

THE JAILING OF PHIL PENN

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Condemnations

● John Rees, chairman of the Tower Hamlets Print Support Group, who mobilised the residents' support for the year-long Wapping dispute, told us:

‘We condemn the jailing of Phil Penn. We believe there is a principle that groups, tendencies and organisations in the working class do not use the bourgeois courts in order to attempt to resolve their differences.

News Line are not a socialist tendency and on this basis we are not prepared to cooperate with them in any way. They are not welcome on our marches or at our meetings. Their political activities have shown them to be agents of the ruling class. We send our greetings to Phil Penn and hope that this message will reach him.’

● Last week's meeting of the Tower Hamlets Print Support Group passed a resolution attacking the action of the Healy-Torrance group.

● Messages of support for Phil have also been received from the Revolutionary Communist Group, while the Revolutionary Communist Party

immediately printed our circular letter (see pages 8-9) in their paper The Next Step.

● Workers Press has received this message from Dr Maire O'Shea, president of the Irish in Britain Representation Group: 'I send fraternal greetings and best wishes to Phil and hope that the time passes quickly. We all miss you.'

● Charlie Walsh, Workers Revolutionary Party member and fellow-fighter in the Irish freedom movement, said of his comrade:

‘Phil was one of the greatest fighters in the Free the Guildford Four campaign and was instrumental in setting up the Free the Framed Irish Prisoners campaign. His energy, dedication and devotion to fighting for all the framed prisoners will be sorely missed.

We owe it to Phil to make this campaign a success, to clear the names of the Maguire family and Giuseppe Conlon and get justice for all those framed by the British police and judicial system.’

PHIL PENN, a prominent member of the Workers Revolutionary Party/Workers Press, was jailed on 6 February, convicted of assault on evidence given by members of the Healy-Torrance group, publishers of the 'News Line'.

A highly respected member of the WRP, Phil sits on its Central Committee and has been active in the trade union movement and recently in the Guildford Four campaign.

He was given a sentence of 12 months with eight months of it suspended. The background to the actions of the police witnesses is sordid:



PHIL PENN

FULL DETAILS: SEE PAGES 8&9

G. Healy was expelled from the Workers Revolutionary Party in October 1985 after he had been charged with systematic sexual abuse of female party members as well as physical violence and slander against members. Healy never answered the charges and has disappeared from public view.

His supporters, including Sheila Torrance and Vanessa and Corin Redgrave, left with him and were subsequently expelled from the Party. This small group then set up a bogus party calling itself the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Before Healy was expelled, he schemed with Torrance and a number of others to protect himself. They expected Phil Penn, whom they saw as merely the menial mechanic in overalls and Healy's driver, to be part of their plot.

Mystical

They bitterly resented the principled stand he took against Healy once he came to understand what Healy had done. Worse still, Phil challenged — in writing — Healy's mystical, philosophical mumbo-jumbo.

The first attack on Phil was in words, with a scurrilous article in News Line which contemptuously questioned Phil's intellectual ability (See pages 8&9).

Two days later, on 3 May last year, the actions of the Healy-Torrance group led to Phil's arrest.

After a demonstration called by the print unions at Wapping he was set upon by four members of the Healy-Torrance group — Richard

BY WORKERS PRESS EDITORIAL BOARD

Price, Eric Rogers, Paul Williams and another man — who knocked him to the ground. Price attacked him with banner poles. In defending himself Phil damaged the eye of one of his attackers.

When the police brought the case to court, they had only three witnesses: Eric Rogers, Kay Riddick and Mary ('Tag') McEntegart, all members of the Healy-Torrance group.

Group

The case of Phil Penn is not that of one individual. Nor were those who gave evidence against him acting as individuals. They were following the line of their group.

The long-established tradition in the working-class movement that political disputes are never solved by recourse to the capitalist courts and reliance on the police has been thoroughly breached by this discredited group.

● We appeal to all our readers and supporters to take this case up throughout the entire working-class movement. Condemn the sordid activities of these police narks!

● Anybody in the Healy-Torrance group with the slightest regard for working class principles should immediately leave the organisation. We appeal specially to any youth who may have joined the Healy-Torrance group on the misunderstanding that they were a revolutionary organisation to immediately break from them.

£10,000 Special Fund

OVER THE TOP! ON TO £15,000!

The Workers Revolutionary Party would like to thank members and supporters for the great response to our Special Fund. The £10,000 we asked for came in — and more. The donation taking us over the top was an unexpected, unsolicited \$160. The final total came to £10,075.33.

As reported in Workers Press two weeks ago, we have called for an International Conference of Trotskyists to re-organise the Fourth International to take place later this year.

Last weekend's WRP Central Committee meeting decided to extend this fund to £15,000 to allow this work to continue. We are asking all readers and supporters to discuss immediately ways in which this target can be reached.

Please send contributions, large or small, to help pay for this international work.

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

Telecom return with strings — see p16



London-City Branch of the NCU voted overwhelmingly to reject the Golding deal. A unanimous vote recorded 'no confidence' in the union's executive committee and called for John Golding to resign

Workers Press After the Wapping treachery

THE DECISION of the SOGAT and NGA leaderships to call off the Wapping picket is a cynical betrayal of the year-long struggle against News International. SOGAT's pledge that there would be no end to the dispute without a ballot has been broken.

Dean and Dubbins plead that if the struggle continues the unions will be bankrupted by the courts. But they must be asked: what is the use of trade unions that cannot defend the elementary rights of their members?

The union leadership has abandoned the defence of trade union rights at Wapping — but not because this struggle lacks support. For a year, week in and week out, tens of thousands of workers inside and outside the print industry have made great sacrifices to sustain the Wapping struggle.

The more this support grew, the more the union leaders retreated before the Thatcher government. The 24 January demonstration frightened the life out of these leaders. On that night, a year after the struggle began, 25,000 workers and youth showed that they were not prepared to accept the violence of a police force organised to defend Murdoch's scab plant.

In the face of this kind of support from the rest of the movement, the trade union leaders for a whole year deliberately isolated the struggle, just as they had set out to do in the miners' strike.

But if Brenda Dean and others think this is the end of the matter, they can think again. The print employers have already begun to eliminate free trade unionism from the rest of the industry and replace it with the scab unionism imposed at Wapping. In their efforts to get rid of the power of the chapels, the union leaders are actively conniving in these plans.

In her deliberately leaked circular, Brenda Dean said that in 'continuing to organise demonstrations and refusing to discipline its members, we are very vulnerable to sequestration and a further heavy fine'.

For once she spoke the truth. The union leaders will

- EITHER police their members on behalf of the employers and the state, lying down in front of Tory laws which make trade unionism impossible;
- OR mobilise the whole of the movement against the Thatcher government — and any future government, whatever its colour, that retains anti-union laws.

There is no middle way. Here is the lesson of Wapping.

The print union leaders and the TUC general council as a whole have taken the former path. They capitulated to the Tory government. They refused to take action against the EETPU and thereby provided Murdoch with his scab labour force.

From the outset the News International struggle was political. Murdoch's efforts to smash trade unionism could be answered only by the most determined effort to mobilise the whole movement against the Wapping plant: to cut off power supplies and communications and halt the distribution of all papers.

This would have involved an immediate confrontation with the Tory government and its anti-union laws. Here the question of leadership was decisive.

The blunt fact is that the employers and their state are no longer prepared to tolerate 'old-style' unions able to represent their members. This is not a matter for the print industry alone; it faces the whole of the working class.

The defence of trade unionism urgently requires the building of a revolutionary leadership with a socialist programme to unite every section of the working class in defence of its common interests.

Workers Press has produced such a programme: 'A Manifesto for the Crisis'. We invite every printworker to read and consider this programme. We ask every printworker who rejects the betrayal of Wapping to join us in building this leadership.

WAPPING

Anger towards Dean

BY TONY GODFREY AND PETER RICKARD

The main topic of conversation on arrival at Tower Hill last Saturday — the Saturday after the sell-out — was who would and who wouldn't be marching with the printers.

The rank and file of the Socialist Workers Party were in the vanguard of heeding Dean and Dubbins's abandonment of the News International strikers. They had decided well in advance of the march setting off to Wapping that they would rather 'follow the bear' to the local pub, which is what they duly did.

When the march set off, with the NUR leading the way to Wapping, it was clear once again that the 3,000 printers and supporters who turned

out wanted no part of Dean and Dubbins's betrayal.

Agreement had been reached between strike leaders and the police that the march could proceed.

On arrival at Fort Murdoch the police were, as usual, geared up for anything, with floodlights, horses, and riot police well in evidence.

A new camera set on scaffolding inside Fort Murdoch was rumoured to be the 'Deans-Dubbins' camera for the identification, and expulsion, of members who continue to fight for principle.

Shortly after 11p.m. the picket, which was well ordered throughout, observed the stewards' request to clear the road. This turned out to be one of the conditions placed

on the march by the police.

The deep hatred felt for the police at Wapping was only surpassed on this occasion by the anger felt towards Brenda Dean.

What was clearly expressed by everyone we spoke to was that this dispute is not over and that they will continue to turn up at Wapping.

Before leaving, everybody agreed to meet at this Saturday's march and demonstration called by the local residents, starting from Glamis Road at 8.30p.m. All sections of workers and youth are asked to join with the Wapping veterans and keep this dispute a live issue.

Tower Hamlets Print Support Group

Residents' March

RECLAIM OUR STREETS!

Saturday 14 February 8.30p.m.

Glamis Road, Wapping

Strike over deportation

MANCHESTER City Council's Direct Works Department staged a one-day strike on 6 February in support of UCATT shop steward George Roucou, who is fighting deportation.

Over 1,000 people supported a demonstration through the centre of Manchester and a rally in front of the town hall.

NUPE strikers from the Council's Housing Department joined the demonstration along with GMBU Leisure Services strikers and members of the action committee fighting the closure of Ancoats Hospital Accident Unit.

All the speakers at the rally stressed the racist nature of the immigration laws and their current use to deport political activists.

Features

Eddy Newman, Euro-MP for Greater Manchester Central, said: 'The reason George Roucou is under threat of deportation is that he is black, a worker, and an active shop steward.'

A Home Office adjudicator will hear George's appeal on 13 March. This hearing is the last legal step before George is separated from his common law wife Kim and their children.

The George Roucou Defence Campaign is organising a lobby of the hearing on Friday 13 March at Aldine House, New Bailey Street (across the Irwell), Manchester, at 9.30a.m. Trade unionists and all supporters of the campaign are urged to attend with banners.

Scargill attacks Communist Party

BY HUGHIE NICOL

'WE NEED rank-and-file participation at all levels, with democracy and accountability in our unions. We must look towards an enlarged annual conference with representatives from every Lodge in the British coalfields, mandated by rank and file miners.'

This was NUM President Arthur Scargill's call to a packed meeting of Durham miners last week-end. Every Lodge in the Durham coalfield was represented as 400 miners held the first of a series of lectures on current political events.

Such organised discussions of this character represent a significant development amongst miners. They come at the moment when Scargill is engaged in a sharp political battle with the Euro-Stalinists on the NUM executive.

The support given to Scargill serves again to demonstrate how mistaken are those faint hearts who consider the miners' strike to have ended in lamentable defeat.

In his address Scargill outlined the issues facing the trade union movement today and the importance of Wapping.

'If trade unions continue to espouse the view that a sequestration of claims for damages means that we cannot continue, then they are raising the flag of surrender to those that oppose us.'

'I would remind any trade union leader worth his or her salt that when this movement was built we did not have swish offices or swish cars; we had nothing but our conviction, our principles and our policy.'

'They can take our money, they can take our building, they can take our cars but for Christ's sake, they cannot take basic trade unionism from us.'

'The trade unions are going to resist, and if that means defying the law then so be it because without that defiance there isn't one of you who would be here today.'

'Not all leaders are prepared to compromise, to collaborate or prostitute principles when it comes to the position where you have to stand and fight.'

'I make no apologies, even to the media who are in this hall. I am still in contempt of the British courts. I am in contempt to a legal system that sent Terry French to jail for five years for fighting for his job.'

After outlining the particular issues facing miners in the industry an enthusiastic audience posed questions on the election of a Labour government and its not delivering the goods to the working class. The issue of a real national union as opposed to a federation was also taken up.

'I have been reading leaflets put out by the British Communist Party. It is not often I refer to any individual political party but part of their leaflet says: "We have got to have unity

with the UDM on the basis of the 1986 conference resolution."

'The NUM executive has made its position clear. I do not care if I stand in splendid isolation. I am going to make my position clear as well. There were too many of our lads sacked. There were too many of our lads jailed and there were too many of our women and families who suffered in an intolerable fashion as a result of what they did.'

'There is a place in this union, colleagues, for every mineworker who wants to come back into the National Union under our terms and conditions and rules. But there cannot and there must not ever be a place for those renegades who have led the breakaway organisation like Link and Predegast.'

'Never again can they come back into the National Union of Mineworkers.'

Coal Board cuts ambulances

MINERS' lives are being put at risk by Coal Board ambulance cuts in the north east.

There will be no 24-hour ambulance service at Wearmouth, Dawdon and Easington collieries, and between 6a.m. and midnight ambulances will have to come from Vane Tempest colliery, Seaham.

This means two ambulances will have to cover the whole Durham coalfield.

At a time when accidents are on the increase in the mining industry and the health service ambulances have been drastically pruned, this move is causing great anxiety to miners whose life and limb are endangered by the cuts.

Lost contracts threaten jobs

BY ZBIGNIEW WOJCIK

BRITISH Railway Engineering Ltd has just lost a major contract worth more than £100 million.

The contract was awarded to the private-sector company Metro Cammell, with a small amount of sub-contract work given to BREL.

The order was for the building of 283 Mark IV coaches and driving-van trailers for east coast main-line electrified services.

BREL's tender, based on the newly launched international coach, has left BREL as main sub-contractor, with Metro Cammell the contractor.

This is a severe threat to the survival of the remaining four workshops in Doncaster, York, and Derby. Up to 1,000 jobs in Derby are threatened.

Though the unions' response has been low-key, the Labour MP for Derby South, Margaret Beckett, was infuriated by the decision.

BREL is now having to tender for all such contracts, including repair contract work.

Latest contract up for grabs is for the repair of 46 shunters.

This places BREL at a disadvantage, as half the work goes outside to the private sector. One example of this is the work on the Mark III EMU sets, first built and planned in Derby.

These sets are to be built in Korea by a company called Dacwoo, and the contract is to be overseen by the Japanese company Mitsubishi. BREL is supplying the project manager. This order is to go to Taiwan and has been confirmed by the British Rail board.

The latest rumour is that the Japanese company Subito is preparing to send to Britain, through either Liverpool or Hull, 300 vehicle shells for the Super Sprinter class.

Though BREL says it is only doing a comparison and check on price and performance, BREL and BR managements do not want to reveal dealings with outside companies.

With large redundancies

already planned, any sort of organised campaign could be harmful to their interests.

The loss of the Mark IV and the danger to other contracts put BREL's future in grave danger.

Workers serious about defending conditions and jobs should demand the opening of the company's books to reveal what lies behind management's manoeuvring and expose all practices detrimental to the workforce.

Metro Cammell's workforce has been reduced over the last five years and cannot, at present manning levels, build either Class 4 or Super Sprinters.

With the possible denationalisation of BREL, Metro Cammell would retain control of orders for BR and the factories in either York, Derby or Doncaster could be sold to private industry.

There is a strong suspicion that a large Japanese company could buy parts or a BREL workshop.

Milk code broken

LONDON'S maternity wards are breaking the World Health Organisation code on baby milk — so mothers are finding themselves under pressure from manufacturers.

This is the finding of Tim Lobstein's survey 'Warding off the Bottle — Implementing the WHO Code'.

Though Britain signed the WHO ban on promotion of baby milks, hospital practice in the 28 hospitals surveyed by the London Food Commission breaks many of its crucial recommendations.

When the hospitals give out bottles they do not abide by the WHO Code, which says bottles should be labelled and the superiority of breast-feeding and the difficulty of reversing a decision to bottle-feed should be pointed out.

Hard hit by campaigns which encourage breast-feeding — by stressing its social benefits and the extra immunity it gives — manufacturers have been receiving tacit support from the government to distribute their products.

King Billy unhorsed in Devon

BY A LOCAL REPORTER

EXETER City Councillors went into their council meeting on Tuesday 3 February through a mass lobby.

The lobbyists were urging councillors to reverse their decision to spend £60,000 on celebrating the progress of William of Orange towards his capture of the English throne in 1688.

Judging by the councillors' response, many are having second thoughts about their celebration of the victory of the House of Orange.

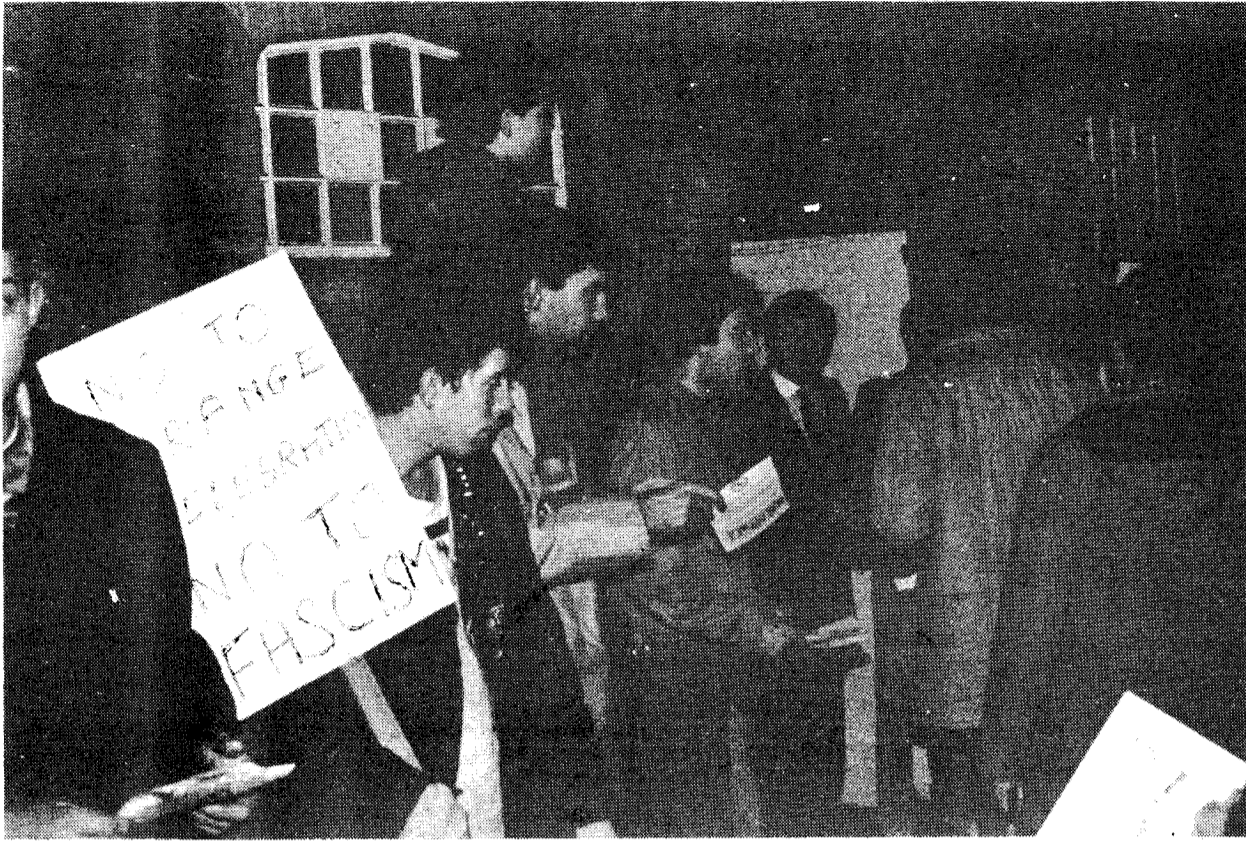
Lobbyists pointed out William's role as an inspiration to protestants in the north of Ireland, and explained to councillors the dangers involved in being seen to back the sectarian bigots.

