

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



THE EASTER RISING

SIXTY YEARS AFTER
Special feature - pages 7,8-9

NO DEAL WITH HEALEY!

I'VE got a pay slip here. It's from last December. My gross wage was £65.50 a week. After stoppages, I took home £43.40.

Since then, we've had the £6 increase.

I drew my wage last week. It was £71.50 gross. After stoppages, it was £48.80. My national insurance contributions are up. So is tax. The real difference is only £2.40.

But I'm spending £10 a week more than I was this time last year on the same basic items: food, heat, light, clothes and so on!



by TREVOR BROWN

NUM, underground miner, Houghton Main Colliery, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

Now Healey's got the nerve to say I can't have more than 3 per cent—and I have to wait till next March for it!

Bread's just gone up again, and milk, on top of the huge increases in the price of spuds. And it's already been admitted that there are a lot more price increases in the pipeline.

Healey's deal would put my

take-home pay up by less than £1.50 a week. Even if inflation is kept down to 10 per cent, I'll have to spend another £6 a week just to buy what I buy now.

It's just not on.

Things were a lot easier before our last two strikes in 1972 and 1974. We could afford holidays then, but now, with the Budget, it

makes you wonder how we're going to afford one.

It's obvious that Healey, Ezra, the Coal Board Chairman, and Joe Gormley, our union president, won't have problems like that this summer.

Arthur Scargill's point that £100 a week is not too much for the faceworker is, being proved right all the time—and we can't afford to wait till March. We want it in November.

SABOTAGE

Gormley and co are going to do all they can to sabotage this claim. He and the other trade union leaders will be sitting smoking cigars with Healey looking for ways to sell us out for 5 per cent—just a few more pennies!

But as far as I'm concerned it's no deal with Healey. We've got to start getting ready for another fight.

I and a lot of other miners realise that it's not going to be easy with coal stocks as high as they are. Obviously, we're going to need help from other workers—power workers, railway workers and transport workers—and they'll need help from us.

But if we don't fight, then it's back to poverty and pit closures.

Des Warren: Eight leave Labour

'It is now obvious that the Labour Party have no intention of releasing this political prisoner'

EIGHT people have resigned from the Labour Party in Liverpool in protest at the continued imprisonment of Shrewsbury picket Des Warren.

'We have continually campaigned for his release both locally and nationally and it is now obvious that the Labour Party have no intention of releasing this political prisoner', says their letter

of resignation.

The eight are Roger, Audrey and Kim Mullin, Stephen Tabern, Michael and Dorothy Armstrong, Paul and Bernard Shore. They were members of the Crosby Labour Party.

The letter goes on: 'We feel that the continued imprisonment of Des Warren by the Labour Party is unforgivable. To us it is more than a matter of conscience, it is the very

substance of all that the working class have been fighting against since working-class history started.

'The attitude of verbal outrage is typical of the party, whose self-interest takes priority over the injustices of this society handed out to a member of the working class whose only crime is the love of his kind and the improvement of their lot'.



Vic Turner, one of the jailed Pentonville 5, being arrested in 1972.

Pentonville and Shrewsbury pickets say: Defend the 44!

LEADING London dockers, including two of the Pentonville Five, jailed for picketing by the Tories in 1972, have signed the defence appeal for the unemployed workers arrested during the police attack on the Right to Work March.

The signatories are: Vic Turner, Royal Docks shop steward and a member of the TGWU National Docks Group Committee.

Fred Roffe, a member of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union executive.

Morrie Foley, chairman of number 2 (Royal Docks) TGWU Divisional Committee.

Bernie Steers, NASDU shop steward, Royal Docks and secretary of the Royal Docks Joint PLA Committee.

John Connolly, shop steward, West India Dock, and a member of Number 1 Docks Group Committee.

George Learmouth, chairman, West India Docks shop stewards committee.

Brian Nicholson, chairman, Number 1

Docks Group TGWU. John Lear, Surrey Docks Divisional Officer TGWU.

Ricky Tomlinson, the building worker jailed at Shrewsbury for picketing in 1973, has also signed the defence fund appeal. He said: 'Unless the whole trade union movement rallies round these 44, we could have another Shrewsbury trial on our hands'.

Right to Work: The Campaign now—pages 3, 4 and 15.

DEFEND THE 44! NO MORE SHREWSBURYS!

The 44 workers arrested in the police attack on the Right to Work March will appear in court on Friday 21 May. The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade union and labour movement bodies to send delegations to a picket outside the court on Friday 21 May at 10am. outside Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, Edgware Road, West Hendon, London NW9.

Send delegations. Make sure you are represented. Bring banners.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

ALL OUT 26 MAY!

BEHIND THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

THREE WORKERS at a North London factory have been seized in police raids on their homes. They were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the law that has little to do with 'preventing terrorism' and everything to do with driving fear into Irish families living in this country.

The arrests were revealed in London on Saturday at a meeting called to fight the Act. Eddie Reedy, a shop steward at the factory— in Cricklewood—told how the police raids had been seen as a threat to all the workers. 'A large number of West Indians work there', he said, 'and they reckon they're next for the hammer'.

But the workers were not taking it lying down.

Police

'We've won two undertakings', said Eddie. One from management that the police can't take anyone away unless the union is told why or where he's being taken.

'Two, that we'll take industrial action unless that person is given legal aid.'

Eddie's was just one of many horror stories to come out of the meeting, which was attended by 70 trade unionists.

Tom McFadden, a member of Finsbury Park



PICTURES: Andrew Ward (Report)

If ever I don't show up at work six mates will know what to do.

—Richard Cummins



I get letters opened. I get followed. What the hell's going on?

—Tom McFadden

We won't live in fear!

No 2 branch of the Engineers Union, said: 'If I go into a newsagent for a paper, they're so busy listening to my Irish accent, they get flustered and I end up walking out with the wrong paper.'

'I get letters and they've been opened. By whom?'

'I'm being followed when I go home from union meetings. What the hell's

going on? 'I live on my own in digs. If the police came for me, who would know?'

Sister

'I can't even go home to my sister in Ireland. She doesn't want me, because the last time I visited her, the police raided the house and pulled everything about,

even ripped out the new cooker.'

Another AUEW member, Richard Cummins, of Marylebone No 2 branch said:

'I felt really isolated. Then this letter came to my union branch from the Trade Union Committee Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

'I brought it up at work.

Now there are six Englishmen who have said that if I don't show up at work one Monday, they'll ring up the police stations and see if I'm being held under the Act.

'And they'll ring the emergency phone number to get help, to get a solicitor down to me.'

That number (01-603 8654) can be used by anyone.

Several people arrested under the Act, including Joe Gallagher, a carpenter from Bletchley, John Higgins, an electronics technician from Luton, and Pat Arrowsmith, from the British Campaign for Withdrawal of Troops from Northern Ireland, told the meeting about their arrests.

DPP: Department for the Protection of Parasites

SOCIALIST WORKER sends fraternal greetings to Peter Hain. He and his jury have thwarted the efforts of senior policemen and top government officials to put him behind bars.

We are glad he has not joined the large number of working class people who go down on the flimsiest of police evidence—a point he has gone out of his way to make.

What about George Davis, or George Ince, he has asked.

Or for that matter James Hanratty, hanged on flimsy 'evidence' of identification.

What about literally thousands of other unknown and unnamed people victimised and incarcerated by the forces of law and order and their increasingly well known little tricks?

Pressure

According to Michael Zander, the legal correspondent of The Guardian, the Hain prosecution resulted from the pressure of the Treasury Solicitors, who wanted to 'get' another of their left-wing enemies.

These solicitors, unelected but immensely powerful, were also responsible for pushing through other recent political prosecutions.

These include the prosecution of the 21 Iranian students for conspiracy, and the disaffection trial of pacifists who offered to help serving soldiers get out of the army.

Such is the power over the nominal head of the legal system, the Labour Attorney General Sam Silkin, that they openly insult him.

Enemies

After he had attempted to stop the prosecution of a Gay newspaper, one of them accused him of 'giving in to the poof lobby'.

But the power of these people isn't confined to launching prosecutions against their enemies.

They're also consistently able to prevent any awkward prosecutions against their friends and fellow pillars of the community, company directors.

There are, for instance, to be no prosecutions against the businessmen behind the huge Vehicle and General bankruptcy fraud.

They sold their own shares



Tory MP Edward Du Cann (centre) with two other former directors of Keyser Ullmann, the firm which figures in the V&G scandal

EDWARD CANN DU NO WRONG

while the price was high, and paid absolutely unwarranted dividends to rich shareholders like Keyser Ullmann (chairman: Tory MP Edward Du Cann).

Further evidence that there is one law for the poor and another (or none at all) for the rich was disclosed last week by an Edinburgh based researcher, W G Carson.

He has elaborate proof that crimes committed by employers in breach of the industrial safety regulations scarcely, if ever, result in

prosecutions. In a sample of 200 firms in the South East of England committing 4000 offences over a five-year period, only 1.6 per cent of first offences and 2.1 per cent of second offences ever resulted in prosecutions!

The current round of social service cuts will mean an even more ludicrous lack of Factory Inspectors and even fewer prosecutions.

This will be great delight to the lovers of law and order for the poor and big profits for the rich.



Peter Hain: a wanted man because of his politics

CHILDREN FIGHT TO KEEP FREE BUS PASSES

5000 SCHOOLCHILDREN in South Wales have been fighting to win back a free school bus service. And they look like winning.

The axe was being wielded by Gwent Council which had been ordered to lop £1.6 million off its education budget. To save £236,000, it decided to cut out

a number of free passes. Some parents would have had to pay out another £1.25 a week for each child. Action committees were formed. Deputations of mums and children went to see the council. There were demonstrations, marches and pickets.

The council plan came in on 1 April. But on 7 April, the Education Committee backed down.

Their decision will go to the full council meeting on 7 May. But they have threatened that the money will be saved by cuts elsewhere.

Which simply means that other people will have to learn to fight as effectively as these children and their parents.

Mr Ivan Donald Margary, of East Grinstead, left £1,685,084 net. He left £10,000 each to the Society of Antiquaries, the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, and the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and other charitable bequests.

From The Times, 9 April

AFTER the beef mountain—the butter mountain.

The big monopolies—Unigate and Express Dairy Foods—announced last week that they were finding it more profitable to put all their butter into cold stores.

Their decision is affected by the increase in what Common Market pay them for storing butter—which is now more than they can get from the shops.

The butter mountain is growing at the rate of 1000 tonnes a week. Once in stores, it loses in quality, while the butter which does go into the shops goes UP in price.

A spokesman for Unigate told The Times last week: 'What we are really doing is to play the international market while we get rid of old stock.'

60 police take on pickets

KENT: 60 police lined the narrow country lanes that leads to the Isle of Grain power station site last Friday morning.

They were in place well before the 318 strong workforce arrived for the first day of their picket.

'Who's on strike here, us or them' asked one worker as he arrived. The picket passed off well, although the police had made it plain that they were prepared to arrest workers.

Picket

A mass meeting of other workers on the site who have refused to cross the picket line later heard that a detective inspector had threatened one steward that he would not be on a picket line that morning if he wasn't careful.

The strikers' case was put to the meeting, which voted overwhelmingly to support the men.

The strike is in support of two Engineering Union members and one member of the Electricians Union. They were taken off the clock for refusing to work overtime.

The stewards made every effort to get a settlement, even offering the company a night shift.

The company however seems to be out to win the right to make the men work overtime whenever it suits them.

SACRIFICE CORNER

MICHAEL ANDREWS, former chief executive of the Brands merchant banking subsidiary of Grindlays Bank, left the board of the publicly-quoted Grindlays Holdings in December with a golden handshake of £40,000.

—from the Daily Telegraph, 10 April.

HEALEY'S MOTTO To them that hath shall be given

LABOUR'S Programme 1973, which formed the basis of the Labour Party Manifestos in 1974, declared as the first aim of the next Labour government:

□ To bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families.

The Labour government's plans for the next year, as outlined in this month's Budget, have a different aim:

□ To bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of moneylenders, shareholders, industrialists and all others who make wealth from the labour of working people and their families.

Stock exchange experts and City editors are still rubbing their eyes in disbelief at Chancellor Healey's hand-outs.

For a start, he has wiped out Corporation Tax apparently for ever.

For the first time since the Bank of England was 'nationalised' in 1946, he has instructed it to authorise 'medium term finance' for loans to industrialists.

Healey has also offered relaxations in the Price Code. There is already no limit on prices for export goods or for capital goods—and now Healey is promising to remove the slender price restrictions on goods for sale here in Britain.

■■■

Add to this the sudden and unexpected 'concessions' on capital transfer tax for people who hand over their private businesses. Under Healey's last Budget, a businessman who left £1 million worth of business in his will had to pay £589,750 tax. Now Healey says he need only pay £394,750.

Never in 50 years' history of Labour governments has so much government money, concessions and care been lavished on industrialists and shareholders.

What is the reason for all this? Healey says that all this money—your money,

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

workers' money—has to be handed over to industrialists and shareholders so that they can invest it in machinery and create more jobs

That was exactly the argument used by Anthony Barber, Tory Chancellor in 1973, for his tax hand-outs to the rich.

What happened? Investment did not rise. Enormous fortunes were stashed away in property speculation and fringe banking.

■■■

The speculators and fringe bankers are coming out of the woodwork again. There is no evidence whatever that the money Healey hands out to capitalists will result in manufacturing industry boom—or investment.

Keith Richardson, the Sunday Times Industrial Editor who has his nose firmly fixed to the gravy-train passengers in the City, put it clearly: Two years as Chancellor have taught Denis Healey that there are two things he cannot control. He cannot make people either work or invest.

