

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



says

THEY'RE WELCOME HERE



THIS is the other side of the 'There's no room for immigrants here' uproar—a block of 120 flats, built with council money, that has stood empty since completed more than a year ago.
It's the Shakespeare Tower, on the City of London's Barbican development. The reason they're empty is that rents start at £37 a week. Top rent is £56.
It's council housing for the rich—in more ways than one. To build the Barbican, the corporation—mostly businessmen and bankers—borrowed huge sums from other businessmen and bankers, so guaranteeing them the full benefits of bloated interest charges for years to come.
So far the Barbican has cost an estimated £97 million—enough to build roughly 10,000 'normal' council houses or flats. That's room enough . . .

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

EVERY WORKER in Britain should welcome the Asians who want to come here after being driven by persecution from country to country.

Those press lords and politicians who argue otherwise lie when they pretend that an Indian or a Pakistani worker is a threat to English or Scots, Welsh or Irish workers.

□ They say the country's overcrowded.
That's LIE NUMBER ONE.

It may be tough going in Blackburn or Stepney or the Gorbals. But you should try Wilmslow in Cheshire, Knightsbridge or Berkhamsted.

There's no overcrowding there. Indeed most who live in these places are so wealthy that they own two or three other homes as well.

Jack Jones, boss of the Transport Union, reckons that at any one time there are 800,000 fully-furnished houses empty because their owners are staying in their second or third houses. And the richest of them have vast country estates besides, where there's stacks of room.

□ They say this is 'our country'.
That's LIE NUMBER TWO.

How much of it do you own? For 20 or 30 years slaving to pay off a mortgage you'll get three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and bathroom and—with a bit of luck—a tiny garden.

When it comes to the land itself, the situation is even more unbelievable. According to a survey for the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth, an amazing 2 per cent

of the population own 72 per cent of all land values.

Now you know why building land is so dear. Now you know this is their country, with us crowded in the towns and cities to work for them.

□ They say immigrants are flooding into the country, or scheming to get past the immigration controls.
That's LIE NUMBER THREE.

Last year the overall population of Britain fell. And every year since at least 1961 more people have left Britain than have come in.

Figures in the official publication Population Trends show that between 1970 and 1975, 1,215,600 people came into Britain—and 1,509,400 went out. A net loss of 293,800.

As for the nonsense about floods of people lying and scheming to get in, there is a vast British government bureaucracy in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh specifically designed to make it as difficult as possible for those who are fully entitled to come.



The case of Bradford bus driver Mohammed Akram, highlighted in the Inside Story television programme in February last year, is typical.

It took him two and a half years to get the Home Office to accept that his wife was his wife and so entitled to live here with him. By that time his daughter in Pakistan had died of a fever that would have been readily cured by the Health Service in Britain—to which Mohammed had been contributing all that time.

It's this system that Enoch Powell and Foreign Office official D F Hawley defend, a system already so racist and inhuman that anyone would try to escape it.

□ They say that the agitation against immigrants isn't racist.
That's LIE NUMBER FOUR.

It's racist to the core. So dishonest is the press propaganda that you'd never guess that more than three times as many immigrants to Britain come from Australia, Canada and New Zealand every year than from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka put together.

According to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 42,100 came from Australia, Canada and New Zealand last year, as against 12,600 from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In the past six years the totals were 288,700 and 109,900.

Add in the Asian refugees from Uganda, Malawi and Kenya, and there are still far more white immigrants coming in, without a murmur from the press or a question from an immigration official. But the numbers of people coming in is not the problem.

□ LIE NUMBER FIVE is the biggest of all.

Neither black nor white immigrants cause unemployment or bad housing.

There's been bad housing and a shortage of housing in Britain for hundreds of years. Bad housing and a shortage because housing is built for profit, not for need. Unemployment was rife in the 1930s when there was less immigration.

No, it's not black and Asian, or even Australian immigrants, that give workers the sack. It's profit-hungry companies such as GEC, the Steel Corporation, the Coal Board, ICI and Chrysler.

And for as long as the press and the employers succeed in getting white workers to blame blacks, they will be laughing all the way to the bank.

The working class will remain packed into tiny corners of this and other countries, stuck on the receiving end of every twist and turn of the blind economic forces that control this society.



Pickets line both sides of the road outside Hendon Magistrates Court. PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report) and Phil McCowan

1,500 march to defend the 43

FIFTEEN HUNDRED demonstrators picketed Hendon Magistrates Court last Friday in support of the 43 unemployed workers and trade unionists arrested after the police attacked the Right to Work March at Staples Corner on 19 March.

The public gallery was packed. Loud cheering and clapping greeted the marchers as the police escorted them into court.



Jimmy Reid, one of five members of the national committee of the Engineering Union who have called for support of the arrested Right to Work marchers. The others are Jimmy Airlie, H. McLary, F. Troop and A. Knight. Two members of the national committee elected from the ILEW National Trade Conference have also signed. They are W. Jones and P. Davis.

Forty-two marchers were released on bail until their trial begins on 17 September. One, John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, was remanded on £2500 bail until 18 June, when the date for his trial at the Old Bailey will be announced.

When the marchers left court they marched at the head of the demonstration down to Staples Corner, where the police had attacked the march.

At an open air meeting after the demonstration, Dick North, a member of the executive of the National Union of Teachers, said: 'We are not going to be intimidated. Rank and file action got the Pentonville Five out of prison. If necessary, it can do it again.'

Michael Fern, a delegate from the London Royal Docks shop stewards committee, said: '... as a consequence from this political trial against trade unionists.

We won Pentonville, we lost Shrewsbury. We must carry on the fight.'

Gerry Jones, from the Chrysler Stoke shop stewards' delegation, commented on the unbelievable case the police were trying to put against the marchers. 'Would anyone in their right mind attack the police right outside a police station?' he asked.

Weapon

Graham Skinner, former Clay Cross councillor, said: 'The strike weapon is the only weapon the establishment understands.' He said the demonstration was 'a marvellous turn-out', but asked where were the MPs.

'Where's my brother?', he asked, referring to Tribune Labour MP Dennis Skinner.

John Phillips, president of Barnet Trades Council, told the rally of the independent trade union inquiry into the incidents at Staples Corner, whose report will be published soon.

Telegrams of support came from Peter Ham, president of the Young Liberals and himself the victim of a recent attempted frame-up, and Joan Maynard MP.

Ricky Tomlinson, who was jailed for picketing at Shrewsbury, said it was 'a terrific turn-out'. He brought 'support and solidarity from Des Warren', who is still in jail for picketing.

'The police think it's a crime because you're on the dole. You're accused of breaking police truncheons with your heads, of denting police boots with your lips and noses.'

'Now the hanky panky has started, the negotiations and the deals. Don't fall for it.'

The final speaker was the secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, John Deason. He thanked the 1500 for their support and called for mass action on 26 May against the 4% per cent pay deal. The best defence for the 43 is to carry on the fight for the right to work and for No Deal with Healey.



Ricky Tomlinson talking to John Deason after the hearing.



Banners from Oxford on the demonstration

Right to Work Council calls support for student occupations

ACTIVE support for the student teachers, a campaign by unemployed workers in the mining areas for a vote against the 4½ per cent pay deal, mass support for the lobby of the Recall TUC on 16 June.

These are some of the decisions that came out of the first meeting of the National Right to Work Campaign Council.

The council was made up of 65 delegates from trade union bodies that have actively supported the campaign. There were 20 observers from other trade union organisations, and apologies from 13 delegates who could not attend.

The organisations represented were: NUT 3, shop stewards committees 8, NUPE 4, Labour Party 2, Boilermakers 1, ASTMS 2, Right to Work Committees 8, Cuts committees 2, GMWU 1, NUJ 3, CPSA 2, TGWU 7, AUEW 9, NUM 2, NALGO 1, APEX 1, NUBTW 1, UCATT 3, EETPU 2, NATFHE 3.

The council will be the policy-making body of the Right to Work Campaign. It issued this declaration:



'This National Council for the Right to Work of employed and unemployed trade union delegates expresses its disgust at the collaboration of the TUC General Council with the government in backing the 4½

per cent wage freeze.

'We are particularly angry about the continued mass unemployment and savage public service cuts that go hand in hand with such wage control. We categorically reject the notion that we, the working class, must make the sacrifices for the employers' inability to solve the crisis they have created.'

Militant

'We endorse the ten Right to Work Campaign demands and recognise that the fight for such demands can only be waged by strong, militant trade union organisation.'

'Yet the TUC General Council, in line with the present Labour government, prefers to bow down to the pressures of big business and finance speculators. We, the Rank and File, must organise within the trade unions against such class collaboration, and so strengthen our ability to defend living standards and jobs.'

'This Council, therefore, undertakes to organise and call for support of:

1. A mass rank and file lobby by trade union delegates and the unemployed, of the 16 June Recall TUC Congress, starting 9.30am outside Central Hall, Westminster, Central London.

2. A march of unemployed (backed and sponsored by official trade union organisations) from London to the September TUC Congress in Brighton culminating in a mass rank and file lobby.

3. Support for all actions against the cuts, defence of jobs, conditions, or for better wages. Campaign for official trade union backing of such actions.

Strengthen

4. Build and strengthen rank and file groupings, papers and workplace organisation within the trade union movement.

5. Build and strengthen local Right to Work and anti-cuts committees of trade union delegates and unemployed activists.

6. Defend by every means necessary, the 43 arrested Right to Work marchers to prevent police and court intimidation of rank and file actions against unemployment.

'Fight for the Right to Work!'

'Stop the Cuts!'

'No Deal with Healey!'



John Deason was confirmed as secretary of the campaign. The council agreed that between meetings there would be fortnightly discussions by the London members of the council. The next meeting of the full council will be on Saturday 3 July.

John Deason told Socialist Worker after the meeting: 'This was a good representative meeting of trade union bodies that have proved themselves in the campaign, meeting alongside unemployed workers. These are the people who should determine the policy of the campaign.'

THE DELEGATIONS

ABOUT 100 trade union banners were carried on the demonstration outside the court. Official delegations on the picket included:

London Royal Docks, Bradford Trades Council, Lewisham NALGO, Goldsmiths College Students Union, Bristol Students Union, Frenchay Hospital NUPE, Walthamstow NALGO Action Group, Hackney Trades Council, Westminster Trades Council, Tollerston Park NUT, Oxford Trades Council, TGWU Cowley Assembly branch, UPW London and Overseas Telephones, York Trades Council, Westminster APEX.

Dagenham No 5 AUEW, TGWU Fords Dagenham, Dunfermline Labour Party Young Socialists, AUEW Letchworth, Glasgow Cor-

poration EETPU, Jameside Trades Union Council, Ipswich Trades Council, Tower Hamlets NALGO, Hammersmith NALGO, GLC NALGO, Exeter NUR No 2, Barnet Trades Council, Norwich Trades Council, ASTMS Norwich, NATFHE Enfield.

Paisley College of Technology, ATTI Wilcot, CPSA British Library, CPSA Newham and Waltham Forest, London North East TASS, Wolverhampton UCATT, British Airways JSSC Heathrow, Wembley 4 AUEW, Magazine Branch NUJ, Haringey Trades Council, Hackney NUT, North London NUT, NATFHE North London Poly, UCATT Northampton, Charing Cross ASTMS, Lambeth, Dagenham and Croydon Trades Councils, Hull Docks shop stewards committee, Ealing Students Union, NUPE Derbyshire.

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN ACTION

A RECENT front page of the Skelmersdale Advertiser shows the success of the Right to Work Campaign there.

The main story is about an occupation at Rhodes Home Bakery dough factory by 24 workers who had been sacked. The Unemployed Workers Action Committee gave the occupiers active support.

The occupation ended in victory, with management even agreeing to pay full wages for the period of the sit-in. The area organiser of the food workers' union, USDAW, said: 'The settlement has completely vindicated the workers' decision to occupy. We hope this will show the way for other groups of workers facing

redundancies.

'We wish to place on record our fraternal thanks to the Trades Council, the shop stewards of Skelmersdale and the Unemployed Workers Committee for their support.'

The picture story on the page is about the Action Committee's occupation of the Skelmersdale Job Centre, which they took over for two hours.

A third story reports that a meeting of shop stewards from almost every factory in Skelmersdale, called by the Trades Council, decided to 'stage a rally and demonstration in the New Town on 26 May in line with the national movement for the "Right to Work Campaign" on that day.'



The three men who spewed on democracy to help cut every engineer's wages...

IN THE CRUCIAL wages debate at last week's National Committee of the AUEW's engineering section, three delegates voted directly against the line of resolutions from their own divisions.

Had they voted in line with those resolutions, the National Committee would have thrown out the Healey pay deal by 26 votes to 25.

As it was, they rejected the 'no wage restraint' motion by 28 votes to 23.

Passed

Bill Rowlands went to the national committee from Division No 15 (Liverpool, Chester, and North Wales). That division sent this resolution to the national committee, which was passed unanimously by all 17 divisional committee members, including Rowlands.

This national committee instructs executive council to totally oppose state interference into wage bargaining and pledge full support to the members in their efforts to maximise wages, as wage controls in a capitalist society can only lead to a reduction in the living standards of our members and their families.

This motion was composed as part of the main left resolution opposing the 4½ per cent pay deal. Rowlands voted against the motion and for the deal.

Record

The two delegates from Kent were J Lambourn (Ministry of Defence, Ashford) and J Simpson (CAV, Rochester). Their division (No 24) also submitted a resolution asking the national committee to record 'its continued opposition to any form of incomes policy and its support for free collective bargaining'.

Yet Lambourn and Simpson voted for the pay deal.

ADVERTISEMENT

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

LOBBY THE SPECIAL TUC CONGRESS JUNE 16TH

NO TUC DEAL WITH HEALEY

Wednesday 16th June, 9.30am
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

MURDERED - by the racists of Fleet St.

PRICE OF FIGHTING FASCISM

TWENTY-ONE anti-fascists suffered as Bradford magistrates sought their pound of flesh last week.

The 21 faced charges arising from the magnificent resistance to the National Front on 24 April.

The police had forced a route for the Front into Manningham—where many of Bradford's blacks live—for a fascist rally in Manningham Middle School.

Fifteen cases were heard. Four were found guilty of assault on the police. They will be sentenced in June.

Ten were fined. Fines for 'threatening to cause breach of the peace' ranged from £60 to £185.

The total cost of fines so far is £740. With costs, it comes to £955.

Donations are still needed. Send them to the Manningham Defence Fund, 41 Athol Road, Bradford 9.

TWO STUDENTS from overseas were murdered in South Woodford, East London, on Saturday.

They weren't annoying anybody. They were walking to a Chinese restaurant when they were attacked by a gang of white youths and knifed.

The police have arrested four white teenagers and charged them with murder. Once the arrests had been made, the press tried to forget the incident.

Well they might. For those who wielded the knives were not the only murderers.

The responsibility lies with those who put the idea into their heads that black people are a worthy

SCANDAL OF £600-A-WEEK IMMIGRANTS

Just some of the poison now pouring daily out of Fleet Street... and (above right) the inevitable result

object of abuse. Two and a half weeks ago, The Sun screamed about the 'Scandal of the £600 a week immigrants'.

Since then there has hardly been a newspaper or a news broadcast that has not referred to the so-called 'problem' of a few thousand more Asian immigrants coming to Britain.

It is hardly surprising that some white teenagers have drawn the conclusion that any black people

IMMIGRANTS—HOW BRITAIN IS DECEIVED

are a 'problem' and ought to be eliminated. There has been a wave of attacks on black people in London and Birmingham.

As Mohammed Haque, a Bengali student who has lived in Tower Hamlets for three years, told Socialist Worker: 'In the three weeks since the press started their

filthy attack against the Malawi Asians, there have been a number of attacks. They have culminated in the murder of the boys last weekend. Make no mistake, this was the result of the atmosphere the press has created'.

GANG KILL ENVOY'S SON
Double murder in London

This foul situation has got to be stopped. Every trade unionist and socialist must help the Asian community to ward off these attacks and to undermine the racism that causes them.

WHAT WE THINK

IT MUST BE NO!

THIS WEEK miners are being urged by their executive to accept a wage deal that is guaranteed to accelerate the fall in living standards for them and their families.

My fears are that if this latest phase of government wage policy is accepted, we shall see a huge increase in the clamour for overtime working in the coalfields.

With our 'leaders' attempting to sell the wages policy which they admit will mean a decline in living standards, workers will be climbing all over each other to maintain their standard of living by the only other method they know—working overtime, with all the dangers to safety that that implies.

Already we are told that overtime working in outside industries has risen from 11.22 million working hours in January to 13.65 million in March.

