

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

# SPECIAL BRANCH FILES BEHIND SACKINGS

**THE SPECIAL BRANCH, Britain's secret police, has been giving employers details of the political activities of trade unionists.**

And at least one employer has used the information to carry through victimisations.

This is revealed by documents discovered by workers occupying the Reinforcement Steel Services plant in Greenwich, South London, part of the state-owned British Steel Corporation.

Secret management files contain details of how the Special Branch passed on information in September 1975 about the political activities of shop steward Paul Lutener. They also claim he is an active member of a non-existent organisation, the National Socialist Front.

The file tells how management made an allegation that Paul and crane driver Ray Duffin were involved in 'sabotage' inside the factory. They admit that there is absolutely no evidence to back up this allegation, it is based only on the fact



The Greenwich Reinforcements banner on the local hospital workers' demonstration against the cuts on 11 May. For joining the demonstration Paul Lutener and five others were sacked

that both men are active trade unionists.

The local police put the management in contact with Special Branch and, according to the files, 'a Mr Maynard from Scotland Yard came to see' Roebuck, the works manager.

Roebuck writes: 'He told me they have a file on Lutener. They have four complaints against him.'

Only three are named:  
 Distributing 'National Socialist Front' literature—

presumably this means International Socialist literature.

Disturbing the peace during a demonstration—Paul Lutener has never been arrested, but he once stood bail for someone else.

Taking part in an illegal demonstration.

### Legal?

Demonstrating is supposedly legal in Britain, yet Special Branch see fit to spy on people involved and pass on what they

learn to bosses, for the asking.

A letter with the document from someone signed 'A', at the head office of Reinforced Steel in Sheffield, reveals why they wanted the information.

'A' warns Roebuck that careless sacking of anyone would incur damages of about £5,200 at an industrial tribunal—'too high a price to pay'.

Instead, 'we are advised by experts to keep meticulous records of anything that

## High court jail student president

**FREE ANDY STROUTHOUS**



Andy Strouthous (third from right) in East London last November when the National Front tried to stop the opening of a mosque.

STUDENTS throughout the country rallied to support Andy Strouthous, president of North East London Polytechnic Students Union, after he was thrown in prison last week.

The proceedings against him were similar to those brought recently against trade unionists in several industrial disputes.

Judges banned the blacking of Grunwicks and South Africa by the postal workers union

(UPW), the occupations at Massey-Ferguson, Haskins in Basingstoke, Pontins in North Wales, Wildt Mellor in Leicester, and the one-day strike in Scotland called by NALGO.

In the same way Lord Justice Donaldson, the judge who jailed the Pentonville dockers in 1972, issued an order forbidding Andy Strouthous to enter the Poly where he is president. In effect, he was ordered not to do the job for which he has been twice elected.

Andy was jailed because he refused to obey this order which would destroy completely the basic principles of union democracy.

The judge refused even to allow Andy to finish his defending speech and sent him off to Pentonville Prison.

### Amazing

By Tuesday the volume of support for Andy was great enough to make the polytechnic director, George Brosan, consider backing down.

But then the National Union of Students leadership showed they had nothing to learn from the elected-for-life bureaucrats that run many other unions. They signed an agreement that could pull defeat out of the jaws of victory.

They organised a meeting with the college authorities at which were also present full-time officials from two other unions, the college lecturers (NATFHE) and local government workers (NALGO). The one body not represented was the students union from Andy's own college.

The three unions accepted an agreement which would allow Andy to go into the student union offices, but 'access to any other polytechnic premises would only be permitted on the authority of the director'.

In other words, the director Brosan, would be able to stop Andy going to union meetings, or mixing with the ordinary members of the union.

### Access

No shop steward in the country would agree to being locked in an office all day without access to the union members. Yet the NUS, NATFHE and NALGO agreed to 'impress on their members the importance of strict observance of an agreement' along these lines.

Presumably that means they are in agreement with Andy being kept in jail if he refuses 'strict observance' of this denial of basic union rights.

Andy was due to appear in court again on Wednesday. If he refuses to be bound by any such scandalous document and is sent back to Pentonville, he deserves the support of every students union and every trade union body.

STUDENTS ACT TO FREE ANDY—page two.

happens concerning certain individuals so we can build up a dossier.... We must be exact taskmasters and tighten up our discipline.'

The company didn't turn only to Special Branch to get information against these trade unionists. This nationalised industry spent public money to buy information from the right-wing body which keeps 'blacklists' for employers—the Economic League.

### Solidarity

Now, two and a half years later, Paul Lutener has been sacked by Reinforced Steel. He is one of six people victimised for supporting a strike in solidarity with local hospital workers on 11 May.

Every trade unionist must ask: How many other workers are being spied on the Special Branch? How many other firms besides the massive nationalised Steel Corporation are keeping secret blacklists on the basis of police information?

And when is the TUC going to take action against this gross infringement of the rights of ordinary trade unionists?

GREENWICH STEELWORKERS TAKE OVER PLANT—page 14.

## Sex snoopers forced to back down

THE Home Office racists have been forced to back off from one of their most revolting schemes—sex snooping.

The officials were recently ordered to add this filthy practice to their checklist after Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, thought some racist votes at Stechford could be obtained for Labour by instituting checks to ensure immigrant marriages were 'genuine'.

The checks were instituted and brought agony and fear to an unknown number of newly-

married couples. They suddenly found that their houses were being raided, their beds checked for evidence of sexual activity, their underwear examined and various other nightmarish practices unleashed on them.

Now, because those couples started to fight back and protest and because sections of the Fleet Street press for once backed the hounded immigrants, the Home Office has said it will stop this snooping.

## Immigrant jail scandal

EVIDENCE that the Home Office callously holds so-called 'illegal immigrants' in prison for many weeks before booting them out of the country comes from Leeds this week.

A young Pakistani engineering worker, Ahmed Hasheen, has been sitting it out at Armley prison for the last seven weeks. He has accepted his fate and now wants to go back to Pakistan.

But there is no sign of him going yet.

His previous employer,

William King, told The Guardian that he believed that an extended stay in prison may be a Home Office-sanctioned form of discouragement to illegal immigration. It costs £80 a week to keep someone in prison.

It took the Home Office seven weeks to convince themselves that Rupi Ahluwalia, from the Southall Youth Movement, wasn't an illegal immigrant at the beginning of the year. They'd locked him up in Pentonville.

## LAWYER ATTACKS POLICE

'THE USE of the suspicious persons charge is causing the greatest of concern to the black community. There are a number of black youths appearing in courts every day up and down the country charged with this offence.

'But the very fact of them being coloured and looking and dressing differently is enough to make them suspicious in the eyes of police officers'.

The words of lawyer Theodore Walcott after six West Indian youths were acquitted by a Kingston court two weeks ago.

All six had been charged with conspiracy to rob, identical to those against the Islington 18 and again dated to coincide with the Notting Hill Carnival. All six were acquitted thanks to a united defence and consistent not guilty pleas.

# 'POLICE STATE' TREATMENT FOR AN IRISH FAMILY

**'RITA and I are strong enough to stand it. But when it comes to my children being harassed out of their minds I can't keep quiet any longer.'**

by BRIAN HIGGINS and MURRAY ARMSTRONG

Since that time the catalogue goes on and on:

**January 1975:** After a bomb goes off in a Northampton RAF club, Eddie is questioned by the police.

'They asked me about political affiliations, about a Midland IRA cell, about 'safe' houses—all as if I was a member. They even asked for the names of any friends who visited me from Ireland.'

