound effect of the miners' strike on all working-class women.

The changes made by the miners did not stop there, however, says Steve Burns.

'Many people said, while the miners were taking industrial action, that if they didn't come out of the strike with at least something, then we would all the pay the price.

'I don't think they lost — but when they were seen to have come off worse, it was a green light to every employer to attack the unions.

'What our employer has found out is that it is no push-over. A union is people, and you can't break people that easily.

'They may have won a battle with the miners, but they didn't win the war.

'The truth is coming out about how the government engineered to get them out on strike.

'On the other hand, it has now come out that the Tories lost billions upon billions of pounds trying to fight the miners.

'Another thing that the working class is gaining all the time is experience. The

lessons of our strike, of the Morris of Glasgow strike, and all strikes, must be passed on.'

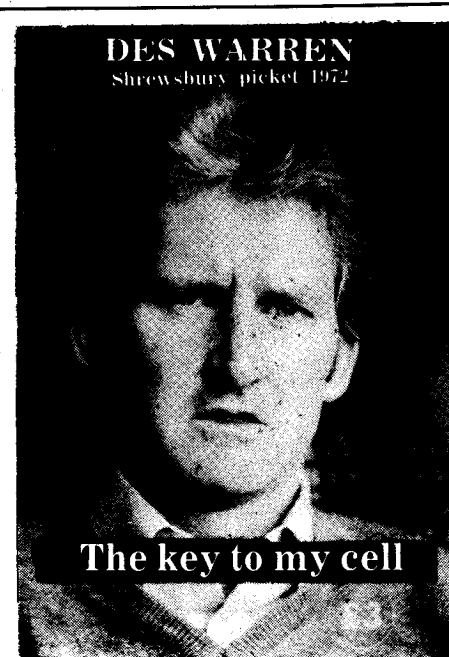
Some of the most important lessons, for Steve, were: 'If you have no choice but to take action, make sure you have 100 per cent backing not only from your own members but from other workers who can take supporting action.

'It's a very dirty fight. You have to do as much effective damage to the enemy as quickly as possible. Be aware of company suppliers, and the unions that can affect them. The company will only succumb to pressure.

'Companies these days don't care about their employees. But a company with no supplies, with its "arteries" cut off, suddenly becomes very "reasonable".'

'On a personal note, I think winning a strike on the picket line is a thing of the past. A lot depends on blacking and sympathetic action.'

Steve spoke of his hope that the next Labour government would repeal all the reactionary anti-union legislation on which Thatcherite employers depend.



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Vital reading for all trade unionists

JUSTICE FOR STEVEN SHAW!



THIS MAN, Steven Shaw, was beaten unconscious, hit with a bottle and burned with a cigarette in a street in Longsight, Manchester. He believes that the men who attacked him are:



Police officers because they had previously detained him at Bootle Street Police Station in Manchester.

Demonstration
Saturday May 24, 1.00 pm
Assemble Whitworth Park on Oxford Road, Manchester, for march and rally in Albert Square.

For further information, please contact
Justice for Steven Shaw. c/o MUSU,
Steve Biko Building, Oxford Road, Manchester
Tel: 061-273 5111

Lecturers in conference

THE CONFERENCE of the lecturers' union NATFHE which opens today in Brighton will discuss many of the real problems faced by further and higher education.

Last year the union voted to oppose YTS. The successful resolution pointed out that:

'The support of NATFHE serves to give credibility to a system which is being transformed from one directed to the needs of young people to conscription in the interests of employers and private agencies.'

Continued opposition will probably be carried this year.

The Outer London region has proposed a motion which points out that conference 'sees the existence and practice of the MSC as presently constituted as a fundamental barrier to a comprehensive vocational education and training.'

With the general election in less than two years' time, the union's South-east region wants a 'manifesto' to raise the electorate's awareness of the damage this government has inflicted on post-school education.

Lecturers are angry at seeing the polytechnics and colleges of education under attack.

They will hear a call to end the cuts in teacher education and polytechnics.

Like their colleagues in the

By GEOFF BARR

schools, lecturers are angry about their salaries.

They reckon that over the last twelve years they have lost about 40 per cent compared with non-teaching jobs of equivalent skills.

An interesting debate should be held on a resolution deploring 'the government and police reaction to recent inner-city disturbances.'

In particular it views 'with alarm the stock-piling of plastic bullets and other weaponry'.

Like many other unions, NATFHE will vote on a change of rule to allow a political fund to be set up. The union is not, however being asked to affiliate to the Labour Party.

The only resolution on international affairs wants the union to step up its opposition to the South African regime.

It includes a call to 'campaign to block recruitment for posts in South Africa', and it tells the National Executive Committee to 'urge the TUC to organise a boycott of South African goods and services and an end to investments.'

LISTINGS

CAPITAL READING SEMINARS. Every Friday, 7 pm. First floor, Bloomsbury Tavern, 236 Shaftesbury Ave, London WC2. For details phone 01-354 0668.

MORRIS OF GLASGOW — ONE YEAR ON STRIKE: Join members of the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union who have been on strike

against a non-union employer for one year on the picket line. Mass picket Friday May 30th, 4.15 pm. Morris factory, Milton Street, off Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

MASS PICKET OF MURDOCH'S GLASGOW PLANT: Saturday May 24th, 9.00 pm Portman Street, Kinning Park, Glasgow. Organised by the print unions.

Please send details of your meetings and events to Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT, to arrive not later than the Monday before publication.

POLICE HARASSMENT will be opposed by a demonstration in Manchester today (Saturday) demanding Justice for Steven Shaw, a student who was beaten unconscious, kicked, hit with a bottle and burned with a cigarette in a street in Longsight, Manchester by men he is sure are policemen — because last year they beat him up in Bootle Street Police Station.

Steven Shaw was part of a demonstration against the visit of Leon Brittan to Manchester University on March 1 1985, which was attacked and broken up by Manchester police.

Following his involvement in the Defence Campaign and the independent inquiry into the events of that night, he was mysteriously burgled, pulled-up for alleged speeding four times though never charged and then held in Bootle Street police station for five hours for questioning during which he was strip-searched and assaulted, resulting in internal injury.

Few students had any confidence in the Avon and Somerset police investigating the events and when they gave statements they were handed over to the Manchester police solicitors.

A Manchester City Council-sponsored independent inquiry concluded that there was 'unacceptable use of force and abusive language

by police officers ... against innocent civilians participating in a peaceful demonstration.'

They suggested that what happened to Steven Shaw was part of a 'deliberate attempt by unknown police officers to frighten and harass key witnesses to the Inquiry ...'

This harassment is still going on. On February 2, Steve was attacked in a Manchester street by the same two men who had interrogated and assaulted him in Bootle Street last year.

This time they broke his nose, stamped on his hands, hit him with a bottle and stubbed out cigarettes in his face.

There have been no arrests or identity parades. It was Steven Shaw's solicitor who eventually released artists' impressions of the men to the police.

The demonstration is being supported by representatives of other sections of the community who have experienced police harassment and brutality.

There are speakers from Bold and Parkside NUM, from Broadwater Farm in North London, where Cynthia Jarrett died during an intimidating police raid and there are now an average of six arrests a week, many in dawn raids in which doors are smashed in and personal belongings scattered.

The demonstration will assemble at 1 pm on Saturday May 24, at Whitworth Park on Oxford Road, Manchester, and march to a rally in Albert Square.

SHOW TRIALS PROTEST



FOR THE second week running a Monday morning picket outside the Old Bailey was arrested *en masse*. The picket was in protest against the 'Brighton Bombing' show trial and the use of the strip search torture technique currently in use against two of the defendants, Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer.

The police action aimed to prevent any protest taking place during the trial. On the previous occasion no charges were laid; this time one of those arrested was subsequently charged with a minor offence. The police were obviously doing a removals job on behalf of the courts.

NOISY DAY FOR SILENTNIGHT

By DYLAN FERNLEY

OVER 800 people took part in the march and rally in support of Silentnight strikers in Keighley on Saturday May 17, despite a thoroughly cold and wet afternoon.

The march was led by a local colliery band. Banners from all over the country were visible, including South Wales miners and North Wales, Midlands, North-east, Merseyside and Yorkshire trade union and Labour organisations.

There was a large police presence on the march as it wound its way through the town to Cliffe Castle, where a rally was held.

The spokesperson from Keighley trades council said it was the biggest demonstration seen in Keighley for decades.

Various speakers spoke of the solidarity of the Silentnight strikers who, despite being sacked, were determined to see the struggle through. It is not just an industrial dispute, but concerns a more fundamental

issue — the right to organise — which is the most basic right of the working class.

As a result of testing their 'rights' they have become aware of the state and its methods.

They are coming up against the use of Tory laws, the role of union leaderships in betraying workers' interests and the necessity of fighting all forms of oppression.

They called for the continued blacking of Silentnight products. The Co-op was singled out as their major retailers.

All working class organisations should bring pressure on Co-op management to stop scabbing, by withdrawing funds from Co-op banks and picketing of High Street stores.

However, the leadership of FTAT gave no indication of how to step up the campaign nor did they call for more support on this most basic issue — the same problem as in the Wapping dispute,

where the leadership continues to thwart attempts to mobilise the rest of the movement.

Sian James, from the Womens' Support Groups in South Wales spoke of the lessons of the miners' strike, which must be that 'your fight is our fight'.

She called for the return of a Labour government on socialist policies.

Dennis Skinner stated that this dispute was part of the class war that the Tories were pursuing.

He called on the Labour leadership to say which side it was on, saying that the return of a Labour government would only be a start and that such a government must be forced to carry out socialist policies.

He also said that all strikers should be re-imbursed; all jailed and sacked miners and printers, along with any other workers who have been victimised, should receive retrospective compensation.

He called for the sequestration of the employers.

The question of US bases was posed but Skinner could only argue for the removal of US bases: nothing about getting out of NATO.

Derek Hatton spoke about the betrayals of previous Labour governments, and how they attacked working class organisations, just like the Tories.

'The present witch-hunt indicates that things have not changed that much.'

The recent local elections showed that people do support socialist policies even if the careerists are scared of trying to carry them out.

He went on to say that the present leadership of the Labour party cannot be trusted and nobody should be under any illusions about the necessity for forcing them to carry out the policies which they claim to believe in.

A collection was made for the Silentnight strikers and also for the Donaldsons Fitter dispute in Hull over the same issue: the right to organise.

'GOLDEN GIRL' UNDER FIRE

WORKERS PRESS INTERVIEWS FLEET STREET SUPPORT UNIT CHAIRMAN

Lawrence Jenkins is chairman of the Fleet Street Support Unit. Workers Press asked him a number of questions on the printers struggle against Rupert Murdoch.

He told us that the Fleet Street Support Unit had been formed because of concern at the way the leaders of all the unions were running the dispute.

'We have members of all the five unions involved in the dispute.

'The five are SOGAT 82, NGA, AEU, EETPU and NUJ.

'During the first two weeks, the dispute was kept to a low profile under the direction of the SOGAT leadership in particular.

'Chapels at the Daily Telegraph responded to the low numbers of pickets by organising mass picketing through their Federated House which groups the various chapels together.

'What at first appeared to be incompetence and confusion by the leadership turned out to be a holding back on developing the dispute throughout the trade union movement.

'We were convinced that if the leaders had campaigned in the trade union movement on the basis that this dispute represented an attack on fundamental trade union rights, they would have met a big response

'Our unit was told by miners that, after Murdoch switched production to Wapping, their lodge wanted to raise support and pickets.

'However, SOGAT officials had spoken to their lodge meeting and said all they were asking of them was to carry out the boycott campaign. Their presence on the picket line was not required.

'There is mounting evidence of the holding back of the dispute which our support unit is collecting. We have already detailed some of it in our leaflets.

'When we criticised the leadership we were told by leading officials that everything was under control. The boycott campaign was working, we were winning support around the country and abroad. Brenda Dean was the 'golden girl' — the 'best thing since sliced bread', said one official.

'But on Tuesday May 6, when SOGAT leaders met at Congress House and voted to purge their 'contempt of court' by lifting the blacking of News International publications, it shook the London membership.

'They were still in a state of anger and bitterness at the violence of the police at Wapping the previous Saturday, May 3.

'After the purging of 'contempt', London was left isolated. The London District Committee of SOGAT called an emergency meeting of all News International employees.

'This took place last Monday, May 19, and erupted into a wholesale condemnation of the running of the strike

since day one.

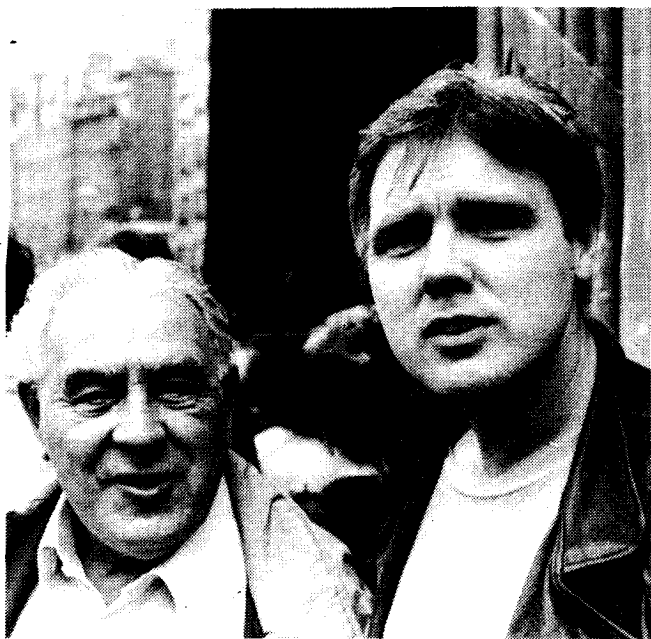
'There was prolonged boogie of Brenda Dean and slow handclapping as she left the platform.

'We feel that all printers now understand that every major Fleet Street newspaper, and the printing industry nationally, are following the example of Murdoch.