There can now be no doubt about what is happening. The workers of Britain are being soaked in the tune of thousands of millions of pounds for the sake of an illusion: that the bosses and shareholders will provide jobs for them. It didn't happen in 1973. And it will happen even less this time.

At no stage will Healey's proposals help the unemployed.

The proposals prove that the fight for the right to work is inextricably bound up with the fight for decent wages: that the fight against the 3 per cent is part and



A demonstrator's placard puts Healey's Budget in a nutshell.

parcel of the fight against the social spending cuts and the fight against unemployment.

The Budget proposals add a new dimension to the call by the London Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions for a strike and day of action on unemployment on Wednesday 26 May.

The 26 May demonstration now becomes a focus not only for anger about unemployment, but for all workers' action on the government's wage freeze.

The most popular slogan on the Manchester to London Right to Work March last month was:
**Stop the Cuts!
Smash the Freeze!
Fight for the Right to Work!**

The three demands cannot be separated, but can now be reinforced with another call for action:
All out on 26 May!



National Right to Work Campaign
Rank and File Organising Committee

No deals with Healey!

Stop the Cuts

Smash the freeze!

Fight for the Right to Work!

ALL OUT 26 MAY!

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Picket the TUC Economic Committee, this Wednesday, 14 April.
NO MORE DEALS!
9am, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (nearest tube Tottenham Court Road).

RIGHT TO WORK: THE CAMPAIGN NOW

RIGHT TO WORK Campaign secretary John Deason has called for the maximum possible work by campaign supporters for the 26 May day of action called by the Assembly on Unemployment.

'Unemployed workers can play a particularly effective part in mobilising support,' he said. The National Right to Work Campaign has called on all its local committees and all the 1000 trade union organisations supporting the campaign to:

□ Call for strike action for

26 May against unemployment, against the cuts and against any wage deal between the TUC and Healey.

□ Organise direct action before 26 May through pickets, occupations and small demonstrations calling for stoppages.

□ Organise visits to every one of the 1,000 trade union bodies that have supported the campaign so far urging them to organise action for 26 May. All these and many others will already have received a letter from the Right to Work Campaign urging support for the 26 May.

□ Call local demonstrations where none have been organised for the 26th and organise leaflets, posters and factory gate meetings around workplaces calling for support.

□ Organise delegations of unemployed workers around local workplaces arguing against overtime, for a shorter working week and for support for the 26th.

□ Get employed workers and trade union bodies sponsoring the campaign to go down to the dole queues with

leaflets bringing unemployed workers into the campaign.

□ Organise direct action on the 26th.

'We don't just want a lot of passive demonstrations,' said John Deason. 'One thing we learnt on the march was that unemployed workers can break through the conventions and get in and argue directly with workers. We shall be visiting any factory that tries to work overtime on the 26th.'

'We shall be organising widespread coordinated action by the unemployed on the day as well as by those at work.'

□ Organise resolutions through every trade union body calling for official support for the day of action.

□ Link the 26th in all resolutions and actions with the demonstration on 21 May in London in support of the 44 arrested Right to Work marchers.

'Defend 44' picket growing

SUPPORT for the picket outside Hendon Magistrates Court, in North West London, on Friday 21 May is coming in to the Right to Work Campaign's office.

A picket of delegates from trade union bodies has been called to support the 44 unemployed workers arrested on the Right to Work march when it was attacked by the police.

Tommy Douras, one of the marchers who was not arrested, told Socialist Worker: 'We must organise support for the 44 before the case, not afterwards. That is the best protection against another Shrewsbury. We want as many delegations from trade union bodies with their

banners outside the court as possible and not just from London—from all over the country.'

The following trade union bodies have promised support outside the court that day: Haringey Trades Council, Clansons AUEW, Waltham Forest and Newham CPSA, London Airport EETPU, Frenchay NUPE Hospital Branch, Lambeth Trades Council, Goldsmiths College Student Union, North Hammersmith Health NUPE, North London NUT, Dillons ACTS 1451 Branch, Blackburn AUEW No 1, Moorfields Eye Hospital NUPE, Edmonton and Enfield Trades Council, Edmonton No 1 AUEW.

Average pay for men £60.80 . . . for women £37.40

They're out all over

ABBOTS BROTHERS, Biggleswade.

Four women and one man, all in the AUEW, won equal pay at the beginning of February. The man got the increase, too.

GEC, Birlec, Birmingham.

60 TASS members came out for £10. They won support from the men. They're still out.

HEATRAE-SADIA ENGINEERING, Norwich.

Nine ASTMS members have the support of the men. They're still out on strike.

NEWTON DERBY, Derby.

20 APEX members and two men were on strike for 12 weeks. Their case has now gone to an industrial tribunal.

H J BARLOW, Wednesbury

25 GMWU members are claiming £3.40 for parity with the men. The men crossed the picket line throughout the strike, although it was official. Now the case has gone to arbitration.

COCKBURN VALVES, Hillington, Scotland.

23 TASS members have been out for three months—and they're still out! They are claiming up to £15 to bring them up to the men's rates. The men in TASS are supporting the strike.

MAGNETIC ELECTRICAL ALLOYS, Hamilton, Scotland

26 TASS members came out supported by the men, for 33 days. They won increases of between £7 and £14.

WHEWAY-WATSON, Hillington, Scotland.

11 TASS members, supported by one man, won £5 to £7 increases. Supplies to the Coal Industry were blocked.

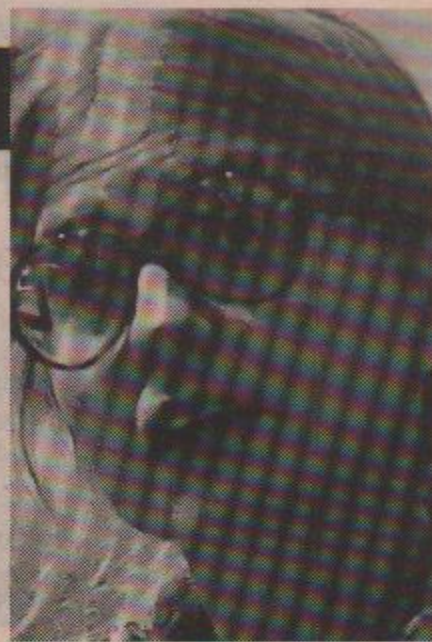
IF AN EQUAL PAY STRIKE starts in your area or your factory, remember: the women need the maximum support possible from the largest number of workers.

□ APPROACH other women workers, in the same union, in the same company, on the same industrial estate.

□ FIND OUT where other factories and offices in the same company are, and organise leafletting and collections.

□ REMEMBER that the support of the men can be crucial. But you won't get it unless you ask for it. Don't rely on the officials to ask for it either.

Go and see the shop stewards' committee, the branch, the district committee immediately.



PICTURE: Andrew Wlard (Report)

By
**MARGARET
RENN**

GEC, Treforest, Wales.

400 AUEW members came out for £3.45 to bring them up to the minimum male rate. They got the support of the male supervisors and the AUEW Llantrisant District Committee. Management threatened redundancy, and they settled for £2.50.

CLARKSONS TOOLS, Sheffield.

After two weeks on strike, 44 TASS members won increases of up to £8, in excess of the £6 limit. The men supported them. Now the Department of Employment is investigating the settlement.



for EQUAL PAY



Picture John Sturrock Report

EQUAL PAY is yours by right. Every woman is entitled to it. It isn't included in the £6 limit.

There are huge increases to be won. Women typists working for the Scottish division of General Motors have just been awarded pay rises of up to £16, bringing their wages to £57 a week.

But they had to fight for it. All women will have to fight for it. It's no good relying on the law.

The Equal Pay Act says women should get the same money when doing the same or 'broadly similar' work.

But the Act is being undermined by the very people appointed to uphold it.

CLAIMS

The Industrial Tribunals, which are settling some of the claims aren't allowing 'broadly similar' to count at all.

Take two examples, from the Birmingham Tribunal this year.

Ann Hunt worked as a wallpaper stockcontroller. She claimed equality with a male stockcontroller dealing with paints and sundries.

But the Tribunal ruled she had no case because the work

was not equal. The man was under less supervision. He dealt with more outside contracts.

'The company was entitled to take into account the past experience of Mr Fletcher and his background.'

So she lost.

So did the rifle packers at Parker Hale.

In their case, the tribunal agreed that the two women worked just as hard as the men in packing rifles and loading the packing cases, weighing up to one hundredweight.

IT'S OUR RIGHT - BUT WE STILL HAVE TO FIGHT

But the tribunal said that because the men also did 'a bit of clerking' the women shouldn't get equal pay.

VALUE

Heavy work has always been an important criterion for paying men more. Now, because they are doing what women have always been paid less for, clerical work, the value of clerical work suddenly goes up.

The law is being redefined more narrowly than ever.

And who by? The tribunals have three members. One

appointed from a TUC list, one from a CBI list, and a chairman who is either a barrister or solicitor. Two to one you lose.

And where they do fight and win, women can't be sure they will get what they are entitled to.

At Clarksons International Tools in Sheffield, the women won an increase of up to £8, in addition to a £6 rise.

The Department of Employment is now investigating the settlement on the grounds that it was a general increase, that it

should be treated like any other pay increase, and that it is in excess of the £6 limit!

There is no reason why women should earn less than men—unless you are one of the employing class and it's to your advantage to pay one-third of the working population less than the rate for the job.

Women have been paid too little for too long. They've had enough.

They know what they're entitled to. And they're fighting for it.

Work is dangerous to your health... Safety is dangerous to their wealth



Special feature on Women's health and safety at work plus articles on the abortion campaign, unemployment among women, equal pay.

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The Great Pioneers

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM Duncan Hallas

Robert Owen and other thinkers were unrealistic about how socialism could be achieved. They did not realise that interests, not reason, were what mattered.

'CO-OPERATION, not competition.' After 1815 this became Robert Owen's constant theme.

'Man's nature is made, not by him but for him' so competitive capitalism based on the 'survival of the fittest and the weakest to the wall' must make men savage, ruthless and anti-social.

Impose the law of the jungle and you breed beasts. Build society on the principles of co-operation, 'a new social order based on human brotherhood', and people will be co-operative and civilised.

This was the first form in which

socialism was preached in Britain—and essentially similar ideas were being advocated in France and, a little later, elsewhere in Western Europe.

But how to get it? Owen had believed at first that the ruling class could be persuaded of the superiority of socialism or co-operation (the two words were interchangeable at the time).

Transform

Once persuaded by the power of sheer reason, they themselves would transform society.

He was soon disillusioned. The capitalists of the day had not taken up Owen's 'scientific management' ideas, in spite of their proven success at New

Lanark, because they didn't need to. With labour so cheap and plentiful, it was not necessary to bother about raising productivity by methods that cost money.

Still less were they, or the ruling oligarchy of rich landlords, willing to contemplate their own liquidation as a class—which is what Owen was inviting them to do!

Marx described Owen and similar thinkers on the continent as 'the great Utopians'. They understood, in advance of everyone else, the necessity for the socialist reconstruction of society.

But their notions of how it could be brought about were utterly unrealistic. Essentially they relied upon reason, upon persuasion. True disciples of the

18th century Enlightenment, they believed that if only people could be made to see the truth, 'the truth would set them free'. The Utopians did not realise that interests, not reason, were what mattered.

Respect

Since the 'respectable' classes would not listen to Owen, he was forced to turn to working men and women.

He never lost his faith in the power of persuasion but he did become convinced of the need for direct action—but direct action of a special kind.

It was necessary, to use a later phrase, 'to build the new society within the shell of the old'.

This could be done by establishing 'co-operative societies'.

These were not mere retail shops. They were societies of producers—'workers' co-operatives' is the current term.

They aimed to create islands of socialism in the capitalist sea.

As they, and the 'communist colonies'—communes is the current phase—grew and attracted more and more workers, the sea would eventually be dried up.

Capitalism would be vanquished by the superior attractive power of socialist production.

By 1830, there were more than 300 societies of this sort in existence.

Growth

Then the take-off really began. It was associated with the first really big-scale growth of trade unionism in Britain (or the world) which culminated in the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union of 1833-34.

These new mass unions were more or less under Owenite influence and regarded the promotion of co-operative production as a central aim.

For a brief spell, Owenite socialism became a mass movement.

Owen rapidly convinced himself that the trade unions would in a very brief space of time—five years—transform existing society into a Socialist community by taking over industry and running it co-operatively.

The savage ruling class counter-attack of 1834 shattered the illusion—along with the unions.

Martyrs

Lock-outs, the 'document', the courts (the Tolpuddle Martyrs were their most celebrated victims) and starvation broke the Grand National and most of the societies along with it.

The labour movement was crushed and co-operation degenerated from the New Moral Order into a matter of retail shopkeeping.

Owen did not recognise the class struggle but it smashed his movement.

The next step was the birth of class struggle socialism.

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EDITORIAL

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International Socialism

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International Socialism Journal for March/April is now available.

Notes of the month cover the background and effects of Healey's savage cuts, the melting pot of Southern Africa and a look at racism in today's Tory Party.

Mike Buckingham argues that the end of the Scottish Daily News heralds the end of workers' co-operative as a job saviour.



Tony Cliff and Robin Peterson survey the last three months in Portugal and look at the tasks facing revolutionaries in the face of the bosses' offensive.

The Middle East is covered by Terry Povey with a critical look at the role of revolutionaries in the Arab states.

Twenty years after Khrushchev's 'secret' speech concerning the crimes of Stalin, Duncan Hallas argues that a discussion on Stalinism and Communism is relevant today in the light of John Gollan's 'Socialist Democracy: Some Problems'.

