

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

The socialist

answer

ARE we living beyond our means, as the politicians, the bankers, the newspaper propagandists are claiming?

No, the workers of Britain are certainly not living beyond their means.

The average pay packet buys *less* now than it did in April 1972—yet the average worker is producing *more* wealth than he did then. That's according to official figures.

The Economist, the bosses' magazine, reported last week: 'British manufacturing industry has the lowest labour costs in the EEC.'

□ Has 'paying ourselves too much' caused unemployment?

No. If the unemployed were allowed to work, an extra £7,200 million in wealth would be produced.

Rising unemployment has cut the amount of wealth produced until it is lower than during the Tories' three-day week. End unemployment and we could all be paid more.

After all, shoe workers are sacked because unemployed textile workers cannot afford shoes, and textile workers are sacked because unemployed shoe workers cannot afford to buy clothes.

□ Are the social services gobbling up resources that should be used to build up industry?

No. The proportion of the country's resources are used by government spending has hardly risen. In 1964 it was 26.4 per cent; in 1974 26.8 per cent.

What has grown at alarming rates is the amount the government pays out in interest to those who loan it money—the fabulously rich City financiers and institutions. This came to £2000 million in 1970. Today it is £6000 million a year.

Another £2000 million a year is handed out as grants to subsidies to private industry. Add the figures together and you can see where most of

that £10,000 million-a-year alleged 'government overspending' goes.

The rest of this 'government debt' would disappear if the unemployed were allowed to work in the shut-down factories, paying taxes instead of receiving dole money.

□ What about the huge overseas debt?

The overseas debt of £10,000 million is not so huge if you compare it with the £15,000 million in property, factories and

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INSIDE



LAST PICKET AT METHIL

I've given 35 years to the union, subscribed to it, fought for it, gone on strike for it, built up pay and conditions with it, I've never taken a penny off it all those 35 years and now they turn round and kick me in the teeth!

REPORT—centre pages

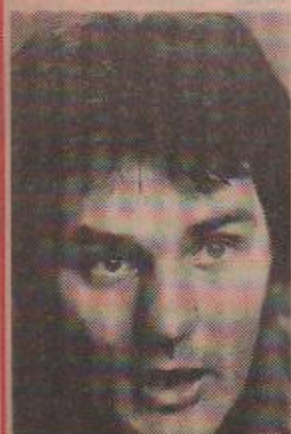


WHERE THE ROT STOPS

The Right to Work Campaign holds its Trade Union Delegate Conference against the Cuts and Unemployment that day at Belle Vue, Manchester—that's why Socialist Worker asks trade unionists why this conference is so vital.

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ELECTIONS: HELP US FIGHT!



Dave Hayes, shipyard welder and SW's prospective candidate in Newcastle

SOCIALIST WORKER urgently needs your help.

This week, parliament will announce the holding of two by-elections in only three weeks time. They are Walsall North and Newcastle Central.

Socialist Worker has a prospective candidate in both constituencies. In Walsall, Jimmy McCallum, an unemployed engineering worker. In Newcastle, Dave Hayes, a 24-year-old welder in Swan Hunter's shipyard.

Dave was unemployed for nine months, went on

both Right to Work marches and has had a three-month suspended prison sentence as a result of the police attack on the marchers.

These election campaigns are crucial. The socialist alternative to this crisis-ridden system must be put to as many people as possible.

Resources

Strong socialist organisation in both areas can be built, but only if we gather all our resources, immediately. And you, our readers and supporters, are our only resources.

□ We need money. We have to leaflet both constituencies more than once.

□ We need transport to get canvassers round the area.

□ We need people to help with the thousands of jobs to be done.

The Socialist Worker Fighting Fund for the next three weeks is an Election Fund. Get every spare penny down to us now. And if you can spare a day or a weekend, come to Walsall or Newcastle right away.

□ Phone Walsall (0922) 61481, or Newcastle upon Tyne (0632) 657806.



Jimmy McCallum, unemployed engineering worker and SW's prospective candidate in Walsall

Whose side — the 'peace' movement?

THE three most prominent members of the Northern Ireland 'Peace movement' were shouted down when they attempted to address a meeting in the Turf Lodge area of Belfast on Sunday.

The British press has treated this as another example of 'Republican thuggery'. But the anger of the local people who attended the meeting was easy to understand.

Twelve hours earlier 13-year-old Brian Stewart had died. He had been hit in the head by a plastic bullet earlier in the week fired by a British soldier.

Rags like the Sun, Daily Express and Daily Mirror have repeated army claims that he had been part of a stone-throwing crowd. Local people know otherwise. The boy was standing by his own front door when a soldier fired without provocation and shattered his skull.

The meeting was called by a local tenants' association in protest at this murder. The 'peace women' arrived uninvited. They had just returned from a much publicised tour of the US.

The 'Peace women' claimed back in Belfast that they were against 'all violence'—whether from the IRA, the Loyalist UVF or the British Army. Maybe some of them mean this.

Mention

But the speeches in the US and the press publicity given to the 'peace women' were all directed against the IRA. The violence of those who killed Brian Stewart received not a mention.

The 'peace women' are not associated with the movement for the removal of the murders of Brian Stewart from Northern Ireland. So they are seen more and more by people in Republican areas, such as Turf Lodge not as 'peace makers' but as supporting one side in the war.

The root cause of the war is the presence of the British. As new Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason had made it clear: 'Come hell and high water or another 1600 dead the Labour government intends the British presence to be permanent.'

Until that is changed peace is an impossibility.

Anyone who doubts it should consider the record of the Third Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, now concluding a term of duty in South Armagh. In the past four months, they have managed to kill three people: a school teacher on his way home from work, an off-duty reserve policeman and a 12-year old-girl.

STOP THESE HANGINGS!

NEXT Thursday is the second international day of action for Noel and Marie Murray, the two Dublin anarchists who face hanging for the alleged murder of a Dublin policeman.

□ **LONDON:** Picket the Irish Embassy, Grosvenor Place, SW1, from Midnight 20 October to Midnight 21st.

□ **MANCHESTER:** Picket the Irish Tourist Board, Cross Street, 5pm-6pm, Thursday 21st.

□ **LEEDS:** Defend the Murrays meeting, Saturday 16 October, 2.30pm, Trades Club.



NOEL JENKINSON: MURDERED BY SYSTEM

'Top IRA bomber dies'. That was the press response to the death of Noel Jenkinson in a cell in the top security wing of Leicester Prison last Saturday.

But Noel was not a 'bomber' at all. He was a trade unionist, a socialist and a tireless fighter against the British domination of Ireland. International Socialists who knew Noel and have studied the evidence at his trial four years ago know he was 'fitted-up' by the police.

Dave Widgery writes: 'I first met Noel Jenkinson in 1968, when we set up the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign in Islington, North London.'

Noel had formerly been secretary of the Highgate branch of the Communist



Noel Jenkinson

Party before he left in 1962, and a leading trade unionist at Holloway bus garage. He was chairman and guiding spirit of the solidarity campaign in Islington for a year.

When I heard that he had been arrested for the Aldershot bombing in 1972 it

just didn't make any sense. The scrappiness of the police evidence, the air of public vengefulness in which the trial was conducted and Noel's steadfast and adamant denial of involvement make me convinced that he was a victim of the police's haste to find a scapegoat.

Jim Blake who visited Noel in prison only a month ago, told Socialist Worker.

'Noel was a convenient "fit-up" for the British secret police. Evidence was planted in his flat to associate him with Aldershot. It was later withdrawn as "inadmissible" but the trial went ahead.'

Solitary

'In prison he was a tireless fighter against the system and suffered for it. He was twice badly beaten—last November he was beaten unconscious and taken to hospital. After that he was placed in solitary confinement "for his own protection".'

'But the prison authorities hated him most of all because his case of appeal had been accepted by the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg a couple of months ago. This appeal would have been enough to shine some publicity on the shambles of the case against him.'

'The authorities say that he died last week from "natural causes". This is unlikely for a fit man of 46.'

'But in any case, one thing is certain. He would not have died if he had not framed and thrown into prison. He was murdered by the system.'



WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

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Powell forced to crawl Colour bar club picketed

ENOCHE POWELL was forced to crawl in the back entrance of the Sheffield Cutlers' Hall last Wednesday to avoid 250 pickets with banners and placards protesting at his appearance at a dinner by the Institute of Plant Engineers.

Two of the guests were persuaded to turn away. The rest had to run the gauntlet of the picket. Many failed to avoid the flour and rotten fruit that the pickets contributed to the banquet.

The Inspector in charge of the 20 police began to lose his temper. He was forced to back down after trying to arrest one of the pickets for foul language, but then turned to an overseas student and told him to go away and learn English.

The picket erupted and the police were forced to withdraw the inspector to the other side of the road. The picket had been called by the International Socialists.

COVENTRY branch of Equity, the entertainment union, supported by the local trades council, held a picket of the racist Barras Green Club last weekend in support of black Equity member Ian Bailey.

Ian, a Right to Work marcher, had previously been refused work at the club. Ruth Patton, local branch secretary of Equity, described the club's policy as 'appalling' and called on all trade unionists to black this club.

Colin Lindsay, presi-

dent of Coventry Trades Council, told Socialist Worker: 'The trades council has written to the club, but we have received no reply. Tonight we approached the club committee but they refused to discuss the matter.'

'We call on all trade unionists to observe normal trade union solidarity until this club changes its policy.'

Policy

The 40-strong picket was successful in turning away three of the entertainers booked by the club for the evening cabaret.

Comedian Ray Burns told Socialist Worker: 'We fully support Equity in their action. The policy of this club is disgraceful.'

Said Ian Bailey: 'After the insults of the past few weeks I am elated at this success. I hope it develops into something much bigger.'

The Right to Work Campaign started it all. They were the inspiration to get it going.

'Equity has called on the trades council to contact the dustmen and draymen to black the club. It's likely that the draymen will

black the club this week.' □ A further picket has been called for 6.45pm, this Saturday, 16 October, Barras Green Club.

SOME 60 supporters of the National Front turned up at Brick Lane in East London last Sunday to sell their racist newspaper—to be met by a hundred supporters of Socialist Worker who gave out hundreds of 'They're Welcome Here' leaflets and sold more than 100 copies of

Socialist Worker. Many Bengalis expressed their support for the Socialist Worker action against the Nazis and organising a demonstration for next Sunday against the appearance of Mosley's successors in the East End: Outside the Naz Cinema, Brick Lane, E2.

THE fascists received a big rebuff in Waltham Forest, East London, last week. They had planned a picket of the local town hall by one of the local residents, associations to protest at the opening of a mosque in the area.

But they were outnumbered more than two to one by local International Socialists and supporters of Socialist Worker. When the residents were told they were being led by Nazis, most of them went home.

The police did their best to protect the Nazis, and arrested a Socialist Worker supporter. When another went to the police station to make inquiries, he too was arrested.

Black victims of police speak out

SIX black girls from Harlesden, North London, who were beaten up by the police appear in court on Tuesday. They are accused of 'assault'.

The trial, at St Mary's Road magistrates court, will be picketed by the Brent Defence Committee. At a meeting on Sunday four of the girls issued this statement:

'We four black women from Harlesden are members of the Brent Defence Committee which

was formed to defend us black people from constant police harassment

'Before now the thought had never entered our minds to get together to organise ourselves.

'Without the help and interest of members of the black parents' movement,

the black students' movement and also the International Socialists, we would never have been able to start this committee.

'We members who have worked on this committee for the past four months have learnt many things.

The most important is that no one else would have defended us but ourselves.

'We realise that to get support is by organising with other blacks in the community. We cannot depend on our MPs or our so-called representatives.

'We don't expect any justice from the magistrates or the police, what we do expect is to build a movement which will recognise our justice of oppressed people.'

KEEP THE NAZIS OUT OF CAMDEN!

Mass picket against the National Front AGM, this Saturday, 16 October, 9am, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1. Called by Camden Trades Council. All London branches of the International Socialists and NOISS to support.

THE CRISIS

—from page one

so on that our upper classes own abroad. If they were serious about 'getting the country out of debt' they would sell these possessions. But they are not. They prefer to load the debt on the backs of the workers.

The 'huge' loan the government is trying to get from the International Monetary Fund is only equal to what our rulers spend on the arms budget in six months. It is less than a quarter of what the rich in Britain and themselves as dividends and interests last year.

'Britain' may be overspending by £3000 million a year. But if arms spending was slashed and the rich parasites forced to go without their unearned millions, there would be a huge surplus.

□ Would higher profits cure unemployment?

The Labour government says higher profits for employers mean more investment in new factories, new machinery—so more jobs for workers. But profits have been rising fast for the past year, and so has unemployment.

Profits were up 29 per cent in the first half of this year. But investment only remained at last year's extremely low level.



Far from using their profits to create new jobs, the big companies have built up an estimated £1500 million in cash this year which they refuse to invest. Some have even been borrowing from the banks to speculate against the pound.

A little of this money may be invested next year. But it is unlikely to create jobs.

As recently in British Leyland, Chrysler, British Steel and British Rail, investment may be to replace men by machines, leading to fewer jobs. The Financial Times reported last week 'that investment for next year is largely labour-saving rather than job-creating.'

□ So what has caused the crisis?

The whole world capitalist system has been in crisis. There are a million jobless in France, Germany and Japan, seven and a half million in the US.

And the crisis is far from over. Unemployment in the US has increased by 500,000 in three months. The Financial Times on Monday reported that 'falling sales have caused a recession throughout the European steel in-

Here is the socialist answer...

dustry.'

Things are slightly worse in Britain than elsewhere, because our rulers have squandered their wealth rather than invested it. But their system is in crisis everywhere.

□ What is the answer?

There is no way out unless you replace this lunatic system with a properly planned society, planned for need not for profit, a socialist society.

That cannot be done while one per cent of the population owns 80 per cent of industry and finance, while they are free to move their wealth abroad every time there is a quick profit to be made from selling the pound, so sabotaging government policies.

□ How do we get socialist planning?

The workers' organisations must take control of industry and the banks. This cannot be done 'gradually'—the moment you tried, big business would use its power to cause chaos.

