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The Workers Revolutionary Party would like to thank members and supporters for the great response to our Special Fund. We now need only £104.67 to complete the Special Fund. As was reported in last week's Workers Press we have called for an international Conference of Trotskyists to reorganise the Fourth International to take place later this year. Please continue to send contributions, large or small, to help us to pay for this international work.

● Please send donations to: WRP, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS

REJECT WAPPING BETRAYAL

BRENDA DEAN and the SOGAT leadership have stabbed the year-long struggle of the 5,500 Wapping printers sacked by Rupert Murdoch's News International in the back.

This is the meaning of their cowardly decision to call off the Wapping picket. Dean and the SOGAT leadership must now be answered by the entire working class movement!

Those who have fought for the past bitter year at Wapping will not have this despicable decision imposed on them.

BY THE EDITOR

There must be a massive mobilisation of the trade union movement against Murdoch. A huge show of strength at Wapping on Saturday is now the order of the day!

Dean and the SOGAT leadership have carefully prepared for the sell-out of the year-long Wapping struggle.

For them the final straw was the 24 January 25,000 strong demonstration at Murdoch's plant. The determination of the working class to defend the Wapping printers and to answer police brutality scared the life out of the reformists and Stalinists who head the working class.

In a letter sent last week to chapel fathers (shop stewards) sacked by News International, Dean made clear she intended to call off the Wapping picket. She said that in 'continuing to organise demonstrations and refusing to discipline its members, we are very vulnerable to sequestration and a further heavy fine'.

Here is spelled out for every trade unionist the situation that they have long known to exist: the labour leaders must either police and discipline their members or face punitive fines that will lead to their bankruptcy. Their answer? To

accept Tory laws.

Dean's stab in the back comes immediately after the scab 'Times' (29 January) launched its witch-hunt on Workers Press.

Speaking of Workers Press as well as other Trotskyist groups present at Wapping that night, it said: 'The Metropolitan Police... faced those whose very creed is violence, who are contemptuous of the law, whose purpose is to provoke the forces of order into violent retaliation, by petrol bomb, paving stone or cudgel.'

There is no shred of truth in these allegations. The WRP was not responsible for the violence at Wapping. Expressed there was the determination and fighting capacity of the working class.

Even more sinister was the conclusion to the editorial carried in some editions. 'It may be the tiniest cancer but it cannot be deprived of its living cells too soon.'

What sort of language is this if not that of Germany, 1918-1919, when the revolutionary leaders of the working class such as Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were hunted down and murdered by the state — with the active connivance of the reformist labour leaders.

The sequence of events at Wapping over the last two weeks is instructive for every worker.

■ The demonstration at the Wapping plant was met with systematic police violence, against which the demonstrators, frustrated by the lack of leadership from their



The determination of thousands of trade unionists to defend the sacked printers scared the SOGAT leadership

unions, defended themselves.

■ The Labour leaders then joined in a chorus of attacks against unnamed 'Trotskyists' and 'agitators' who were allegedly responsible for the violence.

Former TUC general secretary, Lord (Len) Murray, said Wapping had become 'a Roman holiday for hooligans and Trotskyists.' Labour Front Bench spokesman Gerald Kaufman had earlier spoken of the 'leeches who fix themselves to a cause they do not assist and actively discourage'.

■ The Tories announced they will rush into law a new Public Order Act. Under this law the police will have almost unlimited powers over demonstrations and pickets including the right to decide on numbers and routes.

From 1 April a 'riot' will be defined as an assembly of 12 people who threaten life or property.

■ Encouraged by these attacks, not only does Murdoch unleash his witch-hunt against Workers Press and others, but announces he is to take further legal action against the print unions.

■ This gave the SOGAT leadership the excuse to write off the 5,500 sacked workers.

This leadership has revealed again its utter treachery.

One of the excuses Dean used to justify her call-off at Wapping is that only 630 SOGAT members are drawing strike benefit. She knows perfectly well that several hundred SOGAT members have found other temporary work, some on a casual basis with other papers. They all remain in dispute with News International.

The issues at stake in the year-long Wapping struggle are not issues for printworkers alone. They concern the basic rights of the whole working class: to belong to

organisations that can and will defend their class interests.

These rights are now under systematic attack by the capitalist state, of which the police are an integral part. This lies behind the police violence at Wapping just as it is does in the police raid against Duncan Campbell and the BBC in Scotland (see editorial 'A Sinister Trawl', page 2).

The reformist and Stalinist leaders have shown they are incapable of defending the working class. In fact they have collaborated at every stage with the Tories in preparing these attacks.

● Answer this betrayal! Mobilise action throughout the working class against Murdoch!

● All out at Wapping on Saturday!

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC LECTURES

All on FRIDAY evenings
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A sinister trawl

THE SINISTER police raid against Duncan Campbell and the BBC in Scotland is of concern to the whole working class movement.

It is a matter not simply of the rights of radical journalists but involves the advanced preparations of the capitalist state to take away every previously-won gain made by the working class in its struggle against capitalism.

It is far from clear who initiated the smash-and-grab raid on the BBC in Glasgow and whether it was authorised by Thatcher herself. But the identity of the person or persons who authorised it is secondary. The fact is that the police and the rest of the state machine are increasingly being revealed as a power unto themselves, answerable to nobody, certainly not to parliament.

The Public Order Act, due to come into operation on 1 April, will give the police almost total powers over the re-routing and size of demonstrations. Actions of the type organised at Wapping would become illegal.

The trawl of the BBC is but the latest effort to transform it into an institution subordinated to the immediate needs of the capitalist state. Even the semblance of a supposed 'objectivity' can now no longer be tolerated.

The Thatcher government last year instructed the BBC to stop the 'Real Lives' programme on which Sinn Fein councillor Martin McGuinness was interviewed. Tory Party chairman Norman Tebbit attacked the BBC for its supposedly biased coverage of the Malvinas war and the bombing raids on Libya.

The government was behind the sacking of BBC director-general Alasdair Milne, the man who failed to grovel sufficiently to its requirements.

If the raid on the BBC has further exposed the character of the capitalist state, it has also served to underline once more the nature of the Labour leadership.

When the Zircon spy satellite issue was first raised, Kinnock attacked the government for 'bungling inefficiency', and for allowing 'national security' to be endangered.

In last week's House of Commons debate he again emerged as unashamed defender of the police. Thatcher was 'killing the rule of law,' he said, 'and with it the reputation of the police'. Miners who went through their bloody battles with the police — like every worker who has been to Wapping — know only too well the deserved reputation of the police. They are an instrument of capitalist rule, bent on smashing the resistance of the working class. Kinnock has once more opened the way for this latest round of attacks.

Kinnock is talking about the 'security' not of workers and their organisations — who like those journalists working to expose the machinations of the state are under attack from it — but of the capitalist class, whose interests that state represents.

Kinnock is similarly concerned with the 'security' of British interests in Ireland, the 'security' of the NATO military alliance and the 'security' afforded to the capitalist class by legal restraints against unions.

Kinnock's reactionary activities are another warning of what the working class can expect from any future government which he might lead.

Property and Rape

FOR capitalism human life counts for nothing compared with the defence of private property, as the sentences passed last week in the 'Ealing vicarage case' reveal starkly.

Two men who had brutally raped a young woman were given three and five years — while the professional thief who actually attempted to stop the rape was jailed for 14 years for burglary.

Even Ealing Vicar, Michael Saward, said the sentences suggested that property was more important than people.

FIGHT DEPORTATIONS!

Labour Party backs Viraj

THE Labour Party NEC has now unanimously passed a resolution in support of Viraj Mendis' right to stay in Britain.

This follows the adoption of Viraj by Amnesty International and the emergency resolution of support passed at the Anti-Apartheid Movement's annual general meeting in January.

The Labour Party NEC resolution notes recent reports which have all made the point forcibly that not only Tamil activists in Sri Lanka are at risk, but also their supporters.

In the light of these reports and Mendis' 13 years' residence in Britain the resolution calls on Douglas Hurd 'to use the compassionate discretion available to him to reverse this inhuman deportation order'.

● Support has been snowballing for Viraj, who is in sanctuary in a Manchester church.

A great boost was the latest message of support from the Irish Republican Prisoners of War in the 'A' wing of Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. The message reads:

'To comrade Viraj, in soli-

arity and the hope that you will succeed in your immediate struggle against deportation so that you can continue your wider revolutionary work'.

The note was written by Gerry Kelly, recently extradited from Amsterdam, and signed by 38 other PoW's.

Meanwhile the defence campaign (VMDC) is organising a national conference against deportations on 11 and 12 April.

With over 50 black people deported from Britain every week there is a growing movement against the racist

immigration laws. The VMDC sees the conference as an opportunity for uniting all these campaigns and to forge a unity in action.

There will be a motion to the conference for a national demonstration against the immigration laws during the run-up to the general election.

The VMDC urges all organisations, trade unions and individuals to send delegations to the conference and to sponsor the costs.

● For all those wishing to help organise this conference there is a meeting at the Church of the Ascension on Wednesday 11 February at 7.30p.m. Or contact VMDC c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, Manchester M15 5AL

Walter can stay!

WALTER YAO's appeal against deportation has been upheld and he has been granted an 'indefinite stay' permit.

Walter, who has lived in Britain since 1972, was refused re-entry following a ten-month absence when he returned to Ghana in July 1985 because of his father's death. Illness delayed his return. His wife, to whom he has been married for six years, has lived in this country for 25 years.

Family wins reprieve

THE Iranian Mashadimirza family, whose fight against deportation has been reported in Workers Press, received a 12-month reprieve on their case in December.

The Home Office withdrew its deportation orders against Rahim, his wife Djamilah, and their two-year-old son Ronad as well as Rahim's brother Kamran, after an intense public campaign.

The Rahim family applied for poli-

tical asylum, afraid of persecution should they return to Khomeini's Iran. In a letter to the family, Home Office minister David Waddington wrote: 'I have decided, not to enforce the removal of Rahim, his wife, son or brother Kamran. All of them will be allowed to stay in the UK for 12 months.'

Although this is a great victory for the family the campaign will remain vigilant for what may happen in a year.

Fight for all victimised workers

BY JOHN SIMMANCE

LAST WEEK'S London meeting of the Justice for Mineworkers' Campaign linked the fight for all victimised workers with the campaign for the release of all jailed miners and the reinstatement of the 500 miners still sacked by British Coal.

John Moyle, sacked chair of Betteshanger NUM in Kent, said the whole trade union movement is lined up to be attacked.

'In the past disputes would end with a compromise over a cup of tea, and then back to some sort of normality. That is finished.

'We have tried to maintain the miners' support groups since the strike. Some said they were finished, but we still have 500 victimised miners to support.'

He spoke of the prospects for a Labour government: 'How can we choose between Kinnock and Len Murray? Kinnock has never said we will get our jobs back, and Murray has now shown his loyalty to his new team in the House of Lords.'

'I have survived, despite enormous problems,' he concluded. 'I have lost out on my pension rights after 20 years working in the pit. But when I visited Jack Collins (Kent NUM secretary) three days before he died, Jack said to me: can you walk with your head up? That shows we are right.'

Liz Shaw, sacked FoC from 'The Times', said the printers were the 'next-best organised workers', and linked police brutality in the

miners' strike and at Wapping.

'The avenues in the Wapping dispute are closing,' she said. 'There is not enough money even to print leaflets. But people don't give up even if there seems no way forward.'

'Two ballots have overwhelmingly rejected Murdoch's offers. We have had five so-called final offers and our struggle has not been for money but for the fundamental freedoms.'

Liz said 99 per cent of their efforts had to be directed to the leadership of print unions SOGAT and the NGA who are doing deals in Fleet Street which have sold working conditions and 10,000 jobs.

'It has now been reported that both unions are to try and discipline those individuals involved in clashes with the police at last week's march, and the NGA intends to use scab videos to pick them out.'

'SOGAT were going to use the videos, but then declined. They are lukewarm to defend those arrested.'

All speakers agreed the trade unions should organise their own inquiry into police brutality at the Wapping anniversary march. Alan Barnes, one of 300 sacked workers at Hangers' artificial limb-makers, explained that 'one thread brings us together — the mob of gangsters who run our industries.'

'BTR, who own Hangers, have links with South Africa, where they treat their workers badly.'

Irene Scott from Silent-night said their union FTAT had dumped them. The time had come to build trade unions where no one crossed picket lines.

Peter Heathfield, secretary of the NUM, called for full support for the Telecom engineers, but warned the strikers to be on guard for a sell-out.

● South East region of the Justice for Mineworkers can provide speakers: contact 190 Shepherds Bush Road, London W6. John Simmance, 960-5354 or 603-1831.

● Rally and Heroes concert on Sunday 29 March at the Piccadilly Theatre.

Hangers' leaders crawl

THE strike committee at J. Hangers, artificial limb-makers, were called to a meeting last Tuesday with leading officials of the two unions involved, TASS and FTAT.

The committee went believing the meeting was to discuss strengthening the five-month dispute but found they were being urged by the officials to recommend a return to work.

The deal the union officials were trying to sell was that instead of the four union representatives sacked at the start of the dispute there would now be eight named men the company would not re-recruit. The acceptance of this black-listing by the company was recommended by the officials as the 'best possible deal'.

After many hours of argument, during which two of the strike committee walked out in disgust, a vote was finally taken with a majority of one to recommend a return to work at the following day's mass meeting.

However the next day those officials who were prepared to lick BTR's boots (Hangers' owners) received a slap in the face from the company itself. The InterMed board, the group to which Hangers belongs, vetoed the deal saying Hangers management had no right to offer it.

The union officials who throughout have resisted any attempt to shut down Hangers' other plants or even to stop working overtime will now concentrate on forcing the InterMed board to accept the Hangers' offer and sell this 'victory' to the men.

In the same week that print union leaders worked hard to end picketing at Wapping, officials at the 'left' unions of TASS and FTAT tried to persuade an employer to accept black-listing.

Miners' art

The Young Unknowns Gallery in The Cut, London SE1 invites submissions of artistic work about miners and their lives to commemorate the 1984-5 strike. The exhibition will run from 2-27 March. Phone 01-928-3415 or 01-737-8165.

Northern print jobs go

BY SUE GWYER

MANCHESTER Daily Mail FoCs (shop stewards) heard the 300 job losses announced over the PA system and on Ceefax while they were with managing director John Waddington in mid-January.

At that time it was just the figures: 300 out of 700 jobs to go.

The details came out later: copy room, library, subs table, type-setters and comps were to go. The Mail has decided to abandon page production in Manchester entirely.

According to the UK Press Gazette (January 26) rumour has it that the Daily Express will do the same, raising new questions about the future of their Manchester Ancoats complex, also home to the northern independent Daily Star.

The Telegraph's small remaining Manchester team are also half expecting more redundancies.

The Mail management plan was put into effect immediately after the announcement. On the editorial floor all district men joined the queue for the long white envelopes.

Arthur Perrin of the print union NGA said the job losses signify the demise of national newspapers in Manchester. He claimed the centralisation of the

news industry was propagating the north-south divide.

'People of the north will soon only be able to read London-based news,' he said.

John Womersley, the Mail's northern editor, argued: 'Instant electronic communications have changed the economics of the industry. Things are changing and it no longer makes sense to have two page-production centres.'

'Now that it takes two minutes to get a page here rather than eight hours of trundling on wheels, it does not matter where they are actually put together and it is logical to do it at one centre.'

The Mail has kept up its manning levels in the north longer than any other paper, he went on to boast.

The NUJ's northern organiser Colin Bourne said: 'It just isn't cost-effective for them to worry about the north but we can fight on compulsory redundancy and on terms, with London's support. At the moment we're being offered three week's money for each year of service.'

As the printers at the Express lie in wait for bad news, print leaders are noticeably quiet about the loss of Manchester jobs — the last thing they want is action in Manchester simultaneously with Wapping.

COUNCIL WORKERS AT BATTLE STATIONS

Newham fights rate-capping

THE LONDON borough of Newham answered Tory rate-capping with a borough-wide strike last Wednesday.

Only essential services were maintained as the 12,000 council labour force struck for half a day to march through the community and lobby parliament.

The government is imposing a cut of £35 million in this year's council budget.

The massive protest had been organised by a novel coalition of council workers' unions, voluntary service groups, teachers, parents, tenants and the Labour group on the council.

The 'Fair Deal for Newham Working Party' had taken the campaign out to local shopping centres and markets to ensure maximum community support.

