

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p



THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM
- pages 5, 9, 11

POLAND: WORKERS FORCE BACK DOWN OVER PRICES
-page seven

PETE MULLER, 16 from Clapham.

'I can't get a job. My mates can't. We're told we all have to make sacrifices and pull in our belts. But the Queen can still afford to pay out hundreds of thousands on a country estate for Princess Anne.

'Some people blame black people for unemployment. That's a load of crap. They were brought here after the war to do jobs white people didn't want—low-paid ones like working on the buses and trains or in hospitals.

'There were millions unemployed before the war—and hardly any blacks here at all.

'From what I can see the trade union leaders have done sod all to fight unemployment. If we're going to fight unemployment we'll have to do it ourselves.

'That's why I'm going on the Right to Work march in September.

'And that's why I'm going to try and talk my mates into coming with me'.



NORMA PAGE, 16, from Brixton.

'I applied for 20 jobs. I got two interviews but no offer of a job.

'None of my friends have jobs. Some of them are trying to stay on at school—just so they have something to do.



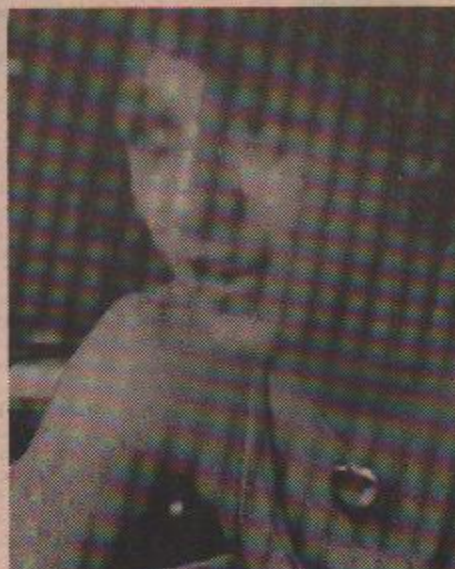
GERALD HICKEY, 16 from Southwark:

'Castle House Youth Employment have sent me after a few jobs. One was with tyres. One was in a bottling plant. Six people were after the one job, and it wasn't even a decent job.

'I would rather be working. Who wouldn't? Seven quid dole money. That's gone by the moment it comes.

'About this march in September. It's a good idea, I reckon. It might get unemployment down. Or the TUC might be just like the social security.

'I'll go if my mates go. None of them have got jobs'.



SIXTEEN, JOBLESS - AND BLOODY ANGRY!

...and there are another
120,000 in the dole queues with them

A CHEMIST advertised two dozen jobs as cashiers and shelf-fillers in his new shop in Hull last week.

More than 500 people, most of them school-leavers, turned up for interview. They queued in the baking heat, two deep, all the way down Whitefriargate. One woman

fainted.

Another 85,000 left school for the dole queue last week. This month another 280,000 young people will be leaving school and looking for work.

The government is making this

worse. The cuts in local government spending announced last month will destroy 100,000 council jobs. This week Prime Minister Jim Callaghan promised more cuts—which will destroy more jobs.

The government and the TUC are

doing NOTHING.

The mounting multitude of jobless young people will have to take action themselves. Join the Right to Work march from London to Brighton in September, to force the TUC to FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK.

Full ahead for march on September TUC

PREPARATIONS for the September Right to Work march from London to the Trades Union Congress in Brighton are well under way.

The National Right to Work Campaign's secretary, John Deason, told Socialist Worker: 'With another 200,000 school-leavers on the dole, the next few weeks will be crucial.'

'Who else is going to fight for the school-leavers' right to work? They won't even be members of a trade union.'

The Right to Work Campaign have produced a special leaflet for Right to Work committees to hand out on the dole queues calling for the unemployed to join the march and come to Brighton to demand the TUC fights for the right to work.

The Campaign has also produced petitions calling on the government to take action now for the unemployed, and pledging support for the march.

The petitions will be taken into workplaces, into union meetings, into pubs, youth clubs, on to housing estates, to raise support and money for the march.

The Right to Work campaign is also writing to all the trade union organisations that have already supported the campaign asking them to sponsor the coming march for £1 an organisation.

'The letters will be coming up in trade union branches and organisations in the next few weeks,' said John Deason. 'We ask all our supporters to watch out for them and see they get maximum support.'

Immigrant

There are many addresses that we don't have. We will send information about the march and a letter inviting sponsorships to every trade union, immigrant, Labour Party, and youth organisation we can,' he said.

'We hope that as well as sending the £1 sponsorship fee all these organisations will arrange collections and other donations to the march to help with the costs.'

'All the activity for the march needs to be under way now. We want the sort of turnout on the march which the TUC cannot ignore. There is no way the official trade union movement can be allowed to carry on ignoring the massive dole queues. This march will put action against unemployment high on the agenda at Brighton whether the General Council likes it or not.'

Leaflets 1000 for £1 post free. Petitions 200 for 50p post free. For further information, or to make sure your trade union organisation is asked to sponsor the march, write to National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802 0978).

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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

01-739 6361
739 0185
739 9043

Circulation department: 8 Colindale Avenue, London, E2 9DU. Tel: 01-739 3030. Published weekly except first week of December. Subscriptions: 12 months, £2.50 (inc. postage); 6 months, £1.25 (inc. postage). Printed and published by Socialist Worker Press and Publishers Ltd (TS) all departments, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.



The headline in the Shrewsbury Chronicle, 18 June

LOCAL PAPER WHIPS UP ANTI-SOCIALIST HYSTERIA

THE Shrewsbury Chronicle has disclosed that the British political police have established an office in the town to spy on left-wingers.

The paper has long been conducting a hysterical campaign against squatters in Shrewsbury. This is the latest shot in the campaign to discredit the left and frighten people in the town.

The secretary of the Shrewsbury International Socialists has issued a statement about this affair to the local paper which they have agreed to print. The statement

asks why it is that the paper condemns the KGB in Russia but says nothing at all when its British equivalent appears in Shrewsbury.

The statement concludes: 'It is important that your readers understand the International Socialists are not a group of semi-criminal elements. We are a serious party of committed socialists.'

'We're not pro-Russia or China or pro a pack of corrupt MPs in Westminster. We are for genuine workers' democracy. And if that's a crime then we are criminals.'



Picture: Joao Barfo (IFL)

Left-wing candidate Otelo de Carvalho being cheered through the Setenave shipyard at Setubal, where he came top of the poll.

LAW AND ORDER VICTORY FOR RIGHT IN PORTUGAL

THE right wing won a notable victory in the Portuguese presidential elections on Sunday. Their candidate, General Eanes, got 62 per cent of the vote.

The contrast with the parliamentary elections two months ago, when the right wing got less than half the votes, is explained by support by the so-called Socialist Party for the right's candidate.

Eanes is not even a middle-class democrat, let alone a socialist. His rival, the prime minister Admiral Azevedo, revealed last week that Eanes was not involved in the coup that overthrew fascism two years ago. His behaviour during the attempted right-wing coup on 11 March last year was highly dubious too—so much so that he was nearly arrested afterwards.

Why did these self-proclaimed 'democrats' support Eanes? Socialist Party leader Mario Soares let the cat out of the bag in a recent interview with the Financial Times. The first priority of the new government would be 'the restoration of order to labour relations,' he said.

'When nobody can be sacked, nobody works, and we have to get people working again'.

But the right wing did not get everything their own way in the elections. The majority of the workers, including about half the Socialist Party supporters, rejected

the call to back Eanes and 'law and order'.

The main candidate of the left, Otelo de Carvalho, standing with the support of the revolutionary left and of many factory and tenants' committees, got 16 per cent of the votes, including the majority from the powerfully-organised workers in Lisbon and Setubal. In Setubal he came top of the poll, with 42 per cent of the total.

The Communist Party candidate, Pato, got 7 per cent of the votes nationally—giving a combined vote for the left of 23 per cent.

This was about seven per cent higher than the combined vote of the Communists and revolutionary left in the parliamentary elections.

That is why the more far-sighted sections of the right are worried about the election results, and speak of Otelo's support as a 'dangerous political force'.

They know there will be bitter struggles in industry in the next few months, which could drive still bigger sections of workers to become disillusioned with Eanes and Soares and to support the left.

The Portuguese armed forces are now united behind the right wing. But they are relatively few in number and could not, for instance, defeat a general strike if the workers were united and confident of winning.

25 per cent of the votes are not enough to win an election. But that 25 per cent are a majority of the industrial workers. Given the necessary leadership, they could make a formidable obstacle to the advance of the right and open up the prospect for further advance for the revolution.

Social Security defrauds millions

THE popular press is often full of stories of people defrauding the social security of a few bob. But they have kept remarkably quiet about the way the social security is defrauding claimants and unemployed of millions of pounds.

On Monday, The Times published details of the secret internal rules on the rights of claimants. It compared these with what claimants are told their rights are by the Department of Social Security official publications. There are huge differences.

Entitled

For instance, the official publications tell claimants they are only entitled to as little as £2.25 if their children need new shoes: the secret rules say that the amount paid out should be enough to enable goods of durable quality to be produced—which today would mean a minimum payment of about £4.

Similar differences exist when it comes to the entitlement of new claimants to get paid before the usual pay day and the right of deserted wives to get their mortgage payments paid.

Next time you hear talk of social security 'scroungers', remember these figures:

It is estimated that illegal forms of tax avoidance cost £1000 million a year—more than the total annual spending on social security benefits.

The scale of avoidance is shown by the fact that only one in six of the million and a half self-employed people admit in their tax returns to earning more than £30 a week.

Avoidance

Workers, who are taxed through PAYE, have virtually no opportunity to join in tax avoidance on such a scale.

Perhaps that is why the law treats tax frauds much less seriously than social security 'scrounging'.

Last year total social security fraud totalled £2 million. There were 15,350 prosecutions. The £1000 million tax fraud only led to 126 prosecutions.

For each £1 defrauded, a poor social security claimant is 60,000 times as likely to be prosecuted as a rich tax evader.

PROTEST AGAINST RACISM

Sunday 4 July, assemble 1.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London

Demonstration supported by Asian Action Committee, Southall Indian Workers Association and other organisations.

Secretary of the International Socialists in West and North West London, Gerald London, Reading and Walsleyhead to assist.

Disaster march assemble 12 noon, Trafalgar Square, to march to join main demonstration.

PRICES TO GO UP-BY ORDER

WHAT is the aim of the government's wage control policy? If you've been listening to the official propaganda on the radio or TV, you are likely to reply 'to cut prices'.

But you would be wrong. Who says so? The government itself, in so many words.

This week it is to announce changes in the price code, as part of its overall policy. These changes are going to mean bigger price rises.

According to estimates, they will add another penny in the pound to prices—on top of all the price increases because of the fall in the pound. Overall, the effect is going to

be even bigger cuts in living standards.

But they will have what the government claims is a 'good effect'. They will add £1000 million to profits.

That is what the so-called 'counter-inflation policy' is really about—cutting living standards while prices go on rising to boost profits.

THE HYPOCRITES!

EVERY socialist in Britain should support the sentences imposed on the mercenaries in Angola.

James Callaghan has called for 'clemency'. Reginald Maudling, that great friend of law and order, has claimed that the sentences are 'unjust'.

Virtually every national newspaper has joined the call for the Angolans to exercise 'compassion'.

This is complete and utter hypocrisy. Early this year, the popular liberation forces in Angola were under attack from all sides. From the south an invading army headed by South African tanks and white South African troops was threatening the capital Luanda. From the north came forces paid for by the American CIA and backed up by US transport planes.

Their aim was to impose indirect, white supremacist rule on a country only recently liberated from Portuguese, white colonial rule. They cared nothing that, as Portuguese Foreign Minister Melo Artunes admitted, the vast majority of the Angolan people supported the MPLA government.

They plunged the country into a renewed

Silent over the victims, they now beg mercy for the mercenary killers

war which killed tens of thousands of civilians. They recruited the white mercenaries to help with the killings.

One of the mercenaries who came back told The Observer:

'We came through this village and the people came out of their houses and waved at us, friendly like. Some of them shouted "comrade"—it was obviously the only English word they knew. The FNLA soldiers shot them down as Communist sympathisers'.

Yet, neither Callaghan, Maudling nor the

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

British press called for an end to the invasions and the murders. They did not care what bloodshed was involved. They did not once speak out against the South African troops or the CIA.

Such hypocrites make their pleas for 'clemency', not for the victims, but for those who did the killing.

We are told the mercenaries were 'innocent fools'. But they were neither so innocent nor so foolish as to believe they were going to Angola to lie on the beaches.

They knew they would be shooting people.

recreating the past exploits of Western mercenaries in Africa, burning villages, terrorising the population.

Their 'innocence' was that they did not think the Africans could fight back. They had been brought up on the mythology of white superiority which they went to Africa to perpetuate. What stunned and confused them when they got to Angola was that the Angolans rejected that mythology, fought back and smashed the mercenary forces.

The outcry at the fate of the mercenaries is nothing less than an attempt by those who backed the attack on the popular forces in Angola to retrieve something from the defeat.

If they are successful, they will make it all the more likely that mercenaries will be recruited for future wars in other parts of Africa.

Maudling claims: 'It has never been a crime to be a mercenary'. Clearly he wants there to be mercenaries in future.

Mercenaries are, by definition, men who kill for money. Only one group of people can gain from their existence—the rich and powerful who can pay them.

It is these people who insist that being a mercenary is no crime.

But the people of Angola see things differently.

They have been on the receiving end, not the hiring end, of these killings. They want to put an end to the whole business—something everyone in Britain who is not rich should support.

The only thing we should feel sad about is that those who sent the mercenaries to Angola—the CIA, the giant multinational companies, the friends of Reginald Maudling and James Callaghan—are not under sentence in Luanda as well.

REMEMBER FRANK STAGG...

THE hullabaloo about the mercenaries stands in marked contrast to the noises made last year when hunger-striker Frank Stagg was dying.

Stagg, you may recall, was sentenced to a long prison sentence for 'conspiracy to bomb'—before any bombing had even occurred in Britain. Certainly, he was not a hired killer like the mercenaries.

Yet none of the papers and politicians who now call for 'clemency' said a single word in defence of Frank Stagg's life.

Some of the 3000 people who demonstrated in London last weekend in protest at the killing of 180 people by South African police and demanding an end to all Western involvement in apartheid.



JUNE FUND TOPS £2000

SUPPORTERS OF Socialist Worker have dug deep in their pockets again and again this week to help us fight the poison of racism. Your donations have brought the Fighting Fund to the highest figure for many, many weeks—£768.

That gives the magnificent total of £2,010.92 for the month of June.

Most encouraging has been the response of supporters who are not yet members of the International Socialists. A month ago the IS conference called on members to give an average levy of £5 a head. But many non-members feel the fight against racism is so important that they have been giving £5 a head too.

As one non-member, Brother Phil Jones, said when he gave £5: 'The paper needs money and it is essential that it keeps up its good work'. We have received £5 donations from 15 non-members this week.

Not that IS members themselves have been slow in contributing. Maidenhead branch has already exceeded its target in the levy. Many other branches are not far behind. The following are at

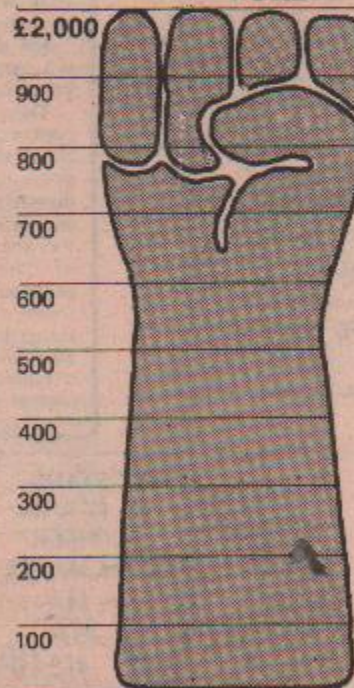
or close to their targets: Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dumfries, Glenthroes, Mansfield, Norwich, Crawley, Portsmouth, High Wycombe and Inner East London.

