

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## TUC bid to stop big jobs demo

A CAMPAIGN to smash the great November TUC demonstration against unemployment was launched this week. Not by the employers. Not by the government. But by the TUC General Council.

TUC general secretary Len Murray has written to all affiliated organisations and trades councils warning them not to take part in the demonstration even though it has been called by the North West Region of the TUC. Murray whines that the demonstration has been 'escalated by other groups, including political groups, into a national lobby and demonstration'.

Worse still, according to Murray, the demonstration 'will undoubtedly have an anti-government character'.

In other words, don't demonstrate in protest against a political group—the Labour government—even though this political group has caused mass unemployment among Murray's members. Otherwise you might get 'mixed up' with political groups!

Murray snivels on: 'Holding such a lobby at such a time would undoubtedly detract from the efforts the general council are making which are being undertaken in close consultation and discussion with the government.'

What has this 'close consultation and discussion' achieved so far?

Higher unemployment. This month the number of long-term unemployed is up again—by 56,000.

### WORKPLACE

Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, told Socialist Worker:

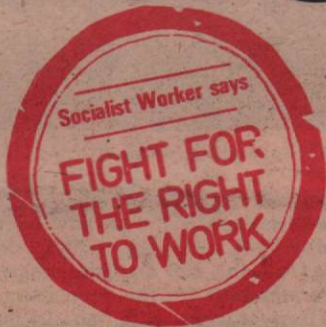
'Murray's letter proves once for all that these trade union leaders would rather see another half million unemployed by Christmas than do anything to offend their pals in the Cabinet.'

'His letter should be treated with contempt. Trade unionists and unemployed workers should fight all the harder to make the 26 November lobby into a massive fighting demonstration which will force the government's hand.'

'Where possible shop stewards' committees, union branches and trades councils should press for stoppages on the day. At the very least they should send delegations to the lobby and sponsor coaches so that local unemployed workers can

travel there free.'

The following trade union organisations are already supporting the lobby: North West Regional Council of the TUC, Bury AUEW District Committee, Liverpool Trades Council Conference on Unemployment, North West Region UCATT, Brent Trades Council Conference on Unemployment, Plessey's, GEC and ITT shop stewards, Sheffield Confederation of Engineering Unions shop stewards, London No 8 District of the Engineering Confederation, Manchester AUEW District Committee, Manchester Trades Council, Crawley Trades Council, Southern Region UCATT, TGWU No 1 Region (Greater London and South)



Reports from all over Britain —pages 2, 14 and 15

## WARREN CONDEMNED TO A THIRD CHRISTMAS IN PRISON

THE Home Office announced last week that jailed Shrewsbury picket Des Warren had again been refused parole. In other words, for refusing to knuckle down to each and every indignity of the prison system, Des is to be victimised for longer still.

Des has now been in jail for 18 months which means that he has at least six more months to do if he gets full remission on his three-year sentence. But not only are the vicious bureaucrats of the Home Office refusing Des parole, they are also reducing his remission.

Ricky Tomlinson, Des's comrade and himself released only three months ago, hit out strongly against this systematic persecution in an interview with Socialist Worker.

'I think we're all too shocked to realise just what this means. We were led to believe that the parole was almost a certainty. I was led to believe that, certainly. That's one of the reasons I took my parole.'

'The night we heard the news—I spent all of it with Elsa Warren. She was desperately upset. She kept ringing people up for help. We didn't know how to explain to her—or to the kids. Their Dad will be away for three Christmases, perhaps four.'

'I always said those big boys at the TUC never had any intention of doing anything over Des. Where are all their fine resolutions now? What about all those speeches from George Smith and Co about how they were going to bring pressure on the govern-



Ricky Tomlinson speaking to Rank and File Teachers this week PICTURE: Mike Tomlinson (IFL)



## THIS IS THE RICHEST CITY IN ENGLAND...

This is the face of Coventry today. Ten years ago it was known as 'the richest city in England'. Now unemployed workers and old age pensioners queue for second-hand clothes. In the Bingo halls, they are offering tinned food for prizes.

Full story—and how to fight back—centre pages

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

ment to get Des out. Jenkins has just laughed at them. And they're quite prepared to crawl away.

'I am not giving up anyway, I'm going to redouble my efforts. I'll speak about the trial any time any place. I am looking for invitations from any workers anywhere. Just get in touch with me, and I'll try to be there to speak.'

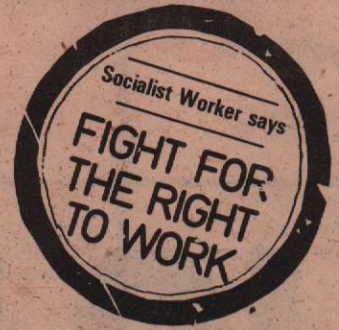
'I'm calling now for a Day for Des. Unofficial action everywhere—on the sites and in the factories. A day off here and there won't harm any of us. But a wave of guerrilla strikes could still force the TUC and government to act.'

The Rank and File Organising Committee this week called on workers' organisations everywhere to send telegrams of support to Des Warren at Nottingham Prison. The telegrams make a fantastic difference to Des and his many friends in prison. Get your union branch or stewards' committee to send the telegram today. Ricky Tomlinson's 'Day for Des' policy should be taken up.

SUPPORT THE LOBBY ALL OUT WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

Assemble Euston Station, London, 1pm for march on parliament

# Southall: AEC must lead jobs fight



THE jobs of 2500 workers at British Leyland's AEC factory in West London are threatened. This is the conclusion the shop stewards' committee draws from the firm's talk of 'an excess of 3000 man-shifts'.

Said Dick Dixon, AUEW shop steward and chairman of the newly-elected ten-man action committee: 'It means a large part of the plant will close down. Our action committee is assuming that this is the first step to total closure'.

But they are determined to fight back and defend the right to work.

'We need to arouse the wider community to the threatened closure of AEC. That's why we have planned a demonstration for this Wednesday.'

'We want to involve as many workers as possible. The AUEW district committee has called on all its members to support and we are approaching the Indian Workers' Association to stress the importance of our campaign to the Indian community. We produced ten thousand leaflets for distribution at factories and all the main shopping centres.'

## Support

'We are more than willing to send speakers to local factories and other workplaces to make our case. All the local trades councils are already committed. The British Leyland bus and truck combine committee has pledged support and we hope to see delegations from its constituent plants.'

'Following the demonstration there will be a picket of Leyland House in Central London on Friday.'

The last major factory to close down in the area was Rockware Glass in Greenford. Efforts made then to arouse the community evaporated in poorly-attended public meetings and over-reliance on trade union officials and local Labour MPs.

'But this time there is a difference', says Roger Butler, newly-elected district secretary of the Southall AUEW. 'Factory after factory has closed down and there has always been the feeling that at least there is somewhere else to go. But now there isn't. AEC is the end of the road.'

## WHY BUSES DON'T RUN...

by Bernie Bateman, TGWU secretary, Southall bus garage

WHAT a crazy world we live in, to be sure, when the only successful producer of a bus for London has its workers on short time, and at the same time the working class of London are left waiting in the cold for buses that do not come because London Transport haven't got, and say they can't get, enough buses.

The mechanical problems that London Transport are plagued with are a direct result of the basic change in design which took place when the 'labour-saving' concept of one-man operation was adopted. It was this

basic design that took London's bus production away from AEC, Southall.

Let's get down to a rational approach to public transport in London, get back to having conductors, and get back to AEC's reliable buses and use the untapped resources at their Southall factory.

I fear though that AEC workers are going to have a tough fight to secure their right to work, and this is a fight that London cannot afford to see them lose. It's not just the AEC workers' fight anyway, but, with the bleak unemployment prospects in West London a fight for the very survival of a community.

tion in the number of footplate staff in the Scottish region and additional jobs to be sacrificed on the office side.

The situation in the local car industry is desperate, with British Leyland's Albion plant and the Chrysler plant at Linwood both now on short-time.

## Collapse

The government's refusal to give additional money to the Scottish Daily News co-operative means the newspaper is on the point of collapse, with 500 jobs at stake. The cutbacks in public spending mean that staff shortages among local authority white-collar workers and teachers will remain unfilled, while the jobs of local authority manual workers are put at risk through building programmes being slashed.

The prospect for the working class in the area is grim, and young people are among the worst hit.

'This area cannot absorb any more unemployment. We are calling on support from the 300 factories where we have members for the demonstration. Afterwards we will fight to involve all the unions in the area in further action. This has to be a town-wide struggle'.

The campaign for the right to work here has to have AEC as its central pivot. But it must involve the energies of the unemployed as well.

Already anger is rising at the Labour exchanges as employed workers turn up with their unemployed sons and daughters and discover to their astonishment the heap of abuse that the unemployed have to suffer when they go to collect their measly pittance.

## Abused

'I took my 16-year old daughter to the local labour exchange', Neil Hunter, former senior shop steward at AEC, told Socialist Worker. 'Not

only was she abused but when I interrupted I was told to get out!'

The petty officials have no doubt also been practicing their nasty little habits on some of the Indian and West Indian workers who have been among the first to get the chop in the Southall area.

AEC has to lead the fight. Any chance of success depends on the following demands being made clear to the membership now.

■ For a one-day combine-wide protest stoppage.

■ For a one-day community-wide protest stoppage in the Southall area.

■ For full-scale blacking on all goods leaving the factory.

■ Be prepared for occupation as the only ultimate response to part-closure.

No reliance on full-time trade union officials or Labour MPs and councillors. For a rank and file campaign against redundancies in the area led by the AEC and involving all workers in other factories and workers already unemployed.

sounding speeches there has been no official campaign to fight closures, redundancies and sackings. Rank and file militants have to demand that the conference starts to organise action on a West of Scotland basis to fight closures, redundancies and short time'.

Willie is right. Only organised action can save jobs now. That action must be framed around the following demands.

● Shop-floor control of hiring, firing and manning levels.

● An official ban on overtime to force more jobs.

● For the 35-hour week.

● Break the £6 freeze—across-the-board wage increases to offset inflation and compensate for the shorter week.

● Five days' work and five days' pay.

● Nationalisation without compensation of all firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.



Locked-out workers at AEC Southall demonstrating at this time last year

## Scotland: The grim and the militant

THE fight for the right to work was to be discussed by a big delegate conference of trade unionists from all over the West of Scotland on Wednesday.

The conference was called by the UCS co-ordinating committee, the Clyde district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and the Glasgow Trades Council. It took place against a background of increasing unemployment, short-time working and the threat of widespread redundancies in the area.

Already this year jobs have been lost through redundancy at Hoover Cambuslang and Honeywells in North Lanarkshire. This week 300 workers at Persona in Hillington, Glasgow, decided to occupy their factory to fight management's redundancy plans.

The British Steel Corporation are demanding nearly 3000 redundancies in the local steel industry, including the complete closure of a number of the other plants. British Rail are talking in terms of a 10 per cent reduc-

Yet despite the loss of jobs, despite the threats of further sackings, the local trade union leadership has confined itself to rhetoric—and until now has got away with this.

For instance, when Alex Ferry, the Glasgow divisional organiser of the AUEW, was asked about the conference he said: 'The government will be strongly criticised for its lack of urgency in dealing with the problem. Scotland is slipping into a situation which could be worse than the 1930s. We can't stand back and watch this happen.' But he had nothing to say about fighting back.

By contrast Willie Lee, AUEW shop steward at Chrysler Linwood and the Engineering Charter candidate for the post of AUEW national organiser, stressed that the conference should be a springboard for action, not just a talking shop.

'I'm a member of the AUEW, a union that is noted for its verbal militancy. Yet despite all the left-

Fight for  
the Right  
to Work  
NO RETURN  
TO THE THIRTIES

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee:

**GLASGOW:**  
Wednesday 29 October, 7.30pm,  
McClellan Galleries, Sauchiehall  
Street.  
Speaker: Harry McShane (Secretary  
of the Scottish Unemployed Workers  
Movement in the 1930s)

**EAST LONDON**  
Tuesday 4 November, 8pm, East Ham  
Town Hall.  
Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson (freed  
Shrewsbury picket), Dick North  
(NUT Executive) and Bill Freeman  
Snr (NATSOPA, in a personal  
capacity). Chairman: Micky Fenn  
(NASD shop steward, Royal Group  
of Docks)  
Organised in conjunction with The  
Dockworker paper. Admission 20p—  
unemployed free.

**CENTRAL LONDON**  
Wednesday 12 November, 8pm,  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square.  
Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson (freed  
Shrewsbury picket) and other lead-  
ing trade unionists.

Rank and File Organising  
Committee, 46 Prince George  
Road, London N16.  
Phone 01-249 1207.



## LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 1

### Pat arrested over 'Troops Out' leaflet

PAT ARROWSMITH, the anti-war campaigner, was arrested in Aldershot last week for handing out leaflets calling for Troops Out of Ireland. The leaflets were being pushed through the letter-boxes of civilians.

After an hour and a half of leafletting, Pat was arrested 'on suspicion of breaking the Prevention of Terrorism Act'. She was strip-searched for 'weapons and explosives'. The leaflets were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Pat has been allowed bail to appear at Aldershot police station on 1 December—even though she has not been charged.

She told Socialist Worker: 'If they get away with this, it means that anyone giving out any leaflets against the troops in Ireland can be arrested.'

Supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign will be travelling to Aldershot this Sunday to distribute some of the same leaflets. Readers of Socialist Worker who would like to demonstrate their solidarity with Pat are urged to go along. Leafletting will be convening outside Aldershot railway station at 3pm.

## LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 2

### Boost for investment in apartheid

by Garry Bushell

ALONG with Clay Cross, Chile and Northern Ireland, the Labour Party Conference never got around to discussing the government's investment in apartheid.

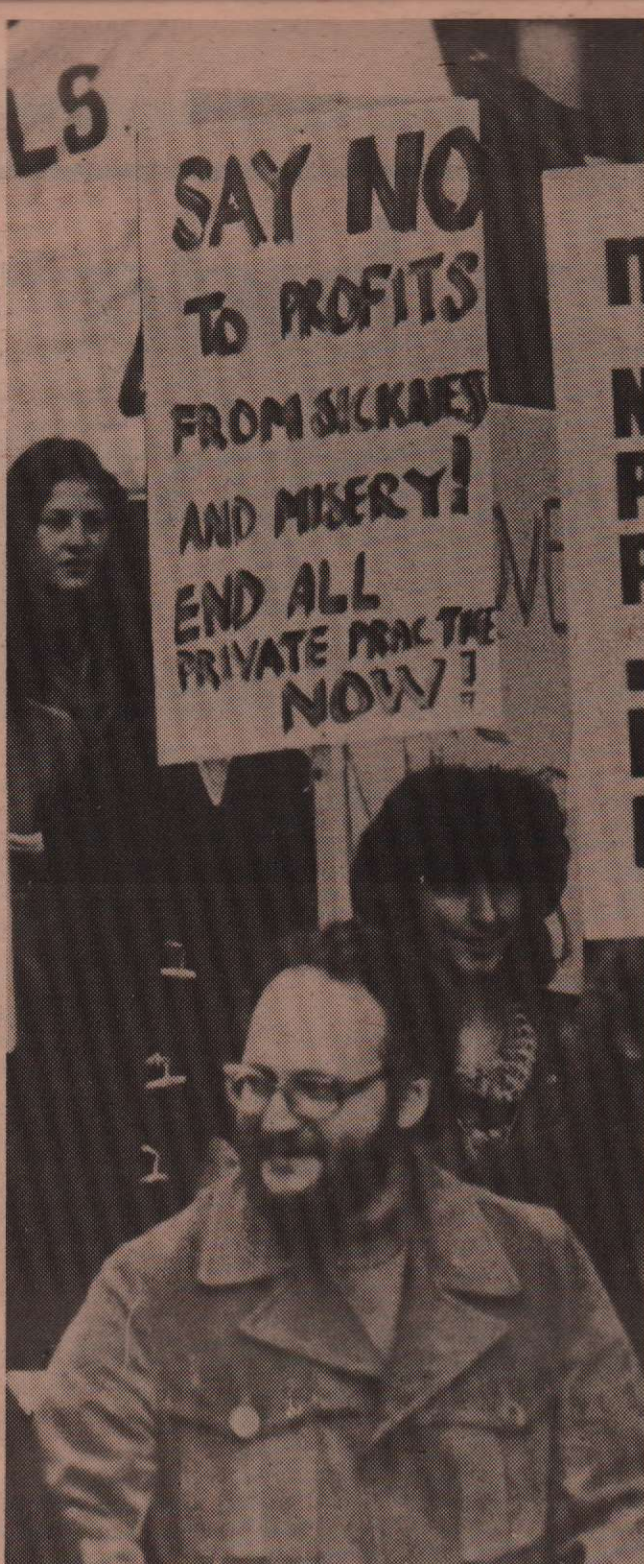
The British Steel Corporation's plans for £2 million investment in a South African ferrochrome plant run completely against Labour's 1973 conference commitment to 'economic disengagement' from South Africa. The matter will be 'closely examined' at a Labour Party international committee meeting next month.

