

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Labour's slag-heap

Wilson and Co: Reclaiming Britain Ince by Ince

by Duncan Hallas

'YOU can't play golf with a man and not know his business,' said Harold Wilson. He knew, he admits, that Anthony Field was a property speculator when he brought Field into his 'kitchen cabinet', his personal staff.

He also knew Marcia Williams, his private secretary and Field's sister, had a financial stake in property speculation.

Field is not someone who just 'happened' to be involved in a land deal at Ince, Lancashire, which netted his companies a profit of about £100,000. He is a professional exploiter of the jump in land values that occurs when planning permission

is given to develop land for housing, industrial development or whatever.

We now know that he is at it again in Carmarthenshire. He is exactly the kind of profiteer Wilson has repeatedly denounced.

Now the gain to a man like Field of a connection with the leader of the Labour Party is obvious enough. Leave aside forged letters, it is not exactly a disadvantage in dealing with local authorities to be known to be on intimate terms with a powerful

politician.

Harold Wilson's worst enemy couldn't accuse him of being a political innocent. He knows this as well as anyone. Knowing this he deliberately brought Field on to his staff and he defends the action of this land shark.

There is a difference between land speculation and land reclamation, he says, and in any case

'development' creates jobs.

Harry Hyams, the biggest shark of all, can make exactly the same defence. He too, is 'reclaiming' land for alternative uses. He too can claim to 'create jobs'. Does Wilson think that Centrepont sprang into being without the labour of building workers?

The fact is that Wilson surrounds himself with rich men or would-be rich men on the make. Men like Joseph Kagan of Gannex, made into

Sir Joseph by Harold Wilson, Henry Kissin, millionaire commodity speculator, Sigmund Sternberg of Mountstar Metal, and a whole clique of others who are up to their necks in creaming fat profits from other people's work.

Other members of the government have the same profitable connections. Here are a few of them:

James Callaghan, Foreign Secretary and associate of wealthy Sir Julian Hodge who specialises in 'second mortgages' at exorbitant rates of interest or, in plain English, what used to be called usury.

Fred Peart, who came to the Ministry of Agriculture fresh from a rewarding job with the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation.

Harold Lever, Chief Economic Advisor to the cabinet and a 'fat cat' by any standards, who has any number of connections with merchant bankers, brokers and other toiling workers.

Plunderers

It is not an accident. It is corruption. Not corruption in the technical legal sense of taking bribes. None of these people have, as far as we know, done anything illegal. It is political corruption, the prostitution of a party which claims to be the working man's party by association with profiteers and plunderers.

Labour's rotten right-wing politics are both a cause and a consequence of this corruption. It is no use Labour leaders claiming that it is all a Tory press smear. Of course the Tories are using it for all they are worth. Of course Tory and Liberal leaders are up to their ears in the same filthy business. But they are open defenders of capitalism.

A so-called 'socialist' party which tolerates and defends profiteers and profiteering in its own ranks is a corrupt party, a party that will inevitably push anti-working class policies.

300 police refuse to go on duty

GLASGOW:-300 policemen at the Glasgow Eastern Division refused to go on duty for an hour and a half last Friday night.

The source of the trouble was the men's resentment at Special Constables being used for duties which normally provides overtime for policemen on the beat. To add insult to injury the Specials are paid much less than regular policemen.

Three months ago Glasgow launched a drive to increase the strength of the Specials from 100 to 500. At that time the Assistant Chief Constable described the role of the Special Constable as being 'to help the police in the event of civil disorder.'

Needless to say, not a word of the police revolt appeared in the press. After all, the press lords have enough problems trying to convince the rest of us to keep in line without having to deal with discontent among those who are used to keep us in line



Part of the 1000-strong march through central London last Sunday by Asian workers from all over Britain protesting about political repression in Bihar and Gujarat states of India. The march was organised by the Indian Workers Association.

PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

The SAS were there on Bloody Sunday

by Paddy Prendiville

THE British press is full of 'IRA outrages' but has not a word about far more monstrous outrages committed in Ireland by assassination squads of the British Army.

Ever since the British government admitted last month that the Special Air Services (SAS)—a sinister army murder squad—are operating in Ireland, the Irish newspapers have been confirming the suspicions of almost all political groups in Ireland that the SAS is responsible for all sorts of terror in the North of Ireland.

On 24 March the Sunday World, a popular Irish Sunday paper revealed that:

The SAS were in Derry on Bloody Sunday in January 1972, and had orders to fire on the Parachute Regiment from the roof of the Post Office, so providing an excuse for the Paras to shoot at demonstrators. A former Sergeant Francis of the SAS told the Sunday World that the plan had failed at the last moment.

The SAS advocates 'sabotage', 'assassination' and 'liason with organisation, training and control of

friendly guerrilla forces operating against the common enemy'.

In Northern Ireland, 'friendly guerrilla organisations' means extreme Protestant groups. The Ulster Volunteer Force, for instance, which recently called off its assassination campaign after talks with the IRA, has claimed in its newspaper, Combat, that the Ulster Freedom Fighters, an even more extreme group which has claimed several recent assassinations, is a section of the SAS.

Needless to say, any detente, however fragile, between the UVF and IRA is a potential danger to British interests in Ireland.

The assassination aims of the SAS are substantiated in the Sunday World by a photograph of an internal army policy document.

The latest SAS group to be sent

to Ireland were until recently on stand-by at their training depot at Bradbury Lines Camp, Hereford, where they were preparing to 'intervene' if the miners had 'cut up rough'.

The Sunday World revelations prove conclusively:

That sections of the British Army are being trained by Brigadier Frank Kitson, an 'expert' in 'counter-revolutionary warfare', for a future role against subversion in Britain.

That the most important training ground for these terrorist groups is in Ireland, North and South.

Why don't we read about it? Because the British press has been prevented from publishing a word about the SAS by a government 'D' Notice.

So next time you hear the media prattle about political violence, just think about the SAS or, as they are known in Ireland, the 'dirty tricks brigade'.

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Italian socialists appeal for solidarity

THE International Socialists have received a fraternal appeal from the Italian revolutionary organisation Avanguardia Operaia for action in solidarity in the face of vicious repression against workers' struggles in Italy.

In Rome, police have cleared most of the 2000 squatters from the new flats they were occupying in protest against high rents and the shortage of housing for workers.

In a series of brutal raids, 46 people were arrested, most of them women. One was a mother of five who threatened to jump from a balcony in despair when the police arrived. Many are still in prison.

In Cagliari, 14 people were arrested in the early hours of the morning after a demonstration in support of the recent one-day general strike—one was a woman eight months pregnant. In Palermo, the arrest of 26 students after an anti-fascist demonstration was egged on by the local fascist newspaper.

Facist

There have been hundreds of raids on houses and arrests of individuals. In Milan, 227 people were rounded up in half an hour.

The letter from Avanguardia Operaia reads:

Dear Comrades,

Our organisation, and the whole revolutionary left, is under very heavy attack at the moment in Italy.

As you probably know, the political situation in our country is going from bad to worse, with the economic crisis, the weakness of the government, increased fascist activity and some strange goings-on in the army. In the face of all this, the democratic forces in our society remain passive, in effect supporting the reactionary threat.

Fascists are able to carry on terrorist as well as political activities undisturbed. They have been bombing, shooting and stabbing people all over the country, while the magistrates and police, with the support of all the bourgeois press and the complicity of the Communist Party, are mounting a national campaign against our organisation.

Starting with a clumsy frame-up of one of our leading comrades in Florence, they have searched offices and the homes of militants all over the country. Their repressive plan is to hit hard at the revolutionary forces, the only ones who are fighting consistently against reactionary plots and defending the oppressed and exploited against the present grave threat to their living standards.

We are mounting a big campaign on this issue. Among other things, we have written an appeal to intellectuals and other prominent individuals asking for solidarity and for them to protest at this attack on the most elementary rights of freedom of speech and organisation.

Offensive

We ask you to do the same in your country as quickly as possible, collecting signatures and the support of individuals and organisations. Telegrams of support would also be very useful to us.

When you write the appeal, you could link what is happening in Italy to the situation in Europe generally and in your own country. It is plain to see that the reactionary offensive in Italy is not an isolated case. Repression is becoming increasingly severe in many European countries, and it is important for revolutionaries to respond on an international level.

Communist greetings.

The IS Executive has sent a telegram of solidarity and urges all its branches to organise petitions as requested in the appeal, and to sponsor through union branches and shop stewards' committees and other organisations, telegrams of support and protest to the Italian Embassy.

Also, as requested in the appeal, branches and members should raise the issue in the context of the growing political repression of dissent, especially socialist dissent, in Britain and in Ireland.

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

THE PRESS has reacted to the planting of bombs in shopping centres in different towns this week to paint once again a picture of Irish republicans as callous, inhuman monsters. The bombings, it is claimed, show that the British army is quite right to imprison people without trial, to shoot to kill, and use torture to obtain information.

However, socialists and trade unionists should approach the question of the IRA from a completely different angle. We need to begin by asking ourselves why ordinary workers from Northern Ireland resort to such methods as the planting of bombs. For that is what the vast majority of the members of the IRA are—workers hardly different from those you would meet in any factory in any city in Britain.

The government describes the IRA as 'a small minority of terrorists'. But in the last election supporters of this 'small minority' got a fifth or more of the vote in the Catholic areas of Northern Ireland.

These votes were not cast because the people of those areas are naturally blood-thirsty or vicious. For more than 50 years, the Catholics have been discriminated against by the authorities, forced into the worst housing, made to accept unemployment levels twice the Northern Ireland average and four times the British average.

When they began in 1968 and 1969 to protest peacefully against this state of affairs, they were set upon by the Northern Ireland police, clubbed to the

Why people plant bombs

ground, beaten up, tear gas was thrown at them, eventually some of them were shot in the streets.

Naturally, they began to gather arms together to protect themselves. Then in 1970 and 1971, the British troops received orders to do the same job the police had done before, only more ruthlessly. They invaded Catholic working class areas, dragged the menfolk off to imprisonment without trial, tore houses apart in the search for arms, shot dozens of unarmed civilians, men, women and children.

In the past few months, the British government has given a few Catholics, middle class politicians, positions in the Northern Ireland government. But the basic facts of life have not changed for Catholic workers—they still suffer from

twice the average amount of unemployment, hundreds of them imprisoned without trial and they still face harassment from British troops. Indeed it has been conclusively proved in the last few weeks that groups of plain clothes troops are operating, with orders to kill known republicans on the spot. A group of such troops were arrested in Southern Ireland last week while trying to kidnap republican supporters.

The support which is given to the IRA is a quite natural reaction against such repression. It is a reaction which every socialist and trade unionist in Britain should be able to understand and sympathise with. After all, wouldn't you react in the same way if troops started shooting up your housing estate and dragging your friends away for 'internment'?

Some members of the IRA feel that letting off bombs in shopping centres in Britain is a way of fighting back against the behaviour of the British troops in Ireland. Socialists have to reject such a view. The bombs do not hurt those who give the order to the British troops, but innocent by-standers. What is more, they make it easier for the British ruling class to confuse people as to what is really happening in Ireland.

But that does not in any way alter the facts of the Irish situation. It is the behaviour of the British troops that has driven people to such a state of desperation that they plant bombs, and those troops have to be withdrawn from Ireland.

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

THE PENNY-PINCHERS MOVE IN ON SICK

THE penny-pinchers of the Social Security are at it again. This time they are trying to cut sickness benefits and the British Medical Association is completely behind them.

Last Thursday a joint working party of the Department of Health and Social Security and the BMA published a report of an inquiry set up by the previous Tory minister Sir Keith Joseph. They proposed that doctors should no longer state in sick notes that patients are unfit for work, but that these decisions should be made by the National Insurance staff who are responsible for paying out the money.

As a family doctor and a socialist I find these proposals very disturbing and a serious interference with the lives of working people. If the Labour government accepts them they could be put into operation by summer next year.

The report proposes that in 'short-term' illnesses a doctor will write 'diagnosis unspecified' and the National Insurance staff will then decide whether to make a payment.

From my own experience I know that this is aimed at cases such as men who are staying at home to look

By a doctor

after their young children while their wives are ill. In such cases I usually write something like 'debility' on the sick note, because if he is forced to go to work when there is no one to look after his kids then his own health and mental state are bound to suffer.

I hardly think that a Social Security official will be quite so sympathetic. I don't think that a miner—or any other worker who has to work in intolerable conditions—who has a cold is 'fit to work'. The Social Security doesn't agree.

I feel very strongly that all sense of confidentiality between a patient and myself will disappear. For example in some cases young girls come to me wanting an abortion. They don't want the Social Security snoopers or their boss to know that they are pregnant, so sometimes my diagnosis on the certificate is masked—

for the sake of the patient's general welfare.

In the case of mental illness in particular patients should not be forced to discuss their problems in detail with some unknown official, who cannot possibly know when the patient is fit to work.

DISCOVER

The danger is that diseases will be missed. Take the case of someone who has just got over flu. If he has a persistent cough the National Insurance will send him back to work, but if he decides with his doctor when he is fit, the doctor might well send him for an X-ray to discover whether there is anything serious behind the cough.

The situation concerning sick notes is bad enough as it is without these proposals making things worse. Why, when both a patient and I agree that he is unfit to work, should a Social

Security doctor, who no knowledge of the patient's background and after just one examination, be able to over-rule what both I and the patient think and send him back to work?

These proposals make things even worse. The implication is that patients will have to convince officials that temporary illnesses have been genuine. I find this ominous and it sounds to me like being presumed guilty until you are able to prove your innocence.

The British Medical Association is concerned with saving doctors' time in dealing with medical certificates. Unfortunately far too many doctors will go along with this, but if their proposals go through it will make the job of socialist doctors and those who care about workers and their families much more difficult. We face an enormous problem in convincing our colleagues that they are wrong.

The strongest allies we have are in the trade union movement. Organised workers can fight attacks like this and I appeal to all readers to raise the matter in their trade union branches and on their shop stewards' committees. It is perhaps something that the new rank and file movement can concern itself with.

Lord Ugly Face of Capitalism

ALMOST a year ago, Mr Edward Heath, then Prime Minister, was asked in the House of Commons about revelation that certain highly-placed gentlemen had been making large sums of money by tax fiddles in the Cayman Islands.

Mr Heath described it as 'the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism.' Now the same Heath has proposed the most unacceptable and unpleasant of all the faces involved in the Cayman Islands should be promoted to the House of Lords.

It belongs to Duncan Sandys, a former Tory Cabinet Minister, who was appointed consultant to Lonrho in September 1971. His salary was

£50,000 a year.

Six months later, this was raised to £51,000. More important, £49,000 of this was paid to him for 'overseas services' in a bank in the Cayman Islands, where there is no income tax.

In April 1972 Duncan Sandys became part-time chairman of Lonrho, and his salary was cut to £40,000 a year. To make up for this sacrifice, Sandys was paid 'compensation' of £130,000. Once again, the money was paid in the Cayman Islands, and once again Sandys paid no tax at all.

When the secrecy of this deal was exposed, Sandys paid back £44,000

of the compensation he had received.

The Lonrho scandal came at the end of a long career which Sandys had devoted to white supremacy in the British colonies, in Rhodesia and in South Africa, and to the continued supremacy of feudal sheikhs in the Middle East and barbarous kings in the Far East.

Now Heath, who complained so bitterly about the Lonrho affair, has recommended the main culprit for a peerage.

Society elevates its most diligent supporters. And a society founded on tax evasion, racialism, unpleasantness and unacceptability is bound to honour men like Duncan Sandys.

CHILE SOLIDARITY MARCH

Sunday 5 May, 2pm
Assemble Hyde Park Corner
for march to Downing Street

Not a penny, not a gun for the Chilean generals
Withdraw diplomatic recognition now
Open the doors to all Chilean refugees
Solidarity with the Chilean resistance

Guns in the scales of justice

by Les Kay (Blackburn TGWU)
BLACKBURN:—Nine members of the Ulster Defence Association awaiting trial on charges of illegally possessing automatic weapons were granted bail a week ago Friday after an application to judge in chambers.

The application was made by their solicitor who described conditions at Risley Remand Centre, where they were being held, as 'worse than Colditz castle'.

The men—from Preston, Accrington and Blackburn—were charged after the Daily Mail published pictures of armed thugs on military exercises on nearby Darwen moor.

The men in the pictures were hooded and carried sten guns, M25 rifles, automatic carbines, Magnum rifles, Schmeisser automatic

machine pistols and other murderous hardware. Soon after the article was published, a police raid on the homes of the men discovered sten guns and ammunition.