David Widgery's book on the Left in Britain is reviewed by Martin Shaw.

International Socialism is available, 20p plus 10p postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. It can also be obtained from your SW seller.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE ORME, WHO NEEDS TORIES?

LAST WEDNESDAY morning, amid the upper-class squalor of the House of Lords, an historic motion was debated: to get the troops out of Ireland.

The motion—the first on the subject ever to be put down in Parliament—was moved by Labour MP Tom Driberg.

Not surprisingly, it has caused quite a stir. What will surprise many people is who is doing the stirring.

Press reports have spoken of Labour whips putting pressure on Driberg to back off.

But, according to Fifth Column's correspondent inside the Mother of Parliaments, that is only half the story.

Pressure

By far the heaviest pressure has been exerted not by the whips but by many of Driberg's fellow 'left-wingers'.

Most prominent among them is Tribune Stan Orme, until recently, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland. He has been running round in circles trying to get Driberg to think again.

'even to mention the possibility of withdrawing the troops is to give aid and comfort to the bombers'.

The good socialist Orme is, of course, a dab hand at

pulling some very unsocialist behing-the-scenes strings on the question of Ireland.

When the Southern Ireland government took Britain to the European Court of Human Rights over the use of torture in concentration camps such as Long Kesh, Orme quickly moved into action.

He threatened and cajoled, bargained and manoeuvred with Dublin to

get them to drop the idea. All to no avail. After three years of waiting, the case has finally been heard.

The verdict has yet to be published. But—as in his dealings with Driberg—it is widely believed to be one in the eye for Orme.

Which makes him worth a verdict all of his own: Defender of Torture, Accomplice to Murder.

Callaghan addresses the nation

EXCLUSIVE PICTURE



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We are now in a post-capitalist period.

—ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins, at a meeting in Cambridge on 3 April.

About these skivers, Mr Jones...

LABOUR MP Dan Jones, a real champion of the working-class asked the Commons last week: 'What is being done to eliminate the growing number of skivers?'

He wasn't of course talking about layabouts such as himself, who are paid £100 a

week for airing their bigotry and ignorance.

No, Mr Jones, good 'socialist' that he is, was talking about the unemployed.

He added that he had had 'a large number of letters from constituents who are

becoming enraged at the frequent abuse of social security benefits'.

Mr Jones might care to give those constituents the following facts from last year:

□ Less than £4 million was wrongly claimed by people on supplementary benefits.

□ 15,350 claimants were prosecuted.

□ £500 million was fiddled in tax evasion.

□ 126 taxpayers were prosecuted.

□ No Commons questions were asked by Mr Dan Jones about 'upper class skivers' and the frequent abuse of the rest of us...

... In a moment of depression, wine trader James Lynch treated himself to a pre-Budget lunch at that most salubrious of May-fair restaurants, the Mirabelle. He had an omelette and a bottle of Cheval Blanc 62. The omelette cost 85p—the wine £17.

—from the Daily Express, 8 April.

□ GUESS how much this hard-up country of ours spent on the Secret Service last year? Would you believe £31,000,000...

You are now going to be sick...

THE RECENT Royal visit to Fleet Street seems to have unhinged the editor of the print union paper, Natsopa Journal. Read this nauseating paragraph from its report of the Royal tour of the Evening Standard:

But on the day, the atmosphere changed. Brakehands put on ties for the first time. All the reels appeared with ER on the reel ends, people appeared in the machine room, not doing anything but waiting. Algie the Fib dressed up in a suit made of a Union Jack, with a top hat, waiting to lead the clapping in the vanway. Everywhere the Royal couple went they mingled with, and often spoke to, print workers—asking what job they did and, because of the many who were waiting to see them, asking was this what was meant by over-manning.

□ WHILE on the subject of our wonderful Queen, you'll be overwhelmed by the news that next year (can you wait?) is her Silver Jubilee. To mark this memorable occasion, London Transport is planning to paint silver every bus on the No 25 route (25 years as Queen, geddit?). And that's not all. There's going to be piped music on the top deck.

Not bad for an outfit so 'hard up' that it's cutting out one service after another...

IT WILL affect me bloody roughly. I just hope my wife will continue to understand me.

—Peter Parker, on accepting the job of British Rail boss at a salary of 'only' £23,100 a year on 7 April.

□ PRESS coverage of last week's National Union of Students' conference was predictably obnoxious. But there was one bright spot—the day London Evening Standard reporter Mary Macpherson's coverage appeared under the not inaccurate by-line of Mary Macpherson...

□ SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT: A factory in East Kilbride—MacDonald's—announced a vacancy last week for a labourer. 400 people applied for the job...

THIS YEAR is the 60th anniversary of the Easter Rising in Dublin, a desperate attempt to win the fight for a free Ireland. Its failure is the reason that violence in Ireland continues today.

The leaders of the Rising wanted to prevent Ireland's partition. The socialists among them were aware that to cut off the North was to make it safe for sectarianism. They knew too that the South on its own would be a bastion of Catholic reaction. The labour movement would be stunted, incapable of growth.

This is what happened when Ireland was divided in 1921.

Had the Rising succeeded, had they managed to make Ireland united and free, the built-in injustice of Northern Ireland would never have been. The present nightmare would have been prevented.

That's one reason to remember Ireland's Easter Rising.



THE EASTER RISING



How Ireland's nightmare need never have been

JAMES CONNOLLY, military commander of the Easter Week insurgents, was possibly the best socialist writer ever born in these islands. A pioneer fighter for trade unionism in Britain and the United States before settling permanently in Dublin, he committed himself firmly to an independent all-Ireland when he realised that anything else would mean disaster for the labour movement.

In the period leading up to

the Rising he warned again and again what would happen if the Republicans were defeated and partition imposed. His words are startlingly relevant today.

'The effect of such exclusion [of the Six Counties] upon Labour in Ireland will be at least equally, and probably more, disastrous.

'All hopes of uniting the workers, irrespective of religion or old political battle cries will be shattered, and

through North and South the issue of Home Rule will be still used to cover the iniquities of the capitalist and landlord class.

'It still remains to be seen whether the working-class agitation cannot succeed in frightening these vampires from the feast they are promising themselves upon the corpse of a dismembered Ireland.'

James Connolly, 11 April 1914.

PUBLAICHT NA h-ÉIREANN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN! In the name of God and of the dead generations, from which we receive life and traditions of heroism, Ireland, through our sacrifice, has children to her flag and nation for ever free.

Home-ruled Ireland has reached through her sacred revolutionary traditions, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patriotically professed her discipline, having patiently waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now avows that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America, and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she declares to full satisfaction of every

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the sovereignty of Ireland, and to the unqualified control of Irish affairs, to be complete and indivisible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, but can be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; and during the past three hundred years they have showed it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in their free and open words, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its justice, and of its equality among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its intention to secure the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and abolishing all distinctions of caste, race, or creed, by an all-Ireland government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland, and until we have secured the independence of all our men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whom we invoke to bless our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will desert it by cowardice, inactivity, or treachery. In this cause have the Irish nation stood, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government,
 THOMAS J. CLARKE
 DEAN ED. HUGHES
 P. H. FRANKS
 JAMES CONNOLLY
 THOMAS MADDEN
 PATRICK HOGAN
 JAMES O'NEILL
 JOSEPH PLUNKETT

ABOVE: Behind the Dublin Post Office after the Rising was suppressed, Connolly and Pearse had taken it as their headquarters until its destruction by British shelling.

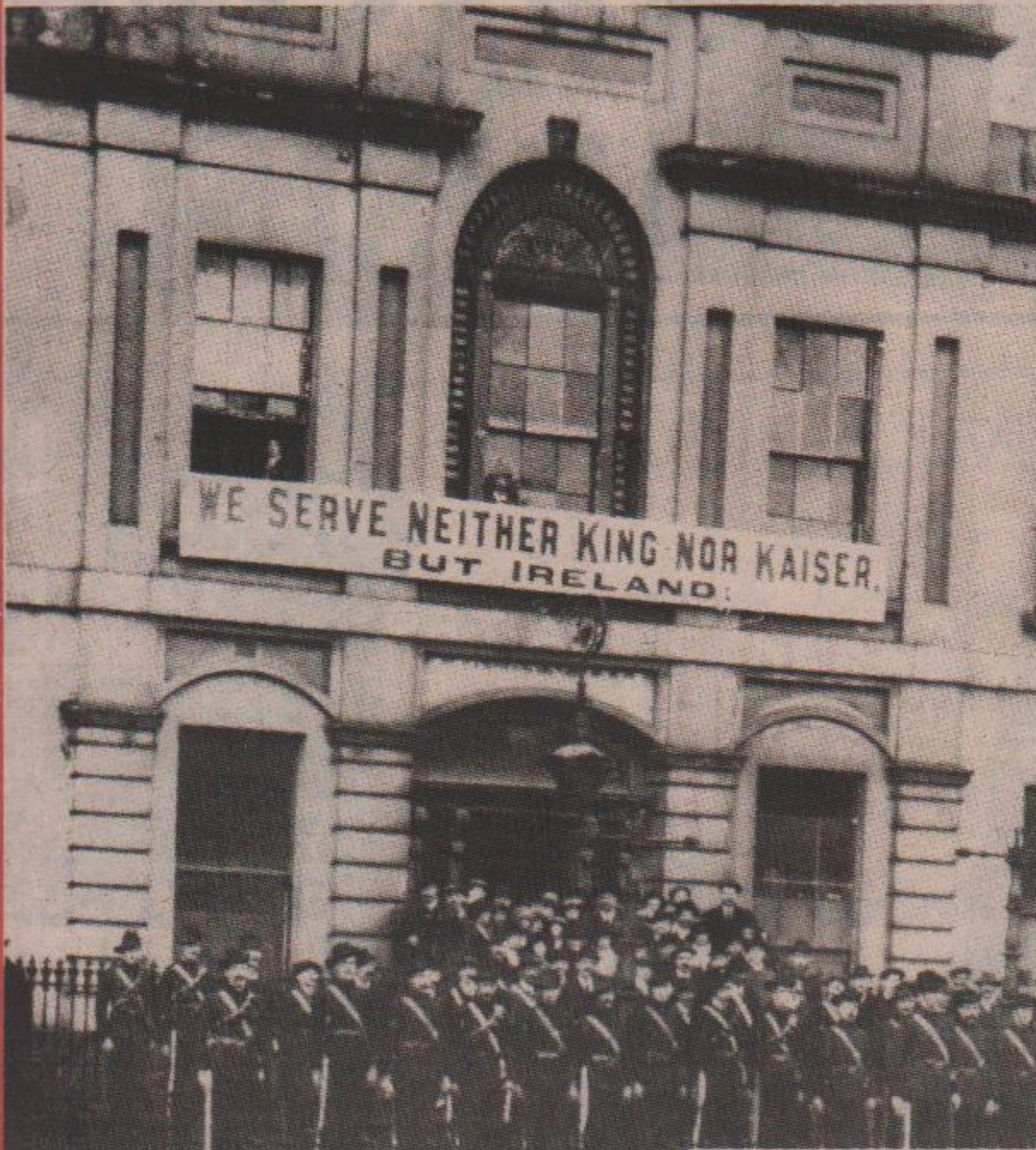
TOP: The Starry Plough, flag of Connolly's Citizen Army, which had been formed by the Dublin dockers and labourers as a defence against strike-breaking during the 1913 transport strike and lock-out.

LEFT: The Proclamation of a republic that was read from the steps of the Dublin Post Office that Easter Monday morning.

CENTRE PAGES: 'We only want the earth'

**THE
EASTER
RISING**

'We only want the earth'



ABOVE: The Citizen Army drawn up outside its headquarters, the offices of the Irish Transport Workers Union. RIGHT: The situation that led to its formation—the police attack strikers during the 1973 transport strike.

Social revolution 'as a living thing'

LENIN wrote of the Easter Rising:

The centuries-old Irish national movement, which called for Irish independence, expressed itself in street fighting conducted by a section of the urban petty bourgeoisie and a section of the workers after a long period of mass agitation, demonstration, suppression of the press, etc.

Whoever calls such an uprising a 'putsch' is either a hardened reactionary, or a doctrinaire hopelessly incapable of picturing a social revolution as a living thing.

The term 'putsch', in the scientific sense of the word, may be employed only when the attempt at insurrection has revealed nothing but a circle of conspirators or stupid maniacs, and has aroused no sympathy among the masses.

Whoever expects a 'pure' social revolution will never live to see it. Such a person pays lip service to revolution without understand-

ing what revolution really is.

The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything but an outburst of mass struggle by all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements. Sections of the petty bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will inevitably participate in it—without such participation, mass struggle is not possible, no revolution is possible—and just as inevitably will they bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weaknesses and errors . . .

Premature

The misfortune of the Irish is that they have risen prematurely, when the European revolt of the proletariat has not yet matured. Capitalism is not so harmoniously built that the various springs of rebellion can of themselves merge at one effort, without reverses or defeats.

LENIN, July 1916.



MIGHT THIS HAVE BEEN THE SPARK TO S

JAMES CONNOLLY wrote of the Rising: 'Socialists in other countries will never understand why I am here'.

Indeed many did not. His involvement with nationalists such as Patrick Pearse was attacked at the time as a betrayal of Marxist principle.