The other branches and districts should follow this lead as quickly as possible. The quicker we get the levy funds in, the more we will be able to step up the fight against the racists and to build your paper. Make sure your branch or district is collecting the levy and sending it off NOW.

Thanks also to those readers who have given as much as they can afford this week, however small. Particular thanks to the High Peak old age pensioner who sent 90p, to the Islington Council workers who sent £9.50, the Camberne reader who sent 50p and the Cardiff reader who gave 25p.

Donations to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Socialist Worker FIGHTING FUND



Now for the third £1000!

The deformers of body and mind

THE Sunday Times was finally able to print most of the results of its investigation into the causes of the appalling thalidomide disaster last week.

Hair-raising reading it was too, which explained only too clearly why the legal establishment—many of them shareholders in Distillers, the perpetrators of the crime, were so anxious to suppress the story.

The Sunday Times outlined in horrifying detail the result of Distillers' production and marketing of thalidomide for profit. To make money, an untested drug was put on to the market and all sorts of false claims were made for it.

Even when the disastrous consequences became known, Distillers and its German associate company fought to keep the drug on the market—to make more money.

Then, to protect the spoils, Distillers used every trick in the book to try to cheat parents and children of anything like adequate financial compensation.

None of the directors of

Distillers have ever been held responsible for their appalling crimes against humanity. Perhaps one day they will be brought to account.

Another gentleman should join them in the dock. His name is Enoch Powell, the man who sometimes pretends to care about children and working people—provided they are white, that is.

Refused

As Minister of Health in 1962, Powell let thalidomide go on the market without a question. The Sunday Times disclosed that when the tragedy came to light he refused to hold a public inquiry, accepting every lying line spun by Distillers' propaganda department.

None of this is surprising. Powell believes in free enterprise.

Enoch Powell is a suitable companion for Distillers. Their drug deforms bodies in the pursuit of profit. His racism deforms the mind for much the same reason.

June 24/1
 Carol Gange - over Sandra
 Calcutra 14th 1976

The Editor
 Socialist Worker
 Dear Sir, Sorry that I cannot
 subscribe to your Fighting Fund
 regularly through the Bank.
 However I shall make a small
 subscription on regularly.
 Enclosure £1.
 Yours faithfully
 M. Mules

Presid.
 Merseyside
 26th June 1976

Dear Comrade,
 Please accept this
 donation for your Fighting Fund.
 Keep up the good work.
 Sincerely,
 M. A. Hindson (ACTS/MS)
 Chairman
 Turner Medical Staff
 Calcutta

Maybe Man Joe prepares

Photos: John Sturrock (Report)

'WHEN I was chairman of Business Committee once we were given two resolutions, one that said "No" and one that said "Yes", and we came back with a composite which said "Maybe".'

Those were the words of Joe Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, at last year's conference after a composite resolution 'seeking' £100 a week for faceworkers had been carried unanimously.

Many hours had been spent behind the scenes patching up this composite so that the national executive could wriggle out of any firm commitment. Such has been the pattern of most NUM annual conferences.

All the 70 delegates and 30 officials who attend conference know that what is really important is not what is said from the rostrum, but what is agreed in private with the business committee, where the executive takes all the pedigree yes's and no's and turns them into mongrel maybe's.

Extent

What happens during the year after that depends on the extent to which the Broad Left can mobilise the membership against the manoeuvres of Joe Gormley and friends. Over the past couple of years the track record of the broad left has not been particularly outstanding.

If most years the NUM Conferences are little more than elaborate games, this year's threatens to be a pathetic charade.

When the quarter of a million members of the NUM voted a few weeks ago by a narrow margin of 53 per cent to accept the Healey 4½ per cent pay deal, the ballot was pushed through so quickly that most members did not appreciate that the result would affect not only next year's wage claim, but also all the other claims for various vital fringe benefits due to be debated at conference.

Busy

Gormley is now busy getting the executive to declare out of order the resolutions from Yorkshire and South Wales that demand £100 a week for faceworkers, with appropriate increases for other grades, from 1 November this year.

If he were honest about it, he would have to admit that more than half the resolutions on the agenda are also 'out of order' if the 4½ per cent deal is to be upheld. Resolutions that relate to a shorter working week, better sick pay schemes, longer holidays and even

BILL MESSAGE WRITES ON THE COMING MINERS' UNION CONFERENCE



the unions

earlier retirement, if they are passed, will mean opposition to the incomes policy.

Many rank and file militants are sceptical about whether the conference will address itself seriously to some of the more important problems facing the union. It is no secret that when the Selby coalfield opens up, a large number of pits, not just in Yorkshire but in every coalfield in the country, will be up for closure if the National Coal Board gets its way.

Already the NCB have used Langwith Colliery to test the union out. Their success in getting Joe Gormley to sell the Langwith jobs can only have given the Coal Board encouragement for the future.

There is a resolution on the agenda from Group No 2 Area calling for a re-affirmation of the official union policy of opposition to all closures on economic grounds, but the Langwith episode shows that not just resolutions are needed.

Coal stocks are at record levels of more than 30 million

tons. They are being kept that high by the NCB and the government to use as a weapon against the miners should they seek to bust the incomes policy, or should the NCB go for more closures.

The most crucial question facing the NUM is how to deal with these stocks, but there is no area with a resolution on the agenda condemning the increase in overtime working in the coal industry and calling for a ban on overtime, or at least strict limits, in order to run the stocks down.

The union is still committed to increasing productivity, but every extra increases the stock-piles and threatens more jobs.

Hide

Neither Joe Gormley nor NCB chairman Sir Derek Ezra attempts to hide the fact that they want the government to introduce productivity concessions in the next round of incomes policy. If this should happen it could spell the end of coal-mining in Scotland, Durham and large sections of other mining areas.

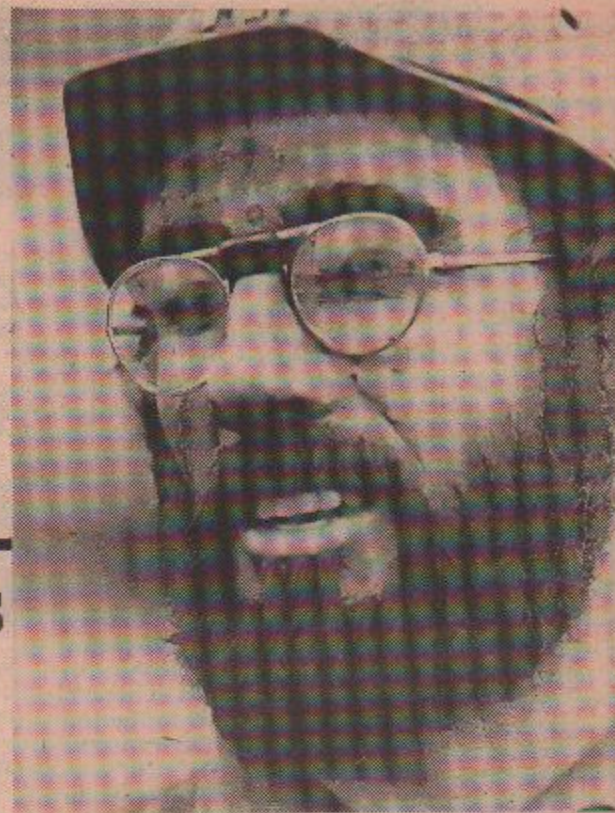
The Scottish area leadership is very much aware of this, but the coming 12 months will test whether they are capable of leading a rank and file revolt nationally in the fight against productivity deals and for the protection of jobs.

Miners' leader Lawrence Daly and Joe Gormley confer at the Special TUC before casting all the NUM votes for the 4½ per cent pay deal.

Success for Collier group

MINERS' union elections in Yorkshire have resulted in strong gains for the rank and file miners paper, *The Collier*. Tommy Delamere, a member of the editorial board, has been elected full-time branch secretary at Houghton Main pit. Tommy takes over from George Wilkinson, who is known to television viewers for his part as Herbert Smith in *Days of Hope*, the series about the general strike.

Terry Bristowe, another leading collier supporter and well-known International Socialist, has been elected delegate to the area council from Dodworth pit. Terry's majority was more than 300 votes. Eddie Wakefield, another strong Collier supporter, has been elected president of Silverwood pit.



Terry Bristowe (top) and Tony Delemere

Health without profit

FEW ASPECTS of our lives could be so completely changed under socialism as the Health Service. For a start, a lot of the illnesses which it now has to cope with would gradually disappear.

For example, with workers running their own factories and building sites, there would be far fewer industrial accidents to be treated. With decent public transport and more freight going by rail, road accidents would be cut.

The diseases of poverty would be banished too. And with less pollution all would be in better health.

Then there are what the papers call 'diseases of civilisation'. A high proportion of diseases of the digestive system would be prevented if more information was available about the effect of the various highly-processed foods full of untested chemicals that are thrust down our throats by the advertisements.

Finally, the causes of many mental illnesses would vanish



by TIM SOUTH (NUPE)

A hospital porter at St Hames' Hospital, Leeds

and many others could be treated without long stays in hospital. There are thousands of mental patients today who could be discharged if we lived in a society concerned to find them a place.

A massive saving of resources—in the long term—

would come about if more attention was paid to preventive medicine. Regular check-ups in working time would detect many diseases, including several types of cancer, before they became serious.

Prompt treatment, instead of the massive waiting lists we have at the moment, would cost less as well as preventing a lot of suffering.

To protect their status, doctors have always kept down the number of students entering medical schools. We would make medical training available to everyone who wanted it—not just as doctors but as nurses and the various kinds of technicians.

Abolish

Jobs such as signing sick notes—which take up so much doctor's time—could be abolished. Many of the things they claim they alone can do could be taken over by nurses and technicians, who are just as capable of doing them. This

would solve the problem of the shortage of doctors.

What's more, instead of the vast bureaucracy that has grown up in the Health Service taking the day-to-day decisions and doing the planning, these would be the responsibility of elected and recallable committees of delegates from Health Service workers and the community the hospital serves.

This development would release huge resources for the expansion we need in the Health Service, resources that are at present being squandered. Others would come when the plunder of the Health Service by profit-hungry drug and equipment companies is stopped.

Need

But, most important, the amount spent on health would depend on the need for it rather than on how much is left over after spending on arms and hand-outs to businessmen. For example, huge sums would be spent on research into 'unfashionable and unprofitable' complaints like arthritis, which cause so much pain to millions of working-class people.

Such a reorganisation of the Health Service is not an impossible dream. We have the energy, the talent and the creative ability to do it among health workers and those who are treated under the Health Service.

All that stands in our way is the great god profit and the organisation his supporters have thrown up to ensure continuing devotion.

OUR NORMAN



THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE - SID'S MELTED!

SCIENTISTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLAR ICE CAPS GETTING SMALLER AND SO ARE THE BEARS...

I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

OPERATIVE 735609714 HAS GONE DAFT SIR - SHALL I SEND HIM HOME?
OF COURSE NOT! THEY HAVE TO BE DAFT TO WORK HERE!

BBC get a shock

26 JUNE—Freedom Day—is important for the oppressed of South Africa.

People like myself mark it with an all-night vigil outside South Africa House in London.



This year, because of the rising in Soweto and all the killings, the vigil was even more important.

Throughout the night, five policemen stood facing us. At about 2.30am

two South African youths stopped and talked to us. As we discussed the evils of apartheid three of the police officers walked across to where we were standing.

I said to the youths: 'I live in England because in this country I am able to live in dignity.'

'I can stand here with a placard and

The copper who said: I'd like to shoot you...

By Rupee Morau

discuss things with you knowing that these officers will not shoot me like the police did to the children in Soweto.'

To my amazement, one cop said: 'I would like to do just that.'

'You are joking of course, I replied. 'No', said the officer.

Another officer said: 'He has the right to express his views just like you have. It doesn't mean to say because he is a policeman he can't say what he thinks.'

This incident shook me and made me realise that I was a fool to have had such respect for the British police.



I wonder how many more British policemen, given the right to do so, would like to behave as their colleagues do in South Africa.

London: Support this picket

THE NATIONAL Party has applied for membership to Greenwich Community Council in South East London, which would give them the right to use meeting halls and other facilities at present extended to trade unions and left groups.

Those groups, led by the Trades Council and the International Socialists are mounting a picket of the Community Council to try to stop the racials getting their way.

□ A big picket is essential. Meet at Woolwich Town Hall as soon after 6pm as possible on FRIDAY 2 JULY. Supported by: Greenwich Trades Council, South East London IS, Greenwich IWA, Sikh Youth Centre, South East London Right to Work Committee, Trade union bodies.

'Don't upset the Front'

SEVEN lecturers at Uxbridge Technical College in West London have been threatened with disciplinary action if they do not remove anti-racist badges.

The trouble began when a part-time Indian lecturer from Southall, where Gurdip Chaggar was murdered by racials, was asked to remove his Fight Racism badge. The lecturers then started to wear the badges in solidarity.

The principal told them to remove them because an anti-racist campaign in the college would upset the National Front!

as anti-racists occupy

THE BBC got a shock in Leeds last week.

About 20 trade unionists occupied the reception area of their studios in protest against the BBC's racist policy locally and nationally.

'We refused to move until we saw a management spokesman.

After a considerable flurry and embarrassed stammering, someone dug up the programme editor, who spoke to three of us. We gave him the reasons for our protest:

□ Continual coverage of the National Front electoral activity including a 15-minute interview with NF leader John Tyndall on the Look North programme.

Publicity

□ BBC North programme on Blackburn that gave Nazi Kingsley Read 20 minutes of free publicity.

□ The scandalous Open Door programme by the Campaign to Stop Immigration.

We also pointed out the scandalous BBC reportage of the Soweto massacre. He apologised for this and pointed out the difficulty of obtaining film from South Africa.

Why didn't the BBC approach black emigre organisations for their comments? 'Fraid I can't answer that one' he replied lamely.

'Well, what about giving our views air time?' we asked.

We could show the real face of the National Front and the terror that the wave of racialism brings to black families. Indian shop windows smashed, black houses at-



Occupied! These trade unionists took BBC Leeds by surprise—before staggering out in disgust

Picture: Richard Platt

By BRIAN PARKIN, AUEW-TASS

tacked, black children terrorised on their way home from school by representatives of the master race.

'Yes, very interesting, but I doubt whether it would be newsy enough,' was the editor's reply.

Staggering out in disgust, we had a word with the commissionaire.

'No shop stewards in this place,' he assured us.

'What about the electricians?' 'No unions there,' he

replied. 'It's all done by a sub-contractor, Vallances.'

Which may help to explain BBC Leeds' policy of virtually ignoring the recent Leeds works department dispute and the role scab firms played in undermining the strike. Vallances were scab firm No 1.

Our protest confirmed that the BBC, for all its talk about 'objectivity', is still a vital part of the racist machine which serves up the bosses' ideas for us, day in, day out.

But it showed also that the well-dressed ninnies who make the decisions can be shaken by protest.

And protest against racialism on the BBC needs to be carried on in every branch of the NUJ and ABS and with pickets at every BBC headquarters.

CROYDON Trades Council have organised an excellent petition against racialism, which they are circulating through all affiliated organisations and on the local High Street.

Entitled 'Immigrants are welcome here', the petition starts with a tough anti-racist declaration showing how racism is based on lies and how it splits and divides workers.