What is needed is:

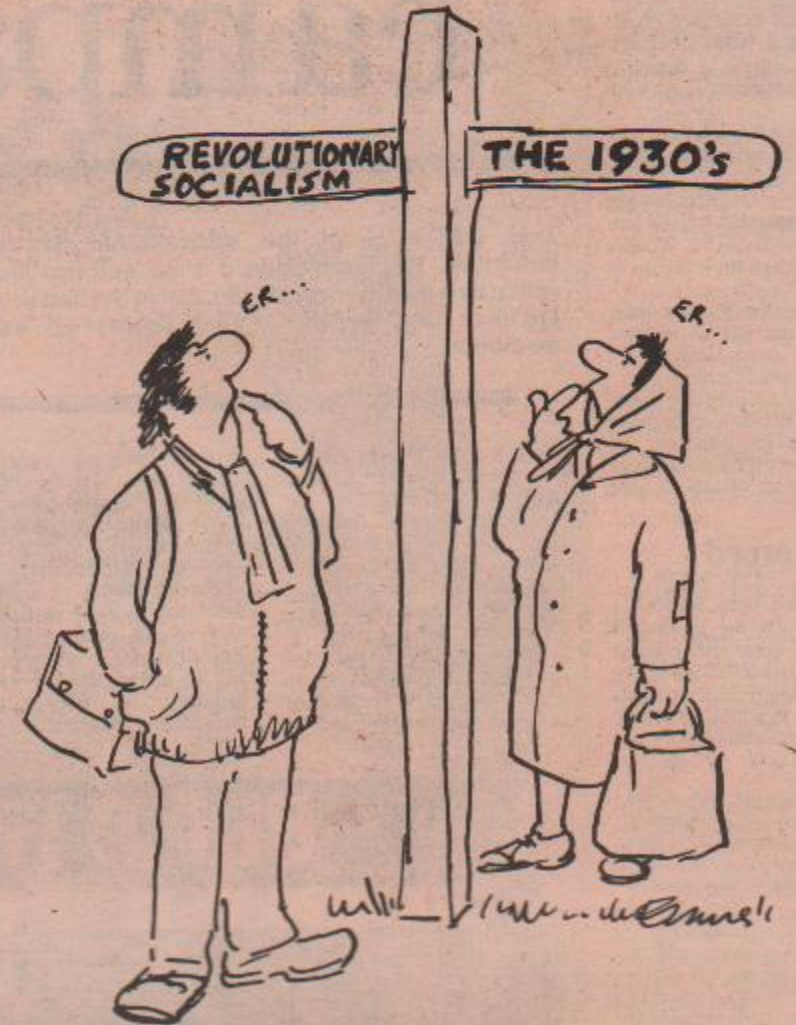
- **Nationalisation** without compensation of industries that leave machines idle and workers unemployed
- **Cancellation** of government interest payments to money-lenders and banks—and nationalisation of those banks without compensation.

□ **An end to the massive waste** on such things as Concorde, advertising, defence spending. Use the workers and machinery so wasted to produce things people need—more housing, better public transport, cheaper food for example.

□ **An end to the vast waste on the luxuries of the rich**—such as Lady Beaverbrook's spending of £10,000 to fly her puppies from America.

□ **Workers' control** to stop the rich hoarding their wealth or moving it abroad.

Until we get such policies, we should oppose every attempt to cut our wages, our jobs, our schools, our health services or our social services.



WHICH WAY ???

BYE BYE FRANKIE, BYE BYE

IT'S been a truly magnificent week for our special fund to pay off right-wing Electricians' Union leader Frank Chapple's damages for libel. We received £517.92, taking the fund to just below the targetted figure.

Thanks to our readers and supporters we have now just about enough, so we are now closing the Chapple Fund.

Our thanks this week to:

Islington NALGO £24.10, H Willis £1, C Morgan 50p, P Rao £5, Norwich SW supporter £10, Dumfries reader £1, Dr R Dingwall £5, Watson Norrie electricians £14, J Lowe £2, Levenshulme supporters £2.50, Somerset reader 50p, Barry Pavier £100, Inner East London £100, I Bancroft £1, J Geary £5, Crewe supporters £2, A Sechas £1, C Hore £1 (from sale of Embassy coupons), Central London SW meeting £7.65, Bangor IS £6, Dumfries £4, Witham £4.90, Leamington £3.08, Exeter University IS Society £4.71, Inner East London Districts IS £130, Aberdeen £50, Hulme readers £5, Swansea £10 and Kingston £1.35.



The gutted warehouses last week—and the Dockworker's headline in December 1973.

Docks: A blaze of silence

TOP-LEVEL police investigations are under way into an outbreak of fire in London's dockland.

Since March there have been five serious fires in North Quay, near the derelict London Docks. All five have been in warehouses listed as 'of special historical interest'.

They are all owned by a property speculation company, Riverside London Ltd, which had plans to develop the warehouses into an international export centre. Its chairman, Basil Winham, has estimated that the fires will cost his company £1 million.

The police, co-operating with the fire brigade, believe the fires are the work of an expert arsonist.

by BOB LIGHT

TGWU shop steward, London Royal Docks

Now it is encouraging to know that the police are vigilant, but it is also curious. Because two years ago Dockworker, a rank and file paper produced by dockers, carried an exclusive story very similar to those in the press last week.

In 1972, the defunct St Katherine's Dock was the richest development land in London. The whole area was cannibalised by property speculators.

But sadly they had a problem. Many of the

warehouses and buildings dated back to the Napoleonic Wars, and were 'listed', which meant they could not be demolished.

Which meant that the speculators could not fully develop their land, which meant they would not get their hands on so much money.

Fate

However fate took a hand, and within 12 months mysterious fires burnt virtually every single 'listed' building in the area to the ground. There were at least 15, which destroyed nearly the whole waterfront from Tower Bridge to Wapping Stairs.

Once these fires had gutted the buildings, permission was invariably given to demolish and develop them.

The amazing accidents began on October 1972 with a fire in a 19th century warehouse in Dock Street, Wapping. It was 'listed'. Its owners, Leopold Joseph Property Company, applied to demolish.

The Environment Ministry refused, and four weeks later

the warehouse burnt down—accidentally of course.

The blitzkrieg came to an end a year later in November 1973 when B Warehouse in St Katharine's Dock was razed to the ground. It was owned by Taylor-Woodrow, who until then had a major problem with their plan to develop St Katharine's as a playground for the international beautiful people.

From the ashes Taylor Woodrow got 369,000 feet of prime development land, at current prices worth a pleasant £124 million.

The Dockworker published all these facts at Christmas 1973.

Funnily enough, nothing was ever heard of the story.

Which should surprise nobody at all. When fires were accidentally blazing a path for money-making in property speculation, the press and the police did nothing at all. But when a series of fires affect a property company adversely, then it becomes 'news' and the forces of law and order swing into action.

RED SKY AT NIGHT SPECULATORS DELIGHT

Spare a day for our campaign

THE GOVERNMENT have made it clear that they are calling the writs for the by-elections at Walsall North and Newcastle Central.

This means polling day will almost certainly be on Thursday 4 November.

There will be a Socialist Worker candidates in both elections.

In **WALSALL**, the prospective candidate is Jimmy McCallum.

Our campaign there has got into full swing in the past two weeks. Two Socialist Worker branches have been set up in the town.

The Socialist Worker order this week was put up to 200 but these soon vanished in street and estate sales.

Leaflets pushing the basic Socialist Worker case have gone through hundreds of letter-boxes on the huge council estates at Bloxwich and Willenhall.

Agreed

Support for Socialist Worker is gaining ground in the Asian community. Last week Jimmy McCallum spoke to the all-Asian shop stewards committee at Midlands Motor Cylinders, a subsidiary of the giant Birmid group, in Smethwick.

The committee agreed to pass his message and his literature on to all workers in the factory, especially those who live in Walsall.

This week, a collection at the Guru Nanak Sikh temple raised £50 for the defence of people arrested on the 23 September anti-racist demonstration in Walsall.

Many Labour Party supporters have approached Socialist Worker campaigners with offers of help. They say they are 'sick to death of Stonehouse and everything he stands for'.

In **NEWCASTLE CENTRAL**, a by-election has been created by the elevation of Mr Edward Short to the chairmanship of Cables and Wireless Ltd, the state communications company.

Suitable

T Dan Short, as he is known in Newcastle after his long friendship with master-crook T Dan Smith, will get £9,500 a year (nearly £200 a week) in this new sinecure.

If he goes to the House of Lords, he will get another £13 a day.

The Labour Party are busily looking around to find a suitable careerist who can sit for Newcastle Central for

THE GROWTH of the International Socialists continues. We thought we'd done well last month with a new membership of 190. But in the first week of October, another 71 people signed up as IS members.

another 40 years before becoming chairman of some vast state enterprise.

Socialist Worker will also have a candidate—unemployed boilermaker—Dave Haynes—to put the case for a new kind of politics to the Short/Stonehouse variety.

He or she will be arguing for rank and file organisation to stop the dreadful decline in the centre of Newcastle caused by

property speculators, aided by T Dan Smith, and ignored by the pathetic shadow of 'representation' symbolised by T Dan Short.

□ **The Stechford by-election—in which Socialist Worker was planning to put up unemployed draughtsman Ken Appleby as a candidate—is now unlikely to take place before next March.**

THE AREA Health Authority in Walsall is threatening to close the maternity home in Bloxwich.

This move, which would threaten the comfort and lives of many hundreds of mothers and children, would 'save' the authority £42,000.

Meanwhile, the same authority has just spent £34,000 on a new 100-line telephone exchange plus 'suitable' fittings and furnishings.

Infant mortality in Walsall is on the increase.

Fight the Cuts! Come to a Socialist Worker Public Meeting. Hear Jimmy McCallum on Tuesday 19 October, 7.30pm, at Bloxwich Library Theatre, Elmoro Row, Bloxwich.

RED ALERT

THESE two by-elections take place on 4 November—and Socialist Worker will have candidates in both.

Can you help? Have you got any holidays in the next three weeks?

What about the teachers who will be off next week with the school half-term? Why not spend your half-term working for the Socialist Worker candidates?

Jimmy McCallum's headquarters is now on

Come and help at Walsall and Newcastle

the phone. The number is 0922-614891.

Ring and let us know how you can help.

If you live near Newcastle, ring John Cowley at 0632-657806, and tell him when you can help.



I want to help the Socialist Worker candidates.

Name

Address

Telephone

When I can help

Send to Jim Nichol, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

COUNT ME IN SAYS BRUCE

BRUCE RAMSAY was one of 60 people who attended a Socialist Worker public meeting in Dundee last Thursday.

He worked as a plater at Redpath Dorman Long until the scaffolders and erectors came out on strike four weeks ago.

He wasn't going to cross any picket line—and instead he joined the pickets every morning.

'I've been reading the Morning Star for years', he said.



Bruce Ramsay: 'I like SW'

'But I've been worried for some time about the politics.

'They seem to be losing touch with the rank and file. Well, I like your paper and I think I'll be joining your lot'.

Six other people joined at the meeting.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!



Ken Cross selling SW in Treforest: with others, he has quickly built a branch.

I BELIEVE the International Socialists (of which I regard myself as privileged to be a member) to be the Party of the future—if only to fill the obvious vacuum that the Labour Party has caused by drifting away from some of its policies under Tory and capitalist pressures.

I am a shop steward with the Transport and General Workers Union and when my union leaders are praised by Edward Heath, as they say in the old adage:

Injustices

"When the Lion lays down with the Lamb, it is time we examined the Lion."

I have always believed that the Labour Party is the voice of the trade unions.

During my activities as a shop steward, I have come across many injustices and I hope to be able in the future to help rectify these, to name one, the complete refusal of Len Murray at Brighton to

LABOUR EXPELLED ME-FOR ACTING ON PARTY POLICY

By Ken Cross

allow the Right to Work delegates to speak, and the cooperation of our leaders in implementing the cuts.

I was an active member of the Labour Party and when I implemented a Conference decision to fight the Tory Rent Act I was expelled for my pains (I canvassed for an Independent Labour Candidate).

In the company of others, I have formed an IS branch at Treforest in South Wales.

I sell the Socialist Worker at our Market Place to try and shake off some of the apathy that exists in this once Labour stronghold, and give my wife and children that which they should be entitled to, a Comprehensive Social Service and the Education that they deserve, and of course the right to work in their chosen trade or profession.

□ Ken's branch now has five members, including another TGWU shop steward.

WHY did you join the International Socialists?

We want new members to write and tell us.

□ Write to SW Page, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

ABORTION: JOIN THE PICKETS

SPUC, the anti-abortion group, is planning to hold meetings and rallies over the next month in its campaign against women's rights. Women's Voice has called for counter-pickets of all these meetings.

□ **LONDON:** Monday 18 October, Central Hall Westminster. Women's Voice counter-picket 7pm.

□ **BRADFORD:** Sunday 7 November. Counter-picket 1pm, Lister Park.

□ **CHELMSFORD:** Sunday 7 November. Counter-picket 1.30pm, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford City Football Ground.

□ **GLASGOW:** Sunday 7 November. Counter-picket outside Kelvin Halls, 2.30pm. Speakers for the SPUC meeting include James White.

□ **BRISTOL:** Details from Bobby Noyes, phone 0703-31743.

□ **BIRMINGHAM:** Details from Birmingham IS Bookshop, phone 021-643 5717.

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 an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

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

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

Death of a 'trouble-maker'

'LAW AND ORDER' COMES TO THAILAND

THE THAI tragedy need never have happened.

Three years ago, the country's students and workers were powerful enough to overthrow a previous dictatorship.

The generals could not cope with an 800,000-strong student-led demonstration and strike wave involving hundreds of thousands of workers.

They agreed to hand the government over to parliamentary politicians—provided they were left in full control of the armed forces.

All the leading politicians agreed to this—instead of extending the struggles against the dictatorship into a struggle against the army officers who had kept the dictators in power.

Strike

But for the generals and the right wing this arrangement was only temporary.

They dared not carry through a coup at first because of the strength of the workers' movement. A general strike last December paralysed Bangkok for five days.

But when a new wave of student protests against the revival of the right took place last month, the politicians told the workers to have nothing to do with them. Parliament, they claimed, could deal with the right. The students were left isolated.

The generals and the fascists knew their time had come. As in Chile three years ago, they attacked not only the left, but also the very politicians who had left intact the power of the generals.



First they murdered them, then they burned their bodies...

BARBARISM comes to Thailand. Armed police last week invaded the university in Bangkok where mildly left-wing students were demonstrating.

The police were followed by hundreds of right-wing thugs. While the police covered the students with their guns, the thugs set upon and murdered many of the students.

At the same time, the generals announced that the parliamentary government was overthrown and gave power to an extreme right-wing dictator.

British newspapers like the Daily Telegraph

expressed satisfaction at this state of affairs. The right-wing fantasies that have long filled their letters' columns had come to pass in one more unfortunate part of the earth.

The brigadiers, generals, air vice-marshals, rear-admirals, had taken over from politicians who were 'soft on the reds'. The left-wing books had been burnt.

The 'tyranny of the trade unions' had been ended. The 'student trouble-makers' had been taught a lesson.

A new 'strong man' was restoring 'law and order'.



And it's the same story in Ethiopia...

THE MILITARY regime in Ethiopia is trying to wipe out the left.

It is blaming all the country's problems on the revolutionary organisation, the EPRP. Hundreds of EPRP members have been arrested and many murdered.

But this has not stopped widespread strikes, and 20,000-strong demonstrations led by the EPRP.

Telegram

□ The Central Committee of the International Socialists last week sent the following telegram to the Ethiopian government:

'Shocked to learn repression against EPRP, massacres of workers, peasants, teachers, student leaders. We call immediately stop repression and release all progressive political prisoners.'

MILITANTS MURDERED IN IRAN

THE government-controlled press in Iran has announced the execution of two left-wing militants, Azam Rohi Ahangaran and Mohammed Nader Safari Langeroudi.

Azam was a textile worker in the Jahan Chit factory, where she earned £2.50 for a 72-hour week. (The cost of living is the same as in Britain.) There have been several strikes in the factory.

SAVAK

Nader was, until two years ago, a chemistry student at Sussex University.

Both were executed for allegedly being involved in the killing by guerrillas of three US advisers.

But both were already in the hands of SAVAK, the notorious Iranian secret police, when the Americans were killed.

International Socialism 92



NOW OUT: The latest edition of International Socialism Journal. Major articles on Ireland and China. 39p (inc postage) from ISJ, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 or 30p from your SW seller.

Zimbabwe: Why we fight on

WE'RE NOT fighting to put a black Smith into power in Zimbabwe. It isn't just Smith who has to be smashed, it is the system he represents.

The armed struggle is not a glamorous thing. I went to a section of the front where, six months ago, there were 600 fully trained freedom fighters.

Only 37 of them are still alive, most of them have lost one or both legs.

