

# Socialist Worker

FOR WORKERS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

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## Glass workers fight on

**BILL BRADBURN**, a shop steward at the Pilkington glass factory in St Helens, Lancs, seen speaking at a mass meeting of strikers. 9000 glass workers are on strike in the town to back their demand for a £25, 40-hour week. The strike

is another important step by lower-paid workers to crash through the government's 'wage-restraint' policy that helps boost bosses' profits. This week the strikers have resisted a move by their union to get them back to work.

FULL STORY - BACK PAGE.

# APOLLO: THE TERRIBLE COST OF SPACE RACE

**THE SPACE RACE MUST stop! That is the urgent message from this week's Moon fiasco.**

The frenzy with which the American government attempts to dominate space endangers the lives of millions of people on earth as well as the few brave astronauts who act as space guinea pigs for big business.

The space battle between the ruling classes of Russia and America is the most obvious sign of a world gone mad.

Putting men on the Moon is a fantastic achievement. It shows how much this planet could be improved if all the resources of the space programme were directed towards human needs.

Two thirds of the world's people are starving to death. Millions more live on starvation wages, racked by poverty and disease.

## CRAZY

Yet man can reach out into space. There is no more glaring example of the crazy priorities of a world run in the interest of power-hungry profiteers.

The present disastrous Moon-shot has cost £180 millions. That sort of money could rehouse 100,000 families in the slums of Harlem.

The total space programme in the United States costs £8000 millions every year. Just think what could be achieved with that money in America alone, where millions live in poverty and slums.

While American big business aims for the Moon, it sends troops not just to Vietnam but into the streets of its own cities to gas and club the victims of its policies.

The argument that the space race benefits mankind by its 'technological spin-off' is nonsense. Computers do not house the homeless. Non-stick frying pans do not feed the starving.

Similar inventions could be developed through a crash programme to feed and house the impoverished millions, not just

AS WE GO to press, the fate of the three astronauts is in the balance. In spite of our complete opposition to their mission, we hope, of course, that they return safely

by aiming for the Moon.

The space race is dictated by the two giant power blocs in their military rush to control the world.

In America, big business makes super profits from the space programme. The giant monopolies do not care how many lives they endanger in their rush to enrich themselves.

Three astronauts died in an explosion last year. An official enquiry showed that the firms who built the rocket had cut back on costs to boost their

profits. The wrong type of oxygen mixture had been used and this caused the explosion.

Without doubt, this week's space mishap was caused by the same disregard for human lives.

Big business in the west and the state capitalist dictatorships in the east threaten us all with their space shots, nuclear weapons and germ warfare.

## SANE

They can only be stopped when the working people of this and every other country unite to build a sane, socialist world.

Yes, we will go to the moon and the planets - but not until we solve the problems here on earth, until every man, woman and child lives a life free from poverty and war.

## Budget: poor stay poor while bankers smile

by John Palmer

WITH A CHARACTERISTIC display of their political priorities, the Labour leaders have chosen to ignore the needs of the working class in this week's Budget.

Most of the few concessions Roy Jenkins included are aimed at possible middle class votes in the next election. The Labour leaders clearly believe that working class votes are more or less captive.

The relief given to lower-paid workers by the elimination of the bottom band of income tax and the increase in earned income tax allowances are derisory. The £16 a week man will get back 15s a week and the value of this is reduced by the daily increases in prices.

The £10,000 a year executive, however, receives more than £100 a year extra in his pay packet. On top of this, he has been relieved of surtax on an extra £500 of his 'unearned' income.

The stark fact is that in spite of the massive balance of payments surplus obtained by four years of working class sweat and sacrifice, Wilson and Jenkins have chosen to ignore the claims of even the poorest and the worst-off. In fact, the Budget is more remarkable for what it leaves out than for what it includes.

Old-age pensioners are once again sent away empty handed. The value of their pittance is being reduced to disastrously low levels by the increased cost of living.

In spite of their crocodile tears for the lower-paid workers, the Labour leaders have done nothing to help them. They could have increased family allowances. And Mr Jenkins ignored the pleas from the lower-paid to abolish prescription charges and charges on school meals and milk which fall hardest on them.

By leaving the present level of surtax unchanged and by moderating the incidence of income tax, Jenkins confirms the trend under Labour to impose a bigger tax burden on the working class than on the better-off sections of society.

## Bow to finance

Of course Labour's Budget was drawn up in the light of continued debts of £1,600 millions to the international bankers. They, too, no doubt, encouraged Jenkins to present an orthodox capitalist budget.

Jenkins made the necessary bow to international finance by promising that in the near future he would remove the few existing restrictions on the right of financiers to take their capital out of the country.

But he also knows that the so-called economic recovery is precarious. Any drop in the world trade temperature because of an extension of the US recession would wipe out all the improvements in no time.

Sooner or later after the General Election the government will return to the offensive on wages and anti-union laws. The only way workers will be able to prevent rising prices bringing down their standard of living is through their own actions on the shop floor.

Wilson and Jenkins may choose to ignore the old and the poor but the labour movement should show that its priorities are different.

Organised workers must mobilise to fight for higher wages and to boost pensions and the incomes of those who receive only a kick in the teeth from our big business society.

Tottenham International Socialists

**NORMAN ATKINSON**  
Labour MP for Tottenham

and **ROGER ROSEWELL, ASTMS**

debate The 'Employers' Offensive  
and How to Fight it

Monday 20 April, 7.30pm  
Devonshire Hill Library,  
Compton Crescent N17  
(near White Hart Lane)

International Socialists Public Meeting

# LENIN

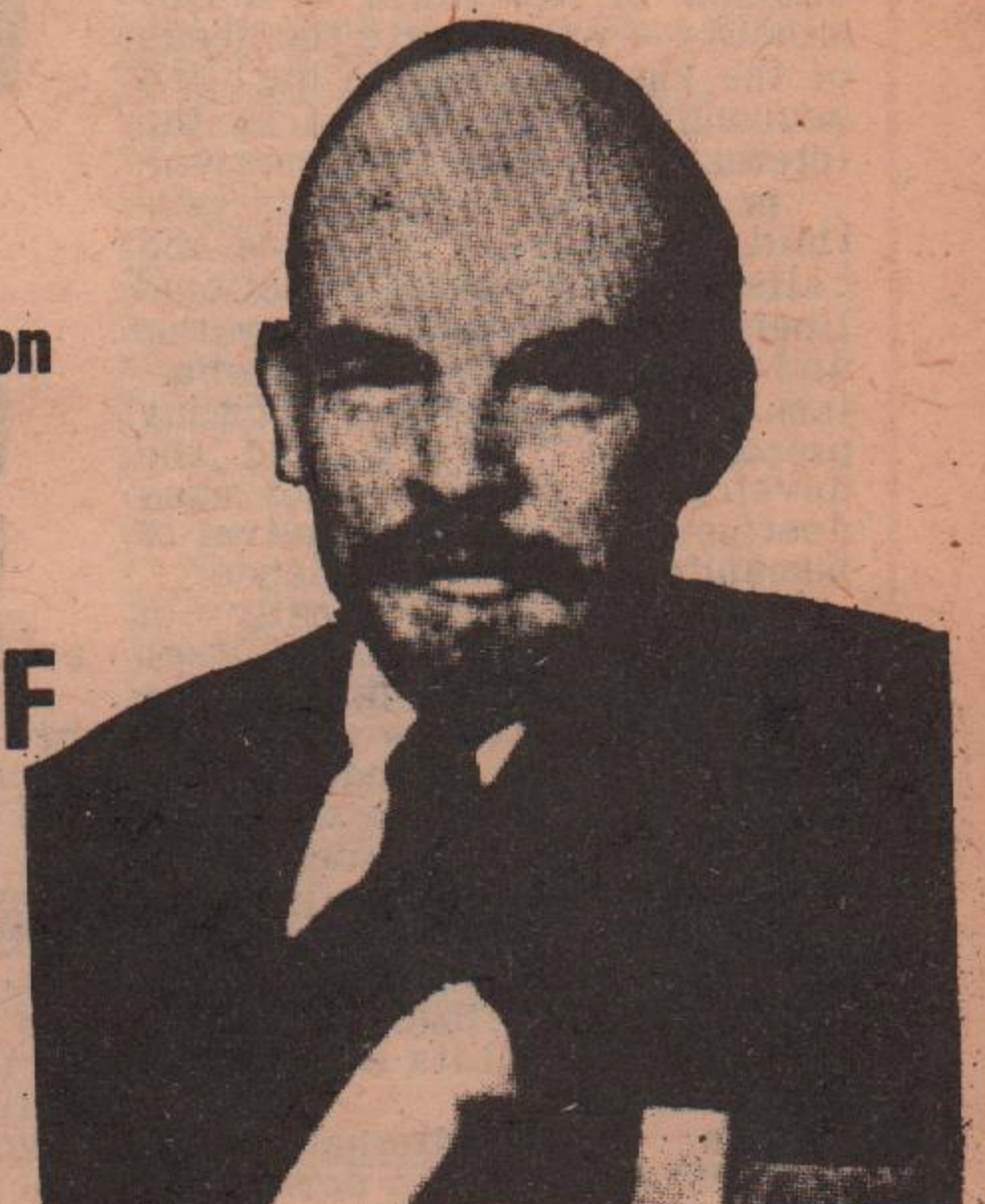
Founder of the  
Bolshevik Party

Leader of the  
Russian Revolution

Born April 1870

hear  
**TONY CLIFF**

Conway Hall,  
Red Lion Square,  
London WC1  
(Holborn Tube)



SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2-5pm



# Murder in South America masks the grip of American big business

by Ian Birchall

**THE KILLING** last week of the German Ambassador to Guatemala in South America caused floods of sentiment and anger.

But anyone who wants to understand where the responsibility lies will have to examine the tragic history of the people of Guatemala in the last 20 years.

In 1950 Jacopo Arbenz was elected President of Guatemala. His government began a programme of moderate reforms, such as raising minimum wages.

As part of its land reform, the government took over in 1953 234,000 acres owned by the American United Fruit Company. The land was not under cultivation and the compensation offered was based on the company's own estimate of its value for tax purposes.

But it was principles, not bananas, that counted. In June 1954 Colonel Castillo Armas, supported by the Central Intelligence Agency — America's spy network — overthrew the Arbenz

government. John Foster Dulles, US Secretary of State, was legal representative for United Fruit. His brother, Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, had been president of United Fruit and Henry Cabot Lodge, US Ambassador to the United Nations, was a director.

Since then, the army has kept control in Guatemala. It overruled the 1957 election results when a moderate candidate won.

In 1963 there was a further military take-over (carried out, according to reports, on the instructions of President Kennedy). In 1966 the victorious liberal President had to sign an agreement to leave the Army untouched. The recent election has been marked by right-wing violence.

All this has kept US investment safe. The laws giving preferential treatment to local capital were repealed in 1959 and foreign companies are no longer taxed.

## Little progress

Seven per cent of the Guatemalan budget is devoted to buying US military equipment — most of it out of date and useless. West Germany is also developing trade with Guatemala, which explains the presence of a senior figure like von Sprei as Ambassador.

For the Guatemalan people there is little progress. Around 70 per cent can not read.

The child death rate is 40 times that of the US. An American economist worked out in the early 1960s that at the present speed of land reform it would take 148 years for all peasant families to get some land — if the population didn't increase.

Government repression has been vicious. Trade unionists have been murdered. In 1966, the police arrested people whose names began with 'B' from the suspect list.



Police surround the dead body of the German ambassador in Guatemala last week

But the government prefers not to do all its own dirty work. It permits the open activity of right-wing terror groups. These groups publicly distribute lists of their intended victims.

The most notorious organisation is the 'White Hand' which has killed several thousand alleged 'communists' in the last two or three years. Victims are often tortured. A favourite method is to put a plastic bag full of DDT over the victim's head which destroys the lungs. And corpses are mutilated.

Revolutionaries in Guatemala understand that only armed struggle can solve the problems. The FAR (Revolutionary Armed Forces), which claims 20,000 active supporters, recognises that such a struggle may provoke American intervention. Green Berets are already training anti-guerrilla forces in Guatemala.

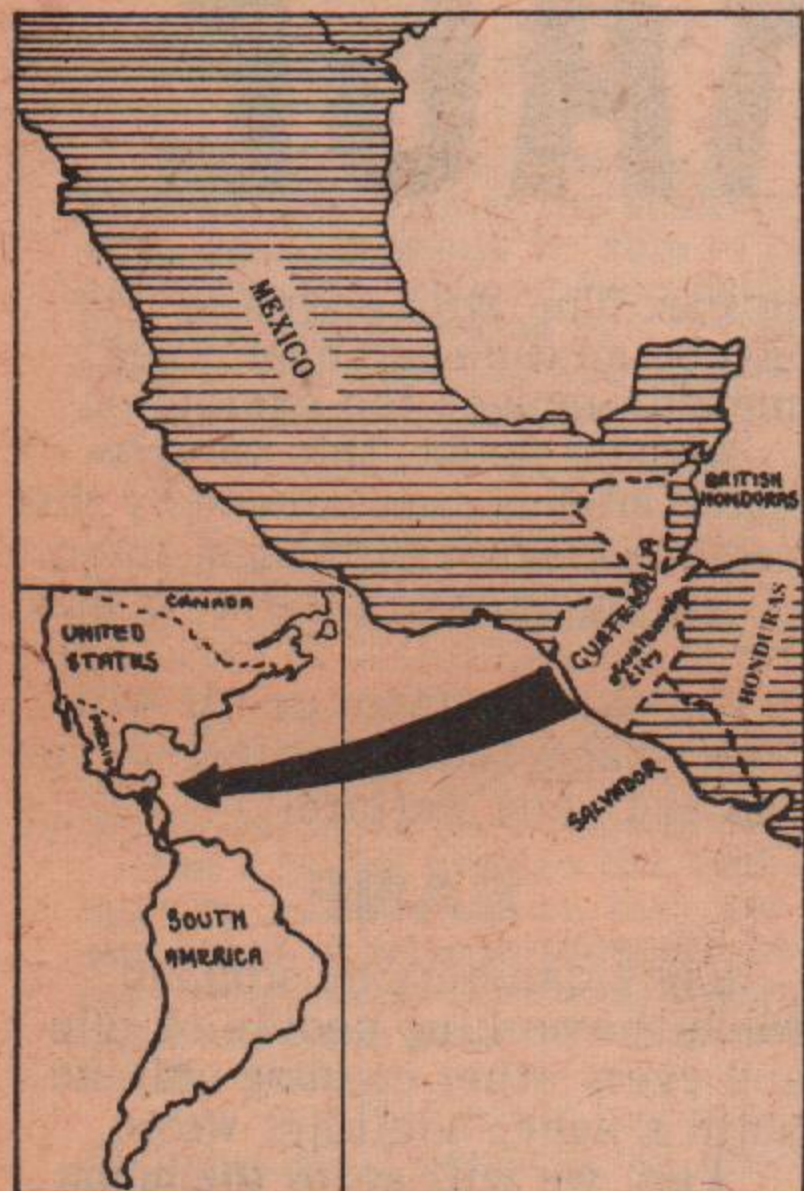
## Organise peasants

In 1968 the FAR broke with the Guatemalan Communist Party

in favour of a more revolutionary line. It has made serious attempts to organise and educate the peasantry and has built peasant trade unions.

The FAR have also gone into the towns. They once kidnapped the managing director of a factory in support of striking workers.

The FAR have frequently used kidnapping to raise funds and get prisoners released. For them 'terrorism' is not an empty gesture but part of a struggle to mobilise the people.



## Striking electricians stand by for emergencies in Newcastle hospital

by Tony Wild and John Harland

SEVEN electricians at Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital have been on strike for 10 weeks over the management's stubborn refusal to pay them a nationally negotiated bonus.

The bonus is classified as 'exceptionally skilled' money. The men have always done the jobs in the hospital which should entitle them to receive the £2 weekly bonus.

But the Group Engineer refuses to pay it on the grounds that the men do not have the necessary paper qualifications.

It seems odd that a man should suddenly need a piece of paper to show he can carry out a job he has been doing for years without a certificate above his fireplace. And plumbers and fitters in the hospital get the £2 without having any certificate.

Electricians at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, get the bonus. But they come under an independent board of governors.

## PROBLEM

All the other hospitals in the city are run by the local Hospital Management Committee. And the Infirmary men do not have to service lifts or maintain the vital electrical equipment connected with surgery which the electricians look after in the six hospitals under the committee.

The strikers have done all in their power to be reasonable. During the strike they have had two of their number on standby each day in case an emergency occurs.

They face the same problem as doctors, nurses and everyone else connected with the care of the sick.

Their concern not to hurt the patients has been ruthlessly exploited throughout 18 months of negotiations.