The grant of bail to the men needs to be compared with the treatment of three young Irish republicans who were arrested on conspiracy charges in the Blackburn area last year. The three were kept in solitary confinement at Risley for 22 weeks, while one of them was waiting for a hip operation.

They were continually denied bail even after securities of several thousands of pounds were put up. One of those offering bail, a councillor, was even prepared to surrender the title deeds of his house as security.

Socialists in Blackburn are noting the links between the activities of the UDA in the area and those of the National Front.

A few weeks before the UDA affair blew up, the local National Front leader, Kingsley Read, received two bullets through the post.

He immediately accused either the International Socialists or the IRA of having sent them to him. This is not surprising since Read accuses IS of everything that goes wrong in Blackburn.

Read's father, Lieutenant J H Read, is secretary of the local gun club.

When the National Front first started in Blackburn as the League of Empire Loyalists, they used to meet in the farmhouse of Mrs Ursula Barling, which is not a stone's throw away from the place where the UDA were photographed by the Daily Mail reporters.

Read, incidentally, is a member of the 'Legion of Frontiersmen', a paramilitary body who allegedly constitute a 'third reserve force' which will fill the breach after the regular army and the territorials have been conquered by the subversives.

The wall was the landlord's

NORTH LONDON:—Three lump labourers survey their work at the home of Mr Reg Efford (standing on second floor) last Sunday in Islington.

Mr Efford has been living in the house for 47 years. His mother had taken over the tenancy from his father, and with the death of his mother last December, Mr Efford has become the legal tenant.

The landlords, T H Bull and Sons, had intended to 'renovate' the house. Soon after his mother's death last Christmas part of the top of the back wall of the house collapsed, destroying his lavatory, which was in the garden. Local council officials supplied Mr Efford with a portable lavatory.

'When that was full' said Mr Efford, 'I asked the council what I should do. The council told me to dig a hole in the back garden and bury it.'

The back garden was full of rubble from the partial collapse of the wall. Builders apparently employed by the landlord removed more of the wall, replacing it with plyboard. This came down on a windy night a fortnight ago.

Then last week builders arrived and started removing the remains of the wall. 'I had no idea that anyone was living there' claimed one of the workmen. He came out and apologised that he couldn't make us a cup of tea. If I'd known I'd never have got involved.'

Robbed

Others employed on the site were more reticent. 'You're not getting anything from me' shouted a man apparently employed as foreman. 'Stop harassing me.'

Soon after the wall's partial collapse Mr Efford had his gas meter robbed. The police came round and took the meter for 'fingerprinting'. 'You haven't got a leg to stand on, you'll have to leave' said a young policeman.

Mr Efford had quite a few legal legs to stand on, but it was only last weekend when he contacted members of the Islington Tenants Campaign that this began to come clear.

By then the water and electricity had been cut off. The Campaign, which includes tenants, squatters, local law centres, International Socialists and members of the Communist Party, stayed in the property over the weekend.

The police took an interest on Monday morning, but their arrival caused Reg Efford to collapse.

The landlords had no comment to make. They have now indicated to the tenant that after renovation he will be given a flat in the property.

The lump labourers employed on the site threatened on Sunday to take off the roof, take the building apart, and throw out Mr Efford's belongings. It was only the intervention of the Tenants Campaign which prevented this.

Mr Efford is a man who wanted, and has the right, to a quiet life. His case is the latest in a long line of winking operations. The moral is clear: you have to stand, organise, and fight.

Story: Nigel Fountain
Picture: Peter Harrap

(REPORT)



100 picket for hunger striker

by Sue Baytell

IN a demonstration called by the Irish Political Hostages Campaign more than 100 people picketed Gartree Prison, Leicester, last Sunday in solidarity with Hugh Feeney, one of the four jailed in the London bombings trial. He has been on hunger strike for 145 days.

Despite a heart condition and rheumatic fever he has been forced for more than 100 days. To date he has had one visitor—his mother. All other visits have been refused including a request from Philip Sheridan, another Irish republican prisoner in Gartree.

This treatment is the result of Hugh Feeney's demand for political status.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has refused to repatriate the hunger strikers for the time being though he has said they may be eventually repatriated. Pressure must be brought to bear on the government to return these people to the North of Ireland so that they may serve their vicious sentences near their relatives and friends.

Court move over sit-in pickets

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire:—There have been dramatic developments in the fifth week of Strachans Engineering workers' occupation. Even as Giltspur, the parent company, were negotiating with the works committee and union officials last Wednesday, High Court summonses were being served on 24 pickets at the factory. The summonses were due to be answered at 10.30am on Tuesday. But no one answered them.

Giltspur, who are desperate to sell the plant, were forced to agree that the shop stewards should show the first potential buyers, Willenhall Motor Radiators, round the works on Monday.

Meanwhile Ford the plant's sole customer, are vetting other prospective buyers and are obviously as keen to get van production going as Giltspur are to sell the plant.

The company's double dealing has only strengthened the determination of the occupiers. They are demanding full reinstatement for all those made redundant under the same conditions as before and full wages for everybody for the period of the occupation.

A delegation from Strachans went to Clydeside last week where they received considerable financial support from Yarrows, UCS, Albion Motors and Singers.

Nonetheless more financial support is needed to carry the workers on to victory. Send to Pat Doyle, Works Committee Convenor, Strachans Engineering, Chickenhall Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Free Shrewsbury pickets

There will be a lobby of parliament on Wednesday 1 May to demand the Labour government release the six jailed building workers and repeal the laws against picketing.

Leyland sack 100 in South Africa

THE delegation from the TUC which visited South Africa last October advocated the encouragement of trade unionism for black workers. In fact they proposed 'opposition to British investment' where companies were not 'encouraging and recognising genuinely independent trade unions for black African workers'.

More recently the House of Commons report on the conditions of black workers in South Africa recommended the recognition of black trade unions.

Recent events in South Africa show how hollow such statements are and show also the hypocrisy of both British companies and the TUC. While British Leyland sacks workers who demand trade union recognition, the TUC proposes to try to shackle the new black unions to the white unions whose interest is to keep white supremacy.

Leyland is the 10th largest company in South Africa and produces big profits. Last year the Metal and Allied Workers Union was formed as an independent black trade union, not affiliated to the white-dominated TUCSA and without legal recognition. They have full membership

by Alan Baldwin

at Leyland's Durban plant and for months have been struggling for recognition and negotiating rights.

In early March 175 workers took strike action over recognition and more than 100 were sacked.

Leyland insisted they must go through the works committee, as set down by the government. The company have no objections to trade unions, of course, so long as they remained useless. It also became clear that they would co-operate with a TUCSA-affiliated union.

Identified

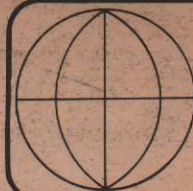
The British TUC is trying to build up the TUCSA as the guardian of the black unions. They have fraternal links and the TUCSA make sure the TUC delegation got a good look at South Africa from the point of view of entrenched white racist interests.

A 'minister' in the puppet Kwazulu bantus-

tan, Barney Dladla, who has identified himself with black workers in Durban, reported on his recent meeting in London with the TUC that they are trying to bribe black unions into working under TUCSA. Allan Hargreaves, the international secretary of the TUC, is clearly trying to channel the proposed £100,000 for assisting black unions through TUCSA. This is totally unacceptable to the new black unions.

'The TUC can keep its money', said Dladla. 'TUCSA is not interested in black workers and never has been. It has done absolutely nothing in its 20 years of existence to improve conditions for African labour.'

The growth of independent black unions is a crucial step in the unfolding struggle in South Africa which needs every support from British workers. The TUC has conspicuously failed to recognise this, and more important, is unwilling to start the kind of action which will offer real solidarity with workers in South Africa. Workers at Leylands in Britain can offer more powerful support for their brothers by forcing the parent company to negotiate.



France

DEATH OF POMPIDOU BRINGS SPLIT INTO OPEN

by Ian Birchall

THE DEATH OF Frances' President Pompidou last week occurred against a background of deep crisis in French society.

Why was Pompidou's illness hushed up for so long? The answer is that the French Tories of the Gaullist party are deeply split. Faced with rising unemployment and a wave of industrial militancy, they could not afford a long public squabble about who was to climb into Pompidou's boots.

So poor old Pompidou had to die on his feet, trying to pretend he was only suffering from piles.

Pompidou was never a politician. After a brief flirtation with socialism in his student days, he became a teacher before finding his true calling in life as a banker with the giant Rothschild bank. He also had his fingers in oil and railway companies. All of this made him well-placed to work as a fund-raiser for the Gaullists.

But in 1958 the French ruling class decided politics was too serious to be left to the politicians, and brought back General de Gaulle to impose law and order. Banker Pompidou was there to see that the true interests of the wealthy were looked after, and in 1962 he became Prime Minister, though he had never been a member of the French parliament.

Hushed

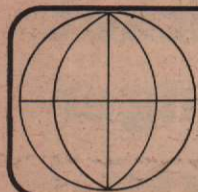
Faced with the strike of 10 million workers in 1968, he showed himself a shrewd operator. He also used his big business contacts to suppress opposition in radio and television. Then, discreetly stabbing his old boss de Gaulle in the back, he became President in 1969.

It is already clear that there will be more than one right-wing candidate for the coming elections, though the horse-trading will be going on in suitably hushed tones during the memorial services.

The left will almost certainly be represented by Francois Mitterrand, backed by the Socialist and Communist Parties. Mitterrand is very much a politician. Back in the 1950s he was a partner in numerous anti-Communist alliances before he discovered that Communist votes were his best way to the top.

He was Home Secretary in 1954, when the people of Algeria launched their long struggle for freedom. He acted promptly—banning the main Algerian nationalist party.

There is at least an outside chance that Mitterrand can win, given the splits in the right. If he does, the pace in France will certainly quicken.



Sweden

Dockers on first official strike since war

SWEDEN saw its first official strike since the war last Friday when 3000 members of the independent Swedish Dockers Union held a one-day strike as the climax of two-week overtime ban.

Swedish workers suffer a far more bureaucratic trade union structure than British workers. The Swedish equivalent of the Industrial Relations Act has been in force since 1928. Each year the Labour Organisation, equivalent to the TUC, fixes wages for the entire labour force.

The Dockers' Union was until recently part of the Transport Union, but broke away when the Transport leaders decreed that the branch organisation in the Northern ports would be dissolved into much larger, more remote district branches.

The dockers refused and were expelled. They got immediate support from the militant Gothenburg dockers. The new union includes three-quarters of the country's dockers.

The immediate cause of the dispute is a claim for a pay increase and for control over overtime. At present the employers demand five hours overtime a day and Saturday and Sunday working.

Distinct

Inflation in Sweden is about the same as in Britain, on top of a high cost of living. Good meat costs £3 per pound and the rent for a three-room flat in a working-class district of Gothenburg is £75 a month. The increase in rent this year for such a flat will be £13 per month.

So the dockers are concerned that working conditions should not be worn away, and their claim reflects this.

Showing a distinct lack of concern, the Labour Organisation's central agreement this year gives an increase of £2 a week. Already unofficial strikes among metal miners and factory workers are increasing in face of rising prices.

Said Christer Terenius, a Gothenburg docker, 'We must have this claim to guard against the fantastic rise in prices. We in Gothenburg will be pressing the leadership for more strike action and I think we will succeed.'

'If the leadership decide to lay down to the Labour Organisation and the employers we will undoubtedly have a massive unofficial strike. The Labour Organisation will be opposing us because their miserable agreement will be useless if we win. We will win.'



Slogans on the main entrance of Merida University, where students barricaded themselves against armed police

MURDER IN MEXICO

by SW correspondent

bullet in the back of the head.

A silent march of 4000 attended the funeral.

As the protest movement grew, more and more employers began sacking members of the independent trade union. Four more students were kidnapped. Their fate is not yet known.

Gamboa Gamboa made a statement in which he said 'the intention was to frighten Calderon Lara. My officers went too far.' A casual admission to responsibility and complicity for a brutal murder that has yet to result in Gamboa's arrest.

STRENGTH

A demonstration of 80,000 people on 4 March demanded the dissolution of the corrupt state government. More and more troops are being drafted into Merida every day. According to on-the-spot observers all the ingredients for a mass confrontation exist, even though the workers and peasants are not armed. Their strength lies in their solidarity and independent organisation.

For 400 years the people of

PARA-MILITARY thugs directed by Mexican police chief Gamboa Gamboa kidnapped Calderon Lara, a member of the Workers and Students Committee, in Yucatan, Mexico, six weeks ago.

The kidnapping set off a wave of school and higher education strikes and a strike of the Independent Trade Union Front. A mass demonstration in Merida City centre, demanding Calderon Lara's return, was met with troops using machine guns, tear gas and bazookas. Students and workers defended the university building using buses, furniture and burning tyres as barricades.

The battle lasted for hours with many wounded and even more arrests. Afterwards a general strike of workers, peasants and students began. The extent of the repression forced all into common solidarity.

Calderon Lara's body was found five days after his disappearance. He had three gunshot wounds, his face and skull were crushed, his feet broken and both missing. He had obviously been severely tortured before being finished off by a

Yucatan have been victims of foreign and absentee landlords, suffering government corruption and repression at the first sign of protest.

The Mexican equivalent of the TUC, the CTM, works hand in glove with employers and government. At the height of the struggle around the Calderon Lara murder, the CTM were calling for increased force and repression against the workers and peasants in the independent trade union.

Laws guaranteeing minimum rights to workers are ignored in Yucatan. Elections are a bad joke, with ballot boxes stuffed with votes for the ruling party—the Institutional Revolutionary Party—by police and government officials.

The seemingly endless patience of the oppressed in Yucatan has broken. The government are no strangers to bloody repression.

The Workers and Students Committee of Merida have sent urgent messages for solidarity and support. Protests should be directed to the Mexican Embassy demanding the end of repression and the granting of trade union rights in Yucatan.

Messages of solidarity to Workers and Students Committee, Merida University, Yucatan, Mexico. Messages of protest to the Mexican Embassy, 48 Belgrave Square, London, SW1.



Pompidou the banker

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS



Lord Belper with whip—an early study

Y, oh Lord, oh why...

EVERYONE knows Janie Jones. She is serving a prison sentence for providing prostitutes for rich men, and is now standing trial at the Old Bailey accused of blackmailing some of the rich men gratified by those services.

For some reason, however, no one is allowed to know who the rich men are. By prior arrangement with the judge, the barristers and the hacks on the press bench, the names of the gentlemen whose curious tastes led to the prosecution in the first place are hidden.

Consider for instance the case of Mr Y. Mr Y was described in The

Guardian last week as 'well known in a certain way in public life'.

He had 'used' Janie Jones' call girls 'for a number of years'. He paid extra for girls who dressed up in school uniforms and for others who dressed up as their mothers. He had, he told the court, paid over several thousand pounds to Janie Jones to 'avoid publicity'.

Suffered

Now Mr Y is not Mr Y at all. He is Lord Y, or to be specific, Lord Belper, 63, brother-in-law of the Duke of Norfolk.

Lord Belper hasn't done anything in particular for most of his life, apart from establishing a re-

putation as a 'keen hunting man'.

In 1957 he suffered an 'accident' while out hunting. A fellow huntsman shot him in the eye. The marksman was racecourse owner Bernard Van Cutsem, who was described by the Sunday Express on 20 October that year as 'one of the best shots in Britain'.

Lord Belper is reported to have told police who were making inquiries into the Janie Jones case: 'If my name gets out, I'll commit suicide'.

No such promise has been made by the other gentleman most associated with the Janie Jones blackmail trial, who is best known to readers of newspapers as Mr Z, the Chief Whip. Mr Z was a regular client of Janie Jones' girls, whom he beat with varying ferocity.

In a scene which is said to have sickened even the hardest court reporter, Mr Z wept in the witness box as he gave an account of the telephone calls which Janie Jones made to him in an attempt, usually successful, to get money out of him.

Mr Z, it appears, is Michael Morris, who described himself as a 'property dealer' but is in fact a swindler of some notoriety.

This is not the first time Morris has been leniently treated by British courts. In June last year, he was found guilty on fraud charges connected with the crash of the Guardian Bank in 1967. When the bank collapsed, small depositors in it, who had been persuaded to invest by Morris' fraudulent prospectus, were owed £474,754.

Action

Mr Justice Lawson found Morris guilty, but was impressed with Morris' appeal for clemency on the grounds that he would try to pay back some of the depositors. Sentence was deferred for six months.

Morris is a favourite nephew of Teddy Smith, boss of Bryanston Finance, one of London's most interesting property speculating companies.

Last summer, Smith himself was in court over an action brought by Satori Films, who had borrowed nearly £40,000 from Smith for making a film.