But our army is different from Smith's, or the British Army. It is political commitment to the liberation of our

BLACK freedom fighters last week blew up an important railway bridge in Northern Rhodesia. Their success has forced even middle class black politicians like Joshua Nkomo to place conditions on their talks with Ian Smith.

country which makes us continue the struggle, even when we are sick, wounded, or practically starving.

In one of the camps I visited, the freedom fighters were living on two slices of bread a day.

The British papers describe

us as terrorists. If a white farmer gets himself killed, it's headline news. But the papers don't talk about the massacre of defenceless men, women and children in the Mozambique refugee camp.

That was the work of the real terrorists—the white

ZINGARI, a representative in London of the Zimbabwe Peoples Army, explained to SUE COCKERELL, secretary of the Southern Africa solidarity campaign, why they are continuing to fight.

racist army. The papers don't tell you that three-quarters of the Rhodesian army are white mercenaries from South Africa and Britain.

They don't tell you that 'Red Berets'—deserters from Ireland—took part in the Mozambique massacre.

The papers concentrate on the personalities of 'leaders' like Nkomo and Muzorewa. But we are doing the fighting, not Nkomo or Muzorewa.

If people think we have struggled and died for a constitutional conference, then they are fools.

We are not going to stop now, when we have almost beaten Smith, to sit down and talk to him.

We need your support, we need money, military equipment, educational material, medicines. We want you to spread the message that the struggle in Zimbabwe is not over, that it will only be won when the armed struggle is victorious.

□ If you want to support the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe, contact the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign c/o 101-103 Gower Street, London W1.

SOUTHERN AFRICA BADGE in red, black and white. Available from IS International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 15p each (plus postage 6p) or £1.50 for ten (post-free) £10 for 100.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

Some people say the Socialist Worker candidates in the coming by-elections could split the Labour vote and let the Tories in. But that would be the fault of Labour's pro-capitalist policies. We want to present a socialist alternative.

Why we're standing

JOHN STONEHOUSE was elected on the Labour ticket by the working people of Walsall North to represent their interests.

He became Postmaster General, lined his pockets with other people's money in ways the law frowns upon and is now in jail, owing £750,000, some of which, according to press reports, he has salted away in Swiss bank accounts.

Edward Short was elected on the Labour ticket by the working people of Newcastle Central to represent their interests. He became Minister of Education, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and various other things.

Unlike Stonehouse, he is not a convicted crook. He 'retires', not to jail, but to a very well paid and probably none too strenuous job as Chairman of

the Board of Cable and Wireless. No dole for Ted! No dole either for Fred, now Lord Peart. He has had the experience, all too common nowadays, of being made redundant.

But unlike the unfortunate men and women who are thrown out of employment in Workington he was immediately found another job, complete with title, perks and salary 'suitable' to his new station in life.

It brings to mind the Labour Party election slogan 'Labour Cares About People'. Well, about some people anyway.

Shuffle

Suppose it had been different. Suppose the cards had been shuffled and the workers of Walsall had been 'represented' by the newly-made noble Lord, those of Workington by the eminent company chairman and those of Newcastle by the crook.

What difference would it have made?

It would not have made one pennyworth of difference.

The jailbird, the peer and the company director were absolutely interchangeable so far as any real working class interest is concerned.

All three supported the Social Confidence Trick—the cutting of real pay to boost profits—all three were for cuts in the social services, all three backed the economic policies of Wilson-Callaghan-Healey, knowing well that those policies meant mass unemployment and misery for the very people whose votes they sought and won. All three, in short, were Labour MPs.

All three have, for different reasons, vacated their seats and three new horses from the same stable expect to canter home to the green pastures of the House of Commons on 4 November. Once there, it is a pound to a penny that they will support with their votes exactly the same policies as their

predecessors.

There will be Socialist Worker candidates in Newcastle and Walsall on 4 November. I wish there was one in Workington, too, but lack of organisation on the ground prevents it.

These candidates will oppose the Social Confidence Trick, will oppose the cuts, will oppose the government's bootlicking of the faceless bankers of the IMF and its grovelling before the profiteers and speculators of this country.

Deception

They will stand for the nationalisation of the banks and financial institutions without compensation to the financial sharks who rob us everyday, for nationalisation of industry and a planned economy under the democratic control of working people as the only way to end unemployment, inflation and the ruin of the social services.

Now there are people on the left who say that they agree with these policies, or most of them, but argue against Socialist Worker candidates.

'You are splitting the Labour vote,' they say. 'You may let the Tories in.'

As a matter of fact, it is pretty unlikely that any such thing will happen.

But suppose, for the sake of argument, that the disgust among Labour voters is so great that the Labour vote falls so much that the comparatively small vote that revolutionary socialist candidates are likely to get at this stage does make the difference between Labour victory or defeat.

Blameless

Who is to blame for that? Who was to blame for the massive fall in the Labour vote in Rotherham and Thurrock? Socialist Worker? Don't be daft.

The Labour government was to blame. Its policies drive many Labour voters into abstention or, and this is a really dangerous trend, into voting for the fascists or the Tories.

This is exactly what happened in recent by-elections where there was no Socialist Worker candidate.

If the Labour Party does lose any of the elections on 4 November to the Tories, the blame will rest squarely on the shoulders of Callaghan, Healey and the rest.

The 'left' MPs allow themselves to be blackmailed into supporting Callaghan's Tory policies with their votes in parliament by the 'don't rock the boat' argument.

We are not going to be blackmailed. It is time to take a stand.

The socialist alternative must be presented, and it will be.

SPIES - IN THE HOSPITAL THAT TRED TO BUG ITS OWN WORKERS

A HOSPITAL which hit the headlines last April when listening devices were found in its bake-house is back in the news.

This time it's over the sacking of a worker for allegedly taking food from the stores.

It is, of course, a mere coincidence that the sacked worker, Tommy Miller, is the same man who discovered the listening devices. And that he is a militant shop steward.

Tommy, who is to appear in court at the end of the month, is the second person in the last two weeks to be accused of theft by the management at Brockhall Hospital at Old Langho near Blackburn in Lancashire.

He was 'apprehended' by three members of the local constabulary and a dog when he nipped home to his house on the hospital estate for his midday meal.

Telepathic

As the hospital is some miles from the nearest town, it would seem that either at least one of the constables, (or the dog?) was telepathic or the police were already at his house before he set off from the bake-house.

This being the case, it would seem that we have at least one informer!

Rumours that informers have been planted in various departments were borne out when a man was told by his head of department that he was 'To keep his eyes and ears open, and his mouth shut' and report later on the situation among his work-mates.

Instead he confided in his work-mates.

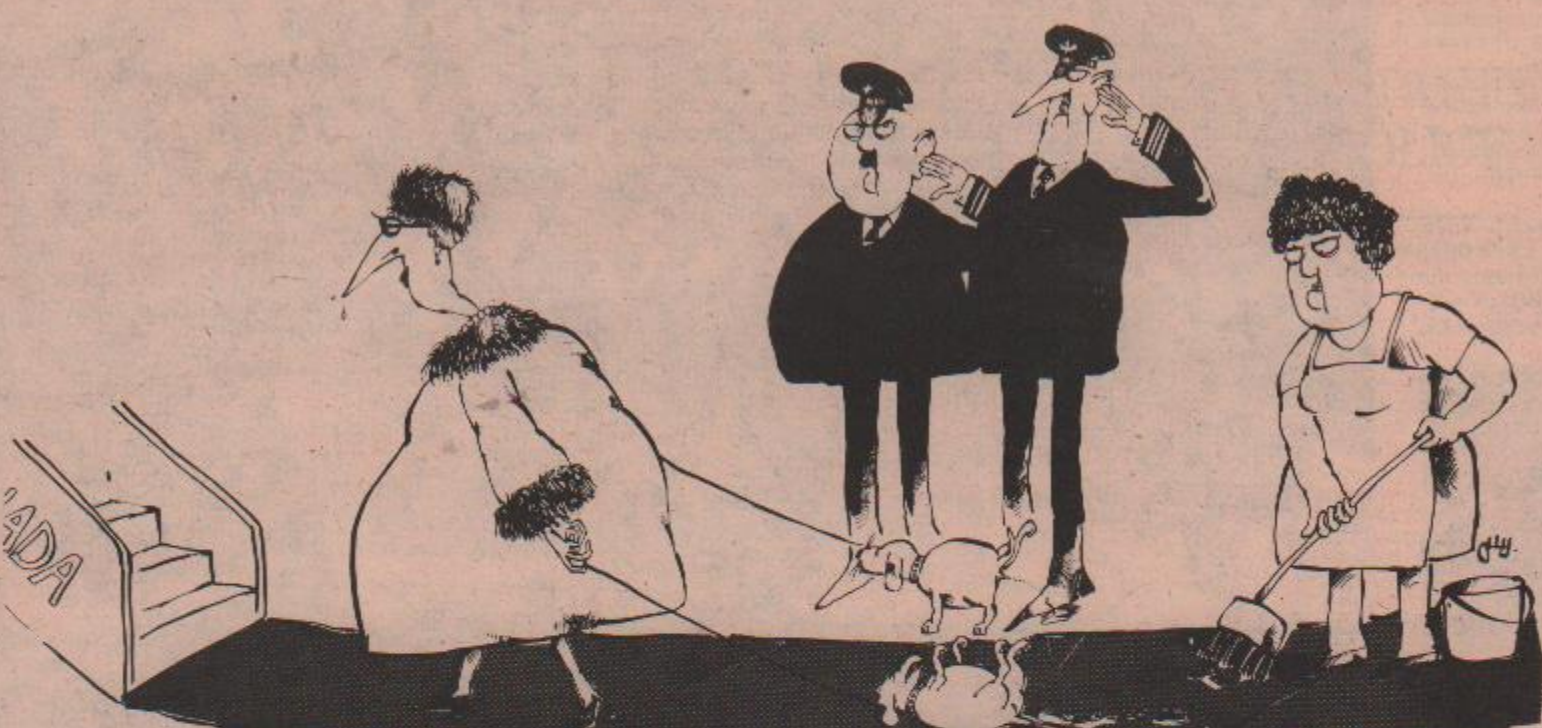
Last week stewards claimed that management had announced that Tommy Miller would not get his job back even if found not guilty in court.

Now doesn't that sound like a nice little frame-up?

THE NAZI NATIONAL FRONT: A Socialist Worker supporter who is gay approached a National Front member during a recent confrontation in East London, pointed to his *I Am a Homosexual* badge and asked: 'what would you do with people like me when you come to power, then?'

To which the fascist replied: 'Soap'. Stunned the SW supporter asked him to elaborate. 'Soap', he repeated. 'We'd melt you down...'

□ **LUNATIC SCHEMES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.** Part 393: Councillor Tom Simpson, chairman of the joint consultative committee for staff and management of Scotland's Central Regional Council, wants workers to pay back one per cent of their annual pay. The alternative, he told a meeting in Stirling on 16 September, would be redundancies.



Lady Beaverbrook hired a 227-seat airliner so that she could take two dogs to her home in Canada. It is believed to have cost almost £10,000.—NEWS ITEM

Two more 'scroungers'

RONALD Gray was a real scrounger.

For 26 years, he was a seaman. When he came out of the navy in his late forties, he couldn't settle down to an indoor job.

He wanted to be a post-man because of the outdoor life, but the Post Office didn't want him. So Ronald, from West Ham, East London, lived on social security.

But when he was asked to appear before a tribunal to explain why he kept refusing inside jobs, Ronald couldn't face it.

First he stopped drawing the money he was entitled to—and shortly afterwards he was found dead, having taken an overdose of tablets with half a bottle of whisky.

Another victory for the SS in their battle with the scroungers...

GEORGE Collin was also a scrounger.

He has been unable to work to full capacity for four years because of rheumatoid arthritis in the spine. His illness means that it takes him 90 minutes just to get dressed each morning.

But, nonetheless, 48 year-old George tried to work—

and his Social Security payments were stopped. That was in April.

Soon he found himself in desperate straits financially. He owed £350 in rent.

And so now Berwickshire District Council—which takes a 'tough line' on rent defaulters—has evicted him from his house in Eyemouth.

He was left in the street with a suitcase too heavy for him to carry.

This is what politicians like to call 'the Compassionate Society'...

The Long Guzzle...

□ **NOW THAT** we have started, in the words of the Daily Mirror, The Long March, some people have obviously stocked up with provisions to keep them going.

In that same issue, 29 September, the Mirror also published this little gem:

'Rare wines fetched about £135,000 at auction at Christie's in London yesterday. One bottle was sold for £300.'

MATT SALISBURY

womens voice PRICES OUTRAGE



OUT NOW: The latest issue of *Women's Voice*. Articles on abortion, racialism, the cuts, the family, the women's peace movement, Trico.

7p a copy or 15p (inc postage) from *Women's Voice*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2

The need for a rank and file movement: 3-page special

A RIGHT TO WORK DEMO GREET'S Mr ASSET STRIPPER...

THE SLATER WALKER speculators got a nasty shock last Friday from the Right to Work Campaign. Just as multi-millionaire chairman Jimmy Goldsmith began his outline of the company's future, Ray Storry, an unemployed worker from South London, stood up on his chair and yelled: 'How many factories have you closed this year? How many people have you put out of work by your speculation?' Ray was joined by three other supporters of the Campaign, firing cutting questions at Goldsmith about the company's habit of giving £400,000 loans to buy fancy houses for the directors.



'I won't forget the Hungry Thirties'

WORKERS at Homerton Tyre and Rubber in Treforest, South Wales have been on and off short time for the last three years. But not a single job has been lost. The union has resisted sackings to the bitter end.



Idris: 'axe to grind'

David Hole and Idris Philips, shop steward and TGWU branch secretary at Homerton, will be at Belle Vue.

'I've a personal axe to grind', said Idris, 'having been a kid in the Hungry Thirties, remembering the free boots and milk, the indignity of being called before the headmaster to get them.'

'We have no right to allow a future generation to grow up under such a shadow.'

David Hole added: 'It is vital that the fight is stepped up.'

'We've not let anyone go down the road but we've had short time.'

'And with these cuts, who knows what's ahead of us, if we don't resist.'

'Unofficial action vital'



GEORGE POGMORE is a bus worker in York and a member of the Transport Union.

He'll be at Belle Vue on 6 November and is anxious that as many other workers as possible get themselves delegated and come along.

'I've been a fighter in the movement for a long time says George. 'And one thing I've learned is that you have to involve yourself in unofficial action if you're to succeed in getting the union machine into motion.'

Dole

'I work in several prominent trade union committees and I find that a lot of people are content once they have passed a resolution.'

'Well, resolutions won't make the cuts go away or shorten the dole queues. We've got to launch a concerted push from down below. That's what the Belle Vue conference should be all about.'

WHY WE NEED TO JOIN FORCES

INDOOR and outdoor workers from the Sheffield City Council's Recreation department have found out what all the talk about national sacrifice means.

And they intend to bring full details of their discoveries to the 6 November conference.

Figures from the council's hush-hush 'Reductions in Revenue Expenditure' plans are now in the possession of Socialist Worker.

Leaders

And they show that while the council is planning to cut £110,000 from this year's indoor and outdoor workers wage bill, and £145,000 in 1977-78, they are to make no cuts whatsoever in the salaries of the managerial department, who are ordering the cuts.

There a £5000 reduction will come from a deferred appointment this year while in 1977-78 nothing at all is proposed.

This has infuriated the workers, members of the General and Municipal Workers and redoubled their determination to resist the cuts.