Over 6,000 marchers assembled in Central Park to hear NUT leader Fred Jarvis bring the support of the TUC and his own union, who were solidly on strike throughout the borough.

Jarvis had no answer for hecklers who wanted to

BY BOB ARCHER

know why 70 members of the neighbouring Inner London Teachers Association have been disciplined for taking strike action.

On the march, big contingents from the NUT, GMBATU, NUPE, TGWU and NALGO were joined by the Theatre Royal Stratford East, the Tom Allen Centre, playgroups and tenants' associations and many other community groups.

At a rally at Stratford following the march, Labour council leader Fred Jones thanked everybody for participating in the march.

He said that the day's events were just the beginning of the campaign against ratecapping.

'We must go out and get other authorities working in the same way', he said, 'so that we are not isolated like Liverpool and Lambeth.'

'We cannot win in Newham alone. We must widen it', Jones said.

An angry heckler asked whether the Labour council was prepared to set a deficit budget. Jones answered that

the question had not been decided yet.

Another member of the audience asked why Newham had not supported Liverpool and Lambeth councils when they had taken up a fight against Tory government-imposed cuts.

Jones rapidly drew his remarks to a close.

He was followed by Telecom striker David Feltham (NCU City branch) who briefly outlined the experience of two weeks on strike and said: 'You don't wait till next year to vote in a new government, you fight now and you fight in your workplace.'

'A victory for us is a victory for you and a victory for everybody.'

Newham is the second most deprived borough in England, with unemployment rates, housing and social problems that put it on a par with Belfast and Naples.

For years under Thatcher the Council — 100 per cent Labour — tried to avoid a fight by using creative accounting and greater 'efficiency'.

Now they have discovered that the 'dented shield' gives no protection at all.

'In 1980 we took job cuts for productivity and efficiency. It's been proved to be a lie.

DAVID FORBES, school-keeper and GMBATU shop steward, said there were several reasons for the big turn-out on the march.

'There is the ratecapping and what it means for our jobs.

'GMBATU members are not only employees but ratepayers of the borough.

'The government has placed strong restraints on the council budget over the last few years.

'We have been saving money on jobs, reducing hours worked and materials used, and we have achieved real savings.

'Now they feel all the hard work they have done has gone for nothing.

'School-keepers have taken a full day on strike. We feel the services we provide are very important.

'We want to show not just central government but the ratepayers what they will be missing.

'We didn't want to hurt the underprivileged but we wanted to show what the cuts would mean'.

emotional support and relief to the families that the centre offers.

JOHN MARSDEN, Branch Secretary, Newham Confederation of Health Service Employees, attended the march on behalf of all the Health Service unions in the borough.

'All the Health Service unions support this action', he said, 'because they have supported us. The NHS is in the same state as the borough.

'Queen Mary's hospital has been closed. We are so short staffed that it was difficult to get a big turn-out of our people here.'

VIC TURNER, chairman of the Newham Joint Trade Union Committee, told 'Workers Press':

'We see this as the unification of the working people of Newham. This is the launching pad.

'Don't ever forget that over the years manual and white-collar workers have suffered cuts. They have agreed cuts for "efficiency". This (rate-capping) proves it was a false route.

'That has to stop. We have to protect our jobs. We have to show the ratepayers that ratecapping is an evil, that it cuts their services.

JOE STANDEN, Secretary of Newham Teachers' Association (NUT) explained the solid support by teachers for the strike and march:

'Teachers have been in action from the start in the Newham Joint Trade Union Committee.

'The education budget was cut 5 per cent last year and we are down to lose £8 million this year.

We have excellent relations with the craft and manual unions. Teachers in Newham are predominantly working class.

'We are prepared to march and join in the action.

'We've told the authority to put the lost wages aside for nursery education.

'Newham is the poorest education authority in Britain. We have been trashed once by the loss of the docks and we are not going to be trashed again.

THE STAFF of the Arragon Road Day Centre for the Elderly had come on the march because the cuts would put the work of their centre at risk.

Their clients are very frail and elderly, and if the centre was closed down they would lose the social opportunities,



Council workers, teachers, parents, tenants associations, community groups and others joined in the 6,000-strong demonstration through Newham last week

Liverpool pays for 'creative accounting'

BY BILL HUNTER

LIVERPOOL Labour Council, which in the past conducted a struggle against the Tory cuts, is now facing all the consequences of the so-called 'creative accounting' which it used in the end to escape from confrontation.

Two years ago the Militant was hailing as a great victory the financial juggling which only postponed attacks on the council Labour force and on Liverpool communities.

The chickens have been coming home to roost for some time as the Council has made cuts in voluntary services, closed community buildings and re-organised the council work-force.

Now it has retreated so far that it faces a strike over privatisation.

Last Wednesday a meeting of 1,000 council workers employed by the Parks and Open Spaces Department decided unanimously to take strike action from Monday February 8.

They are demanding the withdrawal of the Council's plans to hand landscape gardening over to private contract.

The mass meeting took place after landscape gardeners, led by Ian Lowes, Chairman of the council's joint shop stewards' committee and supporter of the Militant, occupied Municipal Buildings and locked out council officials.

The Parks and Gardens workers declare that 48 jobs are at risk and demand talks with the council and withdrawal of privatisation plans.

Meanwhile, parents and teachers in Aigburth, in south Liverpool, are angered at the decision of the council's education committee to sell off the Morrison Wing of the Calderstones Comprehensive school.

Secret negotiations have been going on with a retail chain who see the area as a prime site for a superstore.

Parents and teachers have circulated a petition against this closure, which will mean that children will be transferred to mobile units erected next to the other buildings.

There is opposition inside the Labour Party. One ward has already passed a resolution attacking the decision.

The Labour council could very well face an occupation, like the famous Croxteth school occupation against the previous Liberal council.

NUPE 'no' to schemes

GOVERNMENT plans to extend Youth Training Schemes in hospitals are being bitterly opposed by NUPE, which represents 80,000 nurses.

The proposal is for untrained youngsters to work 'alongside nurses' as a 'solution' to the level of nurse recruitment.

Mr John Dempsey, Nupe West Midlands Divisional Officer, emphasised that the scheme has all the hallmarks of Thatcherism.

Manchester struggles against cuts

MANY disputes are erupting in the Manchester area, giving a glimpse of the effect of Thatcher's policies.

The Ancoats Action Committee have been occupying the hospital casualty unit which was closed at the end of January. On February 3, cleaners porters and catering staff staged a one-day strike in support of the committee.

Withington Hospital has also been forced to close its casualty department since February 4.

Firemen at Manchester airport are striking against new staffing levels and bonus schemes. Paul McDermott, TGWU convenor, has insisted that safety standards must be maintained or improved.

Fifty thousand passengers

have been bussed elsewhere since the strike.

The strikers have said they prefer inconvenience to passengers to dead passengers.

As Kinnock lays plans for the election campaign, so many strikes in Manchester must cause him concern.

TWO HUNDRED council workers belonging to the GMBATU occupied Manchester Town Hall council chambers on Wednesday, causing the regular monthly meeting of city councillors to be disbanded.

The workers, who have now been on strike for three weeks, are seeking the implementation of the 35 hour week, which is city council policy.



Staff from Arragon Road Day Centre for the Aged were at the forefront of the rally in Central Park, East Ham

THE DEMONSTRATION to mark the 15th anniversary of Bloody Sunday last weekend in Sheffield was a determined one. A fascist counter-demonstration was quickly broken up.

A group of fascists and Ulster loyalists who appeared with Union Jacks as the march entered the city centre were dispersed by a posse of demonstrators, who returned to their places in the march before the police could intervene.

The march was headed by banners from the Irish in Britain Representation Group, Republican prisoners' support committees, the Labour Committee on Ireland and Troops Out. The Rising Phoenix and Crossmaglen Patriots' flute bands from Scotland played.

The small number of trade union delegations showed once again that the organised working class has yet to face up to the Irish question: the honourable exceptions who were there included a group of sacked Yorkshire miners and the Oxford and Hammersmith-Fulham Trades Councils.

Other contingents included Sheffield Women On Ireland Group, WRP/Workers Press, Workers Power, the Revolutionary Communist Group and the Socialist Workers Party.

The largest contingent was from the Revolutionary Communist Party. They had been excluded from the organising committee by 'left' Labourites who had hoped to present a 'respectable' face to the disgraceful chauvinists of the Labour-controlled Sheffield council, who banned a Bloody Sunday commemoration in the city four years ago.



The Workers Revolutionary Party contingent on last weekend's march in Sheffield to commemorate the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry 15 years ago.

Bloody Sunday march

THE MEETING packed the City Halls.

There was initial pandemonium when members of the Irish Freedom Movement, who had made up at least one quarter of the 4,000-strong march, clambered onto the platform to demand the right to have a speaker.

As stewards from the Troops Out Movement tried to clear the stage supporters of the Irish Freedom Movement got to their feet to chant 'Free speech for Ireland' and 'You are stewarding for Blunkett'. The meeting could not begin.

BY PAUL HENDERSON

A demagogic attempt by the chair to restore order by saying 'Silence for the Sinn Fein speaker,' failed when it became clear that the Sinn Fein speaker was not about to speak and eventually victory was conceded to the Irish Freedom Movement.

The first speaker, from the Irish in Britain Representation Group, said there had been many Bloody Sundays in the history of Ireland, but we were remembering one in which the people killed were of military age and male and

were shot in the back.

'They were selected targets,' he said, 'because Irish people have not accepted British occupation and never will.'

Views on Ireland are changing amongst British workers, he pointed out, and when at Wapping police were told by pickets to go to Derry, this was not due to any feeling that the police would be more useful in Derry.

'It is because in Derry they know what to do with the police. A few years ago this would not be heard.

'We are told that Labour supports the Irish people but we remember who sent the troops in' (loud applause).

'We don't want a load more false promises.

'Those who try to place conditions on their support for the liberation movement should remember Lenin's view: that even the grain merchants in Egypt should be supported in their fight against imperialism.'

Next to speak was Tony Tocherty, whose father was one of those killed on Bloody Sunday.

He pointed out that victims of imperialist oppression were to be found amongst the Loyalists as well as in the Catholic population.

'There are many unemployed on the Shankhill Road,' he said. The difference between us is that we don't expect anything else but oppression.

'The will of the people is not shattered. That is why there will be Bloody Mondays and Wednesdays and Thursdays and every other day of the week.

'There will be many campaigns to quell our resistance. The machinery for creating Bloody Sundays is intact and in perfect working order,' he warned.

The speaker from the Irish Freedom Movement did not mention Bloody Sunday at all, which angered a large part of the audience.

Instead, after briefly declaring unconditional support for the struggle against imperialism, he launched into an attack on the organisation of the rally and the fact that the Irish Freedom Movement had been excluded from the organising committee.

Jean Giddens brought greetings to the rally from Women Against Pit Closures.

She explained that 1984,

the year of the miners' strike, was the year that she had begun to learn.

'I realised that people under this system are not people, just a workforce to be used,' she said.

'All my life I had been absorbing opinions that somebody else had wanted me to absorb.

'I no longer think South Africa is not part of my business and when I was invited here to speak about Ireland, my only hesitation was because I didn't think I knew enough.'

The next speaker was given a standing ovation.

She was Brenda Downes, whose husband was killed by a plastic bullet at the Anti-Internment Rally in Belfast in 1984.

She described how her husband had been shot at point blank range.

Holding a plastic bullet in her hand, Brenda said 'These are bullets of repression...'

'They tell us that these are weapons of 'minimum force' but how could a weapon of minimum force have killed 16 people and maimed and blinded scores of others?'

A speaker from the Asian Youth Movement said the

Labour Party had betrayed black people, as they had the oppressed in Ireland.

The fact that the Irish Republican Socialist Party had been barred from speaking made him feel that the organising committee had been unwilling to offend the Labour Party.

'The Labour Party will change its tune to whatever suits it at the time,' he said, 'so we should not worry about offending them'.

He described the history of British rule in India as one of murder and oppression.

'That is what unites us with the oppressed people in Ireland,' he said.

He ended with a call to support the Sheffield 5 and oppose the immigration laws.

Finally the rally was addressed by Tommy Karlin from Derry Sinn Fein who said those who were at the rally were helping their own cause in Britain, as well as the oppressed in Ireland.

'Britain is using Ireland as a testing ground for anti-working class tactics,' he said, 'but the aim of the Republicans is to end British rule in Ireland.'

'We intend to do this, to end injustice and oppression, sooner rather than later.'

Condemn McGlinchey Murder

THE WORKERS Revolutionary Party condemns without reservation the brutal assassination of Mary McGlinchey at her home in Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland.

The 31-year-old wife of Dominic McGlinchey, former chief of staff of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), was shot down while bathing her two young sons when masked gunmen burst into her home.

McGlinchey, who is serving a ten-year jail sentence in Portlaoise prison, was refused permission to attend his wife's funeral.

Although the motives for the recent killings in the INLA — military wing of the Irish Republican Socialist Party — are not clear, involvement by British secur-

ity forces with or without the knowledge of the Irish government should not be ruled out.

A spokesman for the INLA Army Council has denied any connection with the murder. But he did admit that three out of four factions who have decided to disband the organisation were responsible for the deaths of INLA Chief of Staff John O'Reilly and Thomas Power in Drogheda two weeks ago.

Both O'Reilly and Power were closely associated with Mary McGlinchey.

The recent revelations from the Stalker inquiry, the role of M16 and its penetration throughout Ireland, all testify to the fact that the British state, its military, police and secret agents are active in Ireland — on both sides of the border.

Aquino wins vote

BY KEITH SCOTCHER

CORAZON AQUINO has won backing for a new constitution and will be installed as President of the Philippines for the next six years following the referendum on February 2. Technically, Aquino was never elected but headed a 'revolutionary government' ruling by decree.

The vote is no more than a critical 'yes' for a return to 'democracy'.

Under the new constitution which is 22,000 words in length and has been read by only a handful of people, she will be President without having to seek a new election but will lose her dictatorial powers and will hold local and national elections.

The constitution was opposed by the left, the Communist Party, the KMT trade unions, landless peasants and the Islamic Moro Liberation forces as a sell-out to foreign control of the economy which does not solve basic problems such as land reform.

The status of the army in the government following the referendum is unclear. Mrs Aquino will have to ask the army commanders to swear allegiance to her.

Following the seizure of TV stations and military camps by Marcos supporters in the army, Aquino threatened recriminations — the troops were ordered to do 30 press-ups when they returned to barracks.

No action has been taken against marines who massacred 20 landless peasants marching to ask Aquino for land, a main demand of the 'peoples power' revolution.

Two more were killed on another march protesting at the massacre.

Kasama, newsletter of the Philippines Support Group, reports that a retired US general, John Singlaub, who was involved in organising the Contras against the Nicaraguan revolution, is now organising 'anti-communist' forces in the Philippines.

He was named as having been involved in the Iran-Contra arms scandal.

A sergeant of the Military Intelligence Group has been charged with the murder of Rolando Olalia, leader of the KMT trade union organisation, and a 'confidential agent' of the Defence Ministry has been charged with complicity, pointing to the involvement of ex-Defence Minister Enrile.

Enrile has admitted that US warships have been allowed to enter Philippines ports with nuclear weapons on board with Aquino's permission.

The European Common Market has got involved in what is described as a 'conscientious counter-insurgency effort' in the Philippines. The EEC is pouring \$20 million into development projects in the Cordillera Mountains of Northern Luzon, the ancestral land of one million indigenous people. The areas chosen are all areas of poverty and guerilla activity.

It is an attempt to reduce support for the New Peoples Army. Aid is badly needed in these areas but the money will be under the control of a Cordillera Central Development Programme to be run 'like a private company' with no local control.

The EEC is keen to promote European goods in the Philippines and to try to break the 'US/Japan stranglehold' on imports.

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

LONG LARTIN
 HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ
 LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.
 JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.
 EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637.
 ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.
 GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.
 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
 NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence 879225.
 PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603.
 GERRY McDONNELL: Life sentence, B75882.
 PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.
 TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence 69204.
 PETER SHERRY: Life sentence, B75880.

WAKEFIELD
 HM Prison Wakefield, Wakefield, W Yorks, WF2 9AG
 HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636.
 NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

ALBANY
 HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS
 MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.
 HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.
 BILLY GRIMES:
 SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.
 SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.

GARTREE
 HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP
 RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.
 STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence 758663.
 JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635.
 ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham
 WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085.
 BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.
 PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.
 CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.
 EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.

