

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

At last -a call for real action

FOR A LONG TIME now we've been writing, arguing, complaining about the cuts in working-class living standards and the lack of fight from trade union leaders.

The cuts have got deeper. The trade union leaders, hypnotised by the Labour government, are less and less prepared to fight.

Now, at last, somebody is doing something about it.

At Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham this Saturday, more than 600 delegates from trade union branches and shop stewards committees from all over the country will be taking the first steps in building a rank and file workers' movement.

They have been called together by rank and file newspapers representing hospital workers, car workers, miners, teachers, steelworkers, post office workers, local government workers, and several other groups.

This is not just a conference of men and women in the trade unions who are sick of wage restraint, sick of price increases, sick of the spinelessness of trade union leaders.

It is a real attempt to build groups of militants under national leadership who will respond to every attack on the working class by mobilising a counter-attack in every section of the movement.

The conference will not be taken up with empty declarations of intent. It will be a working conference, whose purpose and spirit will live on after it is over.

If you've got the credentials, DON'T FORGET TO GO, DON'T PUT IT OFF AT THE LAST MOMENT.

If you haven't got the credentials, look out for a full report in your next copy of a rank and file paper which has called the conference. Read all about it in next week's Socialist Worker. And ACT upon its recommendations.

● Off to a great start: centre pages.

Labour's nasty medicine on the way

SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

by DUNCAN HALLAS

'THE PICTURE is a sombre one, the gravest situation since the war,' said Denis Healey in his Budget speech.

He announced a record trade deficit for February (£429 million, an annual rate of more than £5000 million), told us that the

rate of inflation is still speeding up—it was 13½ per cent from February to February—and declared his intention to 're-create a sense of social unity.'

That is the key. 'Social unity' or the lamb lying down with the lion, is the core of the government's strategy. Heath's defeat by the miners and subsequent loss of the election makes it desperately urgent for British capitalism to gull the working class into co-operating in measures that will, in the longer term, hit workers hard.

Of course Healey has given some real benefits to working people. £500 million on food subsidies is not to be sneezed at.

It won't bring food prices down by the 6 per cent claimed but it will check the rises for a time.

The pension increases, supplementary pension benefit increases and sick pay increases are modest enough, but still a real gain to many of the worst hit sections of the community.

Even so, much of the gains come from redistribution of tax and income within the working class. The food subsidy is more than offset by £680 million total increase in taxes on confectionery, soft drinks, beer, tobacco and petrol.

THRESHOLD

A great deal of that £680 million will be paid by workers, including lower-paid workers.

An important reason for these changes is the 'threshold' clause in the Phase Three Incomes Policy which is still in force. When the cost of living index rises by 7 per cent from October last, the 40p per week per 1 per cent additional allowed increases in pay are triggered off.

Food is heavily weighted in the index. 'Luxuries' like beer and tobacco less so.

Nor have the rich been hit as hard as is being claimed. A number of loopholes for well off tax payers have been closed and the rates for the very richest tax payer has been increased to 83 per cent. It sounds a lot until you remember it was 91 per cent in 1970 and 95 per cent in 1948! These rates are not, of course, paid on total income, only on the upper part of income.

Nonetheless this will be an unpopular Budget with the rich and will undoubtedly be regarded as 'fair' by many workers. The promise of a future 'determined attack on the maldistribution of wealth' will help the illusion.

The flies in the ointment are the massive price rises to come and the lay-offs and short time that will begin on a really big scale later in



Printers and journalists marching off last Saturday from the Glasgow offices of the Daily Express and Evening Citizen to protest at the closure of their papers.

A meeting on Tuesday asked the workers' action committee to investigate the possibility of pooling redundancy money to buy the Express building and run a paper by a workers' co-operative. They also decided to stage a sit-in from Saturday. Full report page 3.

Army death squad in Ulster

TWO BRITISH SOLDIERS died in Northern Ireland last week, killed after an exchange of gunfire with the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The dead soldiers and their companions were in civilian clothes. The RUC claim the soldiers fired first.

Army spokesmen claim the soldiers were returning from leave. They did not explain how they happened to be in the unusual location of County Armagh, in civilian vehicles and armed with sub-machine guns.

Far more credible is the conclusion that the plainclothes soldiers

were members of the Special Air Services. The army admitted recently that SAS men were active in Northern Ireland.

SAS was formed during the Second World War to carry out sabotage activity in occupied Europe. Since then they have developed into a sophisticated counter insurgency force, skilled in the technique of infiltrating so-called 'subversive' organisations. Accusations of murder, provocation and terror surround their activities in Northern Ireland.

Reports indicate that in Belfast and Derry alone 50 SAS men are

working in plain clothes to infiltrate Republican and loyalist groups. The SAS is popularly known in Northern Ireland as the 'Special Assassination Squads'.

Armed thugs

Army antics in Northern Ireland are a useful testing ground for the techniques they will attempt to use in Britain. Pioneered in the struggles against every movement for colonial freedom in the years since the war, SAS is an uncontrolled political

weapon to be used without scruple if the need should arise.

Merlyn Rees, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, is supposed to be engaged in an investigation into the security forces in Northern Ireland. Not only should the immediate decision be taken to remove these squads of armed thugs from the province, but the Labour government should be pressed to reveal the strength and extent of the entire SAS operation as a preliminary to their complete dissolution.

Provo bombings: page 2, Price sisters: page 15.

New Provo

bombings

rule out

politics

by Mike Miller

BELFAST:—The upsurge of Provisional IRA activity throughout the Six Counties shows that in spite of British army propaganda the Provos still command a vast, well-trained and well-equipped force of determined fighters.

In the past three weeks they have claimed the lives of seven members of the security forces and inflicted serious injuries on dozens more.

They blasted the army's headquarters in the centre of Belfast and have made the British forces look totally incompetent by smuggling innumerable bombs through the tight security ring which supposedly seals off the city centre.

Huge bombs have rocked virtually every provincial town and attacks have been launched against troops and police in every one of the Six Counties. The activity has apparently been well co-ordinated and centrally directed, despite army claims that every Provo leader of any standing is now in custody.

Power

The renewal of Provo activity on such a scale has come in the wake of the British general election. The return of 11 ultra loyalist Unionists to Westminster has seriously jeopardised the Sunningdale agreement, which guaranteed power sharing between the Catholic SDLP and Faulkner's Unionists, along with a Council of Ireland.

This instability, coupled with political instability in Britain herself, has certainly encouraged the Provos to give what they believe could be the 'final push' against British rule in the North.

Recent rumours in Belfast that the Provos were aiming for a truce with the new Labour government—to be negotiated from their current position of strength—now appear to have been mere kite-flying by the so-called doves in the movement. The prospect for a truce has greatly diminished as the upsurge in the campaign has gained momentum, proved 'successful' and greatly strengthened the hands of the hard liners.

Labour's new boss in the North, Merlyn Rees, is currently assessing the security situation and will be under strong pressure from all pro-Assembly and loyalist factions to give the army a freer hand to smash all resistance.

Backed

In the meantime, loyalist gun gangs undoubtedly backed by undercover British army agents, continue to wreak their own grisly revenge. For every IRA success they single out an innocent Catholic and do their worst. This month a further three victims have fallen to the assassins and dozens more have narrowly escaped death.

The truth is that the mass movement is at its lowest ebb since the present 'troubles' began back in 1968. The SDLP, in spite of its treachery and endless betrayals, still commands mass support among the anti-Unionist working class.

The job of winning these workers back into mass action is a political task which the Provos seem incapable of fulfilling—if indeed they were interested in doing so.

At present all the efforts of the Provisionals seem to be going into the revived armed struggle. But such a campaign, isolated from mass involvement and guided by non-working-class politics, cannot succeed in achieving the goal for which so many Provisional volunteers have died—an end to the barbaric rule of British big business in Ireland.

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

'GIVE THEM a chance. They haven't got a majority and they are doing the best they can. Anyway it is easy to criticise but what would you do in the circumstances?'

A lot of trade unionists, a lot of politically conscious workers, are being influenced by these arguments about the Labour government. A lot more will be similarly influenced in the next month or so as the effects of the concessions the government is making to working people take effect.

Council rents frozen, the repeal of the Housing Finance Act promised. The Industrial Relations Act to be scrapped, pensions up and a budget that hits the rich, if only by reversing Barber's give away budgets. Add the settlement of the miners' strike and the ending of three day working and you have an attractive package.

It is quite true that these things are of real benefit to workers and that had the Tories won the general election they would not have been conceded. But the conclusion that Labour Party left wingers draw, that really a Labour Party with socialist policies can solve our problems, is not true at all.

Just because the defeat of the Tories did change the political situation, an alternative government which operates within the framework of capitalism has no choice but to try different tactics. Confrontation is out in the short term. Conciliation is in. But the object of the operation is the same, to solve the problems of British capitalism at the expense of the working class.

Should we give Labour a chance?

Now this may seem to be contradictory. How can we say that the Wilson government is trying to solve problems at the expense of working people when we also agree that some of its measures also help workers?

Because these measures are designed to sell the 'social contract' which is a scheme to give the appearance of 'fairness' to basically capitalist policies. The government knows, we all know, that inflation will continue to surge ahead and that, come this autumn and winter, unemployment is going to rise sharply.

The essence of the 'social contract' is giving the trade union leadership the means to hold back workers who will want to fight against cuts in living standards. Today the sugar, tomorrow the pill.

Remember the last experience of Labour in office. From 1964 to 1966, with a tiny majority, the government was conciliatory to working-class pressure. After 1966, with a big Labour majority, came devaluation, a wage freeze

imposed by law, a doubling of unemployment, the attempt at anti-trade union legislation and social service cuts.

The leopard does not change his spots, neither does the Labour Party change its nature. The difference is that this time the crisis of British capitalism is much more serious and so the policies of the government will be more severe.

Of course, socialists must support whatever progressive measures the government attempts to implement. But they must resist illusions that any fundamental change is intended or will be carried out. Patiently but firmly they must explain to their fellow workers what is in store and meanwhile to help to push forward each and every working-class struggle that they can influence.

'Don't rock the boat' is a good precept if the boat is actually sailing in the direction in which we want to go. It is a very bad notion if the boat is sailing in the opposite direction, and there is suspicion that the captain is in the pay of the enemy. The Labour government's boat is being steered towards capitalist goals.

Even in terms of getting limited reforms, the more the boat is rocked, the more we get and vice versa. Above all there must be no let up in the struggle to build a rank and file movement in the unions.

It may be that, for a time, we have to swim against the tide. But as surely as night follows day the tide will turn and those who have developed their muscles swimming against it will be rewarded with increased influence and support.

CORBRIDGE WORKS, CORBRIDGE CRESCENT, LONDON E2 01-739 9043/0185/6361



Wendy James, who chairs the Women's Advisory Committee of London Trades Council, speaking at the council's Working Women's Conference last week. The meeting adopted a charter of demands, including a major campaign for equal pay. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Women to launch education campaign

OXFORD:—300 women attended a 'women and socialism' conference last weekend.

One major decision taken by the meeting was to launch a campaign through trade union branches and colleges of further education to demand educational equality for girls.

This followed the presentation of a paper from Arsenal (North London) Women's Liberation group which highlighted the scandalous situation facing young women school leavers.

The paper pointed out that in all

discussion of the educational crisis, one group is never discussed. They are young working-class women who leave school at the minimum age and have no further contact with formal education for the rest of their lives.

The paper demands day release classes for young women workers and of other forms of further education.

Other subjects under discussion included equal pay, abortion and contraception on demand and the campaign for proper nursery provision for children.

Profits quest caused DC 10 plane crash

THE 346 people who died when a Turkish airlines DC10 jet crashed into a forest outside Paris three weeks ago were victims of the profit hunger, according to astonishing facts revealed this week by the Sunday Times.

McDonnell Douglas, the 43rd biggest company in America with sales last year in excess of £1000 million, were so keen to mop up quick sales from newly-produced DC10 in 1972 that they did not modify their aeroplane in line with recommendations of the American National Transportation Safety Board.

On 12 June 1972, the rear cargo door of an American Airlines DC10 came off in flight over Ontario, Canada.

The cabin floor collapsed, the controls jammed and the plane would have crashed but for some good luck, good weather and expert piloting skill.

On 6 July, the Safety Board, after an investigation of the causes of the disaster, recommended substantial changes to the floor and cargo door. The very next day the American government's Federal Aviation Administration announced that the changes were 'not feasible'.

Hectic

The decision of the government not to order the modifications was taken, according to a spokesman, because the company had 'appealed'.

McDonnell Douglas did not want any delay in their hectic overseas sales drive for DC10s.

The modifications as recommended would have held up the flight of 'Friendship 72'—a sales plane which was to travel the following week around the world hawking the DC10.

So the government was 'persuaded' not to order the modifications. Friendship 72 took off.

First stop was Istanbul, where McDonnell Douglas sold three

by
SW reporter

DC10s (unmodified) to Turkish airlines. The first plane to be delivered a year later was the one which crashed near Paris this month.

All the evidence now available shows that the crash took place because the rear luggage door came off, the floor collapsed and the controls jammed.

In other words, if the modifications had been made after the Ontario disaster, the Paris 'accident' would never have happened.

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST MANIFESTO by Kuron and Modzelewski. The famous open letter to the Polish Worker's Party, written in 1964. A vitriolic analysis of the Eastern European regimes and a call for social revolution. 29p postage included, from PLUTO PRESS Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road London NW1.

EXPRESS OFF THE RAILS

MILLIONAIRE publisher and yachtsman Sir Max Aitken has announced the closure of the Glasgow Evening Citizen and the retreat of the Scottish Daily Express and Scottish Sunday Express to Manchester.

This puts the jobs of 1872 workers in Glasgow under the axe. Sir Max will continue to live in luxury and will doubtless remain a member of his exclusive clubs, White's, Bucks and the Royal Yacht Squadron.

The closure will have a devastating effect. Job prospects for the workers made redundant are almost non-existent.

And because printers, journalists and other newspaper workers were the pacemakers for wages and conditions in the region, the closure of the papers could serve to drive down the wages and conditions of others.

Certainly the ghost of newspaper redundancies will threaten all wages in London and Manchester.

It is not good enough for union officials to say that the shutdown is 'inevitable' and that all they can do is to pick up the pieces and negotiate the best possible redundancy payments.

DECADES

In these days of rampant inflation, even £2000—the average payout—will soon go. But more important than haggling over the price is the fact that the workers have a democratic right to their jobs.

Workers produce the papers—and they produced the decades of past profits—and should not be cast on the scrapheap through the financial skulduggery of Sir Max Aitken and his cronies.

The time is long overdue for a real fight-back against the press barons. And that can only mean an industrial fight using the occupation of Albion Street and solidarity strike action to bring the barons to heel. No other force is strong enough to make them go back on their property speculation objectives.

If Beaverbrook still refuses to honour their obligations to the workers then the struggle must be stepped up and extended to the whole newspaper and media industry so that the Labour government is forced to nationalise the buildings and machinery and subsidise the production of newspapers under workers' control.

Utopian? Well, the unlamented Tory government nationalised Rolls Royce. There is no reason why the Wilson government should not take the responsibility for the future of the Glasgow printers and journalists.

A paper produced by them, free from the commercial considerations and the nasty, high-Tory, jingo politics of the Beaverbrook group, would be an important extension of press freedom.

It never pours but it Raynes

A SINISTER new figure appeared on the Beaverbrook scene last year—Sir Max Rayne of the property speculation firm, London Merchant Securities.

As a director of the denationalised British Lion Holdings Ltd., one of Rayne's achievements was the sackings of hundreds of trade unionists at Pinewood Film Studios and the development of most of the site for building. In that task he was assisted by Lord Goodman, the current chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association now involved in talks between Beaverbrook and the Secretary of State for Trade.

In 1972 London Merchant Securities bought a 25 per cent stake in Hayes Wharf Co. Ltd, a London dock company that sacked 2000 men



Scottish Express workers on the march to save their jobs. Inset: Sir Max Aitken, the man out to axe their jobs

Property speculation—that's the name of the game...

IN THE COMPANY REPORT for 1973 Sir Max Aitken wrote: 'I have an unshakeable optimism in Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd both as a company and for its individual newspapers.'

His optimism was unshakeable despite the already soaring cost of newsprint. 'They all have large and loyal circulations which, given any sort of fair wind, must result in reasonable profitability for the benefit of the shareholders,' he continued.

Just six months later, on 19 March 1974, all this had changed. Aitken's optimism had crumbled and his axeman came. 'Owing to the nature of the economics of the national newspaper industry, managing director Jocelyn Stevens dictated to the Glasgow workers, 'we have never been able to make sufficient profits to build up our cash reserves.' And worse: 'we can no longer afford to support the heavy losses being incurred in Glasgow.'

Why did the weather forecast change? Was it because the board of Beaverbrook Newspapers decided to play the property speculation game for real and move in for the killing it could make selling space and bodies?

The group's pre-tax profits for 1973 were over £1½ million. But this is just the tip of the financial iceberg.

in 1969 to clear the site for redevelopment. It is now getting ready to turn it into expensive, trendy flats, hotels and a yachting marina—in an area of acute housing shortage and deprivation for ordinary working people.

Rayne was brought into the group to help it develop the old Evening Standard building in London's Shoe Lane. This will become empty and highly desirable property when the Standard moves into the new redeveloped Express/Standard building in Fleet Street.

Fleet Street holds the key to the Glasgow situation. All the finance for the Fleet Street redevelopment came from within the organisation.

As a result the company has been drained of funds which might have cushioned it from the shocks of an

economic crisis caused by the temporary world shortage of newsprint and the fall-off in advertising revenue caused by Heath's artificial anti-miner crisis.

The immediate liquidity problem propelled Beaverbrook Newspapers quicker in the direction of property speculation that it might otherwise have moved.