The management seems to have some hidden aim to get a productivity deal out of the men. But as one striker said: 'It is ludicrous to apply production line productivity to a place like a hospital, unless success is measured by a greater output of babies at one end and corpses at the other.'

He protested to Socialist Worker that he was a human being, not a machine.

Many electricians' jobs could never be improved by the use of a

stopwatch. They can only be done in the light of a skilled man's knowledge and experience.

During the final stage of the negotiations, the men went back to working from 8 am to 5 pm each day. At the time of their last shilling an hour pay rise they volunteered to operate a staggered hours system.

When they went back to the old hours, the management spitefully deprived them of their shilling increase.

## ANXIOUS

No group of men could be more anxious to settle a dispute. One man said: 'We want to do so without loss of face to anyone. All we want is to be paid at the nationally agreed rate.'

However, Mark Young of the Electricians Union, who handles the national negotiations, has so far done nothing to settle the dispute. He has not even bothered to write to the strikers, who have been told by Don Edwards, the local union full-time official, that their case is in the hands of the union executive.

The men are wondering when the indifference of others towards their case will end. They are tired of living on £4 a week strike pay, while their union and officials enjoy life on ten times that amount.

They are sickened at the way the hospital managers sit back and allow one of the most vital services affecting young children, the elderly and the sick and injured of Newcastle to run down due to lack of maintenance and repair.

## CHEERING

But who in authority really cares? Perhaps the long-term strategy is to put off electricians from wanting to work in the people's hospitals in Newcastle.

The most cheering feature of the dispute is the magnificent solidarity that the men have so far displayed in the face of the Group Engineer's attempts to play one off against another. After first refusing to pay the bonus to any of the seven men involved, he offered it to four of them.

He has now offered it to five of them. With continued solidarity, he will move it up to seven out of seven.

## Socialist Worker

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CAPITALISM has nothing to offer mankind but exploitation, crises and war. The ruling classes of the world — a tiny minority — subordinate the needs of the vast majority to the blind accumulation of capital in the interests of competitive survival.

Imperialism condemns two-thirds of mankind to famine and calls forth movements of national liberation which shake the system and expose its essential barbarism. The constant and mounting preparations for war and the development of weapons of mass destruction place the survival of humanity itself in the balance.

The increasing intensity of international competition between ever-larger units drives the ruling classes to new attacks on workers' living standards and conditions of work, to anti-trade union and anti-strike laws. All of these show capitalism in deepening crises from which it can only hope to escape at the cost of the working class and by the destruction of all its independent organisations.

The only alternative is workers' power — the democratic collective control of the working class over industry and society through a state of workers' councils and workers' control of

# WHERE WE STAND

production. Only thus can the transition be ensured to a communist society in which the unprecedented productive forces thrown up by capitalism can be used to assure an economy of abundance. Only the working class, itself the product of capitalism, has the ability to transform society in this way, and has shown its ability to do so in a series of revolutionary struggles unprecedented in the history of all previous exploited classes.

The working class gains the experience necessary to revolutionise society by constant

struggle against the ruling class through the mass organisations thrown up in the course of that struggle.

To overcome the unevenness with which this experience is gained, to draw and preserve the lessons of past struggles and transmit them for the future, to fight against the pressure of bourgeois ideas in the working class, and to bond the fragmentary struggles against capitalism into a conscious and coherent offensive, a revolutionary Marxist party of socialist militants is required, embracing the vanguard of the working class.

The struggle to build such a party is only part of the wider struggle to create a World Revolutionary Socialist International, independent of all oppressors and exploiters of the working class, whether bureaucratic or bourgeois.

International Socialists therefore fight for:

Opposition to all ruling-class policies and organisations.

Workers' control over production and a workers' state.

Opposition to imperialism and support for all movements of national liberation.

Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and to all migration controls.

Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the paper.



First of two articles  
by Diane Devi Nair

**T**HE MY LAI MASSACRE has not yet been commemorated with a 45 foot high memorial at the place where hundreds of innocent Vietnamese villagers were butchered. Nor has money been raised to support those American soldiers now on trial who resorted to this savagery to help save us all from 'creeping communism'.

But in the city of Amritsar in the Punjab province of India, such a memorial stand today to mark the massacre of 379 Indians by native troops on 13 April 1919 at the command of General R E H Dyer - for which distinguished service, his supporters later raised £28,000.

When the rich and powerful ruling class of one country dominates the life of another by exploiting its wealth, attempting to impose its own political ideals and enslaving its people, that barbarity is part of 'imperialism' and incidents like My Lai and Amritsar are inevitable.

Nevertheless, inevitability does not mean that the cries of the victims fall upon deaf ears. In America, Britain and elsewhere, the politicians are called to account for such events. In order to show there is no blood on their own hands, their military scapegoats have sometimes to be sacrificed - even if they are of high rank.

Such a scapegoat was found in 1919 in the person of General Dyer, whose excessive use of force and humiliation of the Punjab population eventually conflicted with the illusions of the Liberal Secretary of State for India, Edwin Montagu.

### Montagu did not give a date

As Montagu remarked in the Commons debate on Amritsar in 1920... 'having once tried it (force) you must go on... until the Indian people rise together in protest and terminate your rule in India as being impossible in modern ideas of what an Empire means.'

In 1917 Montagu defined British policy as increasing Indian administrative power and the 'gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire'. He tactfully avoided giving a date for this long-awaited event.

General Dyer and his fellow officers (like General Drake-Brockman who said in Delhi that 'Force is the only thing that an Asiatic has any respect for') belonged to the more traditional school of Empire preservers.

They were in good company - the Indian Civil Service contained the upper crust 'flower of the British universities' who were resentful of the educated middle-class Hindus competing for some of their jobs.

The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, summed up their feelings in 1900 when he noted 'the extreme danger of the system under which every year an increasing number of the 900 and odd higher posts that were meant, and ought to have been exclusively reserved for Europeans, are being filched away by the superior wits of the natives in the English examinations. I believe it to be the greatest peril with which our adminis-



Lord Curzon (seated), Indian viceroy from 1899-1905 created the leaders of the Indian states as 'unruly schoolboys'

The general unrest was particularly aggravated by further laws to cope with 'revolutionary and anarchical crime'. These laws were based on the findings of the Rowlatt Committee which had met in secret and made use of secret police records. The committee dutifully confirmed the government's view of the gravity of past revolutionary crime and the danger of its happening again.

**A**t the turn of the century, thousands of mainly Sikh emigrants had left the Punjab because of the economic conditions there. But in Canada and America the Sikhs had met with racial discrimination from both government and trade unions.

In 1914, the prime minister of British Columbia, Sir Richard Macbride, had stated that 'to admit orientals in large numbers would mean in the end the extinction of the white peoples and we have always in mind the necessity of keeping this a white man's country'. American immigration laws also discriminated against Indians and the Asiatic Exclusion League there organised pogroms against Orientals.

The widespread discrimination against the Indians forced them to get organised to protect themselves and their interests. Such organisation proved fertile ground for revolutionary ideas.

# Britain's 'My Lai massacre': Amritsar

tration is confronted'. The executive resented the independence of the judiciary because people were treated as equal in the eyes of the law. Well, almost equal... Indian magistrates could not try European British subjects and there had been bitter opposition to the reforms proposed by the 1883 Ilbert Bill. The former Foreign Secretary to the Indian government said of the Bill it 'outraged the cherished conviction shared by every Englishman in India from the highest to the lowest - that he belongs to a race which God has destined to govern and subdue'.

The higher posts in the Indian Army were exclusively British. Since the 1857 Mutiny, the army had been reorganised to combat any unity of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs within its ranks. They were usually mixed together in regiments and were excluded from the artillery and other essential branches.

A report of the Army in India Committee in 1919 plaintively records the feelings of Sir Krishna Gupta... 'The adoption of measures which shall make the civil government responsible to the people does not in itself make a country autonomous... nor can it ever become so as long as the administration of the army remains in other hands'.

**B**ritish rule in India was threatened by a new unity of Hindu-Muslim interests. The British had for some time favoured the pro-British Muslim League which had kept itself apart from the more nationalist-minded and



General Dyer

to fight on Britain's side in the First World War. They were almost entirely 'recruited' from the peasantry.

The 136,000 square miles of the Punjab was rich and fertile - thanks to the numerous canals and railways, but prosperity from agricultural earnings had resulted in increased land prices.