'To stay economically viable they are planning to destroy the whole union chapel structure, turn them into company unions, hold the workforce in a legal vice and destroy rights and conditions.

'In the Fleet Street Support Unit, we are determined to continue the fight for jobs. We are convinced that this can only be done by a national print dispute and hope our example will inspire other sections of the working class to fight back with us and, incidentally, stop Norman Willis getting his knighthood.

'Our aim is to transform the unions into fighting organisations which will stop the retreat of the last decade.'



Two generations — Lawrence Jenkins with his father outside the Central Hall meeting last week



Sacked printers from News International mingle with fellow SOGAT 82 members from London before meeting to discuss the progress of the dispute



The London Press EETPU banner outside Wapping last Saturday — scabs recruited by their own union leaders are working inside the plant

Liverpool Labour Leader expelled: THE AXE AND THE POLLS

LAST WEDNESDAY, May 22, Neil Kinnock and the right-wing of the National Executive Committee (NEC) expelled prominent Militant supporter Tony Mulhearn from the Labour Party.

Tony Mulhearn is president of the Liverpool District Labour Party.

They had planned to expel four other members of the Liverpool Labour Party, including Derek Hatton, but could not deal with it at this NEC meeting because it took so long to expel Mulhearn.

Thursday's newspapers carried the news of Mulhearn's expulsion alongside the report of a Guardian-Marplan poll for May.

As with other polls recently, it forecast Labour winning a majority (this time of 68 seats) in a parliamentary election.

The two things are very much interconnected.

Policies of right wing Labour and trade union leaders are now dominated by the prospect of a Labour government.

Workers would be foolish to believe that this is because they think it heralds big advances for the working class. They are quite cynical about that.

The trade union bureaucracy believe that a Labour government will offer some relief from the problems and tensions they personally face.

They are caught between the drive of big capitalist business and its state, using the law and new technology to destroy the unions, and their fear of workers' desire to fight back.

They hope that, somehow, a Labour government can hold back both workers and capitalists.

As for the Labour leaders, there is, of course, their deep opportunism and careerism — they seek personal gratification at the expense of the Labour movement by reaching the parliamentary peaks.

Certainly, for the Hattersleys, Healeys, Cunninghams, Smiths, Kinnocks and the rest, socialism is something now that hardly comes

up as a word even in holiday or May Day speechifying.

These reformist leaders have no intention of fighting on the major questions which are agitating workers and large sections of the middle class.

It is these questions — war, nuclear poison and destruction, attacks on the poor and those on state benefit, unemployment and attacks on communities and workers' organisations — which have built up the great anti-Thatcher feeling.

As we continually underline in 'Workers Press', the present witch hunt and Merseyside expulsions come about because of the profound fear of the Labour bureaucracy and their opposition to any struggle around these questions, particularly if it involves masses of workers.

Thus Kinnock is expelling the Militant supporters and reorganising Labour Parties on Merseyside, not because of their opportunism or misleadership, but in order to strike a blow at the militancy and struggle of rank and

file members of the trade unions and Labour Parties in the area.

The answer to the growing possibility of a Labour government is not just to prophecy its betrayals.

We have to prove them particularly through the experience of workers who see no alternative to the Tories but a government of these reformists.

But we have to start proving the nature of reformism today

The answer is a mass movement today around all these fundamental questions that are moving this anti-Tory feeling.

Once again, it is necessary to bring out that the central political struggle today is the bringing down of the Tory Government.

To develop a movement demanding that the workers' organisations campaign to remove the government is to fight to channel all the different rivers of discontent — and at the same time put the searchlight on the cowardly politics of the Labour leaders.

■ IRISH WOMEN PRISONERS ARE STRIP-SEARCHED IN BRITISH JAILS

■ PLASTIC BULLETS ARE SHOT IN TO CROWDS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

■ THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT SOLVES NOTHING: IT MEANS MORE ARMED REPRESSION

British workers must take a stand on Ireland

COME TO A

LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON IRELAND

Saturday June 28th, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

City Halls, Candleriggs, Glasgow

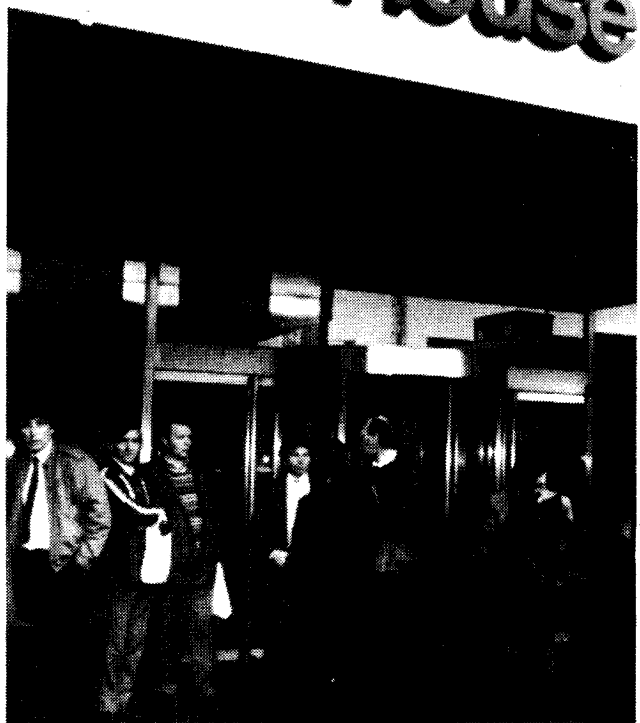
◆ Speakers invited include: a Sinn Fein representative, a prisoners' relative, an Irish trades unionist, and from the EIS and NUM (in a personal capacity)

◆ Workshops on: 'Irish prisoners', 'Repressive Legislation in Ireland and Britain', 'The Anglo Irish Agreement', 'Withdrawal of Troops', 'The Struggle Continues 1969-86', and 'The Campaign Against Strip Searching'

◆ A motion will be proposed for the formation of a 'West of Scotland Campaign for a United Ireland'

Creche Available

Rail House



BREL workers' stewards lobby Rail House on Tuesday May 20

ANGER & SHOCK GREET SAVAGE RAIL JOBS CUT

By ZBIGNIEW WOJCIK

TUESDAY'S job-slashing announcement from Rail House was an enormous shock for a lobby of railwaymen who had come from all over the country expecting to hear that there would be about a thousand redundancies spread throughout the railway engineering workshops.

That had in itself provoked an angry turnout. When they heard that five thousand jobs

were to go, there was an immediate sense of outrage at this devastating blow to the railway communities.

The Tory government intends to privatise all British Rail Engineering Ltd (BREL) workshops, closing those which are not profitable and disposing of the land and assets to speculators.

BREL is already under attack from the private sector because all work and contracts now go out on general tender. The shops see their work going out to the private sector.

Cutbacks have been continuous inside the regional maintenance depots.

Wolverton will lose a thousand jobs. Doncaster, Eastleigh and Glasgow Springburn Works will take yet another reduction.

In 1980 there were 50,000 shopmen working in engineering depots; by 1989 there will be 16,000.

The mood of the lobbyists is that enough is enough, and the time has come to rally the forces for a fight back. Thatcher has cut to the bone; now she is cutting into the marrow.

Lobbyists from Derby — where nearly a thousand will lose their jobs — indicated that they are prepared to fight. Already they are blacking repair work on Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs), work transferred from Glasgow's Springburn Works.

Graham Till, chairman of the Joint Branches in Derby, expressed this when he said 'I believe the time has come to organise. Many members are fed up with the continuing situation; now we have to fight back.'

The Serpell Report on the pruning of all but the most profitable parts of the rail network is being implemented by stealth, but one railwayman on the lobby, George Lloyd, secretary of Derby NUR number 2 Branch, pointed out that it isn't just Serpell that is worrying them; Goldstein's much more drastic Minority Report appended to the Serpell Report may also be adopted.

The NUR leadership and the Confederation have no strategy to counter this onslaught from the Tories and the British Rail Board, and in fact their history of compromise has been exposed.

Since Knapp came to office in 1983, there has been one retreat after another.

Horwich, Shildon and Temple Mills (Bristol) were closed without the leadership organising a real mobilisation.

Springburn and Swindon were devastated and yet no real struggle was organised. The axe is still hanging over these shops, with 1675 men

due to leave even before the latest figures were announced.

Safety levels and track maintenance have been continuously reduced, which increases the risk to passengers. Last year British Rail introduced driver only trains.

This angered many members and the union leadership took the ballot as the easy way out — strike action was defeated largely because of the leadership's half-hearted approach and the changing of union rules at the previous conference which deprived the executive of the power to call strike action.

The decision to fight the latest round of redundancies was taken unanimously at the Railway Shopmen's Conference held at Paignton last week.

They called for action up to and including strike action to oppose redundancies. A ballot has been recommended by the leadership.

The NUR conference must be recalled to overturn the decision taken last year to accept ballots. Immediate strike action is needed to defend the industry, and works must be occupied when closures are threatened.

Machinery must not be moved; extend the blackings on work transferred from other depots! Refuse to work with coach or engine parts bought in from subcontractors!

Any strike action must be linked with the struggles of the printworkers and shipyards faced with closure, and most importantly the NUM and their communities which will also face a further cutback as the railways are run down.

British Rail Board wants to prevent the growth of this unity — they have issued instructions to the railwaymen not to black the scab papers from Murdoch's News International.

The struggle within the NUR and Confed must be built, with Defence Committees and Support Groups organised alongside the union members to defend the railway yards which are at the centre of their communities.



Delegates from Derby take a break from the lobby

BANK STAFF BAN RACE SHARES

By Peter Windeler

THE BANK workers' union, BIFU, has voted to withdraw its investment in any country operating in South Africa and to affiliate itself to the anti-apartheid movement

The Union's Annual Delegate Conference finished on Wednesday having passed motions calling on the TUC to discipline the EETPU.

Delegates listened to John Ibbotson from the NGA who confirmed that Murdoch's

offer of the print works was merely a smoke screen.

A visitor from SOGAT, one of the 6,000 sacked by Murdoch, told the delegates that today the strikers were 'like one, and stronger than at the beginning of the dispute.'

Motions were passed opposing the Transport Bill which is trying to privatise the buses — opening up bus routes for cowboy operators.

The union also pledged to defend the NHS and oppose private health schemes.

Joyce Mokhesi has a

brother, Francis Don Mokhesi, who has been sentenced to death by the South African regime after a trumped-up trial for the alleged murder of the deputy mayor of Sharpeville in September.

Joyce explained that the pass laws had not been repealed but just given another name. If the bank workers in South Africa held a union meeting, it would be broken up by the police.

The conference collected over £400 for the Francis Mokhesi defence campaign.

Workers Revolutionary Party

Public lectures

Friday May 23

The Trotskyist Movement in World War II

Bill Hunter

Friday May 30

Marxism and Imperialism

Geoff Pilling

Friday June 6

No lecture

Friday June 13

Capitalist Development since the 1930s

Geoff Pilling

Friday June 20

27 Reasons why Mike Banda is wrong

Dave Bruce

Friday June 27

Tom Kemp

Friends Meeting House,
Euston Road, London, NW1

7.30 pm sharp, Tickets, 60p



Jimmy Knapp addresses a press conference after the closures were announced

NICARAGUA REAGAN'S TERRORISTS AT WORK: CONTRAS CAPTURE GERMANS

WEST GERMAN volunteer workers who escaped a US-backed 'contra' terrorist attack in Nicaragua last weekend have appealed for the release of eight colleagues kidnapped by the contras.

Two Nicaraguan soldiers were killed in the contra attack and about a dozen civilians injured.

Seventy contras raided the small village of Jacinto Baca, where the volunteers

were helping build new homes for war refugees. Another 30 attacked the nearby village of San Pablo.

One of the attackers wore a cap with the initials 'FDN', reported Dagmar Vogel, a 24-year old factory worker from Oberhausen who managed to get away.

'FDN' is the 'Nicaraguan Democratic Front', the main US backed terror group fighting Nicaragua.

The German workers and a Chilean comrade had

taken cover in a house when they heard shooting, at dawn on Saturday.

'Soon we heard the contras shouting right outside, screaming "get out of the house, get out, or we'll bomb you"', said medical student Sean Steinbach, from Berlin.

Point

To make their point, the contras sprayed a machine-gun burst at the house.

The workers were led away by a squad of contras, but as fighting continued in the village and they had to take cover, three of the West Germans and Chilean Miguel Bustos managed to slip away.

'I stayed among the trees', Dagmar Vogel said. 'I heard the gunfire coming closer. Then I heard the screams of Miguel; he was calling for help.'

The Chilean had been wounded in the back and leg

by the contras.

Steinbach went back to give first aid to the wounded.

Suffer

'This type of aggression we had to suffer is just part of the daily terror suffered by the Nicaraguan people', the medical student said. He and his friends had arrived in Nicaragua on May 7, planning to stay three months.

Steinbach called on the

West German and US governments to work for his colleagues' release.

He added: 'We ask the government of the United States to immediately stop all aid to the contras so they cannot perpetrate criminal acts such as this one.'

In 1983, a German doctor, Tonio Pflaum, was shot dead by contras. Last year, Regina Schneman, a biologist, was kidnapped in north-east Nicaragua by rebel Misquito Indians, but later released.

DE LOREAN TRIAL

RETIRED District of Columbia judge Gerard Reilly has been named to hear evidence from witnesses in Britain, Switzerland and the Netherlands this summer in the case against former car boss John Delorean.

Charged with fraud, racketeering, tax evasion and other crimes relating to alleged siphoning of over \$8.9 million from the Delorean Motor Company, Delorean has pleaded innocent.

He claims the US and British governments have a vendetta against him.

The company, subsidised by the British taxpayer to set up a sports car factory in Ulster, went bankrupt in

1982, sacking its workers.

Delorean was arrested on cocaine-dealing conspiracy charges, but found not guilty in August 1984 after a Los Angeles trial. He is currently free on a million dollar bond, but could face a long prison sentence as well as fines if found guilty.