During the transaction, one of the film-makers, John Hanson, agreed to sell his house in Chelsea to Smith's nephew, Michael Morris. But when Morris tried to cut the sale price by £500, Hanson refused to sell. Immediately, Smith issued a writ for the recovery of the money for the film. Hanson claimed that Smith shouted at him: 'I'll break you!'.

At any rate, Morris never got the house in Chelsea.

Why men like Morris should be afforded the protection of the courts when more 'ordinary' witnesses' evidence is blazoned all over the national press almost every day it is not immediately clear.

Hard Labour

I WAS interested to hear that my item last week about the Labour MPs miners' group, which cast doubt on the qualification of Michael McGuire, hot favourite for the post of secretary of the group, was circulated anonymously among miners' MPs while they were voting. Mr McGuire is said to be 'very dissatisfied' with the result, which was as follows:

McGuire (Ince) 8
Wilson (Hamilton) 8

A new ballot has been ordered.

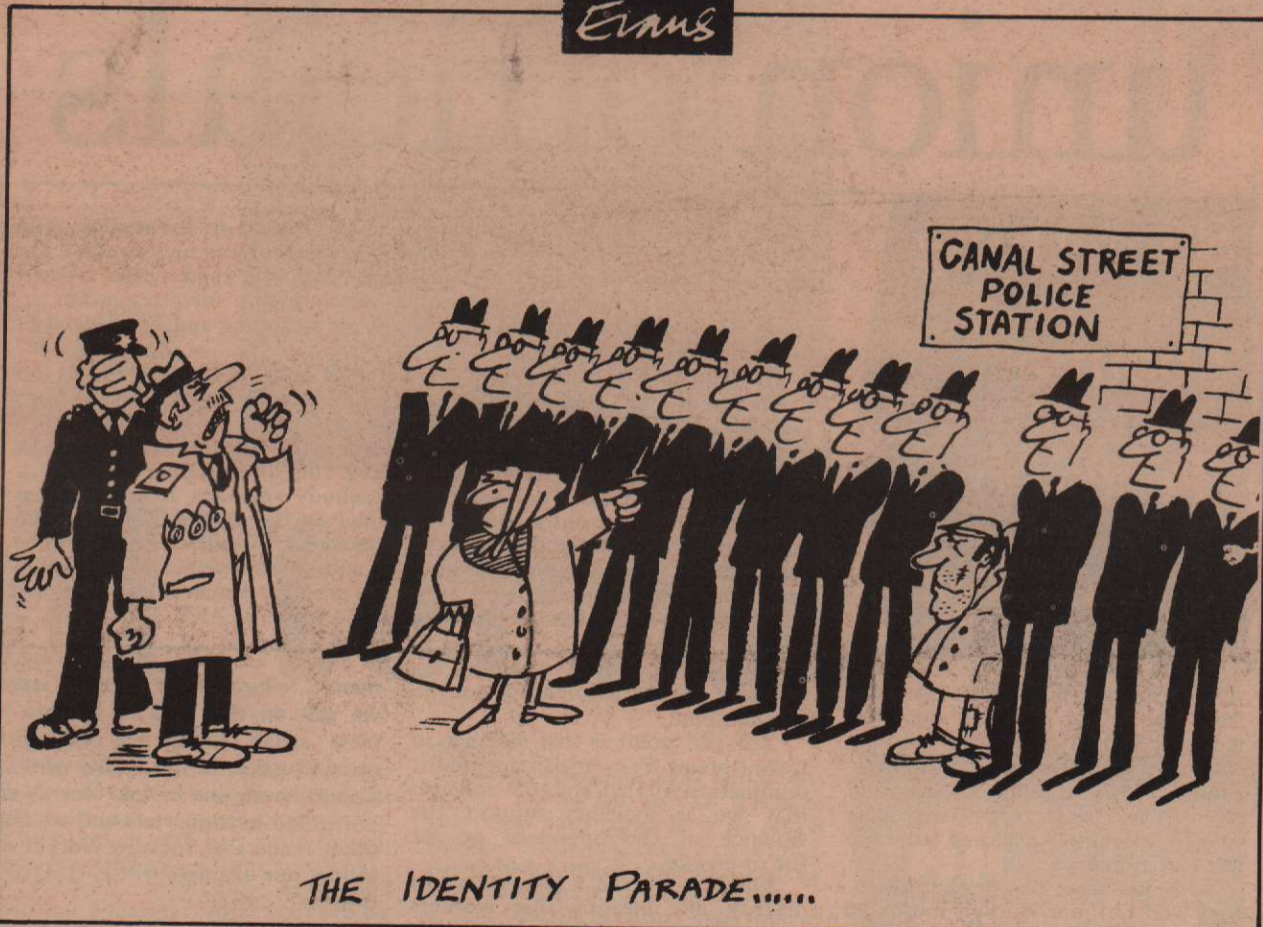
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'THE Chancellor of the Exchequer is intelligent enough to know that if he were designing the downfall of the private enterprise system in our society and the consequent damage to our standard of life, our exports, our services, and innumerable other aspects, it would be right to attribute to him, to be coherent, the motive of intending a political coup.'

'It has been said of every Labour government since 1945 that to them "profit" is a dirty word. If so, I must point out that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had it on his lips several times; and that his taxation arrangements relate closely to the success of that dirty word in industry and in private affairs...'

'Although we are not directly concerned with the stock market, I have no doubt that it will in the end reflect the economic success at which we are aiming and which we are determined to achieve.'

—Harold Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Chief Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister, House of Commons, 1 April 1974.



Shell shock for Angus

NEWS of 'another great strike for Britain' in the North Sea is announced almost every day now, so it's not a bad idea to remember that the only people who benefit from the finds are the oil companies.

My picture shows the last of the auctions in August 1971 in which the North Sea was sold to the oil

companies by the British government. It also shows (for once) the man who sold it.

He is Angus Beckett, CMG, who was head of the Oil Division at the Department of Trade and Industry during all the 'North Sea years', from 1963 to 1972.

Stopped

Almost single-handed, he parcelled up the North Sea and sold the parcels to the oil companies at ludicrously cheap prices, without including any provision for changes in the price according to the amount of oil produced. There were four rounds of auctions of North Sea properties—and here is Angus Beckett presiding over the fourth round.

Beckett resigned from the Ministry in the summer of 1972, and was

hoping to move straight on to the board of Shell. After secret objections, this move was stopped under the rule that civil servants need 'special permission' before they can join the boards of companies with which they deal in the Ministries.

As compensation for this disappointment, Beckett was allowed to join the board of William Press, the heavy engineering company which has been doing very nicely recently out of oil rig contracts.

The rule about 'special permission', however, only runs for two years and Beckett's two years out of the Ministry are nearly over. So everyone expects him to enter into his rightful inheritance any day now—and join the board of Shell.

After all, his decisions at the Ministry helped Shell get their hands on more riches than any other decision in the whole history of the world.

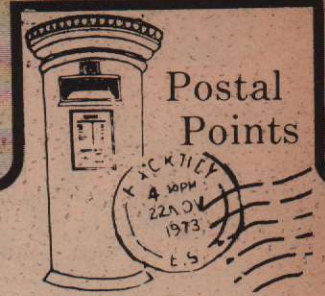


The sale of the North Sea: Angus Beckett (second from right) auctioning the sectors marked on the map.

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LETTERS



Racism or profits the bar to reggae?

ROGER HUDDLE wrote (23 March) that black music like soul and reggae were being kept from the broad mass of black people.

I have only been reading the paper for about a month and I find it excellent, I am not exactly a political genius and a few of your articles are a bit above my head. One thing I do know about is music and to me Roger Huddle is well meaning but completely misinformed.

He says 'Racialism has long halted black music from reaching wider audiences, unless it's someone like Sammy Davis Jr who gets big by leaving behind his roots and becoming a crooner.'

I suppose he puts Stevie Wonder, James Brown, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson in the same class as 'crooners'? They get regular airplay.

The reason why reggae doesn't get played is because it is the music of West Indian people of this country and they are a minority. The music industry is run for profit, like everything else and making a profit means giving them mass appeal by making them easy to listen to. Most people

probably find Reggae totally alien—and so the record company makes no money.

I get extremely angry at the rubbish that is stuffed down our throats in the 'Fun 30'. The groups I like include people from Germany, France and Ireland—and that's even rarer on the radio. Should I accuse the BBC of prejudice?

The only way out of this situation is a broadcasting system which would be based on quality, and not making a fast buck.

Why am I writing this to a political paper? Simply because music is a form of art and therefore culture and no society can remain civilised without culture, whether it is capitalism, socialism, or anything. It will be extremely important in a workers' controlled society that all forms of entertainment are firmly in the hands of the broad mass of the people.

I shall encourage my workmates to buy copies of the paper.—J FEMY, London E11.

BUT YOU DON'T LEAVE, YOU FIGHT WITHIN . . . It is no surprise to me that the Postal Workers union leadership refused any part in the Rank and File conference . . . This 'low key' union consistently refuses to defend the interests of its members and in my opinion is totally unacceptable as a defender of its members rights. Its members should do some hard thinking about being in such a pro-management union.—F HACKETT, Hull.

YOU'RE ON THE SLIDE . . . I've noticed a decline in the political content and seriousness of the paper . . . Headlines like Spoonful Of Sugar, Tories' Pants Are Down and It's The Rich Wot Gets The Gravy aren't particularly relevant to emphasising any particular aspect of socialist politics . . . The pictures are bigger every week and I dread the day when the paper sinks to the intellectual level of the Sun or Daily Mirror. I read, sell, and argue for the politics of it and I don't want it as a picture parade stuffed with useless bits of information . . . A workers' paper doesn't mean the quality of the paper should decline and I hope you aren't attempting to a stop-gap solution of bringing the paper down to what you believe is the working class's 'simple' level of intelligence. I'm a worker and I think it would be an affront to working people's intelligence.—KEVIN NORRIS, Slough.

YOU'RE ON THE SLIDE (PART TWO) . . . The criticism of Labour's desperate attempts to make capitalism work have been more diluted recently . . . The vicious attack on working class living standards in Healey's budget received scant criticism . . . Now (30 March) you say that workers will have to organise to force Labour to honour its pledges of subsidising food prices! This means using workers' taxes to subsidise the profits of an already wealthy few. Is this International Socialist policy? If the paper continues its recent decline it will be impossible to tell it from the Daily Mirror.—CHRIS TARRANT, Stockport.

NO YOU'RE GREAT! . . . I find the paper indispensable for keeping up with what's happening in England. I am particularly happy to see the growth, especially among the working class, of International Socialists. I am glad that Socialist Worker is used as a fighting newspaper to inform other rank-and-file militants about industrial action and to attempt to give a lead to that action . . . The newspaper is too weak in the theoretical side of the class struggle. I would certainly appreciate seeing an expanded newspaper with more emphasis on explanation of materialistic theory or through analysis of contemporary problems as Duncan Hallas' article Why Bigger Means Worse (16 March) . . . This criticism notwithstanding, I think you have a fine newspaper and that International Socialists are moving in the right direction.—BRUCE McLEAN, Munich.

AH, BUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS . . . A paper with the political content of Socialist Worker plus a small section of sport, crosswords, cartoons (political and non-political) chess moves, TV preview, news from the material in Womens Voice . . . news from abroad and serialised stories, both political and non-political . . . more on science, more marxist analysis of current events . . . Socialist Worker is better than the Morning Star in the way that it encourages articles from its readers and because it doesn't have a reformist political line like the Star.—C. WALING

FIGHT SEXISM! . . . If you treat women as objects which exist to satisfy men's needs they begin to see their existence in these terms . . . Workers fail to see that this is false consciousness and women are more prey to this kind of outlook than men . . . One of the major causes of the postal workers' defeat was their failure to get support from the telephonists. During the miners' strike TV and newspapers appealed to wives to urge their husbands back to work so that other women 'wouldn't suffer' . . . Women who feel their sexual oppression has no outlet go to feminism. The International Socialists should take a principled stand, fight this false consciousness, develop Womens Voice and women's coverage within the paper and discuss sexual exploitation, then these women, working and middle class could be drawn into the revolutionary movement.—JOHN VOYCE, Tottenham.

THE FEAR of the Postal Workers Union bureaucracy that their branches would send delegates to the Rank and File conference at the end of March seemed to stem from worry that their power and authority would be challenged.

It seems incredible that workers in this union can be dictated to by selfish and cowardly officials. Are they the same people, assisted by officials from other unions who failed to mobilise, through their stupidity and inactivity, the whole labour movement in support of the postal workers during the 1970 strike?

The lesson here is to achieve democracy within one's own union. Then the members can decide what they want, not what some cowardly union official tells them to do.

The officials' attitude seems to be 'workers holding a conference to unite large sections of the working class, to unite them in a common policy and make real progress against the system—good heavens whatever next!'

Try revolution brothers and sisters.—JOHN WORTH (On behalf of the delegates to the conference from the AUEW Coventry 74 branch).

Pro-imperialists not wanted here

ONE EXPECTS letters in Socialist Worker to reflect various opinions in the labour movement but surely the inclusion of RPH's letter (6 April) goes too far.

A blatantly pro-imperialist letter which pleads the case for our poor lads (who by implication are trying to 'improve the situation out there') should never find its way into Socialist Worker and should, at the

'Whatever next' is the cry of union officials

Something about a Tesco you can trust?

ONE FRIDAY I bought a joint of lamb in Tesco's in Brentwood. The following day I weighed it and found it several ounces underweight. On Monday I rang the weights and measures man who came round straight away. He was sympathetic but said it wasn't a case for prosecution because I had partially opened the cellophane wrapping and I had delayed for three days in reporting it.

He went to Tesco's and gave them a 'going over'. The manager was out to see me in a few minutes. Apologies followed with the offer of the 'best joint in the place' for the following weekend.

So the following weekend I stopped off at the manager's office to take him up on the offer, leaving my trolley full of shopping downstairs.

When I got back I noticed that somebody (perhaps an over-zealous store detective) had put a child's vest I had on the trolley into my hand-bag (which I had left on the trolley). I removed it. Needless to say I will be very careful about anybody acting in a suspicious manner in that store again and won't be intimidated by people who try to cheat us legally and otherwise out of our hard-earned wages.—MAGGIE BLAKE, Brentwood.

very least, have produced a rejoinder from the editor pointing out why it is that RPH's son and his 'pals' are always being asked to improve situations in Britain's colonies and always, for some strange reason, seem to invite nothing but hatred from the local inhabitants.

I too have seen people shot down, they were Catholic workers murdered by the British Army. But comparing

each side's scale of violence is not the central point.

The real point is that violence in Ireland stems from British imperialist domination of that country and also that we as socialists support the violence of the oppressed against the oppressor.

Further, we see it as our job to destroy all illusions that workers have in the institutions of the capitalist state, such as the British Army.

Letters which question or criticise the IRA should of course be printed but only if they are based on a genuine concern for the interests of Irish and British workers. Letters like that of RPH which reflect nothing else but support for the British Army should never appear in the paper.—PADDY PRENDIVILLE, Camden.

May Day action

ON 2 APRIL the Hammersmith Hospital branch of the National Union of Public Employees, with more than 80 members attending passed this motion virtually unanimously. 'This branch welcomes the minor reforms the Labour Party has brought about since coming to power, however we feel it is deplorable that 1. The Shrewsbury prisoners have not been freed, 2. Stage Three has not been abolished, 3. The Clay Cross council have not had their financial penalties for refusing to implement the 'Fair Rents' Act set aside.

In view of the Labour govern-

ment's failure to act on these issues, we call on the TUC to prepare for mass strike action on 1 May to obtain justice for our fellow workers. Copies have gone to Len Murray and our union headquarters and we hope other readers of Socialist Worker will follow our example.—BILL GEDDES, Branch Secretary.

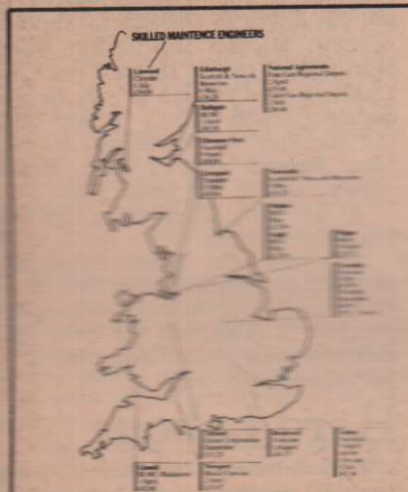
Rich parasites ...on £20 a week

DURING the Election Campaign and before we heard a lot from Labour politicians about '... a massive shift in the distribution of wealth in favour of working people'. Good left wing stuff of course. Mr Healey's budget shows that he means business.