The average eight acre holding was fragmented and uneconomic and rural indebtedness to Hindu and Sikh moneylenders increased alarmingly. In 1902 their registered number was 8,400. This increased to 15,000 by 1917.

### Sowing the seeds of racial division

Murder of this class by exasperated peasants was widespread. The Land Alienation Act of 1900 safeguarded the cultivator's interest but sowed the seeds of racial separatism - the right to be a farmer was now decided by caste and not by actual occupation.

The government's land revenue tax and the water rates were extortionate even in times of famine and plague.

In 1919 the Punjab peasant had an annual average income of £2 compared to the £6 of a police constable or the £10-£36 a year of a mill worker.

The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, was very proud of having raised so many peasant troops. The rural population no doubt had different feelings. It was left to local officials to use such methods of 'pressure and persuasion' to raise war loans and recruits as they saw fit.

This resulted in press-ganging on a widespread scale and the raising of loans by such means as closing up the village well until an 'appropriate' amount of money was given by the already impoverished people.

Enormous quantities of food-stuffs were sent out of the country for army use abroad and raw materials usable for military purposes were 'controlled' in government interests. Price control of rice and other commodities was not very efficiently exercised by the government.

mainly Hindu, Congress Party. Britain's 'divide and rule' tactics were hit by the First World War.

The Indian Muslim's loyalty to Britain now came a second-best to his spiritual loyalty to the Turkish Khilafat. When Turkey joined Germany against Britain in November 1914, many Muslims left the League to join the only major force which had shown itself willing to fight for Indian interests - the Congress Party.

Some Muslim extremists begged the Muslim King of Afghanistan to either attack India or get Germany to do so. They were duly interned by the government, but the possibility of an attack on India's Afghan frontier while the bulk of the army was fighting elsewhere was not to be taken lightly.

Nor was a distressed peasantry - especially in the Punjab. From the 20 million population of the Punjab, nearly 400,000 troops were raised

### Revolutionaries fail to rouse the Punjab

The 'Ghadr' (revolutionary) party was formed in San Francisco in 1913 and gained support from Indian communities in Canada, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe. Germany aided them with arms and money. Their numbers swelled to 10,000.

In 1915 a thousand Ghadrites had returned home to India. They had some success en route with persuading Indian troops to mutiny (especially in Singapore). But their attempts to arouse the Punjab to rebellion failed and they were savagely crushed by the summer of that year.

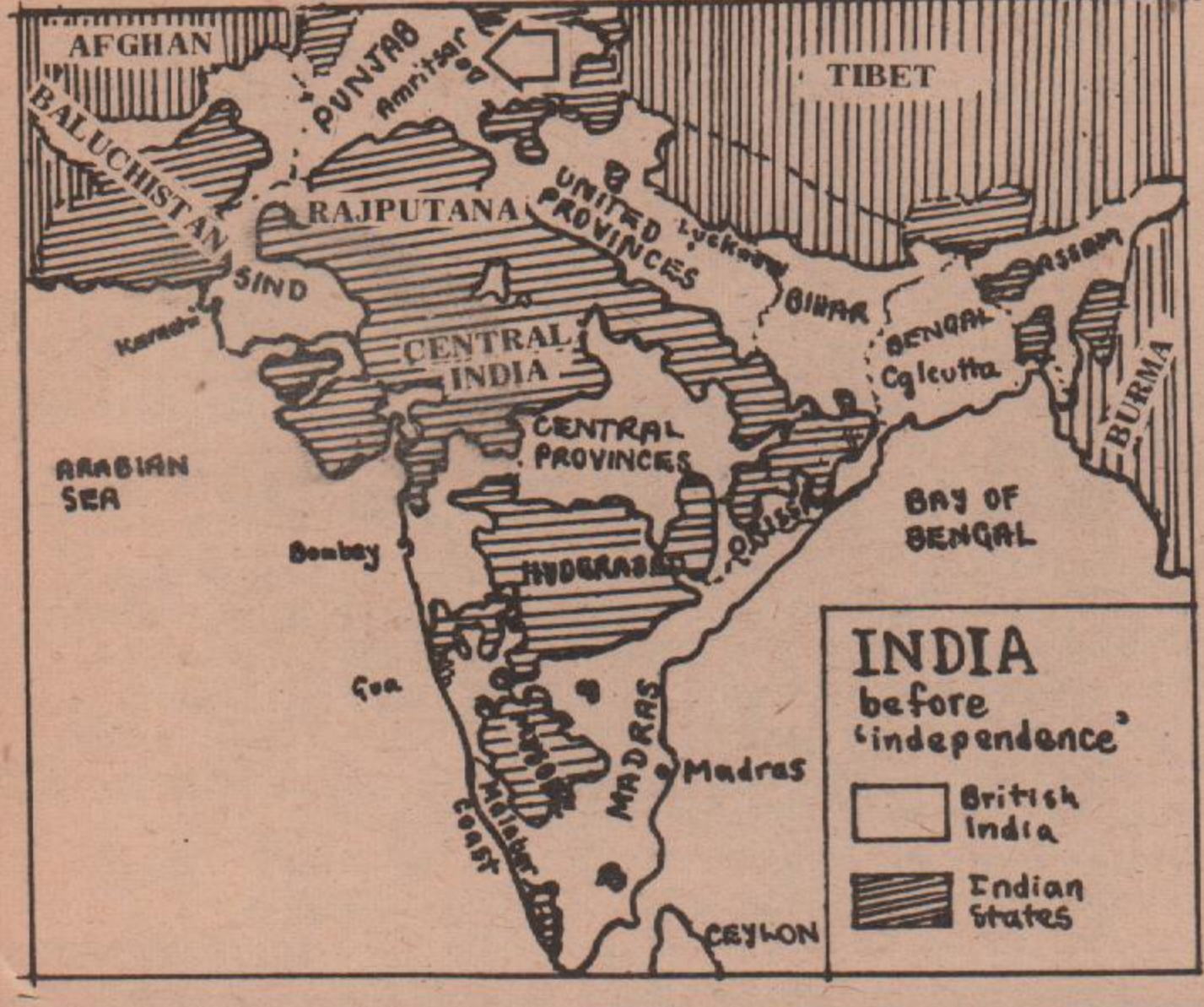
The Defence of India Act was passed in March 1915 to try conspirators by special tribunals. 'Disaffected' troops were court-martialled and later shot for supporting the Ghadrites who themselves lost 46 men to the hangman and 194 to the jailers.

The Ghadr movement was the first important attempt to try and liberate India with arms. It attracted Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and although it was crushed, it influenced later groups to shed their religious bias and unite against their common British enemy.

The Indian government used this dead 'red' herring as an excuse to extend its already misused powers and the Rowlatt Committee's recommendations were incorporated into the Rowlatt Acts which came into being in March 1919.

It was the widespread protests against these acts which Gandhi welded into a national campaign for non-violent passive resistance - a campaign which the 'old guard' British establishment viewed with much suspicion.

After all 'a movement which started in rioting and became a rebellion might have rapidly developed into a revolution' - such were the feelings of some members of the Hunter Commission which examined General Dyer's justifications for the massacre of at least 379 Indians at Amritsar on 13 April 1919.



The feudal despots were allowed to rule their own provinces - but Britain maintained the defences of the entire continent

## NEXT WEEK The slaughter... and uproar in Britain



# HOP ON A WHAT?

This is a story about London buses  
but it could happen in your town, too

IN LAST WEEK'S elections for the Greater London Council, one of the Tory 'promises' was to provide Londoners with a reliable transport service.

This must have produced a few cynical laughs from the long-suffering passengers waiting between 20 minutes and half an hour for a bus as the stream of nose-to-tail, three-quarters empty cars crawled passed.

For the Tories have accelerated the decline of the transport service, helping to turn it from the most efficient and reliable in the world to a ramshackle skeleton. All this is done in order to make transport 'profitable' instead of running the service in the interest of working people.

London Transport was handed over to the GLC this year by the Labour government which had done nothing to stop the decline in services.

Above all, the bus and tube services have been ruined to appease the motor manufacturers who are encouraged to clog up our roads in order to boost their profits. Vast motorways and urban ring-roads are paid for by the ratepayers to line the pockets of the motor millionaires.

Our 'efficient and modern' big business system is totally unplanned and allows powerful sectors like motors to dictate its own selfish terms.

by Chris Davison (TGWU)



London this had some justification, as the number of buses were designed to provide capacity rather than frequency. A two-minute service is as good as a one-minute service as long as you can get on the bus.

