

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Flixborough: The price of profit

WITH the devastating explosion at Flixborough, as with all serious industrial accidents and disasters, hypocrisy is the order of the day.

As usual there has been a flood of expressions of grave concern and grief for the victims. There have been many calls for 'firm action'.

There will even be a public inquiry. The widowed, wounded and homeless will get a few thousand in compensation for the violent disruption of their lives.

Then when the fuss has died down it will be back to business as usual for the profiteers who made it all happen.

Flixborough was no accident. It was the direct and predictable result of the competitive profit making system.

The Nypro UK plant at Flixborough was designed for one reason alone: to enable Courtaulds and other

'In a sane society the plant would not have been built'

giant firms to break into the nylon market.

For decades, ICI and Du Pont have dominated the world market with their patents on the hexamethylene diamine based system for producing nylon.

The Nylon 6 Process, perfected by Nypro at Flixborough, got Courtaulds into the market.

It was completely different to the ICI system, and therefore infringed no patents. It simplified the production process. Best of all, it was much cheaper. It was also much more dangerous.

Nonetheless, the plant was built, expanded and made even more dangerous still to meet the needs of

Courtaulds and the like.

Even when things were 'normal', the processes in use at Nypro caused nosebleeds, skin irritation and upsets to the nervous system. But now they have killed 29 workers and smashed the homes of hundreds of others.

Flixborough isn't the only or even the most dangerous plant in the country. There are ICI Wilton, Canvey Island, Baglan Bay and Grangemouth where similar fires and explosions can happen any time. Then of course the same deadly chemicals are ferried up and down the motorways in tankers. Soon one of them will go up in the middle of a town.

Pat Kinnersly, author of the best-selling book, *The Hazards of Work:*

How to fight them, told Socialist Worker: 'In a sane, socialist society, the Flixborough plant would never have been built. For the nylon we need—and we do not need as much as the nylon giants make us consume—we would stick with the ICI system.

'We would devote all our ingenuity and resources to making that process completely safe. Instead of that we find scientific resources being pumped into the insane task of finding a different and more dangerous way to make nylon just to get round patents.

'There's been plenty of warning. There was the Langley oil depot fire last year. ICI Wilton went up four years ago. There's any number of others.

'For a few weeks after the worst incidents there's an outcry. Then it dies down again. The powerful chemical companies go on exactly as before. It's time trade unionists really organised against this. If they don't they'll go on paying the price.'



'IT'S good to be free. It feels wonderful,' said Des Warren soon after he and Ricky Tomlinson walked out of the High Court in London into the sunshine.

Des and Ricky were bailed by the Court of Appeal on Monday pending their appeal against prison sentences of three and two years respectively imposed after the notorious Shrewsbury pickets trial last Christmas.

Our picture shows Des and his wife Elsa (on the right) and Ricky and Marlene Tomlinson (on the left) just after leaving the court.

Des told Socialist Worker: 'We didn't expect anything at all when we went to the court on Monday. Suddenly the proceedings changed from being about our appeal against sentence to being about bail.

'We were up in front of the Lord Chief Justice,

They're out! Let's keep them out

Widgery. He said: "This is a unique case." He contradicted what Mais, the man who put us down, said. Mais said ours was just an ordinary criminal trial.

'We must toughen up the campaign to get the

Conspiracy Act repealed now. That will stop us going back in and make sure that no other workers can be persecuted by it.

'Now I'm out one thing I really want to do is tackle the executive of my union, UCATT. They are a bunch of cowards. They have done little or nothing to defend the members when we were under attack.'

Des and Ricky have been bailed until a full appeal is heard in October. But this is something more than the outcome of due process of law. Bail would never have been granted but for the growing disquiet in the labour movement about conspiracy trials and the jailing of trade unionists.

If the campaign is kept up then there will be no question of anyone being put back inside.

PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

**Jenkins
says it:
Let them
die...**

ROY Harris Jenkins, Home Secretary, Britain's best-read, most cultivated, most liberal, most humanitarian politician, has claimed his first victim.

Michael Gaughan has died because Mr Roy Jenkins, the humanitarian, would not move him from one filthy prison to another.

It is likely that by the end of the month another three young people, Marion Price, Dolours Price and Gerard Kelly, will die for the same reason.

They want to be moved from the English prisons where they are now rotting to prisons in their homeland, Northern Ireland.

The right of convicted prisoners to be moved to prisons near their families has long been recognised by the Home Office. Seven people have been shifted from English prisons to Northern Ireland prisons over the past few years.

Mr Jenkins is not opposed to their being moved to Northern Ireland. He writes that it would be 'possible and reasonable for them to serve the bulk of their long sentences near their homes in Northern Ireland.'

So why does he not send them now, and save their lives?

Mr Jenkins replies: 'I could not decide a prison disposition under duress.'

In other words, even if he wanted to move them to Northern Ireland, he would refuse to do so because they are on hunger strike.

Blackmailers

When the forces of law and order are 'blackmailed' by a defenceless prisoner's hunger strike, Mr Jenkins throws the full weight of his humanitarianism behind the forces of law and order.

When those same forces of law and order demand that Mr Jenkins' government drop its commitment to legal safeguards for pickets or to legal immunity for the Clay Cross councillors or to a ban on arms to the Chile junta—then Mr Jenkins finds himself four square on the side of the blackmailers.

He weeps for the weak, but he supports the strong. He pleads for the poor, but he legislates for the rich. He writes that he is 'deeply concerned that the lives of the sisters and others should not be needlessly lost', but he refuses to take the simple, harmless administrative action which will save their lives.

He is contemptible. So is his politics. If the Price sisters or Gerald Kelly die, Mr Jenkins, his government and his politics are 100 per cent responsible.

Irish Political Hostages Committee

DEMONSTRATION

to protest against Jenkins' decision
Sunday June 9
Speakers' Corner, 2.30pm.
Speakers include Bernadette McAliskey,
Eamonn McCann, Willie Cooley
London 15 branches and 15 Societies
to support

For the cost of mending a skip...

by Terry Evans

TGWU Capper Pass

A FAULTY skip used to feed a blast furnace caused the death of a process worker here at Capper Pass Melton Works, near Hull, last week. He was Brian Crawley, 45, a member of the Transport and General Workers Union, who has been working at Capper Pass for seven years. Brian leaves a wife and two teenage daughters.

He was doing a routine job, cleaning spillage from under the skip's running track, when the skip, which had been switched off, slid silently down the track and crushed him to death.

The fault in the skip which allowed it to slide back had been reported several times by workers on the furnace.

Only a few weeks ago the Factory Inspector visited the plant and was present at a demonstration of his faulty skip. The management representation present made out an 'alternative chit', and gave instructions to find out how much it would cost to correct the fault.

Still no action of any kind was taken.

Now they have found out how much it cost to put the skip right—the life of Brian Crawley.

Apathy about the safety of their workers is typical of the management at Capper Pass—and of all factories and places of work. So it will continue to be until the workers refuse to work with defective equipment.

The wonders of British justice

by Barry Turner, TGWU

BALBIR SINGH was a leading militant in the bitter sweatshop dispute at Art Castings, Nuneaton. He is now working as a Coventry busman and is again experiencing the wonders of British ruling-class justice.

Balbir was found guilty on a trumped-up charge of assault which he was alleged to have committed during picketing on 29 January.

Balbir understandably pleaded not guilty to this charge. He was not on the picket line when the alleged assault took place. He was in the Transport Union district office with his shop steward, Gurmial Singh, talking to one of the officials.

Despite this minor consideration the magistrates felt it their duty to fine Balbir Singh £50 and give him a six-month suspended jail sentence.

You may consider Balbir was just unlucky—it was the exceptional unfair decision perhaps. Well Balbir has found out that these kind of decisions are not just bad luck, but part of a well-organised attack on workers who are not prepared to be trampled on by their employers.

When Balbir arrived for work the

day after his trial, he was politely told that he no longer had a job on the buses. The reason given was that he now had a police record and was 'unsuitable for employment'.

Balbir has said that he is aware of other bus workers with police records who quite rightly have not been sacked as a result of them. Why is Balbir's case so different? The answer is simple. Balbir is now a registered militant in police and local management files.

This case is of great importance for all trade unionists, especially because of the Labour government's failure to repeal the Tory anti-picketing laws.

More and more workers are going to find themselves the victims of the anti-working class actions of the police and their courts. This and all cases like it must be fought and fought hard.

WILLIAM Rees-Davies is a barrister, Tory MP for Thanet, and one of the Tory Party's chief experts on law and order. When he is not representing the interests of the gambling trade in the law courts, he is shouting for stricter laws and more powers to the police.

Tory Central Office have published two tracts by Rees-Davies—Crime knows no boundaries (1966) and The conquest of crime (1970). In both, Rees-Davies argues for more ruthless savagery towards criminals including capital punishment.

In April 1972, Rees-Davies proposed a new law-enforcement agency along the lines of the American National Guard.

'The police are stretched to the limits. I believe it will be necessary to create some form of local territorial service which will give an opportunity to people to look after law and order in their own country,'



A MAN sobs after covering with a red banner a comrade murdered by the fascists.

In Brescia, a medium-sized city in Northern Italy, seven demonstrators were murdered last Tuesday by a fascist bomb. A crowd of demonstrators were sheltering from a downpour in a doorway when the bomb, disguised in a rubbish bag, was placed among them. It went off almost at once.

These cold-blooded murders, which were followed by the usual police apathy, set off the biggest wave of strikes and demonstrations against fascism since the attempted murder by fascists of the Communist Party

leader Togliatti in 1960.

Three hundred thousand people demonstrated in Rome, a quarter of a million in Milan. Two days after the murders, a four-hour general strike was declared across the face of Italy. Only after this enormous working-class agitation were the authorities forced to move. On Monday two senior police officers in Brescia were sacked, and some fascist thugs were rounded up.

One of the seven dead in Brescia was Giulietta Banzi Bazoli, a young teacher who was a member of the Italian revolutionary socialist organisation Avanguardia Operaia.

Tory 'Law and Order' man on crime charge

he said.

A big crowd is expected at Margate Magistrates Court on Thursday 27 June, when the pressure on the police force will be fully exposed—in the case of *Joy v Rees-Davies*. Trevor Joy is a police constable attached to Margate police station, who stopped a car during the recent general election campaign.

The car was driven by William

Rees-Davies MP. According to Constable Joy, it did not stop at a halt sign, and the driver refused to give his name or address or take a breathalyser test.

Constable Joy alleges that he took Rees-Davies to Margate police station, and the matter was referred to Chief Superintendent Clifford Greenwood, Margate's chief of police.

After some 'discussion', apparently, Rees-Davies was allowed to go home, and let off with a written caution. Constable Joy was so angry that he took out a private prosecution.

Don't worry too much on Rees-Davies' behalf. Not even he has advocated hanging or flogging for driving offences.

MORE TORIES FOR THE TROUGH

THE TRICKLE of top Tories into the City of London is rapidly turning into a flood. Anthony Barber, the hard-line Tory Chancellor of a few months ago, is to join the board of the lush Standard and Chartered Banking Group, and in September will become chairman of all three banks associated with the group.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who as Solicitor-General pioneered the

Industrial Relations Act through parliament and then became minister in charge of prices—usually keeping them up—has landed two plush directorships in one week.

He is to become non-executive director of a profitable little outfit called AGB Research. More profitably—for him—he is also to join the board of Sun Alliance.

Finally, a word for Patrick Jenkin,

Tory energy spokesman who made a name for himself during the miners' strike by advising the public to save electricity by cleaning their teeth in the dark.

He will have no need to do that any more, because he no longer has to rely on his parliamentary salary. He has been appointed a non-executive director of Tilbury Contracting Group.

DEMONSTRATION Sunday 16 June FULL SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA

Total independence from
Portugal NOW
Solidarity with the
Portuguese people

Assemble 2pm, Speakers Corner,
march to Trafalgar Square rally with
speakers from FRELIMO, Portugal
and the British labour movement.
All IS branches and IS student
societies in London and Home
Counties to support with trade union
banners and placards

IS stewards' meeting 12 noon 8
Cottons Gardens, London E2

ASBESTOS MURDERERS IN HOSPITAL

by Mick Napier

WORKERS and patients at the massive Glasgow Royal Infirmary have been exposed for weeks on end to lethal blue asbestos dust.

In a main corridor in the hospital the asbestos lagging on a pipe has been torn away for workmen to install a heater. In six places the blue asbestos dust inside the lagging has been exposed to several weeks strong wind which blows in through an open door.

Almost all the ancillary workers in the hospital walk daily past this death-trap. Patients of all kinds are wheeled past it regularly.

Recent re-lagging of pipes in the wards was carried out while the patients lay in their beds. One woman throat patient told the senior steward in the hospital, John Houston: 'There wasn't much dust. I just covered my face with a hanky'.

John found uncovered asbestos rope hanging in a corner of the ward.

Asbestos dust, especially blue asbestos dust is deadly. Brief contact with it can lead to asbestosis, which is painful, incurable—and lethal.

There are stringent rules covering the exposing of asbestos in lagging work. Almost all of these seem to

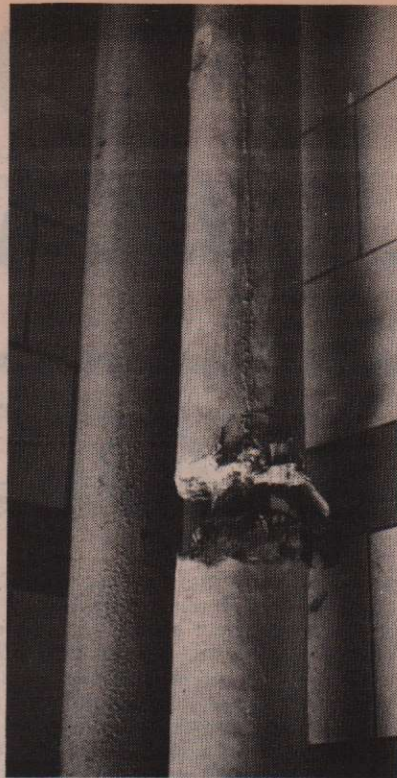
have been broken in the Royal Infirmary. Yet none of the doctors who passed the exposed dust every day, nor the hospital engineer nor any member of the hospital management board protested at this outrageous negligence, no-one even noticed it!

Arthur Rhodie, of AR Insulations, who are handling the lagging contract in the hospital, emphatically denied to me that his firm was responsible for the cuts in the lagging.

The whole scandal might never have been exposed had not a Glasgow lagger gone to the Royal to have his tonsils out. He phoned Jim Heggie, a shop steward and member of his union branch committee. Jim and I went to see John Houston, who immediately inspected the whole hospital and threatened a stoppage unless immediate action was taken.

Last Monday morning a large group of important people—factory inspectors, contractors, hospital representatives and senior engineers—rushed around the hospital. The lagging is to be renewed at once.

Swift action by rank and file workers has succeeded where all the official bodies, backed by mountains



The open asbestos lagging on one of the pipes

of rules and regulations failed.

But what happened in Glasgow could happen anywhere in the country. The Health Service is the first to suffer from the faltering of capitalism.

Cut after cut is made in the allowances to each hospital management board. Important repair jobs are abandoned, and corners are cut even where the most dangerous materials are involved.

Rank and file trade unionists are the only safeguard against these outrages. So when you go to hospital as a patient, worker or visitor, keep your eyes open!

Get in over that threshold

MILLIONS of workers all over the country are cashing in on the threshold payments to which they are entitled under the pay laws.

This week a million building workers got their £1.20 a week extra—that's 40p for every one per cent increase in the cost of living. So have hundreds of thousands of workers in almost every industry.

The employers, meanwhile, are joining with the Labour government to try all sorts of tricks to deny the workers their threshold rises.

BRITISH LEYLAND has suggested they will not pay out a penny to most of their workers. But their stand is already collapsing under pressure from elsewhere in the car industry—Fords and Vauxhall have already paid the increase.

The ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS FEDERATION are taking a more subtle line. They refuse to commit themselves to all threshold rises which might fall due. They have directed their members to negotiate about the first £1.20, and to negotiate separately when each new threshold point is reached.

THE SUNSHINE MINERS ARE ON THE MARCH

OPENCAST workers, the 'sunshine miners', from several sites in South Wales, marched through Glynneath last Saturday. Washery and screen workers from sites at Banwen, Onllwyn, Gwaun-cae-Gurwen, Cwmawr and Coedbach, who went on strike last week, joined the 250 men from the Dunraven site at Rhigos who have now been out on strike for five weeks.

All the sites are demanding £7.50 a week and concessionary coal. At the moment, the men get £23 plus £2.20 guaranteed bonus for 40 hours and even after working 65 hours the gross wages are only £39.20.

Vic Jones, chairman of the TGWU South Wales Opencast Lodge, told Socialist Worker: 'Our drivers sit down for 11 hours. I believe they are number one candidates for thrombosis. Our drillers work for 12 hours in dust—they are also candidates for silicosis.'

'Last year the Coal Board made £20 million profit from opencast coal. This year they expect to get at least 12 million tons of coal. It's the

DUNLOP, the giant rubber company, are prepared to pay the £1.20 without fuss, but to stand and fight rather than pay any more in the future. They reckon that workers will not be prepared to put up a fight through the summer.

If Dunlop get away with this, many other employers would follow, and their workers could lose up to £3.60 a week as a result.

Another try-on comes from the SCOTTISH MASTER PRINTERS, who have agreed to pay the threshold, but not in full to learners and trainees, who are mainly women workers. This has been accepted by the executive of the printworkers' union SOGAT, to the serious disadvantage of many of their members. No other union should accept such an agreement, and SOGAT members everywhere should demand immediate renegotiation.

The settlement at FRIGIDAIRE—a subsidiary of General Motors—shows what threshold agreements are

same old story—while we are working they are not prepared to talk or negotiate, and when the men are taking industrial action they are prepared to talk only when the men return to work.'

A meeting of TGWU opencast delegates from Regions 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 was being held in Birmingham on Thursday to discuss improving organisation in the opencast industry with the aim of taking the industry out of the Civil Engineering National Agreement which covers wages and conditions on sites at the moment.