Those wealthy unmarried parasites who earn £1000 a year (almost £20 a week) used to pay £121 a year in income tax. But the rich will not get off so lightly anymore, for the 'Iron Chancellor' is now demanding £124.

It disgusts me that anyone, single or not, should be expected to pay income tax at all on such a pathetic wage.

When a supposedly 'left wing' Labour government actually demands more it provides living proof that we need a real working class socialist party who will set about '... a massive shift in the distribution of wealth . . . in a determined and serious way.—PAUL HUTCHINSON, Committee Member, Marshall Cavendish Chapel of the National Union of Journalists.



PLUTO PRESS unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1

David Beecham is a one-man Pay Board, and Rates for the Job is a one-man Relativities Report

The 16 maps in the pamphlet reveal what every management and most unions try to conceal—the different rates actually paid for standard jobs in different workplaces, and the rates the agreements and. They should prove invaluable to trade unionists involved in arguing for pay claims, with their fellow workers and against employers during the next few months.

Trade unionists can do a great deal to extend the coverage of the next edition, by filling in the short questionnaire at the end of the pamphlet.

Pluto Press

David Beecham's RATES FOR THE JOB, price 20p post included (10 copies for £1 for IS branches) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London W4.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

'SOCIALISM,' writes Antony Crosland, the new Environment Minister, 'is basically about equality.' That sounds reasonable. The odd thing is that the book in which he writes it has had very favourable reviews in a number of capitalist newspapers and magazines.

It is even odder when you know that the book is called *Socialism Now*. Surely our press lords are not in favour of *that*?

We need to look a bit more closely at the word 'equality'. It turns out to mean different things to different people. To Mr Crosland it means mainly 'equality of opportunity'. I am of course only using him as an example. His views are, broadly speaking, the views of the right wing of the Labour movement and therefore of the present government.

Now 'equality of opportunity' manifestly does not exist in Britain today. If you are young, black and live in Brixton your chances of becoming a company director or cabinet minister are decidedly less than if you are young, white and go to Eton. In fact, for

One man's equality

practical purposes, your chances of getting a 'top job' are nil.

For practically all of us, the most important single thing in determining what sort of jobs we get, and what sort of lives we are able to lead, is what our parents did. If your old man was a dustman the odds are you will become a manual worker. If daddy was a stockbroker you are very unlikely to

end up sweeping the streets.

So the 'equality of opportunity' brigade has a real point. Only someone who doesn't know what it is like to be at the bottom of the heap could think that this is not important. But even if equality of opportunity could be won without turning society upside down, that is, without a revolution, most of us would still get the dirty end of the stick.

Equality of opportunity means an equal chance to move up in an unequal society. Napoleon said, or so we are told, that each of his private soldiers carried a field-marshal's baton in his knapsack. Each one could be promoted on merit, without any bar, to the very highest level.

But the difference between the pay, conditions and prospects of a field-marshal and a private were as great in his armies as in most others. And, of course, there are a lot of privates for every marshal.

Nor is there any reason to suppose that throwing the top jobs open to 'talent'—'sweeping the dead-wood out of the board-rooms' as Harold Wilson once put it—would

make for a better society. In the USA in the last century there was a good deal more 'equality of opportunity' than in Britain, at any rate for those with white skins. The 'log cabin to the White House' myth had some foundation in fact.

Andrew Carnegie, for example, was a poor immigrant who became a multi-millionaire steel baron. No employer from a rich background ever exploited immigrant labour more ruthlessly than Carnegie.

John D Rockefeller, who built the Standard Oil Company and became the greatest of all the 'robber barons' of his day, was a poor farmer's son who had to work a ten-hour day at the age of 12. And so on, with any number of examples, including the original Henry Ford.

Equality of opportunity, then, need have nothing whatever to do with socialism. Naturally, socialists fight against privilege and discrimination. But the equality we fight for is very different from Mr Crosland's version.

Duncan Hallas

Black fury at police squad terror tactics



Jim Murray (right): 'We are going to get together with other black workers and trade unionists to defend ourselves against these assaults'



Dervin Simpson (left): The police held drugs charges against him for nine months—then, in court, just dropped the case without proper explanation

A WAVE of fury is building up among the small West Indian community on Teesside about the terror tactics of the local police, especially the Teesside Drug Squad.

Jim Murray, a steelworker in the Cleveland works, who is chairman of the Teesside West Indian Association, says: 'The police want to give every black man in the area a record. We are getting sick and tired of being pushed around.'

'We are going to get together with other black workers and trade unionists to defend ourselves against these assaults.'

Locked

The most recent case which is infuriating West Indians in the area is that of Dervin Simpson. Last July Dervin and his girlfriend were at a night club in Huddersfield, when his girl friend witnessed an affray. The following day, police called at the girl's house and asked her to come down to the station for questioning about the affair. They agreed that Dervin could come along to keep her company.

When they got to the station, Dervin was locked in a separate cell

and searched.

CID officers arrived from Huddersfield, and took a statement from the girl, who was released. Dervin asked if he could go with her, but was told: 'No, the drug squad want you.'

Without informing him, and without a warrant, they searched his house and car, using keys which they had taken off him when searching him. Returning to the station, they told him that they had found cannabis, and that he would be charged.

He was not allowed to get in touch with a lawyer before he was charged.

Twice in the next six months he was remanded on bail. He pleaded not guilty to the drug charge, and asked to be tried at the Crown Court.

On 4 March the case finally came up at Teesside Crown Court. Without any proper explanation, the police dropped the case.

The following Friday, Dervin was walking down the road in Gilkes Street, where he lives, when a police car drew up alongside him with two drug squad officers inside. They shouted at him to come to them, but he broke and ran. The officers soon caught him, took him to the police station, stripped him, held him in custody for some time and finally, when they could find nothing,

released him.

Dervin went straight from the station to see his lawyer. When he got home some time later he found that his house had been broken into. All his bedclothes had been ripped up and the mattress torn into shreds.

The Dervin Simpson case follows a long line of incidents in which, the West Indians in Teesside allege, the local police have beaten and harassed innocent black people.

Ignored

Jim Murray himself says he was beaten up by 12 policemen last year after his car was stopped in the road.

'All the complaints we make have to be given to Superintendent James in Thornaby,' said Jim. 'He is friendly with the police in Middlesbrough. Although he is always very polite, and promises that "this time he'll teach them a lesson", we never get satisfaction from our complaints.'

'They always seem to be ignored or forgotten.'

'The Simpson case is the last straw. Now we have to get together with other black groups and we have to raise the question in the trade unions. If the complaints system's no good, we'll have to find better ways of defending ourselves.'



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Ian H. Birchall

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Report: Rob Clay Pictures: John Sturrock

(REPORT)

Mortgages:

FROM the vantage point of his desirable residence in Lord North Street, Harold Wilson is very worried about mortgage interest rates.

Not, you will be pleased to hear, because he is worried about his own repayments. His concern is because failure to hold down mortgage rates will mean lost votes. The 14 per cent repayment rate dismissed as scaremongering last year is likely any day unless urgent measures are taken.

One thing the commentators, pollsters and political soothsayers are agreed on is that an important reason for the Tories' downfall was their complete failure on the mortgage front.

With this awful warning before his eyes Harold Wilson has set the 'socialist' millionaire Harold Lever to find a solution. But is there a solution that falls short of treating housing, all housing as a social service, completely divorced from the pitfalls of the money market?

On the face of it the solution is comparatively simple. The building societies are non-profit making. They borrow money from investors at one rate and loan it at higher rates to house buyers. The difference goes on administration and the 10 per cent cash reserve legally required to meet withdrawals.

For years this simple transaction worked well. Mortgage holders had the pleasant illusion of home ownership and in recent times their repayments increased at a much slower rate than those paying rent.

Vicious

While house prices remained comparatively stable more and more working-class people went in for home ownership. To buy your very own brick box was a better deal than waiting years on the council list or even longer for a rented house in the rapidly dwindling private sector. The Tories saw a whole new constituency opening up for them in sturdy, proud, house-owning, Tory-voting workers.

Three years ago the bubble burst. Tory policy and international economic problems gave a vicious twist to inflation. Land and house prices took off. In London and the South East house prices doubled, then trebled. Throughout the country, the increases were less spectacular but nevertheless alarming increases took place throughout the country.

The seemingly insoluble problem of raging inflation caused a crisis of confidence in money. People preferred property: works of art, precious gems, gold and,

most desirable of all, land and buildings.

Lack of confidence in money meant interest rates went up—to those who loaned money to building societies too. So mortgage rates went up too.

The Tories attempted to slow this spiral down by a direct subsidy to the building societies of £15 million. The effect was short-lived and repayment rates went up to 11 per cent. Working-class and younger mortgage holders found that they were cutting deeper and deeper into their living standards to pay the mortgage. Those who had scrimped and saved to get the deposit for an overpriced house found the scrimping was to go on indefinitely.

All sorts of solutions have been suggested to short-circuit the effects of inflation.

why

the

roof blew off

Jim Higgins investigates

The building societies would like a two-tier interest rate for those who loan them money, giving, say, 9 per cent for deposits of less than £10,000 and much higher rates for deposits over £10,000.

Although this would undoubtedly bring in more money it would have serious drawbacks. The average rate of interest would be higher, so mortgage rates would have to be increased.

Again the overwhelming number of people who put money in building societies are small savers. The people with £10,000 and more to invest are getting much higher rates of interest elsewhere or in such anti-social activities as commodity speculation. A two-tier rate would do nothing for the small saver—because it would not raise interest rates for them—and would have to compete with the banks and finance houses to win the big investors—so causing pressure for higher and higher interest rates, all of which have to be paid for with higher mortgage repayments.

Saved

The basic fallacy of all the schemes for offering higher interest rates to attract the small saver is that he or she just stops saving in times of rapid inflation. The money just gets spent.

In February this year, for the first time since before the war, the money taken out of National Savings was more than that put in—by £8 million. The same is happening to building societies.

In the past 12 months prices went up by more than 13p in the £1 and wages after tax by between 9p and 10p in the £1. But spending has hardly fallen, for people are spending what otherwise they would have saved—and even savings they have made in the past.

Whatever financial manipulation Harold Lever dreams up, it will be only a matter of time before the hard reality of the money market breaks through and repayment rates increase

again. Today, even if the building societies have more money to lend, the price of houses puts them quite outside the reach of all but the highest-paid workers. Thousands of working-class home owners face the prospect of not being able to pay the higher rates, having their mortgages foreclosed and losing their houses.

Capitalism has once again, and convincingly, proved its inability to provide reasonable housing at reasonable prices.

Housing is far too important

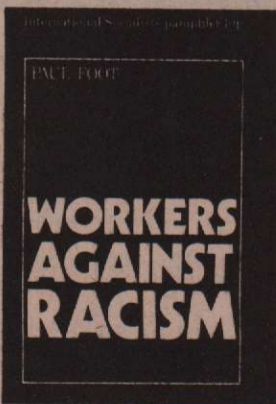
to be left to the profit-traders of capitalism. Labour should stop reassuring the City of London of their dedication to the profit system and remove housing from the world of interest rates and the building societies.

Housing, decent housing, is the absolute right of every worker. It must be a social service integrating privately rented, council and single home ownership. There are enough houses in Britain today to provide every family with their own home.

The demand must be for housing as a social service, regardless of the property magnates and their vested interests.



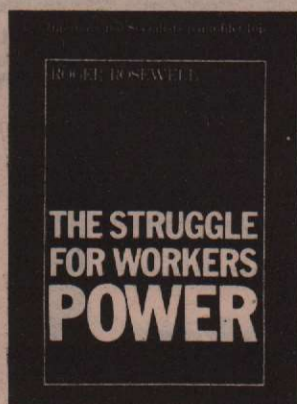
As house prices and mortgage repayments have shot up, most wage and salary earners in the south-east have found themselves priced right out of the market. Here a desirable property goes up for sale but at £30,000 it is a little out of the reach of the average house hunter. The row of turn-of-the-century houses at the top would fetch about £13,000 each.



Roger Rosewell's **THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER** 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.

Paul Foot's **WORKERS AGAINST RACISM** examines and demolishes all the racists' arguments. Today, when socialists need to be ever more prepared to combat the increasing racism that is riding on the Tories' tide of laws against immigrants, it is essential reading for every socialist militant.

10p each, plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



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Tories triumphant as Labour snubs rent rebels

CLAY CROSS DOUBLE-CROSSED

WORKERS at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, who risked their lives and their livelihood in the fight against Tory government have been snubbed by the Labour Party in its first month of office.

The councillors who refused to implement the Tory Housing Finance Act. They saved the council tenants of their town thousands of pounds in unpaid rents. As a result, they were fined £100 by the Tories' Housing Commissioner.

At Party Conference they refused their support. Last week they passed the following resolution:

The conference further agrees that the election of a Labour government will be a disaster for the working class and otherwise removed retrospective powers from councillors who have refused to implement the Housing Finance Act.

The conference accepted the proposal of the National Executive of the Labour Party in the shape of Edward Heath's leadership.

At the conference: 'Clay Cross is a shining example of the special struggle of everybody in Britain, of the working class movement and of the full sympathy and support of the Labour Party and his colleagues (and applause).'

BURDEN

John Wilson, Labour Minister, tells the House of Commons that the fine must be paid. He says there will be no retrospective legislation to repeal the law. He says that the Labour Party will not fight for the money and so that the councillors will not face the burden.

The Labour Party, who have been in government for the past 10 years, are triumphant. In a notable victory they have established their rule over the Labour Party.

John Wilson, Short and other members of the National Executive who have so far respected their party's decisions?

It can be found in a pamphlet, Socialism Now, by John Wilson, now Environment Minister, who first insisted on the Clay Cross surcharge and who paid out of public money.

SPECT

He wrote: 'Even the Labour Party is challenged by the Tories and the Tories, though historically no socialist ever existed, the law has been the law. The weak oblige the strong.' Crosland argues, in his book, that governments must respect the law.

It is not neutral. It is the working class over the last 10 years the opposite. The Luddites' execution of the

by
Paul
Foot

Chartists to the imprisonment and execution of militants and trade unionists all the way down to the Shrewsbury pickets trial in 1973, the story is one of the law being used to protect the people who own property from the people who produce it.

The class which controls property controls the law. 86 per cent of the judges, who are not elected, were educated at public school.

The entire legal profession is drawn almost exclusively from one class.

That class uses its laws for its own purposes. If necessary, as with the recent House of Lords decision on the Immigration Act, it will make law retrospective. In that case, it referred the law back to 'catch' illegal immigrants who came in legally before the Act was passed.

Again, if necessary, the ruling class is prepared retrospectively to ignore surcharges on councillors.

Yes, it happened at Conisbrough in Yorkshire in 1973.

From October 1972, the all-Labour council in that small Yorkshire town defied the Housing Finance Act and refused to raise rents. In January, 1973, the district auditor held a public inquiry into the town's accounts,



Tony Crosland with the law he respects

and found that they were in deficit by £14,470 because of the councillors' action. He announced that the sum would have to be raised by surcharging the councillors.

By this time, however, the fight was going out of the Conisbrough councillors. As one councillor, Tom Bacon, told Socialist Worker: 'We were like trees in the wind.'

On 1 February, a delegation of five councillors who had voted against implementation suddenly left for London on a secret mission. They went to the Department of the Environment where they were locked in dis-

ussion with a 'senior Minister'. Miraculously, when the five councillors returned to Conisbrough, they were all in favour of implementation. Only Tom Bacon, out of 15 councillors, voted to keep the rents down. Equally miraculously, the surcharge was never mentioned again. It was never paid, and was never demanded.

The Tories, in other words, were prepared to sacrifice the rule of law and public funds in order to win a strategic victory over the Conisbrough councillors.

The Tories make laws, reverse laws, ignore laws, make laws retrospective to protect their property and increase it at the expense of the workers.

Labour, on the other hand, respects the law above all other considerations. Its own supporters, its fighters and its martyrs must suffer in the interests of a 'neutral' law which imposed the suffering in the first place.

REPLACE

Labour behaves in this ridiculous way because its leaders hate the idea of class struggle. They imagine that capitalism can be reformed by getting hold of parliamentary office through the ballot box, and then controlling the institutions of society.

Crosland writes in his book: 'There is no substitute for institutions with their bureaucracy, rules, clerks and computers. Of course one must reform or replace them if they become ossified, but one cannot simply abolish them; they are the only instruments of social reform.'

Crosland forgets that the vote which gives him nominal power over these institutions was not granted by the institutions. It

had to be fought for by workers in struggle against their self-appointed masters. Because men like Crosland for the past 70 years have told their supporters not to fight, not to strike, not to organise themselves in struggle against elected governments, the institutions of which he speaks have reinforced their class power in spite of the vote.