But the government has already made up its mind. The Labour government has already decided to increase investment and trade with the South African ruling class, whose power and wealth rest on the ruthless suppression of millions of black workers.

At a press conference last Friday, Fred Hooley, Labour MP for Sheffield Healey, condemned this rotten deal on 'political and moral' grounds and said he would fight for party policy.

The moral of this disgusting story is clear. You can join the Labour Party and change its policy—but conference decisions will always be overlooked, overruled and overturned by the government—acting on the behalf of 'realism', the needs of the profit system.

PICTURE: Mike Sheridan (IFL)



Demonstrators protesting against private medical practice earlier this year

## LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 3

### Backroom deal for Chile

GOVERNMENT officials have come to a 'tacit agreement' with the Chilean Junta over Chile's foreign debt, according to the highly respected French newspaper Le Monde. The deal involves yet another reversal of Labour Party policy.

Until now the Wilson government has been refusing to renegotiate the British share of Chile's foreign debt. This is a means of putting pressure on the barbaric regime. This boycott of 'The Club of Paris' credit union talks was followed up with a refusal to participate in any 'bilateral' talks.

But now the Chilean Junta and its top United States economic advisers have found a neat solution to their difficulties. They have sent a cheque covering payment of some of the debt to London. That cheque has quietly been cashed by the Treasury.

Further, Socialist Worker understands that no more action is proposed to secure the deficit on the

debt repayments and interest.

This indulgence to the butchers of Chile is coming from the very same Treasury and Bank of England officials who are busy putting the screws on Portugal for all they are worth.

They have, it appears, prevented any follow through against the Junta over repayment of the debt they defaulted on. The follow through would have included the seizure of Chilean assets in this country, including the submarines which the Junta has on order.

They have never intended to allow any of their fellow capitalists' assets to be seized. Again they have been true to their word.

This deal makes trade union blacking of the butchers of Chile even more important. It is to be hoped that the Chile Solidarity Campaign's trade union conference this Saturday succeeds in this.

## LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 4

LEFT: Demonstrators jeered and catcalled outside South Africa House last Monday as 33 'chiefs' from Namibia were entertained by the South African Ambassador. The 'chiefs' are on a world tour operated by the racist government of South Africa, which controls Namibia, and represent the puppet government it wants to set up in Namibia in answer to international protest. The oppressed people of Namibia oppose these 'chiefs' root and branch.

Yet the Labour government has welcomed them to Britain. On Wednesday they were treated to an official audience with David Ennals, Labour's Minister of State at the Foreign Office.



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

## WHAT WE THINK

# Health Service under attack

EVERY trade unionist ought to support the junior hospital doctors in the present dispute. Many will have grave doubts about doing so.

Some will think that doctors are well enough paid anyway. Many will point to the scandalously underpaid nurses and other hospital workers. Surely they should get whatever money is going? And others will be confused by the right-wing propaganda about the entirely separate issue of pay-beds and lump together the two disputes.

Now, as a matter of fact, junior hospital doctors are not particularly well paid. Under the present agreement the bottom grade, house officers, get £55 for an 80-hour week, rising to £63.50 after three years. Hardly a princely hourly rate.

True, a small minority get substantially more, up to £110 for the highest grade, senior registrar, with full service increments. And certainly the mass of hospital workers are much worse off.

But are other hospital workers more or less likely to get a decent increase if the junior hospital doctors are beaten? Everyone ought to have learned by now that every 'successful' incomes policy hits the lowest paid workers hardest of all. The junior hospital doctors are fighting government incomes policy and, whether they know it or not, they are fighting in the interests of all hospital workers. If they break through, others have a chance of following up. If they are beaten, it is a defeat for everyone. The government's pay-cutting policy would be reinforced.

### Clap-trap

But the real issue in the dispute is not the doctors' pay. It is the government's determination, on top of its pay policy, to cut Health Service spending in real terms, an aim the Tories enthusiastically support.

We are going to see and hear more and more of 'the nation can't afford it' clap-trap in the coming months. Two things need to be kept firmly in mind.

First, as even the businessman's daily, the Financial Times, put it: 'The plain truth is that we have been getting our health services on the cheap for many years past, compared with other developed countries, and largely at the expense of those who work in the NHS' (21 October).

Second, Britain is a far richer country now—far more is produced even in this recession—than it was in 1948 when a comprehensive health service 'could be afforded' without any prescription or other charges. All these arguments about 'what we can afford' are really arguments about distribution of income, about who gets what, about benefits to the middle classes and the rich as opposed to benefits for the workers.

The point about the pay-beds argument and the whole business of 'private medicine' is the attempt to cut spending on the health of working people while giving a massively subsidised service to the well-off. Run down the NHS and cream off its resources for the wealthy and the well-insured. That is what this well-orchestrated campaign is all about.

We need an expanded, comprehensive health service without charges, a service based on the principle of treatment according to need, not ability to pay, and a service that pays decent wages to all those working in it. Support the junior hospital doctors and resist all cuts in government spending as the essential first steps.

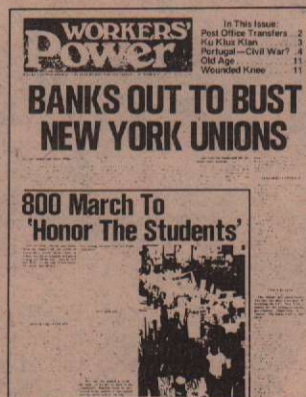
## PRESS GANG ON RAMPAGE

IT looks as though, thanks to the valiant efforts of Lord Goodman, our free press will be saved from the red menace of the National Union of Journalists. Editors are, after all, going to remain free from the terrible burden of union membership and will be able to use non-union contributors.

Who is Lord Goodman? He is the well-paid mouthpiece of the newspaper proprietors. How well-paid we don't know, but when Alfred, Lord Robens was being considered for the job now held by Goodman as head of the Newspaper Proprietors Association, he asked for £25,000 a year, a free London flat, chauffeur-driven car and a 'generous' pension—a total estimated at £40,000 a year.

Who are the newspaper proprietors? Six men control the Fleet Street press. They are Sir Max Aitken, Lord Harwell, Alex Jarratt, Rupert Murdoch, Lord Rothermere and Lord Thomson. These six defenders of 'press freedom' hire the 'free' editors—and fire them if they step out of line.

All editors are going to remain perfectly free to agree with the views of the millionaire proprietors—or get out. The Fleet Street press is going to continue as the spokesman of a handful of millionaires. This is called freedom of the press.



THE socialist movement in the United States has just taken a great step forward. Workers Power, the paper of the US International Socialists, has moved from fortnightly to weekly publication.

A weekly paper will be an invaluable weapon in building a revolutionary workers' party in the US, the very centre of world capitalism.

Socialist Worker sees the advance for our sister paper in the US as an advance for ourselves. Its successes in the struggle for socialism can only make our tasks easier.

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# THE UNIONS

## Docks militant bids for TGWU executive

**BOSS WHO WRITES FOR THE UNION JOURNAL**

THIS MONTH'S issue of the AUEW Journal (editor: John Boyd) proves how easy it is to get an article in if you're not a member of the union.

EDDIE PREVOST, a member of the International Socialists, has been nominated for the executive of the Transport and General Workers Union in the election for territorial representatives for the No 1 Region.

He is a member of the 1/6 branch and has been in the union for 18½ years. A shop steward in the Royal Group of Docks, he is a member of the union's No 2

Divisional Committee. Eddie told Socialist Worker:

I am not standing through any desire to build a career for myself. I just seek to play some part in changing the TGWU.

For too long, our union has been run by bureaucrats and for buearucrats. Jack Jones' role in setting up the £6 wage freeze is an obvious case in point.

During all my time in the TGWU, every other year we've had the spectacle of men being voted on to

the executive on 'a left wing' ticket, only to go bent and become webbed up in compromises and bureaucratic manoeuvring.

Last March, we in the London Docks were on strike for five weeks to protect our livelihoods. The TGWU executive actually passed a resolution condemning us outright.

What kind of union is it which stabs its own members in the back when they are on strike and fighting for their jobs? What happened

to the so-called left-wingers on the executive?

Only the two London dockers on the executive (who have since been reprimanded) had the principles to vote to support our strike.

The main point in standing is as a contribution to the wider fight to give the TGWU back to its members and make it a democratic and a fighting union. I would only want people to vote for me if they agree with the platform I'm standing on.

A director of British Leyland gets a page to tell carworkers how a car engine runs! And a hospital consultant, who used to work for the TUC, writes on how the body works. That article takes two pages.

Let's hope engineers' money isn't being used to pay these gentlemen for the privilege of writing nonsense in the union journal.

The journal also congratulates Bro Jim Miles, AUEW district secretary at Yeovil, on being



Joe Gormley shows a friend round Thoresby Colliery—US Ambassador Elliott Richardson.

OUR ARTICLE two weeks ago about Joe Gormley's holiday in Spain has provoked some interest in the pits. The lodge committee at Morlais Colliery, at Pontardulais in South Wales, have written to the South Wales committee of the union protesting bitterly that the president should sun himself in Spain the week before the union was calling for a protest against the Spanish Government at the TUC.

The South Wales Area President has written back asking for 'more information'. We are happy to provide the details. Joe spent a fortnight at Roquetas del Mar, Spain, for two weeks at the end of August.

He travelled, in a party of six, by Laker Airlines. Freddie Laker, the boss of the airline, is one of the country's most hysterical opponents of nationalisation and of trade unions. Only last week, he ranted on against the state airlines which are preventing him from making millions.

Gormley stayed at the Sabinal Park Hotel. The cost of the package tour for 15 days was £129. He also, as reported, took time off during his holiday to visit union officials of the Spanish government's puppet 'trade unions' for miners.

### Favour

I am standing as a-working docker in favour of the extension of Dock Labour Scheme to all ports and container bases, as a militant trade unionist fighting for democracy within the TGWU and especially for the election of full-time officials.

And, most important of all, I am standing as a socialist who believes that in the period when the capitalist system is falling apart at the seams, the strength of the TGWU must be used to defend the jobs, conditions and wages of our members.

We will be carrying a more detailed outline of the platform Eddie is standing on in the next few weeks.

Any branch within the No 1 Region can nominate up to two members for this post. Nominations close on 4 November. We urge all SW supporters in the Region to raise Eddie's nomination in their branch.

### Depends on your Viewpoint

WORKERS on the Roberts site in Lambeth, South London are on strike demanding the sacking of a foreman who assaulted a shop steward and another worker with a pick-handle.

The industrial relations officer on the site is Don Spekeman. He's not sure which side he's on. Perhaps that's because he is a former official for UCATT, the building workers' union, and editor of the union journal, Viewpoint.

He got emptied out of the UCATT job after being squeezed between right and left on the Shrewsbury issue.



Jim Miles

awarded the British Empire Medal.

Nothing could be more suitable. In his youth, Bro Miles was a keen sportsman. He captained the Army-in-Sudan football team in 1935, at the height of the British army's campaigns in that country, and was also captain of the Army-in-India football team in 1936, just at the time the army was helping to beat up the supporters of that fellow Gandhi.

Bro Miles works as an inspector for Westland Helicopters, which are on sale to South Africa.

WOODROW WYATT, the millionaire printer, urged readers of his Sunday Mirror column last week to vote for the right wing in the AUEW elections, and offered help to anyone who couldn't understand the voting list. If anyone of the Sunday Mirror's 14,000,000 readers would write to him, he would give the necessary advice.

We are pleased to report that he did not receive a single letter.

## ASTMS: Head office strike fails to save official's job

JUDY COTTER, whose sacking from her job as full-time official of ASTMS last August provoked a strike by her colleagues, has finally lost her job.

After a call from the Communist Party to all Party officials in the union not to support Judy (who is a Party member), the strike committee agreed to accept arbitration under the professional arbitrator, William McCarthy.

The officers' committee, in a long document at the time of the sacking, refuted every one of the complaints made against Judy Cotter by Clive Jenkins, the general secretary, and his henchman, Terry Comerford.

In particular, they objected to the use against Judy Cotter of the fact that she had had an abortion without telling her superior officers.

McCarthy brushes aside all this refutation and finds unequivocally for Jenkins.

He accuses her of 'an over-casual approach to certain aspects of her job' and of 'advancing an inaccurate and misleading version of events which favours her case'. In other words he claims she was lazy and a liar.

Just for good measure, McCarthy also says she should have told her superiors about her abortion. The next time McCarthy has an abortion perhaps he will tell the Master of Nuffield College, Oxford, where he is kept in healthy style.

### Lessons

The main lessons of this sad business are:

Professional arbitrators always find for the management, especially when the management is the leadership of a union.

Communist Party members who are union officials can rely if sacked on their own Party supporting the dismissal.

### NALGO call against cuts

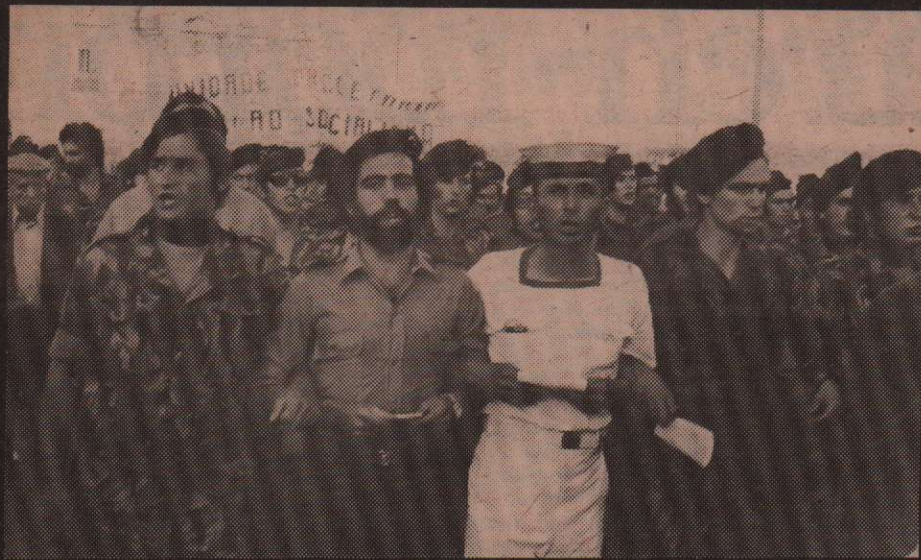
THE AVON COUNTY branch executive of NALGO, the local government workers union, recently approved a resolution to convene a special general meeting on the government's spending cuts.

The meeting would consider motions opposing all redundancies or non-replacement of staff and all attempts to impose cuts, especially those which fall directly on the most vulnerable groups in the community—the old, the disabled and the young. Another motion calls for a campaign to involve and increase the awareness of ordinary members in the threatened cuts.

### CHINGARI

Socialist Worker's sister paper for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers in Britain—published in both Urdu and Punjabi. October issue includes articles on the Crisis in India, Labour's wage freeze and Portugal. 5p a copy from CHINGARI, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

ਸਕਾ ਸਾਥ ਵਿੱਚ  
**ਮਹਿੰਗਾਈ ਤੇ ਪਾਵਾ-ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਪਾਵਾ**  
 ਮਹਿੰਗਾਈ ਤੇ ਪਾਵਾ-ਮਜ਼ਦੂਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਟੁਕੜੀ  
 ਬੋਰੋਜ਼ਗਾਰੀ  
 ਨਕਸਲਵਾਦ-ਵੱਧ ਰਿਹਾ ਖਤਰਾ



A LONG TIME AGO Karl Marx said that the revolution from time to time needs the whip of counter-revolution. The two attempted coups by the right-wing in Portugal on 28 September 1974 and 11 March 1975—gave a fillip to the revolution. The Sixth Provisional Government, established in the middle of September, gave a further fillip.

The army is escaping from the control of the government. Every day, the government issues formidable statements saying authority has to be restored, and each day the SUV—*Soldiers United Will Win*—extends to new areas.

In Lisbon, the left far outnumbers the right in terms of units. In Oporto, the second largest city, the attempts to smash the SUV in the CIA barracks led to the spread of the movement to the barracks next door, which is supported now by soldiers in a dozen regiments, including the commanding artillery unit.

### Control

In Coimbra, the local SUV reckon they control easily the majority of the military forces in the area.

However, there are a number of weaknesses afflicting the revolutionary movement of the soldiers.