Connolly joined the Republicans and brought the Citizen Army into alliance with the Volunteers because he understood the importance of Labour playing a full part in the struggle for

*Some men, faint-hearted, ever seek
Our programme to retouch,
And will insist, when'er they speak
That we demand too much.
'Tis passing strange, yet I declare
Such statements give me mirth,
For our demands most moderate
are, We only want the earth.*

*'Be moderate,' the trimmers cry,
Who dread the tyrants' thunder,
'You ask too much and people fly
From you aghast in wonder.'
'Tis passing strange, for I declare
Such statements give me mirth,
For our demands most moderate
are, We only want the earth.*

*Our masters all a godly crew,
Whose hearts throb for the poor,
Their sympathies assure us, too,
If our demands were fewer,
Most generous souls! But please
observe,
What they enjoy from birth
Is all we ever had the nerve
To ask, that is, the earth.*

AT FIRST sight the 1916 Rising was a mad-cap affair. Hardly anyone took it seriously: a raggle-taggle army with mixed up uniforms and old fashioned muskets marching up O'Connell Street in Dublin on Easter Monday morning, dashing into the Post Office, and beginning to break the windows.

Then one of them came out and read a 'Proclamation' to a bewildered group of onlookers: 'Irishmen and Irishwomen: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom . . .'

Their aim was to throw off the British rule that had oppressed and exploited Ireland for 300 years.

Elsewhere in Dublin small groups

THE MYTH CREATED TO HIDE THE TRUTH

REVERED in their time, the men of 1916 are revered everywhere today. Even Harold Wilson recently referred to them as 'great patriots'.

Their tradition has become the official ideology of the southern Irish state.

The people who betrayed the Rising had to turn the past into myth, twist the truth for electoral purposes. De Valera and William Cosgrave waved the flag of revolution while digging a grave to bury the principles which inspired it.

In southern Ireland the

Proclamation of Easter 1916 became Holy Writ, to be recited on ceremonial occasions.

The schools gave out a version of Easter Week in which the heroic Volunteers marched down O'Connell Street in neat array, each face transfigured by patriotic fervour. There was not one among them, it was strongly implied, who besmirched Ireland's cause by harbouring socialist ideas . . .

Connolly, by this account, was a decent Irish Catholic with a Dr Barnardo-like love of the lower orders. The other leaders too were

men of exemplary

For almost 50 years was at the heart of Official Commemoration Monday was the Dublin's year. Fine marched, fine speech about complete liberation.

And on a review side the Post Office began the presidential salute, one eye was

This charade purpose. It diverts social ills. At ministers would be was sordid self-interest or decent jobs or decent jobs great of liberation finished. Not that do anything about

Such were the southern Ireland. Then suddenly, the North made the situation much more situation.

Platform

It was no longer platforms of 'liberal women in the North forced—literally—seriousness. The truth with reality.

So for the past southern establishment edging away from position. The Proclamation piece of once a year, has been tucked away.

There is talk of school curriculum mythology will give the truth, the dangerous—but fashioned lie, de 1970s.

And this year quiet at Easter. It has cancelled its memoration'.

were radicals.

Even the most of tic figure among himself, was aware more to freedom independence. His nation's sovereign only to all men a nation but to a possessions . . . We right to private property subordinated to and welfare.'

Even so, Connolly insisted on mainta

By

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at the Earth'

EAMMON McCANN

ng other strategic buildings. els comprised men from the nteers, led by Patrick Pearse, a James Connolly's Citizen The Citizen Army, based the Transport and General nion, had emerged during Dublin lock-out three years

Confusion

ising was intended to be e, but confusion—and the e defection of some of the f the Volunteers—left Dublin Nevertheless, fighting raged all

week.

By Friday British army artillery bombardment reduced the centre of Dublin to rubble. There had been more than a thousand casualties. The Post Office was in flames.

Pearse and Connolly surrendered 'so as to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin citizens.'

From a military standpoint, the Rising had failed. Its leaders were denounced as 'mad, wild, Celtic Bolsheviki'. Newspapers demanded that 'the worst of the worst of the ringleaders be singled out and dealt with in the manner traditional to traitors'.

A faction in the British cabinet led by Churchill, Birkenhead and Joynson-Hicks—the same trio who later were to mastermind the breaking of the General Strike ten years later—forced through a policy of repression. Pearse, Connolly and 14 others were shot.

But the executions provoked a howl

of anger throughout Ireland, even from those who had opposed the Rising in the first place. In time, that anger hardened into political commitment.

The great mass of the people were more and more disillusioned anyway by the awesome slaughter in Europe. Sinn Fein, the party which emerged from the Rising and which scorned 'constitutional' politics, rapidly established itself in every part of the country.

Thousands joined the new 'Irish Republican Army' and in January 1919 the War of Independence erupted across the country.

The war ended with the disaster of partition. The North was handed over to the far right Orange Order, and a right-wing nationalist regime installed in the South. The Irish people, Irish workers in particular, have been paying for that sell-out ever since.

...AND THE DANGER TODAY

ALTHOUGH the Irish government have opted out there will still be a commemoration of the Easter Rising this year. The Provisionals have stepped into the breach.

They, at least, will keep faith with the past. They promise 'a massive demonstration' outside the Dublin Post Office on 25 April.

Possibly a majority of the marchers will come down from the North. It is there that Easter Week seems most immediately relevant. To many in the South 'national liberation' can seem something of an abstraction. But in the ghettos of Belfast it is a desperate necessity.

Partition left half a million Catholics trapped under sectarian Orange rule. They expected at first that the Northern state would be short-lived, that the southern government would intervene. But gradually they realised that such help was not coming.

Bitter

In time, many almost become reconciled to second-class citizenship, and tried to get the best deal they could out of their bitter situation. Connolly's republic seemed an impossible dream.

Reformers promised progress if 'extreme' demands were avoided. Only an obdurate few, the stubborn irrepressibles of Irish Republicanism, kept hope alive that the struggle would one day resume.

Stubborn

And it was they who came into their own in 1969. Violent attacks on Catholic areas after civil rights demonstrations made it clear that it was impossible to end sectarianism by stealth, that the existence of the Northern state itself lay at the heart of the problem. The stubborn few were swamped as the youth of the ghettos crowded into the IRA.

At this year's Easter Week rally they will doubtless be told by their

leadership that this time there will be no betrayal: that there will be a fight to a finish for the ideas of the Proclamation. It can hardly be denied that the Provo leadership is serious in that.

There, indeed, lies its weakness. To 'traditional Republicans' 1916 is a sacred scenario, to be re-enacted in the present. The Proclamation is their blueprint for the Irish revolution.

But the Proclamation is not, could not possibly be an adequate guide to the struggle against imperialism in the 1970s. It is an eloquent statement of a radical nationalist position 60 years ago. It

provides no basis for building a workable movement today.

There is only one class in Ireland with a potential to take the struggle forward—the working class. The Proclamation takes no account of that. Neither do the Provos—and that ultimately is the reason for their counter-productive tactics.

The Republicans can claim fairly to be in tune with tradition. But tradition is not enough. Only an organisation which deals in the class realities of the present as well as the heritage of the past can hope to complete the work which Connolly began 60 years ago this Easter.

BOOKS ON IRELAND

- Ireland upon the Dissecting Table, James Connolly, 34p.
 - Selected Writings, James Connolly, 60p.
 - Labour in Irish History, James Connolly, 40p.
 - Lenin on Ireland, 18p.
 - The Secret Army, J Bowyer Bell, 75p.
 - New Technology of Repression—Lessons from Ireland, BSSRS, 3/8p.
 - Ireland Her Own, an Outline History of the Irish Struggle, T.A Jackson, £1.20.
 - British Imperialism in Ireland (1931), Elinor Burns, 49p.
 - The Story of the Irish Citizens Army, Sean O'Casey, £1.
 - Strumpet City, James Plunkett, £1.15.
 - The Great Hunger, Woodham Smith, 90p.
- All from **BOOKMARKS** (London IS bookshop), 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Prices include postage.



Michael Farrell: NORTHERN IRELAND: THE ORANGE STATE

The first political history of the puppet state and its current disintegration. £5 paperback.

Geoffrey Bell: THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER

The history, the culture, the jobs, the politics of the 'most criticised and misunderstood community in Western Europe'. £2.00 paperback.

Pre-publication Offer: £5.00 for both, post free (cash with orders only). (Pluto Press, unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1 8LH.)

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Pluto Press
Unit 10 Spencer Court
7 Chalcot Road,
London NW1 8LH



CONNOLLY: He hoped the Rising would be the first step towards socialism.



PEARSE: leader of the nationalist Irish Volunteers



DE VALERA: He played a small part in the Rising, but lived to reap the benefits of the romantic myth that grew afterwards.

SET EUROPE ABLAZE?

reamily roman- them, Pearse that there was than formal wrote: 'The ty extends not d women of the ll its material reaffirm that all operty must be ic public right ly at all times ining a separate

organisation. The Citizen Army fought alongside the Volunteers, but never merged. Connolly warned before his men marched out on Easter Monday that in the event of victory 'Hold on to your guns' because there were those who would stop short of the goal of a socialist republic.

Tragedy

The tragedy was that after Connolly's execution the labour movement, in effect, opted out of national politics. Many socialists

fought in the War of Independence—but not as part of a socialist organisation. So, when the crunch came and the treaty was signed, leadership of the anti-treaty forces fell more or less by default to the demagogue and double-dealer Eamonn de Valera.

The socialists, having refused to sully their 'principles' by joining in the fight, were unable to intervene. The ultimate price of their uninvolvedness was continuing impotence.



Visiting day for Republican prisoners after the Rising.



A British Army barricade



ANDY DURGAN
 Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

NOISS members elected to Students executive

TWO members of the National Organisation of International Socialist Students (NOISS) have been elected to the Executive of the National Union of Students. Graham Threlfall, from Lancaster University, was victimised by the university last year, expelled after an occupation of the buildings. He was later reinstated but not allowed to take his degree. Nor will the university recognise his post as NUS secretary.

Andy Durgan is from Portsmouth Poly, where he has just led a successful campaign against right-wing students who wanted to disaffiliate the poly from NUS. The NOISS won the vote by 500 to 25!

Getting in the oil rush?

EASTER ROSS International Socialists held an important weekend school on Unemployment, its causes and how to fight it last week. Speakers were Chrysler shop steward Willie Lee and Mick Napier.

The school was a tremendous success, with excellent discussion and argument. A measure of that success is that following the school six people decided to join IS. Five are industrial workers, the other a housewife.

This promises well for continued growth of socialist influence in the crucial oil region of Scotland.

Marx wrote of classes but not these!

THE International Socialists are planning a series of evening classes in the development of marxist ideas.

At first the scheme will be small and based in London. There will be two classes, economics and history. Each course will

have a carefully prepared syllabus, notes and a permanent lecturer. The course will last from September to December, one evening a week.

Entry to the course will be restricted. To begin with, only trade unionists who have not had any further education will be

allowed to enrol. To impress on those wishing to enrol the seriousness of the course, they will be expected to pay a small enrolment fee and agree to buy £3 or £4 worth of books.

Classes will be small, about 20, and will be held in a school, just as other evening classes.

If the pilot scheme is successful more courses will be offered, restrictions can be lifted and other towns included.

Any lecturer interested in developing and teaching such courses please write to the National Secretary, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

The next meeting of the International Socialists' Women's Committee will be on Saturday 8 May, 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Agenda to be announced. Fractions, districts, branches to send a delegate.



Shop stickers for Socialist Worker. Do your local newsagents take SW regularly? Then get a sticker and persuade them to display it. 15p each from SW Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SEE YOU AT SKEGNESS

IS Books is travelling to Skegness too. All its books will be on sale all weekend. The bookshop in London will be closed from Thursday evening, 15 April, until Tuesday lunchtime, 20 April. Pluto Press will be there too. So IS literature organisers should come to Skegness prepared to rebuild branch stocks.

Where We Stand



SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary 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 militant 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists, fill in the form on page 15.



The 1926 sell out of these miners and millions of their fellow-workers by the TUC must rank as one of the greatest acts of treachery ever. You'd think they'd learn something from it. Yet the 1976 TUC is hellbent on selling us out.

**We must not forget the lessons of the past...
 No more sell-outs...
 Build the Fighting alternative.**

London
 Friday 30 April
 St Pancras Town Hall
 7.30pm

Socialist Worker May Day Rally

Manchester
 Friday 30 April
 Houldsworth Hall,
 Deansgate,
 7.30pm
Speakers
 Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker)
 David Skinner (ex-Clay Cross Councillor)
 Carol Douras (victimised SOGAT MoC)
 Ken Anderson (Right to Work Marcher)
 Brian Jones (TGWU Massey Ferguson)

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post on the 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

PETERBOROUGH SW public meeting: The lessons of Clay Cross. Speaker: Dave Nuttall (Clay Cross Labour Party). Chairman: David Toone. Tuesday 27 April, 7.30pm. The Still, Cumbergate (near BR Station).

CHESTER SW Inaugural public meeting: Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 May. Venue and further details to be announced.

CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IS District Aggregate: Friday 30 April. Report back from Party Council. Further details later.

BRIXTON FLAME public meeting: South Africa, what next? Film: Angola. Thursday 15 April, 7.30pm, Abeng Centre, Gresham Road, Brixton. Admission 20p.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker public meeting: Angola in Struggle. Film and speaker from Flame, SW's sister paper by and for black workers. Thursday 29 April, 7.45pm. Learie Constantine Centre, Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 (buses 52, 266, 260, 8, 297 Dollis Hill underground).

COVENTRY SW public meeting: Crisis in South Africa—Detente and Revolt. Friday 23 April, 7.30pm, Sidney Stringer School, Cox Street (200 yards from Pool Meadow).

