

# Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**MPs £24 a week more,  
top bosses £60 a week  
more- but workers £6  
a week more maximum**

## WHAT A FRAUD!

THE ROW over MPs' salaries has revealed the real nature of Wilson's freeze. The government is promising the very people who are making the £6 law a massive £24 extra a week each.

MPs will not be the only ones to benefit from such generosity. The top official in the Greater London Council has just been offered another £80 a week, the retired solicitors who man rent tribunals will receive another £17 a day, the top executives in the water boards are to get £48 a week more. The heads of the nationalised industries are expecting to follow suit.

Yet the MPs and heads of the nationalised industries are not happy.

Sir Monty Finniston of British Steel, Richard Marsh of British Rail, Sir Bill Ryland of the Post Office—yes, all those bosses who have been

warning their workers to accept less money and more sackings—are getting together to demand increases of £150 a week on top of the £500 a week they already get.

In parliament, MPs of all colours are behaving like petulant seals whose keeper has forgotten their feeding time. The same people who only a fortnight ago were complaining of the lunacy of giving a miner £100 a week are saying that it is 'impossible' to live on £100 a week themselves—even though they get free travel and free postage, £60 a week for a secretary plus pensions worked out as if they earned £8000 a year.

### ALERT

The reason these people are not happy is that they are comparing their salaries with what the rich and powerful outside parliament and the nationalised industries will gain from

the freeze. Indeed, the reports of Lord Boyle, on which they make their claims, are based completely of 'comparability' with private industry.

The top managers and biggest shareholders will not be held back by the freeze law. It contains no mechanism for checking what they get, no mechanism to stop them giving themselves well-paid second directorships in subsidiary companies or to restrict what they spend on company houses or cars.

It places no restriction at all on the growth of company profits and the increase in share values that result.

Indeed, by holding back wages, it ensures that profits will rise and those with wealth will get wealthier.

It is no wonder that many MPs and heads of nationalised industries feel left out. They are enforcing a freeze that will provide so many benefits for the employing class. And they want to be in on the act.

The antics of these big business and parliamentary hypocrites tell us the truth about the £6 wage freeze.

It will not save us from inflation. Prices are already rising faster than after-tax wages, even before the freeze starts to bite.

It will not stop unemployment. All the experts are now predicting one and a half to two million unemployed next year.

It will not protect the social services, which are to be slashed still further.

It will bolster up a crazy, crisis-ridden form of society that brings unemployment and falling living standards for the many, massive wealth for the few.



Introducing two gentlemen who believe that a £6 wage limit will do no end of good to the National Interest (and their own bank balances).

SIR MONTY 'The Cobbler' FINNISTON, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, is unofficial chairman of the 'club of nationalised industry chiefs' which is demanding immediate £10,000 a year rises in pay. Sir Monty already receives £28,100 a year (£540 a week).

Last May Sir Monty decided that he should keep his two executive jets, each priced at £361,000. They are manned by six pilots, each paid £25,000 a year.

Sir Monty has been making a lot of speeches recently about the need for mass sackings in the steel industry.

On 2 May, he said: 'It doesn't matter how many have to go to secure a virile, viable industry.'



ERIC 'GREENBACKS' OGDEN, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, is unofficial head of the group of MPs who are pushing for a rise of £3,250 (£60 a week), which would bring MPs pay up to £8000 a year (£160 a week).

Ogden is sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers, who pay his election expenses and got him his seat in the first place. But he is strongly opposed to the £100-a-week miner. He thinks miners should make do on about £70 a week.

But MPs are different. MPs are, in Ogden's opinion, worth very much more than £100 a week.

Last week, when MPs were offered £110 a week, Eric Ogden described the offer as 'miserable'. Ogden is the 'parliamentary adviser' to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, which represents all Britain's chemists; A spokesman for the society 'could not remember' how much Eric Ogden got for standing up for the chemists, but you can bet your pit helmet it's more than a miner earns in a month.

### Crisis in India DEMONSTRATION

Free the 35,000 political prisoners  
Down with the dictatorships in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh  
Sunday 3 August

Assemble Trafalgar Square 1pm, for march to Indian High Commission.  
All London IS branches and all those in areas with Asian communities to attend with banners.

### PUBLIC MEETING

Socialist Worker/Chingari public meeting: CRISIS IN INDIA  
Friday 1 August, 8pm, Southall Town Hall, West London. Speakers: Farooq Nawaz (editor of Chingari, the International Socialists paper in Urdu and Punjabi), Jim McCann (ACTS deputy convenor, Walls, Hayes) and a speaker from the CPI (M)

**ON-THE-SPOT REPORT FROM PORTUGAL: PAGES FOUR AND FIVE**

**INFLATION**  
**FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZES**

# THE MEANING

**THE RIGHT-WING majority in the leadership of the mineworkers' union are conspiring to slash the living standards of the most powerful section of workers in Britain.**

A fortnight ago, at the union's annual conference, they argued that the Yorkshire area's demand for £100 a week for face workers was intemperate. They manoeuvred to have it watered down. Nevertheless, they did not feel strong enough to throw it out completely and so voted to 'seek' £100 a week.

Hardly had the delegates returned from the conference, than these same leaders proceeded to ignore virtually everything said there. They are now planning to interpret 'seeking' the £100 as enabling them to put in for a £6 wage increase that will give face miners the grand total of £67. Their motto seems to be 'say one thing and do the opposite.'

So as to pretend there is democratic backing for this somersault, they are rushing to a national ballot on the issue. It starts next week and goes on through August. The result will be available just before the TUC meets to discuss the £6 freeze.

They know its timing will make it difficult for the left to organise discussion.

They also believe that they will get away with a ballot now, in a way in which they could not in a few months' time when rising prices and soaring unemployment have brought home to many workers what Wilson and Healey are really up to.

Many miners are determined to reject the right wing's scheme. It's essential in the weeks before the ballot to carry a campaign into every mining area pointing out what is at stake.

It is necessary to argue why the £6 means a massive wage cut, why wage cuts won't help the unemployed, the old or the sick, and why miners must stand with other sections of workers against Healey's freeze.

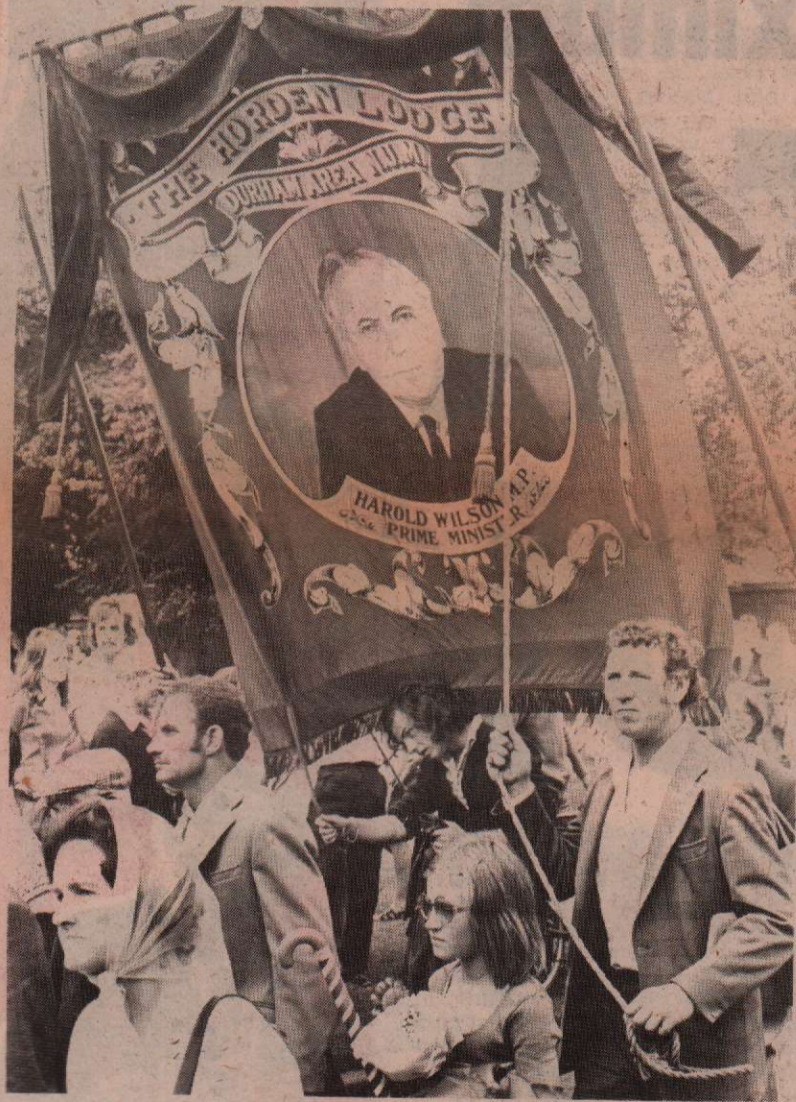
We will be carrying details in the next week's Socialist Worker of the campaign which our members will be waging for a No vote in the ballot.

## For the miners, it's a wage-cutting conspiracy by their own leaders

**Trevor Brown, underground worker, Houghton Main NUM:** You could have predicted this sell-out from the connections between miners' leaders and the government. The opinion has been thrown out that if the miners went it alone this year the working class would be against us. This is the result of our Executive building up special case arguments in the past. It's up to the rank and file now to build real working class unity. The right-wing on the Executive are keen for a ballot on the £6 now, because we are in the middle of the holiday period. Miners will be subjected to a massive press barrage, but if the rank and file and left leaders organise the same kind of campaign that we waged last year against the productivity deal, the Executive can be defeated.

**Terry Bristowe, Branch Committee, Dodworth NUM:** Blood letting to cure the sick was long since cast into the medical dustbin. Bashing the workers to cure the system is, unfortunately for the patients, Dr Wilson's remedy. The Miners Executive, by accepting Wilson's remedy, are helping to hold down the patients. It's up to us now, the rank and file, to show them and their Labour friends

**Pete Clerney, Branch Committee, Barrow NUM:** The Yorkshire delegation backed down at the Conference to forestall any resolution from the Executive. But the right wing move on the Executive last week to accept the £6 has amounted to the same thing. Out of that £6 I would pay an extra £2.10 tax, 30p insurance and 30p superannuation. On top of that my rent is going up. So before I start I've virtually nothing left to combat 25 per cent inflation. We're going backwards if we accept this deal, back to the days of Robens.



Last weekend's Durham Miners Gala: Wilson's message was, would you believe, sacrifice...

## For Lord B, it's £122,000

IN THE 1930s, when the cry, like today, was for sacrifice, one of the most prominent figures demanding it was Francis William Barnard.

He was a coming man, a member of the Central Electricity Generating Board and a Tory MP who went on to become a company director and president of the Federation of British Industry.

Working people did sacrifice, and some of the results were on view at Christie's Silver Sale in London last week.

The good Lord Barnard raffled some of his little household chattles, the odds and ends that he had picked up over the years. Among them was a 100 piece Victorian dinner service for which he got the paltry sum of £26,000. In total, the bits of silver on sale brought him in £122,750.

It would take a £100-a-week miner 24 and a half years work to earn that amount of money.

**THE PARTY'S OVER.** Anthony Crosland, Labour Minister said a few weeks ago. And the government's going to keep you to his word.

For the likes of 'Them' however, the parties are still going strong. Last Wednesday saw one of the finest for a long time.

Seventeen-year-old heiress Sarah Sassoon was down at London's exclusive Berkeley Hotel having a little celebration for herself and 200 friends.

Daddy-Guinness Mahon director Hugh Sassoon-picked up the bill, a mere £2000. 'I think it was lovely to have a bit of a splash in these tight times,' Sarah told the Daily

## For top Tory du Cann it's US picking up HIS £61,000,000 bill

**KEYSER ULLMAN** last week announced the biggest-ever losses for a British bank. Its chairman while those losses were run up was Edward du Cann, Tory backbench leader and chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.

Yet the losses leave du Cann, and his two cronies who built up Keyser, richer than ever. The main brunt will be borne by the taxpayer. £40 million of the £61 million losses are 'allowable' on tax for any future profits.

At the same time, Keyser and all the other fringe banks which have gone bust in the last year, are being propped up by an enormous subsidy from the big clearing banks and the nationalised Bank of England.

£1200 million has been lent to prop up these sharp practice operators who made enormous fortunes in the fringe banking boom.

The Bank of England has paid out £120 million of this: that's more than it was prepared to pay out to prop up the pound in the recent sterling crisis which brought on the £6 pay freeze.

Keyser Ullman have been involved in almost every financial scandal of the last five years. They were bankers to Vehicle and General Insurance, and sold all their shares in the company shortly before it went bust, leaving 800,000 policyholders with-



du Cann: Rich pickings

out cover.

In the same year, they lent £3 million at high rates of interest to a couple of property sharks in a company called Swordheath Properties. With the money, Swordheath bought almost all the working class houses in Pimlico, London, evicted the tenants and sold the houses to executives who wanted an expensive 'pied a terre' in London.

du Cann grew enormously rich while at Keyser's. He looted £20,000 for himself in a share deal when Keyser's (of which he was chairman) bought Central and District Properties (of which he was chairman).

He paid himself £20,000 a year and gave himself £18,000 worth of shares in Cannon Insurance, a subsidiary of Keyser's, which was a cobbled version of the Dover Plan, a sharp practice devised by Bernie Cornfeld, the arch money speculator.

At the same time, Keyser's handed out fantastic sums to their directors. In 1973-4 for instance, when the bank was going bust, seven million pounds was lent out to du Cann and his two cronies. The money is still outstanding.

The three men's greed and megalomania led them to buy more and more dubious banks, to lend more and more money to more and more seedy speculators. Bankruptcy was inevitable.

du Cann is being groomed to take over as chairman of Lonrho from his fellow Tory, Duncan Sandys.

Roland Franklin, whose family founded Keyser's, has gone off to join his old pal Jimmy Goldsmith, chairman of Cavenham Foods. Franklin is Goldsmith's second-best friend. The best is Lord Lucan.

From their new positions of responsibility, we can expect all kinds of advice from du Cann, Franklin (perhaps even from Lord Lucan) about the importance of sacrifice  
**FOOTNOTE:** du Cann was widely rumoured to be the 'Tory Queen-maker' who brought Margaret Thatcher to the Tory leadership.

## For Charles Clore, millionaire, it's flightfully important...

**MULTI-MILLIONAIRE Charles Clore** now has even more time than usual for thinking about the need for sacrifice—your sacrifice, of course.

He's having his portrait painted by society artist Graham Sutherland. Mr Sutherland paints in the South of France while Sir Charles' business interests are in Britain.

But Sir Charles has found a solution to this problem. He climbs into his executive jet twice a week and flies to the South of France.

When the painting is finished, Mr Clore will probably put it into a safe deposit box. This is known as caring for great art.

## FOR LOW-PAID IT'S DISASTER

**REMEMBER Denis Healey's claim** that the £6 wage freeze would only cut living standards by a couple of per cent, and would make lower paid workers better off. The businessman's magazine, the Economist, has done a few calculations—and found exactly the opposite.

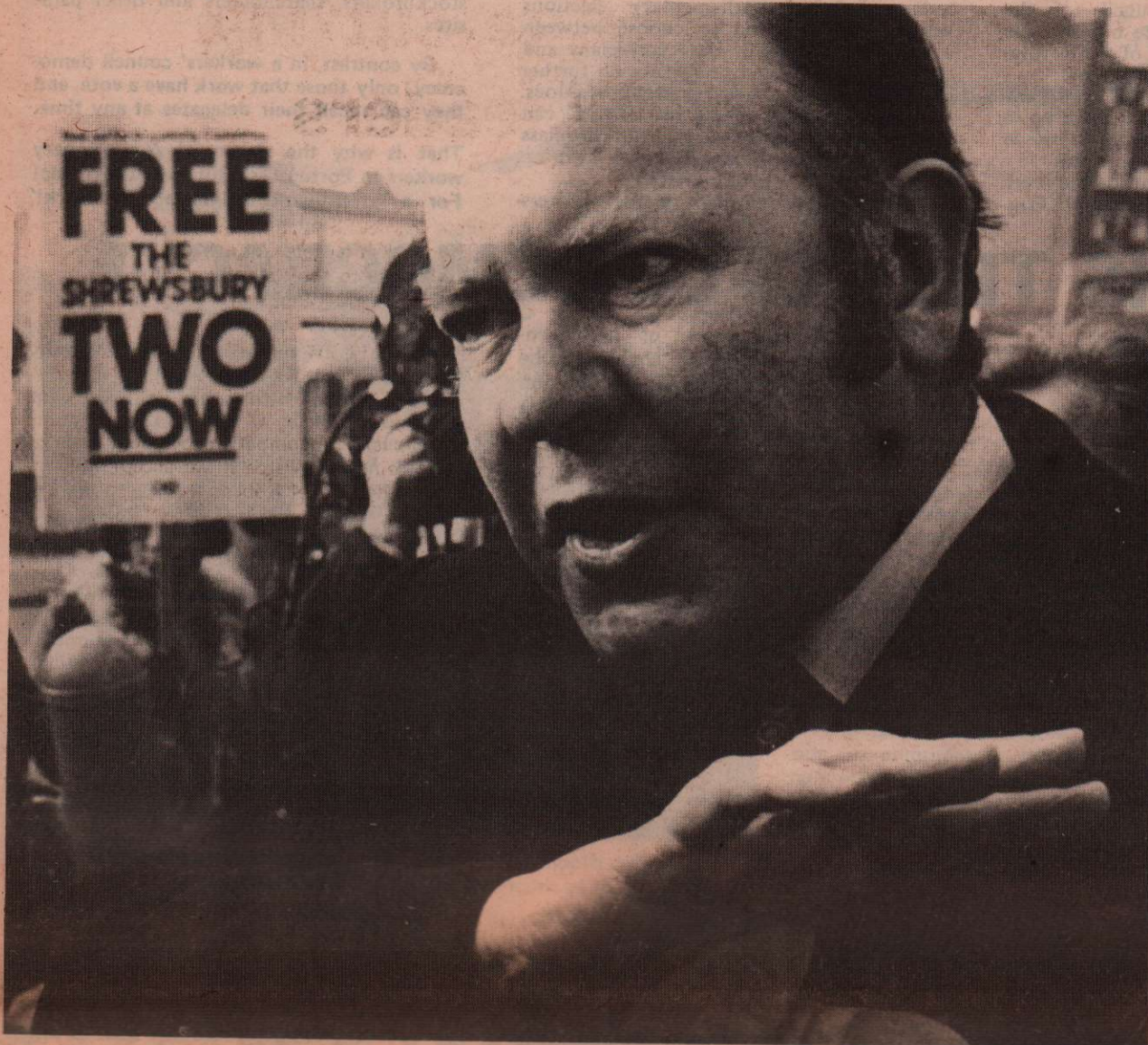
'If inflation is to drop from its current annual rate of 25 per cent to 10 per cent by next July, then the average rate of inflation during the year will be around 17½ per cent. A married man with two young children will be worse off, after tax and inflation, unless he is earning less than £22 a week. Fewer than 1½ million employees fall into this bracket (and most of them are young, single or working part-time). Everyone else will suffer a sharp cut in his standard of living.'