**September 1975:** Rita complained to the manager of the bakery across from their house about the noise of the nightshift.

She and her daughter Janet, aged 19, were sworn at and manhandled. They fought back against the three bakery supervisors who called them 'IRA bastards'.

The police threatened to charge them with attempted murder, told them they were confined to the house for 24 hours and finally pressed charges for breach of the peace for which Rita and Janet were fined £25 and bound over for two years.

After a bomb scare in Northampton town centre, Janet and a friend returned to her friend's house to find the police there. Janet left, only to be picked up by a police woman outside and to be threatened with being charged for receiving stolen property—an eyeshadow that her sister Louise had given her.

### 'Lost receipts'

**October 1975:** Janet and a friend were charged with shop lifting. Janet insisted she was innocent and produced receipts for everything in her bag.

The receipts got 'lost' in the police station.

**March 1976:** Police accused Janet of a bomb hoax at Church's shoe factory, where she works. There was no evidence against her and she was cleared in a voice test to the telephone operator but this still cost her her job.

A week later police forced Janet to empty a plastic rubbish bag on the road on the pretext that she had placed a bomb in it.

Said Rita: 'After that we were visited by the Special Branch, who wanted to know if we knew the Price sisters. We've even been offered bribes to find out names since then.'

**January 1977:** Seventeen-year-old Louise Ward was attacked while collecting money for the Cancer and Polio Pools. She hit her attacker and ran.

### Dismissed

'Then the police came to the house,' said Louise, 'and charged Janet with assault. I said it was me who was involved but they wouldn't listen.'

'The case went to court and was dismissed, but even then the cops told me I was lying to cover for Janet.'

This disgraceful treatment of the Ward family must stop. It is not just their problem, it is a threat to every working class family in Northampton.

All local trade unionists and socialists must now use their strength to ensure the defence of the Ward family and other Irish workers from such harassment.

□ Stop police harassment. Support the Ward Defence Committee. Details from 2 Bitten Court, Lumbertubs, Northampton.

# Thousands of students in action to free Andy

by LINDSEY GERMAN

STUDENTS reacted quickly to the jailing of Andy Strouthous. The office of North East London Poly director, George Brosan, was occupied the same night.

A meeting of 1000 NELP students voted overwhelmingly to support the occupation—and this forced Brosan to withdraw his threat to close down the whole poly.

They have now also occupied the office of the deputy director in another precinct.

Students at the London School of Economics are occupying in solidarity with Andy. Also in London, the School of Oriental and African Studies staged a 24-hour sit-in despite the possibility of another injunction like last term's!

Birmingham Poly voted to continue its long occupation over fees increases in the face of opposition from its 'left-wing' executive.

Meetings proposing occupation were planned this week in colleges all over the



NELP students marching on Pentonville Prison last Friday.

**FREE ANDY STROUHOUS**

most students have exams. It is even more remarkable considering the attitude of the National Union of Students.

Andy is a member of the NUS executive. Yet their position isn't one of support for him. They have lied to students unions that phone them about the campaign. They have opposed all occupations.

### Trust

Charles Clarke, NUS president, simply put out a statement regretting that the law had been used.

They want reconciliation with Brosan and the governors. But how can the students trust a director who has shown time and again he is out to smash the union?

There is only one way to get Andy out and that is through direct action.

If Andy were reinstated as a student then he would be out of prison immediately. Yet Brosan refuses to do that—although it is in his power.

The campaign has to be built. More and more students are showing their support for Andy. They know it isn't the question of one individual. It is the whole idea of student union autonomy—being able to run their affairs as they wish without interference from the college authorities.

### Rot in jail

That is what makes Andy's case so important. If the authorities can get away with jailing him, then many more attacks will follow.

Students all over the country have to make it clear to Brosan—and the courts—that they aren't prepared to see a democratically elected union president rot in jail for defending his union.

□ Occupy in solidarity with Andy Strouthous.

□ Join the demo this Friday, 20 May, 6pm Endsleigh St, London WC1 (near Euston Station, behind Friends House). March to Pentonville prison.

□ Send telegram to Andy (prisoner F 27684), Pentonville Prison, Caledonian Road, London N1, to NELP students union in support, and to the NUS demanding that they support the NELP Students union campaign for Andy's release.



The sit-down protest blocks the road—and police try to clear a way



Police hold back the pickets outside the prison. PICTURES: Derek Speirs and Phil McCowan



Police arrest students—seven were held

## The Prevention of Terrorism Act



□ 20p (inc. postage) from 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## Socialist Workers Party Midlands and South WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS CONFERENCE

Saturday 21 May, 10am-5.30pm, Holborn Library, London WC1. Agenda: Building rank and file organisation, white-collar SWP workplace branches.



## TRADE UNION BANNERS CROWD MARCH TO BEAT BENYON BILL

Ten thousand women and a considerable number of men marched through London last Saturday, protesting against the Bill introduced in parliament by Tory MP William Benyon, which would take away the right of many women to abortion.

They were demanding their right as women to control their own bodies and to have children when they want to.

The demonstration was notable not only for the large numbers of women's groups taking part, but also for the many trade union banners.

LEFT: A section of the massive demonstration moves past Piccadilly Circus. RIGHT and BELOW: Trade union banners on the march. BOTTOM: A protester lampoons the anti-abortion SPUC.



### Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

# Weep not for the army's trained killers

THE PRESS invited us all to weep on Tuesday for Captain Robert Nairac, the British army officer killed in Armagh, Northern Ireland. Socialist Worker will not weep.

Nairac was a hired killer. He was paid many thousands of pounds a year to disguise himself as an Irishman and to listen to gossip retailed in the pubs of South Armagh. On the basis of that gossip, other soldiers would go out and kill people.

One such killing was the murder of a 12-year-old schoolgirl, Majella O'Hare, as she walked to church last August. Because of that, no British newspaper invited us to weep for her.

A highly trained killer did, however, admit in court to shooting her. He was Private Michael Williams, of the Paratroop Regiment. The judge let Williams walk from the court a free man, without any penalty for the murder, accepting without any evidence Williams' claim that he was shooting 'at gunmen'!

That Captain Nairac was active in South Armagh at all is an important comment on the

British Army's role in Northern Ireland. South Armagh is the one part of Northern Ireland where it cannot even be claimed that the army is 'keeping the peace' between the two rival communities, one Catholic, the other Protestant.

### Special

For the area is almost entirely Catholic and republican. The troops are there to keep it forcibly part of an artificially constructed British-run statelet, in which Protestants have privileges.

Not surprisingly, the local people regard the Captain Nairacs in the same way French people regarded German officers doing 'undercover operations' in Paris.

### The end of Paisley's strike

THE FACT that Nairac was still operating in this way last week is also significant.

For at that time working people in Northern Ireland were facing massive threats and intimidations. Not from the IRA and not in South Armagh, but in Belfast and other predominantly Protestant areas.

They were being shot and bombed for defying the orders of that bigotted hater of Catholics, Ian Paisley, and the paramilitary thugs he consorts with.

One busman was murdered. Several others were injured. Power station shop stewards were threatened. A bomb went

off in the 100 per cent Protestant Mackie engineering works.

You may think that these incidents simply prove that Northern Ireland is a violent place—although, amazingly, until 1969 Belfast had one of the lowest murder rates in the world.

In fact they prove something else.

The system that British troops have been propping up is one in which Protestant sectarian murder gangs have been allowed to flourish. Eight years of military occupation in Belfast have done nothing to weaken them.

### Separate

That is not surprising, since the British Army sees its job as being to hunt the IRA in areas such as South Armagh, not to root out sectarian discrimination and bigotry in Belfast.