Those extra hours could mean an extra 15,180 jobs.

Why every miner should chuck out Healey's pay deal

Miners, too, have to wake up to the threat of overtime in general and producing coal in overtime in particular.

That letter, from Gordon Harris, NUM President at Bentinck Colliery, South Nottinghamshire, sums up the feelings of thousands of miners who have had enough of wage restraint.

The miners are worse off now than before the 1972 strike.

If they accept the deal, they'll be plunging themselves back into the poverty and insecurity of the 1960s.

The government and the union leaders have two arguments for a yes vote. The deal will stop prices rising, they claim.

This week, this argument was exploded by the Prime Minister, Shirley Williams.

She admits that the inflation rate won't be brought down into single figures as she promised last year.

She admits that the price index has risen by three and a half points in the last five weeks alone.

Why? Not because of high wage increases. Obviously not. The wage freeze has persisted without a break throughout this time.

The price increases have been caused by the run on the pound.

The government's second argument is that



Miners on the march in Sheffield last Saturday: 4000 workers turned out to commemorate the 1926 General Strike. But will the TUC be allowed to mark the strike's 50th anniversary with another great betrayal?

miners will be taking money from the pockets of low-paid workers if they get more than the limit.

But have the low-paid workers benefited from the freeze?

All the signs are that the low-paid workers have made the greatest sacrifices in the last year—and will, if they observe the freeze, make still greater sacrifices next year.

Low-paid workers get more pay only when they fight for it.

Their determination to fight depends on the determination of the better-organised, more militant workers like the miners.

That's why all miners—and all low-paid workers, like the members of NUPE who are being balloted in their branches about the Healey deal this week—should vote NO.

OUR SPUDS SCANDAL

Dear Socialist Worker, My blood is boiling when I read today that cauliflowers are being burnt by British farmers and potatoes dumped because they cannot get the former high prices for them.

Local shop owners have told us that there has been no shortage of potatoes in this country for the last two months—they have never seen stored stocks so high.

The Labour government just stands idly by while our food burns.

I enclose a donation to the SW Fighting Fund to contribute to the fight to destroy the potato barons and their lackeys in government and out of it so we the workers can control our food production rationally.

Fraternally, Sandy Rose, Hard up Housewife, Manchester.

Thanks, Sandy. And thanks, too, to the others who sent money to our fighting fund:

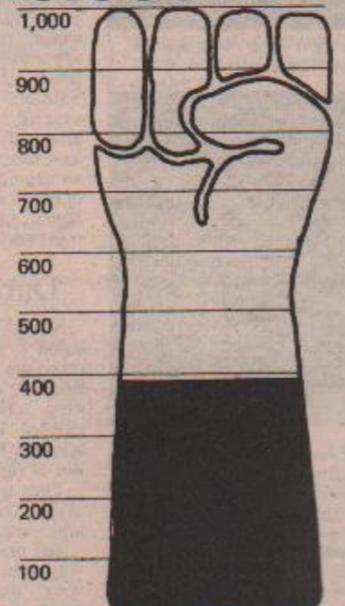
Reader, Manchester £1.40; A Bloomfield £1; Inner East London IS £16.75; J & M Hurford £8; J Begg £1; West London and West Middlesex IS £8; J Macey £10; Grimsby IS £2; Anon £3.80; Thomas, Lincoln 20p.

This week's total £52.15 brings the May figure up to

£396.62

Keep it coming in! Send donations and collections to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker £1000 FIGHTING FUND



AUEW Does this mean the death sentence?

THE Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is under sentence of death.

If the sentence is carried out, trade union organisation in every engineering factory will be irrevocably damaged.

The sentence was passed last week by the AUEW's Engineering Section National Committee, which split 26-26 on the executive's proposals to ballot the membership for closer amalgamation of the union's four sections.

Under these proposals, the four sections would be controlled by one executive and one national committee of 150 delegates—91 from engineering, 26 from the white-collar section (TASS), 20 from the foundry section and 13 from construction.

After the tied vote, the president, Hugh Scanlon, declared the proposals lost. The committee then voted 28-24 for a right-wing resolution which insisted on much smaller representation on the new national committee—only seven delegates each from TASS and the foundry, and three from construction.

These proposals will almost certainly be thrown out by the smaller sections, and the amalgamation could perish as a result.

Does this matter? Yes, it matters very much indeed.

Trade union organisation in engineering is being damaged by the divisions between white-collar and blue-collar working.

The only way to ensure against these divisions is to organise white-collar and shop floor workers into the same union, with the same discipline. The only union which can be built into a single engineering union is the AUEW.

That was the reason for the merger with TASS.

The defeat last week of the AUEW-TASS merger is therefore a defeat for all trade union organisation in engineering. If allowed to stand, it will open the divisions between manual and white-collar workers.

This defeat was the work of



The right-wing ringleader, John Weakly.



Bill Jordan, delegate from the Midlands and recently-elected full-time official, summed up the right wing's attitude to amalgamation: 'We're being throttled by an ever-thickening white collar worn by non-productive workers in offices. We're carrying these workers on our backs.'



the unions
by Paul Foot

the right wing in the national committee, led by John Weakly. They fought the proposals because they are terrified of TASS's left-wing politics. They fear that the TASS delegates could tip the delicate balance in the union to the left—against wage restraint for instance.

That is the only reason for Weakly's opposition to amalgamation.

Yet, tragically, the right wing were allowed to emerge from the debate as the protectors of democracy and rank and file control.

They pointed out that under the executive proposals, existing TASS officials would not have to stand for re-election, although all other officials in the union will. Worse than that, TASS officials, who are appointed, will be allowed to stand for other offices in the union.

Safe

As Andy McKay, a veteran from Newcastle, put it: 'When we stand for election and lose, we're out on the stones. When these TASS officials stand, they've a safe job to go back to.'

No one could answer these arguments.

Scanlon and several left-wing delegates mumbled about 'legality' and 'the contracts of service of TASS officials'. As if the legal contracts of service of appointed TASS officials were more important than the principle of rank and file control of the union!

There was a simple solution to the deadlock. The executive proposals could have been amended to allow for regular election of TASS officials. Such an amendment would almost certainly have been carried—and with it the entire amalgamation.

As right-winger after right-winger spoke against the appointment of TASS officials, the president, Hugh Scanlon, called on them to amend the executive proposals accordingly. At least four times, he pleaded for an amendment from any one of the 52 delegates. But in five hours of debate no one responded.

Dated

'Not a single right-winger dared to put his "democratic" proposals to the vote. Why? Because, of course, the right wing aren't in the least interested in the election of officials. They just want TASS out of the AUEW.'

They won't go to risk saving the amalgamation by amending the resolution.

But here's the real mystery: why didn't any of the 26 left-wing delegates move the amendment? They knew that such an amendment would

embarrass the right wing and would probably win at least one more delegate to the executive proposals—so winning a majority.

At the Broad Left meeting before the debate Jimmy Reid argued for the left to put forward an 'election of all officials' amendment. He was defeated.

Why? There is only one possible explanation: the Broad Left on the committee, controlled by the Communist Party, refused to risk its

members' many official posts in TASS in elections—even at the cost of losing the amalgamation.

Handed

So, by refusing to speak up for and vote for election of officials throughout the amalgamated union, the Broad Left handed the argument and the vote to the right wing on a plate.

There is no justification for the appointment of officials.



FOUR WHO VOTED AGAINST

TWO delegates from Ireland voted against the policy of their division on amalgamation. If they had voted with their division, the amalgamation would have been carried.

The two were N Young of Newry and D Sweeney of County Offaly.

The Irish division of the AUEW (No 1) sent in the following resolution to the national committee:

'That this National Committee instructs executive council to have amalgamation between the four sections implemented before the end of 1976. At the present rate of progress, we will never realise the position of one complete union for the engineering industry.'

Passed

The division also demanded in another resolution 'the early transfer from the supervisory branches to TASS'.

Yet Young and Sweeney voted against allowing the membership to vote on amalgamation. Explaining his action, Young told the committee: 'Our division's motion was passed a long time ago.'

The delegates from Division 20, which also called in a resolution for amalgamation 'as a matter of extreme urgency', voted against it. They are D B Mackie, from Watford, and K Blundell from Enfield.

What we can do about that ugly face

THE latest Rank and File pamphlet, *The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union and How to Change it*, will be of immense value to all union members who wish to see an end to the right-wing domination of the Electricians and Plumbers Union.

For the younger and newer members, the pamphlet traces the rise of Frank Chapple to supreme power in the union. It also shows how we pay in terms of low wages and loss of conditions for the class collaboration policies which he pursues.

The most controversial section deals with the struggle against Chapple. The author calls for a united front of leadership given by the Communist Party-dominated Flashlight group.

Over the past 10 years Flashlight has concentrated on the electoral battles within the union to the exclusion of everything else.

The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union calls for the building of a national rank

and file movement at shop floor, branch, and district level around a programme that demands:

- Election of all officials.
- District committees composed of branch and shop floor representatives.
- Annual conferences of the union whose decision will be binding on the executive.



and file movement at shop floor, branch, and district level around a programme that demands:

- All wage agreements to be submitted to conference of shop stewards of the industry concerned, who will have the power to accept or reject the proposed agreements.

I believe this is a correct perspective. Experience shows that a strong, grassroots movement is the best guarantee that the leadership does not go wrong.

This pamphlet deserves wide circulation within the

EETPU—both for the clarity of its ideas, and the clear and concise way it argues its case for a democratic union controlled by its members.

□ Jim Atkinson was a rank and file candidate in the EETPU Executive Council election last year for Division 8, extending from South London to Kent and Southampton.

Because of the massive press campaign for the right wing and the 'softly, softly' approach of the

Communist Party-led opposition Flashlight group, the sitting executive councillor romped home.

Jim Atkinson also stood in the previous election, but for Division 9 further west. The right-winger there barely got the necessary overall majority against a split left-wing vote. Division 9 was then divided between neighbouring divisions and reappeared in Yorkshire.

NEW RANK AND FILE PAMPHLET

5p a copy, plus 7p postage. More than 10 copies post free. Orders to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

EETPU Rank and File London Meeting
Smash the Right Wing
Build the Rank and File

Speakers: Billy Williams (Rank and File EETPU candidate for general secretary), Mike McGrath (Redder Tape, CPSA executive member), Alan Watts (convenor MK Electrics toolroom and Engineers Charter)—all in personal capacities.
Thursday 3 June, 7.30pm
Details of place to be announced

EETPU Rank and File National Meeting
No TUC deal with Healey
Build a fighting Rank and File

Speakers include Billy Williams (Rank and File candidate for EETPU general secretary) and Jim Atkinson (Rank and File candidate, EC Division No 8).
Chairman: George Kelly (EETPU convenor, Glasgow)
Saturday 12 June, 2-5pm
Digbeth Civic Hall, Deritend High Street, Birmingham.

Ruth

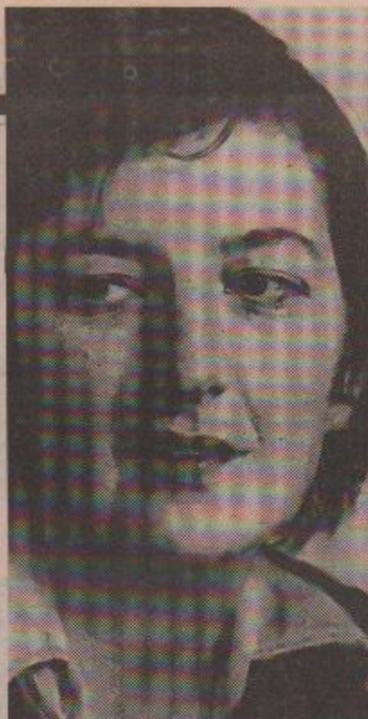
Martin

THE VOTE in the union meeting to occupy was quite close—59 to 49.

The next morning, the students came into the college, many of them angry. We held a mass meeting and told them what had happened in Scotland, and what the prospects were for jobs.

By the end of the meeting, almost everyone supported the occupation. I think people have had enough of demonstrating through London on a Sunday afternoon with no one taking any interest. They want action.

Ruth Martin, President of the students union at Southlands College of Education, Wimbledon, explained how the fight against education cuts spread from Scotland to England.



Chris

Goldie

I'VE BEEN trained as a primary teacher. If anything, the situation for primary school teachers is even worse than it is for secondary schools.

As far as I know, none of the trained primary school teachers in this college have got a job yet. I've applied for a job and had an interview.

But I've just heard that I've been put on the waiting list, with literally thousands of others. I'm really glad that something's been done about it at last.

That at last people are talking about our jobs, and writing about it in the newspapers.



Jane

Davies

I'VE BEEN trained for three years to teach English in secondary schools.

I live in Cambridgeshire. There have been seventy applicants for every teacher's job in Cambridgeshire secondary schools next year.

I've already had six rejected out of hand, without even an interview.

When I heard about the occupation, I thought that this was just another effort, another demo.

But there is such active interest now among so many people.

People are changing every minute, seeing that they can do something about their lives. It's exciting.



SPECIAL REPORT FROM SOUTHLANDS, WIMBLEDON, THE FIRST COLLEGE SOUTH OF THE BORDER TO OCCUPY

Why we've occupied our college

HOW WE CAN SPREAD THE OCCUPATIONS

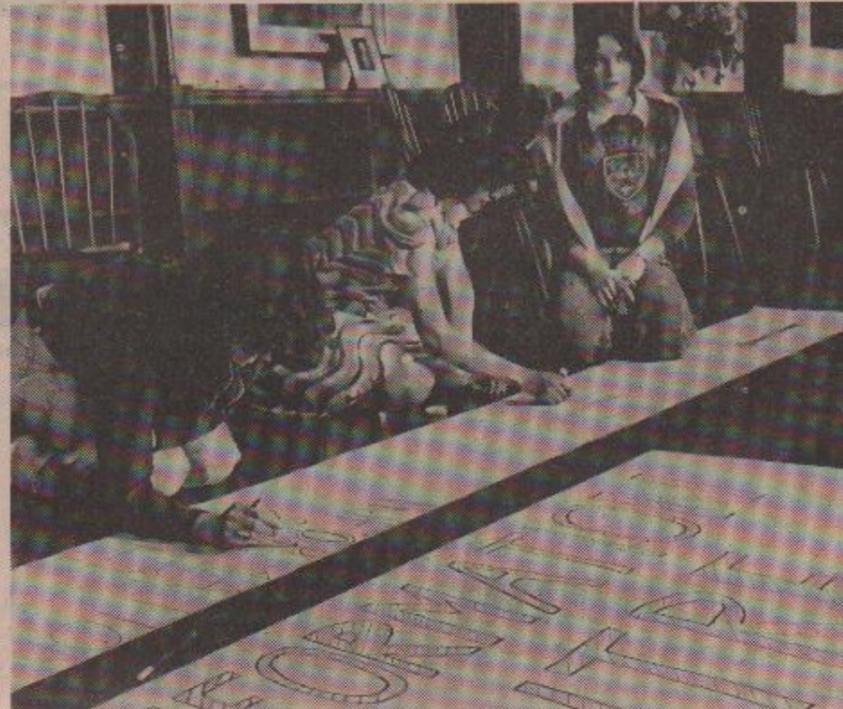
- SPREAD the occupations.
- SEND flying pickets to every college of education and spread the fight to other sectors of students.
- SEND pickets to the schools. Demand that teachers refuse to cover for vacancies.
- VISIT other groups of workers affected by the cuts: bus garages, railway depots, hospitals.
- SEND deputations to local factories. Ask to see convenors and shop stewards, and put the students' case to them.
- TRY to involve school leavers who will be on the dole in a few weeks' time.
- MOST IMPORTANT: Set up coordinating committees between the occupied colleges. Do not leave the struggle to the National Union of Students. The majority on the NUS executive waited seven days before even putting out a press release in England about the occupation of the Scottish colleges.

PICTURES: Chris Davies and Angela Phillips (Report)



ABOVE: Inside the occupation: when the students occupied, the college principal had the phones cut off. So the students sent a deputation to the Post Office and explained their case. The phones were reconnected. The students have also picketed several other South London colleges, sparking off other occupations.

And they have handed out leaflets in all the main shopping areas explaining their case. Their headquarters are the plush senior common room, from which the principal and her senior staff have taken flight.



How teachers are fighting for jobs

TEACHERS in more than 30 London schools are operating a policy to create more jobs.

They are refusing to take classes for teachers absent because of sickness or other reasons.

Education authorities thought they could save money by cutting down the number of supply teachers who do the work of absent teachers.

The extra work was thrown onto the teachers in the school. The time they had

been given for preparing lessons and marking books was whittled away.