Negotiations with Strathclyde University for the Albion Street site in Glasgow intensified at least two weeks before the closure was announced. This has been revealed by the now sacked general manager of Beaverbrook in Scotland, Robin Stevenson. It is believed that the two Sir Maxes and their cronies reckon on getting £6 million from the deal.

Other 'soundings' took place with Sir Hugh Fraser, who owns the rival

The 1973 accounts list the value of the group's buildings and land as £8.4 million and £6.7 million in book value.

But according to the Investors' Chronicle of 11 January 1974, there has been no revaluation of these assets for six years.

The Investors' Chronicle suggested that if just two buildings—the London Evening Standard building in Shoe Lane and the office block in the Tollgate, Bristol—were properly valued, the 31p current share price would be increased by £1.05p per share, quadrupled in value.

And as recently as 17 March, the Guardian's business section estimated that while the Beaverbrook property is valued at £8 million it is in fact worth at least £50 million—and the paper says that this is a conservative estimate.

If you compare this figure with the £10½ million total declared after-tax profits made by Beaverbrook Newspapers during the last 10 years it is not difficult to see that property speculation is now the name of the game. This is clearly 'to the best advantage of the shareholders' even if it does mean 1872 sackings now and another 8000 in the offing later.

Evening Times/Glasgow Herald. Fraser has agreed to buy the title of the Evening Citizen and its advertising account for £2,750,000.

This money is supposed to be earmarked for special redundancy payments and pension rights. In fact the conditions attached to the payments by Jocelyn Stevens show then for what they are—the crudest form of blackmail.

If the Evening Citizen sale goes through quietly then all the workers will receive two weeks' wages for each year of service.

If there is 'normal' production and distribution in London, Manchester and Glasgow until the end of the month and thereafter in Manchester and London, then says Stevens, Beaverbrook will pay half as much again on 1 January 1975.

The only
way to
victory

NOBODY should be deluded into thinking he can take his or her redundancy money, stand back as the Glasgow buildings are sold off for a massive profit, and then head south for a well-paid job.

The job situation in London is far from rosy. The Beaverbrook group is already threatening cut-backs in both Fleet Street and Manchester.

There are rumours about the possible closure of the London Evening News—made more likely if the Glasgow Evening Citizen goes without a fight—and its merger with the London Evening Standard. Book publishers are pulling in their horns: Penguins and Dents are closing their educational divisions.

And the fall-off in advertising as a result of the general run-down of the economy means fewer jobs in public relations.

No—the fight has to be to save the jobs in Glasgow.

This means a united federated chapel determination to occupy the buildings if necessary to prevent the sale of the property and the moving out of machines. A 'work-in' is not feasible because newsprint would be cut off.

But an occupation is a challenge to management: We want our jobs and we're not moving until we get them.

If the management just disappear saying 'You won't get your redundancy payments and we'll leave you to rot' then every printing union in the country must be mobilised to make sure that every newspaper employer knows that action will be taken against each and every one of them unless the jobs in Albion Street are saved.

Truth

There are many owners just dying to speculate with their newspaper offices near the centres of cities and towns. If Beaverbrook can kill the Scottish Express and Citizen then that will encourage the rest.

The truth about the group's real financial situation must be made known to every printer and journalist. The combined chapels of the entire group should be brought together now to plan action. There should be a meeting of all Glasgow-based newspaper industry workers to do the same.

The London Express federated chapel has formed a liaison action committee to save Glasgow and was represented at the demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday 23 March. Manchester must now declare that they will support Glasgow as well.

Extended chapel meetings during working hours, working to rule, guerrilla strike action—all these and more must be organised to support Glasgow. Once the fight has started in Glasgow, Manchester trade unionists in distribution and transportation must be asked to refuse to handle the 'Scottish' Expresses produced in Lancashire.

The Glasgow federated chapel formed an action committee hours after the news. But the delegations up and down to London and 'normal working' policy all failed.

Now discussions are taking place on the workers pooling their redundancy payments and buying the site. Any method of forcing Beaverbrook to leave 1872 workers with their jobs must be supported. But no one should be under any illusions that this can be done without an industrial fight.

Beaverbrook is letting the hares run in order to gain time. The fight back must begin now.

● This report and analysis is based on a special Socialist Worker pamphlet produced by the Glasgow branch of the International Socialists. Copies are available, price 10p post free, from IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1.



Chile

by Paul Foot

IN THE mountainous regions of Chile, dead, disfigured human bodies are being hurled into the forests from circling helicopters.

'Body disposal' is becoming a serious problem for the Chilean authorities. Vicuna McKenna was arrested two weeks ago in the industrial area of Santiago because he was young (17) and had long hair. He was tortured for ten days. Both legs and one arm were broken. He was burned all over his body, and castrated before he bled to death.

Left-wing political leaders who have fallen into the hands of the junta usually live longer, because their torturers think they will crack and give information.

Bautista Van Schowen, the leader of the left-wing MIR, is, against all the odds, still alive. In an interview with the Argentinian paper *El Mundo*, a nurse at one of Santiago's hospitals says that Bautista is taken every day to the operating theatre at the hospital for what is described as 'medical torture'. The torturing doctor is named as Humberto Castro.

Bautista cannot move his legs. The whole of his body is covered in bruises and his head with bandages.

Last week another of the ministers in the Allende government which was toppled last September, Jose Toha, was reported to have committed suicide by hanging himself in a military hospital. The 'suicide story' is the junta's favourite device for covering up their murders.

In magnificent defiance of the junta's ban on demonstrations 3000 people came on to the streets to flock behind Toha's coffin.

The increase in murder and torture in Chile over the past few weeks is closely connected with the economic repression of the new regime.

The junta has removed all the price controls introduced by the Allende government. Milk has gone up from 7 escudos a litre before the coup to 60, bread from 11 escudos a kilo to 134, sugar from 24 to 260, rice from 15 to 360, tea from 40 to 560, aspirin from 16 escudos for 50 tablets to 1280, and gas from 185 escudos a cylinder to an incredible 4050!

Old age pensioners get 6200 escudos a month—that's the equivalent of £1.75 a week. A loaf of bread accounts for two-thirds of the pensioners' weekly income.

CREDIT

This is far, far worse inflation than anything that happened under Allende. But because it is hitting hardest at the poorest, the weakest and the oldest, the international bankers are happy. The same banks which refused crucial loans to the Allende government are now falling over themselves to lend to the junta.

The governments of the 'free world', the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank have granted credits of nearly 500 million dollars since the junta took power.

In addition, the governments of most major Western countries are represented at talks in Paris last week to agree another 500 million dollars in credits for Chile. The British Treasury was as keen as every other government, except the Dutch, to come to the rescue of the junta.

While the Allende government had to pay back every penny it borrowed at heavy rates of interest, 'suitable terms'—low interest rates and long repayment periods—are already being conceded to the Pinochet junta. This is because industrialists and financiers everywhere know that Pinochet and his fellow barbarians intend to make the workers and peasants pay for every penny of profit nationalised or taxed by Allende's Ministers.

That is why more and more British companies are setting up in Chile. That is why Pilkingtons, the glass giant, has negotiated the building of a huge factory near Santiago.

That is why the rich men in Britain who make money in Chile

NO BEGGARS FOR QUEEN

FOR some reason the following report, which was sent to all national and local news desks in the country by Reuters news agency, appears to have been almost completely ignored by British press and television.

JAKARTA, March 16, Reuter—Armed troops today cleared beggars and paupers from the streets of Jakarta in a clean-up for the state visit of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who will arrive here on Monday.

Army trucks removed them to the outskirts of this sprawling city of five million people.

The authorities also closed a canal

through the city centre to public bathing. Men and women usually wash and swim naked in it.

The Queen and her husband Prince Philip are sailing along the coast of Java in the royal yacht *Britannia* from the tourist island of Bali to Jakarta for what will be the first official visit to Indonesia by a British monarch.

Their one-day sight-seeing stay in Bali, legendary 'land of the gods', was semi-private and is not part of the state visit, which comes just over 10 years after Indonesian mobs burned down the British Embassy in Jakarta.

are rubbing their hands in glee.

Chief among these is Lord Aldenham, chairman of merchant bankers Philip Gibbs, much of whose wealth was made in Chile. Aldenham is chairman of the Anglo-Chile Society, which keeps a 'neutral' office inside the Chilean Embassy. The executive and general committees of the Anglo-Chilean Society are made up of rich men who were worried that the Allende government would put a stop to their exploitation in Chile.

These include:

- James Blair, chairman of the Antofagasta Railway Company, whose shareholders have been growing fat for years because of a railway in Northern Chile.

PRAISE

- J V Gallaher, former chairman of merchants Duncan Fox, who, before Allende, had a near monopoly in the export and import of all kinds of basic consumer goods and commodities to and from Chile.

- Henry Tiarks, international banker and director of the Stanhope Transatlantic Fund.

- Ralph Young, former chief accountant of the Nitrate Corporation of Chile.

- Edmund de Rothschild, merchant banker extraordinary.

- Sir Frederick Mason, a senior Foreign Office diplomat who holds

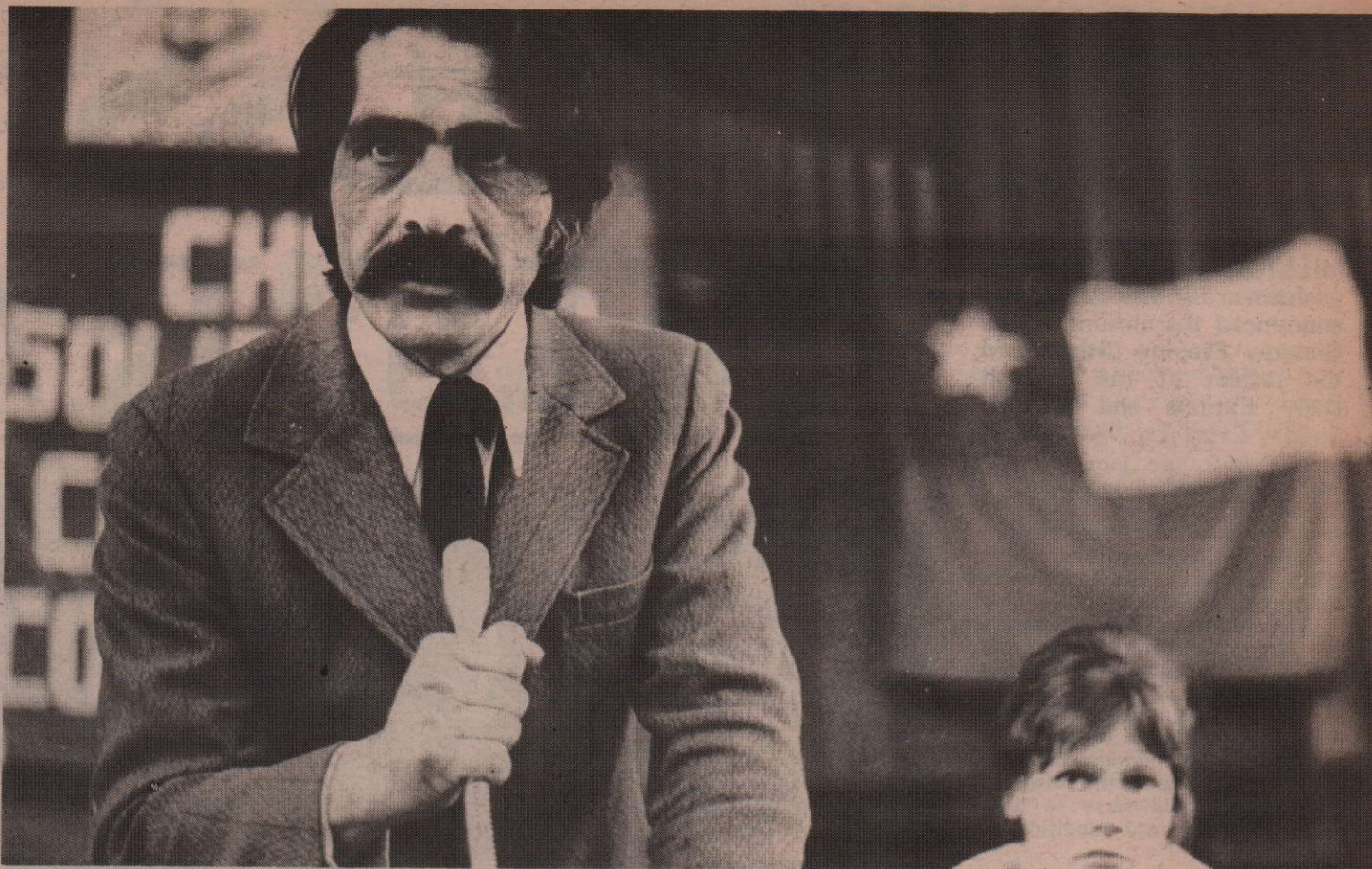
the Grand Cross of the Chilean Order of Merit.

These people, who are constantly pretending that they are 'not political', have nothing but praise for the way the Chilean junta has 'opened up the country for private investment'. They hope that the happy days of endless dividends from Chile are here again.

Every new credit voted, every new boost to Anglo-Chilean trade, every new cruiser which the Labour government allows to leave British shipyards bound for Chile is an open declaration of support for torture and barbarism on a grand scale.

'Yes, we are fascists!' bellowed Admiral Ismael Huerta, Chile's Foreign Minister and Brute-in-Chief, at a recent press conference in Mexico.

Yes, they are fascists. And like many fascists before them they get much of their confidence and strength from rich, titled democrats in the City of London who subsidise their atrocities.



Ricardo Figueroa, a lecturer at the University of Chile who was held in a prison ship for four months until freed in January on the intervention of the United Nations speaking on Saturday's National Action Conference for Solidarity with Chile in Birmingham. A section of the conference walked out of the hall after chairman Dick Etheridge, convenor at Austin, refused to accept a motion calling for a demonstration in protest at the Labour government's refusal to break off diplomatic negotiations with Chile. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

RICH MEN WHO SUPPORT JUNTA

Torturer and paymaster



GENERAL PINOCHET, leader of the Chilean junta



LORD ALDENHAM, banker whose firm has big interests in Chile

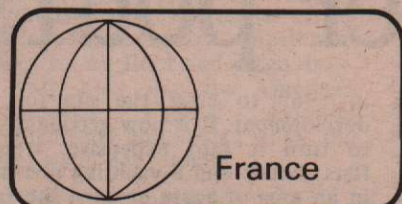
Another hot spring ahead

'IT'S going to be another hot spring', chant the high school and technical students as they demonstrate through Paris.

The school students are protesting against reorganisation plans which will make it more difficult to stay on at school. The tech students are also fighting reorganisation which will send even more into fake 'apprenticeships' at 14 instead of increasing places in the techs.

The movement has spread from Paris to the provinces and last Tuesday, while 5000 or more tech students were demonstrating in Paris, there were high school demonstrations in most major cities.

At the same time workers in many industries, particularly in nationalised industries, are on the move to try to win back what they have lost through rising prices. Last week the Paris underground was stopped for an hour by a one-day strike of electricity workers.



France

The main battle is still the bank strikes. The big Credit Lyonnais bank is now totally paralysed. The main office was occupied by the workers for a week.

The occupation and strikes were led by an elected strike committee, rare in France as the unions like to keep all action under the control of their full-timers.

After a week, the strikers were kicked out by the police but morale remains high. Last week more than 30,000 bank workers demonstrated through Paris. Outside the Credit Lyonnais the riot police tried to break up the mass-picket and attacked

leading militants, notably the main strike leader, revolutionary socialist Arlette Laguiller.

But the strike is still spreading and one building is still occupied by strikers.

There have also been strikes at Fords in Bordeaux and in the mines of Northern France. Several factories are still being occupied against closure threats and in the Lorraine mines in North East France a series of small strikes looks as if it may lead to a major confrontation.

But none of the unions is willing to take on government and employers on a national scale and they seem to be hoping that the strikes will peter out.

Revolutionary socialists are leading both the bank strikes and the school and tech students' struggles. In both cases the Communist Party-led 'official' organisations have tried consistently to take a 'Moderate' line.

At the court of Harold Wilson

'We are the masters now,' a Labour Minister is reputed to have said soon after the election of the 1945 Labour government. The same thought has occurred to the courtiers who have stuck loyally to Harold Wilson during his worst hours, not the Labour MPs who were stuck with him anyway, but the strange group of yes-men and millionaires

SOME are millionaires, Eric Miller, for instance, chairman of Peachey Property Corporation.

'It was my ambition,' Miller told the Sunday Times in 1961 'to be a millionaire'. In 1954 he joined Peachey, then the largest owner of privately rented property in the country, and by some shrewd speculation became a millionaire less than seven years later, when he was only 34.

From then on, Peachey went from strength to strength. It developed the massively profitable Churchill Hotel in Portman Square, and bought up the whole of trendy Carnaby Street for £3.25 million. It also engaged in some nifty robbery of British Rail with several 'joint developments'—British Rail supplied the land, Peachey took the profits.

In an interview in the Evening Standard last year, Eric Miller outlined his ideals:

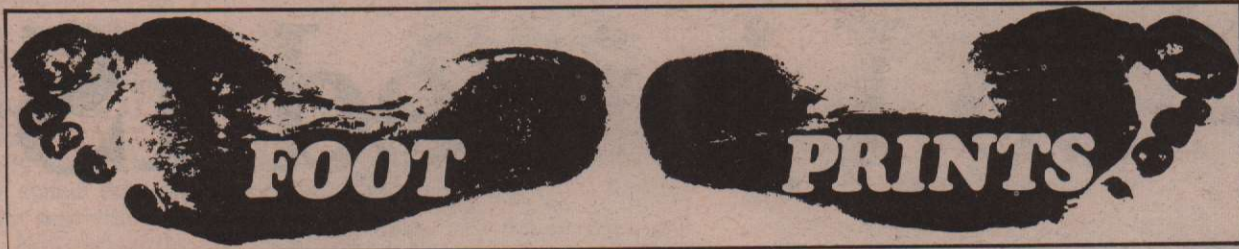
'If anything drove me on in business, it was the thought of owning a fine motor car. I wanted to be able to travel in safety, speed and comfort.'

