

Socialist Worker

No 450 8 November 1975 Price 10p

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

In Coventry, Liverpool, London, Glasgow...

NO ONE'S JOB IS SAFE

...and in Milan

BELOW: Workers of the British Leyland subsidiary Innocenti march with their families and 300,000 other Milan workers to defend 1500 threatened jobs



'The working class does not bow down to threats. The hands of the clock of history cannot be turned back, and nor can we be. Workers are not pieces, to be added or removed from the productive machinery, according to whether that machinery is going well or not.'

—Lucio de Carlini, metalworkers' union leader, in Milan last Wednesday

CAN workers fight redundancy? A mighty 'Yes' echoed across Europe last Wednesday when 300,000 metalworkers went on strike and paralysed the huge industrial city of Milan in defence of 1500 jobs.

This was the magnificent response to the threat by British Leyland to close down their huge new Innocenti factory if the unions refused to accept sackings and raise productivity by 20 per

cent. The unions refused, and organised throughout the city. The response to the strike was 100 per cent. Huge demonstrations paraded through the streets. Their placards proclaimed 'one solution—nationalisation without compensation'.

British Leyland hastily postponed their 'absolute deadline' for the sackings in the hope that

the steam will go out of the workers' movement.

It won't. All the signs are that the next round will be fought even more fiercely than the last. Workers everywhere in Britain who are threatened with sackings need to learn the lesson of Milan—that only a mass movement which unites the strength of the employed with the anger of the unemployed can knock the bosses off their perch.

IN a 40-bedroom country house in Buckinghamshire on Monday and Tuesday this week the jobs of 100,000 British workers were the stakes in a grotesque gamble. The players were an American millionaire and his humble servant, Harold Wilson.

John J Riccardo, chairman of Chrysler International, known in Detroit as 'the Godfather', flew in secret to London. He told Wilson that unless he got £35 million of taxpayers' money now and a lot more later, he would take 'extraordinary actions to improve long-term profitability'.

That is, he would sack most of his 26,000 workers in Coventry and Scotland—with devastating consequences for 100,000 other workers who supply components to Chryslers.

Wilson begged the Godfather not to make all the redundancies now. Perhaps, he suggested, they could settle for a few thousand now, and a lot more thousands later.

The deal which emerges from this horrible charade will bring humiliation and poverty to thousands of motor workers who have been told for 20 years to expect 'prosperity for a lifetime'.

The prosperity has been reserved for others. A few months ago, after an inquiry from Chrysler Socialist Worker readers, figures were published by Labour Research showing secret profits for Chrysler through tax-free car sales by way of a Swiss subsidiary.

The Swiss company was making profits of £500 for every worker employed by Chrysler in Britain.

The Chrysler workers are not taking this lying down.

MOVEMENT

On Monday, the shop stewards at Linwood voted to occupy the factory if it is closed down. Shop stewards' leaders in Coventry say they will occupy and seize machinery if any closure is announced.

Peter Bain, TGWU shop steward at Linwood, told Socialist Worker: 'We are not fighting for Chrysler. We are fighting for jobs. The only way to fight this company is by occupation—and a widespread campaign throughout the labour movement for nationalisation without compensation.'

The shocks at Chrysler are only part of an earthquake which is shaking the whole of British industry.

Plesseys plan to close down their huge 7000-strong factory at Edge Lane in Liverpool. In North London, 6000 jobs at Standard Telephones and Cables (ITT) are in peril. In Glasgow and the West of Scotland, the stream of redundancies is turning into a flood.

This must be stopped. It can be stopped. But it won't stop itself.

The workers must use their own industrial power. They must make Godfather Riccardo, Godfather Plesseys, Godfather ITT and Godfather Wilson an offer they can't refuse.

They should occupy their factories, hold the machinery and goods and demand that the government nationalise the companies, under shop floor control of manning levels, and guarantee every single job.

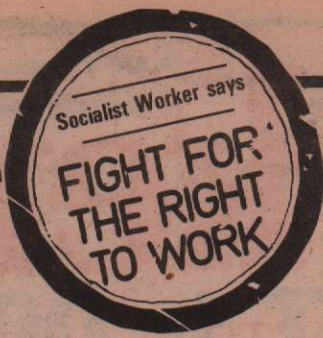
Eighteen Chrysler stewards call for nationalisation meeting—page 15.

Socialist Worker says

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

ALL OUT ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER!

Support the North West TUC call for a march on parliament. Assemble Euston Square, London, 1pm.



SUPPORT GROWS FOR 26 NOVEMBER LOBBY

No more volunteers!

'SACK THE WOMEN' SCANDAL

WOMEN OUT! That was the cry at a union meeting in Birmingham when it was announced that 68 part-time women at the Central Post Office would be sacked in January 'to save 34 men's jobs'.

One woman who was present told Socialist Worker this week how the union, the Union of Post Office Workers, had rigged the meeting, turning the male workers against the women, and how the women were organising to fight back.

The secretary of the branch told us at the meeting: 'There's no alternative, it's going to happen. You can't fight it.' And when it came to the vote, the men were pulled in from the pubs around about the

THE CAMPAIGN for the Right to Work got off to a good start in Coventry last week when 350 shop stewards attended a special district meeting of the Confederation of Engineering Unions.

The city has seen massive sackings and thousands on short time, even before the most recent crisis at Chrysler. Many stewards have accepted short-time and voluntary redundancies as the easiest way out.

The Confed meeting—the result of shop-floor pressure for action—decided to oppose compulsory and voluntary redundancies, to advise a restriction on overtime, to organise support and transport for the 26 November lobby of Parliament, to organise a massive

By Roger Kline, TGWU steward, Massey Ferguson, and Steve Evans, TGWU steward, Press Shop, Cov Rad.

demonstration on a working day in Coventry, to oppose natural wastage and retirement as a way of losing jobs, and to demand full intake of junior workers.

The meeting did not go far enough, (it didn't demand a complete overtime ban or a campaign for a 35-hour week), but it was a big step forward. We can point to the Confed decisions to back up our own efforts in fighting redundancies inside the factories, between the factories and with those already unemployed.

A DELEGATE conference on unemployment called by the Hampshire Association of Trades Councils has rejected the TUC's 'instruction' and voted overwhelmingly in favour of the 26 November lobby. The Association itself has been dutifully following the TUC's line.

When Len Murray's circular was read out at Southampton Trades Council, the anger of the meeting was such that it decided there and then to send a letter to the TUC informing them what it thought of the 'instruction', and to back the rally.

NORWICH Trades Council has decided by an overwhelming majority to support the Right to Work demonstration

A resolution condemning Len Murray's circular as a blatant attempt to sabotage the initiatives of those prepared to fight against unemployment was carried unanimously.

WELLINGBOROUGH Trades Council has decided to support the 26 November lobby and to send delegates. It is also to send a letter to Murray deploring his circular attacking the lobby and to circularise all branches explaining why.

THE OUTER London Divisional Council of the lecturers' union, ATTI, has agreed to support the lobby and to urge the union's executive to do likewise.

But members need to raise the question of the lobby in their branches without waiting for correspondence from division.

The motion was put to the Divisional Council by the Croydon Tech branch, which has just stopped an attempt to make two teachers redundant.

Delegate Sandra Peers said: 'This is only the start of the battle—Croydon Council is considering education cuts which could make one teacher in ten redundant, so it is essential that our union puts its full weight behind the lobby and the Right to Work Campaign.'

THE National Union of Students Executive has thrown its weight behind the 26 November lobby.

Executive member Pete Gillard, of the National Organisation of IS Societies, moved a resolution calling for colleges to mobilise—and to provide free places in their coaches to the demo for local unemployed workers. The resolution was passed unanimously.

On the same day, the NUS conference of students from colleges of further education and techs—who are most likely to suffer unemployment when they leave college—also passed a NOISS motion supporting the demo.

But resolutions alone won't get thousands of students onto the streets. Students around the country have to use them as a lever for mobilising.

Every college must be persuaded to book coaches and to call for all-out strikes of students and campus workers on 26 November.

The stronger sections among students—from universities and polys—should ensure that there are enough places on their coaches for local tech and further education students; and— even more important—free places for unemployed workers.

Post Office and some were pulled off their jobs—to vote for our redundancies.

One hundred and twenty of us (out of 169) turned up and protested, but we were just shouted down by the men. We work 25 hours a week, the men 43 hours. But 68 of us are being made redundant because the parcels office is cutting down on 34 men's jobs.

The Post Office guarantees 12 hours overtime per man. To provide that they sacked us. The union wanted that. In negotiations, it was the union that pushed for the women to be made redundant. The men want overtime, so we must go. That was clearly stated at the union meeting.

We don't want 34 men to lose their jobs. I think we ought to fight for higher wages for all of us.

The redundancies will affect us tremendously. If I lose this job I'll lose my house, because I pay the mortgage. We only go out to work because it is absolutely necessary.

The union ought to be helping us keep our jobs, not getting us out. We pay the same dues as the men, though we are part-timers.

We supported the 1970 strike. We stood shoulder to shoulder on the picket lines with the full-time men. Sometimes there were more of us than them.

Jackson (UPW general secretary) got us back to work. Since then we've had a lot of trouble with working conditions. Because management won, they started pushing us around.

It was the union's fault. We could have won then. We could win now over this if the union fought.

WORKER

It's made more difficult for women. Union meetings are normally held on Sunday mornings—a really inconvenient time for us. Nevertheless, 30 to 50 women normally attend.

I'm hoping to get the women organised before January, so that we can fight. I'll try to convince some of the men that they ought to fight for our jobs, that instead of sacrificing jobs for overtime we should all be fighting for higher wages and our jobs.

If the men workers don't understand the need to fight, then the women are going to have to do it on their own—fight the management, fight the union and fight to win men workers over.

That's why we are organising the Womens Voice Rally in Manchester on 29 November—for all those women who want to fight, whatever the reason.

This trial political? Never!

SOME interesting cross-examination came out of the trial of 14 pacifists at the Old Bailey this week. The 14, all members of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign, were charged with incitement to disaffection after handing troops leaflets detailing their rights.

The following exchange with prosecution expert Colonel Hearne, head of the army recruiting office in the Strand, took place:

Michael Westcott (defendant): Is the situation in Northern Ireland regarded in your office as war?

Col. Hearne: No.

Westcott: If a soldier was given an order to do something that he believed to be wrong, and which he regarded as an atrocity of some sort, has he a right in any circumstances to refuse to obey that order?

Col. Hearne: In my experience, if a soldier is given an order he carries it out.

Westcott: Do you remember the Second World War and the Nuremberg trials?

Col. Hearne: Yes.

Westcott: Were you aware of the precedent that came out of Nuremberg that a soldier is not

excused from committing an atrocity against the human race because he has been ordered to do so by his commanding officer?

The Judge (Mr Justice McKinnon): Volumes have been written on this topic. We have all heard of My Lai and the unfortunate Americans who got into trouble there.

Westcott: I would have thought that it was the unfortunate Vietnamese.

The trial is described by the judge as 'non-political'. Defence evidence starts shortly.



On the march in Manchester: the anger and frustration of so many women must be mobilised

ABORTION: HOW WE CAN LIFT THE CAMPAIGN

FIVE HUNDRED people, including National Abortion Campaign groups from Manchester, Ashton, Bolton and Rochdale, Manchester trades council and other local trade union supporters and women's groups, marched through Manchester on Saturday in support of abortion on demand—a woman's right to choose.

The Labour government has made one great concession to all the anti-abortionists. They are going to allow a debate on the reappointment of the parliamentary select committee on abortion—instead of shelving the committee and ending a debate which will only produce more restrictive legislation.

A London demonstration will be held outside Parliament on the day the crucial debate takes place—most probably in early December. And NAC will be organising a national demonstration when the committee is re-appointed.

London NAC is organising a lobby of Parliament on 20 November, and a rally in Trafalgar Square on Saturday 22 November. Womens Voice will be supporting both.

women's voice rally
Saturday 29 November
11am-5pm, Belle Vue, Manchester.

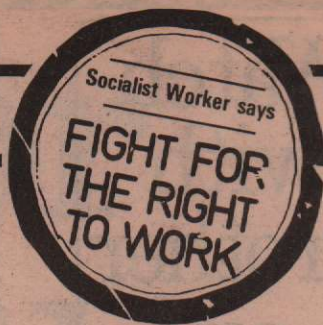
THE WOMEN'S VOICE RALLY IS TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS:
Our right to a job, equal pay and £6 now
Our right to a home, free nurseries and a national health service
Our right to free abortion and contraception
Our right to decent schools for our kids

For tickets, send this form with 10p to Women's Voice, 8 Comtons Gardens, London E2 8DNL

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

The Chrysler crisis:

WHAT WE THINK



THEY DUMP OUR JOBS...

JUST TEN years ago, the first Wilson government proclaimed, with a fanfare of trumpets, its great National Plan. It was going to transform the British economy—so they claimed.

'The plan was a remarkable and thorough piece of work. National economic strategy up to 1970, with priority for exports and the balance of payments, was set out with all its implications... in terms of production, labour requirements and exports and imports, industry by industry including agriculture.'

That is how Harold Wilson describes it in

his book on the 1964-70 government.

What happened? From the horse's mouth we learn: 'It was a brave effort. It was right. It was the events of 1966 and 1967 which proved we did not have the time for the Plan to work in real terms—production, exports, import-saving—before short term speculative factors overwhelmed us.'

In other words, the Plan was not worth the paper it was written on.

In 1974 a new Labour plan emerged. There was going to be 'a major expansion of public ownership', mainly through a National Enterprise Board, planning agreements with big firms and an end to 'un-coordinated efforts'.

That plan too, is dead, if not yet buried. Its centrepiece, the National Enterprise Board, has been castrated.

'Its resources are small compared with the size of the private sector and its ultimate impact is bound to be limited, especially since its activities are of a voluntary nature', comments the Guardian.



But now the government pulls another rabbit out of the hat—the New Economic Strategy.

The NES is to be based on 'backing winners'. No vast sums are to be wasted propping up lame ducks, it is said. Resources are going to be put instead on the 'world-beaters of tomorrow'.

This latest turn was to have been proclaimed this week as the new path to economic salvation.

And then came Chrysler...

The host of economists, planners, statisticians and whatnot on the government's payroll can hardly have failed to foresee the Chrysler crisis. Or if they did fail they are not worth paying in plastic washers.

Yet Industry Secretary Eric Varley went on preparing to launch his new version of Ted Heath's 'no lame ducks' at the very time when an outside one was limping towards his department.

What is abundantly clear is that all these various economic plans, past and present, are worthless.

There can be no real economic planning so long as the centres of economic and financial power are in the hands of capitalists, so long as the basis of production is profit, not use.



In fact, the government has abandoned all real attempts to direct the economy.

Its only serious economic policy is to cut real wages with the £6 limit and with massive unemployment.

No worker, at Chrysler or anywhere else, should accept 'sacrifices' for such policies. They are sacrifices on the altar of private profit.

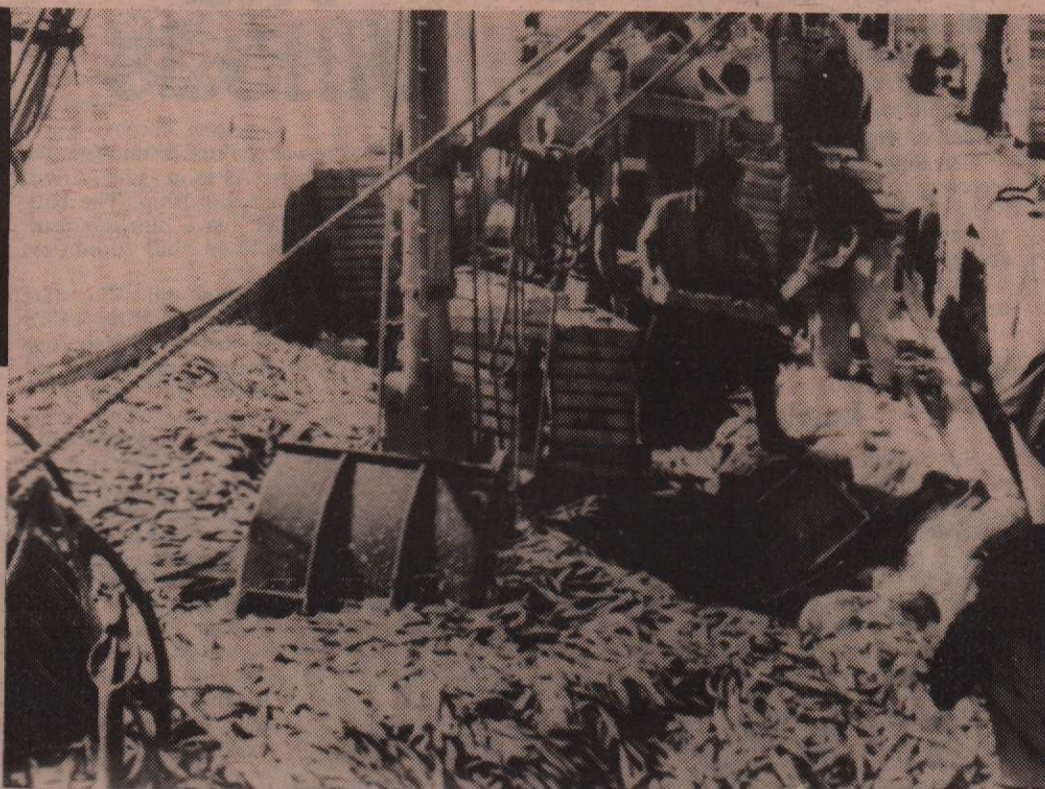
The government must be forced to nationalise Chrysler without compensation to save the jobs.

It is their crisis, the crisis of their system, not ours.

They must be made to pay for its failures.

They dump our food...

Sardines being dumped back into the sea at Marseilles in France last week: the company can't get a 'reasonable' price for them.



BUT THEY WON'T DUMP THIS MAN...

REGINALD MAUDLING, the former offshore property speculator and leg-man for John Poulson (jailed for corruption), flung down a challenge last week to his critics to 'speak up or shut up'.

He was complaining bitterly about a letter from Attorney General Samuel Silkin which confirmed the two main points in Socialist Worker's exclusive article about Maudling and the Poulson corruption case last 7 June.

That police inquiries into Maudling's role in the Gozo hospital affair was continuing

PLAIN

That the police were unable to interview the chief witness in the affair, Dr Kenneth Williams, who is now a 'building consultant' to the Saudi Arabian cabinet.

On Monday, we issued the following press statement taking up Maudling's challenge.

Mr Maudling accuses those who have written about these connections over the past few years of conducting a campaign of innuendo.

NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH APARTHEID

Victory to the black workers and peasants in Africa.

DEMONSTRATE: Sunday 9 November Assemble, 2pm, Charing Cross Embankment.

Called by Anti-Apartheid, London 15 branches and all London and Home Counties students to support.