LEICESTER
 HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ
 PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.
 BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.
 PATRICK McGEE: Life sentence, B75881.

WORMWOOD SCRUBS
 HM Prison, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, London W12 0AE
 DONAL CRAIG: 4 years.

DURHAM
 HM Prison Durham, Old Elvert Street, Durham.
 MARTINA ANDERSON: Life sentence, D25134.
 ELLA O'DWYER: Life sentence, D25135.
 VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.

REMAND PRISONERS: BRIXTON
 HM Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London SW2 5XF.
 MICHAEL J MCKENNEY: L46486
 G. (DANNY) McNAMEE: L48616

WORMWOOD SCRUBS
 LIAM QUINN: L49930

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:
 CAROLE RICHARDSON: 290719, HM Prison Styal, Wilmstow, Cheshire
 PATRICK ARMSTRONG: HM Prison Gartree.
 PAUL HILL: 462778, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
 GERARD CONLON: 462779, HM Prison Long Lartin.
 JUDITH WARD, HM Prison Durham.
 HUGH CALLAGHAN, 509499, HM Prison Gartree.
 JOHN WALKER, 509494, HM Prison, Long Lartin.
 BILLY POWER, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
 GERARD HUNTER, 509495, HM Prison Frankland.
 RICHARD McILKENNY, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
 PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree.
 They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

MEMORIAL MEETING

NAHUEL MORENO

1924-1987

THE continuity of the struggle for the Fourth International was the key-note of the memorial meeting held last Monday 2 February at Friends' Meeting House, London, to pay tribute to the life-work of Trotskyist Nahuel Moreno.

The meeting was called by the Workers Revolutionary Party at the request of the LIT (International Workers League) whose representative had only just arrived in England on a fraternal visit when the news of Moreno's death was received.

The platform consisted of comrades from various Trotskyist organisations who had accepted the WRP's invitation to speak.

Chairman Bill Hunter, opening the meeting, said Comrade Moreno made the arduous journey to Britain towards the end of last year despite serious risk to his deteriorating health, specifically in order to further the struggle for the Fourth International.

WRP Central Committee member Cliff Slaughter said there was no doubt Moreno was politically a very big man but stressed the question of the fight to make sure there was a Fourth International. That it was not destroyed was not a question only for individuals in the movement: it was the question for the whole working class and ultimately for the whole of mankind in this epoch.

There is not the slightest doubt that Comrade Moreno's main concentration in these last few months was to do everything he could and to summon up what was after all a unique experience, and maturity from that experience, to make sure the movement could take advantage of the opening for the construction of the Fourth International which has now begun to appear.

He knew that opportunity had to be grasped. He made the journey to Europe knowing very well the risks to his health. That's the importance he gave to it. The trip he made was scheduled already for another comrade before these possibilities arose. He took that on his shoulders. And I want to say this: from the standpoint of the Workers Revolutionary Party, we know the death of Comrade Moreno will leave a big gap.

We have confidence in the comrades we've met in the LIT who want to go forward for the construction of the Fourth International and to bring together all these forces who want to build the world party in Europe and Latin America.

But we know that the experience and the maturity and the ability to combine principle and flexibility which comes only with experience is something that made it possible for us to begin a relationship in which this construction of the world party prom-

ises very much over the next year — that's why we made that call in the Workers Press from the Central Committee last week.

'We know the death of Comrade Moreno will make that more difficult and, without being presumptuous in any way, as we tried to say in the call, we understand also very well that Comrade Moreno's death places a very big responsibility, a much bigger responsibility, on everybody in the Workers Revolutionary Party than they had before.

'We're not making some kind of funeral speeches — then we've finished with it. Quite the contrary. We believe first of all that what blew up the WRP, the old WRP of Healy and its International Committee, was the strength of the working class — the beginnings of a new rise of the working class, under conditions where many tendencies in the movement had in their various ways begun to write off the working class, to look for all kinds of petty bourgeois and protest movements and single issue politics which would replace the revolutionary force of the working class.

'So that the decisive struggle — to give political independence to the working class through building independent Bolshevik leadership — was devalued, broken down. Now that was brought back to the front. It broke up the WRP because when the working class came forward and especially in the miners' strike, which was a concentration of a whole new round of imperialist contradictions internationally — it wasn't a one-off.

'It is not at all accidental that it was followed within a year and a half with a renewal of very big struggles in France for the first time in nearly 20 years, with almost a repetition of the pattern of the students first and then the working class coming in as if lightning had struck.

'And that doesn't come just from France any more than the miners' strike came just from Britain. This is what is posed before all those who want to build the world party of socialist revolution.

'It has posed before us all the inadequacy, the fact that we haven't yet solved the problems of building these parties and im-



NAHUEL MORENO

planting big parties for Trotskyism in the working class — but we have entered a period where the necessity of that is going to be born in us as a life-and-death matter.

'That's what's going to be missing when you're talking about 4 million unemployed, when you're talking about the miners' strike which involved the extinction of whole communities. That's what it was about.

'Is it insignificant,' asked Slaughter, 'that many comrades have come back into the movement who've been out of it for decades in the last year? That people are talking to each other in the Trotskyist movement? Maybe they're going to argue and fall out or continue with the falling out as they've had before.

'But is it accidental that on the world scale it is possible to renew contact and initiate a discussion in which there will be no holds barred, in which the differences will be clear? There's a reason why all that comes about. I believe Com-

rade Moreno's determination to put this task above all others and for us to get the response that we got from these comrades is because it was opened up for us by the struggle of the working class.

'I only want to say this — it may be a very banal conclusion: The death of Comrade Moreno poses that responsibility before everybody here. Neither Comrade Moreno nor any other Trotskyist would want any mourning. He would want the lesson of his struggle to be learned by everybody; that there's nothing else worth doing except the building of this international leadership, and that a big step forward in the possibility for that now confronts us.

'That's the attitude of the Workers Revolutionary Party towards the death of Comrade Moreno. I want to make it very plain . . . we regard Moreno as a comrade. We regard him as a heroic revolutionary fighter. He was one of us. This movement in Latin America is a continuation of the work of Trotsky, and the work of the Workers Revolutionary Party

is a continuation of the work of Trotsky and the Bolsheviks and the October Revolution. These will come together in the building of the world party of socialist revolution.'

Comrades from the Socialist Labour Group, Socialist Viewpoint, Socialist Organiser and Lutte Ouvriere then paid tribute to Hugo Moreno. While they made several criticisms of Moreno, they all stressed his outstanding role as one of the very few who had maintained the Trotskyist movement in face of the attempts by Stalinism to destroy it.

During the course of the meeting Comrade Bill Hunter read out a series of messages from organisations in different parts of the world, including one from Ernest Mandel which is produced on this page.

A comrade from the French section of the LIT spoke movingly about Moreno as friend and comrade.

Leon Perez of the LIT made it clear he took serious note of all the criticisms raised about Comrade Moreno's contribution to the Trotskyist struggle and said that he would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with those concerned on another occasion.

He said that Moreno's biggest contribution to the movement was not the MAS, his Party in the Argentine, but the continuity of his struggle for the Fourth International.

Moreno understood himself that without an international Party his own party, the MAS, would not succeed in its political goal.

It cannot and will not succeed, Comrade Perez went on, without the assistance of an international movement.

'We don't want another Bolivia 1952-1953; we do not want another Vietnam 1946-1948; we don't want another Sri Lanka like in 1964 — we don't want another defeat of the Trotskyist movement.

'We really believe the Trotskyist movement is and will be in a position to lead the working class to power in many countries in the next decade and we desperately need the assistance of the Fourth International movement.

'That's why Moreno had dedicated all his time, all his energy, particularly after he was ill and knew it . . . to make trips to meet with other leaders to discuss and try to convince other comrades in the Trotskyist movement to reorganise as fast as we could the movement that we need to succeed in Argentina, in England and in every other place in the world.'

The following message from Ernest Mandel, one of the leaders of the Unified Secretariat, was read to the meeting.

'The death of Comrade Moreno has touched all of us very deeply. With him disappears one of the last representatives of a handful of leading comrades who, after the World War II, maintained a continuity of the struggle of Leon Trotsky in difficult conditions when our movement was still very isolated. Beyond the divergencies that separated us we were united by the same determination to maintain that continuity against all odds.

Today in many countries that isolation has ended and transformed into evident possibilities of growth because of the joint crisis of capitalism, imperialism and Stalinism combined with the growing combativity of the working class. The facts confirm that Moreno's generation, the same as mine, has not fought in vain.

We will remember him above all for his fight to forge working-class cadre capable of fighting for the political independence of the Argentine proletariat, one of the most militant in the world, and for his efforts to spread the writings and thoughts of Leon Trotsky.

We extend our fraternal condolences to his party the MAS; to his family and his closer comrades and friends.

Facing death revolutionaries don't abdicate: they proclaim the permanence of life, the struggle of the revolution.

- Long live the Argentinian and Latin American working class!
- Long live the world socialist revolution!
- Long live the Fourth International!



Chairman Bill Hunter (WRP) addressing the meeting

FRANCE

WHAT is the political significance of the Chirac government abandoning its plans for university reform? Why did they do this?

D.A.: The defeat of the Chirac government was of very great importance. It can no longer govern as before in any field. It is a government in crisis.

The government was forced to withdraw its university reform in the face of an unprecedented movement of youth who, from 6 December 1986 and the assassination of a young demonstrator by the police, posed the direct threat of the struggle extending to the working class who had their own demands — like the SNCF (railways), the RATP (Paris transport) and the EDF-GDF (gas and electricity).

The threat of joint action between student youth and workers was decisive in Chirac's decision to withdraw his university reform Bill. Since then, the political situation in the country has changed.

WHAT exactly were the reforms Chirac wanted to introduce and what was their purpose?

D.A.: The reforms emphasised selection, calling into question the legal equality of education for everyone. Basically it attempted to adapt the education system to the capitalist crisis by introducing the privatisation of the universities, questioning education's role as a public service.

Concretely this meant a substantial increase in registration fees, the possibility of special competitive exams over and above the ordinary examinations for university entrance and for advancing from one part of the course to the next; the 'autonomy of the universities' meant each degree would no longer have national status, only local, introducing competition between the different universities which would also mean the possibility of private financing and the end of state support.

THE student movement included all students, from universities down to teenagers in schools. Why was the radicalisation so large? What sort of organisation did the students have?

D.A.: The strike was total in the universities. We then went to campaign among the high school students (lyceens). But while the organisation was good in the universities, the school students expressed a forceful, spontaneous revolt with very little organisation.

We set a clear goal: the total withdrawal of the reform Bill — and we wanted to win this goal. The anarchists and even the Communist Party derided this as a very limited goal, without seeing how important a victory would be.

It was around this goal that the strike movement became general, combining the different levels of consciousness among university and high school students. It was also around this goal that unity became possible, including even those who were prepared to accept simple reworking of Chirac's Bill (The Socialist Party).

With this goal the democracy and the control of the movement were total. The students borrowed the best traditions of a century of workers' struggles, such as the Paris Commune of 1871. But it was the first time direct democracy at strike level functioned so well



A demonstration in Paris last December at the height of the students' movement

THE STUDENTS' STRUGGLE

among students on a national scale.

Take for example my university at Jussieu. Each faculty general assembly elected a strike committee which elected five delegates for the university's central strike committee, which in turn elected five delegates for the national committee (about 360 delegates from the 72 universities in France). This committee in turn elected a body of spokespersons, 14 members. At each stage the delegates were mandated and subject to recall at any time.

This is how unity remained right to the end, right to victory — not by negotiations between different political apparatuses or tendencies. This was an important lesson on the question of unity in struggle.

The movement was so broad because it fixed a precise goal and organised in a broadly democratic and independent way, achieving unity.

WHAT sort of political discussions took place during the movement and after the government backed down? What was the role of different political tendencies — social democrats, Stalinists, different tendencies calling themselves Trotskyist?

D.A.: At the beginning the press presented the movement as 'apolitical'. In fact, hundreds of thousands of youth turned towards politics but rejected the politics of the politicians and professional bureaucrats. They mistrusted the traditional 'left' organisations.

But starting from the rejection of the reform Bill, each day the youth took up other questions: police repression, the security policies of interior minister Charles Pasqua, against the racist reform of nationality laws, against the Chirac government in general.

Now what continues on a mass scale. The youth want to prolong their movement on the political field, but hope at the same time to maintain the unity of the movement.

My organisation, the Ligue Ouvrière Révolutionnaire

WE print here an interview with DAVID ASSOULINE, who was the spokesman for the national student committee in France during last year's mass student struggles which compelled the government to capitulate on its proposed education reforms. Assouline is a leading member of the French Revolutionary Workers' League (LOR), a Trotskyist organisation.

Next week we shall print an interview with CHRISTIAN, member of another Trotskyist organisation, the Socialist Workers' League (LST), and a leader of the student struggle in Grenoble.

(Revolutionary Workers' League — LOR), proposes the building of a mass youth organisation to organise and unite against government attacks, against racism, unemployment and exploitation, to contribute in its way to the building of a society of political and social equality: socialism.

We are putting this forward to the participants in the movement, to political or trade union militants, to all organisations and youth political tendencies ('communist', 'socialist', 'Trotskyist'...).

We say to them: let us build such an organization together, with equality of rights and duties. It must be a framework for common action and political apprenticeship for youth. They will be able to choose their political tendency fully conscious of its position, while deciding above all the common action for advancing towards socialism.

In the students' struggle itself, the Stalinists were almost absent. Since they could not lead they were conspicuous for their continual attacks on the national committee, without any policy, only wishing to divide.

With the social democrats it was different. They were represented above all by a tendency called Convergence Socialiste, consisting of former members of the PCI (a Trotskyist organisation) who had joined the Socialist Party (PS).

They were caught between

the strength of the movement and the conciliatory orientation of the PS leadership who wanted only amendments to the reforms so as not to endanger the 'cohabitation' of Socialist Party President Mitterrand with gaulist prime minister Chirac.

But the strength of the movement was greater and they had to follow. The Convergence Socialiste tendency was in the leadership of the main student union (UNEF-i.d.) which began the struggle.

The organisations calling themselves Trotskyist were also present. 'Lutte Ouvrière' and the PCI of Lambert had a very sectarian line and were often allied with the Communist Party, but played little role in the student strike. The LCR of Krivine frequently fought alongside my organisation for unity, independence and democracy in the struggle for total defeat of the reform Bill, and then for unity with the working class against police repression.

WHAT policies did you personally advance during the movement? What are the political tasks facing students now?

D.A.: I fought above all to achieve a strike for the total withdrawal of the Bill and against its amendment. I always defended the broad and democratic movement, control of the strike by the strikers themselves.

I struggled for unity of all tendencies towards this goal and called for a general strike in all education (students, high school students, teachers), and then a call to the people, to the workers and their trade union organisations for the 10 December general strike against police repression.

All this was taken up by the national committee, of which I was the main national spokesman.

I believe the political tasks of the student movement today are the same as those of all workers: achieve a United Front against the Chirac government. There are specific political tasks for the youth — essentially for the building of their own autonomous organisation for socialism.

For university students, the struggle continues because even without Chirac's reform, selection exists, the right to study for all is a mockery. But I also think a big students' union is needed, linked to the workers' movement. I campaign for this in UNEF-i.d., where I am now a member of the national committee.

WORKERS PRESS reported previously that there was a witch-hunt against Trotskyists. Why was it so strong and how did you reply to it?

D.A.: This campaign was concentrated on me because

I led the delegation to the Minister. It was a government manoeuvre to break the strike. Whether this was based on their own analysis or on assurances about negotiating with other more 'moderate' students, I still do not know.

They did this at the very moment they unleashed brutal police repression and failed lamentably, despite a big press campaign denouncing me as a 'Trotskyist manipulator', 'radical', who was 'duping' the student movement.

The LCR and LOR members defended the demand for total withdrawal of the reforms and it was for this we were attacked: because I defended this position in my faculty, on the national committee, and then before the Minister — it was my mandate.

Perhaps the government thought the mandate was only a demagogic piece of paper and that behind closed doors with the Minister the student delegation would speak another language, as often happens with traditional trade union representatives. For the students and for me that was out of the question. It failed because the united movement, the majority of the national committee, supported the mandate which we — I — defended in front of the government, and condemned their manoeuvres.

THE student movement itself won support among trade unionists. Now there are some big strike movements taking place. What is the connection? How does this situation compare with May-June 1968?

