

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

National Right to Work Campaign says support CONFERENCE AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Sunday 3 April in Birmingham, called by the
British Leyland shop stewards combine.

- Delegates credentials from P. Nicholas, 88 Newbridge Rd., Small Heath, Birmingham. (60p per delegate).
- SPECIAL CONFERENCE TRAIN FROM LONDON. Departs Euston, 8am. Tickets £4 return, from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd. London N.4.

And that
is what
the Socialist
Workers
Party
stand for

NEEDED—A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

JUST LOOK AT LABOUR'S ROTTEN RECORD

- Unemployment has more than doubled
- Prices have soared ahead of wages
- Hospitals, schools and social services have been slashed
- Taxes on wages have shut up corporation tax on profits has been cut from nearly £3000 million in 1974 nearly nothing today.

All of these policies were first demanded by the Tories and the Liberals.

All of these policies were finally accepted by the government.

In each case, we were told acceptance would stop inflation and end the crisis.

But inflation today is as bad as ever, and the crisis goes on, with less wealth being produced than during the three-day week of Edward Heath.

BANKRUPT. Spineless. Treacherous. That's the Labour government—and Wednesday proved it.

Desperate for survival, they crawled to the door of the Liberals and Enoch Powell's ultra right-wing Unionists in the hope of doing a deal.

The Liberals demanded 'no further expansion of socialism'. And from James Callaghan, Michael Foot and the wretched Eric Heffer of the Tribune Group came the abject answer:

Don't worry...we abandoned socialist measures long ago.

Quite. That's why fear of the Labour government being defeated sent share prices plunging on the Stock Exchange on Monday.

Big businessmen have no doubts. They know the Labour government are about as 'socialist' as their own bank balances.

To keep such people happy, Labour have flung hundreds of thousands on the dole, cut our pay packets to ribbons, pushed

prices up and up and slashed public services.

They've done that to their own supporters—to solve the crisis of big business at our expense.

And yet only the socialist measures Labour have shunned could begin to tackle that crisis in our interests.

The only way to stop unemployment, rising prices and the cuts is to fight for a society where those who create the wealth—the workers—control industry and the banks.

Then we could plan production in a socialist manner. Then we could ensure the production of more wealth to satisfy human needs.

Instead, we are compelled to look on while workers and machines are left idle.

That is what Labour stand for.

An alternative, a real fighting Socialist alternative, must be built.

That is what we—the Socialist Workers Party—stand for.

Cuts scandal of the children left to die

VITAL research and treatment of a killer disease which strikes down dozens of children in Britain every year may be ditched because of the cuts.

The work has been financed by private trusts. The money runs out this month.

Doctors at the Whittington and University College Hospitals in London have asked for backing from the National Health. They have had no reply.

The disease, Thallasaemia, is an hereditary blood condition most common among Cypriots and other Mediterranean people.

Decent

New developments mean that couples can be screened before deciding whether they want to have children, and that Thallasaemia can be detected in early pregnancy.

Doctor Panos Iannou told *Socialist Worker*: 'This disease is tragic. Most children with it don't live beyond adolescence.'

'It is vital that we carry on the research and develop better drugs, better methods of treating sufferers and of detecting carriers.'

The North East Thames Regional Health Authority will be deciding whether or not they can 'afford' the project early in April.

The amount needed is £50,000 for equipment, plus salaries for about six people—about half as much as the Government spent entertaining celebrities from overseas last year.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

DOCKERS picketing Transport House in London on Monday to demand that the Transport Workers Union act to prevent Preston docks being closed.

One of them, Bob McSorley, a shop steward at Glasgow docks, told *Socialist Worker*:

'If the leaders of the trade union movement thought there was no support for Preston, they've got another think coming.'

'Men are not going to stand by and see the dock labour scheme—which guarantees employment—broken.'

'It was bad enough with severance pay and now being sacked as well—we cannot stand for that.'

'Preston is only the first. The entire scheme is now under attack. Whole ports will be flattened.'

Full report, back page.

LABOUR TRIES TO DO DEAL WITH THE ULSTER BIGOTS

by EAMONN McCANN

THE Ulster Unionist parliamentary leader, James Molyneux, stands somewhere to the right of his colleague Enoch Powell.

He believes, for example, that black immigrants and their families should be given one-way tickets to as far away as possible, that leaders of unofficial strikes should be jailed, that the Health Service should be broken up—and that the Protestant ascendancy in Northern Ireland should be restored.

At Westminster last Friday he was approached by Labour ministers Merlyn Rees, Roy Mason and Michael Foot and offered a deal: a Labour government would go a long way towards meeting his demands on Northern Ireland if his MPs would abstain on Thatcher's motion of no confidence.

Molyneux's immediate reaction was to dismiss them with contempt.

Grovel

Those who wondered how low Labour could sink now know: low enough to grovel at the feet of near-fascists and to crawl away whimpering when they are spat on for their pains.

It is in this context that the continuing torture by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and the debate about whether it should be reported in the media, is best understood. It is because Labour has swung steadily to the right.

Minister for Northern Ireland, Roy Mason has boasted regularly of the number of 'terrorists' being sentenced in the courts. What he has not explained is that over half those sentenced were convicted on confessions alone, and the way the 'confessions' are extracted has been illustrated frequently in Socialist Worker.

Vital

In other words, torture in Northern Ireland is not contrary to Labour policy. It is a vital part of Labour policy.

That is why Mason was upset by the controversial BBC Tonight programme which carried an interview with a Fermanagh schoolteacher, Bernard O'Connor, describing how he had been brutalised at Castlereagh RUC barracks, given a list of crimes in his home area, told to select one and confess to it.

Had O'Connor broken, he would be in Long Kesh today with dozens of men, less resilient than himself, who did 'confess'.

There has followed a debate about whether the BBC was right to carry the interview. Was it not wrong, editorials have asked, to highlight one isolated case and thus besmirch the reputation of the RUC as a whole?

The truth is that the only thing 'isolated' about the O'Connor case is that it was reported at all.



LEGALISED TERROR—THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT: A new pamphlet, written by Steve Berry (SWP Iris' committee). 10p a copy (plus 8p postage) from SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. More than 10 copies, post free.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

Immigration controls mean I can't live with my own son

AROUND the Alum Rock area in Stechford, Birmingham, there are lots of people who want tighter immigration controls.

For Jehan Shah, who has worked in a local aluminium factory for the past 18 years, 'tight immigration laws' mean that his young son Younis, living in Pakistan, can't join him in Britain.

For four years, Jehan Shah and his wife Margaret

have been doing everything in their power to get Younis to join them in Birmingham. At every point, they have been obstructed by racist officials in Islamabad and by patronising do-nothings in British immigrant advisory centres.

In 1973, Shah and Margaret went to Islamabad to visit Younis—Shah's son by a previous marriage. Margaret filled in a form accepting him as her stepson. They showed proof that they could look after Younis in Birmingham.

Promised

A High Commission official offered to speed the documents if he was given £5. 'I told him he wasn't getting

any money off me,' says Margaret. 'And he promised to send the documents anyway.'

In 1974 Younis applied for entry to Britain. Two and a half years later in October, 1976, he was called for an interview in Islamabad.

'You can't imagine the heartbreak he's been in all that time,' says Margaret. 'There were days on end when he would sit in silence, longing for his father.'

Three days later came a note to Younis from the High Commission turning down his application. 'I am not satisfied that Shah Jehan has had sole responsibility for your upbringing.'

In other words, because the boy's mother was still living, he couldn't join his father in England—even though he and his mother were almost entirely dependent on money sent by the Shahs from Birmingham.

'They know I send money for the boy,' says Shah. 'The tax office in Birmingham has allowed me a rebate for Younis. So they agree I have to support him.'

'But when we want him to come and live with his father and brothers and sisters, they suddenly decide I'm not responsible for him.'

Margaret says: 'One of the immigration counsellors said we could have got Younis here if we lied about his mother. But why should we have to lie? We refuse to tell lies to anyone.'

Lies

'What kind of system is it where you have to tell lies to get children to join their parents?'

Jehan Shah has lived in Birmingham since 1959. All that time he has worked at the big Alcan Booth factory at Kitts Green.

'In all that time I've had one payment of £12 off social security,' he says.

Margaret explains: 'Once Shah was sick for several weeks, and I went down to claim social security. They allowed us £12, which was a tiny proportion of what we were entitled to.'

'I heard these two women talking. They were saying: "The only people who get social security are the coloured."

'Well, I went up to them and said: "Look here, my husband's black and he gets nothing. So shut up." They did.'



Shah Jehan Shah, Margaret and their three children in their house off the Alum Rock Road, Stechford, Birmingham.

Picture: Dave Evans (FL)



Parents and supporters of the Islington 18 at last week's meeting

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Defend the Islington 18!

ANGER and determination ran through the first public meeting held last Tuesday by the Islington 18 Defence Committee. The Committee is fighting against police attempts to frame 18 black youths for alleged crimes last summer.

Nearly 200 people attended the meeting, in North London, many of them parents of other young people who face the same harassment from the police. 30 black youths from one Islington school came to show solidarity.

Mrs Marsh, whose son Roger is still in Ashford remand centre, spoke from the platform. She said the reason the 18 youths were arrested and treated so brutally by the police was because they were black.

Police had forced their way into her house and dragged her son to the police station. People from the audience shouted their agreement when she said black people had been pushed around for too long. Now was the time to start fighting back.

Rudi Naryan, one of the defence lawyers, stressed the political nature of the trial. He said it was vital that all the defence lawyers understood this and acted as a team when they went to court.

Organizing

Two friends of the defendants said they were organizing among young people to find witnesses for the defence and win support for the campaign.

Many of the speakers from the floor called for

station. A teacher from one of the local schools told the meeting how some of the kids from his school



FLAME, black workers' papers of the Socialist Workers Party—latest issue out now. 8p a copy, plus 7p postage (more than 10 post free), from FLAME, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

had organised a petition.

DEMONSTRATION in support of the Islington 18: Saturday 23 April, 12 noon, outside Highbury Magistrates Court, Highbury Corner, London N1.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

Great response in Stechford

by PAUL FOOT
SWP election candidate

General Workers Union branch meeting—and we have meetings set up in other local factories and bus garages.

Despised

Our campaigners have met with a tremendous response in the Asian areas, where the National Front is hated and despised. Our poster, **FIGHT RACIALISM—OUT WITH THE NAZIS**, has gone down well, despite the attempt of a

local policeman to stop us putting it up 'because of its content.'

The great thing about an election campaign is that we're forced to talk politics to workers most of whom have never heard of the Socialist Workers Party. It's an exhilarating and instructive experience—to which our supporters in Birmingham have responded magnificently.

We badly need help in the last week of the campaign. So if you can come any day at all, get in touch with us now.

Our phone number is 021-784 7552.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

ASK LABOUR TO DO IT AND YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE

IT HAPPENED IN 1931,
IT HAPPENED IN 1966,
AND IT'S HAPPENING NOW

THIS week's crisis has shown one thing with clarity: You can't build a socialist alternative through the Labour Party or Parliament.

□□

This has been the fifth Labour government in just over 50 years. Each has come to power claiming that Labour would use its control over parliamentary seats to push through 'an

irreversible shift in wealth' from the rich to the poor. Each has ended in either defeat or in its leaders doing dirty deals with its parliamentary enemies.

This is because they have never challenged the real power of the one per cent of the population who own 80 per cent of the industrial wealth.

The employing class exercises power through the boardrooms, the money markets, the commodity exchanges, as well as through the Tory Party, the House of Lords and, for that

matter, the High Court judges.

The rich can easily blackmail Labour governments. They say, in effect: 'If profits are not allowed to grow, then we will move our money abroad causing the pound to collapse, and we will stage an investment strike causing unemployment to shoot up'.

These activities were ascribed to a 'bankers' ramp' in 1931, to the 'Gnomes of Zurich' in 1966, to 'speculation against the pound' and a 'collapse of business confidence' in 1975 and 1976.

In each case, Labour governments had to give in to the blackmail. Parliamentary votes could not stop the wrecking activities of the wealthy, and Labour condemned as 'unconstitutional' any attempt to use direct action in the workplaces to do so.

Labour then carried through unpopular policies to placate the employing classes. This lost them votes, so that when the time was ripe the Tories or Liberals could kick them out or replace them with coalitions of one sort or another.

□□

The lessons of those governments are the lessons of this week. A real socialist alternative will not be built by relying on parliament.

Instead, we have to rely on building up strength for direct action where the employers exercise their direct action—in the centres of industrial power.

The employers rely on the direct action of investment strikes and runs on the pound.

We have to rely on the direct action of strikes, demonstrations and occupations.

This week has proved it one more time...we can't rely on parliament



BUT JUST THINK WHAT A 'RANK AND FILE TUC' COULD DO!

'2 million jobless for ten years'

PRICES are going to keep rising.

Unemployment is going to increase further and remain higher for years to come.

The country is going to stay in permanent economic crisis.

And all these things will happen whether it's Callaghan or Thatcher who is running the government.

These were the conclusions of two authoritative reports released in the last week, one by the international organisation, OECD, the other by the Cambridge Economic Policy Group.

The OECD say that even if the Social Contract continues to stick, 'prices will be rising at 13 per cent' at the end of this year—that is twice as fast as wages.

The Cambridge Review,

meanwhile, concludes: 'Inflation is unlikely to be reduced much in the next year or two'.

The OECD forecast an increase in unemployment until the end of this year and doubt 'whether there can be a return to full employment' in the next few years.

The Cambridge Review sees unemployment rising to two million and staying there until 'the mid-1980s'.

Price

Such is the price working-class people are going to have to pay for the pro-capitalist policies of governments, Tory, Labour or Liberal.

Yet, the Cambridge Review calculates what would happen if the unemployed were allowed to

work in the factories that are closed down or working at less than full pace:

'If unemployment had been held down to, say, three quarters of a million, the total real national income would be nearly 10 per cent higher; public expenditure cuts would have been unnecessary; industrial capacity and investment would be much higher than they are.'

There could hardly be a more devastating reply to those who claim we have to accept cuts and falling living standards because 'the country is living beyond its means'.

If we replaced the present insane system by socialist planning, 'the country's means' would be much greater than they are now.

TWO thousand people demonstrated on Saturday against the Criminal Trespass Bill which the Labour government is trying to push through parliament.

This is designed to attack the so-called menace of homeless people who go and live in empty houses.

□□

Labour won't tolerate this 'invasion' of the property rights of slumlords, property companies and the owners of three or four homes. They prefer the homeless to stay homeless.

The bill will also make it illegal for workers to stage occupations of factories. Labour want to protect the fundamental Tory

Labour 'justice'.

Homeless must stay homeless

'freedom' of bosses to sack 'their' workers and shut 'their' factories.

During the demonstration some arrests were made. But the 2000 marchers picketed the police station where one brother was being held.

The police then granted bail, which goes to show the power of direct action.

A RANK and file TUC is going to be of vital importance in the next few months.

The Leyland toolroom workers last week ended their unofficial action over wages after their own union collaborated with the employers' threat to sack them.

□□

Nevertheless, there was a rash of strikes in sympathy with them, and the Financial Times was forced to recognise that 'the Leyland strike shows that a tightly-drawn Phase Three will not work'.

On Monday, dockers nationally were on a one day unofficial strike, protesting at the threat to close the Preston docks and sack its workers.

Next Wednesday tens of thousands of workers in Hull are due to strike against unemployment.

The wave of one-day and half-day strikes against the cuts among public sector workers is continuing.

Next weekend, on Sunday 3 April, the Leyland

shop stewards combine has called a conference for delegates from throughout the trade union movement to organise the fight back against the Social Contract.

These actions show the way forward in defence of our interests against the cuts, unemployment and the wage controls, wherever these policies emanate from.