First, it seems there are sharp differences between units. Some are prepared to go on the offensive, others merely to defend the class against attacks from the right. This may be a difference between the northern units, where SUV seems to be led by privates, and Lisbon, where left-wing officers still play a disproportionate role.

Certainly the RALIS (the artillery unit of Lisbon) put forward on the 6 October demonstration the slogan raised by the Communist Party of 'no to civil war'. RALIS is not controlled by the CP.

This contrasts clearly with the CICA speaker at a meeting in Coimbra on 9 October, who said the only way to defeat the right was to take power.

The greatest weakness of the revolutionary movement is the unevenness between soldiers and workers. The workers lag behind the soldiers.

While the overwhelming majority of the soldiers in the Lisbon area are under the influence of SUV, the parent-sister organisation FUR (Revolutionary United Front) has influenced only the vanguard of the proletariat—perhaps 100,000 workers.

### Behind

This explains why there was a fundamental difference between the 25 September SUV demonstration and the general strike called by FUR four days later.

On 25 September a huge demonstration in Lisbon was called by the revolutionary left through SUV. About 15,000 soldiers and 60,000 workers turned out.

It came to a climax when tens of thousands of soldiers and workers went to the Trafaria Military Prison to force the release of two arrested SUV members. Barricades were set up against commandos sent to restore order.

On the other hand, the call for a

general strike on 29 September was hardly needed by the mass of the workers anywhere in the Lisbon area, except for the shipyards Lisnave and Setenave.

The unevenness in consciousness in the barracks is much less than in the factories. First because the soldiers are in much smaller units than the workers. Secondly, because every revolutionary soldier knows his head is on the chopping block if the soldiers don't win, while the workers are much less exposed.

Thirdly, the soldiers have been much more directly challenged than the workers by the Sixth Provisional Government. Last but not least, the conservative influence of the CP is incomparably greater among the workers than among the soldiers.

### Down

*The unevenness cannot go on for ever. If the workers will not rise to the level of the revolutionary soldiers, there is a great danger that the soldiers' level of consciousness and action will go down to the level of the workers.*

The slogan 'soldiers with the workers' is good but double-edged.

If the workers will not catch up with the soldiers the danger is that the soldiers' spirit will be dampened.

There is considerable spreading of

# Portugal: The great danger



IF the workers will not rise to the level of the revolutionary soldiers, there is a great danger that the soldiers' level of consciousness and action will go down to the level of the workers.

By TONY CLIFF

links between left wing barracks and tenants' and workers' committees. For the first time, it seems, the soldiers see the need for these links.

They will be wary of marching forward on their own to seize state power. An insurrection not supported by the mass of the proletariat will not appeal to them.

In fact, armed forces substituting for the proletariat will not even do for Lisbon in 1975 what the Blanquists did for Paris in 1839. Then, a small minority of a few thousand could take power because the rest of the population were unorganised.

### Short

It is true that Blanqui held power a short time only, but at least he achieved temporary power. This cannot be repeated in Portugal. The Communist Party is too well implanted in the class to allow it.

If the advanced workers cannot mobilise masses of workers even the advanced workers will collapse into apathy. Repeating demonstrations is not an answer. On the contrary, it is a recipe for decline.

Over the coming few months, the capitalist class will find it impossible to impose their discipline because of the lack of reliable and active support in big sections of the army and the workers.

The revolutionary left will find it

impossible to solve the crisis because the CP, however much it has lost its ability to mobilise, is still strong enough to prevent workers from moving in a revolutionary direction.

History cannot be made behind the CP's back. The CP's influence must be broken.

### Whole

*Under such conditions it is extremely dangerous for a revolutionary party to speak only to the vanguard. It must speak through the vanguard to the class as a whole.*

In a revolutionary situation, workers will not tolerate a difference between words and deeds for any length of time. Any revolutionary knows that, to translate words into deeds, he or she must be able to mobilise the majority of his or her mates in the factory.

Alas up to now, the PRP, by far the best revolutionary organisation in Portugal, is speaking only to the soldiers and to a very narrow section of the working class.

One symptom of this is the weakness of the PRP press. They have no daily paper and even their weekly *Revolucao* does not appear regularly.

To combat the reformist ideas of the CP, the question of the United Front must be raised in such a way as to involve not only the revolutionary and centrist parties

(PRP, MES, MDP, LCI, FSP), but also the CP.

The PRP should call on the CP to carry out certain policies—like breaking with the Sixth Provisional Government, the establishment of workers' militia, the election of all officers in the army, the elections of soldiers' committees to control all units, the solution of the housing difficulties by requisitions of the houses of the rich.

The aim is not so much to speak to Alvaro Cunhal, but to his supporters in the party and around the party.

### Order

Because the capitalists are not strong enough to impose their order and the revolutionary left are not strong enough to impose working class order, the probability is that CP will manipulate the movement in the barracks and in the streets to achieve a greater CP representation in the Government.

However, with the deepening economic, social and political crisis, this cannot be a solution, but only a breathing space.

**PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS**



Read

## PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

The most important publication from Socialist Worker or the International Socialists in years. A full analysis of the situation in Portugal and a study in revolution and class struggle vital for socialists everywhere. A 48-page pamphlet, already being translated into Greek, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

50p including postage from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

# Archbishop, arch-moron

IN THE FOLLOW-UP to his 'drift towards chaos' speech, the Archbishop of Canterbury writes of 'a common ground between the parties which at least consists of a moral approach to life, recognising that right and wrong exist, and that there is an absolute difference between them.'

## Best

He also tells us that 'my appeal is non-political' and goes on to illustrate, unintentionally no doubt, what he means by that by referring to 'a great mass of serious-



minded people in Britain who want the best for their country.

'The trouble is they feel impotent. No-one seems to speak up for them. All too frequently the extremists receive the publicity

and appear to win the last round.'

It might be thought a little uncharitable for a Prince of the Church to refer disparagingly to extremists. After all, the religion he professes and in the name of which he lives in a palace on a not unprincipally income, was founded by extremists.

## Sword

Its nominal founder, Jesus, is on record as saying: 'Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance with his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.'

He also proclaimed the coming destruc-

tion of 'this world' (ie, the society of his time) pronounced blessings on the poor and woes on the rich, declared: 'He that is not for me is against me' and described the religious leaders of his day as 'Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers.'

However, the inconsistencies and absurdities of the Archbishop's pronouncements are not very important to us. What is important is the quite widespread belief that 'right and wrong exist, and that there is an absolute difference between them'; in short, that there is such a thing as an absolute morality standing above society, above politics, above the classes. This belief is false and its advocates are commonly called frauds.

*There are not, and cannot be, any absolute moral rules. Morality, like every other body of ideas, is a product of men living in societies.*

Different societies have different moralities. The ancient Hebrews thought it a highly moral thing for Abraham to have many wives.

Later Christians thought it highly immoral for anyone to do so and made it a criminal offence.

The medieval Catholic Church taught that lending money at interest and the pursuit of profit were immoral.

## Reversal

For modern Christians, Catholics included, interest and profit are the foundations of a 'free society'. Why this complete reversal of position?

Obviously because the conditions of life, the type of society, its values—and therefore its morals—are very different in the Europe of the twentieth century to those of the tenth.

But these very different societies have at least one thing in common. They are both examples of class society; societies divided into a hierarchy of classes, with rulers and ruled.

Their respective moralities are systems of ideas moulded in the interest or different ruling classes. Marx pointed out that the dominant ideas in any (class) society are always the ideas of the dominant class.

And this is supremely true of moral ideas.

All morality then is class morality, leaving aside the moralities of primitive pre-class societies. And all dominant moralities serve the interests of a ruling class.

Socialist morality is necessarily different from capitalist morality because it serves different class interests. There is not a moral 'common ground' between the Archbishop and the 'extremists' ie, socialists.

*But surely there is a core of rules common to all moral systems?*

One of the rules inscribed on the tablets of stone, which Moses is said to have received from his tribal deity on Mount Sinai, was: 'Thou shalt do no murder.'

Isn't that a universally agreed rule in all societies?

## Illusion

The apparent agreement is an illusion. What is murder? It is legally unacceptable killing.

But there is not, and never has been, a class society in which killing was not lawful for some purposes.

And the purposes, the definition of lawful killing, vary widely.

The 'Black Act' passed by the English parliament in 1723, with the support of the bishops, created 50 new capital offences, nearly all relating to poaching. To kill poachers, was no murder in eighteenth century England, provided certain legal forms were observed.

So it is with all the other moral rules. There are no absolutes. But how then do we justify our actions?

What is socialist morality? Next week we shall look at Marx's views on the matter.



Which questions about socialism baffle you? What points do you find difficult to argue with your workmates?

Why not write to Questions About Socialism, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2—and we'll take up your points.



## THE LUNACY OF CAPITALISM

FIRST IT WAS beef. Next came butter. Then wine and dried milk. Now capitalism, wonderful, civilised capitalism, gives you (right) the apple mountain.

While pensioners starve, the farmers of France dump 220,000 tons

—that's about 1,600,000,000 apples —lest their profits be threatened by falling prices.

The great pulping operation got underway in Provence last week. The first 23,000 tons were poured down local drains—and polluted the rivers in the process.

Meanwhile in London, Margaret Thatcher was virtuously preaching private enterprise, the Labour government was frantically practising it . . . and pensioners were trying to find something to eat.

It's just not done, is it?

5000 PEOPLE attended the recent South Wales Miners' Eistedfodd, among them Len Murray, Jack Jones and ASLEF general secretary Ray Buckton.

Billy Hyde was there, too. He's a miner at Bedwas Colliery and a member of the Caerphilly branch of the International Socialists.

Billy had to receive an award—a miniature miners' lamp and £25—for an essay he had written on industrial democracy. He decided to donate the cash to Elsa Warren, wife of jailed Shrewsbury picket Des—and he let it be known to officials that he wanted to tell the assembled crowd of 1000 why.

Part of the essay started with a quote from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice: 'You take my life when you take the means whereby I live.'

## Great thinkers of our time

An enormous infiltration of International Socialists in schools is one of the causes of the increase in the crime rate, Baroness Macleod told members of the Wellingborough Conservative Women's Advisory Committee on Friday.

—Wellingborough News Echo, 9 October.

## Without comment... 1&2

The distinctive feature of British government during most of its 30 years of decline has been that its decision process has been more secretive than that in any other industrial country save the equally unsuccessful Kremlin.

—The Economist, 11 October.

And from the London Evening Standard's Peter Forster column, 13 October . . .

SHE STOOD there at the end of the market on Saturday morning trying to sell Socialist Worker, paper of the International Socialist, at 10p, with a sweet, shy somehow rimless smile, in competition with a bigger girl trying to flog some journal of Gay Libbery. So I spent 10p for the sake of the smile and ploughed through all that earnest, bitter, class-conscious evangelism and reflected that if ever the likes of her do come to power (and it is not entirely impossible), she will send the likes of me to be shot with the same shy smile.

## WITHOUT COMMENT... 3

Doris Lindner is one of the world's best known sculptors of animals. Among her very important commissions is a model of the Queen.

—From the Athena art catalogue. JOHN LOCKWOOD

AND STILL the battering of the Portuguese currency goes on. The escudo has now been devalued by 45 per cent against the £ in the last four weeks alone. This is known as 'bringing pressure to bear.' It's also called economic sabotage.

## CHILE, WOMEN AND A RAG CALLED THE SUN

MANY PEOPLE who call themselves socialists are apt to say we will only have a revolution in this country if we get fascism first. They ought to take a long, close look at fascism in action. They ought to find out about Chile.

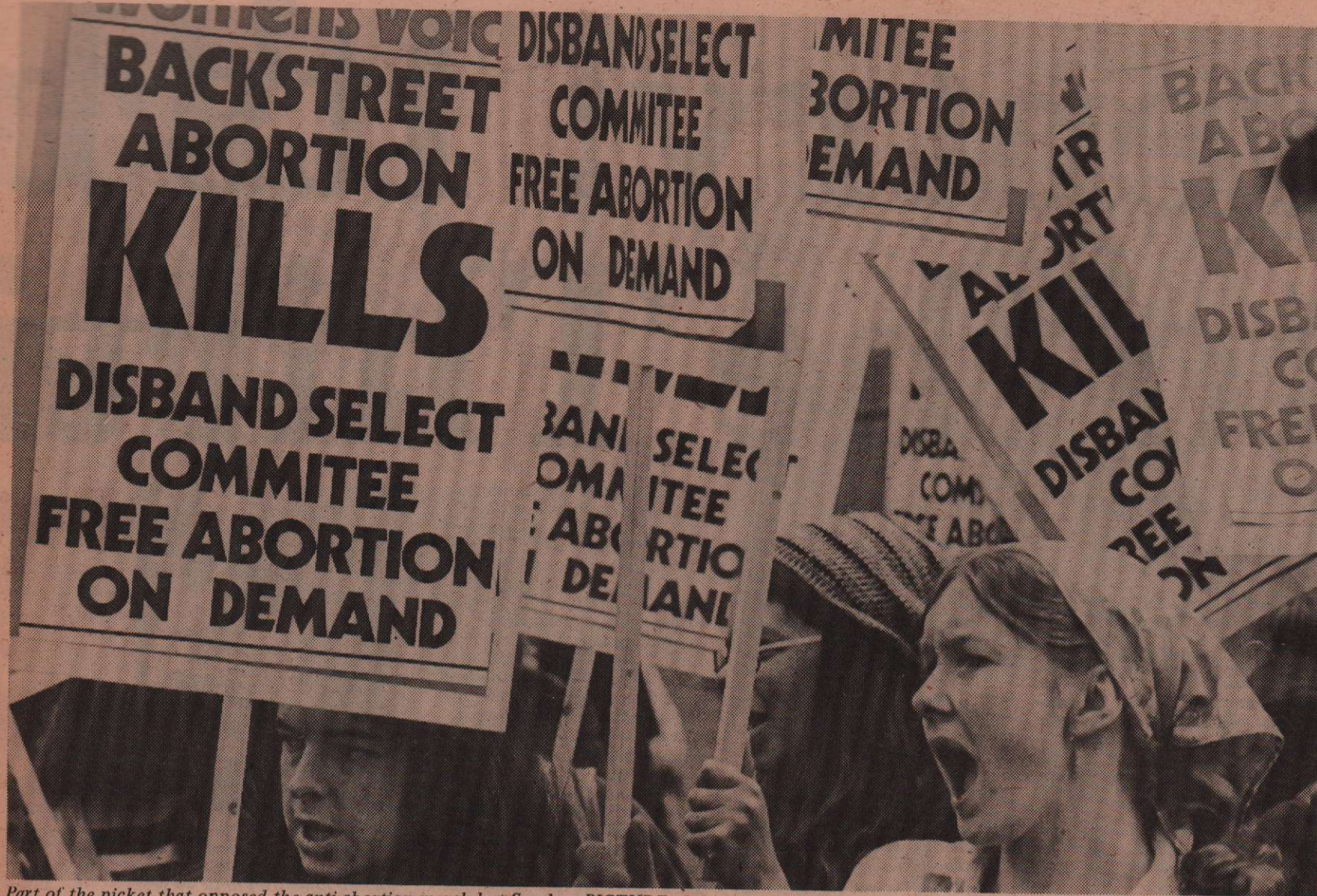
A United Nations team have done just that. Their report, published last week, expresses 'profound disgust' at the Junta's tortures of political prisoners.

The report, for instance, describes how—almost unbelievably—the Junta are now training dogs to rape women prisoners. The victims also suffer the indescribable degradation of having live mice forced into their vaginas. Other prisoners are forced to swallow excrement.

The UN investigation was reported by only one national newspaper in Britain. 'Pressure of space' prevented The Sun and the Daily Mirror

giving it even one column inch. 'Pressure on space' did not, however, prevent The Sun, on the same day, giving 67 column inches to a picture feature headlined Fatty Bum Bum, and the Mirror giving 47 column inches to a bare-breasted woman 'stealing the Motor Show'.

An interesting comment on capitalism's view of women. Degraded in Britain, dehumanised in Chile . . .



Part of the picket that opposed the anti-abortion march last Sunday. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

## Portugal's workers need our help now!

THE working class of Portugal need the help of workers in Britain if they are to build socialism. That's why it is so important to build the solidarity movement here, now.

The multinational companies have stepped up the economic blockade of Portugal by stopping the supply of vital components to their subsidiaries. At Plesseys, at the ITT plants and at General Motors—the story is the same—the shortage of parts is bringing production to a halt and throwing people out of a job.

In Setubal, at the office of the committee for Struggle (CRT) a worker from the General Motors plant explained the problems the workers there face because of the shortage of brake components. He asked was it possible to explain the situation to Vauxhall workers in Britain and to enlist their support in breaking the blockade? Would the shop stewards' committee in Luton contact the workers' commission in Setubal about the shortage of parts?