By Paul Foot

There is no innuendo about it. The facts are quite plain. For instance, in 1966 and 1967 Mr Maudling used his connections as Privy counsellor and deputy leader of the Tory Party to assist Mr Poulson to get a massive hospital contract in Malta.

Mr Maudling also intervened at high levels in the Ministry of Overseas Development, which has the same Minister then as now (Reg Prentice), to get an enormous government grant for the building of the hospital.

Whether Mr Maudling broke the law or not is still being discussed by the authorities. A police report last year about possible prosecution of Mr Maudling was referred to Queens Counsel by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

FOUR

Counsel suggested that Maudling's former business associate, Dr Kenneth Williams, should be interviewed before any decision was taken. Ever since, the police have been trying without success to get a visa to Saudi Arabia to interview Dr Williams.

Mr Maudling himself, incidentally, has not found access to Saudi Arabia as difficult as have the police. Last January he travelled to Saudi Arabia and spent four days in Jeddah.

This must be one of the only cases in history where a suspect has found it easier to travel than have police authorities.

It must also be one of the few cases where the Conservative Party spokesman on Foreign Affairs is under investigation by Scotland Yard.

I have written at length about these matters in Socialist Worker already this year, and will do so again. I am also perfectly prepared to discuss these matters on radio or television—or anywhere else, with or without Mr Maudling.

The Press Association refused to circulate the statement, and refused to disclose why.

So much for the 'whispering campaign' of which Maudling complains. Shout as loud as you like about Maudling—and you can be sure that no newspaper, radio broadcaster or television reporter will hear you.

Meanwhile, Maudling must have been greatly relieved to find out that one of his most enthusiastic backers is none other than Harold Wilson, Prime Minister.

BULLY

On the day after the Silkin statement, Terence Lancaster political correspondent of the Daily Mirror, called for Silkin's sacking by Wilson. Silkin's statement, suggested Lancaster, was a disgrace.

Lancaster is a leading member of Wilson's 'kitchen cabinet'—an inner circle of advisers. Wilson's 'innermost thoughts' are often deliberately leaked through the obliging Lancaster.

What a fitting comment on the Labour government!

Wilson is quite happy for his Attorney General to prosecute pacifists for incitement to disaffection, or Socialist Worker for contempt of court, or to bully the former Clay Cross councillors for £65,000.

But when he dares to tell a part of the truth about Wilson's old buddy, Reginald Maudling, he is threatened with the sack!



Coming or going? Coming—if Maudling's pals in the Labour government have anything to do with it

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Address

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London E2 8DN

Why not take extra copies of Socialist Worker to sell to your mates? We will expect you to pay only for the copies you actually sell.

Please send me

extra copies of Socialist Worker each week

(Fill your name and address in on the left)

Watch with brother ...and sister

THIS SUNDAY morning (9 November) at least half a million trade unionists will be watching 'Union Recognition', the first programme in a new BBC TV series called Trade Union Studies.

Made in co-operation with the TUC and the government-supported Workers Educational Association, the series is accompanied by a BBC Study Book and TUC postal courses. There will be two further series.

Socialists should make an effort to watch them, preferably in a group so as to develop the ideas further in discussion.

Some of the programmes, such as the one to be shown in the New Year on equal pay, are excellent.

JIM BAINES on a new TV series for trade unionists

But not all the programmes are so direct. Some are muddled and leave the viewer confused. Worse, you're left with the idea that if you leave your problems to your trade union official everything will work out.

The programme on redundancy (7 December) is particularly bad. There is little solid information about its causes and no ideas at all about how to fight it. Now that unemployment is over a million and increasing every month we might have expected more than praise for 'civilised redundancy'

agreements.

Even in this programme, however, there are flashes of worth. Danny Conroy, from the Lucas Aerospace Combine, raises some questions about the real causes of redundancy and shows the alternatives ignored throughout the rest of the programme.

It is our job to rescue the few words the programme allows him and carry the argument onto the shop floor.

Why is there this difference between the programmes? On some

issues, the producer may have been confused. More important is the TUC's influence.

The programmes generally exaggerate the importance of the trade union bureaucracy and ignore some important steps in building links between workers.

The final programme, on the multi-nationals, stresses the need for international action. But, significantly, it fails to mention the need for trade unionists to link together in combines to fight against Courtaulds, ICI, GEC and other companies inside this country.

And yet the programmes do provide some much-needed information and some valuable arguments for socialists.

WORLD TRADERS CLUB
ST. KATHARINE'S DAY COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON



MR. LEN MURRAY, OBE., General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress will be the guest speaker at this year's St. Katharine's Day Commemorative Luncheon at the World Traders Club on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 at 12.30 p.m.

Special inclusive Luncheon of
Truite Fumée, Sauce Raifort

Potage Minestra

Gigot d'Agneau Persillé

Petit Pois au Beurre

Pommes Chateaux

Meringue St. Katharine

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Vins: Nuits St. Georges 1970

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Porto: Sandeman Imperial

£6.00 inclusive of VAT, service charge, port and wine

MAKE YOUR TABLE RESERVATION NOW FOR THIS IMPORTANT LUNCHEON
BY TELEPHONING 01-482 2400 OR TICKETS ON 01-482 2400

The St Katharine's Day Massacre: Len Murray and the card that says it all

Would YOU join



the trade union gravy train?

LEN MURRAY is probably copping between £50 and £100 for this little lot. There'll be plenty of other jamborees.

If his predecessor is anything to go by, he will, from an assortment of personal appearances, be able to make at least £100 a week on top of his generous salary.

Certainly, Vic Feather, when TUC general secretary, would have had a bad week indeed if he had made less than £100 from TV appearances and after-dinner speaking engagements.

At his peak, Feather had up to 20 people on the TUC's staff writing speeches for him.

After one little Financial Times conference, he picked up a silver goblet and a cheque for £100.

Lordship

But for once a speech writer, Pat Fisher, now dead, plucked up the courage to ask for a share of the spoils. He got short shrift. Feather insisted on keeping both the goblet and the £100.

Feather—as much in demand as a top pop singer is for opening supermarkets—soon found that every 'do' yielded a contact.

Before long, he was walking into jobs here, there and everywhere. As soon as he retired, Ted Heath gave him a Lordship. The ball-bearing company, SKF, gave him a consultancy at an undisclosed but doubtless generous fee.

The question is when did Vic start becoming a Lord? Was it on the day of his elevation? Or was it long before? In fact, our Victor was a Lord-in-training for years.

For those who seek such advancement, a Lordship is but the crowning trophy of a life which is constantly becoming more and more an establishment routine: the businessman's lunch—the Financial Times conference—is just one signpost along the way.

And you see some strange fellows following those signposts.

HUGH SCANLON does the Financial Times numbers from time to time.

KEN GILL, Communist Party member and general secretary of the white-collar section of the engineering union is at it, too, speaking to Coventry Engineering Employers last summer, for instance. But there are more, plenty more...

SO WHY DO

THEY DO IT?

THE THEORY is that it's all for the good of the cause.

Feather, Murray and Co are 'putting the case for trade unionism', asking for less unemployment and more jobs. They're getting to the people who 'really matter'.

The first thing about this 'justification' is that it involves a fairly large departure from the fundamentals of trade unionism, which are about the organisation and activity of working people rather than about leaders begging the masters for good government.

What's more, it's interesting to note just how utterly ineffective generations of being reasonable, requesting, hoping and downright begging have been, understandable when you think that competition, the drive for profit, and crisis are built-in features of the system.

NEVER

In any case, these union leaders who talk of their power to convince are often very reluctant indeed to set their magic powers to work where they would have some effect.

Jack Jones, for example, puts in a personal appearance at the London American Chamber of Commerce lunch and other such places. But he has never been up to the Ladbroke's picket line in Glasgow where Transport union members have been on strike for recognition for 20 weeks.

He's never urged his thousands of other Transport Union members to finish off the miserable Ladbroke bosses.

He's never been to Liverpool to urge dockers to black Chile's revolting Junta when one such speech would produce tremendous results.

The simple truth about the fine lunches and the corridors of power is that our leaders aren't getting through to people who matter. They're becoming people who matter, part of the establishment.

In that process, a great transforma-

tion is achieved, not of capitalism but of individual men and women. Your tastes for food and drink change. You make increasing use of your expense account to get you these unnecessary things that have now become necessary.

Before long, you need a bigger salary, and little extras here and there from the Roehampton and Roedean Water Board. You start having your clothes made at the tailors your new-found friends recommend.

You start going to their clubs, investing in shares they recommend. Or, like Lords Feather, Briginshaw and Lord-to-be McGarvey (of the Boilermakers Society), you employ a chauffeur.

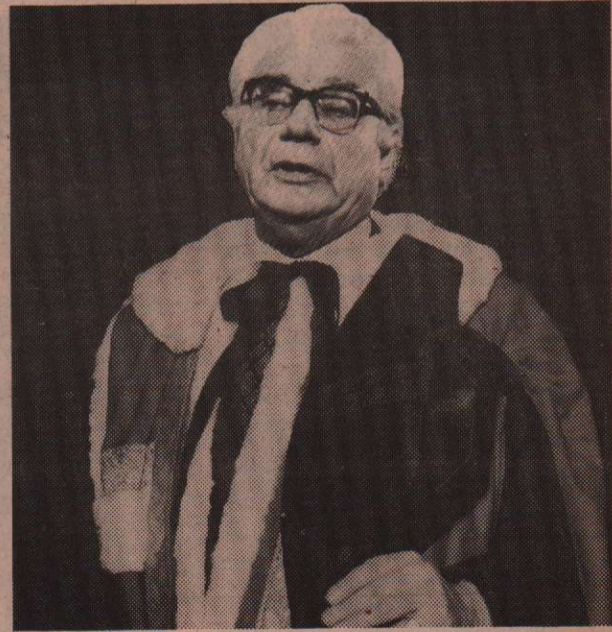
In place of the progress of your class, you put your own progress up the social scale. It's even possible for you to confuse the two.

GRANT

At worst you become a turncoat. At best you become a patch-up merchant, a purveyor of compromises who does nothing to advance the real interests and organisation of working people in the here and now so that we may better confront the struggles of the future.

The operation doesn't only start at businessmen's lunch clubs. Increasingly it reaches down on to the factory floor.

The boss can grant you petty privileges and turn a shop steward into a full time official before you know it. The democratic union



Their Lordships, Feather and Briginshaw: Briginshaw, former general secretary of the print union NATSOPA, flew off last week on a British oil 'training' mission to Iran, the country top of Amnesty International's Torture League. Briginshaw is, of course, a socialist...

machinery, conferences and committees can become a vehicle for personal access to the good life, to generous expense accounts.

You can become important in the local community as a JP or some such post which ties you to the system every bit as effectively as a Lordship does Vic Feather.

Socialists should fight to drive out the gravy train approach. Our movement is not about the good life for the few. It is about changing society and instituting abundance for all.

To drive it out we need recall and accountability. We need regular election and re-election of officials.

And more, we need the best insurance of all that the employers cannot exploit our weaknesses—a powerful socialist party which everywhere fights for these democratic ideals.

International Socialism 83

Monthly Journal of the International Socialist League, November 1975, 21p



Articles include:
Portugal—the latest phase,
The Rank and File Movement, The Italian Crisis, Southern Africa, Angola—a new Congo, Notes of the Month, Reviews.
30p including postage, from ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Blueprint for another Chile

from Robin Ellis in Lisbon

**ONE
DICTATOR
AGAINST
ANOTHER
IN THE
SAHARA**

THE right wing in Portugal have been planning another coup over the past week. Involved in the plot are representatives of NATO and the American CIA, fascist ex-generals and 'moderate' senior officers in the government.

Early last week the right-wing command of the air force admitted that it had opened up airports for fighter planes and had equipped civil aircraft and helicopters for military purposes. It claimed these moves were in defence of the sixth provisional government, 'the last chance against fascism'.

But the real reason emerged early on Monday morning, in a

statement from the left-wing Armed Forces Revolutionary Vigilance Committee.

The plan was to organise military exercises the coming weekend, 7, 8 and 9 November, just before full independence is due to be granted to Angola on 11 November. Troops would be deployed as if responding to an invasion of Portugal from the south.

All military units in the south would be withdrawn to just north of Lisbon, where they would be joining troops from the Northern and Central military regions. From there they would invade the

Alentejo region, where the population is strongly left-wing.

At the same time, the two paramilitary police forces, which have recently been rearmed, would work with the right-wing influenced commando units and the new hand-picked military intervention force, AMI, to 'neutralise' the Lisbon area. Lisbon is the stronghold of the revolutionary left within the armed forces.

These plans were drawn up at the Military High Command Studies Institute on 27 October. Present were Brigadier Charais, head of the Central military region who was to

be put in charge of all land forces, and General Pinto Freire, head of the air force. These are both members of the ruling military Council of the Revolution and of the Group of Nine 'moderate' officers led by Melo Antunes.

Also present was Pires Veloso, head of the Northern military region, who has been responsible for repression against the left wing in the CICA and RASP barracks in Oporto.

The brains behind the operation was Colonel Oliveira Carvalho, who has intimate relations with the American Embassy. With him at the meeting were Colonel Ramires de Oliveira, a NATO representative at Brussels, and Major Espírito Santo, who has just returned from a course on information and spying in the US. Most of these officers used to belong to the staff of the fascist ex-General Bettencourt Rodrigues.

Seize

Bettencourt himself has just been transferred from Trafaria Prison to Caxias Prison, which is controlled by another member of the Antunes group, Costa Neves. It is well known that the right-wing prisoners in Caxias meet freely, receive guests without interference, and are even allowed out for up to two weeks to go abroad. This recently happened to two of the key figures involved in the attempted coup on 11 March.

The moves in Portugal were due to be matched by action in Angola. Portuguese paratroopers and commandos were to seize key points in the capital, Luanda, from the authentic liberation movement MPLA, destroying its mass media installations. This would fit in neatly with the plans of the western-run fake 'liberation' movements, FNLA and UNITA, which are trying to advance towards Luanda with the backing of armed Portuguese fascists and white South African troops.

All this has been planned at a time when there is a build up of US warships off the coast of Portugal, where an attempt is being made to weaken the basis of support for the left and for the rank and file soldiers' movement, SUV, by discharging from the army tens of thousands of conscripts.

Protest

The conscripts, who, with more than 400,000 unemployed, have no chance of getting jobs, are resisting such moves. As a protest, representatives of 1000 soldiers controlling the arms dumps refused to allow any further movement of arms last week.

Another move of the right has been to try to seize control from Communist Party supporters of Lisbon's biggest morning paper, O Seculo. Members of the Socialist Party occupied certain of its installations after getting the support of about half its employees in a postal ballot boycotted by the left.

The left, organised in the factories and among the rank and file soldiers, has not been taking these moves sitting down. Last week, 1000 left-wing soldiers and 30,000 civilians marched through the streets of Oporto in the right-wing led Northern Military region, while SUV announced that it had members in every military unit in the Central region.

Workers in Portugal are aware that the right wing, the CIA and NATO are out to smash their movement as the Chilean workers' movement was smashed in September 1973. It is vital that the meaning of the right wing's plans for Portugal is explained to workers in every factory in Britain.



Cheering Moroccans marching towards the border with Spanish Sahara

by Laurie Flynn

THE Spanish fascist regime and its new front man, Prince Juan Carlos, look as if they are set fair to stumble into a serious confrontation over the mineral-rich Sahara.

The part of the Sahara which Spain still controls is the last remaining relic of its once extensive empire. Until 1956, when Morocco got formal independence, it was jointly exploited by Spain and France. Now the Moroccan state, a vicious dictatorship in its own right

but nevertheless with more claim to the Sahara territory than Spain, has organised a mass march to claim the land.

The march followed the defeat of Morocco's and neighbouring Mauretania's joint claim to the land at the International Court of Justice. This far from impartial Court ruled that there should be some sort of United Nations presence in the Sahara until the 75,000 population voted on their future. The Spanish regime has suddenly become converted to such

'democracy' for the Sahara, because it believes it will be able, by bribery or force, to get the population to vote for its nominees.

If it does come to an armed confrontation between Morocco and Spain, let us hope that the struggle will result in the back of the Spanish regime being broken.

The Moroccan regime is using the march to further more than one end. Most of the marchers are unemployed seasonal workers who have just finished their only labours for the year.

PORTUGAL SOLIDARITY FUND

WE had an interesting letter this week from a ship's photographer in Miami, Florida, right near one home of Richard Nixon, the former US president.

He writes: 'Congratulations for producing Tony Cliff's Portugal at the Crossroads. This must go down as one of the Marxist greats. But what about the Civil War? What about the spreading of revolution from Portugal? These two items are not adequately dealt with.'

We're happy to report this week that the workers' newspaper Republica has published Socialist Worker's recent Hammer or Anvil centrespread comparing Portugal and Germany 1919. The fund helps us to increase such cooperation.

This week's total £195.05.
Our thanks to Roy Lockett £1, Walthamstow teachers £15, Peter Sedgwick £5, Trumpington Estate SW readers £1, Barnsley £2, West Yorkshire £12.60, Tariq Ali, Bradford £2, SW Art Department £3, Socialist Workers Action Group, Australia £10, Ted Broadsmith 25p, UCATT shop steward £3, Sheryl Yanowitz £40, Rodney Harris £1.70, C A Clark, Sheffield £20, North London District £11, J R Gilding, Hove £1.50, Easter Ross, £2.50, NUT members Foxwood School, Leeds £3.60, Enfield Poly IS meeting £2, LSE IS Society £9.29, Manchester students £1.80.

Donations to Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Six Greek socialists jailed

THE new government in Greece is everywhere praised for its democratic qualities. But last week a political trial showed the real face of the Karamanlis government.

Six members of the Greek organisation Socialist Revolution, with which Socialist Worker has fraternal links were jailed for eight months and then thanks to the volume of protest bailed pending appeal. The six are Sophia Kronopolous, Niko Ria, Andrea Zoanos, Niko Drosos, Vasili Pseremedos and A Andreopolous.

Their crime was putting up posters denouncing the government for using police against strikers, for

protecting fascists, and for putting trade union activists and their supporters on trial. Socialist Revolution also called for action in support of jailed militants.

In the six months between arrest and trial every single prediction made in the Socialist Revolution posters came true. Pardons were given to the three top men in the deposed Greek dictatorship. There are to be no trials of those responsible for the bloodshed in Cyprus

What's more, there have been three major trials of militants for striking or demonstrating in solidarity with strikers.

The man who 'makes good'

A READER from Leeds asks for comments on these questions that have often come up in discussions with workmates:

If a man starts with no capital and works for an average wage but saves a sum each week to start a business... He does not gamble, drink or smoke. What right has any government to take over his business at a time when his small beginnings have become a giant concern?

Myth

What would be the justification for not paying a person with educational qualifications who is a manager far more money than a labourer?

What about people (a small number exist) who just do not want to work but prefer to live on social security?

The first thing to be said about the



hard-working, non-smoking worker who becomes a capitalist and builds up a giant concern, is that he is a myth. There is no such animal. Like the dodo, he was always a very rare species and he has long been extinct.