We have to build what has been called a 'Rank and File TUC'—a movement that links workplace representatives into a national force, able to fight even when trade union leaders betray or ignore the rank and file.

□□

We must not allow the present political uncertainties to deflect us from this task.

If the danger is a Tory government, then we have to say that it was militant, direct action, often organised in defiance of trade union leaders, that defeated the Industrial Relations Act and the last Tory government.

Why students are on the move again

By Lindsey German

THE LARGEST number of students in struggle since at least the early Seventies.

Fifty colleges occupied. That is what has taken place among students in the last five weeks, giving the lie to claims in the press and on TV that students have all 'moved to the right.'

The protest have been about the cuts and about racialism.

They have been against the increases in students fees which aim to force thousands of overseas students to give up their studies and which will also hit home students who have been refused grants. Students should not occupy where the college authorities end of term in most places—and there is talk of continuing

on as a focus over the holidays.

Re-occupation is being moved in some places at the beginning of next term.

The most striking feature of these occupations—especially after a relative lull of some years—is the level of militancy among students, particularly the overseas students.

This is shown by the 20,000 who demonstrated in London on 9 March; by the length of many of the occupations; by the numbers voting for and participating in action; and by the widespread rejection of collaboration with or reliance on the vice-chancellors and principals who are implementing the cuts.

Forefront

Unfortunately, the militancy of students has not been matched by the 'Broad Left' majority of the leadership of their national union, the NUS.

While the students have been occupying, the Broad Left, made up of Labour and Communist Party students, has moved closer and closer to the positions adopted by the Tory students.

They have argued that Some colleges are still in occupation, although it is the claim to be sympathetic to their aims.

In practice, this has meant Broad Left supporters joining the Tories in opposing occupations almost everywhere, even in colleges such as LSE, where the authorities show their 'sympathy' by bringing in the police.

Three times the national executive of the union has rejected calls for a national spreading of the occupations. The calls have come from the two executive members who belong to NOISS, the student organisation that backs the Socialist Workers Party.

Instead, the executive majority has tried to use McCarthyite smears against 'unofficial' bodies that have tried to spread the occupations, such as the London Coordinating Committee of occupied colleges.

It is no wonder that many students have become disillusioned with the NUS leadership, and are increasingly seeing through the left rhetoric. They are looking for an alternative.

The National Conference of NUS in Blackpool next week will partly reflect that.

Although the conference won't mirror the local situation completely—many delegates were elected before the struggles began, and in any case some of the most militant students don't see the relevance of NUS—it will to some extent show the way students are looking for an alternative.

We can expect the number of revolutionary delegates to have grown since last conference. There will also be a sizable number of Tory delegates.

The most likely results of the executive election, however, will be that the Broad Left will hang on to most of the posts—but only with Tory votes.

The number of committed BL delegates will almost certainly be less than the number of revolutionaries—and probably less than the Tories as well.

NOISS will be standing a slate for the elections, because we see the importance of presenting a clear alternative to the present leadership and to the right-wing.

Matched

But we will be stressing that our slate is not just an electoral alliance—not simply a more left-wing BL—but a slate of activists who are based in the colleges and in an organisation which has been in the forefront of leading the present campaign.

We are running to tell all those students in colleges up and down the country who want to continue the campaign against tuition fees that their fight isn't isolated—that there can be national leadership.

The last few weeks show there is now the possibility of building really powerful support for revolutionary socialism among students. This will not be built at NUS conference, but among the students who are fighting in every college.

The importance of the arguments of NOISS supporters at next week's conference will be in helping to provide a focus for the thousands of students who are moving way to the left of either the present NUS leadership or the Tories.

£40,000 FUND

£14,647 SO FAR!

THE DONATIONS—in £500, £100, £10, pound notes and pennies—are still flowing in for our £40,000 fund.

The response is a two-fingered salute to those who want to see us out of business.

Below is the first page of a writ from Mr Frank Chapple, leader of the electricians' union. It concerns a publication by rank and file electricians called *The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union*.

We neither printed nor published this magazine, though *Socialist Worker* gives full support to the electricians involved.

Where did Chapple get the letter referred to at the bottom of the page?

The Socialist Workers Party is proud of the support it can give to rank and file organisations. We only wish it could be bigger still.

Give Chapple that victory sign. Victory for Socialist Worker!

Thanks to:

- Jill Hale
- B Noyes
- Greenwich Reinforcements
- ASTMS member
- J Comyn-Platt
- North London Poly
- J Quantin
- High Wycombe SWP
- Steve Hughes
- D Barker and comrades
- Newport SWP
- John Begg, HM Prison
- P Hall
- Dr Levy
- Norwich SWP
- Norwich SW readers
- West Middlesex SWP
- Task Force, Chelsea
- East London SWP
- D Ball
- Greenwich School workers
- 1970 members
- St Paul's Way Secondary School
- Bromley Bus Garage
- Sheffield SWP
- Hillhead Halls
- Kirkby SWP
- J Parker
- Christine Jackson
- C Rowbottom
- Stephan Cook
- Wandsworth Council supporters
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- F Voisey
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- Michael Morris
- Glamorgan SWP
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- P & C Nichol
- M Brownbridge
- L Rashid
- J Mackay
- K Mason
- J Robinson
- Anti-Apartheid demo collection
- S Gribbin
- G Matthews
- S McKay
- M Bartley
- P Freelove
- V Brearey
- P Cordell
- N Siederer
- C Sparks
- Coventry SWP
- Mr Biggs, Barking NOISS
- M Kidron
- M Kidron
- SW supporter, Accrington
- Lambeth SWB
- Moira McGrother
- K Macintyre
- South Kilburn SW readers
- Hammersmith SW readers
- Acton SW reader
- Hendon SWP
- Roger Adams
- West Middlesex
- Nigel Harris
- Birmingham SWP
- Maidstone SWP
- Glennia Murphy
- Newcastle Women's Voice Group
- Adrian Mitchell
- Two well-wishers, H&L
- Willits
- Edinburgh SWP
- Alan Gunn
- Brighton SWP
- Bob Devereux
- Christine Lijja, Addis Ababa
- T Jackson
- A Sheffield pensioner
- Brighton SW readers
- Cambridge SWP

Donations have come in so fast we do not have space to publish the full list. If your name isn't here, it's not that we haven't received your donation—it will be published next week.



Rank and File DIARY

Smash the Social Contract

All out Tuesday 19 April NATIONAL STRIKE AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, called by the British Leyland combine committee, endorsed by the Right to Work Campaign and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions. MOVE RESOLUTIONS NOW endorsing the strike call and arranging delegations to mass lobby of parliament.

MANCHESTER: Coaches to 3 April Leyland Conference in Birmingham, tickets £2 return from TU Books, 260 Deansgate, Depart St Peters Square, 8.15 am.

Right to Work Campaign

WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS AT HENDON LAST MARCH?

Read the new Right to Work Defence Campaign FACTSHEET. Minimum price 5p—proceeds towards paying the remaining fines and the cost of John Deason's trial.

Available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

DEFEND JOHN DEASON: Mass picket of the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May, 10am. Fight for official delegations. BRING BANNERS.

Train from Manchester. Cheap group booking, £7 return, from TU Books, 260 Deansgate or phone 061-832 8102.

THE REAL EDUCATION DEBATE: A reply to Education Minister Shirley Williams and the great debate. Friday 25 March, 6.30pm, Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock Place, London WC1 (Kings Cross, Euston and Russell Square tubes). Sponsored by Rank and File NUT and NATFHE.

Latest issue of PLATFORM, PAPER OF RANK AND FILE BUS WORKERS, OUT NOW. March issue. Ten copies for 70p including postage, from Platform, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

PLATFORM, the paper of rank and file bus workers. NATIONAL MEETING: Saturday 23 April, in Manchester. To discuss: Wages and the Social Contract, Cuts, How to build your own locally-based Platform, Racism and how to fight it on the buses, a national Platform pamphlet. Further details from Platform, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

NUPE stewards in the NORTH WEST: Meeting to discuss the Wilderspool Conference with Alan Fisher. Saturday 26 March, 2pm-4.30pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester. All welcome.

NORTH LONDON Save Our Hospital MARCH: Demonstrate against hospital closures. Saturday 2 April, 11am, The Angel, Islington, N1. March to Whittington Hospital. Bring banners.

NORTH LONDON Save Our Hospitals Campaign public meeting: Speakers: Dr David Widgery and a shop steward from the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Wednesday 30 March, 8pm, North Library, Manor Gardens (off Holloway Road). Organised by North Islington Right to Work Campaign and the Save Our Hospitals Campaign.



10p each, plus 7p postage (10 or more post free) from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

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 class 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

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

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

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

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

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

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 16.

Will you take a collection for SW at work?

THIS week we are sending out in every copy of Socialist Worker a collection sheet which we are asking every reader to use in factories, offices, schools and council estates.

If you think you have been banging your head

against a brick wall at work for years, we think you will get a pleasant surprise.

There are thousands of workers, some of whom seldom read Socialist Worker, who will be prepared to contribute.

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

Rank and file action can save our hospitals

A CALL for mass rank and file action against the cuts and the social contract was backed by the Hospital Worker Conference in London at the weekend.

Sheila Parkin from St James Hospital, Leeds summed up the anger and frustration hospital workers feel towards the official union leaders.

'They are not fighting, they don't intend to fight. They are selling out all over the place.'

'We've got to organise in the rank and file and we've got to hit them with it—hit them hard.'

'They're our hospitals that are being attacked and it's our fight.'

Support

The conference declaration, supported almost unanimously, called for:

□ The largest possible lobby of last Tuesday's conference in London of public service unions

□ Support for the conference called by Leyland workers on 3 April.

□ A national strike against the Social Contract and a mass lobby of parliament on 19 April. The action has been called by Leyland workers, and backed by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions and the Right to Work Campaign.

□ Support for and extension of one-day actions and all-out strike by public service workers.

□ Support for all occupations and actions against the cuts.

The 230 delegates who packed Portland Hall also

HOW WE'RE FIGHTING TO KEEP THE EGA

All the time they have been trying to close the EGA, demand for it has been growing. They thought it would be easy to close it quietly, especially as they had been systematically running it down.

The workers at the hospital were not well organised. But there has been massive support locally for the occupation.

Since the fight started the NUPE branch has grown, the nurses have joined CoHSE and an ASTMS branch has been started.

If you occupy a hospital, you have to have the doctors and medical staff with you. So far the doctors have agreed that while there are patients there, they will treat them.

We have had three dates for closure and each time there has been a mass picket and nothing has happened.

—Lynne McRitchie, from the Save Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Campaign.

JEAN GRAY reports from the Save Our Hospitals Conference

backed the proposal to build a rank and file movement around the Hospital Worker. They represented nearly 100 bodies—63 hospitals as well as trade union branches and trades councils.

Penny Simmons from Manchester opened the conference. 'The trade union leadership is fighting half-heartedly,' she said.

'The 17 November demonstration was very good, people came down to London, some of them had never been before, many had never been on strike.'

'We walked for a while, put down our placards a mile away from Parliament and then walked off.'

'Everyone enjoyed it but it was obvious that this was not the way to fight the cuts.'

'It was during discussions on the train home that people decided, we have to fight ourselves, in the hospitals because that is where the cuts are hitting.'

Speaker after speaker described how the cuts are biting in hospitals, how management are using small issues to test union strength and to weaken union organisation, and how the rank and file is fighting back, despite opposition or lack of leadership from the full-time officials.

Bill Geddes, chairman of Hammersmith Hospital Shop Stewards Committee, is threatened with redundancy along with the hospital butcher.

'As soon as you start to fight on one issue, you turn around and find you are being attacked somewhere else. They are using the run-down tactic to justify closure or sackings.'

Public

'We have got to go on the offensive' he said.

Bob Ross, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, NUPE, said: 'We're not just fighting battles, we're fighting a war.'

'A war that the haves in this country are waging against the have nots. I have found myself using one word more than any other recently.'

'No cuts, no wage controls and no to the capitalist boot-boys like Callaghan and Healey.'

Dave Widgery, a GP from East London said: 'With inflation at 20-25 per cent in the future, zero growth in the hospitals means a 20 per cent cut.'

'The picture of Britain in 1980 will be just a few people standing round an oil well.'

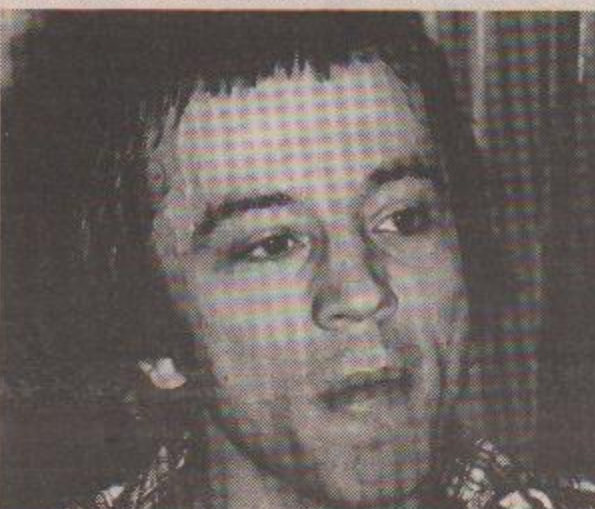
'It isn't just the EGA that they've closed. This just happens to be a place where people are putting up a fight.'

'They have already closed 104 hospitals in Britain with half a million people on the waiting list for operations.'

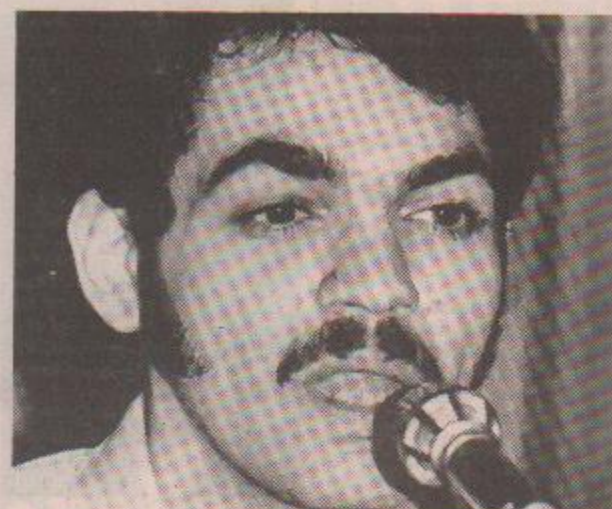
'For two years this has been



Saturday's conference: a call for mass action against the cuts



Dave Widgery: 'they've closed 104 hospitals in Britain so far'



Andy Kuttner: 'many people are fighting for the first time'

happening without resistance. The union officials are running in all directions trying to avoid the debris of the crumbling health service.

'But the rank and file in the hospitals are ready to fight and the public is behind us. We're on the road again.'

Andy Kuttner from Acton Hospital Services Campaign said: 'Acton Hospital is a small hospital which is being run down and we believe it is a step towards closure.'

Battles

'We called a public meeting. We have managed to get support from local engineers and post office workers. We have got shop stewards to argue for support in the factories.'

'We sent a delegation to the local district management team, including TGWU and AUEW members, hospital workers and unemployed people.'

'Many workers at Acton are fighting for the first time and getting concrete support from industrial workers.'

John Deery, from Glasgow

ASTMS Health Service Branch, described how the Save Our Hospitals Campaign had won support and credibility among hospital workers in Glasgow.

'We've held meetings and organised flying pickets against the cuts. We've spoken

at union branch meetings. Many branches are sick of the lack of leadership and information from their head offices.'

'Now they come to us for information about what is happening. We get invited back to their meetings time

and time again. The full-timers can say anything on paper, but it's us who have to go out and fight for it because they won't.'

Hospital Worker is producing a special issue with a full report of the conference.



Anne Robertson: 'we fought—and won'

They tried to put 2p on a glass of milk in our canteen overnight. We held a meeting and threatened action. They dropped the charge and every person who had bought a glass of milk at the increased price got their money back.