Support

'At present,' the Evening Standard revealed, 'Mr Miller owns a taxi, a Rolls Corniche, and three different types of Ferrari. He has also got a BMW and a Citroen Masarati on order.' Did he need seven cars? asked the impertinent Standard reporter. Miller admitted: 'I suppose it is a bit of an indulgence.'

Miller's other main hobby, apart from his motor cars, is Harold Wilson. Property speculation and self-indulgence on a grand scale has not dented his support for the Labour Party. When Miller's daughter was married in February 1972 at a £25,000 wedding feast at the Dorchester. Wilson was guest of honour.

When Wilson wanted a suitable



MILLER: Seven cars



KISSIN: £17,500 rise

Profits king

HARRY KISSIN, a millionaire commodity broker, has been celebrating ever since 28 February. Kissin is joint chairman of the Guinness Peat Group, which last year took over his own Lewis and Peat. Under Kissin's energetic leadership, L&P grew from a small rubber broker into a huge conglomerate which dealt with all forms of commodities, especially behind the Iron Curtain.

It also had a chain of supermarkets—Thomas Linell—and an insurance company—Fenchurch. Group profits rose from £557,000 in 1963 to £2.5 million in 1972. In 1972, Kissin was paid £12,500 as chairman. In 1973, the year of the freeze, he got a £1 plus four per cent rise—to £30,000. He also made about £6000 in dividends from his quarter of a million shares.

Through all this fortune-making, Kissin remained loyal to Labour. During the recent Tory government, he helped substantially towards paying for a 'special research unit' for the Labour Party, which was headed by an arch Labour right-winger, Bernard Donoghue.

Donoghue, a lecturer at LSE and co-biographer of Herbert Morrison, has now been moved from the Research Unit's offices in the Strand to 10 Downing Street, where he 'directs policy' for the Prime Minister.



STERNBERG: Metal boss

The mac man

ANOTHER commodity broker with specialist interests in export to Eastern Europe is Sigmund Sternberg, chairman of the Mountstar Metal Corporation. Sternberg, who has 19 other directorships, not only contributed generously to Mr Wilson's and Labour's campaign, but was also to be seen in the 'holy of holies' of Harold's entourage during the election.

There, too, was to be seen one of Wilson's oldest favourites and patrons, Sir Joseph Kagan, chairman of Gannex Mackintoshes. Kagan got his 'Sir' during the last Labour government when he was a more than frequent visitor to Downing Street. During the recent election campaign Harold started wearing that Gannex mac again in front of the telly cameras.

Harold Wilson's association with commodity dealers and brokers is not as bizarre as might appear. Soon after resigning from the Labour government in 1951 after that government decided to impose health charges, Wilson was signed up by Montague Meyer, an up-and-coming timber merchant much of whose business was conducted in Eastern Europe. Wilson's salary at Meyer's conveniently bridged the gap between his former salary as a Minister and his pay as an ordinary MP.

Wilson stayed with Meyer through most of the 13 years of Tory government, and helped build it into one of the most profitable commodity companies in the country.



KAGAN: Gannex

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

ONE shareholder suggested they should pay money to political parties which support capitalism.

Mr Maxwell Joseph replied: 'I am against it. This company has never done it and never intends to. I abhor a Labour government as much as you do, but we have always made more profit under a Labour government than under any other.'

—Daily Mirror, 15 March, Report of Grand Metropolitan Hotels annual meeting.

THERE are some ordinary men there too—like Joe Haines, the faithful press officer, and Terry Boston, the former MP for Faversham who 'advises' Wilson on how to behave on television.

More interesting is Albert Murray, who was to be seen on several occasions during the election holding his leader's briefcase. Murray is the favourite of Robert Mellish, Labour's Chief Whip. After many years as a councillor in Southwark, Murray became secretary to the London Labour Party when Mellish was chairman.

Like Mellish, who is a high Catholic dignitary, Albert helped to further the cause of Catholic Action in the London Labour Party. With Mellish's help, he got the Labour nomination for Gravesend in 1964, and was MP for six years until losing the election in 1970.

When he returned to his trade as a printers' assistant, he applied for a job in Fleet Street. Fellow workers were surprised how quickly, with the blessing of officials of his union, NATSOPA, he was hired for four nights a week on the Sun and a 'Saturday shift' on the People.

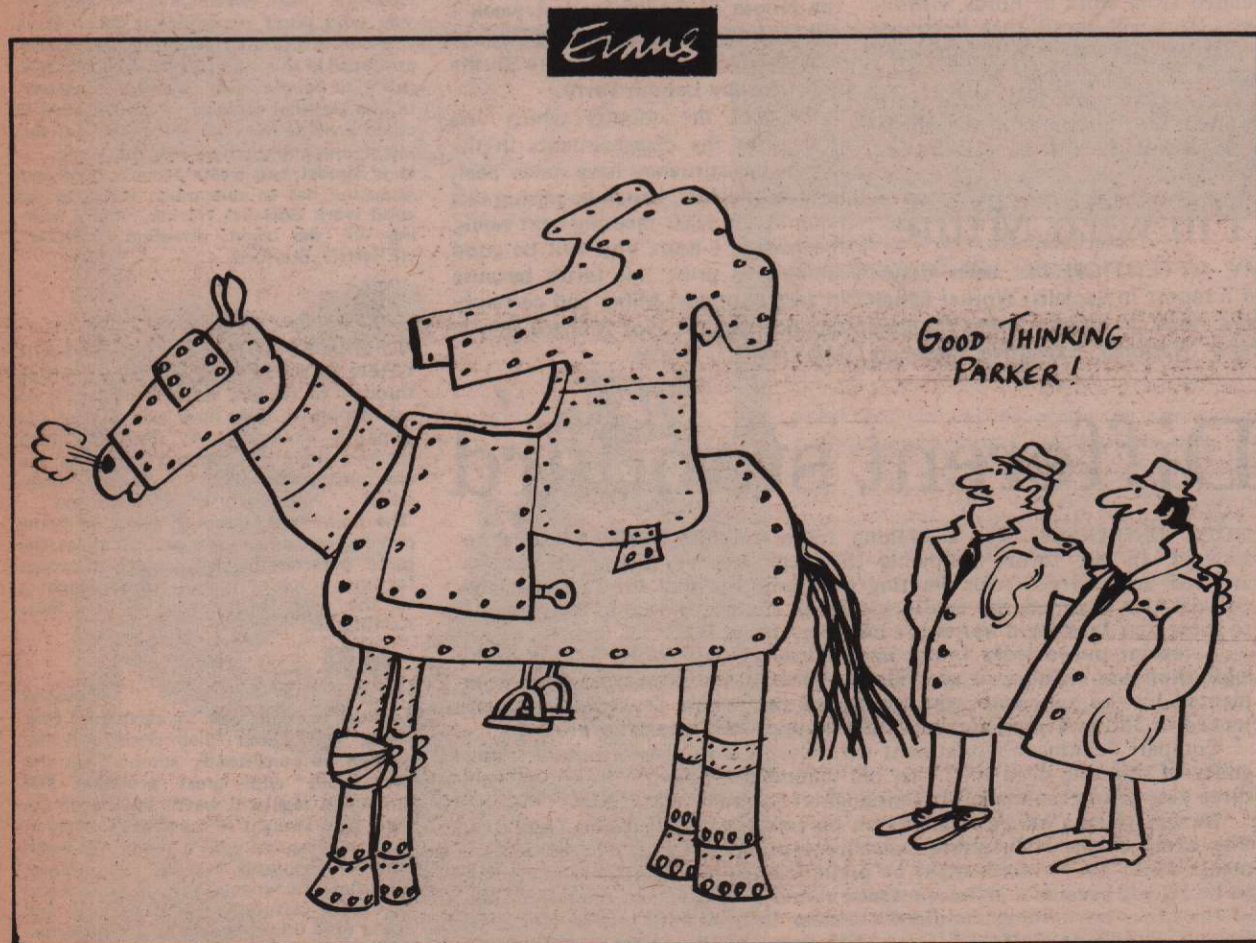
Albert Murray didn't try for the Gravesend seat again in 1970, and his fellow printers, who noticed that he was taking an increasingly right-wing attitude at NATSOPA machine branch meetings, never imagined that he would soon be promoted to the highest precincts in the land. Certainly, Harold Wilson never moves nowadays without the faithful Albert by his side.



MURRAY: Briefcase

Honours

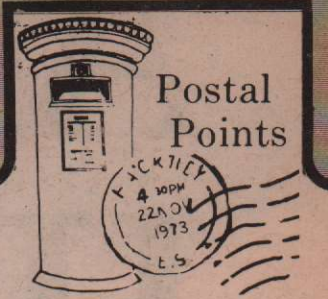
Harold Wilson has already said that he will be handing out fewer honours than previous Prime Ministers. But the Queen's birthday honours are due in June, and if there are any betting men reading this column, they could do worse than wager a small sum on the creation of Lord Miller of Peachey, Lord Kissin of Commodities, Lord Sternberg of Brokerage and, who knows, even Lord Murray of St Columba (or, at the very least, Lord Briginshaw of Borough Road).



ARE YOU ON THE NEWVOTERS LIST? CHECK NOW

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LETTERS



Dead pigeons for sitting duck —so I joined IS

WHILE working for a plumbing company in York I claimed 'conditions' money for five weeks from when I started on the contract. But the company refused to pay the money.

I could claim the money because of the noise from pneumatic drills, compressors, needle guns. Because of the filth—including pigeon nest droppings, dead pigeons—which made a terrible smell. There was no protective clothing to guard against the spraying of irritants.

Then there was dust—heavy from compressors, drills, soot and sulphur, and there was no ventilation. I was working on an old rain water pipe and that was full of the dead pigeons and droppings.

While working under these conditions I have contracted an irritation of the scalp and skin which, thank goodness, is clearing up.

The failure to pay conditions money was explained by the bosses saying that the main contractors on the job wouldn't pay *them* so they wouldn't pay me.

Then I was given my notice, the reason?

The old 'lack of work' trick. But the job I was working on was good for a few months at least. I am positive that if I had said nothing I would still be on the same site under the same conditions. It is a blatant attack on people's wages and contracts of employment. If I had broken my contract I would have lost my unemployment benefit, not to say my job of course.

That happened at my previous job—I refused to work compulsory overtime for non-overtime rates. I left, and lost my unemployment benefit.

That is why I joined the International Socialists, like many more. Further we workers need a rank and file movement, on our own we are sitting ducks.—F D SINGLETON, York.

Miners: We've been sold out

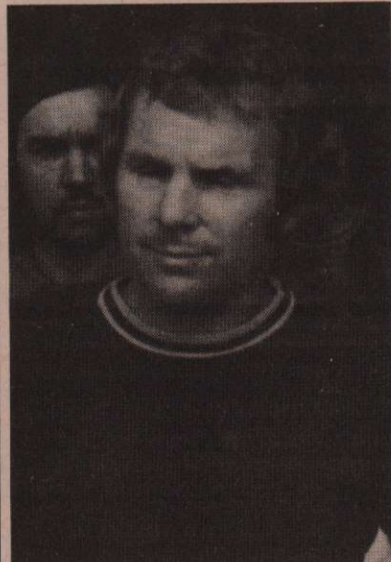
REALISATION is quickly setting in among rank and file workers in the mining industry that the recent wages deal was just another sell-out.

The full claim, backdated to 1 November, would have been won if there had been any real effort by the National Executive of the union.

After many pious declarations that the claim was structured in such a way as to enhance the position of the lower paid the very same group were the ones to be thrown to the wolves when the time came for the inevitable sell-out.

The bureaucratic manoeuvring by the NEC in calling off the pickets and even requesting the men to work before the vote was taken, coupled with the breakdown in com-

Bobby Moore: you got it all wrong...



Moore—'sweeper'; 'brains of midfield' seen here reading a game...

MOST NEWSPAPER treatment of football is pretty lousy, but if Socialist Worker cannot improve on it, better leave the subject completely alone. The article on Bobby Moore (23 March) showed soccer correspondent Roger Protz to have a very lyrical style, but does he know anything about football?

Firstly, to say that Moore 'commanded the play, from midfield', suggests a somewhat hazy knowledge of the layout of a football pitch. Moore was at his best as a 'sweeper', playing behind the defence, and was therefore an excellent example of the negative four-man defensive system so bitterly criticised by Protz.

More seriously, your correspondent's treatment of professional footballers' behaviour is really reactionary. The implication was that Moore was a gentleman, a 'goody' surrounded by nasty ruthless hooligans who would be advised to play the game like West Ham rather than 'baddies' like Leeds. What needs to be stressed, is that the unsporting behaviour of players is purely a reflection of soccer as big business and of the star system of which Moore himself is an example.

Professional football is a cross between showbiz, and a hobby for the petty capitalist creeps who make up the Directors of the clubs. Naturally, this perversion of sport produces ridiculous behaviour both on the field and on the terraces. Good football can only return when we have amateur or part-time professionals representing democratically-governed local sports clubs whose aim is to provide recreation for all, rather than status for the few. To expect players to suddenly repent and copy Blue-eyes Bobby, is definitely 'Blowing bubbles in the air'.—GORDON BLAIR, London SW6.

munication over the terms of the offer (at Calverton the terms were read from the Daily Mirror) led most men to believe that acceptance was a foregone conclusion.—STEVE ABBOTT, Calverton.

'Theft'

A TV programme on the law dealt with the case of an ex-Ford worker in Liverpool, who was accused of theft from his employer—it emerged that legal opinion considered the charges against him particularly serious because it was his own employer that he was alleged to have stolen from.

Interesting—it appears that stealing the product of one's own labour from one's own employer is a more serious offence than stealing the pro-

duct of somebody else's labour from somebody else's employer!

In the event the charge of theft was dropped but he was found guilty of receiving. This meant that he lost his job. In the period between his arrest and conviction he was suspended from work at Fords *without* pay. You will recall that Pottinger and other civil servants etc involved with the Poulson case were suspended on *full* pay while they awaited the outcome of the allegations against them.—BILL MESSAGE, Pontefract.

I'm with Milne

MY ATTENTION has been drawn to a report in Socialist Worker which says that I among other Labour Party National Executive members

signed a full page advertisement in two local Blythe newspapers, which cost about £300, denouncing Eddie Milne and calling for a vote for Ivor Richard. May I say that until I was shown this advert by Eddie Milne in the House of Commons last week I didn't know anything about it. It must have been put in by the Blythe constituency Labour Party.

In fact the enquiry which was done into the disagreements in the Blythe constituency have never been before the NEC. I shall be raising this issue at the NEC meeting next week, meanwhile I hope you will be good enough to print this letter because in fact I support Milne and certainly did not support Ivor Richard.—JOAN MAYNARD, Thirsk.

Different standard

NOEL JENKINSON was a lifelong trade unionist, socialist and shop steward. In the furore following the explosion at Aldershot he was arrested and charged with planting the bomb, despite the fact that the Official IRA claimed the credit within 24 hours. The court was unable to show that Jenkinson was ever a member of the IRA.

A receipt purportedly found in Jenkinson's flat, issued by a shop in Aldershot was withdrawn as evidence when it was shown to have been planted by the policeman who conducted the search. Jenkinson was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment and his appeal was turned down flat.

Compare Jenkinson's treatment with Corporal Foxford. He was found guilty of shooting dead a 12 year old schoolboy in Newry. He was given a three year prison sentence for manslaughter and released on bail.

He was given a hero's welcome on his return to England last Thursday. The Army at the last minute cancelled a press conference because comments made by Foxford might be prejudicial to his appeal. He is certain to be let off because a prison sentence would be felt to damage the morale of the other boys doing the dirty work for British capitalism in Northern Ireland.—JIM BLAKE, MAGGIE BLAKE, Brentwood.

IT MAY BE GOOD FOR KEN HARDING . . . 'It may not be good for women's liberation but . . .' says Ken Harding (Postal points 23 March). I can't imagine a reader writing the same sentence with the word 'blacks' or 'workers' instead of women . . . Many people who have rejected capitalism can't see past the press's bra-burning image of women's liberation, of beyond 'traditional' ideas of male and female . . . Until we women, more than half the population, more than a third of the work force, see ourselves and are treated as equals, organise in trade unions and stop believing a 'woman's place is in the home' then there's no chance of changing society. That's what women's liberation is about, and that's no laughing matter.—HAZEL WRIGHT, Manchester.

THEM, NOT ME . . . In my report of the Women's TUC I wrote that the Women's Advisory Committee *sees itself* as 'a few people at the top doing things on behalf of quiet and passive members.' That is *their* idea, and not, as implied in last week's paper, one that I share. On the contrary, I would accuse the Women's Advisory of doing very little of any importance, precisely because of their mistaken view that women are, and will remain passive.—SANDRA PEERS, 'Iewcastle.

THE FRONT: READERS PURSUE PUGH . . . I must condemn the attitude of Nigel Pugh (23 March) who is 'against silencing and victimising people because of their views' including the National Front. Wait until these fascists gain power and see how much they tolerate free speech. Ever heard of concentration camps? The Gestapo? The SS? . . . DAVE GRAY, Richmond, Yorks.