Teachers in schools around London are fighting against this vicious money-saving scheme.

Harry Caplan, National Union of Teachers rep at

Norwood School in South London, told Socialist Worker:

'We have always been hit hard at our school by absences among staff.

'We were fed up with covering, specially as there are so many unemployed teachers on

the dole.

'We took a ballot among our members at the end of last term, and started the policy of no cover in January.

'It worked. Previously we only got two or three supply teachers. Now we're lousy with them! We've never seen so many.'

The Inner London Education Authority has had to hire 221 more supply teachers than they calculated for!

But the no-cover policy is unofficial.

Bernie Kirkham, convenor of the East London No-Cover Committee, received a letter from the NUT headquarters warning that those who took action faced 'the possibility of internal disciplinary action' by the union.

THE VITAL DEMAND THE NUS VOTED DOWN

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Students called for the spreading of the occupations to every college of education at its meeting on Sunday. It also called for other colleges to stage sympathy occupations.

The resolution calling for action was moved by NOISS member Graham Threlfall. Most of the executive had no plans for action and voted for most of the NOISS resolution. But, regrettably, they voted down a couple of important points.

These called upon the NUS to demand that the main teachers' union, the NUT, set up an unemployed teachers' section and that it implemented a blanket 'no cover' policy—that is, that it instructs its members not to do the work of absent teachers. A no-cover policy would immediately force the authorities to take on many more teachers.

It seems the majority of the NUS executive are frightened to tread on the toes of trade union leaders who do not want to fight unemployment.

STOP THE CUTS
A Rank and File Pamphlet
BY PAUL FOOT

IT'S VITAL READING

We had quite a few of the Rank and File Stop the Cuts pamphlet when we occupied. We sold them all in a matter of hours. It's just what you need in an occupation. It gives the arguments about the 'national cake' which come up all the time. I'd advise every occupying committee to order lots of copies right away.

—John Lomas-Clarke, former President NUS, Southlands College.

Stop the Cuts: 19p (inc postage), from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

NOISS: Emergency NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 29 May, Noon, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

To discuss strategy for occupations
Every IS Society to send delegate

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

A bunch of profiteers give the orders. And the Labour government slavishly carries them out—to our cost.

Held up to ransom...

'I DO NOT BELIEVE one can force the large private sector to invest.

'Therefore one has to have a choice between a wholly-controlled economy or one which is a mixed economy and for that part of the mixed economy which is private you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink.

'Therefore you have to apply the necessary incentives which will compel it to drink.

'As this party has always stood for a

mixed economy, and not a totally controlled economy, that must be the basis on which our economic policy proceeds'.

Consequences

Who said this? James Callaghan, in the House of Commons two weeks ago.

I quote it because a reader suggests that it is 'unfair' to say, as I did last week, that government economic policy is designed to increase profits, regardless of the consequences for the working class. Well, there it is from the horse's mouth.

But the word profits is not mentioned?

True, Callaghan uses the usual newspeak which never calls a spade a spade if it is possible to call it an aid to excavatory operations.

However, the code is easy enough to decipher: 'necessary incentives' means profits, 'mixed economy' means capitalism and so on.

Last week the man was at it again. It was a most appropriate occasion—the annual dinner of the Confederation of British Industries.

'Mr Callaghan's speech was pun-

uated by the kind of applause and cries of "hear, hear" which are normally reserved for a Tory administration', noted Victor Keegan of the Guardian.

Approval

The accredited representatives of big business warmly approved of Callaghan's 'firm promise to take the sting out of the price code'—to boost profits still further, of course.

Most people will be surprised to learn that there is any sting left in the price code. Last month saw record price rises.

But, such as it is, the price code is to be bent still further—in the interests of bigger profits.

Let us now summarise the substance of government policy, as stated by Callaghan himself.

We reject a planned economy ('wholly-controlled economy').

We stand for capitalism ('a mixed economy').

Capitalism won't work unless the capitalists want to invest ('you can lead a horse to water...').

They won't invest unless they get a still bigger share of the cake ('the necessary incentives').

Hope

So everything has to take second place to increasing profits ('the basis on which our economic policy proceeds').

That is a perfectly fair and accurate summary of government policy: not what I say it is but what Callaghan says it is.

Now how is this different from being 'held up to ransom by a bunch of profiteers'?

The trouble is that many good folk have invested a deal of hope in this Labour government.

'If you don't accept the policy you will bring the government down and let the Tories back in' is the argument used by the right-wing—sorry, 'moderates'—in union after union.

And a very powerful and effective argument it has proved to be.

Truth

But it is wrong. The policy of putting profits before people necessarily means mass unemployment, lower living standards, higher prices and cuts in every one of those public services of which the Labour Party used to be so proud—from ambulances to sewerage.

There is no more certain way than this to help the Tories to get back in—and then carry Callaghan's anti-working class policies to even greater extremes.

That is the truth and it has to be told, no matter how unpopular it may be at the moment.

WHAT are your Questions About Socialism? Why not write and let us know?

Socialist Worker

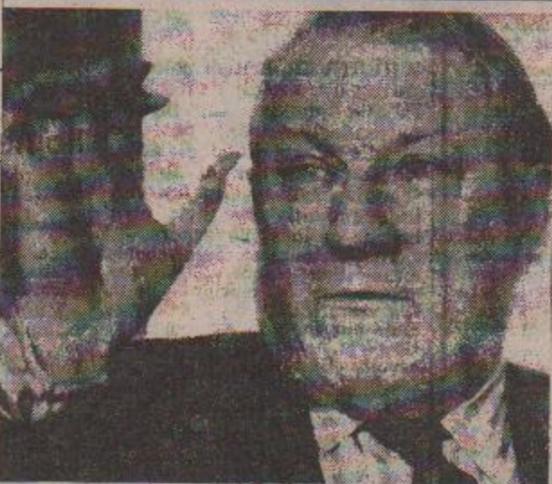
EDITORIAL

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

Circulation department: 8 Coltons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 01-739 2639. Published weekly except final week of December. Subscriptions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months, £1.75 for three months. Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU all departments), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

A Captain of Industry, showing how much work he does...



WE HAVE too many relying on too few. We need more doers and fewer talkers.

Those pearls of wisdom come from Barrie Heath, boss of GKN, one of Britain's largest multinational companies.

Heath is certainly no 'talker'—his brain works too slowly for his tongue to make anything of his all-too-rare ideas—but neither is he much of a 'doer'.

His work consist of flying by helicopter round GKN's plants making sure other people are doing something useful, unlike himself, an extraordinary valuable pastime which brings him in £300 a week after stoppages.

He's quite a 'doer' in his spare-time though. After a hard week in the cockpit, he likes nothing better than ... a hard weekend in the cockpit.

Boat

This time it's his power boat, which roars him round the Solent, helping him to forget the cares of a Captain of Industry.

This time last year, sad to say, Barrie boy ran into a spot of bother with the old ship. It needed a lot of repairs.

No worries. Off it went to Vandervells, a GKN subsidiary in Maidenhead, where nearly three weeks' work was done on it.

Barrie was charged a mere £40 for labour costs—barely a fraction of the real cost.

Now you know what he means when he says 'we have too many relying on too few'.

THERE ARE 544 people now sitting on Death Row in American prisons, waiting for the Supreme Court to decide whether the death penalty is constitutional or not.

Of these, 318 are black, Mexican-American, American Indians or Puerto Rican.

And of the 3859 people executed since 1930, 2066 were black or members of other minorities.

Crime

Death Row is filled with black people—not because they commit more crimes, but because in America to be black is a crime. To be black and to stand up for your dignity is often a capital offence.

Take the case of 17-year-old Gary Tyler. He was convicted of shooting a white youth. Convicted by an all-white jury—and

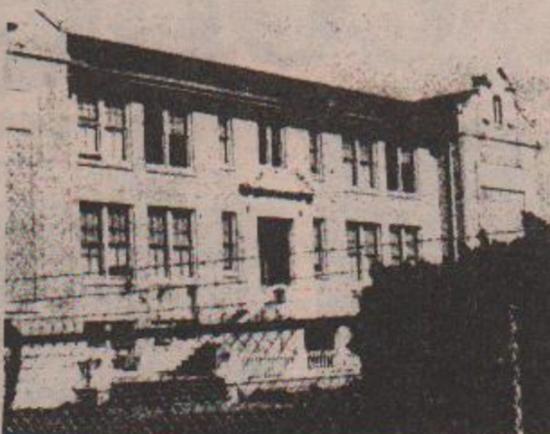


Gary Tyler

sentenced by a white judge.

The shooting happened in October 1974. 60 black students were getting on a school bus to go home when it was attacked by 200 white students and their parents, some carrying guns.

One of the white students



... and the school where it all began

was shot dead.

The police searched the bus for the gun. During the search, Gary Tyler protested that a member of the sheriff's department was pointing a loaded gun at the students' heads.

He was arrested for obstructing justice. That night the charge was changed to murder.

Natalie Blanks, a black student who signed a statement saying she saw Gary with the gun, now admits she lied.

On the night of the shooting, she was strip-searched in the police station. While naked, two male deputies grabbed her and

shouted: 'You know Gary shot him.'

The police threatened to charge her with accessory to the murder unless she signed the statement. They threatened that she would never see her baby again.

Framed

Gary was framed on this false statement. He was convicted and condemned to death.

That's justice—American style. His case is not the exception. It's the rule.

WITHOUT COMMENT

GREENWICH & BEXLEY AREA HEALTH AUTHORITY

BEXLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

Date: 15th March 1976

From: Hospital Administrator

To: All Heads of Departments

Subject or Reference: Toilet Paper JJ/GEE

Would you please note that the soft paper toilet rolls are provided only for the use of patients and not staff. It would appear that in recent months staff have been using the soft toilet rolls for one reason or another. If to your knowledge this practice exists in your department would you please take the appropriate steps to stop it.

MORE evidence of what Labour's public spending cuts really mean is contained in a circular from Strathclyde Regional Council in Scotland which has fallen into Fifth Column's grateful hands.

Headed Reduction in usage of potatoes to begin week commencing 10 May 1976, it instructs school cooks 'to restrict costs'

It begins: The normal allowance of potatoes in secondary schools is 1/2lb

per meal (raw weight). In primary schools a smaller portion is sufficient.

This allowance will continue to be observed on three days per week but on two days per week, until further notice, no potatoes are to be served.

In place of potatoes on these two days, bread is to be substituted—one slice for secondary school pupils and a half slice per primary school pupil.

The circular goes on to suggest ways of saving on potatoes:

□ Avoid leaving potatoes in the electric potato machine too long, as part of the potatoes will be lost.

□ If potatoes are left on plates, reduce size of helping.

□ If potatoes are left over in the kitchen, they could be fried or made into potato balls next day. This does not apply to potatoes which have been returned.

□ Be careful to avoid cooking too many potatoes.

Ah, the joys of Labour government ...

What the cuts really mean

This is 'liberal' Spain...

THESE pictures show what happened to two Spanish workers who tried to organise trade union activities in their factories.

Mario Amparo Arangoa Satrategui was seized on 21 April from the paper factory where she worked.

Civil guards beat her until she was deeply bruised, with damage to her intestines and kidneys.



Francisco Tellez Luna was photographed in the Barcelona hospital after being tortured by the civil guard in Badalona. He was arrested for taking part in a picket.

The photo shows bruising and the inser-

tion of a catheter because of kidney damage. Remember these pictures next time a television pundit goes on about the new 'liberalism' of Spain under King Juan Carlos. He may be allowing a few reforms for the middle classes. But, for the workers, there are still the civil guards, the rubber truncheons, and the torturers who prospered under Franco.

JUNTA ENEMY SEIZED

EDGARDO ENRIQUEZ—one of the leading members of the Chilean socialist organisation, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)—is now in the hands of Chile's fascist Junta.

He was arrested in Argentina last month and then, on the orders of the Argentinian military government, sent back to Chile. There were no charges against him.

Socialist Worker understands that Edgardo has been taken to a new top-secret prison camp and torture centre. His life is clearly at stake. Every possible pressure that trade unionists and socialists in Britain can mount will help to keep him alive.

General strike in Athens

by Chris Stevenson

ALL PUBLIC transport was at a halt in Athens on Monday at the beginning of a 48-hour general strike.

Up to a million workers were expected to join the strike, called by unions outside the government-controlled General Confederation of Labour.

Offence

The strike was against a proposed trade union law, which Prime Minister Karamanlis claims he modelled on the British Industrial Relations Act.

The law would make political or solidarity strikes a criminal offence.

The General Confederation of Labour has called on its members to ignore the strike, and the government has issued a decree compelling all government employees to continue working.

OTELO da Carvalho, the former military commander of Lisbon, has been banned from effectively campaigning for the Portuguese presidential elections (due on 25 June).

He is not allowed to speak at meetings, neither is he allowed to leave the Lisbon area.

The elections will be a farce, a rubber stamp for the centre Right. But the campaign around Otelos is extremely significant for the Left.

For the first time since 25 November, the revolutionary Left is making some impact.

Together

Unlike in the elections for the legislative assembly, the significant groups of the Left—the PRP, MES, UDP and FSP—are working together. They are campaigning for Otelos.



ABOVE: He was arrested for picketing. BELOW: She had been active in her factory.



LEFT CANDIDATE IS 'BANNED'

ROBIN PETERSON reports from Lisbon

The campaign is having some impact. Communist Party strongholds such as the Setenave shipyard are strongly supporting Otelos.

In Lisbon, a recent campaign meeting attracted 1000 people.

On Friday I went to a CP dominated fish refrigeration centre where an enormous pro-Otelos poster covered the wall of the administration block.

To the people of the agricultural co-operative of Soldado Luis in Alentejo, Communist Party members were saying, 'Otelos is the man of the people'.

Even if Otelos gets a tenth of the votes, the campaign has showed that the workers'

movement, which has been in terrible disarray, is not destroyed.

The Communist Party has been bitterly divided. As reported in last week's Socialist Worker, the leadership originally didn't want to put up a candidate because of the logic of their desire for a working coalition with the largest party, the pro-western Socialist Party.

So until ten days ago the

party was insipidly backing General Eanes—a man supposedly linked with Spínola and who even Socialist Party militants are refusing to back.

Indeed, the proposal of Otelos at Setenave was moved by a Socialist Party member.

The effect of the Otelos campaign was to force the Communist Party last week to change their line and to put forward a candidate of their own, their most moderate leader, Pato.

But there are problems with the Left's campaign for Otelos.

Perhaps Otelos is a man of the people, but his history is one of vacillating between the revolutionary Left and the moderate Right.

Last summer he urged a

compromise with the 'group of nine' moderate right officers.

Even after the 'nine' had given the go-ahead for the attack on the Left of 25 November, Otelos insisted he had been right to try and compromise with them.

Many people will have illusions about him: And the platform he is standing on—popular power and for workers' organisation—will be forgotten.

His own politics are more like those of a Left wing Anthony Wedgwood-Benn than those of a revolutionary.

There is a danger that the revolutionary Left, by emphasising his personality, will create illusions that will be dangerous at a later stage.

Otelos himself may have led the military coup that overthrew Fascism two years ago. He will never lead the workers' revolution.

Work permits: Now hit back!

By Mike Alderson, NUPE

FOREIGN workers on work permits are being used as a scapegoat for unemployment.

The TUC are calling for a reduction of permits issued in an endeavour to show that they are trying to do something about unemployment.

But exporting unemployment is no way to fight redundancies.

The work permit system was introduced to supplement the British workforce with a pliable and temporary foreign workforce.

Vulnerable

Workers were recruited on a yearly or six-monthly basis. The permit could be renewed if the employer gave a reference and unemployment was not too high.

Workers on these permits are therefore vulnerable—but they are often militant.

Failure to involve them however can lead to management using them as a potential scab force, similar to their use of agency staff.

While it is not yet government policy to repatriate foreign workers, some managements are trying to jump the gun.

At Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, the National Union of Public Employees ensured the renewal of a member's permit.

Expired

The Hackney Hospital management have tried to push through a policy of sacking foreign workers when their permits expired.

Again, swift action by the union exposed and defeated this move.

The need now is to campaign in the workplaces and unions. That is why we are calling a working conference for Socialist Worker supporters on the issue on 13 June.

For details contact Joanna Rollo, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 or Mike Alderson, 2 Maplemeade, Bristol 7.