—Anne Robertson, ASTMS, Crumpsall, Manchester.

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
Engineers Charter/ Right to Work Campaign
National Protest Rally

Saturday 26 March, Noon, AUEW Offices, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK
TGWU Right to Work Campaign
National Protest Rally

Saturday 26 March, 11.30am, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester

COACHES TO MANCHESTER on Saturday 26 March for TGWU Right to Work and Engineers Charter protest rallies:

BIRMINGHAM: Coach leaves Hall of Memory, 10am.

SHEFFIELD: Coach leaves Pond Street, at 10am.

LONDON: Group train ticket. Leaves Euston Station 8.30am. Assemble under main indicator board. Tickets from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. (Phone 01-802 0978).

LIVERPOOL: £1 per head 9.30 Mann Island Pier Head; 9.45 Blackbull, Walton; 10am Golden Eagle, Kirkby; 10.20 St Helen's Town Centre. Return by same route.

CHESTER: to go with Merseyside.

GLASGOW: 50-seater bus return fare £4. TGWU and AUEW 6am Chippens Inn, Linwood; 6.15 Piazza, Paisley; 6.30 Information Bureau, George Square.

CARDIFF: Mini bus, 7am, Cardiff Central Station.

SOUTHAMPTON: Via London.

The myth of 'human nature'

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

'So Man created God in his own image . . .'

'SO GOD created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.'

That is how it was, according to the Jewish-Christian tradition, 'in the beginning.' Now when Marx and Engels wrote the German Ideology in the 1840s most people in Europe believed this story to be literally true. Only a tiny minority had begun to think in terms of evolution—Darwin's

famous book, the Origin of Species, was not published until 1859 and the Descent of Man not until 1871.

Long before this Marx and Engels had seen that it was the other way round, that man made God in his own image.

Or rather God, both male and female.

There was nothing unique about atheism, even in the 1840s. What was new about Marx and historical materialism was the recognition that these 'phantoms formed in the human brain' were a reflection of real relations between real people, of society, of the

way the 'production of the means of existence' was carried on.

So back to that famous passage from Genesis. It does, after all, point to the two fundamental things: the production of the means of existence (subduing the earth) and the production of human beings themselves, the reproduction of the species.

Work and sex. These are the foundations. And they cannot, historically speaking, be separated. 'The division of labour, . . . was originally nothing but the division of labour in the sexual act' says the German Ideology.

It could, perhaps, have been better

put. It is not copulation that matters. It is the fact that the new-born human infant is the most helpless of creatures and requires a lengthy period of growth and training, a period far longer than needed by the offspring of other species.

The young spider or cockroach is born 'programmed' to do everything it will ever do. There is no learning, or practically none. Even higher animals with considerable potential for learned behaviour—a cat or rat for example—inherit a 'programme', a pattern of automatic responses which do not have to be learned by the individual, a set of instincts.

The human infant has no instincts. *Everything* has to be learned. True, there are some scientific authorities who dispute this, but the dispute concerns a few trivial responses—an alleged 'startle pattern' for instance—and in no way affects the substance of the matter. We are not born with a ready-made set of skills and ideas, only with a potential for learning—a practically unlimited potential.

'Human instinct', in any serious sense, is conservative propaganda, not science.

This fact has enormous consequences. There is no fixed 'human nature'. We are a product of society and, as there have been many radically different kinds of society, so there have been many radically different 'human natures'.

And the 'human nature' of the socialist society of the future will not be that of today.

Products

We are all products of particular societies and cannot be otherwise. Robinson Crusoe, as someone once remarked, was neither a model of primitive man nor a hero moulding his world as he chose, but an 18th century Yorkshireman with the appropriate skills, prejudices and so on.

So 'the division of labour in the sexual act' gave rise to the earliest form of social organisation—the family. I am using that word in its very broadest sense—an arrangement for the care and training of the young.

It has existed, has been necessary, throughout human history, just as our distant cousins the great apes have a family structure today. For they too have young requiring long training.

Only it is not the same type of structure in each case. The chimpanzee 'family' consists of a group of mature females and juveniles, with the adult males loosely attached to the group.

Looking at it through human spectacles we could say that chimpanzees are matriarchal and promiscuous—to the chimpanzee conservative, no doubt, this is the only possible arrangement!

The gorilla family, on the other hand, is built around a dominant male.

And we ourselves? Because we are no longer apes the family structure has changed, is changing and will change. There has not been and cannot be any 'natural' family.

The hidden hand of the CIA

THE American CIA spy network has undercover propaganda operations all over the world. Former CIA agent Philip Agee describes how they work in his book *Inside the Company*.

They produce what they call 'grey' propaganda, stories and articles that originate from the CIA but are published by newspapers and journalists as their own—and 'black' propaganda, 'unattributed material, or attributed to a non-existent source, or false

material attributed to a real source'.

In other words, lies. 'The most interesting part of propaganda,' writes Agee, 'was the business of orchestrating the treatment of events of importance in among several countries.'

He describes how the CIA station in one country will cable information on a 'communist plot' there to the CIA station in another, which will get it 'exposed' in the local press. The CIA stations in

neighbouring countries will then get the story 're-run' in papers throughout the continent.

Pressure

'A few days later editorials begin to appear in the newspapers in these places and pressure mounts on the government to take repressive action against its communists.'

Thus the CIA has provoked a 'Red scare'.

The journalists and editors who channel the propaganda may or may not know they are working for the CIA. Even editorials can be planted. Agee describes an agent, codenamed AVBUZZ-1, who places propaganda in daily papers in Argentina.

'AVBUZZ-1 pays editors on newspapers on a space-used basis and the articles are usually published as unsigned editorials of the newspapers themselves.'

NOW READ ON. . .



Inside the Company—a CIA Diary, by Philip Agee. Penguin Books. By post, price £1.15 including postage, from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N14.

Pay-out scandal in NUS

MIKE NAYLOR has done very nicely out of the financial problems of the National Union of Students service companies.

He was a director of the companies, many of which recently went into liquidation.

When NUS decided to sell off Endsleigh Insurance, one viable company which would bring in some money to cover the losses, Naylor received £25,000 for his shares, bought in 1964 for £165.

Naylor was paid expenses for two and a half years up to 1976 of £14,500. He also claims that because his contract includes a cost-of-living increase he has been kind to NUS to the tune of £8,000. In 1974-76 his salary should have been £43,000—but he only got £35,000.

No doubt he will get over this great loss. He has been given a job as British director of the Dutch company which has taken over Endsleigh.

Charles Clarke, Broad Left NUS president, says that although wage increases are frozen over £8000, NUS is against the Social Contract.

Fine words. But compare what happened to the many workers thrown on the dole by NUS.

RED TORIES?

At Philippa Fawcett College of Education, South London, which is faced with closure due to the cuts, members of the Communist Party have proposed a leading Tory for president . . . and are actively campaigning for him.

A Tory who is in favour of cuts, increased unemployment and is against a militant campaign to keep the college open.

Opposing the Tory is a member of NOISS, the student supporters of the SWP, who is campaigning against the closure, cuts and unemployment.

Will the CP members vote for and campaign for the socialist candidate? 'Never,' they replied. 'We will always ally with the Tories against the ultra-left.'

CLARKE'S JUBILEE

A QUEEN'S Silver Jubilee Appeal letter has gone out to student unions signed by Charles Clarke, 'left' president of the National Union of Students.

Most of the money raised through the appeal will be from big business — such donations are a good tax dodge.

EXHIBIT ONE



A full-page article in the Sunday Telegraph, 20 February. It purports to reveal a 'communist plot' on a massive scale, with 'Moscow gold' paying for Cuban troops and advisors in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Congo Brazzaville, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola.

It also claims to reveal 'black expeditionary forces' whose task 'may be to free the Cubans for a future offensive against Rhodesia, South West Africa—or Zaire. . .'

The article gives its sources as UNITA and FNLA, the right-wing movements in Angola.

Holden Roberts, leader of the FNLA, joined the CIA payroll in 1961, at 10,000 dollars a year. The New York Times revealed that the CIA had passed a further 300,000 dollars to FNLA in January 1975 at the start of the war in Angola.

Similar cash went to UNITA. The US Christian Science Monitor revealed in January 1976: 'The CIA is indirectly recruiting American ex-servicemen, training them, dispatching them to South Africa and contributing to their pay via funds for Zaire and Angola's two pro-West factions, FNLA and UNITA.'

EXHIBIT TWO



Robert Moss, author of the article—and of a book on Chile that so whitewashes the junta that they give away free copies from their London embassy. This book was commissioned and published by Forum World Features, a 'news' service run by the CIA.

The article was 're-run' as paid advertisements in The Guardian and The Times on 11 March, with the heading 'Russian plot to cripple defence of the West'. It accuses Britain and America of 'actually aiding this under the cover of "Majority rule" — presumably a reference to Rhodesia. The advert calls on people to pressure their MPs, and MPs to pressure the government 'to halt this Soviet threat'.

EXHIBIT THREE



potato millionaire and a financier.

An advert inserted in The Times in June 1974 by the Club of Ten had in fact been secretly telexed directly from the South African Department of Information in Pretoria. In other words, it is 'black propaganda'.

[The Great White Hoax—South Africa's international propaganda machine, published by the Africa Bureau, 48 Grafton Way, London W1, price £1.

EXHIBIT FOUR

The adverts, if paid at the standard rate, cost £12,480. The money came from 'The Club of Ten', a secret propaganda organisation run from an office in Regent Street in London (until recently just down the corridor from the National Association for Freedom, the union-bashing organisation run by none other than Robert Moss).

Four of the Club of Ten have recently been exposed. They are all South Africans—a fertiliser millionaire, a property tycoon, a

EXHIBIT FIVE

The very same day these adverts appeared, there were news stories claiming a 'Cuban invasion' of Zaire. The source was given variously as the official Zaire government news agency, the US State Department, and the US Embassy in Zaire.

The stories claimed that anything up to 5000 Cubans had invaded Zaire from Angola, capturing American

missionaries on the way. They got prominent headlines.

The CIA has been deeply involved in Zaire for years. On its own admission it was involved in the assassination of Zaire's first president, Lumumba, and has been financing President Mobutu.

The 'invasion' stories, which appeared so conveniently that day, had faded by a week later to a local operation by some

500 supporters of former Zaire president Tshombe.

A Zaire government statement said 'the mercenaries' had avoided contact with the Zaire army and were operating only at night, 'a new style of fighting which is somewhat delaying the victorious progress of the Zaire forces'.

Truly an invisible invasion!



A carefully orchestrated CIA propaganda operation—or a series of coincidences? Philip Agee, the former CIA agent whose words link these events together, is under sentence of deportation. That, clearly, is no coincidence.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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Good riddance!



MRS Indira Gandhi has been whipped.

Her Congress Party has been ousted after holding power for nearly 30 years.

What was the election about? For the majority there were six key issues.

□ **Inflation**—which dropped from 28 per cent to zero in 1975—is now running at 12 per cent and rising fast. Cooking oil has increased 34 per cent in price in the past six months, and cotton 60 per cent.

□ **Two poor harvests**, with the prospect of worse to come, have hit the poor again. The government has a lot of grain in stock, but the poor cannot buy it at the present price.

□ **Sackings**: there have been five to six million lay-offs in Indian industry since Mrs Gandhi brought in her emergency 21 months ago. There are 18 million on the unemployed register.

Strike

□ **Wage cuts**: Since the emergency, employers have ended or cut bonuses and dearness allowance, cutting pay by about a tenth.

□ **Outlawing strikes**, the arrest of trade union militants and destruction of the opposition trade unions. Even so the strike rate has been rising sharply.

□ **Compulsory sterilisation** for the poor, and the policy of driving beggars, squatters and shanty town dwellers out of the cities to rural starvation.

These are the triumphs of Indira's so-called socialism!

But as India's workers rejoice, what will follow Mrs Gandhi?

By **NIGEL HARRIS**

In 1971, she fought the elections on the slogan 'Abolish poverty!'. The Congress machine, well oiled with bribes, turned in a massive victory.

But this time it didn't work. The Congress leadership was split all ways. The vote-catching concessions brought in during the last five weeks—a cut in land tax, increased pay, recognition of city squatters rights, cancellation of rent arrears—failed to swamp the truth.

What about the opposition, the Janata Party?

They are a loose coalition of parties with contradictory policies, unified only by their hatred of Mrs Gandhi.

Raised

They may benefit from the rebellion of the voters, but they offer no threat to the Indian establishment, only to the Gandhi clique.

The core of the Janata leadership are old Congress politicians. They will now start the old sordid round of

intrigue to capture power. The two leading contenders are former Congress Finance Minister, 81-year-old Morarji Desai, and Mrs Gandhi's former Agricultural Minister, Jagjivan Ram (who resigned only six weeks before the election).

Ram will try to move back into Congress to displace Mrs Gandhi while Desai tries to bribe a section of Congress MPs to join Janata.

Sordid

As for the tiny official left, it is nowhere to be seen. The Communist Party has been politically bounced all over the place because it so slavishly backed Mrs Gandhi (but with whispered criticisms out of the corner of its mouth).

The other Communist Party, the marxists, worked with the Janata Party to deliver West Bengal. It will now find itself out in the cold again.

Even if Janata could hold together and come to power, it would not offer anything more than Mrs Gandhi did before the emergency. That offered nothing for the 600 million poor of India.

But the election has been a watershed. Enormous hopes have been raised—for a new deal, for food for the millions, for some increase of the miserable levels of pay.

They are not things either Mrs Gandhi or Janata are offering. But the first taste of the elections will prompt many to demand more.

Corrupt

That promises a period of great turmoil in the country and great political instability in Delhi.

This is an enormous opportunity to fashion a real left alternative, so markedly lacking during the emergency.

When the next emergency comes—as it must if India's corrupt establishment is to survive—the work undertaken now can be the makings of a revolutionary alternative then.



Jubilant at the election results

MYSTERY BEHIND RHODESIA KILLINGS

WHO killed the Rhodesian missionaries?

The British press has repeated the claim of the racist government that the killings were the work of black freedom fighters.

But, as we reported in last week's Socialist Worker, growing numbers of people in Rhodesia think otherwise, including many leaders of the Catholic church.

Now another interesting story has come to light.

BULLET

A couple of weeks ago, a man arrived with a police escort at one of Salisbury's biggest hospitals. He had a bullet in his abdomen.

One of the people who arrived later to see him included Dr Webster, who seems to be a medical officer with Smith's notorious mercenary-led force, the Selous scouts, who most black people in Rhodesia believe killed the missionaries.

SICK

He was taken to the Intensive Care Unit—though he clearly was not sick enough—and registered under the name of Felix.

He has a round-the-clock guard of black secret servicemen. The sisters who work in Intensive Care were adamant that he was not a guerilla, and they've probably seen enough to know.

GUARD

A rumour spread like wild-fire that he was the Selous Scout who shot the missionaries.

The guard was there only to prevent him talking during post-operative delirium; the bandages to prevent his identification if he should talk.



Jagjivan Ram: Gandhi's successor

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.

WEST YORKSHIRE tour by socialist theatre group North West Spanner, with their new play JUST A COG.

BRADFORD: Friday 25 March, 8pm, Small Hall, Bradford University, Social afterwards. Sponsored by Metal Box Joint Shop Stewards Committee and Bradford Engineering Charter Group.

RALLY Against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Sunday 27 March, 4pm, Hammettsmith Town Hall Organised by Trade Union Committee Against the PTA.

RELEASE NEEDS A LEGAL WORKER: Work includes advice and information on drug arrests, general criminal problems, police behaviour, court practice. Opportunities for writing and pressure group/campaigning activity. Legal or practical knowledge and experience an asset, commitment essential. Collective shares switchboard, xrgency phone duties, cleaning. £33 a week (net). Send FULL details to Legal Unit, Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London W9.