It is at this basic level that trade unionists in this country can help the trade unionists in Portugal.

### Help

Trade unionists in this country must make sure that we give all the help we can to break the economic blockade.

What can be done:

1 Unlocking the boycott is the most important task. If your firm does not have branches in Portugal it probably has trading links. Find out and make the connections with workers in these.

2 Send a delegation from your workplace to Portugal on a fact-finding mission. The Hands Off Portugal trade unionists' committee is arranging for shop stewards to visit Portugal in November. Contact them at the address below.

3 Support the worker-controlled newspaper Republica. Send donations to Republica, Rua de Misericordia 116, Lisbon 2, Portugal.

4 If your employer has no direct links with Portugal, adopt a factory, hospital or neighbourhood committee out there and send donations to their workers' commission. Contact through



Hands off Portugal trade unionists committee, c/o Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

### PORTUGAL FUND

TWO new editions of the pamphlet Portugal at the Crossroads were typeset and printed at the Socialist Worker printshop this week—in Spanish and French. These will be followed by editions in Italian and Greek. All this is made possible by the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund. So, brothers and sisters, keep the money rolling in.

Total this week £305.45. Our thanks to:

S E London £6, Portuguese hospital worker (sale of How the Revolution was Lost in Portuguese) 90p, NALGO Headquarters, APEX and NJT SW readers £5.80, Covrad SW supporters £2, Covrad TGWU 5/190 £1, M R Watling £5, K R Harding £50, D J Pearce £1.30, Sheffield Students £9, John Birke £1, Tony and Margaret Butler £20, Central Manchester £30, J Papadachi £2, Bristol IS £15, S W London £1.33, Plymouth SW readers £1, Renolds Ltd, Manchester £1, Maidstone IS £1, Daily Mirror subs' desk £11, Durham IS £3.25, Garnet College £2.50, Stephen Reed £5, David Aiken £5, Reading IS £6, Aberdeen IS £41, Aberdeen University IS Society £6, Reading University IS Society £1, Jenny Neave £2, Pontefract SW meeting £6, City Poly IS Society £3.77, sale of the pamphlet Portugal at the Crossroads in France £50.

All donations please to Socialist Worker Portugal Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate!

WOMEN'S VOICE, the sister paper to Socialist Worker, was the loudest voice as the anti-abortion Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) marched silently through London in their thousands last Sunday.

However small we were, the picket organised by Women's Voice and Socialist Worker was the only protest against the right-wing ideas of the SPUC and its supporters.

And we were heard, as we shouted in Whitehall: 'Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate!'

There is only one way to challenge SPUC's ideas—head on. It's no good hoping they will simply go away.

WOMEN'S VOICE supporters went to the National Abortion Campaign Conference on Saturday full of ideas on how to build a mass movement. We are convinced that a mass movement of working-class women could take on the anti-abortion campaigners, defeat any attempt to restrict abortion by law, and win free abortion on demand.

We went with resolutions to argue that the main orientation of NAC should be to draw women workers into the campaign and that we needed to fight for abortion on demand if we were ever going to win 'A women's right to choose'.

As Sara Carver, a print union member from The Times, argued, as we demand the right to work, the right to equal pay, the right to decent housing, so we demand the right to free abortion. Conference agreed.

We argued for a steering committee to be elected by the conference which could rebuild the campaigning spirit in the campaign. We argued for two-monthly

by Sheila McGregor and Margaret Renn

meetings of delegates from all the NAC groups which would make policy decisions

In opposition, we were told that 'every meeting must be open to everyone' so that no one is ever elected and no one ever responsible!

The resolution for an elected steering committee was lost by 350 votes to 137, and for the delegate meeting by 238 to 201—after three recounts.

### Whole

The final blow to any notion of democracy came when conference voted to allow meetings to count postal and telephone votes. Anyone can now come to the meetings, and anyone can now vote—even if they don't come!

Many women at the conference saw their struggle for women's liberation as completely separate from the working-class movement.

They see the struggle against restrictive legislation divorced from the present crisis. They don't realise that we are now having to fight the Church, the government, Tory and Labour MPs, the whole right wing.

They fail to see that ultimately women will only be free when the working class movement takes power away from that ruling class and can then direct resources into providing nurseries, housing and so on.

The delusion that women can win on their own and that class doesn't matter is leading to the paralysis of NAC.

NAC is becoming more and more like a sponge. It soaks up everything and becomes too heavy to move.

Women's Voice will continue to argue within NAC for a clear working-class perspective and a democratically elected leadership. But the conference made it abundantly clear that we now have to take on the task of building a revolutionary socialist women's movement—which will fight for women's liberation as part of the

overall struggle for socialism.

Rena Morris, a Women's Voice supporter, who travelled from Glasgow for the conference, said: 'I personally felt it was a waste of time. No open discussion was allowed—meaning that any delegates from trade unions were not able to voice their opinion.'

'On Sunday the first resolution on the agenda concerned the anti-SPUC demonstration. The argument against the demonstration was: No, they are not going to destroy our conference. The argument for was simple: Unless we take the campaign into the trade union movement and out in the streets, it cannot win.'

### Important

'That's why the rally being organised by Women's Voice is so important for all working-class women wanting to take action and fight for their rights, whether it be on housing estates or at work. It is being held to discuss these problems and to learn how to fight back. It's a chance to build a real women's movement in the working class. Take this chance, and be there in Manchester on 29 November.'

The Women's Voice Rally is to fight for our rights:

Our right to a job, equal pay and £6 now

Our right to a home, free nurseries and a national health service

Our right to free abortion and contraception

Our right to decent schools for our kids

We are against all wage restrictions and cuts in welfare spending.

## women's voice rally

Saturday 29 November, 11am-5pm, Belle Vue, Manchester. For tickets, send this form with 10p to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

### New issue of Women's Voice out now!

The only women's paper that demands the right to work, that is fighting against the cuts in schools, in nurseries, wherever they happen. 6p from your local Socialist Worker seller or 12p (including postage) from Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Sell it to your workmates, friends, on your estate. Take copies to your newsagent. Help us to sell Women's Voice.

# Coventry: It's back to the Thirties

IN a few weeks time, a huge workers' meeting will be held in Coventry. It could be the most important meeting in that city since the war.

It has been called by the Coventry district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union and is open to almost all the city's 2000 shop stewards.

There will be one subject on the agenda: unemployment. Coventry, which was described only ten years ago as 'the richest city in England' is now hit by unemployment worse than any other city in the Midlands.

In Coventry, the cry 'No return to the Thirties' comes too late. The city is back in the Thirties already. In September 1935 there were 7000 people in the city unemployed—9.7 per cent of the population. In September this year there were 17,466 out of work—that's 7.1 per cent.

The three great props of the city's industrial boom—cars, telephones and engineering—in the 1950s and 1960s are being kicked away by the employers.

The worst plunder has been in engineering. Already this year Coventry engineering employers have announced 2000 sackings.

At Wickmans machine tool factory the employers told the shop stewards a few weeks ago



A SIGN OF THE TIMES: The shops at No. Coventry way and are one of them

REPORT: Paul Foot

PICTURES: John Sturrock

that they will have to reduce production from 350 machines a year to 250.

This has come as no surprise to the stewards.

Dick Burdett, AUEW convenor at Wickmans, explained: 'Since 1970, since measured day work was introduced, employers have cut production in Coventry engineering, I estimate, by two-fifths.

## Fair

'Under the old piece-work system I would do 300 components a day. They sent down a young industrial engineer from the university to time me on my job. He marked me 'very fair performance' and fixed the job at 180 parts a day. I get a fixed rate of pay, provided I did that 180.

'That happened all over the

industry. Obviously, it cut production.

The employers were terrified of the escalation of wages under the old piece-work system. The Coventry agreement applied to engineering all over the country. So all the employers in the country demanded an end to piecework. They preferred to cut production than let the workers' wages rise. In other words, they care more about what a man earns than about what he produces.

'In 1973, I warned Wickmans that production was falling and that if they persisted with this job evaluation nonsense they would be in deep trouble. I urged them to change course. They didn't. Well, they can hardly expect us to pay for their greed and mistakes with our jobs.'

At Wickmans, the employers have started their attack on the staff, where they have already won a few voluntary redundancies, though compulsory redundancies are being resisted.

At Alfred Herberts, the other big Coventry machine tool company, 1400 redundancies have been announced, nearly 1000 of them affecting staff.

## Furious

The staff workers are furious and ready to fight. Ralph Lucas, chairman of the ACTSS branch, says:

'We've never had a strike here. We're not especially proud of that, mind. But they can't blame us for anything. Any action we take—and we will take the most drastic action if they insist on sackings—will be their responsibility. And if the receiver comes in, well he couldn't be worse than those bastards'.

Like Dick Burdett, Ralph Lucas is aiming for maximum unity across the union boundaries. 'We want to be represented on a committee with the

manual workers', he said. Such a committee, he hoped, wouldn't rely so much on government aid to save jobs—as the manual workers' stewards are doing.

ACTSS members will also bear the brunt of projected 15 per cent redundancies at the city's huge Jaguar factory. Pam Smith, the ACTSS convenor at Jaguars who has just bought herself a house immediately opposite the factory front gate, is ready to accept some redundancies—and is sharply opposed by militants.

'We call her Calamity Jane', says John Villiers, chairman of the ACTSS branch at Jaguar. 'She accepts that Leylands want to get rid of the dead wood. She's got to the deadwood stage.'

## Fight

Last week John Villiers and David Garside, secretary of the TASS Jaguar branch, wrote a letter to all staff stewards urging the formation of a rank and file joint staff committee which would be better equipped to fight redundancies.

At Jaguar, in spite of the threatened redundancies, many workers are working overtime. So are they at Standard Triumph, before an ACTSS strike stopped the works two weeks ago. So are they at Coventry Climax and other engineering factories.

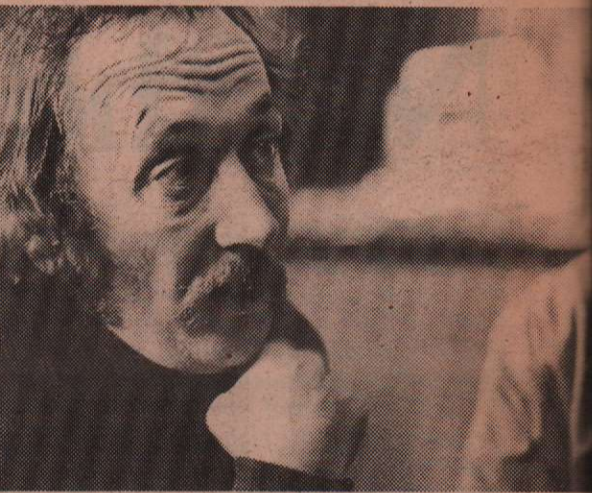
So are they even, at Massey Ferguson's huge Banner Lane factory, where trade union organisation is perhaps stronger than anywhere else in the city.

One steward, Terry Lindsay, said: 'It's a burden on all our consciences that man are allowed to work overtime while the unemployment rate remains so high—and even while vacancies at Masseys are not filled.'

'We want a resolution from the Confed banning all overtime throughout the city—and we don't just want a resolution. We want it in the form of an instruction so that the rank and file can carry it through'.



Ian Crawford, TASS steward at Jaguar: 'No person moves and no job moves until we get a guarantee of no redundancies'



John Villiers, ACTSS branch chairman at Jaguar: A letter for joint action. Right: Roger Chouhon, ACTSS, Jaguar



Gordon Woodall, chairman, Bert Kingham, secretary, and Wickmans. Says Gordon Woodall: 'If anybody's going, it'

But it's the top the stop sla

# ...AND THIS IS THE V

THE desperate plight of workers in Coventry is not their fault.

It is the direct result of the employers' hunger for profits. That's why they haven't invested. That's why they cut production after smashing the Coventry toolroom agreement.

Unemployment can be fought.

The meeting of stewards at the Confed next month can lay down policies which can bring unemployment down. Overtime must be banned. The 36-hour week must be fought on. Failing firms must be nationalised, with jobs protected by stewards' control of manning.

The official union leadership in Coventry will not fight.

The AUEW leadership in the city is the power-base of Catholic action. Its policy over the years has been to appease the employers. AUEW head office will seek to head off every militant fight against sackings and unemployment. The TGMU/ACTSS official machine is no better. It was forged by that master in underman's bureaucracy, Jack Jones.

Rank and file workers must come together.

The industrial boom of the 1950s and 1960s

led to factory isolation. Powerful shop stewards' organisations grew up in each big factory. As the boom continued, these organisations grew more and more confident that they were self-sufficient.

Unemployment changes all that. It corrodes even the most militant organisation in a factory. The industrial response which quickly won pay rises—strike, work-to-rule, even sit-in—suddenly loses its force when the bosses want to sack half the factory.

## Proud

This explains the collapse of sections of Coventry workers noted in the past for strength and confidence. The shop stewards' committee at Chrysler, for instance, once a proud organisation, now acts like a pathetic messenger-boy for the management.

As the crisis deepens, the instinct of even the most militant shop steward is to turn inwards to his own organisation which he has

helped to build up over the years. The truth about redundancies at the most militant factory, Massey Ferguson, can be

## Kingdo

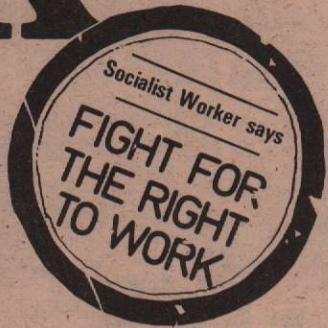
In the fight against unemployment, rank and file links are essential. It's time to call on workers to fight unemployment together.

John Villiers' letter to Jaguar; Ralph Lucas' joint committee with Massey Ferguson; Dick Burdett's letter to all machine workers—all these are efforts to establish by example the shop stewards' committee

These links should be developed. They should involve all the main factories and the unemployed. Coventry needs a Rank and File consisting of stewards and



# Sackings! Fights!



Men like these got together they could fight the jobs sacker



Terry Lindsay, shop steward at Massey Ferguson: 'A total ban on overtime'



Dick Burnett, convenor of the AUEW joint shop stewards' committee at the employers'



Ralph Lucas, ACTSS branch chairman at Alfred Herberts: 'We'll take drastic action'



Dick Burnett, convenor of the AUEW joint shop stewards' committee at the employers'

## WAY OUT

years. Yet the way out of the apathy battles is that even the most apathetic, even Wickmans or even if it is isolated.

ms

sackings and unemployment are crucial. Any initiative to come together to be supported. To staff stewards at approach for a meeting workers at Herberts: calling for a meeting shop stewards; break out of the king officials and even by over the years.

attended. They should services in the to Work committee, unemployed workers

which can organise assistance and solidarity as soon as employers anywhere in the city announce redundancy—which can involve the angry crowds of unemployed workers in the fight against sackings and in improving their own conditions.

The huge 'Confed' meeting of the city's stewards is an opportunity to elect such a committee. But if the Confed meeting does not produce a committee, militant stewards from all over the city will have to use their own initiative.

If these militants retire, as they are tempted to do, to the safety of their own factories in the hope that the 'economic typhoon' will blow itself out, they will find sooner than they imagine that the typhoon will blow down their own organisation.

But if they seek now to build the links for a city-wide, industry-wide battle for jobs, they can arouse the city's workers from the apathy and despair into which the bosses, the government and the union leaders are hoping they will sink.

A demonstration in Nicosia, capital of Cyprus, against Kissinger and the CIA, whose manoeuvrings are behind the Cyprus tragedy



# THE RAPE OF CYPRUS

## THE VIEW FROM BOTH SIDES

- left, by Kadir Peker, who is Turkish, and right, by Andrew Strouthous, a Greek

FILMS ON the Second World War almost always concentrate on the nastiness of Japanese and Germans. They tell us how patriotic and brave the British and Americans were. They scarcely ever tell you what life was like during the war or, even more important, how it was that the war started.

Atilla 74 is a film made by the Greek director Michael Cacoyannis, who also produced fantastic films like Zorba the Greek and Trojan Women. This is an authentic film, showing life for the thousands of refugees in Cyprus.

What is happening in Cyprus is appalling. It is the equivalent of hundreds of thousands dead and literally millions homeless in a country like Britain. The scenes in the refugee camps are terrifying and make you very angry.

Cyprus is not just an island. It is a permanent aircraft carrier in a strategically important part of the Mediterranean. This is the main reason for the invasion of the island.

The film unfolds the story of real people faced with the latest episode in this story. There is the captain of the army loyal to Makarios.