Later that evening a well-attended meeting discussed the next steps in the campaign.

Fran Jenkin, in the chair, said William was proclaimed king in Exeter Cathedral.

Despite William's role in ending absolutism and establishing parliamentary government, he had come to stand for institutionalised and legal oppression in the north of Ireland.

He had become a symbol of bigoted and prejudiced politics.



Lobbyists had a clear message for Exeter councillors attending their meeting of February 3.

Outlining the development of the local campaign Fran said the ball started rolling when the Labour Party Young Socialists put a resolution to the Exeter Labour Party General Committee.

This was carried and, despite technical problems, remains the official policy of the local Labour Party.

Since then opposition had spread far and wide, and included Exeter University Guild of Students, Anti-Fascist Action, 'Searchlight', many trade unionists, and some members of the Labour Party National Executive.

Brian Smedley of the Somerset Community Defence Campaign outlined the problems faced by the people of Bridgwater during a recent Orange march there.

Bridgwater was chosen because it is Tom King's constituency.

The official organisers were the 'Friends of British Ulster'. The leading local organiser was a former National Front candidate for Islington.

A number of local people went to the police to explain the dangers involved, but they were ignored.

As the day approached the town was covered in Nation-

al Front stickers. The demonstration itself consisted of about 400 British fascists and a few Unionists.

It was met by about 100 anti-fascists standing along the path of the march. At several points on the route the fascists attacked the crowd.

Richard Kirkwood, on behalf of Anti-Fascist Action, outlined the close links between the Unionists and British fascists. He argued that the fascists were interested in the north of Ireland for reasons tied to Britain not Ireland.

'They have two aims. One is to build a base among the

working class and the poor. The other is to develop a group of 'political soldiers' trained in military methods.'

They would try to recruit those unemployed white youth who were attracted to a violent authoritarian movement. The left must be prepared to confront and fight the fascists.

Geoff Barr of Exeter WRP said the events in Exeter were bringing home the international nature of the working class:

'There can be no victory for the working class here without a fight to free Ireland from British imperial oppression.'

THATCHER'S BRITAIN

WAGES last year increased by more than inflation — but there are still workers being paid less than £50 a week. Nearly half the women manual workers in Britain earn less than £100, and the gap between the wages of men and women has hardly narrowed. At the present rate at which women's pay is rising relative to that of men, it will take until 2104 for women to achieve equal pay.

■ ■ ■

LAST week British police shot four people.

They shot two in St Albans after a raid on a gun shop. The premises had been under observation for two weeks.

When two young men came out, one was shot in the chest, the other in the abdomen. Both were critically injured. A third youth got away.

There was an ambush in the Holborn area of London, where five young men, one of whom carried a sawn-off shotgun, were going into a museum at night.

Police fired at them before they entered the building. One died in hospital soon afterwards and another was seriously ill.

These incidents followed a shoot-out on the M1 two weeks ago, and the recent acquittal of the policeman who shot and crippled Mrs Cherry Groce in Brixton.

■ ■ ■

A SHORTAGE of nurses in Paddington/North Kensington has led to the closure of beds in intensive therapy units and the special baby unit at St Mary's Hospital, as well as cuts in mental health beds for the elderly.

Low wages, poor NHS accommodation and poaching of staff by private agencies are to blame, as well as low morale caused by cuts and the increasing pressure of work.

Staff nurses' pay starts at £6,475 and nursing sisters get only a maximum of £10,800, and they simply cannot afford to work in London on these wages.

The gathering crisis means a shortage of nearly 300 — 20 per cent from a 1600 staffing level — in Paddington.

Bloomsbury Health District is short of at least 200 staff nurses and Charing Cross Hospital has had to close its coronary care unit because of a nursing shortage.

■ ■ ■

ONE YOUNG person commits suicide every day in Britain, according to a recent report produced by the Samaritans.

It says that people under 25 are suffering unprecedented stress and anxiety with the problems of unemployment and homelessness.

Building workers' campaign

BY GERRY DOWNING

BUILDING WORKERS are taking steps to fight corruption and ballot-rigging and the attempt to stifle all rank-and-file opposition within their union, UCATT.

They are holding a 'Defend UCATT Democracy' meeting today (Saturday 11 February) at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, from 1-3p.m.

The meeting is supported by Southwark Direct Labour Building Workers Stewards, Islington Joint Shop Stewards Committee, building, Hackney Building Work Joint Shop Stewards Committee, and the Rank and File Building Workers Group.

The main demands being put before the meeting are:

1. Expulsion of the ballot-riggers and their supporters.
2. The restoration of all Dominic Heher's rights as

campaign

a UCATT member.

3. An annual conference (instead of the present biennial one) which would be empowered to change the constitution.
4. A lay rank-and-file instead of the present full-time five-man executive council.

The Rank and File Building Workers Group is standing a slate of candidates on these policies as delegates for the TUC and Labour Party conference.

They are up against both the right-wing and the Stalinists of the Building Workers Charter group, who ignore the question of union corruption and ballot-rigging and concentrate on the fight against the lump instead.

They cannot answer the question of how to defeat the lump with a corrupt leadership!

Manchester firemen return

BY PETER WINDELER

MANCHESTER airport firemen are to return to work on 12 February, after an 11th-hour deal which conceded some promotions to more senior posts previously blocked by management.

The 52 firefighters, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, maintained a 17-day strike over manning levels.

Management threatened that other airport workers would be laid off if the firemen did not agree to cuts in manning levels, while instead of Boeing 757s shuttling to Heathrow, rows of buses waited on the airport tarmac to take travellers to Birmingham and surrounding airports to catch their flights.

'The firemen can't afford to lose this one,' said a non-fireman working at the airport.

The new staffing levels are to be lower than at the time of the Manchester Airport tragedy involving a British Air Tours jet.

Management appeared to see this strike as an opportunity to 'whip' the airport unions into submission.

Airport management approached Greater Manchester Fire Brigade to provide scabs, but the FBU, representing Greater Manches-

ter firemen, refused to assist the strike-breaking scheme.

Philip Wilkinson, regional branch secretary of the Fire Brigade Union, was quoted in the 'Manchester Evening News' as saying: 'All I am prepared to say is that they are professional people in their own right. They do the job which they are trained to do and the members of the Fire Brigade Union do the jobs which we are trained to do.'

School workers' lobby

OVER 100 angry trade unionists representing manual workers in ILEA (the Inner London Education Authority) lobbied ILEA's Labour Group last week to demand the Labour members fight for a no-cuts Budget. The chair of the Labour group allowed representatives into the meeting to put their point: no cuts in jobs or services, with the threat of massive industrial action if direct labour jobs are cut.

A speaker from ILEA Division Six (Greenwich) insisted that if contractors' representatives, said to be measuring schools in the Eltham area, were not withdrawn, she would ballot her members for strike action.

The trade union joint negotiating committee which represents the school workers, members of the public sector workers' union NUPE, will meet to review the position in early March.

Wheeler's march

TRADE UNIONISTS in Brighton and district have been asked to rally to a march and demonstration on Saturday 28 February in support of the strikers sacked by the Wheelers restaurant chain. For the first time the Transport and General Workers' Union is helping in the organisation.

Last week's picket by almost 100 supporters outside the Brighton restaurant showed how much support this strike has mobilised. The strike has raised the importance of unionising large numbers of catering workers.

March and demonstration: Support the Wheelers workers!
Saturday 28 February
Assemble 12 noon
Queen's Square, Brighton
Organised by T&GWU Regional Committee.

Big anti-apartheid march next month

CITY OF LONDON Anti-Apartheid Group is calling for a massive turn-out for its march to the racist South African embassy on Saturday, March 14.

Demanding the release of Nelson Mandela and all other South African and Namibian political prisoners, the march assembles at Whitlington Park, Haringey (nearest tube: Archway) at 1p.m. and moves off at 2.30p.m.

The young people carrying on the Non-Stop Picket of the embassy are more determined than ever following the annual general meeting of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

AAM chair Bob Hughes and co-leader Brian Filling had scabbed on the boycott of the Commonwealth Games by signing a letter to the 'Scotsman' newspaper calling on nations to end the boycott.

Filling described the scabbing as a 'mistake'.

Constitutional changes were made designed to keep the City of London Group and other militants out of future AGMs.

A resolution calling for support for the Non-Stop Picket was effectively gutted.

Next month's march launches a campaign to set up Non-Stop Picket support groups all over the country.

PRASANTA BHAUMIK

LIFE-LONG anti-racist campaigner and leader of Glasgow's Asian community Prasanta Bhaumik died last week, aged 59.

Bhaumik came from Bengal where he became politically active in the national liberation struggle at the end of World War II. In defending Muslim communities from rioters — despite himself being from a Hindu family — he received serious injuries. As a result of these struggles Bhaumik joined the Communist Party, and remained a communist and internationalist for the rest of his life.

Bhaumik came to Glasgow in 1955 to complete his education as a civil engineer, and settled in the city. He was always politically active, was a founder of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign locally, and concentrated over the last 15 years on organising anti-racist movements.

The Scottish Asian Action Committee, which co-ordinates all the main cultural and religious groups in Glasgow's large Asian

community and the more recently-formed Scottish Anti-Racist Movement, owe their existence to Bhaumik's efforts.

When the need for street mobilisations against fascism arose in Glasgow, with the appearance of the British National Party there four years ago, Bhaumik was enthusiastically in favour of them. He was instrumental in bringing together activists from the local labour movement and the Asian community in that fight.

The death of Prasanta Bhaumik, never a person to let opportunist politicians or political in-fighting get in the way of the struggle, is a great loss to the Asian community and labour movement. The extent of that loss was reflected in the large crowd that attended his funeral.

The movement's tribute to him will be in continuing the fight against racism and developing the work that he began.

PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER ATTACK

PROJECT 2000

Another blow against the National Health Service

THE United Kingdom Central Council (UKCC) has produced a new training plan for nurses — Project 2000 — which must be fought by nurses, hospital workers, and all workers and possible future patients.

It must be fought, in fact, by all who cannot afford private care.

For this plan, if carried out, would complete the destruction of the National Health Service which came into being in 1947-1948.

The NHS was the major achievement of the Welfare State.

The 1945 Labour government won a huge majority against the Tories, who had stood Churchill as the great war leader. This majority was given by workers, many still in the Forces, who were determined not to go back to the bad days of the 1930s.

Ever since the Tories came to power, enormous attacks have been made on the Health Service, starting with a charge for prescrip-

tions and dental care and proceeding to the closure of hospitals; cuts in the numbers of nurses, doctors, cleaning, ancillary, and kitchen staff; and, in many cases, the privatisation of the latter sections.

Together with State Enrolled Nurses, whose training takes two years, Auxiliary Nurses perform most of the arduous nursing care at half or less than half the wages of State Registered Nurses, whose training takes three years.

Low Wages

Nurses in training for their SRN also do their training on the wards at a very low wage.

This use of cheap labour is the basis for Project 2000.

The Project is opposed by the unions — the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE), National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), and General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) — but it has the support of the Royal College of Nursing.

BY RACHEL HUNTER
retired State Enrolled Nurse

The latter mainly represents the views of qualified SRNs and administrative staff, the nursing elite, who feel Project 2000 is a step up the professional ladder to the level of doctors.

Project 2000's main proposal is that all nurses should be trained for three years, thus doing away with, or phasing out, the two-year training of State Enrolled Nurses.

As the COHSE leaflet on Project 2000 says, this will mean:

- 1) Fewer qualified bedside nurses, and staffing cuts;
- 2) Fewer people entering the profession, and staffing cuts.

A new helper will be introduced — a 'Nursing Aide' — who is to be supervised by a registered practitioner. The Manpower Services Commission courses are to be used to — as they put it — interest more young people in health care.

Health Minister Tony Newton has announced a £100,000 feasibility study on the use of the MSC's Youth Training Scheme in the NHS.

Already YTS youth have been used as cheap labour in out-patient care, but now this is proposed for ward patient care or 'client care'. (Project 2000 calls patients 'clients'.)

Method

As well as doing away with State Enrolled Nurses and introducing 'Nursing Aides', Project 2000 proposes to alter the method of training State Registered Nurses.

Trainee nurses would cease to be employees and would be paid a non-means-tested grant of £2,400 to £2,900 compared with their present wage of £4,325 to £4,875.

The proportion of their time spent caring for patients would be cut from 60

per cent to 20 per cent and the trainees would work only under educational supervision.

In other words, most of their three-year training would be in colleges.

It could be argued that this is a better method of training nurses because there would be more time for the technical and theoretical education made necessary by the advance in technology.

At present, particularly in London, hospitals are finding it impossible to recruit nurses because 37 or more hours a week on the ward exhausts them physically and mentally and makes study impossible.

But Project 2000 will not answer this problem in the interest of either nurse or patient, and the latter will be the main sufferer.

To divorce student nurse from patient will cut student nurses off from basic nursing care, particularly of elderly patients.

Bed sores develop quickly if the patient's pressure areas — bottom, heels,

elbows, hips — are not rubbed frequently and the patient's position changed.

A sick patient's mouth becomes furred unless it is cleaned and frequent drinks are given.

Often two or more nurses are needed to lift and change a patient.

So, if nurses are not there, patients will inevitably suffer. Untended, they can die.

Responsible

The Tory government has been responsible for the closure of hospital after hospital and ward after ward.

More than 36,000 beds have been cut since 1979, so that waiting lists get longer and patients are discharged dangerously early. Now, added to this, will be inferior nursing care.

Nurses, even if aware of all the implications of Project 2000, cannot fight it on their own. Their awareness and their fight must be taken into the community, into the Labour Party, and into all trade unions.

Ancoats fights casualty closure

By Richard Quinn

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to close the casualty unit at Ancoats hospital in Manchester ran into fierce opposition last week when the local community arrived to start a full-scale sit-in.

Just 48 hours before the unit was due to close, men, women and children moved in to occupy the casualty room.

Since then, with the aid of a well-organised rota and stacks of local support, the occupation has continued round the clock.

The hospital unions have offered valuable help and cleaners, porters and catering staff have all staged lightning strikes in solidarity.

The closure plan followed a routine 5-yearly report by the Royal College, which concluded that the unit lacked the facilities for serious

emergencies.

This no one disputes. What angers the locals is that the loss of the unit would mean the end of 24-hour medical services on which the community has come to depend.

In future they would have to travel several miles to Crumpsall hospital.

Six Children

Pat Mason, a member of the action committee, put the matter squarely:

'I've got six children. What happens if one of them gets injured and it's not regarded as serious enough to get an ambulance out?'

'I can't afford a taxi to take us to Crumpsall.'

Morale is high at the sit-in. When I called in on the

fourth night of the occupation, about 50 people of all ages were packed into the unit, eating, writing letters, chatting and joking.

Manchester workers should try to find time to visit the occupation.

They are sure to get a warm welcome. And, of course, any donations are gratefully received.

The items needed — apart from money — include tea, food and cigarettes.

The action committee have also organised a march to Crumpsall hospital and lobby of the Area Health Authority.

Action committee member Anne Dobson summed up the feeling of those in the occupation when she said:

'We'll be here for as long as it takes — till Easter or Christmas if necessary!'



Project 2000 means there will be fewer nursing trainees and patients will suffer

Bus chaos follows privatisation

BY CLIFF JONES

THE WORKING class of Merthyr Tydfil elected the first Labour Party member to Parliament in 1900.

His name was Keir Hardy, a Scotsman, and the area has since been a Labour stronghold.

In the Council Chambers at the Town Hall hang proud portraits of Keir Hardy and S O Davies, a renowned Socialist Labour MP of the 1950-1960s in Merthyr Tydfil.

Yet on 26 October 1986 buses owned and run by the Labour Council were deregulated and privatised.

The decision had been made to abide by Tory legislation in the same way as other local councils throughout the country.

Apart from token gestures, a one day national strike and a march of over 10,000 bus workers in London, there was no real fight against privatisation.

The trade union leadership must take as much blame as the Labour Party for this.

An obvious point should be highlighted. That is, London,

with its prominent strength in numbers and organisation, was separated from the rest of the country and not deregulated at the same time.

London was to be dealt with later, but bus workers are already being affected.

Meanwhile back in Merthyr, promises were made by the Labour Council: you'll all have jobs boys. All except four, it turned out, who were militant trade unionists.

After being forced to go through the Job Centre and numerous humiliating interviews, the four were told that they didn't show enough commitment, despite the fact that one of them had been working in Merthyr for 20 years.

Faced with a vote to strike, management, headed by a Board of Directors (four Labour Councillors), backed down and re-hired the four drivers.

The drastic cuts in wages and conditions which the

workforce were forced to accept included eviction from their canteen, a council-owned building.

The workers have now occupied it and refuse to give up until an acceptable alternative is found.

A few days before Christmas saw a strike and the first picket line in the sixty-year history of Merthyr buses.

The solid strike came about when a driver was instantly dismissed for allegedly giving a wrongly-priced ticket to a passenger.

The only evidence was a phone call from the passenger to management, two hours after the alleged offence.

The real reason behind this provocation was the decision by drivers not to work past 8pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, something which the drivers have not done for the last ten years.

For going on strike, all the workforce were sacked.

A solicitor was hired to

seize the union funds under the Tory anti-union laws.

Remember, this is a Labour Council management we're talking about.

On the fourth day of the strike, because of the solidarity of the workforce, all the workers were reinstated, including the accused driver.

Yet full-time organisers wanted the strike called off and a secret ballot held.

They were worried sick, they said, about possible sequestration of their funds and rocking the boat for Labour. At their request, drivers worked late on Christmas and New Years Eve, resulting in a predictable loss of money for the company.

The latest lesson in management by Labourites came during the recent snow blizzards when it became impossible to drive safely and the factories, schools and shops had already shut down, three hours before the drivers themselves themselves made the decision



Busmen booed TUC secretary Norman Willis when they rallied against the privatisation plans in 1985

that enough was enough.

They stayed at the depot until their shifts ended officially that night, but were not going to be paid after they stopped driving.

This was a decision made by the Board of Directors, four Labour Councillors, but they came to their senses during an appeal hearing with the union and reversed their decision.