I am not saying that a man or woman can't start a corner shop or a small building repair firm by such methods. What he or she certainly cannot do is create a big concern of

any kind.

Why not? Because it is impossible to save out of wages, even if you live on bread and water, the kind of money needed to set up an enterprise that can compete with the giants of modern industry. The big fish dominate the capitalist sea, and they are getting bigger all the time.

Huge

In Britain, the 100 biggest firms produced 15 per cent of total output in 1909, 20 per cent in 1950, 50 per cent in 1970 and now are pushing towards 60 per cent.

These are concerns like ICI, GEC, British Leyland, Reed International, Rank-Hovis-McDougall and Cadbury-Schweppes. They are vast concentrations of capital and, typically, the result of mergers between already huge companies.

Most of the rest of the output comes from a larger number, some thousands, of 'medium' sized companies which are themselves very

big—in terms of capital invested—compared with the companies of 50 or 100 years ago.

Many of the top 100 are multinational giants, often US based like Ford, Vauxhall (General Motors) and Chrysler. The economist Charles Levinson writes: 'Nearly 35 per cent of the Western world's non-US production is accounted for by American subsidiaries or American-associated firms.'

This trend towards ever fewer and bigger firms is unstoppable. It is the inevitable result of unplanned production for profit, on the one hand, and technological progress on the other.

'One capitalist always kills many,' said Marx and time has proved it up to the hilt.

Look at the oil business. So huge is the capital required to start up in the North Sea that even very big companies like Getty Oil—owned by the richest man in the world—have to combine with others to compete with the super-giants.

The 'small man', the small capitalist let alone the worker, doesn't get a look-in. He stands far, far less chance than Crystal Palace would stand against Leeds United.

Of course, it is still possible for a man who starts with very little capital to make a lot of money.

How? By getting into the racket of financial manipulation, take-overs, asset-stripping and speculation.

Jim Slater, who has just come unstuck, is an accountant who made £7 million from very little by these methods.

Paid

But such people produce nothing, nor do they organise production. They are pure parasites, like burglars.

The only difference is that burglary is illegal whereas, under capitalism, financial manipulation and speculation is an honoured profession.

Where do the giant firms get their resources from? They get them from the workers they employ.

Leaving aside 'windfall profits' from luck or foresight—and one man's gain is another man's loss in these cases—there is no other way.

Profit is the difference between the value of what the workers produce and the wages they are paid.

Now how productive a worker is, how much 'surplus value' he makes for his boss, certainly depends on the amount and quality of the 'fixed capital'—machinery and equipment—he uses.

But that, too, is produced by workers. Capitalists own, they do not produce. That has always been true of capitalists, small as well as big.

Power

The justification for taking over his business, that is for taking over the big firms—the really small ones hardly matter—is quite simple.

They have immense and irresponsible power, power over people's lives, and their operations cause slumps, unemployment, inflation and a host of other evils.

We need a planned economy controlled by the actual producers, the workers.

But what about management? Don't managers perform a useful job by organising production?

That is a convenient starting point for discussing the second question which I will take up next week.



YOUNG white girl ordered by authorities to divorce black husband and marry 'one of her own kind'.

South Africa? Rhodesia? Wrong both times. The girl's name is Alena Grulichova, and she is a citizen of that well-known 'socialist' country, Czechoslovakia.

(Daily Mail, 29 October)



BRITISH executives' salaries rose only 23 per cent last year, BBC-TV news sobbed last week. Manual workers got 31 per cent. But the BBC, impartial as always, failed to point out that, in cash terms, the average executive got a £23 a week rise, bringing them up to roughly £128 a week now. Which is rather more than most manual workers.

MAN WHO LIVES IN FEAR

'AMIN'S secret police haunt me every night. I cannot sleep. I know they will kill me.'

That's my mate, Ebrahim Dhanji talking. We work at Peterborough hospital.

The Labour government want to deport him. An appeal is pending.

Although born in Kenya, Ebrahim spent most of his life in Uganda. When Amin expelled Asians in 1972, he was forced to stay. Chief Engineer at a huge textile mill, he was too important to lose.

Amin's bullies made his life hell. They tortured him. They kept him under constant watch. They harassed his family.

Ebrahim smuggled his wife and four children out of Uganda. Then he managed to escape himself.

ALLY

Now Roy Jenkins wants him out—because he has a Kenyan passport. Under the 1971 Immigration Act, this means expulsion.

Jenkins wrote to Ebrahim claiming he is 'not satisfied that you have a well founded fear of being persecuted should you leave the UK.'

Jenkins has an ally in Employment Secretary, Michael Foot, who recently wrote to NUPE, Ebrahim's union, saying:

'Although I sympathise with his difficulties, you will realise that my main concern is to safeguard the employment opportunities for resident people.'

Had Enoch Powell made such racist comments, Foot and Jenkins would have led the liberal outcry.

A campaign committee has been set up. Factory leaflets, a mass meeting and a lobby of Parliament is planned.

If they fail, more militant action will have to be considered. Workers—black and white—must always oppose racist laws.

In Ebrahim's case, his life may depend upon such solidarity.

CHRIS PORSZ

DYNAMIC—THAT'S LABOUR

ALARMED by the growing IS presence in the town, Peterborough Labour Party recently held a recruitment rally. It was a model of Labour dynamism.

Star speaker, Stan Newens, (Tribune MP for Harlow) never turned up. Another speaker—local MP Michael Ward

How the £6 freeze helps the low-paid...

REMEMBER the big excuse for the £6 wage freeze when the Labour government first brought it in? It was going to help the low-paid, the sort of people whose welfare suddenly obsesses our leaders at such times.



Dave Rattle, 30, is low paid. He takes home £28 a week for his 57 hours as a night watchman at an Ipswich museum. At weekends, he works a 20-hour shift without any facilities for a meal or a rest, since he has to make hourly security reports by telephone.

After losing his right arm in an industrial accident, Dave had no choice when the council 'offered' him pay and conditions far below those of their other workers.

He was taken on for a basic week of 55 hours at the wages paid to other workers for 40 hours, and so only two hours out of his 57 hour week count as overtime.

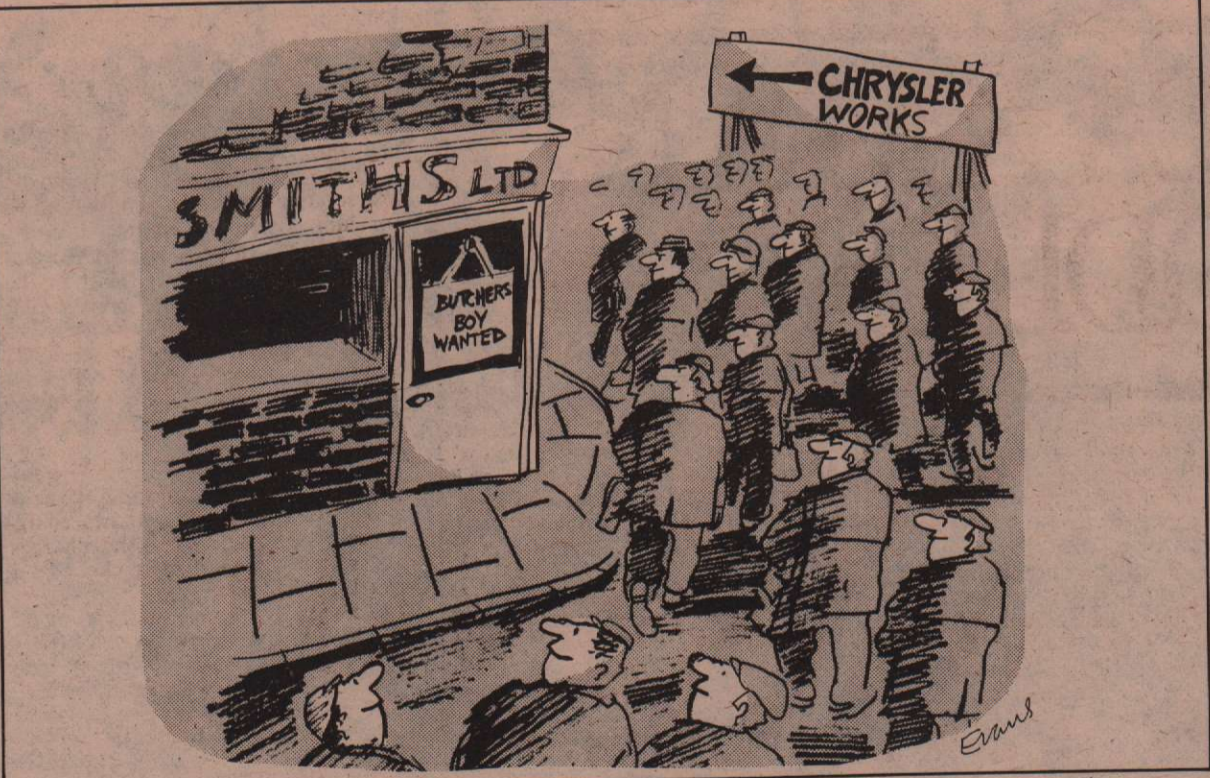
Some months ago, his union, NUPE, won a reduction in his hours. But now the agreement has fallen by the wayside because of—that's right, you've guessed it—the government's pay limit regulations.

Under these, any reduction in hours must be set against the £6 increase NUPE has just negotiated for its members.

Labour's policy is, of course, absolutely inflexible—even for the chronically low-paid it cares so much about.

DAVE HANDLEY

—arrived one hour late. Not that the cock-up mattered. With one exception, the audience of 27 were either Labour Party hacks or Socialist Worker activists. The odd one out—the 'potential member'—turned out to be a Tory-type union basher.



THE SECRETARY of the National Front branch in Slough has resigned after seeing John Tyndall's Honour Guard in action—and being 'sickened by the spectacle'.

Maurice Wilson, a former Welsh Guard quit after a recent meeting in London addressed by Edward Fields, editor of Thunderbolt, the official organ of the National Front's American equivalent. Seems two black men who remonstrated with Fields were seized by the Honour Guard—Tyndall's personal retinue of strong-arm merchants—taken outside and beaten up with bicycle chains.

For those who don't know, John Tyndall is a leading member of the Front, a Nazi, and a devoted believer in law and order.

ANOTHER resignation to shake the unhappy Front is that of the Chairman of Derby branch. He couldn't take it any more after getting some nasty letters and telephone calls. His name? The Reverend John Holden, Minister of Kegworth Baptist Church...

INTERNATIONAL Socialists chanting Fascist scum—out! at a picket of a Front meeting in North London last week got a ticking off from the law. Said the police: 'You must stop using provocative language—don't say "scum".' Suitably amended, the chanting continued: Fascists—out! Far more reasonable, agreed the police...

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO WRITE SOMETHING FOR FIFTH COLUMN?

Socialist Worker Public Meetings THE

CIA

AND THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT

Speaker: Philip Agee (former CIA agent)

BRISTOL

Tuesday, 11 November, 7.30pm, Shepherds' Hall, Old Market.

EAST LONDON

Wednesday 12 November, 8pm, the Connaught Hotel, Connaught Road, E16.

BIRMINGHAM

Tuesday 18 November, 7.30pm.

Digbeth Civic Hall, 7.30pm

TIPTREE

Wednesday 19 November 8pm.

Further details to come

Carib jury throws out police lies

WHY on the night of 11-12 October last year were 150 police and six dogs sent into the Carib Club in Cricklewood, North London. Why was there massive police violence and racist abuse? And why were 42 young blacks arrested?

The reasons are now clear. They came out in the course of the 80-day trial here at London's Central Criminal Court, the Old Bailey whose motto is, laughably, 'Defend the Poor and punish the Wrongdoer'. They came out because for once the jury could not stomach the police and their lies.

The police claimed they raided the club because they were seeking someone who was 'under suspicion of theft'.

There was some antagonism as soon as the first policeman entered the Carib Club dance hall, understandable when you remember that young blacks know of dozens of cases where the police have dropped into a club or restaurant for a little fun.

But at the Carib the police reaction was particularly swift and intense. Massive reinforcements were immediately summoned until the raiding

party numbered a total of 147 police. Even the restaurant above the dance hall was immediately ordered to be evacuated.

The inspector in charge of the operation—interestingly enough it should be an inspector—told his men to 'arrest anyone they recognised' as they came down the narrow stairs.

The stairs were lined with police. The young blacks upstairs were told that the police were really angry. Understandably they hung back fearing the worst. But before long they started to comply and tried to file down the stairs. The police had other ideas. They laid in, using their beloved truncheons freely.

The worst single incident that happened concerned Earl Scott. Earl is a haemophiliac. The slightest scratch has serious consequences for him. When it came to his turn to go down the line he pulled out his hospital card and held it in the air, for fear that he would be attacked. His fears proved well-grounded.

His card was seized from him. He was hit hard and fell to the ground bleeding. He was charged with assaulting the police. Last Thursday the jury found him not guilty.

Joseph Smart also got the treatment. He was lifted as one of those recognised during the raid and charged with affray—one of the charges against the Shrewsbury pickets—and assault.

According to Constable Eric Weatherall, Joseph had brandished a bottle, charged down the stairs lined by the police, shouting 'like a gorilla'.

A police witness effectively punctured this police fabrication. The defendant would have 'needed a machine gun to storm down the stairs', he admitted to the court.

Roger Streadwick was the subject of a classic fit-up. He hadn't been near the club at the evening. But he'd been in trouble with the police before and so he was rounded up, 'implicated' and made to write a 'confession'. He was acquitted too.

What's more, police and others attacks on black people won't end with the Carib victory. Publicity alone won't do the trick. To bring them to an end black people must themselves organise. Through their own endeavours, through linking up in struggle with others who are resisting exploitation, the catalogue of horror stories can be brought to an end.

The jury have decided that the police case was based on reprisals against young blacks and on lies and fabrications, familiar police techniques.

The acquittals are a victory. The judge predictably declined to refer the matter of police behaviour to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is supposed to decide if the police should be prosecuted. Usually they decide against, it should be noted. They prefer to keep the lash of the law for pickets, young blacks and pacifists who hand out leaflets to soldiers.

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Lawrence Thomas' case was even more fantastic. He was driving home through Harrow, five miles away from the Carib Club. He was stopped for not displaying a tax disc, and kept in overnight. Early next morning he was charged with possessing an offensive weapon at Cricklewood.

Lawrence was young and black. That was enough for Britain's finest.

Under cross-examination at the trial, most of the police admitted that there was no violence from the youngsters during the evacuation.

The defence argued that toughly and to the point. The police were involved in a violent reprisal against black youngsters in general, argued the lawyers and the evidence.

Victory

So where do we stand now that the trial is over? Eleven young blacks have gone through a terrifying ordeal. Their lives have been left in tatters. Unknown numbers of others have been terrified by the operation.

The jury have decided that the police case was based on reprisals against young blacks and on lies and fabrications, familiar police techniques.

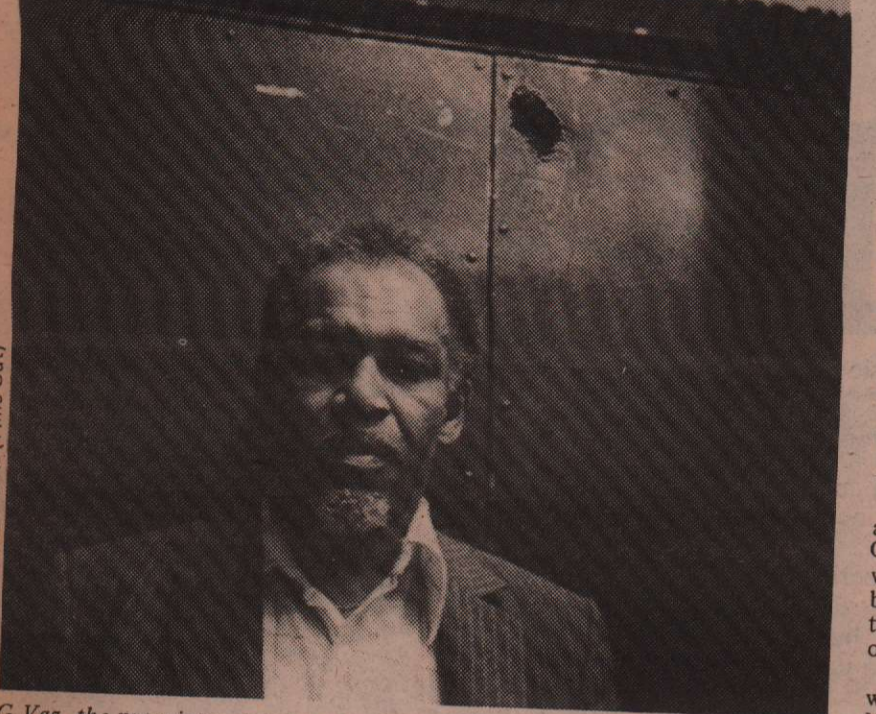
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CARIB CONTINENTAL CLUB
Dancing
EVERY SATURDAY
8 PM to 5 AM
[SUNDAY: 6.30-12 o'clock]
DANCE to
London's Top Bands EVERY



Picture: Dennis Morris (Time Out)

G Vaz, the proprietor, outside the club—which is now shut down

THE TAXMAN FIDDLES...

AS British law is, in theory, based on the fundamental principle that all citizens in Britain have equal rights, I duly applied for tax relief for the expenses incurred in buying for the footwear and clothing that I wore for work as an engineering worker.

I broke my claim down as follows:

- 1 Tools and overalls—based on the agreements that the Inland Revenue have with the craft unions, plus the following items:
- 2 Replacement of shoes (three pairs), repair of shoes, shoelaces.
- 3 Replacement of socks (six pairs), laundering of socks.
- 4 Replacement of underpants (four pairs), laundering of underpants.
- 5 Replacement of trousers and accessories (2½ pairs), repair and laundering of trousers.
- 6 Replacement of shirts (four), repair and laundering of shirts.
- 7 Replacement of cardigans, laundering of cardigans.

CLAIM

I did not take into account the costs of heating, lighting, depreciation costs of washing machine, ironing, ironing board and so on. I itemised these costs on the basis of estimation, and finally listed my claim as follows:

- 1970-71: £68;
- 1971-72: £72;
- 1972-73: £76;
- 1973-74: £80.

The tax relief agreement between the Inland Revenue and the trade unions was:

- 1970-71: £18;
- 1971-72: £18;
- 1972-73: £21;
- 1973-74: £26.

Having submitted my claim the tax authorities used every means of skuldugery at their disposal to

IN these times of depression, one of the few remaining growth industries is tax evasion. The case of the Lonhro directors who had their salaries paid in the Cayman Islands to avoid tax is fairly commonplace.

Another important component of tax fiddling is tax relief—repayment of necessary expenses incurred at work. This range covers everything from the £50 a year allotted to Lady Singer for nail varnish to the expense accounts, company cars, company houses and medical benefits of top executives, to the useless, expensive and outdated robes of Britain's highly-paid judges.