CYPRIOI WORKER
New issue now out: Articles on Healey's budget, the Labour Government's attack on the working class, letters from workers in dressmaking factories, piecework, Portugal and the recent demonstrations in Cyprus against American imperialism.
Available, price 10p, from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

CALLING ALL SW SUPPORTERS WHO WORK FOR BRITISH RAIL
An important meeting of all IS members and SW supporters in ASLEF, NUR, TSSA is to be held in Manchester on Saturday 12 June (note change of date) More details from fraction secretary or from Box BR, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

We've taken enough: Now we fight back



THIS IS BLACKBURN

'THE TIME has come to make a stand.

'I've a simple message for the racials in Blackburn, and beyond Blackburn:

'We're here to stay. And we're going to fight to make sure our lives are free from this constant harassment and abuse.'

These are the words of a young man who has been hunted out of one country and who has no intention of being hunted from another.

He is Khadim Hussain Quarishi.

Khadim came to Britain from Uganda in 1972 on a one-way ticket written out on the authority of General Idi Amin.

Like his younger brother, Mohammed Khalil, he arrived full of hope for a new life.

But slowly he has come across the people and the social forces under whom Idi Amin must have served his apprenticeship.

People like Enoch Powell or Blackburn's own Kingsley Read, and racism, the philosophy of despair Read and many others so relentlessly articulate.

Tough

The four years since their expulsion from Uganda have been tough.

Slowly, Read and his National Party, ably supported by the revolting Lancashire Evening Telegraph, have been trying to strangle the hopes of the Asian community.

Last Friday, 24 hours before Kingsley Read and company staged a racist demonstration through the centre of Blackburn, Khadim and Mohammed



Special report from Blackburn—one of three major cities in Britain where the racials of the National Party and the National Front have pulled off significant successes in the local elections. Khadim and Mohammed Quarishi (above) talk to Peter Fielding and Laurie Flynn.

talked to Socialist Worker about their feelings and their growing determination to fight.

KHADIM:

'We came here in 1972 in distressed conditions and not by choice. We had British passports and had nowhere else to go.

'We thought at the time: "This isn't going to be a problem. We speak the same language. We're just going to be accepted. It's going to be much better down here."

'The entire society was, of course, strange to us.

'At the airport when we landed we were almost mesmerised by the uncertainties ahead.

'We had little money since it had mostly been confiscated.

'So we had to get work right away. Job prospects

weren't as bad then as they are now.'

MOHAMMED:

'This posed real problems for me. In Kampala, I was serving an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic.

'I told the Department of Employment in Blackburn this. They said I would have to come back when I was 20½. With numerous jobs in between, I did.

Wait

'Then they told me I'd have to take a test and wait another two to three years.'

KHADIM:

'I went to work for an electrical contractor in Blackburn as a stores assistant. But after three months they suddenly announced that I was not "up to their requirements".

'Contrary to the myths, I didn't stop on the dole for very long. I got this job at the Star Paper Mill and I've been there ever since.

'My first indication of the hostility and racialism here came from reading the local paper the Evening Telegraph.

'I was terribly upset. It hurt me deeply.

'Then Radio Blackburn had this discussion on the immigrants and I was invited along.

'I couldn't believe it—the resentment, the stupid and horrible comments about us being "filthy, about over-

crowding, about us causing unemployment and scrounging on the National Assistance.'

MOHAMMED:

'I remember the first time I really read a few issues of that paper, the Evening Telegraph.

'The stuff about us causing diseases, about sending us all home. Unbelievable, impossible, that's what I thought.

'And in recent weeks it's got much worse. Since the press got to work on the refugees from Malawi, it's been absolutely terrible.

'You walk down town and you get these weird, horrible vibrations from the white people. It's very hard to explain how I feel.

Economic

'But I'll say this. When I walk into a room I can tell whether or not the people in there want me.

'Downtown just now, it's very unpleasant indeed.'

KHADIM:

'As far as I know the main drive behind emigration is economic. You don't leave your Motherland and come 4000 miles to Blackburn, Lancashire for £9 a week dole, or whatever it is.

'Up to now, we've been able to get this through to the young ones at work.

'It's the older ones that are full of frustration and resent-



We've taken enough: Asian workers

ment. But recent events are making it worse all round. 'Now some of my workmates of my own age have started.

'They're saying the same stupid things, although they say that they don't mean me, just all the others.

'Honestly, I'm just amazed how they can accept this rubbish. It sends a funny feeling down my spine. It's so absurd, so difficult to put in words.

Blame

'I go to a white friend's house and they're living in tough conditions. It doesn't cross my mind for a moment to blame them for it.

'I go into a block of flats at Sunday lunchtime and smell all your roast beef dinners on the go. Or I see an English man picking his nose.

'It doesn't even occur to me to generalise and say: "They all smell, they're all dirty."

'Let's just take this business of overcrowding. The racials say we all live together in crowded conditions.

'When I got married I could have got a council house. But it is my responsibility, as I see it, to look after my widowed mother.

'She can't speak colloquial English and she needs us. So she lives with us.

'The notion that she should be shunted off into

some old people's home revolts me. I couldn't do that.

'There's also the small matter of the cost of housing.

'In Britain, houses are very expensive. So like other poor people, black, white, or yellow, we're damned well forced to live in what some people call crowded conditions.

'We take our responsibilities under the family very seriously. You're trying to send some money to relatives here or there. You want to put a brother through college or help a sister get married.

'On social security? It's too absurd for words.

'What's more, many of us don't know our rights. And some of us don't speak English. So how can we be swindling the Social Security?

Work

'Indeed the chances are that many of our people are not even getting their entitlements at all when they do claim.

'These racials never ask how black people got to the West Indies, or how we got to East Africa. British bloody businessmen took our forefathers there.

'They brought us from India to be coolies on the railways, to do the hard work.

'That's what goes through my mind when I hear these fools talking about our getting something for nothing.

'My people have contributed one hell of a lot to this system. We died by the hundred building the railroads. We were conned.

Fiction

'And of course, they offered us British nationality, to get us to help them carry on exploiting the Africans, to help to maintain the fiction of the wonderful British empire.'

MOHAMMED:

'They say that we cause unemployment, bad housing and the like. What rubbish. What ignorant rubbish!

'I believe they said the same about the Irish. Yet they built most of this country.

'No, it's not immigrants that cause high house prices. It's a chronic shortage of houses, a shortage that's deliberately maintained by the man that owns the land and the bricks and the money.

'He's loving it when this sort of situation exists.

'He can maintain the present state of chaos while the people at the bottom, like us, are busy fighting amongst ourselves.

'He can just go right about his business of minting the money. Even when the

problems of jobs are getting got his safety—people to blame

KHADIM:

'The situation had over the months.

'On the show who used to say us and oppose justified press been influence

'Now they there's something lying propaganda too frightened

'All the has put in trying relationships shattered. The got to speak o stand.

'I'll try to have to put u it hurts my h

Come

'You'll washroom an dian will as when did yo your hands a dryer? I tho were still sw on the trees.'

'And we're think that's speak back t no sense of can't take it.

'They don't I get it all day same so-call

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE RACIALISTS THIS SATURDAY

Picket the National Party demonstration in Portsmouth Saturday 29 May.

Assemble 11am, behind W H Smith, Commercial Road Precinct.

All South coast and area IS branches to attend.

RACIALISM CLAIMS TWO LIVES

DINESH Choudhri, 19, and Rhipi Alhadidi, 22, were stabbed to death by a gang of white youths in the early hours of Saturday.

They had gone out for a Chinese meal after studying for exams.

It was the third attack on foreign students from the university residence halls in South Woodford, London, in a few weeks.

Racial violence has flared round the country since the press hysteria about the Malawi Asians living in luxury hotels.

Attacks on Bengalis in Tower Hamlets in East London have increased.

A gang of youths have been threatening Asians,

demanding money and cigarettes, throwing bricks and bottles.

The youths hang around York Square, carrying sticks and following Asians as they walk from the bus stop on their way home from work or the cinema.

Rahman Farjar was recently attacked on his way home from work. He ran to get help and then went back to fight the gang.

His head was cut open with a broken bottle. He had to have eight stitches.

That same night three mini-cabs from a local firm owned by a member of the National Front cruised the streets.

At one point, the three cabs were parked together outside the houses in Aston Street where the Bengalis live.

ATTACKS

When local people challenged them, the mini-cab drivers threatened them and made racist remarks.

Residents believe the drivers use their radios to co-ordinate the attacks on the Asians.

But the local community is fighting back.

The following night 30 local people—Bengalis and whites—patrolled the streets. They chased away a group of four youths who were threatening some Bengalis.

Rahman Farjar told Socialist Worker: 'After I was attacked, I heard of many more attacks I hadn't known of before.'

'The patrol has gone around for three nights. There has been no trouble.'

'We are telling everyone: if you are attacked, call out for help. We will all come out.'

TROUBLE

'When I come home from work in my car, I drive around to see if there is any trouble.'

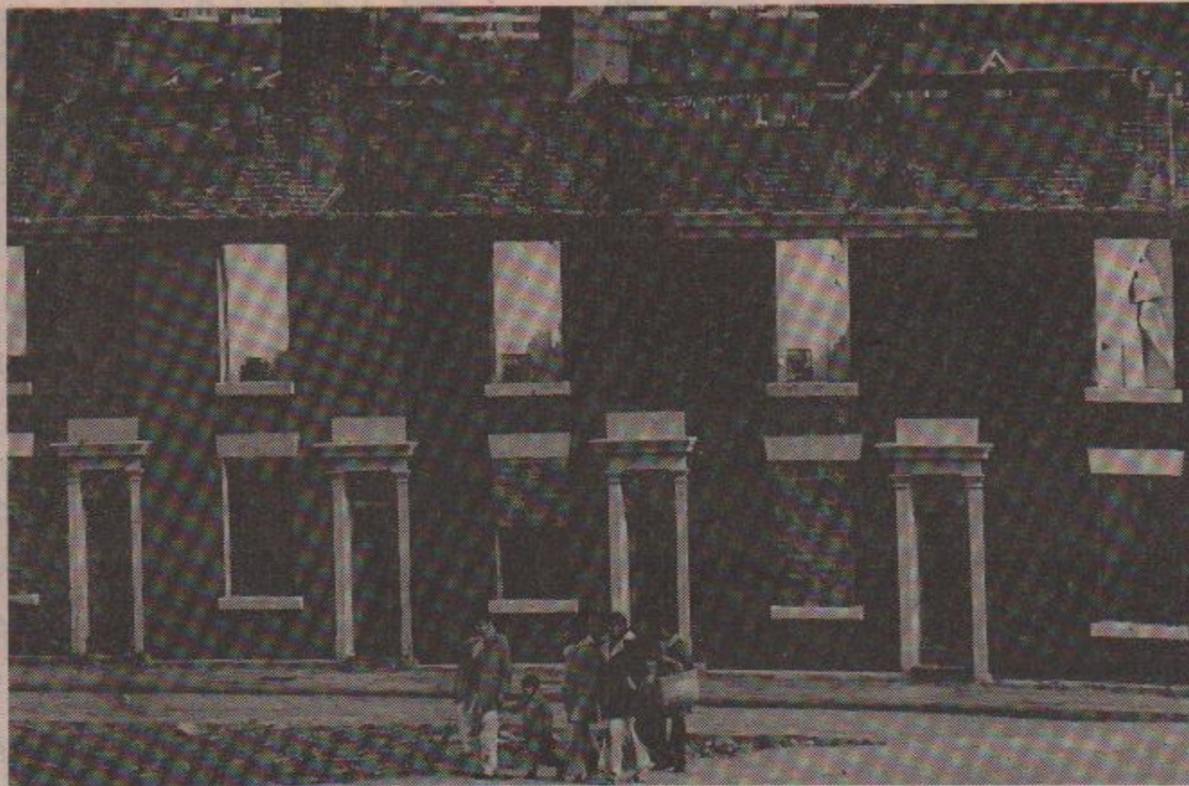
'I don't trust the police. When I gave my statement, the policeman was laughing.'

'The National Front are serious trouble. We will not let them beat us.'

Some of the people patrolling the area have distributed a leaflet to the nearby council estates explaining the latest attacks and their action to stop any further attacks.

As they say: 'We must put an end to this violence and racial prejudice now. Or there is no saying where it will end.'

The friends of Dinesh Choudhri and Rhipi Alhadidi can tell them.



... where racists find easy scapegoats for slums such as these

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

back!



demonstrating against the National Party in Blackburn



Action against racism: the placard that says it all

housing and
worse. he's
valve—getting
us.'

has got very
past few

floor, people
empathise with
all the un-
attacks, have
in the op-

either think
ing in all the
ata or they're
to speak out.
work we've
to build up
has been
s why we've
and make a

you what we
with, though
ent.

ian

in the
some come-
you "Since
learn to dry
ter the blow
ht your lot
ing around

supposed to
nny. If you
ey say you've
umour, you

em to realise
very day, the
jokes and

witty comments.

'When I walk into work today the first thing I'll hear from the foreman is 'Come here you long black thing.' He thinks he's being original.

'I reckon there's maybe 200 such comments passed in a day. It's terrible.

'And then there's the press and TV. They're at it before you go to work and at it when you come home. Take the refugees from Malawi.

'The press don't want to attack the businessman who charges £600 a week for some crummy hotel room. Oh, no. They attack the poor victims of this robbing swine.

'Of course, you laugh off a lot of the criticism. It's just so absurd. But many people in Blackburn take the Evening Telegraph as gospel.

'For my money, I think that paper's poisonous propaganda is the major factor affecting our situation here.

'I'll tell you, the situation is really bad: It's a lot worse than any words can ever express.

Sick

'You're working overtime trying to make friends. You go to bars even though that's against your religion.

'You bite your tongue again and again. You bring your troubles home to your family and their lives are chewed up.

'It makes you sick. It tears your soul apart.

'For four years we've done it the polite humble way. From now on I'm giving it right back to anyone who gives it to me.

'The employers are sacking people every day and I'm getting the blame for it? It's absurd.

'Bad housing? my fault? Never in a million years. That's the message we've got to get across.

'We've had enough, more than enough. As I said, we're here to stay.

'We're going to fight to stay.'

U.S. PAPER OF BLACK WORKERS IN STRUGGLE

FLAME

JUNE 1976 No 7

RACIST SCUM OUT OF BRIM!

THE LATEST issue of Flame is now out.

It contains important articles on the fight against the National Front, the struggle of workers in Jamaica, and the struggle of black workers here in Britain.

Get YOUR COPY now.

Take the paper into the factories, the garages and the hospitals.

Flame is burning now!

Get your copies 15p (inc postage) from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

★★★★ Lets Do It Again! ★★★★★

FLAME

BENEFIT DANCE

(Proceeds to launch the eight page Flame)

The HIGH FLAME

(Formerly the Young Groovers, straight from their smash hit at Skegness)

PLUS The latest in Soul and Reggae Sounds featuring

MAFIA DOWNBEAT HI FI

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 8pm till Midnight

Camden Town Hall, London, nearest tube Kings Cross

Late Bar. Tickets: 80p Advance, £1 on the door

Flame, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

CAMPAIGN

WITH THE *Socialist Worker*

Fighting back in Brum...

BIRMINGHAM International Socialists have sold between 600 and 700 Socialist Workers this week.

The issue had a special poster back page—Defend the Handsworth 28.

Local organiser Sheila McGregor said: 'We did special pub sales on Friday as we went round to take collections for the defence fund.'

'It's helped a lot in the factories, taking them round with collections sheets.'

Socialist Worker
Drop the charges
Defend the Handsworth 28
Stop police harassment

Chingari and Socialist Worker... fighting racism

'We are doing street sales on the route of the demonstration. A lot of the black people who were on the demo are taking

half a dozen or a dozen papers to sell. 'We sold more than 50 copies at a meeting where a Jamaican opposition

leader spoke. We also sold a lot at the Saturday open air meeting in the Bull Ring.'

A Socialist Worker meeting about fighting racism is being organised in Handsworth next Sunday.