'We strongly urge other workers to come to the 6 November conference,' one of the GMWU stewards told Socialist Worker.

'We've got a battle on our hands and we need to join forces with others so that the fight against the cuts can really be given a boost.'

Jobs... cuts... this is where the rot stops

MAKE SURE you are represented at the Right to Work Campaign's Conference on 6 November.

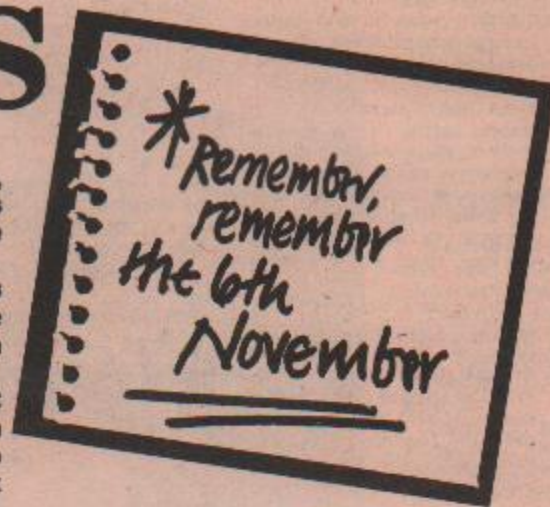
That was the message from the Right to Work Council meeting in London on Saturday. Fifty delegates from all over the country met to discuss the work for the Conference.

Delegates are coming from trade union organisations in every industry and job, as well as unemployed workers from Right to Work Committees.

Hospital workers facing the cuts, engineers fighting for jobs, car workers fighting to protect their conditions, all are expected at the Conference.

'We are taking the fight back against this government and its policies one stage further', Campaign secretary John Deason told the Council.

'The unemployed were outside the TUC demanding action. Now we are fighting in every workplace and trade union branch to build an organisation to carry the fight back right through the trade union movement.'



'We fight - or we go under'



Clive Hartley: 480 sackings

CLIVE HARTLEY is convenor of the Balfour Darwin factory in Sheffield.

And he was intending to fight hard for delegations to the 6 November Right to Work conference in Manchester.

On Friday last week his employers redoubled his determination.

They announced they wanted to sack 360 workers in the Balfour Darwin Tube Division and another 120 at Edgar Allen Tools.

Clive outlined the situation to the Right to Work Council

on Saturday: 'The background to this threat is that the group has been in a very bad state.'

'The only part that was making money was overseas. It's the usual story. That's the only place where there'd been any real investment.'

Doubt

'Another Sheffield company, Edgar Allen, bought the firm over, mainly for the overseas outlets no doubt.'

'At the time they did as all companies do. They put round a letter telling us that

there was nothing to fear, there'd be no redundancies. Then, six months later, they declared 70 in the old BD Tube division.'

'Our 12-week occupation put paid to that. Since then we've had these PA management consultants in, making a re-hash of the company.'

'Our union opposed their redundancies and we won redeployment within the group.'

'Once again, the group chairman said: "Don't worry. There's nothing further to fear."

Bitter

'Well now they're after our jobs again. We have no choice but to fight to the bitter end. There aren't any other options in Sheffield.'

'There's no jobs anywhere. We either resist or go on the scrapheap.'

'This will mean a real fight for jobs. We'll be calling on trade unionists up and down the country for support.'

'And that's another reason for us coming to Belle Vue on 6 November.'

'DESTROY THIS CANCER'

RIGHT TO WORK Committees should push hard to get Indian Workers Associations and other organisations of black workers to send observers to the 6 November conference, the Right to Work Council decided on Saturday.

Speaking to Socialist Worker after the meeting, Council member Danny Evaristo said:

'Black workers are desperately badly

affected by the cuts. And, of course, it is just the same with unemployment.'

'Only a united movement of black and white workers can hope to be successful in the fight against these evils. This is why racialism is such a danger to the working class movement.'

'We're very keen to bring in observers from the various immigrant workers organisations. They are the people bearing the brunt of the racist attacks.'

Belle Vue
Manchester
Saturday 6
November

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK STOP THE CUTS

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN
Trade Union Delegate Conference Against the Cuts and Unemployment

Delegates from trade union branches, shop stewards committees, districts, trades councils and all other official trade union bodies welcome. Credentials and further details from National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

Remember, remember the 6th November

The delegates so far

DELEGATES are being sent to the 6 November conference from many workplaces and every union. Here are some of those on the list by late last week:

SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEES

Sunblest Bakers, Stockport; Wellman Gas, Manchester; Greenings (AUEW), Warrington; Chrysler Linwood (AUEW and EETPU); Glasgow Corporation Workshops; Gorman MacInnes, Glasgow.

TRADES COUNCILS

Norwich, Croydon, West Ham, Wakefield, Tameside.

TRADE UNION BRANCHES

Glasgow District Council Building Dept TGWU, East Kilbride AUEW 5, Newton and Warrington AUEW District Committee, Edmonton 1 AUEW, York 9 AUEW, Smethwick AUEW, Ossett AUEW, Sheffield 11 AUEW, AUEW Witney 2, Dagenham 5 AUEW, Lambourne 3 AUEW, TGWU 1/6 Docks, TGWU 9/46, TGWU 6/27, Hatfield Main NUM, TGWU Chrysler 5 156.

Hammersmith NUPE, Tovril and Bridge Mills SOGAT, Pitfield St NATFHE, Southampton Hospitals NUPE, North East London Poly NATFHE, NUJ Book Branch, York NALGO, Leamington ASTMS, TASS Manchester East, North London NUJ, CPSA Oxford, NUPE Frenchay Hospital Bristol, Holloway School NUT, Guildford EETPU, Lambeth NUT.

Coventry 1 ASTMS; Crawley NUT, Leicester ASTMS, Ealing Tech NATFHE, UCATT Northampton, South Norwood ASTMS, Essex committee FBU, West London Medical ASTMS, Hackney Downs School NUT, Hounslow NALGO, Royal Naval Stores CPSA, Starcross School NUT, Tollington Park NUT, NATFHE 1/70, TASS Manchester East, ASTMS Coventry Hospitals Branch, Sandwell Comprehensive NUT.

MASS ACTION for a one-day stoppage against the cuts on 17 November. That is one of the most important points in the declaration to be moved at the 6 November Conference.

The Right to Work Campaign Council agreed a draft declaration last Saturday which will be moved at the conference. Delegating bodies will be able to vote on and amend this.

The draft declares also calls for united action with the recently revived Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions and the organisers of Assembly on Unemployment last March.

Unite

That section of the draft declaration reads: 'This Conference further calls on the organisers of the Assembly and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions to unite with the Right to Work Campaign in these efforts and to speedily agree a joint meeting of appropriate officers to facilitate such liaison.'

Said John Deason: 'We hope this opportunity to bring together everyone who wants to fight will be taken up and acted upon.'

The draft declaration attacks the Social Contract fraud, saying it 'is not a working-class solution to the employers' crisis. It stands for mass unemployment and falling living standards. It is an attempt to make us, the working class, pay for their crisis.'

The declaration goes on to attack the 'active collaboration of the majority of national trade union leaders with the Labour government' in this. It calls for 'a militant rank and file movement that both fights the bosses and controls our own leaders.'

Divide

This organisation 'must work within the official trade union machine as far as it can. We will support officials as long as they rightly represent workers, but we will act independently the moment they misrepresent us.'

The draft declaration calls for action against any attempt to divide workers on the basis of sex, race, colour or craft, of between employed and unemployed.

The conference will be asked to pledge active support for all workers fighting the cuts, against redundancies and for higher wages.

John Deason told Socialist

Conference

yes, but mass action is the call

sort of people who don't support elections in their own unions, say we are not democratic. That is utter rubbish. We are making every effort to have a genuinely democratic conference with amendments and elections.'

The conference will be asked to elect four officials for the Right to Work Campaign. Delegating bodies are welcome to propose names.

The four officers—chairman, treasurer, secretary, and Defence Campaign secretary—will, according to the draft declaration, be mandated to meet with the National Right to Work Campaign Council at least four times a year.

Continue

The council will be the policy-making body of the campaign between full conferences. John Deason explained: 'The council will continue to be made up of unemployed worker delegates from Right to Work Committees and trade union delegates from workplaces and branches organised through local Right to Work Committees.'

'From this conference we can go forward to build a strong national rank and file organisation that can fight the policies of this government.'

'We are uniting unemployed workers with those in work in one movement to end the misery and degradation of unemployment. We want every trade unionist to ask his or her shop stewards committee and union branch to send a delegation. We want every unemployed worker to get organised now through the local Right to Work Committees.'



John Deason

Worker: 'We are circulating the full text of the draft declaration prepared by the council to delegating trade union organisations with credentials. All delegating bodies are welcome to move amendments. We want to have these by 1 November so they can be presented to conference.'

'The Right to Work Campaign—and before that the two Rank and File Conferences—have always had a fine tradition of allowing the maximum debate and democracy. This conference will continue that tradition. 'Some right wingers, the

ADVERTISEMENT

No more Shrewsburys

The history of protest is full of incidents, some well known, others less so, where marchers and protest meetings have been broken up by the authorities because protesters have broken the law; but equally because the authorities have decided to prevent the march or meeting on one pretext or another or to provoke some incident as an excuse for breaking it up.

In all these cases the protest has been seen as hostile to the establishment of the day.

Since the time of the Peterloo massacre, the Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square riots, and the unemployed

meetings and marches of the 1930s, the right to protest has only been established in the face of the repressive violence of the authorities. If the Committee had clear evidence that on 19 March the violence had been caused or provoked by something the marchers had done, it would be difficult to say that there had been any interference with the right to protest. But the evidence before the Committee is to the contrary.

An unjustified attempt to seize a march leader and grab the lead banner makes no sense unless the aim is to break up the march, discredit the marchers' cause, and stifle their protest.

DEFEND RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS

These are the conclusions of the important Independent Trade Union Inquiry into the events at Staples Corner on 19 March 1976.

The report was issued by a committee made up of the following leading trade unionists: Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union and a member of the National Executive of the Labour Party; Jack Collins, a Kent miner and member of the National Union of

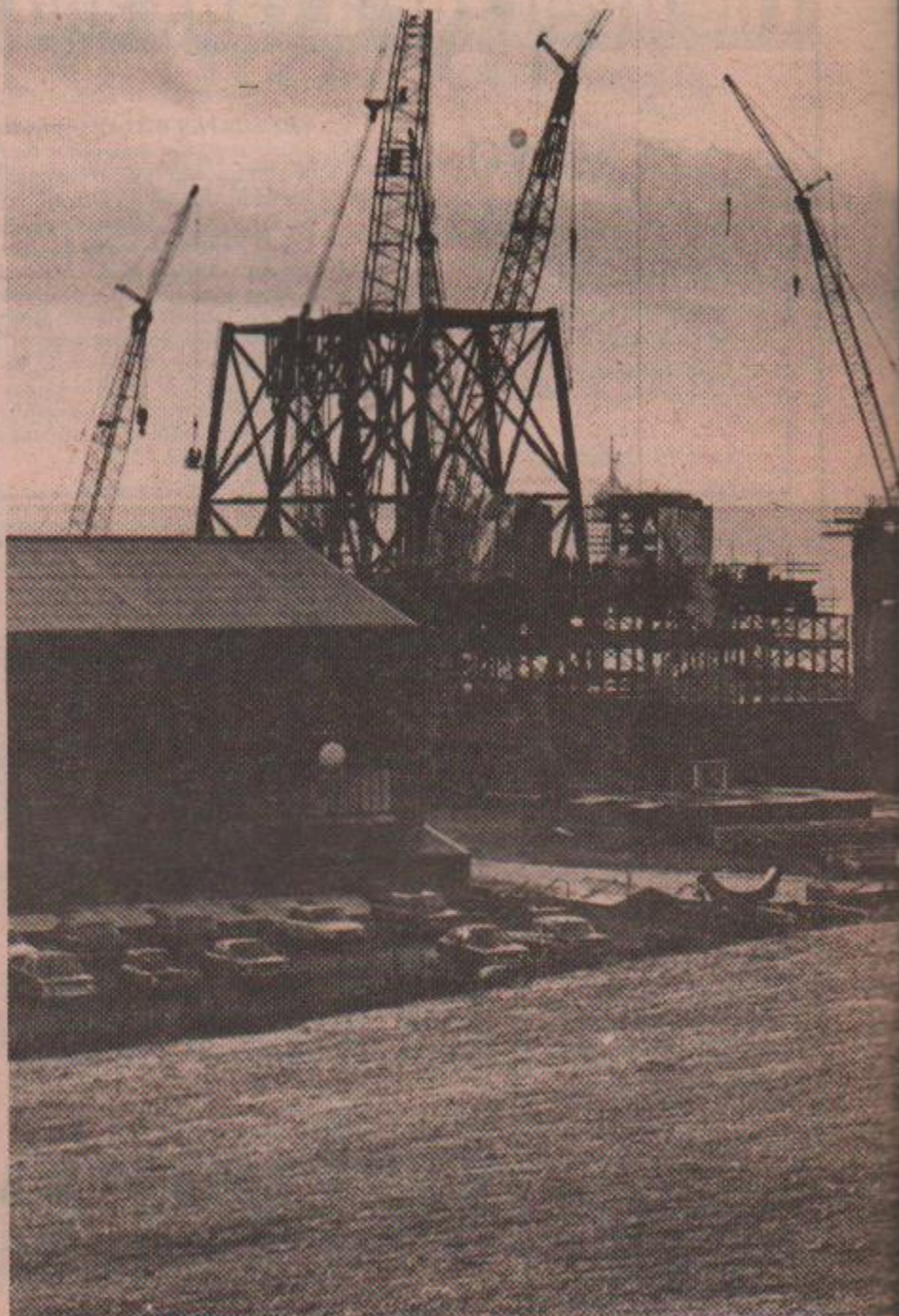
Mineworkers' national executive; Jack Morrish, Group General Secretary of the Society of Civil Servants; Syd Bidwell, Labour MP for Southall; Dolly Sewell, a shop steward at Patent Die Casting; Chris Soutar, a trade union convenor at Oliver and Thoms; Mike McGrath, a member of the executive of the Civil Servants' Union, CPSA; Ian MacDonald, a barrister and Vincent Flynn, former general secretary of the print union SOGAT.

The full report is

available from 16 Yew Grove, London NW2 3AD.

Once you have read it, please act on it. Pass a resolution supporting the defence campaign in your shop stewards committee, branch or union body.

Send money for the Defence Fund and notification of all resolutions to Ernie Roberts, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. And support the defendants in court when the trials resume on Monday.



'WELL we've lost. But at least we can hold our heads up high as trade unionists. None of those people in there can ever do that again'

Jimmy Fitzsimmons, life-long socialist, trade union militant, jerked his head angrily towards the huge Redpath Dorman Long oil rig yard at Methil, Fife. He was standing on the last picket of the four-week strike by scaffolders and erectors, of which he has been strike committee chairman.

Jimmy knew he would have to recommend an end to the strike.

He knew that 300 strikers could not fight the combined might of their own trade union officials, their own convenors and deputies, the employers and the Fife police forever. 'With the union on our side—or even with the full workforce out—we would have won,' he says, 'Now we can't'.

Jimmy also knew that his name and those of all the other militants on the picket line would go on the notorious 'List D4'—the construction employers' blacklist. But he is not ashamed.