THE National Front is a fascist group and is a danger to the revolutionary movement . . . Freedom of speech for all is a good ideal, but in a pre-revolutionary or revolutionary period, anti-working class propaganda must be banned. Do you think that during the revolution and the period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, Spearhead or even the Daily Express, will be allowed to voice their counter-revolutionary views? NO . . . When the threat of counter-revolution has been dispelled, freedom of speech will exist for all and censorship will disappear. As we all know, for the success of a Democratic-Communist society, criticism and debate are essential—this is one of the failings of Russia's Stalinist bureaucracy.—A R KUTTNER, Fulham.

THANK YOU AND GOODNIGHT . . . How one misses Seven Days. For those of you who don't remember it Seven Days was one of the finest left wing papers ever produced in this country. I refused to talk down to people while covering all aspects of the socialist struggle . . . I believed it could provide the vital unity factor of the left. I, and many others miss this paper . . . It is almost two years since it died and someone has to remember. Keep up the good work Socialist Worker, you're moving in the right direction.—DUNCAN HEINING, Stafford.

NO ONE EVER LANDS ON MAYFAIR WHEN I BUY IT . . . One way of getting through to readers about socialism is to ask people if they have ever played the game of Monopoly. As stated in much socialist literature capitalists provide the weapons with which to destroy themselves . . . Monopoly is such a weapon . . . The point is that though for a while the players, in some cases, get richer, as the game goes on they all get poorer except for the property tycoon who's laughing all the way to the bank.—C WALING, Accrington.

TAKE A RISE, NORMAN . . . A special mention is again due to cartoonist Phil Evans. Throughout 'their crisis' and the election he consistently summed up the key issues with great precision and humour. I regularly watch buyers of the paper turn straight to the page his cartoon is on and respond with a good belly laugh or a wry smile as the political message immediately connects. I've taken to sticking up the cartoons on notice boards and would urge other readers to do the same.—SIMON MADDISON, Hitchin.

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ROGER KLINE

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 come
 through
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Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

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Scandal of worker classified 'sub-normal' and paid starvation wages

CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN is a rich display of misery, exploitation and systematic injustice.

But then, from the lower depths, a new example comes to the surface. Suddenly you know that your knowledge of it is superficial. The story of Andrew Milne is one of these.

Andrew is a runaway, but not from school or Borstal. For Andrew is 34 years old. He has run away from his work on a farm, from a unique and modern form of slavery which enjoys full government protection.

At 16 years, Andrew was sent by his father to work for farmer John Riley, a prosperous operator in Derbyshire and tenant of the Duke of Devonshire.

Andrew earned the magnificent sum of £4 a week plus board for his life of constant toil. At 18 he was told his parents would get his wages and bank them for him.

From then until he left Riley's farm to work for one of Riley's relations, Andrew did not know what his wages were. He never got more than £2 a week in cash and did not know what was banked for him.

But in 1970 Andrew was subjected to an even more brutal form of oppression. In October of that year his boss applied for a permit classifying Andrew as mentally sub-normal and formally allowing him to pay his victim starvation wages, £10 a week for 43 hours, a full £3.15 less than the miserable basic.

In his application to the County Committee of the Agricultural Wages Board, Riley stated that Andrew was 'backward and needed constant supervision'. 'As he gets older, his disability increases. Not trustworthy,' he added.

Ostensibly Andrew was a joint applicant for the permit. But this cannot be taken seriously. Farmworkers are often forced into a position where they become completely dependent on their employers, and dare not challenge them.

After an interview conducted by a 78 years old farmer and a farmworkers' representative, the permit was granted. Andrew became one of 500 farmworkers in England and Wales who have been classified as mentally deficient by a wages board.

Interestingly enough the gentlemen who classified him did not bother to talk to his fellow workers on the farm. They just accepted the employer's view.

Anxious

Robert Broomhead, now aged 26, worked with Andrew from 1970-71. He says: 'Andrew did all the dirty rotten jobs and worked like a slave. Once he had been given his instructions, he got on with the job without supervision.'

'He worked hard and did all the rough work, shovelling muck and cleaning out buildings.'

Andrew's family put up with this. His father, a rich former senior accountant with the British Steel Corporation, wanted him off his back.

His employer was only too

anxious to tie Andrew in this way. He got rich returns for pathetic wages on the phoney grounds that Andrew was subnormal.

And Andrew was far from being mentally deficient. He was deprived

and unhappy, crushed by his family, and by the job he was thrust into.

As long ago as 1959 Doctor William Seargeant, a psychiatrist at the Royal Waterloo Hospital in London, examined Andrew and re-

commended that he cut all ties with his family and the farm on which he worked.

Andrew did this in 1972. He is now working on a mushroom farm earning £34 a week, £50 with overtime.

In the wake of the publicity given to his case, unearthed by Geoffrey Seed of the Daily Mail, Agricultural Workers Union general secretary Reg Bottini has called for 'radical revision' of the system. But he doesn't want its total abolition.

Nor does the National Farmers' Union, the employers' outfit whose thirst for profit and cheap labour is

Simple

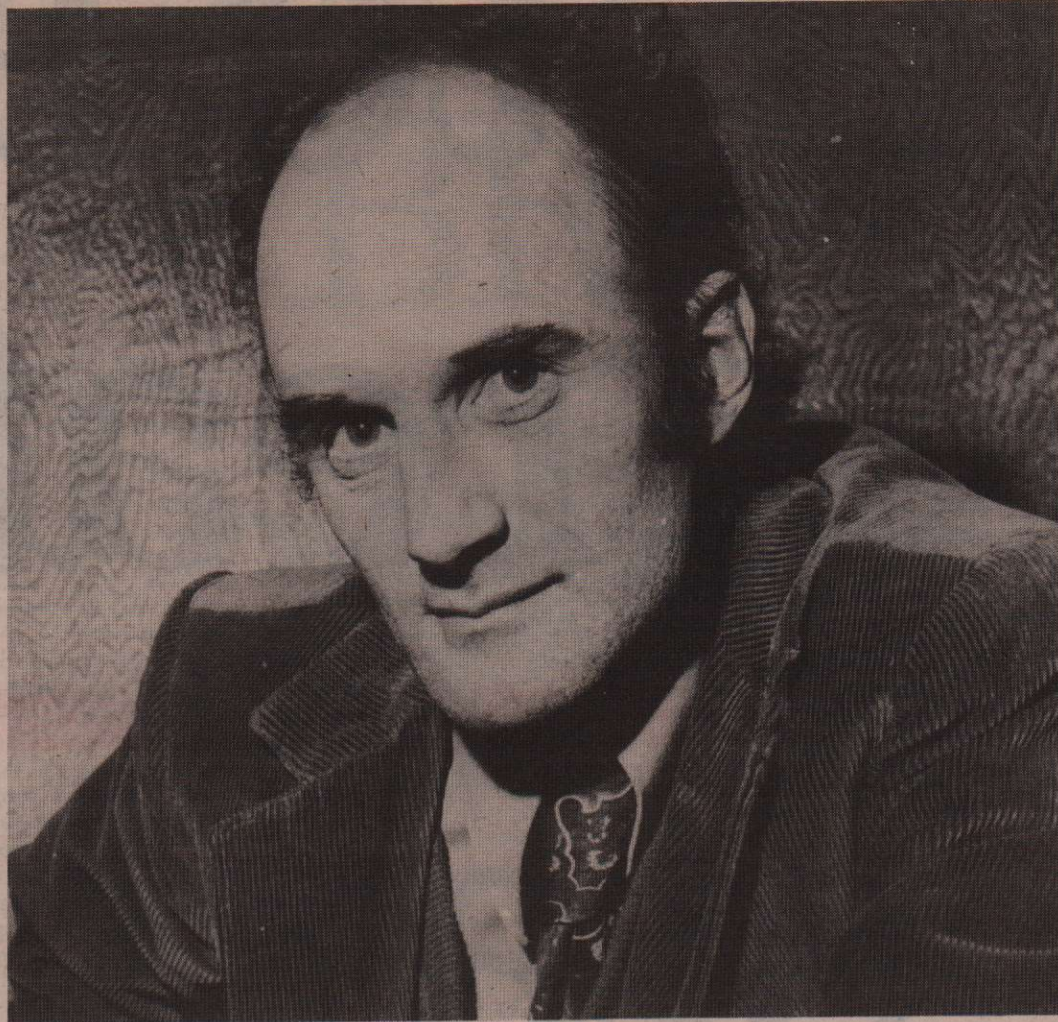
unabated and who claim that if there was no permit system, the men would be 'unemployable'.

Joan Maynard, a former executive of the Agricultural Workers' Union disagrees with the Bottini-NFU position. She says that the scheme is a disgrace and asks one simple question: 'Why should anyone be paid according to their so-called 'mental ability'.'

The scheme was brought in in 1948 under the post-war Labour government. Until it is swept away there will be other Andrew Milne's who are legally cheated of their lives.

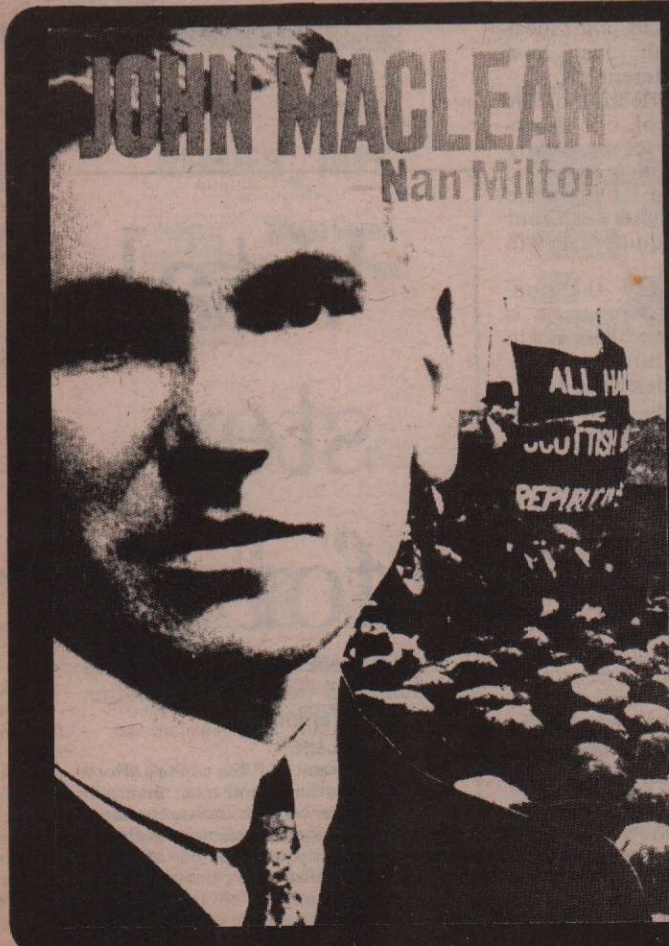
In Yorkshire, for example, more applications for the permits await consideration.

Laurie Flynn



Andrew Milne: a form of brutal oppression

£2 slavery on the farm



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John Maclean was regarded as Britain's greatest revolutionary leader of the time by both Lenin and the British government. He pioneered marxism in Scotland, was a major architect of the 'Red Clyde' and leader of the anti-war struggles during the First World War. He was the Bolsheviks' first consul in Glasgow.

The author, John Maclean's daughter, traces his life from 1903, when he joined the Social Democratic Federation, to 1923, when he died at the early age of 44. She uses a mass of original documents, interviews with participants and personal memories.

PLUTO PRESS

Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road,
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Eamonn —jailed but no trial...

EAMONN LAUGHREY is languishing in Long Kesh internment camp in Northern Ireland. This is the second time that Eamonn has been an unwilling guest of the government.

He lived after his marriage in 1970 in Unity Flats, Belfast, working as a labourer. That year he was arrested and held without trial or charge in Long Kesh.

He was released in April 1972 after the fall of Stormont.

Freedom from Long Kesh did not bring freedom from the attentions of the 'security forces'. He was continually threatened by the Marine Commandos who occupied Unity Flats.

On each occasion when Eamonn thought the army were acting illegally, he reported the facts to the police—a course of action recommended by government publicity.

Closed

One ominous incident, also reported to the police, occurred on 15 August 1972. Eamonn Laughrey explains what happened: 'I had been to visit [a neighbour] in Unity flats. When I left there were soldiers either end of the balcony who closed in on me.'

'They accused me of a lot of atrocities and said they would leave me in a pool of blood as I had left others and they were going to shoot me.'

Despite the fact that this incident was known to the police, 12 days later Eamonn was shot in the back and the arm at his own front door. Army statements on the shooting were wildly contradictory.

They claimed he was shot, after firing six shots from a Thompson machine gun. They also claimed that he was shot handing a rifle to another man.

They claimed he was shot taking a rifle from a youth and that only one shot was fired by the army despite his two separate wounds.

All charges about Eamonn carrying a gun were dropped at the direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

By November 1972 Laughrey was out of hospital and apart from the fact that he was unable to work because of his wounds, a free man. Free that is until May 1973 when he was arrested again for 'membership of an illegal organisation'.

Enquiry

After 65 hours he was released on the intervention of Labour MP Kevin McNamara. During his short detention he was offered £10 a week to join the IRA and become an informer. He refused.

This information was passed on to McNamara and the police. On 12 June he was informed that an inquiry would take place into his allegations. Two weeks later he was interned once again.

A police officer came to see Eamonn, asking him if he had anything to add to his statement. He replied that his statement was a full and truthful account of the events and he had nothing to add.

This reasonable reply was used by Whitelaw to write to Kevin McNamara: 'Since Mr Laughrey's arrest he has refused to co-operate in any way . . . without such co-operation investigations into the allegations cannot continue.'

Eamonn Laughrey claims he has never been a member of the IRA. The strongest possible suspicion remains that he is in Long Kesh to shield the army from a proper investigation into the shooting.

Off to a great start

'THE RESPONSE to the conference has exceeded our best hopes,' Roger Cox declared this week, 'More than 600 delegates have so far asked for credentials. This response clearly reflects the worries and concerns about the future of our trade union movement which many trade unionists are raising today.'

'We have had applications from 30 shop stewards' committees, nine trades councils, 44 AUEW branches, 28 TGWU branches, 13 TASS branches and 16 NALGO branches.'

'Some of this response clearly reflects the influence of particular papers—The Carworker, for example. Six London bus garages are coming as a result of 'The Platform'.'

'The NALGO delegates are a real credit to NALGO Action News. A number of print unions are sending delegates, including the London region of the NGA. Many of the delegates are not covered by a rank and file paper. This must reflect worries in the movement. We can help in building them their own papers.'

'In the letters and discussions I have had about the conference, two real worries came up time and time again. The first was all the attacks on our living standards and organisation such as Phase Three, which is continuing under the Labour government.'

'One of the most important speeches will be from John Carpenter, who was given a nine month suspended prison sentence at Shrewsbury. We are proud to have him on the platform to lead off the discussion on Shrewsbury and the attack on the right to picket.'

'But the second worry was a deep distrust about the activities of many of the trade union leaders.'

'The antics of trade union leaders who were prepared to talk with Heath was bad enough.'

On Saturday more than 600 delegates will assemble in Birmingham for a crucial conference called by a number of rank and file trade union papers. On the eve of this important attempt to create a genuine grassroots movement of trade union militants, we have invited the conference organising secretary, Roger Cox, to report on the progress so far and the aims of the conference.

What could be worse is to turn the victory against the Tories into a series of concessions on point after point to the present government.

'And many delegates have raised on top of this the remoteness of local full time officials. That is why one of the most

important sections of the resolution before conference deals with the questions of power and democratic control in our unions.

'We don't want a series of descriptions of what went wrong in dispute after dispute. For every carworker, the memory of the Chrysler Electricians' dispute will be sharp enough. We have delegates present from Chrysler who fought the AUEW and TGWU instruction to cross official picket lines.'

'What we need is to discuss what to do about the problem. The conference must make practical, real steps to work out how to make officials accountable, to insist that union policy is carried out and not altered as it goes along. The conference must be constructive, and this is much harder.'

Lockout

'Being practical means being clear about what can be achieved. The resolution will commit us to keeping the organising committee. This will serve as a clearing house of information. It will keep the links between the delegating bodies.'

'These links can make an enormous practical difference to trade unionists involved in disputes. During the Perkins engines lockout last summer, members of the strike committee stayed with me, through the Carworker, and toured Ford Dagenham, the Royal Docks, and other work places in London.'

'They did the same in Cowentry, arranged through members of the Carworker editorial board up there. After the conference we can do this on a much greater scale.'

'It is from these small beginnings that much more can be built. We can learn from providing those essential services which the official movement seems unprepared to do. A



Roger Cox: need for links

national rank and file organisation will be built on these experiences and what we learn from them.

'The delegates themselves are not coming to the conference to listen to speeches, applaud and go home. They will have to do most of the speaking, and it is their experiences and ideas which will decide just how successful the conference is.'

'It is a tragic reflection of the state of sections of our movement that I have to say clearly that the conference will be democratically run. If there are any disagreements about procedure, then a quick vote will sort it out.'

'The reason why the conference must be democratic is not just that we believe in democratic procedures.'

'We want the delegates to go back and argue about the decisions taken, to argue about the need to put more life, more activity into the trade unions to argue that the unions belong to us, not our paid officials.'

'Because the decisions taken at our conference will be decisions to be acted on, the delegates must understand what is being argued to act on it. That is why discussion must be free and open.'

'The real measure of the conference will be how the delegates return to their work places to build involvement in our trade union movement and how in the coming months the links we have begun to establish in these last weeks can become a real force in strikes and disputes and inside the trade unions.'

International Socialism

Monthly journal of the International Socialists, March 1974, price 15p. Number 67

A WORKERS' PAPER

The latest issue of International Socialism journal features an important article by Tony Cliff in which he deals with the problems of building a workers' paper. He does so by describing how Lenin established Pravda as the main workers' paper in Russia in the years 1912-14.