BELT AND BRACES ROADSHOW in Portsmouth, with 'Not so green as it's cabbage', a rock musical on Northern Ireland. Wednesday 30 March, 8pm, The Rock Garden Pavilion, South Parade, and Friday 1 April, 7.30pm, Polytechnic Education Faculty, Lockway Road, Milton. Tickets at the performance.

The Red Menace?

BY **CHRIS HARMAN**

MANY people are confused when they read about the Italian Communist Party.

The Italian Communist Party demonstrates behind red flags, uses the hammer and sickle as its symbol, sings revolutionary songs.

Power

Yet it has been keeping in power, through a policy of 'benevolent neutrality', a government of Tory Christian Democrats.

three leaders of the Italian Communist Party—Luciano Barca, Maurizio Valenzi and Luciano Lama—as well as the head of Olivetti, the governor of the Bank of Italy and... Sir Harold Wilson.

Luciano Lama, a Communist Party trade union leader, said the trade union movement had shown 'responsibility' in reaching agreement with the Italian employer organisation 'on a

number of measures aimed at reducing labour costs.'

Angry

No wonder so many students and workers in Italy are angry at such union leaders, throwing Lama out of the occupation at Rome University a couple of weeks ago, and heckling another union leader, Bruno Trenti, in Bologna last Friday.

In fact, the policies of many of the Italian Communist Party are no different to those, say, of Sir Harold Wilson.

This was shown graphically a fortnight ago at a Financial Times European Business Forum in Rome.

Platform speakers included



Sir Harold Wilson: his policies are 'Communist' in Italy

WHERE 1 IN 7 VOTED FOR REVOLUTION

THE revolutionary left got an average of 2½ per cent of the vote in the recent municipal elections in France.

But that figure underestimates the achievement of the three groups, Lutte Ouvriere, Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, Organisations Communiste

des Travailleurs—which fought the elections on a common platform.

In Paris they got just under three per cent—not a bad result in view of the ten per cent which went to ecology candidates who probably got most of their support from left voters.

In Orleans they got just under 12 per cent. In Venissieux 10 per cent, Montbeliard 9½ per cent, Caen and Nancy over 8 per cent and Rouen 7½ per cent.

In particular wards the results were even better; thus in some working-class areas of Nancy the revolutionary candidates got 14½ per cent.

This pamphlet is a translation into Iranian of Chris Harman's pamphlet on Russia: Why the Revolution Was Lost. Iran is a vicious police dictatorship headed by the Shah. Yet many Iranians fight back, at home and abroad. The SWP Middle East Group aims to publish in Iranian several pamphlets that deal with important issues to the movement in Iran and its political development. The group welcomes all offers of help with this and its other work. We can also provide speakers on Iran and other Middle East countries. 25p a copy, plus 10p post (10 or more copies post free). Cash with order to SWP International Dept; 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cheques payable to SW International Fund.

PRICES: This is

THE HIGHER
THE COLUMN, THE
BIGGER THE PRICE
INCREASE HAS BEEN

Prices have risen by 69p in the pound in the past three years. Food prices even more—by 83p in the pound. These are official government figures.

Despite the Labour government's many promises, they're speeding up. Last year alone butter rose by 68p in the pound, tea 61p, cheese 43p and vegetables doubled in price. Those figures are official, from The Grocer magazine.

And it's not going to stop. Food prices are expected to rise by another 21p in the pound this year, again according to The Grocer.

Why? And where's the money going?

BREAD

THE RISE in bread prices has been slowed down by government subsidies—but still it has risen by 68 per cent since 1974. And the subsidy has just been cut.

Meanwhile the giant bread companies are making massive profits—Rank-Hovis-McDougall made £33 million last year. Spillers £15 million.

Spillers have just opened a special bank account in a tax haven, the Channel Islands, to keep out of range of the Price Commission. Salted away there is a cool £12 million.



Speculators' bonanza

THE Bank of England Bulletin estimates that British firms made £180 million out of 'trade'—in other words—speculation abroad in foodstuffs and other commodities in 1974. 1975-6 figures indicate a probable rise to £200-250 million.

MEAT



CAN you afford bacon any more? There is less bacon eaten in Britain today than since post-war rationing ended 25 years ago.

Prices are being kept high on purpose. Said the Bacon Manufacturers Association: 'Prices of bacon in the shops should be 25 per cent cheaper than they are, to match a fall in wholesale prices' (Financial Times, 10 March).

The Common Market keeps meat prices artificially high by building the 'beef mountain' ever higher. Thus they take meat off the market, keeping it in short supply and keeping prices high.

Common Market trade barriers are also the reason why you can no longer buy cheap beef from Argentina or Australia—and why taxation adds 16p a pound to New Zealand Lamb.



BUTTER

THE world price for butter is 28p a pound, but we pay 52p. The price in other Common Market countries is 66p—and the rules say we must be paying that price by later this year.

The butter mountain is now 230,000 tons and expected to double this summer. Farmers get a guaranteed £2,167 a ton—which means such massive profits that they produce more and more, building the mountain ever higher.

Why this lunacy?

THE main cause of rising butter prices is the Common Market agricultural system, which deliberately creates shortages so as to force up prices.

That is why there are huge 'mountains' of beef, butter, dried skimmed milk, lakes of wine and olive oil, in storage.

That is why vast quantities of food is 'denatured' to be fed to animals.

That is why there is taxation to force up the prices of non-Common Market foods—adding 16p a pound to New Zealand butter, 14p a pound to cheese, 12p a dozen to Polish eggs.

That is why wheat for making bread costs twice as much in Europe as anywhere else in the world.

Who is to blame for this policy?

People talk of the 'bureaucrats in Brussels'. What they forget to add is that these bureaucrats have the support of all the main British political parties.

Because high prices benefit the big farmers and the big food companies, giving more money to prime minister James Callaghan, farmer, Tory ex-minister Willie Whitelaw, farmer, Lord Carrington, farmer.

These people gain because the Common Market puts up the price of food by an average £1.60 a week for each family, according to a Daily Mirror calculation.

MILK

REMEMBER Maggie Thatcher, milk snatcher? Before reaching the dizzy heights of the Tory leadership, she was responsible for ending free milk in schools after the age of seven.

Last year, in keeping with Common Market policy to keep milk prices—and profits—high, farmers fed 160 million pints of skimmed milk back to their animals. For doing this they received money from the government.

At no extra cost, that could be our children's school milk.



TEA...

TEA prices to double during the summer,' said the headlines on Monday last week.

And on Tuesday, one of the biggest tea companies, Brooke Bond Liebig, announced soaring profits—a record £24½ million last year and still climbing.



Housing for workers on a Brooke Bond tea plantation.

...and COFFEE

TRIED buying coffee recently? The price has risen at 10 per cent per month since January 1975.

In July 1975 a severe frost in Brazil, heavy flooding in Colombia, war in Angola and an earthquake in Guatemala wiped out one third of the world's coffee crop. The price of green beans rocketed from £500 a ton to £2,900.

But that money didn't go to the people who grow the coffee beans. As in previous years, they got roughly 20p a pound—and because the harvest failed millions went unemployed.

The money went to speculators who were 'playing the futures market'—they had bought that year's coffee crop in advance for £500 a ton, and when it became scarce they were able to sell at £2,900.

The same game is played with tea, sugar, and grain. It means profits for the speculators, doubled prices for us, and starvation in the world's poor countries.

VEG

To represent the trebled price of vegetables, this column should go five inches beyond the edge of the page.



THE average profit made by retailers on brussels sprouts between September and November last year was 43 per cent, and on cauliflowers 58 per cent, according to a report by the government's Price Commission.



WHOEVER thought potatoes would end up a luxury? In two years the price has shot up from 3p a pound to 15p.

Meanwhile the area of land planted with potatoes has been cut back by the Potato Marketing Board, so creating shortages and forcing prices up.

We all know who suffered from these increases.

It wasn't Sir Henry Plumb and the other big farmers in the National Farmers Union. Plumb announced that the short crop last year added £300 million to the receipts of potato growers.

Much of the profit has gone to a fairly small number of farmers,' he said.

The retailers and wholesalers didn't suffer either. A joint survey by Women's Realm and Farmers Weekly showed that even after the farmers' huge profits, the price of potatoes leaving the farm gate is only 3p a pound. The extra 10p or more is profit to wholesalers and retailers.



Who gains?

THE FARMERS claim that the cost of producing food went up by £900 million last year. What caused the increase?

Not farm wages, which were held down to miserable levels by phases one and two of the Social Contract.

But other things did go up. Farm land has doubled in price in three years—to the benefit of the giant landowners who still own huge chunks of Britain.

Interest payments from farmers to the banks have soared. The profits of the big four banks rose from £400 million to £700 million last year.

Fertiliser prices also shot up. The profits of the agricultural division of Britain's biggest company, ICI, were £103 million last year.

SUGAR



SUGAR prices doubled since took office during the 'sugar short' autumn 1974.

The short largely a consequence of a con. monopolies application. Prices Commission a price rise—aggregated the a poor harvest the government. The actual was less than cent—but Tate cut supplies to 40 per cent.

They got a rise. And profits to folk.

The British Corporation, its profits by 8 last year—fr million to million. Tate too are making thank you.

The vanishing breakfast



1970



1974



1977

JAN 1974

This is why we all need at least a £15 pay

Where the money goes

PIN THIS CHART UP AT YOUR WORKPLACE

... and how your wages are falling!



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GAS and electricity

THE latest rise in gas prices by 10 per cent is a scandal. There is no justification for it, except for the determination of the government that the nationalised industries, like private industry, shall make a huge profit at the expense of the rest of us.

The government cares more about profits for the electricity and gas boards than the need for warmth and light of pensioners, of children, of the sick, of all working people.

The same absurd pressure has led to the Post Office telephones making £400 million

FRUIT



LORRIES dumping apples into pits in France to keep prices up. There's no guaranteed price for most fruit, so farmers resort to cruder methods of keeping prices up.

Tomatoes are fed to cows. Canadian farmers are told by their government to burn fields of grain, fish is simply dumped back in the sea—after being caught and killed.



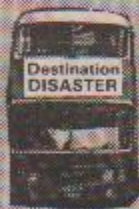
profit while hundreds of thousands of families are being disconnected because they cannot pay the growing bills.

The telephones affair also gives the lie to the government's claim—and that of the Tories—that these profits are necessary to get new investment, and that new investment will create more jobs.

The Financial Times pointed out on 16 March that when new investment has led to all-electric telephone exchanges, it will cut 'to one tenth' the telecommunications industry's 'already shrunken workforce'.

That's the Social Contract for you: rising prices, fewer people able to afford necessities, more unemployment.

FARES



BUS and train fares have doubled since the Labour government took office. It's a vicious circle that can only end with the destruction of public transport.

As fares go up, fewer and fewer people can afford to travel by bus or train. When these run half-empty, either services are cut back, or fares go up again—and the cycle starts again.

The reason is simple. The government insists that these nationalised services run 'at a profit' rather than to fulfil the need of workers for cheap transport. In fact, because the West Yorkshire transport authority has refused to raise fares again this year the government is threatening to cut off its money!

How shares have beaten inflation



ONE group of people have kept ahead of inflation in the past six years, through three lots of wage controls. They are the owners of shares.

Stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan (who should know) say that combining the value of dividends and the increase in the value of company property, 'the total return on the up-to-date values of assets per share has been 4 per cent greater than the rate of inflation.'

Who suffers?

BETWEEN now and next Tuesday's budget there will be a deluge of propaganda about the plight of the poor manager. He has suffered so much in the past two years that he needs massive tax reliefs to restore his living standards.

Rubbish! Those hardest hit by inflation are the *poor*, not the rich.

According to the National Consumer Council (as reported in the Financial Times, 16 February), those hardest hit by rising prices are 'poor households with children'—and particularly in the past 12 months.

Overall, the survey suggests that poor people pay a fifth more for basic necessities than the rich—because they don't have freezers,

cars to go to cheaper shops, the ability to buy in bulk, and so on.

One group of 'employees' are *in fact immune* from the pay policy—managers and executives in industry. Their salaries can be increased simply by changing jobs, even if only in name, so it can be claimed they are being promoted, or by being paid by an overseas subsidiary.

The Imperial group, the country's biggest food company, increased the number of its employees in the £10,000-£25,000 range from 167 to 275 last year. At Lloyds Bank the increase was from 362 to 498.

The number of Imperial employees 'earning' £20,000-£25,000 grew from four to 17. Our poor, starved managers!

The socialist alternative

SOARING food prices are the result of a system based on the blind pursuit of profit by firms, governments and nationalised industries. Even when they try to plan something, they put profit first and leave the needs of the mass of ordinary people a very long way behind.

Hence the butter mountains, the wine lakes, the destruction of food to force up its price—and the smiles on the faces of speculators and money-lenders.

There is no way out unless this lunatic system is replaced with a properly planned society, planned for people's needs not for profit, a socialist society.

That cannot be done while one per cent of the population owns 80 per cent of the 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.

What is needed is:
□ Nationalisation without compensation and under workers'

control of industries that leave machines idle and workers unemployed.

□ Nationalisation of the big food companies, of all land, and of the farms, with food production planned to keep prices down.

□ 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.

□ An end to the wasteful 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 and moving it abroad.

Until we get such policies there is no way to protect our lives against soaring prices unless we insist on an end to wage controls and the social contract—and £15 wage rises all round NOW!

WAGES

THANKS to the Social Contract, real wages after tax have fallen behind prices by 14 per cent in the past four years. They're now less than they were in 1970.

And the OECD, an international economic organisation, estimates that wages will fall this year by three times as much as last year.



Wages rise NOW! To hell with the Social Contract!

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion groups: Saturdays, 11.30am, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place. Open to all Socialist Worker readers. For further information phone 031-557 0628.

26 March: How we organise in a union. Speaker: Ann Alden (NUPE shop steward)
2 April: Racism. Speaker: Steve Bassindale (UCATT).

DUMFRIES Socialist Workers Party discussion group: Monday 28 March, 8.30pm, Nithsdale Hotel, Dumfries. All SW readers and supporters welcome.

EDINBURGH SWP Women's Voice discussion group meetings on Women's Politics: Saturday mornings, 11.30am, Room 6, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place (top of Leith Walk). Open to all SW and Women's Voice readers.

2 April: Pin money women? Women at work.
9 April: Keep it in the family! The family under capitalism.

EDINBURGH Women's Voice film showings: Abortion—an egg is not a chicken. Monday 28 March, 7.30pm, Craigroyston School, Pennywell Road, Pitlochy, and Tuesday 29 March, 7.30pm, Room 4, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place (top of Leith Walk).

GLASGOW Women's Voice public meeting: Sexual politics. Speaker: J Hodgeman (NUJ). Wednesday 30 March, 7.30pm, Iona Community, Clyde Street.

North East

FERRYHILL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings on Why we need socialism: Every other Monday, 8pm, Kings Head, Ferryhill, County Durham. Next meeting: 28 March. All welcome.

Yorkshire

WEST YORKSHIRE Women's Voice general meeting for all members: Saturday 26 March, 2pm, Bradford University Communal Building (meeting room 1). Speaker: Margaret Renn.

MINERS FOR SOCIALISM—a series of Socialist Workers Party political discussion meetings to be held in Barnsley. First meeting: Tony Cliff on the threat of productivity deals and how to fight them (17 April). Others include Duncan Hallas on understanding the crisis, Steve Jefferys on Broad Left Alliance or rank and file organisation? Full details from Bill Message, 143 Carleton Road, Pottery, West Yorkshire.

SHEFFIELD Socialist Workers Party industrial school, for all trade union members: Sunday 27 March, details to be announced. Speakers: Tony Cliff and John Deason.