The balloon was about to go up and they knew it.

Bus drivers in Liverpool have struck for 9 consecutive Saturdays over impossible working conditions imposed

since privatisation.

The bus men have been under enormous strain to keep to the time-tables which the T&GWU have described as unworkable.

A sit-in by 230 drivers lanked by Crossville at Love Lane depot, Liverpool over buses 'without power steering' has ended after a fortnight.

Meanwhile, Liverpool Trades Council has passed a resolution at a public meeting condemning cuts in the services, closure of three bus garages, 100 per cent fare increases and the sacking of 2,000 bus workers.

General Election in 26 Counties

THE ECONOMY of the 26-County 'Republic of Ireland' is gripped in an enormous crisis.

Total national debt at IR£22 billion is more than one year's GNP. Unemployment reached an all-time high in January of 254,000, a rate of 20 per cent jobless.

Emigration is once more hemorrhaging the nation's life blood. An estimated 35,000 leave each year to sell their labour power in the United States, Britain, Australia and the EEC.

This is from a population already with the highest proportion of young and old dependants in relation to the adult workforce.

Industry stagnates and agriculture is being put through the grinder by EEC attacks on the intervention system of price supports.

While up to IR£2 billion leaves the economy untaxed and untouched each year, the working class suffers ever-increasing taxation to appease the country's creditors.

After four years of uneasy coalition, the government partners Fine Gael and Labour failed to agree Budget proposals for 1987. Stricken with a death-bed conversion to defence of social services, the Labour Party's discredited four members of Cabinet resigned.

The Taoiseach (prime minister) Garret Fitzgerald dissolved the 24th Dail Eireann (Irish parliament) on 21 January.

Next Tuesday, 17 February, the election of 166 TDs (Teachtaí Dála — MPs) takes place by proportional representation from multi-seat constituencies. Party strengths at time of dissolution were: Fine Gael 69 (including the eann Comhairle — Speaker); Labour 14; Fianna Fail 71; Progressive Democrats 5; Workers Party 2; Independents 5.

Here is a brief guide to the political parties vying for entry to Leinster House:

Fianna Fail (Warriors of Destiny). Led by millionaire Haughey it describes itself as the 'Republican Party'. Formed by De Valera from the anti-treaty forces defeated in 1922-1923 civil war. Its populism and nationalism have made it the only political organisation with sufficient mass support to form a single party government.

Traditionally based on small farmers and sections of Irish capitalists not direct-

BY PAUL BILLINGS

ly tied economically to British capital and markets it has had mass support in the working class.

Played the green card while maintaining most conservative positions on social issues, e.g. family planning, divorce, abortion etc. Election manifesto calls for 2.5 per cent growth in GNP by state-led economic activity.

Simultaneously claiming to maintain state spending at existing levels — no further borrowing. Accentuates the need for stable (one-party) government to create 'climate of confidence'.

Despite Haughey's depiction as a nationalist bogeyman by pro-British media and Fine Gael, Fianna Fail has played in the past and pledges for the future to continue a fully collaborative role with Thatcher. Worried by Sinn Fein challenge in marginal seats.

Fine Gael (roughly, the Gaelic peoples). Also known (but not by many) as the United Ireland Party. Free State party founded by amalgam of southern unionists, blue shirt fascists and ranchers. Rabidly anti-Republican and slavishly pro-imperialist, its origins are in the pro-Treaty forces who broke with Republicanism to found the Free State by crushing the revolutionary wing of the national movement with the aid of British arms and the British-created state forces in Ireland (RIC, judiciary, civil servants etc.)

Politically represented the interests of those whose economic position was inextricably linked with Britain, e.g., suppliers of beef and other agricultural products to British market. Adapting to the industrial development of 1960s-1970s, it developed liberal, social-democratic wings which are now being rapidly clipped as it steps into the tightening embrace of its British and American overlords.

Has formed several governments with Labour as partners. Fighting election on programme of welfare cuts and reduced borrowing. Has abandoned all pretence of aspiring to united Ireland and has institutionalised acceptance of partition in Anglo-Irish Agreement. Succumbed to anti-abortion lobby and half-heartedly attempted to introduce divorce.

Progressive Democrats Right-wing party created by defections from both Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. Principal electoral gambit is pledge to reduce income tax and to drastically curtail government spending. Potential

coalition partner for Fine Gael.

Expresses impatience of capitalists with inability of previous governments to inflict sufficiently severe defeats on working class. Target is for 20 TDs — most likely at expense of Fine Gael, its potential allies. Appeals to middle class with cuts in income tax.

Labour Although initially founded by Connolly and Larkin, the Irish Labour Party is essentially a creation of the trade union bureaucracy in wake of defeats in 1913 lockout and the civil war, during which it sided with Free State. Highest-ever vote was 17 per cent of total in 1969. Down to 8 per cent in 1985.

Lost two TDs in course of 1983-1987 coalition. One resigned and one was expelled for opposing Family Planning Bill. Will lose lot of support to Workers Party and Sinn Fein. Strongest in some rural areas where it controls local government jobs and is able to dispense favours through its trade union base. Anti-Republican and ultra-conservative Catholic tradition.

Sinn Fein Fielding 27 candidates in 24 constituencies. First time to contest Dail elections with view to taking seats if elected. Strong in border constituencies and in Dublin working-class areas. Only party with united Ireland as central feature of programme. Calls for united democratic socialist Ireland which would be neutral towards big powers.

Social and economic programme is reformist while position on anti-imperialism is revolutionary. Outside chance of one or two seats, building for future elections. Banned from state radio and television. Total votes in 1985 local elections was 8.5 per cent. (Labour's in 1982 general election as same).

Workers Party Formerly the Official IRA, this Stalinist organisation is now thoroughly pro-Unionist. Supports Anglo-Irish Agreement, community policing north and south by RUC and Gardai respectively.

Its support in the main comes from trade unionists and some middle-class layers attracted by stand on divorce, family law etc. (and calls for tax cuts). Excluded from Section 31 ban — in fact it is feted by media. Receives coverage as if it was potential government — yet has only two TDs and highest-ever was four!

Supported Fianna Fail minority government in 1982 and coalition minority also in 1983. May make slight gains at expense of Labour. Condemns Provisionals as fascists.



Sinn Fein candidate John Noonan (centre) discusses with shop steward Myles Speight (left) outside Leinster Paper Mills, Clondalkin. On the right is Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

Sinn Fein stands in working-class area

CHRISTY DUNNE is one of two Sinn Fein candidates in the Dublin South-West constituency in the 26 County general election. A long-serving trade unionist, Christy is shop steward in Semperit Tyre factory in Ballyfermot, Dublin, a member of various union committees including the Dublin District Committee of the ITGWU (transport union) and a delegate to the Dublin trades council.

His partner on the Sinn Fein ticket is John Noonan whose base is in the Tallaght area of the constituency.

Christy lives in Clondalkin where he has manned an advice centre each Saturday for the past two years. He spoke to Workers Press last weekend about his campaign.

WP: What kind of constituency is Dublin South-West?

CD: It is a predominantly working-class one with about 20 per cent voters you could term middle-class. Despite this there is only one Labour TD of the four in the area. The others are Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and a Progressive Democrat who was elected as Fianna Fail.

We are very familiar with this area through our work in the community dealing with problems like house repairs, social welfare payments being arbitrarily stopped and hardship cases who need assistance paying electricity bills etc.

WP: What do you see as the main issues in the campaign?

CD: To quote from our manifesto: 'Sinn Fein is dedicated to the reunification of Ireland and the establishment of a 32-county demo-

cratic socialist republic.' This is the first demand in our programme. Jobs and taxation are key factors also.

We advocate state investment in, and the development of, productive industry to tackle unemployment. We call for the implementation of the report by the government-appointed Commission on Social Welfare as an immediate emergency mea-



CHRISTY DUNNE

sure to bring proper rates of benefit and assistance to the one third of the population dependent on the state.

Instead of the cuts proposed by the capitalist parties, we demand that tax evasion by the multinationals and big business be tackled — thereby providing the funds to maintain social services.

WP: In your canvassing, how big have you found the national question as an issue?

CD: While people identify with our aim for a united and independent Ireland, there is hardly a mention of the much-vaunted Anglo-Irish Agreement. Despite all the media coverage of Free State politicians and their SDLP and British counterparts boasting of this so-called historic achievement, it is an irrelevance to the majority of the ordinary population and their everyday problems.

WP: How do you assess the response to your campaign?

CD: Our policies are being received favourably on the doorsteps. Workers see us clearly as a party radically different from the traditional ones. Our break from abstentionism is openly welcomed.

As a matter of fact we often get the remark that we should have done it long ago. We are in keen contention for Labour Party and Workers Party votes on social and economic issues and expect to win a lot from Fianna Fail who have traditionally monopolised the Republican vote.

WP: Is there anything about your campaign that is different from other parties?

CD: Yes. Because of Section 31 of the government Broadcasting Act we are banned from radio and television. So we rely more on personal contact on the ground. So far I have not found one person who agrees with this government censorship once they have had it explained to them.

From what we can see the capitalist parties are afraid to confront the people in the estates. They resort to simply sticking their literature through letterboxes. They cannot stand any examination of their policies by working-class voters. There is an enormous disgust with the coalition and Fianna Fail parties.

WP: Would you care to estimate how Sinn Fein will fare?

CD: Locally we polled more votes than the three Labour candidates in the 1986 local government elections. We had 8 per cent of the vote and should improve greatly on that if the population's disgust with the capitalist parties does not result in apathy and a low turnout. Nationally we have strong contenders and possibilities in several constituencies such as Louth; Sligo-Leitrim; Cavan-Monaghan and in Dublin.

In last year's elections we had the fourth largest poll, ahead of the Workers Party who have two sitting TDs.

We are quietly optimistic about a seat or two this time but our sights are set on the next election. This election is an opportunity to break from our self-imposed isolation in the 26 Counties.

Realistically we appreciate that it is quite a task to build a mass party. It cannot be done overnight. We are getting a heightened interest in our policies and are building up our organisation at local level and getting invaluable experience.

WP: Finally, what steps are Sinn Fein taking to ensure that this parliamentary turn in the 26 Counties does not result in a reformist degeneration of the struggle against British imperialism as has happened with the Official IRA, now the Workers Party?

CD: Firstly, we are very conscious of this danger. Secondly I have no doubt that the leadership and members of the Republican movement, who have steadfastly maintained a resolute and principled revolutionary opposition to British imperialism over the last 18 years — at great sacrifice — will never dilute the struggle in any way.



Social issues have been prominent in the election campaign: Women march in defence of Family Planning clinics

PALESTINIANS UNDER SIEGE IN LEBANON

40,000 HOSTAGES

WHILE western media attention has focussed on the possible fate of Terry Waite and American hostages in Lebanon, there are 40,000 men, women and children who are being subjected to far worse treatment.

Palestinians fear their besieged compatriots in the camps of Rashidiyeh, Shatila, and Bourj el Barajneh could face death through starvation, if not from the guns of their assailants.

From Bourj el Barajneh, in Beirut, under siege since October by Syrian-backed Amal militia, PLO communiques report 35,000 people suffering 'acute shortages of food, drinking water and medical supplies.'

People have been eating dogs and cats, and a British nurse reported seeing some children cooking a rat.

Four young Palestinians were killed trying to make a breakthrough to the camp with a truckload of flour, canned food and powdered milk last week.

The Lebanese Army's

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

Sixth Brigade is helping the Amal militia in this siege. Syrian units have also been involved in the attacks on the camps.

A Palestinian woman who had managed to escape from Bourj el Barajneh described children searching through rubbish for scraps of food. A woman was shot while trying to gather weeds on the outskirts of the camp to feed her children.

Thirty starvation victims were being fed intravenously in the camp's hospital, where foreign medical volunteers described conditions as 'unbearable'.

In Beirut's western districts last week, Palestinian women marched demanding help for their people. 'Stop the war of hunger,' they chanted, 'Bread, water and medicine for the besieged camps.'

Several hundred women went to the Iranian embassy and urged diplomats to lead a march into Bourj el Barajneh. The women said each of them would carry 50 kilos of food, led by the Iranians, who have been involved in ceasefire efforts.

'We pushed the Iranians to make a practical move,' a Palestinian said. 'They didn't give an answer.'

At Shatila, survivors of the 1982 massacre by Israeli-backed Falangists have been under siege since November 25. Syrian and Lebanese troops have pounded the camp with artillery, forcing people into underground shelters.

Most of the casualties have been civilians. There have been reports of the Syrian-backed Amal using chemical weapons.

Palestinian fighters, beginning to recover their strength from the 1982 Israeli invasion, have been united as never before, trying to fight off superior odds and hold strategic high ground near Magdoushe to relieve the camp sieges.

Israeli forces have intervened, bombing pro-Palestinian Hezbollah positions near Magdoushe and making offshore attacks on Myeh Myeh and Ein Hilweh refugee camps.

In south Lebanon's so-called 'security zone', Israeli troops reportedly captured Palestinian families who had

fled Rashidiyeh camp — under siege since September 30 — and handed them over to Amal. The Palestinians were killed by Amal officers.

Some Arab newspapers report more Palestinians have been killed in the last two years in Lebanon than fell during the 1982 invasion.

The East Jerusalem daily 'Al Quds' declared in December that 'the Arab world is either busy with conspiracies against the Palestinians or is doing nothing to stand by them.'

On Tuesday, Morocco's King Hassan, anxious to restore credibility after his talks last year with Israeli premier Peres, proposed that he would fly to Lebanon with a plane load of supplies for the Palestinians.

A gesture perhaps. But no more cynical than the spurious nationalism of Syria's Assad regime, which with its Amal satraps is doing its best to succeed where the Israeli Zionists failed in destroying the Palestinians.

Are the Palestinians going to be left to fight virtually alone? Or will their supposed supporters, not only in the Arab world, but in the rest of the world, particularly the Soviet Union and the international workers' movement, wake up and take action now?



In Rashidiyeh camp, after 1982 war. Latest siege is longest yet.

INDONESIA EXECUTIONS

BY CHRIS DIXON

LAST September an Indonesian army officer assembled a group of political prisoners who had been sentenced to death.

Some had been in prison for 20 years.

He asked them what they would do when they were released, what jobs they would look for, where they would live. Their families became hopeful.

Mrs M. told 'L'Humanite Dimanche' she began to hope her husband would be released after the spring election. The next day she was called to headquarters.

'On my way there, I was full of confidence. Then, showing no sensitivity, the officer told me: "Your husband will be executed tomorrow."

'I met my husband once more before he died. He told our children he would die without any sense of shame, with dignity.'

Some families were not even told of the execution decisions. One wife's letter was returned with a note on the envelope: 'Gatot is dead'.

Indonesia has at least 1,500 political prisoners. More than 37 have been held since 1965, when Communist Party and trade union members were rounded up in the course of a coup.

The government is using executions alongside other repressive measures to remind the people of its power as it approaches elections in April.

The budget in January made massive public spending cuts and kept government employees' wages frozen for the second year, while inflation will mean a real wage cut of 20 per cent.

Export earnings are dwindling, badly hit by the collapse of oil and tin prices, and the small local industrial sector has not recovered from the IMF's demands that the country abandon the protective tariffs which had helped local industry.

The country's debt repayments have more than doubled since 1983 — and the 'Economist' magazine's league table of political stability advises investors that Indonesia is in a 'high risk' category.

'SECRET SERVICE KILLED PALME'

THE murder of Swedish prime minister Olaf Palme could have been ordered by a secret group within the security services, an article in the leading Stockholm daily 'Dagens Nyheter' says. Journalist Bjarne Moely says a unit called O3, which infiltrated Left-wing groups and organised terrorist provocations, had effectively continued though officially disbanded. 'These freebooters continue their work,' said Moely, describing them as fanatical anti-Communists angered by detente with the Soviet Union.

PERU GOVT. ACCUSED

PERU's President Alan Garcia, who hosted the reformist 'Socialist International' conference last year, has been accused of presiding over an attempt to cover up mass killings of political prisoners last year.

A report from Amnesty International this week says many prisoners were secretly held for interrogation inside Callao naval base, and that prisoners were tortured.

Last June, while the conference was being held in Lima, Garcia ordered the forces to suppress prison rebellions mainly involving supporters of the Maoist Peruvian Communist Party, or as its guerrilla wing is known, Sendero Luminoso.

Up to 276 prisoners were killed. These included more than 100 shot after they had surrendered at Lurigancho prison.

Although Garcia denounced this, and promised independent investigations into the repression, Amnesty's reporters found: 'There has since been a deliberate cover-up by both the civilian and military authorities of gross human rights violations that occurred at the time and may still be continuing.'

At El Fronton prison, on an island three miles off Callao, the report says the navy deliberately blew up a cell-

block, burying prisoners under the rubble.

Out of over 150 prisoners on El Fronton, only 35 are officially said to have survived. The navy has not handed any bodies over to relatives, and the island has since been sealed off.

Evidence from a naval officer says as many as 60 surviving prisoners were taken off El Fronton, and were being held secretly in Callao naval base six weeks after the government assault.

'What happened to them afterwards is known only to the authorities,' the Amnesty report says.

The report accuses the Peruvian government of approving secret burials at night of bodies of over 100 prisoners from Lurigancho. This was done by the troops to prevent independent autopsies and block investigations.

The Amnesty report also found evidence that prisoners from El Fronton and the women's prison at Santa Barbara had been tortured, and were denied medical attention for serious injuries.

Opponents of the Garcia regime have charged that the prison revolts were used by the state and its forces as the opportunity to carry out a deliberate massacre of left-wing prisoners.

More on the students struggle in France

How was the strike organised?

C: At the beginning the students had a great distrust of the trade unions and political parties. They knew that the right-wing government's plans for the universities were not much different from those of the preceding (social-democratic) government.

On the other hand, they wanted to get complete unanimity on the justice of their struggle.

That is why the first step was to set up all-powerful general meetings for each educational unit.

These meetings elected the delegates to the strike committee who were subject to daily recall. That way there could be no backsliding.

The second stage was to study the Bill to show how deadly it was. In Grenoble the strike committee distributed 15,000 copies of the Devaquet Bill to the students in the first few days.

Were these committees set up to last from the start of the strike?

C: The students did not want the strike to get out of their control for a single moment.

So in general there was a vote on the strike each day. The general meetings were packed full.

The strike made progress every day, going through precise stages for which specific commissions were set up: organisation, propaganda, getting to Paris, etc.

But everybody made progress at the same rate because for the great majority of the students — not to mention the school students — it was the first strike in their lives.

Did this lack of experience weaken the movement?

C: Not at all, because every obstacle was overcome by the massive way the stu-

THIS WEEK we print an interview with CHRISTIAN, a member of the Grenoble students' strike committee during last year's student action in France. Christian was also a delegate to the students' National Co-ordinating Committee. He is an active member of the Trotskyist Ligue Socialiste des Travailleurs (Socialist Workers' League).

dents came together. They wouldn't allow any division.

For example the Grenoble strike committee brought together more than 100 college and school student delegates who met every evening and created the means to go forward without any concessions and to have meetings in which everybody could say what they thought.