BOLTON SW public meeting: 1526-76 Fiftieth anniversary of the General Strike—No more sell-outs! Thursday 29 April, 8pm, Balmoral Hotel, Bradshaw Gate.

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW public meetings: Next series starts 29 April. Trade Unions: Militants and Moderates. South Bank Polytechnic Students Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. Further details: Gail Lowenstein, 622-1090.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

DURHAM SW May Day Social: Big Jub. Cleveley, Durham City, 8pm-11.30pm. Bar, music, food and raffle. Tickets from SW sellers, 30p. All proceeds to Right to Work 44 Defence Fund.

SOUTHAMPTON SW jumble sale: Saturday 24 April, 11am-2pm. Kell Hall, London Road, Southampton. Any jumble collected please take to 29 Northumberland Road, Southampton.

CHILE SLIDE AND TAPE SHOW: 45 minutes, 125 slides, produced by the Socialist Worker Agitprop Group for SW discussion meetings not only on Chile, but on reformism, the parliamentary road, etc. Soundtrack includes Chilean songs. Hire £2 from Rob Lumley, Flat 4, 165 Pershore Road, Birmingham 5. Please book well in advance.

Socialist Worker MIDDLE EAST GROUP wishes to contact comrades in the London and South East area who are interested in joining the group. We meet monthly and need to expand our range of activities. Expertise is not essential. Any SW reader with direct knowledge or information about the Middle East please contact us, even if you do not wish to join the group. We are in particular interested in meeting comrades from the Arab states for discussion and exchange of information. We can also book speakers. IS Middle East Group, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOLS: 19-22 July: Women's Voice School. 2-5 August: National Cadre School (Manchester). 23-26 August: National Cadre School (London). Details from Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

BACK NUMBERS of International Socialist journal. Copies available since issue 36 (except 42 and 51). Before 1973: 20p inc postage. After 1973: 30p including postage. IS Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

FOR SALE: SW collection from number 207 to date (few missing). Private Eye nos 235-350 (few missing). Ink (all but 2). Proceeds to Fighting Fund. Offers by 1 MAY to 48 Westport Street, London E7.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM: Please note that the price for bulk orders has been given incorrectly in recent issues of SW. Ten copies £2.50 (£2.25 if money with order), from Mary Phillips, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Wanted: duplicator for new small IS branch with little money! Unimportant how old or battered as long as it works. Please contact Maureen Anton, 23 Burgeuse Drive, Tain, Ross-shire.

ROOM or small flat required for comrade moving to London. Write Box JM, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 8DN, or phone 01-539 3833.

Murder, blackmail, robbery...

AN EVERYDAY STORY OF CAPITALISM

SIR DENYS LOWSON, ex-Lord Mayor of London, was able in the last few years of his charitable existence to treat us to an exhibition of Modern Business Methods of which he was justifiably proud. It was called *How to Steal Money off The Small Investor*.

He borrowed money from a bank of which he was a director, and then, after a few months, sold it to another company of which, funnily enough, he was also a director. And so he was able to look after the small investors' interest by pocketing £5 million of their money.

If you would like further details of Sir Denys's life and of his principled friends in the respected bastions of big business you'll find them all in *The Threepenny Novel** by Bertolt Brecht.

The book deals with the exploits of the upholders of capitalist ethics, like for example Mr Peachum.

He built up a smooth-running concern manufacturing grotesque impersonations of disabled ex-servicemen, who can cash in on the Boer War by begging.

Then there is Coax, who dreams up a scheme for screwing money out of fellow patriots (who, like himself, are rotten with greed—but more dumb).

The aim is to supply rotting ships to the government so that your brave and lovable Tommy is drowned before he can even get to the fighting.

A profitable little number that Poulson would have loved and which, incidentally, gives a much-needed boost to Peachum's business, which is going through a rather bad patch.

You see, some good comes out of everything, doesn't it?

Hero

The hero of the piece, though, is a character for whom the phrase 'business is business' could have been invented.

I have no doubt that today, in recognition of his service to the community, he would have been Lord MacHeath of Belper, and would have been referred to in *The Sun* as 'a bit of a lad'.

MacHeath's service to society involves giving the 'ordinary bloke' the chance to 'use his initiative' and be his 'own boss'.

These daring entrepreneurs then become small shopkeepers, but under a contract to sell only MacHeath's goods, all of which are the proceeds from robberies.

Unfortunately, the business runs into difficulties (production problems, don't you know) and MacHeath is forced to cut back.

Roof

But the book then says that the small shopkeepers' independence has been increased.

'In fact,' it says, 'their independence has grown to absolute intolerable proportions, for they had not even a roof over their heads.'

'By their own ability they had reduced their weight to eight stone'. Such initiative is probably worthy of a knighthood all by itself.

The book is full of similar

BRIAN
GOODWIN

reviews
The
Threepenny
Novel



The innocent hopes and aspirations of the small businessman captured by Brecht and our cartoonist.

examples of capitalism's 'perfect symmetry' (as Enoch Powell so charmingly puts it)—like murder, blackmail, embezzlement, lying and intimidation.

It isn't often you get the opportunity to have a bloody good laugh at capitalism's expense (usually your throat is too constricted to laugh) but the *Threepenny Novel* is an exception.

It is a brilliant book that everyone should read. There will be nothing funnier about capitalism until the publication of the unexpurgated edition of the Reggie Mauding Scrapbook.

**The Threepenny Novel*, by Bertolt Brecht, 85p inc postage from Bookmarks, 256 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WHY PADDINGTON BEAR GETS STUFFED ...WITH MONEY

DID YOU read about the revolt of the Paddington Bear stuffers last week, those eight ladies in Doncaster given the sack after refusing to work with a new manageress?

But did you ever wonder, as you read about the bitter rows between their bosses, their workmates, and everyone else at the factory, just why they were stuffing bears in the first place?

Paddington Bear is the central character in a new television cartoon series for children.

It sells for around £11 in the shops; the factory charges £6.20.

As the owner Eddie Clarkson says: 'Paddington brightens everyone's life, and he's certainly brightened ours'.

But there's another, rather more tarnished side to the whole business of cashing in on a child's addiction to television.

The story really starts with the *Head of BBC Children's programmes*, Miss Monica Sims. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.

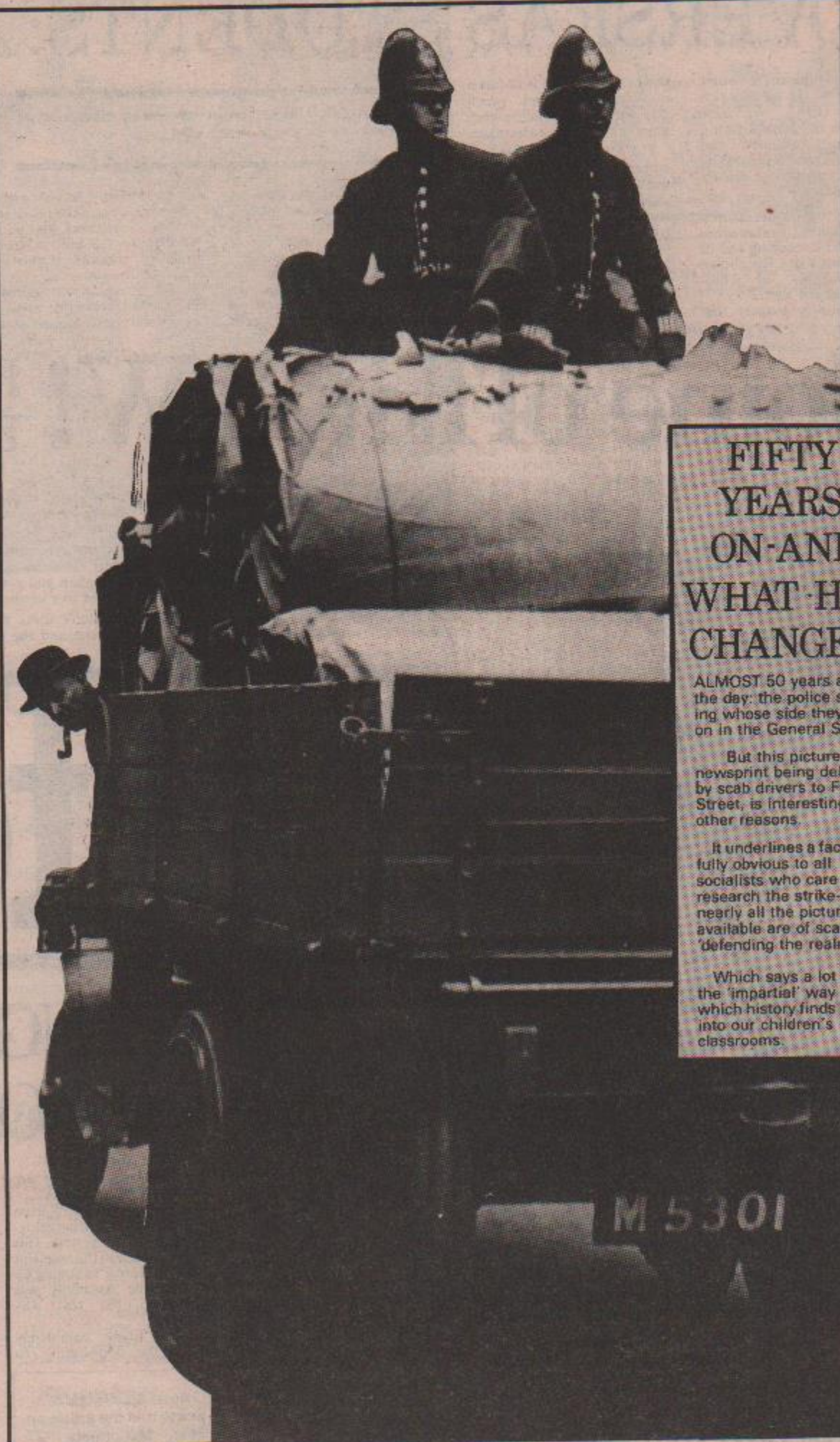
In the land of Noddy, the Wombles and Trumpton, Miss Sims is Queen beyond dispute.

Last month she was profiled glowingly in the *Sunday Times* colour magazine.

There was a lot of talk about 'standards', about what children want to see on the box, about what they should be given.

But not one word about the really significant part of Miss Sims' work: the millions of pounds of profit that rest on her word, and her word alone.

It works like this. Say



FIFTY YEARS ON-AND WHAT HAS CHANGED?

ALMOST 50 years ago to the day, the police showing whose side they were on in the General Strike.

But this picture, of newsprint being delivered by scab drivers to Fleet Street, is interesting for other reasons.

It underlines a fact painfully obvious to all socialists who care to research the strike—that nearly all the pictures available are of scabs 'defending the realm'.

Which says a lot about the 'impartial' way in which history finds its way into our children's classrooms.

ED FIXER
looks
behind the
scenes at the
BBC



Offer them to the BBC for sale.

You can mention that you're going to 'merchandise', as they call it. They won't mind that. In fact they'll expect you to.

They'll even arrange to hold up transmission until you're ready to put your goods on the market.

But first, of course, the BBC have to agree to accept your work. This is where Monica Sims and her colleagues come in.

They, and only they, are the ones who decide which films to buy and which to reject.

Children

The way to get that, as the people behind Paddington Bear know only too well, is to buy into a television film for children—or even to finance your own.

No-one is suggesting that when Miss Sims sits in judgement on these potentially vast money-making ventures (the Wombles have grossed £3 million already) that she has anything but the welfare of the nation's children in mind.

Bland

What's wrong is a broadcasting system which blandly accepts that what a child sees on the box can only be financed by profit-seeking of the most sordid and blatant kind.

PRE-VIEW

SATURDAY

THE WOMEN (BBC 2) a film by George Cukor which looks at women's lib in the 1930s.

THURSDAY

NETWORK: JUST A YEAR (BBC 2) follows two of the casualties of the Birmingham bombings a year after. Guaranteed to stir up hatred. The BBC, usually such a champion of putting a 'balanced view', will not be showing any of the families in Northern Ireland whose lives have been shattered by the army's terrorism there.

FRIDAY

SHELL THE GIANT (BBC 2)—Brian Widlake investigates how sensitive a giant like Shell is to the needs of host nations and how much power the huge oil company wields.—The programme does not mention the £5 million bribe to the Italian politicians.

□ No ITV programmes are listed since we didn't receive their publicity preview in time for publication.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS: An open letter

WE ARE following a course in English as a foreign language (EFL). We have learnt that the Inner London Education Authority has decided to close this course as from the end of this session (July 1976).

Why? The official reason is reorganisation (rationalisation) of EFL teaching and its concentration in a few chosen ILEA colleges, of which Hackney is not one.

We strongly suspect that

this reorganisation is in fact a smokescreen behind which cuts in student and teacher numbers are going to be made.

ILEA colleges which will continue having EFL courses next year are not going to be expanded to cater for those students such as ourselves who will be displaced by the rationalisation.

The recent revelation that ILEA plans to cut out the number of overseas students by 60 per cent over the next

□ An open letter from overseas students at Hackney College, East London.

five years makes this clear. As well as 60 student places, vacancies for three teachers will be lost permanently with the closure of this course.

As overseas students we come to study here because English is a necessity for us to continue our studies and gain

adequate work qualifications. We finance ourselves entirely while we are here, and pay three times the college fees paid by resident students.

(Incidentally, almost no other country discriminates against foreign students in this way—the Swedish government and

East European governments actually give them state grants.)

We do not take college places away from resident British students.

Many specialised technical courses depend on having a certain number of overseas students to keep them open, or 'viable'.

If these courses have to be closed because of cuts in overseas student numbers, there will be as a result a

permanent loss of course provision for resident British students as well.