North West

LANCASTER Socialist Worker discussion meeting: South Africa. Wednesday 23 March, 7.30pm, Ring of Bells, Opposite Studios 1 and 2 cinemas. All welcome.

CREWE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Tuesdays, 7.45pm, The Angel Hotel, Victoria Street (town centre).
29 March: Why international socialism?

PRESTON Socialist Workers Party meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm, The Keystone, Brook Street (off Fylde Road). All welcome.
31 March: The National Front—how we fight them and their ideas.

ORMSKIRK Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every Thursday, 7.30pm, Civic Hall Committee Rooms (Church Fields entrance) if available. See your Socialist Worker seller for further details.

31 March: Workers' participation in the GPO. Speaker: Alf Hibbert (assistant secretary, CPSA).

CRUMPSALL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, Room A11, Abraham Moss Centre.
31 March: Why we fight in the unions—the bureaucrats and the rank and file. Speaker: Marion Townshend (NUT).

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM '96 OUT NOW
Articles on **WOMEN; Immigration; ALAN FISHER, NUPE and the New Reformism**
40p (inc post) 6 Cottons Gardens London E2



South East

SWINDON Socialist Worker public meeting: The Case for socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Monday 28 March, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall (above the Sheraton Suite).

Socialist Worker public meetings

Send notices — to reach us first post Monday — to What's On, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



STICKERS in two colours—black and purple, as above, 30p for a sheet of six (plus 7p postage) from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



PAMPHLET

Stop the deportations! Fight police harassment! New pamphlet produced by the Socialist Workers Party. 10p each, plus 7p postage (ten or more copies post free) from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



WOMEN AND SOCIALISM

Public meetings on building the Socialist Workers Party

CRUDDYDON: Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane).

ST ALBANS: Wednesday 30 March, 8pm, Beehive pub (off London Road). Speaker: Margaret Renn (SWP women's organiser).

MAIDSTONE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Mondays, 8pm, The Old Palace, Mill Street. All welcome.
28 March: What is capitalism? Why is it in crisis? Speaker: Phil Lee (NATFHE).

GRAYS and TILBURY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Meeting Room, Grays Central Library.

ESSEX Socialist Workers Party district day school: Speaker: Tony Cliff. Discussion on the cuts, Social Contract, equal pay, building the party. Saturday 26 March, 2pm, Arts Centre, Basildon.

MAIDSTONE Socialist Workers Party series of discussion meetings on the politics of the SWP: Mondays, 8pm, The Old Palace, Mill Street.
28 March: What is Capitalism? Why is it in crisis? Speaker: Phil Lee (NATFHE).
4 April: Reform or Revolution? Speaker: Alan Beeny (SOGAT).

London

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting on the anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising: What did James Connolly die for? Speakers: Sean Docherty (SWP Irish committee) and Bernadette Dunne (NUR). Chaired by Bill Geddes (NUPE). Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Acton Town Hall, Acton High Street, W3.

LAMBETH Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Brixton Training Centre, corner of Brixton Hill and St Matthews Road, SW2.
31 March: Origins of the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

BALHAM and TOOTING Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Tuesdays, 8pm, The Wheatsheaf, Tooting Bec.
30 March: Russia.

EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party meeting: What is Socialism? Speaker: Lionel Sims. Session 1: What Socialism is not—Russia, Eastern Europe etc. Session 2: What Socialism is—Russian Revolution, Paris Commune, Hungarian uprising 1956. Sunday 27 March, 2-6pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, London E13.

Socialist Workers Party PRINTWORKERS public meeting: Smash the Social Contract! Chaired by Ross Pritchard (London Region NGA). Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (ex-AUEW/TASS convener), John Brown (Engineering), Frank Hemerson (British Leyland shop steward), Longbridge, plus speakers from NATSOPA and SOGAT. Thursday 31 March, 7pm, St Bride's Institute, Fleet Street. All speakers in their personal capacity.

GREATER LONDON COUNCIL Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The case for socialism. Thursday 24 March, 12.30pm, The Ordnance Arms, York Road, SE1 (just across from County Hall).

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Worker discussion meeting: Dialectical materialism. Speaker: Morgan O'Brien. Monday 28 March, 8pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7.

WANDSWORTH Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Whose side are they on?—the police, the army, the law? Speaker: Danny Philips. Wednesday 6 April, 8pm, The Napier Arms, St John's Hill, London SW11.

NORTH LONDON ROCK AGAINST RACISM Socialist Workers Party Benefit: Friday 25 March, 8pm, Caxton House, 129 St John's Way, Archway, N19. Foxy Lady, bar, disco. Admission £1 (unemployed 50p).

CRUDDYDON: Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane).

ST ALBANS: Wednesday 30 March, 8pm, Beehive pub (off London Road). Speaker: Margaret Renn (SWP women's organiser).

LAMBETH Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Origins of the Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 31 March, 7.30pm, Brixton Training Centre (opposite St Matthews Church).

SOUTHWARK TEACHERS Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Every Thursday, 8pm, Hanover Arms, Kennington Park Road (near Oval tube), London SW11.
24 March: Sexual politics. Speaker: H Nicholson.
31 March: Capitalism since the war. Speaker: Steve Freeman.

CRISIS IN EUROPE: London Socialist Workers Party public meeting: France after the elections, Italy—the left splits, The Communist Parties move to power—a step to socialism? Saturday 2 April, 1pm-6pm, Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish Street, London W1 (nearest tube Oxford Circus). All SWP members and supporters welcome. Organised by SWP France and Italy Groups.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker discussion meetings: The Bolshevik Party and the Russian Revolution. Speaker: Tony Cliff (Central Committee SWP). Sunday 3 April, 4pm, Carib Club.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL WORKERS Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Defend the Socialist Worker. Speaker: Nigel Fountain (ex-Socialist Worker, ex-Street Life), talking on the Fleet Street trivia machine and the battle to defend an independent working class press. from the Northern Star to Socialist Worker. Wednesday 30 March, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Road (near Dalston Junction).

HACKNEY SCHOOLS Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The making of the English working class. Speaker: Alistair Hatchett. Monday 28 March, 8pm, Centreprise Bookshop, Kingsland High Street, London E8.

OUR NORMAN AT SKEGNESS



I SAW TWO FILMS AND WENT TO A TALK ABOUT SHELLEY AND PLAYED IN THE FOOTBALL KNOCKOUT AND SWAM IN THE SEA AND WENT TO THE FUNFAIR IN TOWN AND HEARD A SPEECH ON LENIN AND HAD A PINT OR TWO AND MET SOME MINERS FROM DONCASTER AND -

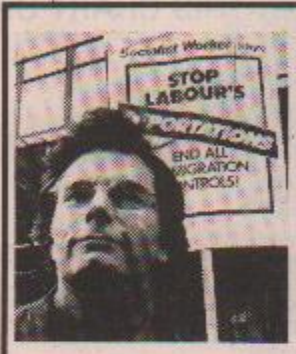
BLIMEY, YOU WERE BUSY!

YEP. AND IF IT'S STILL GOING WHEN THE TWINS ARE BIGGER I'M ENTERING THEM FOR THE SNOOKER COMPETITION!

CRECHE

SOCIALIST WORKER SKEGNESS EASTER WEEKEND nearly booked up. This could be your last chance—ask your SW seller for details now!

Have a Socialist night out!



Get the CIA out of Britain! Stop the deportations! COME AND HEAR PHILIP AGEE, former CIA agent now under threat of deportation. Monday 4 April, 7.45pm, Stratford Town Hall, Stratford Broadway, London, E15 (nearest tube Stratford). Speakers: Philip Agee and Paul Foot. Organised by East London Socialist Workers Party.

Enjoy yourself—and help build the Socialist Workers Party. The proceeds of these events will go towards our £30,000 party-building fund.

BRADFORD Socialist Worker Bazaar and Jumble Sale: Saturday 2 April, 10.30am-12.30pm, Textile Hall, Westgate, Bradford. If you have any jumble, books, old records etc, or wish to help in any way, phone Bradford 42542.

LEA VALLEY Jumble Sale for Socialist Workers Party Fighting Fund: Tuesday 29 March, 8pm, YWCA, 628 High Road, Tottenham, London N17. Entrance 5p. Plenty of good bargains.

NORTH LONDON SWP social: Friday 25 March, 8pm, Caxton House, Archway, N19.

LEA VALLEY Jumble Sale: Tuesday 29 March, 8pm, Tottenham Community Project Details, phone 808 9057.

WIGAN Socialist Workers Party social 'n' dance 'n' raffle! Friday 25 March, 8pm, Victoria Hotel (opposite railway station). Tickets from your Socialist Worker seller or at the door.

OXFORD Socialist Worker jumble and book sale: Saturday 2 April, 2.30pm, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street (off Cowley Road).

MANCHESTER: Bernie Wilcox's 21st party, this Saturday, 26 March, details from Manchester bookshop, 260 Deansgate.

GLASGOW Socialist Worker Jumble Sale: Jumble needed urgently! We will accept anything! Please deliver to SW Books, 64 Queen Street, C1, or phone 021-221 3426 to arrange collection.

SOUTHWARK Women's Voice jumble sale: Saturday 26 March, 2pm, St Philips Church Hall, Avondale Square, London SE1 (off Old Kent Road near Canal Bridge). Bottle stall and refreshments. Admission 5p including raffle.

HENDON Socialist Workers Party fund-raising party: Saturday 26 March, 8pm, 107 Cricklewood Broadway. Lots of booze and good food. Entrance 50p.

SOS—Supply Our Stationery! With the vast increase in mailings from the SWP industrial department, national student offices, international department, Womens Voice, etc, we are using stationery at a tremendous rate. If you can supply unused envelopes of any shape or size, please contact us (phone 01-739 8772) or get them to SWP National Office, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Socialist Workers Party GAY GROUP asks any friends going to Skegness to contact Ruth (01-800 8557) or Richard, 19 Redman's Road, London E1 (01-790 2454).

FIGHT THE CUTS OCCUPY NO TO FEES OR QUOTAS

STICKERS, two colours (black and maroon)—five sheets for £1, post free, 12 sheets for £2 (each sheet contains six of each sticker). NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Pre-NUSS conference caucus meeting for all NOISS delegates and observers. Sunday 27 March, 4pm, in the Conference Hall.

Action in the unions

South Coast

PORTSMOUTH Socialist Workers Party public meeting: How to change the system—reform or revolution? Introduced by John Rudge. Tuesday 29 March, 8pm, Forrester's Hall, Fratton Road.

South West

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The cuts in the Health Service and how to fight them. Speaker: Dave Bridge (NUP). Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Baptist Mills Community Centre, St Werburghs (off M32).

PLYMOUTH Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The fight for socialism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Friday 25 March, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, Western College Avenue, Mutley, Plymouth.

TORBAY Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash Labour's Social Contract. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 24 March, 7.30pm, The Printer's Elbow, George Street, Torquay.

CAMBORNE Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Labour Party and the socialist alternative. Saturday 26 March, watch for local leaflets for time and place, or ring Camborne 715018 for information.

THIS is a splendid book*.

It tells of the flowering of a real mass rank and file movement during the First World War, of its contradictions and its ebbs and flows in struggles against the combined forces of the government, the employers, the trade union officials, the Labour Party and the press.

The same combination, in fact, that we have just seen in action against the Leyland toolmakers.

James Hinton says, with justice, that 'the history of this movement is an important part of the history of the British revolutionary movement as a whole. We can still learn something from it today.'

Attack

The shop stewards movement, as opposed to stewards as mere card checkers, arose out of resistance to a determined attack on established conditions and practices by the unholy trinity of government, employers and union officials.

It did not arise, as it happens, among the poorest and most oppressed workers.

It arose among those Lenin called 'the aristocracy of labour', skilled workers in the metal trades.

They were something of a labour aristocracy at the time. The district time-rates for fitters and turners in 1914 (there were then no national rates) were exactly double the labourers' rate.

And it arose in defence of the very practices that maintained the differentials.

Not a very progressive cause you might say and rightly so. But life is complicated.

You cannot afford to look at the class struggle in terms of simple ideas of black and white—if you do you help the bosses.

Grasp

You have to grasp the main aims of the enemy—in this case to destroy those elements of control over the job that had been wrested from the employers over many years.

Now the re-establishment of the unfettered 'right to manage', the despotism of the bosses over the shop floor, would have been a shattering defeat for all workers.

Therefore a movement of resistance, even a sectional one, must be supported in these circumstances.

Sectionalism, craft privilege and so on are evils from the standpoint of working class unity but sometimes 'out of evil cometh forth good'.

It is a question of grasping the concrete realities of every particular situation and see-

ing the main enemy and the main way forward. That is the first lesson.

Of course, sectional movements are easily led into reactionary channels. It is a matter of leadership.

Circumstances and their own efforts put revolutionary socialists into the leadership of the first shop stewards movement.

Better

They strove to broaden the movement, 'to break down the traditional divisions between craftsmen and less skilled workers, to develop an industrial policy which united the interests of the two groups and to construct an all grades

organisation in the workshop'.

This was (and is) immensely difficult. As Hinton says, it was a case of 'the leadership pulling towards revolutionary politics, the craftsmen at one moment following, at the next retreating into militant exclusiveness.'

'In the end craft conquered class goals among the rank and file of the movement'.

The revolutionary left eventually proved too weak to overcome the heritage of the past under conditions of



A munitions factory in the First World War: it was in plants like these that the movement grew

What a mass rank and file movement could be like

WITH THE LEYLAND STEWARDS' CONFERENCE JUST A WEEK AWAY, A LOOK AT THE WAY WORKERS TOOK ON UNION LEADERS AND BOSSES 60 YEARS AGO

BY DUNCAN HALLAS

skilled time rate, an excellent achievement for the period.

Moreover, the militants kept control of the district committee. Indeed, the drive to establish stewards in each factory, which was started by the amalgamation committee, proceeded under official district auspices so far as the ASE was concerned.

On 8 November a mass meeting was convened jointly by the shop stewards and the ASE district. The invitation was to all engineering workers, not simply ASE members.

Released

The government was given seven days to release Hargreaves, failing which all work in Sheffield district would cease.

The decision was unanimous. The district committee, knowing that the executive would order it to call off an illegal strike, handed over the leadership to the shop stewards' committee.

'This was possible,' wrote J T Murphy, one of the leaders, 'because the majority of the members of the district committee were also shop stewards.' These intelligent tactics enabled a flexible combination of official and unofficial instruments to be used.

When the deadline expired on the 15th, the stoppage was total. Excellent strike organisation and proper educational preparation ensured a simultaneous strike in all the organised shops.

Cease

Co-operation between the different craft societies was much better than on the Clyde due to a powerful amalgamation movement. Most important of all, the organisation of the semi-skilled was fairly strong.

Shortly before the war the ASE district committee had negotiated a local agreement giving the various semi-skilled categories from 76 per cent to 88 per cent of the

Accredited delegates were immediately sent to all the main engineering centres to put the case for support.

Careful attention was paid by the stewards to the non-tradesmen and this fell on fertile ground because of 'their (previous) powerful propaganda and activity in defence of the unskilled workers' conditions.' It was a model strike.

The government tried deception and bluster without effect. The delegates had persuaded a number of other centres to call mass meetings. In the Vickers company town of Barrow the engineers came out in support on the third day.

Lesson

That day the government capitulated. Hargreaves was released and an agreement was hastily concluded with the ASE executive, and then extended to the other craft societies, whereby the government accepted 'trade cards' issued by these unions as certificates of exemption from call-up.

The victory enormously strengthened the power of the stewards and the influence of the revolutionary minority among them.

Here was a real mass rank and file movement. But, of course, its mass character depended on particular circumstances and actions.

In every case the movement sometimes grew to embrace huge numbers and then shrank to a hard core of militants and then sometimes grew again.

Remember

That is another lesson. Rank and file movements are, by their very nature, fluctuating, uneven, sometimes powerful, sometimes hardly visible.