Another example: the students were not looking for a physical confrontation with the police, so the stewarding at demonstrations was a bit informal.

That is why the government's police provocations brought such total hatred.

In fact, even though the college and school students had difficulty talking politics, they nevertheless had impressive political instincts.

How were they centralised nationally?

C: Each university sent mandated delegates, and nothing was more important than respecting the mandates given to the delegates to the national co-ordinating committee and its executive bureau.

The main mandate was: 'No negotiation, keep fighting until the government Bill is withdrawn'.

The students in the different unions, or who were known for their political affiliations, were respected so long as they submitted to this logic.

Isabelle Thomas, the 'star' of the movement in Paris,

was expelled from the executive bureau for trying to evade this principle.

That is why the government's attempts to split the movement by accusing the delegates of 'Trotskyism' were destined to fail and were completely ridiculous.

What has happened to the organisation set up during the strike?

C: When the government caved in and the strike finished after the last big demonstration against repression, there was a process at two levels.

The first was the refusal to keep the committees going when they were no longer under the control of general meetings. No strike committees without a strike!

As a result the national co-ordinating committee and the strike committees were dissolved, although a very small minority of delegates around the French Communist Party, the Parti Communiste Internationaliste and Lutte Ouvriere were in favour of keeping them going.

The second level was the refusal to leave the questions of what was to become of the students in the hands of a small group of so-called experts.

On the contrary, we wanted the mass of students to be able to take their future in their own hands.

And that is how massive bodies arose in each university to reflect on the struggle.

Students have given themselves until March to put forward their proposals at the national level.

So the dynamism of the movement still exists, the opportunity to create a mass student union is in the process of concretisation... and at the moment a lot of students are thinking about the question of solidarity with the striking railwaymen!

CIA FINGERED SOVIET DISSIDENTS

AMERICA'S Central Intelligence Agency deliberately 'fingered' two dissident Soviet writers to the KGB so they could be persecuted, according to famous Soviet poet Yevgeni Yevtushenko.

Yevtushenko says he was told this by the late Senator Robert Kennedy.

Writers Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel were arrested in 1966 and became victims of the first big dissident trial of the post-Stalin era.

Books by them had been published in the West under pseudonyms — Abram Tertz and Nikolai Arzhak. Somehow the KGB was informed of their real names.

Writing in 'Time' magazine on 9 February, Soviet poet Yevtushenko, one of those who protested the writers trial, says:

'It happened that soon after the Sinyavsky-Daniel trial in 1966 I went on a tour of the US, and while in New York city I was the guest of Senator Robert Kennedy in his Manhattan apartment. To my surprise, he invited me into his bathroom, turned on the shower, and in a lowered voice he said, "I would like you to tell your government that the names of Sinyavsky and Daniel were given to your agents by our agents."'

Amazed

Yevtushenko says he was amazed by this, and asked Kennedy why the Americans would have done this.

'He smiled at my naive and said, "Because our people wanted to take advantage of the situation and your people took the bait. Because of Vietnam, our standing has begun to diminish both at home and abroad. We needed a propaganda counterweight."

'The cynical logic of this was shattering

There is more to this story, but the time has not yet come to tell it. I am parting the curtain on this episode for the first time in 21 years.'

The instance revealed by Kennedy and retold by Yevtushenko would not have shocked the Soviet poet so much if he had known more of the hidden side of Soviet history.

In 1937, assisted by White Russian emigres, the Gestapo fed the Soviet GPU faked documents aimed at discrediting Red Army chief Marshal Tukhachevsky. The plot succeeded beyond expectation.

Stalin and his secret police used the occasion to launch their massive frame-up and purge of Soviet military leaders.

Tukhachevsky and other top Red Army commanders were judicially murdered, thousands of military cadres were sent to Siberian camps. Hitler was delighted.

Evidence has also been produced that the CIA fed disinformation to Soviet authorities which was used in the infamous East European show trials beginning with that of Rajk in Hungary in 1949, and going on to the 1952 Prague trials of Czech CP leader Rudolf Slansky and others.

In both cases massive damage was done to the Soviet Union and its allies by Stalinism and its so-called 'security' organs. The Sinyavsky-Daniel episode was first of a series of clashes between the Soviet authorities and writers — Solzhenitsyn, Bukovsky, Ginsberg and others.

Revelation of the CIA's part in bringing about this



DANIEL

persecution exposes the hypocrisy of Western capitalist leaders' crocodile tears for Soviet dissidents.

But it does more.

That the CIA, just like the Gestapo on an earlier occasion, was able to manipulate Soviet internal security organs in this way shows the rottenness of the Stalinist bureaucracy, which did not die with Stalin.

Repressing

The Stalinist authorities were clearly too interested in repressing opponents, KGB chiefs too keen on showing 'results' (and no doubt earning promotion) for them to worry where information came from, why it was being fed them, or whether their actions served the good of the Soviet Union and socialism.

Yevtushenko's decision

that the time is ripe to reveal his story of CIA-KGB collaboration is linked to the current campaign which Gorbachev is heading for 'glasnost' (openness) and 'perestroika' (restructuring) in Soviet society.

The Soviet poet is placing great hopes on the new leadership's promises of 'democratisation', or at least hoping to use this atmosphere while it lasts.

But Yevtushenko will need to ask himself whether the kind of bureaucratic corruption revealed in this case can really be overcome by reforms introduced from the top.

What it really shows is the need for a genuine political revolution carried out by the Soviet working class itself, to smash the bureaucracy and establish workers' democracy over the planned economy.

JAPAN STEEL LAY-OFFS

THE world's biggest steel producer, Nippon Steel, is planning big lay-offs, having already had to put 30,000 workers on short-time since December.

Other Japanese steel firms are in a similar position, and experts predict 50,000 steel workers' jobs could go in the next few years.

Annual figures due next month are expected to show losses of nearly £3,000 million by steel companies.

After World War II, when US bombing and naval attacks almost destroyed Japan's steel industry, its revival was seen by many Japanese as the visible sign of Japan's new industrial strength.

Investment in new plant and technique, with comparatively low-wages, enabled Japanese steel exports to penetrate markets around the world including the United States.

The expansion of Japan's shipbuilding and car industries also kept the furnaces glowing.

During the 1970s, however, problems arose. Competition came from new steel plants in Taiwan and South Korea, with repressive regimes overseeing much cheaper labour. South Korea's shipyards are also competing successfully with those in Japan.

The 1973 oil crisis and dollar devaluation hit Japanese industry at both ends, costs and markets.

Japanese steel firms began specialising in high-quality steel products, or diversifying into other fields. They formed links with US steel companies to keep access to that market. Japanese capitalists also invested in the competitors.

Since 1976, the Japanese industry has shrunk from 72 to 54 blast furnaces, 16 of which are not at present working.

Employment fell between 1970 and today, from 470,000 to 345,000. Profitability was maintained into the 1980s.

Then in September 1985,

finance ministers from five big capitalist countries — the USA, Britain, West Germany, France and Japan — agreed that the dollar should be allowed to fall against the yen to reduce Japan's share of markets.

Its rapid fall from 240 yen to 150 raised Japanese exporters' costs by 50 per cent.

The oil recession might have reduced production costs, but it has also hit demand for seamless oil pipes — one of the Japanese steel industries most successful products — as new exploration falls off.

Recent US dollar falls and trade war policy spell further trouble for Japanese industry as a whole. As the yen stays high, Japanese car manufacturers and others with plants in the US and Europe are likely to turn to steel from these countries.

While the capitalists can invest overseas in search of continuing profit, the consequences of industrial decline for Japanese capitalism are also social, and by implication political.

For many years, big companies proclaimed the paternalist tradition of 'shushun koyo' — lifetime employment, or commitment, by which workers were expected to remain loyal to an employer in return for job security, and benefits related to length of service.

Firms tried to avoid big redundancies, and give alternative employment. Now Shigeru Koino, of Kawasaki Steel, says 'things have reached the point where traditional labour practices no longer work.'

The unions have been holding back workers' pay demands in return for promises of no lay-offs. With the prospect of employers failing to keep their side of the bargain, this truce may not last.

The days of comparative industrial peace in Japan, so envied by other big capitalists, are numbered. The political stability which Liberal Democrat (Tory) rule has enjoyed since the war must also be threatened.

UNEMPLOYED IN WEST GERMANY

BY TRUDI JACKSON

IN Germany the number of people out of work a long time has increased dramatically. Interviews in a German trade union magazine with long-term unemployed workers describe the frustrations of their depressing situation. Here are extracts from the interviews:

HORST: We were working overtime in the shipyard, even on Saturdays, right up to the very last day. Then it went bankrupt.

WALTER: The first time I was out of work was nice. I had a lay in every morning, or got on my bicycle and asked some farmer whether I could help in exchange for some breakfast or lunch.

On other days I did whatever I wanted: went to the harbour, watched the ships being loaded and all that kind of thing. But then very slowly it dawned on me: 'Who am I at all?'

And then came the going round in circles in my thoughts. I didn't get up until lunch-time.

You go to a job centre and are called too old at 49. Everybody wants to get rid of you. When you haven't got a job you very soon have nothing to fall back on. You can't do anything without money.

But the worst thing of all is: to have no perspective. You can't plan anything.

RENATE: We bought some nice furniture several years ago. When people come to see us and know we are unemployed they are surprised and say 'You can't be so badly off'. They don't

regard us as poor. Nobody can see that we have only 80 pence in our pocket.

HORST: We wanted to go to a concert as I am interested and play the harmonica myself. We were half-way there when we read that the entrance was £4.50 per person. We went for a walk instead.

RENATE: We haven't got a circle of friends any more. I can't invite them round for a cup of coffee and cake now. I haven't got the money for it.

HORST: How two people can be expected to pay for everything and live on £230 a month and have a piece of meat in their stew once in a while, that is a difficulty nobody seems to understand.

RENATE: The woman plays a difficult role when her man becomes unemployed and remains so for a long period.

They have to make the piece of meat very small so that he doesn't notice and doesn't feel: 'My God, I am completely useless.'

The woman doesn't know any way out and has to cover up for it somehow. She will try everything so he doesn't fall into complete misery and say: 'I can't, I am not allowed to work any more, they don't want me any more. I am superfluous.'

The woman doesn't dare say she would like something new or anything. She has to put all her wants on one side.

HORST: When you put forward a motion as an unemployed worker in the trade union you have to talk for a very long time and it still doesn't come across because your colleagues can't really follow what is going on.

FROM all over West Germany 47,000 young men were called up last year to start their compulsory 15-month period of military service.

Included among the conscripts were 15,500 unemployed — to get them off social security and unemployment benefit.

Stand to attention, you're not in the dole queue now!

WALTER: I lost my partner I believe because of my unemployment. We had been together for six years.

Since I am doing work in the trade union I came to terms with my unemployment much better.

It is important for every unemployed person to be active politically and in a trade union to find out what is happening to them and to regain their identity.



JUST OUT!

Workers Revolutionary Party

**MANIFESTO
'A Programme for the Crisis'**

50p (65p including postage)
Available from: WRP, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS.

Drop the charges against RCL leaders!

BRUTAN PERERA, a member of the Revolutionary Communist League of Sri Lanka, was recently released on bail after 110 days in detention.

His release followed an international campaign by Trotskyists against his arrest and that of a leader of the RCL youth movement.

The Revolutionary Communist League has consistently fought against the Sri Lankan Jayewardene government, which is conducting a racist war against the minority Tamil population.

Last week, while its armed forces conducted a ruthless 'search and destroy' operation against the Tamils, the

Sri Lankan government arrested 3,000 alleged Sinhala 'extremists', mainly supporters of the rural JVP movement.

The authorities cynically claimed this was to prevent them launching attacks on Tamils.

Yet among their accusations against Brutan Perera, a Trotskyist and firm supporter of Tamil rights, was the ludicrous one that he carried out a bank raid for the JVP!

The Jayewardene regime is still holding the threat of legal charges over the heads of Perera and other members of the RCL.

Socialist Press

Monthly journal of the
Communist League of Australia

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WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC LECTURES

All on FRIDAY evenings
7.30pm sharp
Duke of York, York Way
Near Kings Cross

FREE THE FRAMED IRISH PRISONERS!

Picket at 10 Downing Street

Wednesday 18 February 6p.m.

in support of campaign for the release of the framed Irish prisoners and justice for the Maguire family and Giuseppe Conlon.

Public inquiry now!
(Organised by Free the Framed Irish prisoners Campaign Committee)

Street meeting demands inquiry

BY GERRY DOWNING

THE DEMAND for the release of Irish prisoners framed and held in British jails since the early 1970s has led to the setting up of the Free the Framed Irish Prisoners Committee.

Campaigners held a lively street meeting in North London's Kilburn Square last Saturday, demanding a public inquiry into the cases of the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four and the Maguire family.

The speaker on the loudhailer stressed again and again that no confidence should be placed in the judicial appeal granted by the Tories to the Birmingham Six, and that the role of Sir John Donaldson and Sir Michael Havers as prosecutor and judge in the case of the Guildford Four and the Maguire family made it politically un-

acceptable for the Tories to review those cases.

This required exposing the role of the state in all the frame ups.

Only a campaign that concentrated on this aspect, without any concessions to anti-IRA hysteria or the right of Irish republicans to wage war on British imperialism by their own methods, could force a victory through the politicisation of workers on this issue.

Youth just over from Ireland, from Derry Belfast and Dundalk lined up to sign the petition and to donate money to the campaign.

The committee has called a 'Free the Framed Irish prisoners' picket of Downing Street on Wednesday 18 February at 6p.m.

All supporters of the campaign and of the Irish struggle are urged to attend.

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 MURRAY: 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 Love Lane, 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, Wilmslow, 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.

We thank An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for supplying and updating this information.

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.

THE JAILING

WRP

Workers Revolutionary Party

PO Box 735
London SW9 7QS
Tel: 01-274 7271

9 February 1987

Dear Comrades,

THE JAILING OF PHIL PENN

One of our comrades, Phil Penn, has been jailed for 12 months, eight months of it suspended, for assault. He is a highly respected member of our Central Committee, a party member for 18 years, active in the trade union movement and recently in campaigns such as that on the Guildford Four.

Our concern in this case is that members of another organisation claiming to be part of the labour movement were, apart from the arresting officers, the **only** police witnesses. This would be like miners giving evidence against miners in the recent strike.

As you may know, in October 1985, the Workers Revolutionary Party expelled its former leader Gerry Healy for sexual abuse, violence and slanders against members of the organisation; charges he never contested. A small group of party functionaries — including Corin and Vanessa Redgrave, Sheila Torrance and Richard Price — supported Healy and were expelled by the majority. This group then formed a bogus party calling itself the 'Workers Revolutionary Party' and publishing a newspaper, 'News Line'.

Phil Penn was arrested and charged after a demonstration called by the print unions at Wapping, on 3 May 1986. The events, as reported in court, were as follows:

- In the 'News Line' of 1 May 1986, the Worker's Notebook column carried a crude and provocative attack on Phil, insulting his intellect and presenting him as ignorant and illiterate, speaking in grunts.

- On the 3 May Wapping march, as the conflict between demonstrators and police became increasingly fierce, Phil went to fetch his camera. Once away from the main body of demonstrators, he came across members of the Healy-Torrance group. They verbally abused him, taunting him with quotes from the above-mentioned article. He refused to be provoked.

- Four of them, Richard Price, Eric Rogers, Paul Williams and another man, then attacked him physically — in Price's case with banner-poles — and knocked him to the ground. In defending himself, Phil damaged the eye of one of his assailants. Only Phil was arrested.

No organisation calling itself socialist would collaborate with the police against members of the labour movement. This is a point of principle. But members of the Healy-Torrance group eagerly acted as police witnesses. Three of the four men who attacked Phil did not appear in court but two women members of the Healy-Torrance group gave evidence which Phil vigorously contested. Had he been found guilty on the charge of wounding with intent, he would undoubtedly have been given a much longer custodial sentence.

This is not the first time the Healy-Torrance group have acted in this way. Six of them appeared as police witnesses in Sheffield Crown Court in January this year after an incident between themselves and members of the International Communist Party. On this occasion the court did not believe them and the defendant was found not guilty.

We should point out that members of the Healy-Torrance group again attacked and beat up Phil Penn on 8 June 1986 in Leicester. They used sticks and knives. The police wished to prosecute his attackers, but, as a matter of principle, Phil refused to act as a witness and the case could not go forward.

We are asking all labour-movement organisations to condemn the anti-working class actions of the Healy-Torrance group, which were responsible for the jailing of Phil Penn. Messages of support and inquiries should be sent to: *Workers Revolutionary Party/Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS.*

Yours fraternally,

Dave Temple,

Chairman, Workers Revolutionary Party/Workers Press.



Colling approaches Penn — with a club



Mark Harrison sees Phil Penn...



... but spots the

Who organised the Leicester attack on

SUNDAY 8 June 1986, 1p.m.: Phil Penn was attacked by three men while taking photographs outside a meeting in Leicester. The three men, one carrying a stick and another a Stanley knife blade, knocked Penn to the floor and tried to take his camera.

It began when Penn, who was taking photographs for Workers Press, was seen outside the meet-

ing by David Gilbert, Healy's driver. Gilbert darted back inside the meeting. Shortly after, Healy emerged but at the same time the three ran towards Penn, knocked him over and dragged him 50 yards towards a block of flats.

Witnesses to this scene, and there were many of them, said that when Penn was attacked he was unable to defend himself because he was hanging on to his camera

with both hands. He was making a row which caused one of the men to urge the others to drag him into a nearby passageway — where they would not be so noticeable.

A large man called Colling put his knee in Penn's throat to silence him, while urging Mark Harrison to get the film out of the camera. Harrison, unable to do this, ripped off the lens and threw it away.

Thinking they had exposed the

ING OF PHIL PENN



Phil Penn and his wife Sandra

Message from Sandra Penn

COMRADE Phil Penn was jailed on Friday 6 February on a charge that should never have been brought to court.

Collaborating with the police against others in the labour movement is a serious act of class treachery, but for the Healy-Torrance group not an isolated one. They willingly and eagerly dropped recognised basic principles to settle personal scores.

Phil has struggled persistently with Marxist theory, fought courageously and unwaveringly throughout the split against Healy and his supporters. His belief in the Party and its paper Workers Press has led him to work unstintingly in its many departments — writing articles, setting pictures, taking photos, whilst encouraging

others to do the same.

He has been removed from this important work, from his campaigning, from his Party work and from his young family to satisfy the Healy-Torrance quest for revenge.

These actions must be condemned by all labour movement organisations.

I wish to thank all those comrades and friends for their total and unconditional support given to Phil, myself and our family. The letters and messages that have arrived since his conviction have been a tremendous confirmation of class solidarity, and I know that Phil would join with me in thanking you all.

SANDRA PENN

What you can do...

- Phone 01-274 7271 for copies of the circular letter shown above, left — raise it in your union branch, trades council, support group, etc.
- Write to Phil Penn No. L27055, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Ducane Road, London W12 0AE.
- Send messages of support for Phil and reports which we can print in Workers Press — we will have a special column each week while he is behind bars.