So the real wages of millions of people trying to bring up a family on meagre sums like £25 will suffer.

# OF SACRIFICE

THE END OF THE ROAD  
FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE

Picture: Mike Sheridan (I.F.L.)



Reg Prentice outside his 'surgery' last February—he told the Shrewsbury lobby: 'I have utter contempt for you'.

## For workers, it's more and more unemployment, bigger wage cuts

SUPPORTERS of Healey's £6 freeze within the Labour movement use one argument over and over again. The alternative, they say, is the abyss, with massive unemployment, uncontrollable inflation and an extreme right-wing coalition government. Under these circumstances, they claim, trade unionists have no choice but to rally round the government.

The argument was put last weekend by Anthony Wedgwood Benn, justifying to the conference of the Institute for Workers' Control his refusal to resign from the government. 'We must sustain and maintain this Labour government', he said. 'There is too much at stake to risk losing it.' Defending the government's record, he explained its change of course because the problems it had inherited had been 'much greater than foreseen.'

The implication is that, if we accept the freeze, these problems will eventually be dealt with and, with a bit of pressure from the left, Labour will return to the path of full employment, free collective bargaining and 'squeezing the rich', as promised before the elections last year.

Yet, even while such speeches are being made, more evidence comes to light every day proving that this will not happen.

Last week, details were leaked of an official government estimate of unemployment. An increase to 1½ million by the middle of next year is forecast.

On Friday, the Economist magazine gave its estimate, taking into account the effects of Healey's freeze. 'Unemployment', it wrote, 'is now set to rise to two million, perhaps beyond.'

On Monday, Denis Healey told

### WHAT WE THINK

the House of Commons that public spending would be held down to the reduced level of next year for the remainder of this government's existence.

That means, quite simply, that as growing numbers of people become dependent on the social services, there will be no growth of the services to cope. The health service, the welfare services for the old and sick, will fall even further apart.

Finally, on Tuesday, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published its 'economic outlook'. It forecast that even if unemployment begins to fall in 1977, it will only do so for a short time, and then there will be another crisis.

In other words, we are returning to the pre-war slump-boom cycle—with each slump getting worse than the previous one, and each period of full employment shorter.

Put crudely, that means that there will be no light at the end of the tunnel. Just as this government was 'blown off course' by the economic crisis, so will the next one and the one after that.

The unemployment, the cuts in welfare services, the wage freeze, will not just be temporary expedients. They will become a permanent feature of life—unless we fight back.

There is an alternative to such a grim future. It lies in a fight to replace the present chaotic, irrational organisation of society by one in which production and distribution are planned to satisfy human need.

But it should be clear from the events of the last fortnight, if nothing else, that we are not going to move in that direction through the Labour Party's policy of attempting to change capitalism gradually, from within.

The first step has to be to build a revolutionary party that seeks to use the strength of the working class to attack the system, not to bolster it up.

Those who reject this road end up—with Benn, Jack Jones and the rest—trying to put a nice gloss on a lousy government.

# Prentice: So much for the 'conspiracy'

THE SAVAGE witch-hunt by Press and television to defend their political darling Reg Prentice was answered this week by the one thing they won't expose: THE TRUTH.

Officers of the West Ham Trades Council tore apart a Sunday Times 'conspiracy' story—and, with it, the entire Press campaign—at a Press conference on Monday.

The day before, the Sunday Times had 'exposed' how left-wingers in the North London contracting branch of the electricians union (EETPU) passed an anti-Prentice motion on 14 January.

The motion was sent, ran the story, to the North East Newham Labour Party, where it was moved by Councillor John Wilson.

The Sunday Times triumphantly pointed out that Wilson is a member of the same EETPU branch as Jimmy Layzell, the President of the West Ham Trades Council, which was also anti-Prentice. Hey Presto! A conspiracy!

But, at Monday's Press Conference, the Trades Council officers explained that no motion against Prentice had been moved at the electricians branch on 14 January.

Jimmy Layzell said he had never discussed Prentice with Wilson. Indeed, he had only met Wilson once in his life!

Bill Chapman, secretary of the Trades Council at the time, gave the facts.

He said he had written all three

Newham MPs asking for facilities to discuss the Shrewsbury Two during the TUC's lobby in January.

Nigel Spearing and Arthur Lewis had replied agreeing to meet the trades council lobbyists in a Commons committee room.

The first Bill Chapman saw of a reply from Reg Prentice was when he read it in the Daily Telegraph! Prentice wrote in his letter: 'As a matter of principle I am not prepared to meet any delegation dealing with this matter.'

Bill said: 'I emphasise! the word 'any' because Prentice has since pretended that he wouldn't meet us because we weren't his constituents.'

### Fact

A further demonstration was arranged outside Prentice's 'surgery' in his constituency on 22 February. On that Jim Dormer, the present secretary of the Trades Council said:

'Prentice said to me: "I have utter contempt for you, the West Ham Trades Council and the people you represent. You have been made dupes by these thugs".'

The Trades Council (like its members in several trade union branches)



Jim Dormer, Trades Council secretary: 'The capitalist media have stooped to the lowest forms of gutter press tactics'.

were incensed by this arrogance. They wrote a letter to the Newham North East Labour Party complaining about Prentice's behaviour.

'Surely' the letter concluded 'it was his duty, if available, to see us'.

The letter was only one of a host of complaints which the constituency party has received from trade union bodies protesting at Prentice's reactionary politics.

At the time of the arrest of the Pentonville Five, in 1972, several dockers' branches of the Transport and General Workers' Unions sent resolutions protesting at Prentice's attack on the five, and demanding

was John Poulson (jailed for corruption).

The chief negotiator for the contract was the chairman of Poulson's company, Reginald Maulding, who personally spent many hours persuading the Ministry of Overseas Development to hand over huge aid for building his hospital. The Minister of Overseas Development, then as now, was Reg Prentice. He agreed to one of the biggest grants ever for such a project.

## A TALE OF TWO HONEST REGGIES...

FOOTNOTE: The Press picture of Prentice is that of Honest Reg, decent, bluff, courageous. Which is one reason why they have failed to remind their readers of an important day in Reg Prentice's life—when he signed away £1.6 million of taxpayers' money to help pay for a new hospital on Gozo, Malta.

The hospital has been empty since being built and is an architectural disaster, probably because the architect

# The struggle for

EVENTS in Portugal have now reached the point of direct political confrontation between opposed political forces. Last weekend mobs stormed the headquarters of left-wing organisations in the north, beat up left wingers and attacked the houses of individual militants.

The British press has a simple explanation for these events. It claims that 'totalitarian communism', as in Eastern Europe, is threatening Portugal and that the 'democrats' are fighting back. This justifies the mob violence, the arson, even the murders.

But the real truth is very different. The present crisis broke out when the Assembly of the Armed Forces Movement, which rules Portugal, made two decisions a fortnight ago: to leave the daily paper Republica in the hands of its printing staff rather than its proprietor, and to call for the creation of a network of 'popular councils'.

Neither of these decisions was in any sense a victory for the Portuguese Communist Party, Republica, under workers' control, has been taking a political position close to that of the revolutionary left and often critical of the Communists, while the idea of 'popular councils' is generally re-

cognised in Lisbon to be closer to the Revolutionary Workers' Councils of the revolutionary left than to the bureaucratic 'Committees for the Defence of the Revolution' that the Communist Party wants.

Far from being 'totalitarian', workers' councils like these have been thrown up in the great revolutions against Stalinist rule in Eastern Europe, as in Hungary in 1956.

In fact workers' councils are much more democratic than the parliamentary Con-

stituent Assembly that exists in Portugal today. For in parliamentary elections workers are expected to choose between a selection of middle-class politicians and once they have voted, they have no further control over what their representative does. Under the pressure of big business, he can ignore completely what his working-class electors expected of him and they have no redress.

What is more, in many places, workers

can find themselves outvoted by landlords, stockbrokers, shareholders and other parasites.

By contrast, in a workers' council democracy, only those that work have a vote, and they can recall their delegates at any time.

That is why the slogan of revolutionary workers in Portugal is 'Out with the rabble! For a government of those who work!'

## AND THIS THEY CALL DEMOCRACY!



Mário Soares, the 'socialist' leader who gets praise from the Daily Express

THE undemocratic nature of 'parliamentary democracy' is shown clearly in the Portuguese case. About half the population of Portugal are workers, yet nine members in ten of the Constituent Assembly are lawyers, professors or journalists.

The biggest party in the Constituent Assembly is the Socialist Party. But that does not mean that the majority of the people who voted for the Socialist Party agree with its present politics. 'Parliamentary democracy' is characterised precisely by the fact that politicians can say one thing before elections and do the opposite after-

wards. In the elections three months ago, many workers voted for the Socialist Party because they disliked the other main party, the Communist Party, for its bureaucratic manoeuvring and its condemnation of strikes. In the industrial areas, the Socialist Party candidates gave the impression they were very much on the left.

Indeed, the Socialist Party statement of aims sounds almost revolutionary, as a few extracts show:

'The Socialist Party fights the capitalist system and bourgeois domination... The Socialist Party is implementing a new conception of life that can only be brought about through the construction of workers' power...'

'The struggle against fascism and colonialism will only be achieved by the destruction of capitalist society and the construction of socialism... The Socialist Party refutes those who say they are social democrats but continue to preserve the status quo, the structures of capitalism and the interests of imperialism.'

### ROLE

The statement goes so far as to suggest that 'workers' councils' have an important role to play.

Yet candidates elected on such a programme can now work with other candidates who got middle-class votes through denouncing 'extremism', and the workers who voted socialist can do nothing about it. Such is the 'democracy' of the Constituent Assembly.

The real point about such 'democracy' is that it provides a facade behind which big business can hold real power. That is why the Socialist Party's campaign for 'democracy' in the last week has produced a massive mobilisation of the privileged classes behind its banners. That is why right-wing papers here such as the Daily Telegraph and Daily Express praise Soares the Socialist Party leader.

The television on Sunday showed vast numbers of cars travelling to Lisbon to join a Socialist Party demonstration. In a country where the average wage is less than £25 a week, how many workers own cars?

We observed a demonstration called by the Socialist Party in Lisbon last week. It was overwhelmingly middle class. We looked closely and questioned many people. The only worker we came across was a Communist Party member who had come along, like us, to keep an eye on things. The mass of the demonstration was middle class to the backbone. It was made up of bank managers, senior servants, lawyers, doctors, with their expensive suits and carefully manicured hands.

### POWER

The slogans of the demonstrators were well to the right of the speeches of the Socialist Party leaders. Among the most popular were attacks on the Intersyndical, which is the Portuguese TUC, and on left-wing army officers. There were racist chants that claimed that 'Oteló'—the head of the security force Copcon—was not Portuguese and should be sent back to Africa.

The privileged classes in Portugal know that a parliamentary-type regime will enable them to exercise real power where it matters: in the factories, the police, the banks, the army. They know that under such a structure, while the Socialist Party leaders make fine speeches, they themselves can organise to attack the gains which workers have made in the past year.



Soldiers and workers demonstrating for workers' power in Lisbon last week. PICTURE: Graham Black

THE attitude of the British press towards ideas of workers' democracy was summed up by The Observer on Sunday: 'The new scheme for indirectly elected people's committees sounds about as genuinely democratic as the electoral system in any autocracy,' it said.

What none of the papers or television commentators who have attacked the councils has done is to describe these councils at work. For to do so would be to destroy their own propaganda about 'totalitarianism'.

Yet a brief glance at the Portuguese press provides many examples. The recently-formed Popular Council in Pontinha, a working-class district of Lisbon, for example, although not yet developed fully into a revolutionary workers' and soldiers' council seems to be well on the way.

According to the worker-controlled paper Republica, the committee is 'made up of

## How the workers' councils are run

numerous workers' and tenants' committees, and of delegates from the local military unit... It has already begun to deliver reports on the measures it thinks it is most urgent to take. At its next meeting it will elect a revolutionary committee for the area...

'The committee co-ordinates the organs of power that the workers, the tenants, and the soldiers have created in the day-to-day struggle against capitalism and exploitation. Such organs are elected at general meetings and can be dismissed at any

time... 'It is such organisation that permits the unity of all the forces fighting against the dictatorship of capital. And because it is profoundly democratic and truly representative of the workers, this is the only way to ensure that the oppressed masses take their own future into their own hands, controlling production, prices and rents, and guaranteeing that we get socialism and not some new variety of capitalism and oppression...'

The paper Expresso, which is edited by a right-wing politician, contains the constitution of the popular assembly. A few extracts show how deeply democratic it is:

'Secret votes are not allowed, since all votes are taken by an open show of hands... The revolutionary committee is recallable at any time by the Popular Assembly...'

'There is freedom of expression and discussion of all points.

The basis of all discussion must be a free exercise of criticism and self-criticism, fighting all repressive methods that impede this...'

'All members of workers' committees can take part in the popular assembly with the right to speak... The number of votes for each committee depends on the number of workers in the workplace it represents.'

### Right

'All members of tenants' committees can take part in the Popular Assembly with the right to speak. Each tenants' committee will have one vote. All delegates of the military unit have the right to speak and vote.'

'Minorities must accept majority decisions. These are binding on all participating organisations. Local administrative organs must give all the technical and administrative help that is necessary.'

Colin Sparks

# power is on



Lisnave shipyard workers demonstrating in Lisbon last month calling for the setting up of workers', soldiers' and sailors' councils and the dissolving of the Constituent Assembly.

## Soldiers join workers as the AFM hesitates

A DEMONSTRATION of small factories and tenants' committees took place in Lisbon last week. In itself it was an important demonstration. But something happened that gave it fantastic significance.

The 300 soldiers marching in the demonstration were joined by seven tanks and armoured cars. As demonstrators climbed on top of the tanks, even the police joined in the singing of the Internationale.

The struggle in Portugal is no longer for this or that improvement in living standards. It is a struggle to decide which class will hold power.

Parties such as the Socialist Party, which used to speak of reforms to bring about 'socialism', have joined with the extreme right in opposing the further development of the revolution. The middle classes, seeing the end of the era of cheap labour and their privileges, are turning savage. And the Armed Forces Movement is splitting at the seams.

Some officers are very much on the right. Other officers and much of the rank and file support the workers. And the bulk of the officers stand in the middle, paralysed by



Portugal's prime minister Vasco Goncalves

indecision.

Every time an attempt is made to use the army to break a strike, it fails. Discipline collapses and men do not co-operate with the orders they have been given. Yet the army cannot be used to destroy the organised base of reaction either.

A month ago the leaders of the armed forces seemed to be backing the Socialist Party and its call to restore capitalist 'order'. Yet a fortnight later they were calling for the setting up of 'popular power'.

The armed forces plan calls for setting up a network of workers' and tenants' committees, linked to the army through appointed officers. But it does not suggest how these committees can take over supreme power.

### CONTROL

Yet it is only by taking power over the whole of society that workers can solve the crisis besetting Portugal.

Workers already control many factories, they have occupied thousands of houses to solve the housing problem, they have taken private hospitals into their own hands. But the economy as a whole is still run for profit. There is still a massive waste of resources on luxury goods for the middle class. The legal minimum wage of £75 a month is still a tenth of the legal maximum wage. While the unemployed go hungry, the rich still flash by in their sports cars.

The problems of production, unemployment and inflation can only be solved if the workers take over the economy as a whole, end the luxury consumption of the well-to-do, and create a democratic plan that ensures a decent living standard for everyone.

In the present situation every hesitation by the working class, every attempt to seem moderate,

enables the ruling class to advance, ensures that the economic crisis gets worse, and drives more people in opposition to socialism.

It is possible that the demonstrations of the Socialist Party and the right wing will cause the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement to swing back to the right. They are running what is still a capitalist country, and the crisis cannot be solved in capitalist terms without the most vicious attacks on workers' wages, working conditions and organisation.