The petition continues: *We, the undersigned, condemn the racist murders which have taken place in Southall and Woodford. We believe that these killings are the result of a deliberate campaign by Enoch Powell, the National Front and sections of the press to whip up racial prejudice so that the workers will fight each other instead of uniting to fight the present attacks on our living standards.*

We therefore pledge ourselves to combat the activities of organisations like the National Front and to defend any of our fellow members from racist attacks and abuse.

By Richard Tarry

STONES and bottles have been thrown through our windows at the East London Gay Centre. One person had a half-brick thrown at him outside. There have been threatening phone calls. The National Front have said they are 'out to get us'.

This makes life a misery for those of us living here.

We are going on building the Gay Centre as a base for gay people in East London. Groups like the NF are only too pleased to use the prejudice against us.

We're just another convenient scapegoat for the Front.

WHY ANNETTE IS ANGRY

ANNETTE Badger is still angry about the National Front's campaign in last week's Rotherham by-election. The Front got 1,600 votes.

Annette who was among many black and white residents who joined the International Socialists' defence pickets of the immigrant community, said:

'The National Front have conned people here. Their candidate tried to make out

they were a proper party. They tried to make out they were concerned about bad houses and unemployment.

'But those of us who saw their march know different. They are racist filth who are out to split us.

'It made me feel sick when they marched past. They shouted horrible things at us white women like 'white whores'.

Annette, who lives in Eastwood, the main immigrant area of Rotherham,

added: 'Black people don't cause bad housing. When I arrived in Rotherham with my kid I had nowhere to live and had to sleep in the park a few nights.

'Now my husband is on the dole, but it's no use blaming it on black people. We can't allow them to be used as scapegoats.'

Young Asians in Eastwood are meeting on Sunday to set up a defence group to protect the immigrant areas from the fascists.

At a packed Socialist Worker public meeting last week, the Asians praised the work of the International Socialists and invited the local branch to join in activities against the Front.

Four Asians joined the International Socialists with the aim of recruiting more of their brothers and sisters to set up an IS branch in Rotherham.

FIGHT THE RACIALISTS SMASH THE NATIONAL FRONT POWELL IS A MURDERER

United Action Committee against Racialism Demonstration: Saturday 10 July, 1.30pm, Roden Street, Ilford Inner and Outer East London and South East London IS Districts to support.



SEPTEMBER RIGHT TO WORK MARCH LONDON TO BRIGHTON

Friday 3 Sept to Tuesday 7 Sept
Friday 3 September to Saturday 4 September: March to Downing Street from different parts of London.
Saturday 4 September: Fraternal march from Downing Street to the TUC in Brighton leaves London.
Tuesday 7 September: Mass Rank and File Lobby of the Trades Union Congress. Send mass delegations from all trade union organisations and all areas. Provide transport for the unemployed.

JOIN THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCH TO BRIGHTON

NAME

ADDRESS

..... UNION

PREVIOUS WORK

To all trade union organisations: Join the Downing Street lobby. Send mass delegations on the march and to the Tuesday 7 September lobby. Sponsor the march. Send £1 fee to the National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N.4.

- Fight for the Right to Work
- No deal with Healey
- No more Shrewsburies

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

'If we don't sell arms', they say, 'others will'. This is exactly the argument of the Mafia boss who distributes heroin.

A trade in death

ONCE UPON a time, it was fashionable, in the leading circles of the Labour Party, to denounce the evils of the arms trade, the 'traffic in arms' as they called it.

Nowadays such old-fashioned sentimentality is clearly out of place. The merchants of death have become the 'British defence industry' and, with full government backing and cooperation, they are currently running their 'first Army Equipment Exhibition' at Aldershot to boost sales of tanks, guns, missiles and whatnot.

I have just been reading a preview of this affair in a trade journal which, to judge by the advertisements, is not entirely unconnected with the Italian arms manufacturers.

'The first impression is that in spite of intense competition,' it says, 'the British defence industry is not just holding its own but actually gaining ground ...'

Attitude

'Export success cannot, however, be entirely attributed to the quality of the products: a very

large contributory factor to this success is the enlightened attitude of the state, which certainly does not discourage the companies in their promotional campaigns but rather gives them all the support necessary to sell their products abroad ... (and) provides an incentive to the companies to continue their good work ...'

The Aldershot exhibition is a new venture but the 'enlightened attitude' on the part of Labour, as well as Tory, governments is not.

Harold Wilson, during his 1964-70 government, appointed his own

personal merchant of death, a certain Lord Brown—not the one the *Times* thought better drunk than Harold Wilson sober, but a different Brown altogether.

Embarrassing

This Brown had the full-time job of helping the arms manufacturers 'to continue their good work' by organising the diplomatic and propaganda resources of the British state to subject potential customers to high powered salesmanship.

This sort of thing is a little embarrassing to those Labour MPs who have retained some shreds of what used to be their party's line on the activities of the arms kings.

More embarrassing to them, as a matter of fact, than to marxists who have always argued that capitalist imperialism as a whole, not just the arms traffic, is the driving force to war in modern times.

Argument

So the ever helpful government propaganda machine, and especially its good friends at the BBC, offers balm to soothe the uneasy conscience.

'If we don't do it, others will' they say.

This argument, which is factually correct, is, of course, exactly the argument of the Mafia boss who distributes heroin.

'You are misrepresenting us' protest the hirelings of the arms bosses' public relations machine.

'We do not sell to anyone. Only to responsible customers.'

Actually, a 'responsible customer' means anyone who has plenty of cash and is not actually aligned with the Russian bloc.

Scoundrel

For example, His Imperial Majesty, the tyrant of Iran.

This scoundrel is a customer important enough to rate a state visit, including residence at Buckingham Palace, and a personal trip to Teheran by Mr Tony Benn.

No wonder. He has contracted to buy 1000 Chieftain tanks.

To get that into perspective you need to know that the current total British army strength in this weapon is 800!

Arms exports, mostly to Third World countries, brought in 2500 million dollars to British arms firms last year.

Part of the Callaghan-Teale plan to 'get the country on its feet again' is to jack-up this trade and replace our dear French allies as the world's third largest arms exporters (the first is, of course, the USA, the second, the USSR).

Profits are profits. There is no room for sentiment in business and 'we cannot be responsible' for the use that gangsters like the Shah and the King of Saudi Arabia put the weapons to.

It's all part of the 'New Britain' that the Labour Party promises.

EXPOSED: SANCTIONS-BUSTING BY TWO BRITISH MULTI-NATIONALS

EVIDENCE has come to light of sanctions-busting in Rhodesia by the British oil giants Shell and BP. Shell—which, like BP, is part-owned by the British government—has recently been found to have bribed leading politicians in Italy.

The sanctions-busting, according to the New York-based Centre for Social Action, works like this:

Shell operates through a firm called Freight Services and five other middle men to supply oil—the one import Rhodesia cannot do without—via South Africa. This system, says the CSA report, has been operating for several years.

Fascinating

Every three months, FS, acting on behalf of themselves and the other middle men, send Shell their requirements for oil products. The oil is then resold to or in Mozambique, Malawi—and Rhodesia. Shell's Rhodesian subsidiary has also

been involved in a fascinating development. It has built a lubricant blending plant near Salisbury, where semi-processed crude oil from Shell's South African refinery is turned into motor oil.

The plant also blends lubricants according to Shell specifications which are then put in Mobil, Caltex, Total and BP cans.

This process is cheaper than importing all the different companies' lubricants and saves on foreign exchange. Hence the Rhodesian government has banned imports of lubricants, and the companies have had to go along with this scheme.

And so, as the CSA report says: 'This probably makes Rhodesia the only

country in the world where unsuspecting motorists, responding to sophisticated advertisements, can go and buy their favorite lubricant, only to end up pouring the same old Shell product into their car engines.'

Aware

The report adds that other oil products are being imported into Rhodesia by BP, Caltex, Mobil and Total, as well as Shell.

And it says: 'Informed sources say the British government is quite aware of the fact that Shell (South Africa) is providing oil products for Rhodesia. But nothing has been done about this.'

The other Soweto ...



It is disturbing to me that where there are riots of this kind ... only one should be killed.

Those were the words of Carel de Wet, a South African MP, immediately after the news had broken,

in March 1960, of the Sharpeville massacre (above). Presumably de Wet was rather less 'disturbed' to find later that not one but 69 black men and women had been murdered in the 'riot', most of them shot in the back. Today Carel de Wet is South African Ambassador to London.

QUOTE: We stand for Christian-nationalism, which is an ally of national socialism. You can call the anti-democratic principle dictatorship if you wish. In Italy it is called fascism, in Germany national socialism and in South Africa Christian-nationalism.

—Johannes Balthazar Vorster, 1942. Today Vorster is, of course, Prime Minister of South Africa.

HOW THE CAPITALIST CLASS THINK: The wave of civil disturbance which has swept through the South African black township of Soweto ... is a sorry event ... it has come at a time when the London market in Southern African issues was showing signs that it had almost recovered from the severe body blow it was dealt earlier this year by the events in Angola.

Fortune favours the brave, however, and those who are prepared to move back into the market before the dust has settled might well be wearing broad grins in a few months time.

—from the *Financial Times*, 19 June.

The man who wants to cut you off...

'THERE IS a hard core minority of feckless people for whom debt is a way of life.'

So said John Biffen, Tory spokesman on energy, in the Commons on 14 June.

He was, of course, referring to pensioners, handicapped and the unemployed who cannot afford to pay their electricity and gas bills.

Biffen was attacking a recommendation that gas and electricity boards should no longer have the right to disconnect people who can-

not afford to pay their soaring fuel bills.

He did not, however, attack a little debt of £100 million, which is what the Central Electricity Generating Board expects to lose from its contract to supply electricity to an aluminium smelter owned by Rio Tinto Zinc at Holyhead in Anglesey.

Cheap

When the smelter was built ten years ago, the

CEGB, with considerable 'fecklessness', agreed to supply electricity extremely cheaply.

About that time, a smelter was also being constructed for the British Aluminium Company at Invergordon in Scotland, where a similar contract for cheap electricity was made with the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.

The NSHEB estimates that it will also lose £100 million—a bill which will be picked up by the taxpayer.

British Aluminium is a

subsidiary of Tube Investments, for whom the thrifty John Biffen worked between 1953 and 1960.

Statements

Biffen has not been heard to make any public statements about the 'hard core minority of feckless people for whom debt is a way of life' who run Tube Investments.

But we wouldn't really expect him to, would we?

BILL MESSAGE



THE NEWS that Elizabeth Windsor has purchased a 730-acre estate for her daughter Anne has come as something of a surprise to people who think the country is overcrowded.

Rather less of a surprise was the fact that Elizabeth, who also goes under the name of Her Majesty the Queen, was able to afford the going price, said to be in the region of £700,000.

Her Royal Idleness is believed, after all, to have a fortune of about £800,000,000.

QUESTION: Which local authority has the lowest bus fares in the country—and still managed to increase its revenue last year?

ANSWER: South Yorkshire County Council. There's a moral there somewhere ...

WHATEVER else happens at Wimbledon, the highlight was undoubtedly the second day. National Front member Buster Mottram, rated Britain's No 1 male tennis player, was beaten in the first round by little-known German, Hans Pohmann.

WONDERFUL, OUR POLICE: A trade unionist in Manchester recently ran into two members of the local constabulary while on his way from work.

Imagine his surprise when he found that they had stopped him to warn him about his conduct on the picket line the next day at Automat, where a dispute has been going on for five months.

They said they were very concerned that people were being stopped from crossing the picket line and added that if he stepped out of line he would be inside so fast that his feet wouldn't touch the ground.

Undeterred, our friend joined the picket anyway.

When it had ended, the same two coppers approached him and offered to escort him down a back street, where they would 'kick hell' out of him.

This is known as maintaining law and order ...

CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

Hampshire Careers Service

VACANCY	HAIRDRESSING APPRENTICES (2)
DISTRICT	WINCHESTER
BUSINESS	HAIRDRESSERS
SALARY	16 yrs. - £6.90
QUALIFICATIONS	PLEASANT, ARTISTIC
OTHER REMARKS	HOURS: 9 - 5.30 MONDAYS OFF.

This 'job offer' was found in the Youth Employment Office in Portsmouth by Socialist Worker supporter Sean Egan. He points out that supplementary benefit for a 16-year-old is £6.90—those drawing it don't have to pay national insurance, or fares to work.

Poland's workers say it: We won't pay for the crisis

AND THIS IS A 'SOCIALIST' COUNTRY?

WHAT WE THINK

MOST PEOPLE think of Poland, Russia and the other East European states as 'socialist'. So the reaction to last week's price rises and strikes is to say 'socialism does not work

any better than capitalism'.

But for Marxists socialism does not just mean nationalisation. It means workers running society, through workers councils they elect and they control.

That was why Marx said the socialist revolution was the revolution 'of the overwhelming majority in the interests of the overwhelming majority'.

He held that only when the workers ran society would the waste and the oppression of capitalism disappear.

□ □

Only then would crises disappear, as the workers of different countries ran the economy on the basis of mutual cooperation, not blind competition between their bosses.

The events in Poland prove Marx right. The workers do not rule in Poland. Power is held by bureaucrats who live off the workers' backs just as much as employers in the west do.

It is their rule which has produced inflation and economic crisis.

It was their attempts to 'divide and rule' which led, eight years ago, to a wave of racialism directed against the Polish Jews (although these were only 0.1 per cent of the population).

□ □

It is their rule which the workers' strikes last week challenged.

The organisation of the strikes suggests they were led by strike committees, elected by the workers and subject to their control.

Real socialism will only come to Poland when such committees run the whole country and the present lot of self-appointed bureaucrats are kicked out.

POLAND'S workers staged a massive strike against the government last Friday.

Following the announcement of price increases of between 60 and 100 per cent workers walked out of the factories spontaneously.

One worker at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw told the Reuters correspondent:

'The whole of Poland is on strike today. The Zeran car workers across the river Vistula are on strike and the men in the shipyards on the coast are also out.'

The Ursus strikers held up the Paris-Warsaw express by ripping up rails at one end of the train and blocking the other end.

In Radom, 60 miles south east of Warsaw, several thousand people demonstrated in the streets, damaging the Communist Party headquarters.

Success

By the end of the day, the workers had achieved success. The government did a quick turn-about and announced it was postponing the price increases.