He writes that 'The concept of the workers' paper as an organiser was developed most fully in theory and practice by Lenin... Pravda was not a paper for workers, it was a workers' paper... Thousands of workers read it, wrote for it and sold it.'

Cliff argues that the key to expanding the influence of Socialist Worker today is by taking up this lesson, encouraging many more workers to write for the paper and getting as many of the readers of the paper as possible to begin selling a few copies themselves. The price of the paper is 15p. Write to: International Socialists, 25, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

tial reading for all members and supporters of the International Socialists. But the other articles should be of interest to anyone who wants to go further into the discussion of socialist ideas than is possible in the limited space of Socialist Worker.

Colin Barker discusses the ideas of some Yugoslav opponents of Stalinism (including the variety that prevails in Yugoslavia) Dennis Childs describes the development of a new stage in the arms race, potentially more dangerous than any previously. And Peter Binns writes on the development of Marx's ideas.

Finally, Notes of the Month deal with the prospects facing the Labour government and a four page briefing piece outlines the causes of the present world-wide inflation. The journal has 200 pages for 12 issues. From 15 JOURNAL, Cambridge Works, Cambridge Crescent, London EC2.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THIS CONFERENCE opposes all attacks on trade union rights. It affirms its total support for the extension of democracy, and work inside the trade union movement to ensure the defeat of these policies and for workers who find themselves in the front of the attack.

THIS CONFERENCE

- 1 Supports all moves to initiate a strike picketing, at Shrewsbury or in any other place.
- 2 Fights against redundancies and the threat of pay cuts.
- 3 Opposes any use of the armed services in any way.
- 4 Opposes all forms of wage restraint or government designed to achieve any type of productivity deal.
- 5 Opposes all productivity deals, job evaluation, and any strengthening of the employers' power.

PLEDGES TO ORGANISE rank and file control of the trade union movement, for the extension of democracy, and work inside the trade union movement to ensure the defeat of these policies, and for workers who find themselves in the front of the attack.

- 1 Annual national delegate conferences
- 2 All policy-making bodies to be composed of rank and file workers
- 3 An annually elected lay standing orders and a regular election of all officials; all officials to be elected by rank and file membership
- 4 The circulation of election addresses
- 5 Rank and file control of the trade union movement

SUPPORTS ALL MOVES which increase the power of the rank and file

- 1 For 100 per cent trade unionism
- 2 For the establishment of effective joint shop stewards committees on a national and international basis
- 3 For the defence of shop stewards and unionists to discipline fellow workers who are in dispute or under attack by the official delegates from recognised trade unions
- 4 For the formation of committees, both lay and official, to deal with workers in dispute or under attack by the official delegates from recognised trade unions
- 5 Against racialism because it splits and divides the working class
- 6 For the struggle of women for equal pay and equal opportunities
- 7 For the right to a living pension, realising the aim of a living wage
- 8 For a 35 hour week now

THIS CONFERENCE believes that there is a need for a movement to fight for these policies, and to defend workers' fights and living standards.

- 1 Strengthen the circulation and influence of rank and file papers in industries where they do not exist
- 2 Retain the Organising Committee —to spread information about disputes, victories and defeats —to call for action as the need arises —to organise future conferences —to take the responsibility to change over from rank and file papers to trade union based Organising Committee

THIS CONFERENCE of duly delegated representatives declares that its aim is not to split the official movement but to bring about a new movement (Amendments to the resolution will be presented at the conference)

Vital step forward

STATEMENTS by some of the rank and file papers sponsoring the conference:

THE COLLIER:

'The rank and file cannot afford to be apathetic and must maintain their pressure for increased benefits and wages in the months ahead. Our union has become effective in the last few years because of the renewed activity of the ordinary members.'

The involvement of the rank

the co

WE ARE

SCOTS MINERS



EDITORIAL

Offer

and file must not forget the union's strong interest and file will be representation with the rank and file. For too long we have seen trade union members who have been too worried about it.

We believe that the first step to a new rank and file movement is the first step to a new rank and file movement.

National Rank and File Delegate Conference

...om government and employers on hard won
opposition to the Industrial Relations Act,
right to picket and organise. It pledges to
on the shop floor for industrial action to
support from the whole movement for those
these attacks.

...movement to free trade unionists jailed for
dispute.

...t of heavy unemployment; for work or full

...industrial disputes
freeze, it therefore opposes talks with any
of wage restraint
on, work study and all techniques aimed at

...ups inside each union to fight for militant
and supports all candidates fighting the right
candidates standing on this rank and file
it fights for:

...f rank-and-file delegates
and appeals committee
officials to receive the average wage of their

...unity of workers in struggle. It fights—

...op stewards committees, on a plant, com-
munistised workers, for the right of trade
out democratic decisions

...al and national, to support any group of
government; these committees are to be
in bodies

...s workers
and against discrimination

...at industrial action is essential to achieve

...urgent need to build a rank and file
organise against the failure of trade union
standards. It resolves therefore to:

...the sponsoring rank and file papers and
not exist

...isations, etc.

...be the basis for sponsorship of this body,
ties, thus altering the composition of the

...representatives of official trade union bodies
movement in any way, but to strengthen

...to delegates to the conference)

SEE YOU IN BRUM...

STEVE ABBOTT, NUM delegate to the conference from Calverton pit:

The only way for workers in all industries to fight sell-outs by union officials is to gain more rank and file control of their respective unions. This can only be done by building strong rank and file organisations within the unions and linking together in the common fight.

For this conference to be a success and so that it will emerge as a real fighting force, it is essential that genuine trade union representatives from all industries should be there in force. If it is now too late for you to get delegated to this conference, then it can never be too soon to start preparing for the next one.

For those who may believe that the rank and file papers have no effect on the trade unions, it should be noted that in the miners' pay claim the magic figures £35-£40-£45 first saw the light of day in *The Collier*, rank and file paper of the NUM.

In fact, the entire strategy for fighting the claim—a complete overtime ban to be followed by a national strike—was quite clearly set out in *The Collier* even before the leadership lodged the claim and would have been a complete success but for the role played by the NEC in the final stages.

So in fact there is proof that the rank and file movement can play a decisive part in determining policies within the trade unions, limited though it may be as yet. See you at the conference!

ALAN THOMAS is Branch representative and education officer in his Post Office Engineering Union branch in London:

We need to get together with other militant trade unionists to exchange views and experiences and to attempt to forge strong links to fight our common enemies. But we also have to be able to fight the feeble right wing national executive in our own union.

They have continued to sell the membership down the river on wage claims by accepting massive productivity deals while



Miners proved strength of grassroots

accepting large increases in re-numerating themselves.

For example, I was told that at last year's union conference we had to accept the Tories' phase Two pay rise of £1 plus 4 per cent plus an additional 70p for productivity at the same time as the executive was voted an allowance of £6 per week expenses. There was no opposition to this from the executive, who presumably thought we could tighten our belts but they could let the notches out on theirs.

It seems to me that the only way we can stop all this is to elect these officials and recall them if they try to have an easy life and sell us out.

The conference must be a success so that we can form the basis on which to fight against all new anti-trade union and working class laws and right now further our attempts to get the Labour government to free the Shrewsbury building workers.

PETE GLATTER is a London busman. He helped set up the London busmen's paper, *The Platform*:

The paper was really started by just me and a branch officer in another garage. We talked a lot about our problems and decided to see if we could get something

But we can't rely on the isolated union officers who were our first contacts in militant garages.

Our strength is with the ordinary rank and file busmen. At the moment we have monthly meetings open to any busman and we have even had members of the Central Bus Committee turning up to express their dislike of the paper.

But we have to change all this into a real organisation. That is the only way to strengthen and safeguard the influence of the rank and file in our union.

Platform is supporting the conference because it is a London paper and we want to meet other busmen across the country. But also we are members of the TGWU and we want to meet and talk with other members of our union.

And the conference can really help in our future plans for *Platform*. What we have to do next is get together with workers on the Underground and other London Transport workers, such as the inside staff who get forgotten.

We can't organise a paper for the Underground workers but we can tell them about our mistakes and problems and with our joint experience we can achieve a real strengthening of the rank and file on London Transport.

We hope what is being done in London can provide some of the experience and ideas which will help busmen and workers in other parts of the country.

But the most important thing is not to be passive and wait for someone else to do it for you—it's shop floor workers getting together and daring to use their own strength which makes the difference.

Collier

READY!

UNITY CALL

CONFERENCE

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REDDER TAPE

Rank and File Paper for Civil Services Trade Unions

Build the Rank & File

Whose Crisis? Whose Solution?

Editorial

Editorial

Editorial

Editorial

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Editorial

HOSPITAL WORKER

NURSES JOB CRISIS

The Miners, the election and us

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

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HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER COMMENT

HOSPITAL WORKER:

The conference will take place exactly a year since the defeat of our national strike against Phase Two. We learnt many valuable lessons from that strike.

There had never been such a massive display of solidarity, determination and militancy by hospital workers. In terms of experience and industrial strength we were the youngest section of the trade union movement ever to confront the government on a national scale. And we were fighting to preserve the fundamental principle of the whole movement—free collective bargaining.

We knew that we had the moral support of the whole movement, and at local level we got plenty of financial support and support on demonstrations from the rank and file of the movement.

But at the national level, against the combined forces of the government and Fleet Street, it was a different story.

We lost because we fought alone. If the organisation had existed then to translate the moral support of the movement's rank and file into industrial action in our support nationally, we would have won.

for rank and file

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and active rank
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deserve.

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own the drain and
ask to do anything

...at this conference
wards the building
file movements,

not only to fight the employers but to fight bureaucracy and trade union leaders who represent anyone but their members.

REDDER TAPE (rank and file paper in the Civil and Public Services Association:

The editorial board of Redder Tape was approached by a number of other rank and file movements and was invited to co-sponsor a rank and file conference. The editorial board being fully aware

of the need to build across formal union boundaries, eagerly accepted the invitation. The success of this conference is vitally important.

We in the Redder Tape group are militant trade unionists and as such are vulnerable to political attacks by our employers. Six building workers have been jailed for actively participating in strike action and if the government is willing to attack building workers then they will have no hesitation in attacking us.

Please send _____ copies of *The Struggle for Workers Power*.

I enclose £_____ at 10p a copy plus 3p postage.
12 copies or more post free.

Name _____

Address _____

Organisation _____

This important pamphlet is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it. Its 40 pages are essential reading for Socialist Worker readers and all IS branches.

IS Books
265 Seven Sisters Road
Finsbury Park
London N4



It's no paradise on the 17th floor ...and no joke for Daren, who has to jump to reach the button in the lift —one child was trapped for over an hour



Fighting back on £17 a week

WHEN Mary Larner was 15 her father, a scaffolder, fractured his spine and was taken to hospital. The firm gave him his cards. That winter the family kept warm from the wood of their chopped-up piano.

Experiences like this made Mary, now a 27-year-old switchboard operator and typist, aware that there was something very wrong about a life where some people lived in ease and comfort, while others like herself, had to count every penny they earned.

'Things aren't much different now,' says Mary, 'but being in the International Socialists means that you're not an isolated individual fighting against a brick wall. It gives you a feeling of strength.'

A feeling of strength is important to a woman like Mary, who is bringing up her son, Daren, aged seven, alone. 'Most people just can't imagine the problems involved in bringing up an illegitimate child, let alone accepting

that a white woman should have a black child.

'To them, this is a sexual thing—that white men aren't good enough. It's this kind of abuse I have to fight against and this is where being in IS has helped me to fight back against such racist ideas.'

Where Mary lives, in Edmonton, North London, there's a patch or two of grass at the bottom of her 22-storey block of flats, which she feels thankful for after years of mice-infested rooms and damp walls.

Result

But it's no paradise on the 17th floor with the wind shaking the windows and stopping Mary from sleeping at night. It's no joke for Daren either, who has to jump to reach the button in the lift—the alarm button can't even be reached by some adults and as a result one child was trapped in the lift for over an hour.

Like most black working-class children, Daren encounters dis-

crimination at his school. His last school was a multi-racial one in Haringey.

'He was coming along well—now suddenly at a school that has only a handful of black children, he's suddenly labelled "backward". And it's no coincidence that the only other black child in the class is also supposed to be backward.'

Mary is now trying to form a play centre attached to the school for those mothers who are forced to work full-time and have nowhere to keep their children until they get home.

'It's a real problem. I only get paid 10 days sick leave a year, so when Daren's ill I have to pretend I'm ill, otherwise I'd get no money, and if the 10 days run out he either has to be left alone or I lose money, which means that in the end we both suffer.'

Mary went through her week's money and expenses with me. After tax and deductions she gets £17 a week. £5 goes on rent, £3.50 on HP £2 fares to work, 60p for Daren's school dinners which Mary has to pay for since she got a £1 rise last year, and the remaining £5-odd goes on food and other everyday necessities.

When Mary asked for a rise, her boss, a millionaire who owns property in the West Indies, went through her expenses, bit by bit, and when he saw that after all deductions she had £5 to live on he remarked, wide-eyed: 'Surely that's enough!'

Increase

'It's supposed to be enough for us to live on but not for the employers and their class who make more profit in one week than we earn in a year. At work we've been told that due to Phase Three we'll get no rise until May. You can bet your life that by that time the cost of living will have eroded that pay increase.'

'Nowadays it's just not worth going for an increase unless it's a pretty substantial one. What's £1 or £2 when a loaf of bread, a dozen eggs and a bit of meat in your basket comes to £1?'

'Socialist Worker needs to show how women like myself are discriminated against in all areas of life, and what's more important, how we can stop allowing ourselves to be kicked around, and fight against it. I'm in IS because I'm fighting for socialism but we're not going to get it until a lot more women stop moaning and start fighting.'

Jacquy Hayman

Sorry luv, sold out

SHOPPING takes enough of a woman's time as it is without having to hunt round all the grocers and supermarkets in the area for basic necessary foods. Anyone who uses a lot of rice, for example, had that annoying task in the South East. Rice, it appears, is in short supply.

The same has happened with other things—lentils, spaghetti, even sugar and pepper.

It was almost funny when we faced our first 'shortage' some weeks ago—toilet rolls. 'It's the world paper shortage,' we were told, and many people accept that—but why are boxes of tissues still produced?

The reason, of course, is that more profit is made from tissues.

Slowly toilet rolls are re-appearing on the shelves of the supermarkets, but at a much higher price—22p instead of 18p. Lentils and spaghetti are re-appearing at 7p-8p more a packet. The same will happen to rice, then sugar, then pepper, and down go our living standards.

There are world shortages. The major crops of sunflower seeds in the world have failed this year. Many margarines and cooking oils depend on this so the prices will rise.

But are all these goods in short supply? No!

Recently we read in Socialist Worker that lentils were being held up in a warehouse in Glasgow to create an artificial shortage. The truth is that a handful of wealthy businessmen are making even more money than usual out of this crisis. Why?

Standard

Because we need to eat...

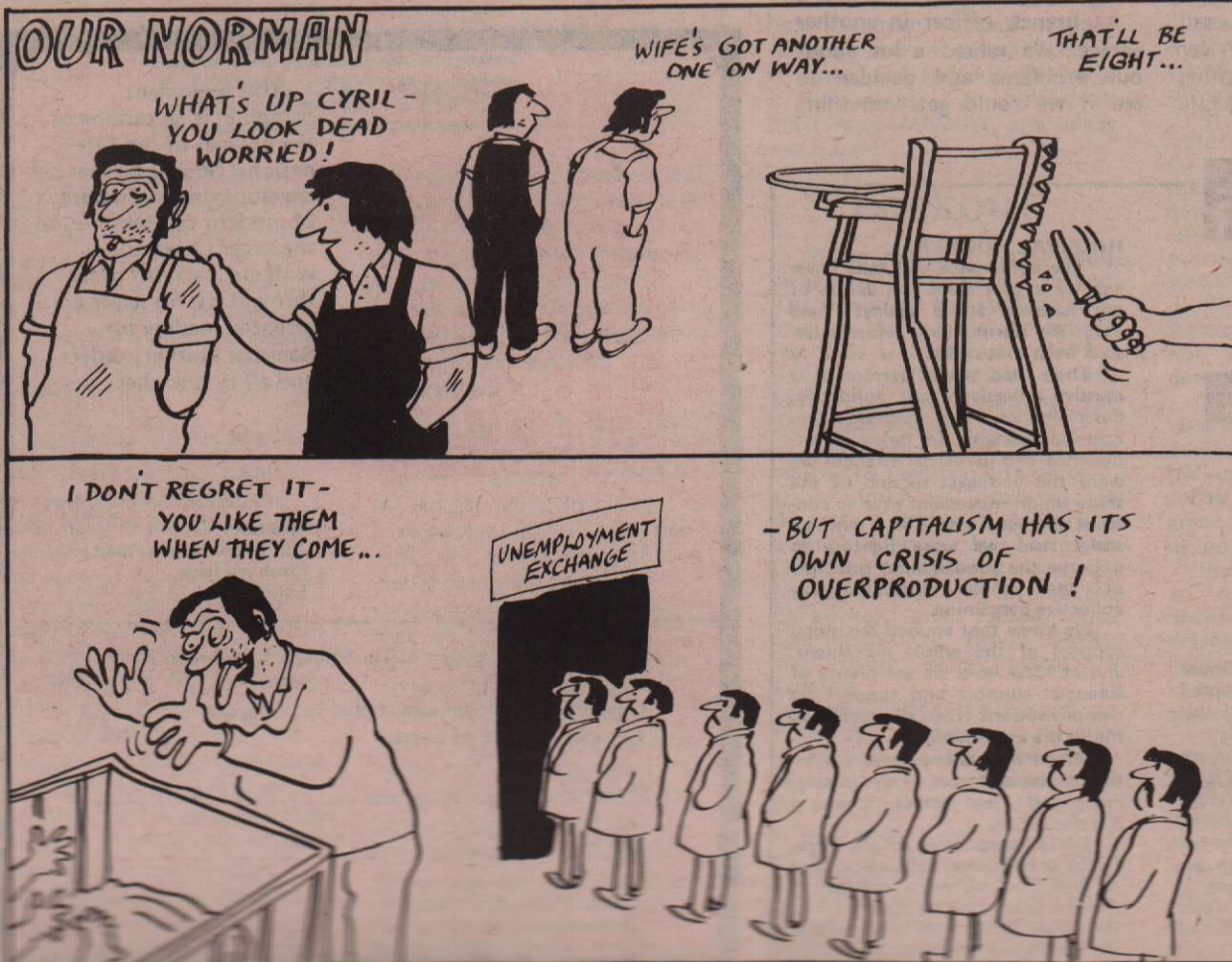
There may not be much sunflower seed oil about—but does this mean there must be a price rise? Economists say in the newspapers and on TV that prices must rise if people want more than can be produced. But of course our wages don't match the price rises. Wages went up last year in this country less than any other country in the Common Market.