The civil service, the law courts, the army, the police, the press—none of these institutions can possibly be described as 'instruments of social reform'. On the contrary. They are instruments of class power.

REFORM

Crosland likes to imagine that capitalist society can be checked and changed by well-educated Labour Ministers giving orders to well-educated civil servants and laying down laws to be carried out by well-educated judges.

So he and those who think like him have to order their supporters to obey those judges and those civil servants. Any revolt against the law or the civil servants has to be suppressed.

As each revolt is suppressed, so the class power of the institutions grows greater until it snuffs out the Labour politicians themselves.

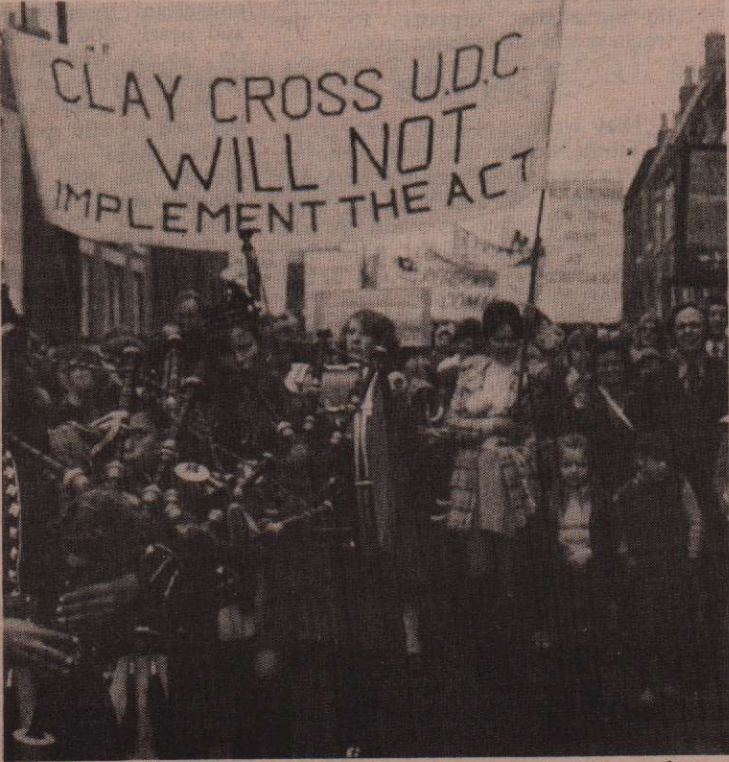
In the interests of gradual, legal, constitutional reform, Crosland and his henchmen are digging graves for reform and for themselves.

The institutions are not instruments of reform at all. They are the opposite. The only instrument of reform is to be found in the mass of working people: in their ability to organise themselves against a society which robs them.

That is why every suppression of working-class organisation against the laws which are designed to oppress them is a disaster.

The stand of the 11 councillors at Clay Cross represented the last embers of organised resistance to capitalism within the British Labour Party.

The embers have now been doused—by the Labour leaders. We must build a new fire with entirely different fuel.



Clay Cross tenants march against the rent rises during the confrontation with the Tories a year ago.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Social Security for Strikers

a Socialist Worker pamphlet

Abortion - a right

THREE FAT VOLUMES of the Lane Committee's findings on abortion in Britain became public last week.

The committee has spent a long three years studying information from many people and groups including the medical profession, groups opposed to the Abortion Act—especially the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child—and from members of the women's liberation

by Barbara Kerr

movement campaign for 'abortion on demand'.

The results do not give much support for either SPUC or women's liberation, but conclude that the Act has 'mainly worked well'. Because the loudest opponent has been SPUC the report

spends time defending the Act against allegations that in some cases it has been stretched almost to the point of 'abortion on demand'.

This has not happened—but in some cases doctors have been stretching the Act in response to genuine changes in the social climate.

Until this century, abortion was considered manslaughter, so at first glance women seem to have achieved quite a lot to have got an Abortion Act at all.

But women's rights are still not being considered as much as they should. The Lane Committee, like many other pro-Abortion Act groups, says nothing about the need of ordinary women to have control over their own bodies, to have the babies they want to have, to live a full life and not to be tired out by too many kids.

We hear talk of *overpopulation*, controlling family size for the sake of world resources, not for the benefit of women.

We hear—and agree—that it is better not to have a child than to have an unwanted one, and that children should not be condemned to poverty and bad housing.

Power

But why are people condemned to living like that? We must campaign for an end to poverty and bad housing, as well as abortion and contraception on demand. We must care about the lives of women as well as their children, for children will grow up.

Women have no legal right to an abortion. It is men who decide—upper-class men in the legal profession who make the laws, priests living in celibacy who impose religious laws and doctors who are mainly men.

None of them has the vaguest understanding of the problems faced by ordinary women in the day-to-day struggle to keep the family going. If the decision on abortion was taken by women, it would no longer be true that one in four of all babies born are unplanned and unwanted.

The Lane Committee does propose that the National Health Service must act more quickly and methods must be brought up to date. It is common to hear that an abortion has been agreed to, but the woman has been kept waiting so long that it is either too late or the operation is much more unpleasant than necessary.

The committee also suggests outpatient units using the vacuum suction method—quick, easy and cheap—to ease congestion of gynaecological wards. Many nursing staff resent beds being used by women for abortions when there is a long waiting list of women for other important operations.

Decent

Another suggestion is to train GPs to perform vacuum suction abortions to break the 'monopoly' of gynaecologists. There are only 555 consultant gynaecologists in Britain and nearly 200 are against abortion on 'social' grounds. That doesn't leave many to go round.

Many of these proposals will be opposed by the gynaecologists, who in fact hold the power to change things. The Act states that every abortion must be signed by a gynaecologist.

They can make as much as £200,000 a year out of legal private abortions as well as their NHS work. It suits them that the health service is slow and turns down many desperate women.

It's difficult to see how any 'proposals', however sensible, can improve the Act while the power lies in the hands of the men who can make a fortune out of keeping things as they are. The only possible improvement is a new Act giving women abortion on demand, to bring an end to moneyed, medical males taking non-medical decisions about women's lives.

It's a good guide to the type of society we live in that people become hysterical about the rights of unborn children, but at the same time condemn thousands of men and women to live depressing and degrading lives.



Unwanted baby found abandoned

Parents
plus
teachers
equals
action!

'WHY SHOULD a child from Richmond stand nine times more chance of going to university than a child from Newham, Stepney, Hackney or Islington?'

This is the last sentence of an angry letter from parents at one London school, protesting about the deteriorating situation in Inner London as children are affected by the teacher shortage and educational cut-backs.

Princess May infant school in Hackney, East London, is an old overcrowded building. It looks more like a workhouse than a school.

As one mother said, 'We are still



Some of the children of Princess May School. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

BY CELIA DEACON

in Charles Dickens' days'.

Mrs Ann Spike, one of the leaders of the parents' protest, says: 'We don't live in the class where we've got the push and the money—I've got to work in the evenings and my husband works all day to try to do our best for our children but if we lived in a different area and had the money we can get our children better educated.'

'The people who run this country forget about us. They think more of people who can pay for education they don't miss it because they get it back off the taxes.'

'Working-class children get a bad deal. For instance when we send our child to school he has to stand in the rain or snow and there is no proper place to shelter. Other schools have lovely fields for games, they can go out anywhere, they've got 16 in a class.'

'The teachers do their best for them but they're not getting the chance. Once you live in a working class area you're just supposed to get on with what you've got to do and to hell with your children. The teachers, who try to do all they can, should be more appreciated. They

have had enough. That is why they are leaving the school.'

With the growing teacher shortage in Inner London, classes at Princess May have had to be doubled up when teachers are absent. Special help and attention for individual children have suffered as a result.

The parents blame not the teachers but the education authority and the government.

As one mother put it: 'If they gave the teachers more money we'd probably have a better school and more teachers.'

Last November teachers refused to paper over the cracks any longer and, backed by their union refused to cover the absent teachers. Children began to be sent home and parents realised something was wrong.

The parents wanted to do something and came to see the school union representative. When the problems of staff shortage, the struggle of teachers for a realistic living wage and London allowance was explained to them their response was enthusiastic—immediate support for the teachers and immediate action.

Decide

They wrote a petition and a group of mothers gave up their time to take to every child's house, demanding better pay and working conditions for teachers as a step towards a decent education for kids. 311 parents signed it—there are fewer than 350 children at the school.

The petition was sent to Reg Prentice, Minister of Education, and to the local education authority. An evening meeting was called at the school and a creche provided.

Seventy enthusiastic parents attended and an action committee was formed, which has sent out petitions all over Hackney.

Women take them out shopping, mothers and fathers take them in to work. Support from parents and teachers at other primary schools is growing.

One immediate result in Princess May school has been to break down some of the barriers between parents and teachers. As Ann Spike puts it: 'Now we know for certain that we are on the same side, we can fight—and win—the same battles.'

Wife and husband against the law

by Gary Bates and Graham Black

HASH looks a little older and a little wiser these days. Penny looks relieved, and it's good to see them after all their troubles. Hash and Penny are one of many couples—English wife and foreign husband—who have found difficulty reuniting in Britain under the present Immigration Law.

Hashim Zein has been in this country since 1965. First he did 'O' and 'A' levels at Loughborough Tech, then he was unable to go to university without a grant. But he found mates in Loughborough while working as a meter reader, foundry worker, and building worker, and at the local.

Because of a death in the family in 1973 he had to return to Tanzania, but when he tried to return to England that same year he found himself blocked, first by red tape, then by Home Secretary Roy Jenkins. While he and his wife waited in Copenhagen, The Observer came to his rescue and featured him on the front page.

This helped him and Penny work up the courage to enter the country, but the story does not end there. They were met at Heathrow by officials who herded them into detention, where there was a concerted effort to wear them down and make them feel they would have been better off not applying for entry. Hash still bears the marks of the strain this caused him.

But thanks again to the big guns of The Observer photographers and reporters, who had their eye on Hash and Penny, and who somehow managed to soften the heart of the Home Office, Hash is now in the country on probation for a year. His application to stay longer than that will be subject to his behaving himself in every conceivable way. Yet even that is perhaps a better deal than received by others waiting at Heathrow, particularly Indians and Pakistanis, who do not have the benefit of Hash's resources and who are not even allowed a foot in England.

In 1960 the council tenants in St Pancras, London, fought against a rent scheme which contained many of the elements which have now been incorporated in the Housing Finance Act. The story of that fight is told in this pamphlet by Dave Burn, with an introduction by Hugh Kerr of the Harlow Tenants Federation.

Rent Strike: St Pancras 1960

Dave Burn
15p plus 3p postage.



Unit 10 Spencer Court
7 Chalcot Road
London NW1 8LH

IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road,
Finsbury Park, London N4

PREVIEW

*Times not known at press time.

SATURDAY: ITV, 9.30pm. Granada TV have long made a speciality of the northern clubs. This started off with a documentary on club comedians, immediately followed by a series, *The Comedians*, which was occasionally funny and usually racist. This was followed by another series which was racist. Attempting to tart up the idea they've now gone to the extent of starting **WHELTAPPERS AND SHUNTERS CLUB**. This 'is an authentic reconstruction at the Granada TV Centre in Manchester of a typical Northcountry workingmen's club... actresses playing waitresses serve real beer.' It is difficult to get imitation beer to act (though Watneys have been trying for years). Whether watching an imitation club on a genuine television is going to be a great experience is open to question.

SUNDAY: BBC-1, 10.15pm. Omnibus is **THE INVASION OF SPACE—NOVGOROD FATHER OF RUSSIA**, on the art, architecture and history of that city.

MONDAY: BBC-1. The third Beatles film, the cartoon **YELLOW SUBMARINE** is on at 7.40pm.

TUESDAY: BBC-1. The Tuesday Documentary is **A ROTHSCHILD AND HIS RED GOLD**,* a good chance to see what we're up against. It looks at Baron Phillippe De Rothschild, member of one of the richest families on earth, and his three-country lifestyle. Another equally ugly face of capitalism comes from **THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE**, ITV, 10.30pm. This is a three part series on that country, the first episode, **THE ROAD TO KAMAGASAKI** looks at the structure of Japanese society—Kamagasaki being the suburb of Osaka 'that is the refuge for drop-outs, criminals and untouchables'—the people who have had the other side of the 'miracle'.

WEDNESDAY, BBC-2, 9pm (check with daily paper). The third episode of *Shoulder to Shoulder*, on the suffragette movement deals with **LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON**. In sympathy with the movement she was unwilling to commit herself until her arrest on a House of Commons demonstration. The treatment she got as a 'lady' was markedly different to the treatment she received when she was arrested as a working woman. Of course it's all different now. Isn't it? **HEADS THEY WIN, TAILS YOU LOSE*** in the *Man Alive* series, is on planning disputes, particularly the oil boom and its effect on Scotland and the new runway at Edinburgh.

FRIDAY BBC-1, *The Fall of Eagles* episode this week should be very good, **ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS** it's called, written by the excellent marxist playwright Trevor Griffiths it deals with the political development of the Bolshevik Party and is centred around Lenin, also featuring a bloke called Trotsky...

TV Suffragettes

THE SUFFRAGETTES were the strongest women's movement that Britain has ever known and at last television is having a series on it. It's worth watching.

The first episode last week, was on the personal and family lives of the Pankhursts and how they emerged as leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union. From bitter experience they had learned that unless women stand up for themselves and fight, no one else will.

This realisation is slowly emerging again amongst working class women as we gradually come together to fight for our rights in the home and the workplace.

It is important that we learn about their movement, not just out of historical interest but because we can learn by their mistakes (of which there were many) and gain inspiration for our own struggles.

The BBC sees the struggle ending in 1914. A large section of the movement saw the objective as achieving the vote under the existing system and were prepared to forgo this once the system was threatened by war in 1914. It was only those like Sylvia Pankhurst who realised that the fight for women's rights could not be separated from the struggle of the working class for socialism, who continued to fight for this both during and after the war.

It is these women that we have the most to learn from.

The movement socialists are trying to build at the present time must learn from their struggle, for we have many more struggles in front of us if we are to achieve the real emancipation of working men and women. Watch these programmes—and why not meet with a group of comrades as a good starting point for a political discussion?

MICHELE RYAN



Mr Big, representing the Ford Motor Corporation, at work...

Photo: Nobby Clarke

Ford and Mr Big

THE MOTOR SHOW has just finished at a gaunt Dagenham council hall. No, it doesn't mean that the car industry is on hard times...

It is a play about the Ford empire produced by a group called the Community Theatre. It covers the corporation's origins, and bloody battle to unionise the plant, life on the line and the battles at Dagenham.

There's been no doubt about its reception. Thunderous applause from car workers and their families—and return visits from some.

Why did the Community Theatre start? Let them explain. 'At present theatre is restricted to two per cent of the population, has become the preserve of an intellectual or financial elite and has largely been irrelevant to the broad mass of the community. We are a group of professional theatre workers who have come together collectively to create theatre which will take its stimulus directly from and feed directly back into the community.'

The group's experience ranges right the way from Guinness commercials to a socialist pantomime which toured Cardiff, Newbridge and Mardy last Christmas. They have learnt their trades in the 'official' theatre and its equally middle-class experimental variants.



Steve Gooch, the Motor Show's co-author says. 'We know that its possible to get quite extreme stuff on in the fringe theatre. But it's a complete waste of effort because it still goes to the wrong people. We want a different, working class audience and a new working situation. We want to set up permanently in an outer London borough and take on and tackle a whole new series of problems. There is a whole hidden area of culture inside every working class person which simply doesn't get expression at the moment.'

Tommy Osmond an AUEW steward at the



Dagenham plant took up the story. 'When we heard that actors were rehearsing a play about Fords, we were a bit sceptical at first and didn't really know what to expect. But once we met them we could see at once that they were very sincere people. Quite a few of the lads used to pop in at lunchtime and help out and offer suggestions. In fact some of the actors were smuggled into the plant for a couple of hours so they could see first hand what the line is really like.'

Osmond was impressed with the section of the play that deals with the battle to organise the fiercely anti-union company and says 'It's not overdone. I could personally vouch for the accuracy. I did my first job at Fords as a boy aged 15. I can remember clearly that in those days you only had to show your union ticket and you were out.'

'I still don't think that the majority of today's Ford workers quite realise what we're up against. Because, let's face it, Ford hasn't altered his methods. He's just had to get a bit more subtle about things'.

Osmond is proud to have helped with the production. 'The actors have done a really good job dramatising the issues. I only wish we had had something like this on Shrewsbury which would really bring across what is at stake. I actually feel a bit ashamed that we didn't sell more tickets because this hall should have been overflowing every night by rights.'