This is the story of how one engineering worker, ALBERT WOODCOCK, devoted much time and trouble to discover there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, to discover how the elementary clothing needs of working people are exempt from the tax relief that the rich feed on:

crush it, including lies, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, delaying tactics, and sheer bloody-minded incompetence. The avalanche of paperwork from them must in itself have cost a small fortune.

Thus on 9 March I wrote to Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, enclosing full documentation of my claim and the Inland Revenue's response, requesting that he take me to court to resolve the matter. I wrote again on 29 March. My third letter, a registered letter, was sent on 18 May.

I received no reply, and no return of the documentation. So it follows that either the documentation has been impounded or deliberately destroyed. Fortunately, I still have enough to prove my case.

Finally, owing to the above listed attitude of the tax authorities in their attempt to defraud me, I presented my case to the Special Commissioners of Taxations at a hearing held at the VAT Tribunal Centre, Warwickgate House, on 9 May 1975.

Although my estimates were low, the Commissioners further reduced them to £45, £48, £51, and £54 respectively. The only breakdown of the figures that the Commissioners would agree to was £15 for tools and the remainder for footwear and clothing.

HOPE

So after all the persecution, delaying and effort I managed to win what amounts to a pittance. Yet on present inflation, no worker in general engineering should be on less than £100 a year expenses.

During the past four years I have endeavoured to obtain from the highest tax authorities an exact statement of specific items that are permissible expenses. No one in Britain will give me this information.

As I wrote in my letter to Healey virtually every MP is a participant, in expense accounts, phones and directorship tax-free perks of every description. So there is little hope of ending tax corruption through them.

Tax relief is the reason judges dress up as relics of a bygone age. Their wigs and ermines are tax deductible. Indeed every sort of uniform you could think of is applicable, even though most of the functions involved could be carried out with 100 per cent efficiency in ordinary clothes.

The massive tax free expenses and benefits enjoyed by 'top people'—from free cars to bedmates—stand in stark contrast to the relentless opposition my claim received.



Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers

BIRMINGHAM Flame, Chingari and Socialist Worker meetings:

Sunday 9 November: Day school on black workers in Britain and the struggle for socialism. 11am-4pm. Lozzells Social Development Centre, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

Sunday 9 November: Planning meeting for black parents and youth movement. 5pm, Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

Thursday 13 November: Picket outside Dudley magistrates court in support of Gerald Bailey against police brutality.

Sunday 16 November: Fight unemployment among young blacks. Speakers: 'Whip' Bean (Detroit Chrysler shop steward) and from Black Parents Movement, IWA and International Socialists. 3.30pm, Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

Sunday 30 November: Day school on Imperialism and the struggle for Inter-

national Socialism in the Caribbean, South Asia, Russia and China. 11am-4pm, Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth.

'Whip' Bean—a black chief shop steward at the Chrysler US engine plant in Detroit and chairman of the United Coalition, a rank and file organisation of trade unionists in the Local 51 branch of the American Auto Workers Union, will be in Britain to attend the National Rank and File meeting on The Crisis in the Motor Industry on Saturday 15 November. He will also be speaking at meetings in: **COVENTRY:** Monday 17 November, 7.30pm, Lanchester Polytechnic. **EAST LONDON:** Tuesday 18 November, time and place to be announced. **SOUTH LONDON:** Wednesday 19 November, time and place to be announced.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Spout Green School, Ennis Road, N14.

Picture: Chris Heinitz

Tyndale: The battle for our schools opens

THE CAMPAIGN

TERRY ELLIS became headmaster of William Tyndale School in January 1974. One of his first acts was to introduce democratic decision-making among the staff—in place of the rigid hierarchical system which exists in most schools. The atmosphere in the school immediately became more relaxed and friendly.



Dolly Walker, a part-time teacher at the school, didn't like this new approach. She started a one-woman campaign against Terry Ellis and the majority of the teachers. The managers of the school weighed in on her side. So did Tory councillors, and even some Labour councillors.

Dolly Walker peddled her own black paper about the school around the parents' houses. She complained that 'anarchists and trotskyists' were indoctrinating the children.



The campaign terrified many middle-class parents. They promptly removed their children from the school. As a result, reading standards have dropped. As one inspector's report admitted last March, this mass exodus was the main reason for the low reading standards in the first and second-year children.

Finally, Dolly Walker proved her undying concern for the children of William Tyndale and in the whole state education system. She left to take a nice job in a private prep school in South London.

THE FACTS

THE campaign against the teachers at William Tyndale is founded on one suggestion: that the reading standards of the children there are worse than average.

The exact opposite is the case. The report of D V Rice, district inspector for the Inner London Education Authority, on 11 March 1975 stated: 'Out of 46 fourth-year children who will be transferring to secondary school this year, eight had a reading age below nine years.'

In other words, 17 per cent of the children were falling behind with their reading.

Now listen to Geoffrey Howitt, headmaster of Samuel Rhodes School, Islington, at a teachers' conference in Islington last year: 'In my estimate, 30 to 40 per cent of the fourth-year children throughout Islington have reading ages below the age of nine.'

In other words, the standards at William Tyndale School are twice as good as in other Islington schools.

The situation in the third year is even more remarkable. The inspector's report went on: 'In the third year, all but four had made progress commensurate with their chronological age.' That's better than the third year standard in any London primary school!

Or again: 'The visit was unannounced, but at 9.45am, four classes out of eight were engaged in some reading activities.'

Is this the same school the press has been picturing, where children run riot all day long?

'With the smaller numbers and the very generous staffing ratios,

THE national press and television has discovered a schools crisis.

Is it the desperate crisis in staffing, which means 5000 teachers out of work, a third of the students at teacher training colleges facing unemployment, and huge increases in school classes?

Is it the total collapse of the programme for building nursery schools—and the resulting strain and chaos in the lives of hundreds of thousands of working women and their children?

Is it the desperate shortage of school meals facilities, which means more hungry children than ever before since the war?

No. It is none of these things. They are reserved for the inside pages of liberal newspapers. On the front pages, in the prime time for news reporting on television, are the details of a single school in one of London's worst slum areas, the William

Tyndale Junior School, in Islington.

During the past five weeks, 24 reporters from national newspapers have been set to work full-time on a hideous witch-hunt of the teachers at William Tyndale. Egged on by the rantings of Rhodes Boyson, the reactionary Tory MP, they have strained the limits of their trade to persuade their readers that the main threat in education is left-wing teachers.

Two weeks ago, Baroness Macleod, wife of a former Tory minister, told a Tory meeting in Northamptonshire that the 'main cause' of crime and delinquency was the existence of 'International Socialist teachers in our schools'. That lunatic chant has now been taken up by the entire national press over the William Tyndale affair.

What are the real facts? Why has this campaign been mounted?

there is now much greater control and a quieter atmosphere throughout the school', said the inspector.

Even the much more hostile inspector's report of October agrees: 'The teachers undoubtedly care for their children and are aware of the background to their problems.'

How do the teachers themselves see their job? Here is a short statement of aims they presented.

1. To encourage all children to live together in social harmony.

2. To encourage children to think for themselves and make their own decisions about their learning and their lives.

3. To ensure that each child can read, express himself/herself clearly and thoughtfully in language.

4. To ensure that each child is well grounded in basic mathema-

tics.
5. To provide a wide choice of activities and interests for a child to experience and enjoy in a stable environment.'

And how did they organise the school?

During the mornings, the children were in mixed-aged groups, concentrating on language development, mathematics and other classroom activities with their own teacher. During the afternoons, there was a system of options in three teams. Options that were offered include: steel band, boating, ice-skating, drama, art, cookery, dress-making, embroidery, wood-work (all crafts were for boys and girls), local visits, French conversation, project work and library visits. Parents were welcome to work with their own children, other children, use the facilities for themselves or simply meet each other.

YOU couldn't get two more devoted left-wingers in trendy Islington than John and Aelfrith Gittings. They live in the very best part of NW5 and until recently two of their children went to William Tyndale. Aelfrith became a manager of the school, and became worried at the campaign mounted against it. So worried in fact, that she and John decided that one of the children should leave the school straight away, and another, who was at the infant school, shouldn't go on to the junior school—they might fall foul of the 'trots'.

John Gittings is an expert on Far Eastern affairs and in his left-wing days was something of a Maoist. He writes on such matters for the Guardian, a paper which has been especially vitriolic in the campaign

'The good old days' - good for

THOSE leading the campaign against William Tyndale teachers are not interested in truth—even less than they are interested in the welfare of working-class children.

There is an illiteracy problem in this country. But it was there long before the arrival of 'progressive ideas' in the classrooms.

A month ago the BBC launched 'On the Move' programme which sets out to help adult illiterates. In the first three weeks 10,000 people came forward and asked to be taught to read and write. What schools educated them? And how were the schools organised, and what were the ideas of the teachers, who produced the rest of the estimated two million adult illiterates in

by Eamonn McCann

this country?

There isn't a factory floor in the land where there isn't a man or a woman incapable of reading this article—not because they were taught by long-haired teachers with way-out ideas, but because they went to rotten, overcrowded schools, where they were scarcely taught at all.

But can anyone remember that system being denounced by the type of people now leading the attack on the teachers of William Tyndale.

Of course not. In fact they would quite like to get back to it. One of their chief spokesmen, the Tory MP and former head-teacher Rhodes Boyson, told a

radio interviewer last week: 'We must get back to the Good old days'. As every older reader of Socialist Worker will know, the 'Good old days' were good only for the few—and the few were very few. That's what Boyson likes about them.

So-called

It is no accident that the controversy about the William Tyndale School should erupt right now. It is a sign that hostilities have commenced in the battle to decide the future shape of our educational system—a battle in which no worker can afford to stay neutral.

The years since 1945 have been boom-time for education in

Johnnie runs his string
SEVEN-YEAR home from and told his be a blackleg
Lessons were Junior school time since the and six of his
Sixty-six ch parents, crossed taken by school Chowles, and Police in gales supervised over which was the Inner London Authority. But Mrs Jackson of Walsingham said her son, said her had run home. She went two policemen self to the school. He asked to leave the classroom another, and He said to stand by and would be led. Mrs Boyson sending her daughter to school. She cannot the but not the storm.

Britain. Through 1950s and expanding economic better-educated series of reports Crowther, New Reports—drew expanding education from nursery. The technology needed technology

Now, the middle classes world is threatened to hanker after and to scream 'discipline', 'obedience'.

When the the Inner London Authority, opened



Is this what they want? The far from 'good' old days, with three children to a desk

WAR IN BRITAIN?

ANYONE TIRED OF READING about Ireland should consider the fact that bombs might start going off regularly in London tube trains in the near future. And on buses in Birmingham, pillar boxes in Manchester, pubs in Newcastle-upon-Tyne . . .

The Provisional IRA, or a section of it, may decide it has nothing to lose, and possibly something to gain, by launching an all-out bombing campaign against British cities. Anyone who doubts their ability to do it—and on a scale quite different to anything which has happened so far—is making a dangerous mistake.

The Provo truce has lasted more than eight months, with only occasional breaches in response—so the Provos insist—to Army and police activity. The Provisional leadership have maintained it for so long because they had been given to understand, by British government negotiators, that when the Constitutional Convention at Stormont failed to reach agreement Britain would announce an intention to pull out of Northern Ireland.

The Convention's inevitable failure has now come to pass. Most Loyalists made it clear last week that they will not give an inch, not even to toothless moderates like the middle class Social Democratic Labour Party.

But it would appear that, far from using the opportunity to announce that it will begin withdrawing, the Labour government have back-tracked on their assurances and are about to promote yet another foredoomed and farcical effort to square Ulster's sectarian circle.

A cynical manoeuvre by the Orange demagogue Craig to buy off the SDLP with the promise of cabinet seats is being used to justify extending the life of the Convention.

This is why

we

must

step

up the

Troops

Out

campaign

and-order' brigade sound plausible.

At the same time, it is understandable that some Irish people, specially those from the beleaguered Catholic ghettos in the North, should have come to believe that the only way to get the British Army out is to force the government's hand—by any means available.

If and when the Provos do decide to bring the war back home, it will no longer be possible for anyone involved in socialist politics in Britain to avoid dealing with the issue.

Indeed, the failure of British socialists to take Ireland seriously enough—as seriously as they take Portugal, for example—has made its own small contribution to the development of the present situation.

One reason Irish republicans resort to such desperate tactics is because they can see no meaningful campaign within Britain to get the troops out.

Such a campaign would at least make it clear that the Army is not in Ireland in the name of, or with the support of all the British people which in turn would be of enormous help to Irish socialists in arguing with rank-and-file Provisionals against the bombing tactic.

British socialists must urgently make Ireland a central issue in British politics. Not out of moral duty, but simply because those who do not stand firm and fight on the issue may well be swamped by a backlash in reaction to the bombing.

All the energetic militancy in the world will not save an organisation which stands aside from the campaign to get the British troops at last out of Ireland. Nor would such an organisation deserve to survive.

If you are not a revolutionary on Ireland, you are not a revolutionary at all. If you are not actively in the struggle against the British presence in Ireland, you are not a socialist at all.

Eamonn McCann

Loyal

This move will convince many Provo leaders that they have been conned all along. On its own, it might be enough to re-start full-scale hostilities. And the indications are that this time the Provos will try to ensure that British and not Irish cities bear the brunt.

It is not just the Provisionals who believe that Ministers have been playing a devious and dishonest game in Ireland. It has been clear for months that while Northern Ireland Secretary Rees has been talking peace and moderation, Army and police collusion with extreme right-wing paramilitary elements has gone on unchecked.

Reaction to the sporadic bombing in the London area in the past few weeks—probably carried out by an 'independent' republican group or, possibly, by agents provocateur—shows the government still has no intention of ditching its Tory line and facing up to the reality of the Irish situation.

Broken

Challenged by senior police officers and the Daily Express, Roy Jenkins has promised to continue to use the conspiracy laws against suspected republicans.

And he earned the applause of the right-wing Monday Club for his decision not only to renew the police's 'emergency' powers in the next parliamentary session but actually to increase them.

If the Labour government want panic and devastation on the streets of British cities, they are going the right way about it, which is not to say that Socialist Worker supports bombing.

The attitude of marxists was spelled out in last week's editorial: we oppose the bombing because it does nothing to help the struggles of the Irish people, it inevitably kills innocent civilians and it tends to make the rhetoric of the 'law-

The 'slogan' that came from Blake

CERI FRANKEL (above) has been at William Tyndale School for six years:

'I like school, but it was better organised when our regular teachers were there. Now I get a bit bored. There used to be work on the board for when we got into school and options in the afternoon.'

Said Ceri's mother: 'Ceri's got on perfectly OK. Her work is good. She is self-confident and secure. There have been no problems except those recently from outside harassment.'

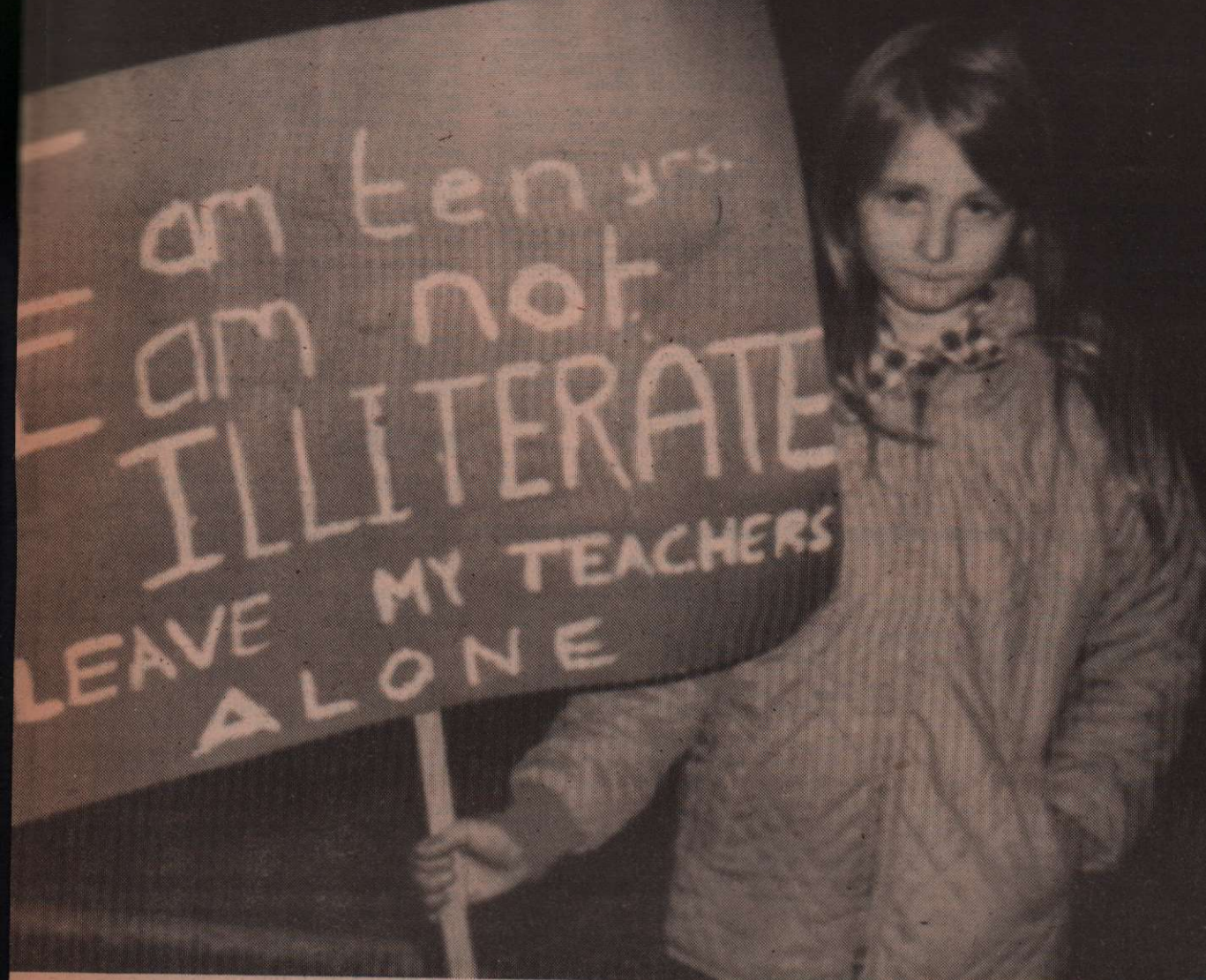
'I first heard about trouble in the school in July 1974. Mrs Walker, a teacher at the school, visited me and said there were a few things I ought to know. She started off about the lack of academic standards, but I knew this wasn't so because Ceri had always got on so well.'

'Mrs Walker then went on to make political allegations against the staff, especially Brian Hadow. She talked about anarchists and the political indoctrination that was going on.'