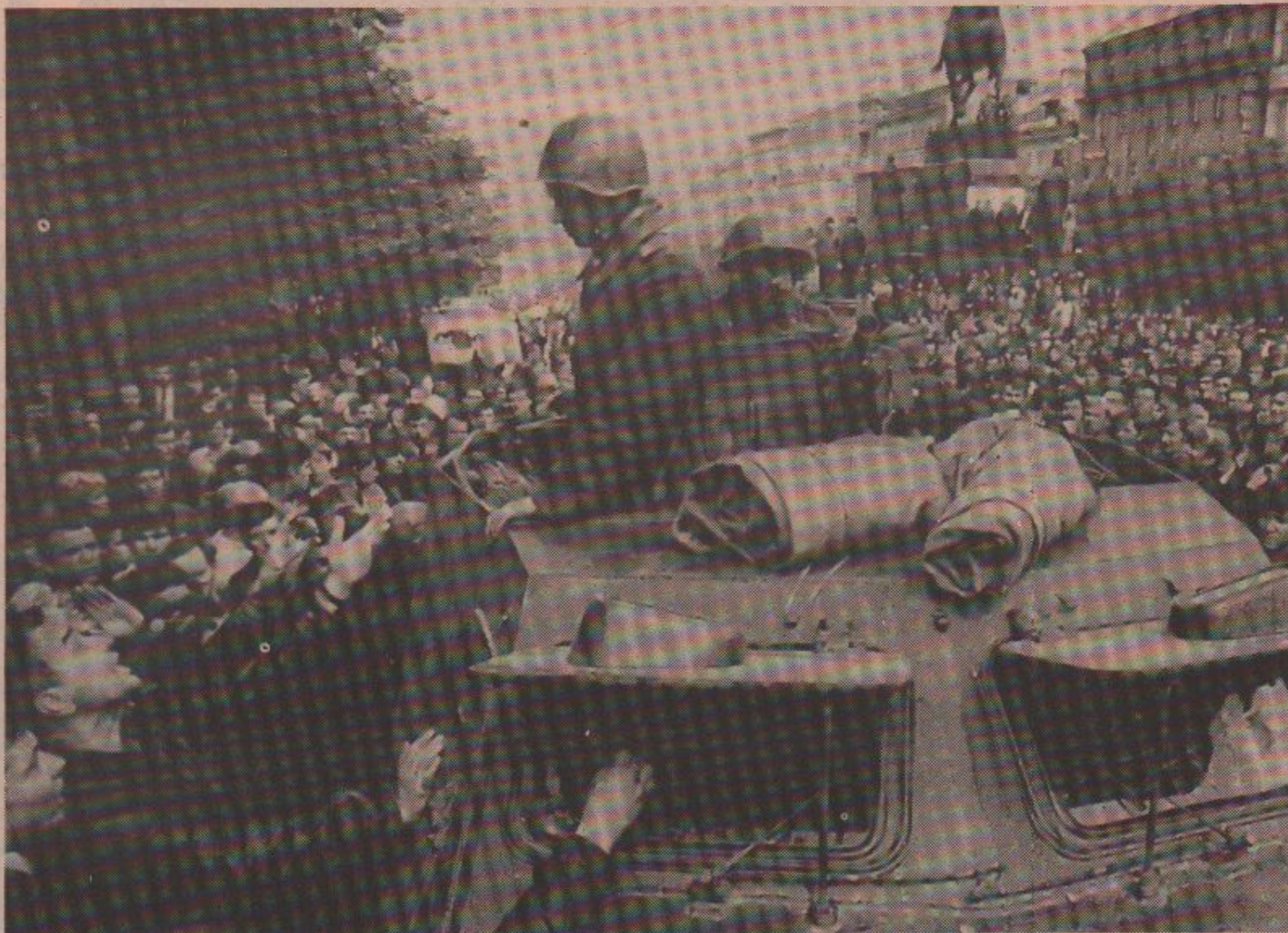
The government has been preparing for a long time to put up prices. In a speech to parliament in February, the prime minister warned of five years of 'austerity'.

Over the last couple of years, it has managed to increase the price of petrol and alcohol. There have been continual complaints from workers about a drop in the food content of factory canteen meals.

And there have also been complaints that the government has held back workers' living standards, despite apparent pay rises, by not letting enough goods into the shops to satisfy workers' needs.

One worker told the Reuters correspondent:

'We've had rationing by



Czechoslovakia, 1968: similar revolts against state capitalism swept Poland in 1970—and again last week.

queues and by the time you could spend away from the job. Now it's rationing by money'.

But the government did not dare raise prices directly until last Friday.

The reason was that the last time it did that, in December 1970, the workers of the cities of Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin went on strike and

occupied their workplaces. After being fired on by the police, they burnt down government and Communist Party offices. Dozens of workers were murdered by the police, but the strikes spread, until a general strike in Warsaw seemed certain.

The ruler of Poland at the time, Gomulka, resigned and a new government was formed that made promises to the

workers. When this government refused to freeze prices, more strikes followed. Finally, the government was forced to announce a two year freeze.

Now the rulers of Poland, like the rulers of every other country caught up in the international capitalist crisis, are trying to make the workers pay for it.

Their announcement of price increases last week could

have been a carbon copy of the infamous social contract. Workers were told they had to put up with price rises, and a pay freeze so that 'lower paid workers' and pensioners could get increases, though these in no way matched the increases in prices.

But Poland's workers have shown workers everywhere how to respond to such blackmail.

Capitalists to a man...

POLAND'S rulers claim to be 'socialists'—as do so many of the most obnoxious ruling classes in the world today.

But in fact their practice is 100 per cent capitalist. That is why they now face an economic crisis.

For years, they have subordinated the needs and lives of Poland's workers to the drive to build up industry.

They have used some of the increased wealth that has been produced partly to feather their own nests (with private kindergartens, 'special schools', chauffeur driven cars, domestic servants, wholesale bribery and so on.

Compete

But they have also used it, as any capitalist would, to compete with the rival capitalist rulers of other countries.

The workers have been told again and again that they must accept low living standards and long working hours



Poland's top bureaucrat, Edward Gierek (centre), with those other leading 'socialists', Brezhnev and Kosygin

because of 'foreign competition'.

In the years after 1970, this policy seemed to enjoy some success. Despite being compelled by the workers' pressure to freeze prices and raise wages, the rulers of Poland saw the economy boom.

But they were living in a fool's paradise. For it was merely part of the international capitalist boom of those years.

The state employers in

Poland, like employers everywhere, thought quick profits were to be made. So they joined in the international scramble to buy components and raw materials.

They thought they would be able to turn them into finished manufactures which they would be able to sell abroad—if only Polish workers' wages were held back.

The goods they brought from abroad rose by 60 per

cent in 1972 alone. But the scramble of rival employers for raw materials inevitably pushed up their price throughout the world—and so the cost to Poland's rulers of their imports shot up.

They had contributed to the world-wide pressure that caused inflation—and now they had to face the consequences.

And, like their western counterparts, they forgot that if every employer is turning out more goods while holding

his own workers' wages back as much as possible, the new goods cannot be sold.

They were caught in the world crisis of overproduction.

They now find that they cannot sell abroad enough goods to pay for their continually expanding imports. Their trade deficit last year was £677 million.

They tried for a couple of years to avoid the effects of this crisis by massive borrowing from the western banks. But now they have to find the interest on these loans.

But the final straw which broke the camel's back came from the East. The rulers of Russia pushed up the price of the oil they sold to Poland as the price in the West shot up.

And they demanded that the Poles pay them in dollars—which could only be got by selling more goods abroad, by borrowing more from the west, or by cutting workers' living standards.

Poland's rulers, like good capitalists, chose to attack the workers.

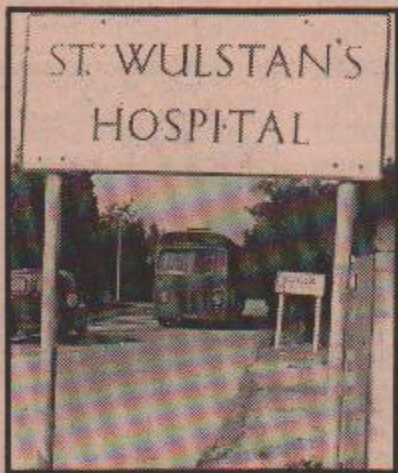
Chris Harman

Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe

Last week's strikes were not the first time the workers of Eastern Europe have risen up against the state capitalist regimes. **Bureaucracy and Revolution** tells how these-called Communist states came into being after the Second World War. And it tells how the workers rose up against them in East Germany in 1953, in Poland and Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, and again in Poland in 1970. It predicts that similar revolutionary events in Russia will not be far away... It's essential reading if you want to understand why Polish workers are angry.

£2.30 (including postage) from Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London, NW1.

who o to



laundry: 'the atmosphere is completely
ys one of the patients.

RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER



Photo: Chris Davies (Report)

Picketing Harlesden police station: seven black women had been illegally fingerprinted, photographed—and beaten up.

NOW BLACKS AND IRISH UNITE OVER ATTACKS

By Jenny Jackson

POLICE beat up seven black women in Harlesden, North West London, in the early hours of Thursday morning last week.

Then they charged the women with—wait for it—obstruction.

The women—aged from 17 to 26—were illegally fingerprinted and photographed.

The police beat them with leather gloves 'to cut down on bruising'. They called them 'slags' and 'black shit'.

This incident is nothing new in Harlesden, of course. The blacks and Irish living there have seen it happen time and again.

What is new is the way the people are fighting back.

On Thursday evening, a meeting on Ireland of the Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act had been moved to a West Indian club.

The hotel where the meeting was booked originally refused to allow it to take place after the manager had received phone calls threatening his wife and children.

Third

About a third of the 80 people at the meeting were West Indians. The meeting became not just about police harassment of the Irish but of the West Indians, too.

The people there decided to hold a demonstration outside Harlesden Police Station and a march through the streets of Harlesden to protest against police brutality.

The march on Friday—150 strong—was proud and defiant. 'Hands off blacks! Hands off the Irish!' rang down the High Street.

The march ended with a meeting where the women beaten by the police told their story.

One of them, Helen George, said:

'We were walking home from the club. The police stopped my brother and tried to get him into a police car. He's 15. I didn't let him get in because the police beat the kids up.'

'It finished. Everyone started going home but the police tried to

make us all go one way, even though we lived in the other direction. They started pushing me.'

Rosa Toussaint took up the story. 'Helen was attacked by four police. When we heard her screaming we all ran back up.'

'Helen was on the floor and two police were over her with their batons out. One of the police grabbed me by the hair. Another pulled me down.'

'Then Hyacinth Matthias came up and tried to pull me away. One punched me in the face, another kicked me in the stomach. Then they started on Virginia.'

Shirley Williams said: 'I got thrown into the van. A policeman hit me in the head with his radio. He threw me in the van and kicked me in the back.'

The women believe the police were looking for a fight. A policeman was reported to be injured in an incident the night before when they arrested a black woman.

'The police are racist,' added Shirley Williams. 'Every day they just take people in, beat them up and let them go.'

'If anything happens now, it's us seven girls they will pick up because they've got our photographs.'

'We are being brutalised, victimised and harassed. We are not going to lie down and take it.'

Asian youth fight back

By Brian McDonald

'I URGE Asian youths not to be used by white revolutionary elements in the town.'

That was Blackburn Nazi John Kingsley Read's frightened reaction in the Lancashire Evening Telegraph to the formation of the Asian Youth Organisation. And well he might be frightened.

Young Asians unfettered by the conservative leadership of the established Asian associations will present Read and his friends with formidable opposition indeed.

Reaction

Just how formidable can be judged by the reaction of one of Blackburn's leading National Party members, Eddie Harrison.

After a relatively short acquaintance with the AYO he was so convinced of the error of his ways that he left the National Party, denounced them in the press and went back to the Catholic Church.

I asked Ali Dasso, one of the leading members of the AYO, why they had formed their own independent organisation. He said: 'Because the youth in Blackburn weren't organised and racialism in Blackburn was reaching monstrous proportions.'

'We are building an organisation of our own because we are tired of

the defensive policies of our elders. Everything we put forward was met with 'Have patience, have patience'. We could no longer console ourselves with patience while our people were being beaten up on the streets.'

Asked what kind of activities he saw the AYO getting involved in, Ali replied: 'Well, obviously we are supporting demonstrations against racism and fascism. That is our main aim at the moment.'

'But we hope in future to take an interest in wider issues like unemployment and trade union organisation, and to provide social activities for the youth.'

'The reaction of the established Asian leaders is interesting. In the beginning they were not very happy about us forming an AYO. But eventually they realised that however happy or unhappy they were, we are determined to have an organisation of our own.'

'The idea does need to be spread. I hope that one day we can build this organisation at a national level.'

The AYO started out in a period when there was a spate of attacks against black people—window

smashings, beatings up and general intimidation.

They needed to defend themselves. They were determined to defend themselves. Predictably, the police showed an immediate interest in the founding of the organisation, taking people in for questioning while they were out leafletting and visiting one man at his place of work rather than at home.

Message

Despite this harassment, the AYO activists are determined to build their organisation.

And it's an organisation with a message for all young workers, as the slogan proudly painted on the AYO banner proves. It reads simply: 'Young workers of the world unite'.

Harlesden: March against Police Brutality
Assemble Saturday 3 July,
11am Liberty Cinema,
Craven Park Road, London
NW 10. Called by CARIB
(Campaign against
Racialism in Brent)

SELF-DEFENCE THE ANSWER

NEARLY 30 black members and supporters of the International Socialists attended a meeting last Sunday of the IS Black Caucus.

They agreed unanimously on a resolution outlining the role of the Caucus in IS and in relation to the Central Committee. A committee was elected to liaise on a day-to-day basis with the CC. An appeal to black supporters to join—or rejoin—IS, to build a united revolutionary organisation was also carried unanimously.

The meeting heard reports from Southall, East London,

Brixton, Blackburn, Leeds and Birmingham on the rising tide of militancy among black workers in Britain. Police harassment was getting heavier everywhere. White racists are stepping up their attacks. In several areas people are frightened to go out at nights.

The meeting agreed that black self-defence groups and 'patrolling the police' were the answers. The next meeting will consider our experience in getting these off the ground.

The Fight Against The Racists



The Nazional Front and How to Smash it.

A Socialist Worker pamphlet

10p a copy plus 7p postage
(more than 5 copies: post 3p each)
from:

SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Garden, London E2.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN WITH THE Socialist Worker



This is the way to do it...

'TAKE a look at these photos! Then sign the petition against racism. Don't let the Nazi National Front grow in Hackney! Fight the racists!'

That's what ten members of Hackney International Socialists were shouting in the centre of Ridley Road Market in East London on Saturday. We had two big posters made up from the front page of Socialist Worker headlined BRITAIN'S ADOLF HITLERS, and turned our paper-selling into a small campaign.

Two people with an anti-racist petition collected 117 signatures in less than two hours. Black and white, young and old signed it—few refused.

The rest of us sold Socialist Worker and the new Fight the Racists pamphlet. We had record sales for the paper—45 sold.

The best thing about this was seeing the look of the faces of National Front members passing by. They walked past without saying a word, chins on the ground in disbelief. We really put them in their place.

HELP US SELL WHERE YOU LIVE

COME and help spread the struggle for socialism! Socialist Worker is sold every Saturday in the following places—come and help us!

- CHESTER:** Foregate Street, Grosvenor Hotel, by entrance to precinct, 1.30-2.30pm.
- BANGOR:** Entrance to Wellfield Shopping Centre, 10am-2pm.
- SW LONDON:** St John's Road, Clapham Junction, outside Woolworths, 10.30am-1.30pm.
- HARLOW:** 10.30 am-12.30pm, the Trigon statue, Broad Walk.
- INNER WEST LONDON:** North End Road, outside Woolworths, 10.15am-noon.

- ALLOA, Clackmannanshire:** Shopping centre, 11.30am-2pm.
- HACKNEY:** Ridley Road market, 11am-1pm.
- BOLTON:** Precinct, 11am-4pm.
- BURY:** Precinct 11am-1pm.
- WIGAN:** Makinsons Arcade, 11am-3pm.
- READING:** Junction of Broad Street and Union Street, 10am-3pm.
- CHELtenham:** 10.30am to 1.30pm, outside Boots on the Promenade.
- 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.

- DUNDEE:** City Square, 11am-4pm. Thursday and Friday evenings 4-5.30pm.
- NORTH WEST LONDON:** 11am to 1pm, Cricklewood Broadway, Kilburn Square, Kilburn Broadway and Jubilee Clock, Harlesden High Street.
- EDINBURGH:** Princes Street (east end) 11am to 4pm. Thursdays. Entrance to Wester Hailes shopping centre, 4.30pm to 5.30pm.
- EXETER:** High St, outside Boots, 11am and 2pm-3pm.
- WEST BRONWICH:** King Square, 12 noon-2pm.
- ABERYSTWYTH:** Outside Post Office, Friday 12.15pm-1.45pm. Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-3.30pm.
- STRATFORD, East London:** Stratford shopping Precinct, 11am-1pm.
- COVENTRY:** City Precinct, 11am-1pm. Foleshill, The General Wolfe, 11am-1pm.
- BRIXTON:** Outside Brixton tube, Saturday 11am-1pm. Outside Brixton and Stockwell tubes, Friday 5pm-6pm.