Delorean is due for trial in Detroit on September 7, but evidence is being taken out-of-court in sworn testimonies from European witnesses this Summer.

Besides the criminal charges, the former car executive is facing civil proceedings in Detroit, with over \$20 million sought by creditors.

ALL-OUT SRI LANKAN WAR



Jaffna library — razed in an earlier anti-Tamil pogrom

SRI LANKAN armed forces were being forced back this week from the Tamil-held Jaffna peninsula in the north, after failing in an all-out attack to retake the area.

The Jayawardene government's desperation was shown when it ordered planes to bomb the centre of Jaffna port two days running.

Ships and helicopters tried to bring in government troops to relieve besieged garrisons, as the Tamil guerrillas halted ground convoys.

The guerrillas used land-mines on the roads, and ambushed army patrols with mortar-fire and rocket-propelled grenades. After four days of fighting the army was forced to abandon its offensive, and retreat.

President Jayawardene recently appealed to US and British imperialism to step up aid, in the name of 'combatting terrorism', claiming the Tamil fighters aimed to set up a 'communist state'.

It has been suggested the army might have thought it could take advantage of recent clashes between two Tamil separatist groups, the Tamil Tigers and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation.

Clearly, the Tamil resistance remains fierce as ever. The Tamil Tigers' victory over their rivals may in fact have made it more difficult for the Indian government to restrain the struggle, as they had more influence over the TELO.

Jayawardene has called on India to stop the liberation fighters using bases in southern India's Tamil Nadu state. But they have wide support from fellow Tamils there.

The Indian government has also had to protest to Sri Lanka over the bombing of Jaffna, which came while Jayawardene's government was still ostensibly seeking talks on a peace plan.



JORDAN PURGE ON LEFT AND PALESTINIANS

POLICE IN Jordan have rounded-up leading Communist Party members and others in a crack-down on the left after recent demonstrations.

Encouraged by his new-found ally Assad of Syria, King Hussein is also turning on the Palestinians.

Those arrested were alleged to have been involved in demonstrations outside the American and British embassies over Reagan's bombing of Libya. The authorities also want to blame them for student protests against increased tuition fees.

Three students were killed and hundreds injured when police stormed the University of Yarmouk campus in northern Jordan on May 14.

The police broke up an occupation by 2,000 students protesting the fees increase and the expulsion and arrest of colleagues.

There has been growing unrest among both students and staff members. They say there is political surveillance by a Student Affairs Department run by a former army officer and a former intelligence officer.

King Hussein's regime is stepping up repressive moves against Palestinian militants, both of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Several leading members of the DFLP have been held in Zarka military prison since January, and the authorities have also expelled leading Fatah cadres from Amman.

Having broken off talks

with Yasser Arafat in February, King Hussein last month tried the Syrian-style tactic of promoting a 'rebel' Fatah group in Amman to oppose Arafat.

Ironically, his protege was Abu Zaim, whom pro-Syrian elements had wanted dismissed from the PLO forces. This has now been done.

While Syria's Assad has been patching up relations with Hussein, the Palestinians are also moving closer to unity.

The Democratic Front, whose members are now reportedly experiencing harassment and arrests in Syria as well as Jordan, has been holding talks with Yasser Arafat's mainstream PLO leadership.

N-plant police battle

POLICE USING water-cannon and CS gas drove demonstrators back from the Wackersdorf nuclear waste reprocessing plant in West Germany on Sunday.

Many people were injured, as baton-wielding police with riot shields charged into the crowds and battles spread to nearby railway tracks and woods.

Over 8,000 people had gathered to protest at the nuclear site, near the Bavarian-Czech border. Fears of another nuclear disaster like Chernobyl have strongly reinforced the anti-nuclear movement in Germany.

In Hesse, the state coalition of Social Democrats and Greens was discussing closure of the two nuclear plants there. The Green Party has decided to make abolition of nuclear power its main election plank for 1987.

The Greens also adopted a resolution to take West Germany out of NATO. 'There can be no peace with NATO, it is vital to weaken and abolish the alliance', the motion said.



'Bodies of armed men' protect the nuclear secret. With over 250 nuclear power stations worldwide, how long before another Chernobyl?

TRADE UNION LEAD

COMMENT

BY SIMON PIRANI

THE FIGHT against Rupert Murdoch's scab newspaper plant at Wapping is at a crucial stage. The 'left' print union leaders are looking for ways to do a deal; the 5,500 victimised print workers showed their bitter hostility to this at a meeting in London last week.

'Workers Press' has correctly called for a national print strike; we called, again correctly, on the Fleet Street Support Unit and other rank-and-file bodies to challenge any sell-out attempts.

However we must not lose sight of the point made by the WRP print union members' statement (Workers Press, March 15):

'The central issue at Wapping . . . is not just job losses, serious as they are. It is the destruction of trade unions by Murdoch under the protection of the anti-union laws.'

This issue, the use of the anti-union laws to attack trade union organisation, the closer and closer collaboration of sections of the bureaucracy with those laws, and now the organisation of scabbing from within the trades unions and Labour Party, has been central to all major trade union struggles of the last few years. Look at it this way:

In 1982, the TUC, under the pressure of working-class opinion, voted at the special Wembley conference not to co-operate with the anti-union laws.

In December 1983, the 'left' NGA leaders, in line with that decision, defended their members' right to organise at Eddie Shah's 'Stockport Messenger', and confronted the Tory laws.

The TUC General Council, led by Len Murray, knifed this fight in the

back. Murray then had to resign.

In March 1984, the NUM leaders called a strike without a ballot, and their union was financially bankrupted by a string of judgements under the anti-union laws and the laws of contempt.

The extreme right reared its head in Nottingham and the first major anti-TUC union, the UDM, was formed.

A strike at Austin-Rover tested out other union leaderships: the 'lefts' of the T&GWU lined up with the NUM and were in contempt of court; the rights of the GMBATU and AUEW, and the Stalinist-dominated leadership of AUEW-TASS, capitulated to the laws and went to court.

By November 1984, Arthur Scargill was calling for other unions to take solidarity action with the NUM.

The T&GWU 'lefts' backed down to the Tories: encouraged by the Stalinists, they abandoned any fight to stop coal imports, claiming that their members on the docks wouldn't fight, but in reality fearing the law forbidding 'secondary' action.

In March 1985 the miners returned to work. This temporary setback of the struggle was seized on by the right-wing AUEW and EETPU leaders, who took class-collaboration to new heights: no-strike single-union deals and open



Police launch brutally into pickets at the battle for Orgreave during the miners' strike

acceptance of Tory cash for ballots.

In September 1985 the TUC leaders, 'left' and right, capitulated to Eric Hammond and Gavin Laird, and refused to take disciplinary action against them. A deal was worked out at the TUC Congress by the 'left' T&GWU leaders.

Encouraged by the TUC's retreat, the EETPU then took its one-union anti-strike deals to Fleet Street, a bastion of trade union struggle.

They organised scab-herding (scabs for Murdoch's Glasgow plant were actually recruited within the Labour Party in Lanarkshire).

The TUC again backed down, the General Council voting 15-14 not to instruct the EETPU to tell its members not to cross picket lines.

As our print workers' statement said: 'So the most basic trade union principle of all has been broken with support from the TUC leadership.'

The TUC backed down to

Hammond, the 'lefts' backed down too, with the T&GWU refusing to take action against their members at TNT haulage who cross picket lines daily at Wapping, the NGA refusing to issue blacking instructions, and SOGAT collaborating with the sequestrator.

The 'lefts', having fought the anti-union laws at Warrington, and then chickened out of supporting the miners' defiance of the laws, are now in open retreat!

The task of revolutionaries in the unions is not only to fight for, and organise, action to support the sacked printers, but to keep at the forefront of our agitation the question of capitulation to the anti-union laws, scab-herding and the breaking-up of union organisation now being carried out by the EETPU from inside the TUC and Labour Party.

Last week Workers Press pointed out that Trotsky had written about the 'growing together with the

state power' which was a feature of the degeneration of the trades unions in the imperialist epoch.

Let us be more specific. In the same article ('Trade unions in the epoch of imperialist decay') Trotsky went on to state:

'It is necessary to adapt ourselves to the concrete conditions existing in the trade unions of every given country in order to mobilise the masses, not only against the bourgeoisie, but also against the totalitarian regime with the trade unions themselves and against the leaders enforcing this regime.'

'The primary slogan for this struggle is: complete and unconditional independence of the trade unions in relation to the capitalist state. This means a struggle to turn the trade unions into the organs of the broad exploited masses and not the organs of a labour aristocracy.'

'The second slogan is: trade union democracy. This second slogan flows directly from the first and presupposes for its realisa-

tion the complete freedom of the trade unions from the imperialist or colonial state.'

Trotsky put forward these slogans from the standpoint that, in the imperialist epoch, trades unions would remain instruments for subordinating the working class to capitalist needs until revolutionary leadership succeeded in making them instruments of revolutionary struggle.

How do we develop these slogans today, when a section of the trade union bureaucracy in the oldest capitalist country is now going for open collaboration with the state against trade union organisation?

The EETPU is not only scab-herding at Wapping but also going down the road, together with the UDM, of forming a right-wing 'yellow' trade union confederation.

The TUC instead of fighting the EETPU is opening the door to them. The 'lefts' cannot fight the TUC because they too fear the anti-union laws.

JOIN THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

FILL IN THIS FORM AND POST TO:
21B Old Town, Clapham London SW4 0JT

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TRADE UNION _____ AGE _____
DATE SENT _____

'PROFIT-SHARING'

By BERNARD FRANKS

THE SO-CALLED profit-sharing scheme launched last week by Chancellor Nigel Lawson on behalf of the Tory government is a plan for shifting the burden of the employers' crisis in the slump onto the working class.

The idea is to reduce a section of basic pay to a variable quantity linked to company profit-levels. When profits fall, so does pay.

When they rise, however, other calls on company revenue will ensure that there is no real gain.

Scheme

In effect, this is a loss-sharing scheme and a back-door way to wage-cutting.

It seeks to undermine trade union membership, collective bargaining and negotiated wage settlements by replacing negotiations with a mechanism which alters pay levels automatically.

No details have yet been given of which particular type of scheme will be proposed, only that it will not apply to public services or nationalised industries.

A Treasury outline sees as much as 20 per cent of each worker's pay eventually being profit-linked. The scheme will cover about 5 million workers in industry.

A Green Paper is expected soon on the system, with a view to widespread introduction next year and its use as a vote-catching factor in the next general election.

Three main types of profit-sharing scheme have been used in the past.

1. An annual bonus or weekly enhancement, index-linked to the previous year's profit level. This is paid for out of a fixed percentage of profits, taken before tax but after deductions for reinvestment etc.
2. Individual share ownership: provision is made for workers to be issued with shares in the company in place of a portion of wages and to receive dividend accordingly.
3. The co-partnership scheme, where all ordinary share capital is controlled by a trust fund in the name of all employees.

They receive payment from the total dividend in either equal shares or amounts related to wages, sometimes with an added

sum related to length of service.

All these schemes are meant to confuse the class lines between workers and employees and to encourage a concern by all to maximise profits.

Employees get used to the idea that wages can fall as well as rise.

The principle of the labour movement has always been that where someone is employed they should be paid the negotiated rate for that job, irrespective of the profit level.

Once this principle is given up, a never-ending cycle of wage-cutting will ensue which will drive income down to a pittance.

Wages

The Tories do not deny this, but claim that conditions where wages can fall will mean less unemployment.

Employers will be able to cut their wage bill by reducing individual pay rather than the size of the workforce.

In other words, the government and their employer friends will at last have found the answer to the problem that has defeated them for so long: how to use the present mass unemployment

to force down wages in industry.

To encourage workers to accept such schemes, the Tories are proposing to spend a billion pounds on tax concessions spread over three years.

This would work out at a maximum of around five pounds a week per worker.

Provision for such concessions has already been made under the 1978 and 1980 Finance Acts.

Everyone should automatically be suspicious of a system that has to be brought in like this. No doubt in the pre-election trial period there will be many examples of these schemes working successfully.

The great worry is the confusion caused by the collusion of trade union leaders with such schemes as an apparently easy road to saving their members' jobs and winning higher pay.

So far there has been no great outcry from this quarter.

It is significant that the plan was launched by Lawson at a tripartite meeting of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) the class collaboration body that unites employers, trade union leaders and government: in the fate of industry

Wages systems

IRISH SOCIALIST PRESS

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ERS AND THE STATE



A scab lorry leaves Shah's plant during the NGA's battle to defend the closed shop

Workers lobby the TUC special conference in Wembley, London, April 1982. The Stockport Messenger (Warrington) dispute of December 1983 saw the TUC totally prostrate

The central demand must be: return to the Wembley decisions; no collaboration with the anti-union laws! Break down all ties between unions and state (NEDC, MSC etc) — including under a Labour government.

Together with this must go the demand: expel the EETPU from the TUC!

The only serious argument advanced against this slogan is that it will weaken those comrades in 'Flashlight', the EETPU left organisation, who are fighting against Hammond. But this is a mistake.

'Flashlight' comrades are themselves pointing out that the EETPU leadership is systematically breaking down union organisation, not only at Wapping, but in the electrical contract industry, in the one-union no-strike deals, and with the complete extinction of union democracy in the EETPU.

The TUC leadership are quite prepared to allow this to go on inside their ranks — which can only lead to a

split anyway, on the right's terms.

A call to expel the EETPU does not mean abandoning the struggle within its ranks. Not at all.

At the national 'Flashlight' meeting in Manchester last weekend, left-wing militants argued, against the Communist Party Stalinists, that expulsion of the EETPU from the TUC would turn the tables on the extreme right.

Eventually, however we fight Hammond, the fight will come out into the open anyway, with a TUC-affiliated electricians' union having to win members away from the EETPU just as the NUM fights for them in Nottinghamshire. Those who argue against hitting hard against the right wing now are simply giving the enemy time.