CORRESPONDENTS have written to ask why News Line has not mentioned the name of Mr Pill Penn since he emerged as a leading spokesman, thinker, theoretician and activist of the Banda-Slaughter clique. There is a simple answer. What language do you address him (it!) in? Well, here goes:

'Aargh, gawk, oink fink nuffink cor blimey git. Watcher winkles pistons cobblers an all wot. Kinnock gizza yob wiv fivers backhanders pillock dontcha gettit. Gwarrk moronic nuffin honky-tonky sparkplugs twirp. Orright squire, wot Dot done diddle dee, licking boots and fings and loads of cobblers wot Dave great bloke and two fried slices wiv sorce please mate. Suckin up saveloys cos nuffin sickins im. Shandy and onions wiv crisps of crap swallow anyfing, guv, cos earole is fick. Know wot I mean, mate, fick as two planks.'

The despicable 'Workers' Notebook' item in 'News Line' of 1 May 1986

The three police witnesses in the case all left the Workers Revolutionary Party in 1985 to support G. HEALY (right), expelled from the Party for sexual abuse, violence and slander. Now split amongst themselves, they managed to find common ground for themselves and the police



SHEILA TORRANCE, now leading the 'rump' that supported Healy, seems to be losing her cool. At Wapping last Saturday she screamed to our comrades: 'He should have got longer'



Actress MARY ('TAG') McENTEGART . . . Defence barrister compared her performance in the witness box to a show at the Young Vic and reminded the jury of some more prominent actresses in the Healy-Torrance 'rump'



RICHARD PRICE . . . the court heard how he attacked Phil with banner poles after the 3 May 1986 Wapping march. He didn't take the witness stand — but his long time associates reliably toed the line, while claiming not to know him!



ERIC ROGERS . . . with odds of four-to-one he was unlucky to get hurt.



. . . KAY RIDDICK was one of two women who came to court to claim that Phil — who everyone agreed was on his own — started the fight



camera too late

Phil Penn?

film and being unable to silence Penn, they let him go and went back into the hall. Penn got to his feet and ran to his car where he used another camera to take more photographs of his attackers.

He was later taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Three men were later arrested. Reprinted from Workers Press, 14 June 1986.

Banda's obscene version of history

The Fourth International today



MIKE BANDA has attacked Peter Fryer, saying that Fryer was campaigning for bourgeois democracy in Hungary.

This was a dirty lie, directed at Fryer's unflinching defence of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Banda was, as Fryer pointed out, attacking the Hungarian Revolution and defending the Stalinist bureaucracy against the uprising of the working class.

It is not at all accidental that the Fourth International has been under attack for more than 35 years from a series of internal enemies and disillusioned fainthearts, most of whom became out-and-out renegades and all of whom looked for ways of 'explaining' that the Stalinist bureaucracy had something 'progressive' about it.

They have told us that Trotsky was wrong to denounce Stalinism as the 'syphilis of the workers movement'.

Latest of these is Banda, one-time secretary of our own Workers Revolutionary Party.

Once Healy was expelled, Banda (despite the most patient work of our Party to allow him to rehabilitate himself) never made one other single contribution to Party work.

Languishing in Sri Lanka, he produced a document ('27 Reasons . . .') which Comrades Hunter and Bruce showed to be a preparation for capitulation.

Oppose

The question which Banda's document raised — but did not answer — was: why should the Fourth International ever have been founded at all?

According to Banda, it had never done anything but oppose real revolutions, while Stalinists had led those revolutions, as in China and Vietnam.

Today Banda has of course gone much further. He has denounced Trotskyism as 'petty-bourgeois' and Trotsky as 'a petty-bourgeois Jeremiah'.

In his latest document ('What is Trotskyism?') he refers to:

'Trotsky's inability to grasp the contradictory nature of Stalin's regime — brutally centralising administration and subordinating Soviet legality and democracy to the needs of primitive socialist accumulation and the — yes — progressive tasks of developing nationalised industry and collectivised agriculture, raising health and educational standards and conducting a revolution in science and technology — this failure led to a fatal scepticism about the future evolution of the USSR and a deliberate attempt to exaggerate the power of restorationists within the USSR'.

On the next page, Banda tells us that 'Stalin — the proletarian Bonaparte — represented the revolution in permanence'.

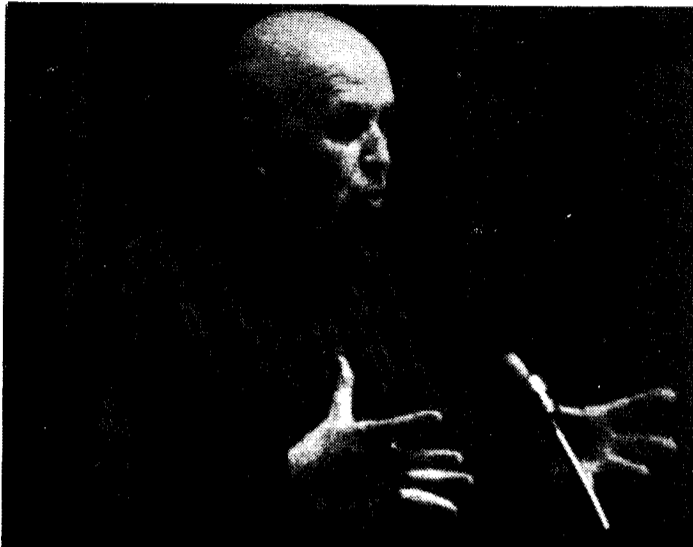
'The police-bureaucratic negation of NEP, the political atomisation of the peasantry, the industrialisation and collectivisation of the peasantry, the creation of a massive new working class and intelligentsia — all these developments were the expression of a historical law'.

'The revolution having failed to transcend national boundaries, and hemmed in on all sides, swept back into the USSR with redoubled force and, on the backs of an exhausted working class and a decimated party, completely disrupted the precarious equilibrium of forces established in the post-Lenin era.'

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MICHEL PABLO: 'Dual nature' and 'progressive role' of the Stalinist Bureaucracy

'It was, as Deutscher correctly put it, "a bureaucratic second revolution".'

Even Stalin's butchery of the Bolsheviks is justified by Banda:

'Contrary to the traditional version peddled by Trotsky's defenders and apologists, the Left Opposition was not destroyed by Stalin's persecution.'

'It was destroyed from within by its inability to formulate a correct policy and to make an objective scientific analysis of the Stalin regime.'

One more quotation, for the time being, will show that Banda's discovery of a progressive role for Stalinism is not just a verdict on the past but also a prescription for the present:

'In fact what we are seeing [today] is a gradual liberalisation of bureaucratic rule and a decentralisation of economic administration in line with the vast and unprecedented changes in Soviet industry, science and technology — and the working class.'

Every sentence contains historical or theoretical errors and lies which have been exposed many times.

Banda is saying that the bureaucracy did many brutal and wrong things, but it represented 'the revolution'.

For Banda 'the revolution' is something separate from the actual movement and struggle of the working class.

For example, he says this revolution, having failed on the world arena (Germany, China, Spain, etc.) 'swept back into the USSR with redoubled force'. This is sheer mysticism.

What is this revolution which visits distant parts, fails, and sweeps back with redoubled force?

And when it sweeps back, what does it do? It 'disrupts the precarious equilibrium! How? By climbing 'on the backs of an exhausted working class and a decimated party! Who 'decimated' it?'

Lugubrious

What are the philosophy and politics behind this lugubrious fairy tale?

Banda says that the revolution 'failed to transcend national boundaries'. How objective! How nice and neutral!

He does not say that the policy of Stalin's faction, representing the bureaucracy, misled the communists of Germany in 1923, of Britain in 1926, of China in 1923-1927, and many others, so that the capitalist class was able to inflict defeats.

He does not say that the

ultra-left policy of Stalin and the Comintern, from 1929 to 1933, imposed on the German Communist Party a disastrous line which opened the door to the Nazi victory.

He does not say that the same Stalinist leadership then betrayed the Spanish Revolution, while 'at home' Stalin was systematically framing and killing off the whole of the Bolshevik 'old guard'.

No! He says only that 'the revolution . . . failed to transcend national boundaries'. This transformation of 'the revolution' into some independent mystical force — a disembodied historical necessity with a life of its own — is nothing more than a cover for the counter-revolutionary role of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

These defeats were the consequence of the bureaucracy's growing independence from the working class, its parasitism, its abandonment of Marxism for pragmatism and opportunism.

The defeats were not, as Banda likes to pretend, external difficulties which the bureaucracy (or rather, 'the revolution') faced, and in reply to which it determinedly set about a 'progressive' transformation of Soviet economy and society.

For Marx — and this is the very core of Bolshevism, of revolutionary Marxism — the socialist revolution is the self-emancipation of the working class.

For Banda 'the revolution' uses the working class, riding 'on the backs of an exhausted working class'.

For Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, the revolutionary party is the most vital and indispensable instrument for bringing the consciousness, unity and organised force of the working class to the point of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the building of socialism.

For Banda, 'the revolution' rides 'on the backs . . . of a decimated party!'

And why was the party 'decimated'? Banda does not choose to say.

Again, he covers up the role of the parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy which crushed party democracy, exiled and liquidated the opposition, corrupted theory, and diluted the party membership with bureaucrats and thugs of all kinds.

In this obscene version of history the bureaucracy, its role of betrayal and repression now covered up, is said, *à la* Deutscher, to have the ability to make 'a second bureaucratic revolution'.

What it did was 'the expression of a historical law'. It 'conducted' a revolution in science and technology.

For this view of history, faithfully reflecting the interests and ideology of the bureaucracy itself, Marx's materialism is a dead letter.

Historical laws, forces of production, and some independent spirit called 'the revolution' are the active motive forces of history, with the working class — and even the party — their mere reflection, their carriers.

Only THE BUREAUCRACY, STALINISM, directly represents the force of history, the revolution.

Anybody could be excused for wondering why on earth the bureaucracy under Gorbachev should need to 'liberalise and decentralise', as Banda imagines they are doing, if they were already doing these wonderful things.

Questions

Banda in himself is of no importance. But the way he raises the questions of Stalinism and Trotskyism is very instructive.

The path he has taken, and his conclusions (and he hasn't finished travelling yet) are a warning, especially to those who look for some formula to give the Stalinist bureaucracy a 'dual role', a 'progressive role', or a 'progressive side'.

There is a decisive point at stake here: it concerns the whole reason for the existence of the revolutionary party, Trotskyism, the Fourth International.

Trotsky and his comrades founded the Fourth International in 1938 because Stalinism had 'passed definitively' to the side of the class enemy, the side of counter-revolution.

Until 1933 and Hitler's victory, Trotsky and the Left Opposition fought within the Communist International and its parties to correct the disastrous course dictated by the bureaucracy.

A few weeks after Hitler came to power, when it had become inescapably clear that the Stalinists would not learn the lessons and correct their course, Trotsky and his supporters began the construction of the new, Fourth International.

In the years leading up to 1953, Michel Pablo, then secretary of the Fourth International, drew his own conclusions from his impressions of the post-war situation, especially the formation of deformed workers' states in Eastern Europe and China.

These events led him to present the formula 'dual nature of the Stalinist bureaucracy', in order to account for what he saw as its 'progressive role'.

So powerful was the revolu-

tion' that it would not wait for the construction of the Fourth International. It would express itself through the bureaucracy and its Stalinist parties, not against them! There would be 'centuries of deformed workers' states'.

Like Banda, Pablo saw all this working out of a historical law going ahead on the backs of the working class.

The conclusion could only be that the Fourth International was a mistake — understandable at the time, in 1938, perhaps, but proved by experience to be a mistake, a forlorn hope.

The opening and central theme of its founding programme — that the crisis of mankind is concentrated in the crisis of revolutionary working-class leadership — had been proved wrong.

If you persist, of course, in fighting against Stalinism and building alternative revolutionary parties, you become an obstruction to the real makers of history, the bureaucracy and the Stalinists, and you will deserve everything you get (like the Vietnamese Trotskyists butchered by the Vietnamese Communist Party, or the Spanish Trotskyists and left anarchist-syndicalists in the Spanish Civil War, who met the same fate).

Shades of Banda: 'The Left Opposition was not destroyed by Stalin's persecution. It was destroyed from within by its inability to formulate a correct policy', etc.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is a parasite on the workers' state of the USSR. Its destruction of the Bolshevik Party and its liquidation of the Third International were necessary to preserve its parasitism, not to develop the economy of the workers' state or defend it against imperialism.

On the contrary, the policies of the bureaucracy inside and outside the USSR created mortal dangers for the workers' state.

By betraying the world revolution the bureaucracy perpetuated the isolation of the workers' state, and hence the 'exhaustion' of the working class, as Banda so 'objectively' calls it.

It cut off whole generations, inside and outside the USSR, from the true scientific and revolutionary heritage of Marxism, of Bolshevism.

It reduced Marxism to a mechanical dogma fit only for dictators and thugs.

These Stalinist bureaucrats are interested in the growth of the Soviet economy only in so far as it is the source of their own position and privileges. When they defend the workers'

state they defend their own existence and privileges first and foremost.

They are interested in the struggles of the masses throughout the rest of the world only in so far as — since they cannot be stopped — they can be used as bargaining counters in the 'peaceful coexistence' strategy of preserving the bureaucracy's relations with imperialism.

There is a struggle, a struggle to the death, between the working class, an international class by its very nature, and the national-parasitic bureaucracy.

The future of the working class in the Soviet state, transitional between capitalism and socialism, depends on the extension of the October Revolution throughout the world, and above all to the advanced capitalist countries.

The Stalinist bureaucracy and its parties are the gravediggers of proletarian revolutions in every country where revolutionary struggles come about.

The working class cannot achieve these 'new Octobers' without revolutionary parties of the Bolshevik type — sections of the Fourth International — built in opposition to Stalinism.

Between these parties and the Stalinist apparatus has flowed, and still flows, a river of blood.

Usurped

In the degenerated workers' state of the USSR and the deformed workers' states of Eastern Europe, China, and Vietnam, the working class cannot defeat the parasitic bureaucracy, which has usurped its power over the nationalised property without a political revolution.

This revolution will defend the conquests of the October Revolution and the subsequent overturns, above all by its direct connection with the social revolution in the capitalist countries.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is the enemy in this political revolution, as in Hungary in 1956, and in Poland in 1956 and again in 1980-1981.

On all these fundamental issues, the lie of a 'dual nature' of the Stalinist bureaucracy works to cover up for the counter-revolutionary nature of Stalinism 'through and through'.

And it works to disorientate and break up the workers, youth and intellectuals who come forward to build the alternative leadership: the Fourth International.

In that attempt at disorientation and destruction, Banda has become an instrument of Stalinism.

CLIFF SLAUGHTER

THE FUTURE FACE OF POLICING

The high level of arrests in recent years

- During the miners' strike there were over 10,000 arrests;
- On various single peace movement demonstrations there were 200-300 arrests;
- At each of the 'Stop the City' actions between 400 and 500 were arrested;
- In Tottenham's Broadwater Farm there were over 300 arrests, often after dawn raids;
- Well over 1,000 have been arrested at Wapping;
- The prison population is up by 6,000 in the last six years — a sudden and phenomenal rise;
- An ever-growing backlog of cases are waiting to be tried;
- The number in custody on remand has doubled since 1979.

GROWING police power will mean in the future: greater and more general 'military' tactics and organisation; an increasingly clear division between a civilian or ordinary policing system and that of a 'standing army'; and an ever more intrusive police control of everyday life.

We can expect in the near future to see a differentiation between the paramilitary police and the more ordinary constable, with perhaps large parts of the lower echelons of the police replaced by civilian or privatised workers, such as security firms or even voluntary citizens, with extensions of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, while the major concentration of police personnel and organisational capacity will be turned towards militarised and political policing.

With the public unveiling of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) during the miners' strike, we can see a vanguard police institution in the process of integrating itself into the structure of the state.

The 1984-1985 miners' strike has to be seen in the context of deindustrialisation, de-skilling and deunionisation: capital's need in the face of international competition to cut its wages bill, make technological advances and keep up the rate of profit.

Rather than the miners' strike being a watershed of industrial conflict or policing history, the state had been preparing for it since at least the late 1960s. The years from 1970 to the present are littered with the skeletons of the older industrial base: docks, steelworks, carworks. At Salfley during the 1972 miners' strike, a mass picket which had marched through the outskirts of Birmingham forced the police to lock the gates of the coke depot. The police were massively outnumbered and outflanked, not only by miners led by Arthur Scargill, but by other workers who joined the march.

The new Tory right which began organising around 1974 saw this physical confrontation as symbolic of the weakness of the Heath administration.

At Orgreave in 1985, which elements of the NUM saw as a replay of Salfley, the police deployed over

car searches were used extensively in Stoke Newington, London; polaroid photos and the fabrication of verbal evidence had a history, particularly in London.

Now the Public Order Act of 1986 has put into statute many controls the police used against pickets during the miners' strike while the Police and Criminal Evidence Act gives the police powers to surround areas and put up road blocks. Since the miners' strike police have diverted traffic and used news censorship.

BY MARTIN WALKER

different forms by the church and agencies of the state.

Most open to police attack are those who are marginalised, culturally different and without productive work or power, but the question of who is most open to attack is a separate question from that of who is able to organise the most effective opposition to the state.

Policing Crime

AS THE police develop increasingly and specifically in defence of the state, they show less and less political or professional will to be involved in crime control except where that 'crime' threatens the state.

The state is concerned essentially with those forms of organisation which present autonomous economic, political or organisational threats to its power, or to less organised crime which, because of

Police intervention in the Civil Administration

THE POLICE have moved in parasitically upon the structures of civil administration and welfare, obtaining information, entering the schools, etc. This attempt to enter democratic administration by the backdoor and turn the instruments of welfare into instruments of social control has been resisted by a number of Labour controlled councils.

Like parasites which eventually kill their hosts, the police have their sights firmly set upon the actual administration itself.

When the state police force came into being in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the power of the constable was mediated by the Justice, what we know today as the Magistrate. The Justices had a role in administration and arbitration, although they also had the

demands of the state. Although the police appear to be at the 'front line' of any conflict, the ambit of their power and culture exists within a much wider radius than this.

Recognition of the extensive protection which the police offer the state and vice versa should determine tactics of opposition other than physical confrontation.

The direction of the police will be dictated by the objectives of the state and it is these objectives we must address; we should not fool ourselves that in tinkering with the policing system, inside this or that local authority, this or that community, we can affect capitalism's method of repression.

The present period is characterised by an ever-growing population surplus to the needs of capitalism. This pauperised, propertyless population is a constant threat and irritant to the state.

A great deal of policing in the future will be political rather than criminal in that it deals with this population as a whole and not simply those amongst that popula-



Police rooftop surveillance during last year's Nottingham Carnival

'Public Order'

THE expression 'public order' is safer for the police than 'public disorder' since the latter exposes a contradiction in which the public could appear as a majority. What the police and state mean by a 'public order' situation is in fact a 'state order' situation.

As capitalism rationalises its productive forces, just as it did in the early 19th century, not only does the whole administration of capital and the state become more centralised, but choice for large groups of discarded industrial workers and smaller groups within the community is eroded.