Defend the Handsworth 28
Socialist Worker
Stop police harassment

چنگاری

پولیس کا تشدد ختم کرو
تمام الزامات واپس لو

میں نے درختوں کی گھاٹیوں میں
۲۸ افسردہ کا دفاع کیجئے

پولیس کے ہتھیاروں کے ڈرے
میں نے ہتھیاروں کے ڈرے

۲۸ افسردہ کا دفاع کیجئے

پولیس کا تشدد ختم کرو

تمام الزامات واپس لو

HELP US SELL WHERE YOU LIVE

Some of the sales organised for this Saturday:

- BIRMINGHAM:** New Street Station ramp, 10am-4pm.
- WEST LONDON:** Eating Shopping Centre, Safeways, 11am-1pm. Hounslow Shopping Centre, Woolworths, 11am-1pm.
- INNER WEST LONDON:** Shepherds Bush Market, 10am-noon. Portobello Road, Corner of Lancaster Road, 11am-1pm.
- SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Lewisham, Clock Tower, 11am-12.30pm. Woolwich, Powis Street, 11am-12 noon. Dartford, outside the new shopping centre, 11am-12.30pm. Gravesend, outside the market entrance, 10.30am-12 noon.
- CHESTER:** Foregate Street, Grosvenor Hotel, by entrance to precinct, 1.30-2.30pm.
- READING:** Junction of Broad Street and Union Street, 10am-3pm.
- EAST LONDON:** Walthamstow High Street, Hoe Street, 11am-1pm. Barking Magistrates Court, 10.30am-1pm. Hford High Street, Woolworths 11am-2pm.
- YORK:** Coney Street, outside Woolworths, 11am-3pm; Stonegate, Noon-2pm, Market, 10am-1pm.
- GLASGOW:** Central Station, 10am-5pm. Queen Street Station, 11am-4pm.
- NEWCASTLE:** Northumberland Street, 11am-3pm. Gateshead High Street, 11am-1pm.
- LEEDS:** Market, 11am-2.30pm.
- HIGH WYCOMBE:** Octagon, 10.30am-12.30pm.
- CARDIFF:** Market, 10.30am-2.30pm.
- NEWPORT:** Market, 10am-noon.
- SW LONDON:** St John's Road, Clapham Junction, outside Woolworths, 10.30am-1.30pm.
- NORTH LONDON:** Wood Green High Road, Marks & Spencer, 11am-1pm. Holloway Road, Sainsburys, noon-2pm.
- DUNDEE:** City Square, 11am-4pm. Thursday and Friday evenings 4-5.30pm.
- MANCHESTER:** 11am-1pm, Cheetham Hill Precinct. Salford Precinct. Urmston Shopping Centre. Stockport Merseyway Centre. Prestwich Precinct.

'If YOU'RE organising in Chester, you're really going for the arteries!'

So said Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson last week at a big Socialist Worker public meeting in Chester. 130 people crammed into the Bear and Billet pub for the city's first SW public meeting.

With people crowded on the stairs, unable to get into the room, the crush was so bad that one person fainted.

Older militants could not recall a socialist meeting of this size locally since the General Strike. After hearing an excellent talk from Paul Foot, lots of copies of Socialist Worker were sold.

Alex Martin, an Engineering Union shop steward at Houghton, and chairman of Cargvale Labour Party in North Wales, decided to start selling Socialist Worker.

'Up to now I've been selling Labour Weekly. From now on, I'm cancelling the order and selling Socialist Worker instead.'

Paul Foot speaking at last week's packed meeting.

CHESTER: SW PACKS 'EM IN...



SOCIALIST WORKER



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

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

The workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up, or reformed, as the established Labour and trade union leaders say. It has to be overthrown.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling classes against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based

upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers

in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries. We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers 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.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW Public meetings:

- 27 May: The Newspaper of a Revolutionary Organisation
- 10 June: Imperialism
- 24 June: Democratic Centralism
- 8 July: Theory of the Rank and File Movement
- 15 July: The Struggle in Italy
- At South Bank Poly, Students Union, Rotary St. Details from Gil Loewenstein (022-1090).

CENTRAL LONDON SW Education Classes: Women and Socialism.

- Every second Thursday, 6.30pm, at The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London, WC1. The History of the Family.
- 10 June: The Politics of Women's Oppression. Speaker: Joy Leman.
- 1 July: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Sheila McGregor.

AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF WORK PERMITS—END IMMIGRATION CONTROLS!

Meeting on the campaign on the work permits and to discuss the legislation introduced under the 1971 Immigration Act, the Appeals Tribunal system and renewal of permits. Saturday 13 June 11am-4pm. TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. Please contact IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, phone 01-739 9772.

NORWICH SW public meeting:

Lenin and the Russian Revolution. Thursday 3 June, 8pm, Suckling Hall opposite St Andrews Hall, St Andrews Hill, Central Norwich. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

WEST MANCHESTER SW public meeting:

Stop the Cuts. Wednesday 16 June, 7.30pm, Ye Olde Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford.

LEICESTER TEACHERS SW meetings:

- Wednesday 9 June: China—Before and After Mao.
- Thursday 24 June: The Communist Parties in Western Europe. All meetings start 7.30pm. Globe Inn, Silver Street.

EAST LONDON SW series of fortnightly lectures, starting Friday 28 May. Britain in the 1920s.

- The General Strike, with exhibition
 - The Early Communist Party
 - Revolutionaries and Trade Unions
 - The Communist International
- Livingstone House, North East London Poly, Livingstone Road, E15, 7.30pm. All readers and SW supporters welcome.

TYNESIDE SW public meeting:

No deal with Healey, Thursday 10 June, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, High Level Bridge. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

CENTRAL LONDON IS STUDENTS BRANCH public meeting:

Why We Need a Revolutionary Party. Speaker: John Deason, Thursday 27 May, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London.

CHESTER SW discussion meetings:

- 7.30pm: The Railway, Brook Street, Chester (2 minutes from station)
 - Friday 28 May: Reform or Revolution, which way to socialism?
 - Friday 4 June: Why is there a crisis and can an incomes policy work?
 - Friday 11 June: Why do we need a revolutionary party?
- All SW readers welcome.

CENTRAL LONDON CIVIL SERVANTS Socialist Worker discussion meeting:

The Russian Revolution. Introduced by Piers Freelove. Wednesday 2 June, 6.30pm, The Plough, Museum Street, London WC1.

INNER WEST LONDON SW Half-day school:

Sunday 6 June, 1pm-5.30pm. Workers Musical Association, 236 Westbourne Park Road, London, W11. Speakers: Laurie Flynn and Jenny Jackson. Practical session on writing for Socialist Worker and using the paper to build at the workplace. SW readers welcome.

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 EVENTS

WEST LONDON SW jumble sale: Saturday 5 June, 92 Tavistock Road, W11. Jumble needed, ring 965 5594.

Build the Fighting Fund—SW Jumble Sale in London area: Crocheted hats available for SW jumble sales etc. Only 30p (cost of wool). Orders and details 639 9509.

NOISS

NOISS London Student Committee: One delegate per IS Society. Wednesday 2 June 3pm, North London Poly, Holloway Road.

NOISS National Committee: Saturday 12 June. Details to be announced.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

LEICESTER District IS: Post-Conference aggregate, Friday 4 June, 7.30pm, Globe Inn, Silver Street.

Will all IS comrades going abroad for their summer holidays and willing to make contacts, take literature with them, please contact the IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, phone 01-739 9772.

WORKERS' STRUGGLES IN THE STATES: The IS North American group can provide speakers for branch, district and public meetings. Contact us at 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 phone 01-739 9772.

HOSPITAL WORKERS National Meeting: for all IS hospital workers and SW supporters: Saturday 12 June, TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Manchester, 11am sharp. Please note change of date. Details later.

GAY GROUP MEETING: 11am, Saturday 19 June, Central London, SW and the Gay issue; GLF and the politics of separatism; the problems of being gay at work. Social in the evening. If you need accommodation on Saturday night write c/o, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS for IS districts, fractions, etc: Producing and using silkscreen posters, using Socialist Worker (plus writing for SW), photography for socialists. Contact Pete Marsden, SW editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 (phone 01-739 9043).

NATIONAL IS meeting on Ireland: Manchester, 12 June. Delegates to be sent from all districts and branches. Agenda: Northern Ireland, TOM, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, SWM and organisation.

LOWESTOFT IS Jumble Sale: British Legion Hall, Clifton Road, Saturday 5 June, 2.30pm. If you have jumble, contact us at 11 Kirkley Run.

ROOM WANTED in North London: flat/house for IS comrade. Phone Mark (01-802 0978).

TWO FREE ROOMS in house in Brixton, London, IS members only. Apply 01-274 6912.

PORTUGAL: Robin Peterson, just back from Lisbon, will speak at meetings on Portugal anywhere in the country. Contact the Portugal Sub-Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

DUPLICATOR: Derby branch has a Gestetner 260 for sale, preferably to IS branch. £20. Collect by arrangement. Phone 077382 5168.

WHERE WE STAND

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

THE TREADMILL

by JOHN VILLIERS
Jaguar, Coventry

Three endlessly repeated movements mark out
a man's life. A worker at British Leyland's
Speke plant on Merseyside.

WITHIN a minute on the line a worker in the trim department had to walk about 20 feet to a conveyer belt, pick up a front seat weighing 30 pounds, carry it back, place the seat on the chassis and put in four bolts, first hand-starting the bolts and then using an air gun to tighten them . . .

It was steady work when the line moved at 60 cars an hour. When it increased to more than 100 cars an hour, the number of operations was not reduced and the pace became almost maddening.

In 36 seconds the worker had to perform at least eight different operations including walking, lifting, hauling, replacing the carpet, bending to fasten the bolts by hand, fastening them by air gun, replacing the carpet again and putting a sticker on the hood.

Sometimes the bolts fail to fit into the holes. The gun refuses to function at the required torque. The seats are defective or the threads are bare on the bolt.

But the line does not stop. Under these circumstances the workers often find themselves "in the hole" which means that you have fallen behind the line.

'You've really to run like hell to catch up, if you're gonna do the whole job right,' said one operator named Jerry. 'They had the wrong sized bolt on the job for over a year. A lot of times we just miss the bolt to keep up with the line.'

THAT is a passage from a book titled *False Promises*. The factory is General Motors, in Lordstown, Ohio, USA. After rationalisation it was

producing 101.6 cars an hour, or one every 36 seconds. The fastest line in Britain, at Fords, Dagenham, makes 70 an hour.

If you want a piss, the procedure is raise your hand. If you're lucky, a relief man will stand in for you—usually

after a half-hour wait.

Your name is taken before you go, because you are supposed to go in your own time, not theirs. Try it too often and you get a week off—suspended.

Under such conditions any

additional work, such as fitting an extra washer or nut, can result in an explosive situation.

In October 1969 at the Chrysler Eldon axle plant in the States, James Johnson, a

black production worker with a 'low frustration tolerance', was sacked. He went home, got his gun, came back and killed two foremen and a union official.

The following day workers

all over Detroit stuck the press reports on their foremen's desks.

At his trial Johnson claimed insanity brought about by working in noise, filth and danger of the plant. The judge and jury visited the plant. The verdict was a unanimous acquittal.

When General Motors opened its Lordstown site, they took on only younger and better-educated workers.

Average age was 25—at Fords it was 35.

But the policy began to backfire. Younger workers were reluctant to put up with factory conditions. The traditional motivations of job security, money and the so-called 'opportunity for personal advancement' were proving insufficient.

This is reflected in this country too. Many workers, having the basic necessities of life, are beginning to question the system that needs such inhuman working conditions.

Seeing this, the companies are using the crisis to beat it back.

We are being conned by management and national union officials. Look, foreign cars threaten our jobs, they say. With high productivity we can beat them off—so forget higher wages.

Since the last round of redundancies, production is being pushed higher and higher, while our living standards are getting worse.

Against this, what can the industrial worker do? As that line grinds faster and faster, what do you do—shoot the foreman? It solves nothing.

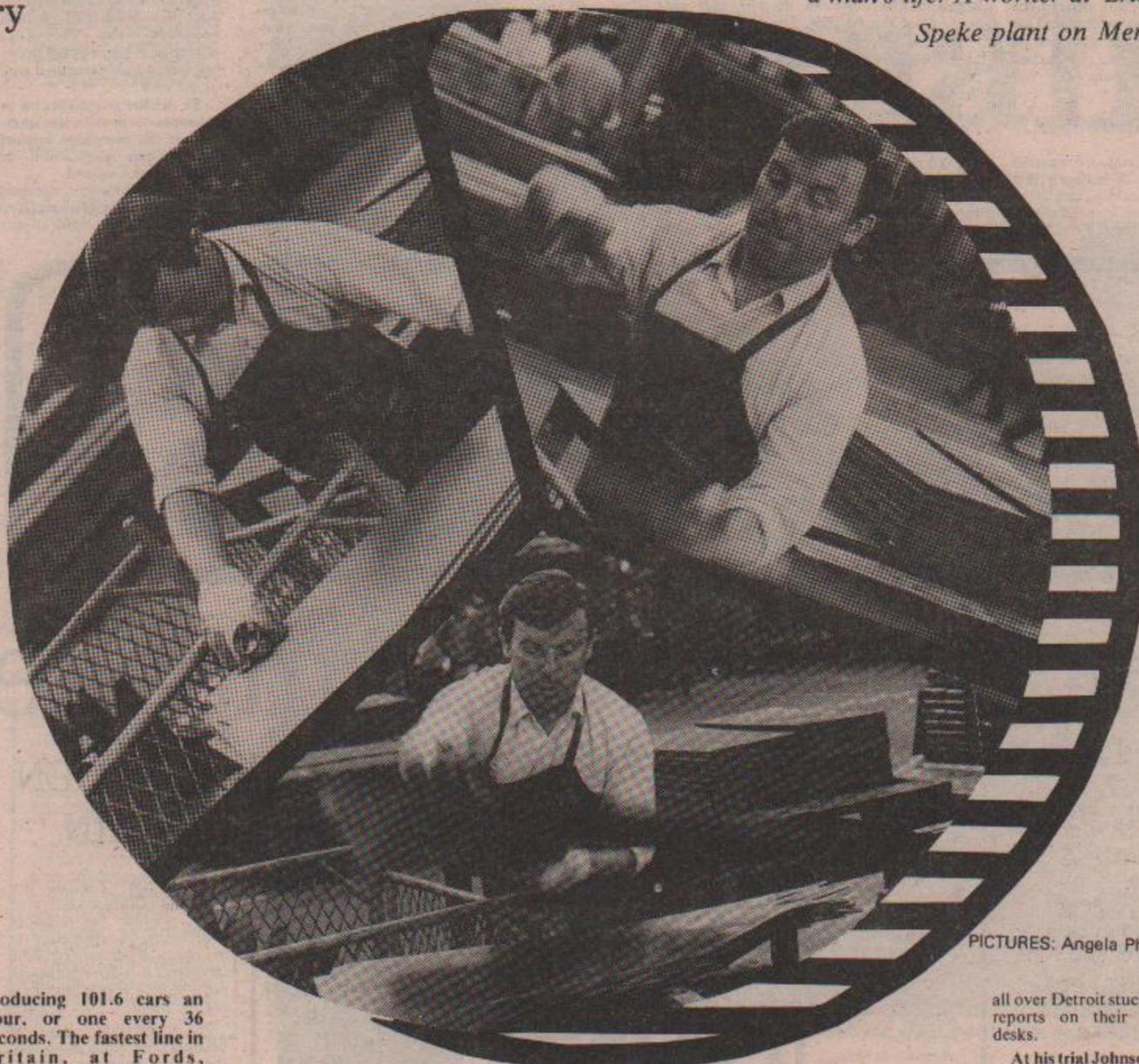
But if we acted together . . .

But isn't that the union? It should be—but all too often our officials are our first obstacle. They live on negotiations. 'Now just go back to work and we'll negotiate,' they say.

Negotiate? Six weeks ago, 2500 workers at Triumph, Coventry, took over the tracks, barricaded the foremen in their office, took the locks from the switch boxes, and slowed the tracks down.

One man couldn't do that. 2500 could.

That wasn't the end of the story, of course. But remember next time they call for more production—if the choice were 2500 workers acting together, or 36-second car lunacy, which side would you be on?



PICTURES: Angela Phillips (IFL)

Tony Cliff: LENIN Volume 2 All Power to the Soviets



PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER until 14 June: Volume 2 for £2.60 (published price £3.60). Volumes 1 and 2 for £5 (published price £6.60). Post free. Cash with order.

PLUTO PRESS Books will be sent out early June.

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

Tell this to Jack Jones...

TRANSPORT union leader Jack Jones has been mounting fine words about a 35-hour week to solve the problem of unemployment. So far the slogan has done no more than cover up his part in the 4½ per cent pay deal.

But in Glasgow more than 50 years ago, rank and file workers took up the demand for a shorter working week in a direct attempt to 'solve' unemployment.

At the end of 1918, soldiers returned from France to find there were no jobs. During the war,

women were used in the factories as cheap labour while productivity had been doubled in four years. Workers worked a 54-hour week, and worked twice as hard as before the war.

Now unemployment soared.

So Glasgow workers began campaigning for a 40-hour week. After a series of mass meetings, a joint committee was elected and a strike called.

The demands
A 40-HOUR MAXIMUM WORKING WEEK
WITHOUT LOSS OF PAY

NO OVERTIME TO BE WORKED.