'She quoted a slogan "Tigers of destruction" seen in Hadow's classroom. I became rather concerned, and confronted Mr Hadow about it. He showed me it was in fact a quotation from the poet William Blake. I think some parents may have just heard the accusations and believed them without checking up.'

'Other parents just saw that there was going to be trouble and decided to take their child away just to avoid being involved.'

'Since then the slow decline has been mainly as middle-class parents have taken their kids out one by one. They get told that little Johnny is very bright and is not being stretched enough. They want a prep school situation.'



aged seven
come from
strike-hit school

Report
raps
school
of
shame

Pupils can't
use rulers
or spell
easy words'

Trotskyists'
claim at
Tyndale

BY HELEN MINSKY

Teachers' pawn

I'm no blackleg,
says boy who
fled strike school

By James Davies and John Burns

ANGRY parents accused striking teachers of inciting their pupils to boycott a school yesterday. One mother complained: "It is disgusting that children should be used as pawns like this."

for the few

In the 1940s, the 1960s an ex- demanded a workforce. A the Plowden, om and Robbins up blueprints for national facilities university level. cal revolution

is over. The feel their whole ed. They begin the old certainties hysterically for 'order', and

quiry set up by on Education ed at County

TEACHERS' PAWN? No, wrong . . . But press pawn, yes. Johnny Boylan refused to be a blackleg, he refused to go to school while his teachers were on strike. The Daily Express quoted his mother as saying: 'He can't read and write properly'. That's true—but what the Express neglected to mention was that Johnny had only been at the school for three weeks!

Report by
JENNY
JACKSON

Hall last Monday, Robert Auld, the well-to-do solicitor who has been appointed chairman, said: 'The interests of the children must be paramount'.

Quite so. But in this situation the interests of working-class children will not be protected by any inquiry. They can be protected only by a militant struggle to expose and defeat the clique of middle-class hypocrites who, with the active assistance of Fleet Street's least reputable hacks, are determined to destroy every educational advance made in the last 30 years and get back to the 'Good old days' . . . with classes even larger, standards even lower and working class children with even less chance of equipping themselves for a decent future.

SW news...and WHAT'S ON

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post Monday before publication. Adverts will NOT be accepted by phone. Send to What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Socialist Worker meetings

FLAME: Second issue of Flame, Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers, out this week. Articles on unemployment, black defence groups, housing and many others. 5p a copy (plus postage) from Flame, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Bulk orders to the same address or phone 01-802 6245. Don't forget to return the money for the last issue!

BRITISH RAIL: Day school for SW supporters and IS members in NUR, ASLEF and TSSA. Saturday 15 November in Manchester. Write to Box B, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, for details.

WOMENS VOICE Factsheet on Abortion. 1p a copy plus postage or 75 for 50p from SW Distributors, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WOMENS SUB-COMMITTEE, Saturday 15 November, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. All districts, branches and fractions must send a delegate. Discussion on work for Womens Voice rally and Womens Voice groups.

HEALTH WORKERS, national meeting for SW supporters and IS members. 6 December, in Birmingham. Discussion on: the Right to Work campaign; pay cuts in the health service. More details from Health Workers Section Secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

HULL SW discussion groups: Every Monday, 7.30pm, at Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank.

NORTH LONDON SW discussion groups: Mondays, 8pm at 132 Percival Road, Bank Hill Park, Enfield. Tuesdays, 8pm, at IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (upstairs room). All welcome.

SPEAKERS on the struggle in North America available for SW public meetings etc. Contact IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone 01-802 6145.

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Nationalised Industries. Speaker: Christopher Hird (author of Your Employers' Profits). Wednesday 12 November, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, corner of Peckham Park Road and Old Kent Road, London SE15.

WIGAN IS are now holding meetings every fortnight. Speakers always provided. Starting Thursday 6 November, 8pm, The Swan and Railway, Wallgate.

GRAYS AND TILBURY SW public meeting on Portugal. Speaker: Mike Brightman. Tuesday 11 November, 8pm, Central Library, Orsett Road, Grays.

EAST LONDON SW disco: Friday 7 November, 8pm, Boys Club, Gibbons Road, Stratford, E15 (at the back of the Stratford Express building). Disco, music, bar extension.

DUDLEY SW public meeting: Stop the cuts! Speakers: Jim Garner (NALGO) and Mick Napier. Wednesday 12 November, 7.45pm, Smiling Man Pub, Hall Street, Dudley.

DONCASTER SW public meeting: The Right to Work. Thursday 13 November, 8pm, Masons Arms, Market Place.

PLYMOUTH SW public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS national secretary). Thursday 13 November, 8pm, Hyde Park Hotel, Mutley Plain, Plymouth.

EXETER SW public meeting: The crisis, cuts and unemployment—how to fight back. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Wednesday 12 November, 7.30pm, Prince Albert pub, Cowick Street. All welcome.

SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES— Socialist Worker Film Tour, 21 November to 15 December, with a film that looks at Spain from the civil war to today, followed by a speaker. **COVENTRY** Friday 21 November, PETERBOROUGH Sunday 23 November, NEWCASTLE Tuesday 25 November, CAMBRIDGE Wednesday 26 November, CENTRAL LONDON Thursday 27 November, SOUTH EAST LONDON Friday 28 November, NORTH LONDON Sunday 30 November, SOUTHAMPTON Monday 1 December, EXETER Tuesday 2 December, BRISTOL Wednesday 3 December, CARDIFF Thursday 4 December, BIRMINGHAM Friday 5 December, BANGOR Sunday 7 December, MANCHESTER Tuesday 9 December, DERBY Wednesday 10 December, NOTTINGHAM Thursday 11 December, DUNDEE Friday 12 December, GLASGOW Saturday 13 December, EDINBURGH Sunday 14 December. Some other showings yet to be fixed. Watch Socialist Worker for full details.

CENTRAL MANCHESTER SW half-day school on Ireland: Sunday 16 November, 2pm-5pm. Political perspectives (with national speaker) and practical session. Greater Manchester IS members and SW supporters welcome. Further details from Manchester TU Books, phone 061-832 8102.

SOUTH EAST LONDON meeting for SW supporters and IS members: Discussion on the Right to Work Campaign. Wednesday 12 November, 7.45pm, Charlton House, Charlton SE7. All IS members in the district to attend. SW supporters welcome.

WEST MIDDLESEX Teachers SW public meeting: Education and revolution. Speakers: Chanie Rosenberg and Martin Gerald (Ealing NUT representative). Monday 10 November, 8.15pm, Thomas Huxley College (student common room), Woodlands Avenue, Acton High Street, W3.

WAKEFIELD SW public meeting: The bosses' crisis—the socialist answer. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Queen Street Hall, Queen Street (by C&A).

COVENTRY SW meeting for SW supporters and IS members in the public sector: Friday 7 November, 7.30pm, Sidney Stringer School. Discussion of the public sector cuts and building the Rank and File.

INNER WEST LONDON Women's Voice day school: Sunday 16 November, 10.30 am-4pm, Workers' Music Association, 236 Westbourne Park Road, W11. Sessions: Women and the family under capitalism—speaker: Joy Leman. Workshops on nurseries, abortion and battered wives. Women and the crisis—speaker: Sheila McGregor (editor, Women's Voice). How to organise and fight back—speaker: Bernie Dunn (AUEW). Crèche facilities available, phone 01-229 6869. All welcome.

SW AFRICA GROUP weekend school: 22-23 November, Sheffield University Students Union (council room). Starts 1pm Saturday. Registration £1, which includes a film on the liberation struggle in Namibia and social on Saturday night. Accommodation provided, but bring sleeping bag if you have one. Minibus from London—contact Peter Alexander (phone 01-580 0916) for a seat. Sessions: Southern Africa and the essential role of the Southern African working class. Discussion groups on different areas—probably including Nigeria, Ethiopia, East Africa, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Solidarity work—how to use the SW Africa Group bulletin, work in the anti-apartheid and solidarity committees.

BRISTOL SW supporters' disco: Saturday 15 November, 8.30pm, Sea Horse pub (next to the BRI). Bar extension, food, 40p.

IS BUILDING WORKERS national meeting: Weekend 15-16 November, Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Chapelton, Leeds 10. 1pm-5.30pm, Saturday, 10am-1pm Sunday. Further details, accommodation, etc, phone 01-274 2405. All IS building workers to attend.

STUDENTS: Posters headed 'International Socialist Society' in red available by return of post from John Cox, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham B12. Size 25in x 18in approx. Cost is £2.50 for 100, including postage (minimum order 100 posters). Cash with orders only.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS SOCIETY public meeting: Labour and the Crisis. Speaker: Mike Thompson. Friday 7 November, 1pm, Civil Engineering Room 208.

THAMES POLY IS Society presents CAST in SAM—THE MAN, their play about Samuel Kerr Hardie Muggins, trying to walk the tightrope between his socialist ideas and being a Labour MP. Monday 10 November, 7.30pm, Poly main hall, Thomas Street, London SE18 (three minutes from Woolwich Arsenal station, buses 53, 54, 75). Admission 30p.

NOISS national meeting: Saturday 22 November, 10.30am prompt, Leeds University Union. One delegate per IS Society.

BEDFORD COLLEGE IS Society and Progressive Film Society present the film TO DIE IN MADRID, with Colin Sparks, from the Spanish Solidarity Campaign, speaking afterwards. Monday 10 November, 7pm, Bedford College, Regents Park, London NW1. Tickets 20p in advance, 25p on the door.

AGITATOR, journal of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies. Articles on Students in Portugal, the Abortion Campaign, the Education Cuts, Rent Strikes—a guide to action, NUS, the Polys' housing crisis. From your college IS Society or 19p including postage from Agitator, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS SCIENCE DAY SCHOOL: 11am-5.30pm. Saturday 29 November. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road. With Mike Kidron and Russ Bowman on Waste and Scarcity; Tim Shallice on Technology of Repression, and Ian Gibson on Control of New Knowledge. Pooled fare system will operate.

IS EAST EUROPEAN DAY SCHOOL, Saturday 8 November, 10.30am-5.30pm, the TV Room, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC1 (off Aldwich). Comrades interested in doing work in this area should attend. In particular, comrades with a specialised knowledge of Eastern Europe, or an East-European language.

ELECTROSTENCILS: We now have a new machine, so we should get even better results from your own artwork. Still only 75p per stencil (plus postage)—IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

HAZARDS OF WORK: The North West Spanner theatre group, having performed their 25-minute play successfully at factory gates, in canteens and in halls all over the North West and Scotland, are coming to London for a week, 26 November to 3 December. Could they perform at your workplace one lunchtime, or as an opener for a meeting on safety at work in your area? Phone them now on 061-339 2808.

AGITPROP BULLETIN: The SW Agitprop Group is preparing a bulletin to draw together some of the experience of using films, theatre, songs, posters, photos, music in carrying forward the struggle for socialism. Write and tell us what's been happening in your branch, district, area. SW Agitprop Group, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WILL ECONOMISTS interested in jobs in the South East contact Box J, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

HULL: Room available for IS member or supporter. Phone Socialist Books—Hull 25925.

TELEPHONE costs are crippling us—and so Socialist Worker will now be unable to take down articles over the phone on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Please 'phone in articles after midday and after 6pm if possible. Post them if you can.

We won't take down articles that could have been posted. Articles posted first class on a Friday will reach us by Monday.

WILL FRACTIONS please note that Cottons Gardens does not have the manpower to send out circulars. Fractions will have to make their own arrangements.

WITNESSES to the arrests on the recent anti-National Front demo at Chelsea own Hall are urged to contact John Rose, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Speed essential.

NOISS TOUR: 2000 HEAR PAUL FOOT

By Simon Turner
IS student organiser

THE NATIONAL Organisation of IS Societies has been given a great send-off this academic year by a ten-day tour of big public meetings.

In eight days, Paul Foot and I spoke at 18 colleges and universities. More than 2000 people came to the meetings. More than 100 joined NOISS and at least another 100 gave their names for further meetings and discussion. £375 was raised for the Portugal solidarity fund.

We were struck, everywhere we went, by three developments:

1 The right wing in the student movement is organising very effectively. In Manchester, for instance, the students' union passed a motion by 900 to 300 votes supporting the CDS in Portugal—the party of Caetano and Salazar supporters.

In Birmingham, we saw the rag magazine, produced for both universities and the Poly. It is full of the most horrible racist filth. Almost any time in the past ten years, the magazine would have been burnt before it got on the streets.

The right-wing is being specially successful in damping down the fight against the cuts. The 'tighten your belts' argument has won the day in college after college.

2 The right wing is winning because the left isn't organised. The argument against 'tighten your belts' is a political one and can't be sustained without politics. Socialists have to come together to plan their campaigns—and to organise.

The Broad Left in the student movement is founded on electoral manoeuvring, not on organisation. So it is nowhere to be seen in the fight against the right.

NOW OUT—the November issue of Chingari (Urdu). Main emphasis is on the Right to Work campaign. People who want to sell it at their workplace should send their order to Chingari (Urdu), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Price 5p each.

How can I help Chingari?

I WOULD like to try selling Chingari. I live in a small Lancashire mill town where there is a self-contained Pakistani community. I am white, and work in a factory where there is a lot of white racist feeling among both workers and bosses.

In these circumstances, I think it would be difficult for me to sell a paper to members of the Pakistani community. I do not know any of them; I do not speak their language. However, I support

the Socialist Worker and therefore its sister papers.

Is there anyone to whom I could go for advice before trying to sell Chingari? Anything that you have published? Or best of all, anyone in this area who is already selling the newspaper.—BOB PHILLIPS, Rossendale, Lancs.

Yes we can help you. Anyone in a similar position should phone 01-739 1878, and ask to speak to someone from Chingari.

The other revolutionary groups have lost all their confidence. Most of them are urging people either to dissolve into the Labour Party or to organise impotent 'ad hoc committees' on this or that issue.

3 The IS Societies are crucial. Where they are strong, as in Lancaster,

York, Bristol and Norwich, the meetings were huge and enthusiastic—and we got the strong feeling that socialist ideas were fought for hard and successfully. But where the IS are weak, the right are on the rampage.

So we put all the emphasis on non-sectarian organisation. We called for commitment from people who did not necessarily agree with us totally, but who saw the need to fight and organise.

We urged our own comrades in the colleges and universities to make every effort to break with the small-group tradition, to turn all their attention to the great mass of students who are uncommitted and can be won for socialist ideas.

Congratulations are due to almost all the IS societies for organising what was a successful tour. Even where NOISS was weak—such as at Southampton and Swansea—big meetings were organised, and the membership doubled and even trebled.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: WHAT WE CAN DO

THE SOCIALIST WORKER Africa Group has recently expanded its activities to place greater emphasis on solidarity work and working with Southern African exiles. We are going to produce a monthly bulletin on labour conditions in South Africa for the rank and file movement. We have already organised a speaking tour on Zimbabwe and produced a pamphlet, Crisis in Zimbabwe (available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Price 5p plus 6/1p postage).

There should be at least one person in each district who will keep in touch with the rapidly changing situation in Africa and liaise with the London nucleus of the group. To bring people up to date on the situation in Africa and to discuss solidarity work, we have organised a weekend school for 22/23 November. So that it is easier for comrades from Scotland, the North and the Midlands to attend, we are holding it in Sheffield. See What's On for details.

Come to Skegness with Socialist Worker

FOUR DAYS of boozing, political discussion, meetings and films, football, and swimming at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp.

Book now with your SW seller for the Easter weekend, 16-19 April.

Only £16.25 a head for full board and lodging. Don't delay—places are limited.

Local organisers for the rally should start sending the forms in now—places are limited, it will be first come, first served.



‘I was returning, indeed, but with others, to the attack on the heights of Montmartre; we ran up at the double, knowing that at the top there was an army in battle formation. We expected to die for liberty. It was as if we were lifted from the earth...’
—Louise Michel, Communard, sentenced to transportation

The first workers' government -drowned in blood

ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1870, 82,000 French soldiers, among them their supposed commander-in-chief, the Emperor Napoleon III, surrendered to the Germans at Sedan. So ended Louis Napoleon Bonaparte's farcical attempt to recreate the 'glories' of the Empire of the first Napoleon.

The fall of the Empire, and the capture of the Emperor, created a power vacuum in France. It opened up all sorts of new possibilities—just as the fall of Caetano did in Portugal. And nowhere was this more obvious than in Paris.

Stage

But the new republic itself was a sort of vacuum—it had neither the support of the workers, who openly defied it in periods of rioting in October 1870 and January 1871, nor that of the middle classes. It was held together only by the continuing war with the Germans.

And when that ended, with the surrender of Paris on 28 January 1871, the stage was set for a new war, of class against class.

During the war with the Germans, concessions had been made to the workers to win their support. Payment of both rents and debts had been suspended and, more important, the workers of Paris had been organised into the National Guard to defend the city—and armed.

But now, with the war over, the new government under Adolphe Thiers set about the task of assuring a return to 'normality'—that is to the normality in which the bourgeoisie is free to exploit the workers as it pleases.

Fire

It ended the suspension of debts and rents and cancelled pay to the National Guard. Finally, in the early hours of 18 March, Thiers sent regular French troops into Paris to seize the Guard's guns.

But his attempted right-wing coup failed. In the working class areas of Montmartre, soldiers fraternised with workers. When ordered to fire on the workers, they handed over the rifles to the crowd and placed their commander, General Lecomte under arrest.

Later that day, Lecomte was shot—not by the National Guard, as the right-wing press alleged at the time, but by his own soldiers.

Meanwhile, the whole of working class Paris was alerted to the attempted coup. Barricades were hurriedly thrown up throughout the city. And the tricolour, the French national flag, which had been hoisted on to the Bastille Column by regular soldiers early in the morning, was hauled down and replaced by the Red Flag.

Open

By nightfall, Paris was firmly in the hands of the working class National Guard, and all those government troops that had not gone over to the Guard had retreated from the city in disarray.

The political situation was now wide open. In the next week, the revolutionary movement spread throughout industrial France.

On 22 March, the red flag was raised in Lyons; Marseilles and

ANDY MILNER on the Paris Commune



The victims of 'law and order': above left, some of the 30,000 slaughtered Communards, above right, the legalised murderers on the rampage



Toulouse followed, then Limoges on the 23rd, and Narbonne on the 24th. There were riots in Certe and Perpignan, Saint-Etienne and Creusot.

A decisive blow directed against the government in Versailles, would at that time, almost certainly have been successful.

But the majority on the Central Committee of the Paris National Guard contented themselves with arranging for the election of a new revolutionary government for Paris—the Commune.

Certainly, this was of vital importance. But the failure to take the offensive against Thiers was to prove disastrous.

The Commune, elected on Sunday

26 March, was without doubt one of the most important events in world history.

This was the first working class revolution—not a bourgeois revolution in which the workers participated, but a working class revolution against the bourgeoisie. And the Paris Commune was the first ever workers' government.

All the repressive instruments of the bourgeois state were smashed and replaced by the totally different institutions of a workers' state.