POWER

A meeting of all Miners Union lodges in the area has been called to see what effective support the deep mines could give. Harold Lloyd, chairman of Blaenhwrach Lodge, promised: 'We are handling the same commodity as you, and if you are going into a struggle we've got wonderful power to help you and we will use that power, make no mistake about it.'

by Steve Jefferys

all about from the bosses' point of view. Workers at Frigidaire have been demanding parity with Vauxhall, which would have brought them wage increases of about £5 a week. But when General Motors offered to pay the £1.20 threshold and all future 40p rises, on top of a Phase Three offer of £2.20 to £2.80, a mass meeting voted by three to one to accept.

Many employers will try this trick. That's why the basic fact about threshold needs to be repeated again and again: Threshold increases don't fully compensate for cost of living increases.

A married man with two kids who earns £40 a week and gets the £1.20 now, finds himself 20p a week WORSE OFF than he was a month ago.

Needed

If he relies only on a 40p increase in wages for every one per cent increase in the retail price index, he will slip back with each increase by about 7p.

So although we have to fight for that 40p every time, it is no substitute for the 20 to 30 per cent wage increases that are needed.

The LABOUR GOVERNMENT are also looking for ways to hold off the threshold increase. They are terrified by clause 176 of the Tory Pay Code which plainly allows all the 40p increases to be agreed at any stage and back-dated. So they asked the Pay Board to 'think it over'. The Pay Board has obliged.

The board now says you can get the £1.20 due now—but any future threshold payment will only be payable for rises in the cost of living announced after you've made an agreement.

So unless you sign a threshold agreement by 21 June, when the next retail price index is published, your boss could refuse to pay any threshold rises over the £1.20 resulting from that index. The same could apply to July and August if you haven't signed agreements by then.

There's a simple solution to this effrontery. Sign an agreement now, and get the lot.

■ 30,000 Socialist Worker leaflets on Threshold Payments—How to fight for them and why they are not enough—have been printed. Available from Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, price £1.50 a thousand.

WE SAY IT AGAIN:

Troops out of Ireland!

'WITHOUT the British army, the forces of law and order [in Northern Ireland] could not cope,' says Mr Merlyn Rees, Labour's Northern Ireland Secretary. His Tory opposite number, Pym, plays the same record. 'To abandon the people of Northern Ireland to their fate would be to abandon them to the horrors of political oppression and bloodshed.'

It is an old, old story. Britain could not give independence to India, the Tories and right-wing Labourites used to argue before 1947, because without the army of the British raj to keep them in order, the people of India would 'revert to bloodshed and chaos'.

It was the same in Cyprus. Independence for Cyprus was impossible because it would mean 'giving in to the gunmen' and would lead to the wholesale massacre of the Turkish minority by the Greeks.

It was the same in Malaya, in Palestine, in Aden, in Palestine, in Aden, in Kenya. All over the old British Empire, according to people like Rees and Pym, it was only the good offices of the British army that kept practically everybody's throat from being cut.

The rulers of Britain, so it was claimed, had to control foreign countries all over the world because they could not 'abandon to their fate' the poor natives who clearly could never sort out their own problems by themselves.

In fact, of course, British rule and the British army were the main cause of the conflicts that were used to justify their presence. British imperialism perfected the 'divide and rule' technique. It created or worsened 'minority problems' in most of its colonies as a way of making it easier to continue to exploit those colonies.

The last resort

So it was with Ireland, the first British colony. Everyone who knows anything at all about Irish history knows that religious sectarianism was deliberately fostered by successive British governments.

And today, Protestant bigotry is encouraged and sustained by the belief that, in the last resort, the British will uphold by force the sectarian statelet of the six counties.

True, the Protestant 'loyalists' are now something of a nuisance to British big business. Its economic interests have changed. Investments in the 26 south of Ireland counties are more important to it than investments in the six counties of the North. Hence the 'power sharing' policy and the 'Council of Ireland' project.

The British government, like Dr Frankenstein, finds that the monster it created is no longer under its control. But it is still true that the 'loyalist' illusions of the Protestant workers are fed by the continuing presence of the British army. And it is still true that the whole weight of British repression is directed against the republicans.

Merlyn Rees admits: 'There have been more than 250 sectarian murders, the overwhelming proportion of which were committed by Protestants'. Yet practically all the people now interned without charge or trial are Catholic republicans. That is the sort of 'law and order' Merlyn Rees is defending. He is fostering the very sectarianism he claims to oppose.

In the end, the bitter sectarian conflicts in Northern Ireland will only be overcome on the basis of politics based on the common economic interests of working people of both religious persuasions. It will not be easy to overcome them. The heritage of centuries of carefully-fostered religious hatred cannot be wiped out in a few weeks or a few months. We have no illusions about that.

It is abundantly clear that no real progress can be made while the British army stays. The sectarian problem, which is a product of foreign rule, will never be solved while that rule lasts. The main contribution that British socialists can make now is to develop an irresistible pressure in the working class movement to force the government to get the troops out.

LETTERS

Racism: 'genuine differences into false values'

DUNCAN HALLAS' arguments against racism (25 May) were true but insufficient. For instance, his denial of racial differences in intelligence implies that if these existed, the racists might have some justification. Behind this point that mankind is a single species is the same implication. But, assuming this is true, then maltreatment of other species (animals) is, according to that argument, OK.

To argue against racial prejudice by denying significant racial differences is to agree that racism is a dispute over facts subject to scientific proof. This is nonsense, and it gives the racists ground to stand on. Too many anti-racists are desperately dependant on this dodgy argument.

They should look at history. A friend of mine once mentioned a most telling parallel: In the late Middle Ages, the notion was that the whole system depended on the Earth being at the centre of the universe. Scientists showing that the universe is as we know it now were censored and persecuted. But time and science roll on, and now such notions seem incredible. How we treat our fellow-creatures cannot possibly depend on

particular scientific theories, which history shows us are very temporary things. Even if Eysenck were right, it would not justify racialism one bit.

We must reject racism for the same reason as exploitation, sexism, cruelty to men and to animals, and desecration of nature. This is, quite simply, a basic premise of socialism: that human beings and their total environment—social, animal, physical and spiritual life is linked to nature means simply that nature is linked to itself, for man is part of nature.' And, speaking of communism, he says: 'it is the genuine resolution of the conflict between man and man,' and 'society is the unity of being of man with nature . . . the naturalism of man and the humanism of nature both brought to fulfilment.' This is the only permanently revolutionary, reaction-proof standpoint.

Anti-racism does not depend on proving equality according to capitalist values such as IQ, how much you can produce, cultural taste, etc, but on the view that capitalism twists genuine differences into false values.-C SMALL, Holt, Norfolk.

Take over the drug firms

THERE IS only one way to solve the problem of nurses' pay. Nationalise the drug companies. I'm surprised that Socialist Worker hasn't made more of this point.

An increase in nurses' pay at present would mean a cutting down in other sections of the Health Service. True, the Hospital Worker Conference has specified that this must not be the case, but can anyone really expect this demand to be fulfilled?

The true evil of the Health Service is that it pays out fantastic sums of money every year to capitalist firms who produce new drugs—usually old ingredients mixed up under a different name.

These firms are also well represented in the shops and make fantastic profits out of the neurosis industry. Most of the drugs they peddle are next to useless, and in spectacular cases (remember thalidomide?) do more harm than good.

The only way to get more money into the health service, and to make sure that it's spent in the right way (and that includes decent wages very high on the list of priorities), is to take over these obscene firms NOW. It is something that could be done.—SAM RICHARDS, Totnes.

Solidarity

SOCIALISTS picketed Paragon Square, Hull, a fortnight ago in protest at the holding of Irish political prisoners in British jails.

Leaflets called for an end to forced feeding (still being perpetrated against the other 'car bombs' prisoners, although no longer on the Price sisters).

For political status for the prisoners and their transfer to Northern Ireland, the freeing of prisoners framed by the Special Branch with the aid of Kenneth Lennon, the murdered agent, and for the ending of internment in the North itself.

The picket was organised by Clann na hEireann and supported by the International Socialists, Communist Party and International Marxist Group.—MARTIN SHAW, Hull.

Lyons & flowers

I WORKED for J Lyons and Co at the Chelsea Flower Show. I was a porter and my rate of pay was 50p per hour. During the show I worked for 85 hours.

Of that, 20 hours was at time and a third, which with the £2 travelling expenses meant I should have been paid something like £49.50.

I was working without cards, but after stamp money and graduated pension was taken off I only received £31.

I have seen the Department of Employment about this and they said they would take up the matter, but as most of Lyons employees come through Employment exchanges, it doesn't seem very likely anything will happen.

Part of my wages disappeared, probably into the pocket of the contractor, the Department of Employment won't do anything about it and J Lyons will continue making millions.—MPB, London, SW11.

GMWU: very long haul indeed!

THE ARTICLE (1 June) Democracy—Hard Graft in the GMWU—whilst highlighting the problems of the rank and file in the General and Municipal Workers Union, underestimates the enormity of the task.

The GMWU machine has built-in checks to reduce the influence of the members but there are also some built-in checks that do not appear in the rule book.

The composition of the agenda forming committee ensures that motions that in any way attempt to change the system are always dealt with last and this in practice means that they do not get debated at all.

The delegates to the conference arrive the day before and each region holds a meeting to decide which motions it will support or will not support.

Assuming that a branch that has not managed to get a delegate to the conference has a resolution on the order paper then there is no obligation on the delegation from that region to move it in their absence and thus it falls by default. And so the undemocratic GMWU system continues.

On the question of delegates, I once met the late Colin Chivers who was at one time the education officer of the GMWU. He had done a private study for his own benefit of the delegates who had attended conference more than once and had not spoken on any topic.

Because of his position at that time he would not reveal the full results but admitted that the number of delegates who had attended for 15 consecutive years or more who had not spoken, was into double figures. Of those attending five consecutive years or more and had not spoken it ran into three figures.

The attitude to the rank and file of the full time officials is best illustrated by a conversation that I had last year with Andy Cunningham (now doing five years over the Poulson case). I was talking to Cunningham about the manipulation of the selection of Giles Radice, GMWU research officer, as Labour candidate for the Chester Le Street by-election.

His answer was astounding even by GMWU standards. He said that in Durham he always let everybody have their say, but at the end of the day he had a card in his top pocket that had '106' printed on it and that the 106 represented 106,000 votes and he had never lost a vote yet. So much for democracy.—TONY RICHARDSON, Manchester.

CHILE-IN THE YARDS

IN JIMMY McCALLUM'S article (25 May) which mentions the failure of the Scott Lithgow shipyard workers to support the ban on Chilean goods he might have been right in asserting that there was work on the Clyde for everyone. But I think he missed the opportunity to make the specific points that Socialist Worker should make in a situation like this.

It is one thing for an Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive member to vote for a ban on Chilean goods, the day after the vote he still gets up and puts on his white collar and drives to the office. It is quite another thing for the shipyard worker to vote for a ban, the day after he packs up his tools, hangs up his overalls and walks to the labour exchange.

Hugh Scanlon can't lose. He keeps his job and his left wing image. Here Socialist Worker should have raised two demands, from the executive. A guarantee of no redundancies and work sharing and, or, overtime bans to spread throughout Clydeside.

This is not ultra-left, nit-picking criticism of Scanlon, who we obviously support in this critical issue. But is a constructive proposal which on the one hand shows to the rank and file the possibility of applying in detail the rather remote idea of international solidarity. On the other hand it might force the executive to realise that there is more to being a left winger than passing resolutions and that the Scott Lithgow workers can't be expected to carry the can for the whole labour movement.—BILL THOMSON, Glasgow.

MY ARTICLE (1 June) contained an important error. In my original copy I wrote 'In 1969, Wilson's incomes policy was smashed to pieces by the dustmen.'

In the printed version dustmen turned into teachers! Apologies to the dustmen.—TONY CLIFF, London N16.

Spies! me too...

I HAD an experience similar to Val Hale (1 June).

Some time ago when my husband a shop steward for Whitbread, was away for the day a character called on me. He was a fatherly figure, grey hair and steady build.

He said he was the father of a friend of my husband's who he hadn't seen for five years. I made him welcome and as soon as he was in the door he talked of George's politics and his association with International Socialists. He said his son was a member of IS. Mr Harding sounded quite plausible saying he was touring the area and took this opportunity to drop in.

Needless to say when George came home he had never heard of Mr Harding or his son.

It was very strange that Mr Harding should call on the day George was out of the vicinity. We wonder how he knew. The only people told were Whitbreads.—ELEANOR WILLSON, Tiverton.

Not just us!

THE HAMMERSMITH Hospital NUPE branch passed this resolution at an emergency meeting.

'The branch declares its solidarity with the nurses in their struggle for decent wages and conditions. On 6 June at midday the branch members shall withdraw their labour in order to support the nurses' demonstration being held that day.'

It's vital that other trade unionists should help the nurses in their struggle. I feel that it should never be necessary for any section of hospital staff to take industrial action, it's the duty of the labour movement as a whole to mobilise in support of these workers.

If trade unionists are unwilling to support hospital workers then they don't deserve the improvement in the service which the nurses are fighting for at the moment.—BILL GEDDES (chairman Hammersmith Hospital NUPE), London W12.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM
Journal of the International Socialists



The May issue of International Socialism journal analyses Portugal. It also features: John Reed on Russia 1918, Nigel Harris on Southern Asia and reviews Eamonn McCann's War and an Irish Town.

PORTUGAL

20p a copy (inc post) or £2.15 for a year from IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

Postal Points

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

The Arabs, the IRA are we wrong?

AS REGULAR readers of Socialist Worker we find that the issues which cause most controversy on the shop floor, consequently leading to the refusal of people to buy Socialist Worker, are the terror tactics of the IRA and the Arab guerrillas and your support of these two groups.

We originally started buying Socialist Worker because it is the only left-wing paper which puts forward the socialist angle of day-to-day politics in an easily readable manner. We fail to see, however, the connection between the IRA, the Arab guerrillas and socialism.

The IRA's aim of an independent Ireland would lead only to the replacement of English capitalists with Irish capitalists and would not in any way benefit the working people of Ireland. The Arabs are interested only in winning back the land stolen from them by Israel. The living standards of the Arab peasants still living in exile on this land would in no way improve by the success of the Arabs.

We feel that the International Socialists should dissociate themselves entirely from these two groups of murdering scum whose sole aim in life seems to be the outdoing of one another in the number of innocent men, women and children they can mutilate. Their pathetic tactic of indiscriminate bombing and slaughter of innocent people should be slammed on every occasion in the pages of

Socialist Worker.—Even workers at Redfean National Glass, Barnsley.

● There is a very real connection between the struggle for socialism and the factors that cause Irish people to support the IRA or Arabs to support the guerrillas. The fact is that the people who organised the divisions of Ireland and backed the creation of Israel are the same people who exploit the mass of workers in this country.

In the case of Ireland, the British ruling class used crude military force to control the six counties of Northern Ireland. To further back up its rule it deliberately encouraged Protestants to hate Catholics, using discrimination in jobs and housing to benefit the Protestant supporters of British rule.

When Catholic workers protested at this state of affairs, they found that the police and the army attacked them, that they were beaten up by Protestant thugs while the police did nothing, and that they were dragged away to imprisonment without trial.

It is hardly surprising that many Catholic workers began to see that they needed guns to defend themselves. Nor is it surprising that they recognised the continuing domination of Northern Ireland by Britain as the cause of their problem.

The IRA is not made up of 'murdering scum whose sole aim in life seems to be the outdoing of one another in the number of innocent men, women and children they can mutilate.' Rather it is made up of ordinary working men and women who have seen that British rule means poor housing, low wages, permanent unemployment for more than a third of the Catholics in districts like Derry, and a denial of the most elementary civil rights. International Socialists do not agree

with the tactics used by the IRA. But we recognise that its aim in bombing property is not to 'mutilate'. Rather, the IRA believes that damaging the property of British big business will force it to change its ways.

That is why it always gives warnings before bombs are planted in Northern Ireland—unlike the Orangemen, whose aim is to frighten and kill Catholics.

It is true that the members of the IRA tend to see British rule, rather than capitalism as the cause of their problems. But British capitalism is the major form of capitalism in Ireland, and by fighting it, they are fighting the same ruling class that exploits workers here as well.

The situation with the Palestinian guerrillas is in some ways similar. They are from the families of ordinary Arab workers and peasants who were driven out of their homes 25 years ago and have been kept out since by the Israeli government, backed up by the British and American governments.

They have been consigned by the reactionary Arab governments (supported by the same British and American governments that support Israel) to miserable refugee camps, which bear a striking resemblance to concentration camps, somehow surviving on about two and a halfpence a day each, periodically being bombed by the Israeli air force.

They see the only hope for themselves as being through a fight to drive back the Israeli state which has forced them into this condition.

Again, the aim of the guerrilla groups is not to 'mutilate'—note that when Israeli school children were killed a couple of weeks ago it was after the Israeli army had shot one of the guerrillas. And far more people were killed by the 'retaliatory raids' of the Israeli airforce than by the guerrillas.

The main support given to the Israeli state comes from the US, because it sees Israel as an ally it can depend upon to protect American control of the wealth of the Middle East, especially the oil.

At present, this wealth benefits the US oil companies and the Arab sheiks, rather than the Arab people whose living standards remain miserable.

By fighting against Israel, the guerrillas are fighting one of the most important forces maintaining this state of affairs.

That is why socialists have to sympathise with the guerrillas, even if we do not agree with their methods.

IN ENGLAND'S GREEN (SPRAYED) AND PLEASANT LAND . . . It was interesting to read A D Adams letter (18 May). My home town also had the pleasure of welcoming a member of the Royal Family to open a sports centre. Unfortunately the grass seed planted by the groundsman had left bare patches all over the area. So the Labour controlled council spent £400 spraying the grass so that the Duke wouldn't notice the bareness from the helicopter when he arrived.—PAUL BOLTON, Tipton.

I DREAM OF TORIES, LIGHT, BROWN, AND BARE . . . Am I really reading Socialist Worker or is this the News of the World? . . . There's a story about a Tory lady all in a dither because an ex-employer has permission to build a house not a stone's throw from her secluded swimming pool where she enjoys bathing in the nude . . . So what? . . . The Sunday Express, where the story is lifted from reported it because it likes to distract its readers from politics by titillation . . . We're left with our minds engaged in a useless sexual fantasy . . . What is Socialist Worker doing apeing this journalistic trick? OK so it's not right that some people not only have secluded swimming pools to bathe in but also the cheek to stop other people building homes near them . . . But why not say, unlike the Express, good luck to nude bathers and all who see them . . . The paper is getting better and better as it gets more articles and letters written by people who read it and not by professional journalists. I hope Footprints is crowded out of existence soon.—BRONWEN DAVIES, Oxford.