D.A.: We won the support of the industrial unions against their will. They were obliged to support us because the workers gave us their support, breaking away from the leadership. The struggle of the students and all the youth, as always in history, gave the necessary breath to workers entering struggle.

As I said earlier, important struggles have begun with national conferences of workers, strike committees, and national coordination bodies, like us. This is historic in France. Even in 1968, only the trade union organisations were coordinated at national level. Today they were obliged to help the movement without substituting for it, on risk of being rejected.

The difference between now and 1968 is the fact that we do not have a general explosion of all workers at the same moment. The period and the political situation is not the same either.

The bureaucratic leaders of the workers' movement have less control of the situation. The Communist and Socialist Parties have been governing for several years to the advantage of the capitalists.

It is necessary to open a political perspective to the thousands of youth and working-class cadres who have breathed life into the struggle, often alongside the active organisations who call themselves Trotskyist and who reject the traditional apparatus.

A Workers' Alliance, on the platform of anti-capitalist mobilisation, against the Chirac government and 'cohabitation' with Mitterrand, would be a first step towards opening this missing political perspective.

But, as in 1968, these struggles express that, as they are all over the world, even in China, the workers are clearly taking the initiative.

NAPLES

Jobless . . . but not defeated!

'SEE NAPLES and die' — so the saying goes, but even though this alternately beautiful and terrible city has the worst unemployment in Europe, the spirit of the militant young 'disoccupati' or unemployed, does not die.

With the support of the students the unemployed demonstrate at least once a week, hundreds and hundreds strong, from the Piazza Garibaldi to the town hall at the Piazza Municipio.

The demonstration follows the main street, the busy Corso Umberto, and brings the incredibly busy traffic to a standstill.

It is a dramatic, colourful spectacle, with banners and flags, red, black and white. Among the 'partiti politici' represented are the humanist party and the left-wing Marxist-Leninist party.

Whistles blow continuously. Chants of 'Lavoro,

BY CHRISTINE MCBRIDE

lavoro, lavoro' (work) to the tune of 'Here We Go'!

In spite of the light-hearted appearance, the demonstrations are taken very seriously by the participants and by the spectators, especially the workers, who know only too well the difficulties of the disoccupati.

The demonstrations are also taken seriously by the law. A mass of Polizia always precede the march, with policemen walking in front together with their vans. The military Carabinieri also accompany the march on foot and in armoured vans. A soldier stands armed in each one at the rear of the march.

In addition to the protests for 'Lavoro, sicuro e subito', (work, secure and now) are protests against the abysmally low standard of housing, sanitation, hospitals, and education.

These facilities have im-

proved in the northern parts of Italy, and the people want to know why Naples is neglected by the Italian government, which is reluctant to invest money in the south.

Many Neopolitans and southern Italians are forced to leave and seek menial employment in the north, perpetuating the already strong prejudice between northern and southern Italians.

Naples is famous (or infamous) for its crime rate, especially robbery, but, under the living and working conditions in the city, this is not surprising.

What could be a thriving tourist industry suffers from a vicious circle because tourists, who would surely love to visit this place full of castles, monuments, fountains, palaces, with views of the Gulf of Naples and Vesuvius, charming cafes and bars, gardens and palm trees by the Mediterranean, and sunshine the year round, are put off by Naples' reputation.



The tent of the Naples unemployed in the Piazza Garibaldi: a permanent reminder that the unemployed want work — secure and now (lavoro, sicuro e subito)

The disoccupati have a permanent encampment in the Piazza Garibaldi, with tents and banners. They distribute leaflets which explain their plight.

They are orderly and peaceful, and are usually left alone by the police.

They are asking for secure employment or benefits to keep themselves and their families when unemployed.

There is the IPNS, which

roughly corresponds to our DHSS, but the conditions for any kind of benefit are extremely stringent.

Many people live in disgusting, crumbling tenements with substandard sanitation and piles of rubbish in the streets.

After midnight it is commonplace to see young teenagers sleeping rough in shop doorways, youngsters with fires in the streets to

keep warm on the cold nights, teenagers with a bucket of water and sponge, wiping the slow-moving car windscreens to earn 100 lire (10p), selling chestnuts, paper tissues, and black market cigarettes.

Unemployment in Britain is bad enough but the conditions under which the unemployed Neapolitans are living is little more than Hell on Earth.

Turkey's largest strike

THE largest strike in Turkey since the 1980 military coup has entered its third month.

The 3,150 workers at the Canadian-owned Netas (Northern Telecommunications Company) factory were called out by the independent trade union, Otomobil, over pay and conditions.

However as a union organiser at the plant pointed out: 'It's not just a strike over pay and conditions . . . What we are really doing is fighting for democracy and the right to organise trade unions freely'.

Some production at the plant (which manufactures switchboards and other telecommunication equipment), has been maintained by the use of 'apprentices' aged between 12 and 15 who are barred by Turkish law from participating in trade unions.

However the workers on strike have successfully blocked all attempts to move goods in or out of the factory.

The strike is a test of the ability of trade unions to confront the repressive legal and police apparatus of the present regime.

In opposition to the labour code in Turkey which forbids one union from helping another, other factory workers in Turkey have donated one hour's pay to the strike fund.

Workers living close to subsistence level have donated food to the strikers' families.

In Britain and other West European countries, solidarity campaigns have begun in Turkish communities, and over £2,000 has already been raised in Britain.

● Donations to: Netas Strike Support Fund, Ac 01078577 (sorting code 40-05-05), Newington Green Branch, Midland Bank, Newington Green, London N16.

Messages of support to: NETAS ISCILERIYLE DAYANISMA KOMITESI, OTOMOBIL-IS SENDIKASI UNMRANIYE SUBESI, INKILAP MAH. ALEMDAG CAD. No 139 KAT 3, UMRANIYE — ISTANBUL, TURKEY

IMMIGRANTS HARASSED

Deport — but nicely!

BY LISE BAUER

IN SWITZERLAND, land of neutrality, chocolate and cuckoo clocks, things are done in a nice, clean, democratic way. Even the deportation of Tamils.

The government's present intention to deport 32 'illegal' Tamil refugees has met with strong popular opposition, particularly in the canton of Bern, where a large number of Tamils live.

Support groups have announced that they will hide the threatened deportees; church groups have organised campaigns, including a hunger strike by a vicar; and even the Bernese cantonal council has protested strongly at the government's 'inhuman intentions'.

Conscious of popular indignation in the wake of recent exposures of Switzer-

land's despicable role in World War II, when it deported countless Jewish refugees back to Hitler's Germany and certain death, the Swiss ministers have decided not to act too hastily.

They agreed to meet campaign leaders from churches and cantonal councils for an 'open and constructive' dialogue on the Tamil refugee question.

As a result, the government agreed to set up a special working party whose task it will be 'to effect, by taking into account all new factors, the organisation of the Tamils' travel arrangements with the utmost care and consideration'!

First prize to the Swiss ministers for the most 'humane' cynicism!

. . . or the knock at night

POLICE raids on immigrant homes are becoming commonplace in Munich, according to a recent German newspaper report.

After one such raid, a young man from Sri Lanka observed: 'I thought the German police were good to us but tonight they treated us as one wouldn't treat an animal.'

The police came in force at night to a house full of applicants from overseas seeking political asylum. They broke open doors, lifting some of them off their hinges. Using dogs and wearing gloves they said they were looking for illegal immigrants, stolen goods and drugs.

The raid went on until 11 a.m. The 70 people who were said to be on the premises without justification were actually invited guests at a party given by compatriots from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Although 51 arrests were made no reasons were given. No stolen goods or drugs were found.

Sri Lanka attack

HEAVY fighting broke out between Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam fighters and Sri Lankan Police commandos in Batticaloa in January.

In the battle, 18 commandos were killed and several others seriously wounded, according to a statement by the LTTE Political Committee.

The clash took place at Kokatticholai, when 1,000 commandos from a special task force, which is Pakistan-trained, were brought from various commando camps at Toonadi, Vel-

European shipyards

BY TRUDI JACKSON

BETWEEN 40,000 and 45,000 jobs will disappear from Europe's shipyards by the end of 1989, three-quarters of them in the next twelve months.

The European Commission foresees a 'substantial reduction of merchant containers and considerable dismantling of the present ship-building capacity.'

Judging by the orders for 1988, the need for ships will fall to 40 per cent of the present world capacity.

A report from the European Commission — which avoids mentioning the disastrous state of the world economy — says the problem is that the way the economy is developing means a move away from production which needs a great deal of transport.

It argues that for the most important products, like oil, distances have been reduced, and developing coun-

tries increasingly produce their own industrial and processed agricultural goods.

Nuclear energy, growing worldwide, means less demand for solid and other fuel, equipment and machinery. Natural raw materials are replaced with synthetics which need less sea transport.

The new technologies play a part in 'dematerialising' the economy — that means a lot of industrial products become superfluous. In addition the miniaturisation of components for equipment and of the products themselves makes transport by air more accessible.

The European Commission's approach to the ravaging of the European ship-building industry has met sharp opposition from both the European Metalworkers Union Federation in Brus-

sels and the shipyard owners. The report proposed four pages of 'adjustments' within the framework of the European Regional Development Funds, and some social measures.

The shipyard bosses complain about 'non-existent policies' in relation to their Japanese and South Korean competitors. The struggle for the survival of the European ship-building industry has raised far-reaching problems for the unions.

The European Metalworkers Union Federation has raised the problem of the need for new jobs with industrial developments in the field of environmental protection, energy supply and traffic infrastructure.

The trade unions want broad and better qualifications for workers, and to participate in the decisions about production and organisation.



DISMEMBERED!

A matter of 'guidelines'

MORE than 300 environmentalist organisations from all over the world have appealed to the Swiss chemical concern Ciba-Geigy to halt the worldwide distribution of its pesticide Chlordimeform, because a study has shown that it causes cancer. A spokesman for the firm's New York office replied they had no intention of ceasing production, as it was all a matter of following 'guidelines for the use' of the poison. The main outlets are the US and Latin America.

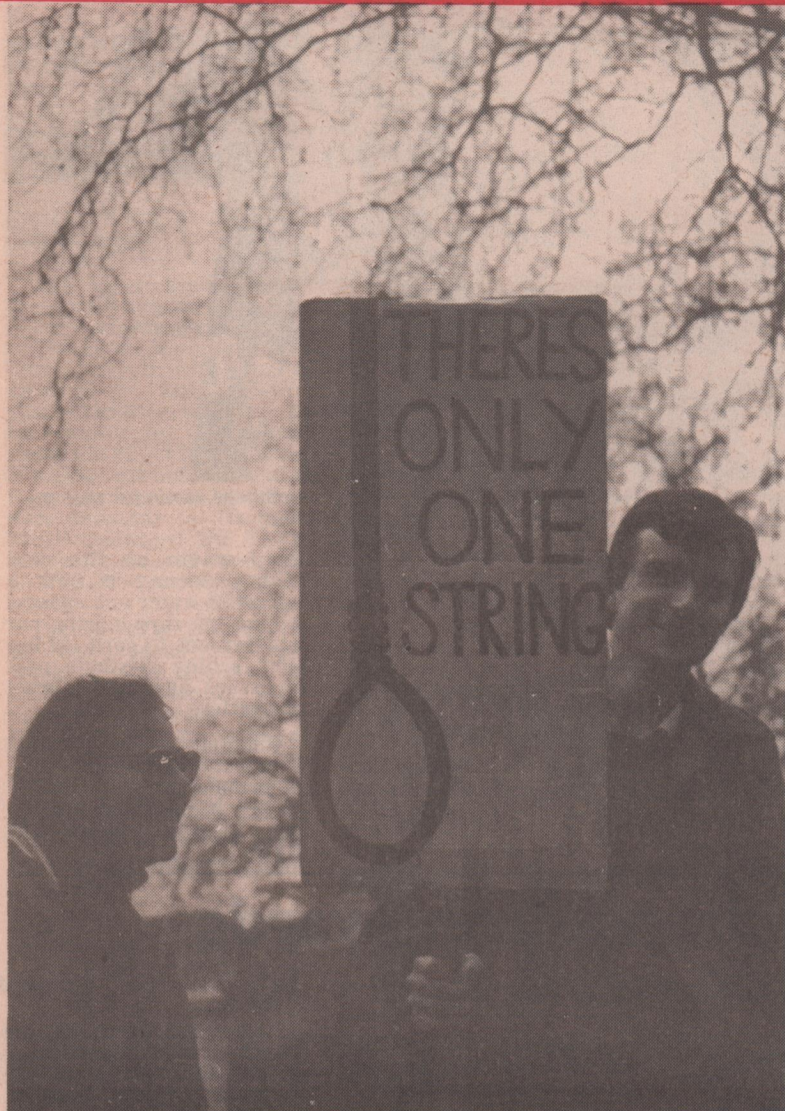
Let them die of cancer on the other side of the world, so long as the francs keep rolling in!

Socialist Press

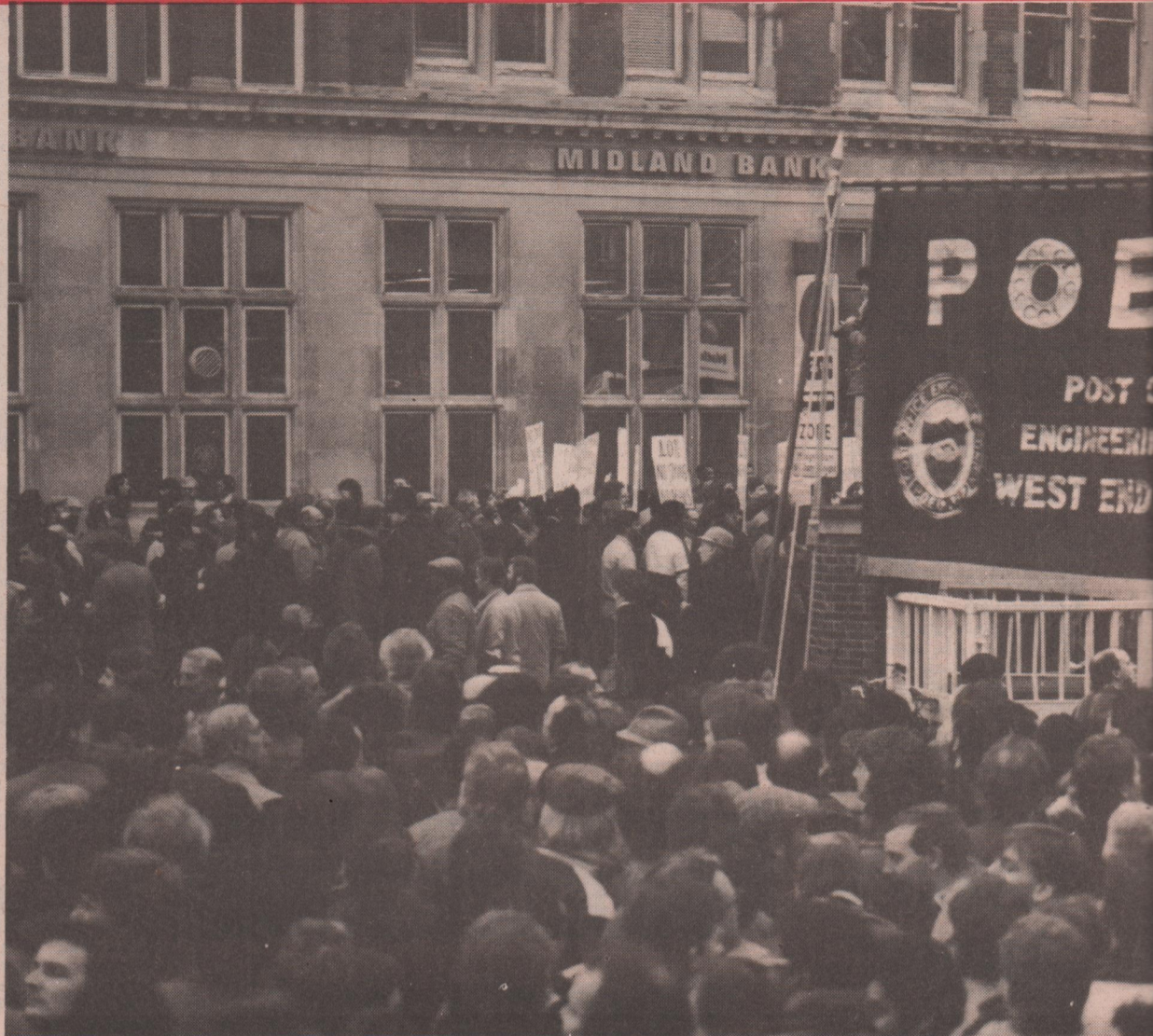
Monthly journal of the Communist League of Australia

Subs: 12 issues £8.50, 6 issues £4.25. PO Box N93, Petersham NSW 2049, Australia

NO STRINGS! – INSIS!