That is why the revolutionary left in Portugal is fighting not merely to set up workers' and soldiers' councils, but for these councils to take power and to build an army of a new sort, one that cannot be used against workers because it is linked with armed workers in the factories and the localities.

It recognises that Portugal has reached the same point as Chile did two or three months before Allende fell. The right wing are using talk about 'democracy' as an excuse to go on the offensive against workers' gains. They can only be defeated if the workers launch a counter-offensive and replace a paralysed impotent government by their own power.

## COMRADES IN STRUGGLE?

REVOLUTIONARIES in Britain are often attacked by members of the Communist Party because we criticise the Portuguese Communist Party from the left. Yet our criticisms are mild compared to the criticisms of the Portuguese Communist Party from the right being made by... the Spanish Communist Party. Santiago Carrillo, its leader, has attacked its sister party in the latest issue of the glossy American news magazine Time. He said: 'It is essential that Spain should not repeat the Portuguese experience.'

At a time when Portuguese Communists and revolutionaries are being beaten up by mobs from Socialist Party rallies, he blames the Portuguese Communist Party leaders for not working with the Socialist leaders.

There are quarters where such talk in the capitalist press would be called scabbing. But not in the British Communist Party. They have arranged a mass rally for Carrillo in London this week...



### PARTIDO REVOLUCIONÁRIO DO PROLETARIADO - BRIGADAS REVOLUCIONÁRIAS

To:  
Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund,  
8 Cottons Gardens,  
London EC 8DN  
Lisbon 8 July 1975

Dear Comrades,

We have received £150 from Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, money which this party will use for the purchase of printing material.

We see the campaign for the collection of funds as a real demonstration of internationalist solidarity. The support given by British workers to the Portuguese revolutionary process constitutes a real contribution to the success of the socialist revolution in Portugal, and this party hopes that the British comrades will put militant effort into this support.

This party has, therefore, on its side, as comrades in struggle, all comrades participating in SW Portuguese Solidarity Fund as well as all those who have given their support or will in future support the struggle of Portuguese workers for the socialist revolution.

This campaign could become a

factor for cohesion and unity of the British working class, and a contribution to the advance of its own struggle. Furthermore, this campaign represents a fight against the intentions of the imperialist forces of smashing the socialist revolution in Portugal, a plan which may take the form of a military intervention.

Thus we think that it is of fundamental importance that the struggle against imperialism is also carried in Britain.

Proletarian internationalism is the life blood of working-class struggle, particularly now, when imperialism and capitalism are undergoing a great crisis. Thus, internationalist solidarity means above all that workers get deeply involved in the task of making the socialist revolution in their own countries.

In Portugal the working class is living through a decisive period of its confrontation with the ruling class. The question of power is at this moment the vital one, and in pursuing their struggle Portuguese workers are in practice carrying out proletarian internationalism.

We appeal to British workers to do their own internationalist duty by advancing the class struggle by their militancy and by their capacity for organisation. In doing this you will move towards your own socialist revolution.

Fraternal and Revolutionary Greetings

On behalf of the Political Secretariat of the PRP-BR  
Raul Mendes.



THE Portuguese Revolution is going to be decided one way or the other in the next few months. It has put working class power on the agenda for the whole of Europe. Solidarity by British workers is fundamental and means that we must bring the reality of the revolution into every trade union branch and workplace.

—Alvaro Miranda of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee, speaking at a half-day school on Portugal organised by East London District IS.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR PORTUGAL'S WORKERS

THE events in the past week show that solidarity with the Portuguese revolution is an urgent duty of all socialists. Mob attacks on individual Communists and revolutionaries could quickly turn into near civil war in parts of the country.

Action to get the trade union movement in Britain to express its support for Portugal's workers has to be stepped up. Readers of Socialist Worker should make sure that speakers from the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class are invited to as many union bodies as possible. Write to 18 Fleet Road, London NW3.

Direct aid for Portuguese revolutionaries is also needed. The Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund has been set up to help with both these tasks. Readers and branches of the International Socialists that have not yet raised money for the fund should do so urgently. Collection sheets are available.

## Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund

ANOTHER £111.23 has been collected for the fund, and altogether 42 banker's orders have been received, which promises £504 over the next six months.

The London organisation of IS has committed itself to raise £1500 for the fund by September. More than 40 people in London have already filled in banker's orders, paying £2 a month for the next six months. Socials and other fund-raising events in support of the revolution in Portugal should be arranged now for August and September. The special collection sheet issued by the SW Portugal fund also needs to be used in factories and offices right across London.

The London IS organisers have appealed to every member to ensure that their district committees and branch urgently discuss how to raise money. What is happening in Portugal is an inspiration to socialists all over the world. We must give them every possible support.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS badges: 20p each including postage. 10p each for orders of more than 100 (plus 25p postage per 100). Proceeds to Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund. Orders to Elana Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

REVOLUCAO, weekly paper of the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation PRP, now available (in Portuguese with short translation) price 15p including postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

OUR COMMON STRUGGLE No 8, bulletin of the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class, now out. 12p including postage from Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3.

Get your workmates to make a donation, big or small. Use this slip to send to:

Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NAME

ADDRESS

AMOUNT

WORKPLACE (if collection)

# Why Ghandi's wrong



India's Indira Gandhi, the woman behind the jailings of 35,000. A solution to her problem, but India remains trapped by corruption, violence and poverty.

THE International Socialists are supporting the demonstration called for Sunday 3 August in protest against the latest measures taken by Mrs Gandhi's government in India.

But our stand has been criticised by some on the left, notably by members and supporters of one of the Indian Communist Party the CPI. They say that support must be given to Mrs Gandhi because she is fighting the right wing: She should also be supported, the argument continues, because she is a 'progressive', someone who is trying to break the hold of the big landlords and speed development of the country.

IS differs firmly with this position. It is true that many of the politicians Mrs Gandhi has locked up are right wingers. But it is not true that Mrs Gandhi's repression is wholly or even mainly directed against the right.

Last year Mrs Gandhi's government launched the most brutal repression against the Indian railway workers' union. Thousands of their strike leaders were arrested and rank and file members were

called up into the army to break the strike. And long before the recent emergency measures, the Gandhi government had locked up thousands upon thousands of left wing political prisoners.

And while it is true that the overwhelming majority of the recently arrested political prisoners are right wing opportunist politicians, they don't all fall into that category.

## Arrested

Among those arrested in the wake of Mrs Gandhi's state of emergency were Priya Gupta, the secretary general of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, K A Khan, the secretary of the Transport and Dockworkers' Union in Bombay and a woman organiser of farmworkers, Shreelata Swaminadham.

Shreelata Swaminadham organised the agricultural workers on a lot of farms south of Delhi. She even organised the workers on Mrs Gandhi's own farm.

The real key to events in India is not the activity of the right wing

but the world economic crisis, a crisis which has seen so called democracy swept away not only in India but in Pakistan and Bangla Desh as well.

It is the case that the right is trying to take advantage of the crisis and the popular discontent it has created. But the Gandhi regime does not have any way out of that crisis.

True Mrs Gandhi is not one of, or politically identified with, the big landlords who hold back even the most minimal social progress in India. It may even be that she is identified with the forces of industry.

But the business class is not a force for social progress. It is incapable of putting up a clear and consistent fight even against the big landlords.

Indian society is strangled by the forces of world capitalism. Those forces don't only operate from outside Indian society. They hold the Indian national bourgeoisie in thrall. They have sold them a very junior partnership and through them they control India's

economy and prevent her development.

There is only one class that can lead a clear and consistent fight against both the landlord class and the forces of capitalism which cannot and will not develop Indian society. That force is the Indian working class.

## Against

Mrs Gandhi and her government have proved in practice that they will not lead the struggles that are needed in India. Indeed her government has ranged itself against the most important struggles launched by the Indian working class and by poor peasants seeking real land reform, or even a bare subsistence diet.

That is why the International Socialists oppose the Gandhi government's latest measures. That is why we are supporting the 3 August demonstration. By participating we are showing our solidarity with the only force that can lead Southern Asia forward, the workers of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

# 5 FIFTH COLUMN

## Disorderly housing



IN THIS country there are estimated to be 800,000 empty houses. There are thousands of unemployed building workers. Producers of bricks report 'record profits.' In London there are a large number of unoccupied tower blocks, the most famous of these, Centrepont, has now stood empty, apart from one brief weekend occupation by demonstrators, for 12 years. Its owner, Harry Hyams, makes more money the longer the building remains empty. 'The party's over' said Labour minister Tony Crosland as he announced massive slashes in local authority spending.

And suddenly, after some periods of neglect by the newspapers, squatters

are back in the news...

IN PARFITT STREET Stepney, in London's East End, the private owners, Eprecent, who had allowed the property to stand derelict for years had a effective way of dealing with squatters. They moved in Alastian dogs into the houses, while the squatters were away.

Unfortunately for Eprecent the squatters had a particularly effective way of getting the dogs out. They contacted a dog handler, who persuaded the animals to leave.

Eprecent haven't been back since...

A WOLVERHAMPTON building worker met with a traditional problem. While building for other people in London he had nowhere to live himself. 'The last bed-sit I had was in Holloway' he explained. 'I was paying a rent I couldn't afford and one day the landlady banged on the lavatory door while I was sitting in there, and shouted to me I was using too much toilet roll!'

He too has joined the squatters

## So long Derek

BACK in mid-June, Fifth Column commented on the 40 police who helped themselves to 15 tons of groceries on the M5, and the New-castle-upon-Tyne detective inspector who 'ingeniously' helped himself at a local supermarket.

Well, if that cop had a bad memory then clearly it is an illness that affects many members of the Geordie force. Derek Leinhan, a detective constable, ran into a supermarket messenger and relieved him of £2,815. He's gone down for two years...

Many letters are being written to the Times on the subject, clearly a sign that our rulers have discovered a new interest, about 'disorderly bands' invading decent, rich people's houses. The Daily Telegraph has run an editorial on the subject, demanding strong measures. Labour and Tory MPs and councillors have vied with each other to suggest ways of removing the scourge from our (or rather their) midst.

Why the sudden interest?

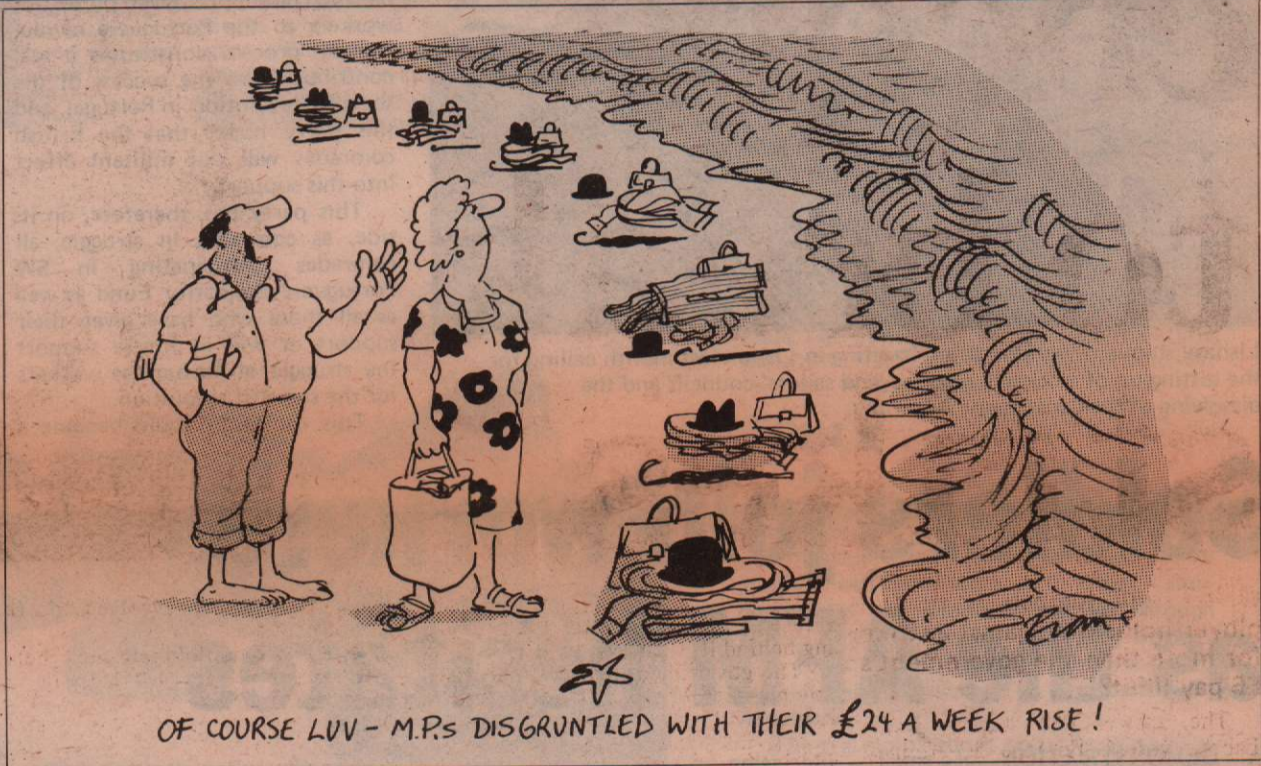
Squatting has a long and honourable history, as is shown by the number of laws relating to it our rulers have passed since the Middle Ages. It was immediately after the Second World War that, with the housing crisis, the homeless moved into disused RAF camps, and into empty houses and were met with the police, evictions, battles, and, from the Labour government, words, and a programme of pre-fabricated houses, many of which are still in use today.

In the mid 1960s squatting returned. The Labour government had not solved the housing crisis, despite the vast increase in wealth our rulers had achieved in the intervening years. On the Eastern edge of London in Redbridge and Ilford community groups, socialists, and working class families began to take over the derelict housing which littered the industrial suburbs.

Labour councils hit back by employing thugs to get them out. Men like the 'private security man' and fascist, Barry Quartermaine, now in jail.

But after that, in London, squatting became gradually accepted—until now. There have been many bitter battles, but for councils allowing squatting was a recognition of the inevitable.

The councils, starved of money,



paying heavy interest to banks and property developers found that squatters meant that families could be accommodated, cheaply, or for nothing, and some of the heat was off them.

But now the money has run out. The government's cuts don't mean 'tightening belts,' giving a year for 'Britain', not at all. They mean that for many homeless in London, and around Britain there is no chance of them getting somewhere to live.

And once the councils have accepted the rules of Wilson's game it means there is only one other alternative. If our rulers can't, or won't solve a problem, look around and see who you can load the blame on.

Blame it on the squatters...

## Macao: help from Mao...

HONG KONG the British crown colony in the tip of China has long been a by-word for the very highest standard of corruption.

Its principle rival in this field is Macao, the Portuguese equivalent 100 miles west of Hong Kong. For years the city survived on a diet of gambling, dope pushing, and exploitation of the locals.

Then came the revolution in Portugal. A vigorous 35-year-old criminal was sent to Macao as governor' reports the International Herald Tribune. His mission—to clean up the vice dens, cleanse the corruption, make the place a decent city to live in.

He has run into problems. Not surprisingly the local crooks, scoundrels, landlords and industrialists have objected. So has Mr Ho Yin.

He is a local millionaire. Ah, you say, why doesn't China do some-

## WHEN BROKE, EVICT...

IT IS estimated that in London there are at least 25,000 squatters. They range from young people who've come to London for jobs, and have found themselves out of work, and out of a home, to London working class families who have been marooned on the bottom of council housing lists for years.

'In Brixton,' explained one activist, 'there are five houses which are occupied by women from the Chiswick Women's Aid Centre. They are battered wives; the only way they can get any peace, the only way they can get anywhere to live

together, is if they squat.

'A lot of the problem is for single people like that—who don't appear on housing lists—let alone get a flat or house.

'Round here' said an Islington squatter, 'the council need £19 million for the next year for their housing rehabilitation programme. What have the government offered them? £9 million!'

'So the council said they must have a minimum of £13 million. Faced with this sort of problem they have started evicting squatters in a big way. It doesn't solve anything, houses stay derelict, people stay homeless. Squatters become a scapegoat for the authorities' own problems, and the number of squatters is rising.'

## CRAZY

'The press like to look at all squatters as 'evil' explained another. 'But there is a tendency to divide them into groups as far as councils are concerned. They distinguish between family squatting, which they sometimes treat as an extension of the housing services, with waiting lists, rents and so on and 'smash and grab' squatters.

'It's a crazy distinction. But it's convenient, it means that single people or people who don't fit in with a family unit are left out.

'Councils are also discriminating in favour of the people they need in the centres of cities who they can't house, like social workers and teachers. Inner city boroughs have started issuing licences to people like that. They don't mean a thing—

'It's a simple policy—divide and rule.'

## Bad

While Angola and Mozambique have moved to independence Macao remains Portuguese. The Portuguese don't particularly want it, the locals can't have it. Why? Because it would be bad for business.

And the 'business' is the People's Republic of China...



CBI chiefs Campbell Adamson and Ralph Bateman: discussions with Cabinet.

# Labour: An open cheque to break strikes

**WHAT will happen if an employer holds out against a strike for more than the government's £6 pay limit?**

The answer will surprise many Labour voters. For the government has been discussing, with the CBI, the setting up of a special fund to help private employers break such strikes.

It's not a new idea. Two months ago, according to the Sunday Times the CBI planned an 'insurance fund', but it was shelved because of the 'political climate'.

But in the days before the White Paper on the wage freeze came out, members of the Cabinet and the CBI discussed whether the time had come for a fund.