Like all the other CEU men in the yard—and almost all the skilled tradesmen, who are members of the Boilermakers Society—Jimmy was bitterly opposed to a new works agreement agreed in the summer by RDL management and union leaders.

The men were outraged by two clauses which insisted that erectors and scaffolders do each other's work and which obliged the workers to work in the rain.

Jim Kermack, a scaffolder on strike who had been a member of the Communist Party's industrial branch at Methil, explained: 'Everyone knows that these two clauses make it much more dangerous to work on the site.'

'If you allow workers to do work they don't understand at great heights, working on wet steel, you're asking for people to be killed or seriously injured.'

On 31 August John

Last picket at Methil

Baldwin, general secretary of the CEU, came to Methil to persuade the CEU members to accept the agreement.

With sleeves rolled up, for three and a half hours, he begged, urged and bullied them.

The workers, joined by the Boilermakers, voted almost unanimously to throw out the agreement. Baldwin shouted, furiously: 'Today, you've defeated John Baldwin. Tomorrow, you'll be defeated.'

The next day, after even



From left: Alan Meyer, Jim Kermack

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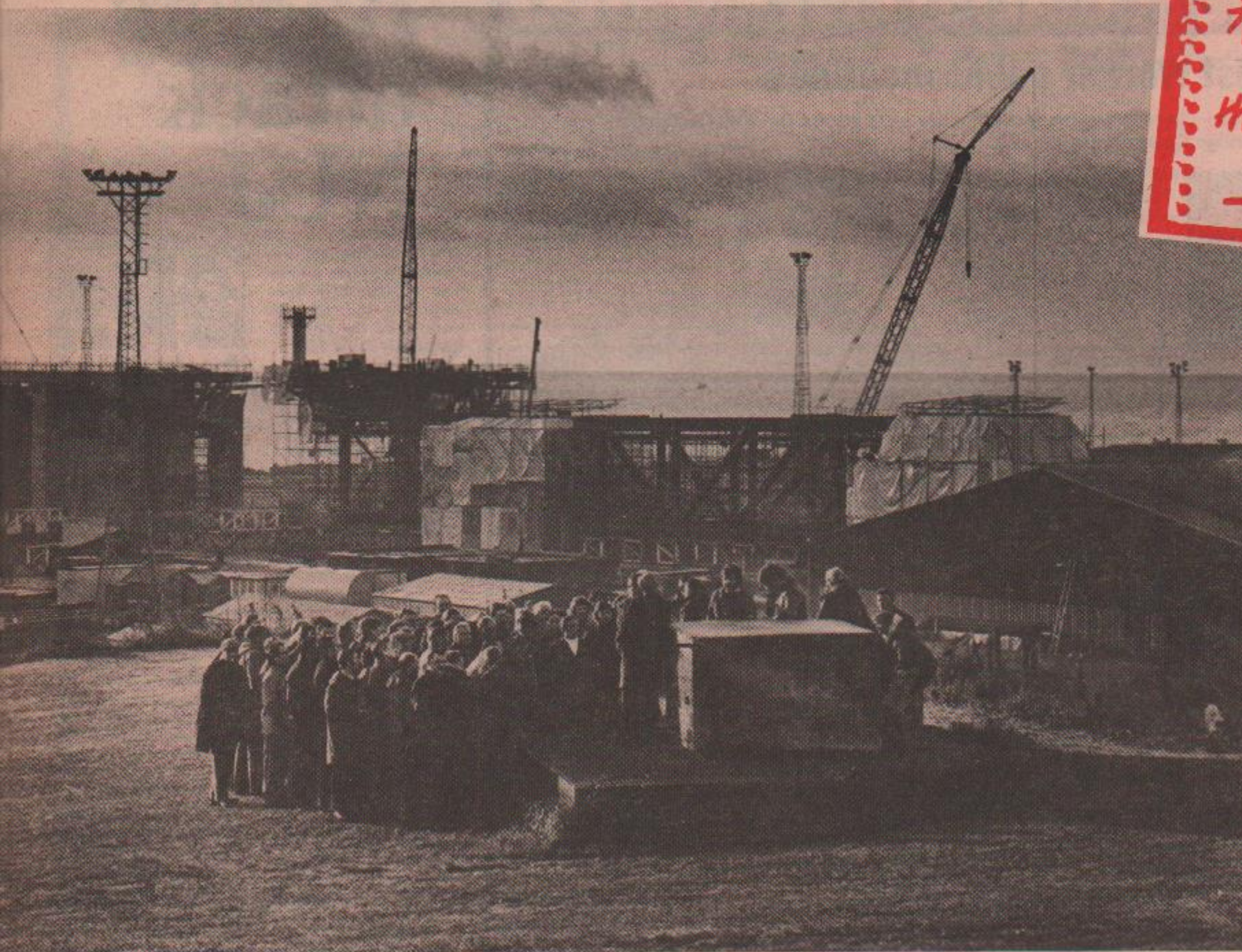
How to get to the 6 November Conference against unemployment and the cuts

BIRMINGHAM: Coach leaves 8am, Hall of Memory COVENTRY: Coach leaves 8am, Trade Union and Socialist Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road. GLASGOW: Coach leaves George Square, 11pm, Friday evening.

CARDIFF: Coach leaves Central Station, 6am SHEFFIELD: Coach leaves Wicker Arms, 9.30am LONDON: SPECIAL TRAIN from Euston Station, leaves 7.45am (£4 return). Tickets from National Right to Work Office.

Information about transport from other areas from National Right to Work Office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Phone 01-802 0978.

* Remember, remember the 6th November



This is why it's so vital

THE employers' attack on the workers at Methil is going on all over the country. At the Isle of Grain in Kent, construction workers are on strike for a very similar cause: the attack on site safety standards.

At Graythorpes Yard, Hartlepool, now closed, the workers were persuaded to ease up on their conditions during the last few months of working there.

The oil companies, sitting on their fortunes in the North Sea, are urging the construction companies making their rigs to 'cut costs'.

Just as British Leyland, a nationalised company, demands an end to safeguards which car workers won more than a decade ago, so Redpath Dorman Long, a nationalised company, propose new agreements that endanger the very lives of their scaffolders and erectors.

The CEU leaders and the RDL convenor argued that the Methil yard had only six months work left and the agreement was necessary if the companies were to win new rig contracts and continue employing men. But there is *no* guarantee of employment, even if all safety clauses are chucked out of the window.

The workers of Graythorpes gave up their agreement, and were then left weak and helpless when the yard closed down.

The only way to keep jobs is to fight for them.

Agreement

If oil rig workers sell their conditions, they will sell their ability to fight when the closures come.

There is no excuse whatever for the behaviour of union officials John Baldwin and Tommy Coyle, who rammed the new agreement down the workers' throats at Methil.

There is even less excuse for their breaking picket lines and working alongside newly-hired scabs.

This behaviour, which was fully condoned by the Communist Party industrial organiser in Scotland, John Kay, has weakened trade unionism in the oil rig yards and threatened the safety of construction workers everywhere.

There is only one workable protection against such sell-outs: a movement of rank and file workers which will put the courage and tenacity of men like Jimmy Fitzsimmons, Jim Kermack, Alan Myers, Bruce Ramsay and Peter McHugh high above the shilly-shallying and treachery of their trade union officials.

That is what the 6 November conference called by the Right to Work Campaign against unemployment and the cuts is all about.

at ket thil



Report: Paul Foot Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)

detailed discussion, the workforce rejected the agreement again. At a stewards' meeting evening Boilermakers' nor Tommy Coyle and y convenor John hugh, both members of Communist Party, ened to resign if the ment wasn't accepted. esignation threat spread

around the workforce. On 2 September, the workers met again to discuss the 'taking off the clock' of a group of workers who had refused to work to the new agreement. In a storm of protest, Coyle and McHugh insisted on taking another vote about the agreement. This time they made it clear that they were not prepared to

lead a strike on the issue—and they warned that such a strike would not be successful. Intimidated by the lack of support from union officials, the workers voted for the agreement by 397 votes to 301. All the scaffolders and erectors, the workers most affected by the new dangers, voted against the agreement. Their stewards promptly resigned from the stewards' committee.

Down in the cabin, the scaffolders and erectors met again, consumed with anger. Unanimously, they voted to strike against the agreement and to set up pickets outside the gates.

Coyle and McHugh, convenor and deputy, told their Boilermakers Society members to cross the CEU men's picket line. At least 70 refused.

Men like Bruce Ramsay, a plater who told me: 'These strikers are right. In this

country apologising for joining up men and sending them to Methil before they knew the facts of the case. Many of the new workers' cards were not paid up to date. Yet they were allowed to work while fully paid-up members stood outside protesting. After the last bus went through the lines last Friday, the pickets were called to a meeting. There was nothing for it but surrender. While convenors and stewards, management and police were prepared to break their strike, the strikers could not win. The meeting agreed to wind up the strike, then the workers called on Jim Barlow to speak for the International Socialists. 'These people,' said Alan Myers, 'are the only people who have supported us'.

And Jim got a good, hearty cheer. Then, suddenly, it was all breaking up. Men walked about shaking hands. 'See you on another job soon, Jim'—'You Edinburgh lads, you did fine'.

Allowed

The employers circulated their agencies and called for more erectors and scaffolders. Alan Myers, secretary of the Edinburgh CEU and a member of the strike committee, had letters from CEU branch secretaries all over the

country apologising for joining up men and sending them to Methil before they knew the facts of the case.

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Then, suddenly, it was all breaking up. Men walked about shaking hands. 'See you on another job soon, Jim'—'You Edinburgh lads, you did fine'.

No sentiment, just a sadness among men who knew they were beaten, but knew also they had no choice but to do what they did.

We went back to Edinburgh in a picket's car. In the front was Pat Donnelly, a steel erector. I made some remark about the magnificent structure of the Forth Bridge.

Power

'Yes', he says, 'but it still makes me cold to look at it. I was three and a half years on that one.'

And more than 30 other years, he went on to say, building almost everything of any size in the Edinburgh area: power stations, silos, schools.

'And just think of it' he said grimly, 'I've given 35 years to the union, subscribed to it, fought for it, gone on strike for it, built up pay and conditions with it, I've never taken a penny off it all those 35 years and now they turn round and kick me in the teeth'.



and Bert Lauder



JIMMY FITZSIMMONS: 'Here we have a Labour government, made up by a party of the working class—they're bending over backwards to suit the capitalists and hammer the working class into the ground. And you've got Communist Party members who are hammering workers into the ground to suit the management of multinational oil companies.'

Angry songs of the road

Orange overjackets on stage

From the Hull Unemployed Workers Action Group:

WE WOULD like to thank the Belt and Braces Roadshow Company through your columns for letting us make an appeal on behalf of the 43 marchers arrested at Staples Corner on the Manchester to London Right to Work march. We raised £20.90.

Their show 'England expects... can be highly recommended. The music is good and we all had a good laugh.

More seriously, the last scene in the show is a dramatic interpretation of the questioning in a police station of two trade unionists who are supposed to have joined the march on the last day and are arrested in the police attacks.

To show solidarity with the Right to Work marchers, the two actors wore the orange overjackets that two of the marchers from Hull gave to them after seeing the show for the first time.

They also made a special arrangement to get unemployed workers in for half-price. Well worth it!

It's a pity that their song 'Fight for the Right to Work' isn't on a single—it's great!

JAN BROOKER

On behalf of Hull Unemployed Workers Action Group.

□ England Expects... will be giving four performances in South Wales:

Wednesday 3 November, 7.30pm, AUEW House, Pontypridd; Thursday 4th, 7.30pm, Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel; Friday 5th, 7.30pm, Congress Theatre, Cwmbran; Saturday 6th, 7.30pm, St Donat's Art Centre, Llantwit

Marchers

See the soldiers marching steady left-right left:

Uniformly tidy, uniformly deft.

Hear the stirring music, trumpet call and drum;

See the marchers faces—blank, unmoving, dumb.

Stranger on the pavement, as the troops go by,

Stranger on the pavement, do you ever wonder why?

See the workless marching—not exactly smart;

Just a motley rabble, with a human heart.

Hear the chanted slogans, voices raised in song;

Sense the will, the anger welding all that throng.

Stranger on the pavement, as the ranks go by,

Stranger on the pavement, do you ever wonder why?

HUGO DEWAR

This week there's a new rock record out—inspired by the fight for the Right to Work and the march on the TUC in Brighton. The enthusiasm and comradeship of that march has inspired many socialists—not just to increase their commitment in the struggle itself, but to express that struggle in song, poetry and theatre. Here Socialist Worker publishes some of the results.



'Put down on the highway,
Put down by the law,
For walking, talking straight in the eye,
For trying to organise to protect our lives
They laid 'em down, they laid them down on the ground.'

THERE could be no more fitting tribute to the Right to Work Marchers. They came 300 miles from Manchester to London last Spring to protest against the obscenity of unemployment.

Then at Staples Corner in North London, like the unemployed marchers of the 1930s, they were attacked by the police.

'No return to the bad, bad times' is a tribute in words and music. But it has nothing in common with what Billy Connolly has called 'Three Shetland pullovers singing The Wild Rover'.

This 45rpm single record is though, aggressive rock music aiming to speak to the very same audience that the Right to Work Campaign has spoken to working men and women, the unemployed, angry and oppressed.

The agony of unemployment comes through clearly and honestly in Pete

Bruno's words:

For months they had existed, waiting for a break,
Hoping their day would come for the wife and children's sake,
But every time they looked for work, the answer came back no,
And claiming for their benefit, their desperation showed...

It don't take much to break a man who's learned his lesson well,
Labour is his commodity and it's his to sell,
But when there ain't no bidders, the market's all run dry,
He's thrown upon the scrapheap, so hear the children cry.'

But the song isn't only about the misery. It's also about protest, organisation and struggle:

Ain't going to be no remake of the thirties,
No return to the bad bad times,
No street corner hoping, nor wishing nor waiting,
They ain't going to waste us with redundancy.

You'll enjoy this record all the more because the other number is also very

fine. It's about the Trico strike in West London, and is called 'Why pay a woman worker less than a man?'

It goes:

'You cannot wipe a windscreen, if you haven't got a wiper,
You cannot buy a wiper if there aren't any made,
You cannot make a wiper without a woman worker,
So why pay a woman worker less than a man?'

There's another reason for buying this record—apart from the undoubted pleasure and enjoyment it will bring. All the proceeds are going to the Right to Work Defence Fund thanks to the commitment and generosity of the Kartoon Klowns and their friends.

You can get their masterpiece by post, price £1 a copy plus 10p postage from Bookmarks, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N 4, or in person at IS Bookshops in Glasgow, Dundee, Manchester, Hull, Birmingham and Cardiff, and Bookmarks, London.

Laurie Flynn

Hi-ho, hi-ho, to the TUC we go...

'We're marching all the way to Brighton,
We sang
'To stop the cuts and smash the freeze;
To fight for the Right to Work.'

We made a lot of noise in London,
We were heard and seen
In orange jackets
Marching,
'Black and white unite and fight,'
We shouted,
Marching through the home town
Of two of the fascist parties,
'Blame the bosses, not the blacks.'

Our morale stayed high
As our feet got blistered,
We kept right on singing
Together,
Not put off, or out
By the lies that emanated
From Fleet Street,
'We're marching for the Right to Work tara-tara,
We're marching for the Right to Work tara,
We'll occupy and nationalise,
We won't believe the bosses' lies;
For the Rank & File will organize
To fight for the Right to Work.'

As our feet got sore
We marched on some more;
On to see the TUC,
That great congress of unity,
They would surely help you and me;
Brothers and sisters of the same movement;
The working class.