It can hardly be otherwise, since the basis of British control over Northern Ireland, indeed the basis for the existence of a separate state in Northern Ireland, has always been sectarian discrimination and bigotry.

Even today Catholics cannot get jobs in the main factories in Belfast. No wonder many have a bitter hatred for the state, and for the army that props it up.

Northern Ireland is in a bloody, horrific, tangled mess. But it is not a mess that the activities of the Captain Nairacs have ever done anything to solve. It cannot be solved until the British troops get out.

## Parsons: Keep out of bosses' war

THE papers were claiming on Monday that a solution had been found for the redundancies facing workers at the C A Parsons generator works on Tyneside. Parsons was to be given the order for the single new power station the government is prepared to order, Drax B.

But the claim has met with vigorous denunciations from the management of one of the other main companies in the field, GEC. Arnold Wienstock, head of GEC, claimed that to stop massive redundancies at Parsons was 'unnatural'—as if somehow the dole queue is a fact of nature and not of the economic system that has made

men like Sir Arnold immensely wealthy.

He said the industry had to 'shed manpower'—implying that if Parsons workers were not sacked, then GEC workers would be. His words were designed to make GEC workers line up with him in demanding that his company gets control of the Drax contract (and, he hopes, of Parsons as well).

### Role

The other companies, Parsons and Babcock and Wilcox, would love their workers to line up behind them in their fight for the goodies. To rub its case home, Babcock and Wilcox threatened 1200 redundancies on Tuesday.

If workers at any of the companies see their role as being to line up with managements in this way all they will succeed in doing is cutting one another's throats. The managements at Parsons, Babcock and Wilcox and GEC have all proved themselves willing in the past to sack workers in pursuit of higher profit—Drax contract or no Drax contract.

There is only one demand that can stop this danger—it is for nationalisation of the whole industry with guaranteed continued employment. Only this can stop workers falling for management's game of dog-eat-dog. Only unity of workers throughout the whole industry can stop sackings by Wienstock, GEC, Babcock or, for that matter, by the government.

£40 000 FUND... WE'RE NEARLY THERE

# £39,157! Jenkins puts it in writing: Close the Socialist Worker

READ THE LAST two sentences carefully. They're from a letter sent by ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins to the secretary of the Magazine branch of the National Union of Journalists:

*'If the existence of this publication (and the printing shop associated with it) were to be endangered I submit the view that this will not be a loss to the liberty of expression in this country. It might even assist it.'*

Those last few words make it clear that Jenkins wants to see an end to Socialist Worker. It is worth recalling that when he issued the writ against us, he also claimed to his executive that similar proceedings on the same matter were being taken against the Times.

Of course, Jenkins never pursued the Times—but why is he so frightened of Socialist Worker?

Could it be that he doesn't like what we have to say about his collaboration with the Social Contract over the last two years, or that we

would like to see him and all full-time officials elected and paid average wages?

Or perhaps he just doesn't like the fact that we point out that we think he is an outright hypocrite for organising holidays to Spain at a time when there was massive repression of trade unionists and socialists, as indeed there still is.

Socialist Worker is proud of its record. Judging by the £39,157 which many thousands of you have sent, you value it too.

We are happy that we have beaten Jenkins and his pals. But if you are an ASTMS militant, watch out—Clive's on the rampage.

Frank Chapple is next, still hotly pursuing Socialist Worker.

No surrender to Jenkins, Chapple or anyone else. If you are sitting on a donation, send it in. You are our insurance agent against these people.

□ Send donations and collections to SW Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs  
General Secretary Clive Jenkins  
10-26A Jamestown Road, London NW1 7DT telephone 01-267 4422  
telex no 2522E

Dear Mr. Turner,

Thank you for your letter of 4th April.

Your Branch should not be angered or dismayed by our success in suing Mr. Paul Foot, Socialist Worker and Socialist Worker Litho Ltd.

This magazine has been pursuing a editorial policy involving the use of both libellous comment and violence in language. I understand that our case was one in a series of actions and is followed at least by another from another union. Another separate libel against a colleague of mine (unrelated to this issue) has also been settled with a statement acknowledging the untruth. This is not a threat to the freedom of the press but I do see it as a constraint on unbridled licence. If the existence of this publication (and the printing shop associated with it) were to be endangered I submit the view that this will not be a loss to the liberty of expression in this country. It might even assist it.

Yours sincerely,

*Clive Jenkins*



Jenkins' letter to an NUJ branch

Thanks to:

- P. Harris, Brentwood.
- Durdee 'ladders', OAP Sup, Axminster.
- ACTSS 01/1628-06, Walls Meat Co.
- P & B Kirkham—Leicester
- Anon—London.
- D. Dick
- R. Hanson, Schooner Pub SW
- Readers, Hull.
- AL Rainnie's birthday party
- Anon—Prestwich
- A. Drummond, Anon.
- St. Albans, Canterbury.
- Dunlop—Coventry
- Leeds Poly of Graphic Design
- Sheffield Poly.
- Deptford, Plymouth & District SW readers.
- DHSS Longbentam N/ Castle Upon Tyne.
- K. D. Harding, Studee
- Jubilee/Camden Camden
- Suffolk NAG members
- Newspaper Scrap, N. Carlin
- M. Harrington—NALGO, Worthington.
- A. Pittitt—Holloway.
- A. Donaldson NUT
- Holloway
- B. Darke
- W. Midx.
- P. Stern, SW London.
- Wakefield.
- F. S. W. Horbury—Wakefield
- M. Odell ASTMS, Leamington Spa
- Comrades in Canada
- McKay
- Anon—Bolton
- Hull SWP
- Hull University Staff.
- Paul Sowden.
- Hull Rock Against Racism

# Overtime



Scanlon, Jones and Allen: they support wage controls

By Duncan Hallas  
WE ALL know that one of the pernicious effects of the government's wage-cutting offensive has been a big rise in overtime working.

It is obvious that, faced with falling living standards and active union support for wage-cutting, workers inevitably look for ways to stave off the effects.

The scale of the thing is enormous. It was reported at the AUEW Engineering Section National Committee that 6.6 million hours of overtime were being worked weekly in the industry, the equivalent of 165,000 jobs.

And there are 140,000 engineers on the dole!

This in a union where overtime is supposed to be regulated by district com-

## THESE UNION LEADERS ARE 'AGAINST' IT—BUT THEY HELP MAKE IT INEVITABLE

mittees.

Department of Employment figures for the week ending 12 February (published earlier this month) show that average overtime worked was ten hours in shipbuilding and ship repair, 9½ hours in metal manufacture and more than 8 hours in manufacturing industry as a whole.

### Alongside

High boom levels of overtime alongside nearly 1.4 million unemployed.

Of course, union officials, especially 'left' officials will tell you that this is a deplorable state of affairs and prattle on about the evils of excessive overtime.

Some of them regularly vote for motions calling for the 35-hour week to combat unemployment.

Now this is pure cant and hypocrisy when the very same people supported the £6 limit, the 4½ per cent limit and now, in many cases, even support a Phase Three of further wage cuts.

When, as often happens, the members are blamed by these people for being 'backward' or 'greedy' it is downright obscene.

Of course there are grab-balls, natural Tories, who would like to work all the hours God sends.

They are a minority who can be kept in check if decent earnings can be made in the

standard working week.

But when it is not just the grab-balls, but the ordinary average worker who is clamouring for more overtime, then it is the union leaders, not the members, who are to blame.

Wages are scandalously low and falling. That is the problem.