Decreasing productive work and the loss of wages marks out growing numbers of people not only as

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If you're over 22, your added maturity

A recent police recruiting advert

its large scale, seriously threatens the persons or property of state institutions.

The police answer to recent de-professionalisation of urban crime has been the increasing use of military and blanket operations, or prejudicial rather than scientific investigations, with little intention of discriminating between honest and dishonest individuals, violent or peaceful individuals.

Over the last 20 years or so, the whole of the working class and the whole of the marginalised or non-productive population have become criminalised. There is a war now, not against crime, but against both the pauperised and the productive working class of the inner cities.

Crime supports property. Guinness stockmarket revelations shows a new fertile area for professional crime, hiding behind the smart suits of business. Broadly speaking, the most successful criminals of the latter period of industrialised society have become incorporated within the world of legitimised business and state institutions.

What we have left at the base is not a policing of the criminal law, or the apparent traditional protection of property relations, but an organised military and disorganised subjective response of power to the poor, propertyless and increasingly powerless younger generation within the inner cities.

power to raise, coordinate and deploy the militia.

They were the early form of local authority, but unlike the present local authority, they had the power to fine and discipline the constable, interrogate him in court and question the propriety of his evidence.

Now the police have a tacit authority over the Magistrate's Court rather than the other way round. The power of 'cautioning' means that since 1984 the police can virtually try and punish ('caution') certain offences within the police station.

A growing number of offences, initially connected with motoring law, do not go to court. The new Criminal Justice Bill does away with the defendant's right to peremptorily challenge jurors and designates more offences upon which the defendant cannot opt for trial by jury.

Conclusions

PERHAPS the picture I paint is a depressing one, with the state and its agencies consolidating new power. We should not be depressed by realistic appraisals but should remind ourselves of the objectives which the state has in mind and on this basis formulate our resistance.

The direction of the police, their organisation, ideology, culture and technology, is not separate from

tion who break the traditional statutes. At the base of this policing system is information, exactly as new means of production are based on information technology.

What the police previously learned just about criminals, they now try to learn about the whole population through those who share the new philosophy of the state. They will approach, for example, a Director of Housing Services. They collect information through 'invisible' informers such as listening devices and computer records.

All strata of the civil administration which collect and collate information will sooner or later be forced to turn them over, as a matter of course, to the police. (A clause in the original Police and Criminal Evidence Bill demanded that doctors and other professionals turn over all their records to the police in the event of a crime in a certain area.)

Policing will become more and more to do with social control and less to do with crime.

A number of researchers have pointed to the growing politicisation of the police, but few have suggested where this politicisation is heading. The journey of the constable from the early 19th century to the present day has been a journey from servant to master.

*The longer paper on which this article is based, 'Policing the Future', was read at the History Workshop Conference in November 1986. Copies may be obtained through Workers Press.

Martin Walker is author of two books on the policing of the miners' strike, 'State of Siege' (with Jim Coulter and Sue Miller) and 'A Turn of the Screw', as well as 'With Extreme Prejudice', about the case of the Manchester student Steven Shaw.

All are published by Canary Press, BCM Canary, London WC1 3XX. They are available from Paperbacks Centres. Phone 01-636 3532.

Most open to police attack are those who are marginalised, culturally different and without productive work or power, but the question of who is most open to attack is a separate question from that of who is able to organise the most effective opposition to the state

6,000 officers thoroughly trained in para-military formations. The miners, on the other hand, failed to change their strategies. Many area officials vacillated even over the use of traditional strategies and withdrew their members from serious confrontation.

The year of the strike provided the state with a lever for advance. The police used well-proven historical strategies: power of numbers and para-military formations, discipline and organisation learned in periods of colonial resistance to the British army and police.

Curfews attached to bail were used in the 1970s; road blocks and

impoverished but as personally and politically powerless. Those whom the state casts out from its enclave it also comes to fear. The police are preoccupied with disassembling this mass, this group with a common voice.

As a first imperative they have to control what has historically been considered public space, whether it be within the community, at the point of production, within points of exchange and consumption — like shopping centres — or at symbolic political locations. Policing begins to inhabit an area historically occupied by morality laid down and policed in

NAZIS IN BRITAIN

Letter from America

This is the first contribution in a series on American economic and political developments from our New York correspondent.

'ANTONY GECAS' retired from Bilston Glen colliery a few years ago. To workmates and to neighbours in Newington, Edinburgh, he was known as a Polish ex-serviceman who had fought the Germans.

In fact, as he has admitted to press and TV investigators, 'Gecas' is Antanas Gevicias, who served as junior lieutenant in a Lithuanian police unit operating with the Nazis on the Eastern front.

His unit was involved in Nazi atrocities, hanging Soviet partisans and slaughtering Jews. He admits to having been in a battalion which surrounded 150 innocent people while they were shot by Nazis, at Dukara, but denies shooting anyone himself.

Gevicias, who came to Scotland in 1947, is one of 17 alleged Nazi war criminals named by the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal centre as living in Britain.

How did men like this get into this country, at a time when memories of Nazi mass murder and atrocities were still fresh, when anger was high, and governments were still officially pursuing war criminals?

The ex-Lithuanian police officer insists that he included details of his service when completing immigration forms. He also says that he was never asked questions about what he did for the Nazis by the immigration authorities, nor by the Aliens Office when he sought naturalisation.

Had the British authorities been interested, they might have asked Gevicias how he earned his Iron Cross leading a unit hunting fugitive Jews and partisans in the forests around Minsk, Byelorussia.

They might even have obtained testimonies such as the following, from former battalion member Zigmas Juodis:

'The inhabitants of the Minsk ghetto were shot outside the city in 1941. I was accompanying the field kitchen. Of the officers who took part in the shooting, I can recall Junior Lieutenant Antanas Gevicias.'

Or from Kazis Adomaitis: 'I had to hang some unknown people in Minsk. The battalion was lined up in front of the jail in two ranks. The victims were hanged in the park near the theatre. It was Gevicias who was in charge of the executions.'

Nazi murderers got into Britain during the late 1940s, not because of some unusual laxness by the authorities, but in line with a deliberate, though never stated, policy.

Part of this was brought out two years ago when a Canadian investigation, the Deschenes Commission, found 660 former Nazis living in Canada.

It also uncovered a secret British Foreign Office memorandum to Commonwealth governments, dated 1948, advising them: 'In view of future political developments in Germany envisaged by recent tripartite talks we are convinced that it is now necessary to dispose of the past as soon as possible.'

The British note recommended that all cases awaiting trial should be disposed of by 31 August 1948, after which no new trials should begin.

The Canadian police did not investigate allegations against 296 suspects on their files until 1982, when Helmut Rica, wanted for the murder of 11,000 Lithuanian Jews, was arrested and extradited to West Germany.

Deschenes Commission lawyer Yves Fortier observed that the British policy might explain why requests to the British government for help had been 'dead ends.'

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

the Federation of Conservative Students deemed Lord Stockton a 'war criminal' for it.

Less has been heard about the other, very different side of the coin.

According to historian Gerard Reitlinger, 'the bulk of the Ukrainian SS, numbering 15,000, surrendered to the British in Austria and were interned at Rimini.'

According to Denis Hills, who was a Major in British Intelligence at Rimini, the hand-over of some Russians 'was a belated token sacrifice to appease the Soviet authorities who had been trying without success to get their hands on the 8,000 Soviet Ukrainians of the Wehrmacht's Galicia division that was still under our protection. When the pressure on them slackened, we shipped the Galicia Division to England, (Hills, 'The White Pumpkin', 1977).

Was it the 'Wehrmacht's Galicia division' as he says, or the more infamous SS Galicia Division that was shipped here, fake Polish papers and within four years of World War II, Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians and others who had fought on the Nazi side were being recruited by both the United States and British intelligence for spying and terrorism against the Soviet Union.

German E-boats were re-

'It may be the explanation why we've had difficulty obtaining information from London as to the disposition of outstanding cases at the time.'

Why was the British state so keen back in the 1940s — under a Labour government, we must note — to 'let bygones be bygones'? Why is the present Tory government refusing to release papers relating to Klaus Barbie, the 'butcher of Lyons', awaiting trial in France; or even papers relating to the infamous murderer Josef Mengele?

The British government's 1948 reference to 'future political developments in Germany' supplies part of the answer. The British, US and French governments were ready to revive militarism in West Germany, along with the big capitalist bosses who had backed Hitler, and with the help of Nazi officers, in preparation for war with the Soviet Union.

As early as September 1945, some 50 former officers of the Abwehr and OKW, German intelligence units, were assembled at a camp in Ostend run by Montgomery's 21st Army headquarters.

Their British intelligence counterparts were particu-



Britain became home for the Nazi Gevicias who supervised hanging of Minsk partisans

larly interested in what they could learn from those who had served on the Russian front.

In 1947, Lieutenant-Colonel Adolf Wichte, a former aide to Nazi spy boss Reinhard Gehlen, was taken to British intelligence headquarters at Munster, in an effort to recruit him. Wichte later rejoined his old boss Gehlen, who went to work with the better-paying Americans, before turning his agency into West Germany's present equivalent of the CIA, the Bundesnachrichtendienst, BND.

Nazis like Gehlen and Wichte had particular experience of recruiting Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Latvian and other nationals for operations in the Soviet Union.

The British intelligence establishment already had experience and contacts of its own in this field — sometimes the same as the Nazis. The ex-Tsarist officer Strickfeldt, for instance, who had worked for the British in Latvia, was involved with the Wehrmacht's establishment of an anti-communist Russian 'army'.

The Ukrainian nationalist Stepan Bandera, whose anti-Soviet activity was patronised by the SIS under Admiral Sir Hugh 'Quex' Sinclair in the 1930s, turned to the Nazis in 1938. During the war, his supporters were encouraged to enlist in SS units which were notorious for their sadism and savagery.

There has been much publicity in recent years about the Cossack prisoners of war who were handed back to the Soviet Union by the British government, under the terms of the Yalta agreement. Nicolai Tolstoy wrote a book about it. A leader of

fitted in Portsmouth with new radar and radio gear, forming the Royal Navy's little-known 'Baltic Fishing Protection Fleet', which was used to land agents on the coasts of Latvia and Estonia.

From RAF bases in Cyprus, planes flew out across the Ukraine dropping parachuted agents and supplies. Some of these Ukrainian groups were ill-fated from the start, had they but known it.

'I do not know what happened to the parties... but I can make an informed guess', the then head of the SIS section involved was to comment later. One Kim Philby!

In a small town in Lancashire, one evening in the 1970s, local builder and landlord Jan, drunkenly reminiscing, produced an old photograph from his wallet. He was puzzled, and a little upset, when his companions turned away in disgust at the sight of him in the uniform of the Latvian SS.

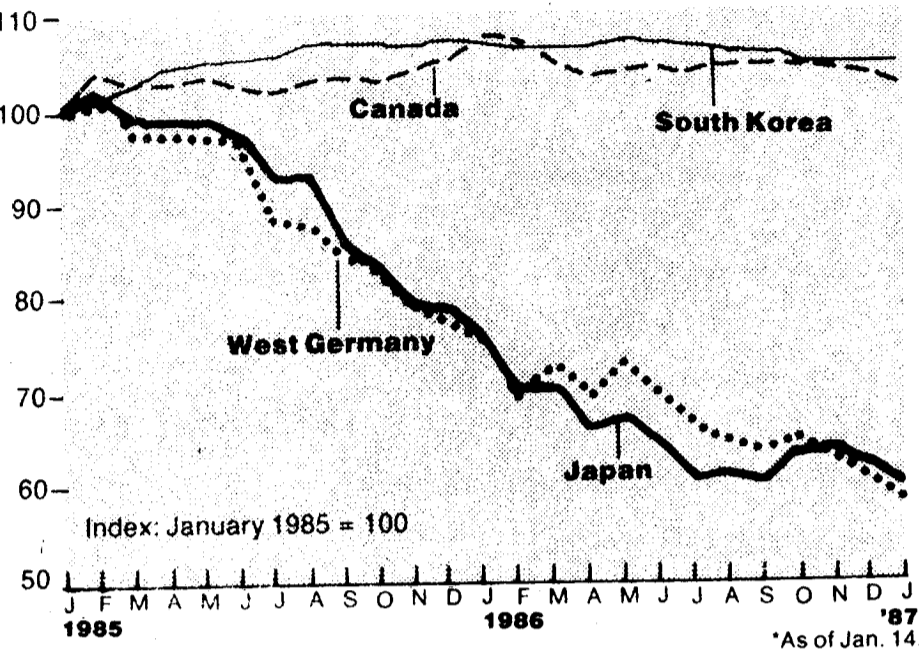
Maybe not all those who served on the Nazi side in World War II can be considered criminals. Maybe some of those guilty of atrocities, and belatedly exposed, will die before they face any kind of justice.

But the British state which shielded Nazi war criminals, brought them to Britain and enlisted them for further crimes, is still very much with us.

It has been able to operate in this way under Labour as well as Tory governments. It has been able to cover its war plans and political conspiracies with Official Secrecy, and in this too, continues to enjoy the complicity of the Labour leaders.

The Dollar's Mixed Performance

Comparison of changes in the value of the dollar at the end of each month against the currencies of four important trading partners.



Source: International Monetary Fund; First American Bank of New York

A PLUNGING dollar, despite massive intervention by the German and Japanese central banks, could indicate the beginning of a world slump in 1987.

Behind the fall in the dollar is the huge United States trade gap which reached \$175 billion last year, 18 per cent up on 1985. The Reagan administration sees a fall in the value of the dollar as the only way to reduce the deficit to manageable proportions.

Many economists doubt whether a weaker dollar will make much difference to the deficit and Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is known to fear a free fall in the currency unless it is quickly stabilised at around its present level.

The trade gap has plagued the economy for years and represents a massive penetration of foreign manufactured goods into the American market.

According to The New York Times of 14 January this 'slowed the domestic economy and caused recessions and huge job losses in particular industries, including agriculture, mining and timber and in some manufacturing'.

Even a weaker dollar has not deterred consumers from buying foreign products, such as Japanese cars and electronic goods, noted for their reliability.

The Japanese, in particular, view the falling dollar with deep concern, fearing that if it goes far enough their exports will, at last, be priced out of the market. But, although the Japanese central bank intervention cost \$2 to 3 billion the yen continued to rise against the dollar.

The dollar is also well down against European currencies, particularly the German mark, now the most used currency in foreign trade after the dollar.

By putting heavy pressure on the mark, and threatening to close off Germany's valuable trade in the US market, the administration is hoping to force Bonn into a major reflationary movement, beginning with a fall in interest rates.

Neither the Japanese nor the Germans seem willing to play ball with Washington. They recognise that an effective limitation of their export sales through the forcing down of the value of the dollar

would have just as serious effect on their economies as would high tariffs.

Meanwhile, with typical hypocrisy, the Reagan administration says it is against protection while doing its best to bring about the same results by other means.

In any case, as the history of the pound sterling in the 1970s showed, attempts to bring down the value of a currency can get out of control and fuel inflationary forces. This is obviously Volcker's great fear and he is known as 'the free-fall worrier'.

Paradoxically, the currencies of some countries, such as South Korea and Canada, which sell large quantities of goods to the United States, have kept in step with the falling dollar.

This illustrates the point that there is no automatic connection between a weaker dollar and a smaller trade gap. In fact, the Reagan administration has no solution and is coming under increasing pressure to curb imports by more direct means.

A weaker dollar takes some time to show up higher import prices. Many firms in Japan, Germany and elsewhere, have been making such huge profits from sales in America that they have absorbed the effect of the weaker dollar so far. Many consumers may be ready to pay higher prices for imports because of their quality.

The trade gap is partly a reflection on the competitiveness of American manufacturing industry, partly a result of the fact that the big multinationals have moved many of their manufacturing facilities to low-wage countries.

If the fall in the dollar indicates major weaknesses in

the US economy how can the booming stock market be explained?

The continued upward trend on Wall Street, far from indicating a healthy economy, is feeding its weaknesses. There is much money about, some of it foreign, and much to be made — but from shuffling around existing assets not from any real increase in prospective profits.

Some economists like John Kenneth Galbraith and bankers like Felix Rohatyn, fear that the bull market could be a prelude to a major collapse similar to that in 1929.

Big corporations are not investing in new plant and equipment but are using their funds to play the market. The trade gap also shows up in stock market dealings because many foreigners with earnings from exports are purchasing US assets including portfolio investment in stocks.

Another contradiction, then: while the Japanese and the Germans bitterly criticise US policy they increase their holdings in US assets.

Of course, such funds, especially those of foreigners, are highly volatile and if there is a sign of a break in the trend the computerised market will be choked with orders to sell.

Meanwhile the overall trend of the economy is sluggish. Big corporations have little incentive to invest. The repercussions of the weaker dollar will soon be making itself felt in higher prices. No one believes that the trade gap will go away or that the stock market boom will last for ever. Even the most euphoric speculator must have a gnawing feeling that Galbraith and Rohatyn may be right.

GEORGE LORMIN

MARXIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Bryant Street Methodist Centre
 Bryant Street
 Off West Ham Lane,
 Stratford, E.London
 Sunday 15 February, 7.30pm
 'South Africa'
 Speaker Keith Hassell (Workers Power)
 Sunday 22 February, 7.30pm
 'The Call for an International
 Conference of Trotskyists'
 Speaker: Bob Archer (WRP)

LETTERS

The Irish or British revolution

I AM writing with reference to the debate over the importance of 1688/1690 in Irish history.

Brian Pearce identified the importance of 1688 in Ireland. This was the turning point in Irish history for both nationalists and colonialists.

Trotskyists have attempted in Ireland to identify 1916, 1798 and 1641 as the principal dates in Irish history. Gerry Downing would be at present in the Republican camp in his historical analysis.

His indignation at Pearce's suggestion that 1688 is a date of great importance shows he is not penetrating to the essence of the matter of historical materialism's application to the Irish question.

The so called Glorious Revolution of 1688 was when the bourgeoisie forced the monarchy and aristocracy to accept a Baconian constitutional monarch and the bourgeoisie democratic state.

The efforts of the Baconians to secure their position during the Commonwealth (1648-1660) are well documented and their great reforming plans for the state were centred on Ireland.

Their failure resulted in the defeat of bourgeoisie in the Restoration of Charles II and the Catholic Party (1660).

The counter-revolution of James II, like that of Charles I, was based on a conspiracy, using backward elements in Ireland against the progressive bourgeoisie. This was a Catholic reaction aimed at the democratic British state.

The bourgeois democratic rights of the British mentioned by Downing are based on the victory — in 1688. These rights were not based on the victory of Cromwell.

The Republicans cannot come to grips with a class analysis of Irish history, let alone a world, Trotskyist view of history encompassing a United Socialist States of Europe.

Trotskyists in Ireland have no trouble in supporting the revolutionary struggle of the nationalist movement, while understanding that the theoreticians of Sinn Fein or Republican Sinn Fein are incapable of breaking with their nationalist prejudices while they confine their struggle to bourgeois democratic horizons.