'A big movement is only possible when there is a real struggle.'

There are many other lessons in Hinton's book. It needs to be read and re-read, not only for the lessons but also for the inspiration it conveys.

For the tale Hinton tells is truly inspiring.

* *The First Shop Stewards Movement* by James Hinton will shortly be available in paperback through the Bookmarx Club (see advert on this page).

GET AN EARFUL OF SOCIALISM

By Harry Tait

SOCIALIST Worker Recordings has produced cassettes of important speeches and events.

Already there is a documentary on Chile with dialogue and music, Tony Cliff on Lenin, Fred Hooper on Black Power and Norman Cooper on the Spanish Civil War.

Well worth the £1.40, they can be used to liven up branch discussions, for general education or to lend out to potential members as an introduction to socialist politics.

After a hard day's work, they are more easily digestible than pamphlets.

The most recent recording, Nigel Harris on *The World in Crisis*, is simply a pamphlet in cassette form. Crystal clear throughout, it is the most dynamic introduction to the SWP's international politics I have ever heard.

Clarity

The clarity and simplicity of the language and the wide range of the coverage, literally from Glasgow to Calcutta, make it an excellent discussion tape.

SW Recordings also promises a cassette of the veteran Glasgow socialist Harry McShane.

If a speech is important and interesting enough to leave the telly and the fireside on a winter's night, it is important enough to be recorded.

And they welcome people up and down the country taping meetings in their area which they think would be of general interest to the movement as a whole and sending them in.

SW Recordings has some amazing equipment for getting rid of coughs and sneezes and the clink of beer glasses.

This is a service to the movement which deserves to be and must be used. Districts should think seriously about building up libraries of tapes which can be lent out.

□ Send stamped, addressed envelope for full list to SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Bookmarx Club

Selections for the second quarter of 1977 (starts 1 April)

The First Shop Stewards Movement by James Hinton. This excellent study of the shop stewards movement which arose at the end of the First World War has, until now, only been available in an expensive hardback edition. Bookmarx have persuaded the publishers to issue it as a paperback.

The Dispossessed by Ursula LeGuin. An unusual science fiction novel which, by its presentation of an imaginary society, forces the reader to view our society in new ways.

God's Bits of Wood by Sembene Ousmane. In 1947-8 the railway workers on the Dakar-Niger line in the French Sahara came out on strike. This novel is the story of the strike, the strikers and how their success showed them that they could regain control of their country.

Stella Browne by Sheila Rowbotham. A biography of this women's leader of the inter-war years which brings home the fact that there is nothing new in women's struggles and the issues they raise.

HOW TO JOIN THE BOOKMARK CLUB: You have to join for at least one quarter during which you will receive all the books advertised. The cost of joining is £4.50 a quarter.

Bankers' orders are available on request. In addition to the advertised selections we are often able to offer members special prices on books eg in the first quarter on Renshaw's *General Strike*, Ehrenburg's *Life of the Automobile* and Barltrop's *Jack London*. □ Write to: Bookmarx Club, Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE

Postal Points

THERE HAS BEEN a tendency in some campaigns against local authority cuts to try to get councils to stave off cuts with rate increases.

This is no way to fight the cuts. Rates are a wholly regressive tax which hit the poor hardest. To maintain existing services through higher taxation is not to fight the principle of cuts at all. It is merely to transfer the cuts from the social wage to the take home pay of working people.

If we are serious about fighting the cuts, we must make our opposition to increased taxation clear as well. If councils feel taxation should be raised, they should pressure the government to claim back some of that £1,000 million lost in tax evasion by the rich every year.

Cutting income tax to compensate low wage increases is no use either. This merely transfers the cut in living standards the other way.

□ Andrew Heywood, Saf-ron Walden, Essex.

□ □

THERE'S one point I was disappointed not to see in Socialist Worker last week. Tony Benn, who used to be called Lord Stansgate, went to Windscale Power Station where there's been a strike for weeks against the Social Contract.

He told the men to get back to work or the troops would be brought in and the strike broken. If it had happened in Glasgow or Liverpool the papers would have been full of it.

There's a lesson for all of us here—if Benn can threaten to use the troops in Windscale against trade unionists in dispute, he can threaten to do it anywhere.

□ A. D., Birmingham

□ □

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT has removed dental health from the national health by the back door without legislation.

I had two fillings which cost £3.50. Had I waited until after 1 April it would have cost £25.

The Guardian recently exposed the role of dentists by showing that women have more trouble with their teeth because they go to the dentist more often. High speed drills etc damage teeth next to the one being filled.

My dentist's surgery is like the production line at Ford's. Perhaps this won't be the case now—only the rich will be able to go.

□ Sandy Rose, Manchester.



Tommy Riley at Homerton Tyre and Rubber, Pontypridd.

Building a factory branch

IT IS NOW several months, since we the officials of the 163 TGWU branch became involved in the Right to Work Campaign.

It naturally followed that we formed our own Socialist Workers Party branch, with the assistance of Tony Cliff coming along to address one of our public meetings.

It was after this meeting that we saw indeed, the magnitude of that most evil legislation, the Social Contract, and the consequences of it.

Can I say how delighted we were, to discover that a fellow Socialist Workers Party member was going to challenge the hierarchy of the TGWU on behalf of the rank and file by standing as a candidate for General Secretary.

When he offered to come along and address our union

branch, the response was beyond our comprehension, the absentees being those on opposite shifts.

Needless to say, it was a factory meeting in company time (with pay).

The subjects he spoke on were his plans for a 35 hour week, Smash The Contract, and the changing of rules governing elections. Not forgetting the ten points of the Right to Work Charter. He was warmly supported.

His presence and speech indicated to us, the groundswell that exists amongst the rank and file, that the system needs to be changed and Tommy Riley would be the person to fight for this.

Nearly every branch member during the days preceding the ballot, indicated to us, his or her enthusiasm for Riley.

□ I. Phillips, Branch Sec., 4/163 TGWU Pontypridd

Letters

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

We're fighting Clive

WHEN SOCIALIST WORKER printed the 'Fly Me I'm Clive' attack on ASTMS for organising holidays in fascist Spain, the article was pinned on the notice board at work.

Most ASTMS members agreed with what it said and also found it amusing—a rare thing in socialist newspapers. It would seem that ASTMS head office also agreed with the criticism because

we've heard no more about holidays in Spain from them.

Then we heard that ASTMS was taking Socialist Worker to court over the article. This struck us as a nice piece of petty-minded viciousness, and our branch, ASTMS West London Medical, passed a resolution instructing the union to drop the case.

However, we made the mistake of failing to follow it up and because we heard no more, we forgot about it.

Now it's too late to do anything but collect money to



help pay off the fine. The attack on Socialist Worker is just one example of full-time officials controlling the union, without being accountable to the membership at annual elections.

We were not consulted about taking Socialist Worker to court because Jenkins and Co know that most of us are opposed to using the law courts to settle differences inside the trade union movement.

Where members were vigilant enough to say what they thought about it we were ignored because Jenkins and his ilk are determined to silence papers like Socialist Worker which give an organis-

ed voice to members who want full-time officers subjected to the discipline of regular elections by members.

I urge all ASTMS members to take this argument to other members of their branches and to collect as much money as possible for the SW defence fund.

We are going to look a right set of bums if our General Secretary manages to close down Socialist Worker.

□ Dave Blane, ASTMS Chairman, Charing Cross Hospital.

□ □

I AM AN old age pensioner and perhaps do not have long to endure the tribulations of this mad world.

But nevertheless I am pleased to know that there are still a few real socialists around making an effort to change the existing system.

I enclose £5 for your £40, 000 fund.

□ G. H. Hepburn, Fifeshire.

A fiver from the Masons

I ENCLOSE a small contribution—£5—for the Clive Jenkins Fund. It is the sum total of tonight's wages and tips from my part-time bar job which I have had to take to keep my head above water as my monthly teacher's wages don't go far.

The job is at the local Masonic Hall and I decided to give the money from last night to the Fight Clive Fund.

Unfortunately the cuts are biting there too. The other night a local Freemason bought himself five bottles of Champagne, eight single brandies and a round of liqueurs (total £45.31) plus wine and drinks for his 'friends'. Yes, the squeeze is biting everywhere.

I'm sure the members of the Lodges would approve of my giving 'their money' to SW.

Keep fighting!
□ SW reader, Tameside.

Ireland: folly

IN A RECENT statement Mr. Roy Mason, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that the 'community as a whole realise that 'terrorists' stood for nothing, that they are achieving no political aims and were on the road to nowhere, leaving a trail of sorrow and anger in their wake?'

It was the policy of successive British Governments and corrupt local politicians to divide and conquer Irish people. They achieved this by turning one section of the working class against another section, by installing fears on a religious basis.

It was of little consequence to the loyalist section of the working class that the were not much better off than their Catholic counterparts, so well conditioned had they been by corrupt sectarian politicians.

Over past centuries of British Misrule in our country all peaceful political pressure has been seen to fail, and now again we are seeing the results of British Colonial policy. War—not 'criminal conspiracy' as they like to call it—is inevitable under the circumstances.

Only when the occupying army is withdrawn and the sectarian politicians see no future in sectarian politics then can the working class community both North and South unite in pursuit of a common goal, a society free from exploitation.

□ B. McCaffrey, Cage 12, Long Kesh prison

30 pieces of copper

ON MONDAY 21 February I clocked in for the 2.10 shift. I went up to the safety committee meeting only to be called away to the phone to be told that my dad had been rushed to hospital.

I clocked out on the back of my card at 2.18pm. On arrival at the hospital I found that my dad had died. Obviously I could not continue my shift so I phoned in to say I would be back the next day.

On my clock card they awarded me the princely sum of 15 minutes pay. Reed International, your meanness I take for granted. You bloody hypocrisy nauseates me.

I shall give your 30 pieces of copper to a worthy cause. The Socialist Worker Fund.

□ Ben Beeny, FOC SOGAT, Reed International, Tovil Paper Mill, Maidstone.

The SPUC trap

'I WONDER if we all forget the most helpless citizens of our society, the conceived human beings,' asks Steve Race (letter last week). This sounds like the rhetoric of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

When is a foetus not a foetus is the circular argument used by anti-abortionists. The conclusion that many Catholics and other anti-abortionists draw is that the foetus is a human being at the time of conception. All effective forms of contraception are also deemed immoral by many anti-abortionists.

Our argument as socialist women is clear. Every woman must have the right to control her body. It should not be the state, the Pope, or doctors who dictate whether or not they have access to abortion facilities.

The ideology of SPUC and other like-minded people, is the same ideology that has oppressed working class women and men wherever

they have attempted to control any aspect of their lives. Their morals don't interest us.


If they did there would be no fight to improve any aspect of working people's lives.

That is why every socialist must fight for the right of every woman to free abortion on demand. □ Gail Cartmail

WHY DOES Socialist Worker list Labour MPs who vote against abortion?

Is this part of a campaign to 'force the left MPs to fight', or indeed a campaign to force the right wing MPs to fight? Is Socialist Worker trying to build a mass campaign in the working class movement that fights for abortion on demand?

Or is Socialist Worker treading the rotten reformist trail of trying to influence a few MPs by writing letters, going to tea in the House of Commons and all the rest of the nonsense? Next we'll be told not to upset those MPs who are in favour of abortion. □ SW Reader.



Don't miss it

Send in your greetings NOW

This May Day is going to be special. Socialist Worker is bringing out a special issue. Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards committee, trades council or other trade union organisation gets its May Day Greetings in. For only £1 you could reach over 100,000 trade unionists and their families.

RATES
Special Classified
20 words £1

Semi-display
3cms single col up to 20 words £1.50


Display
3cms single col up to 15 words £2
6cms single col up to 30 words £4
6 cms double col up to 60 words £8
For any enquiries ring 01-739 2639
Final copy date: Friday 22 April

Fill in this coupon and attach it to your greeting (typed if possible) and send it to:
Socialist Worker May Day, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

I would like the following size of greeting (please tick) Special Classified
 Semi-display 3cms single display
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Name and Address of Organisation

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Abortion: The hidden statistics

THE STORY in Fifth Column last week about the young woman who died after taking gin to induce an abortion is one of the most tragic I have read for a long time.

It is as much a tragedy that this story was not given splash coverage in the national press. I wonder if that would have been the case had she been one of the rare women who die having a legal abortion.

It should be pointed out to anti-abortionists that this young woman will not be included in the statistics which they like to distort in their arguments.

Her death and many more should be on the consciences of all people who want to deny women the right to a safe, legal, free abortion on demand. It demonstrates that whatever the law or society dictates, there are women who will always be so desperate that they are prepared to take any measure to terminate a pregnancy.

Socialists and trade unionists should fight to remove the stigmas and the legal limitations which deny women this right. We must oppose the cuts in services which mean there is no hope of adequate facilities for free abortion.

Most of all we must fight to ensure that someday women won't die simply because they are pregnant.

□ J. Lopez, East London.

IN THE SAME week as the Porn Squad is had up for corruption, the Police Federation talks of joining the TUC. What a turn up for the little black book.

In force after force up and down the country, the 'pigs', the scabs, the strike-breakers, those who harass working-class kids, especially black kids, are voting for the right to strike.

If you believe the newspapers, there are even 'militant' bobbies and 'moderate' ones. Even if we wouldn't use such 'extreme' terms as those, there is no doubt that there is tension in the ranks of the police force.

I can imagine the average Police Federation meeting being very different from the ones I can remember.

Just to put the story right, I should say from the ONE I can remember.

Our Federation representative, a sergeant, marched into the evening muster with the duty sergeants and officers. He outlined the Federation position on hanging, pointed out that a renewal Bill for the Abolition of hanging was going through parliament, and asked for a vote. A foregone conclusion!

Decade

But the idea put about over the last decade that all police are pigs is not such a foregone conclusion.

It's what happens to young workers, and most of them are young workers, after they join the police that changes them. There's nothing in their boots that makes them pigs in the first place.

Those that I worked with had been apprentices in the shipyards or in engineering factories. There were a couple of merchant seamen who needed work after leaving the sea. Some had been in office jobs and were just bored out of their minds and looking for some excitement.

Then the training began. Six weeks of square bashing, physical fitness, barracks living, and a lot about the police procedure and courts. Still, the novelty was there for most of us, and the image of the policeman as a sort of social worker in uniform was the one that we all came away with.

But work on the streets of a big city is like the other side of the moon from that idea.

You're taught to be suspicious. You feel alone, and take comfort from the experiences of other cops. You'll learn the petty prejudice of hating those in poorer working class areas because that's where most of the petty crime is. And for a cop on the beat that's what the best part of his working hours are taken up by.

Truth

You'll be pulled into petty perjury, backing up a neighbour's (that's the cop on the beat next to you) story whether you were there or not. You'll become involved in the petty corruption — developing 'dooses', shops and restaurants where you can have a meal or a cup of tea, or clearing certain pubs at closing time for a nip (or two) of whisky.



Police against trade unionists

The boy in blue who turned red



Police against socialists



Police against soccer fans

You learn the prejudice of hating those in poorer areas because that's where most of the petty crime is.

EX-PC MURRAY ARMSTRONG ON THE NIGHT HE BECAME A SOCIALIST . . . SITTING IN A GLASGOW POLICE-BOX

Call it incitement to disaffection if you like. But we want these people on our side.

The old story about one cop asking another for a loan of ten fags till the shops shut has a grain of truth in it!

You gradually come to view humanity with contempt. Every one outside the nick is called a 'ned'. Most prisoners are reduced to dirt by the station sergeant and then the turnkey.

If a bit of pluck shows through in a prisoner, then turn on the contempt some more, throw his blankets at him as he goes into his cell, or just don't give him any blankets.

Living a life of petty corruption, petty discipline, and petty prejudice without any means of discussing acting and controlling the pressures around you soon leaves most working-class recruits

to the police ready meat for right-wing ideas.