### Overtime

The Department of Employment figures show that one quarter of the already low earnings of catering workers is from overtime. One quarter!

Do you expect them to ban overtime and take a 25 per cent pay cut?

In the baking trade (average overtime 14½ hours a week) it is even worse. Nearly one third of average pay is from overtime.

There is one way and only one way in which the steady trend to the 50 plus hour week can be stopped and reversed.

That is to fight for big wage increases to regain the ground lost in the years of the Social Con-Trick.

We are calling for £15 now and that demand reminds me of the remark made by a famous 18th century looter and plunderer at his trial:

'My God, as I reflect upon it now, I am astonished at my own moderation.'

A £15 increase is indeed an exceedingly modest increase

in present conditions, with a 17 per cent inflation rate.

Of course we are for the 35 hour week. It is absolutely essential to combat unemployment.

But to make it a reality or even to get the 40 hour week in practice, the battle has to be won on the wages front.

A footnote on the other side. The chairman of William Morrisons, a supermarket chain, has just awarded himself a £208 a week increase—before the increase he was struggling along on a mere £670 a week.

His workers got a £2.50 increase in November and he 'regrets' they can't have more.

USDAW denounces the increase as 'scandalous and excessive.'

Lord Allan, boss of USDAW, is campaigning for a Phase Three of wage cutting.

No doubt he deplores 'excessive overtime', too.

## ANOTHER 205 MEMBERS

205 PEOPLE joined the Socialist Workers Party last month. Union, five GMWU, eight NUPE and ten building workers.

They include 92 manual workers, among them five miners, 18 members of the Transport and General Workers Union, 11 members of the Engineering Union, five GMWU, eight NUPE and ten building workers.

New branches have been set up in Tunbridge Wells, Stirling Town, Leyland in Lancashire, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Sunderland and Stoke.



### Rank and File DIARY

**HEALTH WORKERS ALMANACK:** Essential reading for all who care about the NHS. Information and practical advice for all hospital trade unionists. Order now from Hospital Worker, 19 Red Post Hill, London SE24 or phone 01-733 8443—or contribute to the next one.

**NALGO ACTION NEWS:** May edition out now. Articles on new wage claim, the overtime ban, strikes in Buckinghamshire, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets, backlisting. 5p a copy plus 7p postage. From 23a Alpha House, Ashbridge Street, London, NW8.

**GLASGOW** Right to Work Campaign Staff the Jubilee DISCO DANCE: Wednesday 1 June, 8pm-1am (late bar till 1am), Highlanders Institute. Tickets employed 75p, unemployed 50p, from 64 Queen Street, (phone 041-221 3426).

**History Workshop Conference on RANK AND FILE MOVEMENTS.** Speakers include Harry McShane and Jack Dash. Saturday/Sunday 21/22 May, Ruskin College, Oxford. Tickets £2.50 (excluding accommodation) from History Workshop Collective, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford.

**DOWN THE ROAD**, an exhibition of 38 photographs by Bob Golden taken from the book of the same name. Available for hire to trade union branches, schools, colleges, public meetings. Fee £5 plus carriage. All proceeds to the Right to Work Campaign. Speakers can be arranged to introduce discussion.

□ Write to Down the Road Exhibition, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-359 1371, evenings).

**LONDON RANK AND FILE CONTACT meeting:** Smash the Social Contract—Support the Port Talbot strikers. Speakers: Billy Williams and Port Talbot strikers. Monday 23 May, 8pm, Plough, Museum Street, WC1.

**CHELMSFORD** Engineers Charter public meeting: £15 now—make the union fight. Speaker: Dave Gellard (AUEW convenor, Herberts Controls, Letchworth). Sunday 22 May, 7pm, Royal Steamer pub (behind Chelmsford station).

### Stuff the Jubilee FESTIVAL

Jubilee Day, Tuesday 7 May, on Tooting Bec Common, London SW12 (Provisional)

CALLING ALL SOCIALISTS AND TRADE UNIONISTS! Will your organisation organise a stall, event, competition, theatrical or musical performance. phone 01-802 0978

ORGANISED BY THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

# 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.

## A PACK OF LIES

LABOUR will bring about 'a fundamental shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families' (Labour Party Election Manifesto, 1974) **JUNE 1974:** 'The objective is to see that real living standards are maintained,' says the TUC Economic Committee. **OCTOBER:** 'The Tories want to reduce living standards,' says Jack Jones. 'Unemployment will be well short of one million by the end of next year,' says Chancellor Healey.

**JULY 1975:** TUC approves £6 pay limit. Two weeks later, unemployment passes the one million mark for the first time since 1940.

The £6 limit is only a temporary policy put forward for the coming year to arrest the inflationary process, prevent massive unemployment and enable the government to carry out its industrial programme,' says TUC general secretary Len Murray.

**SEPTEMBER:** Any further cuts in public services would be 'an intolerable attack on the living standards of working people and a fundamental breach of the Social Contract,' says the TUC Congress.

**AUGUST:** Miners vote 60-40 in ballot to accept £6 limit.

**OCTOBER:** Prime Minister Callaghan admits aim of policy is to cut living standards. Announcement that living standards had already fallen 3 per cent.

**DECEMBER:** Healey gets Cabinet support for first £3 billion batch of spending cuts.

Another two sets of cuts introduced later, in 1977, worth another £3 billion.

'We told Healey that figures like 1½ million banded about for unemployment next year were quite untenable,' says Len Murray.

**JANUARY 1976:** Unemployment figures of 1,420,000 announced. Len Murray says they are 'disturbing.'

**FEBRUARY:** Michael Foot alters the way unemployment is measured so as to cut the official figure by a couple of hundred thousand.

'Inflation will be down to 8.4 per cent by 1977,' says Healey.

**MAY:** TUC agree to another year of wage restraint with 4½ per cent limit on wages. Healey says the agreement will 'bring inflation down to 5-6 per cent in 1977.'

**MAY 1977:** The annual rate of inflation is still 20 per cent a year. Unemployment is still rising.

Pre-tax profits this year are up 33.4 per cent on last year, taxation on profits has been reduced to practically nil—although many companies fiddle their accounts to make it look as if they are going to pay taxes.

Jack Jones, Len Murray and Hugh Scanlon are campaigning for another year of wage controls.

# Can the Con-trick continue?

## HOW THEY SOLD THE TRICK

'THE Labour government wants to see industry prosper. For this, investors must have confidence in the viability of industry and that means its profitability.'

With these words Harold Wilson, then prime minister, explained the reasoning behind the Social Contract to the 1974 TUC.

### Future?

The leaders of the TUC have gone along with this approach. Like the government, they see the future of society identified with the future of the big business system. As Jack Jones put it last year: 'The alternative to the Social Contract is the end of society as we know it.'

But not all rank and file trade unionists have been convinced of the benefits of cutting wages to increase profits.

In 1975, the conferences of two of the biggest unions, the local government workers' (NALGO) and the engineers (AUEW), both threw out the Social Contract. In 1976, the conference of the building workers' union (UCATT) did.

The union leaders and the government dealt with such opposition in various ways.

They lied about the effects of the wage controls.

They gerrymandered conferences and votes to their own advantage. In 1974 Hugh Scanlon and Len Murray got Ken Gill of the white-collar section of the AUEW (TASS) to join in a manoeuvre that prevented a vote on TASS's anti-Social Contract motion to the TUC Congress.

### Manoeuvres

In 1976, the general secretary of UCATT, George Smith, ignored his union conference decision and organised a biased referendum to get support for the Contract.