Arguments against the slogan to expel the EETPU are being advanced by the Socialist Labour Group who stand on Trotsky's Transitional Programme but seem quite oblivious to the type of transitional demands that apply to this

particular struggle.

The demand to expel the EETPU 'on its own, left at the level of a call for bureaucrats to take action against bureaucrats', does not help those in the EETPU fighting the leadership, says comrade Sarah Bennett in the latest issue of 'Fourth Internationalist'.

She claims the expulsion of the EETPU would only amount to a bureaucratic manoeuvre.

But this is nonsense — the expulsion of the EETPU is inconceivable without a huge surge of opposition to the TUC's cowardice throughout all unions. Nothing else would force a split between Willis and Hammond.

Comrade Bennett goes on to say that the TUC has 'the duty to provide resources, in terms of offices, organisers, materials and so on, for a fight within the EETPU to drive Hammond out' — and then quite rightly adds that the TUC leaders will never provide such resources!

It is not a question of organisers or materials.

The fight against Hammond is the fight against the subordination of the trades unions to the state, which ultimately equals the fight to build revolutionary leadership in the unions.

But in the course of that fight we must take advantage of every division in the ranks of the enemy, and if the EETPU leaders are moving headlong to open collaboration with the enemy and the TUC are one step behind them, we must exploit that difference.

Let us take Lenin's advice: 'The tactics that the Communists must adopt are to utilise these vacillations (of the reformist leaders) and not to ignore them, and utilising them means making concessions to those elements which are turning towards the proletariat, when and to the extent that they turn towards the proletariat, while simultaneously fighting those who turn towards the bourgeoisie' ('Left Wing Communism', chapter 8).

come any union leaders who are prepared to stop accommodating the EETPU and fight them, just as we would welcome any stand against the anti-union laws, despite past capitulation.

One SLG comrade justified their opposition to the 'expel the EETPU' slogan basically on the grounds that it could not be achieved.

In reply I advance this quotation from the 'Transitional Programme', which was written in reference to more general transitional demands but is nevertheless applicable here: 'If capitalism is incapable of satisfying the demands inevitably arising from the calamities generated by itself, then let it perish. "Realisability" or "unrealisability" is in the given instance a question of the relationship of forces, which can be decided only by the struggle.'

As a matter of fact the relationship of forces in the trades unions now are such that a demand to expel the

EETPU will divide all those who do not really want to smash the existing accommodation of the 'left' to the centre and the centre to the Hammondites, from those who wish to wage a genuine struggle against the anti-union laws and capitulation to them.

The EETPU has reached a definite new stage of open collaboration with the employers and the state; they are breaking up union organisation.

The TUC's refusal to deal with them is symptomatic of its own complete cowardice and crawling to the state, and this can only be exposed by fighting for a return to the Wembley conference decisions, and the expulsion of the EETPU.

Demands such as these are vital if the Workers Revolutionary Party is to wage a serious struggle for revolutionary leadership in the unions, in contrast to its past practice of sectarian aloofness on the one hand and opportunist capitulation to the 'lefts' on the other.

IS WAGE-CUTTING

capitalism work as follows: The employer strikes a bargain with the employee for so many hours a week to be worked in return for a fixed wage or piece work rate.

For the worker this is no bargain, because the value created by the week's labour under modern conditions is vastly more than that of the wage paid.

The employer, however, will say that however much is made beyond the value of the wage, this is none of the worker's business.

Loss

When it is suddenly made the worker's business, it is either because the employer has found a way of making a great deal of money at little extra cost or because a loss is hourly expected.

The system is far from new. The nineteenth century economist John Stuart Mill saw co-partnership, co-ownership and profit-sharing schemes as a means of heading off industrial discontent during the period of Chartist agitation.

Between 1869 and 1912, there were 300 such schemes started by employers who saw them as an alternative to trade unions, strikes and negotiated wage increases.

Workers, it was believed, would not want to take any action which reduced profits and thereby their own wages.

The main example in Britain for many years has been the John Lewis Partnership, a chain of retail drapery stores.

The firm was started as a single shop in Oxford Street, London, in 1864. Lewis, its proprietor, was a mean disciplinarian who deducted the halfpennies and farthings missed off customers' cheques from van-boys' wages.

In 1920 a six-week strike by sales staff over dismissals, pay and conditions found the 34-year old Lewis ranting at 'the accursed trade unionists making mischief among our young men and maidens.'

Nine years later, his son John Stephen Lewis took over, and began establishing the co-partnership.

The system eventually established comprised a trust holding all ordinary share capital on behalf of all members.

All dividends received after pay-out on preference stock were to be distributed as a profit-sharing bonus in the form of cheap meals, sick pay, a welfare scheme, recreational facilities, a discount service at Lewis shops

and an annual bonus proportional to pay.

Such lump sum payments are a powerful inducement to acceptance of such systems, yet even along with the perks, they do not substitute for a proper basic wage, negotiated on the basis of all factors affecting employment.

In relation to the current proposals, it has been said that employees will need more information about their company if they are to participate in the schemes.

Workers should certainly demand the right not just to be given such details, but to examine the books themselves and have labour movement experts do so.

Profits

This should include an examination of parent and subsidiary companies where these exist.

There is nothing wrong with taking profits into account when negotiating wage increases, but the primary concern is the proper rate for the job in terms of relativities, differentials, cost of living, inadequacy of previous rises, comparisons across industries and trades, and so on.

Profits, even if genuinely low, may reflect management incompetence, the crisis of capitalism and declining markets, none of which is of the workers' making.

If such companies cannot be run at a profit, yet are vital to the community, then they should be nationalised and run as public services.

The Tories and ex-owners, who are so keen on workers' involvement, should have no objection to the next step under these circumstances: workers' control!

Threat

Profit-sharing schemes are a threat to living standards and trade unionism and should be opposed wherever they appear.

The declared aim of the Tories is to drive down all wages to the level where Britain can compete with rock-bottom prices in dwindling world markets.

All schemes presented by them can only be considered in that light.

In this respect industrial workers clearly have a common interest with public service workers and the unemployed, in seeing to it that the Tories are thrown out of office and never returned.

LEICESTER: WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC MEETING

'Build the alternative leadership'.
Wednesday June 11, 7.30 pm.
Highfields Community Centre,
Melbourne Road, Leicester.

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FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

LAST WEEK, Workers Press started a series of articles on the events leading up to the arrest and frame-up of four innocent people for the 1874 Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings. Liz Hill described her ordeal at the hands of the police after her arrest in Coventry.

This week, we take up the story after Liz has given her aunt, THERESA CUSHNAHAN's address to the police so that they could inform her of Liz's arrest. The use of information forced or tricked out of innocent people soon became a pattern. Theresa tells the story. Next week, we report the events as seen by Guildford solicitor Alistair Logan.

Part 2: The Branch raids Theresa

EARLY ONE Saturday morning in 1974 my doorbell rang. My little girl came into my bedroom and said 'Mummy, there are three men and a woman at the door.'

I thought: I'm not so attractive that three men want to see me at five o'clock in the morning!

I was just getting out of bed when they came rushing into the flat.

A woman rushed into my room and ignoring me went straight out onto the balcony. At the time I lived in a sixth floor flat in Russell Square.

I got up, put on my dressing gown and went into the hall where some strange men were standing.

One of them was Walter Simonds the head of Surrey CID, he said 'We are looking for your nephew Paul Hill in connection with the Guildford and Woolwich Bombings.'

I was completely taken aback by this. I knew that they were making an enormous mistake and in order to give myself time to collect my thoughts I offered to make them a cup of tea.

As I made the tea they started questioning me about my niece Elizabeth. I did not know it at the time but they had already arrested Liz in Coventry and she had given them my name and address so that they could inform me that they had her in custody.

They did not do this, however, but simply asked me what she was like. I said that she was like most other girls of her age - she likes discos, she likes clothes.

He said 'Does she mix with the Irish community?'

I told him that she did not and I did not myself at the time.

Friends

I was married to an Englishman. I used to work for the GLC, played hockey on a Saturday, I had a little girl and most Irish people here are from the south, so I did not have an awful lot of Irish friends. Most of my friends were either English or were foreigners themselves.

So then they asked me a lot about Paul. I told them that Paul had come over here a few months ago when my sister phoned me to ask if he, his girl friend Gina and Liz could stay at my place.

Liz had been living with me on and off since she had been 14 and I agreed that she could stay but I could only put Paul and Gina up for the night because of the size of my flat. The next day they went to stay with Gina's sister which was either in Southampton or Northampton.

After asking me a lot more questions, they then left without even telling me that they were holding Liz.

After they had left, my sister who lived in Camden phoned and I found that she, my brother, my sister in Belfast who is Paul's mother, and my mother and father who also live in Belfast had

all been raided by the police at the same time as me.

On the following Thursday Paul was arrested in Southampton. Early the following Saturday morning I received a phone call from the Caledonian road police station.

They said that they were holding my sister and her husband and they wanted to know if I would look after her child while they took her in for questioning. I agreed.

At this time there was a great deal of anti-Irish feeling around. Bombs had gone off in Guildford, Woolwich, Birmingham, Euston station and one had gone off in the GPO tower near where I was living.

I was frightened because, although I had never even had a motoring offence since I came to England when I was 16, coming from the Falls Road which is a republican area I thought I would be the kind of person who fitted their pattern.

I woke Elizabeth and my daughter Janette who promptly turned over and

So now I had about 30 Special Branch men in my flat, two uniformed women and two Alsatian dogs.

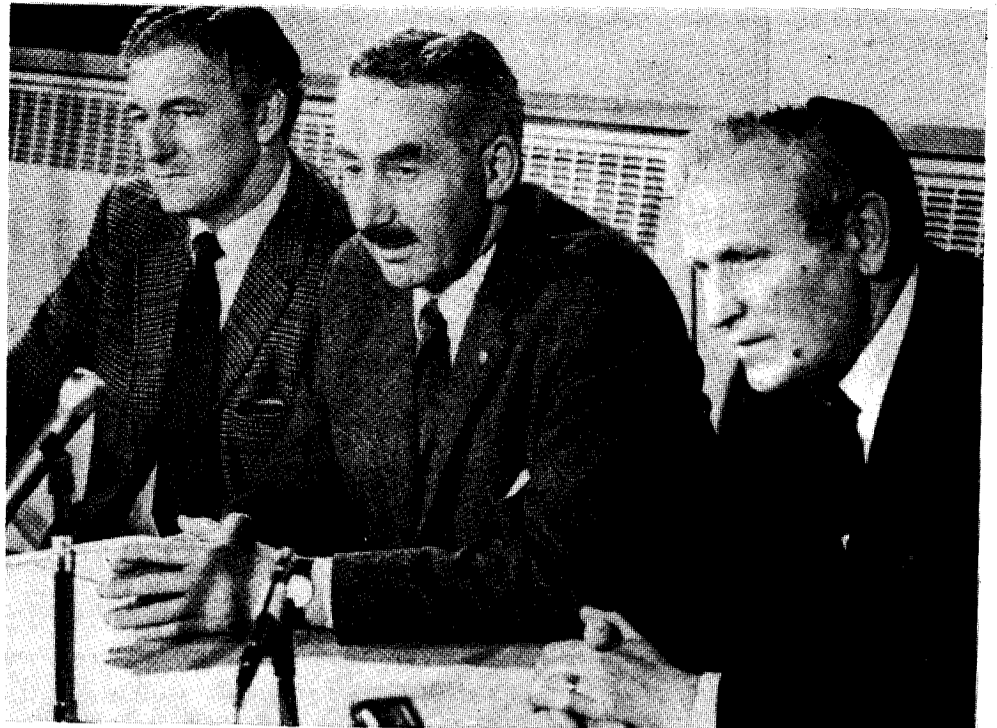
My little girl was just getting dressed so I asked them to leave the room but they refused and she had to dress behind the wardrobe door with these strange men looking on.

They then took us into separate rooms for questioning and while I was being questioned one of them came rushing in having found a 10p Tenants Association membership card, and very excited by the find demanded to know what it was.

He became even more excited when I said that I did not know - my mind had gone blank and it took a few minutes before I could remember. He was visibly disappointed when I told him what it was.

The man who was questioning me said 'Isn't it true that Gerry Conlon arranged to meet Paul Hill here?'

I said that it was not true,



On December 2, 1974, Walter Simons, (right) then head of Surrey CID, who lead the raid on Theresa Cushnahan's flat, Christopher Rowe, (centre) Surry's assistant chief constable and J.Neville (left) second-in-command of Scotland Yard's bomb squad, give a Sunday night press conference. By this time 13 people were being held in Guildford police station

ing her with them. The other lot stayed for a while when most of them left, leaving only three behind to question me.

They wanted to know where I had lived and worked previously and then they finally left, taking my niece Elizabeth with them.

So they now had my sister, her husband, my nephew and my niece!

Later on I phoned Guildford where they had been taken in order to warn them to be careful with my sister because of her heart condition.

I then tried to get hold of her heart specialist but could not because it was a Saturday.

I found out later that they had taken no notice of me and after taking her bra and tights 'in case she strangled herself' had thrown her in a cell.

Sister

On the news that day the police said that they were holding seven men and a woman, so my sister and her husband were making up the numbers.

My sister's husband Frank told me that they had taken him to Guildford separately and on the way had stopped in a Surrey lane, one of them took out a gun and put it to Frank's head.