And for those who want to make it in the police force the corruption on the scale of the Porn Squad would, I imagine, seem only natural.

At the very least, the stories of the rich pickings on the West End beats of the Metropolitan Police would whet the appetites of many young policemen in the provinces, for those stories were the loose change of canteen talk over a decade ago before the era of the 'pig'.

I was a lucky young pig. I was just becoming interested in ideas, and more interested in socialist ideas, and I couldn't understand why these ideas were always thrown back at me by other policemen.

Then one night I sat for the whole shift inside the police-box on my beat and read The Ragged Trousersed Philanthropists from beginning to end.

Protect

Not one piece of property was protected that night, but a new understanding from a very different tradition began to protect my ideas.

A few weeks later I was sent to escort a small anti-American demonstration at the beginning of the Vietnam war and felt acutely embarrassed marching beside these people of my own age who had already grasped the ideas that I was looking for and were fighting for them.

When, at the end of 12 months' service, I was carpeted for never having arrested anyone and told to fill my book in the next two weeks, I handed in the regulation

one month's notice and proceeded from the pig-sty, sharpish!

Since that time the police force has been completely reorganised, has direct links with the army, has seven armed groups, is trained in crowd control, and is drawn up ready according to Ted Heath's plan.

Defence

It was Heath, when reorganising the police and civil defence in 1970, who said: 'It may be that in the 1970s civil war rather than war between nations will be the main danger that we face.'

That is the state's answer to the increasing political struggle and working class response to the crisis since the late 1960s. But it is never inevitable that the people

who carry out the orders of a ruling class will do so faithfully.

The strains in the lives of ordinary working class people are felt in the homes of policemen as well, and that is why it is important that socialists and trade unionists give encouragement to rank and file policemen to join the TUC and control their own union.

That is the only way that the petty, and large, corruption in the police can be fought.

But much more important, that is how the rank and file policeman can gain some control over his life, and organise to refuse to be used as a scab and a strike-breaker, and to refuse to submit to the perjury which is used against countless number of people every day, and which results in the disgrace of the Shrewsbury pickets and the frame-up of the unemployed workers who were attacked at Staples Corner last March.

Only independent trade union organisation can do that. Call it incitement to disaffection if you like. But remember that the organisation that policemen had was taken from them in 1919 in the middle of a massive wave of working class opposition to the government, and after the police had struck themselves.

Union

The state is one thing. Its workers are another. Maybe a leopard can't change its spots but possibly a pig can change its colour.

When we were talking about the police and a union in work last week one lad said, 'The only difference will be when they pick you up on a Friday night they'll say, "You're nicked BROTHER!"'

Maybe they should ask to see his union card.



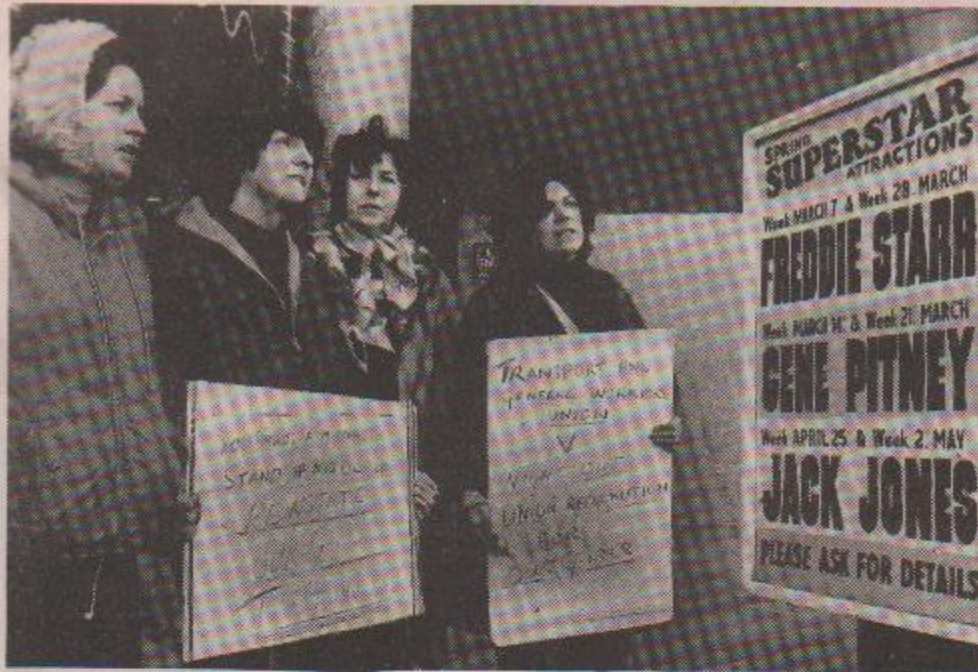
Womens Voice

No. 3

Articles on Equal pay, NUPE, Soweto, rape, abortion and childbirth. Interview with Carol Grimes.

Price 10p.

Available from: Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2
Orders for SWP branches will be sent out by rail this Friday 11 March. London branches to collect early Friday evening.



Left: Pickets outside the Night Out Club this week.

Pictures: John Sturrock (Report)



Right: AUEW members at Landers on strike for union recognition

Keep up the pickets on Trust House Forte

'WE WERE getting £2.65 an evening from Trust House Forte. That was all we got for working from 7pm until 11.30pm or later,' Pat McGuire told Socialist Worker on the picket line outside the Night Out Club in Birmingham.

Pat was sacked after she joined the Transport and General Workers Union

and helped organise other Trust House Forte workers into the union.

For six nights work, taking 30 hours, Pat would get £15.90. No overtime is paid. 'We had 30 members in the union, and more were joining. We were getting stronger. They heard that I was the shop steward.'

When Pat was sacked, the rest of the TGWU members walked out. They have been on strike ever since.

Trust House Forte are fighting hard to prevent strong trade union organisation throughout their massive catering empire. The workers are also on

strike for trade union recognition in Sheffield, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, and at the Randolph, the poshest hotel in Oxford.

Strikers from all three strikes, and from the Linton Lodge Hotel in Oxford where TGWU members are also out for union recognition, were picketing Transport House this Wednesday. They are demanding that the TGWU organise national blacking of THF to get the whole vast firm unionised.

Tommy Riley, the Right to Work Campaign's candidate for TGWU general secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'It is a disgrace that these strikes are being allowed to drag on. Our union has the strength to bring THF to their knees.'

'We must raise money for all the strikes, attend and strengthen their picket lines, and above all in every area TGWU members and Right to Work Campaign supporters must keep up the pickets of THF hotels and motorway service stations.'

DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO:

- Linton Lodge Strike Committee, 127 Botley Road, Oxford.
- Night Out strikers Transport House, Broad Street, Oxford.
- Grosvenor House Hotel strike committee, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.
- Randolph strike committee, 41 Bridge Street, Oxford.

Jewellery workers fight on

WORKERS at Morton T Colver, the Birmingham jewellery firm, are still fighting for trade union recognition after being locked out in January.

The workers joined the National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades (NUGSAT) in November.

The management then removed their clock cards and

told them that they had 'sacked themselves'.

□ Help is needed on the picket line, in Victoria Street. Financial help is also vital. Please send donations to Martin T Colver workers c/o NUGSAT, 19-23 Pitsford Street, Birmingham B18 6LJ.

146 strike at Triplex

TIPTON: Workers at Triplex glass works are demanding parity of wages among foundry workers and an end to the racist abuse of some workers by a foreman, Ron Mansill. 146 Transport union members are on strike.

The strike has been simmering for months, since shop

steward Dhanwant Singh and his members decided they were not prepared to take any more pressure from management over production and working conditions.

Things came to a head when the foundry pay slips showed a disparity among the workforce.

Grimsby: 400 out

GRIMSBY: Dockers employed by John Sutcliffe Consolidated who have been on strike for a week have been joined by dockers from Lindsey Dock Services and General Workers, making over 400 men on strike.

The dispute started when the employers tried to sack two hatchmen from the Cape Pride, claiming they were no longer needed. They would have been re-allocated to another vessel but continuity of labour demands that they be kept on till the ship finishes.

The local Evening Telegraph was quick off the mark with an anonymous phone call from a docker who claimed the majority of men did not want to come out 'but were afraid to stand up and say so'. This is nonsense.

The only intimidation on Grimsby and Immingham Docks is by the employers, threatening us with doom and possible closure

One out, all out - 1000 busworkers win!

by Mohammed G Uddin, Alan Hewitt, Tony Cashin (Stockport Garage) and Les Kay, Pete McQuail, Brian Fenton (Birchfields Garage).

animously to strike until Alec was reinstated.

Within minutes a meeting of the Platform rank and file busman's group was organising to win wider support.

A petition was quickly organised by the Platform supporters at the Birchfields garage to summon an emergency meeting. By Wednesday afternoon the Birchfields garage was pledged to 'wupport with identical action our brothers and sisters in Stockport'.

Management's first offer was an insult. They offered Alec a job in the garage on permanent nights. With the full support of his workmates, he refused. The second offer came after a massive vote at Birchfields to continue the indefinite strike action.

The EETPU are disputing the sale of flexibility and just about everything else for £4 by the AUEW. When the EETPU found out the strings attached

Support for Landers



Pat Harte

My vote? It's yours!

JOHN MURPHY, a British Leyland worker, got a pleasant surprise while canvassing for the Socialist Workers Party in Stechford last Saturday.

A man answered the door and said: 'Socialist Worker? You've got my vote'.

Slightly surprised (it doesn't always happen), John asked why. 'Because of the work you've done on the Night Out picket line', the man replied.

The man is Pat Harte he is a militant supporter of the picket line at the Night Out. He is a TGWU shop steward and a lorry driver, and totally fed up with the Social Contract and the Labour government.

FIFTY engineering workers at Landers, Birmingham are solid in their strike against sweatshop labour and company unionism.

The workers walked out five weeks ago when management refused to recognise the Engineering Union, though more than half the workers had joined it.

Ronald Bird, a shop steward on the picket line said: 'We're out till we get recognised. We're getting a lot of support now from stewards, especially from Lucas.'

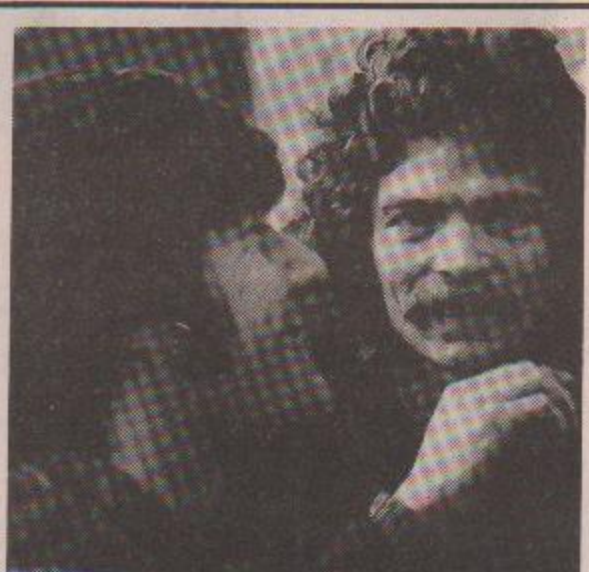
'The company can't go on like it was. Some skilled young men were taking home £18 a week!'

Patricia Murphy takes home £19 a week and has to work 34½ hours to get it. She told Socialist Worker: 'Nothing is done about us. We're worse off than anyone at Leyland, but we're still not getting our strike pay after five weeks—of official strike!'

□ Donations and messages of support to Val Richards, 32 Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham 12.

Laings builders walk out

BUILDING workers at one of the country's biggest new hypermarkets are on strike for the right to work. Fifty Laings workers who have built the huge Carrefours Hypermarket at Minworth, near Sutton Coldfield, walked out last Wednesday when management declared 40 redundancies. Mick Devenney, UCATT convener, told Socialist Worker: 'They have brought 25 lump workers on the site to clear up after the building has been finished. Yet now they are sacking us and keeping the lumpers on. We want redundancies withdrawn, lumpers out, and secure jobs.'



John Deason welcomes Mike Lynch outside Pentonville

MIKE IS FREE!

MIKE LYNCH is free! He was released last Friday from Pentonville Prison after serving two months.

Mike was beaten unconscious by police at West Hendon when they attacked the Manchester to London Right to Work march last Spring, then accused of assaulting the police!

He told Socialist Worker: 'I'm carrying on fighting against unemployment with the Right to Work Campaign. This Labour government has betrayed us. They betray us every time.'

'We've got to get over the sad fragmentation on the left, particularly on issues such as the trial of John Deason at the Old Bailey in May.'

The issue is simple. An unemployed worker has been fitted up by the police. If they get away with it the ruling class will be laughing up their sleeves.

'That is why we must make every effort to organise a massive picket on 4 May outside the Old

Bailey. 'What happened to the Shrewsbury building workers' pickets a disgrace. It's not going to happen again.'

□ Join the mass picket at the Old Bailey: Wednesday 4 May, 9.30am. Fight for official trade union delegations and bring banners.

□ A special letter to all trade unionists, signed by three leading members of the Engineering Union, has been sent out. The assistant general secretary, Ernie Roberts, the national organiser, Laurie Smith, and the Manchester divisional organiser, John Tocher, call on all trade union organisations to send official delegations to the 4 May picket. Copies of the letter are available from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

SPARKS LOCK-OUT GOES ON AT ICL

LANCASHIRE: 37 skilled members of the electricians union (EETPU) have been locked out for six weeks at ICL Dukinfield.

The 37 have more than the management to contend with. The Engineering Union factory leadership have thrown trade union principles to the

winds. They have encouraged non-union drivers through the picket line, and tried to poach semi-skilled EETPU members inside the factory.

The EETPU are disputing the sale of flexibility and just about everything else for £4 by the AUEW. When the EETPU found out the strings attached

to the agreement, they tried to change it within the rules of the unions inside the plant.

They were locked out for refusing to work to the agreement. □ Money and messages of support to Len Birchenhall, 9 Herle Drive, Wythenshawe, Manchester.

Meanwhile a special Platform leaflet had been printed calling on the other Central Division garages to support the action.

A special meeting of the delegate-based policy making committee had been called to consider a call for total all-out strike action by the city's 8,000 bus workers.

Faced with growing support for the strike call, the management caved in on Sunday afternoon and fully reinstated Alec as a working conductor.

Flying pickets, organised by the Platform group, visited the other garages and bus stations using the Platform leaflet to organise wider support.

□ THE BUS CUTS AND THE NEXT WAGE CLAIM. Meeting: Sunday 24 April, 2pm, Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Place, Manchester (near Victoria Station). Open to all bus workers. Delegations are being organised from other Platform groups.

'Victory in sight' for Glasgow strike

GLASGOW: The 400 workers who've been on strike for six weeks at Anderson Strathclyde, Bridgeton, look like winning an important victory.

The strike, provoked by treacherous management, is to resist the introduction of productivity schemes without union agreement.

Kenny Gormal (AUEW), convenor of the joint shop stewards committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The company wanted increased production without paying for it—they wouldn't agree even to discuss it with us. Not even on notional new payments after the wage restraint is over.'

'They were adamant and naturally we had to resist. It's part of a deliberate pattern of attack on trade union organisation in here.'

But management have come a cropper and the strike has been solid. Mass meeting after mass meeting has voted unanimously to stay out.

The strike committee have involved the membership from the start. As the struggle has gone on, the strikers' confidence has risen. This has paid off handsomely.

Demands

Last week a mass picket prevented management from entering the factory. Kenny Gormal said: 'We suspended them for the day. We were making the point that we can keep them out on the streets.'

'It's obviously given them a bit of a shock. For the first time in six weeks they have indicated that they might be in the wrong.'

'Now we know they're on the run, but we don't trust them, and until we get concrete agreement on our demand we'll be staying out.'