And any worker who tries to protect his or her family's standard of living by getting a pay rise is accused of damaging the 'national interest' while the government, despite 'Consumers Minister' Shirley Williams, allows the real villains to boost their profits at our expense.

For the Labour government to talk about 'voluntary wage restraint' while admitting that they can control prices is a sick joke. Harold Wilson has promised us food subsidies and we have to fight, argue and organise to make him keep his promise.

For many women, coping with rising prices is the biggest burden of the crisis. It's important that all women know that it's not 'an act of God'—but that the Tories' best friends, the business men, are making a fortune at our expense.

BARBARA KERR



INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Journal of the International Socialists

Issues 36-55 have now been produced as a single bound volume in a limited edition. It includes Tony Cliff on China, Peter Sedgwick on Orwell, Trotsky on Fascism and Stalinism, Jim Higgins on the Communist Party, Ray Challinor on the trade union bureaucracy, Eamonn McCann, John Palmer, Paul Gerhardt and Brian Trench on Ireland, Nigel Harris on India. Price including postage £7.30. IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS

'Workers will never be free while women are in chains'



A couple of weeks ago the Red Ladder Mobile Workers' Theatre came to Bristol. Red Ladder are a socialist theatre group, who perform to working class audiences up and down the country, putting on plays about important issues of the socialist and trade union movement. They have done and still do, plays on the Industrial Relations Act, 'productivity' bargaining, and how the 'national cake' is sliced.

This time they performed a new play about women, 'Out of the Frying Pan'.

It lasts an hour and a half—longer than most of their productions. But that's a reflection of the complexity of what it's about—the mass of prejudices surrounding the position of women in society.

It follows the developing ideas of Ellen, a working class woman, from her dewy-eyed white wedding day, to the time when she energetically combines the roles of mother, wife and militant at the close of the play.

Along the road, Ellen faces problems which would be familiar to many working women—the arrogance, indifference and patronising attitude of many male trade unionists, and her husband's initial failure to understand her need for a working and social life outside the four walls of home and family.

Some of the sequences are extremely funny, as when Ellen's steward vainly tries to convince her that a claim for parity is a completely different matter from Equal Pay. He ends up by convincing himself of the justice of the women's demands.

Or when her husband, after coolly dismissing domestic tasks as 'trivia' fit only for the limited capacities of a woman, later congratulates himself on mastering the intricate skills of ironing.

The play works through all the arguments around central demands—like equal pay, free nurseries, contraception and abortion etc. But perhaps its greatest strength is that it goes beyond this and gives to the audience a clear yet very

comprehensive picture of the historical and social roots of the oppression of women in this society.

The basic message—that workers will never be free while women are in chains—is well put over. It's a fine piece of revolutionary theatre.

Red Ladder's cast say that wherever they take their plays, they provoke lively and interesting discussion. It will be true of this play, so book them up for your trade union branch or any social function—it will be good for you, and of course it's good for them, since they depend on the support they receive from the working class movement. And if one of the more loudmouthed male chauvinists amongst your work mates looks a bit subdued the next morning, you can be sure that his wife or girlfriend, at least, has got the message.

CHRIS SINHA

Red Ladder can be contacted through 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1 (01-730 5396).

Black and White obscenity show...



'Perhaps the BBC's Board of Governors thinks that the sight of men with painted black faces dancing with blond young ladies is their contribution towards integration and racial harmony.'

THERE was nearly a riot at our place last Saturday. The television was on but nobody was really watching it—or so I thought.

Deep in a book, I was dimly aware of old Dixon gamely managing a palsied salute as the credits rolled and then a voice said: 'And now welcome back to the Black and White Minstrels!'

I was out of my chair, across the room, set switched off and back, book in hand, so fast that I am now claiming the world record for the five metre sprint.

Then all hell let loose. Screams rent the air. My ankles were kicked by vicious little shoes. Sobbing pathetically, my daughter, aged 20 months, pounded the now blank face of the set and yelled that terrible modern incantation: 'Telly, telly, telly.'

'It's the music,' my wife said. 'She wants to dance.'

I gave in to this disturbingly youthful version of individual



terrorism and turned the set back on. With a bland smile, my daughter started to lumber up and down on the spot in a passable imitation of what, in my distant, Brylcreemed youth, we used to call The Creep.

All this is by way of explaining how I came to watch the Black and White Minstrels.

For years—it seems more like decades—there have been demands for this series to be taken off because of its offensive and patronising nature. And from the safety of a vast viewing figure, the BBC has replied with a silence as meaningful as Harvey Smith's famous two fingers.

Perhaps the BBC's Board of Governors thinks that the sight of

men with painted black faces dancing with blonde young ladies is their contribution towards integration and racial harmony.

Perhaps, but I have to admit that my first sight of the BAWM for many years had me quietly guffawing in my chair. Having long ago run out of songs about 'black mummies' and 'de ole plantation'—you know, all those really nice songs about what fun it was to be a slave—the show now has to snatch at any pop rubbish it can lay its white-gloved hands on.

Inky

So last week we had the mind-boggling sight of men with inky faces, white mouths and white-ringed eyes stretching their vocal chords through a series of cockney songs, a French love song—I kid you not—and South of the Border, Down Mexico Way.

But wipe the grin from your face. It really isn't funny. BAWM remains patronising and offensive.

There are a million black people

in this country who must be sickened at the sight of a show that owes its origins to the more honestly titled 'Nigger Minstrels', produced and flaunted by white racials who had made their fortunes from the slavery and murderous exploitation of the blacks.

There is nothing on British television for black people except ridicule. Ridicule from BAWM, from the sniggering vileness of The Comedians and the laugh-at-the-funny-black-man attitude of Love Thy Neighbour.

So demands for abolishing BAWM should go on. But perhaps the campaign should have a commercial bias if we are to get through to the BBC.

With the corporation so anxious to flog colour tellies, a 'black and white' programme is hardly good for its image.

ONE programme I watch with almost morbid curiosity is The Brothers (BBC1, Sundays, 7.25pm). How joyless, how miserable is the world of big—well, mini—business.

The brothers run a road transport

outfit. They need to expand, to make more money in order to expand to make more...

Their drab, colourless lives are dominated by cash, overdrafts, investment and credit. Their private lives are a disaster, marriages and love affairs constantly wrecked by the demands of business.

Frantic

The youngest brother, David, can't even get unhitched from his horrible wife because she put up the money for the firm's latest frantic expansion.

Karl Marx said that socialism would not only end the exploitation of workers under capitalism but also put a stop to the misery of the capitalists themselves and the grisly ritual of accumulation for accumulation's sake.

Watch BBC1 on Sunday nights and you can see what the old boy meant. I recommend a new slogan: Socialism is Sunday nights without The Brothers.

ROGER PROTZ

*Times not known at press time.

SATURDAY: BBC-2. Before Rock music, was Be-Bop, Swing, New Orleans, Chicago Jazz, before Jazz—was ragtime. The dance music of pre-First World War. One of the greatest Ragtime composers and performers was Scott Joplin. His work is presented on **SECOND HOUSE*** by Joshua Rifkin.

On Radio-1, the world's worst radio station, the possibility of some light in the gloom, a new series **RADIO FIVE*** featuring Eric Idle from Monty Python's Flying Circus.

SUNDAY: ITV, 10.15pm. Good actors in **GEOGRAPHY OF A HORSE DREAMER** too, Donal Donnelly and T P McKenna (see picture). Play about bloke who dreams winning horses. Clashing with the play on BBC-1 at 10.15, is **WHAT PRICE A SYMPHONY?** where Andre Previn looks at Beethoven's Ninth. After that on BBC-1 is **CROSSTALK*** with Richard Crossman talking to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins.



PREVIEW

MONDAY: BBC-2. The Philpott File looks at **THE MONEY GARDEN***, the richest city in Germany, Stuttgart, where shortage of labour has led to apprentices coming from Birmingham. Also on BBC-2 is **A TOUCH OF EASTERN PROMISE*** in the Second City Firsts series, a play set in the Punjabi Indian community in Birmingham.

TUESDAY: BBC-1. Rose Kennedy, mother of President and Bobby Kennedy, features in the Panorama special **THE BEST OF TIMES...** **THE WORST OF TIMES***, which sounds like another chance to extract some mileage from the myth of the Kennedy family. After Athol Tugard's play **Sizwe Benzi Is Dead** on TV comes **STATEMENTS AFTER AN ARREST UNDER THE IMMORALITY ACT**, 10.15pm, Radio-3, about South Africa and the fact that it is against the law to fall in love with a human being with a different skin colour.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-1. In the United States a TV company had the idea of making a documentary series about a normal ordinary family. By the end of the series the husband and wife had split up, the eldest son had declared himself a homosexual, the daughter had taken her baby and herself away to New York, and the happy home was in ruins. It will be interesting to see what happens to **THE FAMILY***, the Wilkins of Reading, who are given the same treatment. It goes on

for 12 weeks. Should have plenty of time to murder each other... Same channel has **DON'T SHOOT, G-MAN!*** on Midweek, a postponed documentary on the American internal political police, the FBI. An important new series on BBC-2 is **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER***, six 75 minutes plays on the Suffragette movement. The first is on the Pankhursts, Sylvia, Christabel and their mother, and the foundation of the Women's Social and Political Union at the end of the nineteenth century.

THURSDAY: BBC-1. Peter Terson has written several good plays, like **Zigger Zagger**, about football supporters for the National Youth Theatre, his **SHAKESPEARE OR BUST***, about a canal trip to Stratford-on-Avon is the **Play for Today**.

FRIDAY: BBC-2. **HOW CAN WE SOLVE OUR HOUSING PROBLEMS?** is the subject of the Money Programme, featuring a property developer, and housing 'experts' send your answers to the Money Programme.

Pluto Press
Workers' Handbook No.1

The Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them.

400 pages. 90p plus 7p postage
From IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
Bulk orders: 60p for more than 10 copies

THE UNIONS



The giant Engineering Union march in protest at the fine imposed because of the Con-Mech dispute. Why wasn't this support mobilised directly to win recognition?
PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is not an aim, it is a way of life. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' This is what we want to do: change the world and build socialism, just as...

It could have been victory at Con-Mech

THE bitter 26-week strike for union recognition at Con-Mech Engineers, at Woking, Surrey, is over.

A week ago Thursday the four remaining pickets decided to lift the picket line. After six months of struggle they were forced to accept that Rolls-Royce owner and sweatshop operator Robert Dilley had defeated the Engineering Union. Their magnificent efforts to force him to recognise the union were not enough.

Said Lindsay Grieg, one of the two shop stewards at Con-Mech: 'Calling the strike off was not a pleasant decision to take. But we had to take it. We felt the strike was not being effective, indeed that it was getting less effective. We also felt that it was virtually impossible to get back from this situation to one where we had a chance of winning.'

'Originally 27 of us struck. It was made official fairly speedily and we got strike pay throughout. It was predictable that some of the lads would fall away as the struggle became drawn out.'

'But if the union had operated differently, particularly the union district, then the situation could have been improved. We could have been in with a chance.'

'We were inexperienced. But we did ask throughout for the district to try to involve as many people as possible in local factories in the picketing and other things too.'

Dissolve

'Close contact with those involved in the picketing was needed. And we wanted as much publicity as possible because some trade unionists didn't know the strike was still on.'

'But the dispute was let go into a downward spiral. This wasn't intentional. It was just allowed to dissolve.'

The district committee and its secretary did everything they could see to do. The difficulty was that their perspective just didn't match up to the job.

To try to win a dispute like Con-Mech you need a different form of action to those you use to settle a dispute in an organised factory. You don't have the same strength. You need to involve people outside the factory in a dispute that isn't

first hand to them. For this you need some kind of political perspective.'

'The district committee didn't really see the point in doing the sort of things we were suggesting. In their eyes writing to people, going around doing meetings, speaking to members in other factories explaining the case, didn't relate to winning. But as I saw it, mobilising our members in other factories would help to overcome our weakness. We would have been in a different situation.'

There is little doubt that recognition disputes are among the hardest to win. For victory the active involvement of workers outside the plant directly involved is vital, particularly if the place is a small one.

Con-Mech did become a central issue in the AUEW and beyond. But only briefly and only when Robert Dilley went to the Industrial Relations Court and had £100,000 of the union's funds seized. He is trying to get more taken even now the strike is settled.

Rallied

The tragedy is that neither district nor national leadership made any serious move to involve the strong sections of the union in the fight for recognition as well as the struggle against the fines.

The recent history of the trade union movement contains many examples of failure in the fight for recognition. But it also contains at least one inspiring example of success, of the way a movement can be built and rallied around a cause.

This is Roberts Arundel, in Stockport, a historic struggle well chronicled in Jim Arnison's paperback *The Million Pound Strike* which was published by Lawrence and Wishart and available, price 40p, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Every trade union militant can learn from this book as well as from Con-Mech. For the Roberts-Arundel struggle shows the kind of offensive strategy that can be won against an anti-union employer.

It may be difficult to put this across in trade union branches. But an offensive strategy which binds the strong to the weak is the only way forward and it must be fought for.

Turn and fight, union is told

THE leaders of the Civil and Public Servants Association, running away from a fight for more money under the Pay Board 'Relativities' scheme, have been stopped in their tracks by their own members.

Members in the union's post and telecommunications section are demanding the same wages as their civil servant colleagues in the union—who won around 15 per cent under the earlier 'Anomalies' scheme, from which Post Office staff were excluded.

A four-week strike in Post Office computer centres at the end of last year delayed the sending out of £3½ million worth of telephone bills. But the union leaders did a secret deal with Post Office boss Sir William Ryland. They called off the strike in return for his signature on a document admitting Post Office staff were underpaid.

The CPSA members went back to work with bad grace, discontent was widespread. In the computer centres they imposed an overtime ban, and in some offices a work-to-rule.

The backlog of bills has continued to build up. The Post Office is embarrassed that around £110 million is owed by telephone subscribers who have not received reminders. And cash is not coming into the Post Office fast enough to pay its debts and the interest on its borrowings.

Dirty

But the executive of the post and telecommunications section, on the advice of its secretary, Alistair Graham, are being more sensitive to the wishes of the employers than those of their members. They agreed to do Sir William Ryland's dirty work for him. They recommended a 10-week crash programme to catch up on the backlog.

The members' response has been extremely un-co-operative to say the least. So a special meeting of the executive has been called to consider their loss of credibility in the eyes of both the members and the Post Office.

What has made it worse is that the executive of the Society of Civil Servants Post Office Group, who represent the senior clerical grades, have become increasingly militant. Up to now the CPSA have looked on them as right-wing and too accommodat-ing towards the Post Office.

Unlike Alistair Graham, they have refused to listen to Sir William Ryland's pleadings. They have pursued a policy parallel to the 'unofficial' action by the CPSA rank and file. To rub it in the SCS executive are now refusing to co-operate in a new project, the computerisation of telephone rental records. Red faces hopefully abound amongst the CPSA executive.

POEU attack conference

A SECOND Post Office union made a last-minute move against the National Rank and File Conference sponsored by various rank and file newspapers in Birmingham this Saturday.

In a letter to all branch secretaries, the Post Office Engineering Union informed its members that branches should not respond to invitations to attend the conference, and that branch funds cannot be used to meet the expenses of anyone who does attend.

The POEU has not issued an instruction to branches not to attend, as did the Union of Post Office Workers, but POEU members are told that if they attend they cannot imply that they speak in the name of the union or represent its views.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 100, NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON SE26.



Conference starts to build black socialist leadership

by Bernadette Dunn and Ken Montague

'TILL recently a lot of us would go through things and instead of fighting we'd give up,' said William Heskey.

Heskey, a black shop steward in Caxton's chocolate factory, North London, was talking about the despair, low pay and deplorable conditions in factories with a large immigrant workforce, where there was a general distrust of the white-dominated unions. At Caxton's four workers in five are immigrants, but there is only one black chargehand and two black stewards.

But things are changing. He was

speaking at a North West London IS conference on 'Racism and Imperialism' in Cricklewood last Saturday. 32 black workers from four IS branches and three factory branches attended.

Nigerian Martha Osamor, in an introductory talk on racialism, showed how the wealth of Britain had been built by taking the riches of the poor countries, how the slave

trade financed the Industrial Revolution which in time produced the big factories where the blacks in Britain now work.

Orland Grayson, who helps run a youth centre in Wembley, explained: 'The West Indies have been forced into a position of producing what Britain and America want. They're not producing anything for themselves. If Britain turns to beet sugar

from the Common Market, thousands of West Indian workers will be laid off. What that means is that the whole West Indian economy will collapse.'