STUDENTS! Going home for the summer hols? Take out a subscription to Socialist Worker—special offer £1.75 for three months. Send your cheque/postal order to Socialist Worker, Subscriptions, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Only direct action will change the system - that's why I've joined the IS

by DONALD VAN VLIET, Salford

AFTER being unemployed for over six months, I wanted to do something about changing the system that condemned me to this.

At first I was going to join the Communist Party, but then I started to read Socialist Worker. I realised that unfortunately the Communist Party and the Morning Star are just different names for the Labour Party.

For working-class people to just sit and wait for the existing system to change is not enough. Talk is cheap. It is direct action of the kind carried out by the International Socialists that will put an end to unemployment, bad housing and racialism.

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT'S ON

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, SW, Cobridge Works, Cobridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

- SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW Public Meetings:** 15 July: The Struggle in Italy. At: South Bank Poly. Students Union, Rotary St. Details from Gil Lowerstein (622-1090).
- HULL Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Every second Sunday, 7pm, at Socialist Books, 238 Springbank, Hull. Sunday 4 July: Crisis in Southern Africa. Sunday 18 July: The Labour Party, an obstacle to Socialism.
- WOLVERHAMPTON SW public meeting:** Tony Cliff speaking on LENIN, Tuesday 6 July, 7.45pm, The Vine, Broad Street.

SOUTH EAST LONDON Women's Voice public meeting: Women Under Attack. Speakers: Margaret Renn and Caroline Conway, Thursday 8 July, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton, London SE7.

ITALY—WHAT NEXT? Socialist Worker day school on The Roots of the Crisis. The role of the Communist Party. The Revolutionary Left. The elections and future prospects. Saturday 10 July, 10am to 5pm. Polytechnic of North London Students Union, Holloway Road, London N7 (nearest tube Holloway Road). For accommodation phone 01-439 6541.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

- ALLOA Socialist Worker public meeting:** Parliamentary Road to Socialism? Thursday 8 July, 7.30pm. The Royal Oak Hotel, Alloa, Clackmannanshire.
- SALFORD Socialist Worker readers and members of the International Socialists meet:** Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Ye Olde Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford. 7 July: Spain. 14 July: Communist Party and the British Road to Socialism. 21 July: Racism.
- HACKNEY Grand Mid-Summer Party in aid of the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund:** Good music, food and company. Tickets £1 from Hackney Socialist Worker sellers or phone 806 5903 or 254 4370. Friday 2 July, 8pm onwards. Bring your friends.
- Socialist Worker NORTH AMERICA day school:** Saturday 10 July, 10am-5pm, Bedford College, Regents Park, London. Room 1 room 107, Tux Building. Sessions on: Prospects for American capitalism. The American Labour Movement. Industrial Struggle. The Black Movement. Links Between the International Socialists in the US and in Britain. For overnight accommodation and further details, phone 01 254 3952.
- CARDIFF SW supporters' seaside outing:** Sunday 11 July. Phone Cardiff 499579 for details of transport etc. Bring the family. Keep this day free.
- ILFORD Disco in aid of the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund:** Friday 9 July, 8pm. The Plough, Ilford Lane, Ilford. Free food. Bar extension. Raffle. Tickets 50p.
- INNER EAST LONDON Socialist Worker Fighting Fund Society:** Friday 16 July, 8pm to midnight, St Hilda's East Community Centre, Club Row, London E2. Admission: 65p. unemployed 35p.

NOISS

IMPERIALISM: Weekend school organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies, 10-11 July, in London. Sessions on Imperialism Today (introduced by Nigel Harris) and workshops on various areas of the world. Overseas students especially welcome. Further details from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 9772). NON-STUDENTS ALSO WELCOME.

REVOLUTIONS OF THE 20TH CENTURY: Weekend school timed to mark 40 years since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. 17-18 July, in London. Sessions on Russia 1917, Germany 1923, Spain 1936, Hungary 1956 and Portugal 1974. Details from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 9772). NON-STUDENTS WELCOME.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

- SW Litho Are offering a PRINTING APPRENTICESHIP,** to start as soon as possible. Applicants must be under 19 and have a mechanical aptitude. Applications in writing to: Training Officer, SW Litho, Cobridge Works, Cobridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.
- PORTUGAL:** first meeting of International Socialists Portugal sub-committee, 4 July, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

TASS: National meeting for all IS members in TASS: Saturday 10 July, 11am, Trades Council Club, Leeds. Members are urged to bring supporters. Further details from Mick Tew (phone Coventry 455485).

Room for IS member in central East London flat (very cheap): Write Box 5, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

COMRADE WANTED to run Coventry IS bookshop. Write to Trade Union and Socialist Books (Box B), Queen Victoria Road, Coventry, for further details.

SOCIALIST WORKER DISTRIBUTORS needs a London-based comrade to work unpaid 10 hours a week. Some evening work. Qualifications: Must be willing and able to work with other groups including the Iberians. Ring/write/visit Pete Fysh, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (phone 01-739 2639).

WHITEHAVEN: Comrade selling in Whitehaven please phone Bill Fakes, Workington 3985.

ROOM for a comrade in North London until October. Phone 01-837 4742 ext 137 (days) 01-340 4994 (evenings and weekends).

NALGO: National meeting for all IS members in NALGO. Weekend 17-18 July, starts 10.30am Saturday, Students Union, Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST, Sackville Street, Manchester. Accommodation: phone Penny Parkes, 061-434 7255 (outside work hours).

CAMPAIGN WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKER

WHERE WE STAND



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.

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

PRE-VIEW

THURSDAY
SECOND VERDICT (BBC1) strays into politics with a look at the Berlin Reichstag Fire of 1933, which the Nazis used as propaganda for seizing power. Evidence has since shown that the Nazis started the fire themselves. The programme interviews witnesses.

FRIDAY
 Accidents at work are the subject of **THE UN-GUARDED MOMENT** (ITV, 10.30am). Not expected to be militant, but possibly useful for information.

SATURDAY
 Weep a few tears for the poverty-stricken rich in **THE DRUMMONDS OF MEGGINCH** (BBC2), a documentary about a Scottish family that's having a hard time keeping up its grouse moors, cocktail parties and Highland balls.

Newsreel and documentary from the hungry 1930's are part of **BROTHER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?** (Midnight Movie, BBC2).

MONDAY
BILL BRAND (ITV, 9pm), the Labour MP with a socialist inside trying to get out, sells himself a little further down the river this week. Last week he was taking a hard line on abortion and women's liberation—now he finds that canvassing lands him judging beauty contests and soft-peddalling on abortion for the Catholic vote.

Brand's fall to respectability is an excellent indictment of the parliamentary road to socialism. Watch it if you miss everything else.

THURSDAY
 Politics and cricket do mix. That was proved by Trinidadian socialist CLR James. He talks about it on **OMNIBUS** (BBC1).

BBC suppresses anti-racist article

A TOP-LEVEL VETO has been slammed by the BBC on an article about racial violence. The article, by BBC Radio London journalist Denis McShane, takes a strong line against racism. It quotes Asian community leaders' criticism of the police dismissal of racial violence as 'mugging or vandalism'. It quotes a black journalist's criticisms of newspaper and television handling of racial issues, and asks how much their sensationalism directly causes racism. The article grew from a half-hour radio programme that Denis McShane made for Radio London on Sunday 5 June, and an eight-minute feature for the BBC4 World This Weekend. He submitted a draft of the article to George Scott, editor of the BBC weekly publication *The Listener*. After slight rewriting Scott decided to run the article as the main feature in the 17 June issue.



But on 16 June, the station manager of Radio London told Denis McShane informally that the article was not to be published. He said that BBC management above the level of the general manager and the editor of *The Listener* had vetoed publication. Denis McShane has been given no official explanation for the suppression of the article, a large section of which we publish here. Only lack of space prevents us publishing the article in full. An immediate protest was made by the London Radio branch of the National Union of Journalists, which has circulated details of the veto to all branches of the union.

INSIDE THE BOX

Luckily
 A quick kick in the crutch disposed of one attacker and then as he fell to the ground with two others no one could spot the dark face to aim at in the rolling mass of bodies. Luckily too he was just outside his front door and the noise brought Asian neighbours pouring into the street to frighten off the white youths. Attention may have been focussed on Southall following the killing of the Asian student and the subsequent events but over in East London where Asian communities are more diffuse there has been an increasing number of clashes, sometimes between groups of whites and Asians and often involving a gang of whites and a single immigrant. 'The police put racist violence down as mugging or vandalism,' said Sibgaht Kadri, secretary of the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organisations. 'But although a mugger might call someone a "black bastard" and then rob him it's quite different when, as happened recently, a woman in Stratford was terrorised by whites who forced her to phone for her husband and then when he arrived they beat him up and called him an illegal immigrant. "No ordinary mugger stops to explain the theory of illegal immigration when he is beating up a victim..."'

Criticism
 The role of press and television has come in for heavy criticism from Asian leaders. Gary Gurmeet, a young East African Asian, is a journalist who has covered the Southall area for his paper the Middlesex County Times and he says that Asian families feel quite defenceless when they see headlines proclaiming the problems of illegal immigrants or watch a confused, defensive refugee from Malawi used by television news as an impeccable source for the promised arrival of another 4000 Asians from East Africa. 'I believe the British press to be among the most advanced

in the world so why do they so uncritically accept a document like the Hawley report? In the popular papers there was no questioning of the Hawley report. The papers seem to relish giving maximum publicity to "Enough is Enough" speeches and other remarks and stories that increase racial tension,' complains Gurmeet. It is a worry shared by many white journalists. In Fleet Street the National Union of Journalists' Central London branch has condemned some of their own members for the way some national papers handled the arrival of the Malawi Asian families at Gatwick. 'Proud' In Barking it wasn't difficult to find young whites who were proud of their Paki-bashing exploits. I came across one gang of teenagers whose leader explained to me about all the 'Asians who were coming in from Malaysia—that's the place isn't it, Jeff?' Jeff was quick to reply. 'Yeah, Malaysia,' he said, confirming his friend's geographical uncertainty between Dr Banda's African dictatorship and the Asian state to the north of Singapore. 'We've got to stop them,' another declared. 'They've come over here. They've got put up in four star hotels. They live in out houses, five families to one house, get rent and waterworks for £1 a week. Then they get all the jobs, you look at the buses, it's nothing but Pakis on them now. Maybe if we keep beating them up they'll all go away.' Alf Garnett, you might say, is alive and well and living in the heads of teenagers in Barking.

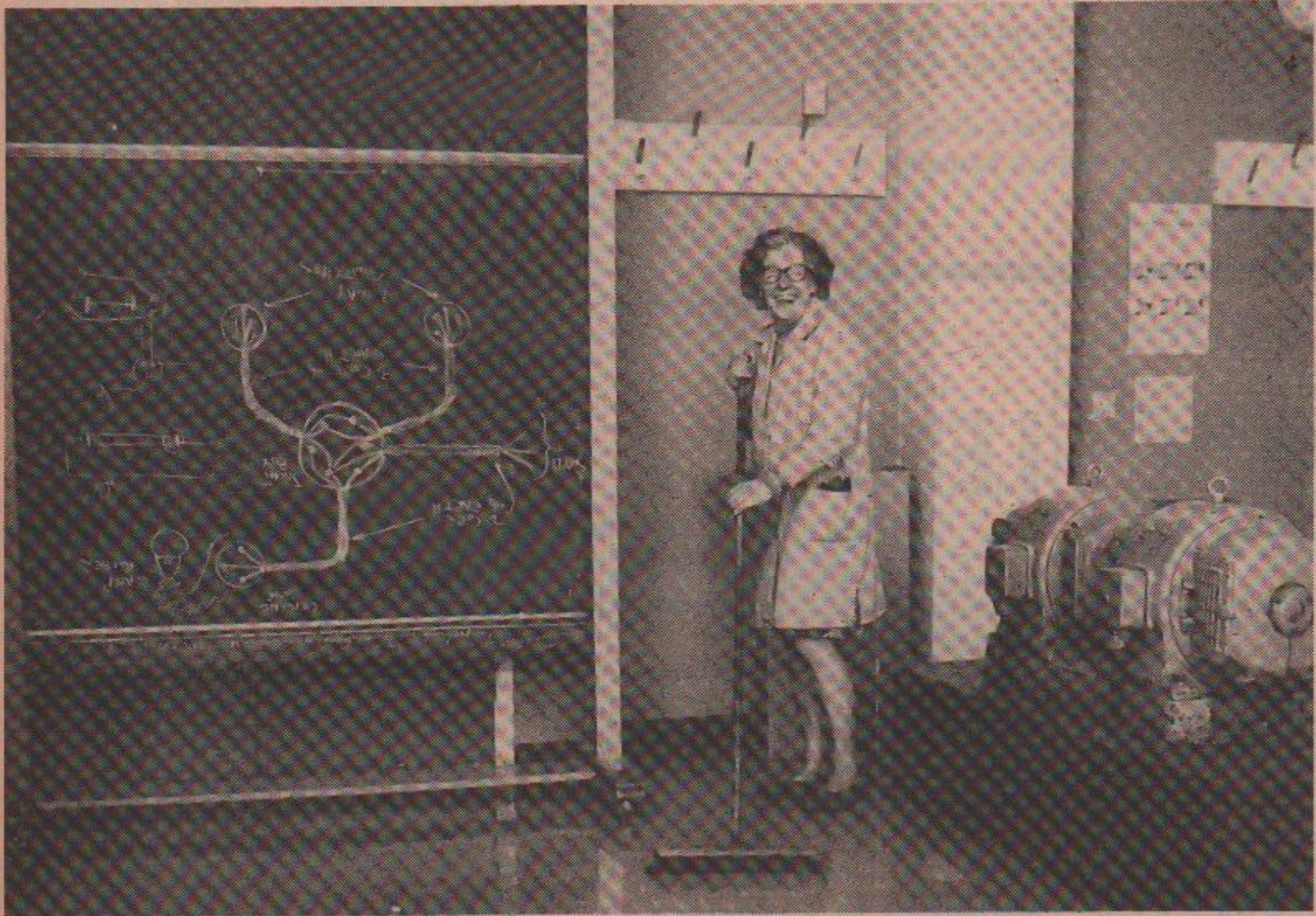
Sharp
 The mindless, apolitical racism I encountered among the young whites about to leave school, mostly to join the dole queue, is a sharp reminder of how speeches often hedged with careful qualifications from sophisticated politicians like Enoch Powell or Bob Mellish become predigested in big headlines and snappy newspaper 'intros' and are finally re-gurgitated by white youngsters looking for an excuse to release some frustrated energy on the next illegal immigrant or social security sponger they happen to come across. Asian leaders closer to the ground are developing almost a conspiracy theory about what happened. It just cannot be a coincidence, they say, to have such a sequence of newsworthy events all of which put Asian immigrants in such a bad light. 'The Malawi Asians at Gatwick, the leaking of the Hawley report to a politician like Enoch Powell, "Enough is Enough" from Bob Mellish; all of these have happened right on top of each other,' explained Surendra Kumar of the Community Relations Commission. 'It is almost as if the establishment or the government waited to turn the white population against the Asian community, perhaps to bring in new laws to stop even dependants from joining their families over here.'

□ The Emergency phone number works. Remember it. You may need it tomorrow if you or one of your mates is held under this Act.
 01-603 8654.