But on most routes a reduced number of buses does cause a worse service which leads to a further loss in passengers. And as the frequency of service is reduced so the impact of disruptions gets worse.

If the interval is scheduled to be every three minutes and due to staff shortage and traffic congestion two buses do not run, there will still be a bus every 10 minutes. But if you have a bus every 20 minutes and two do not run consecutively, then you won't have a bus for an hour. This is not an unusual thing in the outer suburbs.

The claim that the decline in passengers is entirely due to the irreversible growth of private transport is shown as nonsense by these figures.

Comparison in changes in traffic, fares and service 1954 - 1964

	Vehicle miles	Fares	Passengers
London	-24%	+89%	-36%
Municipal	-4%	+69%	-21%

## Sick joke

The GLC's plan to spend £2 million on improving London Transport is a sick joke after all the cuts. They also intend to spend £1400 million on roads in the next 20 years — and then they talk about the burden of subsidies for public transport.

Since 1948 there has been a decline of some 50 per cent in the number of buses on the streets of London. The drop is the result of reflecting the decline in passengers instead of improving services to attract them back.

London Transport justifies this policy in the same terms as a manufacturer who cuts production because of a drop in demand; fewer passengers, fewer buses.

In the peak period in central

In London, 1967 was exceptional. In that year, due to government policy, there was no increase in fares, and because of a rise in unemployment, the staff position improved and so the service improved.

The percentage mileage lost due to all causes declined from 8.4 per cent of scheduled mileage to 2.4 per cent. As a result, for the first time in almost 20 years there was an increase (of 0.4 per cent) in the number of passengers using central red buses.

For all services (including tubes) the decline in traffic which had averaged 3.3 per cent from 1956 - 66 and in the three previous years had averaged over 5 per cent was cut in 1967 to just 0.2 per cent.

London Transport's response was

to point out that as the cost of operating the extra buses was more than the additional revenue the 'result was to increase the deficit for 1967'.

The finances of London Transport are always said to be in a terrible state and the GLC has demanded a profit of £2 million a year instead of the present £10 million deficit. This is the justification for even more severe cuts in services which are being introduced under the guise of the bus reshaping plan (one-man buses etc). In fact, even in straight economic terms there is no such loss. Look at the 1967 figures:

Total Loss:	£10.9 m
BUT Interest charges to government:	£7.2 m
Fuel tax, licenses, local rates etc:	£6.7 m
Actual profit:	£3.0 m

If there were no buses there would be no fuel tax, so how this can be considered part of the loss is beyond me.

## Cars v. buses

The loss in time that results from each mile per hour reduction in the speed of London traffic is very high. The impact of the loss of passengers from public to private transport is very striking. Between 1957 and 1967 the following changes took place:

Vehicles and passengers entering central London 7-10 am 1957-1967				
	Vehicles		Passengers	
	No	%	No	%
Buses & coaches	-1,600	-27%	-86,000	-33%
Cars	+23,700	+43%	+28,300	+43%

Thus 23,700 extra cars replaced 1600 fewer buses. But they carried 56,000 fewer passengers while occupying 4½ times the road space. This is shown by the following:

Passengers Traffic vol		
Private car	30%	80%
Buses	60%	15%

For all passengers entering central areas (including tubes) in 1967 the breakdown was:

Public transport 1,032,000. Private 111,000. Total 1,143,000.

I estimate that if 3 per cent of the passengers changed from private to public transport, there would be an overall reduction in traffic entering central London of 12 per cent. The impact on traffic congestion would be very considerable.

In 1967 the economic costs of traffic congestion in the GLC area were estimated at £150 million. The total cost of running London Transport services is at present around £120 million.

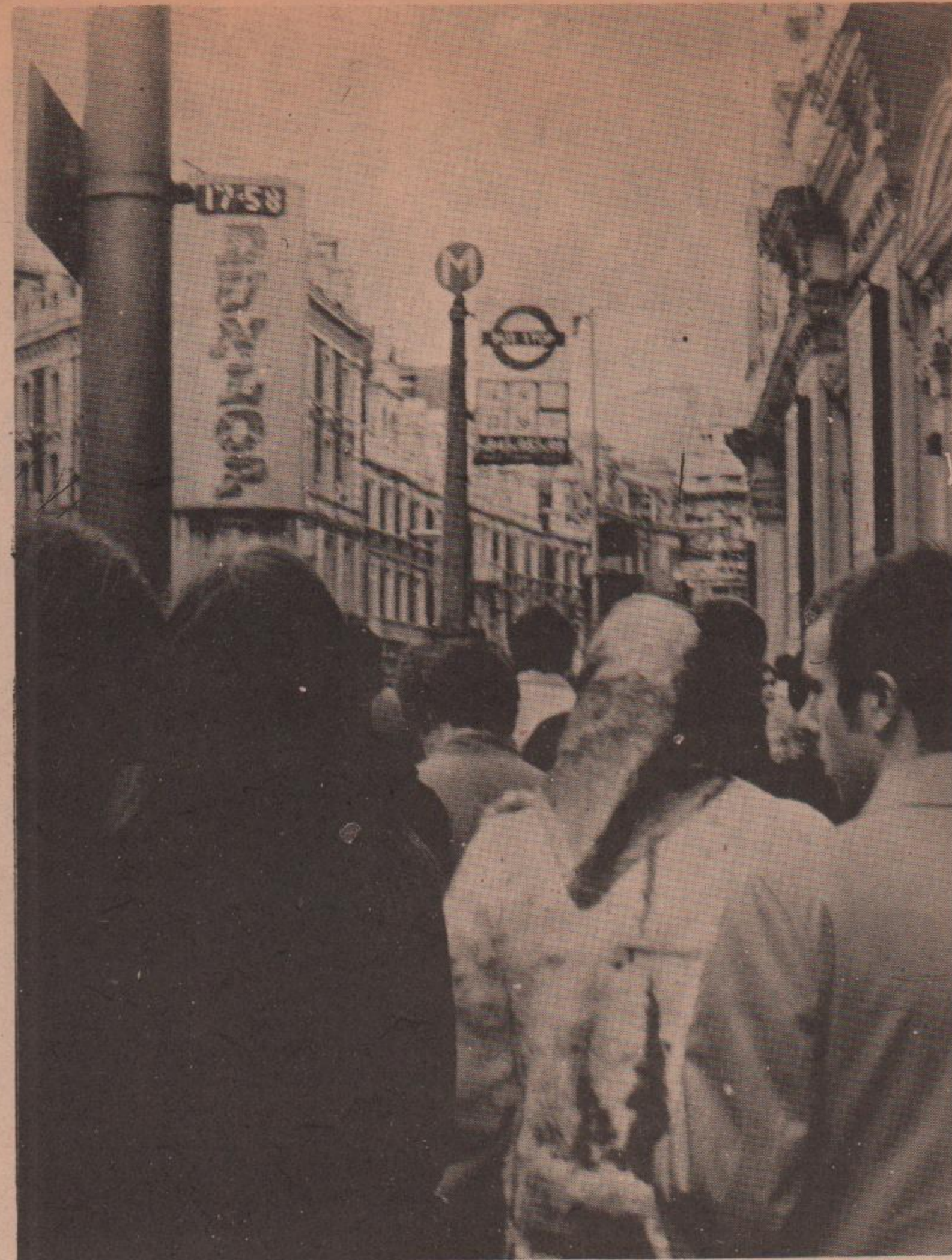
If transport was run as a free service, the savings from having no fares to collect, count, bank, account, together with no security and ticket machines would be roughly equal to the cost of providing the additional services to carry the extra traffic produced by free transport.

Although there is no accurate way to forecast the effect of free transport on travelling patterns, the change to public transport would be sufficient to cut the economic cost of congestion by half. Then the economics would be as follows:

Cost of running LT services	£120m
Savings to industry	£75m
Present deficit	£10m
Deficit	£35m

If the £35 million were raised from the 11 million people in the GLC area, it would cost just over one shilling a week per person.

A study of roads and transport in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, has recommended that instead of spending £5½ million on roads, the local authority should subsidise public transport. Such a scheme, it is estimated, would save £2 million.



A flat rate fare of 9d or 10d would enable the buses to pay their way, but the report says this would be to high. A 6d flat rate fare would run at a small loss, but would be less than the annual cost of repairing and maintaining the roads.

The rundown of public transport is associated with the build up of the motor car. Yet it was only in late 1968 that half the families in Britain had a car. This must mean that at least 75 per cent of the population have no regular use of a car and are dependent on public transport.