The poor countries cannot hope to develop because the odds are stacked against them on the world market. 'The Cubans are going mad producing more sugar but the Russians are holding the price down.'

'White workers are suffering under the same system as black workers,' said Pakistani Khalid Iqbal. 'What we have to explain is that we came to this country to work, but the capitalists go to our countries to exploit.'

How can black workers fight back? Richard Moore, a West Indian who works at Hoovers, Perivale, pointed out that you need to start from small beginnings.

As a steward at Quaker Oats, he had helped to build the union by campaigning about the bacteria disease that came from whalemeat used in dog food. A campaign about the lack of heat had been 'our first small victory' and he'd found it essential to concentrate on getting together the small group of militants he could rely upon.

'The mainstay of the union ended up being a bloke you'd never think would do that sort of thing. He was what you'd call a "rough diamond". The management weren't so much afraid of strikes but that he'd kill one of them!'

Everyone agreed that it was essential to bring together black people under a leadership which was willing to fight. It is clear from the response to last year's immigration laws that the existing leadership is inadequate. It is not willing to organise for a sustained fight because most of the leaders of the black community belong to the immigrant middle class who just want to prove their 'respectability' and think that if they keep their heads down long enough trouble will just go away.

But racialism and Powellism affect black workers most and won't just go away.

This highly successful school was the first step taken by IS in building a socialist leadership among black workers in North London. Day schools will be set up to train black shop stewards and to encourage others to take a role in the trade unions, and discussion groups are being organised in the district so that militants could learn from each others' experiences.

The conference itself gave confidence to those present to go back to their localities and put into practice what was said, mobilising black people over poor housing, education and discrimination in jobs, and organising support for their brothers and sisters fighting at home.

MP reports 'Vote Labour' posters

IS hero this week is Paul Rose, the dashing young Manchester Labour MP and author of *The Manchester Martyrs*. Last week plain-clothes police called at the home of IS members in Moston, Manchester, which is part of Paul Rose's constituency. They were inquiring about IS posters plastered all over the area during the election.

The police wanted to know if the posters were in breach of the Representation of the People Act. They had received a complaint, they said, from a Mr Paul Rose, MP. The posters in question pro-

claimed: DEFEND THE UNIONS. VOTE LABOUR.

Older socialists will remember Paul Rose's magnificent speech to the Young Socialists' Conference in 1961, where he opened a debate on unilateral disarmament with the stirring words: 'For far too long, British Labour has been tied to the chariot wheels of American imperialism.'

Many socialists in Manchester take the view that for far too long Paul Rose has been tied to the chariot wheels of his own pompous, petty careerism.



PAUL ROSE MP

NEWS IN BRIEF

BLACKPOOL:—Manchester IS District Committee, covering 17 branches in the Manchester area, held a successful school in Blackpool this weekend. Thirty IS members, in the main young workers recruited in the past few months, held lively discussions on: the crisis, the revolutionary party, the rank and file trade union movement, and factory branches.

TEESSIDE:—The local IS branch has organised a series of meetings and paper-selling drives for April and May under the banner: A WORKERS' PAPER AND A WORKERS' PARTY.

Meetings will be held in 12 factories and in six districts. The speakers at the meetings will be workers in the factories and areas where the meetings are to be held, and a speaker from the Teesside IS speakers' school, which has been training 20 members as public speakers.

Around each meeting increased estate and factory sales of *Socialist Worker* will be organised.

LIVERPOOL:—The Merseyside District Committee of IS has launched an ambitious campaign of education. Already two weekend schools have been held, one

for new trade union members and the other for the non-industrial worker members. A general school is planned for all Liverpool IS members on How IS Works, together with a more detailed school for trade unionists.

All the different occupational groups within the district have a course of schools set out for them. The objective is to make IS members better able to operate in their trade union, tenants' association, their job and in the organisation of IS work and branches. Subjects include: How to Work in a Trade Union, Branch building, Factory Branches, collective bargaining, and *Socialist Worker*. More schools will be held at weekends, wherever possible at Blackpool.

COVENTRY:—As part of the plan to improve the effectiveness of IS members the education committee held a school for tutors this weekend. Twenty experienced members were invited to attend. The subjects covered were: Internationalism (Ian Birchall), Socialism and the Trade Unions (Roger Rosewell) and the Revolutionary Party (Duncan Hallas).

Introductory speeches were short, to give maximum time for discussion. A similar school will be held in Newcastle

Socialist Worker's role in struggle

GLASGOW:—At a Socialist Worker rally last week, the paper's editor, Roger Protz, appealed to the 80 people present to do all in their power to build the paper's circulation and influence in the months ahead.

Socialist Worker was a vital weapon of militant workers, he stressed. It was important to build the paper's sales in order to counter the dangerous talk of a 'honeymoon period' for the Labour government, during which time the danger of a new clamp on wages would be introduced.

He outlined the 5½ years struggle to build the paper into an effective

fighting force in the working-class movement. 'Workers will be won to the paper and to the International Socialists by the seriousness of our politics,' he said. 'We will win new readers through our fight to spread socialist ideas, to raise the level of consciousness and by our principled commitment to the need to build a mass workers' party.'

He urged all supporters of the paper not to be just passive readers but to take extra copies to sell at their places of work, to write for the paper and to criticise the paper. Three people applied to join IS at the meeting.

Protz also spoke at a lunch-time

factory gate meeting at Albion Motors in Glasgow and helped in the production of a Socialist Worker special pamphlet on the closure of the Scottish Daily and Sunday Express newspapers.

The following day he went to Edinburgh where more than 60 people attended a public meeting on the way forward after the election. Protz argued that the best and only sure answer to the union leaders' love affair with the Wilson government was to build a powerful rank and file movement throughout industry. Two people joined IS after a wide-ranging and lively discussion.

MANCHESTER District IS social/disco: Saturday 6 April, 8pm, Kings Arms, Bloom Street (off Chapel Street), Salford, Bar extension applied for.

PRESTON IS public meeting: The way forward for militants. Speaker: Tommy Healey (AUEW deputy convenor, Standard Triumph, Liverpool). Thursday 4 April, 8pm, The George Hotel, Church Street, Preston. All welcome.

NEWHAM IS public meeting: The way forward under the Labour government. Speakers: Roger Cox (member of the editorial board of *Carworker*) and Bob Light (shop steward, Royal Docks). Wednesday 3 April, 8pm, The Castle, Barking Road.

WEST MIDDLESEX IS public meeting: Can Labour stop the rot? Speakers: Tony Cliff (founder member of IS) and Ian Connell (AUEW and a member of Chrysler Ryton IS branch). Wednesday 3 April, 8pm, Hounslow Town Hall. Admission 10p.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Lenin and the fight for the revolutionary party. Speaker: Jim Higgins. Wednesday 3 April, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall. An exhibition about the life of Lenin will be on display.

BRADFORD IS Easter social/disco: Saturday 6 April, Castle Hotel, Gratton Street (near Textile Hall). Food, dancing, bar extension. All welcome.

MIDDLETON IS social: Saturday 30 March, 8pm, The Railway Hotel, Dean Lane (off Oldham Road), Moston. Disco, songs. Admission 30p—proceeds to the 'crisis fund'. Come and bring your friends.

COLINDALE IS public meeting: Can Labour bring socialism? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 2 April, 8pm, Anson Hall, Anson Road, Cricklewood.

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: Unity and solidarity with Bangladeshi workers. Speakers: Nigel Harris, Darshana Tomkinson and Abdus Sabur (National Awami Party). Sunday 31 March, 6pm, Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1 (nearest tube Aldgate East, buses 5.10 15, 23, 25, 40, 67 and 253).

CHELMSFORD IS Socialist Worker Rally in aid of Shrewsbury 24
Speakers: John Llywarch (defendant in Shrewsbury pickets trial) and Paul Foot. Music by The Combine. Tuesday 9 April, 7.45pm, Shire Hall, Chelmsford. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

IS ASTMS fraction meeting: Sunday 7 April, 10.30am-5pm, Lecture Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. IS members only—all IS members of ASTMS to attend.

BIRMINGHAM and District IS members meeting: Sunday 7 April, 2pm prompt, Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Speakers: Tony Cliff on the political and economic crisis. Duncan Hallas on the rank and file movement, and Nigel Harris on the fight against Racism.

GOOD QUALITY printing paper suitable for silk-screen posters etc is available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (to callers only). Approx size 30in x 20in. Various quantities and finishes. Price 1p per sheet.

DUNDEE Socialist Worker meeting: How will Labour face the crisis?—the Socialist Alternative. Speakers: Jim Barlow and Dave Kerr (UCATT). Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm, Trade Union Halls, 6 Allen Street.

ELECTRICIANS SPECIAL: All supporters of the EEUPTU special issue please help by sending in payments for copies urgently. Send all money owed for sales of previous issues to SW EEUPTU Special, 318 Sheppey Road, Dagenham, Essex. Giro number 317434004 for in-payment of transfers at the post office.

CATCH A BUS TO THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE: LT bus leaving Wandsworth Garage early Saturday for B'ham. £1 max fare. Ring Janet 675 3709 now for extra details and booking.

DESIGNER wanted urgently by SW (Litho). Training and/or experience essential. Must be able to handle own artwork, etc. Write, with details, to Studio, SW (Litho) Printers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

ELECTROSTENCILS: IS Books can cut your stencils for 75p. Send art work (black and white only please) and money in advance to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Excellent for all typing, and printing. Half-tones not guaranteed. State whether for Roneo or Gestetner duplicator.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS students in London. If you have mornings or afternoons free and/or a driving licence, please phone Margaret Renn immediately—01-739 2639.



BOOKSHOPS

RACE TODAY, This excellent journal actually deals with the politics of race. This month's issue has a special article on Asian workers in Britain. (15p)

ILLUSION AND REALITY, Christopher Caudwell. A classic of literary criticism written by a young Marxist poet shortly before his death in the Spanish civil war. (Good value in paperback for £1).

And on Ireland,

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, O'Connor Lysacht. A socialist history of the Republic from 1850 to the present day. (£1.05)

THE CASE OF THE IRISH POLITICAL HOSTAGES and LAW IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY in a pamphlet produced by the Irish Political Hostages Campaign. (10p)

Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p for books.

Available by mail order and direct from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and directly only from IS BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Coventry Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.



LUCAS: 600 STRIKE AS WOMEN SIT-IN

Teachers draft Charter of rights

BIRMINGHAM:—On Thursday last week 600 Lucas toolsetters came out on strike in support of setters at the Shaftmore Lane factory who were laid off over their policy of non-co-operation.

This began after the breakdown of talks on the setters' claim, which included a new wage structure.

At first the company said the setters were being laid off because of a labourers' dispute. This was false because the labourers had agreed to return to work for talks and have

by Socialist Worker reporter

been told by the company they are now in a lay-off situation because of the setters. So much for company statements.

On the day the setters took action management representatives went around the King Street factory telling production workers they were laid off—without consulting shop stewards first. Angry scenes followed and the whole factory came to a standstill as meetings began. The women decided to report for work

the next day and sit in.

On the Friday, at three mass meetings, more than 2000 production workers—nine out of ten of them women—passed a resolution claiming a lock-out and demanding payment for being laid off.

All this is happening at a time when the company has announced plans to make one worker in ten redundant. Senior shop stewards met management on Wednesday last week and demanded a withdrawal of the

proposed redundancies. Management said they would tell the directors of the stewards' demand but held out little hope of any change.

The senior stewards then decided to oppose redundancies in any shape or form. Further sanctions will be applied and if as a result any workers are laid off all the Lucas factories in Birmingham, employing 14,000 workers, will take strike action.

The action taken by the women workers in occupying their factory provides an essential lesson for all Lucas workers in the coming struggle.

A HUNDRED and fifty delegates attended the Rank and File Teachers annual conference last weekend. They came from more than 50 local groups. About a third of the delegates were members of the International Socialists.

The key note of the conference was the need to expand and build the influence of Rank and File. Its monthly paper Rank and File has a circulation of about 10,000 but the number of 'supporters' is much fewer.

It was with this in mind that the executive committee proposed a target of doubling the membership over the next 12 months. This, together with an outward-looking and positive approach to building Rank and File, was overwhelmingly accepted by the conference.

This approach was re-affirmed in the elections for the executive committee. Three-quarters of the conference voted for the candidates who have brought Rank and File to its present position and who were now seeking to expand further its size and influence. Solid support for the new agitational newspaper was clearly given when Dick North, the new editor, received the highest number of votes.

The first session of the conference discussed the cuts in educational spending announced by the Tories and likely to be continued by the new Labour government. The cuts will mean worsening conditions in schools already stretched to the limits especially in the large industrial areas. It was agreed that these cuts and present shortages should be fought in the schools and by linking with parents and local trade unionists.

FORWARD

A draft 'charter' was presented which aims to set down in detail the conditions under which teachers should work. At present we have no contract or legal conditions and a teacher can be asked to take 100 children in a tin hut. This draft is an important step forward.

The discussion on salaries re-affirmed the policy of aiming to narrow the gap between high and low-paid teachers and emphasised that teachers should be paid for the job of teaching in the classroom not administrative work. This policy is gaining support in the union and is number one priority motion for this year's NUT conference with 46,000 votes.

The conference also confirmed that Rank and File would campaign for an interim salary award of £500 following the sell-out by the NUT executive, accepting 7 per cent under Phase Three although teachers need 25 per cent to keep up with the cost of living. It declared opposition to all incomes policies under Tory or Labour governments.

A report was given on the position of the 'Wandsworth Three'—three NUT militants who sought to lead a campaign for the London Teachers Allowance last year and are being victimised by the NUT executive. One important way of defending these teachers is through the coming executive election campaign where Rank and File has six candidates.

The conference passed resolutions of support for the youths in Brixton so viciously sentenced last week and a collection was taken for the Shrewsbury Six.

Rank and File, 86 Mountgrove Road, London, N5

Night shift protest at STC move

WOOLWICH:—35 workers at Standard Telephone Cables (STC) finished their night shift one hour early as a protest against a new attack by management.

About three weeks ago the management made a new rule that if a worker wants to go home before his normal night shift finishes then he has to take a 'gate pass'. For a long time now management has been trying to cut down on workers' rights.

The shop steward objected to management but felt nothing really could be done. But the permanent night-shift workers want something done also about pay, the need for a canteen, the need for two tea-breaks, and racialism on the job. One foreman uses the excuse of the energy crisis to turn off the lights when black workers are in the cloakroom.

So 35 Indian, Pakistani and West Indian workers protested strongly about the new 'gate pass' rule because they realised that the only way to success is to have a union which really represents them.



Some of the squatters who face eviction from eight flats in Stockwell, South West London, where they have lived for two months. The flats belong to the Metropolitan Police and were left empty. The squatters are to appeal next week against the eviction order. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

MEN'S LIB/MEN AGAINST SEXISM Conference: weekend 6-7 April at Leeds Poly. For further information write to Men's Group, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.

RED BOOKS
81a RENSHAW STREET, LIVERPOOL.
Revolutionary Literature: Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation. Tues-Fri, 12.30-3pm, Saturday 11am-4pm.

POETRY READING: Roger McGough, Jim Green and Stephen Morris reading from his new book *The Kingfisher Catcher*. National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London W1. Monday 1 April, 7.30pm. Admission 10p.

ROOM, FLAT SHARE OR FLAT needed in London. Phone Peter 01-733 5150.

CARTOONS: From £1 for IS branches and rank and file papers. Send details to Phil Evans, 18 Windsor Road, St Andrews, Bristol. Phone 421956.

SOCIALIST GAY GROUP has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches especially welcomed. Details from 18 Dickenson Road, London N8.

SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION meeting. Born to fail—an indictment. Speakers: Peter Wedge (National Children's Bureau), Gladys Dimson (chairman, GLC Housing Department) and Dr Joan McMichael. Wednesday 3 April, 7pm, House of Commons (ask for Miss Lestor's room), London SW1.

IMG public meeting
Tarig Ali on
RACISM, REPRESSION AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT
The Crown, Cricklewood Broadway, London NW2. Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm.

LATIN AMERICAN FRONT
Sunday 31 March: Brazilian dictatorship and imperialism in Latin America. Discussion 2pm. Film 4.30pm. Electric Cinema, Portobello Road, London.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World (SW)', The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

HAPPY 22nd birthday on 31 March, Hugh Feeney, H M Prison, Gartree, Market Harborough. 137 days on hunger strike. Joint Action Committee, 50 Colebrooke Row, London, N1.

URGENT, URGENT, URGENT: IS comrade (female) needs room in house or flat in North London. Would help with children. Phone 485 5082.

TWO COMRADES moving down to Poole beginning of May need accommodation. Please get in touch at 13 Cambridge Road, Southampton. Tel 31743.

NORTH WEST AREA. Widest range of community books, pamphlets and periodicals in the North West, including full range of IS publications. Grass Roots Community Bookservice, now at the basement, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester, 061-273 2180.

ATTI group draws 80

EIGHTY delegates, members of the ATTI, attended the second annual conference of the rank and file paper *Tech Teacher*—against a background of attacks by the 'left' on the union executive against the paper. This is mainly due to the considerable support won by Ian Birchall, rank and file candidate in the recent election of ATTI vice-president.

Delegates reported a big increase in influence in many new areas. The discussion covered links with other teachers' unions, salaries, conditions of service, educational policy.

Tech Teacher, 133 Highbury New Park, London, N1

Sackings manoeuvre to get £15 pay cut

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire:—Marshall Richard Barcro has received official support for its own version of an incomes policy—a pay cut of up to £15 a week.

The firm, part of the Thomas Ward Group, became upset when its 20 production workers managed to push their earnings up towards the £55 a week mark under a group bonus scheme.