The Army was abolished and replaced by the armed people, the National Guard. The police, the courts, and state bureaucracy were all abolished and replaced by the Commune and its representatives—all elected, mandated, recallable and paid working men's wages.

Learn

These are the real lessons of the Commune—that socialism can only be achieved, not by reforming the bourgeois state, but by smashing it and replacing it by a workers' state. And that a workers' state means the direct rule of the working class, not the rule of a state bureaucracy. Nowhere are these lessons more relevant than in Portugal today.

We must also learn from the Commune's failures. Lacking any decisive leadership, it stood on the defensive and allowed government troops to encircle Paris.

On 8 May, government troops commanded by Marshal MacMahon launched their attack. The Communards resisted gallantly, but gradually the ring tightened. On 23 May, the final general attack

began. The advancing government troops behaved with the utmost ferocity: prisoners were shot out of hand.

In the fifteen and a half months of the Terror of 1793-94, which conservative historians regard with such horror, just over 2500 people were executed.

In the last ten days of the Commune, government soldiers killed somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 men, women and children in the streets of Paris.

Among the dead were many members of the Commune itself. For example, Eugene Varlin, the organiser of the Bookbinders Union, was beaten for well over an hour until, his face smashed to jelly, he was finally shot.

Thiers' only comment was 'the ground is paved with their corpses; this terrible spectacle will be a lesson to them'. And the massacres were only the beginning. There followed a series of rigged 'trials' in which nearly 21,000 people were sentenced either to death, imprisonment or transportation to the hell-

holes of New Caledonia.

The 'restoration of order' after the defeat of the Commune clearly reveals what even the most 'enlightened' of bourgeois classes, the French, are capable of once their power is challenged.

Lived

But the last word should surely go to one of the Communards themselves. Theophile Ferre, a member of the Commune, was one of the many thousands tried in Thiers' courts. Before he was sentenced to death, Ferre pronounced his own judgement on the court and on the class which it represented:

'Members of the Commune', he declared, 'I am in the hands of the victors. They want my head. Let them take it! Never will I save my life by cowardice.'

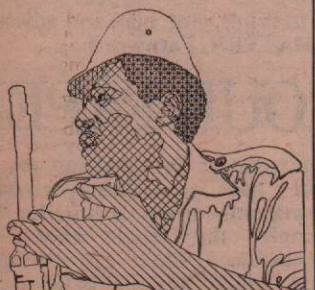
'I have lived a free man. I intend to die no less. I have but one word to add: Fortune is capricious; I entrust to the future the care for my memory and my vengeance.'

We are that future.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

THE FIGHT FOR ZIMBABWE

The armed conflict in Southern Rhodesia since UDI
KEES MAXEY



Traces the armed conflict which has been one of the principal factors in forcing Ian Smith to free and negotiate with 'outlawed' Rhodesian Nationalist parties.

On the tenth anniversary of UDI, this book helps put The Fight for Zimbabwe into perspective.

Available, price £1.10 (inc. postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 and over the counter from all IS Bookshops.

ON THE BOX

FRIDAY JUST ANOTHER SATURDAY (BBC-2, 10.15pm), is a play about an Orange marcher in Glasgow who starts to doubt his old values. Features Billy Connolly.

SATURDAY Meanwhile, the important things of life go on. Thousands of pounds have been spent to stage the 442nd pageantry of the metropolitan ruling class, brought to your screens in THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW (BBC-1, 11.30am).

MONDAY Following up this novel interpretation of 'necessities' is THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET (BBC-1, 11pm) where Harold Wilson will make a 'state of the nation' speech to 700 guests, stuffing their faces with austerity. PANORAMA (BBC-1, 8.10pm) takes an in-depth look at Rhodesia.

TUESDAY MILESTONES IN WORKING CLASS HISTORY (BBC-1, 11.15pm) features a group of modern woolworkers reliving the trial and hanging of 14 Luddites 150 years ago.

LETTERS

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

Postal Points

YOUR REPORT on the National Abortion Campaign conference (25 October) amazed me. As for the description of the decision not to demonstrate against SPUC: NAC took a decision not to counter-demonstrate when we first knew that they were going to mobilise in October.

Two national planning meetings before conference endorsed this view... most women felt we should concentrate on developing our strategy rather than reacting to SPUC. I hope Womens Voice supporters will understand in future that 'working within NAC' means working together, not against each other.—LIZ ADAMS, NAC Steering Committee.

THE NAC Conference was right to reject the attempt to commit NAC to a revolutionary line. This is an issue which can be won without revolution. Organising in trade unions is important, of course, but it is not the only effective tactic. Demonstrations are valuable but it is not on the streets and in the trade unions that the crucial decisions will be made; it is in Parliamentary Committee and behind the closed doors of the DHSS. It is here that pressure must be applied.—DAVID FLINT London E17.

YOU SAY the NAC conference 'voted to allow meetings to count postal and telephone votes. Anyone can now come to meetings and anyone can now vote—even if they don't come.' This decision relates only to national planning meetings; only applies to certain issues, and postal and telephone votes will only be counted on the basis of one vote per affiliated body.—LORI STREICH, for the National Abortion Campaign.

IT IS NOW up to all of us to smash SPUC: They have gone on long enough talking about what they call 'the right to life of unborn children and not enough about the right of women over their own bodies.

We should now mobilise to get a truly socialist perspective on this issue and the right of women to choose whether or not to have children.—JANE FIELDING, Cornwall.

I TOOK PART in the SPUC march. It is curious to find socialists—who should be concerned about a fuller life for all—so anti-life as to favour abortion on demand. Why help to line the pockets of the abortion millionaires... Has not a pregnant woman made a choice, and having made it, assisted in the pro-creation of another human being which is not given the 'right to choose' if aborted?—R G WILKES, Bilston

GRANTED there are no absolute moral rules (Talking about Socialism, 25 October), but that doesn't necessarily mean people can't distinguish clearly between right and wrong in many specific situations. We on the left are 'in the right'.

Duncan Hallas fiddles 'Thou shalt not kill to 'Thou shalt not murder' to justify his claim that 'all morality is class morality'.—DAVE BRADNEY, London N10.

IN SAYING there is no absolute morality Duncan Hallas cuts the ground from under all our feet. I may preach Socialism for all I am worth, but I will have no business calling it a 'good' society or a 'just' society (nor can I describe capitalism as 'evil' or 'unjust') for these concepts depend for their validity on the existence of an objective absolute morality.—R MOUNCER, London N22.

WHAT IS the socialist view of the Second World War?—KEITH PETLEY, Manchester.

Death of a freedom fighter...

SMUGGLED OUT OF SPAIN - THE TRUTH ABOUT A MILITANT'S 'EXECUTION'

THE FOLLOWING letter from a comrade in Barcelona was received by a Socialist Worker supporter in London this week:

WHILE Franco is dying in a blaze of international publicity, I thought I'd give you some details I've collected on the murder of one of Franco's most recent victims.

The photo shows Txiki (Juan Paredes Manot) a few hours after his execution. There were a number of people present—apart from the firing squad—and here is an explanation of how the sadistic pigs in the Civil Guard carried out the sentence.

There were six Civil Guards in the firing squad, each had two bullets. When the order was given to fire, the shooting was 'very irregular'—'like a slow machine gun' as someone described it.

The guards were shooting at their own pace, in order to prolong the agony of Txiki. Six bullets were fired into his stomach (that is not the way you normally kill someone quickly) and five 'around' the heart. One bullet went missing.

Txiki didn't die immediately and the officer in charge had to finish him off.



DAYS OF HOPE-DAZE OF DISBELIEF

I MUST complain about a comment of Pam Brighton's in the interview (18 October) on the TV series, Days of Hope.

As a professional actor in Equity, I get angry when I hear of the use of non-union labour in television and films. Equity is a closed shop because of the vast competition in the entertainment business, and any use of non-union labour, which of course can be engaged more cheaply, takes work away from the already struggling members, who are now faced with approximately 90 per cent unemployment.

I am also disturbed that many working people don't think of actors as trade unionists, but rather as people who just appear to perform for them, and who are outside the struggle.

We've come to expect the BBC to try to use non-union labour, but it is surprising when people reputed

to be socialists, such as Tony Garnett and Ken Loach, use non-union labour in Days of Hope. Here we have a series presenting history and politics from the working class point of view, while employment on the series is against the interests of a section of that class. Socialist views have to be enacted, not left in theory.

Pam Brighton says in the interview: 'Loach cast some of the workers' parts using trade unionists, not professional actors. They could really understand the politics behind what they were playing.' That's like saying doctors should play doctors because they really understand the medicine behind what they're playing.

Pam Brighton also makes the unforgivable mistake of saying 'trade-unionists' were used in some parts, not professional actors. Actors are trade-unionists, and some of us are trying to fight within our union the forces which Pam Brighton's Sarah was fighting in Days of Hope.

If she is interested in helping us in real life, she should contact Equity Rank and File, 29 Stamford Hill, London N16 5TN.—JOHN GILLET

'horrible, conservative party' (in case you're confused, he means IS and Socialist Worker) has 'completely ignored—or is ignorant of—Karl Marx's teachings', because we do not fight unemployment with the slogan 'Abolition of the Wages System'.

But it is comrade Gathercole who is ignorant. Our demand for 'the right to work' was raised by the revolutionary workers of Paris as long ago as 1848, and of it, Marx wrote:

'The right to work is, in the bourgeois sense, an absurdity, a miserable pious wish. But behind the right to work stands the power over capital, the appropriation of the means of production, their subjection to the associated working class, therefore, the abolition of wage labour, capital and their mutual relations'. MARTIN SHAW, Hull.

HOW TO BOOST OUR PAPER

IN MY LOCAL shop in a mainly working class area, SW hardly sells at all. This saddens me, as I love it, while finding the Morning Star and all the sillies and heavies 90 per cent unreadable.

I believe sales could be increased

FOR MY SAKE, FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

SINCE EARLY August I have been without a job and living on £9.80 a week dole, which I got after six weeks' disqualification.

I was sacked by British Rail for misconduct—taking four weeks holiday without pay. I had booked my holiday before starting on the railway and although I gave plenty of notice for special leave, which is provided for under the conditions of service, I was refused.

My claim was taken up by the divisional organiser of the National Union of Railwaymen, who met management and agreed with them!

So I was sacked for my first offence, obviously because management want to push through natural wastage redundancies, which the NUR are not fighting.

I can't get work anywhere—Merseyside is one of the

worst places in the country for unemployment. I just hope other workers—and particularly railwaymen—will learn from my experience.

We must fight redundancies and sackings NOW. A railway rank and file organisation MUST be formed and management and union officials must be shown that railwaymen won't take it any longer.

The alternative is to end up like me—sacked, on the dole and trying to exist on money that's not enough to feed and keep a dog on let alone a human being.—P HALSALL, Ormskirk.

Where SW is going wrong

I AGREE very much with Eamon Dolan (Letters, 18 October) and his comments about SW. It has got to become more attractive, interesting, eye-catching and varied. It tends now to preach to the converted.

Many of my friends who are sympathetic to IS and SW say it is boring and too much of one thing. Let's find out what readers think. Do some market research. Most workers buy The Sun and Mirror, so how do we compete?

SW can be—and is—a good weapon, but it must be made to have a wider appeal, specially among women. Why not take up a crusade for nursery schools and more facilities for young mothers, and run features in depth on education and its importance to the working class?

Surveys have shown that most young mothers are interested in good facilities and educational opportunities.

There should be features in depth about day release in Techs and young workers' lack of opportunities for getting these courses.

Give individual stories (always appealing) of people left to cope on almost nothing by our so-called welfare state: mothers, for instance, left to cope with two or three kids on SS and no heating or bus fares.

Give the human interest a column; publish book reviews for socialists to read. Do a 'this is your rights' column, advice etc, on getting houses and security benefits and how to fight bureaucracy.

Sport is a great attraction for most workers. Can you not get a famous sportsman to write, surely some are socialists.

SW must attract more people and we have to bend our efforts into finding out how. Appeal to everyone to think, plot, plan and advise.—F CHATTEN, Farnworth.

Buy and sell tickets NOW for the Socialist Worker Christmas Draw. All proceeds to the SW Fighting Fund. Send all money from tickets to SW Draw, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

SOCIALIST WORKER SUPPORTERS' FUND
 Promoted by: F. J. Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.
SOCIALIST WORKER DRAW
 PRIZES—
 25 inch COLOUR T.V. (including a licence)
 PORTABLE COLOUR T.V. (including a licence)
 STEREO UNIT AUDIO
 100 BOTTLES OF WHISKEY
 TICKETS 15p EACH
 To be drawn on 20th DECEMBER, 1975, at Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.
 Requested under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1968.

J E GATHERCOLE of the Claimants Union (1 November) claims our

simply by always putting on the front page something riveting, sensational, topical or horrific. For example, the article about the blood-stained Shah (18 October) could touch anyone believing in decency and justice.—K D HARDING, N W London.

PLA: WHY OUR JOBS ARE THREATENED

By Michael Fenn NASD

trade'. But this has affected every port in Europe, not just London.

The Community Land Bill has, they claimed reduced the value of their land. Before the Bill was introduced, the PLA sold the St Katherine Dock for £1,500,000; a year later the site was developed by Taylor Woodrow and was worth £200,000,000—what you might call a bargain!

When the loss is announced you will read in the Tory press and from imbeciles like Michael Heseltine about lazy dockers and the ineffective nationalised industries (the PLA stock is 65 per cent government-owned).

You won't read that PLA, when they show 'massive losses, are in fact subsidising private firms to the tune of millions a year of taxpayers' money (your money). John Priestland, PLA Director of Finance, said they are losing £200,000 a week but when asked how much of that figure was being lost at Tilbury by undercharging on containers, he could not or would not reply.

The two largest container firms in Tilbury are OCL and SCT—and from 1965 to 1973 the chairman of OCL (which made £17½ million profit in 1973 and £11½ million in 1974) was Sir Andrew Crichton, who just by chance happens to be vice-chairman of the PLA.

Crichton is still a director of OCL. A director of ACT, David Lloyd, also happens to be a director of the PLA. When Mr Gaboney was asked if these two individuals would be giving a year for the Port of London, or giving back any of their excessive profits, no answer was given.

CAPABLE

Practically every nationalised industry is being bled to death by leeches like Crichton and Lloyd. And it will go on until workers realise how they are being robbed and take over and run the docks, shipping, mines, railways and every other industry.

Many workers think the working class are not capable of running industries. Well, the likes of the PLA have proven that they are not capable; we could hardly do a worse job.

One little item that won't appear on the PLA's balance sheet next year is the sum of £18,000 for sending PLA supervisors (among them our supervisor Keith Bacon) on a three month expenses and wages paid tour of India.

To teach them cargo handling—no—container handling, no—port transport management—no—MORRIS DANCING, YES, bells on their knees and all.

No wonder the PLA is going skint.

To the constituents of Walsall North

(To the tune of 'There is a green hill far away')

You have an MP far away
Within the City walls,
He represents you night and day
But cannot be recalled.

We do not know, we cannot tell,
What strains he had to bear,
From panelled hall to prison cell—
And no-one seems to care!

The far-flung shore, the sandy beach,
The little pile of clothes,
This fearless chap swam far from
reach
Of Walsall and its woes.

Alas the Antipodean fuzz
They sought a noble Pom—
Instead of Lucan—would you suss—
They captured Honest John!

The tale from here is known by all,
It does not bear repeat—
How handsome Stonehouse,
bronzed and tall,
Was tried as common cheat.

A starving country far away,
O wretched Bangladesh!
The kindly Stonehouse formed a
Bank—
And then mislaid the cash!

'Let he who has no sin' it's said,
'Be first to cast the stone'.
The MPs sit there quiet and red—
They've fiddles of their own!

PHIL EVANS

THE CONVICTION of three members of a Bolton anti-fascist committee for sticking up anti-National Front posters during the last general election, was overturned by the High Court on Monday.

Anyone can now campaign with leaflets and posters against Front candidates without facing prosecution—a fact which immediately led Bolton National Front to announce that they will not now contest the next election.

Concorde, 'sacrifice' and Lord Boot

THE OTHER night I was watching tele when that boring programme Views at Ten came on. I was just about to switch off when the news-reader, Gordon Moneygnome (I think that's his name) started shouting about this exciting item that caught my eye.

It was about a couple who had waited 11 years for a plane ticket. This made me think because I couldn't remember any airport being on strike for 11 years so I thought I'd watch and find out.

The camera zoomed in on this bloke writing a cheque for a thousand quid. Blimey I thought, after waiting 11 years he's decided maybe to buy the bloody plane instead.

Hobby

Then the reporter said this bloke was Viscount Leather (he looked like an old boot) and he was buying a ticket for that multi-million pound white elephant called Concorde, especially designed for the working class, so that they can nip over to New York at weekends.

The reporter asked his Lordship why he'd just forked out £1000 for the first flight in Concorde.

'A hobby, old boy', replied his Lordship. 'I always go on the first flight of any new plane.' Then he reeled off a dozen names from the Jumbo Jet, going right back to the time of Biggles.

'But surely his Lordship would be taking Lady Boot with him?'

'Of course' replied Lord Boot. 'This flight is an overnight stop to Bahrain and back again.'

'But that isn't much for £1000 is it?'

'Just a joy ride old boy, just a joy ride', said his Lordship.—STAN SIMPSON, Derby.

IN REPLY to T Beswick (Postal Points last week) councils that allow private house owners to sell their own houses and move into council houses just don't know what's it all about.

That's almost as bad as the Fakenham District Council which holds back empty houses for 'key workers' which local industry may—or may not—want to move into the town. It also gives houses to retired army personnel who come out with £3000 or £4000—plenty for a deposit on a nice bungalow. This is in preference to people living in houses without running water.—G STRINGER, Fakenham, Norfolk.

WE MUST all give a year for the Port—more productivity, no industrial disputes, an end to restrictive practices, more redundancies.

That was the message last week to 300 representatives of the Port of London Authority—including stewards representing the dockers—from John Gaboney, Director of Manpower.

The PLA called the meeting at their luxury office to tell us that they are about to announce a loss of £11 million after a profit last year of about £1 million. What has brought about this sudden collapse?

The PLA have many excuses—'loan repayments', 'world recession'. There has been a 25 per cent drop in

Scandal of two factory inspectors

THE EAST LONDON Health and Safety at Work Committee are urging affiliated and other trade union organisations to black two factory inspectors—Mr Westgate, from the London and Home Counties West Construction District Inspectorate, and a senior inspector, Mr Pillsworth.

The two men went to considerable lengths to play down grave hazards from asbestos on Howard Farrow's 61-63 Uxbridge Road, Ealing construction site.

They told workers on the site that there were no serious hazards. At the same time, in confidential reports to the bosses, they admitted the hazards were serious.

Sacked

They had been called there after General and Municipal Workers union activist Joe Walker lodged complaints about the cutting of marine asbestos board.

For calling an inspector, Joe Walker was sacked by main contractor Farrow and his own employer Magnesia and Asbestos Insulation Ltd.