The attempt to run London Transport at a profit means that the standard of the service is seriously worsened for very little gain. A great number of factors go to make a bad service, but if I list a few of them you will see that by spending a relatively small amount of money, the service could be improved beyond recognition.

1. Staff shortage. Failure to pay enough to attract staff is the most serious cause of an erratic service. Last year 12½ million miles were lost due to staff shortage and 2½ million due to traffic delays.

Before the war it was very hard to get a job with London Transport. After the war the position deteriorated rapidly.

At first the shortage did not affect the service because the duties were covered by overtime. But when the shortage reaches about 15 per cent the service is affected and a vicious circle develops.

There are not enough overtime volunteers to cover the vacant duties. These duties are then 'cut' that is, they do not operate. The 'cuts' are random and may result in two or three consecutive buses not running.

The following bus will be 'domino', that is, full up all the time. The crew get so fed up with the insults and extra work that they pack in the job. There is an annual staff turnover on London Transport of 25 per cent.

2. With a full staff position there would be a number of men in each garage who are 'spare'. They are the junior men who are allocated duties on a day to day basis to cover sickness, holidays etc. Some of these men would be put on 'stand-by', and would be available to do the duties of men who fail to turn up without warning.

In the present situation, there are no spare staff. If a man doesn't turn up, his bus doesn't run. If I don't turn up next Sunday at Kingston some buses won't run — yet most of our routes on a Sunday run every hour.

Management won't let a man do a 'stand by' as overtime (that is, work his rest day) because the auditors would disapprove if he were paid time and a half for a day when he might not have to do any work.

3. London Transport are trying to speed up the buses all the time and cut down the turn-round times to the minimum. Today a London busman does more mileage in a 40 hour week than he did 20 years ago on a 48 hour week!

The result of this speed up is to intensify the effects of traffic congestion. If a driver can only just keep time under good conditions the smallest delay means he is running late with little chance of catching up.

This means that the buses 'bunch'. They would do this far less if London Transport gave drivers enough time.

4. The constant cuts mean that the services—times of buses, route numbers etc — are constantly changing. The public lose track of what is happening and this drives more passengers away. On one local route the number and destination has changed three times within a few years — from 71 to 90c to 290. And this is repeated throughout London.

## OMO chaos

5. To save money London Transport is introducing one-man buses as quickly as it can. It is so desperate to bring them in that the result is chaos. For example, in September 1968 they converted our two main routes to OMO. Each driver was given a week's training, which meant he could not do his normal duty.

They tried to train all our drivers in six weeks at the peak of the holiday period. The result was that for most of August the service hardly ran at all.

On one memorable evening the last Route 218 bus from Kingston to Staines ran at 8.43pm. — they should run every 20 minutes up to 10.05pm.

In the outer suburbs, where buses run at intervals of between 15 and 45 or 60 minutes, the cutting of buses without warning is destroying public transport. This means hardship for the poor, the old and children, who have no alternative means of transport.

6. In order to cut down on turn-round time, London Transport is now scheduling buses at all sorts of crazy intervals. One local route runs every 31 minutes others at 14, 16, 19 minutes. The result is to make the service as unattractive as possible. Even British Rail understand the importance of an interval service.

Some of the £2 million to be spent on 'improving public transport' will be used to put up more shelters for the public. Presumably London Transport is embarrassed by the number who die of exposure waiting for the bus that never comes.

## TGWU's excellent leaflet

AN excellent leaflet produced by the London bus section of the Transport and General Workers Union contains useful information for those campaigning against the declining services

It says that 30 per cent of buses have been taken off London's streets in the last 15 years. Staff is now nearly 19 per cent under strength. Spending fifteen hundred million pounds on roads in the next 20 years will only increase the present chaos.

The leaflet calls for an adequate wage structure and better conditions to keep existing staff and attract new staff, priority lanes for buses and restriction of parking on main bus routes, car-parking areas on the outskirts with fast bus services into the town centre.

Copies of the leaflet 'Are you missing the bus?' are obtainable from the TGWU (Region No 1) 218 Green Lanes, London N4.

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# Hitler and German bosses — a topsy-turvy view

by Andrew Sayers

THE SETTING for Visconti's *The Damned* (Odeon, Kensington) is Germany from 1933 to 1934. It begins when the Reichstag (the German parliament) is burning and Hitler is busy transforming his Chancellorship into a dictatorship by using the fire, which was staged by the Nazis themselves, to outlaw and hound all opposition.

It ends just after the night in which Nazism's 'left-wing' was murdered to seal the agreement Hitler had concluded with the military. Having already smashed the working class forces, Hitler made the final transition to respectability. He made sure of the long-term support of the properties classes by getting rid of the riff-raff from his party which now disturbed the tender noses of those who had been only too glad to use them only a few days earlier.

The Von Essenbecks are a family of steel magnates and throughout the film they variously murder, blackmail, and doublecross each other in a struggle for power in which the most corrupt and depraved ultimately triumph.

In this game of ambition and greed, each attempts to use the Nazis for his upward climb and in turn ends by being utterly dominated by them.

Visconti, in fact, uses the family to represent German society. In it we find the anti-fascist running for his life, the upstart trying to climb the social ladder and gain control, the SS and the SA.



Visconti directing the *Damned* with cut-out target of Hindenberg

Yet this 'liberal' opposition to fascism often contains within it some kind of capitulation to it. The basic error of the democratic opposition is their inability to see that the basis of fascism lies in the ruling class's very real fear of a socialist revolution. It is not a momentary mistake.

Visconti's film is the living example of this uncertainty. He portrays an utterly deprived and corrupt ruling class, an easy prey for Nazism which, by exploiting the differences within that class, manages to subject it completely.

While appearing to condemn and implicate the German ruling classes in Hitler's ascent, Visconti in reality whitewashes them.

The Nazi Party may well have originated from outside the ruling classes but in the end it was as much their product as of the few deranged fanatics that started it.

Nor was it by exploiting the contradictions within the middle classes that Nazism conquered. It succeeded by resolving the conflicts between the classes, it achieved power because it was the last ditch which the ruling class could build before the revolutionary working class.

Nor was the ruling class which backed fascism a peculiarly corrupt segment of it. It was in fact a normal ruling class which resorted to abnormal methods to retain power in a particularly difficult period.

It is also not true that during the Nazi regime the old ruling class became a mere tool in the hands of

Hitler. On the contrary, they continued to play a prominent and independent role.

In Visconti's film there is no hint of the class struggle, no location of the real conflicts in society.

A film which could have said much, in the end has said very little. It is a great pity because some sequences give us a glimpse of what Visconti could have done.

There is a brilliant portrayal of the Night of the Long Knives, in which an SA drunken, homosexual orgy (very popular in Nazi circles) becomes transformed into a brutal extermination of Hitler's old comrades in arms.

But a few good minutes are not enough to rescue a whole film.

# Cottons Column

THE LEADERS of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers aren't exactly famous for supporting militant trade unionism.

Strange then that they should greet with approval in their union journal the recent Ford settlement and the role of the shop stewards in winning the £4 increase.

True there is some reservation about 'agitators' and a little pious talk about responsible trade unionism. But how can it be that the very men who made a secret pact with the employers to smash militant trade unionism on the St Thomas's Hospital site should now welcome the payoff from the same kind of militancy elsewhere?

Could the fact that the ASW leaders' own wages are calculated on the basis of 125 per cent of the Ford Dagenham carpenters' rate have something to do with this peculiar about face?

OUR very sick world: the American drug industry spends £2000 per doctor per year on advertising and promotion. Illness is not so much a human problem, more a way of making a fast buck.

## What goes up...

IN NEWCASTLE for a public meeting on Sunday, SW editor Roger Protz was taken by the local International Socialists on their paper-selling round.

Several dozen copies of the paper are sold in the Noble Street blocks of council flats where the militant tenants have organised themselves to fight against their appalling conditions.

To Protz' hardened London eye, the flats looked a good 30 years old. The corridors are narrow, the cold, concrete staircases twisting, dark and dangerous.

The outside brickwork is stained by rain and smoke from the vast Vickers Armstrong works across the road. The play area for the children is a sea of evil mud.

In fact, the flats are a mere 15 years old. They were designed and built by men whose only thought was to pinch and scrape to save every possible penny on the cost. They pulled down the old slums and have built new ones in their place.

So atrocious are the buildings that the tenants, who pay up to £4 a week, have no incentive to maintain the stairs and landings. But inside each flat, a different picture emerges. They are impeccably clean and cheerful, although the families are fighting a losing battle against the

damp that is mottling and flaking their ceilings.