'It's particularly good to bring your family along to. To be perfectly honest a lot of wives don't really see what the union is all about. It's not their fault because by the time you've got home, you're often too tired out to really explain it all. But this play really explains things.'

Consuming the night away

AMERICAN GRAFFITI (general release) is a film about one night in the life of a group of teenagers in a small Californian town in 1962. Nostalgia is popular in the cinema at the moment whether it be the good old days of the Mafia (*The Godfather*), wartime America (*Summer of '42*), Korean War America (*The Last Picture Show*), depression America (*Paper Moon*), or pre-Beatles England (*That'll Be The Day*).



It is this last film which is closest to *American Graffiti*. Both deal with teenagers and rock n' roll. The music is seen as the thread which holds the kids' lives together.

Nothing too much happens in *American Graffiti*. A fight, a dance, a burn-up in hotrods, a couple of broken love affairs.

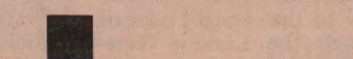
In the mid-1970s with political scandal, economic crisis and military coups the days of the late 1950s and early 1960s have achieved a glamour which they never had at the time. America in particular was a country which was just going to go on getting richer, smugger and glossier.

'It was peaceful then,' says middle class nostalgia, lying as usual, 'let's all rush back to 1962 and pretend there never was a Watergate, a Vietnam, or even the Beatles.'

So what was there? In the film Chevrolets cruise endlessly up and down Main Street, bathed in neon lights, consuming petrol, with their occupants stopping periodically to consume at Mel's Burger City, the drive-in cafe. On the car radios Wolfman Jack, the local disc jockey bangs out rock music.

It is a white, middle class world. There are no blacks, no

poor. The working class make a 'guest appearance' as three trainee Hells Angels robbing pin ball machines.



It isn't a bad picture of what it was supposed to be like. (Although the music is all wrong.) It is the fantasy that the characters in the English equivalent film, *That'll Be The Day*, were hankering after. It reveals enough of the reality to help explain why the United States and the other 'advanced countries' have been tearing themselves apart ever since.

At the end of the film we are given a postscript of what happens to the heroes of the film. What happened to the heroines?

They must have just got married I suppose...

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

One man's wife who used to moan about union work saw the play and spent all night trying to persuade him to go on strike'.

The play's central character is Mr Big, a thinly disguised Henry Ford, a bloated, cigar toting monster with a mind like a cash register and eyes which see balance sheets where people stand. He doesn't want trade unions interfering with his freedom. He juggles and jumbles his workforce as the market requires, opening and closing his factories as his accountants advise. His company is a law unto itself, beyond the control of any government.

Standing against him are the men and women who make his millions but are even barred entry to the financial casino where the proceeds are parcelled out.



An American trade union organiser trying to sign up workers argues: 'We're supposed to be free but we ain't strong. They can come into our homes, pick us off one by one and tell us how to run out lives. If we band together though we're as strong as they are'.

The unemployed hunger marchers who went to ask for work outside the Crimson Creek, Michigan, plant in 1932, where four men were shot dead by the city police and the company's own private army.

The young Walter Reuther systematically beaten up for distributing recruiting leaflets for the United Auto Works. 'Seven times they raised me off the concrete and threw me down on it. They pinned my arms and shot short jabs into my face. Then they kicked me down a flight of iron stairs until I found myself on the ground where I was beaten and kicked'.

The wartime women workers who actually got official unionisation during the war.

Johnny McLoughlin, leader of the shopfloor in Briggs Body Plant pilloried by the press, fired by Fords and dumped by the AUEW Executive in 1957.

The 17 victimised shop stewards in the 1962 lockout when hundreds of men were left outside the gate at Dagenham and those who went back had to sign a grovelling 'Good Behaviour' pledge.



It swells your heart to see that such a monstrosity as the Ford empire has given birth to such magnificence in those who fought it.

It's hard to write simply but Steve Gooch and Paul Thompson have pieced together a series of scenes and songs that sting home their complex analysis of international finance.

It's hard to develop a style of acting which can go from slapstick to pathos and from boxing rings to bar rooms without simply becoming a socialist music hall. But Community Theatre's work with each other and with carworkers themselves has developed a clear acting style which explains rather than dazzles.

The whole production (marred only by a flabby and uncertain final scene) is a deeply political attack on the real thieves in the factory, not the worker who 'borrows' the odd spare part from the factory but the bastards that built the place and steal human labour power every day.

● *The Motor Show* has just started a two week run at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, London E1. (Aldgate Tube Station). This finishes on 28 April and Community Theatre are particularly keen to get a socialist and trade union audience along. Their aim is to set up a permanent base in Barking but they do have an abbreviated version of the show and if carworkers outside London are interested they should contact Roland Rees, 2 Nugent Terrace, N.W.C. tel 01-286 7662.

THE UNIONS



A miners' strike picket: the Labour government's document commends the restriction of pickets to six — a sign of things to come?

Crisis on the agenda for NUT

by Leni Solinger (NUT)

THE National Union of Teachers conference this year, which starts on Saturday, comes at the end of a year of constant crisis in the education system.

There has been a serious staffing shortage in London and other big cities, and a further massive cutback of £180 million in the education budget.

On top of this, there has been a sell-out over salaries, giving teachers a rise within the bounds of Phase Three.

This will do nothing to stop teachers leaving their jobs and looking elsewhere for better-paid work.

One of the most important decisions will come at the beginning of the conference. Several union branches have sent in emergency resolutions calling for an interim wage award of £500 by 1 October to tide us over until our next full negotiations in April.

Abolition

There is a great deal of support for this throughout the country because teachers, like other workers, see their standard of living being cut to pieces by inflation.

Another important fight will take place over the future salary policy of the union. The motion which received the top vote in the country for attention at the conference was put forward by supporters of the militant teachers' paper Rank and File.

This calls for the narrowing of salary differentials—salaries now range from £1450 to £6450—and for their eventual abolition.

This approach is in complete opposition to present union policy.

The union executive got off the mark quickly to prevent the motion being discussed. They issued a memorandum, and an executive memorandum takes precedence over all motions, no matter how high the vote.

In all, the executive have produced four memoranda for this conference. They rely on this tactic increasingly as the strength of Rank and File grows.

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: 'Worked' work or 'No deal' job.

For all workers' struggles. We seek to build militant groups within industry. Against racism and police repression of black workers.

Against immigration restrictions.

For the right of coloured people and oppressed groups to govern their own affairs.

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 no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

Danger vote over pickets

THE Labour government's draft legislation to repeal and replace the Industrial Relations Act is carefully designed to restrict the chances of conceding the right to picket.

The document says the right of peaceful picketing will be restored as in the 1906 Trades Disputes Act, though the picketing of houses is excluded, as it was in the Industrial Relations Act.

The draft also concedes that pickets should be able to stop lorries and other vehicles in order to inform the driver about the dispute.

But it also includes one important reservation. The Secretary for Employment is to have the power to make regulations 'governing the manner and circumstances' in which the right to picket peacefully is exercised.

This may sound harmless. But in fact it is very serious indeed. It gives a government minister power to intervene in any picketing situation and declare this or that aspect of it 'illegal'.

Stamp of militancy

CONDITIONS of work, pensions, holidays and leave will soon be set at the low minimum of the Post Office Engineering Union. In the resolution passed only a few weeks ago, the union demanded a 10 per cent increase in wages, although the London Telecommunications Power Branch is calling for a £10 across-the-board pay increase for all members.

This reaffirms previous conference policy for flat equal cash benefits for all members regardless of grade, a policy that has been opposed and virtually ignored by the executive committee.

The POEU—and in particular its leadership—has never been noted for militancy and that the branch resolutions were written before the election is explanation enough for the shortage of wage resolutions. Most members seem to have become reconciled to the fact that their leadership would operate within Phase Three limits.

Nevertheless the claims concerning pension improvements, longer holidays, based on length of service

A footnote to the section on picketing makes it clear that the Labour government wants all trade unionists to fight employers with the maximum possible 'restraint' and in accord with laws drawn up over the years on behalf of the employers. The document specifically commends the National Union of Mineworkers' 1974 picketing tactics when pickets were restricted to a maximum of six, the document notes with joy, and 'potentially disruptive elements from outside the industry' were 'rejected and dismissed from the scene.'

Rotting

The most serious aspect of the situation is that the Labour government's civil liberty rhetoric is being swallowed whole by the TUC. They have welcomed Michael Foot's scheme without reservation declining to raise in any way the issue of the jailed Shrewsbury pickets, whom Michael Foot, Roy Jenkins and others intend to leave rotting in jail.

Undercover

The Met North Internal Branch demands that no new equipment be installed until there are sufficient trained staff available to cope, a reaction against the Post Office policy of piling more and more sophisticated equipment on already overloaded staff in the hope of achieving an undercover increase in productivity.

In resolutions and subsistence, travelling, holidays and promotion there is a strong drive for equality of treatment regardless of grade. This represents a substantial advance in an industry historically obsessed with status.



BOOKSHOPS

This week, on black politics, Two pamphlets by Vince Hines: **BRITAIN, THE BLACK MAN AND THE FUTURE**—looks at the problems faced by black men and women at work and in the unions, at housing problems, and especially at black relations with the police. There is a good section on the Mangrove Nine Trial of 1971, 20p.

BLACK YOUTH AND THE SURVIVAL GAME IN BRITAIN—looks at black kids' experience in the home and at school, as young workers, and in the remand centre, borstal and prison. Also has its own 'Prison Letters', 30p.

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.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, BICENTENNIAL GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.



Socialist Worker: The debate on our future

THE larger part of the IS National Committee meeting last Saturday was taken up with a long discussion on the content, readership and future of Socialist Worker.

Tony Cliff moved a document entitled Making Socialist Worker into a Workers' Paper.

The document called for a closer relationship between the paper and its worker-readers. It gave the results of a readership survey which showed that the paper has not developed a mass sale in factories and at places of work. It argued that the content and style of the paper made too many assumptions about the political understanding of the paper's new and potential readership.

It called for an increase in short, political articles; an improvement in trade union coverage and international coverage and an increase in the paper's staff to allow greater freedom from deadlines and some communication between the journalists and the worker-readers.

Cliff said that the paper was selling mainly to young workers with little experience. What we have to do is to raise the level of their consciousness. The paper at present was making too many assumptions

about what workers knew.

It assumed, for instance that all the readers were opposed to Zionism. In fact, the arguments against Zionism had to be spelt out in simple terms. 'The more complicated the argument' the more simple the article should be', said Cliff.

Advanced

Roger Protz then moved a resolution whose four main proposals were:

1. The paper's future growth 'must keep in step with the political growth of IS'.

2. The main orientation of the paper must be towards the more politically advanced sections of the workers.

3. In general, 'the current style and content of the paper is correct', though 'improvements were necessary'.

4. That the paper be kept fully informed of the programmes and perspectives of IS industrial work.

Roger said that his resolution was not a call for the status quo. The paper had changed greatly in the past year. But the present balance must not be changed drastically.

Producing Cliff's kind of paper would cause a reaction from advanced workers against it, if they felt it was talking down to them. If they are the people who have to sell it, they must believe in it.

He then asked for a 'definite decision' to be made 'one way or the other' by the National Committee.

Chris Harman said that Cliff's document did not want a dilution of the paper's politics. 'We have argued that the traditional organisations are being denuded of activists. New activists are being thrown up. We have to make Socialist Worker their weapon.'

Duncan Hallas said that the balance of the paper was by and large correct. Cliff's document was not specific enough in its recommendations.

Resistance

Chris Davison agreed that the paper at present made far too many assumptions about political questions—about 'law and order', for example. There was, he thought, a resistance to change in the paper.

John Palmer said that Cliff was seeking a journalistic solution to a political problem. He said that the executive didn't take enough interest in the week-to-week political analysis in the paper.

Paul Foot, who had signed Cliff's document, said that the paper had changed considerably for the better after a new executive had been elected last summer, and had started to criticise the editorial board. The criticisms had all led the paper in the right direction. Yet now there was a 'refusal to budge' any more in the same direction. The paper was still far too dependant on random sales and the improvements in the document was vital if the paper was not to stagnate.

Peter Bain said that the figures in the document didn't really tell us anything about the paper's audience. The document was 'a series of good ideas', but didn't do any more than the existing paper to cope with the main problems in the Labour movement—wage restraint and the Labour government. We had to 'gear up the militants to deal with this problem' and he favoured the approach of the Protz resolution.

Articles

Roger Cox said that selling the paper didn't provoke an argument as it used to. He had found great difficulty in getting a lad who writes regularly in the Carworker to feel he can contribute to Socialist Worker. Not getting articles written by workers printed is, he said, extremely dangerous.

Ron Murphy said he was supporting the resolution and opposing the document. Socialist Worker, he found, sold well in his factory and it would be a great pity to change the existing balance.

After summing up speeches, the vote was recorded.

Roger Protz's Resolution: FOR 12 AGAINST: 26

Tony Cliff's Document: FOR: 26. AGAINST: 8. Abstentions 4.

MID-HERTS IS public meeting: Why we have no illusions in Labour. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 25 April, 8pm, The Beehive, off London Road, St Albans. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: Women and the trade unions. Speaker: Carol Bourne. Thursday 11 April, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road, Twickenham.

IS AFRICA Half-day School: Saturday 20 April, Keskiee Centre, Gifford Street, Islington, London N1 (near Pentonville Prison), 1pm: Africans in Britain, followed by discussion groups. 4pm: all-black cast play Body and Soul. Afro-Caribbean food and creche. Buses 14, 17, 168, 259 and 221. Tube: Kings Cross and Caledonian Road. For more details phone Martha at 01-348 9508.

CROYDON IS social and dance: Saturday 20 April, 8pm-midnight, The Wiltton Arms, Thornton Heath High Street, followed by party at 137 Brigstock Road. Tickets 30p. All proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

BIRMINGHAM IS social: Saturday 20 April, 8-11pm, The Mermaid, Stratford Road. Songs by Alex Glasgow, and other entertainment. For tickets (50p) and further details, phone 021-444 5692.

BUILDING WORKER: latest issue now out. Articles on Shrewsbury, property sharks, electricians, UCATT conference, the fight ahead. 3p plus 3p postage from Building Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS BUILDING WORKERS' School in Manchester: Saturday 20 April, 11.30am, AUEW Hall, The Crescent, Salford. Sessions to be introduced by Laurie Flynn, Greg Douglas (CEU militant) and Terry Horan (Edinburgh building workers' convenor).

MAIDSTONE IS public meeting: Can socialism come through parliament? Speaker: Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Friday 19 April, 8pm. Room 2, Old Palace, Bishops Way, Maidstone. All welcome.

ROCHDALE IS public meeting: To hell with the Social Contract. Speaker: Frank Logan (Manchester district IS political committee). Thursday 18 April, 8pm, Brunswick Hotel, Baillie Street.

ASTON (INTEX), OLDHAM and HYDE IS public meeting: Free the Shrewsbury Six—Defend the right to picket. Speaker: John Llywarch (one of the Shrewsbury defendants). Sunday 21 April, 8pm, The Highland Lad, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

BRITISH LEYLAND IS public meeting. Speaker: Joe France (American IS—Detroit carworker). Friday 26 April, 8pm, Birmingham IS Books, near Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

THE IS Anti-race sub-committee will meet on Saturday 27 April, 10am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Would IS branch secretaries please send delegates and written reports.

MANCHESTER IS district conference: District perspectives. Sunday 28 April, 2.30pm. Same venue as previous conference. All members to attend. Creche provided.

Rank and file 'bamboozled'

HARLOW:—More than 70 people turned out last Thursday to hear Paul Foot speak on The Need for a Workers' Paper. Paul spoke about the links between the press barons of Fleet Street and the way the Labour Party and the TUC had buried their own mass-circulation newspapers, the Daily Herald and Reynolds News.

During a lively discussion, Francis Day (NUT) called for more international coverage in Socialist Worker. He said international matters should not be presented in the paper as 'foreign affairs', but should be an integral part of the paper, linking workers' struggles abroad with struggles here.

John Kerr, Engineers' Union shop steward at the Harlow Group of Hospitals, spoke about the role of trade union officials. He said that the rank and file workers in his hospital had just flung out a bonus and productivity scheme negotiated over their heads by union officials. More often than not, he said, the rank and file would have been bamboozled into accepting such a scheme although it was against their interests.

Six join IS

BURTON-ON-TRENT, Staffs:—A successful meeting was held last Sunday at which Roger Kline, from the IS executive, and IS members in Chrysler (Coventry) and British Leyland spoke on the Labour Party and the need for a socialist alternative. Six of the nine non-IS members joined IS, and a branch is expected to be formed in Burton shortly.