At the Transport Workers' Union conference in 1975, 'a number of strongly anti-Contract motions have already been removed from the agenda through the clever formulation of composite motions,' reported the Financial Times.

The combination of lies and manoeuvres had effect—in 1975 the wage controls were carried on the General Council of the TUC by 19



votes to 13, by 1976 the majority for controls had risen to 25 votes to 5.

Big business also played an indispensable role in pressurising the unions into acquiescence.

By a strange coincidence, the Bank of England allowed the pound to fall in value the very week in 1975 when the crucial conference of the Transport Workers was discussing the wage controls, so creating an atmosphere of panic.

Direct force also played a role. This began even before the official wage controls. In March 1975 troops were used to break the TGWU dustcart drivers' strike in Glasgow—without a word of complaint from the leader of the union, Jack Jones.

In September 1976, the Seamen threatened to go on strike for a wage claim which had been agreed in principle before Phase One began. The General Council of the TUC told them it would organise scabbing to break their strike if they went ahead.

A precedent had been set which was followed by the leaders of the AUEW in the Leyland toolroom workers' dispute in March this year, and by the officials of unions such as TGWU, EEPFU and ASTMS in the Heathrow engineers' dispute in May.

## NOW THE PROD DEAL FRAUD

THE pamphlet sums up the behaviour of the trade union leaders: 'Getting the unions to police their own members is a trend much strengthened after three years of Labour government.'

The result has been a growing number of disputes in which the workers find themselves out on the streets, under attack from the employers, the government, the courts and even the so-called 'left' union officials.

This trend is not going to be reversed simply by a few votes against the Social Contract at union conferences, however important these are.

As an important article in the

latest International Socialism journal—titled The Struggle Against the Social Contract: Leyland, Heathrow and 20 April—points out, the union leaders know it will be difficult to sell to their members another period of straight wage cuts.

What they want instead is a policy that seems to involve a move away from Phases One and Two, but which enables them to prevent their members catching up any of the 20 per cent drop in real wages suffered over the past couple of years.

They call this policy an 'orderly return to free collective bargaining'. Under it the trade union officials will still see their job as to stab their members in the back.

The union bureaucracies have a strategy for selling this policy. They

tell the lower-paid that it is the only way to prevent 'chaos' which would leave them worse off than ever. They tell the slightly better paid that they will nearly be able to keep up with prices if they accept productivity deals that sell the jobs of their fellow workers.

They don't of course mention that even under such productivity deals they will be permanently 20 per cent worse off than they were before the Social Contract came into being.

### Nothing

The union leaders hope this will enable them to do what some union leaders did last year and many did in 1975—to seem to oppose the continuation of the Contract while doing nothing to stop it.

So we have statements from Joe Gormley of the Miners Union opposing the Contract—and efforts to push through a productivity deal.

We have the AUEW National Committee opposing the Contract—and refusing to press for a wage claim until (they hope) the TUC has bound them to Phase Three.

We have Frank Chapple of the Electricians and Plumbers Union saying he's against more wage controls—and postponing the union's conference until after the TUC and agreement to more wage controls.

But this back-stabbing strategy can be beaten—as the journal article points out.

The key is for as many groups of workers as possible to agree now to push for wage claims that ignore the Contract—ideally for £15 across-the-board—and to take action over them on 1 August.

### Pressure

A dozen or more simultaneous strikes like the Heathrow strike or the toolroom workers' strike would be too much for the union bureaucracy, the employers and the government to resist.

Their success in breaking through would then create irresistible pressure for similar wage claims among groups of workers in the public sector who will otherwise be slaughtered under a prod-deal-based Phase Three.

CHRIS HARMAN

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# The prices myth

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Chris Harman

It's funny that 'accidents' like the drought last summer always push up prices. Why are there never any 'accidents' that make prices fall?

WE ARE living through a price explosion. What has caused it? The press and TV give four different sorts of explanation.

They blame wages. But this hardly holds water after two years in which living standards have fallen more than at any other time this century.

They blame the fall in the pound. Now this might explain why prices have risen more in Britain than in most other countries. But it cannot explain why prices are rising everywhere in the world three or four times faster than they were ten years ago.

At present the annual rate of price rises is 23 per cent in Italy, 9½ per cent

in Japan, 9 per cent in the US, 8 per cent in France and 5 per cent in West Germany.

They blame 'accidents'—like the drought last summer. But this can't explain why prices always move upwards. Funny that the accidents never cause a fall in prices.

## Cannot tell us

Finally, they blame 'the printing of money' by governments. They say that if too many pound notes are printed too much money chases too few goods and prices rise.

But this cannot tell us why prices are rising everywhere in the world—unless governments everywhere have been

taken possession of by a collective madness that turns them into maniac money-printers.

There is a much simpler explanation. The system they run has got into difficulties which make them behave as if they were mad.

Last week, we saw that in recent years in every major capitalist country big business has complained about a fall in the rate of profit. Total profits have often increased. But not as fast as the cost of investment.

So the profits per pound (or dollar, or Deutschmark) of investment have fallen.

The individual capitalist can do a very simple thing to remedy this. He can increase his prices.

If you doubt that that is what he wants to do, just see how he screams whenever there is talk of price controls. 'Oh no,' he cries, 'that will stop me making enough profit to pay for new investment'.

## Basic cause

In other words, he puts up prices to maintain his profit.

This is the basic cause of inflation. It is not a new thing. Throughout the history of capitalism, whenever firms have felt able, they have raised their prices to increase their profits.

The only thing that mattered for them was whether they could sell their goods if they did so.

That is why periods of prosperity for capitalism, when it has been easy to sell goods, have always been periods of inflation.

## 'Boom'

The present high levels of inflation began with a spiral like that in the 'boom' years of 1971-73.

But it differed in one important respect from previous periods of 'prosperity' in capitalist history.

In the past, crises acted as a mechanism to bring inflation to an end. Firms found they could not sell their goods without cutting their prices, even if this reduced their profits.

Mergers and monopolies have changed all that.

It is easy for the firms in any industry to get together to increase prices, even in a crisis like the present one.

## Cut tax

There is no way they can be stopped without wrecking the whole capitalist system.

If governments try to stop the giant firms keeping up their profits in this way, the giant firms simply say they will not invest.

Government, regardless of political colour, readily give into such blackmail.

Indeed, they do more. They take measures of their own to aid the giant firms even though these add to the pressure on prices.

So, for instance, in Britain in the past three years, the government has cut taxation on companies by about £4,000 million and replaced it by increased taxation on workers' wage packets and on things like beer and fags.

## Confetti

Out of this increased taxation, and out of the cuts on the social services, the government has also handed out £6,000 million in subsidies to private firms.

When workers try to increase their wages to catch up with increased prices and taxes, they are accused of wanting to create 'confetti money'.

Yet, the real blame for confetti money lies with a system that no longer contains any mechanism that can stop ever-rising prices existing alongside ever-rising unemployment.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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## Freedom-Carter Style

WE'VE BEEN subjected to a great deal of sickly talk about People's President Jimmy Carter's concern for freedom and human rights in the past few weeks.

He has been noticeably more quiet about a scheme his Population Department has dreamed up to render one hundred million women sterile in the developing countries.

The 'advanced fertility management' programme is expected to be complete within nine years—in the interest of US profits abroad.

Dr RT Ravenholt, Director of the US Office of Population, said in an interview:

'Population control is needed to maintain the normal operation of US commercial interests around the world.'

'Without our trying to help these countries with their economic and social development, the world would rebel against the strong US commercial presence. The self interest thing is a compelling element.'