What it means to live in terror
 NEARLY 2000 Irish people have been arrested in Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Only one in 20 has been charged with anything serious. Four have been charged with wasting police time. CAST, the socialist theatre group, have a new play that shows what this means to the Irish community. It tells the story of a working-class militant of Irish origin—his family left Derry when he was three—who is picked up as a suspected bomber. The charge is obviously ludicrous but the interrogation he faces is so ferocious that before he realises what is happening to him he has told them everything about himself and his family, from where his nine-year-old sister goes to school to where his granny is buried, and the police have built up a lunatic case against him. When he knows he is being set-up, he starts to fight back. A piece of film is shown of troops rioting in Belfast and he starts to question his interrogators and force them to reveal the real reasons behind what they're doing.

Members
 He also has a go at two members of the government, the first a bureaucrat sent along to see that the law is being enforced and the second a left Labour MP, there to make sure he isn't 'tortured or mistreated'. It is a frightening, savage play. We in the audience felt we were right there being interrogated to the point of panic. It is not a funny play. There are some jokes but they are against us and too bitter to raise much of a laugh. It is not the play for a pleasant night out but it is a fighting play. It must be shown on building sites and in lunch hours—its 30-minute length makes it excellent for this. It must be shown throughout the Irish community and to English audiences. And as an excellent introduction to meetings on the Prevention of Terrorism Act. It shows that the Act affects us all, Irish people, trade unionists and revolutionary socialists. It won't go away. It has to be fought. It is being fought through the Trade Union Committee Against the PTA, a rank and file body which organises legal aid for anyone picked up under the Act, and pickets outside the police station where they are held.

PAT O'KEEFE and HARRY TAIT



A photograph from the latest exhibition at the Half Moon Gallery in East London, titled 'Women . . . Work in Hackney'. The photographs are by the Hackney Flashers Collective. □ Half Moon Gallery, 27 Alle Street, London E1 (Aldgate tube), 11am-6pm, until 3 July.

Racist? We're white as the driven snow

I REALLY must protest about the article in Socialist Worker of 12 June, which you headlined 'Is your local newspaper racist like this?' and then go on to print headlines and matter from the Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

There are a number of serious inaccuracies which do grave injustice and injury not only to a fair-minded newspaper but also to an objective staff.

Let me deal, first of all, with the inaccuracies.

1. The Evening Telegraph's policy is not racist. Since July 1970 when we first stated our view publicly on Page One we have supported the peaceful and harmonious integration of the local and immigrant communities. We repeated this at length on Page One not a fortnight ago and I am surprised you were not made aware of this.

2. The small correction which you say we carried after publication of a story about immigrants was, in fact, published the next night on Page One under a three-line 30pt headline and with the text set in bold reverse indent to give added weight to the story. It was not a correction at all. It was a follow-up story reporting the new development in the case.

3. You report 'Push the local reporters until you get your activities into the local paper as an opposite pole of attraction to the racists, as Blackburn International Socialists have successfully done. There have been no official or unofficial approaches to this newspaper by International Socialists of which I am aware.'

Had there been I would have drawn their attention to the editorial stance of this newspaper. Our policy is that we are independent, owing no allegiance to any party or group. We see our tasks as reporting the news objectively without fear or favour. Our columns are open to news items from all sections of the community.

As a matter of interest we have carried constructive comments on the racial situation on several occasions—one of the few unaligned voices to speak out on the subject, if not the only one.

It is my view that certain matter contained in your article and its headlines is not only inaccurate and seriously damaging to the reputation and integrity of this newspaper but is actionable.

I would ask you to desist from further publication of inaccurate material detrimental to their newspaper's reputation and, failing this, I shall be obliged to give serious consideration as to whether the matter should be resolved through recourse to law.

□ IAN A JACK, Editor, Lancashire Evening Telegraph, Blackburn.

Why I quit Broad Left

I WOULD like to express my anger and disgust at the National Union of Student executive's handling of the student teacher unemployment campaign.

As a member of the Broad Left when the campaign began, I was a little uneasy about the week-long delay to react to the Scottish colleges' lead.

When the executive refused



Pensioners demonstrate outside the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool

PENSIONERS:

Our struggle is a class struggle

THE pensioners' movement is fighting for a decent standard of living and better social amenities for the old folk.

Militant pensioners demand 50 per cent (single) and 75 per cent (married couple) of the national average industrial make earnings.

At present wage rates that means a pension of £30 and £40.

The London Region of the British Pensioners and Trade Union Action Committee has a charter of demands, in addition to the pension increases.

We want:
Guaranteed housing standards so that pensioners can live independent lives in their own homes. That means sheltered accommodation; the state pension disregarded for tax purposes; and heating as a basic right for all with an allowance which is realistically related to fuel prices of next winter.

There is another pensioners' organisation—the Federation

of Old Age Pensioners. It is respectable, non-militant and ineffective. It resists unity with other militant groups.

Its constitution is legalistic and its branches badly attended. Its reactionary leaders discourage active struggle by individual militant members.

The BPTUAC is the militant organisation among pensioners. It is organised into active groups in localities throughout the Greater London area. These groups meet in an informal friendly atmosphere and all members are involved in activity.

They demonstrate, picket and lobby on local issues of concern to pensioners such as

social service cuts, to force the opening of day centres and to get pensioners living in squalid conditions into decent accommodation.

These groups and trade unions affiliated to the London Region BPTUAC help to organise individual pensioners to set up new groups. It also organises mass lobbies of parliament and is at the moment collecting a massive petition on heating demands.

The militant pensioners' struggle must become a mass movement. To do so it needs the active support of socialists and rank and file militants throughout the labour movement.

The pensioners' struggle is a class struggle!

□ A socialist pensioner, London

Three years without a father...

I READ THE Socialist Worker leaflet 'They're welcome here'.

God will bless you if you will help me solve my problem.

With regard to human rights, I want some of those human rights. I want them so that I can get my husband to join me here in the UK.

I have been here in this country since 1973. I hold a British passport. But my husband has been refused an entry voucher from the British ambassador in Tanzania.

Does this government want my children to forget their father? He has not seen them for three years. The little one was just three years old when she last saw her father. Is this fair?

Does this government want us to get a divorce? Please help me before my life is ruined. I am only 27 years old.

□ MRS VOTHLANI, Leicester.

The kids suffer...

I HAVE come to the conclusion that everybody has forgotten the people that suffer most as a result of education cuts... the kids.

Liverpool is one of the worst areas for both unemployment and bad educational standards and I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of what has been going on.

Firstly, only 40 places are

being offered to students leaving the C.F. Mott College of Education this year when we were led to believe there would be 200. Surely there is a need for more than this.

Secondly, and most important, Knowsley education authority were allocated enough money to employ 50 students from next September, but they spent it on something else.

Some of our students occupied the finance section of the education offices. When the police arrived they were told to leave. Of course, the authority wanted the whole matter hushed up. We received hundreds of signatures on our petition. People were outraged when they heard what was going on.

The taxpayers of the area are behind us and we will continue to fight for their kids' rights.

Good luck and thanks to the 43—your suffering hasn't been in vain.

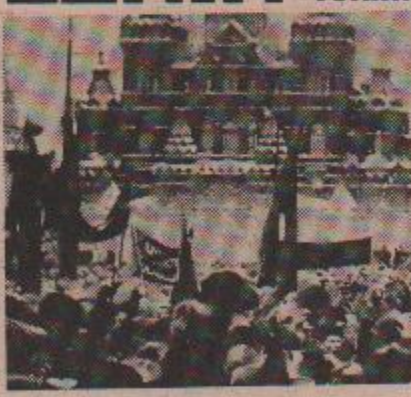
□ Bernadette Walmsley, Prescot.

Tony Cliff:

LENIN

Volume 2

All Power to the Soviets



£3.80 including postage—volumes 1 and 2 for £7. Cash with orders please.

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

IT'S NOT JUST THE SCHOOLS Postal Points

TAMESIDE has received more than its share of publicity recently. But, while the question of how its children should be educated is important it is by no means the be-all and end-all of its problems.

Tameside has more than its fair share of 'slum' property still occupied, more than its fair share of old and dilapidated schools and poor Health Service premises.

The local trades union council has been growing in numbers and influence steadily over the past 18 months. But just recently it took off. It now has more than 13,000 affiliates, more than 100 appointed delegates—average 1976 attendance 54—and 58 affiliated union branches.

Activity started this year with a picket—its first in local memory—of a factory premises which was employing schoolchild labour in out-of-school-hours.

Then the unemployment sub-committee organised a public meeting on unemployment in the run-up to the local elections.

The trades council, prompted by its teachers' unions was first off the mark when the Tories took control of the local district council and set out to reverse the policy on comprehensive education.

But activity, no matter for what purpose—and often it is the only thing that attracts from newspapers and television—attention, is by no means the sum total of a trades council's function. Attitudes—especially to current political topics—are also important.

Here, I think, Tameside Trades Council has appeared truly progressive. Its printed statement of policy on the economic situation—published for the unemployment meeting—embodies a great deal of the Right to Work manifesto, including opposition to the public service cuts.

A Labour government abandoning one after another of its election manifesto pledges is no real help to a trades council in its fight locally, for the local Tories will be only too willing to implement 'cuts' and add to the burdens on working people by cuts in the 'social wage', which always bears hardest on the most underprivileged such as pensioners and one-parent families.

It is for these sections of the working class that trades union councils are also concerned—not just for wage-earners—as the mass media would have its gullible readers believe.

□ BERT ELLICOT, Secretary, Tameside Trade Union Council.

AFTER SEEING the advert for the leaflet 'They're Welcome Here' I sent for 500 copies. When they arrived I was disappointed that a really good leaflet was ruined by that inane piece of graffiti 'Enoch Powell is a Liar'.

If we are to be taken seriously surely we must put forward constructive arguments rather than the above remark.

□ JOHN HUTTLY, Chichester.

GIVEN THE result of the recent elections and coverage on the BBC and in the press, the racial situation in Blackburn merits a national mobilisation in a major demonstration in that town.

□ NUT and NALGO members, East London.

CONGRATULATIONS on recent articles exposing fascist murderers like Enoch Powell, the arch-criminal left to roam loose for too long, and attacks on national newspapers which seek to pervert the course of true justice by hiding the truth, baffling the readers by cleverly turned-round words neatly concealing the real situation which of course they help to perpetuate.

As a teacher one of my biggest problems is to make the kids understand that every one of them has something to offer to the world, they have themselves.

A sense of failure creeps into them so readily and they become so despondent and lacking in confidence, products of an unjust society.

Let us do away with privilege because of what 'you are' or worse still of what 'you have'.

□ D C WOOLLEY, Canterbury.

A MERICA 1776

THE newspaper, Television and public relations industries are glorifying the 200th anniversary of the American revolution this week. They all ignore one thing: that it was a revolution.

Although the fruits of that revolution have been enjoyed ever since by the rich businessmen of America, the people who carried the revolution through were the working people of America, the

tradesmen, the farm labourers and the black people. That revolution was symbolised by the writing and agitation of Tom Paine, the son of a British staymaker, who threw all his energies into the struggle of American working people to rid themselves of their British oppressors.

Socialist Worker celebrates the 200th anniversary of the revolution with a tribute to Tom Paine.

Yes, the US did have a revolution

TWO HUNDRED years ago this summer, the American army under George Washington was driven out of New York.

Pursued by the full might of the British occupation army and its German mercenaries, the army stumbled in retreat down the long road to Newark.

On the road, they were joined by an Englishman called Tom Paine. The soldiers had heard of Paine.

Many had read his book, *Common Sense*, which was America's first best-seller. It sold 50,000 copies and was read in almost every American household.

It put the case against the British conqueror. It showed how the dignity, livelihood and trade of Americans were exploited by a corrupt British Court.

On the banks of the Delaware river, Washington's Revolutionary army stopped. Cold, hungry, decimated by desertion, it waited as the German mercenaries closed in.

Huddled by a fire, resting his paper on a drum head, Paine wrote his first Crisis paper: 'These are the times which try men's souls.' The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of men and women'.

Army

The Crisis paper was printed and distributed to the soldiers.

On Christmas night the tattered army crossed the Delaware at Trenton and surprised the German mercenaries in their revelry. One thousand prisoners were taken. As the British General Howe moved in his army for revenge, the American army escaped again through the night, leaving the sentries joking and the bonfires blazing.

In four more years, the British never recovered from the double master-stroke at Trenton. And Washington was the first to admit that the troops were steeled to determination and audacity by the relentless agitation of Tom Paine.

DURING these four years Paine wrote 12 more Crisis papers, each directed to the heart of the American revolution: to the com-

mon people who fought in the army and sustained that army in the field.

Words by
PAUL FOOT

Illustrated by
PHIL EVANS

mon people who fought in the army and sustained that army in the field.

The struggle of the American colonies was popular in London's liberal establishment. Middle-class careerists such as Edmund Burke feted Paine in country houses when he returned to England in 1788.

Burke and his class were prepared to patronise the revolution in America, but they recoiled in terror from the revolution in France which unleashed the forces of the working people far more powerfully than in America.

Paine rallied to the defence of the French revolution. He wrote *The Rights of Man*.

Care

Men like Burke, he wrote, were hypnotised by the flummery of society without care or concern for its human condition.

'France has not levelled, it has exalted. It has put down the drab to set up the man.'

Thousands of working men, just learning to read,

bought *The Rights of Man* and read it hungrily. For those who didn't read, Tom Paine societies organised readings.

Paine was no longer welcome in the great liberal houses. But when he went as guest of honour to the dinner of the Revolution Society at a London tavern in November 1791, the members rose and sang a song specially written for the occasion:

*He comes—the Great reformer comes,
Cease your trumpets, cease,
your drums.*

*Freedom, freedom, freedom,
freedom,
Rights of Man and Paine
resound.*

At which Paine proposed a toast to 'The Revolution of the World!'

WILLIAM PITT'S government banned Paine's books and charged him with sedition and blasphemy. Paine fled to revolutionary France where he was greeted as a hero

Paine welcomed the French Revolution, but even he shirked from pressing it through to its conclusion.

He sided with the reactionaries of the Gironde who opposed the execution of the King. He was imprisoned and almost executed.

Tom Paine's writings became a central part of the revolutionary movement for two centuries. More than a million copies of *The Rights of Man* were sold in Britain during the 19th century.

The central message of Tom Paine's astonishing life was a simple one: that human society will always be wrongly governed as long as government is by wealth, force of arms or hereditary succession.

He argued instead for

representative government, by the living for the living. He argued against all assumed power. His arguments still throb with relevance.

Our 'representative government' today is not representative at all. It is a weak, corrupt puppet of unrepresentative and hereditary corporations.

Paine's demolition of the power of kings and courtiers in the 1790s can be turned with devastating effect on the bankers and boardrooms of the 1970s.

'All hereditary government is by its nature tyranny. An heritable crown or an heritable throne, or by what other fanciful names such things are called, have no other significant explanation than that mankind are heritable property. To inherit a government is to inherit the people as if they were flocks and herds'.

So what are we to do?

Something

Tom Paine has something to say about that too. Indeed, all his life he was doing something against tyranny and corruption.

The amazing and still increasing expenses with which old governments are conducted, the numerous wars they engage in or provoke, the embarrassments they throw in the way of universal civilisation and commerce, and the oppression and usurpation they practise at home have wearied out the patience of the world.

'In such a situation, revolutions are to be looked for. They are becoming the subjects of universal conversation, and may be considered the Order of the Day'.



The gun, the bomb and the flaming cross of racism—this is too often the face America shows the world today. Yet in 1776 their fight for freedom inspired the oppressed people of the world.

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*

GLASGOW: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall.

1 July: Reformism and the trade unions. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.
8 July: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Mike Gonzalez.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Every second Monday, 8pm Clapham Common Library, Clapham Common North Side.