He is attacked by an officer as the Samson coup begins. The officer insists he is a traitor to Enosis, the cause of union with Greece, so beloved of the fascists and the Colonels.

By the time the police arrive, he has two bullets in his leg and he is a cripple. You hear his story in the film.

Then there is a bus driver from Morpheu. He and his wife and five children escape from the invading Turkish army to a refugee camp near Limassol.

### Victim

He escapes from one army of reaction but becomes the victim of another. During a 'Return Makarios' rally in Limassol, he is shot dead by EOKA B thugs.

In Cyprus for centuries, until the age of imperialism, in fact in the early 19th century, Greeks and Turks lived side by side. Imperialism changed all that, using every conceivable division to win its way.

But even in the 1930s they did not entirely succeed. Greeks and Turks fought side by side against British imperialism.

Today, in practice, Cyprus is divided into two separate states. The Greek people in the refugee camps are aware of the role of imperialism, the Greek Junta and Nikos Sampson and the CIA in creating the situation.



Refugees have waited for hours for the return of Greek Cypriot prisoners by the Turkish Army. One woman's husband is not among those returned

In fact, one Greek Cypriot woman says it is EOKA B more than anything else which caused the Turkish army invasion.

But still there is the belief that Makarios is the saviour. Makarios, of course, is a supporter of Enosis, union with Greece.

One serious fault with the film, understandable but unforgivable, is the confusion of the Turkish army with the Turkish people.

The same army is gunning down workers in Turkey. The same army has brought havoc to some Turkish Cypriot people.

ATILLA '74 traces step by step the events leading up to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and shows the tragedy of life in that divided island. The film is a clear warning of the result of allowing fascists to organise.

It is a great pity that the film maker, Cacoyannis, does not make the point. He condemns the Makarios government for allowing the Turkish army to invade but he does not condemn the system that allows the fascists to breed.

Cacoyannis interviews the fascist scum of EOKA-B. The film is worth seeing for this alone. You don't know whether to laugh or cry at their ludicrous ravings, such as: 'I did it for the good of Cyprus and events since have not changed my mind.'

The horror of it is that these men are still at liberty—unlike the father of five they murdered at the 'Return Makarios' rally.

A good feature of the film is that it lets the people tell their own story. It is the honesty and frankness of the people that is a striking contrast to the duplicity of Makarios.

One old peasant woman lays the blame at EOKA-B's door. We see a captain who was shot in the legs by members of the Greek Guard.

### Soft

Cacoyannis is soft on Makarios. Makarios refuses to drop Enosis, union with Greece. He admits that American imperialism is going over his head.

He boasts how lenient he is with the fascists of EOKA (they're all still at liberty) as if they were petty criminals instead of the cause of mass murders and perhaps the permanent division of the island on which Turks and Greeks had lived peacefully for centuries.

We see mass rallies of hundreds of thousands calling for the return of Makarios—a position supported unconditionally by the Communist Party, AKEL.

AKEL get 40 per cent of the votes on Cyprus, a fact which the film neither mentions nor analyses. In fact, all the AKEL do is support Makarios. They don't even organise against the fascists. They just repeat again the mistakes they made before the coup.

In spite of these weaknesses, the film makes a tremendous impact and is a must for all socialists.



# VICTOR GRAYSON

# The bullet that went astray

REG GROVES has presented a well-written story of a man who, for a number of years, brought hope to many thousands of men and women looking for an escape from the conditions imposed on them by capitalism.

To those, who like myself, lived in the period Reg Groves writes about, this book restores the urge to do that little bit more to further the only cause that gives promise of a future for mankind.

The ability of the author to picture for his readers the political atmosphere that prevailed before the First World War—years before his own involvement in the movement—provides a pleasant surprise.

Grayson was active before 1914, so the author must have carried out a great deal of research. On top, we are given the remarkable story of Grayson's mysterious disappearance.



Veteran revolutionary Harry McShane reviews the new biography of Victor Grayson, the first and only man, claims the author, Reg Groves, ever elected to the House of Commons as a socialist. Elected in a by-election in 1907, he told Parliament: 'I am simply a bullet fired by the Colne Valley workers against the established order.' His sensational impact on parliament and on the working class stood in contrast to the attitudes of the Labour MPs sitting with their friends on the Liberal benches.

*The Strange Case of Victor Grayson*, by Reg Groves (£2.15, including postage, from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1.)



THE CHOICE IN THE COLNE VALLEY.  
V. Grayson: Red ruin and the breaking up of laws.  
Bord-Carpenter: 'The House of Lords' Privilege! Dear Food!!!  
Leach: 'Sound Progress' 'Cheap Food'! 'The burden according to the ability.'

A hostile newspaper cartoon at the time of the 1910 election

## Defiance

The description of Grayson's open defiance of the Establishment, amid the shocked and indignant protests from all parties in the House of Commons, makes interesting reading.

For that, Grayson incurred the hatred of Snowden, MacDonald and Hardie, the triumvirate that ruled the roost in the Independent Labour Party.

Here was this young man, only 25 years old, stealing the headlines by bringing the spirit of revolt into Parliament.

What he did caused many workers to realise that there was more to politics than sending Labour members to the House of Commons, particularly if they were tied to the coat-tails of the Liberal Party.

## Revolutionary

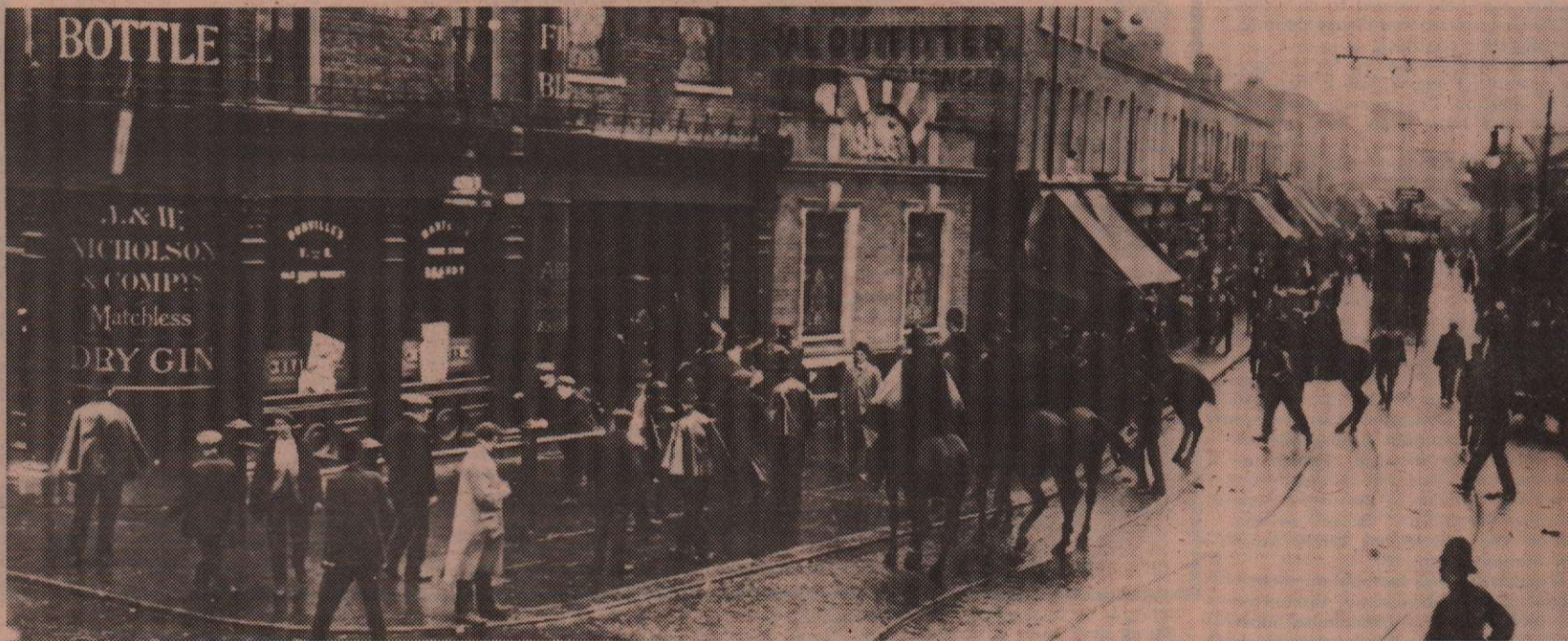
He did more than that; he caused workers to think of other forms of political activity. Grayson favoured the sending of men into the 'camp of the enemy', but he put stress on the imperative need for revolutionary mass action.

That approach came to me from Victor Grayson and I have never lost it.

When Grayson, in 1910, called out in *The Clarion* for the building of a British Socialist Party I was a member of the Independent Labour Party.

I filled in a form and worked with others in launching a provisional party, pending the decision to be taken at the conference of the Social Democratic Party due to be held later.

I recall expressing the hope that Grayson would prevent Hyndman's influence dominating the Party. Hyndman was tough and, although



The 1911 Dock Strike—and the police move in: meanwhile, Grayson was campaigning for the formation of the British Socialist Party.

we didn't know it, the official organ, Justice, was his personal property.

Grayson was not involved in the internal disputes that took place in the British Socialist Party.

I listened to Grayson when he was in top form. I was in the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, when he turned up, befuddled by having had too much to drink.

The organisers of the Clarion Scouts had to get him off the stage. It was a sad affair which was partly made up for by Tom Kerr, later Lord Provost of Glasgow, who brought on a piano and told us about artists, poets, and other men and women of genius who were not teetotallers.

I hoped that Grayson's lapse

would not stop his useful work for socialism. His effectiveness was never the same. His enemies were delighted.

## Humour

Many young propagandists, including James Maxton, tried to follow the pattern set by Grayson. Maxton, unlike Grayson was an avowed worshipper of Parliament. Grayson had a technique of his own. There was humour and pathos in what he said, but his message could be grasped by all his hearers.

I always felt that he lacked in theory, but he certainly made the revolutionary message attractive to masses of workers. It is true, I think, that Blatchford had a great in-

fluence on him.

I recall being angry when I read an article by him in John Bull, Bottomley's paper, in which he supported the First World War.

I was again angry when he came to Glasgow in his army uniform and had to face a hostile audience. I thought it a tragic situation.

Reg Groves provides food for thought when he deals with the mystery of Grayson's disappearance. If Grayson was probing into the forged diaries used in the trial of Roger Casement that was a dangerous thing to do.

## Doubtful

It is possible, as suggested, that he was involved in some other way in Irish activities. A possible murderer is named.

There could be other reasons for the disappearance of Grayson but of that there is reason to be doubtful. This part of the book is well worth reading.

The mention of names such as Larkin, Graham and Tom Mann brings back many memories. They all gave splendid service to the movement.

I was greatly pleased at the references to Fred Shaw of Huddersfield. I remember one evening when he was delivering a scientific lecture, during the First World War, when the military entered the hall while Fred, using a blackboard and chalk, added to their education. Finally, 17 men were taken to the police station.

We are on the move again. Memories of Grayson's work can be of help. I hope the book will be read.

## ON THE BOX

### FRIDAY

After years of standing idle in the cupboards of the well-to-do, bank managers are given a public airing on THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC-2, 8.15pm). This is followed at 9pm by the last in the very funny series, FAWLTY TOWERS, whose loss is almost compensated by the return of PORRIDGE, 8pm (BBC-1).

### SUNDAY

WEEKEND WORLD (LWT, Noon) continues to present intelligent and easy-to-follow current affairs commentary. OMNIBUS (BBC-1, 10.30pm) celebrates the centenary of German socialist playwright, Thomas Mann's birth, and is built around one of his short stories, Mario and the Magician.

### MONDAY

BBC-1's TONIGHT programme, (10.50pm) begins a National Health Week which will examine different aspects of the health service.

# THE MUSIC OF CHILE

By Barry Fantoni

WHEN I SAW the drawing of a clenched fist over the Chilean flag on the sleeve of this record\*, I thought, 'Oh dear, a lot of dreary, bearded persons singing We Shall Overcome in Spanish'.

Well, bearded Quilapayun may be, but this Chilean group of singers and instrumentalists can in no way be called dreary.

Now extending to six members, they were inspired by the Chilean poet and musician, Violet Parra, who died in 1967. Aware of the susceptibility of Chile and the Latin Americans generally to fall for the trivialities of Western pop-culture, the group's aim was to restore their own powerful and rich musical folk-

lore. Their range of instrumentation over these ten tracks is staggeringly original, using 20 or so different kinds of percussion and strings.

## UNIVERSAL

I speak only a little Spanish, but the words, beautifully sung, have a plaintive meaning in the sound alone. When one talks of folk music, one means the music of the people—common people.

Because working men and women the world over share a universal lot, the music they create therefore

springs from a common source. This is why authentic folk music resounds through such similar sounding structures.

The violin music of the Irish jig is often unmistakable from violin music from the Ukraine.

Of all the folk music I have heard, none has impressed me more than that of Quilapayun. The title track El Pueblo Unido, Jamás Sera Vencido (A united people will never be beaten) has the simple strength of an anthem.

If IS ever decides on a party song, they need look no further than this one! \*QUILAPAYUN, W1 Pueblo Unido, Jama Sera Vencido Transatlantic Record XTRA 1.155 (£2.15).

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# LETTERS

Write to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

## Postal Points

WHEN I READ that you had sent to Portugal copies of a pamphlet telling Portuguese revolutionaries what to do, my communist cat laughed so much it had kittens. You should get out of the habit of thinking that all discussions on revolution evolve round the ideas of three dead Russians, Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky.

And you must also stop blaming the failures of the British working class movement to get socialism on the selection of the wrong leaders. Before you talk of rank and file activity in other organisations, it's a good idea to make sure it works in your own. The recent change to a Socialist Worker Party must be a little confusing to your IS members.

The working class has a hard road to travel and we might get there quicker if sections of it dropped the idea 'that they are all baddies except us'.—TOM TAYLOR, Cumbria.



A COMRADE from Norway who was recently over here reacted to an article in SW which stressed that IS was 'opposed to immigration controls'.

She said there was a case for immigration controls. I argued against that—but it's a question I've always taken for granted and have rarely had to confront.

So why is IS opposed 'on principle' to immigration control? It is, after all, a capitalist world and there must be a case for trade unions opposing immigration in a time of mass unemployment.—SIMON ANDRASES, London N16.



I DON'T KNOW what percentage of the working class is truly socialistic in day-to-day life. I doubt if it is big. This is hard to understand... or is it?

It seems our working class are swayed by press and capitalist propaganda far easier than, for instance, French or Italian workers. This may be disastrous. We are now arriving at the true climax of British capitalism. Except in the Thirties, the system has surely never been in such a plight.

A massive change must be imminent—as one reader said recently, fascism or true socialism. The unemployed must join forces to smash the system which has put them in the mud. The employed must disregard their jobs until socialism is here with us.

Portugal is a lesson. If Britain were to go along a similar path, both countries would learn together. Tell me, brothers, what has capitalism given you? Nothing except drab work and war.—MARK CORBLUTH, Norwich.



WHERE DO IS stand on the IRA? Do you support them? I know your aims are for even distribution of wealth, land etc and I agree with that. But where do your aims differ with the IRA?—B H WARD, Pembroke.



I WAS SURPRISED at the article on the Cliff McDaniel case (11 October) which proclaimed it a victory because the police prosecution against him had been dropped.

Although that's to the good, it won't stop police harassment of black people. The article implies that fighting his case and picketing the court would stop harassment. But that only gives credibility to reformism.

I think Cliff McDaniel was probably lucky in the 'liberality' of the Appeal Court. Brothers and sisters involved in big trials of black people over the last few years have still been harassed after winning limited gains in their cases, for example the Mangrove Nine.

You won't end police harassment of black people until you've built a powerful socialist working class movement ready to fight against all forms of police and state harassment.—MIKE DIXON, Forest Gate, East London.



I HAVE BEEN buying SW for some time and have come to see that just talking about things will not change the system. We've got to organise for positive political action. I see that as being achieved through an organisation such as IS. That's why I'm going to join.—NICOLA RANDALL, Colindale, N London.

## Labour: Why I quit after 24 years...



SINCE JOINING the International Socialists, many people have asked me why I left the Labour Party. The answer I have given is: 'Because I am a socialist'.

This may seem flippant but it is not meant to be. For 24 years, I was a Labour supporter, party member, branch chairman, and member of the General Management Committee of my constituency party. I was firmly entrenched in the belief that I was furthering the cause of socialism.

Not until I became a regular reader of Socialist Worker did I realise just how mistaken I had been. I realised that the Labour Party was nothing more than an extension of the capitalist system.