Message from London strikers



20,000 Telecom strikers turned out on Wednesday's demonstration

'A very strong position'

BY BRONWEN HANDYSIDE

'AT this depot we used to take 200 kids straight from school and give them a proper training to be telecom engineers. Now we take 20.'

Three strikers from the National Communications Union at the Ruskin TSVC at Shakespeare Road in Brixton discussed the progress of their strike and the changes in their conditions since privatisation.

Militant

'This has always been a moderate union but we have now turned militant — the governors put us in this position since Telecom went private. We are 100 per cent in this depot out of 120 blokes. Last Wednesday we had a branch meeting and the clerical side, which is separate from engineering, voted to stay out as long as we did.'

We are in a very strong position in this strike because it is virtually 100 per cent across the country. They thought all they had to do was give us a bonus and they were God's gift.

Management has been trying to find as many ways as possible to save money on us: there has been no recruitment for ages and they have been covering the vacancies on overtime.

As for Thatcher — she wants it both ways, she wouldn't give the pensioners £5 to save them from freezing and then she accuses us of cutting the telephones off from old people!



Shakespeare Road in south London

The general public is on our side, out of 100 cars that go by here 30 give us a beep. The council workers in the depot next door have supplied us with a brazier and all the wood we need.

Canteen

They bring us cups of tea and have said we can use their canteen, telephone and toilets whenever we like. We are also using an office of the Lambeth workers' joint trade unions as a strike base thanks to Lambeth UCATT workers.

Our bosses wanted a confrontation with us but they didn't realise we would be so strong. ♪

'It's about smashing the union'

'IT'S not just about pay because they can easily afford to pay us, it's about smashing this union. That is one thing they won't get away with.'

This was National Communications Union officer Chris Proctor's message to last week's 20,000 strong rally of British Telecom strikers at Tower Hill London.

The same fighting mood was also expressed by Liverpool Internal Branch Secretary Phil Holt: 'Regardless of the outcome of this dispute, we've got to change our leaders and get more firm and determined leaders.'

Holt said: 'We have from our so-called 'moderate' branches and so-called 'militant' branches 100 per cent standing behind our claim of

10 per cent — no strings.

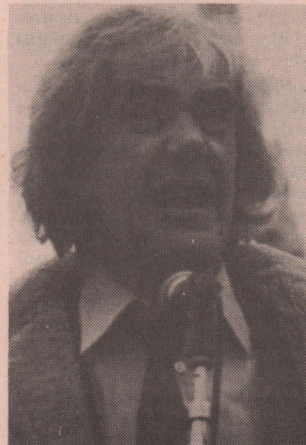
'One union, one strategy — and a victory for all workers in our industry.' was his call.

The magnificent show of strength displayed by the membership of the NCU over the last two weeks again exposes those in the labour movement who insist that the working class is 'defeated'.

At the beginning of the march strikers asked political groups to leave on the grounds that this was a 'trade union dispute'.

But in the rally, speech after speech expressed the explosive political nature of the strike.

Bob Brown from Bournemouth expressed the fighting spirit of BT workers.



CHRIS PROCTOR

'Our members and non-members have enjoyed every day of this dispute. I've never known such solidarity before.'

'We can't go back unless we win,' he said.

A burst of laughter greeted national executive committee member Bill Cox's statement: 'We are not an unruly, unreasonable mob. Every one of you is a skilled, trained and dedicated communications engineer.'

He paid tribute to the men on the communications ships. 'I pay special tribute to the men on the 'Iris' which was at the Falklands, they were bloody heroes weren't they?'

He looked embarrassed when stony silence followed.

His hint that a return to work 'with strings' might be possible received a negative response from the strikers.

A speaker from Bermondsey Labour Party talked of

No compromise in Wales

BY TRAVIS GOULD

WHILE the NCU leadership are talking of compromise, in the Merthyr and Pontypridd areas engineers have been forced to withdraw safety cover due to the provocative action of the STE (Society of Telecom Executives) who tried to repair a fault at Quakers Yard, near Merthyr Tydfil, after the NCU had decided it was not an emergency.

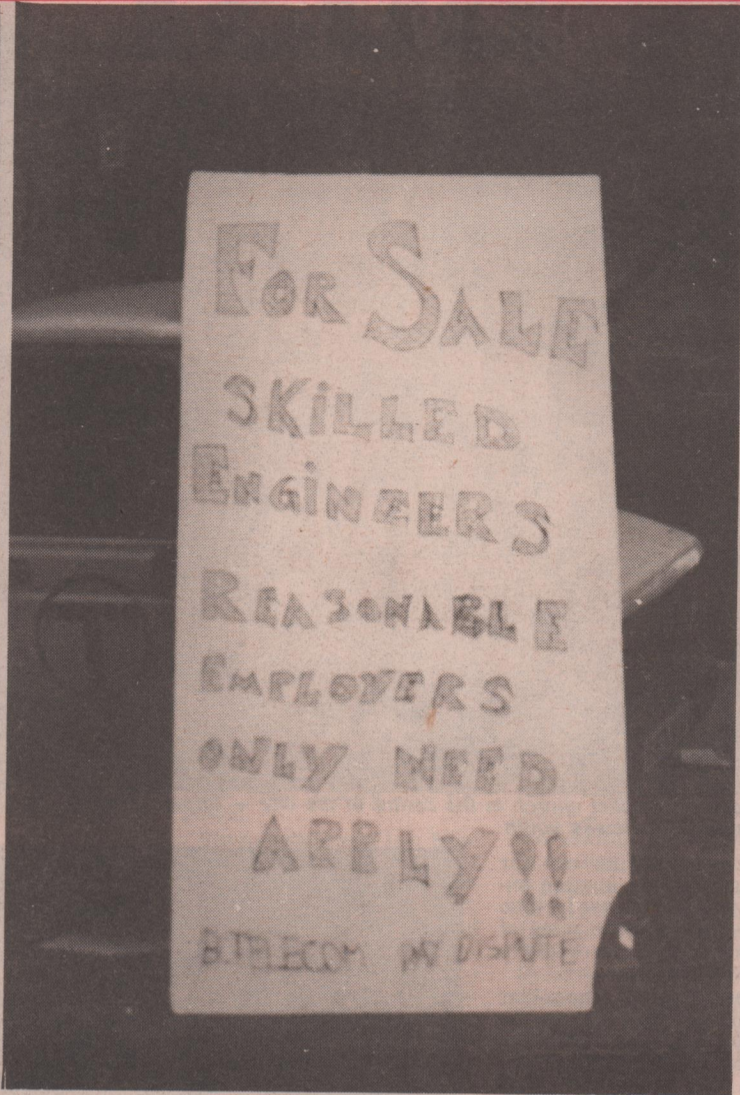
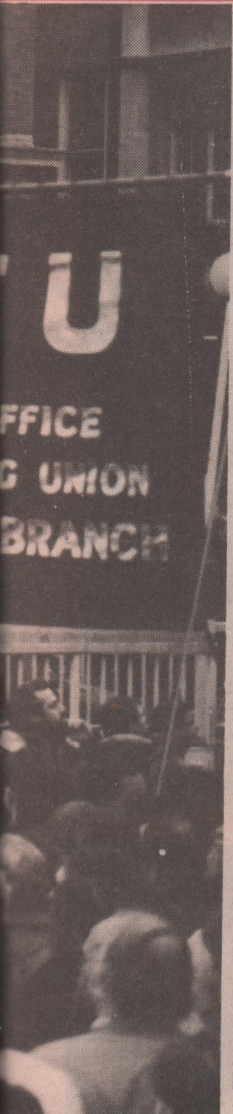
Pickets prevented the work being done and the incident was reported to the police by BT management, who

accused the engineers of 'unseemly disturbing behaviour' and intimidatory picketing.

The withdrawal of safety cover is expected to spread very quickly to the rest of South Wales. Cardiff were due to meet at 12 noon on last Thursday.

Telecom workers feel that if the STE, having previously given assurances not to do the work of engineers, become an alternative workforce, they can do all emergency call-outs.

TELECOM STRIKERS



In the Manchester strike headquarters

shing

BY CHRIS McBRIDE

the 'class war' being waged by the Tories.

The strikers have learned lessons from the betrayals of print union leaders Brenda Dean and Tony Dubbins.

One striker said, 'We've got to tell our national leaders — especially John Golding — that we're not out on strike to go back to square one. We are the ones who make the profit.'

'Our trouble is that our claim is too modest.'

Picket marshal Anne Denver said: 'The government is behind this however secretly, along with their friends in the City.'

The strength and solidarity of the BT workers has surprised the strikers.

A striker from London City Branch said that BT and the workforce thought they had inherited a weak union.

'We were both wrong' he said. 'We must show our leaders that they must go forward and not make any mistakes.'

'One mistake they will make is if they come back from the wage offer negotiations with any strings.'

Jeff Russell declared: 'If necessary we should have a general strike to bring this government down. It's them who are behind what's going on today.'

London district secretary Ron Birch bellowed down the microphone, 'Head office tell us to stand firm. Well we've got a message for head office. 'You stand firm.'

'All these double dealings or whatever's going on. No deals no strings — we will win because we're right,' he said.



Pickets at Keybridge House, south London

Lessons from Wapping

COMMENT BY ALAN CLARK

BRITISH TELECOM strikers are showing the determination and strength which the Wapping printworkers have displayed for the past year.

Any attempt by the leadership to sell the strike short will be vigorously opposed by the rank and file.

Pickets are encouraged by the support from other workers.

The link between the sacked printworkers and striking NCU workers must be drawn together in the common struggle against the Thatcher government.

The miners paved the way in their fight for jobs, followed now by the News International printworkers and the British Telecom workers.

Printworkers are calling for a recalled TUC Congress to expose the likes of Willis, Hammond, Jordan and company: if these leaders are not going to take on the Tory government then others must be elected who will.

The call 'to wait for a Labour government and everything will be all right' must be rejected. Every class-conscious worker knows another Labour government will follow the same line as Thatcher.

It is only class action by the trade union and labour movement led by a revolutionary Trotskyist party that can defeat Murdoch and his allies — not fancy talk around oak tables with brandy and coffee.

This kind of bargaining has gone on too long and trade

unionists have had enough. The explosive scenes at Wapping on 24 January provoked by the police were a further expression of the anger and frustration felt by printworkers who are conscious of the cowardly abdication by their present leadership.

The print dispute remains at the crossroads. They cannot win alone — it will need the full support of the Telecom workers and the rest of the trade union movement.

Determination alone will not bring victory to the printers. Fleet Street will have to be brought out to give the impetus that the rest of the trade union movement needs. Hundreds and thousands of workers would rally behind such a call.

Manchester solid

BRITISH TELECOM engineers in Manchester are solidly behind their executive. The mood is confident but serious and the 3,000 strikers are having a big effect in the city.

Many people trying to phone from outside the code area are not getting through, and many firms — including BT itself — have lines out of action. Strikers have been joined by clerical staff in a number of areas in the north west.

The Manchester Central Branch of the National Communications Union has renamed the largest incoming trunk unit in the country Fortress Rutherford.

Local management have now hired a security firm to patrol the entrances and have changed all the Fortress locks, while staff not on strike have been offering sympathy and help to the strikers.

The NCU branch itself has not ignored other workers on strike and have adopted one of the families of the Silentnight strikers.

Stockport Technical college students have voted to support BT strikers and are helping in a number of ways. The Art Department is producing posters.

**RELEASE
JAILED
TRADE
UNIONISTS**

S WALES MINERS

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

DURHAM MINERS

GARY BLACKMORE: Murton — Two year Youth Custody from December 1985

MICHAEL STEPHENSON: Wearmouth — Three years from June 1986. RF8756 HM Prison Acklington, Morpeth, Northumbria

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years, three months Youth Custody from December 1985

PRINTER

MIKE HICKS, SOGAT NEC, Imperial FoC London Wholesalers — Four months plus eight months suspended. Camp Hill jail, Isle of Wight, from December 5 1986.

ABERDEEN 'BOOM' OR 'BUST'

UNEMPLOYMENT is a serious and worsening problem in Aberdeen — the 'oil capital of Europe', the so called 'boom' city of Britain.

Trudy Nash, 17, was lured up to Aberdeen from her home town Luton because of the heady title 'boom' city. She has been homeless for over eight months and unemployed for a year.

'I had to give up my job because of a bad back,' she told Workers Press. 'I applied for social security and they told me to move on. I had to leave my lodgings. I had no money — now I sleep rough.'

'The only clothes I have are the ones I am wearing — I applied to the social security for a clothing allowance. I am still waiting after two months.'

Alfred Low, 19, is another victim of the DHSS board-and-lodgings regulations. According to the authorities he is not supposed to need sleep.

'I have been fined over £100 (a total of four fines) for trespassing. I used to sleep in a derelict church, slap bang in the centre of the city,' Alfred said.

'The police came along and moved us out in the middle of the night. Sometimes as many as 20 were sleeping there but now they have bricked up the entrances to the church. I have tried to get work but it is hopeless.'

'It makes you sick, you are not even supposed to need sleep. All I want is a job and a home.'

Unemployment is rising fast in the 'boom city' and even those with the 'protection' of parents are being exploited.

Lorraine Ogaza has been unemployed since last year. 'I only get £28 a fortnight,' she said. 'They are taking advantage because I stay with my parents.'

'My dole was suspended



LORRAINE OGAZA

for 13 weeks after I lost my job.

'The job was lousy. I got one Sunday off a fortnight. Unemployment is lousy, but all they can offer you is a youth training scheme and then back on the dole.'

HOMELESSNESS in Aberdeen, according to Shelter, has risen 62 per cent since 1981.

On any night of the week, over 200 youngsters have to sleep rough. In January when temperatures were seven degrees below zero, seven teenagers were found huddled together on the beach. Unlike London there is nowhere in the night to get a cup of tea.

Many homeless people do not apply for accommodation to the local authorities. In Scotland over 25,000 are registered as homeless.

Shelter housing adviser Sheila Archibald told Workers Press:

'In Aberdeen, there is a serious problem of homelessness, especially among the young — their housing options are extremely limited. There is approximately a five-year waiting list for council accommodation.'

'Bed and breakfast is over the DHSS limit and young

people under 26 affected by the "four week rule" have little option but to move on or sleep rough.'

Russell Sutherland, coordinator of Aberdeen Youth Information Centre, said unemployment amongst youth had gone up by leaps and bounds since he started work in 1985.

'Since the Tories introduced the board and lodgings regulations for those under 26, we have been inundated with homeless young people. Many of them are on the move from other parts of the country.'

'Once local youth have gone over the DHSS time limit, they do not want to move to another area and are forced to live rough in Aberdeen,' Russell said.

BY BRIAN POWERS

the forecourt of the local police headquarters, demanding their release.

As always, under capitalism, whether an exploited tea-worker in India or an unemployed youth in Aberdeen, the greedy tentacles of capitalism can envelope any working class person into a life of poverty, unemployment and misery.

There is an urgent need to organise the working class, so that this inhuman and degrading monster is destroyed.

A decent standard of life, the right to a home and a job can only be guaranteed under socialism, where people come before profit.

As always, under capitalism, whether an exploited tea-worker in India or an unemployed youth in Aberdeen, the greedy tentacles of capitalism can envelop any working class person into a life of poverty, unemployment and misery. There is an urgent need to organise the working class, so that this inhuman and degrading monster is destroyed.

UNEMPLOYMENT in the city has almost doubled in the last six months. The local Job Centre, far from offering an array of oil or oil-related jobs, displays cheap labour, dead-end jobs or Tory slave labour job schemes.

One job recently advertised offered £47 for a 40-hour week, assembling venetian blinds.

Anyone who visited Aberdeen during the 'oil boom' days might have had the impression that here was a Thatcher entrepreneurial haven.

Today, although some of the status symbol establishments, such as the London jewellers Mappin and Webb still exist, the one-man side-street businesses are shutting up shop.

Even nationally-known shops can no longer exist. In one of the main shopping thoroughfares 12 shops within 150 yards have shut their doors.