5 July: Minority Movement and the Communist Party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.
19 July: Russia 1917. Speaker: Revolution.

LIVERPOOL: Every Wednesday, 7.30pm, IS Books, Berry Street.

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7 July: The history and traditions of the Labour Party. Speaker: Chris Jones.

14 July: The Communist Party. Speaker: Andy Drummond.

21 July: Rank and File Movements. Speaker: Jack Robertson.

28 July: How the System Works, an introduction to Marxist economics. Speaker: Brian Jones.

TO FIND MORE

The best biography of Tom Paine is by Mocre Conway. It's out of print and in two volumes, but it will be in most libraries. Most other biographies are boring or right-wing. The most enjoyable book is Howard Fast's *CITIZEN TOM PAINE*. If you see that in a second-hand bookshop, snap it up.

But the things to read about Paine are by Paine. *THE RIGHTS OF MAN* (85p) and *COMMON SENSE* (70p) have just been published by Penguin Books. Available by post from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Why RDL are cutting the safety corners

by Alec Armitage
(Boilermakers Union)

I'M a welder at the Redpath Dorman Long rig-building yard at Methil in Fife. Last Wednesday a plater grinder and myself were sent to a job, fitting sea-fastenings to the bottom of the Occidental Oil deck section which is due to be floated out soon.

Because of this the job had to be completed as soon as possible, and safety precautions were being almost completely ignored.

The job was too high up to reach from the ground, so the foreman brought over an oil drum for us to stand on, and because the ground wasn't level, he packed it underneath with loose bricks.

This foreman, by the way, is our representative on the yard safety committee

Unsteady

Because the barrel was obviously unsteady, we refused point-blank to stand on it, and at this the foreman stormed off, and returned a few minutes later with no fewer than five head foremen.

Again we refused to start the job, and also pointed out that men working above our heads with scaffolding, shifting about poles and planks, and that there was the danger of us being hit by falling objects.

The next day, with the job still not started, the case was brought up with the stewards and the site safety represen-

tatives, who took it up to the highest level to get it sorted out.

In the meantime, myself and another safety-conscious welder have been shifted to another part of the job.

Safety at work is OK with the bosses and foremen, as long as it doesn't affect productivity and profits. Here at RDL, oil platform orders have dried up and the quicker we finish our present jobs the nearer comes the threat of mass redundancies. As well as risking our health, we are risking our jobs by working in unsafe conditions.

The subordination of health and safety to profit is inevitable in a society ruled by capitalism. As long as money and greed are the only incentives for living, the welfare of the working man is always going to be secondary to the drive for profit.

Tricks like condition or danger money are only the employers way of exploiting us as well as getting us to risk our health.

Until we have a society run by workers for workers, and for need and not profit, we shall always be in this position.

Student summer will be hot

by ANDY DURGAN
(executive member, National Union of Students)

THE student teachers' campaign against unemployment will continue over the summer—despite the ending of most occupations.

Three colleges—Moray House in Edinburgh, C F Mott in Liverpool and Bingley College in Yorkshire—are occupying over the vacation. In other areas, action centres are to be established to continue co-ordinating the campaign.

Last Saturday 23 colleges were represented at a conference organised by Merseyside Area Action Committee.

The conference decided to mobilise support for the September Right to Work March to the Brighton TUC.

Bradford University Students Union has agreed to finance 12 members to spend a week in the occupation at Moray House in Edinburgh.

The local Right to Work Committees will be vital in helping to broaden the campaign. Unemployed students should become involved in such committees, and unemployed workers and trade unionists should visit the colleges in occupation to offer all possible assistance.

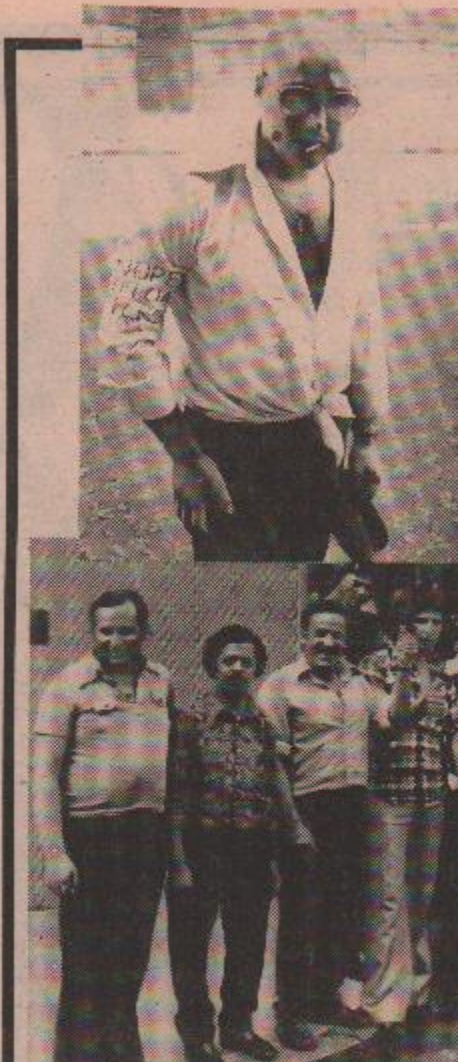
Any student who is free to do this sort of work over the summer—even if only for a week or two—should contact the IS Student Organiser, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

OCCUPATION ENDS

by NICK HATFIELD

NUS president, Coventry College of Education THE occupation of Coventry College of Education ended last Friday with a rally in the town precinct and with a small victory under our belts. We have forced the college to refuse to send students to cover for absentee or non-appointed teachers, and not to teach classes of over 35.

The rally was addressed by Right to Work marcher Bobby Burds, Chrysler TGWU convenor Eddie McLuskie, Dave Patchett of the Coventry Local Authority Workers' Stewards' Committee, and one of the striking Coventry busmen. Earlier that morning the Careers Centre was occupied by supporters of the Right to Work Campaign in solidarity with the Coventry students. 25 unemployed youths supported the occupation.



Thumbs up from workers at St Matthews and (TOP) a victory lollipop for Kojak—NUPE picket and hospital cook Carlo Desiato

VICTORY!

Spreading strikes force hospital cuts to be withdrawn

'IF they close St Matthew's Hospital down, where will we go when we are old?'

'The old people fall down, burn themselves on their own. They die on their own and no one knows for months.'

'It's because of the patients that we are here on strike.'

These words of an angry porter sum up the feelings of all the hospital workers on strike at St Matthews Hospital for old people in East London.

Management efforts to shut down the kitchen as part of the government cuts were defeated last week by a strike of members of the Public Employees, Transport Workers and Health Service Employees, unions.

Closing the kitchen would be the first step to closing the whole hospital. The hospital badly needs repairing—there are leaks in the roof, plaster falling off the walls, a leaking gas pipe 'repaired' with a match stick.

Hospital management claimed they had only a few hundred pounds and couldn't afford to do all the necessary repairs. They had the bright idea to save money by closing the kitchen and bring meals in on trays from nearby Bethnal Green Hospital.

Snag

But they hit a snag when the unions at Bethnal Green voted not to provide a meal service. More support came from the cooks at Bartholomew's Hospital on Friday. They came out on strike.

Laundry workers at Bethnal Green Hospital were preparing to strike on Friday afternoon.

They didn't need to. All the demands of the strikers had been met by then—including full pay for the three days on strike.

The kitchen will stay, there will be no redundancies, no staff will be moved at any time without their consent, current earnings will be guaranteed and no change will be made in working without mutual agreement.

That's the way to fight the cuts!

Tameside ban wins more jobs

by a COHSE shop steward and a NUPE shop steward, Tameside

TAMESIDE GENERAL HOSPITAL STAFFING LEVELS IN ACUTE GERIATRICS

October 1968: 30 beds	June 1976: 33 beds
1 sister	1 sister
2 staff nurses	—
3 SE nurses	2 SE nurses
4 student nurses	—
6 pupil nurses	2 pupil nurses
8 auxiliaries	2 full-time auxiliaries, 5 part-time
All full-time	—
Total hours in one week: 960	Total hours in one week: 402

STAFFING LEVELS IN LONG STAY GERIATRICS

October 1968: 30 beds	June 1976: 34 beds
1 sister	2 sisters (full-time)
1 staff nurse	1 staff nurse (23 hours, part-time)
4 SE nurses	1 SE nurse (full-time)
7 pupil nurses	—
7 auxiliary nurses	2 full-time auxiliary nurses
All full-time	3 part-time
Total hours worked each week: 800	3 ward orderlies (full-time)
	Total hours worked each week: 409

Charts that show what has happened to the nursing staff looking after old people in Tameside General Hospital.

TAMESIDE: Hospital staff have forced the health authority to improve the chronic staff situation at the general hospital.

A staff of ten, mostly untrained, have been caring for 104 old people in an acute geriatric unit for the 12-hour night shift.

Three of four staff on a morning shift to get up, wash, feed, dress and treat more than 34 patients in double wards.

A joint union meeting voted to ban waiting list admissions, overtime, split shifts and take other sanctions until the staff levels were increased.

There was action at four hospitals—Tameside General, Shire Hill, Hyde and Partington.

After two weeks, the regional authority allocated more money to Tameside nursing section.

Figures they gave for the

past two years made it look as if staffing had never been higher. They had counted all the part-time staff in the grand total as full time.

We have called off our ban and management are now advertising for trained staff. We are still awaiting results.

Prepared

Otherwise Tameside Area Health Authority will experience the widest and biggest industrial action it has ever seen. We are prepared for them.

Members of the white-collar union ASTMS are willing to join us—this includes most of the lab staff and some doctors. NALGO members, including the admin and clerical workers, will come in. So will domestics, porters, theatre attendants, catering staff and laundry staff.

ASBESTOS

BRITISH RAIL admitted this week that a quarter of all carriages in use on the railways have blue asbestos insulation in the roof linings.

This staggering admission followed complaints from a driver on the Clacton to London line who discovered fibres floating in his cab. 400 locomotives also have blue asbestos in the cab.

Predictably, British Rail management is claiming there is no health hazard to passengers. There isn't the slightest scrap of evidence for this claim.

What's more, white asbestos—also deadly is wide-

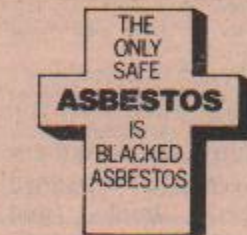
ly used in railway carriages for under-seat fire insulation.

THE recent conference of the building workers' union UCATT passed a resolution instructing all UCATT branches to ask all members to refuse to work with asbestos. Now members need to ensure that the resolution is put into practice on the sites.

Building workers who black asbestos will not only be defending their own health. They will be protecting those who later live in or use the buildings they put up.

JOSE CABA, Transport Union branch secretary at Manor House Hospital, North London, has been suspended on full pay pending an appeal following the long-running dispute there over asbestos and related matters. But on Monday morning Jose got his cards in the post from his employers. He has however been re-elected branch secretary by a 2-1 majority.

THE Stratchelyde section of the Fire Brigades Union has instructed all members that under no circumstances are they to use asbestos equip-



ment at fires or incidents. The section considers that the asbestos equipment used in the Fire Service presents a grave health hazard.

BOURNEMOUTH: How far do you have to go to prove you've got asbestosis? That's what 48-year-old steel-erector Robert Yates is asking.

For two years Robert has been asking for tests to show whether or not he is suffering from the disease. He has constant stomach pains, fainting fits and often can't breathe.

But so far he has just been accused of skiving by doctors and social security hounds in Bournemouth, where he and his wife are living on the princely sum of £16.45 unemployment benefit.

He worked with asbestos on the site where he was shop steward. He has been signed fit for work by his doctor despite collapsing outside the local employment exchange.

'I just want some tests to find out what is wrong with me,' he said.

When TUC and DPP join forces

by JOHN PHILLIPS,
President, Barnet Trades Council.

THE Director of Public Prosecutions was not the only organisation to attempt to obstruct the independent trade union inquiry set up by Barnet Trades Council into the attack on the Right to Work marchers at Staples Corner in North West London.

We wrote to the TUC on 5 April requesting they circulate an appeal for financial help. On 10 May, Ken Graham, secretary of the Organisation and Industrial Relations Department, replied.

In part, this read: 'Trades councils should not become involved with this march, which was not organised, supported or encouraged by the TUC. In these circumstances we cannot comply with your request.'

As a delegate to the Annual Conference of Trades C unions at Swansea, I tried to raise the question of the inquiry from the floor. Because I wasn't allowed, I produced a leaflet



including the TUC letter in full, which was handed out to delegates.

Copies of the inquiry's report are now available to all organisations that may wish to support our call for a full public inquiry into what happened.

Letters and resolutions should be sent to the TUC, to MPs, national trade union executives and the Home Secretary. Please inform us of your resolutions.

The report has been sent to organisations that supported the inquiry, to trade unions nationally, the TUC and MPs.

The trades council still needs donations to finance the inquiry. There is a large debt which has to be made up. Please send donations to Barnet Trades Council, 19 March Committee, c/o J R Connolly, POEU, 80-108 The Broadway, West Hendon, London, NW9.

Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday before publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send CASH WITH COPY (10p a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

NUS/Anti-Apartheid Movement annual conference on Southern Africa 9-11 July, Sheffield City College. Registrations from AAM, 89 Charlotte St. London W1

CYPRIT WORKER in Greek—June and July issue out now. Articles on Racism and How to Fight Back, The TUC Deal with Healey and the Fight for the Right to Work, Recent events in Greece and Lebanon, Cyprus—why the ruling class have called the election, Emigration of workers from Cyprus, Interview with a sacked Cypriot machinist. PRINTED IN GREEK. 5p a copy, plus 7p postage from Cypriot Worker, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N5

LONDON POLY JOB for political economist. Immediate inquiries to Box J, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS

THE ELECTIONS IN ITALY AND PORTUGAL. Big Flame meetings with Marcello Gallo (Big Flame), Oscar Figueiredo (PWCC), Liverpool: Thurs 1 July, 8pm, The Triton, Paradise St, L'pool 1. Manchester: Friday 2 July, 7.30pm, The Anacots, Great Ancoats St, London: Monday 5 July, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, WC1.

New issue of NALGO ACTION NEWS now out, the paper of rank and file NALGO members. Copies from 23a Alpha House, Ashbridge Street, London NW8 8AR. Copies 5p each, plus postage (10 or more post free).

Reopening by popular demand! Sunday 4 July, 6.30pm. Bicentennial exhibition—THE EVENTS OF '76: LIBERATION AND REVOLUTION IN AMERICA. As curtain-raiser, premiere and only performance of PHILADELPHIA EDITOR, a one-act play about Tom Paine in the American Revolution, by Adrian Brunel Unity Theatre cast. Admission free—collection. Exhibition Monday-Friday 4pm-9pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm, Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1

Bicentennial lecture: THE MILITIA AND PUBLIC ORDER IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA. Speaker: Professor Robert C Reinders (University of Nottingham) Friday 9 July, 7.30pm, Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. Admission free—collection.

Picture: Chris Davies (Photo)

The truth about that 'political battleground'

REDS Halting Homes Drive—MP Calls For Probe. That was the headline in last Friday's *Islington Gazette*. The *London Evening News* also carried a report.

Labour MP for North Islington Michael O'Halloran has called for an investigation into why the Alsen Road housing contract is two years behind schedule.

O'Halloran wants an investigation into an allegation made by a building worker that 'Communist and Marxist troublemakers' have turned the site into a 'political battleground.'

Standstill

When I visited the site this week work was virtually at a standstill, said O'Halloran.

The site was virtually at a standstill. But he didn't mention that five weeks ago the contractors, Thomas McInerney & Sons inflicted a wage cut of around £30 a week.