In the Commons, Harold Wilson refused to comment. But the reasoning behind it is clear enough.

The government believes that with co-operation from union leaders it has a reasonable chance of holding out against claims in the public sector. If other unions follow the miners' executive, there won't even be many public sector claims higher than the £6 limit.

But many private employers may find it too expensive to resist claims for more than £6 fought by well-organised factories. The government wants to find a way of helping these employers to hold out. The fund would be used to do this.

There are three ways it could operate. The government could provide the money and simply pay out on the basis of the length of the

strike, the numbers involved and the loss of profits.

The CBI could operate the scheme and receive either cash help or tax concessions from the government. Not having to pay tax is equivalent to getting a gift from the government anyway. Or firms which take a 'patriotic' stand could be subsidised through tax concessions by the government.

## Dole

Because of the large sums potentially involved, any scheme would need some sort of government backing.

The Financial Times, the employers' newspaper, said: 'There have been hints that such a fund, if proposed formally by the CBI in the

future, could be backed by a guarantee of government funds.'

The effects would go far beyond strengthening individual employers. Groups of workers, whether on strike or not, could be told 'either you accept our terms which might be well below £6 or we'll just sit it out. We're not losing any money.'

The fund will be a lockout fund. Employers would be given the strength—by a Labour government—to turn any strike into a lockout.

The fund would be a highly selective weapon. Individual factories, or particularly militant combines, could be chosen and broken.

And, of course, once such a fund exists it won't cease to exist when the £6 limit is forgotten. The employers will fight to keep it for good.

Already such funds exist in

individual factories. The British Printing Industries Federation, the employers organisation in the general printing industry, has a special disputes fund used to help employers faced with strike action.

The Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association had £2.8 million at its disposal in April 1973. These funds are already used quite extensively.

The Engineering Employers' Federation is the best-organised employers' association in Britain. Nearly every major and many minor engineering firms are members. In 1972 the EEF co-ordinated resistance to the wave of strikes and occupations in Manchester in support of the 1972 engineering claim.

Shop stewards occupying Ruston Paxman's in Newton-le-Willows near Manchester discovered confidential documents from the EEF. The documents made it clear that the employers wanted to make massive inroads into the engineering union's strike funds. Therefore firms which provoked the disputes in their factories into strikes or occupations were subsidised by the EEF's central fund.

## Build

For the first week of strike action, the firm concerned got £5 for every man and £2.50 for every woman or apprentice out on strike. The sums rose to £10 and £5 each for every week that followed. By the end of the dispute the EEF Indemnity Fund had a deficit of £2.3 million pounds.

The Tory government gave back nearly £200,000 in tax relief. This massive operation, aimed at bankrupting the AUEW strike funds, is minor compared with what is now being discussed.

Colonel Stirling and General Sir Walter Walker planned to set up private armies of scabs to break strikes. But soldiers can't mine coal, middle-class strike-breakers can't carry out skilled engineering jobs. The Tories and their parasitic supporters don't understand this.

But Harold Wilson and Denis Healey do. A fund to save outgroups of workers is a much more effective weapon.

# Why the railmen said 'yes'

IN A SPEECH which could hardly have been more passionate from the mouth of a Cabinet Minister, Sidney Weighell—general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen—last week implored his 180,000 members 'not to kick the government in the teeth'.

But Mr Weighell, who was speaking on Labour's wage cutting plans at the union's conference in Jersey—the first of any union since the White Paper—failed to mention that the government has just kicked the NUR 'in the teeth' in one of the most cynical exercises even of Harold Wilson's career.

He failed to mention the fact, jubilantly reported in the Daily Telegraph, that the £1.95 second stage of the recent pay package will—under the government's plans—now be deducted from next year's claim.

And so the wage cut for NUR members is likely to be even worse than for other workers. Yet Mr Weighell said not a word of this—and conference, unaware of the trick pulled on them, voted to accept the '£6' pay freeze.

But sitting at Mr Weighell's elbow was a man who might have been ex-

pected to have spoken out: Mr Dave Bowman, the NUR's left-wing president.

Mr Bowman, whose 'progressive' credentials read like the Morning Star's vision of the ideal trade union leader, did not stir, however.

Only the previous day, he had hurled a torrent of rhetoric at conference about certain 'working-class principles' that must be conceded by the Labour government 'about the charades of Royal Ascot', about 'the gaming tables of London's West End . . . groaning with chips worth hundreds of thousands of pounds'.

## Break

He added, however, that the government's plans should be given one year.

But it was all good copy for the Morning Star. All good conference hall rhetoric. And all quite useless. In the crucial debate the next day, Bowman was silent—and Weighell got his way with only 18 votes against. Absurdly, conference later voted for a 'substantial' pay demand next year.

Of course, conference over-

whelmingly carried resolutions on Chile, nationalisation, Northern Ireland, arms spending and the CIA, all of them a joy for revolutionary socialists. But, meanwhile, the NUR will not lift a finger to fight the devastating attack to come on its members' living standards.

It was yet another example of the hopelessness of the strategy of the Communist Party, which Bowman left five years ago.

He had been a member of the CP's national executive, contesting general elections and by-elections for the Party in Dundee on five occasions.

But his membership was a serious barrier to his rise in the NUR establishment. The logical thing was to resign and help strengthen the 'left trends' in the Labour Party.

And so Bowman did just that, becoming a member of the Scottish Labour Party executive for two years and, last year, becoming president of the NUR.

With a nod and a wink from the CP, he, like many others before him, took the bureaucratic road to socialism only to find at Jersey last week that it is a blind alley.



Sidney Weighell: 'a kick in the teeth' for his 180,000 members.

## From GAY SEMEL in Detroit

Editor of Workers' Power, paper of  
the US International Socialists

WESTCHESTER is a wealthy suburb of New York, largest city of the American dream. There's a country club there and on 19 April the well-healed ladies and gentlemen who belong to the place had themselves a little 'fun'. They organised a 'Depression Bash'.

Rich men and women competed with one another to come dressed as tramps to imitate the jobless and impersonate the hungry. For kicks of course. Prizes were handed out for the most authentic performance. Dinner was served—though the fare was rather different from Salvation Army soup.

After it was over the guests climbed into their chauffeur-driven limousines, drove back to their 100,000 dollar houses and took up their soft lives and soft numbers where they had left off.

For America's 100 million-strong working class, there isn't the slightest bit of 'fun' about the situation that gave rise to the 'Depression Bash'. For American workers the crisis is only too real, its effects only too devastating.

Unemployment is twice the rate in Britain, running at 8 per cent of the workforce. That's eight million workers without a job.

In the black community the situation is more desperate yet. The front page lead article in the 19 June issue of our paper Workers Power, revealed that a staggering one in four of the 11 million black Americans in the workforce were out of work in the first three months of 1975.

### Dream

In a phrase, the American dream has come undone.

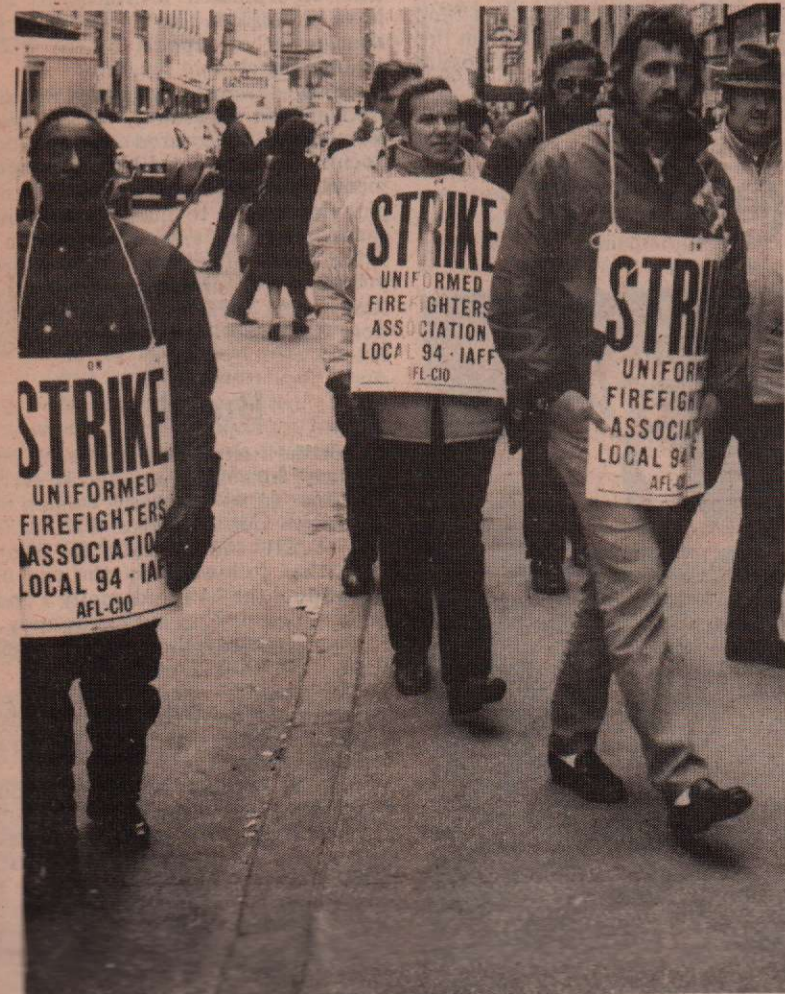
The first group of workers to feel the effects were the car workers. They got laid off before Christmas. But they tended to feel the lay-offs would be short. And their lay-off pay cushioned them... for a while.

But the crisis has come to stay. Already it has a profound effect. Small but important groups of American workers have moved into action to defend their living standards.

They have little choice. For the myth of the 1950s—myths that capitalism had stabilised itself, that there would be no economic crisis ever again—have crumbled away into nothing.

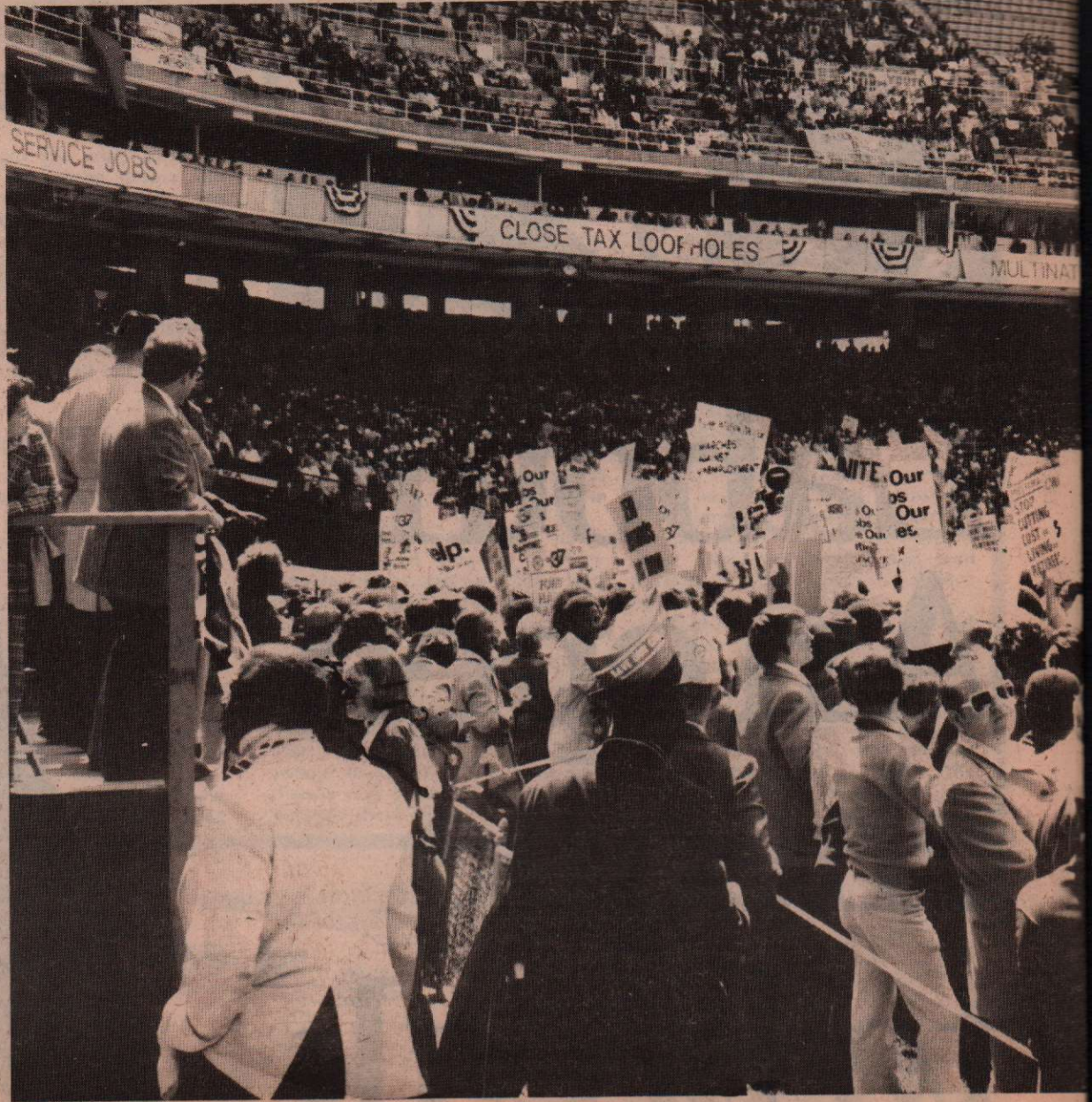
ON 26 April, 60,000 marched on Washington demanding jobs in the largest demonstration of American workers since the 1930s.

'Jobs, Not Jive', was their rallying cry. But jive in the form of 'Vote for the Democrats in '76'



New York firemen on strike for higher pay earlier this year. They won—but now the city council is cutting back on jobs.

# End of the American night



was the only thing the trade union bureaucrats had to say.

At a rally afterwards, one placard-carrying worker spontaneously ran out on the field in protest. Such militancy—the militancy of one man—was too much for the bureaucracy. Clearly it had to be stopped.

They sent security guards after him. The audience began booing the guards. In protest, other workers began running out on to

the baseball field. The one became ten. The ten became hundreds. Then there were several thousand workers out on the field.

Neither Hubert Humphrey, the former Democratic Vice-President who had been laid out to pontificate nor the top union bureaucrats could stop them. The rally was cancelled.

Where has this militancy come from? And why now?

The most immediate and desperate reason is the crisis. What they said could never happen again has happened. The business cycle has returned—capitalism's boom has turned to bust.

### Defence

But it is not the economic crisis alone. The dream began to shatter more than ten years ago.

The civil rights movement. Black Power, the massive black protests at Watts and Harlem ex-

ploded the myth of 'equality and justice for all'. The shooting down of prisoners at Attica buried it.

The war in Vietnam showed exactly what the US government was defending—the interests of the capitalist system. The defender of the 'free world' used its might to prop up a brutal dictatorship and despoiled a whole country, and its people.

Watergate brought the politics of the war home.

The protest movements brought back the idea of mass struggle. Mobilisations and sit-ins were again on the agenda.

As one group rose, protesting against oppression, its successors showed others the way. Blacks sitting-in at Selma gave black workers the confidence to fight

on the shop floor. The struggle for black liberation—and the tactics used—gave birth to the student movement.

The war in Vietnam taught an entire generation that America was imperialist. Many in the student movement went from protesting against the war to protesting against the system it served.

### Crisis

Blacks questioning their position in society enabled women to do the same. A massive women's movement grew up rapidly in the late 1960s. Some of the ideas of women's liberation—equal access to jobs, equal pay for equal work, the right to be treated with res-

pect—gained a large following. The American working class—women, black and white—were forced in the early 1970s to get jobs in cars, engineering, trucking and taxi driving. But they have been off in the crisis.

The social problems of the 1960s crashed in the 1970s. Without the working class there would be little. But their impact in the changed of the American working class. Most Americans believe something

## And is in action there too

'It doesn't take a great deal of education to know this country is screwed up and we've got to do something about it.' Those were the words of a young worker from West Virginia who joined the American International Socialists at the end of their 1975 conference last week.

A black carworker, a chief steward (con-ventor) at a Chrysler plant, said: 'It's not what IS has to do for me. It's what I have to do for IS.' He joined too.

The conference was held in Detroit. In this country that is hundreds of times bigger than Britain, IS comrades and their supporters came from all over to this motor industry city to talk about building a workers' organisation. 'What got me interested in IS was when we first walked out,' said a black steelworker from St Louis, 'and the IS comrades came up and asked what it was about for their paper. They came up with the strongest article I ever read in my life. So I joined.'

There are not yet thousands of workers in the American International Socialists. But the conference was about how they could see that

from their present small base they could become thousands. Seeing that in their ones and twos, in their tens and twenties, young American workers, black and white, are now looking for socialist politics and revolutionary action.

And the American IS, who sent students and others radicalised in the anti-war movement of the late 1960s into the factories have proved something. Here and there, despite all the odds, they are the only organisation in the whole of the United States with anything to say to workers on how to fight unemployment, racialism, the corrupt trade union bureaucracies and the boss.

### Dignified

There was a lot of bravado at the conference. More than we would ever tolerate in Britain. But against the odds being faced in the US, against the trade union bosses who think nothing about putting a militant into the sea, you have to be aggressive.

Against the racialism that still permeates

the lives and attitudes of most of you have to be tough. Not talk, but when you face the Party or the Ku Klux Klan working class the American the more black, the more you will get.