'Hi-ho hi-ho, to the TUC we go,
Hi-ho hi-ho, to the TUC we go,
Without a doubt
They'll sell us out. Hi-ho hi-ho—
They did.

As the TUC was obscene,
So the people in the streets
Were beautiful,
From an unemployed man I begged
His last 12½p for our campaign,
But still on that last day
We had no money for food,
Until we met the train,
And over 600 comrades came to join us
Clapping us past to join us
At our rear,
Although I kept the tears
From running down my cheeks
I could not prevent them
From forming in my eyes.

A new-found friend of mine was apt to say,
'Eat the rich. Feed the poor.'
But I say, without sentimentality,
'We must keep fighting comrades.'

DEREK RICHARDS
Unemployed AUEW member, Ilford, Essex.

SATURDAY

Michael Foot, Minister in a Labour government for which breaking promises is a way of life, will have Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels and the most savage political critic of his time, spinning in his grave during AQUARIUS (ITV, 10.45pm).

Foot introduces the programme.

SUNDAY

They're claiming WRITE ON (BBC1) will be television's controversial 'Letters page'. A few letters from SW readers might liven things up a bit for them.

Two films worth watching—Tony Hancock in THE REBEL (BBC1, afternoon), as 'suburban Lon-



don's answer to Paul Gauguin', and BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUN-DANCE KID (BBC1, evenings).

MONDAY

The 20th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Uprising is the subject of PANORAMA (BBC1 8pm). Thirty thousand workers died in the Russian suppression. Whether the programme gives them a voice or is just more anti-

Soviet propaganda remains to be seen.

YESTERDAY'S WITNESS (BBC2) looks at the fight for black civil rights in the US 40 years ago, which should certainly be worth watching.

THURSDAY

EUROCOPS (BBC2) is a look at the new, paramilitary, methods being used by European police forces. Set off by the use of terrorism, the police are increasingly turning to counter-terror—and increasingly using it against any political protest. The programme, however, will probably be a 'Support your local CS-gas dispenser' commercial.

Know thy enemy.



RAR's first dance
Friday 12 November
at the Princess Alice, Forest Gate
up the Romford Road E15

Rock Against Racism with
Carol Grimes and the London Boogie Band
plus support band and sound system.
£1 to get in, 50p with your dole
card. Remember the date and remember to
come

Any supporters interested in putting on a Rock Against Racism
write to us at 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2

Postal Points

PERHAPS READERS of Socialist Worker would be interested to know that Marx in Volume I of Das Capital (1976 Penguin Edition) on page 899 says:
 'The bourgeoisie need the power of the state and uses it to regulate wages!
 So it seems times have not changed at all since the time of Marx and his writing outlining the conflict between those who own and control the means of production, the bourgeoisie, and those with only their labour to sell, the proletariat.'

□ R G Stone

WE WOULD like to back up the Glasgow gay social workers who wrote (Sept 11) about the improved coverage of the gay issue and express our relief that support for homosexual rights is now clearly stated in Where we Stand.
 For those who think a principled line on this issue might 'put workers off', we would like to quote a NUPE steward who joined our branch last week. He was shocked. Not that Where We Stand supported gays, but that it had taken so long to get it there.
 □ East London Hospital Workers IS Branch.

IAN REINECKE's article on the NUJ closed shop and press freedom (2 Oct) gives an admirable account of the ruling class's manipulation of the mass media through its ownership of the enterprises which bring us its own class view of the world. But the article tells less than half the story.
 Comrade Reinecke paints a picture of journalists confronting editors who are themselves puppets on the string of the proprietors. Unfortunately, few journalists are embattled over censorship and editorial control, for the simple reason that the large majority share the ideological values of both editors and proprietors.
 Much of the mass media's racism, for example, is turned out by NUJ members who do not hold strong racist views but consider it is no part of their job to actively combat racism.
 □ Geoff Sheridan, North London

THE LETTER from Sonia Khan to the Socialist Worker claims that there were thousands of political prisoners in Indian jails, alleged to survive in the vilest conditions, subjected to the most brutal forms of torture, and demands their release.
 Britain was found guilty on similar counts by an international commission on prison. The Campaign for the Release of Indian Political Prisoners should instead campaign for the immediate release of all prisoners from British-built jails on more humane grounds, whether in Britain or former colonies.
 □ P R K Rao, North London



Mick Jagger

The revolutionary platform

JENNY MCCLURE in her letter 25 September reflects the same deep fear of contamination from parliament as one would show towards the plague. The reasons for this fear, they hypocrisy, corruption, the sham of parliamentary democracy, is of course a very real danger. The point that has been missed is that the comrades that we are standing in the election are very aware of this and neither they themselves nor the membership of I.S. have any intention of letting them or our politics be swallowed up by the parliamentary machine.
 The need to oppose the fascists at the polls is today a vital part of our anti-fascist campaign, but this is only one aspect of the tactic of standing candidates.

S.W. candidates will make it crystal clear that they are standing on a revolutionary platform.
 In this way the standing of S.W. candidates campaign, also bringing potential recruits to I.S.
 Jenny is right about the size of the polled vote for S.W. not being very important in these particular elections, but it will be in future if and when our politics are taken up by the class.
 The voting in these elections will not be an accurate reflection of the penetration of our politics or the extent of rank and file organisation. A vote for I.S. requires a far higher level of political awareness than a vote for the Labour, Tory or N.F. parties.
 □ Ray Long, Kirkby

It's bosses' playtime!

I GOT home from work in time to catch Magpie, the children's programme. I was infuriated to see that in a feature about inflation an expert was feeding thousands of viewing kids with the bosses' answers to the crisis.
 There were no awkward questions and no one suggested an alternative. The expert put all the arguments

you need if you're to grow up to be a nice co-operative moderate.
 Thank goodness the International Socialists have helped launch a youth movement that can counter the effect of insulting charades like this.
 □ Richard Farrer, Gillingham.

ADVERTISEMENT

Everyone will be hit hard by the extra £1000 million that's to be cut from government spending

FOR CHILDREN, it means crowded classrooms, no meat for your school dinner.

FOR THE SICK, it means longer queues in increasingly decrepit hospitals and probably increased charges for prescriptions, the dentist and the optician.

FOR ALL OF US, it means higher prices as food subsidies are removed.

But the cuts can be stopped.

Portsmouth hospital workers have proved it—they saved 30 nurses' jobs. Merseyside council workers have proved it—they stopped 181 building workers being sacked. London hospital workers proved it—they stopped the closure of hospital kitchens.

This pamphlet proves it... buy it now.

19p a copy, including postage, or ten copies for £1 (post free)

RIGHT TO WORK CENTRE
 265 Seven Sisters Road, London E2.

STOP THE CUTS
 A Right to Work Campaign pamphlet by Paul Foot

Letters

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

Who rocked the boat that sank the £?

A FEW weeks ago when the seamen first threatened industrial action over their claim the Bank of England, which is supposed to be 'nationalised' withdrew its support from the pound.
 What further encouragement did all the other

bankers and speculators need to follow suit?
 As the threat of the seamen's strike receded the Bank of England continued to withhold its support from the pound. Could it have been that this was deliberately aimed at pushing the pound even lower thus creating the kind of crisis atmosphere in which it would be easier to bully other workers into not following the seamen's settle-

ment with 'fringe benefit' claims of their own?
 Who authorised the Bank of England to do this? We can only assume that it was Callaghan and Healey. Perhaps they realised that by the end of the year their ridiculous prophecies that inflation would be brought under control would be seen for what they were.
 A currency crisis now is very convenient for the government since they can now blame the international bankers for the prices that will continue to rise and for the continuing high level of unemployment.
 Now they are after a loan from the international Monetary Fund. Such a loan will be conditional on pressing ahead with further cuts in jobs and social services. Callaghan and

company will pretend that their hands are tied; Benn will be able to rant and rave quietly about the evils of the international bankers.
 The mighty trade union leaders are already showing their colours by squealing and running for cover with their tails between their legs. Our task must be to ensure that the rank and file are not conned by such cheap trickery.
 All militants know in their hearts what is behind the crises, but we must be given the detailed arguments in an easily understood way so that we can explain to fellow workers exactly what is happening and why they shouldn't accept all the lies they are told by Labour ministers, the mass media and their own union leaders.
 □ Bill Message, Pontefract

Rock against the sexists

WHILE SUPPORTING absolutely what the Rock Against Racism group has to say about Eric Clapton and others, I would like to point out that 'superstars' like Jagger, Dylan and Jim Morrison have persistently been making records that reek of sexist attitudes—and that's been going on for ten years.
 Try listening to The Rolling Stones' Midnight Rambler in the context of the escalating incidents of rape in this and other countries.
 Listen to Jagger's glorification of the Boston Strangler in the context of his own attitudes to sexual violence.
 □ Caroline Aperguis, Islington.

...and so this is freedom

The empty homes lunacy

JOHN KENNY, a 16-year-old from West Lothian on his first day at work had part of his arm ripped off by a brick press.
 The company, Sol Bricks Ltd., Pumperstowe, admitted failing to securely fence the machine and allowing John to clean the machine without having been instructed of the dangers. They were fined £300.
 The Daily Record gave six lines to this report on page eight.
 The whole of the front page the next day was about two oil men who were fined £1,500 between them for assaulting an off-duty policeman. They were also sacked from their jobs.
 So much for British justice and the so-called free press.
 □ Pat Healy, Edinburgh.

IT IS high time we relieved our incompetent rulers of their power, whether they fly a Labour or Tory flag. I am 63 and have been a bed-ditter dweller all of my life.
 Never has the situation been as bad as now.
 I have ended up for the first time in accommodation I do not want. Yet there are thousands of empty rooms so what are the reasons for this lunacy?
 1. Labour's Rent Act designed to help ordinary people. It has made life more difficult for them by causing people with empty rooms to be afraid of letting them.
 2. The Tory-cum-Treasury-sponsored property speculators bonanza, resulting from measures designed to help industry. This removed thousands of bed-sitters and other low-cost accommodation from the market.
 □ K.D. Harding, North West London.

The right to strike

I AM interested to hear what your readers think of the policemen's right to strike.
 We know that when the chips are down our rulers will attempt to use the troops against us on the streets in the same way that they are used in Northern Ireland at the present time.
 One of our best defences in this situation will be to win the rank and file troops over to the

workers' side.
 In Holland, for example, soldiers are organised into a union called the VVDM. They have already achieved a wage scale commensurate with those of your civilian workers, a seven-hour working day and suppression of many of the more formal aspects of military life, like saluting.

The 'crippling' cost of safety

I WAS SHOCKED and angry to read in the Telegraph (25 September) about businessmen who were complaining about the cost of making textile machinery safe enough to comply with legislation.
 Such businessmen seem to find the cost of doing so crippling and therefore complained that if they made the machinery safe, they would no longer remain competitive.
 It just about sums up the attitude of many directors and investors in British industry who quite obviously couldn't give a damn about the ordinary working class man.
 Without working people their empires would collapse, taking their wealth, prestige and identity, which are the only assets they possess for the majority obviously lack the quality called 'compassion'.
 □ Karen Pickering, Stamford.

Surely if the policeman, through his own struggle, gained the right to strike, wouldn't it make him think twice before putting the boot in to the Right to Work marchers or interfering with the pickets at Trico.
 □ Martin Franks, South West London.

What does possession mean to you?

7% of our population own 84% of our wealth

Look again, comrades. We think you've missed the point.—EDITOR

What does sexism mean to you?
 WE ARE writing to express our contempt and disgust for one of the most sexist pages ever carried in a left paper—the ad for a poster entitled 'What does possession mean to you?' with the well known slogan '7 per cent of the population owns 84 per cent of the wealth' underneath.
 In order to sell this slogan the designer used a picture of a pouting girl with her laced jerkin undone. If the poster had carried a naked woman with her legs open the purpose of the picture could not have been more clear—sex sells posters.
 □ Christina Potrykus, Anna Potrykus and Catherine Bearfield, North London.

To:

L. I. Brezhnev,
General Secretary of
the Central Committee
of the Soviet Communist
Party, Kremlin, Moscow.

I WISH to inform you
that I am leaving the
Soviet Communist
Party. I am 84 and have
been a party member
for 58 years.

I joined its ranks in
order to fight for social
justice, for a happy future
for mankind. Now, after
long and painful reflection,
I have come to this
difficult decision.

I was born in Prague and
came to Russia as a prisoner
of war during the First World
War. During Kerensky's rule
I was held in solitary confinement
for six months for anti-
war propaganda, and I was
freed by the October Revolution.

Elected

As a Red Army soldier, I
fought on four fronts for the
establishment of Soviet
Power.

In the 1920's I worked
illegally in Germany, was a
member of the Central Committee
of the German Communist
Party. I was sentenced
to five years' hard labour, but
after half a year's solitary I
was freed in exchange [with
the Soviet Union].

Afterwards I held responsible
ideological posts in the
Comintern, in the Central
Committee, in the Moscow
party committee and in the
Soviet Academy of Sciences.

I was also elected member
of the Moscow party control
commission and the Moscow
party district commission. I
knew Lenin personally,
worked with Krupskaya
[Lenin's wife], Khrushchev
and many others.

During the Second World
War I worked in the Political
Command of the Soviet
Army in charge of units
fomenting disaffection in the
ranks of enemy troops.

It was at this very time that
my sister was burnt in a gas
oven in one of Hitler's
concentration camps, while my
brother, one of the founders
of the Czechoslovak Communist
Youth League, was
murdered by Stalin.

Bloody

In 1945, I was appointed
head of the Czechoslovak
Communist Party's
propaganda department in
Prague, but after three years I
was arrested and shipped
back to Moscow, where I
spent three and a half years
without trial—three of them
in solitary confinement—in
the Lubki, aka jail.

During this stretch, my
wife and small daughter were
exiled to Ulyanovsk, where
they lived in appalling
conditions.

After my rehabilitation, I
was appointed director of the
Institute of Philosophy in
Prague. Since my retirement
in 1963 I have been living in
Moscow as a pensioner.

After Khrushchev's
revelations about the bloody
crimes of Stalin, euphemistically
described as 'the personality cult', I began
to understand how deeply
distorted the Soviet Communist
Party and Soviet
power had become, and that
I, as a party member must
bear my share of responsibility
for this.

Fight

However, 1968 was the real
turning point for me, when I
had occasion to observe the
'Prague Spring' and see with
my own eyes with what
enthusiasm the united people
of Czechoslovakia backed the
strivings of the party to
rekindle socialist ideals and
the fight for socialism with a
human face.



Arnosht Kolman, now in Sweden

'About what sort of socialism can one talk... when the place of the former exploiting classes has been taken by the privileged castes of the party?'

When your tanks and
armies occupied
Czechoslovakia subjecting it
to your political *Diktat* and
merciless economic
exploitation—in short
turning it into your colony—I
lost any illusions I may have
had about the nature of your
regime.

Perch

I understood that the
Soviet Communist Party had
long since ceased to be a
political party, that it had
been transformed into a
mutual society for the early
fulfilment of the Five Year
Plan.

Its members, the congresses,
even the Central
Committee, have virtually no
influence over the shaping of
the party's policies, which are
determined from your high
ruling perch.

And in any case,
about what sort of
socialism can one
talk in the Soviet
Union, when the
place of the former
capitalist and land-
owner exploiting
classes has been

taken by the privileged castes of the party?

They are drowning in
wealth, live isolated from the
people, above them and
contemptuous of ordinary
folk, not wishing to and
incapable of understanding
their needs and sufferings.