MK TOKEN STRIKE

EDMONTON: 80 toolmakers and labourers at MK Electrics staged a token strike on Tuesday afternoon to demand negotiations on a lieu bonus scheme.

Workers at the plant, members of the Engineering Union, were angry when it was announced that MK

By MAL BEZANT

by withdrawing the standing bonus.

They were trying to force us to accept a bonus scheme under an agreement which they had previously broken. We retaliated with a go slow.

McInerneys responded by appealing to a National Disputes panel which instructed us to operate the scheme for a three-month trial period.

The panel decision only strengthened the men's resolve. They voted to continue the go-slow until the fall-back rate was reinstated and we were compensated for lost earnings over the previous five weeks.

But last Wednesday Brother Bill Butler, site convenor and Communist Party member, called a meeting. Nobody knew what it was about.

He marched in, said there would be no questions, no discussion, no resolutions—and then told us the go-slow was over.

The men voted to continue. Butler resigned and announced his intention to ignore the vote.

This weakened his 'lead'.

Normal

Reluctantly, the rest of the site returned to normal working.

McInerneys have foisted a bonus scheme on us which will undermine union organisation by creating further divisions. They have achieved their objectives thanks to the co-operation of full-time union officials, and the site convenor and deputy convenor, both Communist Party members.

Many of the lads on McInerneys have a simple way of describing such actions: **SELL-OUT.**



Smash the Goonda Raj—Smash the gangster government. A small part of Sunday's 2000-strong Indian workers' demonstration in London. They were protesting at the arrest of tens of thousands of socialists and trade unionists since the declaration of the stage of emergency by Indira Gandhi's government.

Bid to smash dustcart strike

CUMBERNAULD: The dustmen's strike in Cumbernauld is now seven weeks old, and picketing is still solid. But moves are afoot to get the strikers back to work.

The strike started when the Scottish National Party-controlled council demanded that the dustmen take a £6 a week cut in their bonus payments.

When the men refused, the council cut off all bonus, in some cases as much as £25 a week.

The local support for the dustmen has been magnificent. But their own trade unions—the General and Municipal and the Transport and General—have refused to make the strike official.

Cutback

On Wednesday the men were considering a compromise offer that would still mean a real cut in wages and a cutback in the service provided.

It is clear that the strikers' determination has forced Provost Gordon Murray and his henchmen on the council to make concessions.

With the support they deserve, the strikers could still win all their demands if they refuse to negotiate on Murray's terms.

Donations and messages of support: John Currie, 21 Hillside, Croy, Dumbar-tonshire.

Victimised by Chrysler

COVENTRY: In the last few weeks four janitor shop stewards at Chrysler's Stoke plant have been sacked and another suspended for alleged clocking offences and alleged unauthorised absence.

Seven other cleaners have also been victimised. All belong to the cleaning sub-contractors firm of Universal Cleaners. Senior plant convenors advised the victimised men to take no action until the government's conciliation service, ACAS, was called in.

This is all part of the soft soap of workers' participation, and an attempt by the company to break trade union organisation.

Militant gets his job back

By David Hughes, NALGO Rep Social Services, Birmingham. SOCIAL WORKERS in Birmingham have won their fight to reinstate NUPE branch secretary, Martin Cumella.

He was dismissed and his team leader, Pam Mansell, demoted after the Birmingham Evening Mail attacked a decision to allow a 13-year-old boy to stay in a house with a former prostitute.

The article followed a one-day stoppage by NUPE members over recognition of Martin as a representative of both manual and non-manual workers in the Social Services Department.

NALGO and NUPE social workers struck for four days in protest and carried on industrial action with the threat of further strikes until Martin's successful appeal.

Coventry busmen triumph

COVENTRY: Swift strike action from Coventry's bus crews has won the reinstatement of three drivers—one of them a Transport Union steward.

The strike began last Tuesday after the drivers had been suspended for refusing to take out defective buses. That morning a work-to-rule had begun for a shorter working week.

One of the drivers, Sandu, told *Socialist Worker*: 'When the work to rule started, management tried to intimidate some of our members by forcing them to drive defective buses.'

'The three who refused were suspended on the spot.'

The men were reinstated on Friday but the strike continued through Saturday and Sunday after a mass meeting had decided not to return to work until management had agreed to negotiate on a shorter working week.

AUTOMAT ROW: THE FACTS

By Brian Jones, TGWU shop steward, Massey Ferguson and Alistair O'Riordan, TGWU shop steward, Uniroyal Chemicals

FOR SIX MONTHS, workers at Automat Swinton, near Manchester, have been on strike for union recognition. As reported in *Socialist Worker* last week, an attempt was made to occupy the factory. This was unsuccessful.

Since then some full time officials, and a report in the *Morning Star*, have said the occupation attempt was the work of an unrepresentative minority. This is totally untrue. Here are the facts.

The attempted occupation took place when a solidarity picket outside the factory found one of the doors open. Discussions between the strikers and their convenor, the chairman of the Action Committee (made up of AUEW district committee members, full-time officials, the strikers and local convenors) and members of the Manchester Right to Work Committee, resulted in a decision being taken to occupy. Only a handful of police were in evidence, well away from the picket line.

The door was opened prematurely, setting off an alarm.

Immediately, about 40 people rushed inside the building. Among them were unemployed workers, strikers and supporters from local factories.

In fact, two of the occupiers were well known Communist Party members. And we congratulate them for their initiative (they have since argued that they were 'dragged in' in the rush).

Inside

Once inside, the strikers barricaded themselves into the canteen. As this stage there was every opportunity to defend their position, stop production for the first time in

six months and use the occupation as a base for spreading blacking, and organising more efficient picketing to win the strike and get the jobs back.

John Tocher, the Engineering Union divisional organiser, and a leading local Communist Party member, had said two weeks before at a special meeting of Confed shop stewards called to discuss the strike: 'We should officially support workers occupying in defence of jobs.'

He entered the factory and was allowed through the barricade. Six police officers followed. They immediately threatened the strikers with breaking and entering, illegal entry and trespass.

Tocher persuaded the police to withdraw while he ad-

ressed the strikers.

He reminded the strikers of the police position and added that a number of prominent trade unionists outside on the picket lines were not pleased at the action taken by the occupiers and were reconsidering their support for the dispute because of this.

He said he wanted to avoid a situation where the police might enter the premises in number and attempt a forcible removal of the occupiers.

The chances of this happening were remote because of the internal structure of the building, the number of pickets outside.

On leaving the building, the occupiers were asked to give their names and addresses before Tocher came downstairs.

VICTORY AT DODSWORTH

BARNSELY: Miners at Dodsworth colliery struck last Thursday in protest against management pressure on a group of workers in the Whinmoor seam.

For weeks, the men have been asking for more labour because they have been unable to keep up with the work.

The pit manager told overmen to stay close to the men and make hourly reports. Last Thursday's afternoon shift refused to work under

such circumstances and the whole pit came out.

The men decided unanimously at a branch meeting on Saturday to stay out until the order was withdrawn and to appeal for support at area level.

Within two hours of the meeting, the colliery manager was on the phone to the NUM branch secretary to tell him that the order had been withdrawn.

The men are now demanding payment for time off because of the manager's provocation.

It is more than just coincidence that this dispute happened in the Heading, where Terry Bristowe, newly-elected pit delegate, works.

During the ballot, management made no secret of the fact that Terry was the last man they wanted to see elected.

TANNOY: WE'LL WIN IF WE STICK TOGETHER

By Sam Strudwick

WEST NORWOOD: Tannoy, a sound equipment firm, are sacking 300 workers in August. Many workers have recently got jobs at the factory after their old firm, Pye PMC, closed earlier in the year with the loss of 400 jobs.

Production is moving to Scotland, leaving the workers with four weeks' redundancy pay. Engineering Union shop steward Joan Philp told *Socialist Worker*: 'Redundancy money is nothing. It soon runs out—and there is no work around here.' So the workers have threatened a sit-in. The women seem to be taking the initiative. They decided they needed union organisation.

But as only half the workforce are unionised, the fight for a sit-in will be a tough one. Joan Phillip said: 'When you mention a sit-in to some of them they get scared, but you can win if you fight hard enough and stick together.'

They took a decision not to divulge this information and Tocher supported their stand and offered to pay for any damage that might have been done to the door.

The opposition to the occupation was less apparent when the occupiers returned to the picket line.

Event

Since the event, Tocher has circulated a letter to convenors detailing his own report of the day's events and urging them not to be discouraged from supporting the dispute because of the attempted occupation, and to provide a 'peaceful picket' in future.

The 'peace' and quiet of the picket line so far has only been broken by the sound of the scabs getting across with ease.

Unfortunately, the *Morning Star* reporter, Jim Ar-nison, who was not present on the picket line, has accused last week's *Socialist Worker*'s report of being 'a complete travesty'.

What the *Star* fails to say is that John Tocher did persuade the occupiers to leave. Otherwise the occupation might still be in progress and all production at Automats stopped.

Support this strike. Send donations to Tom Smith, Automat Convenor, AUEW Office, The Crescent, Salford.

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

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Demo in the House over child benefits sell-out

'THE GOVERNMENT has betrayed every working class woman in this country. You're destroying the welfare state and everything we've ever fought for.'

These cries rang out in the House of Commons public gallery on Monday as the Labour government (without even taking a vote) broke another election pledge by refusing to pay child benefit allowances.

Fight

The demonstrators were supporters of the women's socialist paper Women's Voice.

They were immediately set on by 'beadles'. One woman had her arm twisted behind her back and was told: 'I'll break it off if you fight.'

The women were banned from the House of Commons for a limited period: a very acceptable sentence.

THIS STRIKE MUST BE WON!

ANY MORNING, however hot, you'll find Betty Humphries, Mary Dempsey and Winifred Clarke sitting outside the Trico factory off London's Great West Road. You'll also find Eileen Ward and Betty Aistens.

They are running a picket line not just for themselves but for every woman in the country who gets lower wages for the same work than male colleagues.

Betty Humphries, Engineering Union shop steward, says: 'We didn't pull these women out. They pulled us out.' That was six weeks ago, after a mass meeting.

For months the women had been pressing for equal pay.

Men workers, moved onto the day production lines from the night shift, were getting £6.50 a week more than the women for exactly the same work.

BY PAUL FOOT

BUDGE

Management, in the shape of a peculiarly arrogant managing director called Atkins, refused to budge.

Betty Humphries says: 'We told them we'd got nowhere, and we closed the meeting.'

'When we got back to the factory, we found none of the girls had followed us. They were still in the park where we had the meeting. They refused

to budge.

'We've been out on strike ever since. And as far as I'm concerned we're not going back without equal pay. Not if I'm sitting here 12 months from now.'

More than half the windscreen wipers for Fords and Vauxhalls and Rolls-Royce are made at Trico.

One production line of seven women produces 2,500 windscreen wipers every day.

Profits for the huge American Trico Products Ltd are enormous. But Atkins and his bosses have dug their heels in.

They claim the men are 'exceptional cases'. They argue that the women are less 'flexible' than the men.

Says Mary Dempsey: 'You try telling that to a woman who's working alongside a man doing exactly the same work—and he's getting £6 a week more for it.'

MOVE

'Inflexible!' says Betty Humphries. 'They've got us on versatility payments now. A halfpenny an hour.'

'They're always moving us around. They've put me on the welder, in the packing shop, in No 4 shop.'

'In fact, they move us around more than they move the men.'

The strike has been supported by male production workers, but the women have had to put up with scabbing—and open hostility—from staff and toolroom workers.

Winifred Clarke says: 'We had a strike meeting in the

STOCKPORT: Workers at the Sunblest Bakery in Bredbury are on strike. Sunblest is owned by Associated British Foods, who also own Scotts Bakery in Liverpool, where last year they sent in Alastian dogs to intimidate the workforce.

On 16 June, management ratted on a shift deal. When the workers collected their wages, some were up to £5 short. The stewards were told that the wages would be made up. But next week, 21 workers were docked 3¼ hours pay.

Management said this was because they had stopped working the previous

'National strike' call follows Sunblest occupation

week while the stewards were negotiating. The workers promptly occupied for the night, and have been on strike ever since.

An emergency District Board of the Bakers Union on Saturday gave full support to the strikers' call for an emergency executive meeting and instructed all ABF workers in the area to meet and discuss the Sunblest strike.

A short but angry mass meeting on Monday voted unanimously to continue and escalate the strike. Demands are now emerging for a national strike in ABF plants against, in particular, the bosses' 'rentascab' squad.

John Wheeler, a Bakers Union steward, told Socialist Worker: 'The strike was caused by the management.

They refused to recognise the stewards. The strike is really about the right to organise as trade unionists. The management started this one, but we've had enough. We're going to finish it!'

Send messages of support and donations to: Dunblest Strike Committee, c/o J Wheeler, 1 Kedleston Walk, Denton, Nr Stockport.

SUPPORT THIS PICKET!

By Shan Newhouse and Grant Allan

WITHAM, Essex: A mass picket has been called this Friday (2 July) in support of ten women who have been on strike for five weeks for the right to belong to a trade union.

The strike, at Pannell Products, began when one of the women was insulted and then victimised by a foreman.

Discontent had already been growing over the low wages—£21 take-home pay—and the working conditions (no proper canteen, bossy foremen and strict rules, such as having to ask to go to the toilet).

Fourteen of the women had decided to join the General and Municipal Workers Union—and they came out on official strike to get it recognised, and for a £5.60 pay rise.

DIVIDE

Their numbers have since dwindled to ten as the management have tried every trick to demoralise and divide them.

Sixteen people are still working, including all the men, and they have been bribed with a £2 wage rise. The management have also tried to split the strikers by sacking five and offering the others their jobs back.

But the women are determined to win. They want blacking for the firm's goods—electrical parts which mostly go to the Phillips group—and they need financial support.

Messages of support and donations to Eddie Cross, GMWU branch secretary, 8 Conrad Road, Witham, Essex.

35 out for equal pay

PAISLEY: 35 women are on strike for equal pay at Shanks Armitage factory at Barrhead.

They are machinists in the Engineering Union and get an average of £45 a week, compared with £57 average for male workers on the same work.

About 80 workers have been laid off, but the male machinists are scabbing on the strike.



On the picket line every day: Winifred Clarke (above poster), Mary Dempsey and Betty Humphries. PICTURES: Angela Phillips (IFL)



Queueing for strike pay: morale is high

park behind the factory.

'Just as the meeting started men workers in the factory climbed over the fence and rushed towards us shouting all kinds of abuse. We had to cancel the meeting.'

Many of these scabs are still in the factory.

AUEW has made the strike official. Trico goods are blacked at Fords, the docks and London airport.

But a Fords spokesman told Socialist Worker: 'We get all the wipers we need from Germany.'

The international contacts of the AUEW must be used to black the imports of these wipers.

Atkins of Trico hopes that the equal pay tribunal in three weeks will accept his plea of 'exceptional cases'.

He may be right. The tribunals are all heavily biased against workers.

The Trico strikers have an unanswerable case—as their union has accepted.

TERRIFIC

They need not, must not give up because a lawyer and an accountant on a tribunal say so.

Women's Voice editorial board member Judith Condon told Socialist Worker: 'This strike is terrific. It must not

fail. 'It's up to women everywhere who want equal pay to stand by the women at Trico.'

They need money. £8 a week strike pay is starvation income—especially for the single mothers among the workers.

They need support: support on the picket line, and messages of support from union branches.

Send money and messages to TRICO Strike Committee, AUEW Southall District, 1 Woodlands Road, Southall, Middlesex.

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FIGHT THE RACISTS!

All out Sunday 11 July

National demonstration supported by Indian Workers Association (both national federation), IS, and many other organisations. Assemble 12.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London. 2pm march to Downing St.