Bonanza

Oil workers who settled in Aberdeen during the oil bonanza and are now unemployed have been forced to sell their homes and sell them at a loss as house prices plummet.

A recent auction sale offered over 40 houses — not one was sold.

Unemployed oil worker James Robertson has been on the dole for over a year. 'I had to sell my flat and lost money on it,' he said. 'Many of my friends are in the same position. Those still at work are being forced to take large wage cuts just to stay in a job.'

At the Aberdeen Unemployed Centre are many people thrown on the dole after a year or so on the 'rigs'.

A demonstration against unemployment and DHSS regulations attracted over 200 people and an incident where two unemployed youth were arrested for unfurling a banner saying, 'F... THATCHER', resulted in a sit-down demonstration in

PUBLIC SEATS circling a statue of His Majesty, King Edward VII in the centre of Aberdeen are occupied throughout the day by unemployed youth with no money and nowhere to go.

They are constantly moved on by police to walk the streets.

One refuge that does cater for the homeless and the unemployed is the Cyrenians Day Centre, funded by the district council. Yvonne Shun is the centre's coordinator.

'The cold weather has highlighted the problems of people who are homeless or unemployed, but the problem is not a new one.'

One 17-year-old pregnant girl and her 19-year-old boyfriend have been sleeping in various derelict buildings with only blankets to keep them warm — constantly 'moved on' because they are trespassing.

There is a boy of 17 who



Boarded up derelict church in the centre of the city — former favourite sleeping quarters for Aberdeen's homeless youth

has been sleeping out for over a year. He is often unable to sleep because he is so cold — and spends some of his days sleeping on a sofa in the day centre.

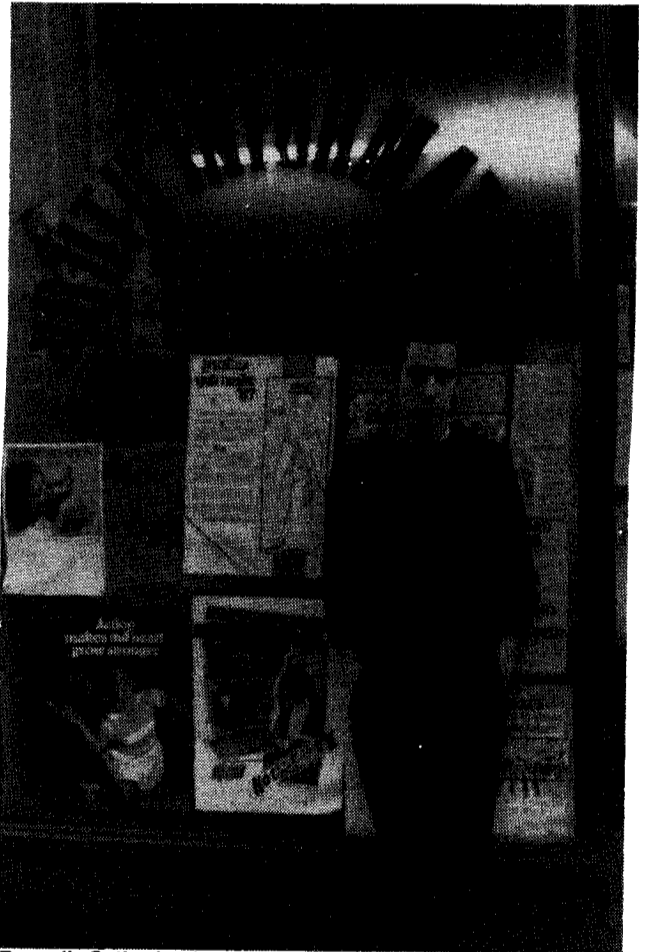
Then there is the older man in his late 50s, on the waiting list for a hernia operation. He often feels ill. He spent one night last week either trying to sleep in the railway station or wandering about in the cold because he was snowed out of his house — which is a tent.

The number at the Day Centre has increased dramatically since Christmas. We started opening in the evening for three nights a week and have been surprised at the number of people — especially under 25s — who came not only for food, but to stay as long as possible before going back onto the streets.

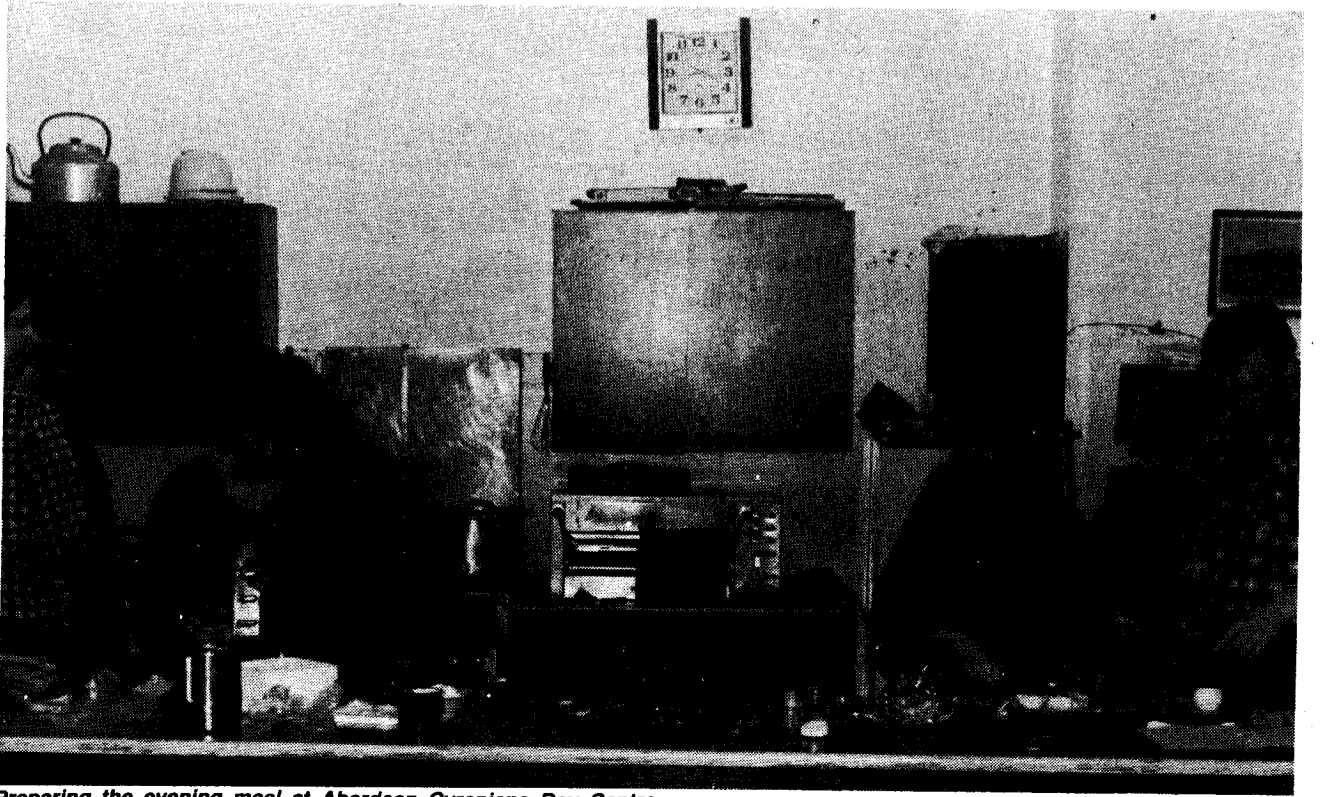
Steve Anderson, chairperson for Aberdeen Cyrenians has worked for the Cyrenians for 10 years.

'The homeless get younger. They are as likely to be 16 as 60, and about 200 under the age of 21.'

We have tried to establish crisis accommodation but have failed to get funding from the government under the Urban Aid Programme.



Russell Sutherland outside Aberdeen's Youth Information Centre



Preparing the evening meal at Aberdeen Cyrenians Day Centre

INVESTING IN EXPLOITATION

Bernard Franks looks into the Labour Party's new policy document 'Investing in people'

THE Labour Party policy document, 'Investing in People', confirms the Labour leadership's lack of socialist convictions and unwavering determination to serve the needs of Britain's big business interests.

The 75p glossy brochure has 20 pages, of which half are full page colour pictures — a man in a white overall next to a page on jobs, a man in a white coat next to a page on health, a black woman in a white coat next to 500 words on equal opportunities — and so on.

The front page pictures Neil Kinnock over the new rose emblem adopted by Labour.

Kinnock has said this symbol is in honour of Chartists shot dead in the 1839 Newport rising, led by John Frost.

Exactly what Labour's subservience to parliamentary and legal means for achieving change has in common with the ideas of Frost, a member of the Physical Force Chartists' Insurrectionary Committee, or with the Newport action by 3,000 to 4,000 colliers and ironworkers to advance workers rights by armed struggle, Kinnock has never divulged.

According to the pamphlet's first two paragraphs, the plan to transform Britain into a country that is 'efficient and competitive' is 'the democratic socialist vision of the Labour Party'.

Having got the word 'socialist' out of the way — linked not to the nationalisation of the means of production but to the market economy — it never appears again.

The subsequent preoccupation is with investment, efficiency, competitiveness, partnerships between capital and labour, and yet more investment. It would do justice to a publication from a right-wing organisation, such as the Adam Smith Institute or the Centre for Policy Studies.

Even sections on education, old age and health concentrate on how improvements in these can be benefit 'industry and the economy', rather than how the lives of those involved can be improved.

EMPLOYMENT

THE SECTION headed 'Investing in Jobs' explains that Labour plans to reduce unemployment by one million in two years. This is to be achieved by relying heavily on local councils developing schemes for building and repairing homes, schools and hospitals and expanding education, social services,

child care and support for the elderly.

The claim is fraudulent. The Labour leadership has been — and is — witch-hunting its councillors and local members who have fought the hardest to defend precisely these services against the Tory government.

Far from being supported, they have been stabbed in the back. Far from being congratulated for defending local communities, opposing job cuts, and fighting privatisation until Labour gets into government and reverses the process, they have been vilified and expelled.

No commitment has been made to repaying the vital cash drained from the councils and services covering the poorest communities and the decaying inner cities.

Labour's job creation plan is to rest on deals and contracts with local private enterprise. Such operations have led to a bonanza for property developers — who tie token improvements in amenities to construction of vast office complexes and luxury accommodation — but have led to destruction of existing local communities.

INVESTING IN INDUSTRY

FOR socialists, a fundamental question is: which class owns and controls the means of production, distribution and exchange.

For the Labour leadership there is no such question. Its role as protector and defender of British capitalists is not considered a matter for doubt.

After complaining that 'our' share in the world market has dropped by a quarter and that investment funds flowing overseas has risen from 5 to 15 per cent under the Tories, a plan is advanced.

No threat to the stock exchange gamblers is implied, no blueprint advanced for the state takeover of banks, insurance companies and finance houses, but simply a



Youth lobby the Manpower Services Commission: there's no pledge from Labour to abolish the MSC — which they set up

scheme for making it more worthwhile for investors to keep their money in Britain.

Labour would set up a British Investment Bank to finance improvements in British industry. Investing institutions will be told:

'Put more of your investment into Britain and you'll continue to enjoy tax relief. Send too much of your money abroad and you'll lose that relief. As the investment capital becomes available, we'll make sure that some of it goes into the British Investment Bank, with attractive commercial returns.'

This money will be directed into profitable high-technology businesses by a special agency: British Enterprise, working through Regional Development Agencies and Enterprise Boards. In the first year of office, £6 billion will be borrowed to fund these measures.

No one should think vast numbers of jobs would be derived from the set-up. As long as capitalism prevails the main use of investment money is to mechanise and modernise to destroy as many jobs as possible.

The innovators and operators most likely to benefit will be people of the stamp of Rupert Murdoch, those who prove the most ruthless in their drive to decimate a workforce and maximise profits.

The Labour policy pamphlet makes clear that its

model is not derived from any socialist concepts:

'These ideas already work abroad. For 35 years, Japan has had its state agency to promote industrial modernisation. France has its industrial bank, making cheap long-term loans. Germany has its partnership between industry, government, the trade unions, industrial banks and finance institutions. Britain is starved of that kind of backing. Labour is totally committed to making sure that Britain gets it too.'

On Labour's scale of economic priorities, top position clearly goes to investors and industrialists, not consumers and workers: to exploiters, not the exploited.

EDUCATION

'INVESTING in skills' rests on the usefulness of a trained workforce to British capitalism's battle for markets. It states:

'To build a modern, competitive, economy we must have the best educated, most sophisticated and skilled workforce possible.'

A two-year training scheme is proposed for 16- and 17-year-olds, but there is no commitment to abolish the Manpower Services Commission and its cheap-labour Youth Training Scheme.

THE greatest significance of Labour's policy pamphlet lies in what it does not say — and in what is totally left out.

- No mention of privatisation of nationalised industries and public services jobs: therefore there is no pledge to reverse the process. Elsewhere Kinnock has said: 'In our scale of priorities we are not going to be using huge amounts of resources for re-purchasing these industries'.

- No mention of Labour's military policy, i.e. 'Defence', yet Kinnock has been to America to convince Reagan and the Pentagon that his non-nuclear policy is no threat to American imperialism's anti-Soviet strategy or to NATO.

- No pledge to support the fight of the oppressed peoples of the world. No commitment to back British workers' sanctions against South Africa and to break all trade and diplomatic relations with the apartheid regime.

- No plan to end the imperialist partition of Ireland and the occupation of the Six Counties. On the contrary Labour is committed to maintaining the division.

Kinnock wrote to Ken Livingstone that the Irish freedom fighters 'are fighters against freedom and must be dealt with on that basis'. He also advocated extraditing Irish Republican political refugees in Holland, back to face Thatcher's courts and prisons.

Promises are made to update the apprenticeship system so that qualifications are transferable, to increase child benefit by £3 immediately and to provide an educational maintenance allowance 'so that young people over 16 can undertake education and training without the impediment of poverty'.

But no pledge is given to meet the teachers' demands or to restore the Tory education cuts.

PENSIONERS

THE INVESTMENT concept has nothing to offer the elderly. The elderly are told that 'even after retirement they may continue to work part-time or voluntarily for others'.

Labour promises to give pensioners an extra £5 a week (£8 for couples), improve community care facilities and recognise the role of carers.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

'INVESTING in health' means 'a fitter workforce and a more productive economy' but no promise to abolish health service charges or to take on the multinational and other pri-

vate suppliers which make vast profits out of health.

POLLUTION

LABOUR proposes investment in coal, cutting the sulphur emissions that cause the damage particularly in Scandinavia as acid rain and a diminishing reliance on nuclear power, 'leading to the eventual ending of its use'.

The significant word here is 'eventual'. At last year's Labour Party conference a motion committing Labour to close all nuclear power stations in a single term of office was defeated in favour of Kinnock's declared objective of a 'phased shutdown' over 20 years.

RACISM AND POLICING

LABOUR pledges help to those suffering discrimination — yet no plan is outlined for repealing the racist immigration laws.

As for policing, the pamphlet gives token recognition to the social roots of crime, but puts its faith in grants to improve home protection, i.e. to swell the profits of the security equipment firms, and in expansion of police training and local police operations i.e. the repressive functions of the capitalist state.

- No commitment to release political prisoners held in British jails, be they Irish freedom fighters or English or Scottish mineworkers.

- No mention of working conditions, labour relations, protection of free collective bargaining or repeal of the Tory anti-union laws.

The omission is ominous in view of the comprehensive cover given to the drive to compete on world markets — in addition to the requirement to pay back with interest the vast sums borrowed from banks and finance houses.

The clear implications: incomes policy, demands for higher productivity and Labour's own anti-union laws.

The Joint TUC/Labour Party document 'People at Work: New Rights, New Responsibilities', endorsed by conference in each case, retains the essence of the Tory laws in terms of secret ballots for strikes and elections, as well as continued interference of the courts in industrial relations.

A new aspect is the requirement on unions to include these obligations in their rule books. Unions must be ready to police their own members as an essential part of Labour's strategy.

Labour's policy document makes crystal clear that this leadership is tied hand and foot to capitalism and can make not the slightest claim to being a socialist party.



Labour's 'investment' plans are for the needs of capital, so pensioners get meagre promises

LETTERS

Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editorial Board. Letters over 500 words will normally be cut. Letters should arrive by first post Monday at: Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS, and should include sender's address.