AN OFFER WE CAN'T REFUSE . . . I've yet to see a review of John Kobler's *The Life of Al Capone* in SW. The book must surely be indicative of the rotting corrupt state of America today . . . During his youth infant mortality in several Italian communities in New York was double that of the rest of the population, illiteracy run at approximately 60 per cent . . . These immigrants were subject to the myth that they had natural criminal tendencies and due to persecution it turned the myth into an unfortunate fact with some Italians . . . Due to Capone's unbringing he had little chance of breaking out of the bleak environment . . . This book doesn't glorify Capone or any gangsters . . . the author lays more emphasis on the corruption of civic and political authorities, judges, businessmen etc. While these corrupt people preached 'ritanical self-righteousness' and screamed for the gangsters blood they were being paid by them. I can recommend the book to socialists.—C P FELLOWS, Manchester.

THEY SHOULD HAVE GOT IT . . . According to information given about Old Age Pensioners Mr and Mrs Moakson (4 May) they are not, as Jim Blake reports, excluded from supplementary benefit payments. Assuming rates are paid separately they are entitled to a total income from all sources of at least £26.35 (in this assessment their paltry works pension is worth only £1 a week). If these pensioners total income is less than £26.35 someone has misinformed them (probably the Department of Health and Social Security) . . . I'm not defending meanness—the fact that millions of pensioners are failing to claim their so-called 'rights' is just one clear condemnation of the means test . . . It's an abuse of the English language to call supplementary benefit 'rights' any more than it's a right to go begging to the local squire.—ROGER CLIPSHAM, (Claimants Union member), Birmingham.

OK COLONEL, PUT YOUR HANDS UP, SLOWLY . . . I don't give one cubic centimetre of monkey's flatulence whether Adam Roberts (11 May) says he was editor, deputy editor or tea-boy for Peace News. He spoke on revolutionary warfare to the future British Junta without declaring war on them, and that puts him on the other side from me.—COLIN CAMERON, Glenrothes, Fife.

BACK TO THE PAPER (PART ONE) . . . Three cheers for the new Socialist Worker; it promises to turn into a really

good workers newspaper . . . I have a few remarks and suggestions . . . Firstly about the letters pages. I think it is very handy to have these pages of discussion particularly when it is on the standard of the letters on abortion, argument does teach. But if the letters pages just gave two columns for the International Socialists to reply in it would be helpful . . . Talking About Socialism is right on the mark. But with the Abestos Murders I do feel that a longer political conclusion is also needed not just a tragic exposure . . . Sorry Footprints but could it cut down your shoe size—a lot.—CHRIS FULLER, Norwich.

NO! ANYTHING BUT THAT! . . . Each management has its own ways of dealing with militants. At Bernard Matthews turkey factory, Gt Witchingham, Norfolk, militants are threatened with being sent down to the 'E Line'—the eviscerating line, which means gutting 17,000 turkeys a day. Most people who work at the factory rely on the works bus which collects people from outlying villages within a 35 mile radius of the factory, they haven't got transport to get to another job—so they're stuck. The (National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers) official isn't seen at the factory very often—except at Christmas when he comes to collect his turkey. Militants who land at Bernard Matthews by chance don't stay long, which pleases Mr B Matthews right down to the ground.—JENNY HAWKE, Norfolk.

WE'RE TRYING . . . In the April edition of Race Today a series of excellent interviews with Asian workers were recorded. The stimulus for such interviews was given by an acknowledgement to Karl Marx who, in 'A Workers' Enquiry', argued: 'We hope to meet in this work with the support of all workers in town and country who understand that they alone can describe with full knowledge the misfortunes from which they suffer and that they and not saviours sent by providence can energetically apply the healing remedies for the social ills to which they are a prey . . . We also rely upon socialists of all schools who, being wishful for social reform must wish for an exact and positive knowledge of the conditions in which the working class—the class to which the future belongs—works and moves'. Marx may be dead, but his scientific quest for the ESSENCE of social life expressed through the 'full knowledge' of the deprivations we 'are a prey' to must be carried out through the pages of Socialist Worker. We'll fight and beat those bastards who rule over us with the knowledge and experiences of our class in struggle and oppression . . . written and expressed by the working class.—BARRY CONWAY, London N17.

WELL THERE ARE LIBRARIES . . . All socialists should read Ian Birchall's *Workers Against the Monolith*. It is a great book, full of information and detailed insight that no socialist who comes into contact with Communist Party members can afford to be without . . . But it is very painful to fork out 30 bob for a book, no matter how bloody good it is! . . . All the books published by the International Socialists should be published at the cheapest possible price, with more cheap concise pamphlets on things like Chile, Ireland, the National Front etc . . . In order to make sure tens of thousands buy and read Ian Birchall's book IS should ask Pluto to lower the price and that all IS bookshops should sell it at cost price or just over.—JOHN MURPHY, Birmingham.

BACK TO THE PAPER (PART TWO) . . . There's been criticism of the policy of encouraging more articles from workers in SW . . . Experience of capitalism comes through most clearly at the point of production, in factories, mines, offices etc . . . Who better to explain and relate their experiences than workers themselves? . . . The workers will eventually take over the means of production and build a socialist society. It's for them to take control of their paper and write about their experiences and give a lead for other workers to follow . . . But we must build the revolutionary party that'll prepare us for the seizure of state power.—D WILLIAMS, London.



Alan Fisher of NUPE and Tory ex-Employment minister Robert Carr. Different tune but the same words?

I'm watching my wages!

I'M ONE of those workers who is going to get £1.20 a week because the cost of living threshold has gone up three per cent.

I'll get no money before the end of the month and it looks like whatever I get from 'threshold agreements' will be deducted from the settlement my union (Society of Civil Servants) will negotiate this autumn.

People like Robert Carr and Alan Fisher of NUPE are talking about threshold payments as 'cash in advance' for the autumn.

More and more workers who settled under Phase Three are finding out that the cash you get from thresholds doesn't begin to make up for the living cost rises.

By the autumn we'll need bigger rises and the government know it. We can expect our leaders to try and sell us the ideas of 'threshold payments'—cash in advance all through the summer.

We mustn't be fooled by it. Or we'll be sold out just like last year.—BRYAN REES, Swansea.

Asbestos: words-now deeds?

READERS who've followed Laurie Flynn's series on The Asbestos Murders may be interested in this resolution, which was overwhelmingly carried at the recent Annual Conference of Trades Councils.

'In view of the ever increasing number of chest complaints and further increase in the death-rate among workers in the use of laminates and asbestos in the ship-building, ship-repairing and construction industries this conference calls for a complete ban on the use of these materials.'

It surprised me to see Communist Party members voting against the resolution. The speaker against the resolution quoted an instance where men would lose their jobs if asbestos wasn't used. Surely a safe substitute can be found? The platform argued that asbestos was a safety precaution against fire—but all that means is we need an alternative fire preventative.

The real killer is the system which sacrifices life for profit, and as the brother who put the motion said 'the only way to treat a killer is to kill it.'—ANDY WISTREICH (delegate from Partington and Carrington TC), Manchester.

What I have in store for you...

I READ A Knowles letter (25 May) on Lewis Stores in Manchester. I'm not surprised that people in the Manchester store don't realise there's a union.

I work for the same store in Liverpool and asked many assistants who the union representative was. Eventually I spotted a notice in the canteen (or slop-house as it is known). Partly hidden by other notices it stated that the union was USDAW.

I tracked down the union woman—it took her a week to get me a form as 'there wasn't much demand for them.'

I've learned a lot about how the working class are conned out of their hard earned money. When you work in a store like Lewis's it is impressed on you to sell everything with the full sales patter.

The poor so and so's that buy the tarted up rubbish sometimes attempt to bring it back when it has fallen to bits.

Then they are told a pack of lies and if they know nothing of the Trade Descriptions Act, and few working class people do, they genuinely accept the smarmy excuses they're fobbed off with. And so company profits go on rising. I'd be interested to know what other shop-workers think.—EILEEN HEALEY, Liverpool 19.

MR A J BINNS OF A J Binns Ltd and Binns and Fening Ltd is a very rich man indeed, although if you saw him you'd feel like giving him 10p for a cup of tea.

The troubles in Ireland have meant boom time for him. He got a job of fencing all the prisons and internment camps out there. The Home Office is always ringing him with new prison jobs.

When I went to work for him three years ago, I was employed as a telephonist in his hardware shop in the West End of London. We had only been there a few months when he sold his shop and we were all moved to his head office in Haringey, North London.

Binns' hardware department didn't make as much profit for him as his prison work, so he gave two men the sack and made three others redundant.

While I was employed as his receptionist, I learnt a thing or two about his attitude towards the people he employed. When anyone came for a job, I would ring upstairs and ask if there were any vacancies. At first, I was told off for not giving the 'code words' as to whether the applicant was black or white.

There was a bit of a fuss about this when one of the girls rushed upstairs to tell the management that I had a black child myself. Straight away, the 'code word' was no longer mentioned. When I rung upstairs from then on, I was asked politely: 'Is he

Rubbish Binns at the works

black or white?

Mr Binns employs mainly blacks in his factory. This is because he pays such low wages that white workers aren't interested.

There is always discontent in the factory, but instead of organising themselves the workers just move on to another job, and so it goes on.

Although Mr Binns employs mostly blacks in his factory, he won't have one in the office. Last year he applied to an agency for a junior secretary. Along came this

young black girl, and I could see by Mr Binns' face that he was most put out.

She had her interview, and when she came out I asked her how she got on. She told me she wasn't going to take the job, as she would have to clean floors and make tea for everyone. This was untrue, as Mr Binns already employed two cleaners and a full-time tea lady. They had made the job sound as awful as they could so that she would turn it down herself—and it worked.

When Mr Binns' secretary came into the office, I asked about the girl.

'Oh no', she said. 'We can't employ her, she didn't want to do the work.'

'But she came for the job as junior secretary, not cleaner', I said.

Shoes?

'Oh yes', she said with an embarrassed laugh. 'But you know what Mr Binns is, and besides that when I saw her shoes, she had those great big platforms, and I thought she would never get up and down the stairs properly.'

'So it wasn't discrimination against her colour, then. It was discrimination against her shoes', I said.

'Yes', she said, 'it was definitely her shoes.'

The same sort of thing happened when Binns applied for an accountant.

Along came this young black guy with all the qualifications.

They were well and truly stuck, and so

they arranged for him to start work on Monday. I couldn't believe it. I thought it was too good to be true.

Just then, I was given a letter to post by Mr Binns. It was to the black guy saying that they couldn't employ him after all. About two minutes later, the black guy rung up to say that he wouldn't be starting the job as he'd found another one at better pay.

Binns and Co were all smiles and there was a lot of rushing about to get the letter out of the tray before it was posted.

When I asked why the letter had been typed to him after they had offered him the job, I was told: 'Oh we found out he is going into the navy.'

Mr A J Binns can't stand black people except when he is exploiting them in his factory, or in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he has business interests and a lot of property and land. Every year he leaves Britain in early December and comes back in time for Wimbledon in June. Every year as he prepares to leave for Jamaica, he goes round his staff saying goodbye. 'Oh well', he says, 'I'm off to the jungle—off to show those lazy bastards how to work.'

Apart from his property in Jamaica, Mr Binns has a house in Chelsea and a small 30-room country house with three lakes in the back garden, which he goes to for weekends.

That's what he got from the lazy bastards.

Mary Larner

Rich and poor

THE STATE of California is the richest place on earth. It is the richest part of the richest country in the world.

It is the all-star record holder for economic growth in the USA. Its aircraft, missile and electronics industries have boomed more or less continuously for over 30 years, fuelled by the vast government expenditures on armament and space programmes.

California is also the place where there were food riots recently. Poor people there—and there are lots of them—are so poor that, when someone gave away free food, they fought like cats and dogs for fear of not getting their share.

They were not fighting for free cars or colour TV sets. They were fighting for groceries. And they were fighting for them because they needed them badly. So much for the argument, beloved by our Labour leaders, that economic growth will abolish poverty.

Now there is no physical reason why anyone should be poor in California. The capacity of industry and the productivity of labour are so great that, even with a very short working week, there could be abundance for all and lots to spare.

Poverty and vast inequality exist because they are themselves inevitable products of the growth of capitalist economies. They are not accidental hangovers from the past. They are recreated every day by the very process that produces the economic growth, the accumulation of capitalist profits.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



possible. 99.99 per cent of the world's people will never use it. They can't afford the fare.

At the same time, even in the richest countries, a large part of the population lacks decent housing and an adequate, balanced diet. It happens this way because it is most profitable to the capitalists this way. And this will continue as long as capitalism continues.

What about the world as a whole? Isn't it true that the majority of the human race live in countries where industry is weak, where economic growth is the only way in which it is physically possible to create the possibility of a decent life for all? Yes, it is true. It is also true that the problems of these countries will never be solved on a capitalist basis.

Look at the facts. In the years of the great boom of the 1950s and 1960s the countries of south and east Asia, of black Africa and so on, became poorer relative to the industrialised countries. The gap did not narrow. It grew. And the coming recession will hit many of these countries much harder than it hits us.

The reason is that capitalism is a world system which produces inequality between the various countries as well as within them.

The poverty of India, to take an example, and the (comparative) wealth of Britain are directly connected. They are two sides of the same coin. Nothing short of international socialism can reverse these trends.

Duncan Hallas



The Basildon local newspaper's puff for the police scheme

TEACHERS and pupils in Basildon will find policemen in their schools in September. This is a pilot scheme launched under the title 'Police Community Involvement Project'. Needless to say there has been no consultation with teachers, teachers' unions, pupils or parents—only headmasters.

Already officers are making their introductory visits.

Each comprehensive school and its 'feeder' junior and infants school will have a schools liaison officer, whose job will include school visits, giving talks and showing films. He will be expected to take part in school activities including school trips, sport, youth clubs and community projects.

Another, perhaps more important, aspect of his work will be 'dealing with certain cases of nuisance and other incidents referred to him'.

The objects of this scheme are clearly defined in police handouts:

To take an active and increasing role in the social education of children and young people.

To project a favourable image of the police.

To reduce or contain the increase in crime by stimulating of the local residents to participate and co-operate in crime reporting and crime prevention.

Your own Junior Police Five!!
The response of many teachers is one of relief.

They cannot cope with kids kept at school by the raising of the school leaving age. The old discipline of 'Do as I say' and respect for authority is challenged daily.

Policewoman Julie Hales cops the lot from happy kids

SHAPELY policewoman Julie Hales made a big splash with Laindon school-children when she joined Basildon's new Police Community Involvement project.

Now Julie, 21, is receiving lots of 'love letters' from junior school boys.

She's had several letters from seven and eight-year-old boys, which read: 'I love you.' And the girls paint and draw for her.

'It's all very flattering and nice to know they like me,' said Julie, who has been a wpc for two years. 'The children bring me pictures and paintings and write that they love me. It's very sweet of them.'

Julie is one of a team of police officers involved in the new-town project, which promotes the 'friendly policeman' image.

Apart from meeting families and discussing problems, the police team visits local schools to bid to build up the children's confidence in

POLICE, TEACHER

Instead of asking why these problems arise, and trying to cope with their roots, they are ready to hand them over to a 'friendly neighbourhood bobby' who will make dissatisfied pupils junior criminals.

This can never provide an answer. The alienation children feel from school and authority will be reinforced by the repressive role of the police.

Unnoticed

Pupils attempting to form School Students Unions, those demanding schools councils, those on probation, will be easy prey for the liaison officer. Indeed, teachers encouraging such activities will not pass unnoticed.

The contradictions socialist teachers already face will be aggravated. For years we have fought not to be seen by children as part of the authority structure, but the connection will be made for us in the minds of the pupils; the policeman has done that. Unions have fought to place children's education in the hands of properly qualified people. Does a policeman fit into this category?

What is the role of the liaison officer in schools? However inno-

cent it may appear in intention, and however devoted the officer may be in his social duties, his position remains a source of information about pupils and teachers. Let us not forget that the pupils of today will be the militants and trade unionists of the future.

This move also means the authorities no longer have faith in teachers to instil respect for their betters. The Essex police, in this entirely new project, have shown that they are in step with the right wing establishment: they must stamp out any signs that suggest dissatisfaction with the way things are run.

This is another example of the state using its power against those who can't fight back. In the words of a fifth-year pupil in a Basildon school: 'It sounds cagey to me, probably another way to get a quick nick.'

Teachers, parents and pupils must oppose this project as a brutal interference in the delicate relationship between pupils and teachers. We must organise now, to stop the long arm of the law being extended into school work.

Jen Russ
a Basildon teacher

Two little pigs...



Newcastle Road: a fair cop PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

REMEMBER the story of the three little pigs? One built his house of straw, the other of sticks, the other of bricks. The big bad wolf blew down the first two, and ate the little pigs inside.

But he couldn't blow down the third and tried to get down the chimney, only to land in a bowl of boiling water.

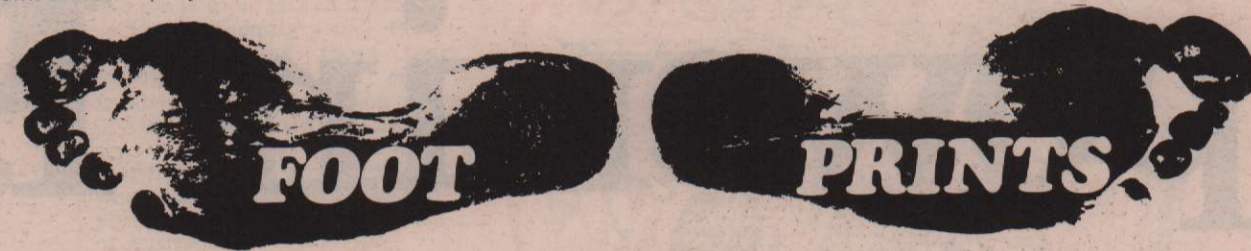
Things happen rather differently in Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

Two very big pigs in that region had their houses built for them. They were Chief Inspector Robert Young, who is in charge of police at Chester-le-Street, and Chief Inspector Albert Baines, who is in charge at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

Mr Young had the house on the left of the picture, and Mr Baines had the house on the right of the picture.