Of what sort of socialism
can one talk when you are
continuing Stalin's
totalitarian dictatorship
within the country and a great
power policy abroad?

The Soviet Union lacks the
most elementary democratic
rights: instead of free elections
there is voting for candidates
imposed from above; there is
no public political life; strikes
are forbidden and the trade
unions are subservient to
state interests; political
discussions are forbidden and
everything is covered by
universal censorship; information
is subject to the interests of
lying propaganda.

Basic human rights are
crudely trampled on in the
Soviet Union; dissidents are
harshly persecuted, tens of
thousands of them are
lingering in jails, concentration
camps and psychiatric
jail hospitals, many being
punished for their religious
beliefs only.

In the sixtieth year of
Soviet power there are no
elementary intellectual
freedoms and there is no
freedom for the creative
artists.

As far as the nationalities
policy is concerned, the
history of the Soviet Union is
nothing but an uninterrupted
chain of territorial annexations,
forced 'unification' of
foreign lands, subjection of
and discrimination against
many nationalities in the
country, among them the
Crimean Tatars, the Volga

Letter from an old Bolshevik

SINCE Arnosht Kolman was a young man he has been a revolutionary socialist. Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1892, he joined the Russian Bolshevik Party in 1918. He fought side by side with Lenin and his wife Krupskaya and the old Bolsheviks who were later to die in Stalin's purges for a socialist future for mankind.

But Arnosht saw the Russian Revolution isolated and turned in on itself. He saw the birth of the Stalinist dictatorship which has so grievously wounded the cause of socialism on a world scale. But still he hoped that better days would come. Arnosht Kolman fought on, hoping against hope. He himself became

a victim of Stalin's purges, but survived. His wife and daughter too were victimised and his brother murdered.

Now, aged 84, Arnosht Kolman has broken with the party to which he has given his life. But he has not broken to become an opponent of socialism. On the contrary, he remains a revolutionary. He remains what he was when he joined the Russian Bolshevik Party in 1918.

Socialist Worker is proud to reprint Arnosht Kolman's open letter sent from Sweden where he has now, after 17 applications, been allowed to journey to visit his daughter.



Oryol Psychiatric Hospital, the prison for many Russian dissidents

thinks, read what takes his fancy, choose his place of abode freely, and go wherever he wants.

But we are once again afraid, just as under Stalin, we hide our manuscripts, stop trusting one another, write meaningless letters for fear of the censors and sever links with friends...

Deny

Isn't it inhuman to take away children from parents, block the reunion of families, deny exit visas to visit relations abroad and to deny the families of political prisoners the right to see their loved ones for years and even to write to each other? Can one live amid such conditions?

And how long can one live like this? I can no longer go on living like this.

My decision to leave the Communist Party does in no way mean that I will be abandoning the ideals of socialism, with which I became acquainted in 1910 and which have since constituted the main substance of my long life.

On the contrary I have come to the firm conclusion that my staying in the ranks of the Soviet Communist Party would amount to a betrayal of the ideals of social justice, humanism and the building of a new and more human society, for the attainment of which I have strived despite my mistakes and the errors of my ways, and shall go on striving to the end of my days.

Academician Arnosht (Ernest) Kolman

and establish its military and political overlordship in various corners of the earth; it is also supplying arms and providing military support for most reactionary regimes and international terrorists.

The political and social structures of the country are in a state of acute stagnation. The Soviet Union has one of the most conservative regimes in the world, with an aging leadership...

It is perfectly logical that under such circumstances and as a result of the colossal expenditure on arms, the sustenance of the vast KGB network and of the party and state apparatus, the country's economic situation grows worse and worse.

Inflation and rising prices, officially denied, are

accelerating. Productivity in industry is extremely low, industrial production is of poor quality and, judged by its technical parameters, it falls way behind similar production in the West.

And is it not a tragedy that 60 years after the Revolution the agriculture of Europe's former granary is unable to produce enough bread, meat fish and even potatoes to satisfy the needs of its own population?

Can one simply ignore all these facts without drawing conclusions from them?

I am not going to deny the successes achieved by the Soviet Union in ending illiteracy, in the fields of education, science, technology and in securing a better living standard for a considerable section of the population. But man does not live by bread alone.

A human being must be able to say aloud what he thinks, write down what he

WHY RUSSIA ISNT SOCIALIST



In 1917, for the first time in world history, a workers' government took power in Russia.

Within 20 years it was dead. Two publications by the International Socialists explain why.

Chris Harman's pamphlet, **HOW THE REVOLUTION WAS LOST**, 22p

Tony Cliff's book, **STATE CAPITALISM IN RUSSIA**, £1.70
BOOKMARKS, 265
Seven Sisters Road,
London, N4.



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EAST HAM Labour Exchange was occupied on Monday by the East London Right to Work Committee. More than 4,000 people sign on in Newham each week.

The next day Leytonstone Job Centre was occupied. It was being formally opened by TV actor George Sewell. He gave us £1 for the Right to Work Campaign.

We collected a lot of names and addresses from other unemployed workers and found the staff very sympathetic.

EIGHT workers for a charity Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association are picketing its centre in East London.

The centre was reopened by the director of the charity, John Wilder, after the eight workers, NUPE members, had been sacked by him following a token one day stoppage in support of their

claim for union recognition. Since then, the eight workers have been running the other six centres without pay.

Messages of support and donations to: P.R.A., Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Rd., London, E1.

350 MANUAL workers—members of the public employees' union NUPE—are on strike in Canterbury after the Council sacked five dustmen in nearby Whitstable.

The five were sacked after a go-slow in protest at the council's sudden decision to cut bonuses. This means a loss of around £15 a week. Take-home pay for some is now roughly £22.

Car park attendants have joined the union and come out in support. The local abattoir is shut, the grass uncut and the streets unswept.

Canterbury's Conservative Council wants to sack all the dustmen and

employ private contractors. The strikers are solid and are receiving support from the Trade Council.

UNEMPLOYED Right to Work supporters joined the mass picket of the Thames Barrier site called by Greenwich Trades Council last Monday morning.

43 boilermakers are on strike in support of four sacked workers.

Local Transport Union official, Frank Burns, has instructed TGWU drivers to cross the picket line. He says the strike is a threat to the jobs of other workers on the site.

IN BRIEF

This is nonsense. The men on the picket line are fighting not just for the four jobs of those already sacked but to prevent any more sackings. All Burns will achieve is a weakened and divided workforce which management can pick off.

CLEANERS at the Holbrook annexe of North East London Polytechnic are still solid in the fight against working with asbestos.

The five women members of the GMWU, have been on strike for a week. The caretaker has been intimidated into go-

ing back to work.

They need support on their picket line at Holbrook Road, E13 between 6.30am and 6pm each day.

SHAREHOLDERS of the Wakefield Building Society met on Monday to hear explanations from their directors about the disappearance of more than £600,000 from the funds.

They were greeted by a picket from Leeds Right to Work Committee, who managed to get one of their members inside.

Pete Green, a marcher, wearing the familiar orange

jacket, gave them a different explanation for the goings-on in the building societies. He said that the rise in mortgage rates would lead to a worsening of the housing situation.

More building workers would be thrown out of work. Pete was dragged out of the room by his hair while the shareholders were told that the state of the society was caused by the dishonesty of one or two of its members.

John Poulson, now serving seven years in jail for corruption, was a member of the board of Wakefield, and managed to arrange five illegal mortgages for himself.

THE AUEW-TASS joint office committee at C. A. Parsons on Tyneside is sending a delegation to the Right to Work Conference on 6 November.

The committee has been lobbying the government

to bring forward orders for power stations. Otherwise the industry could face massive redundancies.

Three years ago, the CEBG wanted to order 25 new stations from Arnold Weinstock. Now they say no stations need to be ordered before 1980.

A spokesman said recently that they would offer selective power cuts to ordering new plants.

TWO Engineering Union members at Clansons in West London were cleared last week of criminal damage—thanks mainly to the evidence given by chief prosecution witness A R Beckley, Clansons managing director.

The charges arose out of an occupation earlier this year.

AUEW shop steward Graham Watson had already won a unanimous decision at an Industrial Tribunal of unfair dismissal.

The £151 compensation has not yet been paid by Beckley, however, and the two face a further civil action for damage and trespass amounting to £1000.

THE FARE FIGHT organisation of London Transport workers and passengers will turn next Monday, the first day of more cuts, into a day of action.

They will be inviting passengers to join many thousands already using the 'deferred payment' slips as a protest against London Transport policy.

200 SHOP stewards from most of the major engineering works in Manchester attended a meeting last week called by the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to discuss unemployment and the Automat dispute.

A 12-point resolution was carried calling for a 35-hour week without loss of pay, early retirement on an adequate pension, opposition to natural wastage, and restriction of mobility and flexibility.

A more specific resolution to be circulated to every Confed factory in the district was passed calling for a ban on overtime at all places faced with redundancy or short time working.

After the Confed meeting had officially been declared closed, John Deason, secretary of the National Right to Work Campaign, was called to address all stewards from the platform.

He described the up-to-date situation facing the 43 arrested Right to Work marchers and called for support for the November Right to Work Conference.

50 NUJ members have been on strike since last Monday at the *Lancashire Evening Post* in Preston, part of the United Newspaper group (profits for the last half-year £2.1 million).

The dispute is over a mileage claim. The journalists want journeys in their own cars paid at 10.5p a mile, a figure management have agreed is fair, but which they now refuse to pay.

The paper is being produced by ten scabs, members of the Institute of Journalists.

All trade unionists in the area are urged to boycott the paper.

Donations and messages of support to the NUJ, Lancs Evening Post, c/o Preston Trades Council, 98 Deepdale Road, Preston.

MORE than 70 delegates attended a Conference Against the Cuts in Manchester on Saturday.

The Conference, called by the Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee, pledged support for the 6 November Right to Work Conference and for mass action on the day of protest against the cuts on 17 November.



In pictures - the story of a three-man occupation



INSIDE the three-man sit-in at E.N. Bray's in Stockport. The trio were threatened with redundancy—so they took over the plant. But this week 12 police armed with axes broke in and evicted them. Shop steward Phil Kelly says: 'The boss thinks he's won, but we haven't started yet.' Now that the occupation is over, the need for money is even greater. Send donations and messages of support to Phil Kelly, 26 Ludlow Towers, Brinnington, Stockport, Cheshire.

9-MONTH STRIKE IS OVER

MANCHESTER: The nine-month-old Automat strike is ending.

The strike for union recognition has received support from trade unions throughout the country.

Now Terry Duffy, the right winger who defeated Bob Wright in the Engineering

Union executive elections, has reached an agreement by using the government's arbitration panel, ACAS.

FINALISED

The agreement, expected to be finalised on Tuesday, includes a six week cooling-off period, at the end of which the first dozen strikers, including convenor Tom Smith, will be reinstated.

At a later unspecified date, the rest of the strikers will be taken back.

If the terms are satisfactory, the blacking, picketing and the levy to support the strikers will be lifted immediately.

What will happen after the agreement is signed is anyone's guess. Chamberlain, the owner of Automat, cannot be trusted.

Tom Smith and eight others were sacked at the start of the dispute for trying to unionise the firm. On at least two previous occasions, Chamberlain has sacked workers for the same reason.

SANCTIONS

Once sanctions have been lifted, it will be hard to reimpose them.

It is certainly little credit to the strength of engineers in Manchester that a small firm like Automat could hold out for nine months, and then only agree when a right wing official is elected.

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.

ANGOLA Solidarity Committee discussion forum Series of four meetings on the Angola revolution. Admission free. All meetings at the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 at 7.30pm.

Thursday 21 October: Angola and African and Caribbean struggles.

What Kind of Society for Britain? Four days of Marxist discussion on the transition to Socialism. Speakers Tom Litterick MP, Pete Carter (CP Executive Committee). Discussion groups on people, parties and state. Leading Italian, East German and British CP speakers. 28-31 October, Imperial College SU, London, SW7. Details from Communist Party, 16 King Street, London, WC2.

COMRADE urgently needs room (near LSE). Phone Joan 226 1352.

THE NEW PLUTO PRESS catalogue of forthcoming titles and complete back list is now available. Send s.a.e. for copies to Unit 10,7 Chalcut Road, London NW1.

HOSPITAL WORKER out 13 October: orders and money to Hospital Worker, 78 Edith Grove, London SW10. Phone 01-351-1540.

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION Open Day School: State and Revolution. Saturday 23 October 10am-8pm, Trades Council Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7. Creche. Inquiries Leeds 757961.

IS COMRADE requires West London accommodation. Ring Paul Nolan 5733 3888 ext 2297 (working hours).

COMRADE requires accommodation desperately. Phone Drew 739 1870.

COMRADE seeks own room in SW London flat, preferably Clapham, Putney, Wandsworth area. Phone Ken Muller 806 5056.

THE LEVELLER: the new independent socialist monthly, first issue out now. In-depth articles include: The threat from the ultra-right, and how to fight it; who really planted the Birmingham bombs? Wages for Housework—for and against; analysis of the Right to Work Campaign; Private Eye magazine; the inside story of the Hull Prison rising; why Syria is in Lebanon... and plenty more, including the only comprehensive national Agitprop section in print. Price 35p, annual subscription £5. From all left bookshops or 155a Drummond Street, London, NW1.

UEA Weekend Educational Conference on Racism, Imperialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa. At University of East Anglia. Speakers include Nigel Harris and Peter Katavizi. (SWAPO). October 29-31. Floorspace and creche available for weekend. Conference fee £1 to SU, UEA, Norwich.

360 SCHOOL cleaners in the Highlands are in the seventh week of their strike.

They are demanding an end to the 30 per cent wage cut imposed on them, reinstatement in full, and full pay for the duration of the dispute.

An arbitration meeting in Inverness last week failed to reach agreement.

The Action Committee is hoping to spread the dispute but the Highland Regional Council have openly challeng-

ed the pickets by announcing that they will try and open every school this week.

Inverness Trades Council have planned a mass demonstration. Solidarity action includes a promise from council drivers to withdraw their labour.

It is possible that some oilrig construction workers will hold one-day stoppages in support of the cleaners.

Easter Ross Right to Work Committee held a public meeting in AIness and collected £15 to send to the

strikers. Aberdeen Right to Work Committee is organising a tour of industrial sites to collect funds.

NUPE officials may be trying to sell the strike out. They appear to have dropped the demand for full wages during the dispute, and are agreeing to talk this week with no preconditions.

But feeling among the strikers is solid and mass meetings have voted to continue.

A NUPE spokesman said that the cleaners were saying

'no' to a bunch of retired gents and military men who had never had it said to them in their lives before, and had never known what it is to be short of a pound.

Help the Highland Cleaners. Say 'no' to the cuts in our standards of living.

Rush messages of support and funds to: Brian Corbett, Action Committee. 3 Kiomylies Cottages, Leachkin, Inverness.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR CLEANERS

ISLE OF GRAIN: NOW SPARKS STAGE OCCUPATION

ISLE OF GRAIN, Kent: 178 sparks are occupying the offices of GEC.

That was their answer to the company's decision to lay them off.

They have lined up with the 1000 Babcock and Wilcox boiler-makers who were locked out 17 weeks ago.

GEC instructed staff at the site not to report for work unless they were able to drive through the boiler-makers' picket line. Earlier, they had told hourly workers just the opposite.

As a result, few staff went into work and the sparks were laid off through lack of supervision.