I then started to think back to the 1951 general election, the first I can remember. The quarrying village where I used to live was predominantly Labour, in fact it was a thorn in the Tories' side, being in the heart of a land-owning rural constituency.

I would listen to the older quarry men talking about the Thirties and the Jarrow Marchers who passed through the village.

### Faith

I was fascinated. Here were men putting their faith in a Labour government. 'Vote Labour, lad', they would say, 'that is the party of the working class'.

*My goodness, how they were to be betrayed!*

These men, who had held a Labour majority in the local council, were ordinary workers, not 'clever' men, not opportunists, not social climbers, but genuine down-to-earth men with no grand illusions except to achieve and maintain a fairer and more just society.

On reflection, what did the Labour Party do? To educate these men politically, nothing—except to

I HAVE BEEN reading SW for nearly a year and, while agreeing with many of its views, I cannot join at present for a number of reasons.

I joined the Labour Party in ignorance (I left two months ago) and do not want to make that mistake again.

I also feel one must be committed wholeheartedly and I am not sure I am yet.

One thing I can do is to become a Socialist Worker supporter and I am glad you have decided to have the campaign. I am sure there are many

### I won't make that mistake again!

people who feel like me.

Every Thursday I know I will receive a newspaper that is not afraid to speak its mind about situations near and far and will write them from a socialist point of view.—ANN MARIE MCKINLEY, Abingdon, Oxon.

say 'put your cross on a piece of paper and leave the rest to us'.

In other words, the Parliamentary Labour Party took the party away from the workers. The very men who had struggled and sacrificed to build a working class party eventually saw it debased and vulgarised by the likes of Shawcross, Gaitskill, and in later years, the Wilsons, Jenkins and Prentices.

There is no doubt that there were once hundreds of working

class areas similar to the one I have described where the embryo of a workers' and community council existed, waiting to be nurtured and guided into reality.

It is a great pity that a paper such as Socialist Worker did not exist then so that the political awareness of the workers could have been aroused instead of being suppressed by the trendy Fabian type socialists.—DAVID TOONE, Market Deeping, Peterborough.

## Spain: The day I felt choked...

I WENT INTO Leeds last week to buy a pair of shoes, but everywhere I was told the pair I wanted was out of stock. I noticed other women being told the same thing.

By the sixth shop, I was getting a bit fed up so I asked the salesgirl why the shops were all out of new stock at the beginning of the season. She told me: 'Most of our shoes come from Spain and the dockers in Hull won't unload them because of those executions. We've had to turn away ever so many customers this week.'

### Off

But then she said: 'Come back next week though, because it's all been called off and we should be getting lots in.'

So I came home feeling choked, not because I didn't get my shoes but because the Hull dockers should have got real backing by Jack Jones and Co and the backing been made really widespread.

Then Franco and the fascists would have been hit where it really hurts—not in their consciences but in their pockets.—NANCY HALL, Leeds.



Margaret Thatcher, 'superstar'

## THATCHER CON-TRICK

SW OFTEN accuses the capitalist press of bias and distortion yet rarely offers evidence of it. But there was a brilliant example given recently by the liberal editor of the New Statesman on the TV programme What The Papers Say.

He showed how Fleet Street had transformed the image of Margaret Thatcher from 'the best-dressed woman in England' to a 'politician of international stature'... all in less than two weeks.

Her impact on the United States was supposedly devastating. Yet the American press hardly gave her a mention.

Margaret Thatcher, Superstar, was a fantastic 'put-up job by Fleet street.—CHRIS SMITH, London, E7.

## Abortion: We need your support

THE Abortion Law Reform Association/A Woman's Right To Choose (ALRA/AWRTC) has worked closely with the National Abortion Campaign acting somewhat as a service machine, with little recognition.

Its activities have included co-ordinating the petition (more than 200,000 signatures have so far been collected), and publishing three nationally distributed pamphlets. It also continues to compile and publish other facts and statistics relevant to the abortion issue.

AWRTC is now in serious financial straits. One of the two over-worked full-time workers may have to leave. It may also be unable to publish new pamphlets and posters crucial to the campaign.

AWRTC exists solely on donations and subscriptions and the sales of literature. On its behalf, we appeal to you to subscribe (£2.50 a year for membership) and/or donate to the campaign. It can be contacted at 186 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1, (01-278 4575).—EILEEN FAIRWEATHER, NINA STREICH.



Not the church, not the state... members of ALRA picket the inside of Westminster Cathedral on Sunday just before the special mass in honour of SPUC.

## I'M A MODERATE MUG

ONE THING all 'men of moderate opinion' are agreed on is the need for public spending to be cut, slashed and generally hacked to pieces.

Well, OK, being a moderate myself, I'll agree to that. Definitely cut back on bloody useless arms spending and stop those huge hand-outs and tax concessions to the moguls of industry. That should save a few bob.

But no, those of even more moderate opinion say that would be useless, nay, worse than useless, backward-looking and unproductive.

What's needed is less spent on silly, wasteful things like hospitals, schools, polytechnics and nurseries, they tell us. After all, there's nanny to look after the tots, till they go to Eton that is, and any illness can

be treated by a specialist from Harley Street.

What does it all mean for you and me? For me, working in social services, it means plugging up ever-increasing gaps. There used to be two porters in the kitchens, now there's just me and somebody 'promised'.

After nine hours' work, I clock off and rush to catch the 25 bus. That is, in theory. In practice, you stick your arm out to an unthinking monster which hurtles past loaded with other mugs, who've just done their nine hours too.

Sod it, catch the Tube. It's dearer but I suppose it'll always be like this mess till us mugs decided we ought to run the show.—GEOFF HANCOCK, NUPE, Tower Hamlets, East London.

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# WHY DOCKERS LIFTED SPAIN BOYCOTT

By A Kirkby (NASD)

## UNITY, NOT SCOTS NATS

WE WERE SADDENED to read Ian McGregor's letter (4 October). The enemy is not English, American or any other type of national imperialism, but world-wide capitalism. For example, GEC are at present laying off thousands of English and Scottish workers. Whatever their nationality, workers will still be treated as expendable resources.

Ian McGregor says there are committed socialists within the Scottish National Party. But the SNP is committed to parliamentary democracy within a separate Scotland and will, at best, merely deliver workers from 'British capitalism' to 'Scottish capitalism'.

### Tartan

The Tartan Army's stance has been made clear. Its aims are to ensure that the government remains committed to devolution, scarcely a revolutionary socialist objective.

What we need is unity among all workers, unfettered by petty nationalistic prejudice, to fight an international capitalist class—**STUART HEPBURN, BILL BROWN, Glenrothes.**



EACH YEAR we invite your readers to send Christmas and New Year greetings to the many victims of apartheid and racism in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia, and we are doing so again with this letter. These greetings are seen as an expression of support and concern, and are deeply appreciated.

Lists with names and addresses of the families of political prisoners and of detainees, the banned and the banished, are available on request from our office.—**ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT, 89 Charlotte Street, London, W1.**



THE OUTLAWING of the Ulster Volunteer Force, because they are still 'wedded to violence' makes me puke. Surely, as a legal organisation, they had offices readily accessible for arrests to be made by the Royal Ulster Constabulary etc, specially since they have claimed responsibility for recent murders of Catholics.

People must be made to see the double standard operated by Merlyn Rees and the occupying Army. We all know that had the UVF been a legalised republican group, it would have been smashed within a week of claiming murders of Protestants.—**C P FELLOWS, Eccles.**

THE HULL docks shop stewards' committee last week called off its black on Spanish goods and on the Hull Bilbao roll-on roll-off ferry in particular.

This is a serious set back to what should have been the beginnings of a big solidarity campaign with our

brothers and sisters suffering under Franco's dictatorship.

The boycott went on after Jack Jones' stirring speech to the Labour Party conference about the need to boycott and harass the Spanish regime.

It seems now that this speech was a face saver for the left in their hour of voluntary surrender to the government's attacks on the working class.

Certainly neither Jones nor anyone

else followed up the call. No leaflets were produced arguing the case. There was no campaign and no official instructions were issued.

Nevertheless, within 48 hours, Hull dockers were operating a black on all Spanish goods.

### Period

It was intended that the blacking should not be for a limited period but that it would continue for as long as the Franco regime remained in power. The press and television set quickly out to discredit us.

The most vicious attack was the slander

that the shop stewards were driving trade from the port and consequently were threatening our workmates' jobs. But dockers know the truth is different.

Only a year ago the press and television attacked us for standing in the way of 'progress'. 'Progress' was a system of shipping called BACAT, specifically designed to enable general cargoes to bypass the scheme ports like Hull and Goole and use the unregistered wharves on the Ouse and Trent.

This system has directly led to a fall in general cargoes through the port.

Fear of losing trade stopped the shop stewards at Goole calling a mass meeting to spread the Spanish blacking to that port.

When we called for the blacking we fully expected similar action at other ports. Support from other unions would have helped us consolidate the campaign.

Following Jack Jones' appeal, the National Union of Railwaymen executive expressed its support but, like the T&GWU leaders, left it to the rank and file members to take the initiative.

Our main fear in Hull was that goods which would have gone through the port would be transferred to other ports. As most of the traffic is containerised, supporting action carried out by the lorry drivers would have prevented this. The regular service between Hull and Bilbao also calls at Felixstowe.

With Hull left isolated, and other sections of the trade union movement unwilling to spread the campaign, pressure built up against the shop stewards committee.

The point is now for us to develop a real Spanish Solidarity Campaign which takes up the arguments and press lies and does the groundwork without which solidarity cannot be maintained.

## CHEERS! FOR BRITISH 'JUSTICE'...

IT WAS a great day for the rule of law last Thursday. Ronald Leighton and Colin Lattimore, convicted of murder three years ago, were let out of prison after it was 'discovered' they had nothing to do with the murder. Ahmet Salih had a conviction-for arson quashed.

The murdered man was dead long before the three could have reached him. This simple fact was never put to the jury by prosecution, defence or judge.



Instead, the court believed 'confessions' procured from the boys by Detective Superintendent Alan Jones, one of Scotland Yard's senior detectives.

In June 1973, Jones was in charge of the case of Kirsten Bullen, a baby taken from her pram in Bromley High Street, South London.

Jones 'swooped' on the house of Mary Ranson, a 43-year-old epileptic who led a sheltered life with her parents. They arrested her, kept her two nights in the cells, deprived her of her pills, and subjected her to ruthless cross-examination. Later, Mary was taken to Holloway where she was held down by warders and injected with sedatives.



Jones insisted on a prosecution, but eventually the Director of Public Prosecutions refused to proceed with the case. When Mary was finally released, her father burst in on the courtroom and described Jones as 'the filthiest coward who ever walked in court'. He added: 'He's a swine'.

Or, to put it another way, he is a credit to Sir Robert Mark and the Metropolitan Police.



Picture: Mike Tomlinson (TFL)

## £1/2 million—the price of murder

HOW MUCH does it cost to get a government overthrown, 40,000 trade unionists and socialists murdered, and tens of thousands of others tortured and locked up in concentration camps?

Answer—about a million dollars. That's how much the giant multinational company ITT contributed to President Nixon's election expenses to make sure of his help in Chile.

### Sabotage

Even without Nixon and the CIA, ITT organised its own campaign of economic sabotage to help provoke the coup against President Allende.

ITT is merely the most notorious of the giant multinational companies that dominate industry in the West. There are about 200 companies with more power than many national governments.

This economic power is also political power. More than eight months ago, Ford ordered their plant in Southampton to stop supplying parts for Ford Transit

**THE MULTINATIONALS**  
 Sabby Sagall leads off the first of an occasional series. In future issues, workers in multinational firms will be writing about their experiences and about how to fight back.

vans to Portugal. Their aim was the same as ITT's in Chile: economic sabotage.

The multinationals have grown up since the Second World War.

In the jungle of world competition, only giants can survive—and to do that they must constantly raise their profit margins.

This can only be done by continually reducing costs and enlarging markets at the expense of rivals. Size is all-important because the larger a company's output, the more cheaply it can produce.

But it is no longer enough for amalgamations and take-overs to occur within national boundaries. In Western Europe, for instance, it is impossible for firms in certain industries to undertake alone the vast capital outlays needed to stand up to

world competition. The threat of technological obsolescence in the aircraft industry, for example, is so immense that only a joint Anglo-French venture could produce a Concorde, capable of competing with the American supersonic giants.

In addition, the single national market is no longer large enough to extract maximum advantage from the increased scale of operations.

During the 1950s, American firms became interested in European investment as a result of the booming post-war European market. But the decisive factor for them was the setting up of tariffs by the Common Market against imports from the outside world. This prompted the tremendous increase in the number of American subsidiaries operating in Europe.

### Plants

Hence, the US Ford company bought full control of Ford Britain in 1961 and set up plants in Belgium and Germany. General Motors bought up Vauxhall's in Britain and Opel in Germany. By 1970-1, American subsidiaries in Britain employed 730,000 workers in manufacturing industry. They were responsible for nearly 13 per cent of total UK output.

The most highly centralised multinationals are able to achieve an extraordinary degree of international co-ordination. A good example is the American computer firm IBM (International Business Machines). It is the sixth largest company in the world, its assets having been valued on Wall Street at 40 billion dollars, roughly equivalent to the gross national product of Italy.

IBM manufactures in 14 different countries and employs 850,000 workers. It controls two-thirds of the computer market in the Western capitalist world. It has divided its manufacturing among the various countries, each specialising in the development of a specific model or component in its range of computers.

The power of a multinational is starkly revealed by its ability to manipulate the prices of the goods it produces or sells in the different countries. The prices charged by the British subsidiary of an American parent company can, for example, be fixed so that it shows a low profit margin or even a loss.

In all these ways, they are able to play off different national groups of workers against each other. Their rise has everywhere strengthened the power of bosses against workers.

Only internationally co-ordinated trade union and political action by workers can reverse this tide.

# SW

## What we stand for

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

**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 state machine is a 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 racialism 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 class.

**The revolutionary party** To achieve socialism the most mili-

tant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards 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 racialism 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.

### JOIN

# Socialist Worker

## IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Become a Socialist Worker Supporter—fill in the form on page three.

# JOHN DALE'S: NOW LET'S TAKE UP THE CHARTER

by an AUEW shop steward  
**NORTH LONDON:** John Dale Engineering does not have a tradition of militancy. But most shop-floor workers are now ready for a real fight. So we attended last week's mass meeting knowing that the shop stewards committee was united behind a resolution calling for a fight by all means necessary to stop the plant being shut down.

Engineering union district secretary, Bert Thorogood, who has already negotiated two rounds of voluntary redundancy at Dale's this year told the meeting that it was 'about time a group of workers took on a company who wanted closure, and won'. He said he wanted us to fight. But his fighting words soon began to change.

He talked about accepting further redundancy, the weakness of the factory organisation, the impossibility of guaranteeing victory. He did not say—that we have nothing to lose by fighting, we have our jobs to gain; that it is our union's policy to fight these closures, that

**ENGINEERS CHARTER NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
 Saturday 6 December, 1-5pm, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, (Holborn), London WC1. Credentials from Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

our District Committee would make every effort to lead a united struggle inside the factory, that the DC (which we elect to do this job) would try and rally support locally among fellow trade unionists to save local jobs; that he would take the initiative to contact trade unionists in the Dales group and black our work if it was moved. These are simple things any serious trade unionist would do.

But worst of all, our official did not back up our stewards' decision, agreed unanimously, to fight by any means necessary. He ended by putting his own motion to the meeting—that he be sent back to management to negotiate better redundancy payments. In other words—no fight. Even then, the vote showed a small majority against him. He announced the motion carried and the meeting was closed.

The Engineers' Charter group in our area has invited

Dale's workers to the Charter conference in London on 6 December. For those of us left with a job, it will be a chance to talk about how we can organise ourselves and make sure the union fights, and doesn't just lie down and take it every time.

Mick Brightman, secretary of NW London Charter Group, told Socialist Worker: 'Dales is another example of the defeats AUEW members are facing. We have to get rid of the idea that you can do things 'plant by plant'. Factories fighting individually on wages is bad enough, but going it alone against sackings is sheer suicide.

'We need national policies like the 35-hour week, fought by all the membership. But to get this we have to fight inside the union for the policies of the Engineers Charter. The rank and file have to be involved.

'The activists who have come together in Charter groups around the country are now preparing to come to the Engineers Charter first national conference. This will be the way of creating rank and file links between shop floor workers so we can fight nationally for the policies we agree on. We aren't going to hand the union over to the right wing on a plate. We're going to make a fight of it.'

## Junior doctors: No pay cuts!

**By a junior hospital doctor**  
 JUNIOR doctors are now realising that they have been used for years as cheap labour. Eighteen months ago, Barbara Castle promised a 44-hour week from this month instead of the usual 80-hour week.