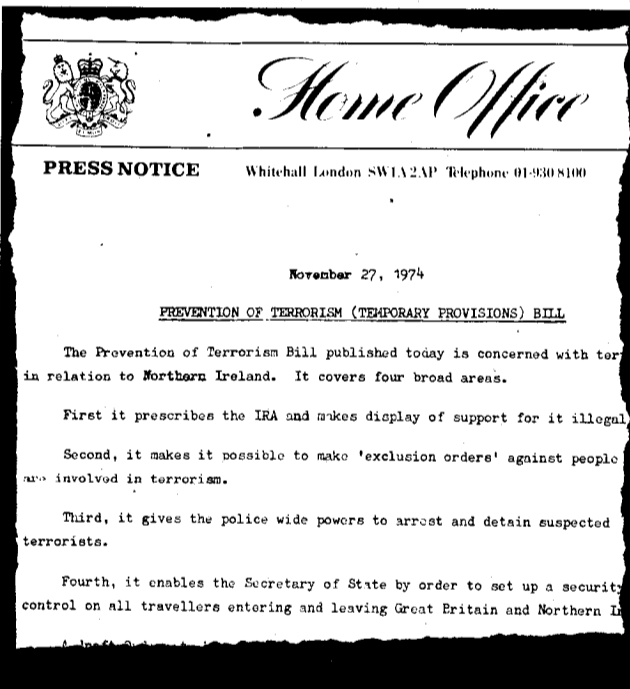
He said 'We know that you are an IRA sympathiser' because Paul had stayed with them on and off for a number of years.

Not only is Frank not a Republican sympathiser, he is in fact a Protestant and has very definite Protestant views. But they did not believe him and when one of them put a gun to his head Frank thought that they were going to kill him — but when the trigger was pulled it just clicked.

They released my sister, her husband and Liz that night but they kept Paul.

Paul was taken to Winchester prison and was not allowed open visits. We, that is his mother and I, had to talk to him through a thick glass panel.

There was an atmosphere of hostility and intimidation when we went to visit him. Paul's mother and I were treated like scum, we were insulted by the screws, who also prevented us discussing the case with Paul, interrupting whenever the case was mentioned, saying that it was not allowed.



The Prevention of Terrorism Act was a bill on the November 27, Paul Hill was arrested on the 28th and it was rushed through Parliament on the 29th giving the police power to hold him and the other accused for up to 12 days.

went back to sleep. While I was washing there was a ring at my door. When I opened it my sister was standing there surrounded by about fifteen armed Special Branch men and a uniformed woman police officer with an Alsatian dog.

My sister has a heart condition (she has a pacemaker fitted) and when I saw her standing there looking so white and shaking I was really worried.

They left her son with me but a few moments later another group of police arrived at my door. There were also about fifteen of them and a woman with a dog.

A Special Branch man told me that he had a warrant to search my flat and they just barged their way in.

A few minutes later my sister was back. She had seen the Special Branch coming to raid my place and refused to go with them. She said that she wanted to see what was happening to her child and kicked up such a fuss that they had to bring her back.

that I had never met Gerry Conlon and that if he had said that then it was not true.

They then went through every paper and book in the flat. We had a lot of books by Marx and Lenin and they completely took over the flat, going through everything for about two hours.

During this time one of them said to me 'Your house is a safe house isn't it?'

He said that he thought that I was a sleeper and living decently all these years was just a front. I told him that I was not a sleeper and that my house was not a safe house.

He then asked me what were my political views on Northern Ireland.

I told him that I thought it was wrong that any country should be artificially separated because wherever it happens you only have trouble flaring up again and again. History showed that it did not work — look at Cyprus or Palestine.

After finding nothing, the ones with my sister left, tak-

SCOTS WOMEN LAUNCH STRIP SEARCH FIGHT

MEMBERS of the Stirling Labour Party womens' section and CND organised a meeting to discuss the strip-searching of women prisoners last Thursday.

Their concern about strip-searching stemmed from a demonstration against the nuclear submarine base at Faslane on the Clyde which they had attended, after which women who had been arrested were subjected to strip-searches.

In addition, a large number of strip-searches have been carried out at the local Cornton Vale prison.

However it was felt by most of those at the meeting that a fight had to be taken up in the trade union movement not only over these local instances of this barbaric practice, but over strip-searching in Ireland, where it forms part of the systematic repression of Republican women prisoners.

Margaret Stewart, who organised the meeting, summed it up at the end by saying: 'I first started thinking about this point after the Faslane demonstration. Then I thought about what is happening in Ireland, and why it is happening, and I thought we had to take some action.'

The Sinn Fein video on strip-searching was shown. It includes interviews with

was in hospital having a baby, called at the house just as the police were raiding it, to leave his children for Annie McGuire to look after.

He was arrested and sent down for seven or eight years. Gerry Conlon's father Giuseppe who came over from Ireland (Giuseppe) what had happened to his son was arrested and died in jail.

The police, unable to find the people responsible for the bombings, had just pulled a number of Irish bodies out of a hat. They did not know what they were doing, they just wanted to produce some results for the public, they did not care if they were guilty or innocent.

A neighbour, whose wife

former Republican prisoners who had been subjected to this particular form of torture in Armagh prison.

A speaker from the Glasgow Women on Ireland group stated that while she believed there was room for a humanitarian campaign against strip-searching, the main point was to recognise that strip-searching was being used to intimidate women who had decided to fight for the Republican cause.

In a contribution from the floor, a member of the local trades council pointed out that when a straightforward-looking resolution against strip-searching was put to the Scottish TUC womens' conference by NALGO, no union had been prepared to second it, 'because it would bring up the Irish question'.

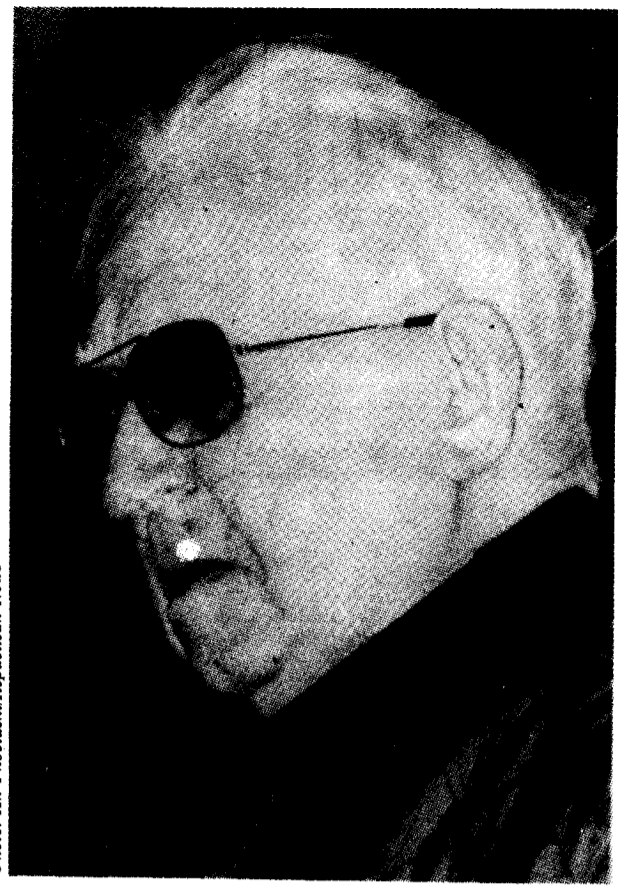
This was not an argument for separating the question of strip-searching from the Irish question, but for using the issue of strip-searching to highlight the barbarous means needed by Britain to maintain its repressive occupation of the six counties.

A speaker from the Workers Revolutionary Party invited those present to attend the forthcoming labour movement conference on Ireland in Glasgow on June 28.

Peadar O'Donnell

Irish Republican Socialist

An obituary by Gerry Downing



Peadar O'Donnell in old age

PEADAR O'DONNELL, Irish Republican Socialist, died on Tuesday May 13.

One of the great figures of Irish socialism, a fighter for the poor and oppressed from his earliest years, O'Donnell was born in Donegal in 1893 among the migrant workers who journeyed to Scotland each year as tattie-workers.

He became a socialist in those years of bitter deprivation and returned to Ireland in 1918 as a full-time trade union organiser.

He fought in the Tan War and became Commandant-General of the IRA in Donegal.

He chose the side of the Republicans (the irregulars) against the 'free staters' (the pro-imperialist government of Griffiths and Collins and then of Cosgrave and Mulcahy).

He was captured after the fall of the Four Courts garrison and spent the rest of the civil war in jail under sentence of death.

He escaped from Curragh concentration camp in 1924.

Afterwards he recounted the bitterness of the betrayed internees. He said they practically all became activists because of the slanders and abuse heaped on them by the Catholic church.

O'Donnell was elected to the Dail during his imprison-

ment but he never took his seat, continuing to fight for the republican socialist cause.

He edited 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' and fought for the rights of small farmers who, because of the depression in the 1930s, could no longer pay the annuities to their ex-landlords imposed on them under the Land Acts of the nineteenth century.

A Fianna Fail government under Eamonn De Valera was elected in 1932 and began the 'economic war' by refusing to pay the land annuities to England. The British government responded by imposing high tariff barriers.

Blueshirts

This saw the emergence of the fascist movement, the 'Blueshirts', under O'Duffy who was sacked as commissioner of the Gardai (Irish police) by De Valera as a result of his fascist activities.

In a situation of virtual civil war the big ranchers with their retinue (in most cases economic 'conscript' labourers), together with the shopkeepers, launched a vicious attack on the government supporters — mainly small farmers and workers.

The republican supporters did not yield to the Blueshirt

propaganda that their misery was caused by De Valera.

When the Blueshirts arrived in Tralee, County Kerry, to address a rally, they had to be escorted in by army lorries and no workmen would erect a platform for the speakers.

It was in this context that a split occurred in the IRA when Peadar O'Donnell and a number of others formed the Republican Congress.

Joining with O'Donnell were Tommy Barry, the legendary guerrilla leader in West Cork of the war against the Black and Tans; Frank Ryan, who took the Republican contingent to Spain to fight Franco; George Gilmore and Nora Connolly O'Brien, James Connolly's daughter.

It was on the question of the fight for the continuity of Connolly's programme that the split occurred.

The call from the conference held on April 7 and 8, 1934, stated:

'We believe that a Republic of a United Ireland will never be achieved except through a struggle which uproots capitalism on its way.

'We cannot conceive of a free Ireland with a subject working class. We cannot conceive of a subject Ireland with a free working class.

'The lip service paid to the Republic by leadership that are tethered to Irish capitalism can therefore only confuse sincere Republicans and withhold them from the struggle for freedom.

'Had the IRA leadership understood that the economic war was not being fought to free Ireland but to serve Irish capitalism they would have carried out this mobilisation first (for the republic) before giving any support to the war.'

Wreath

The Congress put forward a whole social programme for small farmers against ranchers and big farmers and their 'no rates campaign' for workers in trade unions orientating towards Protestant workers in Ulster.

In 1934 in the Bodenstown Commemoration a delegation of Protestant workers came to lay a wreath on Wolfe Tone's grave.

They came from the Shankhill and Ballymacarret.

These were Republican Congress representatives and their banner read 'Wolfe Tone Commemoration 1934: Break the Connections with Capitalism'.

IRA stewards attempted to stop them laying their

Photo: An Phoblacht/Republican News

wreath but their stand gained the support of the majority of IRA followers present.

The Republican Congress did not last long but its impact was immense in a revolutionary situation.

Reaction triumphed as De Valera repressed Republicans far more viciously than the Blueshirts.

Many of its followers went to Spain under Frank Ryan.

O'Donnell lived to a ripe old age and was the author of many books, the most

famous of which were 'There Will Be Another Day' and 'The Gates Flew Open', expressing confidence in the ultimate triumph of socialism.

O'Donnell's contribution to the fight for revolutionary leadership was great. His struggle exposed very much the contradictory nature of Sinn Fein and demonstrated what could be done if theoretical clarity could be married with revolutionary fervour in a period of great crisis.

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

LONG LARTIN
HM Prison Long Lartin, S Littleton, Evesham Worcs, WR11 5TZ
LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.
JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.
GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.
RICHARD GLENHOLMES: 10-year sentence, B32955.
JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715.
ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576.
PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.

PARKHURST
HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX
EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637.
HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636.
HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.
PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603.
STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence 758663.
ROY WALSH: Life sentence 119083.

WAKEFIELD
HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG
ANTHONY CLARKE: 14-year sentence, 726381.
SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.
CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.
PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.
NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

ALBANY
HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5FS
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085.
SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.
TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence, 69204.

GARTREE
HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP
ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-

year sentence, B32954.
PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.
RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.

FRANKLAND
HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham
VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.
PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.
EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.

LEICESTER
HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ
BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.
BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.
JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635.

HULL
HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside
MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.

WORMWOOD SCRUB
HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Du Cane Rd, London W12 0AE
NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence, 879225.

REMAND PRISONERS-BRIXTON
HM Prison Brixton, PO Box 369, Jebb Ave, London SW2 5XF

MARTINA ANDERSON
ELLA O'DWYER
GERRY McDONNELL
PETER SHERRY
PAT McGEE

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:
CAROLE RICHARDSON
PATRICK ARMSTRONG
GERARD CONLON, PAUL HILL,
JUDITH WARD, HUGH CALLAGHAN, JOHN WALKER,
BILLY POWER, GERARD HUNTER, RICHARD McILKENNY,
PADDY HILL.

They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detainer

GUILDFORD 4 CAMPAIGN STARTS



The platform at last week's meeting: left to right, Dr Maire O'Shea, Steve Morris, Liz Hill, Tony Sheridan and Alistair Logan

By PHIL PENN

OVER fifty people attended a meeting in Kilburn last Wednesday evening to launch the campaign to free the Guildford Four, who have been imprisoned for the last twelve years while completely innocent.

People turned up to the meeting who had campaigned against the frame-up back in 1974 when Carole Richardson, Paul Hill, Patrick Armstrong and Gerard Conlon were arrested, framed-up and jailed for life for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings.

Alistair Logan, the Guildford solicitor who was asked by the police at the time to represent the four accused, explained that before he got involved in the case he thought that British justice, with its system of checks and balances, was able to put right any mistakes that might be made.

When he had finished telling the story of the frame-up...

lies and prejudice which was the Guildford Four's 'justice', it was easy to see why he changed his opinion.

Liz Hill, sister of Paul Hill, told how she had been picked up by the police at random. It could just as easily have been her rather than Carol Richardson in prison for the last twelve years.

'Carol and the others are innocent,' she said.

Dr Maire O'Shea, who was the victim of an attempted frame-up under the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act, paid tribute to those who campaigned on her behalf.