The scheme is 'intended' to be strictly voluntary, for the good of the women and their country. Just like Mrs Gandhi's sterilisation programme in India?

## In a nutshell

'If I see a disease-ridden rat crawl up from a sewer I don't get down on my hands and knees and hold a discussion with it; I put the boot in.'

—John Jennings, editor of the SOGAT printing union journal, speaking at an anti-racist conference in Southwark on whether anti-racists should indulge in physical violence.

## Harper's and the Queen

FOR INSIGHT into how the rich spend the money we produce, there can be no better investment than *Harper's and Queen*.

It's well worth saving up for a couple of months to fork out 60p for 'the world's most intelligent glossy magazine'. Once you've cooled down after flicking through the property ads, which offer such gems as 'terraced house with six bedrooms and three bathrooms for only £130,000', there are a few laughs to be had.

For instance, would you really want a pair of suede Bermuda shorts, even if you had the £225 to pay for them? Or a green lurex swimsuit for £39?

No doubt both would look great with your £41 silver sling backs.



Of course this month's is a special issue. It might not have escaped your notice that a certain E. Windsor is celebrating her 25 years as Britain's biggest scrounger. An event known in Harper's circles as The Jubilee. 'Jubilation Issue' goes to town with such delights as Jubilee Johnnies in their

£300 suits, or Jubilee scent bottles for only £485.

Then there is the 'serious' side of Harper's, proving that it's not all cruising in the Med and Jubilee balls at the top.

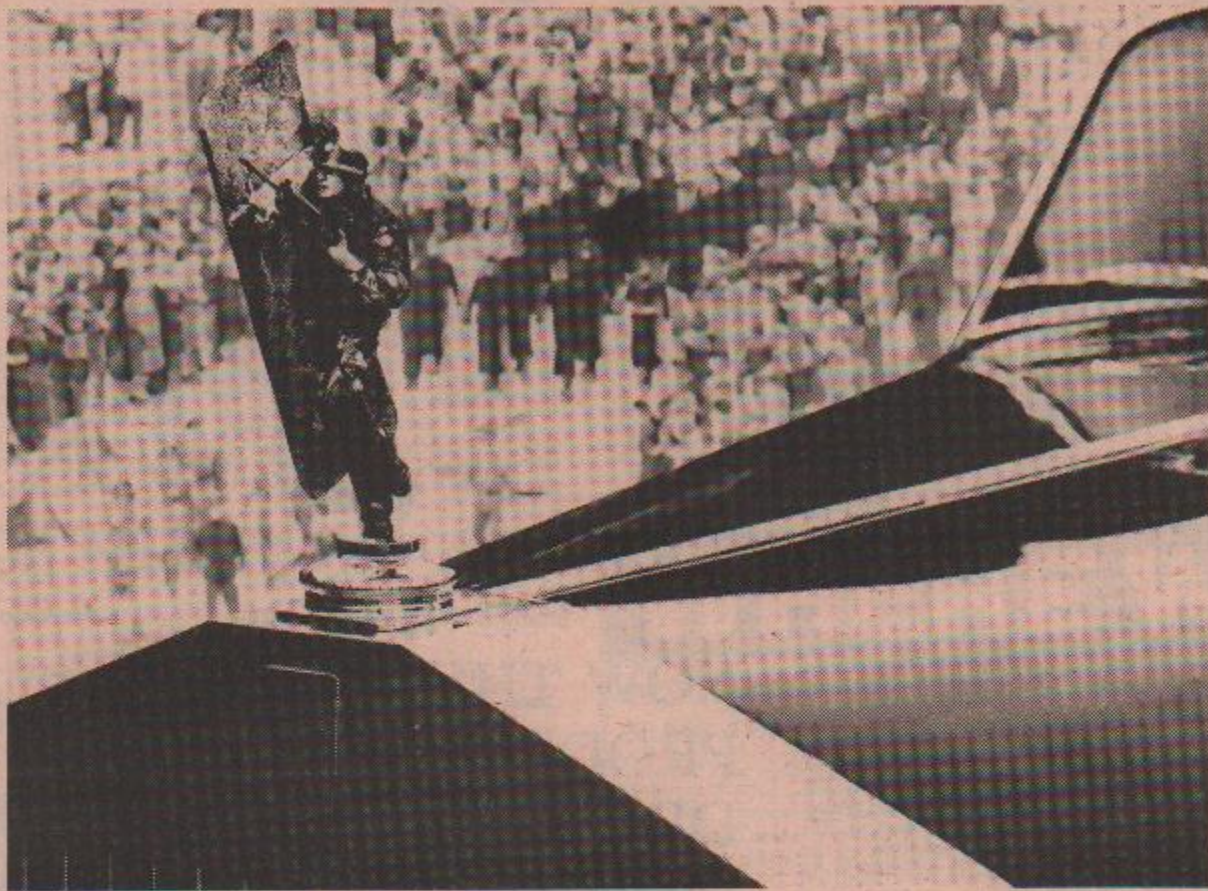
'Twenty five years of women at work' features such notable toilers as Lady Plowden, Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Baroness Wootton, and of course, Margaret Thatcher.

Then there are the enlightening interviews with some Scottish ladies of liesure who reveal that devolution won't change them a bit.

But as one Rachel McIntyre—a very ordinary housewife... exercising the dog, going to see the gardener, just running round the house takes so long—



explains: 'It's the Nationalists' attitude to the land that's worrying. Bobby (her husband) would be shooting from the battlements before he gave in, and I'd be right behind him.'



Picture: Bob Long —from an exhibition of photomontage at the Half Moon Gallery, Alie St., London E1.

## Men only . . . .

THAT well known working class monthly Readers Digest (50p) has been boasting far and wide about a superscoop—an open letter from EETPU boss Frank Chapple to 'trade unionists'.

For the benefit of those trade unionists who, thanks to the Social Contract, can't afford to cough up 50p for Chapple's words of wisdom, Fifth Column brings you a brief resume.

First of all, Frank gets off to a good start by excluding a huge proportion of the labour movement.

'Dear brothers . . . he begins. 'The fact that the overwhelming majority of British workers have never been on strike is mainly due to the efforts of the trade unions.'

Indeed, a vast number of British workers who have been on strike for better wages and conditions, to defend jobs or fight victimisation have done so in spite of the trade union leadership.

Brother Chapple is very proud of his union's record on publishing minutes of executive meetings. He

doesn't explain why the minutes of the meeting which elected Chapple's candidate Tom Breakall as president did not record the fact that Jack Ashfield stood against him and lost by four votes to seven.

The meeting which voted to accept the minutes as a true record only did so by one vote.

THE FOLLOWING is part of a memo sent from personel to shift managers at British Celanese in Derby. It 'fell' into the hands of Socialist Workers Party members who produced a factory bulletin:

'Apparently the labour office have now produced a letter to send to sick malingers in the hope that they will frighten them and, as a result, the operatives will return to work.'

IN NALGO members want to contribute to the Jubilee Fund, they may do so courtesy of their general secretary Geoffrey Drain. When one of the staff asked about the collection box in the reception area, they were told it was put there at Mr. Drain's personal request.

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# Spain: 5 killed as police go on the rampage

'PAMPLONA, invaded by the riot brigades of the Armed Police and Civil Guards, seemed like a city that had been taken militarily'.

That was how the leading Spanish liberal paper, *El Pais*, wrote of the capital of the northern Spanish province of Navarre on Sunday.

Navarre and the two neighbouring provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa, were paralysed by general strikes after five people had been killed by police for demonstrating in the streets.

They had been demanding an amnesty for the last of Franco's political prisoners still in jail.