COMING SOON: The Politics of Lenin. A new pamphlet which besides introducing the new reader to Lenin's life also covers several aspects of his political life—the arguments on democratic centralism, the state, imperialism, the trade unions and more. Available soon, price 20p, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

LUTTE OUVRIERE fete: Festival for revolutionaries near Paris. Stalls, music, theatre, film, etc. in revolutionary socialist setting. Saturday-Monday 1-3 June. Discounts for IS members and Socialist Worker readers. Write now for details to Box F, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

IS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS. IS members in several major unions and industries are planning schools in the coming months. Watch this column for details.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: The tasks of the rank and file movement. Speaker: Roger Cox (Organising Secretary, rank and file conference). Wednesday 17 April, 8pm, Foresters Arms, Mitcham Rd, London SW17.

NORTH WEST LONDON IS public meeting: The ugly face of capitalism—Can Labour change it? Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), John Worth (AUEW, Chrysler, Coventry). Thursday 25 April, 8pm, Concert Hall, Anson Hall, Chichele Road, NW2.

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.

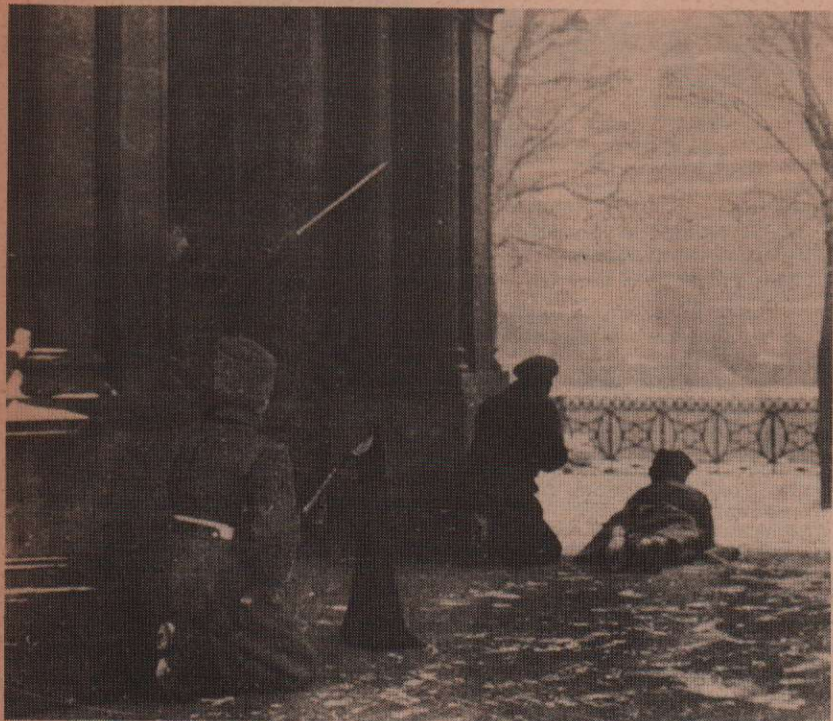
DONCASTER IS public meeting: Wages and the cost of living. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, Doncaster. Admission 10p.

WANTED: two London-based IS members willing to give part-time aid in planning an extensive range of summer schools. Typing an advantage but not essential. Please apply by letter to IS training committee, John Charlton, 22 Wheelwood Court, Leeds 16, or phone Leeds 782851.

SOCIALIST WORKER STICKERS: We have now completely sold out of these stickers but hope to be printing more within the next few weeks. All orders already received will be dealt with as soon as possible. Send orders with money to SW Circulation, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Price 15p per 100, 1500 for £1.

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 qualities and finishes. Price 1p per sheet.

CENTRAL LONDON IS district day school: Perspectives for work among women. North London Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, NW5. Saturday 4 May, 1.45-5pm. All district members to attend. Credentials from Irene Brueghel, 83 Queens Crescent, NW5.



October 1917... and the Red Guards attack the Winter Palace in what is now Leningrad. Just one of the photographs to be shown with the tape of the October Revolution.

Socialism made simple

THE IS Training Committee, meeting in London last Sunday, drew up arrangements for a series of special summer schools to be held over the summer in Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and London.

The schools will feature lectures and discussions on John Maclean, Tyneside in the General Strike, George Orwell and the 1930s, Post-Revolutionary Russia, Ireland and Engels' Manchester.

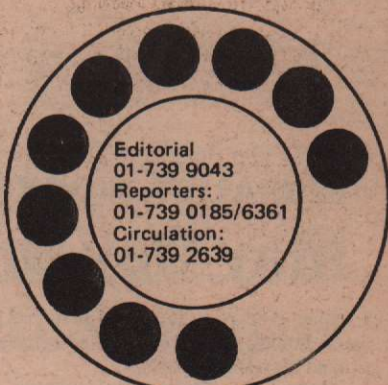
Well-known speakers on these subjects—not members of IS—have accepted invitations to speak at the schools.

Roger Crossley and Bob Lumley

have prepared a tape on the life of Lenin and the October Revolution. Slides of photographs from the period have been arranged to be shown simultaneously with the tape. The picture above shows a scene in Petrograd on the morning after the revolution.

Chris Davison is producing an edited tape-recorded version of Tony Cliff's lectures on Lenin for use in IS branches.

Two pamphlets have also been prepared and will soon be in circulation: Lenin, by Paul Ginsborg, and Ireland, by Chris Harman.



INTERNATIONAL
SOCIALISM
Journal of the
International Socialist

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

NO SURRENDER!

Rank and file conference tells the bosses

Crucial time for student struggle

THE annual conference of the National Union of Students met in Liverpool last week at a crucial point in the student struggle. 18 students have been thrown out of Oxford University for a year for demanding a proper students union. 105 have been arrested for picketing Essex University, and the government is due to reply shortly to the demand for increased grants.

International Socialists and other revolutionary delegates to the conference fought consistently for a militant campaign on all these issues. But on most issues they were defeated by the 'broad left'—the combination of Labour Party and Communist Party members which dominates the union executive.

On the question of victimisation, the main resolution called for a mass national picket at Essex on 24 April and for a national rally in London early in May. Tim Whitfield, of Reading IS, tried to amend the resolution to put some teeth into it, calling for a national campaign aimed at direct action to make the authorities at Essex and Oxford back down. His amendment was defeated.

On grants, the revolutionary left called for a continued policy of direct action in support of the full demands and a rejection of any reliance on the Labour government. This amendment was defeated, but so too was an executive amendment calling for yet another lobby of parliament.

Militants

In an emergency debate on Ireland, the revolutionary left argued that the election of a Labour government has not changed anything and that it is necessary to reject the attempts of the British ruling class to maintain its rule in Ireland, demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

The broad left opposed this and persuaded delegates to support a much more nebulous resolution that spoke of 'withdrawal of troops to their barracks'.

But the executive did not get things all their own way in other debates. A white-washing report they had drawn up on Russian dissidents was rejected overwhelmingly after IS members Ken Muller, from LSE, and Pete Gillard, from Leeds, had pointed out that it ignored the exploitation and oppression of the Russian working class and the need for a workers' revolution in Russia and Eastern Europe.

In the elections the 'broad left' won all but three seats on the new executive. Two of the other seats were won by Terry Povey and Hugh Lanning of the Socialist Alternative—a group of candidates supported by IS which were running on a joint revolutionary programme.

The 'broad left' was also defeated in the election for the presidency—but this time by the sitting president, John Randall. In explaining the defeat, the Communist Party made much of the claim by the handful of Tory delegates at the conference to have voted for Randall and, indeed, helped the Tories to exaggerate their own importance. They also accused IS members of 'voting with the right' and backing Randall—a claim which much of the press repeated.

Action

The facts of the matter are different. The Socialist Alternative had put its own candidate forward for president, IS member Mike Hill, who received about a fifth of the total vote. IS members argued that having voted for Hill, revolutionaries should not side with either of the two non-revolutionary candidates, Randall or the Broad Left.

This was because there is essentially no difference between their politics—after all Randall himself was a member of the Broad Left until last year. Both Randall and the Broad Left candidate, Stuart Paul, are Labour Party members, with reformist politics, based on lobbying the Labour leaders rather than a campaign of militant and direct action.

However, a number of delegations which voted for Hill as their first choice voted for Randall as the second choice, despite the arguments of IS members on the delegations. In most delegations the 'block vote' prevails, and if you are out-voted on the delegation, your vote is cast in the same way as the rest of the delegation.

This is what happened, for instance, to IS members on the North London Poly and Surrey University delegations.

Clearly, many non-IS members who voted for Hill as their first choice, mistakenly saw Randall as a more left-wing candidate than Paul and voted for him as their second choice. This is because Randall, in a minority on the executive, has been able to speak left for a year without turning his words into deeds.

informed of all developments in the case, and to work for the maximum support for industrial action, lobbies and other action decided inside the movement.

2. Fights against redundancies and the threat of heavy unemployment; for work or full pay.

3. Opposes any use of the armed services in industrial disputes.

4. Opposes all forms of wage restraint or freeze; it therefore opposes talks with any government designed to achieve any type of wage restraint.

5. Opposes all productivity deals, job evaluation, work study and all techniques aimed at strengthening the employers' power.

SUPPORTS

3. Pledges to organise rank and file groups inside each union to fight for militant policies, for the extension of democracy, and supports candidates fighting the right wing, in particular it encourages and supports candidates standing on this rank and file platform. To increase democracy in the unions it fights for:

1. Annual national delegate conferences.

2. All policy-making bodies to be composed of rank-and-file delegates.

3. An annually elected lay standing orders and appeals committee.

4. The regular election of all officials; all officials to receive the average wage of their membership.

5. The circulation of election addresses.

6. Rank and file control of the trade union paper.

4. Supports all moves which increase the unity of workers in struggle. It fights:

1. For 100 per cent trade unionism.

2. For the establishment of effective Joint Shop Stewards Committees, on a plant, combine and international basis.

3. For the defence of shop stewards and victimised workers, for the right of trade unionists to discipline fellow workers who flout democratic decisions.

4. For the formation of committees, both local and national, to support any group of workers in dispute or under attack by the government; these committees are to be made up of official delegates from recognised trade union bodies.

5. Against racialism because it splits and divides workers.

6. For the struggle of women for equal pay and against discrimination.

7. For the right to a living pension, realising that industrial action is essential to achieve this aim.

8. For a 35-hour week now.

DECLARES

5. This Conference believes that there is an urgent need to build a rank and file movement to fight for these policies, and to organise against the failure of trade union leaders to defend workers' fights and living standards. It resolves therefore to:

1. Strengthen the circulation and influence of the sponsoring rank and file papers and to promote them in industries where they do not exist.

2. Retain the organising committee — to spread information about disputes, victimisations, etc.

— to call for action as the need arises, — to organise future conferences, — to take responsibility to change over time the basis for sponsoring of this body, from rank and file papers to trade union bodies, thus altering the composition of the Organising Committee.

3. This Conference of duly delegated representatives of official trade union bodies declares that its aim is not to split the official movement in any way, but to strengthen it in this period of acute crisis for the movement.

MOVES IN STEEL UNION

TEESSIDE:—Pressure is again building up in the main steel union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (formerly BISAKTA), for a turn to democracy. The annual meeting last Saturday of ISTC number 2 division branch officers, covering the huge Teesside and Consett complexes, has demanded that the union hold an annual delegate conference.

Militants in the ISTC have campaigned for this elementary democratic right for years. This year the number 2 division passed the resolution unanimously. The motion was moved by Arthur Affleck, from the Lackenby number 5 branch, and seconded by Tom Stenson, from the Lackenby BOS branch.

Last year four of the union's seven divisions called for an annual conference. The executive nevertheless ignored this call. This year ISTC members throughout Britain should follow the North East lead and ensure that there is a unanimous vote from all over the country, which leaves the executive no room to manoeuvre.

unionists, in official bodies or on the shopfloor, and opposes any attempts to use the repeal of the Act to win concessions or make agreements over wages or conditions.

2. This Conference:

1. Supports all moves to initiative a strike movement to free trade unionists jailed for picketing, at Shrewsbury or in any other dispute.

Conference condemns the Labour government's failure to free the imprisoned Shrewsbury pickets and calls on the government to do so immediately. Conference believes that trade union pressure and militant action can free the Shrewsbury defendants. Conference therefore pledges to link up with all other bodies organising for the release of the pickets.

All delegates present pledge to campaign in their trade union bodies to invite the Shrewsbury defendants or representatives from the North Wales Defence Committee to speak on what has happened.

Conference empowers the organising committee to publicise as widely as possible in the trade union movement the need for collections, the 'adoption' of the families of the defendants by trade union and shopfloor bodies.

Conference instructs the organising committee to keep all delegating bodies

STRIKE OVER BID TO SPLIT WORKERS

IPSWICH:—41 workers have now been on strike at Reavell's for over two weeks over a management attempt to create two classes of skilled workers by offering the electricians and millwrights more than other trades. This runs counter to the principle of equal pay for skilled workers, which is built into the wages structure.

Despite rumours that the management intends to starve the workers back to work their mood has hardened.

The next few weeks are crucial: a victory for these trades unionists should create the confidence in other factories in the town to press for their demands. Recently 500 workers walked out of Ransome, Sims and Jeffries, and boiler-makers at Ransome Rapiers banned overtime last weekend.

Classified

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

FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS in North Wales: within easy reach of the station, fishing, friendly pubs, pony trekking, frequent transport to the coast, bring your wellies... Six-berth self-contained caravan, all mod cons, £10 per week. Bed, breakfast, evening meal and packed lunch, £10.50 per week—reductions for children. Phone Chirk (069186) 2272.

DEMONSTRATION and rally in support of the Shrewsbury workers jailed on conspiracy charges. Organised by Stafford Trades Council. Speakers include Elsie Warren and Audrey Wise MP. Saturday 20 April, 2.30pm, Victoria Sq, Stafford.

REPUBLICAN Easter commemoration demonstration. Easter Sunday, 2.30pm, Speakers' Corner. March to Kilburn Square.

THE BRITISH ARMY—its role in Ireland and projected role in Britain. On Saturday 11 May the Troops Out Movement is holding a one-day national conference for trade unionists on the British Army. The conference will be at the Collegiate Theatre, 28 Gordon Street, London WC1, (opposite Euston station). It will be introduced by David Bolton, Vice-President of the Scottish miners. Details and credentials from 28 Lammas Park Road, London W5. The cost per delegate is 50p.

HARROW/HILLINGDON Socialist Women's Group forum: History of the women's movement. Monday 6 May, 8pm, Baptist Church, College Road, Harrow. For further information call Jacky, 01-204 3358.

THE WORKER (paper of the Socialist Workers Movement): April edition now out. Articles on the wage freeze, Ireland and the Labour government, Industrial Relations Court in Ireland, the Waterford glass strike, the impotency of the Northern Assembly, plus reports from Dublin, Galway, Cork, etc. Order (price 5p) from The Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

CEYLON SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN. Picket of the Ceylon Tea Centre, Saturday 13 April, 6-7pm, Lower Regent Street. Protest against cheap tea, cheap labour, cheap lives and demand an end to the repression.

FREE THE SHREWSBURY SIX EAST KENT delegate conference. Saturday 20 April, 10.30-4.30pm, Aylesham Working Men's Club (The Legion). Credentials from Southdown NUM, Snowdown Colliery, Kent, or at the door. Delegate fee 50p. Open to observers. Open to all trade unions, trades councils and political organisations. Force Labour to free the six—support the conference

FOR SALE COMPLETE FILE OF SOCIALIST WORKER from SW 152 (1/1/70) to SW 367 (30/3/74). Also some rank and file papers—Carworkers, etc. Best offer over £15 secures. Phone Colin on 01-552 2349.

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

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 imperialism, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Chapham High Street, London, SW4.

that Phase Three is still in operation against groups of workers, and pledges to organise against Phase Three, to fight for the total abolition of the Pay Board and any similar institution, and pledges active support to any group of workers who find themselves under attack from Phase Three restrictions.

Conference rejects any agreement between the trade unions and the government not to use the miners' settlement as an argument in future negotiations, and rejects any agreement for voluntary wage restraint between the government and the TUC

BATTLE

Conference opposes any incomes policy, voluntary or compulsory. Conference empowers the organising committee to publicise these arguments as widely as possible in the trade union movement, and to keep all delegating bodies informed of how Phase Three or any other form of wage restraint is used against trade unionists, and of the help needed by particular groups of trade unionists in battle against Phase Three or any other form of incomes policy.