She said that the reason for her acquittal 'is the change in the general climate.

'A lot of people in this country are losing their faith in the British legal system and the police.

'They have seen the police terrorising mining communities and people in the inner cities.

They have seen the state trying to frame British peo-

ple too, who are seen as a threat by being militant or by challenging the Thatcher police state in one way or another.'

Paul McKinley from the Irish Solidarity Movement explained how the British government, with the use of the prison system, are trying to crush the spirit of political prisoners with the use of 'long terms of solitary confinement, frequent cell and body searches, vicious and brutal attacks, constant moves from one prison to another without warning or reason, and interference with visits.'

A favourite trick is to move a prisoner overnight when he is due for a visit on the following day. Members of the family already on their way from Ireland turn up at the prison only to be told that the prisoner is 200 miles away.

Steaon O'Muiris from the Campaign for Irish Prisoners in Britain said: 'The organisation to which I belong usually works quietly.

We get a lot of back-

usually see the need to go public, but having heard twelve months ago what you have heard tonight we could not sit back and keep quiet any longer.

'We are already twelve years late, that one fact should drive us on.

'In order to operate from a position of strength we must not treat this as just another campaign to get in on.'

He warned the various political groups represented at the meeting not to think that they could use it for their own purposes.

'This case is not just the about four innocent hostages in prison — it's about the struggle to set Ireland free, a struggle which is much older than twelve years.

'That is the context in which we have to fight the campaign.'

● The Free the Guildford four campaign committee to which all are welcome meets fortnightly, the next meeting being at 7.30 on 4 June at the Irish Centre Murrey st Camden.

LETTERS

The Editorial board of Workers Press welcomes letters on any topic from all our readers. Please address them to The Editor, Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London, SW4 0JT. Pressure on space is acute; some letters have been

waiting for publication for weeks, others have simply not made it.

Please try to keep your letters short — they have much more chance of getting printed.

While we try to print letters as they arrive, we reserve the right to edit letters to give everybody a chance. Where letters have been edited, this will be indicated.

The Labour movement and Palestine

THE LABOUR Movement Campaign for Palestine is a democratic campaign fighting to win the organisations of the British Labour Movement to a position of support for the struggle of the Palestinians and to break with its traditional support for Zionism.

The LMCP may be familiar to some supporters of Workers Press as a campaign which the WRP tried to strangle at birth.

Some one hundred WRP members packed the founding conference (of what was then called the Labour Committee for Palestine) under instructions to vote with Sheila Torrance.

They were then able to vote through a steering committee which was composed of a majority of WRP members and supporters and to vote through resolutions ensuring the LCP would be structured in such a way as to be run exclusively by the steering committee.

It ruled out the creating of branches which therefore effectively excluded ordinary members from participating.

The block vote of the WRP

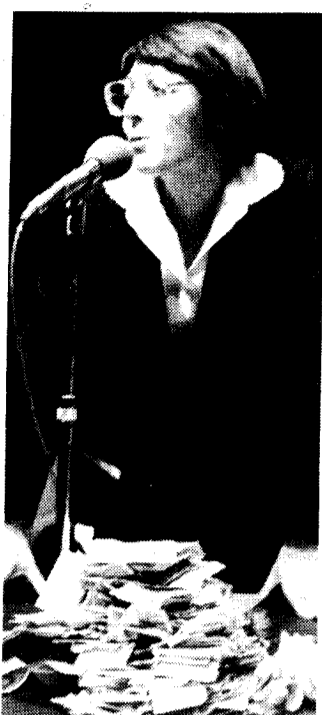
was further used to ensure the defeat of all resolutions critical of the Arab regimes and to push through a programme for the LCP which stopped short of challenging the legitimacy of the Zionist settler state.

This position was consistent with the WRP's wholesale support for the right wing of the PLO, at that time, as represented by the policies of Arafat.

The Labour Movement Campaign for Palestine was founded by the majority of independent forces — including many Palestinians — who walked out of that conference together with the majority of the provisional steering committee who had run the LCP up until that founding conference.

Three and a half years later the LCP no longer exists: only kept alive at all by a couple of committed Socialist Action members, it dwindled and died a natural death not long after that founding conference.

The LMCP, meanwhile, has succeeded in establishing itself as the Palestine campaign in the Labour Movement, on the basis of a



Torrance — as we all knew her

clear anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist platform.

We have produced a regular newsletter containing a

high level of political analysis of the complex developments in the Middle East and have consistently intervened in the Labour Party, Labour Women's and LPYS conferences, as well as in certain Trade Union conferences where this has been possible.

We currently have nine affiliated CLPs, eight sponsoring MPs and a handful of affiliated Trades Councils and Union branches.

We feel that we have established a strong base and a profile within the Labour movement, but there remains a great deal of work to be done.

The LMCP welcomed the fact that opposition to the official line of capitulation to bourgeois nationalism in the Middle East was cited as a significant political factor underlying the expulsion of the Healy clique.

We further welcome the current re-assessment being made by the WRP of its own sectarian past, of which its approach to the LCP was but one example.

The WRP and the SLL before it have a long history of committed support for the



Redgrave in Lebanon. When all the razzamatazz died down, what concretely was developed for the Palestinian revolution?

Palestinian people — something that few other revolutionary traditions can claim.

The LMCP considers it very important that this aspect of the WRP's history should not be forgotten in the current period of re-evaluation, but that, as part of a new orientation, members and supporters of the WRP join the LMCP and work with us to ensure that the issue of Palestinians gets

raised and discussed in all areas and all levels of the Labour Movement.

● The LMCP is holding its AGM on May 31 at Islington Town Hall, Upper St, London, N1, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

We would urge all WRP members and supporters to attend.

Anna Wagstaff
For the LMCP Steering Committee

The reactionary nature of ethology

JOHN ROBINSON states that 'some of Engels' views are similar to reactionary writers like Desmond Morris who "explains social phenomena by animal behaviour".

He writes that Engels' words ('It is inherent in the descent of man from the animal world that he can never entirely rid himself of the beast, so that it can always be only a question of more or less, in the difference in the degree of bestiality or of humanity.') would meet agreement from Desmond Morris.

In my view, the two perspectives find themselves in diametrical opposition.

Engels argues for the view of Darwin in support of the 'law of correlation of growth... According to this law, particular forms of the individual parts of an organic being are always bound up with certain forms of other parts that apparently have no connection with the first... the gradual per-

fecting of the human hand... has undoubtedly also, by virtue of such correlation, reacted on other parts of the organism... much more important is the direct demonstrable reaction of the development of the hand on the rest of the organism...

'The mastery over nature, which begins with the development of the hand, with labour, widened man's horizon at every new advance.' ('Dialectics of Nature', p 282, 1934 edition).

This implies that developments in the hand and the 'widening of horizons' would at the same time stimulate the brain, resulting in changes in this organ.

This position is strengthened by fossil findings over the period of the development of human beings which indicate that 'the increase in relative size that distinguishes our brains from those of other higher primates occurred relatively recently, beginning perhaps no more

than 4 to 5 million years ago... and attaining its modern level within the past half million years.' (C. Radinsky: 'Primate Brain Evolution' 'Scientific American' 63: 656, 1975).

Even closer to Engels' view is the position that qualitative changes took place in those areas of the brains of early humans that are seen as specifically human (See V. Kochetkova: 'Palaeoneurology', Norton Books, 1974).

One such change is known as 'encephalisation', roughly described as the localisation in the cortex (that part of the brain concerned with higher mental activity), of processes that in sub-human forms of life are carried out in areas of the brain concerned with automatic and unlearned responses.

Sexual behaviour, which in lower forms of life is a stereotyped and unlearned aspect of behaviour, becomes in humans functionally dependent upon learning and those parts of the brain crucially concerned with learning.

Surgical decortication of a fish has no effect on its sexual behaviour, but even slight damage in the case of a human has a disabling effect.

Learning

Similarly, apes brought up in social isolation cannot function adequately in a sexual sense, indicating the importance of learning to our nearest evolutionary ancestors.

The implication of this view is that, with the development of society, human behaviour becomes progressively the subject of learning and thought — and further removed from the stereotyped and instinctive response of lower forms of life.

In this process, the basic drives are themselves qualitatively changed.

This standpoint, consistent with the view of Engels that 'the descent of man from the animal world... can always be only a question of more or less bestiality or humanity' is in total opposition to the views of Morris and his fellow ethologists, who hold that human society is essentially a system of rules and laws which acts to control the beast which has been 'in' human beings without changing since the origins of humanity.

Society changes (develops new forms of control), but not the beast, and between the two there is an unbridgeable gulf.

The beast referred to by Engels

is a very different beast to that one of Morris and the ethologists. To Engels, that which is beastly changes with the development of human society, as humans move further from the stereotyped and instinctive world of the animal to a world in which drives become learned and human.

To Morris, the animal side of our nature is unchanged and unchangeable, a veritable thing-in-itself, permanently struggling to be free, responsible for wars, urban violence, and other problems of the capitalist world when the various checks of society break down.

The reactionary aspects of the work of Morris and similar writers needs to be stressed.

Writers of the ethological school achieved their greatest prominence in the late 1960s and early 1970s. 'The Naked Ape', by Morris, was first published in 1967 and became a best seller.

This school of thought followed closely upon the heels of a huge expansion in higher education in the early 1960s, of which a principal feature was the growth of interest in social science, especially sociology.

Whilst the works of the ethologists are often to be found in the 'social science' section of bookshops and libraries, their standpoint is as opposed to the work of social science, as it is to the work of Engels.

A basic theme in ethology is that social problems can be explained by the basic animal nature of human beings, by their 'drives' to hold on to territory, by their basic sexual impulses, by their urges to dominate, by their natural greed, and so on.

These forms of behaviour make their malignant appearance when, for one reason or another, 'society' relaxes its hold.

Their solution to social problems is directed at the individual, with a view to finding more effective means to repress the basic animal drives.

These standpoints are in opposition to the views of social science which, for all its bourgeois leanings, takes as a starting point of its body of knowledge that the key to social problems lies in the organisation of society and that the resolution of social problems lies in changes in society.

The reactionary nature of the ethologists and their running mates, the sociobiologists, is at its sharpest in their defence of the family and the dominance of the female by the male.

Justification is to be found, of course, in our animal heritage.

Take, for example, the question of rape. Barash, a sociobiologist, gives a bizarre analogy... plants with male flowers, he explains, 'will "attempt" to achieve as many fertilisations as possible.

'How is this done? Among other things, they bombard female flowers with incredible amounts of pollen, and some even seem to have specially evolved capacities to rape female flowers, by growing a pollen tube which forces its way to the ovary within each female...

'Plants that commit rape are following evolutionary strategies that maximise their fitness... We human beings like to think we are different.

'We introspect, we are confident that we know what we are doing, and why. But we may have to open our minds and admit the possibility that our need to maximise our fitness may be whispering deep inside us and that, know it or not, most of the time we are heeding these whisperings.' (Barash: 'The Whispering Mind', 1977, quoted in R. Bleier: 'Science and Gender', Pergamon, 1984 p32).

Force

Later, Barash compares the human rapist with 'batchelor' ducks who have been sexually excluded, building up a picture of the rapist as 'a lonesome fellow, left out of the mainstream of socially acceptable ways to copulate' who must 'force himself upon a unwilling female' in order to ensure reproduction (Bleier, p33).

As Bleier points out, the use of the word 'rape' in relation to plants, ducks, and humans, ensures that rape is seen as a biological and hence natural act, which maintains a 'cultural tradition of misogyny and male violence.' (Bleier, p 33).

To Engels, resolution of the problems arising from the contradictions in capitalist society can only be made in the overthrow of capitalist society. This is a completely opposite conclusion to that arrived at by reading of Morris and other writers of the same persuasion.

For this and the other reasons above, I feel that it is important for us to be clear that, in spite of a certain superficial similarity of terms, NO comfort for Desmond Morris can be found in the writing of Engels.

Paul Henderson,
Leicester.



Bugs Bunny, mascot of the New York Cosmos football team, from Morris' book 'The Soccer Tribe'. He argues that the determinants of human behaviour are biological and not social

The Workers Press and 'Left sounding' leaders

I AM writing in response to your recent articles on rate-capping in Lambeth, one by Ed Hall on April 5 and the second one in Workers Press on May 3.

Both articles show just how much work the WRP still has to do to break with its past record of accommodation to the trade union and Labour leadership in Lambeth.

As a summary of the current situation in the trade unions, Labour Party and community in Lambeth, Ed Hall's article fails entirely to come to grips with the serious consequences of last year's 'no rate' strategy.

Ed Hall's summation is that the councillors delivered their pledge of non-compliance and that 'statements and support that were pledged at the beginning of the campaign have not been removed'.

This completely lets the Labour and trade union leadership of the hook for the role they have played over the past year.

No Support

Challenged time and again to give support to the call by scattered militants (including WRP members) in the unions for all-out strike action in response to 'trigger events' (cuts, redundancies, surcharge, disqualification), Ted Knight has consistently refused to give such support, arguing instead that it would be 'presumptuous' for a Labour Party member such as himself to 'tell the unions what to do'.

Yet, as Ted Knight well knows, such a call would have immeasurably strengthened the hand of those trying to argue for and build for such action — action which the WRP itself recognised at the time as the only action capable of defending jobs and services.

Similarly, WRP members in Lambeth are fully aware of the 'fine words and no action' stance of Jim O'Brien, who has also consistently failed to support such a position, and the interminable back-sliding of the Lambeth JTUC leaders who, despite the fact that the 'trigger events' of surcharge and

disqualification have been and gone, have delivered only one-day events and token occupations run by a handful of stewards.

The Workers Press article of May 3 continues this uncritical approach towards these left-sounding leaders.

The entire events surrounding the Council meeting of April 25, at which the Tories failed to lower the rate and change the standing orders, was testimony not to the presence, but to the absence of a fighting leadership in Lambeth, and to the persistent demobilisation of the workforce and community over the past year.