King Billy and the National Front

THE replies to Brian Pearce on the celebrations of William of Orange were well deserved.

The only thing I can add is a look at who gains from the work of Exeter City Council (led by Labour) in backing the celebrations.

I'm sure that along with most of your readers Brian Pearce does not read the 'Western Morning News'. On January 15 it contained a letter on this subject which included the following:

'King Billy has become the symbol of the Loyalist people of Ulster, and so he should. He and his army were the ones who won them their freedom in 1690.

'If celebrating his anniversary is seen by Irish Republicans as the English

identifying with Loyalist people of Ulster, so what, if the Republicans don't like it, hard luck.'

The author went on to show his political colours:

'The National Front is the only true friend of the Ulster Loyalists here on the mainland and we plan to put across their message to the people of England and try and get their support.

'We have a lot of plans in the pipeline for 1988, when we hope to bring our supporters from all over the country to Devon.'

The letter was signed by the South-West Organiser of the National Front.

Comrade Pearce must face the fact that celebrations are not about the

development of understanding of world history. They are concerned with propaganda. The official organisers of celebrations will try to emphasise the bourgeois values and ideology that William upheld.

The National Front and their allies will try to use the chance to promote British imperial domination over the north of Ireland and their racist filth.

Socialists in Exeter will fight to stop the local Labour leadership giving the National Front their chance and I'm sure that the Workers Revolutionary Party will play its part in that struggle.

Geoff Barr
Exeter

A lot more Wappings

WHILST agreeing with Dave Smith (Workers Press, 31 January) the most obvious problem facing the printers is the crisis of leadership. I feel following the anniversary demonstration some concrete proposals for action can be put forward to the printers and their supporters in the labour and trade union movement.

In the same issue Keith Scotcher points out we need to put forward transitional demands which take the printers and their supporters forward in the political struggle.

But to make the bridge between the consciousness of the workers and the consciousness of the necessity of socialist revolution, i.e. the consciousness of the revolutionary party, we have to firstly make some demands which should be glaringly obvious to any revolutionary witnessing the latest scenes at Wapping.

I believe we must back the call for a trade union and labour inquiry into police actions at Wapping.

All trades unionists should pass resolutions in their branches calling for a trade union and labour inquiry conference to which they could send delegates.

In building on this first demand the next step should be to call for the formation of workers defence committees, councils, guards or whatever the printers would wish to call them.

After the recent police riot at Wapping culminating in a long list of bloody injuries to printers and supporters I believe it is now time to organise.

These demands will link to the calls of the most advanced layers of workers and

should certainly be supported by miners, silent night strikers and other workers who are or have been in direct conflict with the state.

Yes, we can tell the printers to fight for nationalisation under workers' control, but what demands do you elaborate to lead them into conflict with capitalism itself?

I believe a growing number of printers are recognising who the real enemy is and who the police represent — what they are protecting.

More and bigger demonstrations such as the anniversary march to Wapping must be organised.

If it takes a beating from the police for workers to realise who they are really fighting then that is what it takes — it is only through struggle that workers learn.

After all, prior to the printers' dispute very few of them actually had supported the miners. They will tell you that themselves and then explain why they've changed their minds now.

The Revolutionary Communist Party have said that they want 'no more Wappings'.

I believe it will take a lot more Wappings to develop the consciousness of the working class. Just as the miners' strike was the first big battle in a series of up-and-coming conflicts the Wapping dispute will not be the last.

So, RCP comrades, however much you want no more Wappings, that is what you are going to get, and I believe that is what you should be fighting for.

Sue Gwyer
Manchester

Re-examine past errors The IRA and the Nazis

IN ANSWER to the challenge of J. Upward (Workers Press, January 24), to show how the policies of the Socialist Labour League on Ireland were 'middle class', I can only assume he has not re-examined past positions in the light of our present policy or he does not agree with that policy.

In the 'Newsletter' in 1965, an article from a Dublin correspondent stated: 'Nationalism is as poisonous to the Irish working class as racism is to the British'.

In issue number 676 (16 August 1969) our own correspondent wrote the lead article: 'Spectre of unity in Belfast riots', about what could happen if Catholic and Protestant workers united. But in issue No.677, August 19, it had already happened.

A lead story 'Form Defence Guards', by David Maude, reported that 'Defence guards have been formed in the majority of Belfast districts and estates following Thursday's bitter street fighting... similar moves involving both Catholic and Protestant workers are underway in Londonderry (sic).

'On Belfast's Grosvenor Road tonight Republican elements (sic) tried to order Protestant families out of their homes... Workers quickly formed a mutual defence patrol.'

I can only say that no one else in the world noticed this. Procrustean violence to objective reality covered a false perspective.

Whilst calling to 'Withdraw Troops from Northern Ireland (sic) Now' and 'Unity of Protestant and Catholic Workers', issues Nos. 676, 677 and 678 put the perspective for the Irish Revolution (similar to the Russian Revolution so there won't be any confusion): 'For a Workers' and Farmers' Government breaking from Westminster, posing unity of action immediately with the workers of the South (sic) and Britain.'

No doubt about what that means: a 'two nations' theory under which a withdrawal of British troops would leave the Orange order in control.

As there was not even a call for the disbanding of the B-specials, it was clearly a Walkerite appeal to Protestant prejudices against nationalism — the 'pure class' line so brilliantly demolished by James Connolly in the Connolly-Walker controversy.

It was not enough to correctly demand withdrawal against the policy of the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party.

This chauvinistic position was detailed by Dermot Whelan: 'The SLL and Irish Marxism — 1959-1973: a Disastrous Legacy'.

He was driven out by Healy for opposing the policy which destroyed the Irish movement. 'Together with branches in Belfast and Londonderry (sic) we had a Dublin branch fighting to bring

errors

down the Tories. No amount of struggle and self-sacrifice — most of it 'Party building' abstract from the real class struggle, could save the Irish movement from extinction in the face of such wrong policies.'

So it is no use saying everything was OK before 1975 like D. North and the International Communist Party.

David Reed's book was excellent only in unconditional support of Ireland's right to self-determination. It was refreshing in not counterposing the national struggle to the socialist revolution.

My fundamental disagreements I outlined in his lack of class perspectives.

Some of the other points seem nit-picking. Central role instead of leading role of the working class? OK.

I have not covered the 33 years from start of the Spanish Civil War to 1979 — lack of space — if I did, would it disprove what I was saying?

Frank Ryan, a Republican Socialist, did die in Germany after being captured in Spain but I must refute the slander that he was a fascist collaborator.

He owed no allegiance to British 'democracy' and was perfectly justified in seeking material assistance for the IRA, even from Hitler.

I did not claim that the 'growing over' of the democratic revolution to the socialist revolution would complete the socialist tasks, only the democratic ones — abolishing the border, secularising the state etc.

In common with the United Secretariat of the Fourth International we supported the pro-Stalinist 'Official' leadership against the Provisionals after 1970.

The SLL said that the 'Sticks' (Officials) only had to read Lenin's 'Materialism and Empirio-Criticism' to become Marxists, in a Workers Press editorial in early 1972.

Study and reworking of these positions is necessary, not only to reject them but to defeat the opportunist and chauvinist method that led to them.

Perhaps J. Upward's pique at the criticism levelled at the SLL policies towards Ireland is connected with his own responsibility in forming these policies.

Gerry Downing

I GET the point of Aine Devlin's letter. If I ever 'visit Ireland' I shall be met by persons without rosaries — but with armalites.

Nicely put.

Threat of violence instead of argument has evidently not departed from the world of the Workers Revolutionary Party since the departure of a certain person.

But then, to expect otherwise would be to subscribe to the 'bad men' theory of history, wouldn't it?

However I have had the pleasure of visiting Ireland and have even met the IRA.

I was in the North as a soldier for a whole year during what was called in the Republic 'the emergency'.

(An interesting period, that was. We could listen in to Radio Athlone's news bulletins. From North Africa they read both sides' communiques — the German one first, of course. From the Eastern Front they read only the German communique: no platform for atheistic communism!)

In the summer of 1942 it became known that the Nazis were planning to invade the Republic, in order to be able to invade Britain from that direction.

(Some readers may have seen the Irish film 'Caught in a Free State', which includes a reconstruction of the cabinet meeting in which De Valera decides to 'invite' the British troops in Northern Ireland to enter the 26 Counties in the event of a German invasion.)

At that time the IRA became hyperactive in the North, trying to steal arms and money, to commit acts of sabotage, and, above all, to collect military information on behalf of the German embassy in Dublin.

I said to one of their lads, who had been caught on the job: 'You people are always talking about freedom. How can you bring yourselves to help the Nazis, who would enslave the world if they could?'

He replied: 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity. In any conflict we take the side opposite to England.'

To which my rejoinder was: 'But isn't that, in effect, letting England determine your policy?'

At which he gave me one of those 'the-English-will-never-understand' smiles, before being led away...

Presumably the IRA's

Industrial armies

THE struggle for supremacy in society is reaching a crucial turning point.

One only has to look at the level of wage settlements to see the danger of heavily defensive tactics which will be necessary if we fail to create an impetus for a leap forward.

The miners' strike did not defeat the industrial proletariat but it did weaken

severely one of our strongest armies. The printers of London lead the struggle and we cannot allow another army to be defeated.

Those who worked to isolate the print workers before the dispute betrayed not just the printers but the entire working class and the fighting arm of the working class — the industrial proletariat.

T. Hardisty

Picket-line defence squads

DAVE SMITH brought out some interesting and correct points to do with taking the struggle forward. Having said that, I believe he is partially incorrect when he states:

'It is no good talking about the printworkers arming themselves against the state at Wapping because the state machinery will crush them. The leadership that has to be built is a leadership for the mobilisation of the whole of the working class against the state.'

Of course I would not like to see the printworkers fight in isolation against a well-armed, organised state machine, which has had hundreds of years of experience in brutally suppressing and murdering working-class people fighting for their democratic freedom and national independence.

No true Trotskyist would

like to see any worker led into a near-suicidal confrontation. But while the printers wait for the long-overdue support to which they are entitled from the rest of the labour and trade union movement, in the form of mass solidarity action, haven't they the right to resist state provocations?

Defence against police, fascist and scab attacks is needed. Anybody who was down at Wapping on Saturday January 24 could see for themselves the need for defence organisations based on and directed by print support groups.

They must play a leading organisational role in defence of trade unionists in struggle at Wapping.

The one thing the state and the yellow labour and trade union leadership hate is working class people fighting to defend their jobs, unions and communities.

The British working class is a very conservative class with many slowly diminishing privileges won only through the wealth created by the blood and sweat stolen from the oppressed nations: Ireland, Africa etc.

This backward arch-conservatism can only be broken through living struggle with the state and its lackeys in the TUC and Labour Party leadership.

Victor Stockpole
South-west London

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LETTERS

Stalinism and 'state capitalism' are anti-communist

I READ with interest Sue Gwyer's letter on January 24 on the Euro-Communist wing of British Stalinism and the attitude of its economists today to Marxism and Marxist economics.

With their yuppie-oriented magazine, 'Marxism Today', these political cretins have long ago been exposed as anything but communists or Marxists.

And as far as I am aware the only people who consider such people Marxists or communists are themselves or the capitalist media, especially the 'Guardian' newspaper who forever promotes such people and their magazine as the 'Marxist' alternative in the pages of its paper.

They may be radical lefts but are certainly not Marxists.

In the same way we are forever hearing from the capitalist media that the Tony Cliff-led Socialist Workers Party (State Capitalists) are the largest Trotskyist group in Britain.

And this despite the fact that this group (then known as the International Socialists) were expelled from the Trotskyist movement in 1951 because of their anti-communist position of refusing to defend the Soviet Union and North Korea against imperialism and imperialist

attack during the Korean war.

They are an anti-communist group with their slogan 'Neither Moscow nor Washington'.

Their anti-communist theory of 'state capitalism' which is how they describe the Soviet Union is against everything that Trotsky fought for as a communist and revolutionary.

He emphasised the class nature of the Soviet Union as a workers' state under the control of the Stalinist bureaucracy and never even in his darkest hours in his often lone fight against Stalinism did he change his mind on this very fundamental question, nor could he.

The SWP by applying the 'state capitalism' theory to the Soviet Union says that capitalism has been restored and all the gains of the revolution have been lost.

In the same way the so-called intellectuals of the Communist Party are saying that Marxism and Marxist economics have no part to play in the transformation of society from capitalism to socialism.

This is the Labour Party talking and has got nothing to do with either Marxism or communism.

Charlie Walsh
West London

Socialism not through parliament

I WISH to express my strongest disagreement with comrade John Robinson's letter of 31 January attacking comrade Norah Wilde's letter entitled 'The Labour Party and the State' (Workers Press, 24 January).

If he found parts of her letter almost unintelligible I suggest he reads it again more carefully.

Marxism deals with living processes and grasps the contradictions through which movement appears.

Norah has made a very bold effort to explain the nature of the state and the relations between classes and government in all its contradictions.

John's letter falls into the trap so difficult to avoid of seeing only one side of the contradiction and jumping to conclusions based on that.

He says about her attitude to parliament: 'This reminds one of the Communist Party's reformist programme, the "British Road to Socialism"'. Not so!

The 'British Road to Socialism' is based on the false theory that it is possible to achieve socialism through parliament.

Nowhere does Norah Wilde remotely suggest that.

She is dealing with bourgeois democracy which differs in a number of features from fascist bourgeois rule.

For example, legislation exists recognising certain rights fought for by the working class, like the vote, or the right to sue an employer for wrongful dismissal which on rare occasions they actually win!

Does this mean I think you can get socialism through parliament, that parliamentary democracy emancipates the working class?

Of course not and nor does Norah Wilde!

A communist of course must defend every gain of the working class and every means of struggle against

capitalism while working to show that it is the overthrow of capitalism itself that is necessary.

If those gains are not recognised then how on earth can they be defended, how can we know what stage in the struggle has been reached or seize the opportunity to overthrow capitalism?

In 'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State' Engels says about the state: 'It is the admission that this society has become entangled in an insoluble contradiction with itself, that it is split into irreconcilable antagonisms, which it is powerless to dispel. But in order that these antagonisms, these classes with conflicting economic interests might not consume themselves and society in fruitless struggle, it became necessary to have a power seemingly standing above society that would alleviate the conflict and keep it within the bounds of order...!!'

The reformists make the role of the state appear as an organ for reconciliation of classes.

I think Norah's and Engel's view is being confused with that of the reformists.

During the course of the Pilkington's glass workers' strike, G. Healy drew a distinction between what he referred to as the 'basic rights of the working class' and 'democratic rights', as if it was a cardinal sin to ever consider one expressed in the form of the other.

The WRP has made great progress since the overthrow of Healy and his clique but we have not yet revealed every false assumption that is the legacy of the Healy period.

Appealing against the chairman's hammer — or the editor's pen stroke — please look again.

Richard Goldstein
North London

Delighted!

I WAS delighted to read the letter from John Robinson in last week's Workers Press. It is high time that the editorial board became more selective in letters it chooses to publish. If a member of our Party disagrees with policy or with an individual comrade, the matter should be discussed in his or her own branch and through the internal bulletin.

There can be no justification for publishing letters which are merely eccentric.

John Peters

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REVIEWS



The Philippines Educational Theatre Association present in dance and song the cordillera people fighting back against military repression (left) and the last days of the decadent dictator Marcos and his wife Imelda — with the American eagle hovering behind (right)

An Oath to Freedom

Panata sa Kalayaan — An Oath to Freedom. Performed by The Philippines Educational Theatre Association.

FOR FIVE days the Philippines Educational Theatre Association (PETA) treated packed audiences at the Almeida Theatre in London to a powerful and brilliant portrayal of the Philippine revolution with dance, drama, songs, slide projection and audience participation which brought in all the cultural influences.

Beginning with a legend about the origin of the 7,100-island nation, the actors then stopped and said they would show the legend according to Marcos.

The garden of Eden-like image was replaced with US-style showbiz corruption, a swaggering Ferdinand Marcos with a chestfull of medals and Imelda-Cinderella singing her own version of Carmen (badly).

Offended at the sight of the poor, they try to hide it behind glitter. The US eagle hovers unceasingly.

In September 1972 martial law is declared and the people suppressed, massacred and raped.

Factory workers suffer under brutal supervision and try to

organise unions. They are suppressed and imprisoned.

In Negros, the sugar bowl of the Philippines, the sugar cane workers suffer their back-breaking work with nothing to show for it, always at the mercy of the world sugar market.