In whose interests is it to play off 'British' students against 'foreign', resident against non-resident? What we need are expanded and improved facilities for all students in whatever category.

We ask ILEA to reverse its decision, and we ask for your support.

□ Students at Hackney College, Stoke Newington Centre.

POSTAL POINTS

TERRY Stewart's letter on jokes (3 April) took up a point I often have arguments about.

Most jokes, that you hear in pubs anyway, are right-wing. There's this paddy one, and he's got this shovll... What jokes like that do reinforce ridiculous ideas about Irishmen, blacks, women and so on.

Instead of peddling ruling class ideas about ourselves, working-class people would do better to make cracks about the parasitical ponces that run the country.

Incidentally, I know a good one about Margaret Thatcher and the Bishop of Liverpool... □ J Montgomery, S London

Come off it, SW! FOOT DESERVED BETTER THAN THIS



Michael Foot: 'Surely he's different from Callaghan.'

I'M NOT AT ALL impressed with your coverage of the Labour Party leadership battle. You just slipped into the same old groove—they're all the same, a lot of opportunists and crooks. It doesn't make any difference etc, etc.

Stale stuff. I think. The right-wing have won another victory, but SW

doesn't seem to care. There obviously is a difference between James Callaghan and Michael Foot.

It obviously does matter that the whole Press, bankers and so on supported Callaghan and got the jitters when Foot looked like winning.

I don't think the difference is what Tribune and the Morning Star tell us.

They draw the difference far too wide. But it doesn't deal with the question just to ignore the difference altogether.

It reminds me of an old Communist round these parts who used to say: 'If you can't answer a question, pretend it wasn't asked.' That may do for a public speaker who gets in a jam. But it won't do for Socialist Worker.

□ L Smithson, Surrey

Letters

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

MUD-SLINGING ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

QUITE RIGHT, W Van Clute (Letters, 3 April). It is counter-productive just to blast the Communist Party and Labour Left. We need arguments and not just invective.

At times, I've nearly been brought to tears in arguments with some hardworking Communist Party members.

Attacking me over Chile they say: 'You were to blame for the coup. Your ultra leftism provoked the right'.

Attacking me over the role of the trade union bureaucrats it's: 'You're splitting the unions and therefore want to

destroy the working class'. They sling mud—but so, too, does SW sometimes.

The report (3 April) from the Assembly on Unemployment had a sneering note. This was in contrast to the excellent 'What we Think' summing up on why the Assembly was weak and the real way forward.

Laurie Flynn completely missed the opportunity to

explain why Ray Buckton's advocating of import controls is wrong.

Similarly, on the front page, I don't think it helps to call James Callaghan 'The Junta's Man'.

Doesn't this imply that he approves of the fascist blood-bath in Chile?

Let's keep such accusations for the real fascists. Callaghan will be managing capitalism

for the ruling class. They don't need fascism yet.

He's not a fascist, nor are the ordinary working class people who think that he's capable sort of bloke.

We can't just yell at them. As comrade Van Clute says, we must 'point out their errors patiently and not just blast them'.

□ Wenda Clenaghan, London N16

No, you can't be a socialist AND anti-abortion...

SURELY Rosie Smallwood (Letters, 3 April) is not saying that Ellen McCormack (27 March) was insulting to housewives.

But the quote 'she claims to be a housewife—she has never even worked for a living' is what the presidential candidate says about herself.

□ Judith Condon.

housekeeper and nanny tell her.

Yes, housewives do have a role in socialism but not the Ellen McCormacks of this world anymore than Maggie Thatcher.

It's strange how capitalism gets so upset over the abortion issue. How it is insisted that, at five months, the foetus is a thinking human being.

Yet you try, as a single parent, trying to get money for that human being before it is 'born alive'.

Social Security will tell you that they will provide nothing for the baby until it is born alive. Cot, Clothes, Pram, anything.

Abortion on demand is what socialists should be fighting for to give women the same freedom as men.

□ Eunice Sharples, Darlington.

when the foetus would be a clearly-defined baby.

No wonder the Harley Street surgeon told her that his staff were 'squeamish'. I would have been squeamish too!

Let's have no double standards in the SW. It's no good lamenting the fact of old people dying of hypothermia and then being annoyed because one cannot easily kill off a baby three months before delivery.

□ John Maynard, Midlothian.

MARK Woronowski (Letters, 3 April) may think he is a socialist but no genuine socialist would deny a person's proprietary rights over his or her own body.

A foetus is part of a woman's body, whereas a baby is not.

A woman has the right to demand to be relieved of her foetus if a baby would be 'inconvenient' or in other words, if she does not want a baby.

People who oppose this fundamental human right may not be rabid, but they are reactionary.

As Paul Foot has pointed out, a woman tends to be propertiless, and therefore a non-person.

□ Kathleen Jones, Shrewsbury.

Where Tories deliberately keep workers on the dole

CORNWALL has one of the worst, if not the worst, unemployment records in Britain, apart from Northern Ireland, and the situation is getting worse.

Once in a blue moon, Ministers, MPs, councillors and local worthies may, if pushed, make a speech about the plight of the unemployed and the 'problem' of the regions.

But when it comes to translating words into actions, these same people are shown to be maintaining a large pool of unemployed as a threat to the employed and as a means of suppressing wage levels.

'Truro is a city with a heritage, and a lot of fine buildings for tourists, and we would not want to do anything that would jeopardise that kind of reputation.'

With these fighting words, Carrick's deputy planning officer 'planned' away a possible 300 jobs in Truro.

The council have repeatedly refused planning permission to Duncan Tucker Ltd of Bridgeport to build a fishmeal factory at Newham Quay, Truro.

The overall development of the site at Newham Quay would probably ultimately represent a £5 million total investment in that area,

employing more than 300 people.


The fact that the factory would be a lifeline to local families drowning in the sea of unemployment bothers the businessmen on the council not at all.

They are only concerned

that lorries carrying fish through Truro may spoil their nice clean town, even though the company have said that traffic would be restricted to the Quay or the by-pass.

□ Howard Newlove and Jimmy Rule, West Cornwall, Right to Work Committee.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM



Duncan Hallas

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

Lecture series on THE MEANING OF MARXISM

EDINBURGH: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.
22 April: Nationalism and Socialism. Speaker: Allan Armstrong.
6 May: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Harry McShane.
20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.
3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

EAST LONDON: Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
23 April: Marxist economics. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.
7 May: Is there a parliamentary road to Socialism? Speaker: Ian Birchall.
21 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.
4 June: What is imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.
18 June: Building the revolutionary party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

WEST LONDON: Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.
20 April: Why capitalism is in crisis. Speaker: Michael Kidron.
4 May: What is imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.
18 May: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.
1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Every second Monday, 8pm, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11 (Buses 15, 37, 49, 77, 158, 249).
26 April: Racism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.
10 May: The State. Speaker: Paul Foot.

TEACHERS IN ACTION



This is what the teachers' union leaders want to stop

BY International Socialist teachers

ARE the Teachers' Union leaders really against the cuts in education?

There are already 9000 unemployed teachers, and there'll be a lot more if Chancellor Denis Healey's latest cuts go through.

The headmasters who run our union say they're against the cuts. When delegates get to Scarborough for our conference this Easter, they should read carefully the NUT executive's memorandum 'The Defence of Educational Standards'. They'll find out that the document is *against* the cuts—but doesn't propose any action to fight them.



THE MAN WHO WANTS A WAGE FREEZE FOR ALL—EXCEPT HIMSELF

OUR PICTURE shows Jim Griffin calling passionately at last year's Engineering Union national committee for support for the government's £6 wage limit.

Jim is one of the union's most prominent right wing spokesmen, and is being groomed as a possible successor to John Boyd as general secretary—or even for the presidency.

He works in the toolroom at the huge Triumph factory in Coventry where he was involved last week in leading the toolroom workers out on strike—for a settlement which would have broken the £6 wage freeze. Yet he was given

very soft treatment by the press. There was no personal witch-hunt. The press, in short, managed to attack the strikers as 'lemmings'—and, by fixing attention on AUEW president Hugh Scanlon, to blame the left in the union—when all the strikes were led by right ringers.

Scanlon, as so often, walked right into the trap. Instead of defending the strikers, and blaming the right wing for committing the union to the £6 policy, he gave the impression that the £6 policy had been supported by the whole union—left and right.

So the hypocrisy of men like Griffin went unremarked.

STUC: The anger gap

by JIMMY McCALLUM

THE Scottish TUC meets over Easter at Perth and the resolutions reflect some of the anger in the Scottish working-class movement over the government's policies.

All six resolutions on incomes policy reject any form of wage control, voluntary or statutory. Every single resolution on unemployment and the cuts lashes out at the Labour government.

But there is a huge gap between the angry tone of the resolutions and the remedies which they propose. Two trades councils' resolutions, from Clackmannan and Edinburgh, call for a campaign on unemployment. Every other such resolution calls for 'selective economic measures' or import controls.

One Railmen's Union (NUR) resolution sums the whole thing up. It calls on the STUC General Council to have 'immediate talks with the Prime Minister to end

unemployment'.

The resolutions threaten another STUC like last year's: plenty of fine talk, no action. Lots of waffle about devolution, no fight in the working class.

Delegates must beware. The STUC can lead a real campaign against unemployment and government cuts.

Stoppages

The 30,000-strong Dundee strike last month was an example of what the STUC could do throughout Scotland. There could, and should, be total stoppages in Glasgow and Dundee on 26 May in answer to the London Confed's call for a day of action on unemployment. These matters will be raised at the conference. We can get a real, official fight in Scotland—if the STUC delegates refuse to be side-tracked by a lot of 'left' rhetoric from the platform.

Rank and File teachers at the conference will be trying to commit the union to support all schools which vote for 'no cover' sanctions.

'No cover' action means that teachers refuse to cover for the work of any teacher who is off for more than three days.

There's another crucial matter buried inside one of the executive's memoranda—which they'll try to push through conference without proper discussion. It gives the executive power to suspend teachers who take militant action.

A 'prima facie' (first glance) case against the teachers would be enough to suspend them!

The executive are introducing this measure because they want to roll back the tide of independent action with which hundreds of teachers up and down the country have fought against low pay, high classes and cuts.

Delete that section of the report, and vote for every measure which commits the union to fighting the cuts—not just complaining about them.



IN June London bus fares are to go up by 25p in the £1. This is on top of fare rises of around 60p in the £1 last year.

They calculate that this will bring them in an extra £20 million and give them a £4 million surplus.

But the other part of the operation—no kidding—is to drive people away from the buses. They hope that by steep increases they'll drive people back to the tubes, which lost passengers heavily after their own massive fare increases last year.

Now they want to drive people like cattle in the opposite direction. They want to manipulate you to buy more pre-paid tickets, so it will be easier to complete the switch to one man operated buses.

These fare rises are just the latest insanities in an insane system. Ever since the war, London Transport has gone for higher fares and service cuts. The result is a deteriorating service that costs more and more.

Yet a simple socialist reorganisation of society could change all this. Free and readily available public transport is not a dream.

The 'necessity' to collect fares creates a huge bureaucracy to discipline bus crews into collecting them properly. There are first and second-class inspectors, some with cars and radio systems.

Free

Then there's vast expense on ticket machines, and on cash handlers and accounting systems—all people who could be set free for useful work if transport was free and planned, not expensive and chaotic.

Just look at what the great god private enterprise has given us. Higher fares, fewer buses, more pollution, more road accidents, badly made cars, the destruction of the rail system and a few more horrors besides.

If you stop to work out how much this really costs, you would be amazed. There's the houses destroyed by motorways, the cost of accidents to the health service—£900 million a year.

A planned public transport system would save all this wasteful spending. Free public transport could be set up at practically no cost.

In a socialist system you'd have a massive expansion of bus services. So no conductor displaced by a free fare system would have to worry. There'd be plenty of mechanics or drivers' jobs and none of the strain that now goes with the job, because you could do away with traffic chaos.

What's more, the working week would be shorter.

But just look at what's happening right now.

London Transport says: 'We've got a staff shortage' But we know that if they got the staff there'd be a massive

It could cost less to run buses without fares

by London busman PETE GLATTER

shortage of buses. Already there's a huge shortage of spare parts in London, leading to more and more breakdowns, buses that are less safe.

Yet at the same time what is happening in Leyland, where they make the parts, or Chrysler for that matter where they could make the parts? Workers are being sacked, made redundant, chucked on the scrapheap.

That's what the one man operation means—worse services and more people sacked.

Cheaper

The backbone of a planned and integrated transport system in this country would be the railways. Rail is safer, cheaper and cleaner than anything else—no matter what the British Road Federation, the oil, car and construction lobby, tell you.

Spreading out from the railheads would be lorry transport for goods and buses for people.

Such an expansion of services would benefit everyone. If you could just hop on a bus to get to and from work think of the difference it would make. You wouldn't have to stand in the drizzle for hours waiting on the bus and then once you're on it, get snarled up in massive traffic jams.

There'd be much less pollution to hurt your lungs and your health.

You wouldn't arrive at work knackered. You'd feel better when you got straight home. And visiting friends wouldn't be like a major expedition.

OUR NORMAN



Students vote to defend arrested marchers

A LARGE majority at the National Union of Students Conference voted to support the Defence Campaign for the arrested Right to Work Marchers.

The resolution called for support for the trade union inquiry into the arrests, to support, campaign and raise money for the Right to Work defence appeal, to circulate its literature in the mail, and to invite speakers to colleges to publicise the campaign.