At his meeting in the evening, Protz suggested that the architect who designed the Noble Street prison ought to be in one himself. A voice from the floor chipped in: 'He is!'

THE MAN who has flogged the Soviet Weekly for many years on Tyneside has changed his job. Now he is working for a boy's weekly comic called *The Wizard*. It is published by the notorious Dundee firm of D C Thomson which for years has successfully rebuffed the attempts of printing and journalists' unions to organise the workers.

Wonder what sort of advertisement our hero replied to: 'Blackleg firm seeks representative, preferably trained on Russian paper extolling the virtues of socialism and free trade unions?'

## Trotsky as 'Zionist spy'

THE RUSSIAN ruling class grows more subtle in its old age. Remember in the 1930s how Stalin branded Trotsky an 'agent of Hitler and the Mikado'? (No, not you, Ian, sit down.)

Times change. A book published in Moscow last week which called Trotsky a 'Zionist conspirator' was officially branded a 'vicious collection of filth'.

The author, one Ivan Shevtsov, is clearly a man writing 40 years too late. His book 'In the Name of the Father and the Son' says that Trotsky or Bronstein (he prefers to use the revolutionary's original Jewish name) was a 'typical agent of international Zionism' who planted his men in key positions in Russia in order to seize power.

'If Stalin had not caught on to Trotsky in time and had not liquidated the generals who fought under Trotsky, it would have been worse than Hitlerism,' Shevtsov declares. Throughout the book, with the deliberate ignorance of the anti-semitic, he equates Zionism with Judaism.

Denouncing the book, the Communist youth paper says, 'it is characterised by banality, illiteracy and replete with the author's pathological and vicious yen for collecting filth'.

Are they going soft on Trotsky? Not a bit of it. The Russian rulers just realise you have to use rather cleverer lies these days. For the Young Communists' attack ends ominously: 'This libellous pamphlet has nothing in common with the tasks in the struggle against bourgeois influence.'

## Brutal study

The film attempts to follow three different lines of enquiry. Firstly there is the continuation of Visconti's familiar obsession with the family and the tensions within it. Secondly there is a brutal but at times gripping study of the psychological problems and depravity of the youngest son of the family, the ultimate winner.

Lastly there is Visconti's account and interpretation of the Nazi experience for the German capitalist classes.

On the first two counts the film almost succeeds. It is a highly theatrical and overdramatised tragedy.

Visconti's long experience in directing operas has been of great help to him in directing the film, since by skilful use of light and shade he has been able to create a highly-strung and melodramatic atmosphere. He is greatly helped in this by the excellent acting and camera work.

It is on the third count, in his attempt to give us his version of what Nazism has been that Visconti fails badly, and in so doing finally condemns the whole film. There is no doubt that Visconti is an anti-fascist, a category commonly found on the Continent where the direct experience of fascist regimes and German occupation created large splits in the middle classes in which whole sections swung to the left in defence of capitalist democratic values.

# ROOTES' AVENGER HOTS UP THE CAR WAR

THE AVENGER, the new Rootes medium-sized car, is a bombshell for the industry and especially for Ford and Vauxhall who each sell a same-size, front engine, rear drive car in the identical price range.

In addition, each of them face the long-established and patriotic British Leyland 1100 which retains its best-selling qualities in the ninth year of production.

So competition in the British car market is going to be really intense until the 'market' decides if Britain is going to have four major car producers or only three. Naturally, things are hottest for the smallest producers — Vauxhall and Rootes.

Last year, Vauxhall turned in their second trading loss ever and lost a substantial share of the market. Rootes have had a string of losses and must be a big headache for their American owners, the Chrysler Corporation.

For Rootes the problem has been a limited and ageing range of cars. The Imp has never made much in the way of profit, the Arrow range have not done well against the Cortinas. So the future of Rootes rests with the new Avenger.

In spite of the recent increase the Avenger's price is rock-bottom. This is good for sales, but bad for

profits. In February the Avenger grabbed 3 per cent of the home market.

The test is going to be whether it can stay there after the noise of the £¼ million launching has died down.

This is big business in a nutshell. Three near-identical cars — Escort, Viva and Avenger — each representing millions of pounds in investment extracted from the workers over the years. Each also representing the jobs of many thousands of men in the car factories and in the outside suppliers.

Each representing the supremely logical, but criminal, beggar-my-neighbour approach of competition.

Each firm will now compete on two levels. At the obvious level, there is competition about price and design that the public can see in the car showrooms.

The other level is: who can extract the most labour-power out of each employee, who can run the production line fastest, who can be the most inhuman?

Capitalist investment occurs to keep a firm abreast of its competitors. Investment under socialism will be used to cut hours, lighten labour, relieve monotony.

FRED MILSON

# JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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Please send further details of the meetings and activities of the International Socialists to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Send to IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.





# Socialist Worker

## UNION MOVE TO BREAK GLASS WORKERS' STRIKE

SW Reporter

**ST HELENS, Lancs:-** 9000 glass workers at the Pilkington factories are fighting a union attempt to break their militant strike, now in its second week.

A mass meeting at the local rugby league ground on Monday rejected a call by a national official of the General and Municipal Workers to return to work so that negotiations could begin.

The strikers are demanding a £25 minimum for all workers, men and women, and a 40 hour week.

Many of them are older workers who have spent their lives in the unhealthy glass factories. Their fight over pay and hours is another example of the growing revolt of lower paid workers, sparked off by the dustmen last year.

There were many angry interruptions at Monday's meeting. Workers are particularly annoyed by the fact that the GMWU is trying to end the strike but is not prepared to make it official.

### SINISTER STEP

The union official, Mr David Bassett, said that if the strikers went back he would be able to bargain from a 'position of strength'. But one worker yelled out: 'I have been in three strikes and we lost them all because we went back to work'.

The union's most sinister step was to recommend that a ballot of all its Pilkington members would be held if the back-to-work move was defeated.

The Daily Mirror, enemy of all workers' struggles for better pay and conditions, has hailed the GMWU ballot move as a sensible one.

But a ballot divides the workers. Split up in their homes, they are subjected to intense pressure from the press, union officials, management and even some wives to call off the strike.

And, the Pilkington ballot would include GMWU members not involved in the dispute.

The strikers must refuse to take part in a ballot. They should fight on to win their demands and insist that all decisions be taken at mass meetings.

### NOTICES

#### MAY DAY:

**Left Unity and the Working Class**  
London IS meeting  
Speakers: Duncan Hallas on Revolutionary Politics, John Palmer on Revolutionary Unity, Terry Barrett on the Struggle in Industry  
Chairman: Paul Foot  
Holborn Assembly Hall, Johns Mews, WC1  
Friday 1 May, 7.30pm

**FRIDAY 17 April:** Robin Crockett, Kingston Labour Parliamentary candidate debates with Peter Osborne of IS. Surbiton Library (small hall) 8pm All welcome

**LENIN CENTENARY:** Ernest Mandel at Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. 7.30pm Wed 22 April. International Marxist Group.

**LENIN CENTENARY:** Glasgow, Christian Institute, Wed 22 April, 7.30pm. Harry McShane on Lenin and John McLean. CLYDEBANK Town Hall, Fri 1 May, 7.30pm Tony Cliff on Lenin and Revolutionary Socialism.

**PRODUCTIVITY DEALS:** The Employers' Offensive. Tony Cliff speaks in Scotland. Mon, 27 April, 7.30pm Music Hall, ABERDEEN. Tues, 28 April, 7.30pm, Free Gardeners' Hall, Picardy Place (off Leith Walk) EDINBURGH, Wed 29 April, 7.30pm, Murray Hall, The Murray, EAST KILBRIDE. Thurs, April 30, 7.30pm, Christian Institute, Bothwell St, GLASGOW. Sat 2 May 1pm, Baker Rooms, 5 George Place, FAISLEY.

**MAY DAY GREETINGS:** Book your message in the May Day Socialist Worker. Greet other revolutionaries and help the paper's finances. Copy by Friday 24 April, 1s a line, 7 words to a line.

**RANK AND FILE teachers mtg:** Fri 24 April 7.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq WC1. Spkr: Michael Duane on Education for Democracy.

**CAMDEN IS:** Paul Foot on the Socialist Answer to Racism, Mon 20 April 8pm, Foresters' Hall, Highgate Rd NW5 (next to ABC cinema. Tube: Kentish Town).