Close

The move was clearly provocation by GEC, backed by the Central Electricity Generating Board, to establish a lock-out and possibly close the site.

The boiler-makers banned all traffic—except emergency services—from the site after their convenor Don Parvin was knocked down by a car on the picket line and had to be treated at hospital.

The men were locked out after they went on strike in support of 28 workmates who were either sacked or suspended for refusing to work without protective clothing.

Send donations and messages of support to: Isle of Grain, joint shop stewards committee, c/o 52 St Andrews Court, Gravesend, Kent.

Sit-ins at shoe factories

NORWICH:—Two factories owned by Kay Shoes have been occupied by workers fighting a closure threat.

A mass meeting last Monday of ASTMS members and sympathetic NUFLAT members voted overwhelmingly to occupy.

The ASTMS members are occupying but workers in NUFLAT have had no lead from their officials and are working normal hours.

Murray Atherton, NUFLAT shoeroom worker at the Northumberland Street factory told Socialist Worker: 'When management announced the redundancies it was like a bolt from the blue.'

Meet

'Before that we'd been working overtime because they said it was important to help the firm. I'd read about factory occupations before and I think we have to meet management head on.'

'That's why I support the action of the ASTMS members. You can't imagine what it's like being in NUFLAT. They don't really like holding factory meetings.'

'I get the feeling they just don't want to get involved. There are lots of NUFLAT members who want to support the ASTMS action but we are worried about being picked off.'

NORWICH SW readers meeting: The Crisis in the Shoe Industry. Thursday 21 October 8pm, the Black Boys Pub, Colegate, off Magdalene St.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



On the picket line at Blantyre: support for the occupation must be spread wider and wider

Labour Minister tells sacked 470: Hard luck

BLANTYRE: The government must allow Rolls Royce management to manage. That was the news Eric Varley, Minister for Industry, gave last week to the 470 workers occupying the factory.

A few days earlier, he had been forced to meet a delegation from the unions involved. The delegation had argued that Rolls-Royce should be forced to scrap their closure plans.

For 11 weeks, 470 workers have been occupying to stop management transferring work to the bigger Hinnington factory.

Varley's decision to wash his hands of their fight must convince the Blantyre shop stewards that they can save the jobs only by immediately extending support for the occupation within the trade union movement and by calling for solidarity action from all the other factories in the aerospace combine.

Despite the urgency of the fight and the determination of the Blantyre workforce, local and national full-time union officials have been slow to organise backing from the rest of the Labour movement. That backing is now crucial.

Militants

Gerry Ferry, chairman of the Blantyre occupation committee, spoke to an Engineer's Charter meeting last Saturday attended by militants from many local factories.

The Blantyre stewards who attended are going to raise the idea of a West of Scotland shop stewards meeting within the occupied plant.

They see this as an excellent way to spread backing for their struggle.

Messages of support and donations to: John Simons, 54 Aylton Park, North, East Kilbride.

LEYLAND BLACKMAIL

3,000 LONGBRIDGE workers last week defied a massive barrage of propaganda—and voted against Leyland management's latest demands.

Another 10,000 workers voted to accept a commitment to higher productivity in the production of the new Mini. The Managing Director of Leyland cars declared before

the vote that if it went the other way, Cowley and Longbridge would have to be shut and 100,000 jobs lost.

In spite of this blackmail, there was still considerable opposition.

Among those supporting Leyland's latest demands was the Longbridge convenor Derek Robinson.

After the vote he said: 'We never had any doubt as to the outcome and we are fully

satisfied that the traditional methods of negotiating have been retained in the hands of the shop stewards.'

The workers who voted against don't agree. One of them, sheet metal workers shop steward Frank Henderson, told Socialist Worker: 'Whittaker didn't blackmail us like this just to get a change of words on a piece of paper.'

'The vote means new methods of negotiations and bargaining. Work standards, track speeds and so on, used to be decided by the steward on the job.'

'Now the steward will be asked if he accepts a proposal from management. If he doesn't, it immediately goes into procedure and will be settled far away from the steward and men concerned.'

'But the management have made no real commitment to anything. There's no serious

commitment on wages. 'The argument about productivity is false anyway. 'The Japanese are no more productive than us. We couldn't do more even if we wanted to.'

'On the old Mini we are using clapped out machinery and equipment.'

Section

'Most of it is 17 or 18 years old. It was only guaranteed by its makers for ten years. They're trying to get more productivity out of that sort of machinery. It's a sheer impossibility.'

'We shall have to start the fight back section by section, but we will need to organise across the whole plant and across the combine with all those workers who want to fight back, and aren't prepared to take blackmail from Whittaker.'

Fascist barred

WHEN Bradford fascist Jim Merrick arrived at Radio Pennine last Friday he expected to be the main speaker on a phone-in programme.

Instead, he found he couldn't get into the studio. Thirty anti-fascist demonstrators occupied it and threw him out.

One of the demonstrators spoke instead of Merrick and conducted the phone-in.

130 out at Sandwell

BIRMINGHAM:—130 electricians in the General and Municipal Workers Union are on strike in Sandwell.

The corporation have refused to pay all the back money they owe the electricians.

For two years, the corporation have refused to abide by a

guaranteed week agreement. Now they accept the agreement but want eight months to pay up the money they owe.

The men are picketing most of the council sites and depots and running a 24-hour picket on the main depot.

WE' STRIKE AGAINST CUTS

AIRPORT workers at Heathrow are threatening strike action to prevent the closure of wards and hospitals in the West London area.

Chris Potter, secretary of the Hounslow NALGO District Branch, told SW:

'The attack on the hospitals round here is really vicious. They are going to close some

wards of the Hounslow Hospital and the entire Brentford Hospital next March, and the South Middlesex in 1978, except that part of it which deals with communicable diseases.

'Two nurses from the action committee approached the shop stewards at London Airport, realising that they needed to gain much wider support in the Labour movement.'

Ian Morris, AUEW shop steward at British Airways, told SW: 'What needs to be done now is to gain support in the different areas by leafletting the entire membership, publicising the resolutions and holding section meetings to discuss it.'

'This is the kind of solidarity that the Right to Work Conference in Manchester on 6 November will try to encourage.'

Builders fight on

BUILDING workers in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield are carrying on their long campaign against labour-only sub-contracting. And now they are going to have to fight not only the employers but their own union leaders.

Last week, the industry's conciliation machinery, in which UCATT is represented,

voted unanimously that the picket of the Marshall Andrews site in Welwyn Garden City should be called off.

But, after 21 weeks, the rank and file builders are not going to give up easily. And their determination is strengthened by the knowledge that they are acting on UCATT conference policy.

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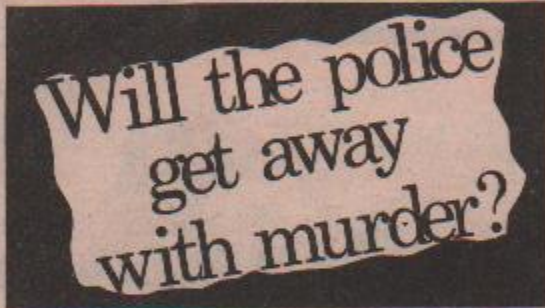
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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

Yes, the police have got away with murder



FLASHBACK... to the Socialist Worker article on 18 September

And this verdict is a threat to us all...



Liddle Towers: the police were 'justified' in killing him

THE POLICE murdered Liddle Towers.

And they were quite justified in doing so.

That—astonishingly—was the verdict last Friday of the inquest into the man who died after being beaten up by uniformed thugs in Gateshead earlier this year.

Liddle, a 39-year-old electricians union shop steward, had been arrested outside a County Durham nightclub for allegedly being drunk and disorderly.

Eight policemen involved in the incident refused to give evidence to the inquest.

Their silence—and the influence on the jury of coroner Lance Heron—was the climax of months of covering up by the police.

An inquiry into the affair was carried out, not in-

dependently, but by the police themselves.

It was headed by Chief Inspector Collinson, who, before local government re-organisation, belonged to the same force as the men under investigation.

Collinson was, therefore, investigating his old buddies.

And, acting on his report, the Director of Public Prosecutions later decided to take no action against them.

A Liddle Towers Action

THE LIDDLE Towers verdict is a threat to all of us.

Just think: if the police had killed any of the 43 Right to Work Marchers while arresting them outside Hendon Police Station last spring that too, presumably, would have been 'justifiable homicide'.

Significantly, two of the eight policemen who kicked Liddle Towers to death at Gateshead police station had, only a few months previously, beaten up scaf-

olders on strike at Newcastle's Eldon Square.

The scaffolders were taken to Newcastle police station, where they were kicked in the stomach and legs.

A South Shields, scaffolder, Robert Henderson, later made a formal complaint about police conduct.

The other nine arrested men had witnessed the assault—but their evidence was discounted by the police making the official inquiry.

outside the night-club.

One of them was PC Ray Urwin, who attacked the Eldon Square scaffolders in Newcastle Police Station.

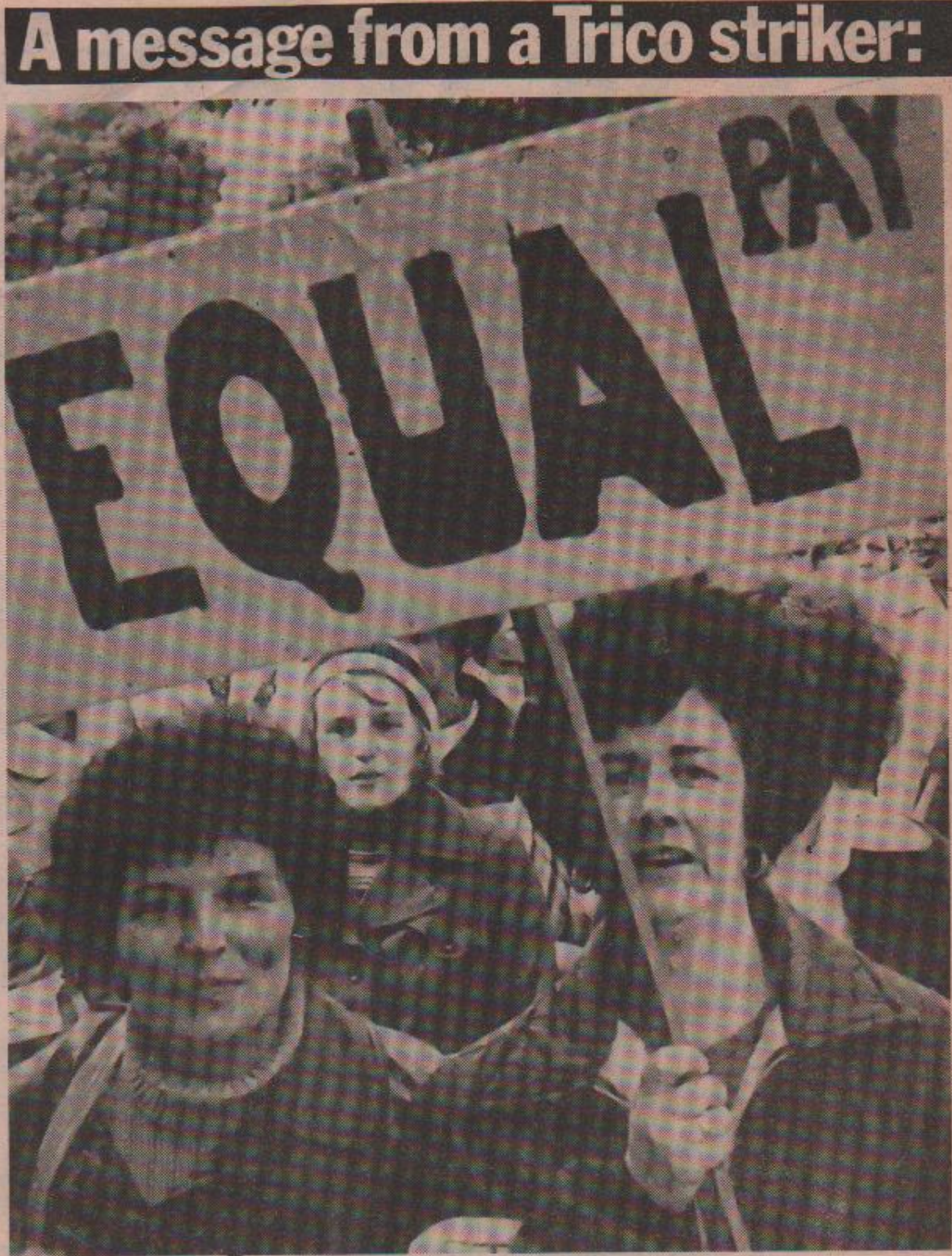
The Labour movement must make the murder of Liddle Towers an important issue.

Protest

Demonstrations and protest meetings must be held. The Home Secretary must be bombarded with letters calling for a full and open inquiry.

□ **Action Committee** secretary Ray Challinor would be pleased to hear about any activities you organise. Financial contributions would also be welcome. Write to Ray at 132 Claremont Road, Whitley Bay.

The Right to Work trials resume at Hendon Magistrates Court. The Hyde, Hendon on Monday (18 October). The defendants need your support in the public gallery. Mornings 10am, afternoons 2pm.



Trico striker Monica Harvey (Above left): 'You have the strength to help us win.'

FOR 21 WEEKS, 500 of us, men and women, have been on strike at Trico, West London, for equal pay.

We have picketed the factory 24 hours a day.

In the summer it was great. Now it's cool and wet during the day and bloody cold and wet at night.

We've had to put up with a hell of a lot. Scab lorries busting through the pickets, police beating us up when we tried to enforce our picketing rights and talked to the scab drivers.

Smuggled

Windscreen wiper blades have been smuggled out of the factory in the boots of management cars, but these things and others—too many to go into here—we expected, or at least, once over the initial shock, soon learnt whose side the law is on in situations like this.

But one thing that has got me more than anything else has been the attitude of some of the men in the factory—our brothers.

Many have supported us all the way. But a lot came out on strike reluctantly and a large number never came out at all.

They kept on working, helping to smash our fight for equal pay, until we forced management to close down all production.

Management repaid them well for their dirty work. Let's hope they'll learn whose side they're really on, now they're out the gate.

Twenty-one weeks out is a long time with many of us living on £10.50 a week strike pay and whatever can be afforded from the hardship fund.

DON'T LET US DOWN!

By Monica Harvey, AUEW

Many single women get no money from social security and those with children barely get enough to see the week through. That is why our hardship fund is so important.

Thanks

I would like to thank all those workers who have helped us with support so far, but we need £4000 a week just to keep going.

So now I want to get to the crunch. We are fighting like hell for equal pay. We are united and determined to see this through.

We won't be conned by management's pathetic offers and we won't give in to police threats or management propaganda.

But this is not our fight alone. Every trade unionist should see that victory at Trico would be a shot in the arm for everyone fighting for trade union rights, both men and women.

That's how the big boys in Trico, Fords, Leyland, Chrysler and elsewhere see it. That's why they are all fighting to see to it that we won't win.

But we will win, and quickly, if you give us all your support.

This is a chance for those who have voted to support equal pay to put your money where your mouth is. Get your stewards to organise a mass meeting and invite us to come and speak. We will go anywhere.

Support

But I particularly want to say something to all those workers in the car industry. Don't let us down. Show us whose side you're on and black all wiper blades from wherever they come.

You have the strength to help us win this strike quickly before Christmas comes and the lack of money creates further distress.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Name
 Address
 Trade union

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary,
 International Socialists, 6 Cotton
 Gardens, London E2 6DN