Mr Young paid £5200 for his house.

Mr Baines paid £5525 for his



house.

Both the houses were made of bricks. Both had three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and a sitting room.

The third house was bought at the same time by a man called Brian Woodward, who is not a pig at all. He is a sales engineer.

He paid £9121 for his house, which has three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and sitting room and is made of exactly the same number of bricks as the houses on either side.

The curious difference between the prices paid has been referred to Mr John Hallett, Assistant Chief Constable for Durham, who is becoming known in the area as 'the big bad wolf'.

But some people are saying that nothing will be done about the two big pigs.

They point out that the houses were built by Sid McCoulough, the Chester-le-Street millionaire builder, whose best friend was Andy Cunningham, who also had his house

in Chester-le-Street built by McCoulough.

Mr Cunningham is now in prison for corruption, which has caused a lot of misery in the Durham police force. Because for many, many years Mr Cunningham was the much-respected chairman of the Durham Police Committee.

As Mr Young told The Sun a few days ago: 'I am the head man of police around here. I did no more than any man would have done. But what will people think?'

Lording it on Chile

DID ANYONE miss this charming little letter in the Daily Telegraph last Wednesday:

Chilean Navy

From LORD ALDENHAM

SIR—Mr H. T. Barsby little knows what went on at the Abbey on the Chilean Naval Day.

Not only was the Chilean Embassy denied the right to lay a wreath on the tomb of Lord Cochrane, Chile's national hero, but Mr Allau and his friends were allowed to use the tomb and the day for political reasons.

Words fail me.

ALDENHAM
Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

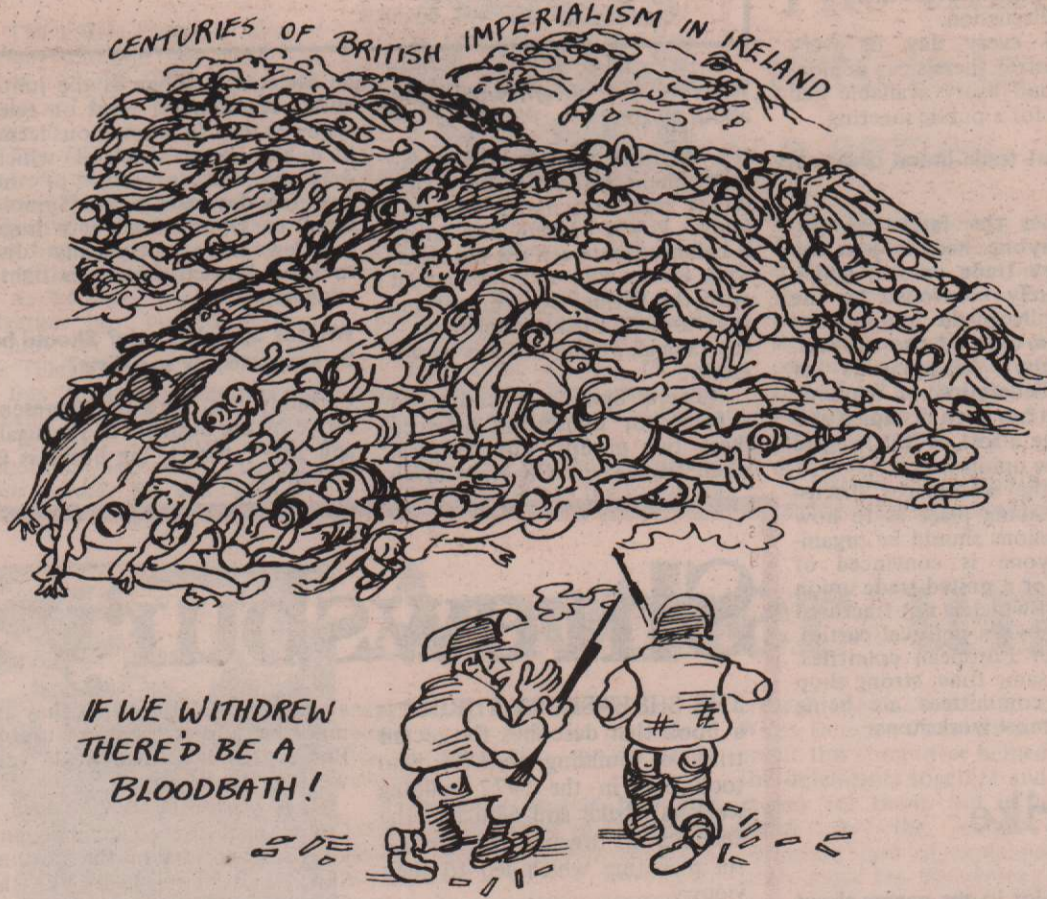
Perhaps because words failed him, Lord Aldenham forgot to mention that he is the chairman of merchant bankers, Anthony Gibbs Ltd, which has financed most of the Chile government's deals with Britain, including the purchase of frigates and submarines.

Lord Aldenham, in short, makes an enormous amount of money out of Chile, and the security of that money has increased a hundred-fold since the junta took power.

Lord Aldenham was Britain's most implacable opponent of the Allende regime, and said on several occasions (always in private) that it ought to be brought down.

There was nothing political about any of that, of course. Just another example of a decent British businessman carrying out his patriotic duty.

EIGHT HUNDRED Transport Union members at the BP refinery in Grangemouth, Scotland, are on strike for increases in the overtime rates and shift allowance payments. Management refuse to concede the claim saying it is outside Phase Three. Last year BP made £310 million profit. It can only be presumed this is not outside Phase Three.



Lording it on Concorde

LORD BESWICK, a Labour peer who is Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry—and gets £9500 a year for it—is leading a desperate campaign in the government to 'save the Concorde'.

He is fighting with every weapon at his disposal against the Defence Minister, Denis Healey, who wants to scrap the project.

In a courageous rejection of the 'rules' which silence expert correspondents, Andrew Wilson, aviation correspondent of The Observer, has reported a secret attack on Healey and the anti-Concorde lobby made by Beswick at an 'old pals' briefing meeting with aviation journalists.

Can Beswick discuss the Concorde

project with an open mind?

As soon as he lost office in the last Labour government, Beswick teamed up with the ultra-reactionary management of the British Aircraft Corporation, manufacturers of the Concorde.

Hysterical

For three years he served as 'personal advisor' to the managing director of BAC, Sir Geoffrey Edwards. Edwards is the world's most hysterical supporter of the Concorde. He sees the project as a useful way of making money out of the taxpayer for British Aircraft Corporation without bothering too

much about efficiency. If the Concorde project proves a failure, as seems inevitable, neither Edwards nor BAC will carry the can.

Now that he is back in government, Beswick is doing his best to commit Labour to still more hundreds of millions of pounds on the luxury aeroplane. He has already recruited the socialist evangelist Wedgwood Benn, Minister of Industry, to his flag.

The behaviour of Beswick proves once more how closely interwoven are the interests of big business with those of Labour Ministers. With friends like Lord Beswick, who was once a left-wing MP, the Labour movement doesn't need enemies.

Playing with words

THE LABOUR government has proudly announced that it will keep the section of the Tory Industrial Relations Act which deals with unfair dismissal.

Labour ministers are reported to be 'satisfied' with the way the Industrial Relations Court and tribunals are dealing with this question.

So the section is to remain virtually unchanged, except for the raising of the amount a worker can get if unfairly dismissed.

An example of the fair, impartial way in which the present Act works is quoted in the recent edition of the Industrial Relations Legal Information Bulletin.

Some Socialist Worker readers may have missed this usually very boring document, so this section is worth reproducing in full:

CASENOTES

Unfair Dismissal

Was employee dismissed? — resignation

Telling an employee to "fuck off" does not always imply that he is being dismissed

In the last issue of IRLIB, we looked at two cases — *Hughes v MAB Bolton* and *John Brignell & Co v Bishop* — where the NIRC held that an employee cannot be taken to be resigning simply by saying words such as "Do the job yourself". In many circumstances, such words imply nothing more than annoyance or dissatisfaction. The case of *Fundy v Brakes Ltd* looks at a similar situation from the employer's point of view, in that an employer who tells an employee to "Fuck off", or words to that effect, cannot always be taken to be dismissing the employee.

This case involved a fish filletter who was told by the foreman of the respondent company during some minor altercation, "If you do not like the job, fuck off". The applicant took these words to mean that he was dismissed. He left the firm and found himself another job.

According to the Beverley Tribunal (Chairman: A T Firth) which considered this case, the question that had to be decided was "what in the custom of the trade would those words mean?" The Tribunal held that whilst there are certain circumstances where the interpretation of those words could be "you are dismissed," against the background of the fish stock, "the words meant nothing more than a general exhortation" which had been used on many occasions to the applicant and to other workers. Thus, the words "fuck off", according to the custom of the trade, did not have the meaning ascribed to them by the applicant and therefore the applicant had not been dismissed by the respondents. He had terminated his own employment by leaving and finding another job.

It is worth noting that several cases last year at industrial tribunals established the rule that if a worker tells an employer to 'fuck off', the employer has 'reasonable grounds for dismissal'.

The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg



International Socialists pamphlet 20p

Price: 20p + 4p postage
10 copies or more post free

Paul Ginsborg's Introduction deals with the main political arguments which Lenin used in his work in the Russian and World Revolutionary movement. There are many sections, including Lenin's Life, Building the Party, Workers' Power, and Tactics and Methods.

Available from IS Bookshop, 265 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4.

bookshops

Pamphlets published by the International Socialists:

- The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p
- Can Socialism come through parliament? by Roger Kline, 10p
- Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p
- Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p
- Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p
- Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p
- The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p
- Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism, by Richard Kuper, 10p

WOMEN AND THE WELFARE STATE—Red Rag Pamphlet No 2, by Elizabeth Wilson. This traces the development of the welfare state and its attitude to women, argues that the welfare state has performed an important task in breaking down some of the worst aspects of traditional family life, but that socialists must fight to bring it further under consumers' control. (20p)

ADVENTURE PLAY-GROUND, by Jack Lambert and Jenn Pearson. A handbook on how to develop play areas which give children freedom; the alternatives to the shiny new playgrounds of the planners. (60p)

OPEN VEINS OF LATIN AMERICA, by Eduardo Galeano. Subtitled 'Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent', this documents the rape of Latin America by those driven first by the lust for gold and silver, later by the need for copper, sugar, and cheap labour. Exposes the lie of the idea of 'development'. (£1.65)

IMPERIALISM AND REVOLUTION IN SOUTH ASIA, (ed) Gough and Sharma. Eighteen essays on development, underdevelopment, and revolution in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. (£2.05)

WORKERS AND PEASANTS IN REVOLUTION, by Teodor Shanin. Compares some of the views of the 'third worldists' (that the key to the destruction of imperialism lies outside the western world) and those of the 'proletarianists' (who place the focus of truly revolutionary activity in the fully industrialised world.) Interesting. (10p)

DIRECT FROM IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1; 224, Edmund High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; and the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 64 Queen Street, Coventry.

MAIL ORDER FROM: IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p on books.

Who has the power in Portugal



Left: A car decorated as a tank publicises the demand of workers in Lisbon for higher pay. Right: A soldier of the soldiers... or who?

What was the political atmosphere like in Lisbon?

Elated. You've got to remember that for as long as everyone there can remember politics have never been discussed openly. Everyone has been far too terrified of the secret police even to discuss politics in their homes.

But now the secret police are locked up and there's a feeling of elation all over the place. Everywhere you go, people are talking about politics—from the middle-class coffee bars in the working-class areas and in the factories themselves—there's a constant discussion.

Almost every day in every major centre there's a demonstration—and every available hall is booked for a public meeting.

What about trade union organisation?

Well, under the fascist government everyone had to join the compulsory trade unions, which were entirely controlled by the Ministries. Now the unions have been taken over by the workers. The luxury headquarters of National Federation of Workers' Recreation has been occupied and has become a sort of TUC centre for the new unions.

In all the workplaces, discussions are taking place as to how the new unions should be organised. Everyone is convinced of the need for a united trade union movement, which is not fractured or split between political parties, as in other European countries.

At the same time, strong shop stewards' committees are being elected in most workshops.

Strike

We read a lot in the papers about strikes and occupations.

Yes, there are a lot. They followed the strike of the Lisbon underground railway workers who struck just after the coup for a minimum wage of about £100 a month and were granted all their demands.

Hardly a big firm in Lisbon hasn't been affected. Many of the strikes have demanded the sacking of directors who were associated with the old regime—and these demands too have been accepted.

One radio station—Radio Renascença, formerly a Roman Catholic enclave—is under workers' control. So is the Portuguese airline TAP. Most of the hospitals in the city, including the mental hospitals, are under the control of committees representing all the workers there—from doctors to cleaners.

MANUEL RIBEIRO was forced out of Portugal in 1958 when his father refused to sign a statement dissociating himself from the Goan independent movement. The family has lived in Britain for 16 years and Manuel has become active in the movement among Portuguese workers here to rid Portugal of its fascist dictatorship.

Two weeks ago Manuel returned to Portugal. He came back to Britain on Monday, and spoke to Socialist Worker.

What is the government doing about all this?

It's difficult to talk about the government without realising that power rests very much with the army. Power within the army is balanced between the old right-wing forces who were associated with the former government and the 'armed forces movement'—the radical, young officers' movement.

General Spínola is carving out a place for himself in between these two groups. For instance, when I was there General Galvão

de Melo, a member of the junta and a reactionary, went on television to read an anonymous letter he'd had 'from a patriot' which deplored the 'excesses' of the past few days and so on. Spínola went to Oporto and at a huge meeting there specifically dissociated himself from this right-wing approach.

What is Spínola's role? Should he be supported by socialists?

Certainly not. He's the representative of big business in Portugal. and don't forget, big business is still there.

In spite of all that's happened, the major capitalist concerns are still operating in Portugal. They are still the management almost everywhere, and they've got their men in the new government. Sa Carneiro, the Minister of Interior, is connected with Champalimaud, Portugal's biggest monopoly.

These capitalists want time—time to re-establish stable capitalism along more modern lines. They want to keep control of the raw materials of Mozambique and Angola—especially Angola—without having to spend two-fifths of their budget on maintaining armies there. They want to give up political control, but hold on to economic control.

That's the sort of world Spínola wants.

Strongest

What about the Communists and socialists in the government?

Yes, the Communists have been appointed to the Ministry of Labour and to the Ministry without Portfolio. They are by far the strongest working-class party. They have much better organised claim that there is a danger of a counter-coup and that former

agents of the secret support than the

The Communists everyone to keep work whipping demonstrations s wing of the ar the excuse to in impose order.

Police

We've been reading the Morning Star says that playing into the extreme right. What about that?

Well, there's no police agents are very few of the w the bread strike in was probably an e

But generally, In most cases the gone on strike without even ma mands. In a who workers found strike before the mands made on th

Is it true, as the Morning Star says other papers say

Shrewsbury:

THE SHREWSBURY THREE* is a book that describes the recent trials of building workers who took part in the 1972 building workers' strike and who had the audacity to organise the successful picketing which led to their victory.

Since this victory came on top of the miners' challenge to the Tories and the release of the five dockers from Pentonville Jail, the Tories and the building employers conspired to salvage something from the debris of their industrial policy.

They tried to make it look convincing by attacking the weaker section, those least organised trade unionists. They selected them from among the building workers in North Wales.

This is the message that the book puts across loud and clear. It shows that the trials were a put-up job. It shows that the men now in jail are not there for violence or intimidation, but because they are trade unionists. It proves beyond

*THE SHREWSBURY THREE, by Jim Arnison, Lawrence and Wishart, 45p.

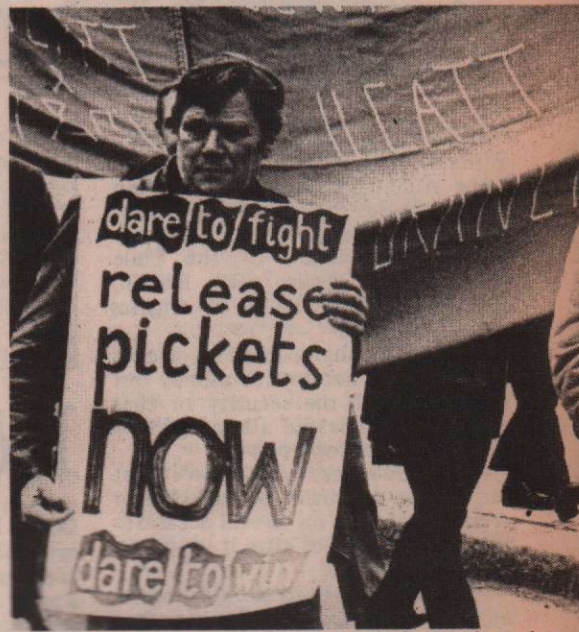
a shadow of a doubt that they are innocent and is therefore useful. But the book is also weak, very weak in several ways.

It is written by Jim Arnison, a Communist Party member and journalist working on the Morning Star, and published by the Communist Party press, so has to be judged as representing the view of the Communist Party.

When a communist writes a book you would think some attempt would be made to offer explanation and criticism of the mistakes made in the unsuccessful campaign to free the jailed men. You would expect some suggestions about what can be done now to get the jailed trade unionists released and how to rid the working class of the conspiracy laws.

But in Jim Arnison's book we get none of this. Instead we have a book much as a liberal or someone to the left of centre in the Labour Party would write. It does successfully prove that the jailed men were innocent. But at what cost?

Jim Arnison talks of the secret police dossier which lays the blame for any violence during the picketing at Shrewsbury on the



Three of the accused pickets march demanding the release of Llywarch (carrying the banner) and John Carpenter (right).

union men who had come from Chester.

Now this may be true and it adds still more strength to the case of the jailed men.

But it flies in the face of one of the most important facts Jim Arnison quotes in his book: that throughout the picketing in Shrewsbury the pickets were accompanied by a large squad of

police and not of

was made. More importantly danger try to defend the in this way. It s 'wrong' men were that if it had been everything would. In fact even if s men had been fo



celebrates the military takeover. Power to the workers.

How 'down under' helped the dockers win their tanner

THE great docks strike of August and September 1889 is one of the landmarks of the British labour movement. In one mighty upheaval, the London dock labourers, possibly the most degraded of all the city's workers, erupted in revolt.