Sixty thousand workers came out on 27 January 1919. Within days Glasgow was paralysed. The strike leaders—Gallacher, Kirkwood and Shinwell—asked the Lord Provost to present the workers' demands to the government.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet was shaken by the strength of the strike and advised the Provost to play for time. One Winston Churchill advocated arresting the leaders—as a precautionary

measure.

After four days of strike, more than 100,000 workers gathered in George Square to hear the Provost's announcement. As the delegation met the Provost, a scuffle broke out as police tried to force trams through the crowd.

Minutes later the police, batons drawn, charged the crowd. Before long a pitched battle was under way.

This was the excuse the government was waiting for. The strike leaders were arrested, 10,000 troops were sent to the city the next day.

Yet despite 'Bloody Friday' as it came to be known, the strike continued. In the next week, links were established with rank and file committees in Sheffield, Belfast, London and other towns where the struggle was growing. The '40-hours' movement had become a national fight.

The Electricians' Union in London called a strike which threatened to black out the whole city.

The crunch had come. The government panicked and, under the Defence of the Realm Act, made the Electricians' strike illegal. The Electricians backed down. The Engineering Union dis-

missed its Glasgow district secretary for disobeying instructions and, within days, what looked like becoming a national movement had collapsed.

On the 14th day of the strike, the newspapers printed a rumour that it had ended as if it were fact. Two days later the strike was over.

Harassed by the army, attacked by the press and deserted by the trade union's own leadership, the grass-root movement was not strong enough to go it alone.

In 1915, the Clyde Workers' Committee saw the need for the strength to be able to say: 'We will support the officials just so long as they rightly represent the workers, but we will act independently immediately they misrepresent them'.

Tell that to Jack Jones.

ALEX GRAHAM

□ Alex Graham is a member of the Glasgow-based Hard Times Theatre Group, which has produced a play on the 1919 strike. Contact them at 28 Belmont Street, Glasgow G12 (phone 041-334 8793.)

★ PREVIEW

FOR socialists whose Saturday night is telly-bound there is a rare and strange event. The Second House team—with some uncredited help—are nerving themselves to take a look at how television handles class.

MIRROR ON CLASS (BBC2, 8.50pm, Saturday) features Richard Hoggart, whose book *The Uses of Literary* was a milestone in providing an anti-elitist view of working-class culture. He examines the output of British television over the past 20-odd years.

It will come as no surprise to readers of *Socialist Worker* that early BBC archive material reveals the Corporation as fundamentally elitist and arrogant, especially in interviews with working-class school-leavers.

Hoggart, interviewed by affable, accommodating, ex-Oxford, Melvyn Bragg, establishes a clear case for arguing that the basic class structure of our society remains much the same.

When today's television is examined in 20 years' time, the crude class values which underpin it will just as easily reveal themselves.

The power of television subtly to reinforce the class view of the ruling group is enormous and any programme which tackles this is welcome whatever its weaknesses. For many 'seeing is believing', and this programme may help establish that television programmes, including the news, are not a mirror image of reality but a class-distorted, boxed-in-view.

DANIEL BONNET

Postal Points

I AM FED UP with people slamming social security. My husband is a visiting officer with the DHSS and he has had to deal with screaming women and downright ignorant, lazy men.

It's no wonder people who work in the DHSS get bitter at these people. All their bills are paid and they are not left without money.

They're like the so-called hierarchy who don't go to work, except to dictate to other people and who get a peerage and are called Sir, Lord, or Your Majesty.
 □ SW Reader, Devon.

AS AN AMERICAN and a Marxist (of sorts) living in Britain, I was mildly annoyed by the article Law and Order Brigade 1776 (SW May).

The Americans won the War of Independence more through British lack of commitment than revolutionary fervour.

□ Alan L Stoskopf, Bury.

DEAR Socialist Workers, I had a lovely time at Skegness holiday camp. It was very good there because all the grown-ups went to lots of meetings and all the kids could do what they wanted to do and have a good time.

The meals there were very good as well, but my brother aged four drank out of the milk jug. I hope my mum takes me to Skegness next year because it was one of the best holidays I have had. The dormitory was very good as well, and I slept next to my friend, so I was not lonely.
 □ Harriet Clements, Northfleet, Kent.

WHY HAS 'Defend the 44' Right to Work marchers been changed to 'Defend the 43'? Has someone sold out and become a police witness?

□ Eddie Brownlow, Hackney. Not at all. The police created such chaos during the arrests that they even confused themselves. 44 people were arrested, but only 43 have been charged because the police couldn't find an arresting officer for the other one.—Editor.

AS A MEMBER of the National Council for Civil Liberties, I endorse the letters (15 May) on gay liberation. Why does SW appear not to support it?

It appears that all people are equal but some (gays) are less equal than others.
 □ E H. Newport, Gwent.

HUGH SCANLON: HE TOSSED AWAY MORE THAN A COIN...

AT THE AUEW National Committee, a major tactical error was made by Bro Scanlon, president. Instead of using his casting vote, he tossed a coin to decide between Bro Jimmy Reid and Weakley as to who should sit on the Standing Orders Committee.

This committee decides the order in which the 52-man National Committee, the union's main policy-making body, will debate and vote on motions, which, if carried become the policy of our union.

Split

The National Committee was split 26-26 between Bro Reid and Weakley, the latter being the very man who had challenged the President's

right in the High Court to use his casting vote.

The even split at that stage was an indication that it would be equally divided when it voted on two vital issues, the deal with Healey and the full amalgamation of the four sections of the AUEW.

Brother Scanlon should have therefore cast his vote in favour of the moderate Weakley.

The dilemma the right wing would then have had to face was: accept the place on the Standing Committee and thereby re-establish the President's use of his casting vote—or take the union to court.

This move would have not just given the satisfaction of watching the moderates struggling with their principles, but Scanlon would then have found himself in a position to use his casting vote in the event of an even split on the wages deal and amalgamation.

Majority

As it transpired, the National Committee disastrously endorsed the wages deal by a small majority. But, on amalgamation, it again split equally and the motion fell for the sake of the casting

vote, leaving a divided and weaker union.

A successful vote for amalgamation would have destroyed arguments in favour of a block engineering section vote in support of the wages deal at the National Conference, hence conference might have thrown out the wages deal.

The only question left to ask is: did this tactic occur to someone with Bro Scanlon's experience and ability? If it did, then he tossed away more than a coin.

□ Ian Geddes, AUEW shop steward, British Airways European Division

How do we get the troops out?

R McAULEY (Letters, 8 May) names those responsible for the deaths of British soldiers—the faceless bureaucrats and politicians—but he has only presented part of the case.

He neither comments on or attempts to answer the question of the campaign against the civilian population in Ireland and England.

As socialists, we demand the withdrawal of troops from Ireland and the right of the

Irish people to determine their own future. What is in question is the way we achieve that aim.

The attacks on British soldiers are legitimate for two reasons. The Army is a support and a shield behind which the Loyalist sectarian state is able to operate, knowing that in the last resort the Army is there to protect them, and it plays a repressive role against the Catholic population in Northern Ireland.

The need to extend the campaign and include civilian targets first in Ireland, later in England, and, in the last year, to engage in tit-for-tat sectarian murders, has shown that the Provos do not have political answers to the problems facing Ireland.

Their base among the Catholics is smaller than at any time in the last six years, and this isolation has pushed them further and further away from mass action and towards the sort of campaign we have seen in the last year.

But to conclude that the Provos are finished would be extremely stupid, though they may not have mass support for all their activities.

They are seen by the Catholic minority as the only group capable of defending them against the British Army or the Loyalist murder gangs

Answer

The Provos identify the problem as British imperialism in Ireland and see British soldiers as fighting in defence of British investment in Ireland, and pose the answer as the fight to establish a 32-county democratic socialist republic.

Now here have the Provos in any serious way spelt out how this is to be achieved, except by the military campaign.

On such questions as how to change society, what part the working class have to play in the fight against imperialism, how to break the Protestant working class from Loyalism, the fight against unemployment, and for better wages and conditions, the Provisionals have so far given no answer.

We support the Provisionals in their struggle against British imperialism, but must criticise some of the methods used.

A socialist, 32-county Republic will not be achieved until a mass movement involving all sections of the working class is started. The sooner the better.
 □ Paul O'Brien, N London.

General Strike

I CAN REMEMBER the 1926 General Strike for one thing in particular. Though I was 18, my parents still wouldn't let me see the daily newspapers.

All I had to go on for news was the BBC. I can see now that they weren't much help.

With hindsight, it seems I was being deliberately reared in ignorance, barring the three Rs, which I got at home as I was considered not strong enough to attend school.

□ John Ormsby, Chard, Somerset

I WAS irritated by W R Coulson (Letters, 15 May). What he calls 'extreme' Irish nationalists are people who have been branded as such by the capitalistic world, which sees them as a threat.

Does he think the system in Northern Ireland before 1969 was 'alright'? If so, he is not a socialist. What is his solutions for Northern Ireland?
 □ John Duffy, Dundee.

Letters

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

MAY I THANK you on behalf of all my members for the way you wrote your article about our recent dispute?

It was very clear to all who read the article and helped to see that justice was done on behalf of the workers in the factory.

□ Dave Williams, AUEW Convenor, Dubiliers, Kirkby.

Racism on the rampage

THERE ARE now 12,000 on the dole in Leicester and their disillusionment with Labour's policies of wage freeze and unemployment is beginning to show.

It showed at the recent local elections, when thousands of workers deserted Labour. Some didn't bother to vote, others voted Tory, enabling them to take control of the council.

But more voted instead for the Nazi National Front. 14,500 people—18 per cent of those who voted—supported the Front.

In some wards, the Front did better still—25 per cent in Charnwood, 28 per cent in Latimer and 31 per cent in Abbey, where they came within 62 votes of winning a seat.

Worrying

This vote for the Front is worrying. It shows that working people are fed up with Labour's hypocrisy and betrayals but, in the absence of any fight-back by the union leaders, they are turning to racialism as a solution.

In the days before the election, the local paper ran headline after headline with racial smears against Leicester's huge black population.

IT LOOKS obvious that the Duke of Edinburgh is trying to mimic a senior citizen so I think what I have written—'And there was this pensioner person asking me if I could help with his plea for immediate payment of his rise'—should win the prize in the Sunday People caption contest. But as the People would not publish it if I sent it in I am hoping that SW will.
 □ S Warren (OAP), Loughborough.



Rumour has it that the Nazis are planning a march here in the near future. If they try it, they must be stopped.

For too long, black workers and trade unionists have tolerated the vile attacks of the National Front.

If their anger was

channelled and directed, Leicester's 50,000 black workers could smash the Nazis off the streets once and for all.

But we must do more than this. We must defeat racialist ideas among workers.

We can only do this by showing that racialism offers no real solution to workers' problems. Only socialism can do that.
 □ Wayne Asher, Leicester.

Sorry...

MAY I OFFER my deepest apologies to Brother Colin Barnett of NUPE for confusing his name with the leading Tory Colin Grantham.

I can only plead that while writing last week's article on the education dispute, the Tameside nurses' dispute was on my mind, and so in consequence Colin Barnett.
 □ Dave Hallsworth, Ashton.

ABORTION ... AGAIN

MANY SW readers like Kathleen Duffy (Letters, 1 May) confuse the issue of abortion by concentrating on the rights of the unborn child. Of course it is alive, although not a human being, but this is not the point.

If women are ever to become truly equal in society, they must have the ultimate right to exercise their own responsibility over something as fundamental as childbirth.

To argue against this is to give the right of decision to somebody else—the state, social workers, or, as under the 1967 Act, to doctors.

To be anti-abortion now is to give MPs the moral right to force women to have children.

Such 'socialists' are proping up capitalist state control no matter how genuine they feel their convictions.

Women at present have no real right to choose to have a child because of the deplorable facilities available.

But even in any future socialist society, the ultimate decision must rest with the mother. Or who else would anti-abortionists like to see decide?
 □ Robyn Dasey, Portsmouth.

PD, had made arrangements for the screening of this film all over Britain in response to many requests from individuals and organisations of the labour movement as well as film societies.

We consider that the seizure has important implications for the future free expression of political views in the visual arts in this country and would accordingly request that you make a public protest about this blatant political censorship.

□ Patrick Doherty, Secretary, London branch, People's Democracy. Further information from Connolly Bookshop, Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast

STOP THIS CENSORSHIP!

ON 17 MARCH, the General Secretary of the People's Democracy was arrested by the British Army near Newry in Northern Ireland. He was held incommunicado for three days before being released but a film entitled *Ireland—Flashpoint of Europe* was seized.

Damning

It had been made by the Italian Marxist group Lotta Continua in conjunction with People's Democracy and is the most damning visual expose of the role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the B-Specials

and the British Army. The only precedents for a seizure of the above type were the banning by the old Stormont regime of *The Song of Bernadette* under the notorious Special Powers Act, apparently because of its Roman Catholic ideology, and the seizure for a few days while the film was being shown in England, of *Ireland Behind the Wire*, before it was returned.

Ireland—Flashpoint of Europe has not yet been returned and we can only assume that this is the first major case of the seizure and banning of a film because of its political message.

We, the London branch of

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

EDINBURGH: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place
 3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napper.

GLASGOW: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm-9pm, in Paisley Town Hall
 3 June: Nationalism and Socialism.
 17 June: The State—is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Jim Henderson.

EAST LONDON: Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
 4 June: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.
 18 June: Building the revolutionary party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Every second Monday, 8pm, Lower Town Hall, Brixton.
 7 June: First Workers' Revolution, Paris 1870. Speaker: Ian Birchall.
 21 June: The Family. Speaker: Joan Smith.

WEST LONDON: Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.
 1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.



Chris Harman reviews a new

pamphlet from the Communist Party



Prague 1968—and Russian tanks move in . . . to defend a 'workers' state against its own workers?

Is this socialism?

THE MOST amazing thing about this pamphlet is that it begins by half-admitting that the things that ought to characterise socialism do not exist in Russia.

The author, David Purdy, says that 'some or all' of the following requirements are lacking: a high degree of popular self-activity, no marked differentials of income or status, and accountability of all state officials.

He then argues that this 'does not logically entail that the USSR is not a workers' state of some kind.'

Marx, Engels and Lenin would turn in their graves if they could hear him. For them, the essence of the socialist revolution was the taking of control over society by the democratic organisations of workers.

Lenin, like Marx, insisted that this meant 'the control of all officials, without exception, by the unreserved application of the principle of election and, at any time, recall and the approximation of their wages to the ordinary pay of the workers'.

This last point, Lenin says, 'is perhaps the most important point as far as the problem of the state is concerned.'

RUSSIAN JOKE:

Brezhnev is showing his aged mother around the Kremlin. He shows her his servants, his tables laden with vodka and caviar. Then he has her chauffeur-driven by limousine to one of his four country villas.

She is spellbound by all the opulence. So Brezhnev says: 'Are you impressed?'

'Yes,' she replies. 'But what are we going to do if the Reds come back?'

Luxury

It is of course, something that the present rulers of Russia—with their huge salaries, their luxury dachas, their own 'special shops', their servants, and their private kindergartens, their chauffeur-driven limousines, would prefer to forget.

Purdy tries to give an excuse for such forgetfulness by insisting that whether a society is socialist has nothing to do with the 'particular form' of the 'state apparatus'.

He says that, under capitalism, the state can take various forms, from a fascist dictatorship to a Labour government.

Why not, he asks, shouldn't there be such a difference under socialism as well?

But the argument falls flat the moment you look at it.

Whichever government is in power, the capitalist class run Britain.

Sabotage

Why? Because of their massive, direct economic power. They control industry and so can sabotage the actions of any government they do not like.

So even with a left-wing Labour government, the country would remain capitalist.

But does the Russian worker have economic power in the same way as a Western capitalist? Of course not.

He does not decide whether

factories are built, whether steel works or shoe factories will be opened, who will get what amount of wealth.

He cannot even protest about his tea break without being threatened with the law.

Because he has no control over the state, he has no control over the economy either.

That is why Marx, Engels and Lenin always insisted that the key to building socialism was the 'dictatorship of the working class'.

By this they meant rule by the workers. As Lenin put it, to build socialism there had to be 'the organisation of the whole economy under the

WHAT DO YOU think about Russia? We want to hear from you. Write to SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

management of the armed proletariat.'

But Purdy prefers Brezhnev to Lenin. He claims that 'the mode of production' in Russia cannot be capitalist because it is 'planned'.

From this he concludes that it must be 'socialist'.

The argument is at the level: a tiger is not a lion and must therefore be a mouse.