In this same edition of Workers Press Simon Pirani documented the betrayal of Vietnamese Trotskyists by Pablo and other. Unfortunately Comrade Downing has not learnt the lesson of our own bloody history although he reminds us of Ireland's bloody history.

We can no more trust the Republican movement to carry out a revolution in Ireland than we can trust the Stalinists in Vietnam to solve the problems of this small country guided by their theory of socialism in one country.

In the north the working class Protestants see the monarchy as a guarantee of their bourgeois democratic rights. Foolish misguided lackeys of fascism!

Actually the British working class probably are just as devoted to this notion, so perhaps more attention should be given to a misconception which is obviously deeply ingrained in the British working-class consciousness.

The fact that there is a contradiction between bourgeois democratic rights and the degenerate ideology of Unionism and Toryism should not send Trotskyists rushing into the arms of Republicanism.

We must understand these 'real' material factors and develop a programme which will win the divided working class to its banner.

Downing's revolutionary sounding blast would tie Trotskyism to the coat-tails of Republicanism. It is the responsibility of Trotskyists to destroy all manifestations of bourgeois ideology in the minds of the working class,

both Republican and Unionist.

Left-wing nationalism in Ireland will never appeal to the revolutionary aspirations of the non-Catholic working class.

A Trotskyist policy for revolutionary action in Ireland will be based on a deep understanding of the historic importance of 1688, 1690 and also 1691 when the new bourgeois administration took power in Dublin Castle and Baconian Provost Ashe began his fundamental reform of the Dublin University curriculum, basing this on revolutionary bourgeois philosophy of John Locke.

I hope that my brief note will provoke other Trotskyists to consider this matter with a fresh view, and I for one will refuse to be dismissed by Downing as an ex-Trotskyist!

I know that there can be no socialist revolutionary solution in Ireland without a British and European struggle of the working class.

Has any comrade seriously opposed the bourgeois road of republicanism in the WRP?

Certainly, Comrade Downing, as a chief spokesman on Ireland for the WRP, is leading the party in a disastrous direction on this question of 1688.

N.M.
Dublin

International class struggle

Workers Press has, over the past few weeks, published a number of articles and editorials on the international class struggle which we feel to be somewhat ambiguous.

A certain lack of clarity in the paper's analysis of the recent strikes in France for instance seems to have been provoked by a mysterious 'class' which you call the 'middle class' and which can apparently 'certainly be won to the struggle for socialism' (Workers Press editorial dated 17 January.)

F. Rouleau of Lutte Ouvriere (Workers Press, January 10) characterises the French students' strike as 'petty bourgeois' and separates it totally from the working class railway workers' strike.

He disregards the intervention of secondary school students who far outnumbered higher education students and were more militant.

These secondary and technical school students not

only fought for working class demands of nationally recognised diplomas and equal opportunity for access to higher education, but allied themselves very closely with the whole proletariat, calling for general strike action and united workers-students demonstrations.

It was natural that the school students' and students' experience should be taken up by the public sector workers just two weeks later in response to management's attempt to introduce 'flexible' conditions and promotions (and not over a £70 pay rise as F. Rouleau, management and union bosses state).

The essential in these strikes is that the students and workers used their own organisational means in an attempt to control and unite their struggle and to force the unions to comply with their aims and decisions.

This real attempt by the proletariat to overcome the obstacle of reformist and Stalinist leaderships brought all the organisations claiming to be revolutionary into the forefront of the struggle and exposed their centrist capitulation.

The real lesson of the strikes was that they put to the fore the question of the rebuilding of the revolutionary proletarian leadership against Stalinists, reformists and centrists alike.

The French strikers did not base their organisational optimism and fighting efficiency on the recent splits in the PCF, nor the 'polarisation' of a mysterious 'middle class' that may be won to socialism (?), and even less on 'some sections of the middle class and even of the ruling class (sic) . . . turning against the state' (Workers Press editorial 13 December 1986).

Revolutionary tactics and strategy have never been based on the possibility of the splits or divisions within the ruling class, its agents or temporary allies within the labour aristocracy but on the independent organisation of the proletariat.

Only the proletariat armed with the revolutionary programme and organisation can be strong enough to win to its side sections of the petty bourgeois and labour aristocracy.

Simon Peter Neves Pedro

Failed to comment

WORKERS PRESS has so far failed to comment on the trial of six young people accused of the murder of PC Blakelock.

This needs to be rectified, because equivocation on this issue could be taken to be cowardice on the part of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Many weeks of racist police violence in Tottenham and elsewhere culminated in the death of Cynthia Jarrett. Then, for the first time — in recent years, at least — the police met their match and got back some of the treatment they have handed out to the black community and others for years and years.

The battle lines are quite clear and we should say whose side we are on.

We support unconditionally those who defend their communities against police harassment.

Do we support the execution of police agents within the South African liberation movement and that movement's right to take any action necessary against the police? Yes.

Do we support the right of the Irish liberation fighters to use any means at their disposal to drive the British occupying forces out of Ireland? Yes.

Do we support the working class and racially oppressed communities in Britain when they defend themselves against the British police? Yes.

The Tottenham riot came in the same week as the

Runcorn occupation which stopped the 'News Line' and spelt the end of Healy's reign over the WRP. The previous three or four copies of 'News Line' stank of abstentionism and conciliation, calling, for instance, for 'police monitoring centres'.

It seems to me no accident that the WRP has little influence and few members among the black population in Britain.

Many of us have only seen police violence against the working class in recent times: the miners' strike, Warrington, Wapping, etc.

For years the police have handed out the same sort of punishment to people whose 'crime' is that their skin is not white. The youth of Broadwater Farm showed an unquenchable desire to fight back.

The spontaneous struggle might not take the forms we like. But if we are to turn defensive actions into offensive ones, and convince the working class that capitalism must be overthrown, we can't take a back seat on issues like this one.

To do so is to hand a victory to the state, and its whimpering apologists on the left, without a fight.

Richard Knott
From a legal point of view it is not possible to comment on a case while it is still in progress. For this reason we have had to cut the above letter. We will make a statement on the implications of the case when it is concluded - Editor.

LISTINGS

Listings are published free by WORKERS PRESS for organisations within the Labour movement. Please send details of any function or event you want to advertise to arrive by mid-day Monday for publication the following Friday.

NON-STOP PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE. For the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa. For sanctions against the racist South African government. Outside South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London. Organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION (CAPR) Weekly planning meetings are held every Tuesday, 7.30pm. Stoke Newington Community Centre, Leswin Road, N16. All are welcome. Contact: Box CAPR, 83 Blackstock Road, London N4 (01-881 2938)

TOWER HAMLETS PRINTWORKERS SUPPORT GROUP Reclaim the Streets meeting, Saturday, February 14, 8.30pm Glamis Road, London E1.

BARNET PRINTWORKERS SUPPORT COMMITTEE A Valentines Day Dance featuring

the James Band. Friday February 13, 8.00pm-11.30pm, Hendon Football Club, Claremont Road, Cricklewood, NW2. Tickets: £2.50 (£1.50 unwaged) Large Car Park

POLICING THE IRISH COMMUNITY A Conference organised by Greenwich and Lewisham Councils. Saturday, February 28, 10.00am-4.30pm. The Albany, Douglas Way, Deptford, SE8 4AG. Speakers, videos, workshops on PTA, Plastic Bullets and Strip searching. Stalls, books etc. Free creche; wheelchair accessible and Signer available. Ring 01-854-8888 extn. 2056 for further details

MOLESWORTH WOMEN BREAK THE SILENCE Molesworth rape survivors invite you to a day of discussion and workshops, Saturday, 21 February, 11.00am-5.00pm, Wesley House, London.

MEETING AGAINST RE-START Merseyside Trade Union Community and Unemployed Resource Centre, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool. Friday, 27 February. Starts at 2.00pm followed by a Concert in the evening.

DEFEND THE WOBOURNE 12 Defend Lesbian and Gay Rights.

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WORKERS PRESS FEBRUARY FUND

TARGET: £2,000

Without our monthly fund we cannot maintain and develop the paper. It is a constant battle as all of our regular readers will be fully aware. You will therefore know that our weekly statement of the Workers Press financial statement is a reliable indication of the situation as it confronts us. This month the total stands at £749.71. Although February is a short month, the incoming bills seem not to reflect this; if anything they get longer!

£1,250.29 to go.

Please send donations to: Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS

Planning meeting every Thursday at 7.30pm. The Red Rose Club, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 (Finsbury Park tube)

WRP PUBLIC MEETING: Role of the Revolutionary Paper Tuesday 24 February 7.30pm at Deptford Town Hall. David Bruce (WRP CC), Alan Clark (Sogat 82), Danny Chapman (NCU) last two in a personal capacity.

CAMPAIGN FOR TRADE UNION SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID Picket South African Embassy, Saturday, 21 February, 2.00-4.00pm. Release All Political Detainees in South Africa

FRANK STAGG COMMEMORATION PICKET Wakefield Prison, at 1.30pm, Sunday 15 February. Organised by PoW Campaign Committee in Britain

REVIEWS

Who owns London?

Who Owns London. By Shirley Green, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £10.95.

—AS THE city casts a greedy eye at the Post Office, possibly the next nationalised industry to face the Tories' sell-offs, one group of speculators has a particular glint.

They are the property developers who see a suitable asset for stripping — London's sorting offices and yards, with large sites in central locations. The largest, Mount Pleasant, is already only half used.

Shirley Green, whose best-known book was a sympathetic portrait of the archetypal slumlord Rachman, has investigated the ownership of London's land and buildings, very much from the viewpoint of the developers.

When it comes to Coin Street, where Southwark residents — backed by the GLC — opposed speculative commercial building on the last large Thames-side site in central London and eventually managed to set up a non-profit making body called Coin Street Community Builders to develop the area with homes, shops and facilities including a park, Green is furious.

Greycoat's 'spectacular proposals' to replace the 'long thin straggle of derelict plots and carparks' were thwarted by the actions of the residents — who are blamed for the area's devastation.

Green looks hungrily at the large hospitals and says that cuts could have been avoided if only the NHS managers had been prepared to sell off prime sites in central London!

She gloats as the London Residuary Body puts on the market the former GLC property. Some of it has been in municipal hands for decades, like the Aldwych area which was bought for the London County Council road-widening scheme in 1905.

It is a particularly good time to sell, she points out, because the pension funds are in the money — especially now that redundancies have cut the number of people collecting their pensions.

Ownership of land and buildings in Britain is cloaked in secrecy. Only property which has changed hands since 1879 is registered, and only solicitors in the process of conveyancing can inspect the Land Register, so Shirley Green turned detective, pursuing possible owners through a maze of company reports, picking up snippets from news stories and asking on doorsteps, to find out what the various individuals and institutions own.

The result is patchy and gossipy. There are snippets of amazing stories illustrating how property giants like the crown, church, insurance companies and big charities operate.

We find out how a property company bought shares in a major football club until it had a majority holding and could reveal its hand.

We are told the heart-rending tale of the Duke of Bedford's estate, which sold Covent Garden for £2 million in 1914 — and then lost the proceeds by investing in Tsarist bonds.

We learn that the Grosvenor estate of the sixth Duke of Westminster is still the largest in London. Half of Mayfair and all of Belgravia (but not tatty Pimlico, which it unloaded in the 1950s) are included in a £1000 million estate which spans the world — with property bought from the proceeds of sales of freeholds and leases in London.

The ownership of London has changed since World War II, as its skyline shot up, and Shirley Green explains how the property industry grew, through the activities of individuals like Harold Samuel.

Now Lord Samuel, chairman of Land Securities, the largest property company in Britain, he began in 1944 with a capital of just £18,405, and loans and mortgages of £12,800. Within four years he had loans and mortgages of £1.34 million. Green explains:

'Harold Samuel was "gearing up" — buying prime London properties, borrowing to the hilt against them, and then buying more in a confident race against time. He staked his all on post-war inflation pushing up property values, and the gamble paid off . . .

Bridget Dixon

How to make verse



How to Make Verse. By Vladimir Mayakovsky. (Curbstone Press, distributed by Ianmead, £2.95)

STORIES abound about the life of Vladimir Mayakovsky, the great poet-troubador of the Russian Revolution.

On 14 April, 1930, at the age of 36, Mayakovsky committed suicide.

Within hours of his death Pravda had printed the following: 'The preliminary data of the investigation show that the suicide was due to causes of a purely personal character, having nothing to do with the social or literary activity of the poet' (emphasis added).

(Now where have we heard that sort of thing recently?)

Lenin was said to have preferred Pushkin and, after his death, Stalin 'sold him to the Russian people as Catherine II had sold potatoes to the Irish peasants', (according to Pasternak).

A most astute observation on Mayakovsky appears in Trotsky's 'Literature and Revolution', under the chapter on Futurism.

For those fortunate enough to come across it, the re-appearance of this little book will undoubtedly arouse interest. It was first published in 1926 as a polemic against the learned-text approach towards the art of poetry.

To those already acquainted with his work, it will be a source of encouragement to return to the well-thumbed lyric poems such as 'About This', and epics like 'A Cloud in Trousers'.

Jeff Jackson



Roissy Airport cleaners picket in solidarity with Barking Hospital domestics

Cleaners against the multinationals

Beyond the Pail. By Jeremy Landor. Transnational Information Centre, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.

THE CLEANING business is dominated by a handful of multinational sharks — and most of the cleaners they employ are migrants.

Giant companies like Pritchards and their new owners Hawleys with a worldwide turnover of more than £800 million continually try to worsen the conditions of their workforce.

They already suffer isolation, physically demanding work, low pay, unsocial hours, split shifts, health hazards from the dirt and the cleaning chemicals, frequent sackings, casual part time work — and, with often poor unionisation, racism, sexism and victimisation.

Workers fighting privatisation may not at first associate cleaning with the multinationals, but it should come as no surprise.

The areas of the world where the multinationals like to go are those with the cheapest labour — and within the developed countries, they have identified the potential profits from cheap labour in contract cleaning.

Jeremy Landor and Ian Walker researched this pamphlet in five countries: Holland, Belgium, Spain and France. They asked cleaners about their working conditions, and they investigated their employers.

They reported on where trade unions had been organised, and where workers had been able to take effective actions.

Some actions crossed international boundaries. At France's Roissy Airport, cleaners working for Pritchards came out in support of London's Barking Hospital

domestics who maintained an 18-month strike against company plans to destroy their wages and working arrangements.

The report is illustrated with pictures and interviews, and it is not possible to do it justice in a short account.

● **BRITAIN:** Three quarters of Britain's 700,000 cleaners are women.

Many are migrant workers, like those at Selfridges who organised a strong union branch linking Moroccan and Latin American workers — only to have their employers lose the contract to Pritchards, which refused to recognise the union, sacked several workers, and cut the time allowed for jobs.

● **BELGIUM:** In Brussels, one woman reported: 'A lot of cleaning has to be done before employees arrive in the morning, so they never see the cleaners. Cleaners at the Societe Generale (bank) had to eat in the basement near the dustbins until trade unionists sent two of their health and safety representatives to inspect conditions.'

'Cleaners were then allowed to use the bank's canteen — which had always been empty when the cleaners needed it.'

● **FRANCE:** Migrant cleaners in Paris are well organised, but a Tunisian worker reported that at Jussieu University in Paris they had to work three times harder for a contractor than when directly employed.

At Roissy Airport, the cleaners' three-week strike against their multinational employer won pay and conditions improvements — and Pritchards lost the contract.

One cleaner defending piles of rubbish at the showpiece airport from the supervisors and the police said:

'Today they will take away cardboard boxes, bottles and plastic cups. Tomorrow the rest. Then they will walk all over us immigrants.'

● **NETHERLANDS:** Low wages, privatisation and short-term contracts have led to industrial action.

The cleaners at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport are Moroccans, Turks, Greeks, Africans, Surinamers, South Americans and Portuguese.

They complain that the unions at the airport are not concerned with the migrant workers, and the immigrants' organisations are concerned with discrimination, but not working conditions.

● **SPAIN:** Spanish workers have won the right to stay in their jobs when a new contractor takes over.

When Pritchards took over aircraft cleaning at Barajas, the 550 cleaners managed to maintain their conditions against a firm with an international reputation for low wages.

Companies have a number of devices to avoid paying wages — like closing down and opening up under a new name.

There have been some notable successes from strikes.

In Huelva, Andalusia 50 women cleaners won a wage increase and seniority payments after only eight days on strike.

The book is dedicated to Ever Marin, who organised Latin American workers in Britain into the T&GWU before he was murdered by the Colombian government on a visit to his home.

He worked in London as a cleaner before he became a founder-member of SWAAP, the Service Workers' Action and Advisory Project, which campaigned with leaflets in many languages to unionise low-paid migrant workers.

Chris Dixon



Jeff Jackson

Turkish women on strike

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BOOKS



ROBSON'S CHOICE

IT IS useful to remind ourselves from time to time that there is a crucial distinction to be made between censorship as such and what George Orwell called 'mind control', which combines censorship with misinformation and distortion.

Censorship bars the free transmission of information. As in the case of the Duncan Campbell television programme, it is usually crudely applied. It raises the blood-pressure in Hampstead because many of the local inhabitants still believe it represents the thin end of the wedge.

It doesn't. The thin end of the wedge is what we see on our screens (and in the capitalist press) every day of the week. That is why a permanent state of class-conscious alertness is so important.

By endless repetition: by pinning the label 'terrorist' on Palestinian, Irish, South African, or any other freedom fighter and churning it out in news and current affairs programmes — that is how the ruling class exerts its insidious ideological influence, day in, day out.

This is merely one of many examples that could be given, but it is symptomatic of the method.

Extend it to include the police, the judiciary, the armed forces, the stockbroker fraternity, parliament and the monarchy itself on the one hand, and the army of unemployed, the homeless, the aged, football supporters, strikers, etc., on the other, and you have the means to place these opposites in a particular relation to each other with the introduction of a single, well chosen noun.

With such subtle means of control — which reaches far beyond the 'news' to enforce popular prejudices, and underpins virtually everything from quiz-shows to soap-operas, who needs to censor?

Only rarely does the ruling class resort to extremes in matters of censorship. It is, I believe, the Thatcher government's inherent instability which accounts for the increasing use of it in recent months.

By and large it is not necessary, because an occasional programme that leaps over the traces can make only a minimal impression on the generalised perception we have of the hourly, daily and weekly grind.

Let me put it another way: if I were to drop a large stone in the

middle of the Atlantic, would you really expect to see the ripples reach Dover?

Some years ago, after the showing of a Ken Loach film based on the Pilkington strike, an extremely urbane member of BBC management met strident accusations of left-wing bias with simple arithmetic.

He explained, on 'Late Night Line-up' I think it was, that the BBC produced and transmitted some 50 hours of original drama every year.

Ninety minutes per annum devoted to 'left-wing views' was, he pointed out as he reached for his refreshment, unlikely to corrupt the moral fabric of the nation.

When transmission of the documentary 'Nine Days in '26' was indefinitely postponed in 1974, and only rescheduled after the election which brought Labour to power, the explanation offered by the BBC was that it would have been irresponsible and inflammatory to show such a film about the 1926 General Strike during the run up to a parliamentary election.