So it declared six redundant—including the steward—in a softening-up process prior to launching a new deal for those who remain. It was hoping that the workers would agree to the same workload at a flat rate of £41.50 a week.

Even the Electrical and Plumbers union found it a little difficult to co-operate with management on this issue. They have given official support to the workers whose strike against the redundancies has moved into its fifth week.

The dispute has considerable local importance. Other factories in the area have been basing pay claims on earnings at Barcro and a wide selection of employers,

would like to see pay at the plant substantially reduced.

But the Barcro management have found a loyal ally in the Department of Social Security. None of the workers have received a penny in benefit and those made redundant have been told to sign on for other jobs.

Yet there is clear evidence that the sackings are a manoeuvre by the management. It has over £1 million of orders in hand but the shop floor was starved of work in order to justify the cut-back.

The Barcro bosses looked set to expand production at Eastleigh. But they didn't want more workers until earnings were trimmed back substantially.

Eighteen months ago, 150 workers were sacked from Barcro following the introduction of a productivity scheme. Now there is only a tiny production line in a works of 200 people.

But the bosses, great believers in discipline, have not cut back on the four foremen presiding over the production line, one for every five workers.

HUNGER STRIKERS TO STAY IN BRITISH JAILS

DOLOURS AND MARIAN PRICE, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly are not to be returned to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland. This message from Roy Jenkins, to relatives of the prisoners, goes a little further in tarnishing Labour's new Home Secretary's dubious reputation for liberalism.

The Joint Action Committee, campaigning for the transfer of the four republicans disclosed that over the weekend relatives of Feeney and Kelly were told that the two men would not be allowed any visitors until they agree to wear prison uniform.

It will be Hugh Feeney's 22nd birthday on 31 March, on that date he will have been on hunger strike for 137 days. Gerald Kelly celebrates his 20th birthday and 142 days of hunger strike on 5 April. Visitors will not be allowed.

The JAC is asking organisations to send birthday greeting telegrams, and individuals to send cards. Hugh Feeney is at HM Prison Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicester. Gerald Kelly: HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, Du Cane Road, London W12.

Having satisfied the Unionist lobby in parliament by refusing the transfer Roy Jenkins made one concession. Relatives of the Price sisters may now fly to visit them at Brixton, instead of the long train and boat ride they have had to use in the past.

It is not enough, the demand for repatriation must be stepped up. During the election campaign a number of Labour candidates gave pledges on transfer. The Irish Political Hostages Campaign has renewed the picketing of Labour MPs constituency 'surgeries'. Last week they picketed Roy Jenkins' home.

International Socialists have already initiated successful protest resolutions in a number of trade union branches. More should and will be done.

On Saturday 30 March Islington and Finsbury MP, George Cunningham will find protest pickets at his surgery from 1.30 to 2.30pm. Readers of Socialist Worker who can, should attend.

The Irish political prisoners issue cannot be isolated from other cases, the immigrants held in Pentonville without trial or hope, the Shrewsbury building workers locked up for defending trade unionism. The state continues its repressive activity under Labour as well as the Tories. Action and protest can help, socialists have a duty to join in.

Engineering walk out over lump

by Chris Milsom

AUEW steward

BRISTOL:—All 35 workers at Broadway Engineering walked out last Friday against management's attempt to bring in agency labour. The agency workers would have been paid half as much again as the top-rated skilled man.

This dispute comes just after unionisation of the factory, and a quick success in stopping wage cuts during the three-day week. A walk-out threat successfully defended a guaranteed week agreement.

The works manager told us he was prepared to take on everyone as self-employed—except himself, of course. But we just don't want to know it. We won't even bother to discuss it. It means no security, no union.

The blokes on the shop-floor are angry. They have been in for £1 an hour, but it was refused. Now management are prepared to pay £1.25 an hour, plus the agency fee, to avoid conceding the shop-floor's claim.

Claim in balance

LONDON:—The future of the NALGO £400 London weighting claim hangs in the balance as a result of the manoeuvres of the union's negotiations last week. They have cooked up a deal giving a £186 increase for outer London, £216 for Inner London, backdated to November 1973. Workers under 18 get even less and the whole thing is subject to Pay Board approval.

At the same time pressure from the employers, the London Borough Councils resulted in an union instruction that the planned strikes at Islington, Tower Hamlets and Kensington would be postponed until after a meeting with Michael Foot, the employment secretary.

At Islington, where a strike was to start on Monday, 1000 members threw out a local agreement and at a demonstration at Highbury Fields heckled Mike Blick, chairman of the official London weighting panel.

If Michael Foot rejects the settlement, Islington are committed to strike action next Monday for the full claim.



Kent miners' leader Jack Collins (centre) at the head of the 2000-strong march. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

POLICE ATTACK ON PICKETS - 105 ARRESTS

by Simon Turner and Alex Callinicos

COLCHESTER:—The police launched a vicious attack on the right to picket at Essex University last week.

They made 105 arrests as they attempted to break picket lines manned by students protesting at victimisations.

The arrested students face serious charges, such as unlawful assembly—one of the charges used against the Shrewsbury pickets. And the police have made threats about bringing charges of conspiracy and incitement to riot.

The authorities at the university have been trying to break the student movement there since an occupation over the campaign for higher grants before Christmas. So far two students have been expelled for taking part in the occupation and many more face disciplinary proceedings. The response of the students has been to picket the university, stopping supplies, until the victimisations are dropped.

Faced with police threats a fortnight ago, the students' union executive tried to reduce the scale of the protests by restricting the number of pickets to six. But many students saw that such a small number could not guarantee keeping supplies out and kept up a mass picket.

The police first tried to break the picket on Monday of last week, making 15 arrests. But hundreds of students forced the police to retreat temporarily, until they returned on the Wednesday making another 90 arrests.

The scale of the arrests has not broken the student protest. Students



Rusty Davies, president of Essex University students' union

arrived to support the picket and the barricade from Leeds, Portsmouth, Oxford, Surrey, London and elsewhere. The next day 2000 students from all over the country took part in a march, from Colchester to the university. The feeling of those on the march was that the picket must be defended until all the students' demands have been met.

ATTEMPT

Unfortunately, the actions of the local students' union executive and of the leaders of the National Union of Students have not always displayed the same determination.

On the Wednesday the NUS executive and vice-president, Stuart Paul, met the Vice-Chancellor who has masterminded the victimisations and the arrests. They had no mandate from the students to do this. An attempt to repeat the meeting on Thursday was thwarted by 200 students, who entered the Vice-Chancellor's room and kept him there for several hours.

There has already been a magnificent display of support for the students' struggle from sections of the trade union movement. Colchester Trades Council has supported the pickets throughout. Many messages of support have been received, including one from the Ford Workers' National Combine. The miners' union has sent a blank cheque to pay bail for those arrested.

Other sections of workers should follow these examples. For the Essex arrests are not just an attack on students. The large number of police deployed by the authorities at short notice to break the picket at the university have clearly been trained for such duties in the event of flying pickets being used in strikes.

The return of a Labour government has in no way led to the running down of these anti-picket squads. The Labour ministers are permitting them to be used against students and will no doubt use them against workers in the future.

Support for Essex is also crucial for students in other colleges and universities. Support is needed to maintain the barricade and picket during the four weeks of the Easter break. The student sub-committee of the International Socialists has called upon all IS Students' Societies to send contingents to Essex for a week at a time during the break. Students should also be planning sympathetic occupations at their own colleges where possible.

Finally, there needs to be a mass demonstration in London to demand that the government stops the victimisation of students and drops the charges against the pickets. One is proposed for 3 May. Students must ensure that the NUS national executive goes ahead with this and that the largest possible contingents attend from all colleges.

Deadlock over printers pay claim

by Ross Pritchard (NGA)

THE pay claim for printers in general printing and local newspapers has reached deadlock with the employers' refusal to go beyond Phase Three.

The original claim for an average increase on the basis of around £7.50 has been weakened in two ways. First the inability of the four print unions to reach agreement on a united approach to the employers has strengthened the employers' hand. The NGA refused to join SOGAT and SLADE on the grounds that a flat increase would reduce the differentials between NGA and SOGAT. Secondly, all the print unions have completely failed to campaign among their membership for the claim.

Calls from the floor of recent NGA delegate meetings for mass meetings up and down the country to discuss the claim were not met with the startling news that our officials were very busy men.

Action

The busy men of the NGA further reduced the claim to £5 to last for six months but this peace offer was met with a £2.65 final offer from the bosses. The NGA have replied by imposing an overtime ban. The other unions are expected to take similar action although there is a possibility that some may go for separate local agreements.

Despite the failure of the union leaders to campaign on the claim, many rank and file members are conscious of how much their wages have been reduced through inflation since the last agreement while the bosses profits have soared.

A special pay claim issue of 'Printworker' is being produced in the next few days. Copies can be obtained from 23 Groombridge Road, London E9 7DP, price 2p plus 3p postage.

Walk out over 'cut'

DUNDEE:—All 500 workers at Bonar Long walked out last Thursday in support of three women who had been laid off after refusing to accept a £3 drop in earnings on being transferred to different work. The management operates a bonus scheme, but refused to offer any 'lead in' payment while workers learn their new job.

Full-time officials had already seen management several times without results before the stoppage occurred. 'The real difficulty here is the productivity agreement,' a spokesman for the shop stewards' committee told Socialist Worker. 'Ever since it was implemented three years ago the management have been reinterpreting it to their own advantage.'

'The time has come to take a stand—we are demanding a renegotiation on this whole question of mobility.' Management said they would negotiate only if there was a return to work but on Friday the workers voted to continue the strike. They were to meet again on Tuesday.

900 on strike

BILSTON, Staffs:—The 900 workers at Cannon Industries are in their 12th week of strike over the company's refusal to bring in pay restructuring. A meeting last Monday between union negotiators and the parent company, GEC, found the employers still refusing to implement the scheme. The pickets are solid, and determined to get a living wage at a factory notorious for poor pay and conditions.

270 sackings at another GEC plant

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS, Lancs:—GEC have announced redundancies for 140 shop-floor workers and 130 staff at their diesel engine works. The list has been hand-picked by local shop-floor management and this is an obvious attempt to remove good trade unionists and socialists.

Far from following normal trade union practice of 'last in, first out', they include the longest serving man in one section, who also happens to be a good trade unionist.

Shop-floor management have said they are prepared to take on the workforce if there is action against this blatant victimisation. They even admit there are likely to be vacancies for up to 70 skilled men by October. Even now they are advertising for skilled men.

A Bolton factory which does sub-contracting work for the plant

A Bolton factory which does sub-contracting work for the plant is advertising vacancies for turners while turners are being laid off in the works itself. Shop-stewards suspect that a deliberate shortage of work is being created by sub-contracting work out to other plants and other firms.

Feelings are running high with frequent sectional disputes. But factory-wide determination to resist the redundancies is less obvious. The workforce, which was involved in long disputes over the 1972 engineers' claim and last year over the victimisation of a shop steward, needs strong leadership if trade union organisation is to be maintained at the plant.



I would like information/join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

A family who were left behind

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Con-Mech boss out for blood



Elsa Warren, the wife of Des Warren, jailed in the first Shrewsbury trial, heading the march with her four children. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

ROBERT DILLEY, boss of Con-Mech Engineers, Woking, was back in his beloved National Industrial Relations Court last week.

This time his mission is not to get an order prohibiting a strike for union recognition. Nor was he looking for a swingeing fine against the Engineering Union. For the strike is over.

Dilley's trip this time was to outline his case for damages from the AUEW for loss of profits as a result of the six month long strike which followed his refusal to recognise the union. Judgment in the case was due on Thursday.

In outlining his case, Dilley has produced some interesting facts and figures about just how profitable his sweatshop is. He claims that his lost profit during the six-month strike was £41,510. This would have been achieved on a turnover of £91,837. So his profit rate is more than 50 per cent.

Minibus

Dilley also states that he has been making profits of this order since 1970.

He is claiming £982 for the purchase of a minibus to take strike-breakers through the picket lines, never very daunting at the best of times. And then there's £535 for holidays in Majorca for three strike-breakers who were feeling the strain.

In all, Dilley is after nearly £50,000 more from the AUEW, which has already been robbed of £75,000 on his account by the NIRC.

The trade union movement cannot accept for a moment that a penny should be paid to his outfit. Indeed he should be driven out of business if he will not recognise the union.

All trade unionists should be demanding that the Labour government repay all trade union funds seized by the NIRC and for any further judgment against the AUEW to be set aside.

SHREWSBURY: UNIONS BEGIN TO MOVE

THE series of pickets' trials at Shrewsbury Crown Court is over.

On Friday last week the judge handed down sentences to Terry Renshaw, Lennie Williams and John Seaburg.

Terry Renshaw and Lennie Williams, who were both found guilty of unlawful assembly, got four-month jail sentences suspended for two years.

John Seaburg, found guilty of unlawful assembly and affray, fully expected to join his six trade union brothers already in jail. But the judge did not send him down. On top of a four-month jail sentence suspended for two years on the charge of unlawful assembly, John got another six months suspended for affray.

CHALLENGE

The stand of the three men in this trial took great courage. They maintained not guilty pleas throughout despite the fact that this increased their chances of going to jail.

John Seaburg was in a particularly vulnerable position. The police had a statement from him in which he admitted throwing a lump of earth on one site. But to his credit,

John persisted in challenging this statement. He insisted throughout that it was obtained under pressure.

On Friday too the last of the Shrewsbury 24, Les Hooson, was told that the prosecution would offer no evidence against him. More than a year of the trial hanging over his head was thought to be punishment enough.

SLANDERS

So now the physical toll on the trade union movement can be reckoned up: six in jail on sentences ranging from four months to three years. 16 on four or six month sentences suspended for two years, one not guilty and one not to be tried.

Slowly the lies and slanders that surround the Shrewsbury trials are being peeled away in the working-class movement. At its March meeting the executive of the print and paperworkers' union, SOGAT, endorsed a clear call for the Labour government to release the jailed men and amend the conspiracy laws.

But a move to get the National Union of Mineworkers' executive to take a similar stand has failed.

Jack Collins, executive member from Kent, moved that the union



On the march (from left): John Carpenter, who was convicted in the first trial, Marlene Tomlinson, wife of the jailed Ricky Tomlinson, Rita Carpenter and Nicholas Warren. PICTURE: Phil McCowan

come out for the release of the men who were jailed for using tactics pioneered by the NUM.

But the executive majority felt that this would be to interfere in UCATT's business. The NUM should only line up behind whatever the TUC was doing, they said.

This position was pushed particularly by Joe Gormley. Gormley, interestingly enough, did remark that had it been miners who had been jailed, they wouldn't have been inside very long. This of course is a good argument for the NUM to 'interfere' to free the six jailed pickets.

Last week's lobby of parliament to demand the release of the men and an end to the use of conspiracy laws against trade unionists brought the issues to the attention of some Labour MPs.

But the indications are that the Labour government intends to do nothing about releasing the jailed pickets and reforming conspiracy laws. This means that the trade union movement must redouble its efforts and campaign at every level for the Labour government to free the six.

FUND HITS TARGET

YOU'VE done it again. The March Fighting Fund has gone over the top—£466.64 this week has pushed the total to £2386.03, well over the £2000 mark.

But we still have to keep it up. The Fund is as important now without the Tories as it was with them. We need £2000 again in April, and your contribution, however large or small, will help.

We would like to see more and more collections from Socialist Worker readers on estates and workplaces—why not see if you can organise one? Branches could also try new ways of raising money—have an auction as York branch did and raised over £40, or a raffle, a jumble sale, a social or dance.

Workplace collections this week include Lanark Social Work Depart-

ment £3, Glasgow Corporation Planning Department £2.05, SW readers at Shephed, Loughborough £3. IS branches that have sent money are: Chrysler Coventry £12, Teesside £10, Glasgow £100, Southampton members and SW readers £25.35, Burnley £2, London hospital workers £200, Norwich £9.50, Manchester District £20, Tyneside District £28, Aberdeen £7, and Leeds University IS Society £21.

We are now sending out collection cards for regular collections by SW sellers, and hope to see the list of contributions from SW readers growing longer still. Fighting Fund collection sheets are also still available.

Send for these, and send your collections and donations to Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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Strikers refused dole

EASTLEIGH, HANTS:—The occupiers at Strachans Engineering, now in their fourth week, are being victimised by Department of Employment officials and denied their dole entitlements. About one third of the 60 pickets have been refused all dole.

On Wednesday last week, the men were issued with documents at the three local labour exchanges. These contained the following four questions: 'Please give details of the dates and hours and times spent in the duties since your claim for benefit began? What days and hours are you likely to be involved in the future?'

'Do you yourself consider that you are available for normal full time employment and are you prepared to take employment at once should a vacancy arise?'

'What arrangements have you made regarding being contacted while you are

on picket duty, should a suitable vacancy arise for you?'

The shop stewards committee at Strachans considered the matter. The men have now answered that they have no duties, since all picketing is voluntary, that they are available for work, that any notification of vacancies should be sent to their home address and that they get no payments.

But the dole manager had different ideas. He entered the factory last Tuesday and took lists of the picket duties of many of the occupiers.

Trade union funds in support of the occupation have been sluggish in coming in. They are now urgently needed. Please send donations to Pat Doyle, Works Committee Convenor, Strachans Engineering, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, Hants.

SPOONFUL OF SUGAR

From page one

the year.

TUC general secretary Len Murray says that the Budget 'puts the trade union movement to the test'. He means that in return for the Budget concessions the unions must hold down wages and, later, co-operate in allowing 'unavoidable' lay-offs.

That is exactly what the government is after. The Budget will help the Murrays of the movement to sell it in the short term but the realities will be felt soon enough.

The 'fair' Budget is a weapon in the struggle to preserve a fundamentally unfair society.