We have now been offered a 44-hour week in name only. Overtime payments will be redistributed so that half the junior doctors will have a wage rise and a third will have a wage cut.

We have been offered 30 per cent of overtime after 44 hours if you are on call in the hospital, and ten per cent if you are on call at home, even if you are in the hospital most of the time.

Even worse, the first four hours of overtime are expected to be given free. We are demanding:

- No pay cuts
- No free overtime
- Overtime at flat rate
- Time on call at home to be paid at the same rate as in the hospital.

From Monday, 41 hospitals in the North West are on indefinite emergency service only. This action shows that the basic lessons of trade unionism have got through to the medical profession.

Unions throughout the hospitals have been supporting the doctors' action. In Manchester, the Trades Council gave doctors' representatives warm support.

Doctors can no longer be expected to work up to 140 hours a week while being paid a pittance. Patients should worry about being treated by a doctor on Monday at 5pm who has been working or on call since 9am the previous Thursday.

## Morecambe victory

**MORECAMBE:** Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Keenway Supermarket, Westgate, have won a strike for union recognition and against management refusal to abide by safety regulations.

Inside the supermarket the fire door was kept locked. In any case, access to it was blocked. Other gangways were also blocked by stock.

The only windows in the shop are at the front. On Mondays, when the shop was closed and staff were at work restocking, they were locked in the shop while the manager went to lunch.

After trying to bring in scab labour from Liverpool, management finally surrendered. Only one customer in ten was prepared to cross the picket line while some local trade unionists joined the picket.

The local TGWU official, Bob Willis, said: 'These people have taught me a thing or two. This is what the working class is all about.'

Now they have won, the strikers are prepared to spread the message through the Keenway group and the rest of the distributive trade. 'We've been treated like bloody animals for too long—now we've taught them a lesson they won't forget.'

## Students occupy

**THE FIGHT BACK** against the cuts in education is beginning. And it has started in London, not noted in recent years for its student militancy. Two 24-hour occupations were staged this week to protest about the education cuts and to mobilise support for the lobby of parliament called by the South East Region of the TUC and by the NUS.

At **KINGSWAY PRINCETON** College, students occupied the administration and their old coffee-bar, which has recently been turned into a classroom.

And at **THAMES POLYTECHNIC**, an executive motion to occupy, heavily campaigned for by the IS Society, was carried by an emergency general meeting.



Roger Cox, Rank and File Organising Committee secretary, speaking to Saturday's conference

'CUTS MEAN one thing—they mean unemployment,' Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, told delegates at the Education Cuts Conference in London last Saturday. And the details of nationwide cuts were hammered home by delegate after delegate.

£696,000 slashed from education budgets in Coventry, £1,300,000 in Newport, £264,000 in Newham... meaning fewer books, less equipment, worsening school meals, delapidated buildings and abandoned nursery programmes.

Above all, the cuts have meant cut-backs in staff. School meals staff and technicians have been cut, the contracts of temporary terminal teachers have not been renewed. For the first time, many teachers are unemployed. More than 2000 are jobless in London alone.

But these 'surplus teachers' are not

By Anna Paczuska, NUT

being used to improve deteriorating conditions. Conditions like those in a mid-Leicester school, which was asked if they had a couple of ancillaries free one morning to look after a couple of hundred kids. Or like those in North Fleet, where pupil/teacher ratios are being increased from 1:14 to 1:23.

Yet what has been the reaction of the National Union of Teachers? Delegate after delegate repeated the same dismal tale: verbally opposing the cuts, but strangling rank and file initiatives.

So the fight has been forced into isolated actions in individual schools; such as fighting for replacements for lost staff, or for more to be spent on school dinners. Small fights like these have been fought and won all over the country.

The realisation of the need to build up a fighting organisation in the schools

was reflected in the composition of the 230 delegates, who came predominantly from the schools (73 were represented).

The general resolutions carried agreed the need to struggle primarily against sackings, to build Right to Work committees in the localities, and to affiliate to the Rank and File Right to Work campaign.

It was agreed to work as far as possible through the official union structure and to try and get local action committees sponsored by schools and union branches. Rank and file policies must be fought for inside the union, and that is why Dave Picton's candidacy for NUT vice president must be given maximum support.

But in case the union cannot be won to a real fightback, conference elected a standing committee to co-ordinate local struggles and initiate a militant offensive against the cuts.

## Classified

**Free Abortion A Woman's Right To Choose.** Demonstrate 1 November. Assemble All Saints, Oxford Road, Manchester, 2pm. March to AUEW Hall with National NAC and trade unionists. All support welcome. (Backed by Manchester Trades Council).

**FIGHT SEXISM:** Saturday 1 November. Speaker: May Hobbs—Men Against Sexism Durham Conference, 9.30am-6.30pm. Dunelm House. Posters and bookings: The Durham Women's Group, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham.

**Anti-Fascist Film Show and Discussion:** Sunday 2 November, 6.30pm. Barnes-Wallis Building. UMIST, Manchester. Dreams and Nightmares (Spanish Anti-Fascist film) and film on Black Workers in Britain. Speakers: B Bunsee and a Spanish comrade. Entrance 50p. Sponsored by Spanish Solidarity Campaign and Manchester Anti-Fascist Committee.

**PICKET TRIAL OF PLATT FIELDS SIX** Monday 27 October outside the court in Crown Square, Manchester, 9.30am. March 1pm. Platt Fields Six are charged with breach of peace for performing an anti-army street theatre. They also face possible disaffection charges.

**Chartist public meeting:** After Newham—Which Way for Labour Left—Main Speaker Tony Kelly (Newham NE CLP), Friday 31 October, 8pm, Durning Library, Kennington Lane (junction of Kennington Road) SE11. For tickets phone 733 8953.

**Journalists Charter public meeting** on Portugal. Speakers: Stephen Marks and Denis McShane (NUJ executive). Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm, Princess Louise pub, High Holborn.

**Journalists Charter conference:** Saturday 25 October, 12.30pm. Digbeth Hall, Birmingham.

**Warley Trades Council March and Rally** against unemployment. Saturday 22 November, 2pm, Sponcroft, Smethwick.

**Roy Jenkins releases information** about the beatings of Irish prisoners in English jails. Prisoners Aid Committee, Box 100, 119 Railton Road, London SE24.

**SPGB public meeting** Thursday 23 October: Parliamentary Road to Socialism—a reply to the left. 8.45pm, the Royal Oak pub, York Street off Baker Street, London W1.

**Communally-owned house** in Islington has space for couple plus one child to join five adults, two kids. Share of mortgage £18 a week. Phone 01-607 3402.

**Revolutionary Communist Group Scottish** Regional Day School. Saturday 8 November in Glasgow, 11am-5pm. Sessions on inflation, the crisis, and the post-war boom, and the tasks and methods of revolutionaries. For further information and suggested readings write to RCG, 49 Railton Road, London SE24.

**Socialist Teachers Conference:** 25-26 October. Saturday at Argyle School, Tonbridge Road, London WC1, Sunday at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, 10.30am start on both days. Discussion on education cuts, Healey's measures and unemployment. £1 admission. Creche available.

**Central London NAC next meeting** 22 October, 6.30pm, LSE, Room 101.

## ANSELLS WORKERS FIGHT BACK

**BIRMINGHAM:** A battle is brewing at the giant Allied Breweries' plant, Ansell's. Last Thursday, Allied Breweries spent more than £1000 on newspaper advertisements to coincide with a mass meeting of all 3200 workers. Their aim: to split the unity that has emerged for the first time between manual workers, clerical and supervisory staff.

Top management has begun a programme of tearing up agreements with the workers at Ansell's so as to soften up one of its best-organised plants for a new attack. They announced three weeks ago that they had signed an agreement with the Corona soft-drinks firm for its delivery men to sell cans and bottled beer from door to door.

The first order to just one Corona depot in the Midlands was for 2600 dozen bottles with caskets and cans on top. Ken Bradley, chairman of TGWU 5/377 branch at Ansell's, said: 'No-one can see a future for job security if they start giving work away.'

At the mass meeting only one vote was cast against a resolution giving the shop stewards the authority to call any action—including strike action—if management went ahead with disciplinary action against any single section of workers. So the black on orders for Skol and DD, and the 'working without enthusiasm' stay on—as does the campaign to unionise all the managers of Ansell's pubs in the area.

This last drive is completely separate

from the other questions at issue and so far has meant the blacking of 17 pubs and hotels for reasons of safety, health and hygiene. But the militancy it speaks for is clearly the reason why the sons of two of the top Allied Breweries' management are in charge at Ansell's, and why the battle is now joined.

## Taken for a Ryder

**BOLTON:** The works manager at Thomas Ryder can no longer take the strain. Last Monday, workers returned to the factory to find all the chairs in the machine shop smashed.

At first, they put it down to vandals. But then they discovered it was the works manager. So when the time came for their tea break, they went to the canteen to sit down.

After two days of this, management locked the canteen. The men downed tools and the stewards went in to negotiate. More than 300 workers stayed out for 24 hours before management caved in and agreed to re-open the canteen and to provide benches on the factory floor again.

The 300 also won payment for the time lost. It's difficult to imagine what the management hoped to gain by this senseless and bitter aggro. Perhaps the works manager just isn't up to it any more.

## ...AND SO DO CORONAS

**CARDIFF:** Drivers at the Corona factory in Llanishan have laid a claim for parity with drivers in the remainder of the group, which is owned by Beechams. Their steward said negotiations started five weeks ago. Management's intransigence encouraged the drivers, members of the Transport Union, to strike for one week to encourage them. The men went back pending further negotiations. Once back, management refused the demand for parity, so the men are back on picket duty.

Corona in Tamworth, Staffordshire, have guaranteed drivers 55 hours' pay whatever the cause of breaks in production, and hence delivery. The Cardiff drivers get only their 40 hours plus overtime.

Tamworth have agreed to black all deliveries to Cardiff, and Southampton are refusing any bottling which would be done at Cardiff. The Cardiff production workers, all women, are supporting the strikers and are out in sympathy.

## CHRYSLER LAUNCH NEW ATTACK

By Peter Bain, TGWU Shop Steward, Chrysler Linwood  
CHRYSLER have announced further production cut-backs at their Linwood plant. Almost all the 5600 manual workers will be on a three-day week until the New Year. For the workers in Vehicle Assembly, this brings their lay-off days this year to 75, or 15 working weeks.

Huge cuts in the workforce seem to be on management's agenda. A government refusal to meet their request for £35 million, combined perhaps with company-provoked strikes, would provide them with the excuse to slash their British workforce.

And with the huge Iran deal looming, the company may be out to smash effective trade union organisation before the order is in the British plants.

The company's 'attrition' policy has already resulted in about 1400 hourly-paid workers leaving the factory in the last year. And their so-called 'workers' participation scheme' (a crude attempt to neutralise the shop stewards' organisation) is still floating around.

The only future Chrysler offers us is a constant battle to protect our standard of living. It's time we started campaigning for the nationalisation of Chrysler without compensation and under shop floor control.

## British Leyland lock out 600

BIRMINGHAM:—The latest attack at Chrysler comes at the same time as British Leyland's decision to lock out 600 men at Washwood Heath. The second phase of the attack on jobs and conditions in the motor industry is now under way.

This makes the behaviour of Eddy McGarry at Triumph all the more scandalous. He was one of the firmest advocates of the attempt to form a national motor industry shop stewards' organisation to lead a united fight back.

## Collapse

That organisation has been allowed to collapse. At its last meeting in June, so few stewards attended that the meeting was abandoned.

Now the Rank and File Organising Committee is attempting to rebuild national links across the whole industry. Roger Kline, a shop steward in the TGWU at Massey Fergusons in Coventry, told Socialist Worker:

'The tractor side of the vehicle industry has hardly been affected so far by the crisis but I'll be going to the meeting to learn from the experiences of other vehicle industry workers about building effective combine committees and rank and file papers.'

## Power jobs threatened

IT'S THE MINES all over again. That was the reaction of Peter Knee, Transport Union shop steward at Tilbury Power Station, when he heard the plans to close 48 power stations with the loss of 5000 jobs.

'They ran down the mines and when they wanted coal urgently, there was no coal to be got. The difference is you can import coal—you cannot import electricity. In the last six years or so, the electricity supply industry has lost 50,000 workers.'

'Now the employers and the union leaders are asking for another 5000 to go. This is because they say there is an economic downturn. That may be the case, but they also have the cheek to say there will be an economic upturn.'

## Provide

'What I want to know is where the men and machines will be to provide the power for this upturn. By taking out the small stations from the national grid and by planning a fantastic drop in the labour force, all that it needs is for one 600 megawatt generating set to break down and there will be no back-up facilities to keep the national grid going in a slump situation let alone in a boom. It's madness.'

If there is to be a fight to save the jobs of electricity workers, it will have to be organised at the rank and file level. Frank Chapple, electricians' general secretary, has already said that he accepts the logic that will lead to higher unemployment in the power industry.

This is yet another example of the need to build and strengthen the Rank and File Committee's Right to Work Campaign. If power workers can build meaningful links with other workers facing the same threats, then there is a real possibility of beginning the fight to save jobs.

## National Rank and File Meeting CRISIS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Saturday 15 November, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. 11am-5pm. Credentials 50p from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.



by Murray Armstrong

# SCAB McGARRY!

COVENTRY: 'He's a management tool!' That's how Stan Wills, chairman of the ACTSS strike committee at Triumphs, described TGWU convenor, Eddie McGarry.

Thanks to McGarry, three pickets have been injured by scab lorries this week. And last Friday, a picket had two toes broken by a lorry which refused to stop.

McGarry has ordered his stewards to escort lorries through the picket line. He has managed to get an area instruction from Alan Law, TGWU regional official, declaring the strike 'unconstitutional' and asking drivers to cross.

He has issued instructions that all internal drivers must cross the picket line, and has given the company the opportunity to divert their supplies to their packing plant at Honeybourne, near Eversham.

But at Harpers Transport in Liverpool, the strikers are receiving 100 per cent support. When Pat Harkin, TGWU convenor there, was approached by McGarry he unhesitatingly stated his men would not be party to blacklegging.

Harkin has since visited the Coventry picket line, and some of his own members who had crossed the line in the first few days of the strike have been disciplined by their branch.

Stan Wills, the strike committee chairman, asked that the following statement be published:

'At a transport drivers' stewards' meeting, McGarry said to them, 'keep on breaking the picket lines.' That man is only interested in getting his seat on the Board. As soon as he gets there, he'll forget all about the workers. He's forgotten about them now.'

Barry Collins, ATCSS, Triumph, says: 'Despite McGarry's attempts to defeat us and despite the company's double-dealing, the smell of victory is near.'

'At negotiations all over the weekend the company began to weaken and conceded the fundamental points in the job evaluations.'

'They had previously torn up a job evaluation agreement which was favourable to us.'

'However, they are asking for strings which we clearly will not concede. They want us to return to work with full mobility, that is, to do jobs we have been refusing to cover before the dispute, in the fight against redundancy. They also want us to promise not to black the firms which have been crossing our picket line!'

'So we can't sit back and wait for it. Our pickets will have to be redoubled and the sit-in strengthened until we are sure of victory.'

Messages of support to: Stan Wills, ACTSS strike committee chairman, Triumph Canley, Coventry.

Other messages to E McGarry, TGWU convenor, at the same address.

## 70 out after police attack

MANCHESTER:—70 workers at Almonds Bakery, part of Mothers' Pride, struck after police dragged off a member of the road transport union, URTU, for interrogation.

The incident was provoked by the bakery manager. His idea of industrial relations was described to Socialist Worker as 'holding a 14 pound hammer over our heads and you do what he says or else'.

Jimmy Dunn, the URTU shop steward, described what happened: 'All the unions in the yard passed votes of no confidence in him. He complained about what he called a loss of great magnitude in the produce, we offered to conduct an inquiry, but instead he called in the police.'

'They took off one of the lads and really grilled him—only releasing him on bail hours later. They didn't charge him with anything, but he still had to report to the police a week later. They told him that although they weren't charging him, they were keeping an eye on him and might want him back. We didn't stand for that.'