Did the BBC really believe that a film showing the strength and inventiveness of the working class, the bankruptcy of the ruling class and the Stalinist and Labour leadership's eagerness to betray, could materially affect the outcome of the elections?

I don't think so. What is far more likely is that they were fearful of offending sections of their own class, and could not risk being caught transmitting unpalatable truths about some of their favourite tin gods, like Winston Churchill.

* * *

BBC is off the air on **Saturday**, as far as I'm concerned, but Channel 4, at 8.15p.m., is showing the first in a new series called **Pioneers of Socialism**. Later that night, at 12.15p.m., Peter Weir's **The Plumber**.

On **Sunday**, at 2.30p.m., Channel 4 screens Howard Hawk's **The Road to Glory**, and in the evening, at 9.30p.m., a Harold Pinter play **A Night Out**, video-recorded for the legendary Armchair Theatre 27 years ago.

As a mark of respect for the sabbath BBC wakes. At 10.10p.m. (BBC1) Everyman presents **The Search for Eldorado**.

Horizon, on **Monday** at 8.10p.m. (BBC2) presents **Energy from Outer Space**, which actually is about extracting energy from beneath the earth's crust. At 9.30p.m. (BBC1) Panorama introduces the prince of the picket line in **The Kinnock Alternative**.

At 10.55p.m. (Channel 4) Melanie Chait's documentary entitled **Simon Ngubane Still on Strike**. Given the international importance of the struggle currently being waged by the South African working class, this programme is my 'pick of the week' — sight unseen.

On **Tuesday**, Radio 3 is broadcasting Yukio Mishima's play **The Damask Drum** at 9.35p.m. and ITV is showing **Treat me Gently** in Viewpoint 87 at 10.30p.m. A little later, at 10.50p.m. (BBC1), Plain Len winds up his four-part bore-in.

Consuming Hunger (ITV 9p.m.) on **Wednesday** might be worth a look. It is the first of a two-part documentary not wholly unconnected with some of the comments made at the start of this column. It focuses on the famine in Ethiopia and how this heart-breaking story was first ignored and then manipulated by the media. Part two can be seen tomorrow at the same time.

On **Thursday** at 9p.m. Film on Four presents the highly successful movie written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by the restrained Stephen Friers, **My Beautiful Launderette**. Delightful!

Friday, at 7.30p.m. on Radio 3, Henry Beeque's classic **The Scavengers** a nineteenth century study of 'the behaviour of creditors and family alike when the patriarch is revealed to have died.'

On television, Arena at 9.35p.m. (BBC2) presents a study of surrealism in the cinema in **Ruth, Roses and Revolver**. At 10.20p.m. (BBC1), **The Paperclip Conspiracy** shows how the United States authorities sanitised the records of ardent Nazi sympathisers in order to put their scientific expertise at the disposal of the American space programme.

This follows hard on the heels of last week's **Diverse Reports** (C4) which showed from secret documents available in Canada but still classified in Britain, how successive British governments, both Labour and Conservative, gave safe refuge to known Nazi war criminals, some of whom are still alive today. (See page 13).

TOM SCOTT ROBSON

PERSONAL COLUMN

An important bicentennial

THE anti-slavery movement in England took a long time to get off the ground.

Though England was involved in the highly profitable slave trade, and the still more profitable production of sugar by slave labour, at least as early as the middle of the 17th century, it wasn't till the second half of the 18th that books attacking slavery began to appear.

Only five such books had been published in London by the end of 1786, and one of those was by the Pennsylvania Quaker Anthony Benezet.

Then, in 1787, the sixth appeared: 'Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery of the Human Species'. Its author was an African called Quobna Ottobah Cugoano.

Born on the coast of what is now Ghana about the year 1757, he had been transported to Grenada as a slave at the age of 13 or so, and brought to England and set free in 1772.

Using sometimes the name John Steuart, Cugoano became one of the leaders and spokesmen of London's black community, and one of the signatories of the letters from 'Sons of Africa' that were printed in various newspapers in the 1780s.

In 1786 Cugoano played a key part in the rescue of Henry Demane, a black man who had been kidnapped and was being shipped out to the West Indies.

A writ of habeas corpus was secured and Demane was rescued at the very last minute, just as the ship was weighing anchor.

Cugoano's close friend Olaudah Equiano, a Nigerian ex-slave whose autobiographical 'Interesting Narrative' was published in 1789, became a member of Thomas Hardy's London Corresponding Society, strongest of Britain's radical working-class organisations in the 1790s.

Cugoano was the first published African critic of the transatlantic slave trade. He demanded not only the abolition of the trade but also the freeing of the slaves, a radical position which hardly any white abolitionist had taken by 1787.

He forecast 'universal calamity' for the 'criminal nations' that profited from slavery. And he was the first writer in English to declare that enslaved black people had not only the right but also the duty to resist.

A facsimile reprint of 'Thoughts and Sentiments', with a useful introduction by Paul Edwards, was published by Dawson's of Pall Mall in 1969 and is worth trying to get hold of through local libraries.

It would be nice to think that in 1987 some enterprising publisher or other will honour Cugoano by bringing out a bicentennial edition of his pioneering book.

Unfortunately, such is the ignorance, short-sightedness, and inefficiency of publishers — including, I'm sorry to say, left-wing and 'progressive' ones — that no such act of homage seems to be contemplated.

Haringey's world connections

LOCAL history, once the preserve of genteel amateurs chiefly interested in church brasses and literary associations, is nowadays far more professional and far more interesting.

In fact there's been a complete revolution in this branch of historical writing, as can be seen almost at a glance if, for instance, you compare the earlier volumes of the 'Victoria History of the Counties of England' with recent ones.

Hitherto, though, no one seems to have thought of presenting the local history of an area in its manifold connections with world history.

Now Sylvia L. Collicott, a Haringey teacher, has done just that.

Her 'Connections: Haringey Local-National-World Links', published by Haringey Community Information Service in association with the local Multi-Cultural Curriculum Support Group, is a highly original and altogether quite remarkable achievement, whose implications extend far beyond the boundaries of a single London borough.

The area now known as Haringey comprises the ancient parishes of Hornsey (originally 'Haringeie') and Tottenham.

To and through these once rural retreats there have streamed, over the centuries, visitors and settlers from all over the world.

There were Irish people, Spaniards, Huguenots and other French refugees, Greeks, Poles, Italians, Portuguese Jews, Jewish refugees from tsarist pogroms, black and white Americans, Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, Indian seafarers, and Sinhalese servants.

Collicott sets their stories against the background of national and world history, showing what tides of events brought them to the area and what then became of them.

She traces, too, the movement of people out of the area: as convicts, traders, missionaries, nurses, explorers, planters.

Her book has clearly been a labour of love. Every page gives evidence of the kind of dedicated and painstaking research that is so often a matter of long, tedious panning to find the occasional rewarding nugget.

No praise is too high for the illustrations, carefully chosen and well reproduced. They include extracts from parish registers, wills, census returns, and local newspapers — and a few photographs of local street names with inter-national associations.

Now, this book is no mere fashionable token obeisance in the direction of multi-cultural education. Collicott is sharply critical, not just of what she calls the 'parochial' and 'Anglocentric' views of the world, but of the entire barbaric record of British imperialism.

This will not, I fear, commend her book to the 'patriotic' historians so beloved of Margaret Thatcher and the Centre for Policy Studies.

But for Haringey's teenage school pupils, who come from many different ethnic groups, it will be an eye-opener to see how deep are their roots in the borough of their birth.

Having spoken on British black history to Haringey teachers and pupils, I can testify that there is a thirst among them for the kind of information that 'Connections' provides, and I am sure it will enlighten and educate and inspire for many years to come.

But its significance goes far beyond a single London borough. What Collicott has done for Haringey could and should be done elsewhere.

Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, and Manchester spring to mind as cities whose world 'connections' are crying out for precisely her approach.

Seven questions for Comrade Goldstein

I'D HATE to get caught up in other people's controversies, but I can't help saying how pleased I was to see that Richard Goldstein understands Norah Wilde's letter of January 24.

This gives me the chance to ask him to explain the meaning of seven passages in that letter which I, like John Robinson, am at a loss to understand, though I've reread the letter many times:

1) Would he be kind enough to tell me the meaning of 'slakes' in paragraph 3?

2) In paragraph 4, last line but two, what is the antecedent of 'that'?

3) In paragraph 6, what phenomenon is referred to in the phrase 'in that phenomenon itself'?

4) In paragraph 7, what is meant by 'the materialist basis of changing class correlations'?

5) In the same paragraph there occurs the phrase 'its modified essence'. This refers to the modified essence of what? Of development, perhaps? In which case, what is meant by the modified essence of development?

6) Again in the same paragraph, could Goldstein please explain the phrase 'permitting preparedness for the essential line of class developments'? What here is permitting whom to do what?

7) In the final paragraph, what does 'philosophico-political' mean in this context?

I assure Goldstein that this request for help is made honestly and humbly, because I really do want to share his understanding of what Wilde is saying.

I look forward to his answers.

PETER FRYER

Telecom return with strings

THE considerable opposition amongst British Telecom engineers to last week's return to work shows that nothing has been resolved at the end of their 17-day strike.

Over 35 per cent of those voting rejected the deal — which gives a 12.75-per-cent wage increase spread over two years but accepts the erosion of working conditions demanded by BT.

Majorities in all the major centres — London, Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle and Sheffield voted down the 'with-strings' offer.

Sheffield branch members voted to stay out in protest at a local management letter indicating an agreement on working days was being torn up and they would have to work the hours demanded by management.

Even branches such as Birmingham which accepted the deal passed votes of no confidence in the leadership.

COMMENT

The strings include:

- Re-grading of engineering technical grades to enable one person to do several jobs, for example to install telephones and work in exchanges.

- More flexible rotas for technical officers on standby, to cover emergency repair work.

- Breaking down barriers to allow engineers to work in mixed skill teams, for example alongside clerical and marketing staff.

Acceptance of the strings paves the way for the disappearance of 70,000 jobs over the next five years as digital exchanges replace the existing ageing equipment.

Massive rejection

THE settlement terms proposed by the NCU executive were resoundingly rejected at a meeting of West End district (central London) members last Monday.

The deal, which includes productivity elements and amounts to hardly 11 per cent over two years, was condemned by all but half a dozen of 1,000 members. Golding was bitterly attacked.

Brian Healy of Tyburn Branch declared that the fight was about jobs and whether BT could smash NCU opposition to its plans for redundancies. It was generally agreed that not one member of the current executive would get a vote when the next annual ballot comes round.

'Privatisation to blame'

JUST before the strike ballot, Workers Press interviewed two striking British Telecom workers, both of them approaching retirement age.

Fred and Sid asked us not to print their real names because they have signed the Official Secrets Act and fear management victimisation.

'Looking back to over 20 years ago,' said Sid, 'none of this would have occurred under the old system.'

'We had a different form of management, for a start. It was a nationalised industry then, but that's neither here nor there — it's in the history books now.'

'Our union members and

executive have never been a militant union,' Fred told us. 'The fact is that we've been pushed into this position by our management because that's how they wanted it.'

'It's our first national strike and it's being run by a right wing executive,' Sid insisted. 'It's like an act from Gilbert and Sullivan.'

Fred said that the strike could affect his retirement pension — but 'one has to suffer a little if we are going to keep our moral principles.'

'I only want to work for a decent governor, not a slave driver — and they've not gone far short of that!' he added.



Striking NCU members from London's Westminster Branch relax in the pub after a long day on the picket line

'They honestly believed they could break the union'

BY CHRIS McBRIDE

'THEY honestly believed they could break this union — they didn't think we had the right to a union.'

This was the message from National Communications Union pickets to Workers Press the day before the return to work.

'The average member has been very moderate over the years, but it's at a stage where they've said no,' said Westminster Branch organiser Dave Gibbons after a long day on the picket line.

His workmate Kevin Keegan said: 'They've actually forced us into a confrontation, they've planned it for months.'

'I've been in three or four different unions but I've never been locked out of a building in my life. We had a one-day strike against the strings. I was asked to sign a piece of paper at the door saying that we'd accept "normal" working.'

Keegan is active in the Health and Safety committee at work. Asked about tactics in the strike he said:

'The people we are trying to hurt are those in the City — they are the ones with all the money.'

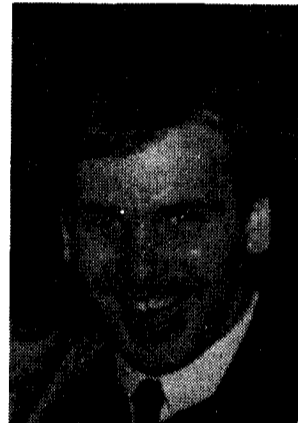
He thought the miners were not beaten, but had educated other sections of workers.

'After that they thought they'd pick on everyone else. I don't think they can afford to do it to us because we're in such a strong position.'

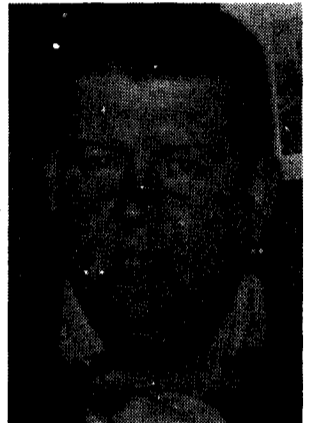
Dave Gibbons also spoke about the miners. 'Arthur Scargill, the supposed "Loony left" was attacked for doing things to benefit himself — but when it comes down to it he was right.'

The dispute has far from ended. Many of the strikers feel they will be victimised when they return to work. Keegan said: 'Well that's certainly going to happen. There's no chance of promotion because I talk to people like yourselves, but we don't want strings under any circumstances because that means job losses.'

Gibbons told us about the consequences of having



DAVE GIBBONS



KEVIN KEEGAN

'strings' and working 'normally'.

'Normal, to them, is going back to the 1930s. When we go back to work we will work as 'normal' — as the union see it. BT want compulsory overtime. As we see it an engineer has the right to refuse overtime.'

He spoke about the role of the police: 'I'm not for the police, but they've let us have our pickets as normal as long as we're not blocking the path or anything — this is at the moment.'

And the media? 'We've had inside information that there's certain places where certain newspapers had information they wanted to put out and have not been allowed to put out because of security.'

Keegan said the media had talked too much about the pay claim. 'The central issue is the strings — we don't want the bloody strings!'

Gibbons told us: 'They are telling me that I've got to go out. Not only have I got to fix telephones, I've got to install telephones. BT engineers are going to be forced to go on a lot more courses, or BT are going to put us out willy-nilly and just hope that we do the job.'

As with all NCU members there was serious concern about the role of the union's leadership. Keegan said of John Golding: 'I've got no confidence in the man. He's assuming things that are completely wrong.'

'He was told at conference last year specifically not to include productivity, re-grading or restructuring with the pay deal. He was told that but he's done exactly that. If he doesn't come up with a proper deal he will find there'll be a rift.'

About a future Labour government, Keegan said: 'That's a leading question! Personally, I don't like Kinnock; he's a bit of a Tory isn't he? But I'll vote Labour because there's no other choice.'

'I'm not a militant myself but I'm towards the "Broad Left". What they say makes an awful lot of sense to me.'

District Council Chairman Mike O'Rian was confident about the union's strength in the dispute:

'In over a hundred years we've never been involved in more than a one day or half-day stoppage. I think the reason the members responded was because it's a rank-and-file movement.'

Occupation wins support

DOCKERS last week backed the Caterpillar occupation, refusing to move tractor plants destined for the United States.

The solidarity action at Greenock came in response to appeals from Caterpillar shop stewards to black parts normally made at the occupied Uddingston factory.

Unions at the US-based multinational's Leicester plant also responded, pledging not to accept parts from elsewhere. And a delegation from Uddingston travelled to Brussels on Thursday, seeking the same commitment from workers in Grenoble, France, and Gausolize, Belgium.

Neither the company nor the workers have budged an inch: last Wednesday's vote to continue the sit-in was overwhelming.

'We've had a letter from Caterpillar, asking us to fold our tents and go — but we have nowhere to go,' convenor John Brannan told the meeting.

'At the local dole office, there is a job paying £55 to look after the public toilets. That's the "alternative" to

standing and fighting,' said Brannan.

He reiterated the workers' determination that the 'Pink Panther' tractor built in the occupation for Band Aid, should reach Ethiopia regardless of management threats. If it was 'illegal' to donate a tractor to fight starvation, it was far more 'illegal' to destroy 1,200 jobs, he said.

The potential for building a mass movement against unemployment was quite clear at a shop stewards' conference on Caterpillar the previous Thursday in Glasgow.

Referring to previous closures on Clydeside, AEU official Harry McLevy said: 'Those who could not find a way of fighting for jobs successfully now have a means to fight, by supporting Caterpillar.'

This point was concretised by the SOGAT West of Scotland branch, Govan Shipbuilders' unions and others

who presented £1000 cheques, and by John Keenan of Rolls Royce East Kilbride, who said the town's miners support group would be revived to back the sit-in.

Equally, the fact that financial and moral support alone cannot beat a ruthless enemy was brought home — not so much in the speeches as by the presence in the hall of dozens of sacked miners, who are still paying the price for the TUC's betrayal of their fight.

- No time should be wasted in talking to Tory politicians like Malcolm Rifkind. The working class movement must be mobilised in a campaign of strikes, demonstrations and occupations of other factories threatened with closure.

- This campaign should be linked with the fight to bring down the Tory government and the nationalisation of Caterpillar under workers' control.

Strike over Zircon raid

BY SIMON PIRANI

A TWO-hour strike on Tuesday, protesting at the Special Branch raid on BBC Scotland, is being supported by journalists and trade unionists.

A lobby of parliament will be mounted by broadcasting journalists. In Glasgow, the National Union of Journalists' chapels at the 'Daily Record' and 'Evening Times', as well as ITN and other broadcasting staff, voted to hold mandatory chapel meetings and demonstrate outside the BBC headquarters.

The BBC journalists are warning of the 'unprecedented' threat to free expression posed by the raid.

A scientific magazine which is posted direct to Moscow catalogued extensive technical information about the Zircon spy satellite over several issues; much information on the spy satellite was contained in a British Aerospace handout last year; everything in the 'Secret Society' Zircon programme was 'in the public domain' before the programme was made; and there was no 'mole' at GCHQ — therefore 'National Security' was not

threatened by the programme, and the reasons for the raid were exclusively political.

The BBC Scotland NUJ chapels are particularly concerned about Brian Barr, producer of 'Secret Society', who was arrested twice last Wednesday and interrogated by the Special Branch at Strathclyde Police headquarters.

Case

The police — who are concerned to build up a case to justify the original raid — are perusing previously unused sections of the Official Secrets Act, including one which makes it illegal to refuse to answer questions.

NUJ members fear this section of the Act may be used against Barr, who, they say, is being made a 'scapegoat'.

- The Glasgow demonstration this Tuesday February 17 will assemble at 2.30p.m. outside the BBC building at Hamilton Drive/Queen Margaret Drive, and march to Partick Burgh Halls.