Change

But all modern states 'plan' the economy to greater or lesser degrees. We know that the plans in the West always break down. Things happen outside a particular country that compel a change of policy.

What Purdy ignores is that this has invariably happened to Russian planning as well.

Regardless of what has been said in the 'plans', the output of some things has always grown, and the output

of other things has either grown very slowly or has fallen.

What has expanded, year in year out, are things that can be used to make other things—iron, steel, cement plants, and so on. What has grown much more slowly than planned have been goods to improve workers' living standards.

In 1955, the first sort of goods accounted for 70 per cent of Russian production. By 1970 they had risen to 75 per cent.

The result is that the Russian worker sees massive power stations, cement factories, steel works. He hears Concorde flying overhead.

He sees giant missiles in the military parades. But he has a living standard much lower than a British worker.

He lives in a society which accords with Marx's account of the effects of capitalism: 'Accumulation of wealth at one pole, accumulation of

misery, of agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation at the other.'

Purdy tries one last economic argument. He says capitalism cannot exist without 'commodity' production, and that this does not occur in Russia.

But again he is wrong. 'Commodity production' means that goods are produced not according to some rational plan, but on the basis of rivalry between different capitalists.

Needs

It is this which forces each capitalist to hold wages down to a minimum and to expand industry without regard to people's needs.

There is not much competition between rival capitalists inside Russia. But the Russian economy as a whole is involved in continual competition with the economies

of other countries.

In part, this is competition to sell things abroad (from tractors and vodka to aeroflot flights and steel works).

But even more important is the most intense and violent form of competition—military competition.

The rulers of Russia are involved in a continual drive to keep up with the Americans and the Chinese in terms of the ability to wage war.

This makes nonsense of all talk of planning. The level of accumulation is determined by the level of international competition.

As this grows, living standards have to be held down, regardless of what may be written in the plans.

That is why Purdy is also wrong to claim that there are no crises in the Eastern states. These may not occur at the same time, or take exactly the same form as crises in the

'SOCIALIST' PLANNING:

Russia's first Five Year Plan, in 1929, promised considerable improvements in workers' and peasants' living standards—and then went on to cut them in half.

Fifteen years ago, Khrushchev promised meat production would catch the US up in two or three years. It is still half the US figure.

In 1965 massive increases were promised in the number of tractors and lorries for agriculture. No increases took place. Instead spending on heavy industry rose.

West. But they exist, because the competitive drive to accumulate wrecks havoc with the rest of the economy.

This may escape Purdy's notice, because what matters to him is not the conditions of Russian workers, but the use of words like 'planning', and 'nationalisation'.

Action

But it matters to Russian workers and housewives as they are hit by shortages and rising prices.

They are learning slowly, as are many workers in the West, that life is going to be miserable and hard until they take control of things themselves by revolutionary action.

Only then will they get a real workers' state and real socialist planning.

WORKERS STATE?

There have recently been dock strikes in Riga, according to the French Paper, Figaro. And market stalls in Rostov and Kiev have been destroyed in protest at food shortages.

'SOCIALIST' CRISIS?

Poles have been told that food prices frozen since workers' riots in 1970, will have to go up soon and that the country faces an austere five years. *The Times, 31 March.*



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK meetings

NATIONAL EETPU RANK AND FILE MEETING: Saturday 12 June, 2pm-5pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Transport details from Rank and File Centre, phone 01-802 0978.

NORTH LONDON Right to Work Committee and Platform joint meeting: Fight the Fare Rises Tuesday 1 June, 8pm, North Library, Manor Gardens, London N7.

DARLINGTON: Fight Unemployment March organised by Darlington Trades Council, Saturday 29 May, Assemble North Lodge Park 1pm. Rally South Park 2pm. Speakers Joan Maynard M.P., Ted Fletcher M.P. and local trade unionists.

Central London Right to Work Committee and The Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act: Meeting to set up Camden-based Immigrant Workers Support Group. Any interested Irish, Black, Asian, Spanish Portuguese, etc. workers are specially asked to join us, so this doesn't become just another committee of 'do-gooders'. Friday 28 May, 6.30 pm, Camden Federation of Tenants building, 30 Camden Road, NW1.

Central London Right to Work Committee monthly delegate meeting, for affiliated trade union delegates and unemployed workers, Tuesday 1 June, 6.30 pm 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Central London Right to Work Committee Fund-raising Social, Bar, Disco, Light Show, the Film: Fighting the Cuts will be shown at 8 pm, 50p employed, 25p unemployed and/or claimants. Friday 4 June, 7 pm, Roebuck Pub, Tottenham Court Road.

The National Right to Work Campaign Pamphlet, DANGER: IMMIGRANT WORKERS UNDER ATTACK is out of print. If you have spare copies please return them to: Right to Work office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N7.

MANCHESTER Defend the 43 Benefit: Friday 28 May, 8pm, Manchester Poly, Aytoun St Building. Last chance to see North West Spanner in WINDING UP and Counteract in THE CUTS SHOW. Students and unemployed 40p, others 70p.

CASH POURS IN FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK 43

AFTER the magnificent display of solidarity with the 43 arrested Right to Work marchers last Friday the task of collecting money for their defence goes on.

One TGWU branch in the Liverpool Docks, 6/611, has sent in £20 to the campaign. The Hull Docks Shop Stewards Committee gave £50 on Friday to the Defence Fund.

Other donations this week include:

- Widnesbury No 3 AUEW £2, Hackney NUT £25, Dalston Garage TGWU £10, Lambeth Teachers £15, Oxford collection: Stop the Cuts Demonstration £11.86, QT Assembly Block £2.86, EOA Bookshop £1.30, ASTMS members at the University £3.
- ASTMS members Newcastle upon Tyne £2.30, TGWU Crosses Branch, High Wycombe £13.50, Sheffield Trades Council £18.37, Peterborough RTW Social £12, APER Horbury £3.25, Birmingham Rank and File £15.2, CPSA Conference £25, Waltham Forest Trades Council £9.00, Northampton RTW Committee £6.25, Warwick University socialist society £2.80, SOGAT Conference £14.00, Southampton Dockers £2.50, Southampton worker £1, Norwich Socialist Worker Readers £7.14, Rother Tape editorial board £1.65, ASTMS Newcastle university £5, Sowerby Constituency Labour Party £2.30, NALGO Hammersmith Branch £3, Grimsby RTW Committee £2, Aberdeen RTW Committee £21, Paisley Tech Students Association Disco £74.40, Southampton RTW £11, AUEW Cheltenham £5, UCATT No 2 Battersea £1, East Kilbride Trades Council £5, Sarnwood Ward Labour Party £1, Walsworth NALGOWB, Westminster Trades Council £2, NUT Conference £14, Southwark Rank and File Teachers £1.30, Tower Hamlets NALGO £10, Hackney Doves School £10.80, Hackney and Waltham Forest CPSA £10.24.

PICKET AGAINST ZIONISM: Sunday 31 May, Royal Albert Hall, 10am. Called by the Middle East Research Action Group in solidarity with anti-Zionists and Palestinians. Moshe Dayan will be speaking at the Salute Israel meeting organised by Zionists.

DRIVERS STRIKE AGAINST PAY DEAL

by KEVIN O'DOHERTY

TWO THOUSAND lorry drivers in East London stopped work on Monday morning in response to government plans in the 4½ per cent pay deal to tax their night subsistence allowances for road haulage drivers.

They marched to Tower Hill and then on to Transport House to lobby the union leadership over the proposed tax cuts.

As spokesman for the marchers said the plans could mean a loss of up to £200 a year for drivers.

Normally the average allowance is around £5 a night, which has to cover hotel costs and meals.



Drivers outside TGWU headquarters vote to continue the strike.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Thorn workers fight apartheid

TROUBLESHOOTERS, the printed circuit and finished set testers at the Thorn television factory in North London, have taken probably unprecedented solidarity action in support of their black and Asian brothers in Thorn plants in South Africa.

They are refusing to train workers destined for 'whites only' jobs in South Africa at ten times the wage of African and Asian Thorn workers.

BID TO GAG PAY DEAL PROTEST

THE 1976 Conference of Trades Councils last weekend was almost the shortest on record, when the chairman, Terry Parry of the Fire Brigades Union, threatened to close it down after just 15 minutes to prevent delegates discussing an emergency resolution, rejecting the 4½ per cent pay deal.

Such is the TUC bureaucrats' fear of rank and file delegates from trades councils that they aren't even allowed to discuss resolutions that might be considered against TUC policy. To police this, Rule 14 has recently been forced on trades councils forbidding them to associate with or support bodies that might conflict with TUC policy. Several attempts were made to refer back Rule 14, but these were ruled out of order.

TUC general secretary Len Murray attempted to sell delegates the pay policy, but was heckled throughout his speech. Not one person from the floor spoke in defence of the deal.

Violence

John Philips, president of Barnet Trades Council, attempted three times to raise the police violence against the Right to Work marchers at Staples Corner.

The chairman ignored him twice, so he reproduced a copy of a letter he had received from the TUC and handed it out to delegates. The letter refuses to

take any action in support of the arrested marchers. The letter says that 'national demonstrative action would be counter-productive in harming the close and developing relationship with the Labour government.'

Passed

Delegates criticised TUC inaction over imprisoned Shrewsbury picket Des Warren, and passed a resolution calling for the TUC to campaign more energetically and urgently for his release.

The trainees are lodged at a hotel in Enfield at the expense of the racist South African government. They also visit the South African Embassy once a week to pick up expenses and doubtless to learn about the benefits of apartheid.

Thorn gets £1000 for each person trained. But the troubleshooters, who include white socialists as well as blacks and Asians, are refusing to assist in any way the training of racially-selected troubleshooters destined for South Africa, as they say in their petition to management.

Thorns have campaigned to get people willing to go to South Africa to earn £90 a week as troubleshooters, supervising black and Asian troubleshooters on £9 a week.

Keith Wilbraham, one of the 'testers' in Enfield, told Socialist Worker that he

simply was not prepared to assist such a racist regime in any way. 'I saw a TV play about the system there. A young black worker didn't want to live in the area he was confined to by the pass laws. So he got a dead man's pass and changed the photo.

But he still lived in fear of being arrested and fingerprinted, I'm not willing to support such a rotten kind of society.

A young black tester at Thorn put it as follows: 'I'm coloured, right. And I'm supposed to help train people who'll go there and oppress my brothers over there, it's just not on.

Image

Lonz Townsend, a Thorn troubleshooter and member of the International Socialists, said: 'Here in Britain Thorn cultivates a nice multiracial image. But in South Africa the same firm is out to pay the lowest possible wages.

It's scandalous, and we feel that it is our duty to give some practical form to the many resolutions our union, the Transport Workers, has passed against racialism and apartheid.'

CABLES STRIKE IN CITY

LONDON: 130 cable and storehouse workers at a Post Office building in the City are on strike only two weeks after joining the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Black and white workers at Mondial House, Upper Thames Street, are united in their fight to save the jobs of two shop stewards sacked on Monday. They are also out for union recognition and better working conditions. Until now they have had no holiday or sick pay and do not get paid for Bank Holidays. Average take-home pay is £25.

The company they work for—Ameco Personnel Services—employs people to make cable for the Swedish Thorn-Erikson company, and the Post Office. The 130 workers joined the TGWU recently after the Ameco management asked them to join the EETPU.

'We suspect that the EETPU representatives in the company have done a deal with the management,' said Denzil Miller, one of the two sacked shop stewards. 'A few of us investigated the possibility of joining another union. Within a few days we had 20 members of the TGWU and now it is 130.'

About 50 EETPU members are still working.

Said chargehand Les Williams: 'We are all in favour of a closed shop, but on our terms, not the management's. We want decent working conditions before we go back to work.'

Derby: asbestos 'deal' by TGWU

WORKERS at British Celanese, Derby, appear to have been sold out on the asbestos issue by Transport Union district officer Cliff Small.

The workers in the stores, anxious for their own safety and the safety of their workmates, blacked all asbestos three weeks ago. They told management they would not handle any goods containing asbestos unless they were plastic-wrapped and with a hazard warning on the packet.

Management claimed that everything was safe. They called in an 'expert' to do some tests.

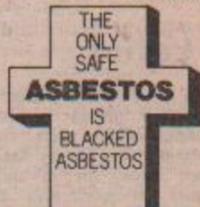
Not a word was said about the result of the tests until the stores steward insisted on further information. The management this time supported by district officer Small, said the results proved all was safe provided the men wore masks.

When the workers still refused to handle the stuff unless sealed and with a hazard warning, Small lost his rag. When pressed over the unwrapped asbestos in the bins, he exploded: 'I know what you're trying to make me say. But I won't because it will be splashed all over the Socialist Worker Celanese Bulletin.'

He then left. Half an hour later there was another meeting in the stores. At this the personnel manager threatened to have anyone who would not work with asbestos transferred.

He said this had been agreed with Transport Union district officer Small!

This could be a dangerous precedent. Does it mean that if



any member of the TGWU has a complaint about improving his working conditions, his bonus, or even his wages management can say: 'If you're not satisfied you know what you can do: transfer, go and work somewhere else and some other poor sod will have to do the job!'

In conversation with the stores workers Small let drop the information that the TGWU Legal Department had seen and okayed the test results. This indicates that the decision to tolerate the so-called safe level of two fibres per ml is a national decision with the backing of Legal Officer Albert Blyghton.

There is no safe level of asbestos. What's more, research at Imperial College, London, indicates that the sampling methods in use in Britain grossly understate the quantity of asbestos and other dusts in the air.

Police call in the mercenary dog of war



JOHN BANKS is a dog of war. He was in the news in January for recruiting 200 mercenaries to fight in Angola against the black freedom fighters.

week—detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The press greeted this with massive headlines linking Banks to Irish Republicans, though there was no evidence for this.

The police released Banks two days later. They had used him and his past to smear two executive members of the Provisional Sinn Fein, a legal Republican organisation. The two are John Higgins

from Luton and Eddie Caughey from Birmingham. John had been picked up three times before under the PTA—and released with no charges brought. Eddie was sacked after being picked up under the Act. He had been secretary of his AUEW Construction Section branch.

They and their families have been harassed because of it. Eddie Caughey's teenage daughters have been photographed and fingerprinted—illegally—when returning from trips to Ireland.

Now they have been charged with soliciting radios and arms for the IRA.

The Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act has supported Higgins and Caughey with pickets outside Paddington Green Police Station, where they were held.

25 plainclothes police, one policeman in uniform, a policewoman and three dogs burst into a home in North London last Friday at 7.05am. One carried a 4ft crowbar. Police cars blocked the top of the road and the alley.

Everyone in the house was herded into the kitchen and

held there for 1½ hours. Larry Sillery, aged 21, a lodger who had come to England to find work after finishing his apprenticeship in Dublin, was taken away under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Larry had been picked up and released before under the PTA. He and 16-year-old Terry Carson were held for five hours in Holyhead as they returned from the Easter holiday in Ireland. Both were photographed and fingerprinted.

Larry was told: 'You'll never work in London.'

Sparks strike on 14 sites

SHEFFIELD: Electricians from 14 sites are still on strike demanding the reinstatement of 18 men sacked from the N G Bailey's hospital site in Barnsley.

The senior steward from the site told Socialist Worker: 'Management came into the cabin one morning and just announced the removal of an allowance, which cut our wages by £4.60. Previous firms have always paid the allowance.

'As if this wasn't bad enough, they backdated the wage cut by two weeks.'

For several weeks there were half-day stoppages in protest. Then Baileys sacked 18 men. Electricians on 14 other sites in Sheffield came out in support.

The strike committee is organising to spread support. On Monday pickets went to sites at Sc and on Tuesday to Redcar. The Right to Work Campaign is printing collection sheets and arranging for delegations to go to other parts of the country to win support, starting in Manchester on Tuesday.

RIG SITE THREAT TO 600

by A ARMITAGE
METHIL, Fife: Half the 1200 workers at the Redpath Dorman Long oil-rig construction site are threatened with the sack. Unemployment in the area is already more than 12 per cent.

Letters from management last week did not give an exact number for the sackings—timed for November. At a mass meeting, stewards unanimously pledged to fight. Management tries in the letter to blame the workforce for the sackings, alleging that the oil-rig built was two years late. Newspapers and television have joined this. In fact, the delay was caused mainly by design alterations required by the customer, Shell UK, and bad management. There has been only one week's strike in the past 18 months.

Every construction site in Scotland is in the same situation as Methil, with no orders.

The Scottish oil 'boom' has quickly collapsed. A yard promised 15 years work is struggling for survival after only five. The pattern will be repeated all over Scotland as long as the multi-national oil companies continue to restrict investment in North Sea oil as part of their blackmail to get the government to water down its already diluted plans.