With less than four weeks to the allegedly 'free' elections, the request might have seemed reasonable.

## Tear gas

But it was too much for the generals who run Spain's three armed police forces. Demonstration after demonstration was met with tear gas canisters, rubber bullets, baton charges and guns.

No wonder that in the Basque country workers are now saying that Spain cannot be truly free while the army and police are run by the same officers that rose to power under fascism.

In Renteria, where one of the killings took place, people made it clear that the vote alone could solve nothing.

Two thousand of them demonstrated, demanding 'Dissolution of the repressive forces, popular justice for the assassins.'

Young people then threw up barricades in the main streets—something that was repeated in Pamplona and the suburbs of the two big cities of Bilbao and San Sebastian.

Armed police patrolling the streets could not stop a hundred and one different expressions of popular protest.

After the shooting in Pamplona of a print worker



on the paper *Voz de Espana*, the local newspapers were shut down and even the local radio transmitters—bastions of fascist orthodoxy—replaced their usual broadcasts by serious music interspersed with news broadcasts.

## Perpetuate

*The upsurge in struggle is shaking the regime to its foundations less than a month before elections it designed to perpetuate its rule.*

The old supporters of Franco are now split into two main quarrelling parties. One, around the former minister Fraga, is calling upon the army generals to threaten action to keep Francoism intact.

The other, the so-called

'centre' led by prime minister Suarez, is claiming that it wants to maintain 'moderate' reforms.

But Suarez's government is allowing the police a free hand. And, on Sunday, Fraga could point out that only two years ago, Suarez, then head of Franco's fascist party, the Movement, opposed any reforms at all.

These splits show that the people who still run the state machine at every level are losing control of events.

But they still have two trump cards.

They know that big business wants to keep the police and army intact so as to frighten strikers. This has been shown in the last couple of weeks at the giant Ford Valencia plant, where management has relied

upon police to intimidate workers demanding recognition of their negotiating committee.

And, amazingly, the other prop for the regime comes from one of the biggest opposition parties—the Communist Party.

Its leader Carrillo is going out of his way to please the generals and fascists.

## Fascist salute

He is now insisting that the Communists drop the clenched fist salute in exchange for the fascists dropping their salute.

What an insult to tens of thousands of working class fighters who died in front of fascist firing squads with their fists clenched up high!

## SO MUCH FOR 'DEMOCRACY'

By Denise Fenn

SPANISH emigrants living in Britain can vote in Spain's elections—in theory at least.

A Spanish comrade who tried to enrol on the electoral register found that those in the know, such as Consular staff and their middle-class contacts, registered without problems before 25 February.

Those not in the know—workers who do not mix in such elite circles—now face a long, alternative path to the ballot slip, which is guaranteed to put most of them off.

## Register

First they must get a form from the Consulate, which does not open in the evenings or at weekends. This must be sent to Spain, where their relatives can register them with the local authority, get the form stamped and returned to England.

If their relatives have all fled, or are hostile, or illiterate, that's it, goodbye democracy.

The keen voter without these minor problems must then return to the Consul to get another form saying he is a resident abroad, and authorising a voting slip.

This form then has to be returned to Spain, whereupon a voting slip will be sent, which the lucky or persistent voter completes and sends back to Spain.

An estimated 2,000 people are registered here to vote in the elections. Of these, 1,000 are expected to vote for the Right, about 500 for the Communist Party, who organised their members to vote long ago, and about 500

for other left-wing parties. This is less than one in ten of those eligible to vote. There are about 1½ million

Spanish emigrants in Western Europe, most of them politically to the left.

If the pattern of getting registration is repeated throughout these other countries, it is easy to see which way the election will go.

## IMPERIALIST TROOPS OUT OF ZAIRE DOWN WITH MOBUTU

Picket the French Embassy, Friday 20 May, 12.30pm - 2pm, 58 Knightsbridge, London, SW1. Organised by African Students Union (London) supported by SWP.

## SOUTH AFRICA: VICTORY TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS—BLACK WORKERS AND STUDENTS TO POWER

Demonstrate Saturday 18 June, anniversary of the Soweto uprising. Assemble Speakers Corner, London, 1pm.

The Southern Africa solidarity badge has now been reprinted; order now from SWP International Dept, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. 20p (plus 6½p postage) each, £2 for ten (post free), £15 for 100. Cash with orders only. SPARK—bulletin of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign—latest issue now out. 17p (inc. postage) from SASC, c/o 21 Mayall Road, London, SE24.

## 'RED' MURDER

THOUSANDS of Polish students began protesting in Cracow last weekend over the murder by police of one of their colleagues, Stanislaw Pijas.

They also spoke of setting up a solidarity committee to replace the official state-sponsored Socialist Union of Students, which they say, has been harassing them and has 'forfeited the right to represent students.'

In a country where all independent trade unions are banned, this step represents a challenge to the authorities which will be watched closely by hundreds of thousands of workers.

Stanislaw Pijas was found dead at the bottom of a stair-well a fortnight ago. He was a member of the Workers' Defence Committee set up last year to aid those victimised after a strike wave that forced the government to back down on price increases.

Other students are convinced that he was murdered by the police. The police, typically, have tried to shift responsibility—claiming either that he died from a drunken fall or that he was murdered by the Defence Committee.

## Intimidate

But student and workers know of so many cases where people have been beaten up and tortured by the police that they cannot accept this story. The police are certainly behaving as if they have something to hide.

Three members of the Workers' Defence Committee who tried to go to Cracow, Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik and Piotr Naimski, were seized by the police in Warsaw.

The students in Cracow, however, took advantage of a student festival to mourn their colleague. Five thousand staged a candle-lit procession on Sunday. They

were not intimidated by the seizure the day before of three supporters of the Workers' Defence Committee by the police thugs who make up the so-called 'students militia'.

The murder of Stanislaw Pijas shows that the authorities East and West of the so-called Iron Curtain act in the same way when faced with a growing and popular movement—they use police intimidation to break protests.

□ Student unions in Britain should send messages of support to those trying to set up student representation independently of the state-run union to Jacek Kuron, Warsaw, Mickiewicz 27m.64. Poland.

□ The Socialist Workers Party can supply speakers on Poland. Write to East European Group, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 or phone Pete, 01-739-2639.

## HURRICANE ON TV—



DON'T MISS next Tuesday's ATV documentary about Hurricane Carter, the black boxer jailed for murder after a frame-up by American police. Carter won a re-trial last November after two key prosecution witnesses admitted they had been lying. But once again he was sent to jail, this time until the year 2058.

THE MAJOR Italian cities were the scene of clashes between left-wing demonstrators and police again last weekend. The authorities blame this on the extreme left among the students.

But all the signs point the other way. Last week, a girl school student, Georgiana Masi, was shot by the police in Rome. Plain-clothes police dressed up as demonstrators infiltrated a meeting called by the civil rights group, the Radical Party. Journalists who tried to report the meeting were beaten up by uniformed police. And then, at the weekend, armed police set upon both a peaceful ceremony in memory of Georgiana and a student protest sit-in.

No wonder that around the fringes of the student movement there have developed some anarchist-inclined groups that, out of anger, take to sniping at the police—a tactic that, however understandable following the succession of murders by the police, can only play into the police's hands.

# Law and Order week

IT'S BEEN an interesting week for law and order.

First and foremost the great porn trial of half London's most senior policemen came to an end, with Wallace, Virgo and other old favourites being found guilty of accepting bribes from Soho porn merchants and getting the jail.