So they debated how to become a tougher organisation. A disciplined organisation. A mass organisation. And the overwhelming of delegates voted for the new direction. And it was the supporters who attended to join up at the end.

Beverly, a black recruit, had to go to the mike and say 'I'm sincere about the black struggle can make it work.'

That perspective will take work to come true. But our the United States are on the

STEVE JENKINS



## QUESTIONS ON THE CRISIS

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## FIGHT LABOUR'S FREEZE

# Why the £6 limit means more unemployment

'WE reject entirely the policy put forward by some Tories of fighting inflation by throwing millions of people out of work'. So said the Labour Party's Manifesto last October.

Even now, after having been driven to admit that this 'anti-inflation' policy does mean cuts in real take-home pay, government spokesmen are still pretending that these policies will save jobs.

This is going to be a big argument in the unions in the next few months. The government's new propaganda unit, set up to sell the freeze, will be working overtime to hide the truth about the effect of government policy on jobs.

The truth is this; In three different ways the 'anti-inflation' package is going to destroy jobs. It is going to destroy them on a very big scale. And the Labour Ministers are well aware of the fact. They have funk'd the policy on which they were elected on this front too, and are now 'fighting inflation by throwing millions of people out of work.'

First the £6 limit, by cutting average real earnings, necessarily cuts purchasing power. Because workers will be able to buy less, output will fall and redundancies and short-time working will increase. And this, in turn, will cut the purchasing power of the working class as a whole still further and produce still more redundancies and short-time. The process feeds on itself as long as the government is able to enforce its policies.

### Real

Of course, if there was a big upturn in exports or in investment the downward slide could be checked. But, as we shall see, there is no such upturn in prospect. The effect of the real pay cuts will be felt directly in the disappearance of more and more jobs.

This is bad enough in itself, but the second strand of Healey's policy will make it very much worse.

'At a special meeting of the Cabinet last Monday Mr Denis Healey faced his colleagues with a Treasury medium-term assessment of the economy which indicated the need to cut programmes by a massive £2 to £3 billions between 1977 and 1979' reported The Guardian's political correspondent (18 July). Apparently no agreement on the details has yet been reached.

We are so used to these huge figures being thrown about that we tend to get numbed and miss their real significance. The significance of this latest (calculated?) leak is enormous.

'Already, under the measures in the government's White Paper, all public services are to be drastically cut. Cash limits on

**Whitehall forecasts 20**  
**rise in jobless 10**  
**to 1½m. next year**  
BY SAMUEL BRITTON

A new official economic forecast shows unemployment reaching about 1½m in the course of 1976, instead of the 1m forecast by the Chancellor in his Budget speech. This Whitehall forecast is on a seasonally adjusted basis, estimated to 31.3, wholly unemployed.

Options

Here it is, from the horses' (or rather bosses') mouth. The Financial Times headline of 16 July gives the lie to Healey's claims...

the spending of the Health Service, local government and so on are being fixed. They are well below the actual rate of inflation and considerably below the government's estimate of what it will be over the next year if their policies work.

Health, housing, education, local services generally are being steadily bled before the latest slash-back scheme is introduced. The social services are being castrated.

But the point that can easily be missed is that the bleeding and the slashing will give a really massive boost to unemployment. Public services are labour-intensive, much more so than industry. For example, 60 per cent of the expenditure of local authorities goes on wages. As their real spending is forced down, they will shed labour at a faster rate than industry.

The Financial Times could reveal last week that a secret government report estimates that the combined effects of recession and the government's

deflationary package will push unemployment above the million mark this autumn and above the million and a half mark in the spring. It could easily be worse than that.

But then, it was being argued by the Treasury 'experts' until recently, things will get better. As the world economy picks up, there will be an export-led boom.

So they were claiming. But not anymore. The 'experts' are reluctantly coming round to the view that there will be no boom in 1976, that the world recession is much deeper and will last much longer than they had thought.

### Dog

'You can't all export at once', was the heading of a recent (12 July) analysis in The Economist. 'Most national forecasters think their economies will recover because they will enjoy some export-led growth,' it said. 'But the world as a whole can never enjoy export-led growth (unless a new market, opens up on the moon). If one country's exports rise relatively to its imports, so increasing demand for its output, other countries must experience the opposite.'

And it concludes: 'Nearly everything points to the world economy bumping along the floor a while longer.'

This is the third factor. Just as in 1931, the government is forcing through measures to cut public spending and push up unemployment at the very time that the whole economic trend is downwards. They are reinforcing the recession and turning it into a real slump.

By this time next year, unless their policies are defeated, they will have taken us a fair way back to the unemployment levels of the 1930s.

DUNCAN HALLAS



One demonstrator ran out on the field in protest... This was too much for the union bureaucrats, who sent the guards to stop him. The one became ten, the ten became hundreds—and rank and file workers took over.

# Amare?

### Woodward Workers' ample copy,

he hearing within king class.

operations like one and Tele-al Motors were y 1970s to hire previously open 1971 women steel, telephone k driving, bus to name a few, en the first laid

est movements ned in the early ey power of the ey could win ortance lived on onsciousness of king class.

n workers now is rotten with

American society. The black movement, the student movement, the anti-war movement and the women's movement helped explain it. Watergate, the defeat in Vietnam and the collapse of the US economy were the final blows.

**THE big question now for American workers is not the nature of society—but a sense of powerlessness to change it.**

That is why 26 April is so important. The ability to rise up and challenge the extremely powerful trade union bureaucracy and the Democratic Party filled those present with an almost heady sense of power.

That sense of power is important because the American union bureaucracy is immensely powerful. After the Second World War the boom allowed them to lay low American workers' traditions of big and bloody battles.

It allowed them to grow old, fat and corrupt.

It allowed them to sell working conditions for high wages. It allowed them to horsetrade control on the shop floor in return for national contracts and power concentrated in the hands of national trade union bureaucrats.

Typical of the operation was the American Miners' Union, which became one of the most corrupt union organisations in a society riddled with corruption. The leaders of this union used crookery, extortion and murder to maintain their rule.

### Solid

But they did not last for ever. They were swept aside two years ago and since then the American miners have staged their first nationwide strike for years.

A jubilant meeting following the rally organised by the April 26 Rank and File Coalition, a coalition of rank and file groups in cars, steel, transport, telephones, teaching, as well as leading militants from various industries.

26 April was the confirmation of a changed mood in the American working class.

There are other signs. In every major industry rank and file opposition groups are forming, many of them organised with the assistance of revolutionary socialists, mainly members of the US International Socialists.

But these groups involve many more. They include older militants who have been waiting years for this, blacks who were the first to fight, young workers who identified with the movements of the 1960s and Vietnam Veterans who know at first hand just how rotten this system is.

The movement is still small—but it is growing. And each victory, no matter how small, eats away at the sense of powerlessness.

All this opens up the situation for socialists as perhaps never before.



A speaker at the big rank and file meeting that followed the demonstration

FFERYS



# SPENDING CUTS: DIG OUT THE FACTS

THE IS PUBLIC Expenditure Cuts Committee has had its first meeting and is preparing a Socialist Worker pamphlet for the autumn.

It needs information for the pamphlet. Every District Committee must send in the following information by 8 August.

1. Examples of how industry in your locality is being affected by the cuts.

2. How far the local trade union movement, official and unofficial, is resisting.

3. The proposed activities of the district.

Please send the information to the Cuts Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## HOLIDAY JOBS

ATTI AND NUT members of IS in North Herts have decided to put two weeks of their holidays at the disposal of IS.

Some are to research the County Council's spending cuts for an autumn campaign.

Other members have offered their services to the Socialist Worker Information Service. Research into local firms will also be undertaken.

The teachers have agreed to pay the expenses of an unemployed comrade in the branch so he can also be involved in this work.

It was hoped that some teachers would be able to find temporary work and donate their earnings to the organisation. But this proved impossible because of the lack of jobs locally.

A resolution has been sent to the NUT and ATTI fraction IS committees calling on all teacher comrades to do similar work.



Fighting the cuts: a demonstration in Richmond, Surrey two months ago.

## 1000 see tour film on South Africa

NEARLY 1000 people saw Last Grave at Dimbaza, the film about South Africa's migrant labour system, which was the latest Socialist Worker film tour. The film brought many black workers into contact with IS for the first time.

In Leeds, the local district is following the film with an international day school on imperialism, the struggle in Africa and IS International work. In West London, two black shop stewards are booking the film for their factory.

The film tour has enabled the IS Africa Group to start building a network of contacts for trade union solidarity action over South Africa.

The group is planning a campaign to expose the 'detente' now being pushed by South Africa and the West, which is really a move to extend their economic domination of South Africa. To this end, the group will be producing factsheets on economic involvement with South Africa.

Anyone interested or involved in African affairs should contact the IS Africa Group, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Last Grave at Dimbaza exposes the workings of international capitalism in South Africa. If your firm is involved in South Africa, the film is an ideal way of opening the subject in your workplace. It can be hired from Morena Films, 607a Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square,

London WC2. For posters, printed tickets and notes to go with the film, phone Pete Marsden (01-739 1878).

Another Socialist Worker film tour is being planned for the autumn. IS branches and districts which would like to be included on the tour should contact Pete Marsden.

## Young workers

THE FIRST IS Young Workers' training school, held in London last weekend, was attended by 20 young workers.

Topics included The struggle for socialism and The Russian Revolution, Lessons for Today, both introduced by Tony Cliff, How to work as a socialist on the shop floor, introduced by London dockers Eddie Prevost, and The crisis, IS and Young Workers, introduced by Steve Jefferys.

Discussion covered a wide range—how a workers' state might operate, how to combat racism on the shop floor, the need for the revolutionary party, and how to fight unemployment.

Summing up, Martin Hardy of the Birmingham district said that the weekend had been very worthwhile. But what mattered, he added, was for young members to go back to the districts and build.

Three similar schools are projected soon in Glasgow, Liverpool and Yorkshire. A

Young Workers Sub Committee meeting will also be held in the next few weeks to continue preparation for the publication of an IS Young Workers pamphlet.

## District problems

MEMBERS of IS District Committees in London met last Friday to discuss the move to district organisation and the difficulties which have been faced. The experience pointed to the need for each District Committee member to have responsibility for a particular job in the district to ensure district committee decisions are carried out and the district committee is in regular contact with its members.

One South West London delegate summed up the feeling of the meeting when she said: 'The test of a good district committee is how far it can draw other people in the district into taking responsibility and carrying out activity. The next few months are going to demand a high level of self-sufficiency and confidence on the part of IS districts. It is up to us as district committee members to make sure that this happens.'

The Training Committee is arranging further meetings to draw together district committees, in each region in the early autumn.



IS NATIONAL Women's sub-committee meeting, this Saturday 26 July, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Every district and fraction must send one delegate.

A MEMBER of the International Socialists has been suspended for a month. On returning from abroad, the member was stopped by the Special Branch for 90 minutes, who took a book containing a large number of addresses for 50 minutes and probably photographed it.

The IS Central Committee considered that in this case there was a large element of gross stupidity, otherwise the member would have been expelled.

PUNJABI and Urdu Chingari are both out now. Orders will be sent to branches this week. For extra copies write to Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 2639).



## What we stand for

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

**Independent working-class action** We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

**Revolution not reformism** We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

The smashing of the capitalist state. The overthrow of the

weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

**Work in the mass organisations of the working class** We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

**Internationalism** We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling

**The revolutionary party** To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

**WE ARE** For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplace, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

**DARLINGTON IS public meeting:** No to wage cuts, No to the dole queue. Speaker: John Deason. Friday 25 July, 7.30pm, Public Library (annexe room). All welcome.

**HULL WOMENS VOICE public meeting:** Women fight back. Speaker: Nancy Hall. Wednesday 30 July, 8pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate.

**BIRMINGHAM Chingari public meetings:** CRISIS IN INDIA. Small Heath: Thursday 31 July, 7pm, Malborough Pub, Anderton Road. Speaker: Farooq Nawaz (editor, Chingari). Handsworth: Friday 1 August, 8pm, Lozells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road. Speaker: Mota Singh (TGWU).

**IPSWICH IS public meeting:** Abortion—a woman's right to choose. Thursday 31 July, 8pm, Ipswich Town Hall.

**LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS IS public meeting:** The Revolution in Portugal. Speaker: Chris Harman. Thursday 31 July, 12.30pm, Lower Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall.

**GRAYS IS public meeting:** Abortion—a woman's right to choose. Speakers: Gill Anciano (National Abortion Campaign). Thursday 24 July, 8pm, Central Library, Grays, Essex.

**LEEDS IS—Day School on International Work,** Saturday 2 August, 11am-5pm, Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapeltown Road) Leeds 7. Buses 2, 3 or 20 from city centre. Ian Birchall on imperialism, plus sessions on Southern Africa and Solidarity Work in Britain.

**CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting:** The role of the press. Speaker: Ron Knowles (NUJ). Monday 28 July, 8pm, Duke of Argyle, Argyle Street (off Mill Road), Cambridge.

**PARTINGTON IS public meeting:** Throw out the freeze! Speakers: Jim Nichol (IS national secretary) and Bob Burds (plumbers' shop steward, Woodall Duckhams, Partington Gas Works). Thursday 31 July, 8pm sharp, Partington Community Centre, Central Road (222 bus from Manchester Piccadilly).

**EDINBURGH IS public meeting:** Fight Labour's wage freeze! Speakers: Willie Lee (senior steward, AUEW, Chrysler Linwood) and a local electrician. Thursday 7 August, 7.30pm, Room 2, Trades Council Club, 12 Picardy Place.

## Meetings for IS members

**YORKSHIRE Regional IS summer school:** weekend 30-31 August (starts 11am Saturday), Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

**IS Industrial Committee meeting:** Saturday Saturday, 26 July, 10am. All fraction secretaries to attend.

**IS Civil Service fraction meeting:** Saturday 2 August, 11am. For all IS members in the civil service. Details from 01-739 6273.

**IS Day School on THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT IN EUROPE.** 1. Portugal. Speaker: Colin Sparks. 2. The revolutionary left in Europe. Speaker: Chris Harman. 3. The IS in Portugal trip. Speaker: Paul Harrison. This Sunday, 27 July, at IS Books, Manchester (details from Elana Dallas at 01-739 1878). Starts 1pm sharp. All IS members going to Portugal this summer to attend. Pooled fare system.

**IS UPW fraction meeting on the cuts in the Post Office.** Sunday 3 August, 11am in London (details from Mike Thompson 01-739 6273.) This meeting is important. ALL IS UPW MEMBERS MUST ATTEND.

**GLASGOW area IS education meetings:** Saturday morning, 11am, at IS Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, 26 July. The capitalist press. 2 August. 'The Labour Party'.

**SOUTH WALES Regional IS weekend school:** 2/3 August, WEA Room, Chapter Arts Centre, Market Street, Cardiff. Starts 10.30am, Saturday. Details of agenda etc from branch secretaries.

**IS Agitprop Conference:** For IS actors and silk screeners, designers and printers, musicians and singers, projectionists and poets, everyone interested in art and how to use it to build the workers' movement. Weekend 27/28 September in Manchester. Registration £1, to Roland Muldoon, 11c Cabbell Street, London NW1.

## IS notices

**Updated Speakers' notes on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL:** Send 2p stamped addressed envelope to Elana Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Now includes list of British companies with factories in Portugal, and draft resolution of solidarity for trade union branches, trades councils, etc.

**MANCHESTER IS needs all sorts of books,** political and non-political, for a used book sale to raise funds. Will comrades please bring any books to the bookshop as soon as possible.

**SCOTLAND:** Any IS member or sympathiser with political knowledge of the Fort William/Kinlochleven/Lochaber area of Western Scotland please contact IS national office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 1878) for contact with member in Ross-shire.

**WOMEN'S VOICE needs someone to work unpaid at least half a day a week,** to look after the subscriptions and bookshop orders. Ring Barbara 01-739 2639.

# Nasty work - if you can get it



THESE BOOKS\* are mainly for children between 11 and 16, but adults could do with reading them as well.

They are abundantly illustrated and easy to understand. And they are not the usual rubbish normally printed under the guise of 'Industrial education books for children', which start off by telling you about the noble worker who sets out every morning with a huge smile on his face, waving to an equally smiling wife, surrounded by unnatural children who, for some unknown reason, look like they have just been unpacked from a box of Turkish Delight.

These books do not try to gloss over the truth. The pictures do not show workers happy in their work, they show them as they are—for the most part miserable, dirty, underpaid, overworked, virtual slaves in an environment that they should own by right, but are robbed of because of ruling class oppression and propaganda.

In *Dockworker*, the men are shown lining up in the morning for a job that they may or may not

By Tony Barrow,  
Convener, Ford Leamington

have, depending on the work content and the whim of the boss. A clear indication that the system is manifestly wrong and changing rapidly.

In *Carworker*, it shows the insane system of speed and stupidity of more and more production for a shrinking market, and the appalling conditions that carworkers have to suffer.

## Horror

In *Mineworker*, it is horror incarnate, where miners work in conditions that have seemingly changed little in 100 years, apart from the advanced machinery that was designed to cut coal but not to worry about miners' lungs and bodies.

The right of all workers to strike in defence of their jobs, conditions, and fellow unionists comes across clearly, and the importance of belonging to a union is stressed over and over again.

In the case of *Farmworker*, it

is sadly stated that because of the system within that industry—farms far apart and tied cottages—the union is difficult and sometimes impossible to organise. But the book shows that this should not deter the fighting spirit of those to come.