Pillsworth the senior inspector, was happy to go along with the sacking. He even ordered Brother Walker to get off the site.

Farrow's jobs have since been blacked by the thermal insulation branch of the GMWU.

At a lively press conference, Joe Walker underlined that the new Health and Safety at Work Act contains no provisions for securing the reinstatement of workers sacked for demanding safe working conditions.

All Michael Foot's so-called great reform allows, he pointed out, is to claim a few pennies for unfair dismissal.

GANDHI MINISTER PELTED WITH EGGS

ABOUT 1000 people, mainly members of the Indian Workers' Association and supporters from Birmingham and all over the Midlands took part in a mass protest outside the Sikh temple (Gura Nanak Gurdwara) in Smethwick recently.

The protest was over the visit to the temple by the Punjab State Revenue Minister, Umbrao Singh, a Congress Party member and supporter of Indra Gandhi's government, which holds

thousands of trade unionists, socialists and other political opponents in jail without trial.

In the interests of defending free speech and democracy of this kind, the police were present in force, with horses and several dogs.

In the hour or two of waiting before the Minister arrived, they spent their time checking the tyres, insurance and so on of cars belonging to Indian demonstrators, and preventing dangerous activities such as walking along the pavement, crossing

the road, or going into a nearby Asian cinema. Several demonstrators were arrested and whisked away by patrol cars for such minor offences.

When eventually Umbrao Singh arrived, demonstrators surged into the temple before the police could stop them, and successfully prevented him from reaching the platform or speaking. He left after half an hour with heavy police protection, and with his car pelted with eggs, having been entertained in a back room by the temple authorities in the meantime.

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.

Walls 1400 ordered back by TGWU full-timers

by Jim McCann, deputy convenor, ACTSS
WEST LONDON:—Transport Union officials have instructed 1400 strikers to return to work after just over a week at the Walls meat factories in Hayes and Southall.

In January the company announced the closure of its Atlas Road plant in Willesden, North London. The lack of fight back encouraged Walls' chairman, Don Angel, and his Unilever bosses to try to force through reorganisation plans at their Hayes and Southall plants.

In June, Ted Harris, TGWU convenor at the Hayes plant, described acceptance of these plans as 'unconditional surrender'. Then, without negotiation, the company removed a long-standing privilege from women workers—that the last 15 minutes of a shift could be used to wash hands and go to the staff shop.

Action

Other new conditions included putting up your hand if you wanted to go to the toilet. As Ted Harris said: 'They wanted women who didn't go to the toilet and didn't have periods.' It was the last straw.

The company refused to put the job into dispute and pay the tiny sums in question pending negotiation. This attack on the principle that workers can negotiate their conditions led to strike action.

The strike was solid. AUEW, TGWU and some ACTSS members refused to cross the round-the-clock picket line.

So it was a bitter Ted Harris who had to tell a general meeting last Friday that the union officials had stabbed us in the back and broken the strike. 'I am disappointed with the officers of this union who can decide who is right and who is wrong after listening to only one side,' he said.

The national officer, Bert Reay, and the trade group officer, Churchouse, decided that the firm was correct. They should at least have had the courtesy to listen to delegations from the two plants.

'The disputes procedure is one-sided. Every time we have a dispute we are told we are in the wrong. And these officials are supposed to be our servants.'

CORONA DRIVERS OUT FOR FOUR WEEKS

SOUTH WALES: Ten drivers for Corona's in Cardiff and Swansea are in the fourth week of their unofficial strike for parity of hours and conditions with drivers at the Corona factory at Tamworth in the Midlands.

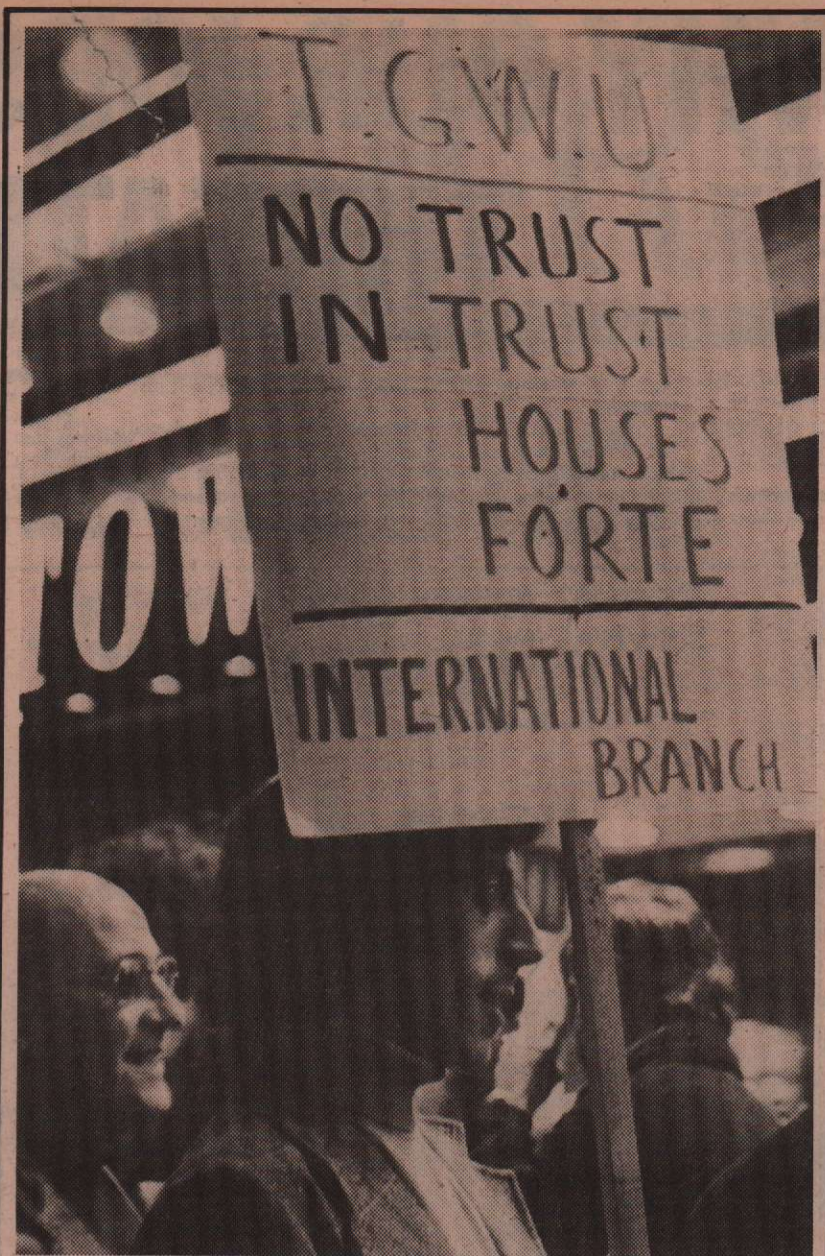
Management are determined to split the drivers from other workers in the factory, but solidarity has been magnificent. Most of the shop floor, the majority of them women, went on a week's strike in support of the drivers.

They were all laid off as a result, only to find that managers were inside the plant doing their work! The shop floor are now pressing the TGWU to declare the dispute official.

As the drivers' senior steward put it: 'The longer it seems to go on, the harder they're getting. If we're beaten now you can forget the union in this place—and they're all beginning to realise now.'

The drivers want to contact other Corona factories for support and to build a combine committee. They want to see some unity on the workers' side and an end to the union-busting tricks of the managers.

Messages of support and donations to Gordon Berry, 10 Fishguard Road, Llanishan, Cardiff.



CENTRAL LONDON: Transport Workers Union International Branch members at the Talk of the Town in Leicester Square—waiters, attendants, kitchen staff—are on official strike for a closed shop. 'Trust House Forte say they "want to protect the right of the individual"—to take home £16.24 for a week's work. We are sick of being professional beggars', George Kyriakides told Socialist Worker.

PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

Alcoa sparks strike on

SOUTH WALES:—The strike of 500 workers to save the jobs of 29 electricians at the huge Alcoa rolling mill construction site near Swansea is solid. The site is completely idle, and mass pickets of more than 100 are turning out regularly.

The 29 were sacked two weeks ago at one and a half hours' notice by Holliday Hall, an electrical contractor. Among the 29 was the shop steward, who is also secretary of the joint shop stewards' committee.

The electricians had just won a 35p-an-hour pay increase. They had set up a joint shop stewards' committee which bound together the interest of all the construction workers on the site.

The committee established a wonderful spirit of solidarity and militancy throughout the site.

Up to now, the company has conceded only that the 'sacking time' was a bit harsh. They have offered to take the workers back again and sack them again in three days!

But the workers will not give up the strike until they get a guarantee that the 29 men will have first refusal of all new electrical jobs—many of which will become available shortly.

This is a crucial strike for the principle of the right to work. 500 workers are out for 29—and they can win if the strike stays solid.

Contributions to the strike fund are urgently requested from building workers all over the country. Support to: S Stevenson, 4 Carlton Terrace, Swansea.

PICKET LINES

STEVENAGE: Five workers have been sacked by Voltronic. One returned to work after being off for a week to find she had been sacked. The others immediately walked out in protest and were also sacked.

Donations and messages of support to: Mr Wild, 59 Siddons Road, Stevenage, Herts.

LONDON: Civil Service Union members, mainly from the Museums and Galleries section, will be stopping work this Friday to discuss action over London Weighting in Central Hall, Westminster. Last week talks broke down when the Civil Service Department offered £61 on Inner London Weighting and nothing on Outer London Weighting. The department is also trying to take to arbitration the 'Marked Time' system and calculation of overtime payment.

EAST LONDON: the trial of Derek Day, chairman of Hackney National Front, has been adjourned until 10 November. Day faces six allegations of assault—all against black women. A medical report produced to explain Day's absence was questioned, as the judge told the prosecution to investigate it.

DURHAM: Tony Wildbore, who is unemployed, received a letter from Cummins Engines last week, offering him a job as a janitor grade E, for £33.75 a week. A generous gesture you might think, until you realise that Tony worked for Cummins until June as a tester on grade A, with a

Charter to challenge another AUEW post

LEN BLOOD, a leading Lancashire shop steward, is to stand as the Engineers Charter candidate in the coming Engineering Union election for assistant general secretary.

The vacancy arises on the retirement of Ernie Roberts, one of the two AUEW assistant general secretaries. The election will be in the spring.

Votes are still being counted in the election for AUEW national organiser, in which the Engineers Charter ran Willie Lee, a senior steward at Chrysler Linwood.

Len is a member of the union's Warrington district committee and a shop steward at Greenings in Warrington. He is also a member of the North West Regional Council of the TUC, secretary of his union branch and of Newton Trades Council.

He is also a member of the International Socialists and has long been a fighter for his class.

Len was a shop steward at Ford Halewood and a member of the strike

FIRST NATIONAL ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE

Saturday 6 December, 1pm-5pm, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Holborn)

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK, THE AUEW 1976 WAGE CLAIM

Agenda and credentials from Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16

committees during the eight-week strike in 1969 and the 10-week strike in 1971. Then he went to Ruston Paxman Diesels, part of GEC, where he became senior steward. He was a member of the occupation committee in the 12-week occupation in support of the 1972 national pay claim and in the 1973 seven-week occupation over victimisation of a shop steward.

Socialist Worker asked Len about his candidature.

'I'm for a £15 across-the-board claim in 1976. And that's realistic, the way living standards are being hit. The claim must be for all the membership and that means a national fight to secure it,' he said.

'With growing unemployment we need to go for the 35-hour week now. That's how to create jobs. The problem is that the present leadership of the union won't lead a national struggle for these demands. We occupied for 12 weeks in support of the 1972 claim. In the end we just saw the executive renege on it. I've no faith in them. They disheartened and demoralised the Manchester engineers.'

Home

'The executive could lead a meaningful campaign for £15 and the 35 hours but it will never come if we leave it to them. The executive consistently refuse to give a lead. The left has concentrated its endeavours increasingly on paper victories with no delivery.'

'That's why rank and file organisation and initiative is so essential. And that's exactly what the Engineers Charter is all about. The rank and file have got to recognise their own strength, and build on it. I'm standing to help get that message home.'

'This is why we need a paper for the rank and file in the industry. The Engineers' Voice is a joke. It doesn't argue the issues. A paper open to all rank and file members of the union, a paper that set out to become the campaigning voice of the members, would really be effective.'

'We need officials that relate to the rank and file campaign among the membership. Seeing Hughie Scanlon once a year in Manchester is not my idea of relating to the rank and file.'

Len Blood is one of the many AUEW members who will be at the Engineers' Charter Conference in London on Saturday 6 December. 'Everyone who really cares about stopping the drift to the right in our union should get themselves along,' he said. 'It's the first conference of its kind. So let's get it off to a good start.'

basic wage of £46.75.

Originally the Cummins shop stewards committee and AUEW district committee had both opposed any redundancies. But when the big boss came over from the US and had meetings with union officials, 200 redundancies suddenly became acceptable.

When Tony arrived for the night shift, he was handed his cards along with many others. To add insult to injury, the janitor's job pays less than the dole.

HEATHROW AIRPORT, London: British Airways management have provoked a further dispute against clerical grades staff at the Cargo Centre. Although duty roster have to be mutually agreed, staff last weekend were suspended for refusing to work a new shift roster.

The clerical staff, members of APEX and ACTSS, are fighting back, despite suspension and sabotage by management, and are continuing to work in the Cargo Centre, organising their own rosters and telling customers to bring in their goods for dispatch from the airport.

GLoucester: 500 people marched through Gloucester demanding no cuts in public spending in a demonstration called by Gloucestershire Association of Trades Councils and People Against Cuts in Education.

MANCHESTER: Salford Trades Council, AUEW (Tass) No 10 Divisional Council and Manchester NCCL are sponsoring a labour conference on The State, the Law and Ireland on 30 November. Delegates credentials from: Manchester NCCL, c/o 6 Braemar Road, Manchester 14.

WE have cut details out of some reports. We have to do this in order to cover the many disputes coming in. Keep sending in your reports. But keep them brief please.

Personna told: 'No deal'

GLASGOW:—The occupation of the Personna factory at Hillington by 200 engineering workers, against redundancy plans, is in its third week. Management have offered to withdraw the threatened sackings for an agreement to short-time working with previous production levels.

The committee rejected this 'offer', maintaining that the occupation would continue until management withdrew the redundancies with no strings attached.

The workers are still waiting to hear if the AUEW national executive will make the strike official. Meanwhile the strikers

will get reduced social security payments this week.

Support for the workers' action is beginning to come in from the West of Scotland. Half the money raised at the Glasgow Right to Work Committee meeting on unemployment was donated to the Personna fund. A meeting has been organised for all stewards in the Paisley area to explain the case and win support.

Donations and messages of support are needed urgently, send them to: Ruby Duncan, Personna AUEW Strike Committee, 27 Bowfield Street, Glasgow.

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post on Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Invoices cannot be sent.

SAM IS BACK—CAST have their new play ready. SAM THE MAN, an amusing and informative play about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins, trying to walk the tightrope between socialism and being a Labour MP. Lasts 75 minutes and needs a large hall and audience. Contact CAST, 11c Cabbell Street, London, NW1. Phone: 01-402 0687.

Pluto Press announces the publication of Martin Shaw's new book, MARXISM AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (£1.50). Martin Shaw will talk on Marxism and Social Science at a public meeting on Friday 14 November, 6pm, in the Old Theatre, London School of Economics (nearest tube Holborn).

UNITED FARM WORKERS presents: An Evening with the Farm Workers. Friday 14 November, 7.30pm, Friends House Hall, Euston Road, NW1. Films, music, speakers, poetry and theatre. Tickets 75p at the door.

TWO WOMEN needed for CounterAct, socialist community media group. Experience/interest in some of: Agitprop, drama, music, printing, photography, video. London-based; work (two-thirds workshop, one-third performance) nationally with tenants/community student action groups. £25 pw (gross). Apply by 30 November, 175a Kentish Town Road, London, NW1.

JOURNALISTS' CHARTER public meeting: Portugal—Hands off Republica and Radio Renascenca. Thursday 6 November, 7.30pm, Princess Louise pub, High Holborn.

WEST LONDON THEATRE WORKSHOP requires actor-driver urgently for Hazards of Work and Women's Show at £35 a week. Contact 11 Acklam Road, London W10. Phone 01-969 2292.

MPLA for ANGOLA public meeting: Thursday 6 November, 7.30pm, London School of Economics (nearest tube Holborn). Speaker: Joao Filip of the MPLA. Organised by the Angola Solidarity Committee.

TWO WOMEN seek own rooms in socialist household in London. Phone 01-986 8485.

RHODESIA OR ZIMBABWE? Speakers: M Chenga, J Sprack. Thursday 6 November, 8pm, Westway Lunch Club, by Ladbroke Grove station, West London A-A.

DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 8 November, Rugby union match at Twickenham between Australia and London Counties. Assemble midday at Coole Park Recreation Ground (entrance near Twickenham Station), protest against trial of two Australian black militants and white supporter, framed by Queensland State Governor and who face 14 years in prison. Also protest against racist Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Acts. Drop charges, repeal the Act! Committee for the defence of the Brisbane Three, 9 Greencroft Gardens, London NW6.

Plesseys plan in secret to sack 7000

MERSEYSIDE: A confidential report published this week proves that Plesseys intend to close down their huge plant at Edge Lane, Liverpool and throw 7000 workers there on the dole.

This week's issue of the Liverpool Free Press prints the minutes of secret meetings held between Plessey bosses and Liverpool City councillors as early as 1972, in which Plessey announced their intention to close down Edge Lane.

The Free Press story confirms the worst suspicions of Plessey militants, who have suspected that Plesseys are using the latest cut in the Post Office as an excuse for closing down the factory.

It also confirms the fear of many militants—express-

ed in Socialist Worker six weeks ago—that the Plessey announcement of 2000 sackings, most of them in the staff, is an attempt to split the workforce so that the closure can go through, 'as smoothly as possible'.

Dave Woods, former senior technical representative for ASTMS at Plesseys, told Socialist Worker: 'We've been conned. It's as simple as that. Plesseys told us at the beginning of the year that they were going to modernise the factory. But they never started. They planned all the time to shut us down'.

ASTMS steward Mike Naidoo said: 'We've circulated the Free Press report all over the place. I think it's shaken people up. Too many people have hoped they won't get chopped because they're good workers.

Now they realise the truth. Unless we fight very hard, we're all for the dole.'

The revelations have galvanised the staff workers into action. An angry mass meeting of 2000 on Tuesday afternoon voted unanimously:

To refuse to talk to management about redundancies.

To refuse to accept redundancies. Any worker who is told he or she is sacked must turn up for work as before. They will be supported by levies and expected to cause the maximum nuisance.

For selective strike action in key work areas.

WOODHEAD WORKERS: WE FIGHT CLOSURE

by Ossett supporters of the Engineers Charter

YORKSHIRE: Woodheads are planning to close down their coil springs factory in Ossett. Run-down is planned to start from Thursday this week.