The strike has brought the distinct possibility of strong combine organisation in the Scottish factories within the Anderson group.

Kenny Gormal summed up the strikers' attitude when he said at last week's mass meeting: 'We sacrificed a lot and now that management are beginning to come to their senses we are quite prepared to meet them and talk to them.'

'But we are suspicious and on their past performance—we have every right to be so. After all this effort we won't have defeat snatched from the jaws of victory.'

□ **Donations and messages of support to Gordon Clarke, 55 Dalwhinnie Avenue, Blantyre, G72 9NQ.**

TGWU: Now to tackle the Con-trick

'DOCKS shop stewards from London, Leyland stewards from Longbridge, Chrysler stewards from Linwood... they're all coming on Saturday to launch the next stage of our campaign.'

The words of Tommy Riley, the rank and file candidate for Jack Jones' job, after the ballot for Transport and General Workers Union general secretary closed last weekend.

Rank and file TGWU members from all sections and regions of the 1,900,000 strong union will be making their way to the Lesser Free Trade Hall in Manchester this Saturday, 26 March. They want to fight the Social Contract.

Delegates from many of the TGWU disputes now taking place will also be there—looking for support from the rank and file.

'Jones' attack on the dockers who struck work on Monday in support of Preston

So equal pay can wait, Mr Jones?



EQUAL PAY strikers from Yardleys in Basildon had to wait for eight hours before they were allowed to see Jack Jones, general secretary of their union, the Transport and General Workers.

DOCKERS SAY NO!

Three delegates went to Transport House in London last Monday. They asked to see Jones to find out why their strike has not been made official.

He refused to see them, and only agreed when dockers who

were also picketing Transport House sent a message inside. The dockers said Jones would not be able to leave the building until he saw the Yardleys delegates.

Jones surrendered. The women had been kept waiting from 10am until 6pm.

The four-week-old strike by more

than 400 women has not been made official. The management has a huge white sign outside the factory saying: 'This strike is unofficial.'

They even have someone guarding the sign to stop it blowing down.

The TGWU regional officer, Fred Ferryman has told the women to go back to work. He says the strike won't be made official because the women lost their case at an industrial tribunal.

It was the union that sent the women to the tribunal in the first place. Last year the equal pay strikers at Trico lost at a tribunal—but went on to win their strike.

All the women in the Yardleys factory are on grade 7. They are demanding that they be put on grade 6, which covers four men. All the other men are on grade 5 so the women think it is not much to ask to go up one grade.

But it obviously is too much for the union.

Admit

One picket, Mrs Longmuire, was knocked down last week by a van driving fast into the factory. She now has her neck in a collar. The driver didn't even bother to stop.

Joan Penford, a shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'We are getting ourselves organised.'

'Last week we were down. The management and the men who have scabbed on the strike thought we would go back. So they called off their overtime ban in the factory, but there was a long line of us outside this morning.'

The women desperately need financial help. They have even had to hold a collection among themselves to help out the worst off. Get your TGWU branch to send a resolution to the executive demanding the strike be made official.

Send donations and messages of support to: **Yardleys Strike Committee, c/o Mrs V James, 91 St Mary's Crescent, Pitsea, Basildon, Essex.**

Picket

At 6am on Monday more than 20 police arrived at the picket line to let Schweppes lorries through. After most of the police had gone pickets managed to stop a few lorries. Promptly, the police turned up again in numbers.

Engineers at Schweppes plants in Hendon and Park Royal, North London, are also out.

□ **Contributions and messages of support to: HENDON: Phil Baron, 36 Clive Lodge, Hendon Way, London, NW4. SIDCUP: Schweppes strikers, 39 Belmont Road, Erith, Kent.**

Schweppes call in the police

SIDCUP, Kent: After seven weeks of lockout over the suspension of three members, AUEW fitters at Schweppes are determined to defeat management's attempt to break their trade union organisation.

All production is at a standstill. Each day half the production staff are laid off.

The other unions realised just how much union organisation was at stake when they met management the other week. Hibotson, the manager brought in from Leyland, announced that if union members took a small bit of action then management would abide by the agreement but if it was action that disrupted production then they would do what they thought fit.

As pickets said: 'It means do as you're told or else. What he's saying is that management doesn't want unions.'

The electricians have blacked all machines touched by management.

Shanleys: We stay out!

BEDFORD: Building workers at Shanleys site are carrying on their strike. A panel has agreed that all workers who were sacked should be reinstated.

The local official of the building workers union UCATT, Jim Coleman, recommended an immediate

return to work. But a mass meeting decided that we wouldn't go back to work until they started talking money.

Plumbers and chippies want £2.50 now, groundworkers want £2.

□ **Send donations to M Presland, 17 Newton Way, Sandy, Bedfordshire.**

THOUSAND STOP AT MASSEYS

voted to come out in support. The strikers have been picketing the factory since.

□ **Messages of support and donations to: Sam Kay, Shop Stewards' Convenor, Massey Ferguson, Kilmarnock.**



Women strikers from Yardleys seeking dockers' support outside Transport House. The men refused to let Jones go home till he'd seen the Yardleys women.

Post Office walk-out

LONDON: Post Office computer operators staged an unofficial walk-out last week to demand stronger union action on their shift pay dispute. A 60-strong delegation lobbied the Balham offices of the civil service union, the CPSA.

The Kensington Computer Centre was shut down for 24 hours because both civil service unions, the CPSA and the SCPS, face mounting criticism of their weak response to the threat to cut some members' pay by as much as £16 because of new machinery.

Unless a better offer is made soon, strike action will follow at the Post Office's ten computer centres. Already there have been total stoppages on some shifts at Derby and Bristol.



HOUGHTON MAIN Colliery in Yorkshire has sent a resolution to the Yorkshire Area Council of the miners' union calling on them to urge the union to demand an immediate interim award of £15 across the board for surface and underground workers.

□ The joint shop stewards committee at Kearney and Trecker Marwin Brighton, passed by a large majority a resolution opposing any further wage restraint and calling for a return to free collective bargaining.

A letter of support was also sent to the British Leyland Convenors Combine.

□ The Metal Box combine committee has passed a resolution calling on the AUEW to reject all forms of Social Contract and wage restraint. The meeting endorsed the decision of the Massey Ferguson stewards to return to free collective bargaining from 31 July 1977.

is typical,' says Tommy Riley, who is deputy convenor at Westhoughton Metal Box and chairman of Saturday's TGWU meeting.

'But it's not us, Socialist Worker Party members, or supporters of Dockworker, or the Right to Work Campaign, who have anything to hide. Jones is the man who's breaking his promises. Jones is the one who bought the Social Contract.'

Streets

'As Eddie Prevost said on Tuesday's radio: "The only "outsiders" are the full-time officials'. One of our demands is to get them all elected.'

Saturday's meeting is open to all TGWU members. It has just two main points on its agenda: The Fight for Democracy in the TGWU, and The Fight against the Social Contract.

KILMARNOCK: 1100 workers at the Massey Ferguson combine harvester plant are on strike because the company refused to link the bonus earnings of 125 assembly track workers to those enjoyed by the other assembly shop workers. The company has been stalling on

the issue for nearly two years. Sam Kay, shop stewards' convenor, said: 'The company have rejected this matter at all stages, including the plant negotiations during 1976.'

A meeting of the 125 assembly shop workers last Monday voted to strike and a mass meeting in the factory

Textile workers stop for day

EAST KILBRIDE: 400 workers, most of them women at the Laird Portch factory, part of Jaeger, went on a one-day strike for equal pay this Monday.

The dispute has been on the boil for over a year. Recently management made storemen up to staff grade to make sure the women wouldn't claim parity with them.

The men inside the factory refused to tell the women their pay rates, making it necessary for the stewards to push for job evaluation in order to find out the rates for the job. There are no male machinists in the factory.

The women's union officials—of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers—refuse to push for a national agreement, although they are prepared to admit that the law entitles them to equal pay. Instead they say that each factory will have to fight on a plant basis, thus isolating any women who decide to take up the issue.

The women at Laird Portch have decided that industrial tribunals, Portch and all the rest of it are pointless. If the management don't cave in then they will be calling for support from other factories in the group.

If you work in a clothing factory, you must give every possible support, because a victory for the Portch women is a victory for you, and a defeat is a defeat for every working-class woman in the country.

Top vote for the SWP!

THE top vote in the postal ballot for delegates of the Post Office Data Processing Service to the conference of the civil service union, the SCPS, went to a candidate whose election address clearly stated his membership of the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP candidate received 457 votes, against 454 for the Labour Party candidate, and 400 for the Tory 'extreme moderate'.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS)

**Buses:
We won't
collect
higher
fares**

GLASGOW'S bus workers have declared war on higher bus fares.

In a historic decision on Tuesday, shop stewards from all Glasgow garages voted unanimously to urge all members to refuse to collect increased fares.

From Sunday a new maximum fare of 26p was to be introduced by the Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive. The bus workers' stewards are out to ensure that such ridiculous fares are not tolerated.

Their delegates and stewards have taken the decision to collect a maximum 18p fare—less than the already absurd present maximum of 23p.

The bosses immediately countered with threats to 'discipline'—that is, sack workers who do this.

But Andy Lynch, vice-chairman of the bus workers' district committee in Glasgow, hit back strongly. 'If any sanctions are taken against our members we will take immediate action,' he said.

Andy Lynch also underlined that the crunch had now come in the Glasgow public transport system. He pointed out that every time the fares went up fewer people travelled.

They deserve the widest possible support. The best form of support is to join their refusal to increase prices.

MASS PICKET to stop closure of Partick Bus Garage: Friday 25 March, 12.15pm, Melrose House, Cadogan Square, Glasgow.

25,000!

Dockers

terrify 'Jack the Rat'

Socialist Worker
PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND dockers went on strike on Monday, the most powerful unofficial stoppage in the docks since the freeing of the Pentonville Five.

Over 85 per cent of the dock labour force were out solid. Only Grangemouth in Scotland and Tilbury in London, of the major ports, voted to work.

And in Tilbury there was a mass walkout from work during the shift.

The National Port Shop Stewards Committee also called a lobby of Transport House. At first the TGWU national docks officer, Tom Cronin, refused point blank to meet anyone other than a small deputation of shop stewards.

He spoke to a small deputation for one hour, but would promise nothing and could offer no guarantee that the strength of the union would

Report by London dockers Micky Fenn (NASD), Eddie Prevost (TGWU), Jimmy Clark (TGWU) and Bob Light (TGWU)

be thrown behind the fight to keep Preston open.

The deputation then asked to meet Jack Jones, but we were told Jones was busy in the House of Commons.

After an hour of this farce it was decided by the 150 dockers on the lobby, many of them stewards, from ports all over the country, to burst into the meeting.

'Everything in hand'

Cronin tried to assure us that the union had everything in hand. At this point he was told we were occupying Transport House until Jones came to address us.

'His business is in here with us. We're the trade union, and he should be here, not in the House of Commons,' we said.

Then Cronin folded his papers and attempted

to leave. The Southampton stewards recommended that he be put under close arrest until he guaranteed us that Jones would see us.

It was only on this condition he was allowed to leave the conference hall. Transport House was then occupied in shifts until Jones appeared.

Jones was asked at least 50 questions and he answered exactly one. He would give us no guarantees at all or any promises about our job security. All he would do was to keep repeating his milk-and-water statement.

The question was put to him direct: 'Would you recommend a strike to defend Preston's jobs?' He refused to answer.

This was in flat contradiction to the assurances that he had given two years ago at Poplar Town Hall.

After two hours of this pantomime the chairman, Teddy Gates, rightly called it a day, telling Jones in no uncertain manner that what

he would not do the National Port Shop Stewards Committee would—defend the men in Preston.

Then Jones became completely hysterical. He started ranting and raving, saying: 'You are all International Socialists.'

Pointing at a placard of Dockworker, the rank and file paper of the dock industry, he screamed at the steward holding it: 'What dock do you work in?'

Insult to rodents

Pandemonium broke out. Rank and file stewards from Southampton reminded him that throughout docklands he was known as 'Jack the Rat' and many considered that an insult to the rodent world.

What frightened Jones was the overwhelming success of the unofficial strike, the determination of the stewards and the pent-up anger of the dockers throughout the country.

That is the power that will keep Preston open.

GRUNWICKS

If the TUC is gutless, it's up to the rank and file!



The mass picket of Grunwicks workers outside the factory last week

THIRTY long weeks ago, workers employed by a most repulsive exploiter in Hendon, North London the very heart of Thatcher-land, could stand it no more.

They had had enough of lousy pay and petty racist bullying from the boss. So they went on strike.

They knew their only hope in the fight against Grunwicks and the power of the boss was the power of a union. They joined the office

workers' union APEX.

Their strike was made official.

These workers, mainly Asian immigrants, put their all on the cause of trade unionism. They have fought like lions. But the strongest trade union confederation in the world has failed them.

True, TUC general secretary Lionel Murray OBE has paid them a visit.

True, this master of empty rhetoric has told them that he 'isn't just behind them', he's 'beside them.'

The problem is our Lionel doesn't do anything to match his fine words.

Picket

That's why the fighters of Grunwicks went on Wednesday to picket the TUC General Council. That's why members of the TUC's own staff, themselves members of APEX, were to join them in their picket, an un-

precedented step.

But the inner cabinet of TUC bosses had already proved on Monday that they are frightened to use their industrial strength, though it could bring victory within 24 hours.

They decided to recommend no specific assistance to the Grunwicks workers.

Post Office Workers secretary Tom Jackson reminded them that when his organisation had tried to block Grunwick's post, the right-wing National Association for Freedom had taken them to court. And what did Tom Jackson do? Why he ran away.

The TGWU and TUC did exactly the same to the workers at Fine Tubes, who fought for union recognition for three years.

Afterwards the Fine Tubes strikers wrote:

'We cannot believe that the biggest unions in the country have not got it in their power

to break a small trade union employer whose workers had voted for recognition.'

The trade union leaders are frightened of 'the law of the land', that favourite instrument of exploiters everywhere. But if the trade union leaders won't help, the rank and file must.

Workers by the thousand supported the Fine Tubes strikers. Such support is needed to beat this dictator in North London.

Defeated

So fight for blacking of all Grunwicks products and supplies. Demand that APEX uses the industrial strength of its members in other sectors of industry to bring victory. Start solidarity action yourself. An injury to one is an injury to all. And if that phrase is to be anything more than conference room rhetoric, it means action.

Tory plot will not succeed!

THE National Port Shop Stewards Committee called Monday's strike to stop the threatened closure of the port of Preston.

If it closes 150 dockers will be sacked. As many as 1500 jobs connected with the industry will collapse.

But for dockers the issue goes even beyond these men's jobs. We are fighting to defend the principle of job security.

Our industry in 1972 numbered approximately 65,000 registered men. We are now down to less than 30,000.

What is at stake over Preston is the National Dock Labour Scheme and the security that the scheme gives dockers, whereby the employers do not have the right to hire and fire. Since this scheme began in 1947, not one docker has been sacked.

If Preston closes, that will all change.

It is also no accident that the Tory controlled council have decided to close the port. It is part of the conspiracy between the Tory Party and the port employers to destroy the scheme once and for all, the same conspiracy that wrecked the Dockwork Regulation Bill in parliament last year.

Preston is a foretaste of what a Tory government would try and do to the docks schemes.

On Monday the National Port Shop Stewards Committee and dockers all over the country told the Tories what we would do to them if they try.

Ritchie Pearce, chairman of Southampton Docks shop stewards committee: 'The response to the strike was first class. It was brilliant.'

'The Dockworker is a very important paper, because it puts over the feelings of rank and file dockers. The other press doesn't.'

'There has been a deliberate blackout by the press and television about this strike. That is why we need Dockworker.'

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Name
Address
Trade union

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party 6 Colons
Gardens, London E2 8DN