Because of the true representation in these books of how things actually are, and not how the ruling class crack them up to be, people must wonder what the hell workers are doing in those industries. A good point.

However, for the time being, these industries must remain. It is how they remain that should concern the young reader, or even the adult for that matter.

The books clearly shows what has to be done. They are some of the finest examples of industrial education I have seen. There should be more of them.

\**Carworker, Dockworker, Farmworker, Mineworker* by Sarah Cox and Robert Golden (Kestrel Books, £1.60 each) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Enclose 10p for postage.



The farmworker, the dockworker (top) and the mineworker (above): slaves in an environment they should own and control

# The day the ruling class fled

REMEMBER those pictures of parasites indulging themselves at Ascot? Remember the scorn they showed when picketed by stable lads who earn less in a week than they spend on a single bottle of claret?

Remember how, between the quail's eggs and champagne, they preached to the rest of us about the need to sacrifice our small pleasures to keep the country on its feet?

Haven't you ever wanted to ruin their little pleasures, to march up to Ascot or Epsom with a few of your workmates and thrust their words about 'hard work' right down their throats?

## Parade

Yet it did happen once, exactly 120 years ago, in July 1855. At that time Hyde Park, then a private Royal Park, was what Ascot and Epsom are today.

Every Sunday the aristocracy would parade in their expensive carriages, exhibiting the wealth they stole from the workers all week.

Then, as now, they were demanding more 'sacrifice' from workers. So they began to push through Parliament laws designed to close shops and to cut down on pub opening hours on Sunday. The aim was to prevent workers 'wastefully' ex-

pending energies that could be more productively used in the factories.

For the workers, however, the measures meant disaster. In those days it was normal to work 16 hours, six days a week. Sunday was the only day the workers could either relax or do their shopping.

And so there was a huge outburst of anger. The working class Chartist movement plastered London with posters:

'New Sunday Bill, prohibiting newspapers, shaving, smoking, eating, and drinking and all kinds of recreation and nourishment, both corporal and spiritual, which the poor people still enjoy at the present time.'

'An open air meeting of artisans, workers and the "lower orders" generally will take place in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon to see how religiously the aristocracy is

observing the sabbath... Come and bring your wives and children in order that they may profit by the example their betters set them.'

Some 200,000 people turned up the next Sunday, among them Karl Marx. He wrote:

'Suddenly shouts could be heard on all sides: "Let's go to the road, to the carriages!" The heaping of insults upon horse riders and occupants of carriages had meanwhile already begun.'

The procession of elegant ladies and gentlemen, 'commoners and Lords', in their high coaches and four with liveried lackeys in front and behind, joined, to be sure, by a few mounted venerables slightly under the weather from the effects of wine, did not this time pass by in review but played the role of involuntary actors who were made to run the gauntlet.

When the horses started to shy, rear, back and finally run away, jeopardising the lives of their genteel burdens, the contemptuous din grew louder, more menacing, more ruthless. Noble lords and ladies, among them Lady Granville, the wife of a minister who presided over the Privy Council, were forced to alight and use their own legs.

The next weekend, the police issued posters throughout London 'prohibiting' the holding of any public meeting in Hyde Park. Nevertheless, 150,000 people assembled—but the aristocracy were not to be seen.

## Whipped

Instead, there were 800 strategically-placed policemen, with reinforcements nearby.

They waited until the crowd began to thin out and then, according to Marx:

'The constabulary rushed from ambush, whipped their truncheons out of their pockets, began to beat up people's heads until the blood ran profusely, yanked individuals here and there out of the vast multitude (a total of 104 were thus arrested) and dragged them to the improvised blockhouses.

'How the character of the scene

had changed since last Sunday! Instead of stately carriages dirty cabs, which drove off from Vine Street Police Station to the improvised prisons in Hyde Park and then returned to the station-house.

'Instead of elegant ladies and gentlemen the cab inmates were people under arrest, their heads bloody, their hair dishevelled, their clothes torn, their bodies exposed.'

'Instead of the waving of fans in the air—the swishing of constables' truncheons. Last Sunday the ruling classes showed their fashionable physiognomy; this time they showed their state physiognomy.'

'The background of the old gents with the friendly grin, of the stylish fops, the genteel superannuated widows, the beauties arrayed in cashmere, ostrich feathers and diamonds and fragrant with garlands of flowers, was the constable with his waterproof jacket, greasy oilskin hat and truncheon.'

Yet, even this display of force could not by itself ensure the continued safety of the ruling classes. A few weeks later they made a strategic retreat, withdrawing the Sunday Bills.

The workers of London had won a small, but important victory.

## ON THE BOX

**SUNDAY**  
BBC-2: 10pm. When the cops come out then our rulers know things are getting serious and YESTERDAY'S WITNESS: THE SCUFFERS ARE OUT deals with the 1919 strike of a third of Liverpool's police force.

BBC-2 at 10.35pm. THE NOBLE SAVAGE (RADIO-4) surveys the effects of the

white invasion of Africa from 17th century.

**MONDAY** KING AND COUNTRY (BBC-1, 9.25pm) is a mid-1960s film which attempts to have its cake and eat it, in its treatment of a soldier who decides that it would be a good idea to leave the trenches at Passchendaele in 1917, and is tried as a deserter—worth seeing.

# LETTERS

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 250 words.

## Mrs Gandhi against the Indian right

AMONG the Western capitalist countries there is a concerted effort being made to sabotage Portugal's economy, in the hope that the present rulers will come to realise the horror of their revolutionary ways, and adopt more moderate policies.

On a visit to Portugal it became clear, just by listening to revolutionaries and looking at the economic balance-sheet, that a deliberate attempt is being made to get at Portugal through her vulnerable economy.

Over the past 12 months, Portugal's mainly Western customers have refused to renew orders, and exports have slumped to a near disastrous level.

## The economic sabotage of Portugal begins

The economy is geared towards producing cheap goods for export. This remains the case even after the 25 April revolution.

Wages have risen and working conditions improved, but Portuguese goods still remain competitive on the European market, and the workers toil for wages far below their British and EEC counterparts.

Why then is the Portuguese economy in such a bad way? Because of the West's fear of a truly revolutionary Marxist society emerging in the 'soft underbelly of Europe'.

Without a pliant army, as in Chile, the West is using less direct methods to derail the Portuguese Revolution.

It would be a pity if they got

away with it, because they can be stopped if forceful action is taken now to publicise their economic vendetta.

A Portuguese Defence League would be an excellent idea. If there is one already well and good. If not the time has come to organise it.—TOM GALLAGHER, Glasgow.

The Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund exists to raise money for the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist party. Full details on page 5. Portuguese workers in this country have also launched the Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class, which is winning support within the trade unions. Contact it at 18 Fleet Road, London, WC1.

I HAVE read with interest the article about the imposition of State of Emergency in India.

I agree with most of the observations about the regime's inability to solve the problems of poverty of the masses in rural areas and the corruption in the administration. But it would be proper to add the following:

Mrs Gandhi declared the State of Emergency after some of the leaders of the Opposition Parties threatened to start a civil disobedience movement on the lines started by Mahatma Gandhi against the British Raj. Instead of following the democratic means of fighting Mrs Gandhi, the right wing opposition chose the undemocratic means to make her resign.

To threaten the Prime Minister of the biggest social democratic country of the world with chaos and disorder unless she does as she is told, is the height of folly. Mrs Gandhi had no alternative but to act to save the country from unnecessary disturbances.

What are the motives of the people who threatened Mrs Gandhi with civil disobedience and who are they?

Morarji Desai has been in the fore-front. He is a leader of the right in Indian politics. He always opposed the socialist policies of Pandit Nehru, the late Prime Minister of India. He was defeated by the leftish Indira Gandhi in the inter-party struggle in the Indian National Congress a few years ago.

Another leader, J P Narayan is an ex-socialist. No doubt his integrity cannot be questioned, but he is not a shrewd politician and has never shown great statesmanship. Obviously, he is playing into the hands of the right at this critical moment in India's post-independence history.

The motives of the anti-Indira leaders are to gain power for themselves, to reverse some of the socialist policies (nationalisation of banks) and to bring about a change in the present pro-Russian foreign policy of India.

JP and a few Indian socialists are an exception of course.—A RANK AND FILE SUPPORTER, London W3.

EDITOR: We most definitely do not agree. See our article on page 6 this week.

## POSTAL POINTS

DEAR Mister Burmah Oil: Would it be possible for you to spare £20, (a mere nothing from the millions you were given in your subsidy,) so that my kids can have lights in their gymnasium to do their PE? They have been waiting for these lights for some time—in fact the first years have never seen our beautiful gym in glorious colour, it's mostly a murky gloom. Don't send the cheque to the local Education Authority—I don't believe they exist.—VALERIE EMMET, Birmingham.

R DUNLOP (12 July) misunderstands the nature of social change. He says we should demand 'socialisation' of industry, not nationalisation. While he is right that nationalisation has done nothing to help the working classes, he fails to see that we want to shift control at the point of production into the hands of the workers. Neither nationalisations as they have been used so far or 'workers' participation' will do this.

Yes, socialism does mean socialising the whole of industry but we won't achieve it through abstract demands but measures such as those we put forward in the paper.—ALAN GIBBONS, Crewe.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH: ALL POWER ON EARTH

THE ARTICLE (5 July) of the concordat between the Papacy and the Hitler regime was excellent. Many communists are incredibly ignorant of the Papacy. They seem content to say 'religion is the opium of the masses' without feeling any necessity to investigate further.

Surely a communist should be able to make an analysis of an ideology? Surely he or she should know something about the doctrine, or teaching, of that body?

The last occasion when the doctrine of the papacy was discussed, and defined, was at Vatican II. The media prated about the Church stepping into the 20th century.

But apart from a few minor changes she retained all the old dogmas of the Council of Trent, the most authoritative doctrinal statement of the Catholic Church.

It says of the Pope: 'He hath all power on earth . . . all temporal power is his; the dominion, jurisdiction and government of the whole earth is his by divine right. All rulers of the earth are his subjects and must submit to him.'

Perhaps the most arrogant section of the Catholic Church is the Jesuit order. In their official organ, Civiltà Cattolica, it says: 'The Catholic Church must demand the right of freedom for herself alone.'

Those who assert that Vatican II's statement that all men have the right to follow the dictates of their own conscience proves that she has become liberalised totally neglect the insertion of a qualifying clause in October 1965—all men have the duty to embrace and profess the Catholic faith.

In Columbia, South America, The Archbishop of Bogota was made a cardinal by no less a person than 'good' Pope John—after heretics were hung on telephone wires, soaked with petrol, and set alight, by men of the Catholic Action Party. How is that for liberalism?—HARRY CUNNINGHAM, Glasgow.

EDITOR: The above is only an extract from a very long, though interesting, letter. If you don't want your letters reduced to a shadow of their former selves please keep them short.

# Bring back the bus conductor!

WHILE FINDING Les Kay's recent article on British Leyland's National Bus of great interest, I feel he has, like most, missed, or avoided, the whole point of why vehicles of this nature have come into service.

The scenario for those monstrosities was set when the vast majority of bus drivers decided to sell their conductor mates out for a few bob and for 'one-man'.

Of course, the vehicle is likely to skid easily! All the engine weight is at the rear; and why is it at the rear? To make it easier for passengers to board alongside the driver and pay him. A fundamental design change made solely for throwing a man out of work!

We, on London Transport, have more than our fair share of one-man buses too, and a consequent share of the problems that beset one-man operation. I'm fortunate, I still drive a conventional bus; at least 25 years old and still going strong!

The engine is up beside me and I do not need electronic devices to tell me it's overheating, for I can still use the old fashioned and pretty nigh infallible devices—sound, sight and smell—to tell me something is wrong and not rely on a haphazard electronic device and Lady Luck to let me know something is amiss more than 30 feet behind me!

Day after day, we have one-man drivers sitting in the canteen because they haven't a bus to drive. A surprisingly large number of the malfunctions that keep their buses off the road are faults in equipment designed to replace that 'unnecessary' item, the conductor.

As well as engine faults that derive from the essential one-man requirement, a rear engine design, we have numerous faults in other equipment essential to a one-man concept.

Air-operated doors that will not operate. 'Emergency door open' buzzers that will not buzz. Automatic fare-collecting machines that will not collect. I ask you! Who ever heard of a conductor who



Short of asking this driver to do hand-stands while driving there's no way we could get a worse deal than with the present system of one-man operated buses. The alternative? Bring back the conductor—or scrap fares . . .

refused money?

Then, of course, there are the host of aids for the driver. Don't be misled into thinking these aids' like power steering, automatic gear changing, air powered accelerator, were put there from a feeling of benevolence by the employer!

They were put there to make sure there is enough muscle and brain power left to deal with the passengers.

All these gimmicky aids are prone to faults, and will never, ever, efficiently replace the conductor.

If we claim we want better

vehicle design then let's get back to basics and have a simple conventional bus and conductor.

Let's admit that we, the trade union movement, the employers and the passengers, made a terrible mistake in following the concept of Barbara Castle, then Transport Minister, that one-man buses would be the salvation of the Road Passenger Transport Industry.

They are a ruddy disaster from all points of view. Bring back the conductor!—BERNIE BATEMAN, TGWU branch secretary, Southall Bus Garage.

## SACRIFICE? IT MEANS BETRAYAL

WORKING people built the trade union movement. Their struggle and effort won the freedom and rights, such as they are, that we have today.

They were people the gaffers tried to label trouble makers, militants, commies and the like, because they fought for better conditions.

People, in fact, like Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, who the gaffers chucked in gaol because they

dared to try and make the conditions on the building sites a bit better.

Meanwhile, far away from the real world, in that holy of holies, Parliament, our Labour leaders have a message for us: sacrifice.

You simply give up the benefits thousands of people before you have fought for and somehow things will get better.

Even if prices are rising don't go in for pay rises and you'll be better off. Because in return, they keep

their side of the bargain by cutting spending on schools, hospitals and the Social Services, so as to make things better for the country.

If we accept the message we are on a course for disaster. The more we sacrifice now, the more we'll be expected to sacrifice in the future. If we accept it we'll be letting down all those who fought for us in the past.—DAVE SMITH, Nottingham.

## New IS bookshop open on Merseyside!

The International Socialists have now opened their seventh bookshop, stocking an extensive range of books on trade unionism, socialism, Labour history, women's struggles, black struggles, the Third World, novels and science fiction.

IS BOOKS, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.

## We can't all open shops! says printer

THE management of the Financial Times want to reduce the workforce by a third. Sara Carver, a member of the print union NATSOPA, interviewed a NATSOPA Father of the Chapel (senior shop steward) about the threats.

What effect will the proposals have on the different chapels (union groups)?

It depends on what work the chapel (workplace branch) does. The plans are for wholesale computerisation and photo-composition. The management want an overall cut in manning levels of 30 per cent within six months. If they don't get the reductions they want through non-replacement and voluntary redundancies they'll sack people.

The main union to be hit is the NGA, which covers the skilled compositors, who won't be needed with the new system. You also won't need copy takers or subs. It will mean hundreds of jobs lost in a firm that already has low manning levels compared with the rest of Fleet Street.

What was the reaction of the union officials?

Well, I can only speak for the NATSOPA officials. The management told us that these were the plans and if we didn't accept them they would close the paper down.

The Financial Times is the only national paper that's making a profit. It is owned by Pearson Longman, who also own Penguin Books, The Economist, Investors Chronicle and others. Pearson Longman is part of the S Pearson group, a holding company with many different interests including property and merchant banking. They own Lazard's. It's a multi-million pound concern and there is no way they are going to close this paper down.

## Claim

That's obvious. But not to my officials, who told us to go in and poach as many jobs off the NGA as we could, and then talk about redundancy terms. They are not interested in fighting to keep our jobs.

They even told us that we were forbidden to talk to NGA members and there's be no joint talks or 'sweetheart deals' with the other unions. This is official NATSOPA policy.

What kind of reaction has there been from the chapels?

Members are very confused. They expect some kind of leadership from their union officials. Computerisation has been talked about for so long and seems to them so inevitable that they find it hard to see how they can fight to save their jobs.

How do you think jobs can be saved?

First of all we have to realise that the Financial Times won't close. It's a bluff and we have to call it. There's no way we can stop people from retiring early but we'll have to fight to get every one of them replaced.

The big carrot is of course high redundancy payments. We must stop all redundancies, compulsory or voluntary. We have to make our members realise that if they walk out the door tomorrow the money they take with them won't last very long and unemployment in the printing industry is growing every day. They can't all open corner shops.

We have to fight for the benefits of technology, shorter hours and longer holidays.

But most important of all we have to build unity on the shop floor among all printworkers in the Financial Times.

If they win here it'll be a green light for every other newspaper proprietor to try the same savage trick. We have to fight in all our unions for a policy of unity to save our jobs. Or soon there will be more union officials than union members.

## Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (3p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Revolutionary Communist Group day school on chauvinism, economism and the current crisis. Saturday 2 August, 10am-6pm, The Enterprise pub, Chalk Farm tube. Sessions on fascism, women and Ireland. For information on speakers and suggested reading write to David Yaffe, 78 Parkhill Road, London NW3 2YT.

INVESTIGATORS HANDBOOK—a guide for tenants, workers and action groups on how to investigate companies, organisations and individuals. It lists and details hundreds of sources of information about the local and national power structure—how to find out what positions individuals hold, what profits companies make, and what role is played by various organisations in local economic, social and political life. Only 30p (inc post) from Community Action, PO Box 665, London SW1X 8DZ.