For six bitter weeks, more than 100,000 dockers and river workers held firm in a huge strike which eventually won from the employers the 'docker's tanner'—sixpence an hour—and the beginning of the end of the 'call-on' system, in which dockers lined up every morning like slaves to be picked for jobs.

The solidarity of those labourers during those two months, during which many families were driven to the edge of starvation, is already legendary. It is not so well known that the dockers would not have won their demands without support from the labour movement of Australia.

There were two moments of crisis in the strike. On 29 August, 17 days after the strike had started, it seemed the men would lose for loss of money.

The minute book of the strike committee for that day reads: 'Intimation received that at present finances were running short. It was resolved that a notice should be posted outside that no further relief could be given this day.'

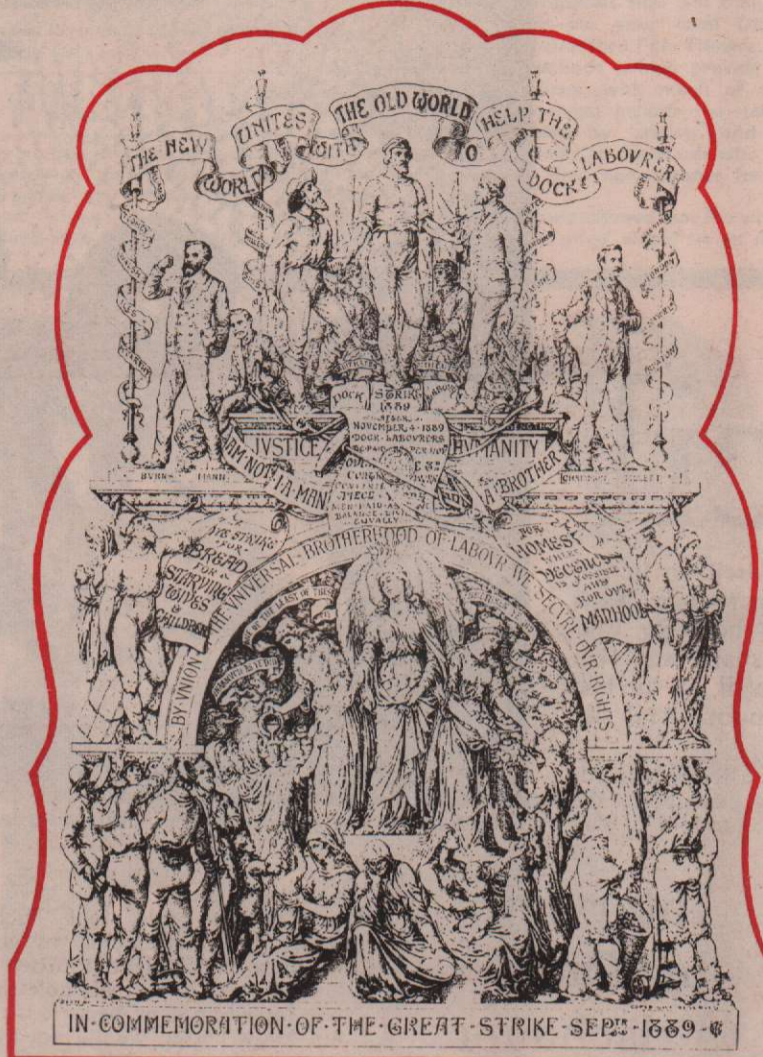
Dismay

The notice caused a wave of dismay through the docks. No relief at all! The funds had dried up! How could the strike survive?

Ben Tillett, one of the strike leaders, read the notice with tears in his eyes. He turned and walked into the Wades Arms, the East End pub which was used as the strike headquarters.

As he went in the door, a telegram boy pushed in front of him. 'Mr Tillett!' he shouted. 'Mr Tillett!'

Ben Tillett took the telegram. It came from Australia. It read: 'Brisbane branch, Wharf Labourers met today to consider your strike. So did Seamen's



ing dispersed than more telegrams and letters came in from Australia. On 2 September Melbourne Trades Council had met to count the collections organised throughout the city's trade unions. £1,600 had been collected. To this was added:

From the Seamen's Union of Australia—£1100.

From the Wharf Labourers' Union—£1200.

The Furniture Trades Society—£50.

The United Millers' Engine Drivers and Mill Employees Society—£500.

Workers' organisations in all parts of Australia competed with each other to send the largest contributions. In Victoria alone more than £20,000 was collected. In total, more than £40,000 came from Australia.

Liberal

When the outcome of the strike was still uncertain, the Pall Mall Gazette, a liberal paper whose support for the strike was not enthusiastic, commented: 'We have seen extraordinary evidence of the solidarity of British labour and the resourceful energy of the working classes at the Antipodes... But for the Australian subscriptions, the dockers would have been beaten today.'

The Australian response hardened the spirit of the dockers in those crucial days after Black Monday. The employers weakened, and finally gave in on the crucial issue, conceding the 'tanner' from November. Although many rank and file dockers still questioned the settlement, all London labour realised that the employers had suffered a big defeat.

The enormous victory march from the East End to Hyde Park on 15 September was headed by the Australian flag.

The vast banner made to commemorate the dock strike was headed with the declaration: 'The New World unites with the Old World to Help the Dock Labourer.'

'By Union—By the Universal Brotherhood of Labour We Secure Our Rights.'

Legal?

ret police are at socialists.

ists are urging ep quiet. They up strikes and o that the right ny would have tervene and re-

Agents

ng about that in ver here. The the strikes are hands of the hat's your view

doubt that some at work, in a orkers' actions— Lisbon recently ample.

It's not the case. e workers have spontaneously, cing specific de- le lot of cases, themselves on e were any de- government.

Morning Star and ver here, that

the strikes are likely to destroy the revolution against fascism?

No. The strikes and demonstrations have shown the tremendous strength of the workers. Without that strength, I doubt whether the armed forces movement could hold its own in the army. If the workers just stayed quiet and did nothing, it could prove more disastrous than anything else.

Is the spontaneous movement of the workers strong enough?

No, definitely not. And that's the other problem.

A number of strikes have petered out because the demands of the strikers haven't been co-ordinated with others. In other places, the lack of experience among the strikers has led to quick demoralisation and surrender.

There's no leadership now, that's the trouble. The organised parties are completely compromised by joining the government, and the workers have been left adrift.

The only hope of sustaining the spirit of the workers and of continuing the movement which was started by the April coup is by building a new socialist organisation at the heart of the Portuguese workers' struggles.

The third article in a series



union and firemen's union, and Sydney Wharf Labourers' Union.

'Two hundred and fifty pounds telegraphed immediately. Very substantial sums to follow.'

The news rippled through East London. Next day relief was paid—as it was every day to the end of the strike.

But £250 was not enough to offset the gloom of the following

week. The employers offered a 'final' compromise, granting the dockers' tanner—but only from the following January. The strike leaders, and especially the strikers, abruptly rejected the compromise on 'Black Monday'. It looked as though there was nothing for it but a long and bitter struggle, with possible defeat at the end. But no sooner had the meet-



case of their jailed brothers: Ken O'Shea and John H. P. (left). PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

single arrest at, it is also us to try to Shrewsbury 24 ggests that the put on trial and the 'right' men have been fine. e-called 'guilty' and guilty and

jailed, the trial would have been just as much a threat for the working class.

Inevitably when strikes happen tempers rise. Sometimes property is damaged. But are we to apologise while the real culprits, the building employers, foster such terrible conditions on building sites? They force men to work with the lump, the blacklist,

the blue eyes system and a completely indifferent attitude towards safety. What goes on in the building industry is enough to make anyone angry and disturbed. Yes, and even violent.

But this book fails to search for ways to alter the present set-up. Yet surely this is what Marx meant when he said that previously the philosophers have tried to inter-

Another university

experience', and of wanting to build a rank and file movement 'as an alternative to the trade unions'.

I can only assume that Jim Arnison is referring to the efforts being made by the International Socialists to build a movement, not—as he mistakenly suggests—to act as an alternative to the trade unions, but to act as a detonator to the wider trade union movement. Such a movement would not only defend workers and their trade unions, but try to begin change in the unions to make them more democratic, to make them more efficient instruments of workers' demands.

Jim Arnison is in bad company when he talks in derisory terms of the 'lunatic left'. For the prosecution at the trial tried to establish that the pickets in the building workers' strike were 'wild men, acting unofficially without the authority of the trade unions', men who wanted an instant revolution.

In fact Jim Arnison uses this whole attack on the left as a cover up for the inadequacies of the pret for the world, the point now is to change it.

The book also takes an un-

critical approach to the North Wales Defence Committee. To its credit this committee helped keep the defendants together and raise money for them. But it signally failed in the much more important task of explaining the truth about the Shrewsbury trials and organising a rank and file movement to mobilise in the unions for the release of the jailed men, just as the dockers did when the Pentonville Five were jailed.

Indeed the book levels criticism at what is termed 'the lunatic left'. There is no definition of who these people are. Nonetheless Jim Arnison accuses them of calling for 'instant revolution', of 'being totally without industrial Communist Party in this whole unhappy episode, an attitude which led them to stake everything on the official movement rather than on independent mobilisation of the rank and file.

In my experience as a docker and as a member of the Communist Party for 13 years, rank and file committees are invaluable as schools of struggle and can be complementary to the struggles being waged inside the trade unions. It all depends for what

purpose they are designed.

On a more personal level, reading this book helped me better to understand my own drift away from the Communist Party after all these years. Because of its reformism, its pursuit of positions in parliament and the union machine, the Communist Party had left me a communist without purpose, going nowhere politically until I joined the International Socialists, a small but growing revolutionary socialist organisation.

Perhaps one day someone will write a book about the Shrewsbury trials which will become a tool in the hands of workers to fashion and design new organisations and to redesign old organisations to meet the demands the system places upon them.

Meanwhile four of the Shrewsbury Six, our brothers, languish in jail, and others may join them in the future unless we workers build a democratic rank and file movement with a more sensitive trigger mechanism—one which will fire the trade unions into action.

Eddie Prevost

TGWU Royal Docks, London

Grabbed —by the council

ROSA BAPTISTE comes from Grenada in the West Indies. She works as a part-time ward orderly in the labour-ward of the Mile End Hospital. She lives with her husband and five children in Montcalm House, Millwall, on the Isle of Dogs in the East End of London. And she doesn't like it . . .

'It's terrible, down here—we've been living here for six years—everything is bad, living, transport, the shopping facilities, there's no room for the kids to play about and to give them a bit of fresh air. The place is very depressing, the state of the whole area is terrible, it makes you feel you just want to leave and go somewhere else . . .'

Rosa works mainly on the week-ends when her husband, who is a car mechanic, can look after the children. Every other week-end Rosa's eldest son Michael comes for a visit.

Michael is one of the many West Indian children who land in educationally sub-normal schools or schools for maladjusted children.

Rosa has been trying to get Michael out of his so-called boarding school for some months now. This is how it all began.

'At first Michael was going to the local school—but I was getting complaints that he was always fighting, that he was hard to manage and they could not control him. They took him out of that school and sent him to Medley Street School (a special day school) but complaints were still coming in that he was fighting so much.

Court

'There were no complaints about lessons, really, only about how hard Michael was to manage. We had to go to the school often to collect him and his father missed a lot of time off work.

'Michael could not cope with school and could not concentrate. They wanted him to see a psychiatrist but I refused. The school sent for me again and again. He started spending time away from school and they threatened to take me to court if I did not make him go to school.



Interview by Katya Frischauer

'I said to them: "It's not my fault if you are sending him to a school where he can't please anyone; if you get me the right school I'll send him again."

'It was from then on that people started coming round from County Hall to tell us about Barrow Hill School (an ESN boarding school) which was supposed to be a better place for Michael. A number of welfare officers came round to make us sign the papers—in the end they even sent two coloured officers.

'We thought about it and came to the conclusion that they sent the white people first and when we did not seem to make up our minds they sent the black ones to make us sign. My husband was away in the West Indies at the time and I told them I would not let Michael go without him being here.

'Well, on the day my husband returned, half an hour after his arrival, the welfare officers came and made him sign the papers. They were in such a hurry!

'My husband had no time to think it over and he signed the papers without knowing what it was all about. My husband asked them if it was a school for kids who have been thrown out of their homes.

'"No", they replied, "it is a

boarding school."

'We were told that Michael would be a better child by going to Barrow Hill School. When we look at it all now, the whole thing was forced upon us, because we did not know better, we did not know what to do, what help we can get, who to ask for help. In the end we signed the papers.

'Three years ago, on the day Michael had to go to the school in Frimley, Surrey, they would not even let me come with him. He was crying his eyes out all the way to County Hall . . . Michael has been in this school for three years now. The school is full with black children from all over England!

Rosa's criticisms and the reasons for wanting to take Michael out of that school are that he was supposed to come home for visits every week-end, but he only comes ever so often apart from the holidays.

'The schooling was supposed to be free, but after they took a means test we were made to pay £4.88 per term. On top of that we have to send him £1 pocket money per week and pay for travelling expenses.

Action

'Michael often came home with cuts and bruises and he looked terrible. I rang the local welfare office time and time again, but nobody replied to my complaints or took any action. When we tried to get Michael to come home for a wedding, we were told we could not just send for him whenever we wanted to.

'It is really like a jail.

'My husband is so angry about the whole situation, he refuses to pay the school fees. I also wrote a letter to Barrow Hill School to ask them to send Michael home, for good. I've had no reply so far.

'I am determined to get Michael out of there. His brothers and little sister miss him, and cry every time he has to go back there. I am frightened that Michael will grow up with an ill-feeling about it all—thinking that he has parents who don't stand by him. After all, children should grow up with their family.'

Rosa and a group of other women have decided to take action against the discrimination that black children experience in schools. Many of the other mothers in the area have complaints about how their children are being treated.

The first step in the campaign is a public meeting to be held on the Isle of Dogs. Information from Claudia Mendy, 7 Kedge House, Tiller Road, London E14.



Rosa Baptiste and her five children—Michael is second from the left. RIGHT: Montcalm House—the family live on the third floor.



PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

READERS in the Bradford area who fancy a night out at the pictures could go along to the Bradford Film Theatre (Chapel Street, Bradford 1, Tel 20329) on Sunday 9 June.

Both the films shown and, we hope, the discussion will be overtly political' said a spokesman for the Theatre.

They are showing at 5.15pm, INHERITANCE and at 7.45pm ADALEN '31. In between a discussion will be led by Ken Appleby secretary of Keighley Trades Council and a member of the International Socialists.

The Inheritance 'compiled from stills and early newsreels is a survey of American labour relations from immigrant days to the Civil Rights campaign,' says the blurb.

Adalen '31 is a visually beautiful movie made by the Swedish director Bo Widerberg—who also made the Ballad of Joe Hill (about the Swedish American socialist of the early part of the century). It is about a strike which took place in Adalen in North Sweden

in 1931—which led to a massacre by the forces of the law. It is worth seeing.

'We're working closely with the trades councils of Keighley, Shipley and Bradford in order to publicise the films as widely as possible in the factories' said the bloke from the theatre. 'When we've held programmes of trade union interest in the past they've always been well attended.'

As an added incentive pies and beer are available in the bar after 7pm. . .



MEANWHILE in London at the Academy Cinema in Oxford Street a film called NADA is showing. It is likely to get showings outside London in the early autumn.

It is an excellent new French political thriller, in colour. A small group of anarchists capture the US ambassador to France in a Parisian brothel, and hold him to ransom.

The French ruling class hit back.



The heroine of NADA taking the easy way out. . .

FILM CUTS

A grumpy minister is air-lifted out of his palace in the middle of the night to organise the counter-attack. A smooth civil servant goads his thuggish police chief into action. Torture and then

mass state violence follow.

The film's politics seem to come down to making socialist noises while wearing a liberal hat but it's portrayal of the ruthlessness and power of the French ruling class is excellent—and instructive.



FOR THOSE one or two readers who failed to get to the Cannes Film Festival this year, a few words. The festival is designed for companies to sell films to other companies who will then sell them to us—via your local Odeon, Academy or Bradford Film Theatre.

Usual methods (which provide the Sun and Mirror with much of their 'artistic' coverage) include the taking off of clothes by 'starlets' and the plying of drinks to drunkards who it is hoped, will then sign cheques for the films.

Many people believed that the winner of the main 'prize' would be an inter-

esting film, STRANGERS about a French blackmail con-man of the 1930s who was murdered, via government circles, in 1936. But it didn't win. The prize went to an American film with Gene Hackman as a steady Watergate style bugger.

Why? Because if the Americans (and the Russians) don't win a regular quota of prizes at the 'Festivals' then they will pull out. And that would mean the booze, and the starlets and the remains of the film industry would disappear too. . .

However to make sure that the French were represented the CRS, the French riot police made a guest appearance at a film about abortion. The film is banned in France—as is abortion.

They showed their concern for human life by banging the audience around the head with their clubs.

It was neatly times for the campaign of new French President Giscard D'Estaing, a prominent anti-abortionist.

Advert for paper chase...

YOU READ stories of successes in Socialist Worker, successes in fighting against this system, of organising in struggle against employers, against the state. This is a success story, a very small one, and sadly for the writer and for his workmates, a very isolated one. . .

IN January I was fortunately or unfortunately enough, employed by the building firm F G Minters. The contract is right in the heart of Nottingham, a huge indoor shopping complex which when completed would have taken roughly four years to build. Three years have already gone.

My first shock was the squalid little canteen where the men were expected to eat and I must add that some of the men were happily doing just that. Others preferred to go to various cafes in the town.

The site management agree to let this arrangement continue simply because they know it is impossible to get all the men into that canteen: entitled to use it, without blatantly killing a few of us. Needless to say that there is no trade unionism on this job.

Some things I do strongly believe in.

One is an organised workforce through the proper and only channel of the trade union movement.

So one morning off to work I went loaded up with union application forms, with no doubt in my mind that all that was wanted was

MIKE STOUT writes about a building site without a decent canteen, without a trade union and (until recently) without bog rolls. . .

someone prepared to take on the responsibility of organisation. But no one wanted to know, out of 50 odd application forms that I handed out.

I accept that there is disenchantment with the union (UCATT). But the men who feel this can still be won over. Then there are the parasites: men who are quite happy to greedily accept every wage rise and conditions won for them by the union at the expense of their workmates. These can be shamed into seeing the error of their ways.