Challenge

It was certainly a progressive development that an embryonic challenge was made to the rotten JTUC leadership, with the demand coming from rank and file women in the unions and Labour Party to break with the bureaucratic methods of organising, and themselves organise and mobilise for the Council meeting.

It is important that as users of the services, and as a significant section of the Council workforce, women should play a central role in any demonstrations.

However, the article was entirely uncritical of the political composition of this 'alternative leadership' which continued a predominant element of separatist feminism and pacifism.

After a long debate amongst the women the argument that the event should not be women-only was won.

Movement

Yet the women never adopted the perspective of a mass labour movement orientation, with a commitment to stopping the meeting by whatever means necessary (including occupation and organised force).

The perspective of the women remained that the event was essentially a publicity stunt and demonstration, designed to embarrass the Tories, with ultimate reliance being placed on such

tactics as disruption of the meeting through singing and manipulation of the standing orders through the non-attendance of councillors.

The predominant view was that our tactics should be trimmed to ensure that we stayed in the good books of the local press, and that we should do nothing to alienate middle class opinion in the run-up to the local elections.

I welcomed the fact that rank and file women were questioning the role of the JTUC, and I consider the numerous debates that took place the previous week as healthy; they raised many important issues.

However, in politics we must always call things by their true name. If an organisation calling itself revolutionary is to be worthy of that name, it must live in the real world.

In the real world, the night was not, as the article claimed, a 'triumph for the women from the community and trade unions'.

The truth is that we were saved by the bourgeois courts' decision to rule the Tory cuts illegal because at this stage they will want to maintain workers' illusions in bourgeois democracy.

Hatred

Lambeth's Labour Council has now been returned with an increased majority in the town hall.

The basic hatred of the Tories' contempt for local democracy has ensured this.

Anyone who went canvassing for Labour before the elections will agree that outside the town hall, in particular on the council estates, the cynicism and apathy of many Labour supporters has not gone away.

The failure of Ted Knight's council and this despair are ultimately connected. Knight and O'Brien refused to argue for a strategy that could have galvanised mass support for the unions and council; a deficit budget drawn up with and by the local working class community, based on its perception of its needs in housing, jobs and services remains



Ted Knight and Janet Boateng reach for the stars. Jim O'Brien (right, with beard) applauds

the way ahead.

It would have meant abandoning the strategy of 'getting by' or 'muddling through' and going on the offensive, with house-building and job-creation so that in months the visible fabric of Lambeth and the lives of those who live here transparently changed.

It would not have created a Lambeth utopia, but it would have generated mass support for radical politics.

It would have given people more control of their lives and made the Tories' job of isolating the Labour councils that much more difficult.

The WRP should concentrate more on putting positive alternatives to Knight and his successors than hailing ephemeral and ultimately ineffective stunts.

Ann Wackett

Rank and file Lambeth NALGO member and Vauxhall CLP.

A note from the editor

Workers Press thanks Comrade Wackett for her letter, which we are pleased to print. Readers may reply in time to the points she raises.

However, a couple of points can be laid to rest immediately for anyone who does not have the back-numbers of Workers Press to hand.

1. Bro. Ed Hall wrote an eight and a half inch news story (April 5) on the disqualification of the Lambeth Labour Councillors. He wrote as a guest contributor to Workers Press — and felt no compulsion to 'break from the WRP's accommodation' on the question of Labour councillors or the local government struggle.

His reluctance is not altogether surprising. Ed, as Cde Wackett well knows, is not and never has been a member of the WRP.

2. While running to a weigh-

ty twelve inches, the May 3 piece likewise made no pretension to analysis, seeking simply to report events.

The editorial board is prepared to accept censure if it is felt that we have been remiss on coverage and discussion of the local government issue.

We would certainly also welcome comment on the many articles covering, for example, the Militant tendency in Liverpool or on frequent references to the role of a future Labour government — see letter this page.

Finally, is it a matter for shame to admit support for the 'Workers Power' political line? Whatever criticisms can be levelled at Workers Press, it has been a forum for open discussion within the Trotskyist movement. Let us appeal for a similar frankness from our political critics and opponents.

Labour and Nato

I AM a Labour Party member and want to see a Labour government at the next election.

However, in certain aspects the policies of such a Labour government would be inadequate.

In the light of the American attack on the Libyan people, certain deficiencies of Labour policy were highlighted.

In particular the Labour Party has not adopted a policy of withdrawal from NATO.

The plans of NATO which support and are part of American foreign policy include the use of nuclear weapons.

NATO essentially promotes conflict as illustrated by its support for the attack on Libya.

A socialist policy and a truly socialist government can only be attained if it includes the demand to withdraw from NATO and the closure of the American bases in this country.

Richard Welford
South Normanton Labour Party

In a personal capacity

Labour and Transitional Demands

ON READING the front page article in the May 10 edition of the Workers Press, I found a section of the piece very worrying. The statement reads:

'A future Labour government will come into conflict with the working class. We will not place a shred of confidence in such a government. We will give it no support, critical or otherwise.'

The first part of the statement is undoubtedly true. This doesn't take much working out.

Reformist politics and policies can only lead ultimately to reformist betrayals. A future Labour government will definitely come into conflict with the working and middle classes and it is this first part of the piece that makes the second section even more ridiculous.

To offer neither support

nor criticism of such a government can only mean that the paper intends to ignore totally such a government.

If this were the case, I can only imagine the paper's pages being blank! This ranks alongside the statement of Mike Banda that, 'If a Labour government were elected today, we would fight to bring it down tomorrow.'

The election of a future Labour government is a strong possibility. If certain Labour MPs were to take a principled stand against capitalism, are we saying we would not support them?

Transitional demands must be made on a Labour government. How can you do this without support or criticism? It's only then you can prepare for the struggles against such a government.

Stephen Green
Tooting WRP

The point of the Political Committee statement was this: a Labour government in office is not the working class in power.

Such a government would be a bourgeois government, representing the interests of the capitalist class against those of the working class.

We would not be for the support of such a government when it came into conflict with the interests of the working class — as inevitably it would.

There is no doubt that the Stalinists and others would defend a Kinnock government in its attacks on the working class. 'Give them time to sort out the mess.' 'It's our men in power, we must be patient' are the sort of slogans they would use to justify such a policy.

Of course, if certain Labour MPs did come into conflict with the policies of a Labour government we

would have to consider the nature of this opposition and decide whether to support them.

We would certainly demand certain things of a Kinnock government: that they immediately release every jailed miner and Irish political prisoner; that they renationalise the industries privatised under Thatcher; that they restore all cuts in the social services.

But these are not transitional demands. They would be aimed at exposing the reactionary character of the government in the eyes of the working class.

Transitional demands are ones we fight for in the working class to raise the consciousness of the working class and demonstrate in action that the social revolution alone is able to meet their most basic, pressing needs.

Geoff Pilling

Workers Revolutionary Party

SCOTTISH AREA DAY SCHOOL

The Fourth International Its tasks today and its history

Sunday May 25, 11 - 5pm
Central Hotel
next to Central Station
Gordon Street
Glasgow

Creche Available

Speaker: Bill Hunter (WRP Central Committee)
Followed by Discussion in which all are welcome to take part

Vietnam: War of contradictions

Vietnam: Anatomy of a War 1940-1975. By Gabriel Kolko. Allen and Unwin, £20.

KOLKO'S BOOK brings together the political, economic and military factors in Vietnam itself, in the United States and internationally, to make a uniquely complete account of the Vietnam war.

From Dien Bien Phu the liberation forces dealt a final and humiliating defeat to French imperialism, only to see the United States step in to mount their most concentrated and brutal military operation — in which more bombs were dropped on tiny South Vietnam than were used throughout World War II. The Vietnam war ended in 1975 in humiliation and defeat for the greatest imperialist power — the beginning of the end for America internationally.

Strength

Kolko writes with intimate knowledge and understanding of the Vietnamese Communist Party and the revolutionary forces in Vietnam. He doesn't eulogise or idealise, but is objective about their strengths and their weaknesses.

In particular, he sees the fundamental strength of the revolutionary leadership in Vietnam as its ability to analyse critically and openly its successes and mistakes, and to capitalise on the weaknesses of the enemy, which were at root — and remain fundamentally — of a class nature, those of an imperialist power in decline.

Kolko's other extensive writings are on American politics, and his knowledge of the US internal political situation is impressive. American involvement in the war which spanned thirty years was unique in that for the first time in its history it emerged from a conflict politically, economically and militarily defeated, its artificially imposed military puppet apparatus overthrown.

Kolko's style is never dull and academic though he provides excellent notes, references and a chronology.

Carefully, perceptively, the materialist Kolko takes apart the elements of the crisis of French and US imperialism; he takes all their contradictions, and analyses their strengths and weaknesses. He establishes that in the revolutionary forces, the strengths came to predominate over their weaknesses, and that in the imperialist side, their weaknesses outweighed their strength.

This is shown most clearly in his section on the turning point in the war, the Tet offensive of 1968. The revolutionary forces simultaneously mounted attacks on all the major cities, 36 of the 44 provincial capitals and 64 of the 242 district towns. Tet was a military defeat for the Vietnamese; it failed in its military objectives. But it was a political victory which was the beginning of the end of the US in Vietnam.

America's generals were saying they were winning and demanding an extra 206,000 troops. Tet broke the American will; the Vietnamese cadres in the towns were decimated, and it took them years to recover, but the blow they had inflicted on the Americans was far more profound than the losses they had suffered.

This is not a book about world revolution, but it does indeed take apart the war, and the line-up of forces in the war. Kolko writes:

'War is generally the transcendent element in all societies that compels choices and action. Parties of change at such times relate to the masses, attempting to impose ideas and roles on those now increasingly likely to act with or without leadership.

'When large numbers of people realise that they are unable to evade the personal consequences of their action or inaction — and may indeed pay a much higher price for their passivity — they become a social force, all the more durable to the extent they take an organised form. Evasion is,

however, the normal response of most people to the risks about them, and it usually is far less the party with claims of leadership than the breakdown of the traditional order that stimulates their initial consciousness and discontent, conditioning them to act.

'Evasion will tend to recur as the society's crisis is alleviated, though not without the persistence of residues of earlier ideas and values in mass consciousness. But stability is so rarely permanent that a party's main role in this process is to provide the continuity and linkage between periods of crisis and relative tranquillity, along with such leadership as the masses will accept when their readiness for action returns.

Potential

In this sense, though a party must not make too many errors, it is less important that it always be correct than that it be able to sustain its existence and relationship to social dynamics and forces so that its influence re-emerges with the growth of a society's crisis. Its capacity to persist is a critical measure of the potential of freedom and rationality in history.'

Wayne Poulsen



Screen warning

The Small Screen with Big Problems. National Communications Union, Greystoke House, 150 Brunswick Road, Ealing, London W5 1AW.

The TUC Guidelines on VDUs. TUC Publications, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS, price £1.

HALF THE WORKFORCE will be using visual display units (VDUs) by 1990, and anxieties are growing about the health problems associated with them.

Both the Union of Communication Workers and the TUC have just published pamphlets on VDU use.

A large number of the 1.25 million already in use are in the communications industry, and since privatisation British Telecom has increased the number of people working with screens.

VDU operators suffer physical and psychological problems, some long-term.

These include visual problems, wrist and finger complaints including the crippling 'repetitive strain injury', dermatitis, aggravation of epilepsy, and most worrying of all, particularly in view of the age of many female operators, miscarriages and birth defects.

It seems likely that radiation emitted by the screens is hazardous, although the TUC report is reluctant to commit itself to that verdict until many more long-term studies are completed.

Certainly, there are problems of working with glare, noise, bad lighting and ergonomically bad seating at the machine.

Both reports emphasise that the problem is not the VDU itself, but the lack of control over the work environment, with the screen setting the pace.

POETRY:

Selected Poems. By Langston Hughes. Pluto Press, £4.95.

'WORDS LIKE FREEDOM' is the title of one of the sections of poems by Langston Hughes. And through every poem, even on the most personal themes of love and human relationships, there runs a sense of pride and determination to come through pain, degradation and the experiences

of black people in America.

'Negroes
Sweet and docile,
Meek, humble and kind:
Beware the day
They change their minds!

Wind
In the cotton fields,
Gentle breeze:
Beware the hour
It uproots trees!

Hughes died in 1967, and the poetry in this volume is the choice he made in 1959. His bestknown work, 'Montage of a Dream Deferred' is included along with many shorter pieces, like this, which is called 'Lunch in a Jim Crow Car':

Get out the lunch-box of your dreams
Bite into the sandwich of your heart,
And ride the Jim Crow car until it screams
Then — like an atom bomb — it bursts apart.'

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BOOK REVIEWS

El Salvador — Women in revolt



Women of El Salvador: The Price of Freedom. By Marilyn Thomson. Zed Press, £5.95.

WOMEN got the vote in El Salvador in 1950. One veteran of the campaign for women to have equality under the constitution sums up: 'We demanded the right to vote but found that vote to be worthless.'

Marilyn Thomson's book is based on interviews with many Salvadorean women who have been forced into a revolutionary struggle and who found 'their oppression as women can only be substantially altered with the overthrow of the present regime.'

Women talk about their experiences in the armed struggle and establishing cooperatives in the areas which have been for three years liberated under FMLN control.

Choose

They talk about the ways in which their lives are changing: the opportunity to choose whether or not to have children, how they can break-down 'machismo' attitudes on the part of the men.

They also speak movingly about the difficult decisions they have all had to make, forced into exile, going underground, leaving their families to join the armed struggle.

The Housing Crisis. Edited by Peter Malpass. Croom Helm, £7.95.

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS led to the collapse in 1968 of a quarter of the 23 storey-block of flats in East London called Ronan Point. Now, nearly twenty years later, demolition has finally begun — but only because new faults have been discovered.

Peter Malpass has edited a book on the state of housing in Britain. Its contributors make clear that the nightmare of tower blocks and the cracks opening up in other system-built flats are only part of a problem of crisis proportions.