# AIRPORT VICTORY -BUT NOT OVER PAY

## THANK YOU, SOCIALIST WORKER

TO Socialist Worker

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, would like to thank on behalf of our colleagues in the Catering Aircraft Unit, Comet House, British Airways, Overseas Division from the depth of our heart for your most considerate and warm support which you have extended to us during our campaign for our rights with the management and all the facilities you placed at our disposal during the crucial time.

We all feel that our success is only due to your timely support and companionship which otherwise would have presented us many more difficulties. So we sincerely hope that you would accept our indebtedness and encourage the cause of justice and equality.

Thanking you all once again.

Yours faithfully,  
Joginder Lal (Organiser)  
Piara Singh  
Y S Bhinder

'FOR us parity means dignity, and this strike has been about our dignity', said Bashir Bhatti, chief spokesman for the strike committee at London's Heathrow Airport's overseas catering unit.

The strikers returned to work on Saturday after a week, with some of the more revolting aspects of their working conditions removed.

The practice of employing temporary staff will stop. Management had been getting away with picking and choosing which temporary workers would become permanent, so playing on insecurity and undermining shop floor organisation.

A common standard of meal will be provided to all workers free of charge. The workers have relied on 12½p meal allowance since 1955.

Free safety shoes will be supplied in place of the half-price charge.

Catering unit workers will have access to employment in the bonded stores, the warehouse for duty free goods.

These may seem like small gains. But they have been won through struggle and have upset a long romance between British Airways management and the Southall office of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Pay parity with other ground services

## WHY WE ORDERED TWO HUNDRED COPIES OF LAST WEEK'S SOCIALIST WORKER

Last week the strike committee at the British Airways catering unit ordered 200 copies of Socialist Worker. Bashir Bhatti explained: 'We ordered the papers so that as many of our members as possible could read about the truth of our situation. And in particular so that they could see in print the way in which our union officials have let us down.'

'The only pity is that your Asian language papers were not available to carry the same story.'

staff have been promised 'when the White Paper legislation has been lifted'. Just why the White Paper prevents up to £6 being paid now was never made clear to the strikers. It is plain that Transport Union officials lied when they told strike leaders that their pay parity claim would have to wait because of the White Paper.

This is not surprising. Ever since black workers took up employment with the airport's overseas catering unit, the full time officials of the TGWU have collaborated enthusiastically with every method of cutting costs and dividing the workforce.

Jobs originally done by whites were

graded downwards when black workers took them. Sorting out the food trays from the planes used to be a storeman's job—suddenly it became a labourer's job.

The weapon of using temporary staff helped to maintain discipline. It became a regular practice that temporary staff could be sacked on the spot and then re-employed five hours later.

In 1971 Bashir Bhatti, a Pakistani was already identified as a militant. Management used the loathsome trick of exploiting feelings about the Indo-Pakistani war. They adopted a policy of deliberately employing Pakistanis as a way of antagonising Bashir's Indian supporters.

## STRENGTH

Bashir recalls: 'I spent a year arguing with my Moslem brothers that they were workers first and Pakistanis second.'

The union played its part in preventing genuine shop floor organisation. The first immigrant shop steward was a man called Arora. He was the only steward for 300 workers—and was firmly in management's pocket. Full-time official John Collier told workers that he would not allow more than one steward.

When a second steward was elected Collier refused him credentials. The workers then voted to kick out Arora and elected a new three-man committee. The Southall TGWU office responded by dissolving the committee and replacing it with another—including Arora!

The strike leaders last week, though elected as stewards, still have not received their credentials.

## STRUGGLE

The officials' treachery knows no bounds. A wages and conditions agreement was kept from the workers for nearly three years. When it was finally seen, workers realised they had been working an extra half hour for no payment to compensate for the meal break compared to all the other white worker sections covered by the same agreement.

But the writing is on the wall for Collier and his pals. Strike leaders are looking forward to the next union branch meeting when, with the backing of their new-found strength, the following resolution will be tabled:

'Under no circumstances will any union official enter our workplace without our permission'.

And next week two of the militant stewards from the strike committee will join the joint shop stewards committee of the overseas division for several thousand engineering and maintenance workers.

The ghetto has been broken.

## Stewards: A chance lost

EVEN if the London Airport catering strikers had challenged the White Paper and stayed out for a pay rise there is little chance that the shop stewards' executive for the 11,000 engineering and maintenance workers would have aroused support and threatened to close the airport.

At the moment the executive is far too preoccupied with an attempt to bypass the White Paper and obtain larger delegation payments. This is a productivity payment whereby tradesmen take responsibility previously taken by the inspection department, who are paid more than £20 for the responsibility. As the payment is only a pittance, hundreds of tradesmen have been refusing to carry out this delegation for some months and are seeking to spread the action.

Last Friday a meeting of more than 150 shop stewards from overseas and European divisions on the engineering base was treated to a remarkable display in the skills of chairmanship by Freddie Gore. He introduced a surprise resolution from the joint shop stewards' executive which called on national officials to attempt again to negotiate more delegation pay. He refused to accept any amendment and then declared the motion carried by ignoring those who voted against.

In the uproar that followed he declared the meeting closed and the chance was lost for stewards who had intended to raise the strike and its implications at the meeting.



WORKERS on strike at the Argentinian-owned Sansinenas meat storage plant at Sevenoaks, Kent, picketing the home of the Argentine Ambassador to Britain last week. The management have justified their actions in removing the cheap meat concession and sacking the workers by saying that they are socialists and support the Peron government in Argentina—a government which has just attempted to impose massive wage cuts on the workers. PICTURE: Michael Tomlinson (IFL).

## ICL: COMPUTING A DIVIDED WORKFORCE

by three ICL workers at Dukinfield, Greater Manchester

ICL, the computer firm, have made an offer deliberately designed trying to play off factory against factory and union against union. It involves a bonus scheme tied to the increase in sales for the whole company. It is so complicated it is obviously designed to try and confuse us.

Reading between the lines, the bonus tries to involve us in things we have no control over. A dispute elsewhere in the company will hit the bonus and lead us to blame the workers involved even if they have a good case. It will split the different unions in ICL. And lastly, what control have we got on the fading computer market?

The rise of flat rates of 4 per cent every six months spread over two years

coming to 17 per cent—at a time when inflation and tax deductions requires a 30 per cent rise a year.

Park Road Mill has shown the way forward, pushing for £10 across the board for all grades, thus strengthening the unity that management is so keen to break. Let's hope the other unions and factories have the sense to do the same. At Park Road, since the recent strike, it has become obvious that it is the strikers and not the scabs who are being victimised by the management. Chargehands and members of staff are obviously being used as tools by management.

The recent two week dispute was caused by ICL bosses' suspension of consultation with the manual trade unions, so of course there were no 'futile negotiations' as reported in Socialist Worker recently.

Spanish Communist Party public meeting: 26 July, 7.30pm, Central Hall, Westminster (Tube: Westminster). Speakers: Carrillo, general secretary Spanish CP, and a member of the EC of the British CP.

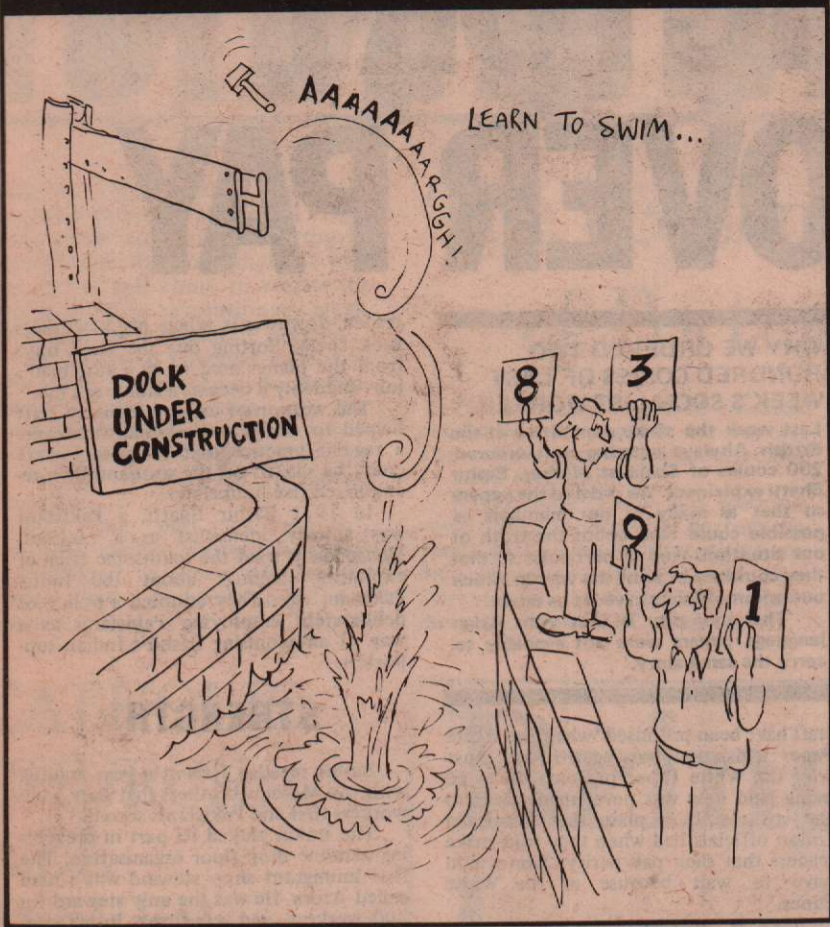
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COMRADE NEEDS own room in 15 flat/house in South London. Phone 01-864 9249 after 10pm or write to Box H, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

TWO COMRADES urgently need unfurnished accommodation in or near Newcastle. Phone 0602 42715.

**THE SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL**



**GKN: Suddenly it's no deal**

DARLASTON:-The government's wage freeze came just in time—for the employers—as the battle at Garringtons-GKN shows. For the bosses had actually made an offer to the 1100 workers here and at Bromsgrove of 11.2 per cent.

The stewards decided to share it out equally at £7.77 a week for supervisory, manual and clerical workers regardless of occupation or grade. On 11 July the deal was agreed by workers and the directors at Darlaston and Bromsgrove.

Then it was blocked by the 'forging board', a higher board of directors. 'No deal' they announced, 'the government won't allow it to be paid.'

This was before the White Paper on the £6 limit had been published. 'It's like offering a man a bowl of soup and then hitting him over the head with the spoon,' said a Darlaston worker.

Since then the 1100 have been on strike. Engineering union convenor Sam Handley of Garrington's at Darlaston explained the situation. 'At Bromsgrove the workers are receiving the £7.77. Here the stewards have tested the management by asking for the government's proposed £6—and they've flatly refused to give it.'

'There were also negotiations about holiday pay at Darlaston. The chairman of the board we were negotiating with was in favour of the stewards' claim for £100 holiday bonus. He left negotiations to his deputy, who said we were claiming too much.'

'He and the steward agreed to £50. The next day we were told: 'The offer's all off', and that the money wouldn't be paid.'

'So now everyone is out, 100 per cent. Everyone below a manager is out, with AUEW manual workers and supervisory sections in TASS, and members of the white collar union APEX. The wage clerks are working without pay to make up the wages and holiday pay for workers. The works police refuse to allow any contractors in—or materials in or out.'

The workers haven't stopped there. They've written to the GKN Workers' Association (the combine committee) and are warning other plants not to handle Garringtons goods.

**WOODALLS: STILL OUT**

MANCHESTER: 'It can't be made official because Woodalls have now closed the site. If there's no site then there can't be a strike to be made official.' Boilermakers' union official Les Froggart told the Woodall Duckhams strikers on Tuesday.

The strikers have now been out for 13 weeks, following victimisations and then the sacking of everyone on the site. Now management have shut the site for '18 months' and the officials are refusing support.

Said one of the strikers: 'Again we've been stabbed in the back by a local official who should have been helping us to win the fight against the strike. But we're

**SECOND BROAD LEFT LEADER DESERTS AUEW**

ANOTHER Communist Party member and official of the Engineering Workers' Union has followed close on the heels of Bernard Panter's careerist dash to accept an appointed official's job.

Pat Farrelly, AUEW Southern divisional organiser until defeated by a right-winger in the recent postal ballot, was also, like Panter, a leading light in the Communist Party's now crumbling Broad Left organisation within the AUEW.

**Tyneside: 10,000 out for more than £6**

FOUR THOUSAND manual workers at C A PARSONS are still on strike after two weeks. They are holding out for a full claim of £10 across the board. There have been no new offers from management since the shop floor workers unanimously rejected £6 now plus £4 in November.

Members of the white-collar section of the Engineers Union, TASS working at Parsons accepted a 13 per cent offer over six months, and TASS workers at REYROLLES, Hebburn, part of Parsons

getting used to these methods now. Our determination to win is only strengthened by them.

'We now know that it's not just the management that needs a kick up the arse, but the union officials as well.'

The Glasgow electricians sent a further donation to the strike fund and called on their union, the EEUPTU, to make the strike official. The lads need more such support.

Readers of Socialist Worker who are members of the unions involved—the electricians, heating, engineers and boiler-makers—should move resolutions in their branches calling for the strike to be made official and send donations to the Woodall Duckhams Strike Fund, c/o 11 Lane Avenue, Urmston, Manchester.

**NALGO AND EQUAL PAY**

THE government officers union NALGO is calling a one day discussion conference on its Equal Rights Working Party Report for 20 September. Letters went to branches last week asking for names of delegates by 12 August.

Resolutions are invited—but won't be binding on the Executive. 'Many branches won't be meeting between now and September', explained an International Socialist NALGO member. 'The Conference will be poorly attended—so it will probably achieve little or nothing.'

'What NALGO members should do is press for a special conference on women and equal pay later this year, with policy making powers. We should argue for this on 20 September—and to have the report formally accepted.'

'It's an ideal opportunity for women to organise in the union. We need sub-committees on women—but only an organised rank and file movement will press specific pay demands, will push for training, maternity leave, child care facilities—and union meetings in working hours.'

**MANCHESTER WOMEN STRIKE**

SOME of the women catering staff at Wythenshaw Forum, employees of Labour controlled Manchester Council get only 58p an hour, and many are on 75p, with a flat rate for weekend work. So they're striking—and are solid.

**ACCRINGTON FITTERS**

PLATT SACO LOWELL bosses in discussion with Engineering and Electrical trade union officials have vetoed union proposals to involve union officials and engineering employers in a dispute over piecework payment to fitters. 'The com-

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

pany are quite clearly in breach of the national agreement' said a AUEW official.

The result has been strike action from 100 fitters. The AUEW are urging backing from other workers in the factory. This is still in balance—due to a previous lack of support from the fitters for other workers in dispute at the factory.

**LANCASTER LOCK OUT**

THE bosses at Nelsons, jointly owned by Courtaulds and American company AN Hercules have locked out all 53 engineering shop floor workers. This followed a work to rule for their claim of £53 a week.

The 53 are members of the Engineering, Electricians and Construction Workers unions. The lock-out had been preceded with suspensions of workers who had refused to work with non-union labour and to work on scaffolding without hand-rails or ladders!

Picketing had been relatively successful—despite local Transport union official Bob Wills efforts to get TGWU process members to cross the line.

They need money and support. Send it to W R McRitchie (convenor), 21 Siergh Road, Morecambe Lancashire.

**GLASGOW BETTING SHOPS STRIKE—WEEK FIVE**

THE 280 Transport and General Workers' Union members at Ladbroke's betting shops who struck over their bosses' refusal to talk to the TGWU about a projected pay rise face the continued threat of scabs. The bosses plan to re-open the shops with scab labour—if they can get away with it.

**NORTH EAST PLESSEYS: WE STAY OUT**

LAST Monday 450 members of the white collar union APEX voted to continue their two week strike at Plesseys in Sunderland and South Shields. They rejected management's fourth offer and are demanding the same as the shop floor—£7 to £8 now and a further £1.50 in January.

The bosses have tried to split APEX members from the rest of the work-force, and 4000 have been laid off—denying them their pre-holiday high pay. 'Management have forced us to take serious action' explained a shop steward. 'Members are discovering their own strength.'

**NORTH LONDON NALGO** THEY are the first of what could become a mass movement—government workers fighting back against government cuts in public spending. Last Monday 300 members of the white collar union NALGO came out on strike for the day in protest against the 'freezing' of a vacancy in the Islington Social Services department.

'Freezing' means not filling a vacancy, and its implications were spelled out by a speaker at the meeting. 'Letting the council get away with this means that we are digging holes for us to jump into.'

'The Social Services Joint Shop Stewards' Committee are now seeking branch support for an official strike,' explained a steward, 'unless the vacancy is filled.'

'We're pretty angry. We have begun to realise just how viciously they are going for us now. They are pressuring us to accept redundancies.'

**BIRMINGHAM JOURNALISTS**

'BLOODY paltry.' That's how the company chairman describes the £1 a week offer made to 250 Birmingham Post and Sunday Mercury journalists. They were sacked after holding union meetings in working hours to protest.

Now 24 hour picketing is aimed to settle the dispute rapidly—and through Transport union regional officer Alan Law—all deliveries by TGWU members have been stopped. Chapel Strike Committee member Peter Deeley emphasised the need for trade union support—and has spoken to the Engineering union district committee on the fight. 'Over the last six years the company has made profits in excess of £6 million, and now they plead poverty,' said Peter.

Trade unionists should boycott the papers, which are still being produced, and should be pleased to back the dispute after the attacks they've had in its editorial columns.