Conference also opposes any attempt to replace the Industrial Relations Act by any form of agreement which puts restrictions on the activity of trade

Busloads of police in bid to beat picket

ESSEX:—The past week has seen a concerted effort by police and university authorities at Essex to smash the students' picket of deliveries to the university.

After the arrest of 105 students three weeks ago, the authorities agreed to a truce and stopped deliveries, hoping this would defuse the situation and that the students would abandon the picket during the holidays.

This gamble has failed, and the Essex picket has been reinforced by a steady stream of students from colleges all over the country.

On Tuesday the embargo was lifted and deliveries began. But the picket was still effective and lorries were all successfully turned back.

On Wednesday and Thursday police

came onto the campus and warned students they would be charged with obstruction if they continued.

The students ignored this, and on Friday morning three busloads of police dismantled the pickets' barrier and padlocked the students' committee rooms.

But despite this, the picket is still going on and the committee rooms have been re-occupied.

Hopes that campus workers would block any deliveries which got through the picket line were also dashed last week. The university has threatened redundancies if the picket continues, and it has been made clear that hourly-paid workers, many of them women who have little chance of getting another job in the area, will go first.

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.

TWO AMERICANS looking for London flat for June and July 1974. Prefer North London but not essential. Reply to Julia Wrigley, 1217 Rutledge Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, USA.

NALGO ACTION GROUP rally on London Weighting. Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm, Caxton Hall, London SW1. Speakers from striking NALGO branches and NUT Rank and File.

SOCIALIST WORKER May Day Greetings

Socialist Worker is including a special four-page supplement for the many trade union bodies, shop stewards committees and other labour organisations who wish to send May Day Greetings.

The rates for advertisements will be:
'Special' Classified insertion (up to 20 words) 50p
Semi-display, per single column inch (size 1in x 2in) £1
Display, per single column inch £2
Advance space may be booked now by telephone. Ring 01-739 2639. All copy or art work must be received by Monday 22 April.

Send to Socialist Worker (May Day) Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Message:

Name of Organisation:

Size and Style of Advertisement:

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A recent meeting of Fidelity workers outside the factory

Fidelity radio workers angry

WEST LONDON:—Low pay, bad conditions and a tyrannical management at the Fidelity radio factory are being fought by an angry workforce. A recent mass meeting of the 350 workers to discuss unionisation led to 30 workers joining the Engineers' Union there and then.

There is no lack of issues for them to fight. To start with Fidelity, who last year increased their profits by 130 per cent, pay some workers as little as 25p an hour.

The dreadful conditions include a fire exit blocked by wire mesh and heavy boxes.

'Since I've been here there's never been a fire drill. If a fire started at the main exit we would be fried alive,' one worker commented. 'And the air is full of dust and dirt which could catch light if a fire started.'

The reason for the bad atmosphere is simple. Fidelity provide no ventilation, so as well as the dusty air, workers shiver in winter and faint from the heat in summer. One girl who passed out at her bench got the sack.

Forbidden

Another girl, who was pregnant, was refused time off to go for a hospital appointment and a man was also forbidden to go to hospital for attention to a damaged ankle.

The other main grievances at the plant are the long hours and the arbitrary bonus scheme.

'Overtime is compulsory, but the bonus is whatever the boss wants it to be,' a worker said. 'It's up one week and down the next and you never really know why. You're liable to lose half a week's bonus if you go sick on a Friday or Saturday. Going sick isn't allowed by this firm anyway.'

But though the issues are clear-day release for the many workers under 18, time off for medical appointments, an agreed bonus scheme and an end to compulsory overtime—the fight has only just begun.

The workers know they face management intimidation and victimisation, but they are determined to build the union at Fidelity.

Strike against phase 3

SCOTLAND:—Workers in Anderson Mavor's plants at Glenrothes and Glasgow are taking action over a £8.9 a week differential between them and the group's Motherwell factory.

The Glenrothes workers are on a one-day-a-week strike and ban on bonus for their £2.50 claim (outside Phase 3) while Glasgow are striking two days each week.

Meanwhile the Motherwell workers themselves are on a total strike for more pay.

UNION GIVES UP ON CONVENOR JEAN

by Jan Brooker

HULL:—Jean Jepson, the official Transport Workers' Union sacked by Armstrong Patents 12 weeks ago for refusing to sign away the guaranteed week, has been told the local Region 10 Committee of the TGWU agrees she was unjustifiably dismissed and that further attempts should be made to get Armstrongs to reinstate her.

But when the Armstrongs defence committee got a decision by the KD

and Service Divisions of British Leyland to black Armstrong's shock absorbers last week, Dave Shenton, Regional Secretary of the TGWU reacted in a very different way to the decision of his own Regional Committee.

He wrote to all car factories telling them not to black Armstrong's products and also not to touch the Jean Jepson case.

Throughout the campaign the TGWU have twisted and turned—first recommending the case for official action, then backing down and saying the action was completely unofficial.

The local Communist Party, which at first supported the defence committee, received instructions from their regional full-time organiser to follow the 'official' THWU policy—by which they mean Shenton's ac-

tion and not the Regional Committee's—and followed this up by walking out of the last meeting of the defence committee.

The Armstrong management must be sitting back and laughing, for not only do they have the workers in the factories doing as they are told, but they also have the TGWU officials working on their side.

SHOCKERS

Meanwhile the struggle continues. The Hull unofficial dock shop stewards committee have put a complete blacking on Armstrong shock absorbers and have extended this nationally.

Meanwhile supporters of the rank and file paper, The Carworker are attempting to get meetings for Jean Jepson to put her case for the blacking of Armstrong products.

Recently Armstrongs released details of their planned £500,000 plant in southern Ireland to make fastenings for the shockers. This is a skilled job and it now seems the Hull and Beverley plants will be run-down and that these jobs will ultimately go to Ireland where the wages are much lower.

This is the reason why Armstrongs have got rid of a good, militant convenor and thrashed the TGWU into the bargain.

Please send letters of support and donations to: Strike Committee, 39 St Hilda's Street, Bridlington, E Yorks.

300 teachers in pay walk-out

LONDON:—Over 300 teachers from some 20 Inner London schools demonstrated outside County Hall, headquarters of the Inner London Education Authority last week.

They took the afternoon off school after the whole staff at Kingsdale School decided to take immediate action in the struggle for an increased London allowance and the end of part-time schooling, which has been going on in many London schools since September due to staff shortages.

Growth

This is the first time that teachers from different schools have taken action not led by union chiefs or headteachers.

Sparked by the NUT executive's delaying tactics over action on pay, the action reflects the growth of Rank and File Teacher, the paper of rank

and file teachers.

During the demonstration the teachers pledged to step up their campaign for better pay and conditions without waiting on their union leaders.

Explain

Officials and councillors at County Hall at first refused to see anyone but later half a dozen came out to hear the teachers complaints. They found it difficult to explain how breaking the law by not giving children full-time education was justified, whereas breaking the pay code to ensure a decent wage for teachers was not.

Later on, at the House of Commons, teachers pointed out to MPs that members of the government who had imposed the pay freeze were able to send their children to public schools and that only those who rely on state schools were suffering.

PICKETS CAMPAIGN BLOCKED

SHEFFIELD:—Union officials blocked initiatives for a campaign for the freeing of the jailed Shrewsbury building workers at a conference called by the new South Yorkshire Association of Trades Councils last week.

Cliff Hughes (ATTI) tried to move a resolution from the floor calling for union branch and shop floor meetings to hear the truth about the jailings from the Shrewsbury defendants. But conference chairman Bill Owen, Sheffield district secretary of the Transport Workers Union, refused to take resolutions from the floor and said they had no power to cause action by member trade councils or union branches.

He said the conference was restricted by its brief from the Association's executive.

Replying, Cliff Hughes said the conference was a waste of time. It had decided to do nothing. 'This is typical of the way trade union officials and the Labour Party have kept the truth about Shrewsbury from the rank and file.'



The Midlands Region of UCATT has produced a badge for supporters of the Shrewsbury pickets in conjunction with the North Wales Defence Committee. Priced at 50p for 20 (bulk order terms available), they can be had from K Barlow UCATT, Gough Street, Birmingham 1.

Victory for NUT militants

MILITANT teachers have scored a notable victory in the National Union of Teachers' executive elections. Three of five candidates put up by the Rank and File group were successful. A sixth is standing in a contest still to be balloted.

Dick North, of Lambeth NUT, came top of the poll in the Inner London district, knocking into second place Sam Fisher, the Communist Party and sitting executive member. Fisher still had enough votes to defeat Dave Whiteley, the second Rank and File candidate in Inner London.

Beth Stone, of Newham NUT, came first out of five candidates

standing for three places on the executive from the Outer London territory.

Both Dick North and Beth Stone defeated sitting executive members who are hostile to militant and socialist policies and to the teachers' organisation Rank and File.

The third successful Rank and File candidate was Betty Coates who was elected for Mid-Leicester.

Fred Scott of Wandsworth stood as the Rank and File candidate for NUT vice-president. He was not elected. Voting figures have not yet been released.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

1,300 strike for £10 claim

PETERBOROUGH:—All 1300 workers at the GEC Hotpoint factory are on strike. Following a recommendation from the joint shop stewards' committee, they voted almost unanimously to strike in support of their £10 a week domestic claim.

The management had refused to settle outside Phase Three. The shop stewards pressed for a threshold deal, within Phase Three, but management refused to discuss. This blank refusal was met with the strike call.

Discontent has been building up at the factory for several months, well before the introduction of the three-day week.

Attempts to cut payments for cleaning machinery have been successfully resisted. The rotor-stator shop came out last week to prevent management starting part-time workers on jobs already manned by full-timers. A recognition dispute, was in preparation over a night shift steward. And, on top of all this, the Confederation was about to call an overtime ban which would have affected the factory.

Combine

These circumstances and the shortage of materials coming into the factory will make it a long, drawn-out struggle.

The convenor of Cannon Industries, part of the same giant combine, is going to Peterborough to discuss the lessons of the recently-ended 13-week strike at Cannon. The meeting is organised by the GEC Rank and File, paper of militants in GEC.

The workers, members of AUEW, TGWU, GMWU and EEPTU, are aware of the need to fight and the time it may take but are nevertheless determined to go for victory, whatever the manoeuvres of the management.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

NALGO PUT LABOUR TO THE TEST

by Geoff Woolf and Gordon Peters

LONDON:—The flat refusal by Michael Foot and Harold Wilson to concede an interim increase in London allowances for NALGO members in local government and the electricity industry is resulting in the biggest outbreak of industrial action in the union's history.

The Greenwich computer branch and sections of Camden Council white-collar workers have been on strike for a month.

Last week, they were joined by 1500 members of Islington branch, and telephonists and others at Kensington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Sixteen branches are also banning overtime.

A further escalation of the action is due from 17 April, with selective strikes at Havering, Wandsworth and Redbridge. Parts of seven electricity branches will also be taking strike action. By the middle of April, over half of London's 50,000 white-collar council workers will be involved in strikes or overtime bans for the extra £400 claim.

In addition, the union executive has instructed members to withdraw from the voluntary work of manning polling

stations during the local elections.

The Labour government's insistence on standing by the Tory pay laws has angered many NALGO members. Despite the claims of general secretary Geoffrey Drain, NALGO members are not a special case. Teachers, transport workers, dustmen, and civil servants all have claims in for increased London allowances. Joint action at rank and file level in all these sections is now essential.

NALGO leaders met a brick wall

from Michael Foot on 1 April. Fred Jex, of NALGO's NEC, described Foot's answer as 'a tape-recording of Maurice Macmillan' the former Tory Employment Minister. Jex accused him of hiding behind the Tory Pay Board.

With many boroughs 20-25 per cent under-staffed, white-collar local government staff have been set back by every government control on the public sector and seen their earning power drastically reduced.

DECISIVE

The slowness of the official union machinery—the £400 claim is now a year old—means the rank and file have got fed up waiting and are standing up to fight.

The need now is to spread the full-scale industrial action. But the NALGO leadership has no plans for doing this, though rank and file initiative for decisive action is increasing.

The dispute is shaping into a major test for the Labour government. NALGO members are taking the lead against compulsory wage control and if Harold Wilson, who is expected to pronounce this week on 'exceptional cases', toes the line of the Unacceptable Foot of Capitalism, then Islington is in for a long, drawn-out dispute with implications for every sector of workers.

Messages of support, information or help on picket lines to Strike Committee, Room 29, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. NALGO Action, the local government workers rank and file movement is holding a public meeting on the claim on Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm, Caxton Hall.

Leyland workers vote for stoppage

WEST LONDON:—A mass meeting of workers at British Leyland's AEC plant at Southall last Friday voted by a vast majority for a two-hour stoppage of work and a complete ban on overtime.

The management have been refusing to meet union representatives. The convenor explained that each time the shop stewards committee tried to meet management the only response they could get was to be fobbed off on some office boy who had no authority to settle anything.

The situation is made more serious by management attempts to break agreements on the bonus system—one section of the plant, making crankshafts, have already stopped work. If a satisfactory solution cannot be found quickly the plant will grind to a halt in a few days.

Stamping lock-out goes on

ROTHERHAM:—The lock-out of the 130 Engineering Union members at the stamp shop of River Don Stampings is continuing. The men are picketing and refusing to let goods leave the plant. 80 of the 700 workers were to be laid off this week and the whole plant will grind to a halt in three weeks.

Management are trying to get the men to accept three-shift working and cut down manning on the hammers. In return they are offering a miserable £2.90 a week increase.



NALGO pickets in Islington make the point. PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

Picket against killer dust

LONDON:—Laggers working for Medway Insulation have found from bitter experience that the only laws employers obey are those that don't affect their profits.

Three weeks ago nine Medway workers employed on a de-lagging job at Deptford power station insisted on being given proper safety equipment. They were expected to take down lagging made from blue asbestos, the most deadly strain of a

killer fibre, which causes asbestosis and lung cancer.

Management's reply to the men's request for safety masks and suits, which they should provide by law, was to give them the sack.

The men started picketing the site. But management brought in untrained labour to do the job. At this point the men's union, the General and Municipal, moved in and made their strike official. The union was

concerned that untrained labour would be used on an extensive de-lagging programme in power stations.

On Friday last week Medway Insulation caved in and conceded all the men's demands. But when they showed up for work on Monday this week, Medway bosses once again declined to give the men masks.

But the men are standing absolutely firm and insisting on proper health protection.

Hospital sparks out over wages

SCOTLAND:—200 electricians employed by the National Health Service in West of Scotland hospitals came out on strike on Monday. They are seeking pay parity with electricians in the contracting industry.

Hospital electricians' wages are negotiated through the Whitley Council, which has kept them on a low basic rate. Last year, after months of argument, an investigating committee recommended hospital electricians' wages rates should follow those in contracting.

The process of bringing the hospital electricians up to parity has hardly begun. Now, the recent £2.30 to £2.80 contracting increase has put them behind again. The NHS referred these increases to the Pay Board.

The West of Scotland electricians have been making contact with other hospital electricians in London, Manchester, and Leeds, seeking their support. On Monday night the Glasgow branch, representing 4000 electricians called for the strike to be made official. All Electricians Union members should support them in their fight.

250 LOW-PAID

STRIKE AT PLESSEY

NOTTINGHAM:—Plessey's lowest paid workers are on strike over the transfer of labour out of the immediate local area.

For more than six months, management at Plessey Telecommunications Installation Division has been transferring men without consultation with the union.

A meeting with management last week failed to reach any agreement and last Saturday union members unanimously voted in favour of strike action. The last straw was the refusal of management to meet the shop stewards' committee over the question of 'mobility'.

The EEPTU has so far not made the strike official but there is unanimous support for it. An Action Committee has been set up to co-ordinate and increase the effects of the strike. Among the sites on strike are 'Nottingham Castle' Ripley, Langley Mill, Belper, Boston, Burton, Loughborough, 250 workers are involved.

The Transport and General Workers' Union at Plessey's Boston have pledged their support and ASTMS have also given support. The strikers are not getting any strike pay.

Great-but keep the cash coming

YOUR RESPONSE to the appeals for the Fighting Fund has been magnificent. But don't rest on your laurels. The Easter holiday is with us. Time to take a rest from work, to sit back and relax.

But our bosses' attacks won't take a rest. Your donations help us to keep fighting. Don't let the pressure drop now. The total for this week is £309.70, making the total so far this month £599.05.

Central London Print Workers £3,

Ealing £11, Twickenham £4.10, Teesside £5, Llanelli £25, Wood Green £19, Walthamstow £21.50, Camborne £8, Hyde £8, Middleton £6.90, Harlesden £10, Birmingham Teacher £16.50, Pontefract £3, Newham Teacher £2, Ealing further donation £10.30, Swansea £7.

Please send donations to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, IS national treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DS.

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