Then there is the most disagreeable section of all, those who are intimidated by the management, by fear of reprisal if they joined a union. This section in my opinion is the main spring of this particular site.

Only one thing can be said about these so called men—God help them.

However apart from this it seemed incredible that not one person joined the club. This was a site



The 1972 building workers strike. It won a £6 a week increase, led to the victimisation by our rulers of 24 building workers and the imprisonment of six. But back at Mike Stout's site not too much is happening. . .

completely disorganised and playing right into management's hands, and the management exploiting it to the full. Apart from a grubby canteen, and bonuses that are an insult to the weaker sections of the workforce, eg labourers, I could not see any factory acts or building regulations displayed anywhere.

Dainty

On enquiring with the site safety officer about this I was told they were pinned up in the main office block. This block is like the management's own little citadel for them and their appointed 'yes' men, who jump to inflict management's wish on to us like prima donnas. The men themselves have no reason to go there, they are even paid out in the canteen.

And there were no bog rolls. In their place were little squares of the daily papers, meticulously ripped into dainty pieces by the storemen. A lot of people might think that we should be grateful for being given the opportunity of

getting true value out of the dailies, but to us pampered ones it is a bit uncomfortable, more so with the warm weather here. I enquired about this and the answer was that there was a shortage of paper.

My wife had previously remarked on this, saying that the Co-op was rationing it to two rolls per person due to the shortage. It immediately sprang to my mind that if she was having a job getting it, then what chance had a huge firm like Minters got?

I decided to leave the matter in abeyance to see what the men's reaction would be. Time passed and still the site that met you on entering the toilets was little squares of newspaper scattered all over the place like an advert for a paper chase. I approached the others to seek out their views.

Those who were bothered, including the safety and welfare men were bringing the toilet paper from home regularly.

It seemed laughable to me that that wives were probably shouting after their menfolk in the mornings,

'Have you got your toilet paper', or wrapping their snap in it so they would not forget.

I asked again and this time the true answer came back. The management replied that to provide bog roll at 14p a roll is too expensive so 'you will have to go without'. I made an appointment with the project manager. He wouldn't see me.

It is surprising how management alter and how toilet paper appears with a visit from the factory inspector. For asking for basic decencies I have been branded a communist, and an agitator and a troublemaker, even by a few workmates.

But a point has been proven—no one has complained about the disappearance of the little squares of newspaper. I have mentioned the word intimidate. I also use the word conspiracy. The management of this firm have openly conspired between them to exploit and degrade men to the limit, to reap capital gains.

Six building workers have been in jail for fighting against these two words, the charges against them? Intimidation and conspiracy. . .

A WORD IN OUR EAR

Robert Burns was born in 1759 and died 37 years later. He was the son of a poor tenant farmer and was to be Scotland's, and one of the world's greatest poets. Often he is buried under sentiment, the writer of Auld Lang's Syne—but he was a supporter of the French Revolution, and as the following poem, Why Should We Idly Waste Our Prime, shows, a fighter against a system which has outlived him, but not his words.

Why should we idly waste our prime
Repeating our oppressions?
Come rise to arms! 'Tis now the time
To punish past transgressions.
'Tis said that kings can do no wrong—
Their murderous deeds deny it,
And, since from us their power is sprung,
We have no right to try it.
Now each true patriot's song shall be:—
'Welcome Death or Libertie!'

Proud priests and Bishops we'll translate
And canonise as martyrs;
The guillotine on Peers shall wait;
and knights shall hang in garters.
Those despots long have trode us down,

and Judges are their engines;
Such wretched minions of a Crown
Demand the people's vengeance!
Today 'tis theirs, tomorrow we
Shall don the cap of Libertie!

The Golden Age we'll then revive:
Each man will be a brother;
In harmony we all shall live,
and share the earth together:
In virtue trained, enlighten'd Youth
Will love each fellow creature;
And future years shall prove the truth
That Man is good by nature:
Then let us toast with three times three
The reign of Peace and Libertie.

ON THE BOX

○ THURSDAY (6 June) BBC-1 9.25pm. The 7.84 theatre group, an excellent socialist travelling company has been touring Scotland with THE CHEVIOT, THE STAG AND THE BLACK, BLACK OIL, about the Highland clearances, and the oil 'boom'.

○ SUNDAY, ITV, Noon. John Pilger looks at THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICIAN IN AMERICA—or so he says, George Wallace. A politician in a familiar mould, a racist with a phoney image of being for the 'little man'. At 10.15pm same channel the

play A WOMAN'S ESTATE is about life in a high-rise block and the revolutionary results of a 'young mums club' . . .

○ TUESDAY, BBC-2, 9pm. The last play produced by Tony Garnett in the short series of his plays is THE ENEMY WITHIN.

○ WEDNESDAY, BBC-2, 9.55pm. 21 years ago Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed as the couple who 'gave the A-Bomb secrets to the Reds'. The executions took place at the height of the Cold War, at the height of the US Communist witch-hunts.

THE UNIONS

Here's where the cure must start

NURSES are doubly unfortunate. Not only are they subject to the pressures of 'conscience', the ghost of Florence Nightingale and the unprofitability of service industries. They also suffer the worst type of leadership.

Twelve organisations make up the staff side of the nurses' and midwives' Whitley Council—the body which determines pay and conditions. Before an issue is agreed both management side and staff side must reach agreement separately from one another. The staff side is hopelessly divided.

Three organisations dominate it—the Royal College of Nursing, the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the National Union of Public Employees.

The Royal College of Nursing is a professional body which has nothing in common with trade unionism. It is not affiliated to the Trades Union Congress and until recently excluded from membership all nurses below the status of state registered nurse. The Royal College was eventually forced to allow the 'lower deck', such as enrolled nurses, to bolster up its increasingly untenable positions in the face of the recruiting being done by trade unions.

The RCN also has a bad record of encouraging nurses to scab when hospital ancillary workers have been engaged in industrial action. In common with other 'professional associations' the RCN representatives are almost entirely middle-aged senior nurses at the top end of the salary scale.

Automatic

The evidence that self-interest is at work came to light during Phase Two of the Tories' wage legislation. Then the £1 plus 4 per cent was disgracefully carved up. Even the Tories were willing to let the 4 per cent of the wages bill go mainly to the lower-paid nurses—but not the professional bodies.

With their automatic voting majority on the staff side, they gave most to the senior nurses and matrons already on high salaries. They got almost £5, while students, pupils and young staff nurses got a bare £1—effectively a cut in real wages compared with the previous year.

The latest absurdity suggested by the RCN leaders is that all nurses should resign and be re-employed through an agency rather than soil their clinical purity by positive action or appeals to other sections of the labour movement.

Forced

Then there is the Confederation of Health Service Employees. COHSE has done an about-turn. After deserting the hospital ancillary workers' strike in its early stages and allowing extensive blacklegging where other unions were carrying on the struggle, its leaders have suddenly become champions of industrial militancy. The tail has wagged the dog!

The majority of COHSE members are psychiatric nurses, many of whom have outside experience in industry. Much against their wills the COHSE leaders have been forced to become the blind leaders of an action they don't understand.

The sight of these men—who rushed to get registered under the Industrial Relations Act and walked out of the TUC flourishing the gesture made famous by Harvey Smith—now leading a nurses' strike

by a NUPE member

is somewhat sickening.

For a quarter of a century the COHSE leaders have revered self-sacrifice and vocation and have said a thousand times: Our members will never be asked to strike.

COHSE's main policy is for limited one or two-hour strikes, leaving the wards manned on a minimum basis. This is a climb-down by the leaders who originally mouthed slogans for an all-out strike.

Scrabble

NUPE's role has been unforgivable. Enormous grass-roots activity in the biggest union in the Health Service, capable of involving ancillary staff as well as nurses, has met with a nil response from general secretary Alan Fisher. Indeed Fisher's main pre-occupation seems to have been with the scramble to grab members from the RCN and COHSE.

The biggest union with most potential has done least—so far as the leadership is concerned anyway. But shop stewards committees are providing their own leaders at local level and mass demonstrations and rallies are springing up all over the

country.

The rottenness of leadership in all the unions is unquestionably responsible for the poverty among all groups of hospital workers. NUPE, COHSE and the RCN are all run like smart business concerns rather than trade unions.

NUPE in particular has a policy of recruiting whizz-kids from Ruskin College, Oxford, and universities as full-time organisers. This has paid off in 'plastic' efficiency and has helped make NUPE the fastest-growing union in Britain. But it has done nothing for internal democracy.

COHSE and the RCN both appoint exclusively from among members who are state registered nurses and not one organisation has a single elected full-time official operating in the nurses' field.

NUPE, with its 500,000 members, and COHSE, with its 120,000, should put aside the personal career interests of their top full-time officials. They should amalgamate and put an end to the disgusting scramble to poach each others' members. Together they could break the negotiating stranglehold of the RCN bureaucracy.

As it is nurses must accept that they are in a struggle that must be fought and won by the grass roots and by solidarity from other sections of the labour movement.

Time to loosen the white collar

by Geoff Woolfe

Lewisham NALGO

THE annual conference of the government officer's union NALGO at Brighton next week meets at a critical time for the union. NALGO is beginning to stir from its long sleep. As the largest white-collar union in Europe, its members range from council clerks and nurses earning £20 a week, to chief officers on £8000 a year.

The strikes now going on have moved NALGO on to a new plane, and the employers' refusal to negotiate this year's national local government pay claim has spread action across the country.

The union's London district has

changed dramatically from a backward area ruled by the old guard to the most militant. It is no coincidence that the rank and file NALGO Action Group is strongest in London.

In this year's elections for the union executive three Action Group supporters were elected in London with an increased proportion of the votes and Action Group supporters were elected in the South West and Scotland for the first time.

The rise in militancy has been in



Nottingham nurses on the march. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

spite of the creaking machinery of the union. The funding and procedure for strike action go back to the days when NALGO members were 'respectable' and 'non-trade unionists'. At a recent lobby, a long-time member of the executive admitted that the strike rules were deliberately framed to prevent strikes.

The executive has been forced to amend the procedure, allowing more flexibility but this could still mean rank and file demands for action will be delayed or refused. The executive are opposing a conference motion from Camden, North

London, which would make it easier to call action short of a total strike.

The new mood in NALGO is having financial implications. Traditional caution has resulted in all strikes being on full pay. So it has been easy for the right wing to argue that the union cannot afford the necessary increased action in London. That the executive's strategy will have cost more than an effective all-out strike has been ignored.

But the union's decision to invest £1 million of the strike fund in the new headquarters building has not gone unnoticed by militants. For the past four years the NALGO Action Group has argued against this. At Brighton, there may be a proposal from the rank and file to double the annual contribution to the strike fund to £500,000 and to withdraw the £1 million from the new building.

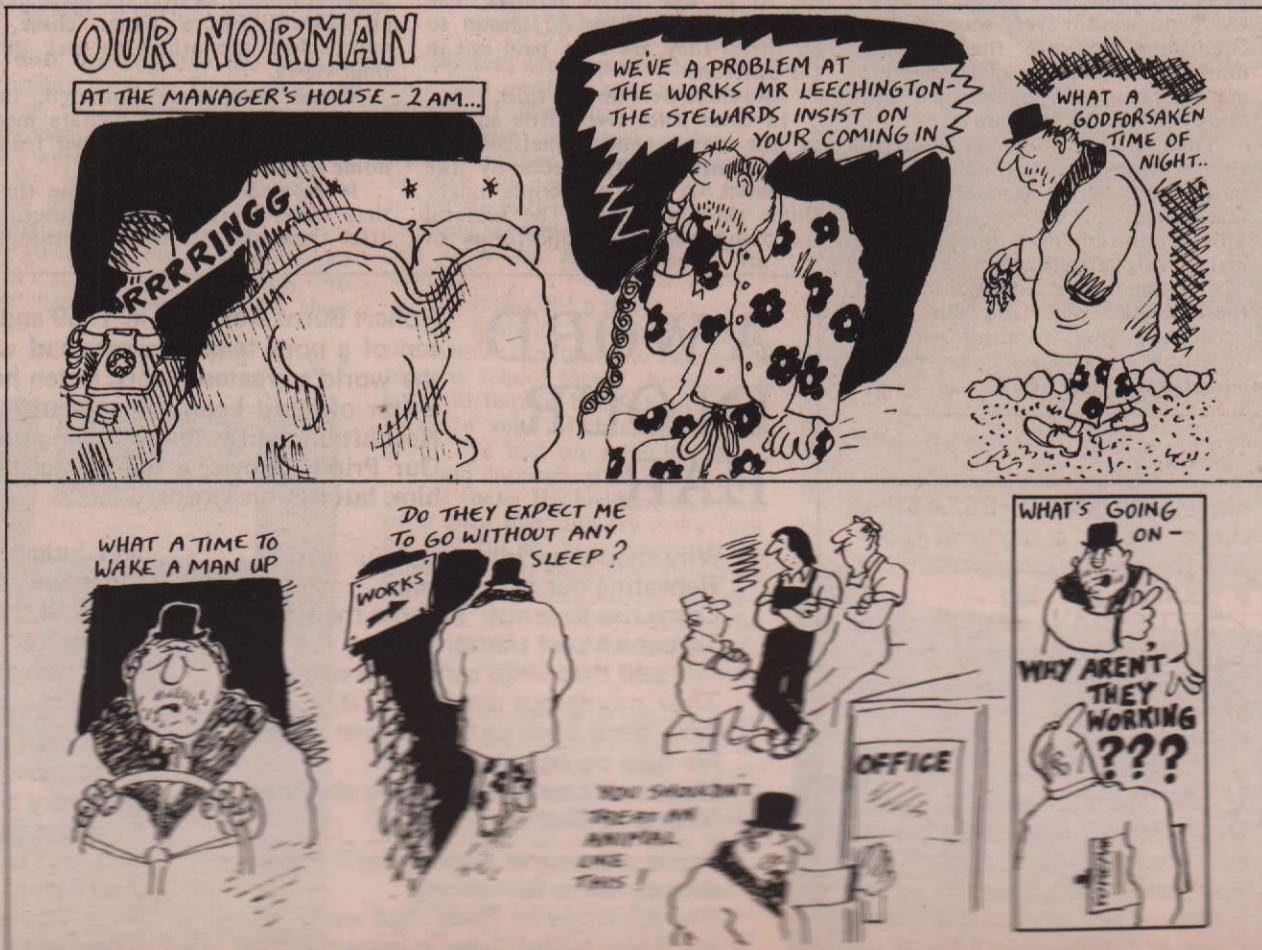
Horror

In the past year alone, £700,000 has been spent on NALGO's entry to the property world—enough to cover all the strike pay so far in the London allowance campaign.

The issue of union democracy will also be to the fore. Not surprisingly the executive is opposing two motions calling for executive election addresses—with so little information available most members still vote the same way they fill in a football pools coupon. The executive is also opposing a move for rank and file election of all negotiating committees.

Another attempt is to be made to commit the union to flat-rate rather than percentage pay claims. The executive has always opposed this. To the many executive members on principal officer grades, any reduction in differentials is the final horror.

A motion condemning incomes policies under capitalism is likely to be approved. The message that militants must get across is that wage freezes must be fought. Pious resolutions achieve nothing... action does!



Past OUR NORMAN cartoons are published in The Our Norman Book, price 40p from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



The Chile issue is at the factory gate

GLASGOW area IS political committee organised lunch-time factory gate meetings last week to put the Chile issue directly to the men concerned—at yards where work was being carried out on armaments for the fascist junta.

by Mick Napier

at Barr and Strouds which is making six periscopes for the subs.

Both workplaces were leafleted as the workers went in in the morning, announcing the meeting at the dinner break.

At Scotts about 200-300 came out to listen during a break in the rain, and listened while an IS member and an anonymous Chilean explained what was happening in Chile to trade unionists and socialists. Most listened intently to what the speakers had to say but a minority gave them a rough reception.

For them, unfortunately, solidarity with the workers of Chile was weighed up against the fear of the dole. The idea of the 'right to work' on something other than weapons for fascists cannot be got home to everybody in a half-hour.

Barr and Strouds was a smaller meeting, about 70-80 on a windy overcast day. The audience listened intently and sympathetically to the speakers, one explaining the situation in Chile today and the other asking for solidarity action from the factory—the blacking of the periscopes. Several stewards were out at the meeting and one, in addition to the IS steward in the factory, said he would raise the matter on the shop stewards committee and urge blacking.

The IS members who spoke at the meetings felt that they were certainly worthwhile and should be continued. The Chile issue is critically important to develop internationalism in the working-class movement.



The Socialist Worker four-page leaflet on Chile and the blacking of firms that trade with this country that executes trade unionists has now been printed. It lists all the firms that trade with Chile and puts the arguments why the blacking is so vital for trade unionists.

All IS branches should have copies of this leaflet for meetings on Chile. Is one of the factories trading with Chile in your area? If so, copies of this leaflet should be passed to trade unionists there. Send for copies now.

They cost 2p each (postage 5p on any number of copies) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Going West Indian

A WEST INDIAN day school was held at Teesside's IS Bookshop last Saturday at which Lee Kane spoke on West Indians in Britain and Malcolm Cumberbatch spoke on the situation in the West Indies. Both are members of the IS anti-racism sub-committee.

The school was attended by 16 West Indians, most of them IS members. There was a vigorous discussion on the West Indies and on police victimisation—a subject close to Teesside. All in all the school was a great success.

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

SOCIALIST WORKER EAST ANGLIAN RALLY: Sunday 9 June, The Lamb Inn, Haymarket, Norwich. Discussion starts 3.30pm. Evening session: bar, music, buffet.

CROYDON IS public meeting: 100 days of hard Labour. Speaker Nigel Harris. Wed 12 June, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane. All welcome.

GLASGOW IS public meeting: The International Struggle for Socialism... Chile, Portugal, Britain. Speakers: Tony Cliff (Executive Committee, International Socialists), Bruno Du Ponte (Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee). Wed 12 June, 7.30pm, Patrick Burgh Hall, Glasgow.