Money and messages of support to Dispute HQ, Birmingham Press Club, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

**SAFETY GOES OUT OF THE WINDOW WITH THE CUTS...**

THE Institution of Professional Civil Servants have told the government that public expenditure cuts have torpedoed the 1975 Health and Safety at Work Act. There are 500 factories inspectors, they can't implement the old Factories Act, let alone inspect 20 million workplaces under the new one.

Michael Foot had promised 250 more inspectors within five years. Now even this is in question...

Farrelly was to 'return to the tools' in September, but he has resigned early to take a job in the personnel department of Lansing Bagnall, the fork lift truck firm.

Farrelly was defeated by only 430 votes out of a total 9000. Local militants are appalled that he is not returning to the shop floor to continue the fight.

**CUTS**

'Panter was the Broad Left candidate for the post of AUEW national organiser when he left for an appointed post in the Electrical Power Engineers' Association. He too had been defeated by a right-

winger for his elected AUEW post.

The careerism of defeated Communist Party members who are full time officials gives heart to the right wing. It also highlights the bankruptcy of the Broad Left strategy of seeking positions without regard to bread and butter issues and the building of a strong, active rank and file within the union.

Panter and Farrelly are not just two bent individuals—they are the product of years of emphasis on bureaucratic maintenance of position. All principled activists within the trade union movement, including rank and file Communist Party members, should join us in condemning them.

**200 OUT ON THAMES SITE**

LONDON: The strike by 200 construction workers building the Thames flood prevention barriers is still solid. The dispute, over the arbitrary sacking of three Transport Union members, two of them stewards, has been going on for a fortnight.

The workers are confident of victory knowing that this is a top priority Greater London Council project, but they are astounded by the amateurish blunders of site manager Stratton—a 'motorway man'—who provoked the strike by sacking the men for refusing to unload a lorry containing blacked pre-welded piles. This is the climax of a series of such provocations, including a recent circular to the welders which arrogantly called for tougher management control, flexibility of labour and a clamp down on union meetings.

The management has had some success in creating bad feeling between the welders and the rest of the site, but the need for complete unity in this strike is now clear to all. Site convenor Tommy Cummings is prepared for a hard battle over the sackings, but while the stewards have been waiting for the dispute to be made official several urgent tasks have been left undone.

- The strike committee needs to be elected, particularly as holidays are imminent for some stewards.
- The committee should tie up social security arrangements and arrange placards and leaflets for the pickets.
- Support must be sought from neighbouring sites and factory shop stewards committees as well as from other GLC, Costain and Tarmac sites.

**Stop**

At ANGLO GREAT LAKES 494 members of the Construction, Transport and Electricians' Unions have been on strike for two weeks in support of a £10 claim. The management offer was £5.60 to last for two years, plus redundancies. Before this they had been working seven days a week, and management even wanted the union to discipline workers who refused to work overtime.

As one lad said: 'Never mind working here, you could live here.'

**THE NEED FOR AN ENGINEERS CHARTER**

by Willie Lee  
Senior Steward  
Chrysler Linwood  
A Socialist Worker pamphlet

**THE CASE AGAINST THE POSTAL BALLOT**

Vital reading for every AUEW member

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FROM Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

# Cooperatives: A sorry lesson for us all

THE fight against factory closures has tested many tactics tried by workers throughout the country. Two that stand out are the Imperial Typewriters occupation which has just ended in Hull and the workers' co-operative at Triumph Meriden, near Coventry.

Workers can usually run a factory more efficiently than management. But that factory is still in the same economic world. It still has to find a market for its products, it still has to compete with other businesses. It isn't stupidity or greed that makes employers attack working conditions and wages, but the need to survive in a system of competition. A workers' co-operative within this system faces this too. Add the hostility of the bosses it has to deal with and its chances are slight indeed.

Likewise, any occupation is also isolated unless the workers involved win support from as wide a section of the trade union movement as possible, particularly from other local factories. Union officials will only be forced to do their job by a campaign of rank and file trade unionists throughout their area.

To sit in a factory and wait for help from outside is to court failure. The government will nationalise a factory only if forced to do so. The slogan 'We'll stay in till Benn says when' was outside the occupied Imperial Typewriters for three months. He never said when because no campaign of thousands of trade unionists forced him to.

These are the lessons. With predictions of two million unemployed by next year, we need to remember them.

## NVT: GET RID OF POORE AND NATIONALISE!

TWO weeks ago workers at the NVT motorcycle company marched through Birmingham denouncing the Labour government for false pledges on job security

The march was the climax of years of frustration with managements and governments that have let the motorcycle industry fall to pieces.

In the 1950s, the machines of its predecessor, BSA, reigned supreme and chairman Sir Bernard Ducker and his wife could indulge in the extravagance of gold-plated Daimlers and receptions at Claridges—until he was sacked in 1956. The company lived off the fat profits without developing new models and by the 1960s the profitable USA market was increasingly taken over by the high performance, lightweight



NVT motorcycle workers marching in Birmingham last week calling on the government to give their boss a loan to keep going. NVT have already swallowed millions of government money. PICTURE: Dave Evans (IFL)

Japanese models. The crunch came in 1971 when management failed to get revamped models into American showrooms in time for the peak springtime selling. The result—BSA made a £3 million loss, 3000 workers were sacked, investments and land were sold, economy measures introduced. Still the company made a £465,000 loss the following year. In March 1973 the company asked the Tories for £6 million but it was too late. The company collapsed.

In September 1973 a plan for a streamlined motorcycle industry was launched, involving the closure of the Triumph Meriden plant near Coventry, with bike production concentrated at the Norton Villiers and the BSA plants with £4.8 million government funds thrown in. The 1700 workers at Meriden weren't having it and occupied the factory.

By March this year Meriden was a workers' co-operative. It would concentrate on production of bikes but with a drastically reduced workforce, an amazing increase in productivity, and wages well below the Coventry average.

### RISE

The Financial Times of 7 March said: 'If there is a significance in the Meriden experiment it lies less in the principle of worker democracy than in the attempt to demonstrate that the 20-30 per cent overmanning which is so common throughout engineering can be overcome if the men on the shop floor are motivated correctly.'

Now the new Industry Secretary, Eric Varley, successor to Wedgwood Benn, has told NVT shop stewards that if production continues at the present

rate the number of machine stockpiling in the USA will double from 10,000 to 20,000. At the same time Export Credit Guarantees for £4 million have been withdrawn and the request for £40-£60 million government money to revitalise NVT will fall on stony ground.

Who is to blame? One worker at NVT, Small Heath, Birmingham, summed it up when he said: 'The market is for small bikes but we aren't producing any either for here or abroad. We don't control the factory or take decisions on what kind of bikes to produce—that's what management say they are for and they've failed miserably.'

### GAP

Two dangerous 'solutions' are being hawked around.

One is that Meriden should be picketed by NVT workers demanding its closure. Dennis Poore, NVT chairman, is fostering the idea that the co-operative is partly responsible for the NVT jobs in jeopardy.

But as Dennis Johnson, formerly convenor at Meriden, has said, none of the machines built since the co-operative started have been sent to the States. NVT sells the Meriden machines elsewhere abroad under a joint marketing agreement. Anyway the twin-cylinder Meriden model does not compete with the three-cylinder NVT model.

The reason why NVT bikes aren't selling in the USA is due to the collapse of the large bike and car markets. And workers are not responsible for that.

The other solution, also advocated by the employer, is for the government to ban imports of foreign motorbikes.

Such a policy was tried in the 1930s. From 1932 a network of tariff walls were built up to prevent the free entry of money, goods or labour from other countries. World trade shrank as a result and the British economy weakened still further during the depression of the 1930s.

Behind the import controls businessmen and politicians adopted simple and brutal policies. They cut wages and created industrial graveyards by closing down factories. Unemployment just became worse and worse.

If the NVT management can neither plan or produce the right models which can guarantee work then they should resign or be sacked. The government must be forced to stand by its original commitment.

NVT should be nationalised without compensation to a management that has squandered millions. Most important, workers should control key areas of manning, track speeds, safety and employment. Such policies can unite all workers at the three Meriden, Small Heath and Wolverhampton plants.

If the government and NVT management are not prepared to safeguard jobs and instead try to close plants and sack workers then the only alternative is to occupy the factories.

Combine organisation linking the three plants in joint action has to be built over the rifts that developed during the Meriden fight for jobs. Occupations could then be used as the base from which further rank and file support can be mobilised. Such a campaign could force the government to nationalise the whole motorbike industry and thereby guarantee five days work or five days pay, not to compensate incompetent employers.

## TIRED ROAD BACK TO LABOUR

FIVE HUNDRED trade unionists and academics attended the tenth annual conference of the Institute for Workers' Control in Sheffield on Saturday, the largest since the IWC went into hibernation in 1970.

In spite of its name, much of the conference was taken up with discussion about working in the constituency Labour Parties to persuade the Labour government to follow its election manifesto. There was no item on the agenda about a workplace strategy. The failure of the Imperial Typewriter occupation in Hull was one of the many problems not discussed.

By contrast, a shop steward from Portugal,

Marcelino Abrantes, vice-president of the Portuguese textile workers' union, went to the heart of the question: 'Workers control in the nationalised and private companies goes beyond the purely economic struggle. It puts clearly the question of power, not only within the factory...'

The conference voted overwhelmingly to build a solidarity movement with the Portuguese working class. But for the working class in Britain at Imperials, at NVT Meriden, and the hundreds of thousands of others now faced with the dole, the conference offered little but the tired road back into the wards of the Labour Party.

## IMPERIALS: THE PRICE OF ISOLATION

BETWEEN January, when the campaign started to save the Imperial Typewriters Hull factory, and July, when the sit-in finished, something went badly wrong.

From the outset militants like Helen Charlesworth, the Transport Union steward, argued that the union officials' strategy for saving the jobs at Hull was wrong. The one time when the workers themselves took the initiative with the occupation, the officials told the workers 'they were on their own'.

As soon as the Action Committee was set up in January involving all the unions, the strategy was to rely on Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn. 'We stay in till Benn says when' was the slogan. Peter Grant, TGWU official, got in touch with the Hull MPs in London and the first few visits by the Action Committee to London were spent discussing with them how to get to see Benn.

Time was thus spent getting petitions signed to take to Downing Street, rather than organising real pressure on the government, through rank and file trade union power.

The staff worked on a new design of typewriter to prove to the government that Imperials could still be run. The idea of a workers' co-operative was being pushed by the union officials and the convenors.

The government, they said, or some other firm, should supply the money for the venture designed by the staff. David Cairns, regional organiser for the TGWU, described his plans in the Economist two weeks ago:-

'Fifty-one per cent of the voting power will be in the hands of the workers, and there will be industrial democracy to the nth degree. But we will have a manager who will manage, and a procedural agreement which will wipe out the word "strike". And a group of workers dedicated to making their company successful.'

### Deals

Helen Charlesworth explained why from the outset she had been against a workers' co-operative: 'We're fighting for everyone's jobs. A workers' co-operative would not protect all the jobs. What's more it would mean workers arguing with workers, workers sacking other workers.'

'There was never any real discussion about going for full nationalisation to save our jobs.'

The failure of the campaign in Hull illustrates the failure of the trade union officials to lead a fight for jobs. As permanent negotiators they had no more to offer than an appeal to Benn for cash, feasibility studies from academics of the Institute for Workers Control, and negotiations with other firms to take over.

They stuck to procedure all the way through. They convinced the workers of Imperials to rely on Benn and develop a scheme for workers' co-operative. They were even at first against a sit-in. It was not part of union procedure!

Their strategy failed. When a capitalist crisis results in redundancies, workers cannot simply take over the role of managers and do any different.

Our aim should be to save our jobs and union organisation. And our only strength lies in the power of the rank and file to fight.

That means an actively-led occupation which campaigns for support. A campaign that could have forced the government to guarantee jobs or pay by nationalisation. The support was there; to this day there are still blacked typewriters idle in Hull docks. But respectable MPs and trade union officials were never prepared to mobilise genuine rank and file pressure on the government.

Imperials is a sorry lesson for us all.

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# FIREMEN STABBED IN THE BACK

## Union expels Glasgow leaders who refused to sell out

JUST DAYS after surrendering to the government's pay freeze, the 'left-wing' leaders of Britain's firemen have viciously rounded on members less eager to accept wage cuts.

They have expelled the entire Strathclyde (Glasgow) District Committee from the union for refusing to betray its members.

The nine-man committee had refused to promise the union executive that it would not organise a local strike ballot if the members demanded one.

The nine were summoned to London for a special meeting and harangued by General Secretary Terry Parry and President Enoch Humphries.

They would not give any pledges about a ballot, and were asked to

wait outside. After 15 minutes they were called back in, asked again and, when they refused, told they were expelled from the union for 'refusing to abide by Conference decisions.'

The real reason for the Executive's panic lies in the pressure building up from the rank and file. Firemen all round the country want more decisive action in support of a claim which includes demands for a substantial pay increase, payment for fire prevention work and a 40-hour week.

At the union's special one-day

Conference ten days ago, a resolution calling for escalation of the national work-to-rule was lost by 16,000 votes to 10,000 after passionate speeches from the leadership in support of the government's £6 freeze.

At that time, it seemed the firemen might get as much as a 28 per cent rise. Now they are being offered £6.

And so the executive fear Glasgow could again become a centre of opposition to a wages freeze, as it was in 1973.

Then, in the midst of strike-break-

ing by troops sent in by the Tories, the executive removed the Glasgow Area Committee for leading the strike and forced a resolution through an emergency conference ordering the men back to work.

Now the union's leaders, past masters at left-wing conference hall rhetoric, are again attacking the Glasgow firemen.

At a meeting of delegates from 40 of the area's 42 fire stations, the union's assistant general secretary, Dick Froggie and Executive member William Miller warned the men not to hold a strike ballot.

Enoch Humphries has warned: 'If there is a strike ballot it will not be under the auspices of the union. Anyone involved risks expulsion.'

Nevertheless at a meeting immediately after Froggie and Miller had spoken, the delegates agreed by 30 votes to 10 to organise a strike ballot. They also agreed without any

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Flashback to November 1973: now the Glasgow firemen are under attack again.

### HELP US FIGHT THE FREEZE!

WE KNOW it's holiday time—and money is short, anyway—but if you're finding it hard, we're finding it harder still.

We need money to campaign against the freeze, to break through the welter of lies about the crisis from politicians, press and TV.

Use your imagination and collect money for our fighting fund. This week we received £8 collected on a mini-bus taking members to the IS NALGO fraction conference.

If you can't think of anything unusual just persuade everyone you know who buys Socialist Worker to put their hand in their pocket twice.

This week received £233.41, bringing this month's to £872.58

Our thanks to: NALGO fraction conference bus collection £8; Abingdon reader £5; Liverpool reader £15; Swansea IS £21; Kirkby IS £5.01; Peterborough IS £6; Bolton reader 80p; E London Hospital workers £100; Collected by Preston SW sellers (before the price went up) £2.60; Portsmouth member £30; SW reader £10; Cumbernauld IS £5; Edinburgh SW reader £1; Gloucester IS £2.20; Mid-Herts IS 60p; Wolverhampton SW supporters £1.20; Hackney teachers IS £10.

Send your money, collections, donations to, Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Picture: Dave Evans (FL)



Elsa Warren and family on last Saturday's demonstration in Nottingham calling for Des Warren's release: now he's set to be adopted as a political prisoner.



Parry: harangued branch committee

opposition to continue the present work-to-rule until the District Committee is reinstated.

IN MANCHESTER 900 firemen have voted unanimously to escalate their work-to-rule. Jack Hayworth, secretary of the Greater Manchester FBU, told a mass meeting that the employer's answer on the 40-hour week amounted to saying 'any reduction in the working week must be done without additional cost and without increasing manpower.' This was totally unacceptable.

The work-to-rule includes a ban on detached duties, fire prevention and staff duties, cancellation of the drill period and no watchmen's duties.

ON TYNESIDE, a resolution of no confidence in the executive was passed by a huge majority at a mass meeting. The motion censured the executive for its performance at Conference and its failure over the pay claim.

The Strathclyde men should be supported by every fire station in the country.

It is outrageous for a union executive to take such action against an elected rank and file committee. All firemen should fight for resolutions condemning the executive's action and demanding the committee's reinstatement.

### BOOST FOR DES WARREN

DES WARREN is within an ace of being adopted as a political prisoner by the ultra-respectable political prisoners' organisation, Amnesty International.

A case sheet has been made out with eight points setting out why he is a prisoner of conscience. This document is one of the most important confirmations yet for those who have fought for the defence campaign and argued against the stream of press propaganda.

It accepts that Warren was arrested, charged and imprisoned for actions in furtherance of a strike. It underlines that there were no arrests on the day of the picketing in Shrewsbury and points out that the arrests came only four and a half months later.

More importantly, Amnesty's case sheet points out that the prosecution did not proceed on specific charges, but chose instead to prosecute on the

conspiracy to intimidate charge, which allowed them to use hearsay evidence, and get a guilty verdict which could not otherwise have been obtained.

This confirms what Socialist Worker has argued since the prosecutions were first announced.

The Amnesty move to adopt Des is not of course bringing joy to all and sundry. Socialist Worker understands that there is considerable opposition to the decision by right wingers and liberals who do not want to admit that Britain has one more political prisoner.

Meanwhile, more good news this week is Ricky Tomlinson's release. Socialist Worker extends its warmest greetings to Ricky, his wife Marlene, and all their family. They have withstood immense pressure and are a credit to the trade union movement and the working class.

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