Woodheads are the biggest employer in Ossett. Colin Moore, the convenor, explained the effect this would have on the town: 'It would be mass unemployment, there are no other jobs.'

Pete Shaw, a worker in the factory, said: 'There's no doubt they're trying to smash the organisation in our factory. Through our action this year we've won wage rises of £17 a week, and not just for us, for the whole Woodheads combine.'

'Even after that the firm admits labour costs only make up 18 per cent of the coils. When they tell us we're not viable, they're just lying.'

Colin Moore doesn't exaggerate when he says: 'This is the biggest battle we've been in. We're fighting for our right to work. We appeal to workers in the industry who usually work with Woodheads springs or shock absorbers to let us know immediately if there's any attempt to substitute another make.'

Write to Colin Moore, 1 St John's Crescent, Ossett, Yorkshire.

Unemployed builders plan action

by Ray Storey, (GMWU) secretary, Unemployed Workers Action Committee.

SOUTH LONDON: An action committee has been elected after weekly meetings of unemployed workers outside Charlton's Thames Barrier site. The single consistent demand coming from the meetings is for a complete ban on overtime on the site, and the employment of extra men.

There are 300 men working on the site, but only 25 on the nightshift. By May the consortium plan to have two fully manned 12-hour shifts. Make that three eight-hour shifts and it would mean 900 workers instead of the proposed 600.

If we don't get an overtime ban now, by May the present 100 missing jobs will have risen to 300.

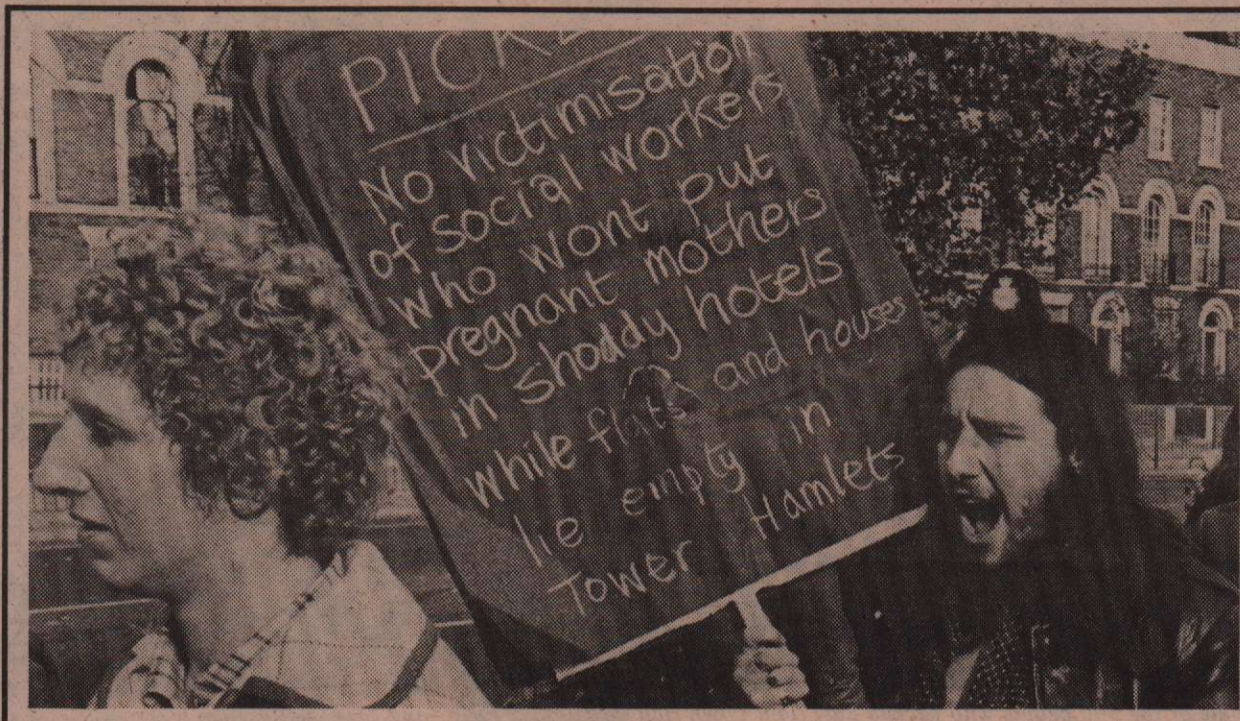
We've asked to put our case to the stewards' committee, and to a mass meeting of workers on the site. As yet we've had no answer.

Our committee has also issued a statement to all TGWU, UCATT, Boilermakers and CEU branches in the area, asking them to condemn the working of overtime while 1½ million are on the dole, and to pressurise their members working on the Thames Barrier site.

But we have two weaknesses. Firstly most of the unemployed lads at the meetings are CEU. This has misled workers on the site to thinking that this is a sectional issue. In fact the demand, NO OVERTIME WHILE MEN ARE ON THE DOLE, would mean the employment of far more labourers than skilled CEU members.

Secondly there is the present lack of any rank and file body in the area, linking together, shop stewards committees, branches and district committees with the unemployed, prepared to fight for the right to work.

We are just unemployed workers on our own, mainly from one union, but we've started the ball rolling and the campaign is going to continue.



by Derek Ralph, secretary, Tower Hamlets Social Services shop stewards' committee

EAST LONDON:—200 social service workers in Tower Hamlets were on strike for a day last week. We were protesting at the disciplining of 17 colleagues in the Isle of Dogs team who were upholding union policy not to admit homeless families with children under one year into bed-and-breakfast hotel accommodation.

To apply pressure on the council, they had squatted one family in their office. They made clear the family wouldn't be

moved out until proper housing had been offered. There are 3000 empty houses in the borough.

The family got that offer, but immediate reprisals followed. 15 of the 17 refused to attend the disciplinary hearing, so fresh charges could result.

Social services' workers are angry at the situation. Housing resources are wasted: London boroughs are spending £100,000 a week on hotels. What was once an overnight provision in an emergency is now a growing practice.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

WORKERS WIN AT TRIBUNAL

GLASGOW:—A tribunal ruled last week that Ladbroke's had unfairly dismissed six workers. It recommended they should be reinstated and get £100-£200 compensation. These six workers provided the test case for the 130 workers involved in the dispute.

Local TGWU official Hugh Wyper, said: 'It is not our intention to screw Ladbroke's. What we are after is what we have always been after—the opportunity to sit round a table and negotiate.'

Meanwhile the Ladbroke's workers are carrying on their 21st week of picketing.

CHRYSLER WORKERS MUST MEET THREAT

300 picket Lovells

NORTH LONDON:—300 building workers from London sites formed a mass picket against the lump outside Lovell's Caledonian Road site last Thursday. The picket was called in support of 70 building workers at Lovell's Guilford Street site, who have been on strike for a month over the sacking of 24 men.

by Peter Bain, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood

WHEN the boss of one of America's biggest corporations has to sneak into Britain for secret talks with Harold Wilson you can be sure he's got sackings on his mind.

Riccardo, Chrysler's top dog, made his threat to pull out of Britain after there was a meeting of Chrysler shop stewards in Linwood last Wednesday. At this meeting we had a report from the Chrysler Combine's meeting with Chrysler UK deputy managing director Peter Griffiths. He has refused to give long-term assurances about our jobs. The Combine therefore refused to discuss Chrysler's 'Employee Participation Programme'.

John Carty, chairman of the Linwood joint shop stewards committee, wanted us to pressurise the government to provide Chrysler with the £35 million it had requested to build a new model.

SOCIALIST

But the stewards spoke of Chrysler's rationalisation policy, of its European expansion plans based on Spain—where it's a crime to strike—and France—where the Chrysler subsidiary Simca, has a company union. Chrysler has been running a huge financial swindle with its Swiss subsidiary and has already received tens of millions from public funds.

An amendment to Carty's recommendation was then moved, calling for a clear lead from the Linwood stewards based on the demands: No redundancies—nationalise Chrysler without compensation. It also called for a campaign to win the whole workforce behind this policy. If the government weren't forced to guarantee our jobs, then as at British Leyland, thousands of jobs would go.

This amendment was defeated by 200

votes to 50 at the shop stewards' meeting. The argument used against it—before Riccardo's threats were made known—was that it was 'unrealistic' and in 'cloud cuckoo-land'.

Then came the bombshell threats—which make anything less look crazy.

Chrysler's perspective is to build 'European' models and concentrate production outside Britain. The new French-built Alpine is the first new Chrysler model to be launched on the British market since the Avenger in 1970.

Chrysler want the government to finance any future production without having to put a penny in themselves. This is why they've asked 'Finance for Industry' for £35 million and the Department of Trade and Industry for £15 million.

Even if Chrysler receive another 'loan', they are also determined to get a further drastic reduction in the 25,000 jobs—with savage speed-up for those remaining.

We must tell Chrysler and the Labour government that this price is unacceptable. Our task is not to defend Chrysler—but

to defend jobs.

Riccardo has crept into the country on the quiet so that he could avoid demonstrations. But we aren't going to let him slip plant and machinery out of the country or sell bits off to someone else and leave us on the dole.

The whole of this area of Scotland is going to be hit. So will most of Coventry. The campaign must involve workers right across the area, and that includes those who are unemployed.

STEWARDS SAY: BACK THIS CONFERENCE

SHOP stewards in Chrysler plants have issued a letter calling for support for the conference on the crisis in the motor industry next Saturday in Birmingham. Part of the letter says: 'If they get away with murder at Chrysler then they'll try it on even worse at Vauxhall, Leyland, Lucas, Ford, GKN and so on.

'A fight back that defends every job

and presses for the complete nationalisation of the motor industry without a penny compensation must be organised. The conference is bringing together trade unionists from all over the country. It's a step in the right direction.

'We urge all your readers who are involved in the industry to come along and join with us to stop the sackings in the

motor industry'

The signatures on the letter include: Rab Reid, J O'Neill, J Reynolds and Willie Lee (AUEW shop stewards, Chrysler Linwood) H Welsh, Peter Bain, D McEwan, R Green (TGVU shop stewards, Chrysler Linwood), R Drysdale (EPTU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood), Andy Enever, Gerry Jones, Bob Parker, Pete Armitage, Dave Edwards, (TGWU stewards, Chrysler Stoke), Dave Nesbit, (AUEW steward, Stoke) Ian Ridley (AUEW) and John McSorley (TGWU) (both members of the Chrysler Ryton Action Group), Jim Shutt, (TASS staff representative and secretary of the Liaison Committee at Chrysler Whitley).

Many workers in the industry have called for support for the meeting. For reasons of space we cannot print the full list, but they include:

LEYLAND: W Fay (secretary JSSC Albion), J Knowles (NUMW steward, Austin Longbridge), E Richmond (TASS convenor, Triumph Coventry), P Cleaver (ACTSS branch secretary, Triumph Coventry), J Villiers (ACTSS steward, Jaguar Coventry), G Dool (TGWU steward, Rover Cardiff).

COMPONENTS: Colin Moore (convenor, Woodheads, Ossett), P Quinn (AUEW steward, Humpfield (silencers Manchester) C Cave (GMWU steward, Ayroquip, Cardiff), J Canny (AUEW steward, MA2 Smiths, Cricklewood), R Cooper (AUEW steward, MA1 Smiths, Cricklewood), S Evans (TGWU steward, Cov-Rad, Coventry), S Tagger, (AUEW plant committee, Birmingham), J Hindmarch (TGWU steward, Chester Road, GKN Birmingham).

OTHERS: J Robertson (AUEW steward, Massey Ferguson, Manchester), R Kline (TGWU steward, Massey Ferguson, Coventry), J Fisher (Coventry ASTMS district organiser), G Hope (Coventry TASS divisional organiser).

Crisis in the Motor Industry

National Rank and File Meeting

Saturday 15 November, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham

11.30am: The Crisis—introduced by Willie Lee, AUEW senior shop steward, Chrysler Linwood, and 'Whip' Bean, UAW chief steward, Mounds Road Chrysler engines plant, Detroit, USA.

2.30pm: Workers' Participation—introduced by Frank Henderson, NUMSW shop steward, Leyland Longbridge.

3.30pm: Rank and File Resistance—introduced by Barry Collins, ACTSS deputy convenor, Triumph Coventry.

National meeting ends: 4.30pm.

4.30-5.30pm: Leyland Worker and Chrysler Worker meetings.

Credentials: 50p at door for trade unionists working in the industry.

Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16

ADVERTISEMENT
NATIONAL RANK AND FILE
ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Health and Safety at Work

Another series of day schools have been arranged, sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and trade union branches. Please write direct to local organisers for further details.

WEST YORKSHIRE: Saturday 8 November. Organiser: Brother G Shaw, 1 Hoyle Court Road, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks. Phone Shipley 54043.

LIVERPOOL: Saturday 29 November, 11am-5pm, in the AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant. Admission 50p. Organising secretary: Brother T Healey, 14 Ranfurly Road, Liverpool 19. Phone 051-427 1599.

National Rank and File
Organising Committee, 46 Prince
George Road, London N16 8BY.
Phone: 01-249 1207.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

500 at Tomlinson meeting



TUC chief Murray: a sickening letter to Ricky Tomlinson

Pathetic, Murray

SHREWSBURY PICKET TOLD: BUT WE DID OUR BEST...

TUC GENERAL SECRETARY Len Murray has written a pitiful reply to a letter from Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson asking him how he could sleep at night while Des Warren was still in jail.

In the letter, released exclusively to Socialist Worker this week, Murray writes:

'I can well appreciate that your own experiences and friendship with Mr Warren have led to a feeling of frustration about the present situation.

'But it is completely wrong for you to imply that our attempts to secure his release have been half hearted or insincere.'

He adds: 'You know that we have met the Home Secretary four times and the Prime Minister to press for clemency to be granted, but regrettably so far without success.

'Failing that, we had hoped that parole would be granted as in your case, but this apparently will not now be possible until at least May next year.'

It's clear the only form of action Murray can envisage is lobbying Home Secretary Roy Jenkins.

Nevertheless, Murray hastens to add that if 'further steps were practicable' and 'would have a chance of success', then they would 'receive serious attention'.

It could well be that the next decisive form of action entertained by the TUC General Council is prayer.



Some of the 500 people who packed East Ham Town Hall on Tuesday night—and gave the Right to Work campaign in London a massive boost. The meeting, chaired by Royal Docks shop steward Michael Fenn, heard fine speeches from Ricky Tomlinson, the Shrewsbury picket, Bill Freeman, Senr, a London print militant.

Fight for the Right to Work

NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee:

MANCHESTER

Thursday 20 November, 8pm, Houldsworth Hall. Speakers to be announced.

CENTRAL LONDON

Wednesday 12 November, 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson (freed Shrewsbury picket) and other leading trade unionists.

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

THE PRICE OF PROFIT...

THE DEATH of five steelworkers at British Steel's Appleby-Frodingham plant this week came as no surprise to the working community of Scunthorpe.

When the nearby Flixborough plant went up last year, killing 28 men, many felt sure it was the steel plant that had blown.

The hazards of working in Appleby-Frodingham are so well known locally that workers have regularly left for 'cleaner, safer' jobs at Flixborough.

The men who died were involved in moving molten metal, perhaps the biggest single hazard in steel. Complaints about BSC's methods—about inadequate mountings and bogies—are legion.

The dead men join the fast-growing list of 'industrial fatalities'. Ten construction workers were killed building the new BSC Anchor complex up the road.

And far to the north last weekend, three oil rig workers were killed in an explosion—just days before the 'celebrations' over BP's first barrel ashore.

Five die in 'worse than Flixborough' steel plant

Flashback to Flixborough, June 1974: Now, just a few miles away, five more men have died

Some of the deaths attract publicity. They result in official expressions of regret, perhaps even a committee of inquiry.

But as soon as the niceties are out of the way, business gets back to normal. You start right back where you left off on the profitable malpractices.

From time to time, of course, the odd boss does end up in court. But the charges are so slight and the fines so derisory that you know the operation is a farce.

What's more, it's cheaper to pay a fine than to install safe, properly-designed equipment.

This was well illustrated at



Billericay Magistrates Court in Essex last week. In the dock was Land Reclamations, owners of the Pitsea tip.

Period

The firm, charged with offences which caused the death of waste disposal driver Thomas Carroll, were fined £150.

Mrs Carroll has an official expression of regret to see her through the rest of her life. The widows at Appleby-Frodingham can expect the same.

£1000—and we're there!

WITH THIS week's magnificent total of £631.46, the fund is close to the £5000 mark. That leaves us with just over £1000 to finish off our special typesetting fund.

So, comrades and friends, dig deep in the next couple of weeks and send your donations to Mel Norris, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

- Our thanks to: Halifax IS £47, SE London District £227, Imperial College SW/Chingari meeting £9, Paisley SW reader £20, Bristol IS £7, Wolverhampton IS £3, Southampton IS £7, Trumpington Council Estate Cambridge SW readers £3.50, SW readers Womersley Guildford £6, SW reader Trefenter nr Aberystwyth £2, Portsmouth Poly IS £6, Poole SW reader £5, Sheffield IS £46.40, Newham OAP 50p, SW reader Newham 80p, Wolverhampton IS £2, Cornwall reader 50p, Glasgow reader £1, Gloucester reader £1.20, Ninevells Hospital SW supporters £4.

- Gloucester SW supporters £1.20, Cramlington SW readers N Tyneside 60p, Central London NUJ member £20, SW London Dist £25, Bolton social and disco £13, Manchester Poly SW supporters £4, Bristol IS £20, SW readers Nelson £2.26, Loughborough IS £5, Inland Revenue Bootle 50p, Brighton NALGO Health SW reader £2, Bristol IS £10, Peterborough IS £5, Norwich building worker £1, Warwick University Staff IS £60, Bradford IS £35.

Leyland 'participation': The ugly truth

THE BRITISH Leyland workers' participation agreement signed last week involves the most amazing deal between management and top union men.

Senior stewards are to be 'trained' in 'company finance' so they are 'better equipped to understand the needs of the company'.

And the management are giving them their own little office in Leyland House, Coventry, which they will be able to travel to and use at any time.

Not that Leyland is giving anything away. The plans underline that 'executive

responsibility rests with management'.

In appendix 4 of the management document, the farce is carefully spelt out. 'Voting committee and council members will not vote' it says in a near classic statement. Instead, the 'chairman will genuinely seek to achieve the maximum areas of agreement'. The chairman will of course be a member of management.

When it comes to reporting back to the shop floor things get even worse. No minutes will be kept or distributed. Instead there will be an 'agreed record' drawn up by the chairman and senior trade union

representatives. Only this will be circulated and put on notice boards.

Not one of the convenors who signed the document referred the proposals back to his stewards' committee. And none called mass meetings to allow rank and file members to express their opinions.

These proposals amount to an attempt to disarm independent trade union organisation. They must be opposed.

No phoney participation. For independent trade union organisation No secret negotiations No speed-up and no more sackings.

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