It also called for strikes, occupations and mass meetings in colleges on 26 May, the national day of action for the Right to Work, and mobilisations for the demonstration outside Hendon Court, North West London, where the marchers are to appear on 21 May.

The conference overwhelmingly rejected the main amendment to this motion—which called for a telegram to be sent to the Home Secretary and for support for the Tribune programme, including import controls.

By doing so, conference showed its contempt for the sectarianism of the Broad Left-dominated executive, who moved the amendment and who have consistently failed to give any real support to the Right to Work Campaign.

The Conference in Llanudno, also voted to extend democracy in the union by linking NUS executive salaries to the claim for higher grants—although not to the actual grant—and for pre-conference composite meetings, to enable delegates to spend more time on conference floor.

Support

Other decisions included support for the fight of overseas students against higher fees and total opposition to the proposed law against occupations.

The executive was again hammered over their attitude to international work. NOISS member and president of SOAS students union, Peter Alexander, successfully moved that the executive report on Southern Africa be referred back on the grounds that NUS had waged no campaign in solidarity with MPLA in Angola at the time when it was most crucial.

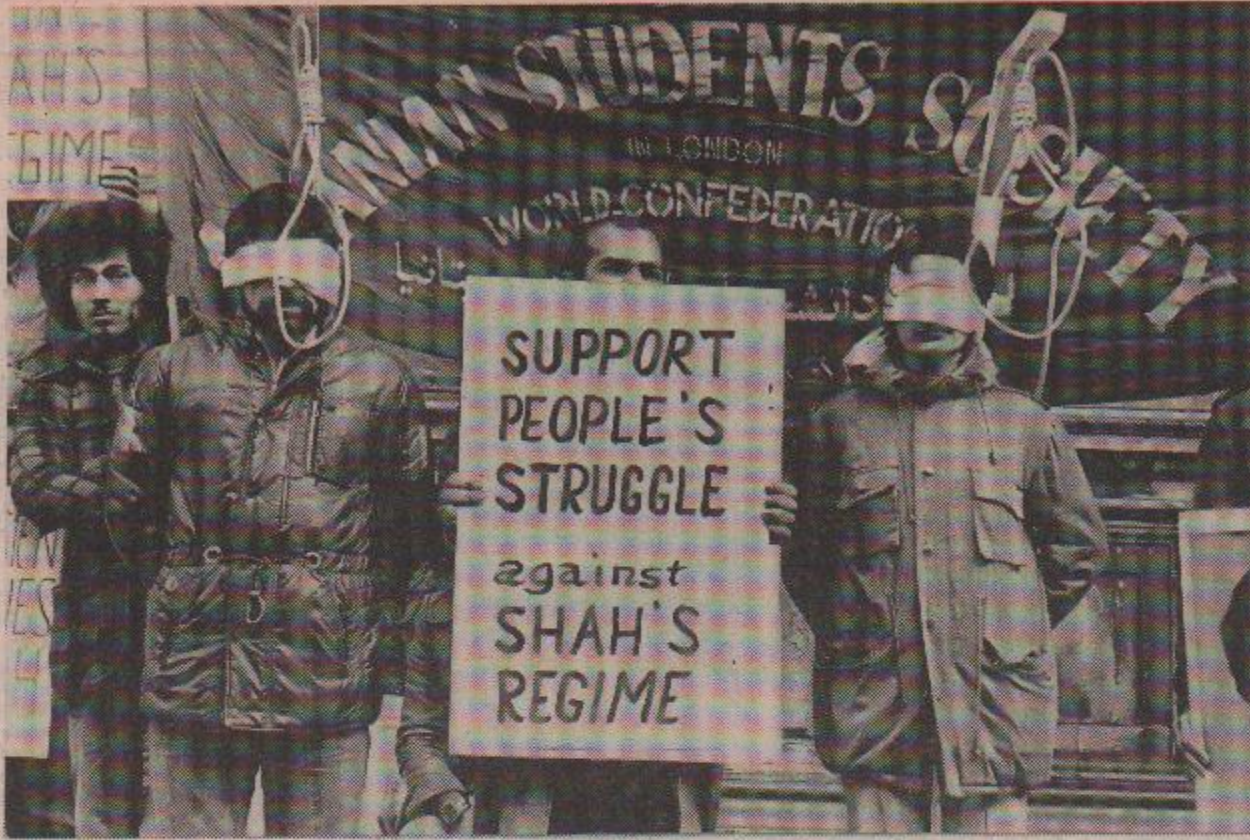
The report on the European Meetings was also referred back—on the ground that NUS had taken a totally uncritical view of the Eastern bloc. It was decided to elect the next delegation from conference—which resulted in a NOISS member being elected.

The Broad Left retained control of the executive with the help of Tory votes—and the Tories themselves got one member on this year's executive. NOISS got two of its candidates elected, as opposed to one last year—Andy Durgan from Portsmouth Poly and Graham Threlfall from Lancaster University.

ENGINEERS CHARTER SECOND EDITION GOING TO PRINT

Bob Wright and Willie Lee — a debate — What happened at Chrysler?

Articles — Letters — Orders for copies plus ALL money owing, RUSH to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



Iranian students demonstrating outside the museum. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

IRANIAN PROTESTERS ARRESTED

FOUR Iranian students were arrested last Tuesday while picketing the Science Museum in London in protest against the Shah's tyranny and execution of trade unionists.

They had gone to demonstrate as the Shah's wife Empress Farah, was visiting the museum. They were first brutally attacked by supporters of the Shah's regime. Then British justice moved in. Four of the left-wing protesters were arrested.

Two Iranians were arrested later on a picket of the Covent Garden Opera House which Farah visited.

She is here to take part in the Festival of Islamic Culture. The main contribution of her husband's regime in this field is to make the disappearance and possible murder of

the Iranian writer Hamid Momeni and the jailing and torturing of such important cultural figures as Naser Rahmani Nejad and Said Soltanpour.

His notorious SAVAK secret police have also been active in the cultural field. In 1970 for example they drowned the world famous writer of children's stories Samad Behrani. They have also murdered thousands of strikers and trade unionists since they were set up and trained by the CIA and Israeli secret services.

This foul regime is feted by the British Labour government. They have sent minister after minister out to love up to the Shah. The two most recent were Anthony Wedgwood Benn and Barbara Castle.

'Save hospital' fight is sabotaged

SABOTAGE. That was how one of the shop stewards at Robroyston Hospital, Glasgow, described the collaboration of full-time union officials with the management over the threatened closure of the hospital.

Robroyston employs more than 600 workers. If it closes, management claim we'll be found jobs in other hospitals throughout the area where there are vacancies.

Reading: 27 jobs threatened

READING: Council building workers, told of 27 redundancies now with another 27 in the autumn, are fighting to reverse the decision.

The Electricians and Plumbers Union has imposed an overtime ban and work-to-rule. The Building workers union (UCATT) will also operate an overtime ban unless all outside contractors are removed from council sites. The General and Municipal has promised support.

So too has the Labour group on Reading Council, who say they took no part in the decision. Councillor Chris Goodall said the group were 'ready again to defend the right to work'.

The reason given for the redundancies was that there was less work available. The truth is that the work is being given out to private contractors.

Reading Right to Work Committee have given their support

by MARY MCCARTHY Nurse and NUPE shop steward, Robroyston Hospital.

the setting-up of a rank and file committee against the cuts and have offered support to the Robroyston shop stewards.

The shop stewards at Robroyston have asked the Glasgow Right to Work Committee for support and this week two delegates from Robroyston shop stewards' committee are to speak to a Glasgow Right to Work Campaign meeting outlining the support they need.

OFFICIALS STOP LEEDS ACTION

LEEDS: Officials of the Public Employees Union (NUPE) have succeeded in preventing any action over the dispute over the contract labour in the local health service.

At a packed meeting last Monday acting divisional officer Reg French told stewards that everyone would lose their jobs if they took any action. He made no attempt to justify the information he gave

district officials to make them take part in the arbitration hearings.

A resolution to take action as originally planned was moved by stewards from St James Hospital, but the officials succeeded in splitting the other hospitals from St James, and the motion was lost by a 2 to 1 majority.

Many hospital workers now see the need to build a strong rank and file movement in the Health Service. One NUPE

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CYPRIOTS WHO LIVE IN FEAR OF BLACKMAIL

by BAMBOS ANASTASIOU, a worker from Cyprus.

THERE are about 120,000 Cypriots, 'Greeks and Turks', in Britain today. Most live in North London and work in the garment manufacturing industry.

Most of these factories are small sweatshops. Conditions range from bad to appalling.

Weekly earnings range from £15 for an unskilled finisher to £50 for the skilled cutter. This includes Saturday working and overtime.

Most of the Cypriot workers are unorganised and many have no work permits. Whenever there is the slightest move to demand higher wages, better conditions or to unionise the workers, the bosses use blackmail, threatening to report the workers with no permits—which means sacking and deportation.

The bosses can easily find all the unskilled labour they need—there are hundreds of Cypriot workers on the dole queues. The British immigration laws, particularly the 1971 Act, give them an easy

means of dividing and intimidating the workers.

The police recently 'visited' two factories in the East End of London. They arrested five immigrant workers in Red Ten Fashions, Stepney, and one in the other. All six men were taken to the nearest police station for questioning.

One was a Turkish Cypriot named Dayraam Ennar. He was detained in Pentonville Prison for three days without being charged. A woman worker from Guyana, Ernestina Barimah, was charged with staying illegally in Britain.

Decisions

Andreas Stavrou is a refugee from Cyprus. He came to Britain with his wife in December, after being employed for more than a year. He was granted one month's stay and no work permit. He and his wife got work in a dress factory in Hornsey—Nancy and Melinda Fashions.

Andreas attempted to organise the other machinists. He told them that they would continue to be exploited unless they united to demand better wages and conditions.

Two weeks ago Andreas Stavros got a letter from the Home Office. It said he and his wife had to leave the country. He has appealed against this and is still holding his job.

There are thousands of cases like these. There is only one answer.

Right

Immigrant workers must unite and fight. They need the active support of the organised trade union movement. If workers allow immigrant workers to be sent down the road first, they weaken their own organisation and their own ability to fight back.

We are campaigning among Cypriot workers for support for the Right to Work Campaign. Three weeks ago we held a campaign meeting in North London attended by about 50 Cypriot workers.

Cypriot workers will also support the Right to Work picket on the TUC.

Socialist Worker says:

FIGHT THE CUTS!

DANGER

A Warning To All Trade Unionists
Sp

A new Right to Work Campaign factsheet on immigrant workers and the TUC attack. 5p a copy. Send stamped, addressed envelope with order please to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

ADVERTISEMENT

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN FIGHT THE CUTS!

Support the demonstration in London, Sunday 25 April, 12.30pm, Hyde Park, against the cuts (All supporters in London and the Home Counties are urged to attend.)

Support the demonstration in Manchester on Saturday 24 April at 12.30, AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford, against the cuts. (All supporters in Manchester and the North of England are urged to attend.)

ADVERTISEMENT

Picket the TUC!

Wednesday 28 April, 10am, Congress House Great Russell Street, London WC1.

Stop the Attacks on Immigrant Workers! Jobs for all—end Immigration Controls! Fight for the Right to Work!

Organised by the Right to Work Campaign and the East London Action Committee. Supported by Hammersmith Hospital NUPE Shop Stewards Committee and the Camden Committee against the Cuts and Unemployment.

DOCKERS FIGHT NATURAL WASTAGE

A STRIKE by 300 shoregang men against natural wastage at Liverpool Docks is now in its second week.

The men say three jobs made vacant by retirement must be refilled.

Shop steward Tommy Helm told Socialist Worker: 'We are well undermanned as it is, and we will strike indefinitely until our demands are met.'

A meeting last week of the ports tugboatmen gave the port officials seven days' notice of strike action in support, if they did not meet the demands of the shoregangmen.

Pressure

The industry's employers are once again on the move. They've been putting the maximum pressure on the Labour government to water down its Docks Bill and allow the rate-cutters and union-busters to continue their operations.

But in past weeks, haulage and docks employers have gone a step further.

They have paid for anti-docker pickets in Hull.

And they are only too happy to see a fight in support of the Barge Aboard Catamaran system that would enable them to sack many registered dockers.

In their struggle against the docks registration scheme, the employers will stop at nothing, including the encouragement of fights among workers.

Blockade

In Hull this week this has led to a blockade of the port with barges jammed across the port entrances. (No conspiracy prosecutions here, you note.)

In London, too, the docks employers are renewing their offensive that led to the great struggles of 1972.

Fears that the West India dock is to be closed are growing. Dockers therefore picketed the Port of London Authority on Monday.

The Labour government has promised to extend the Docks Registration Scheme.

But despite assurances it is capable of retreating under pressure from the employers—unless increasing pressure in the opposite direction comes from the rank and file.

Cuts chiefs quizzed

GLASGOW: 100 attended a meeting of Easterhouse Tenants Association for a question and answer session with regional and local councillors.

As speaker after speaker asked about the cuts, the councillors implied that there were no cuts.

In reply, local teachers spoke of the £17 million cut in local education, local busmen spoke about the attempt to shut Bridgetown garage, local hospital workers spoke about the attempted closure of Robroyston hospital.

A resolution opposing the cuts and calling for import controls was moved.

An amendment was carried deleting all references to import controls and setting up a local committee to fight the cuts.

SMITHS: VICTORY FOR LOCKED-OUT 25

CRICKLEWOOD: United militant action pays—that's what the struggle of ASTMS members victimised by Smith's Industries proved this week.

They were locked out last Friday after a successful work-to-rule. So they installed a picket with all 25 turning up.