Worse

The present government, argues Malpass in his conclusion, has no housing policy — only an anti-housing policy which is mainly directed at encouraging home-ownership while conditions in which people live get worse as the buildings themselves deteriorate.

Six million homes were built before 1919, and many of them are in need of major renovations and lack basic amenities. Repair costs are rising much faster than wages.

The book dispels the Tory myth that the growth of home-ownership is spreading wealth.

Over half the people living in homes which are 'unfit', below the minimum standard for human habitation are elderly, and another 12 per cent have no jobs.

The Tories announced ear-

VICTIMS OF HOME OWNERSHIP

lier this month that they are going to stop the DHSS paying the mortgage repayments for people on benefits. This will make a bad situation worse.

Already 11,000 families a year are turfed out of their homes. The chapter by Valerie Karn, John Doling and Bruce Stafford estimates that the Tory plans would mean the building societies repossessing 150,000 houses a year.

They look back at 1933, when there was no social security benefit. In that one year, the Co-operative Permanent Building Society seized the homes of over 2 per cent of its mortgagees.

The government excuse for the change is the soaring cost of paying mortgage interest for unemployed homeowners, which amounts to more than rent payments.

While the figure was £50 million in 1979, it is now at least three times that.

Rather than being a step up the ladder, home-ownership under the Tories has become a bad dream.

The quarter of a million people on supplementary benefit who 'own their own homes' are in fact the victims of home ownership.

Other chapters of the book

look in detail at the special problems of housing for young people, in the inner cities, and homelessness.

The authors state firmly that to be homeless is not a 'pathological failure of individuals' but a problem of a system which denies the right to a 'safe, secure and satisfactory home for every member of the community.'

With public spending on housing halved since the 1979 election, the 'private crises' of individuals and households are worsening dramatically. Malpass concludes:

Lever

'It is clear that moral indignation about the plight of the homeless or families living in squalid conditions or old women freezing to death in unheated homes is no longer an effective lever (if indeed it ever was), given a government that is prepared to 'tough it out'.

In this sense, then, it seems that the housing crisis has not yet arrived. However, its approach is made closer by growing contradictions in policy which will become increasingly obvious and more difficult to avoid as the decade continues.'

Bridget Dixon

The biggest business

The Fix. By Brian Freemantle. Corgi, £2.95.

NEARLY half a million Americans are addicted to heroin. Journalist Brian Freemantle travelled the world to investigate the huge industry which supplies their habit — and smuggles nearly 2000 million dollars worth of drugs into America every week.

He says that the drug business is bigger than any multinational.

Most of the book is a yarn of detective work, following the drug hunters, men like those who trace large de-

posits through Florida bank accounts until they find the huge undeclared sums that indicate big drug money.

Freemantle makes the point that tobacco is 'responsible for more disease, death and addiction than heroin, cocaine, marijuana and psychotropics combined.'

His book argues in favour of trying to break addicts from drugs with medically supplied pure drugs, from GPs; not methadone, which creates more methadone addicts than it cures heroin addicts. Sepsis, hepatitis and ulcers of heroin addicts are caused by dirty needles, poisonous additives and the filthy conditions in which illegal substances are used.

Science and the killer robot

The Automated Battlefield. By Frank Barnaby. Sidgwick and Jackson, £12.95

HALF A MILLION of the world's best scientists, about 20 per cent, work for the military, reports Frank Barnaby.

His new book is a call to the professional bodies of scientists, from a nuclear physicist, to grapple with the



stage, with a budget of \$600 million for the American Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Barnaby points out that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were chosen as experimental targets, one hilly and one flat, and kept unbombed until the atom bombs were dropped.

In World War II 90 per cent of casualties were soldiers, in the Lebanon, 90 per cent of victims were civilians.

The book details the developments in technology which make this remoteness of killing possible: the miniaturisation of computers for cruise missiles, and systems like the US Worldwide Military Command and Control system, which uses 35 computers and over 17 million lines of program.

Massive budgets are given over to producing weapons which meant that a 250,000 dollar Exocet could destroy a 50 million dollar ship, HMS Sheffield, in the Falklands/Malvinas war.

Barnaby campaigns in the belief that public opinion — and particularly concerned scientists — can stand in the way of governments prepared to spend millions every year on weapons.

His chilling account of the present stage of development is undoubtedly attracting interest among fellow-scientists.

Chris Dixon

TV CHOICE

Saturday May 24

7.30 pm, Channel 4. **Africa: The Bible and the Gun.** Presented by Basil Davidson, in the fifth part of this eight part series, Davidson looks at the destructive impact of expanding European civilisation on the civilisation of Africa, as it invaded in successive waves of slave traders, explorers, missionaries, and finally with the great robber barons, the likes of Cecil Rhodes.

Sunday May 25

7.15 pm, Channel 4. **World Wise 86: African Hunters.** Paradoxically, safari hunting, once a destructive pastime of the rich, is presently the best argument in Zimbabwe for the conservation of wildlife. The badly needed foreign currency produced is used for schools, clinics, and maternity units.

8.15 pm, Channel 4. **People to People. Who Needs Women Drivers?** Television History Workshop looks at the changes in attitudes to London Transport's women employees, from the time of World War II to the present day. Film from the archives of London Transport shows that women have always been able to do the job, but one of the interviewees, who started work in the 1930s, says: 'I hear the young women asking for exactly the same things that I was asking for 40 years ago.'

11 pm, Channel 4. **The Hustler.** (1961) Paul Newman as the pool shark hustling suckers in pool rooms across America, in a powerful drama which transcends the mean and sleazy world in which it is played.

Monday May 26

6.30 pm, Channel 4. **Monkton: A Surrealist Dream.** Documentary about the controversial dismemberment and sale of the surrealist country house created by the great English eccentric, Edward James. Outside there is a chimney-stack disguised as a tombstone,



Paris Texas: The rebuilding of trust between father, Harry Dean Stanton and his son, Hunter Carson who have been estranged for some years is handled with a sensitivity rarely captured on screen. - Channel 4 Thursday, May 29, 9.30 pm

with a clock that tells the days of the week, and window mouldings resembling sheets hanging out to dry. Inside there is a chairback formed by the arms of a drowning man, a four-poster modelled on Nelson's hearse, and the celebrated bright-red sofa by Salvador Dali in the shape of Mae West's lips.

Tuesday May 27

10.30 pm, ITV. **Viewpoint 86: Victims.** Programme about the trauma suffered by victims of violent crime, and the appalling lack of support given by the authorities to assist them through the aftermath. Producer David Cohen says 'Victims' does not call for harsher sentences. 'What it does do is call for

more money, imagination and care to be given to victims.'

Wednesday May 28

7.00 pm, ITV. **Where There's Life.** Deemed to be mentally subnormal when he was born, Alan Counsel suffered cerebral palsy so severe that doctors wanted to amputate his limbs. Now a Cambridge graduate and a senior teacher, he owes his success not to a caring state, but to the determination of his family.

Thursday May 29

8.30 pm, Channel 4. **Club Mix** presents the immortal Eartha Kitt, introduced by Smiley Culture. Forced like so many black

American entertainers to start her career in Paris because of American racism, this is a rare chance to catch a glimpse of this witty and cultured singer.

9.30 pm, Channel 4. **Paris Texas.** (1984) Film masterpiece of Wim Wenders. This film develops the very complicated relationships of an American family in crisis with a sensitivity rarely captured. The characters gain enormous credibility because the film lacks the sentimentality which is usually offered as emotion. It explores the conflicts in relationships and poses deeply disturbing psychological questions, but because it isolates its characters from events in the world around them we are left without a great deal of insight.

Workers Press

Saturday May 24 1986. Newsdesk 01-720 2000

SHIPYARD FIGHT UNDER WAY BUT:

HOLLOW WORDS FROM LABOUR

By FIONA NICOL on Tyneside and TITCH JONES in London

MORE THAN 2,000 shipyard workers marched through London to the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday as an immediate response to the government announcement of British Shipbuilders' plans to axe 3,495 jobs and close three yards.

Since the announcement last Tuesday, meetings have been held at yards all over the country to decide what course of action to take in response to the Tory decision.

The meetings voted almost unanimously for a one-day strike and march to the Houses of Parliament to coincide with a Commons debate on shipbuilding. They demanded support from the Labour leadership.

The day of action was called by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, but half the 400 managers in British shipyards also stayed away from work for the day, and Adrian Askew, general secretary of their union SAIMA, said they would be represented in the national lobby.

The Shipbuilders' National Committee (SNC) has been set up to co-ordinate the fight.

The delegation from the northeast included over 500 men from the doomed Smiths Dock on the Tees, Clarke Kincaid Works on the Tyne, Sunderland Shipbuilders and Austin and Pickerskill on the Wear.

Under the Tory plan, Smiths Dock in Middlesbrough will close completely with the loss of 1,295 jobs. On the Wear, 925 jobs will go, and 360 will be lost at the Clarke Kincaid Engine Works.

Not included in these figures, because they are not on permanent contracts, are 500 who work at Middle Docks, South Shields.

In 1976 between 1,000 and 1,200 ships were built in British shipyards. In 1986 between 400 and 500 were built.

In 1996 only about 200 will be built.

In seven years 50,000 jobs have been lost in the shipbuilding and repair industries.

The government has sold off the warship building industry to make the rest of the industry non-profitable.

Tim McMurray, who works at Smiths Dock, told Workers Press that they had been 'shocked and horrified' when they heard the news.

'There was no manager-workforce communication at all, no hint of a run-down' he said.

'Other yards will lose 200 or 300 or 600 but Smiths is closing down completely.'

He told Workers Press that the yard had got orders for five Cuban ships to be built but because the government would not subsidise them they did not want to carry it out.

'I cannot see any logic to it', he said.

South Tyneside, already the north's worst area for unemployment, was dealt a double blow this week with the announcement of the closure of Middle Dock ship repair yard and also the British Rail wagon works at Simonside — both in South Shields.

NUR Regional official Alex McFadden condemned the plan to close the wagon works, which will take a much needed service from the area.

South Shields MP Dr

NORTH-EAST DOLE YOUTH WATCHDOG

South Tyneside have a further 2,000 young people leaving school this summer with no job prospects whatsoever.

South Shields Trades Union Council has elected a trade union watchdog committee to monitor the employment and manpower services development.

Delegates were concerned at the increase in YTS and MSC community

programme schemes which are planned as the Tory government are virtually closing down industry on the North East coast.

The committee will give regular reports to the local TUC and help prepare campaigns in defence of the unemployed and youth on YTS.



The march, over 2,000 strong, heads along Euston Road. Only bland words from the Labourites met them at the end. Kinnock was too busy witch hunting to show at all

David Clark said he was devastated by the news, and Jarrow MP Don Dixon described it as another nail in the coffin of the industry.

Middle Dock was re-privatised in 1982 when British Shipbuilders closed three other yards on the south side of the river. In 1984 it became part of the privatised Tyne ship repair.

After the march from Kings Cross to Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank, a rally was addressed by speakers including John Smith, MP for Monkland East, Shadow spokesman on Trade and Industry.

Smith said, 'We are not just here on an empty protest. We are not just here campaigning for sympathy.'

He told the rally that he and other Labour MPs would be putting forward three demands to the Tory government:

1. Bring forward public sector orders.
2. Best support package for British shipbuilders against fierce international competition.
3. New plan for British ship-owners to buy British ships and end the decline of the merchant fleet.

John Prescott, MP for Hull East and Shadow spokesman for Employment, addressed the lobbyists:

'The battle is on with the elections in the background.

'We'll give you every support in here but where the battle is won is outside, where people say, "Why shouldn't we have a shipping industry? Why shouldn't we have shipbuilding? Shouldn't we have reasonable standards?"

'The electorate begin to ask these questions. We'll keep posing it but you know what you've got to do — you've got to bring it home to many workers who bloody well voted Tory last time and said there is no difference between them.

'That's the reality. We have the policy. We'll campaign here but, at the end of the day, it is only part of the fight.

'You have to get the message over.'



A cheeky and defiant spirit from young workers at the rally — but the real political problems demand serious answers

PRESCOTT BLAMES WORKERS

LABOUR'S INDUSTRY spokesman Prescott says the answer to the destruction of the shipbuilding industry is to vote Labour.

However, is there a shipyard worker anywhere who believes that he is going to solve his problems and those of his fellow workers by simply putting a cross on a piece of paper when Thatcher decides to have an election?

Most of these workers have, in any case, always put their crosses for Labour.

Prescott blames workers who voted Tory. The shipyard workers could very well have replied to Prescott: 'Never mind the workers who bloody well voted Tory.'

'What about the Labour governments who were bloody well elected by us?'

What have these Labour leaders done when the whole of the North east has been laid waste? All the heavy industry which gave employment for a hundred years has been butchered.

Steelworks, shipyards, heavy engineering factories have gone.

An area which, half a life-



JOHN PRESCOTT

time ago, was crowded with mines, now has a thin strip of coalmining along the coast.

Communities died, unemployment steadily rose under Labour and Tory government.

Has Prescott got a socialist plan? And will the Labour government introduce it if he has? And what have he and other Labour leaders done about the youth?

Nothing! And that is the worst crime of all.

Capitalism destroys the forces for socialism when it destroys the youth and skills of the working class.

'We have the policy' says Prescott.

If so, he and other Labour leaders have kept it well up their sleeves.

They have not even got a policy for ending the Tory government which is now destroying the shipyards.

In last week's Workers Press we warned against the hypocrisy of these Labourites who give their ritual cries of outrage only to spread the idea that workers can do nothing except — wait for the election of a Labour government!

We called for mass occupations of the shipyards and the mobilisation of all workers facing attacks by the Tory government to force this government out of office and prepare for the tasks ahead.

We say:

- Occupy the yards!
- Demand the right to work!
- No redundancies, no closures!
- Smash the anti-union laws!
- Workers control of nationalised industries!
- End privatisation!
- Unite with printers and miners to force the Tories out!



Sacked News International printers outside Murdoch's 'Times' greet the men from the North-East on the way to the rally