EDINBURGH IS Public Meeting: The International Struggle for Socialism... Chile, Portugal, Britain. Speakers: Tony Cliff (Executive Committee International Socialist), Bruno Du Ponte (Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee). Thurs. 13 June, 7.30pm, Room 2 (small hall) Trades Council Club, 12 Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

ILFORD AND DAGENHAM IS: Public meeting. London's Crisis? Who Pays? Speakers: Steve Marks (Counter Information Services), Gordon Peters (Islington NALGO Strike Committee) plus a speaker from NUT Rank and File, Chairman Steve Burgess (CPSA Redder Tape). Tuesday 11 June, 8pm, The Co-Op Hall, Ilford Lane, Ilford. All Welcome.

HACKNEY IS Public Meeting. All welcome. Nurses Fight the Social Compact. Dalston Library, 24 Dalston Lane, E8, (Dalston Junction), Thursday 6 June, 8.00pm.

SHEFFIELD IS public meeting: Towards the 50th anniversary of the General Strike. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Now to be held on Thursday 13 June, 8pm, The Forrester's, Division Street.

BRISTOL IS training meeting No 3: The politics of factory leadership. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Sunday 9 June, 7.30pm, Crown and Dove pub, Rupert Street, Bristol. All trade unionists welcome, especially from country areas.

CARDIFF IS public meeting: Support the Rates. Speaker: Bob Dumbleton. Thursday 13 June, 8pm, Rhymyney Hotel (near Cardiff prison).

PARTINGTON IS public meeting: The Rates Scandal. Speaker: Ted Cantel (NALGO shop steward). Friday 21 June, 8pm, Partington Community Centre.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT IS public meeting: The life and times of Karl Marx. Speaker: Wally Preston. Sunday 16 June, 7.15pm, Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Civic Hall.

BIRMINGHAM IS Lucas workers public meeting. The Social Con-Track. Speaker: Bob Light (TGWU, London dockers). Saturday 15 June, 12 noon, upstairs room, The Old Bull's Head (near Digbeth). Meeting open to all Lucas workers.

BIRMINGHAM IS British Leyland workers public meeting. Paul Foot is speaking on Friday 21 June at 8pm in The Old Bull's Head. Watch out for further details.

EDMONTON and ENFIELD IS public meeting: Support the nurses. Speaker: Pam Denard (state registered nurse from North London). Monday 10 June, 8pm, Edmonton Swimming Baths.

CAXTON IS Social in aid of the Brockwell Three and Cecil Sampson Defence Fund: Saturday 15 June, 8pm-1am, The Nightingale, High Road, Wood Green. (Buses 141, 29, W4, Wood Green tube on Piccadilly line). Tickets on the door 50p.

HOUNSLOW IS public meeting: Immigration and racism. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Thursday 6 June, 8.15pm, Isleworth Public Halls (room 4), South Street, Isleworth, All welcome.

SOUTH EAST LONDON District IS public meeting: Why Labour can't bring socialism. Speaker: Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Wednesday 12 June, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, Charlton Village, London SE7.

SWANSEA and District IS public meeting (sponsored by NUPE Morriston Hospital branch): Support the nurses—smash the Social Contract. Speaker: June Morris (national full-time nursing officer for NUPE speaking in a personal capacity) and other trade union speakers. Friday 7 June, 7.30pm, Oxford Street School, Swansea. ALL WELCOME.

EAST LONDON District IS benefit social: Saturday 22 June, 8.30pm, The Swan, Stratford Broadway, Stratford. The Kartoon Knowns—disco—bar extension. Admission 40p.

NEWHAM IS public meeting: The East End's Crisis—the rundown of the social services. Speakers: Pauline Fern (Newham Education Concern), Pat Olley (St Paul's Tenants Association, Stratford) and Pam Denard (chairman, London nurses action co-ordinating committee). Wednesday 19 June, 8pm, Lister Room, East Ham Town Hall, Barking Road, E6.

MERSEYSIDE IS public meeting: Socialism or the social contract? Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 26 June, 8pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

EAST KILBRIDE IS public meeting: The international struggle for socialism—Chile, Portugal, Britain. Speakers: Tony Cliff (IS national committee) and Bruno de Ponte (Portuguese workers co-ordinating committee). Wednesday 12 June, 7.30pm, Patrick Burgh Halls.

WANDSWORTH IS SOCIAL: Saturday 15 June. Starts 8pm. Bar extension. Disco. Tickets 30p. The Forrester's Arms, Mitcham Road, SW17 (5 mins from Tooting Broadway tube, buses 220, 77).

MERSEYSIDE IS Social: Buffet and disco, bar ext, 8pm-1am. Friday 21 June, Strand Hotel, Brunswick St (opposite Pier Head) downstairs. All welcome.

COVENTRY DISTRICT IS: Day outing to Forest of Dean. Sunday 23 June. Tickets E1 (children free) from branch secretaries, or from TU and Socialist Books. Non-IS members especially welcome.

Meetings for IS members only

IS GEC members: meeting with Industrial Organiser. Sunday 7 July, 2pm, in Coventry. Full details from IS Ind. Dept. 01-739 6273.

EDINBURGH AREA IS: Day School and AGM. IS Industrial Perspectives. 11am-3pm, AGM and election of area cttee, 15 June, 3pm-5pm. All members to attend. Trades Council Club, 12 Picardy Place.

EARLESTOWN and ST HELENS, LEIGH and WIGAN IS district meeting: Thursday 13 June, 8pm, Wheatheaf Hotel, Wallgate, Wigan. All members to attend. Please be prompt.

CALLING ALL IS BUSWORKERS! Please make the fraction school on Saturday/Sunday 22-23 June in Birmingham a priority, and let the fraction secretary know whether or not you can attend—phone IS industrial department, 01-739 6273. Sessions include: Working at the garage and in trade union branches. Lessons of the London busmen's rank and file movement 1932-37. IS and the Rank and File Movement. School starts 3pm, Saturday 22 June. Full details from IS industrial department.

IS Training and Publications Committee: Meeting for IS members interested in political economy in Leeds, 22-23 June. Aims: to discuss current economic perspectives and to set up working economics group to service IS. Details from Jim Kincaid, 11 Moseley Wood View, Leeds 16.

SCOTTISH IS MINERS FRACTION will be held after the Miners Gala. Saturday 8 June, 3pm. All Scottish IS miners to attend. Trades Council Club, 12 Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

IS notices

International Socialists Situations Vacant

Graphic designers: experience preferred but training would be given to applicants with limited knowledge from art college etc.

Lay-out artists: to work on group publications. Must be neat, tidy and accurate. Training given.

Permanent general workers: driving licence would be useful.

Temporary general workers: required from end of June to September. Driving licence would be useful but not essential.

Apply to Jim Nichol, International Socialists, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, or phone 01-739 1870.

IS INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT needs comrades to help part-time with research work into particular industries, strikes, etc and also help in office. Enthusiasm not experience essential. Ring 01-739 6273.

IS ADMIN OFFICE urgently needs voluntary help one day a week. Phone Judith 01-739 1870, or write to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION of Lenin available for IS meetings. Phone Eve Barker 01-485 0475.

WANDSWORTH IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 8 June, 2-3pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Beechcroft Rd, SW17. Refreshments. All kinds of jumble wanted—please ring Janet (0753 3705) in collection with reasonable distance. All proceeds to SWI fighting fund.

CHINGARI (junta): May-June issue now out. Articles on a possible new Immigration Act for the autumn, Blackburn and three strikes. 3p per copy (add 4p for postage) from Chingari, 8 Cottons Gdns, London E2 8DN.

Starting out East...

THIS SUNDAY will see the biggest rally of socialists and trade unionists in East Anglia for years, at the Socialist Worker East Anglian rally, starting at 3.30pm in the Lamb Inn, Haymarket, Norwich.

The main aim of the rally is to bring together East Anglian militants in an effort to forge links at shop floor level and set up a local rank and file movement.

During the break for tea delegates from various industries will get together to discuss the setting up of industrial fractions. In the evening there will be a bar buffet and music.

All trade unionists and socialists will be welcome. Tickets 10p from Socialist Worker sellers or regional secretary Bob Devereux, 3 Pleasant Place, Beccles, Suffolk (Phone 0502 713933).

Engineers for IS

SEVENTY AUEW engineering section members who are also members of IS met in Manchester last Saturday to discuss major issues facing engineers—the collapse of the 1973 Engineering wage claim, now to win threshold wage awards, the coming election for AUEW general secretary and the problems of building one union for the whole engineering industry.

The discussion revealed that the experience of IS Engineering Union activists varied considerably in different parts of the country. The meeting recognised the need to improve co-ordination between members and to give a lead to members' day-to-day work within the union. A 13-

man committee was elected to meet at least every two months to direct this work. And in every district where there are more than four or five members local fraction meetings should be held at least every six weeks.

A full debate was held about whether a rank and file candidate standing on militant politics should be supported by IS Engineering Union members in the coming election for general secretary. It was overwhelmingly agreed that it would be premature to support such a candidate and that IS engineering members should therefore throw their support behind Bob Wright, w/o would be standing against the union's arch-right winger John Boyd.

Classified

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

LONDON WORKERS' FIGHT FORUM Andrew Hornung on THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL, REVISIONISM and THE MASS STRIKE DEBATE. 7.30pm, Sunday 9 June, Golden Lion, Britannia Street, near Kings Cross. This is the first in a series of forums which will discuss basic questions of marxist politics. For more information contact: Workers' Fight, 98 Gifford St, London N1.

IRISH POLITICAL HOSTAGES CAMPAIGN—Demonstration, Sunday 9 June, 3pm. Speakers Corner. March to Harold Wilson's home to demand repatriation of Irish political prisoners.

Rank and File Teachers LONDON TEACHERS—WHAT NEXT? Public meeting, Friday 7 June, Old Lecture Theatre, LSE. 7.30pm. Speakers: Beth Stone and Dick North, NUT Executive members.

FORD WORKERS ARRESTED! Picket in support of four AUEW pickets, Monday 1 July, Barking Magistrates Court, Barking High Road, 9.15am.

Harrow Hillingdon Socialist Women's Group Forum. Women and Sexuality. Monday 10 June, 8pm, Harrow Baptist Church, College Road, Harrow. Contact Jackie 01-204 3558.

Full Colour Art Portrait Poster (42" x 30") of V I Lenin and caption 'Long Live Proletariat'—32p. Immediate Delivery. To D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD.

PURE CHINESE silk-woven portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin etc. 30" x 20". £1.10 each, 16" x 10", 75p each. Immediate delivery. To D Volpe, 16 Belmont Court, London N16 5QD.

SWM COMRADE, female, moving to London, needs room in friendly house or flat from mid-June. Write: Gretta, 69 Leinster Road, Dublin 6.

LUTON PARTISAN BOOKS: A wide range of socialist books, pamphlets & posters available. Open weekdays 12 noon-8pm, Sat 9am-7pm, 34 Dallow Road, Luton, Beds.

RANK AND FILE TEACHERS London meeting. Friday 7 June, 7.30pm, Old Theatre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2. Speakers: Beth Stone, Dick North (NUT Executive).

Hackney Parents and Teachers Action Committee Public Meeting

Did you know there is a crisis in our schools? Kids are sent home. Why? Low pay for teachers. Why? Bad conditions in schools. Why? Do you feel helpless?

Now is the time for parents and teachers to act. Join us on 10 June, 7.30pm, at Princess May School, Stoke Newington Road, N16 or on 12 June, Millfields School, Elmscroft Street, E5.

GIVE BLOOD to the wounded in struggling areas in Africa—Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique. Phone 01-734 9541 for appointment.

CELEBRATION of the ninth anniversary of the Omani Revolution. Film & speakers. Friday 7 June, 7.30pm, Room 342, Mechanical Engineering Building, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

JOURNALISTS CHARTER Meeting: Thursday 6 June, Mike Bower, from Sheffield, will speak on The Strategy for the next Newspaper Society claim—7.30 pm, Museum Tavern, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

GREENOCK public meeting: Support the Chilean workers. Speakers: Billie Fay (Glasgow AUEW district committee) and M Gonzales (Chile Solidarity Committee). Thursday 13 June, 7.30pm, Hector Macneil Baths.

Bus leaving Edinburgh for Portugal Demo 16 June in London. Details phone 447 7288 evenings.

THE WORKER (paper of Socialist Worker Movement) May/June issue now out. Articles include: Repression North and South, Chrysler Ireland, Army life, IRA/UVF unity? Order from 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Debtors please pay.

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

JUST OUT. Minority Rights Group new report: THE NAMIBIANS OF SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, 45p (53p post free) from MRG, 36 Craven Street, London WC2.

LARGE AND EXPANDING RANGE OF SOCIALIST BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, PERIODICALS Including all IS publications, American imports, etc. GRASS ROOTS COMMUNITY BOOK SERVICE, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester.

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

Frame-up demo told of police brutality

Teachers' leaders run away

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Teachers has sold out the demands for action over the £132 London Weighting claim. More than 500 schools in London had indicated their willingness to be called out on strike over the issue.

An attempt by Communist Party members on the Executive to call for some—though seriously inadequate—action failed at last weekend's Execu-

utive meeting because a whole section of the Executive walked out.

The meeting could not continue since fewer than the constitutional minimum number remained. Such is the responsible leadership the NUT offers its members.

New rank and file members of the Executive have made it clear they will not take part in the cosy confidentiality of the boardroom, but will

act as the representatives of the membership who elected them.

They have also stressed that they are accountable to the membership and not to other individual members of the Executive.

This attitude, unexceptional to anyone who believes in the elementary principles of democracy set the cat among the pigeons at union headquarters, Hamilton House.



N. LONDON:—Cecil Sampson is an innocent man who, thanks to the attention of the Tottenham police force, is serving a two-year prison sentence on a trumped-up grievous bodily harm charge.

On Saturday, a first step was taken in the fight to get him released. More than 80 black and white workers marched in protest against the jailing and to demand an end to police harassment of the black community.

The march ended up at Tottenham Green to hear speeches from Mrs Sampson, her son Oliver and local trade unionists.

Mrs Sampson and Oliver gave a hair-raising description of the brutal police raid which led to the jailing.

Alan Watts, an AUEW steward at MK in North London and a member of IS, called on all marchers to take the issue of police harassment back into their workplaces and to organise against any further incidents.

More than £20 was collected for the defence fund.

Picture: Christopher Davies (Report)

BP: 'IT'S THE MINERS ALL OVER AGAIN'

by John Donachie and Angus McDonald
GRANGEMOUTH:—The two-week strike by 850 process workers at BP's giant refinery has brought petrol rationing in Edinburgh and shortages everywhere else.

A spokesman for the bosses' union, the Confederation of British Industry, said: 'It's worse than the miners' strike.' This would suggest the strikers have a good chance of winning.

A spokesman for the Grangemouth joint shop stewards' committee said wages at the plant bore no relation to the value and enormous profit of BP's continuous operation at the plant.

He added: 'Shift workers sacrifice their social and domestic life to industry. They are understandably concerned that their relative shift allowance earnings have shrunk from 26 per cent of their basic wage in 1965 to 20 per cent now.'

The men want an agreement to return to the 1965 ratio. But management, who have just reported gigantic profits, refuse to pay up in full. So far they have only offered a paltry two per cent increase.

The strike has stopped all fuel supplies to industry, petrol stations and transport companies throughout Scotland.

Tanker drivers are refusing to carry loads of oil to anything but essential services vetted by the strike committee.

The strikers have also taken steps to ensure picketing all over Scotland. They have sent pickets to fuel distribution centres.

Workers at Shell BP depots in England and Wales are refusing to send any fuel supplies to Scotland.

After a six-hour meeting with management on Saturday, where management again refused to give way, the strikers decided to continue indefinitely.

Now airport workers join in

by Ian Morris (AUEW)

LONDON'S airport engineering workers have joined the teachers and town hall workers by demanding more money for living in London.

Last Friday they voted to accept the joint executive committee's recommendation that unless London Weighting is conceded, a further mass meeting will be called on 1 July to endorse strike action.

This may look like strong leadership. But it is not.

The resolution was constructed by the joint ECs of the two divisions (BEA and BOAC). This committee is dominated by a minority of shop stewards who do trade union work full-time. It was then imposed on the respective shop stewards' committee for endorsement. The manoeuvre prevented any debate on tactics.

The recent wage claim was fought in the same way. Stage-managed mass meetings called for action some time in the future. After four months of 'huffing and puffing' with no action, the national officials signed one of worst deals in the country.

Last Friday's resolution, agreeing to take action some time in the future, gives plenty of time for excuses to be thought up to avoid implementing the decision.

A much better tactic would have been to build up an all-out strike in July with a one-day-a-week strike now.

NALGO: IT'S THE SAME STORY

by Geoff Woolfe
Lewisham NALGO

THE UNION negotiators for white collar local government workers have ducked out of a fight on this year's national 20 per cent pay claim.

At the same time, they have stabbed the London members in the back.

The London Weighting strikes and the national overtime ban have been biting hard. Some London councils are close to bankruptcy because of a sharp drop in income from rates.

Despite the success of action in London, the National Joint Council staff side last week decided to accept by 16 to 10 a deal offered by the employers.

The terms of the deal were negotiation on London Weighting on 1 July, with an interim settlement, and back dating if the Pay Board allows it, and negotiations on the national pay claim.

It was also agreed that all action on the national and London claims be called off.

This deal gives no guarantee of a settlement anywhere near the claims of a 20 per cent increase and the £400 London weighting.

Anger

In effect the union's negotiators have said we will accept a 7 per cent Phase Three offer and whatever the Pay Board allows on London Weighting.

This is nothing less than a massive climbdown from the position adopted by NALGO's executive last week. The NALGO members on the staff side were evenly divided ten votes to ten on the deal.

The other unions with votes on the staff side lined up to ensure a settlement was made. They are the Transport Workers, the General and Municipal, and the National Union of Public Employees.

It is now up to NALGO's executive to decide whether to call off the action. They meet on Sunday, the day before the National Delegate Conference at Brighton. Any acquiescence in a Phase Three sell-out will certainly be met with anger from rank and file delegates.

The NALGO Action Group this week issued a statement calling on members to fight the retreat. It also called for the national overtime ban and the London Weighting action to continue. A big effort is to be made to urge delegates to vote against the deal at next week's conference.

ADVERTISEMENT

BUILD THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT:

We invite TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS to come on to the mailing list of the First National Rank and File Conference held six weeks ago. Bulletins have already gone out to the delegating bodies seeking their support for the Strachans Joint Occupation Committee, the NALGO London Weighting dispute, and now the Nurses, plus details of the Shrewsbury Dependents Fund plus collection sheets.