Militants are martyred. In Escalante peasants are massacred chanting: 'Rice not bullets!'

In the cordillera mountain areas, indigenous tribes are ordered off their land to make way for dams and are butchered when they resist.

Continuous inflation, taxation, detention. The people fight back. The New Peoples Army operates in 53 provinces.

When Benigno Aquino, opposition leader, returns he is

assassinated the moment he steps from the aircraft.

Marcos calls a 'snap' election; Cory Aquino stands against him.

The Communist Party calls for a boycott.

Marcos declares himself the winner but is challenged over the result.

Cardinal Syn broadcasts on the Catholic radio calling the people out onto the streets. The audience joined in on the stage.

Soldiers come over to the people. Loyalist tanks come out but the crowds block the way.

Marcos is beaten and flees the country; Aquino comes to power, proclaiming 'people's power'.

Events continue to unfold and the eagle continues to hover.

Enrile remains Defence Minister and Marcos loyalists continue to rally.

Members walk out of the constitution drafting committee protesting at a sell-out to foreign capital.

The Moro Liberation Movement demands its rights while the United States declares its support for Aquino.

Communist Party leaders are arresting while negotiating a ceasefire.

The military continue operations 'in self defence'.

Aquino goes to Japan to get loans and is welcomed by Hirohito.

When she returns she sacks 'self-appointed Messiah' Enrile.

Rolando Olalia, leader of the KMU trade union movement, is brutally murdered.

A ceasefire is agreed and the constitution prepared for referendum.

The constitution is opposed by the left as anti-labour and not meeting the demand for land reform.

The US eagle still hovers menacingly.

The fire of struggle still burns, the courage and hope of the people is expressed in the workers, the peasants and the national minorities, the Islamic Moro peoples, all portrayed in the finale.

A narrator tells of the massacre of the landless peasants at Mendiola bridge, the army

seizure of television stations and army camps shortly before the referendum, and the struggles ahead.

The cast ended by singing 'Panata Sa Kalayaan' — our oath to freedom.

The PETA Theatre Group are on an international tour. They have visited Canada and the USA and are now moving on to Europe.

There were many Filipino workers in the audience and they enthusiastically received the performance. PETA was founded in 1967 and has taken its productions throughout the Philippines, actively and fearlessly opposing Marcos during 17 years of martial law and resulting.

Since then, thousands of other theatre groups have been set up and play an important role in the education and mobilisation of the people. PETA have developed an innovative form of theatre that is directly connected with the struggles of the oppressed. Hopefully, they will be back.

Keith Scotcher

ROBSON'S CHOICE

TOWERING over everything on television this week, as far as I am concerned, is Yilmaz Guney's final film, **The Wall** (Saturday, 11.55p.m. Channel 4).

It was completed in 1963, one year before the exiled Turkish director died. I saw it at the London Film Festival and reviewed in the News Line in December 1983.

I trust I will not be accused of plagiarism if I quote freely from that review, limiting myself to background information about the director.

Guney was born into a Kurdish family in 1937 in a small village in south east Turkey. He studied law at Ankara University and economics at Istanbul. He began working in films in 1957.

Jailed on numerous occasions for his political opposition to the military regime, Guney resorted to making films by 'remote control'. He would write a story and smuggle it, with precise directions, out of the prison to colleagues still at liberty. They would then make the film on his behalf.

In this way **The Hero** came to be made in 1978 followed by **The Enemy** in 1979.

Yol, his most widely known film, was made in like manner by his collaborator Serif Goren, but on this occasion Guney himself was able to do the final edit in Zurich.

He had broken out of jail in October 1981 after serving seven years of an 18-year sentence.

The Wall is the first film since 1974 that Guney controlled from start to finish. He draws on his own experience of prison life and pre-

sents us with its distilled essence . . . In his own words:

'Everything that is told in this film recalls real events. In blood, fire and tears. In the darkness of the walls they sought water and light. I dedicate this film to those young friends searching for water and light.'

. . . In an interview published in Paris Guney explained that he was afraid audiences would disbelieve him if he told the truth about conditions in Turkish prisons.

'I have, therefore, chosen as far as possible to use the language of tenderness and soften the facts in writing the story and putting it into images . . .'

The result, softened or not, is devastating in its emotional impact, and is also profound, because the prison regime that Guney describes in harrowing detail is actually a microcosm of fascism.

I wrote in much greater length in 1983 because it was quite obvious that this film would enjoy — at best — only limited distribution.

Now Channel Four has changed that and viewers can judge for themselves. **The Wall** is undoubtedly my 'pick of the week' — don't miss it.

* * *

IF YOU think, naively as I did, that Channel Four's disclaimer (the 'Special Discretion Required' warning symbol) was a cunning device to ward off attacks from the Whitehouse brigade, you would be wrong. Since its introduction, audiences for films ruined by the wretched white rectangle have vastly increased. Draw your own conclusions.

* * *



Pick of the week: Guney's **The Wall**

ON **Sunday** I will try and catch **The Natural World** (7.45p.m. BBC2) featuring the work of two courageous French volcanologists, which promises to be spectacular, followed by **Naming the Names** at 10.10, also on BBC2. I might record **State of the Art: Politics** (8.15p.m. C4) and sample it later.

On **Monday**, at 8.10p.m. on BBC2, **Horizon** presents the second and final part of a documentary on the influential child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim, whose clinical work was heavily influenced by his experiences in Nazi death camps.

On **Tuesday**, at 7.30p.m., Radio 3 transmits **Antigone** to complete

the Sophocles trilogy referred to last week. ITV shows **The Invisible Enemy** at 10.30p.m., an account of the problems the herdsmen of Lapland have had to grapple with since the Chernobyl disaster.

On BBC1 at 10.55p.m., part three of the Baron of Epping Forest and Telford in the County of Shropshire show, in **Twentieth Century Remembered**.

Colonel Gaddafi is interviewed in **Diverse Reports** at 8.30p.m. on **Wednesday** (ITV).

On **Thursday** at 8p.m. on BBC2 **Timewatch** presents **Faces of Cromwell**, a programme that feeds on the fact that no two professors

can agree on whether Cromwell was 'good or bad'. Viewers with some grasp of the role of contradiction in history might be amused.

At 9p.m. on Channel Four, a chance to see Jack Rosenthal's **The Chain**, directed by Jack Gold, and at 10.50p.m. **Steelchest, Nail in the Boot and the Barking Dog**, a film about the Belfast shipyards.

Friday has little to commend it aside from George Marshall's classic thriller **The Blue Dahlia** (10.30p.m. C4) from a screenplay by the one and only Raymond Chandler.

TOM SCOTT ROBSON

Raid condemned

BBC JOURNALISTS are planning a national two-hour stoppage protesting at the Special Branch raid on their Glasgow offices.

They are asking other trade unionists, and the public, to support a rally in Glasgow within the next few days.

'The basic issue is to oppose censorship of the media,' Forbes McFall of the National Union of Journalists' Glasgow Broadcasting branch told Workers Press.

'While journalists have an obligation to oppose censorship, this Special Branch raid was an assault on freedom of expression which concerns us all.'

BBC journalists reacted to the Special Branch raid with 'a mixture of shock and outrage', said McFall. 'This action is unprecedented.'

Most of the huge quantity of films, tapes, documents and even reporters' notes taken by the Special Branch, were related not to the documentary programme on the Zircon spy satellite, but on other episodes of the series 'The Secret Society', on subjects including data storage and the experiences of a private detective who

had worked with state organisations.

BBC management says that the five programmes excepting the one on Zircon should be broadcast; the NUJ maintains that all six should go out.

'Why should there have been this massive trawl of everything relating to the six programmes? Nobody can pretend it concerns "national security",' said McFall.

'It should be borne in mind that the BBC co-operated with the Special Branch. They were led to understand that if they did not, more Branch men would be brought in and a more thorough job done.'

Last year's government instruction to prevent the broadcast of the 'Real Lives' programme on Ireland, the apparent arm-twisting used to get rid of BBC director-general Alasdair Milne, and the intimidatory raid on the BBC at Glasgow, are part of a definite trend towards censorship.

'We would be speculating at this stage about government involvement in this raid,' said McFall, 'but we would be seriously concerned if the government was sanctioning what we have seen last weekend.'

were excluded from the negotiations, which created a very substantial differential.

'This agreement for the Television Centre London has incensed tradesmen and TV operatives throughout the BBC.

'For over two-and-a-half years, the EETPU has held discussions and negotiations with the BBC in an effort to restore common basic pay and pension entitlements for the electricians.

'As happens in most disputes, patience and goodwill run out, resulting in a ballot which inevitably leads to strike action.'

The EETPU's older members at the BBC fear losing substantial pension enhancements, because of remaining on semi-skilled pay rates while the dispute has dragged on for two years.

The union is not prepared to wait for a general pay review but is insisting the issue is settled.

MANCHESTER STRIKE



BY PETE MONEY

MEMBERS of the public sector workers' union NUPE in Manchester City Council's Housing Department are on all-out strike as a result of a dispute over accommodation for the Housing Aid office.

The problem arises because of inadequate and unsuitable office accommodation and worsening working conditions.

The strike started on January 22 when the 21 NUPE members in Housing Aid walked out in response to threats of disciplinary action.

The dispute has now spread to over 250 NUPE members in other parts of the

housing department. Although the local government officers' union NALGO have voted not to join the strike, 'a significant number' are not crossing picket lines, according to a NUPE leaflet which also says: 'Everyone wants a swift and successful end to this dispute.'

Tony Dale (above right), shop steward for the Housing Aid office, described how the strike began. 'At a mass meeting 200 against six voted to strike. The dispute started over the issue of accommodation, but is really about trade unions and their role in the council.

'We want to establish decent industrial relations where the views of the unions

are treated seriously.'

Since the dispute began, the union has been threatened with the withdrawal of their facility time agreement. Strikers have been told that they will be disciplined if found on council property or if planned meetings at area offices to hear the case of the strikers go ahead.

The Director of Housing also wrote to all members of staff in an obvious attempt to isolate and undermine them. NUPE members are in no doubt that all moves in the dispute have been carried out after discussion with the councillors, including 'left-wingers' like Sam Darby, chairman of the Housing Committee.

This is a dispute which could have far greater implications than the immediate issues involved. Next year Manchester City Council, as one of the highest spenders in the country, will have a major problem: how to deal with the government's rate capping legislation.

Some estimates are as high as 96 per cent for rate increases needed to maintain services.

The trade unions will be at the centre of the struggle to defend jobs and services. The town hall strikers should be given full support.

● SEE 'Council workers at battle stations' — page 3

Sparks' patience runs out

ELECTRICIANS at BBC Scotland are in the sixth week of a bitter strike, over pay differentials of up to £30 a week with other skilled workers in the corporation.

'The tradesmen's common grading structure was shattered in 1984,' explains a strike leaflet from the EETPU.

At that time the BBC, faced with a one-day strike by all staff at the Television Centre in London, conceded consolidated pay increases of between 17 and 20 per cent for tradesmen.

The EETPU, although being one of the unions bound by the constitution of the joint negotiating unions,

were excluded from the negotiations, which created a very substantial differential.

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The EETPU's older members at the BBC fear losing substantial pension enhancements, because of remaining on semi-skilled pay rates while the dispute has dragged on for two years.

The union is not prepared to wait for a general pay review but is insisting the issue is settled.

Occupation stays firm

CATERPILLAR, the American multinational tractor builders, told workers at their occupied plant at Uddingston that there was no way their closure decision will be altered.

Full-time union officials responded to the company's 'we will close' message by asking for more talks. Workers at the plant demanded the unions walk out of discussions, unless they were about saving 1,200 jobs.

These union officials, who have plenty of time for the company, have done little to mobilise the working-class movement behind Caterpillar.

The sit-in is in its fourth week. Caterpillar workers have initiated financial collections, sent speakers to union and student organisations, and built up massive sympathy locally.

Two weeks ago they received a message from the Scottish TUC, promising 'industrial' and 'physical' support. But not a demonstration has been organised. Not a single hour's strike. No definite action, apart from financial collections which workers are only too willing to make anyway.

The Scottish TUC must act without further delay! The Caterpillar workers have made a long-awaited stand on the question of jobs in the west of Scotland — the un-

ions must organise to support them.

The Caterpillar workers have taken the initiative by building a tractor to be donated to the 'Band Aid' campaign. This issue must also be taken up by the whole working-class movement.

By offering the tractor to help fight famine, the Caterpillar workers have highlighted the fact that their skills, and those of thousands of others in the industrialised countries, could be put to the use of the world working class instead of being thrown on to the scrap heap. What stands in their way is the capitalist multi-nationals like Caterpillar.

Contacts should be made

with unions in the poor countries. An international plan should be worked out to bring together the fight against famine and the fight against unemployment.

Bleak future

'I FINISHED my apprenticeship, got my HNC exams ... with the £62 million investment I started making plans. Then came the closure announcement.'

Peter Heasman, 22-year-old toolmaker, is bitter about the treatment he has had from Caterpillar.

'If this place closes, I don't know what future I will have. I have seen toolmakers' jobs advertised in Larkhall — but they want five years' experience.'

Electrician Peter Stewart, 21, was also pessimistic. 'I don't think the Americans will go back on their word. And there's already a lot of unemployment in this area.

'If we don't win this fight I would think about going down south. All the jobs are down there.'

'We have built the tractor for Ethiopia to embarrass the company as much as possible, and this will be well publicised. But I don't think they will be too bothered.'

Unemployment in Lanarkshire is already one in five of the working population. No wonder the Caterpillar sit-in is winning such widespread support in the local community. Its future is on the line.

● WORKERS PRESS public meeting: MOBILISE SUPPORT FOR CATERPILLAR: HOW TO TAKE THE FIGHT FORWARD. Thursday February 12, 7.30 p.m. Tannochside Olde Club, Old Edinburgh Road. Speakers (personal capacity) from NUM, EIS and other unions, followed by discussion. All welcome.

BY NEIL DEMPSEY

Wheeler's London meeting

A PUBLIC meeting last week in support of the strike at Wheeler's Restaurant in Brighton pledged full support for the strike and undertook to picket the Wheeler chain in London.

The three-month-old strike was called against the sacking of a shop steward and three workers who supported him.

Mr Cheung, the shop steward, explained that for more than 30 years there had been little industrial action in the restaurants.

He said the present dispute started when a new franchise-holder of the Brighton branch arrived and launched a vicious attack on the workers.

He treated them as new employees, each having to work a three-month probationary period. He refused to pay overtime and holiday money that was due.

Wheeler's reputation for good seafoods was based on

the skills of Chinese chefs and kitchen staff.

The workers had not received a pay rise for 18 months when Bailey tried to put new items on the menu without consultation. Mr Cheung refused to carry out these orders unless they were accompanied by a pay rise. He was then sacked.

Most London restaurants in the chain had already received a 5-per-cent rise.

Although the workers felt very isolated at the beginning of the strike, local students and trade unionists helped to form a Brighton support group.

Mr Cheung praised the way that many differing political parties and organisations had participated in the struggle and added that he hoped Chinese workers would take their place in the

labour and trade union movement.

Chair Aimeun Lim spoke about the significance of the strike for the Chinese community and the problems the strikers have faced.

She said this was the first time in British history that Chinese workers had been on strike.

Many of them were employed in catering and service industries that had low levels of unionisation, but this was largely due to the failure of trade union leaders to take Chinese workers seriously.

One of the first struggles of the strikers and their supporters was to get support from the Transport and General Workers Union for an interpreter for the picket line.

The Regional Committee

had only recently agreed to publicise the strike and had still not called a meeting of the branch that the strikers are part of.

Aimeun stressed that the strikers had to take on the union bureaucracy and racism if they hope to win their dispute.

She said it was generally acknowledged that although migrant and ethnic service workers were coming under great attack, 'the problem is not confined to these groups'.

Features

Although only directly involving four workers, this strike has many of the features of larger disputes such as the Wapping struggle.

It involves systematic destruction of craft skills,

lowering of wages and conditions, and complete hostility to trade unionism.

It calls in question the role of the union bureaucracies, uninterested in waging a struggle if it does not enhance their careers.

The strike is above all an indication that new sections of the working class are being forced into struggle not only against their employers but against the Tory government, its laws, and its racism.

The task is to raise the issue of Wheeler's throughout the Labour movement, especially among those working in the catering trade.

The Transport and General Workers Union must be forced to recruit as many catering workers as possible.