THE MAN WHO SPIES ON PICKETS

THIS (right) is Peter Braithwaite, director of Leicester firm Electro Motion indulging in one of his favourite hobbies: spying on pickets outside his factory.

For ten weeks, 32 members of the Engineering Union have been locked out. Their crime was to join the union, and then complain about working in temperatures of between 32 and 40 degrees.

When convenor Danny Cunningham (below, centre) went in to talk to Braithwaite's fellow-director, Ken Barratt, he was met with a hail of

'I'll kill you' threat by lock-out boss

abuse.

Barratt shouted that Danny had sent an unordered taxi to his house at 10.30pm the previous night and had 'authorised' the stealing of a bicycle.

Barratt added: 'I'll kill you if I have to swing for it.' He then manhandled Danny out of the

office.

Danny Cunningham told Socialist Worker: 'We can stick out as long as we get the financial backing. The district decided against a levy so we need every penny we can get.'

This strike is about the right of every man and woman to belong to a trade union. It deserves the support of every trade unionist. Raise resolutions of support in your AUEW branch and shop stewards committee, send money to the strike fund c/o AUEW, 71 Vaughan Way, Leicester.



PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

SOUTH WALES EETPU members for the Right to Work: Thursday 15 April, 8pm, Rhymney Hotel, Cardiff. Speakers: Billy Stavrakis (Cardiff Corporation Electricians convenor) and Pip Jones (EETPU, one of the Right to Work marchers).

Collect your mattresses and sleeping bags: There are still a large number of mattresses and a few sleeping bags not yet claimed from the march. We cannot deliver door to door, so please arrange to collect as soon as possible. Any inquiries, ring R&F Centre, 01-802 6145.

BRAINTREE Right to Work Committee May Day Social to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the General Strike, Saturday 1 May, 8pm-1am, Rayne Village Hall, CAST (Socialist Theatre Group), speakers from 1926, exhibition, disco, plenty of beer. Don't miss it.

Please send donations and messages of support to the Treasurer, Roy Dutton, c/o AUEW House, Froggall Lane, Warrington.

can force them.

'We need to build up support in the combine to create real support. Unless we really step things up I can see this lasting a long while.'

'We are continuing to go round other plants in the area for help. It will be particularly hard on the single lads here.'

The AUEW District Committee has made the strike official and is calling for a district levy. But money will still be needed while this is being organised.

Please send donations and messages of support to the Treasurer, Roy Dutton, c/o AUEW House, Froggall Lane, Warrington.

WARRINGTON: The fight to reinstate the convenor and another worker at Greenings stepped up this week.

Delegations have been sent to other parts of the combine asking for support and suggesting the setting up of a combine committee to fight future attacks.

The convenor, Arthur Conneely, and Geoff Bailey were sacked for refusing to work on a crane that was unsafe.

But the factory has a fine record in rejecting all redundancies, demanding replacements for everyone who leaves, and banning all

overtime. And that is the real reason for the victimisations.

When delegates visited one of the factories in the combine they saw what they were up against. In the toilets, there were three-foot doors on the cubicles, with a sheet of frosted glass for the foremen to peer through.

Delegation

The delegation was promised support for the strike.

Strike committee secretary Len Blood told Socialist Worker: 'Meetings with top union officials have proved fruitless. The company is determined to stop Arthur and Geoff getting back unless we

having an organised workplace prepared to fight for conditions or a bunch of sheep.'

'Most of us on the picket line were moderates you know, but not from now on.'

The local Right to Work Committee took up the case. On Monday the company

agreed to reinstate the 25 and negotiate on the conditions. J Sleeman, one of the pickets, said: 'If they see this as us going back in a position of weakness, they're bloody wrong.'

'We've learned what you need to do.'

SAYERS BOOST

LIVERPOOL: 300 Engineering Union members manned the picket line at Sayers Bakery, on Monday in solidarity with 20 engineers and electricians on official strike since last November.

The AUEW District Committee had called a strike throughout Merseyside to support the Sayers workers, who are demanding the reinstatement of a victimised steward and two other workers.

Take a phone call -and you're sacked

By Dick Burdett, AUEW convenor, Wickman's

COVENTRY: Insubordination... being late six times in a year... bringing in posters or leaflets management don't like... receiving phone calls (management have a right to intercept them).

Management at Wickman's Engineering are trying to bring in these new works rules. Breaking any of them would mean the sack or suspension. The right to appeal would be to the works director! They also want the right to change works rules at will.

They tried to bring in these same proposals in 1974.

They are so diabolical that both union lawyers and the Coventry District Committee of the Engineering Union decided they should not be discussed under any circumstances.

Yet two weeks ago, Bro Frank Chater, the local AUEW full-time official, tried to persuade us to open negotiations on the same documents. He arranged a meeting without our consent.

The local full-time officials duly arrived. We refused to attend. The meeting was abandoned.

Members

The members were appalled both by the antics of the officials and by the contents of the intended works rules.

A mass meeting instructed the officials not to negotiate. It rejected the proposals completely.

And it voted for strike action if any man is suspended under them.

A suggestion was made at the mass meeting—only half in jest—that if the AUEW officials show up again the members should put up a picket line to keep them off the site.

ANNUAL TRADES COUNCIL CONFERENCE, 21-22 May, Swansea.

IS members and SW supporters who are delegates please contact the Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (01-739 6273).

Socialist Worker

Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists

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Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Support!

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Scanlon 'Back to work' attempt

LEYLAND: NOW FOR

THE FIGHTBACK!

**Triumph
workers
take over
and slow
tracks**

'THERE was a tremendous cheer when the stewards' executive recommendation was thrown out.'

That was how Jack Sprung, Transport Union steward at Triumph Coventry, described the decision by 2500 workers last Friday to cut back their output by 5 per cent by taking over and slowing down the track.

'We haven't been paid for the latest 5 per cent increase in production. The joint shop stewards' committee had given it to the company as a gesture of goodwill.'

Last Thursday and Friday, assembly workers and stewards took control of the tracks and ran them at their own speed, despite the opposition of the company and the stewards' executive, which includes Eddie McGarry, the TGWU convenor, and Jim Griffin, the AUEW convenor.

Accepted

Jack Sprung continues the story: 'The joint shop stewards committee actually recommended that we withdraw the 5 per cent if there was no settlement by 1 April. This decision was put to all the gangs, and accepted.'

'But when we reported back to the next stewards' meeting, the executive decided to change the recommendation—for the good of the company!'

'They won this on the committee, but we took it back to a mass meeting of the assembly workers on Thursday morning.'

McGarry spoke at the meeting, trying to persuade the men that 'for the company's sake' we should keep on the higher productivity. But even that didn't work. His recommendations were rejected unanimously.

'Following this we took action ourselves. The company said if we did they would stop the tracks altogether, and take all assembly workers off the clock.'

Isolated

'We arranged to take over the tracks at 11.30am, Thursday, so that no one person could be isolated and victimised. The foremen attempted to stop the tracks, but we surrounded the buttons, and stopped them. The company then switched off the tracks from the main switches and padlocked the boxes.'

'It was just after that when the foremen were having their tea that they found themselves barricaded in their office. The locks were taken off the main switches and we were working normally, minus 5 per cent, within minutes.'

'The stewards' executive then called a shop stewards' meeting. McGarry pushed for a mass meeting of the whole factory. So at 10am on Friday he was again arguing for us to give the company work for nothing.'

'McGarry tried to move that we hold a factory ballot on the issue, and he was defeated hands down. As it turned out, the whole meeting—over 2500—voted. Fewer than 100 supported McGarry.'

'Triumph workers need to move on and replace the whole McGarry crew. There are big struggles ahead.'

Socialist Worker Fighting Fund

THE money's beginning to pour into the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund again—and that's no surprise. The Healey, Budget will mean there's less money around in workers' pockets unless they fight back, and a fighting paper is vital to link up all the different struggles.

Take the equal pay battles on page four this week. How do those women know that women are fighting for the same things all over the country unless they can read it in a socialist paper?

Keep the money—and the news—coming in. This week we had £166.95. We need more than that next week, and more the next...

Donations to the fund this week included:

Maripit Estate, Norwich £1 20,
Vauxhall Estate, Norwich £1 30,
Edinburgh Road, Norwich £1 20,
Brundall, Norwich £2, Cotton
Estate, Norwich £3, Western
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Morecombe £1, J Fagan £5, H
Nathan £5, J Gilding 45p, I Parr
50p, Imperial College IS £3

Send your
donations and
collections to
Socialist Worker
Fighting Fund, 8
Cottons Gardens,
London, E2.

'THERE'S no getting away from it. The fight back in British Leyland has begun.'

In Triumph, at Coventry, workers have enforced lower track speeds after being conned on the wages front.

In Birmingham, where only last week toolroom workers at SU Carburettors were hounded back to work, 1000 toolroom workers at Austin Longbridge struck in defiance of the government's incomes policy.

At Tractor and Transmissions too, workers are involved in a similar struggle.

Socialist Worker went to press early this week, before the result of Engineering Union president High Scanlon's bid to defend the £6 fraud and get the men back to work. Whatever the outcome, these battles give an indication that the fight back has begun.

The Leyland bosses are out to do with Leyland carworkers what the National Coal Board did to the miners in the 1950s. Then the miners were conned by a nationalisation that gave them no control and no right to work.

The plans Leyland has in store partly explain the intensity of the press propaganda against the strikers.

A thousand defy £6 freeze—and the union

A THOUSAND toolroom workers are on strike at Austin Longbridge in defiance of the Engineering Union and government pay policy, demanding staff status and parity with people who work as demonstrators.

One toolroom worker told Socialist Worker: 'I've never known feeling like it. People had made up their minds before the mass meeting. They were preparing to go home before the meeting. They knew all the problems with the pay code and the uncertainty of the outcome of the strike, but

they voted over 2-1 to come out.'

'We've been negotiating for nine months for parity with the demonstrators, and for staff status. The demonstrators already get £74-a-week basic (we're on £63) and are due for a further £4 in May.'

Last Friday management offered us the same agreement as they'd offered the fitters at Tractors and Transmissions, where the fitters are out for parity with the demonstrators. The agreement was for as much as we wanted after the £6 freeze.

'They can promise the moon

now, knowing they'll never have to pay, with Healey's latest proposals of 3 per cent.'

'It doesn't matter what government is in, we know what we're worth and I don't see why we should get less than any other toolmaker in Leyland. MPs all get the same. We work for the same gaffer, so all toolmakers should get the same in Leyland.'

True

'There's no point in working at the Austin if your standard of living is being cut. The same is true for labourers, if we win this dispute now, the labourers will be able to get more. We've no ambition to turn Longbridge into the sweatshop of Europe, making cur-price articles to dump everywhere else.'

'If the toolroom workers can get through, then the government's pay restrictions will be finished and other workers, skilled and unskilled, low paid and high paid, will be able to fight for a decent living wage. If the Austin Toolroom workers are defeated it won't save jobs. Who will be able to buy new cars on Healey's 3 per cent.'



Rank and file hospital workers among several thousand who marched through London last weekend calling for the repeal of the Immigration Act 1971. PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report).

Socialist Worker

LUCAS HAZARD STOPPED

by MALCOLM POVEY (ASTMS) Leeds University

RANK and file action at the Lucas Aerospace Marston Green factory in Leeds has prevented management from exposing the workforce to yet another hazard.

A few weeks ago, a copper brownish metal was being machined. Unknown to the men machining it, the metal dust was deadly. The metal, beryllium copper, has been

known to be dangerous for a long time, yet management took few precautions and the workforce were not told of the dangers.

SURPRISE

Fortunately, while attending a Rank and File Organising Committee safety course in Solihull, the shop stewards read in Pat Kinnersley's book 'The Hazards of Work' that beryllium copper was dangerous. This came as something of a surprise, as the

members had dry-machined beryllium copper on and off for years.

The shop stewards were worried and puzzled about the lack of safety instructions. The reaction of management was dismissive. They said it was perfectly safe as long as there was no more than 3 per cent beryllium in the copper.

Yet the stewards thought: if beryllium dust kills, why should 3 per cent for two hours be any safer than 6 per cent for one hour.

Not to be fobbed off with a feeble excuse, the stewards

turned to the Safety School for help. They thought of the TUC doctors, but on a previous occasion they had been unhelpful. So through the Safety School the stewards got in touch with the Rank and File Organising Committee and we were able to give them all the details about beryllium copper, and the illness, berylliosis, that it causes.

BLACKED

The stewards presented management with the gory details and refused to machine the metal. After the material had been blacked, a factory inspector appeared and confirmed the dangers of working with the dry beryllium copper. Shop meetings have insisted that all workers be x-rayed, and the results examined and notified to the workers before work will be resumed.

Rank and file action like this is the only way to safety in the workplace. It saves workers' lives. So if you want information about a material that you think is dangerous, or if you would like to see a safety school organised in your area contact the Rank and File Organising Committee at 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone 01-802 6145.

Rank and File teachers re-elected

BOTH Dick North and Beth Stone, the Rank and File Teachers' candidates, have been returned to their seats on the executive of the National Union of Teachers.

Dick North came top of the poll in the Inner London area, far ahead of the Communist Party and right-wing candidates, Sam Fisher and Robert Richardson, who stood on the same platform.

Rank and file candidates were the only people who put up a policy to fight

unemployment—at a time when 9000 teachers are unemployed.

The number of teachers voting went up by 80 per cent over the previous elections.

ANGER

School-based action over the policy of no cover for teachers absent after three days is growing. It's this anger and action that returned the Rank and File candidates—despite a press campaign against them in the Daily Mail and the London Evening Standard.



BETH STONE

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