We will send sample copies of our latest mailing to individual trade unionists so they can raise the question of affiliation in their branch, shop stewards committee, trades council and so on.

AFFILIATION by a trade union body entitles it to receive a copy of each Rank and File Organising Committee bulletin for an affiliation fee of 50p.

Tick which is appropriate

Please send a sample bulletin

Please affiliate 50p affiliation fee enclosed (make POs/cheques payable to The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee)

Trade Union Body: _____

Name (of Branch Secretary, if affiliating) _____

Branch Stamp if affiliating

Address _____

Send form to Roger Cox, Secretary R&F Conf. Organising Cttee, 214 Roundwood Rd, London NW10.

Pickets get tragic lesson

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS:—ASTMS members at GEC Ruston Paxman are in the eighth week of their strike over the management's failure to honour a link agreement regulating pay and conditions.

Talks have broken down and the dispute has now been made official. But the picket has not been a success, because of ill-feeling between white-collar and manual workers.

Last year, when the manual workers were out over the victimisation of a shop steward, ASTMS members forced their way through the picket line.

Now many manual workers have returned the hostility shown to them by crossing the ASTMS picket line.

Three weeks ago, ASTMS members attempted a sit-in and prevented 250 manual workers from entering the factory. Other workers got in through holes in the fence or via the offices.

Later the same day some manual workers used fork-lift trucks to lift the gates off the works entrance after they had been welded together to prevent strike-breaking.

The dispute looks as if it will be long and bitter and management can try to use the shop floor hostility to break the strike.

Two years ago the plant was considered one of the best organised and best paying in Lancashire.

GEC and the Engineering Employers' Federation—aided by the disastrous policy of the AUEW over the 1972 pay claim—have reduced the organisation to chaos and wage rates have been cut by up to half in some cases.

GEC will be able to take on and isolate people as long as there is no strong and effective combine organisation in the company. It is vital that this is built.

OUR FUND-BANG ON TARGET

THE Socialist Worker fighting fund got squeezed out last week to give more space to the important reports on the breaking of the prices threshold and on the Irish hunger-strikers, but our £2000 target for May was reached all the same—with a total of £2043.

Among the many letters accompanying donations was one that read: 'The Crow House EEUPTU shop at the Royal Mint extension thank the Socialist Worker for its help in our recent dispute. Keep up the good work. Find enclosed £8 postal order.'

This week we kick off with £164, thanks to the following: Walthamstow £10.65, Camborne £5, Stockport £12, Maidstone £5, Luton £5, Pontefract £4.70, Lancaster £3, Rochdale £10, Preston £2, Peterborough £13.60, Aberystwyth £8, Merseyside £28, Hyde £5, Tower Hamlets £7.50, Derby £10, Cambridge £7.68, Middleton £10.14, Cardiff £10.

We are often asked what the money is spent on. This week some of it went to pay for a four-page leaflet on the blacking of firms trading with Chile—a reprint of the article and list of firms printed in Socialist Worker two weeks ago.

Please send to Jim Nichol, national treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Militancy back on agenda

by Bryan Macey

Assistant Secretary POEU Met North Internal Branch

THE ANNUAL conference of the Post Office Engineering Union takes place in Blackpool next week against a backdrop of militant opposition to Phase Three and the Social Contract.

At last it seems as if the rank and file are beginning to awaken to the results of repeated sell-outs by the official leadership which have resulted in members falling further behind in the wage and conditions league table. Meetings have been held up and down the country to protest against Phase Three and to support the demand for a £10 all-round claim.

At one meeting, held recently in North-West London, more than 1000 engineers heard general secretary Bryan Stanley outline the official attitude to the 1974 wage claim. The meeting, organised by Tyburn branch, followed growing pressure in London and elsewhere for a militant wage policy.

The Chairman, Tony Young, challenged Stanley to show that the NEC was prepared to offer a fighting lead to secure a real increase in pay.

A chorus of jeers and boos met Stanley when he spoke of the Social Contract and said members could not hope for a settlement outside Phase Three.

When he could be heard again, Stanley tried to offer some crumbs of comfort. He implied that the NEC would be going to see Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary, to try to negotiate a further agreement after Phase Three was off the statute book.

When Conference assembles on Monday, wages will be the important issue. It is interesting to note that proposition 429, which demands the £10 claim, has been relegated to the general list of propositions, thus

by Gerry Jones, TGWU Steward, Chrysler Stoke

CHRYSLER BOSSES have finally succeeded in victimising John Worth, the former deputy convenor, after an 18-month campaign.

A mass meeting called by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee voted to reject a recommendation to put in seven days strike notice to force Chrysler to concede

arbitration on the issue. As a result, our section was forced to return to work after a fortnight's strike.

John was first sacked 18 months ago not long after he became AUEW deputy convenor. But a week-long plant-wide strike ensured his reinstatement. The Engineering Union District Committee dismissed the company's allegations. But they removed his credentials on the casting vote of the chairman.

Chrysler were still determined. They moved John from the Engine Test to a much smaller section. They made sure the section's bargaining power was reduced considerably by building up stock.

The company moved nearly three weeks ago. They called John Worth and his steward to the office, where they issued a statement which talked about an 'alleged incident' when he 'allegedly played a major role' the day before.

He was to leave the factory on pay and report to the chief industrial relations officer the following morning.

Our section struck immediately, followed by the night shift. The section demanded an end to his victimisation and harassment.

BLATANT LIES

The strike was only days old when 1000 of our components (which were done at a non-union firm) found themselves on the shop floor. The contract for them was placed several weeks before the 'incident' took place. This confirmed our belief that there was a well-laid plan behind the sacking.

Brother Worth, suspended on full pay, was said to have grabbed the foreman's lapels and to have carried out other acts of technical assault. The company claims another foreman witnessed this.

These were blatant lies. The day shift

Chrysler get their way —after 18 months

steward and another member saw the affair. The steward and the foreman were involved in a discussion after Brother Worth and another member were unjustly taken 'off the clock'.

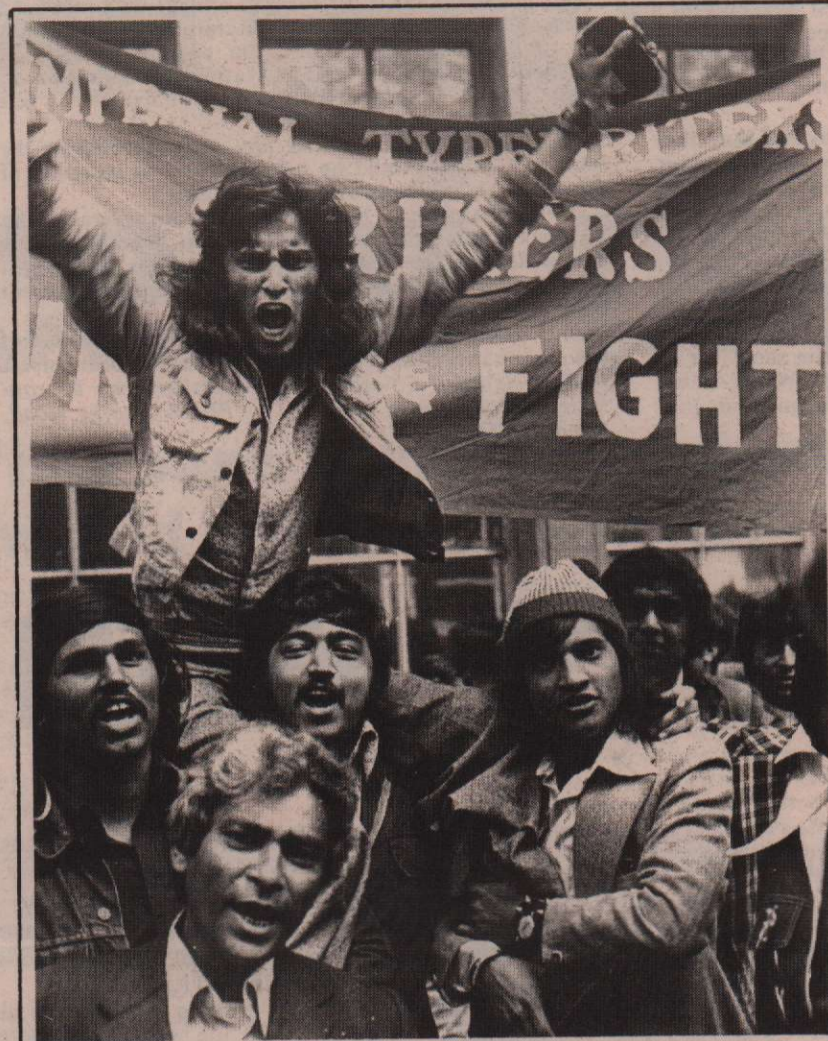
We demanded a union inquiry into the affair and were backed up by the Joint Shop Stewards. It never took place.

The company then made it clear they were interested only in dismissing Brother Worth. Our evidence was 'irrelevant'. They eventually dismissed him in his absence.

A call for seven days' notice of strike action unless the company concede arbitration was defeated at a mass meeting.

The victimisation, an attack on the whole trade union in Chrysler, Stoke, not just an individual, will give Chrysler and other employers in the industry the confidence to make further attacks in an effort to settle old scores before the coming winter recession.

The lesson has to be rammed home that if the shop stewards movement cannot stave off these attacks, you cannot defend yourself against the major attacks on jobs and conditions that are on the way.



ASIAN STRIKERS at Imperial Typewriters, Leicester, shouting defiance

The Face of Defiance

ASIAN STRIKERS at Imperial Typewriters', Leicester, shouting defiance outside the offices of the Transport and General Workers' Union last week. More than 300 workers packed into buses and came to London to persuade their union to make the strike official.

The union have set up an inquiry into the local branch's handling of the strike. At the same time, the Department of Employment have turned down a demand for an inquiry into claims of racial prejudice and low pay at the factory.

Last Thursday, nine strikers were arrested in a demonstration outside the factory after a march into the company car park was blocked by police. All have pleaded not guilty to a series of charges, ranging from obstruction to assault of a policeman.

PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

Seamen scuttle 'moderation'

STRANRAER:—The 250 seamen who man British Rail ferries between Larne, Northern Ireland and Stranraer are on strike over payment for handling cargo and rates of pay for Sunday work.

They are also demanding that British Rail sack 12 scabs hired to handle cargo.

A mass meeting called by convenor Peter Donnelly voted unanimously to strike.

Working conditions have constantly deteriorated during the decades of right-wing control of the National Union of Seamen. The average rate for a seven day week is slightly over £23.

Every two weeks, the men are expected to work a shift of 24 hours straight through without sleep. Since about a third of the men travel down from Galsgow—three hours each way, unpaid—this in fact means over 30 hours in all.

Peter Donnelly said: 'The 24-hour shift is inhuman. In summer we usually have to work the whole thing right through because we're so busy. In other times it's sometimes possible to get your head down for a couple of hours but this give the management the opportunity to sack anybody who makes a stand or gets himself known as a militant.'

This is the first strike at this traditionally non-militant port for decades.

Worsening conditions have now forced the men to stand up and fight.

The men can earn £60 a week during the summer months by putting in enormous hours of overtime. But winter unemployment in the industry is high.

Peter Donnelly hopes that now that the old right-wing Hogarth gang have received a set-back with the election of Jim Slater as NUS General Secretary there will be a real campaign to raise the basic rate and abolish the need for massive overtime to earn a decent wage.

CHAPPLE'S BIG FEAR—DEMOCRACY

ELECTRICIANS and Plumbers' Union boss Frank Chapple has reacted quickly to the recent Reform the Union rally in Birmingham. He has sent letters warning alleged speakers that he will report the matter to the full executive.

Chapple—as determined as ever to put down any dissenting voice in the union—could, on past practice, seek their expulsion or exclusion from holding office particularly as one of the brothers named is Fred Gore, probable rank and file candidate for the vacant General Secretary position.

Union members should respond in a positive way by organising local 'Reform the Union' meetings to prepare to fight if any action is taken against the brothers

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 _____

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



PAM DENARD, London NALGO, Chairman of the Nurses rank and file Conference: We need to co-ordinate the action going on up and down the country. We've seen an incredible amount of rank and file action up and down the country which has pushed the unions and the RCN into taking more concrete activity.

Spread the action

MILITANT nurses met in Manchester last weekend for a national conference called at short notice by the health workers' rank and file paper Hospital Worker and the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee.

They told of their working conditions and how they wanted a clear set of demands to continue fighting under. The present claim launched by the unions and the RCN was unclear and favoured nurses high up the pay scale rather than those on the bottom rung.

The discussion produced a list of demands. The nurses called for: a £30 basic for the lowest paid, with the same cash increase for all grades. A 35-hour week with double time at nights and weekends. Canteen prices back to pre-April levels. Rents the same for all grades, related to the overall level of salary. Wards should not go undermanned and if junior nurses ran wards they should be paid for it.

A ban should be fought for on both agency nurses and private patients. Delegates were determined that the funds for the claim should come from outside the already butchered Social Services and National Health budget. Wages should increase with the cost of living at a rate determined by the trade unions.

A final demand was that any offer decided at the Whitley Council should be referred to mass meetings of nurses for their disapproval or acceptance.

Delegates came to the conference from several of the action committees that have been set up. A co-ordinating committee was elected with representatives from eight of these local organisations to try to link up the different areas and to spread solidarity action.

But many more nurses—from areas where rank and file organisation has yet to grow—will have to be involved.

The National Co-ordinating Committee can be contacted through Pam Denard, 93 Prince George Road, London N16.



UNA TURNER, Dundee COHSE: We have been let down by the unions. People are leaving the union but I'm having to say, 'No, stay in the union.' But at the same time I want to offer them something stronger. That is why we have got to get together to get action committees elected.

Nurses, we're with you!



IT'S not only the nurses... it's physiotherapists. Like the demonstrators above, who marched in London last week in protest against their current pay levels—£20 a week after three years' training. And it's radiographers, who are joining ASTMS in thousands every week, and are staging strikes and sit-ins about their pay. And it's medical physics technicians, without whom kidney machines and heart/lung machines couldn't work. And it's junior hospital doctors, who work 88 hours a week. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

NOTHING can stop the nurses. Labour government inquiries, appeals to 'professionalism' by the Royal College of Nursing, declarations of restraint by trade union leaders, growing disapproval in the press—all have been to no avail.

The nurses' revolt is rolling throughout the country. Only a substantial pay award will stop it.

The most exciting news for the nurses this week has been the response from rank and file workers. On Monday, the docks in Manchester were silent. The Manchester dockers were on strike for the nurses' demands.

Local stevedores' shop steward J Barry told Socialist Worker: 'The nurses deserve every penny they can get and more besides. We support the nurses to the hilt. We began with a 24 hour stoppage of the docks involving 800 dockers. I just hope it spreads throughout the country. Everybody should be out.'

In Doncaster last Wednesday, no Corporation buses ran for four hours. Branch Chairman, Mr Stokoe, explained that Doncaster's busmen were right behind the nurses. Bus driver Mr Evans told Socialist Worker: 'The ultimate aim of the unions should be solidarity, this is a start.'

Large numbers of busmen, together with Brodsworth NUM and workers from various local industries and the International Socialists, joined over 500 nurses in a march through the town.

At a rally later, Rodney Bickerstaff, a NUPE official, revealed that 700 workers at British Ropes were taking industrial action in support of the nurses.

The same support was also shown at Cementation's works, where many workers took the day off to back the nurses.

Harry Riley, secretary of Brodsworth NUM, told Socialist Worker that the miners were unanimous in

their support for all hospital workers.

If the nurses' demands were not granted soon, miners would have to step up their support and take industrial action.

In Teesside, the general branch of NUPE sponsored two one-day strikes. The Saturday market in Darlington, a crucial profit-making enterprise for local traders, was closed as a result. On Monday, dustbins in Darlington stayed full—as the dustmen stayed out for a day.

This week, the engineering union in the area meets to discuss a motion demanding a district-wide stoppage.

At Leamington, workers at Automotive Products stopped work for an hour when local nurses picketed the factory gates. Factory convenor Ivor Bennett told the gathering of nurses and AP workers: 'Our nurses should have the rightful support of workers everywhere in the country.'

A similar march to the Ford Foundry in Leamington is planned this week.

In Romford, Essex 700 nurses marched through the shopping centre last Saturday. Harry Packham, a member of the COHSE NEC, said: 'Sympathy has been ladled out like syrup, but industrial action, prolonged if necessary, will be the only thing that will win nurses a decent living wage.'

Several hospitals including Goodmayes, King George V and Old Church have already held two-hour lightning strikes, and from last Monday King George's was only taking emergency admissions.

In Norwich, several hundred nurses and other trade unionists marched through the city last Thursday.

Socialist Worker DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

I enclose £_____ for one year's/six months

Socialist Worker

(£4 for a year, £2 for six months)

Name _____

Address _____

Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

For bulk orders phone 01-739 2639

Backing grows for Goodyear strikers

GLASGOW:—The ten-week strike of 570 Transport Union members at Goodyear's Drumchapel factory is as solid as a rock for the elimination of the Friday night shift without loss of earnings.

The strikers have sought the solidarity they needed, visiting every rubber plant and dock in the country. Convenor Tommy Duffy said: 'The response of the dockers has been magnificent.'

In the factory, AUEW maintenance men blacked all work previously done by the Transport Union men when scabs were brought in.

Other employers are backing Goodyear to the hilt, promising to fulfil their orders until the strike is defeated and then hand back their customers.

This is why working class solidarity is essential. At the rubber workers' combine meeting in Wolverhampton last weekend, the Goodyear stewards called for support.

Dunlop workers at Leicester, Washington, Speke and Fort Dunlop, Birmingham, and Pirelli Carlisle, have decided on 24-hour stoppages in solidarity.

The General Executive Council of the Transport Union, which has so far failed to back the Goodyear men, faced a motion this week urging them to call on road transport men to black all imported rubber.

Donations and messages of support to Tommy Duffy, TGWU district office, 129 Renfrew Street, Paisley.

TEACHERS BACK

LONDON:—Staff at the Architectural Association School of Architecture have won an important victory with the reinstatement of two teachers, Irene Breugel and John Mason, sacked for building the union.

Last week's decision came 24 hours before an ASTMS staff meeting to consider withdrawing labour.