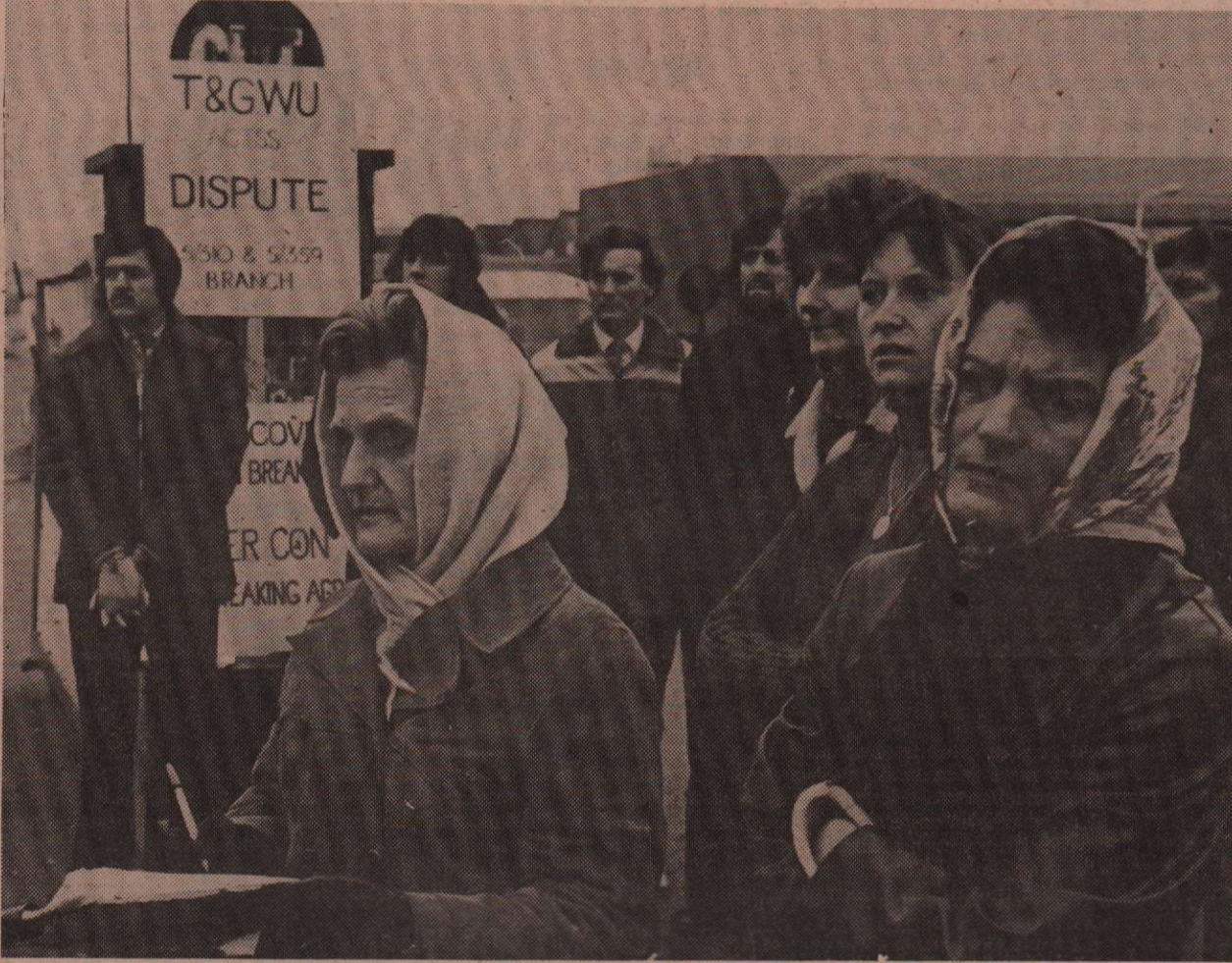
The strikers have put pickets on the gates 24 hours each day. They are demanding that the manager be sacked, that all police activities be stopped, that any charges pending are dropped.

Management are refusing to negotiate. Financial help towards the strike fund is needed. Please send donations and messages of support to: Eddie Furness, c/o URTU, 76 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester 21.

## EASTERBROOK ALLCARD STRIKE

SHEFFIELD:—600 workers at Easterbrook Allcard went on strike on Monday to force management to re-instate a sacked steward. Management say he was sacked for misconduct and shoddy work. Three years ago, there was a successful strike to re-instate the convenor sacked for alleged bad time-keeping.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



On the picket line at Triumphs: victory would be so much easier—but for the TGWU convenor

# PERSONNA: OCCUPATION TO SAVE JOBS

HILLINGTON, Scotland: 280 engineering workers occupied the Personna razor blade factory at the weekend. They have chained and padlocked the entrance and are refusing to allow management into the plant.

Shop stewards' convenor Phil McBride said: 'We are fighting for the right to work. There have been three batches of redundancy this year, and each time we were assured it would solve the problems.'

The workers have been on strike for a month to resist management attempts to force an additional 40 redundancies, and saddle the remaining workforce with un-

realistic manning levels.

The occupation is supported by the whole workforce. All the men and women members of the white-collar and engineering sections of the AUEW are manning a 24 hour occupation, organised on a three-shift rota. Bob Perry, AUEW shop steward, told Socialist Worker:

'There have been more than 100 jobs lost since March. If these new redundancies had been accepted it would have meant that over the past eight months 35 per cent of the workforce would have been made jobless.'

'The dispute has the support of the

## Support Balfour picket!

SHEFFIELD: A solidarity picket to support workers occupying the Balfour Darwin engineering works is to be staged on Friday. Shop stewards are urging all Engineering Union members in the city to support the picket outside the tool division at the Greenland Road Works, 4.30pm.

The picket was planned by a special meeting this week are likely to vote for men in Sheffield, and is part of a growing campaign to back the 360 Balfour workers who are resisting 28 voluntary redundancies—mostly among women.

## Effective

The occupation of a warehouse and office is now in its sixth week.

The factory is part of the Edgar Allen—Balfour Combine, and shop stewards meeting this week are likely to vote for a one-day combine strike. One senior Balfours steward said:

'A one-day strike is a virtual certainty. It's got to be effective, as this battle is

vital. The management are out to smash the union so they can start mass sackings all over the combine.'

'Our fight is important, not only for the combine, but for the city and even the rest of the country. We've got to show the bosses we won't accept redundancies—whether they're voluntary or enforced.'

Messages of support and donations to: Balfour Darwin strike committee, W Frisby 44 Cliff Street, Sheffield S11 8FA.

## The first strike for 120 years

MAIDSTONE:—A five-year-long bonus dispute at the Whitbread-Fremlin brewery erupted on Monday when the men refused to work any more staggered dinner breaks. As a result, the management suspended two men—and provoked the first strike at the brewery for 120 years.

The strike has now spread to other Whitbread breweries in Kent, at Faversham and Watlington. Courage and Trumans drivers are refusing to deliver to Whitbread's pubs. Men on the picket line have expressed their surprise at the sudden

AUEW Paisley District Committee. Our stewards' committee is organising a meeting for all shop stewards in the Paisley district and we will be organising personal appearances at nearby factories to win further support.'

## NEEDED

The lead given by the occupation must be taken up by the trade union movement throughout the West of Scotland. The first step is to ensure that the occupation gets the full backing of every trade unionist.

Donations and messages of support to: Ruby Duncan, Treasurer, Personna AUEW Strike Committee, 27 Bowfield Street, Glasgow G53.

## SORRY...

... because of lack of space, we have been forced to leave out a number of reports this week. Other reports have been drastically cut. We apologise to all affected. But don't be put off. Keep sending in the reports... preferably less than 200 words and by Monday morning.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Portugal: The uneasy lull

LAST WEEK saw an apparent lull in events in Portugal. There were no major confrontations between the government and the revolutionary sections of the rank and file soldiers. But appearances can be deceptive.

For heated discussion and organisation has continued in the workers' and tenants' committees and among the ranks of the armed forces.

The weakness of the ruling class has been shown by its compromise over the occupation of the RASP barracks in Oporto. Rank and file soldiers were protesting at the closure of the neighbouring CICA unit. The government, terrified of an open confrontation at the moment, sent General Fabiao, head of the army, to defuse the situation.

### Clever

In a clever manoeuvre, he promised that the CICA barracks would reopen under another name, after an inquiry—and that there would be no reprisals against any of the soldiers involved in the occupation.

From Jimmy McCallum and Robin Ellis, Tuesday

The soldiers' committee of struggle, increasingly influenced by the Communist Party, accepted this only to find out a few days later that the commander of the Northern Military Region, Veloso, had plans to victimise soldiers in other units, regardless of Fabiao's empty promises.

On Friday, Costa Gomes, the president, made a speech demanding that the workers and political groups with guns hand them to the authorities within seven days, or face imprisonment. The government does not yet have the means of enforcing this ruling, but is preparing the ground for the future.

It is trying to build up a new military force, under its own control, the intervention group AMI. This is being recruited through the ex-commandos organisation in Lisbon with the promise of more than £100 a month pay compared to the normal private's pay of £4 a month.

And this week the government will announce cuts in the armed forces, almost certainly aimed at

cutting back the numbers in the left-wing units.

The marines, heavily influenced by the Communist Party, have decided to join AMI, although it is being boycotted by virtually all the regiments in the Lisbon area. The marines claim that they are out to transform AMI from the inside. But all they are doing is giving it a boost and, when the time comes, the right wing will just kick them out.

### Agreed

On Wednesday of last week, an important meeting of delegates from 28 military units in the Lisbon area agreed to form a joint committee for all soldiers' committees, in which only privates would have voting rights and at which delegates from mixed meetings of privates and officers would be relegated to observers' rights.

It also decided on an immediate picket by soldiers from all their units at the broadcasting mast of

the worker-controlled radio station, *Renascença*, which the authorities have prevented from functioning for three weeks.

The commandos in charge of the mast have been replaced by police.

The most important demonstration last week was in Setubal 30 miles south of Lisbon. It was to have been called by various Communist Party-influenced groups under fairly moderate slogans.

But the Committee of Struggle in the town, based upon delegates from every factory and tenants' committee and from the rank and file soldiers, over-ruled this. Instead the demonstration took place on Thursday under the slogans *Out with the Scum, power to those who work, Power to the workers and For the dictatorship of the proletariat*.

There were about 3000 on the demonstration, from a town with a population of 70,000—even though the biggest factory in the area, the Setenave shipyard, was involved in a mass meeting and could not take part.

It showed that many workers see workers' power as the only way forward.

## Abortion: Now we know—and now we must act

Statement from the Editor of Womens Voice

THE GOVERNMENT has at last come clean on its attitude to the proposed changes in the abortion law. It's in favour of them.

It has approved the recommendations of the parliamentary select committee, which effectively mean women will be able to get an abortion in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy only.

But much worse is to come. You can't make piecemeal concessions to the anti-abortion lobby. They are against all abortion, and will not rest until they have completely smashed what rights women won under the 1967 Abortion Act.

They organised a massive demonstration in London last Sunday. And they are now pressuring every MP to vote to re-establish the select committee so it can come up with a completely new law—which will be just the same as the James White Bill.

Our campaign should be organising its own demonstration now. Had the National Abortion Campaign agreed to hold a demonstration in November, as we argued it should, the timing would be just right.

We urge the NAC Steering Committee, even at this late stage, to reconsider. We cannot leave the streets to SPUC.

# PLA to go broke?

THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY, the largest employer of dockers in the city, have summoned all shop stewards to an emergency meeting this Thursday—almost certainly to try and get them out of their desperate financial situation.

The PLA claim they are nearly bankrupt and losing money at the rate of £200,000 a week. There is no way we can check these figures and, like most employers, the PLA management are lying bastards.

So there is probably less in this 'crisis' than meets the eye. But, there is no doubt that—whatever the true figure—the PLA are in a state of financial collapse.

Today, on the Stock Exchange, you can hardly give away PLA stock, let alone sell it. And if the City rats have jumped overboard, the chances are that the ship's sinking.

The question dockers must ask is: how did this situation come about?

The PLA, the press and TV will all put forward one simple answer. It's all down to those lazy, overpaid, thieving dockers. In reality, the 'crisis' in the PLA has nothing whatsoever to do with dockers. It has been caused by a combination of the stupidity of the management, and the stupidity of the economic system they operate in.

Top management run the PLA with slightly less competence and efficiency than the average Wolf Cub pack.

Under piece-work, it was dockers

themselves who kept the docks running smoothly, so now the PLA management just don't know what they're doing.

The PLA have admitted that their cock-ups lost £10 million in the container berths at Tilbury. Or take another example: two years ago, they

sold their head office, Trinity House, to a property company for £1.9 million. Within a matter of weeks the property company re-sold it for £9 million.

Compared to the PLA management, the City Fathers of New York are financial geniuses.

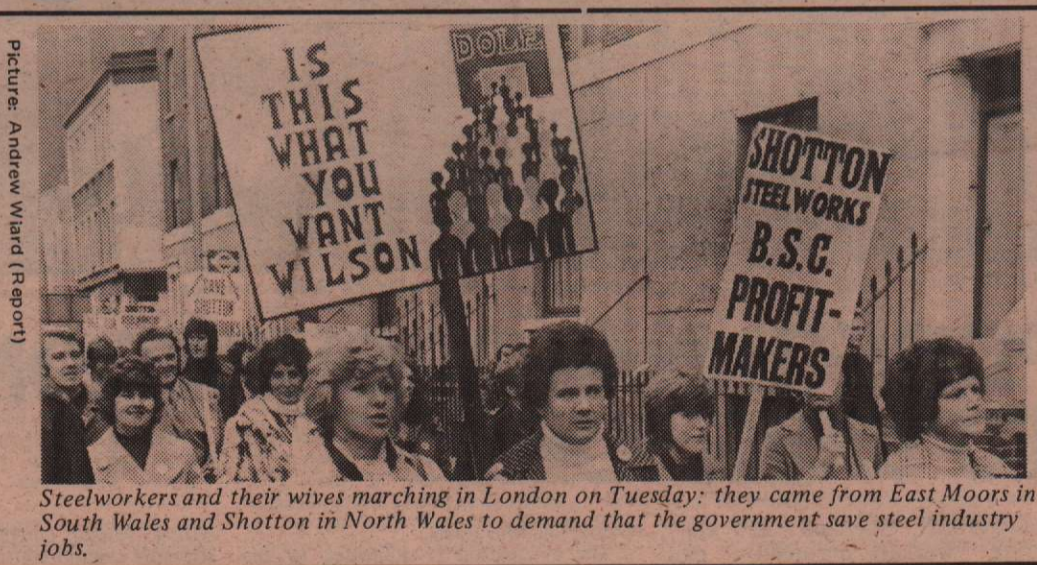
The volume of world trade has slumped by a fifth. Every port in the world is feeling the effects. It has nothing whatever to do with dockers—it is down to the wild zig-zags that result from the stupid, unplanned nature of capitalism.

### Reason

The immediate reason for the crisis is that this year, the PLA had to pay back £11 million owing on an issue of 3½ per cent stock. Again, nothing whatsoever to do with dockers.

But to pay that £11 million the PLA not only had to pay out most of their cash and reserves. They had to borrow more money from the government, at least £6 million more already this year.

Today, of course, the going interest rate is not 3½ per cent but nearer to 17 per cent. In other words, to pay back one set of money-lenders, the PLA have got deeper in debt to another set.



Steelworkers and their wives marching in London on Tuesday: they came from East Moors in South Wales and Shotton in North Wales to demand that the government save steel industry jobs.

By Bob Light and Eddie Prevost, TGWU, Royal Docks, London

## FUND: KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

'I was sorry to read about your trouble with the Frank Chapple court case. I intended sending £1 to your fighting fund but after that I'm sending £2.

'We may have lost this battle and may lose a few more. But we are sure to win the war in the long run. So keep up the good work.'

That's the message from a Socialist Worker supporter in a Liverpool branch of the Engineering Union. We could do with dozens more like that. With them, we can get the new typesetting machinery bought and paid for in no time.

Our thanks this week go to a whole number of people, listed below. They go in particular to the comrades of the Manchester District who did such a wonderful job in raising £750 for the funds in a short period.

This week's figure of **£980.76** raises the overall total to **£3841.66**.

- SW supporters Cov-Rad £2,
- Reader London SE2 £5, York IS £2.80, Brixton Hill IS member & SW supporter £2, Croydon S O IS £5, Hornsey reader £2, SW reader WCUS Wye College Ashford £100, Camborne IS 25p, Manchester comrade £20, W London Hospital Workers IS 50p, SW reader Perkins V8 Plant Fletton £1, City of London Poly IS Society £3.77, Anon £10,
- Fitters Mate AUEW Liverpool 11 Branch £2, Cardiff IS £10, N Herts IS £5, Hitchin reader £10, SW readers Bromley LTE garage & Elmers End LTE Bus garages £2.54, Wolverhampton IS £3, Rowntrees worker York £1, Labour councillor York 40p, SW readers York £2.10, SW supporter University of Aberdeen £2, C A Parsons Branch £7.40, Reader Cambridge £10, Chessington reader £5, Maidstone IS £1, Anon £2, Bristol reader £3, Hackney IS £10.

Send donations to Mel Norris, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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