## Busmen's pay rise has hidden strings

by Chris Davison (TGWU)

A NEW PAY agreement accepted this week by the leaders of London's busmen seems at first sight to show some successful bargaining by the Central Bus Committee.

The £3 14 6 increase in basic rates has certainly hit the headlines. But a more detailed look at the agreement shows that it is the employers, the London Transport Executive backed by the Greater London Council, who stand to gain most in the long run.

The LTE has been clever enough to make a very moderate increase look like a hefty one. At the same time they have brought in, almost unnoticed, a number of important changes.

The union has been pressing for some time for the consolidation of certain 'plus rates' — for Saturday and Sunday working and allowances for early starts and late finishes — into the basic rate. The employers neatly offered to add 28s consolidation to a basic rise of 46s 6d to make up that £3 14s 6d.

While the consolidation is to be welcomed in stabilising earnings, it in fact means the loss of 3s on the present wage increase. The employers insisted on working out the consolidating figure based on the old rates.

At the same time the union has agreed that a recent agreement to pay 25s a week to crews operating buses with new two-way radios should be set aside. The crews will operate the radios for nothing.

In two further productivity concessions agreement has been given to the unlimited introduction of double-deck one-man buses and to the fitting of a new device which gives out a signal every 23 feet. This enables London Transport to know the exact position of every bus. On their own admission this

### CAV testers locked out

A STRUGGLE for higher pay at the CAV engineering works in Acton, North London, came to the boil this week when the management locked out laboratory engine testers. The factory is part of the Lucas group, main supplier of electrical parts to the car industry.

A meeting of all engineering union members at CAV voted on Tuesday to give their full support to the locked out men. They also decided not to report for work on Wednesday in solidarity.

The lock-out is the culmination of an eight weeks' work to rule to gain parity of all laboratory rates

will allow them to do away with virtually every inspector on the road.

The principal of extra money for drivers of one-man buses has been lost. Only 6s instead of the expected 9s 3d was added to the OMO bonus.

While this loss is small, the principle is crucial. London Transport know that with their plans to convert all the buses in London to OMO in about eight years, the money going to the one-man driver will be what counts in the long term.

The new settlement also gives the London busmen a completely new bonus scheme which ties these payments to individual takings. Busmen have pressed for this as they feel they should get something back for the extra work involved when buses are out because of staff shortages.

It is also to combat the age-old problem of one crew running early in order to leave the next bus to carry their passengers.

Looking to the long term, the LTE has made the bonus payments for OMO less attractive than for crew busmen, despite the fact that the OMO driver is doing the work of two men. The crew man will get 4d in the £ rising to 6d for over £20 takings a day and 8d over £30. The OMO bonus will be 4d in the £ on all takings.

As with so many deals that involve productivity concessions the short-term gains are at the expense of long-term prospects.

## Mersey unionists protest at attacks on students

AT LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY the trial of the 10 'ringleaders' of the two-week occupation of Senate House ended last Saturday. The disciplinary committee has imposed on them the harshest penalties that have been seen so far in a British university.

One student has been expelled, seven suspended for two years and two for one year. Suspension in these cases is another word for expulsion.

The authorities have made it clear that this is only the beginning. All the students who took part in the occupation are likely to be disciplined.

The occupation of the Senate Building took place over three main issues.

1. The university's connection with

## Pakistanis angry at press sensationalism over 'skinheads'

by Fred Lindop

SENSATIONAL press and television reports about skinhead 'Paki-bashing' in East London have angered the Pakistani community in the borough of Tower Hamlets. Claims by self-proclaimed — or press-proclaimed — leaders to be organising vigilante squads are discounted.

There is a problem and one that was clearly getting worse without outside intervention. Most Pakistanis I spoke to at the Welfare Association had a story to tell of windows broken and bottles thrown at them in the street.

Some of them stressed, however, that until recently, theft had been the main motive for attack.

But the Pakistanis feel that exploitation of the issue by press and television, following the murder of a middle-aged Pakistani, has made the situation worse. There is a continual stress on the connection between skinheads and attacks on Pakistanis.

The problem existed long before there were any skinheads — and long before the press discovered it.

### Bored and frustrated

Racism is a constant feature in East London, although it rarely flares into violence. It has clear connections with the low wages and poor housing that give the area a higher crime rate, particularly a higher juvenile crime rate. Another source of trouble are the vast, facility-less housing estates.

Boredom and frustration at being pushed around by police and bosses give rise to a desire by youngsters to do something to break the monotony and to assert a collective superiority over someone — and the Pakistani is the ideal scapegoat.

The language problem means that the Pakistanis remain more cut off from the community than West Indians. They have much less tradition of resistance to authority and attacks than the West Indians.

In addition, a much higher proportion of Pakistanis have no families with them. There are few youngsters who might be prepared to reply more forcefully to attacks.

The Welfare Association opposes the formation of defence squads and insists that the Black Power oriented Pakistani Workers Union, formed by an ex-secretary of the Welfare Association, has little following. Its secretary and spokesman, who has been getting a great deal of

publicity, does not live in the area. The Welfare Association, which certainly speaks for the majority of Pakistanis, is dominated by the educated minority, who are mostly businessmen.

It insists that the police must protect Pakistanis and their property. But its leaders also admit that racialism is strong in the police force and their complaints are frequently treated lightly, even when the police know the culprits.

But they are unwilling to take the initiative in defence. Short of placing the community under a curfew, they say, there is no way of preventing attacks on individuals by gangs.

They are convinced that vigilantes would provoke greater violence and they hope, without much confidence, that the authorities will do something about it.

## Workers vote against Tories

THE RESULTS of last week's Greater London Council elections show a clear swing back to Labour in working class areas.

The only boroughs where the poll rose were those with the highest swing to Labour: Islington, Hackney, Barking and Tower Hamlets.

These are in the main areas where major rent struggles have taken place. They reflect less a return of illusions in Labour than a determination to remove the Tories. The Communist Party lost yet more votes and failed to capitalise on disillusion with Labour. In its old stronghold of Tower Hamlets, the party ended up below a local tenants' leader standing on a 'Rent Rebel' ticket.

The results are one more reason for Communist Party members to question their party's electoral obsession.

Low polls show not so much 'political apathy' as a realisation that the real local government decisions on housing, rents and fares are taken by central government within the limits of the bankers' high interest rates and the economic squeeze.

The swing shows that with the election approaching and no socialist alternative available, voters are turning to Labour to keep the Tories out.

## VICTORY FOR ENGINEERS IN METAL BOX LOCK-OUT

by Pete Branston

NEATH, South Wales:- Engineers at the Metal Box factory have won an important victory after five weeks outside the gates.

The management refused to recognise the engineering union's factory convenor and shop stewards. When the men stopped work in protest, the management locked them out.

The 650 affected AEF members demanded union rights and followed this with a call for a wage increase without strings, honouring of holidays lost through the lock-out and bargaining at shop floor level instead of by the union district committee.

The men's militancy has forced the company to back down on union recognition. It has also agreed to

pay an extra 1s 3d an hour and to honour holidays.

Where shop floor bargaining is concerned, the management have agreed to set up a committee of enquiry to look into wage structures.

The men's determination has paid off. Instead of the miserable 9d an hour the company said it would pay if a productivity deal was signed, it has had to offer nearly twice that amount without strings.

And the workers have learnt that if the management can pay up after five weeks then they can be forced to pay up after five days. A strengthened and well-supported shop stewards' combine committee would be able to hit the company hard in a co-ordinated way and bring the goods home quicker.

the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia through its Chancellor, Lord Salisbury. He is a leader of the Tory right wing and chief supporter of the Southern African regimes in this country.

2. Chemical and biological warfare research which is carried out at Liverpool.

3. Political files on students. More than 300 students took part in the occupation and 1500 others signed petitions supporting its aims.

Militant workers on Merseyside have supported the students against the threat of victimisation. Many workers are the victims of black-listing by employers and they understand the implications of the action taken by the university against militants.

Liverpool Trades Council pass-

ed a motion unanimously supporting the students. A delegation is being sent to the Vice-Chancellor to protest about the victimisation of 10 students and to demand much greater representation of the trade union movement on the university council. At the moment the council is completely dominated by local big business.

Support has also been received from construction shop stewards' committees as Dista, Crossfield's, Warrington and Burnah Oil sites and car workers at Ford's Halewood and Girling Brake factories.

Students will be visiting shop stewards' committees and trade union branches in the next two weeks, to win support for the common struggle against the growing menace of 'law and order'.