The fight in RDI, has only just started. While pressure must be put on full-time officials, councillors, and MPs to safeguard these jobs, workers cannot rely on these people in a final showdown. The rank and file must be organised to fight if victory is to be won.

Dustmen defy cut

SCOTLAND: Support is growing for the 80 Cumbernauld dustmen, dustcart drivers and roadsweepers who are in the second week of their unofficial strike against massive wage cuts. Cumbernauld Council, controlled by the Scottish National Party, wants to slash their wages by between £12 and £24.

The strikers, members of the GMWU and TGWU, have been joined by others in nearby Kilsyth. Cumbernauld Development Corporation manual workers are refusing to move the district council's rubbish. The two unions are still refusing official backing.

□ Donations and messages of support to Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council Cleansing Department Strike Fund, c/o Cumbernauld Trades Council, Cumbernauld, Glasgow.

HOW £195-A-WEEK EXECUTIVES SKIVE OFF TO PLAY GOLF

A SCANDAL of slacking and skiving among executives earning up to £195-a-week at a big state-owned British Leyland car plant is exposed this week.

A Socialist Worker reporter who wandered into the management offices estimates that there were 'two or three hundred' hard-core slackers there. From conversations with executives it appeared that this particular Leyland factory was in no way exceptional.

This is what he found:
□ Dozens of industrial engineers taking unofficial catnaps in their offices.
□ Sales managers reading



their newspapers at work.
□ A secret rota where foremen take it in turns to go off sick on full pay.
There seemed to be only 200-300 hard core slackers in the Cowley management but at times it looked as if all of them were idling. Sitting around, hands in pockets.

Last Friday's Sun attack on British Leyland workers—but here a Cowley worker exposes the real scandal.

Or smoking. Or taking coffee breaks. Ringing up their accountants. Or just dozing.
One man confided to me that the pile of paperwork on his desk was just a decoy. Most of it was holiday brochures. 'My biggest problem,' he said, 'is keeping awake.'

Another said there was no incentive these days for middle management. His accountant had told him he'd earn more if he worked less.

'Company house. Company mortgage. Company car. Company pension scheme. It's getting very difficult to fiddle your tax returns.'

Lunch-time. Time for a break from the grindstone. This time it's official. The lunch is heavily subsidised. A waitress' service—at the taxpayers' expense.

Back in the offices I saw one group brazenly walk-

ing out. 'They're off to play golf,' a secretary told me. No-one batted an eyelid.

Another secretary popped her head round the door. Collecting for Lord Stokes' leaving present. 'Sod off,' said the financial controller.

At the end of a hard day taking decisions the hard-pressed executives were queuing up outside the factory petrol pump. One young lad, having filled the tank of his XJ12, filled up a couple of cans.

'Can't be too careful,' he said, 'I might run out on the way home.' He only lived five miles away.



Sheffield electricians arguing for support of the 18 sacked for refusing a wage cut

members who fight for better pay on JIB sites.

'Our site is in dispute itself. Chapman has tried everything to get us back. He even offered to negotiate overtime, even though there is terrible unemployment in our industry.'

'The executive member for this region, Best, who is standing for general secretary, hasn't been seen.'

'That's why I think it's great that Billy Williams, the Rank and File candidate for general secretary, came down to a strike. That's an achievement in itself, however many votes he gets.'

Although the strikes are looking for a quick settlement, there is every chance that Bailey's notorious for strike-breaking, will prolong the dispute. But the sparks are determined to win.

□ Collection sheets and all donations to Keith Eyre, Strike Fund Treasurer, 69a Carr Road, Sheffield 6.

'Red scare' Chapple again

by STEVE JEFFERYS

'LIKE all other elections, this one has been subjected to much campaigning by Communist and Trotskyist groups who scoured the union in order to drum up opposition candidates,' writes Frank Chapple in his election address, standing for re-election as general secretary of the Electricians and Plumbers Union (EETPU).

DO NOT DOUBT THEIR PURPOSE. They are not seekers after truth or a more democratic union. They wish to control the union because they know how it can be twisted to serve political purposes for which they cannot get electoral support from our nation.'

The only rank and file challenge is Billy Williams, a member of the International Socialists and a well-known militant in the electrical contracting industry.

In his election address, post last week to all 400,000 members with the ballot forms, he declares his opposition to the TUC wage deal and calls for support for demands such as a fight for the 35-hour week to tackle unemployment.

He is the only candidate to mention the need for 'real equal pay now', in a union with 50,000 women.

Absence

Billy Williams also uses his election address to call for support for the 26 May Day of action against the Labour government's unemployment and wages policies. He argues for a whole programme of changes to make the union more democratic.

Best does not, however, indicate what his position is on any of the key issues of the day. His election address contains no statement on his attitude towards the wage freeze or what to do about unemployment.

He doesn't mention equal pay or his attitude towards agreements like the Contracting Industry Joint Industry Board—which Williams clearly opposes.

Best is being given formal support by Flashlight, the Communist-Party dominated

SCS: NARROW SLIP FOR DEAL

by Gordon Blair (SCS)

The 4½ per cent pay deal slipped through the conference of the Society of Civil Servants by only 5509 to 4196 votes last week.

Unfortunately many delegates opposed the deal but voted for it because they felt unable to win their members into opposition in the teeth of the high pressure press campaign.

The union executive threw aside its fainthearted tradition and spelt out the real nature of the deal in a conference paper. This showed that executive officers in the civil service

would suffer a 14 per cent reduction in living standards.

In return there is to be no price control, no control on unearned income, cuts in jobs and services to the public, no direction of profits into investment and nothing to solve unemployment.

Another hopeful sign was the 1,080 votes polled in the executive elections by Bob Hart candidate of the rank and file paper, Redder Tape. This was short of the 2,800 necessary for election but a good vote for the first time round.

Bob Hart topped the poll for the executive of the DOE section.

EQUAL PAY

BRENTFORD: 350 women production workers at Trico—Folded in, in the Great West Road, have come out on strike for equal pay. They have been negotiating since last June.

The 350 members of the Engineering Union came out on Monday afternoon. Only four workers blacklegged. They have got the full support of the men in the factory, who are waiting to be called out.

Second bus garage out

by DAVE FANTHAM TGWU, Wandsworth bus garage

LONDON: Wandsworth busmen were on strike last Thursday in protest at the introduction of new schedules on their routes. A strike is planned each Thursday in opposition to timetables which will reduce the number of buses on the road and lengthen the gaps between them.

Management claim a shortage of staff at Stockwell and Middle Row garages, which

share Wandsworth routes, yet at the same time they have restricted recruitment, driving instructors have been redeployed, and there are more than 7000 unemployed in the Wandsworth area.

London Transport have undertaken to operate only 85 of every 100 scheduled miles but in garages where London Transport have 'been unable' to 'fill vacancies' the service cuts are already well over this.

Greenings picket firm after 7 weeks

WARRINGTON: 'The spirit of the lads is getting harder and harder. We are going to stand firm,' Greenings strike committee secretary Len Blood told Socialist Worker.

For seven weeks Engineering Union members have been on strike in support of convenor Arthur Conheeny, who was sacked when the company was taken over by the giant Firth Browns as part of their effort to break one of the most militant plants in their group.

Picketing has been going on solidly since the start of the strike. When the gates are shut at night the engineering shop is occupied.

Last Monday North West Spanner, the socialist theatre group, came down to the picket line and put on their show, V for Victory. The police immediately appeared and said they were trespassing but they still put on the show.

Money and support is urgently needed for this official dispute against victimisation and in defence of shop floor organisation.

□ Send all messages and donations to Greenings Strike Committee Treasurer, c/o AUEW House, Froghall Lane, Warrington, Lancs.

Socialist Worker

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

Name

Address

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

Support!

Socialist Worker

Why we should all support the student teachers

TENS OF THOUSANDS of student teachers have taken an initiative that should be backed by every other section of students and by the whole working class movement.

They have given a lead in the fight for jobs that should be an inspiration to everyone. Their case is simple. In college after college, more than half the students finishing their studies this year cannot get jobs.

They're fully qualified teachers. They could quickly help deal with the so-called 'declining standards' which the right wing press is always harping on about.

They could give improved teaching to millions of working class children.

But they are not allowed to because of the education cuts—backed by the same right wing press.

A Labour government is condemning them to an indefinite period hanging around dole offices instead of teaching.

No wonder they are angry. Their lives are threatened with ruin. And for no reasonable purpose.

They are being sacrificed on the altar of an irrational economic system. Like a million and a quarter unemployed workers, they are prevented from using their energies to earn a living and expand the total amount of wealth.

Wealth

Then the government, which prevents this wealth being created, comes and tells them that 'there is not enough wealth to go round'.

More schools and more hospitals are cut back, more factories are closed down until even less wealth is created.

But instead of sitting back and accepting these absurdities, the student teachers are fighting back.

It is a fight-back that deserves the support of all those other sections who face cuts—the busmen, the railway workers, the nurses, the hospital workers.

Dole

It is a fightback that should be supported by anyone who wants a decent education for his or her children.

Above all, it is a fightback that should be taken up throughout the educational system—from the university students who won't be able to get places in the cut-back education colleges to the school-leavers due to be shovelled out onto the dole queues in two months' time.

□ Support the student teachers.

□ Spread the struggle.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM SOUTHLANDS, WIMBLEDON, THE FIRST COLLEGE SOUTH OF THE BORDER TO OCCUPY

Page 5

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

MAGNIFICENT!

MAGNIFICENT. That is the only word to describe the occupation of the colleges of education.

By the end of this week, most will have been seized by their students.

And these students will have the backing of others in a number of polytechnics and university colleges.

Their fight back against unemployment began at Moray House College in Edinburgh two weeks ago.

Within four days, flying pickets from the college had brought every college of education in Scotland into the movement.

And then, last Thursday, it was London's turn. Southlands College in South London took the lead in spreading the struggle from across the border.

Flying

Their flying pickets were soon round the other colleges in the area.

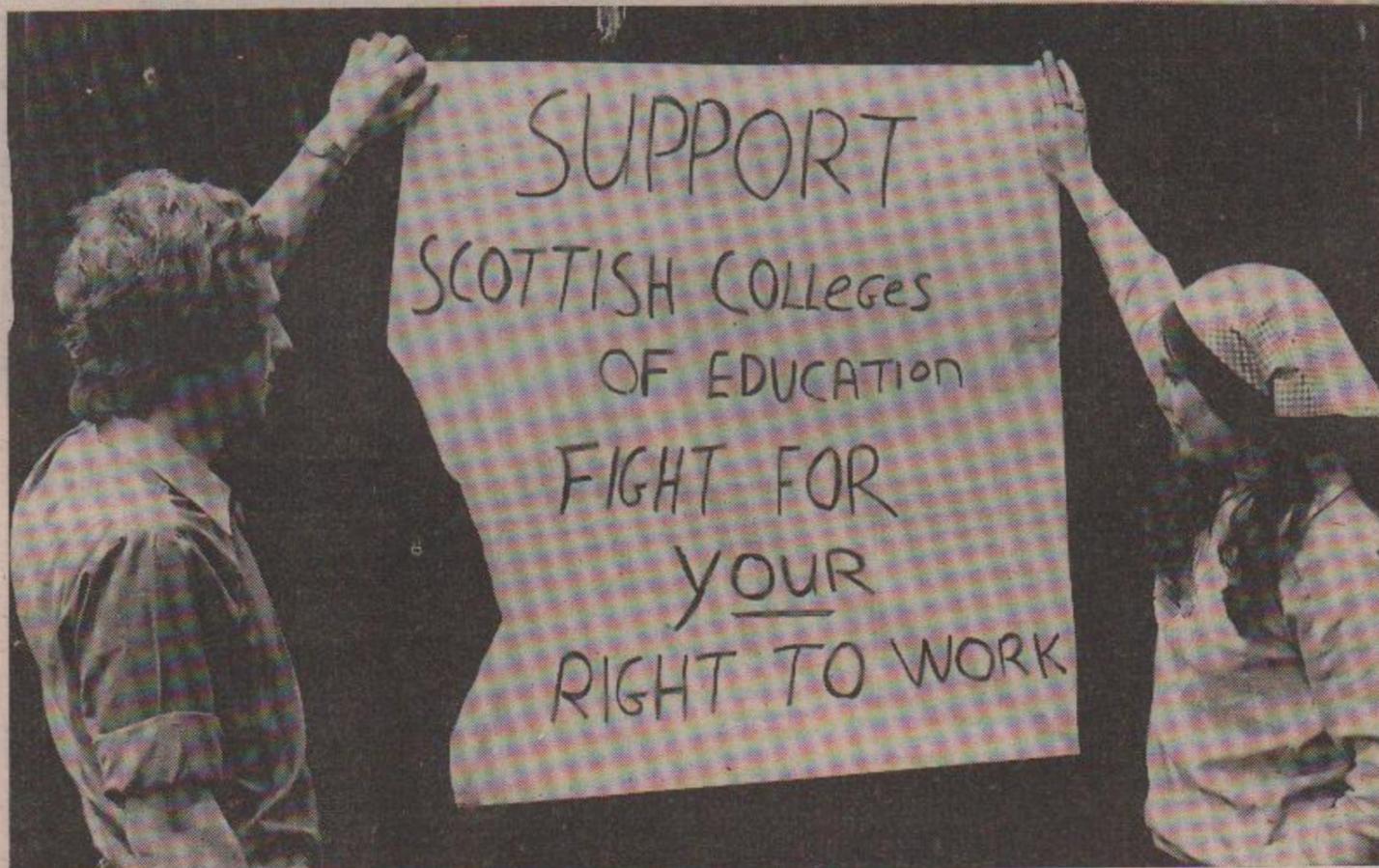
They picketed the meeting of the National Union of Students' executive on Sunday, pressing it to call for an all-out occupation of every college in England and Wales as well as Scotland.

By Tuesday, scores of colleges had followed the call.

On Monday, Phillipa Fawcett, Whitelands and Maria Grey in South London voted to occupy. So did Christ Church and Edgehill in Liverpool.

Redlands, Bristol, Roll, Exeter, and Winchester soon followed.

In Manchester, Didsbury gave the lead. In Yorkshire, Bingley voted to take action,



Solidarity from student teachers at Southlands: they started the occupations snowballing in England.

as did Padgate in Warrington and Middleton St George in Teesside.

Colleen Ridgeway, of Bulmershe College, Reading, told Socialist Worker:

'An emergency union meeting on Monday night overwhelmingly carried a motion to occupy the administra-

tion building in protest against education cuts and teacher unemployment.'

'Approximately 250 students voted for the motion and less than 20 against.'

Thomas Huxley and Goldsmiths colleges in London voted to occupy on Tuesday afternoon.

Spread

In the Midlands, St Peters, Saltley, and the West Midlands College had occupied by Tuesday.

The struggle has also begun to spread to colleges outside the teaching sector.

At the North East London Polytechnic, more than 400

LINK UP THE FIGHT!

Meeting for delegates from all occupied colleges of education in London to discuss setting up a coordinating committee. Southlands College, 65 Parkside, Wimbledon. 3pm, this Thursday, 27 May.

students voted on Tuesday to occupy, with only a couple against. They linked the student teachers' right to work with the fight against the fees of overseas students and the recent spate of physical attacks on them.

Racialism

Among those who spoke for the occupation were a Malaysian student, a Greek Cypriot, and a Turkish Cypriot.

A Nigerian student made the link between the student teachers' struggle and the fight against racialism. He pointed out that the press campaign over overseas students led naturally to attacks on them. 'Racialism covers up the

corruption in the system,' he said.

Similar support was forthcoming from the School of Oriental and African Studies, from the North London Polytechnic and the Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

Birmingham Poly was due to vote on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in Scotland, where the struggle started, students were making links with other sectors of workers.

In Dundee, they voted to support Wednesday's demonstration against the cuts and unemployment called by local trade unionists.

In Edinburgh, it was the students who were central in drawing support from sections

of workers for the Day of Action.

The Scottish Office branch of the CPSA, the civil service union, and the Parson Pebbles factory both promised delegations for the demonstration.

A meeting of 500 rank and file teachers in Moray House voted on Monday night to ignore the instructions of their union, the EIS, and to strike in support of the students on Wednesday.



□ THE National Right to Work Campaign office telephoned Colleges of Education on Tuesday offering their support for the occupations. The response everywhere was favourable.

John Deason, national secretary of the Campaign, told Socialist Worker that they hoped all local Right to Work Committees and Cuts Committees would contact the colleges immediately.

NOW SPREAD

THE OCCUPATIONS