Throughout the trial there were the strongest indications that someone right at the top of the Scotland Yard command structure was also on the take. Predictably he has been protected.

John Poulson, that other paragon of British business virtue, also walked out of prison on parole this week after serving less than half his seven-year sentence.

As Poulson was coming out, Andy Strouthous was going in. He got the jail for defying an injunction which prevented him from entering the premises of the North East London Polytechnic Students Union, of which he has again been re-elected president. A clearer example of the real role of law and order in our society you'd be hard put to find.

release from Woodstock jail, where he had been committed for his part in the great Pullman strike. Debs said: 'There's something wrong in this country: the judicial nets are so adjusted as to catch the minnows and let the whales slip through and the federal judge is as far removed from the common people as if he inhabited another planet.'

In Walls and Bars, one of several essays published after his death in 1925, Debs hit home even harder.

## Sacred

To buttress and safeguard this exploiting system the private property of the capitalist has been made a fetish' a sacred thing, and thousands of laws have been enacted and more thousands supplemented by court decisions to punish so called crimes against the holy institution of private property.

.....Under the capitalist system there is far more concern about property and infinitely greater care in its conservation than in human life.

'Multiplied thousands of men women and children are killed and maimed in American industry by absolutely preventable accidents every year. Yet no one ever dreams of indicting the capitalist masters who are guilty of the crime.'

What was true in 1925 is just as true today.

How else would the Lonrho Swindlers have escaped prosecution?

How else could the asbestos firm Turner and Newall, having killed its workers, get away with the legal robbery involved in cheating their widows out of even halfway adequate compensation to offset a little of their sorrow.

All credit to Andy Strouthous for standing up against this mountain of lies and hypocrisy that goes by the name of the rule of law. All credit to him for refusing to be cowed by the violence and the might of the state machine.

But Andy Strouthous needs more than credit and sympathy. He needs practical assistance.

As the dockers at Pentonville and the miners at Saltley have shown the naked power of the state can be defeated.

## Bully

Unless of course you took a trip to Bournemouth, where Britain's postal workers were in conference. There they were debating whether they should let the law bully and intimidate them into standing aside and watching their brothers and sisters on strike for union recognition at Grunwick's get smashed.

Mtchael Foot told them on Sunday that while they certainly shouldn't trust the judges, they should hang on until parliament debates their case.

But by then Grunwick's will have been decided. And parliament is unlikely to do very much unless there is massive trade union pressure.

Anyway what is this system of law and order that Tories, newspaper editors and the legions of Labour moderates so deeply cherish and revere?

The great American socialist leader Eugene V Debs had it taped. Which is not surprising. He knew about it at first hand since it put him in jail repeatedly for fighting and organising for working-class freedom.

In a speech in 1895 after his

# THE LUXURY OF TRUST HOUSE FORTE . . . . . THE



Inside the Cafe Royal, Regent Street

**THREE-quarters of a million workers in the hotels and catering industry are not in trade unions.**

Every attempt to organise the industry has met with intimidation and sackings.

In Oxford, Sheffield and Birmingham, three groups of workers have been on strike for trade union recognition. All three strikes began when Trust House Forte, the largest hotel and catering group in Europe, sacked shop stewards and other trade union members.

The strike in Oxford and Sheffield has lasted five months. In Birmingham it will soon be three months.

For nearly three-quarters of a million workers it can mean the chance to belong to a trade union and the opportunity to improve their wages and working conditions.

For much of the strikes the trade union involved, the Transport and General Workers Union, gave only token support. The general secretary, Jack Jones, and the executive refused to organise national blacking of Trust House Forte.

Then the Midlands regions of the TGWU took the sort of action that could have won all the strikes. The print-your-own-money motorway service stations run by Trust House Forte are being blacked by TGWU lorry drivers.

This is the sort of action that can open the way for trade union organisation throughout hotels and catering.

Every trade unionist should support all such strikes, and organise now to win trade union recognition throughout the whole of Trust House Forte.

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 PAUL FOOT

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**SEND THIS SLIP TO: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.**

The empire that must be stopped...

**RIGHT TO WO**

THE strikers have appealed for national blacking of Trust House Forte until the company agrees to recognise the trade union members.

Trust House Forte own hotels, motorway service stations, shops, restaurants. They own all three piers at Blackpool.

They also run the commercial catering in factories and offices up

and down the country. This is organised through a subsidiary called Gardner Merchants. Most factory canteens are run by Gardner Merchants.

They own Lilly Whites shops, all the Post House hotels, and many other hotels, and the following service stations on motorways:

Scratchwood, Newport Pagnell, Woodall, Keele, Corley, Charnock Richard, Gordano Services, Burtonwood.

They own Little Chefs, Henekey Inns and restaurants, most airport restaurants, bars and cafeterias, and major hotels in every town and city centre.

Workers in Gardners Merchants are usually in trade unions. In the hotel



# THE WORKERS THEY EXPLOIT TO GET IT . . . AND THOSE FIGHTING BACK



Sunday, 7pm, Mortimer Street.

CATERING workers sleeping in the streets waiting for work. Each night in Mortimer Street in Central London a queue of casual workers forms outside an office of the Department of Employment.

This picture (left) was taken around 7pm on Sunday evening. These workers sleep on the streets until 7am the following day when a Department of Employment official takes their names in the order they arrived.

At 8am the lucky ones are allocated jobs in the luxury hotels and restaurants of Central London. Others might wait until 10am or even 11am before they are given jobs.

Many will be told there are no more casual jobs available that day.

After queuing all night the job you are given might only be for a few hours. At most a casual worker might get £5 for a few hours work and a night asleep on the streets.

The same queuing must be gone through the next day to get another casual job. All the big hotel and catering companies hire some workers in this way.

Wages are pathetically low. The government minimum legal rate is just 75p an hour. According to the Low Pay Unit, many casual workers don't get even this.



Sheffield workers march in support of the Grosvenor Hotel strikers back in February

**IGNITION STRIKES**  
**CK**  
**SE**  
**RTE**  
**RK CAMPAIGN**

## Battling against the Forte thieves

THE Night Out Club in Birmingham is one of Trust House Forte's expanding theatre restaurants. It can cost up to £20 for a ticket for two to have a meal and listen to Mike Yarwood or Jack Jones (the singer, of course).

It would take the waitresses who serve the tables nearly two weeks to earn that sort of money.

Gwen Lewis, one of the waitresses, who joined the Transport and General Workers Union at the Night Out and has been on strike for three months, told Socialist Worker: 'You had to come in between 6pm and 6.30 to get ready, six nights a week. And you stay until you finish.'

'There are no regular hours, no overtime. Sometimes I was there at midnight. If customers came in at 10.15 you still had to start serving them.'

### Hours

'They pay you £2.65 a night and 18p per customer gratuity.'

Jean Dunn worked days. Her job was laying tables before the evening.

For laying out a place mat, one knife, one spoon, two forks, placing serviettes in glasses, carrying baskets of cutlery to the tables, washing ashtrays and the table tops, she got just 2p a mat. At 144 mats or covers a day that works out at £2.88.



The Night Out picket line, Birmingham

Again there are no set hours and no overtime payments. Said Jean: 'It meant working sometimes three or four or five hours. Nine times out of ten it meant

reclaiming the cutlery as well because the dishwasher was so lousy.'

'We even had to supply our own clothes for the washing up. The job is six days a week. Often the cutlery was soaking wet.'

'I asked the supervisor about overalls. It was a waste of bloody time.'

### Belong

Trust House Forte claim that the workers at the Night Out don't want to belong to the TGWU. Rocco Forte, a director and the son of Sir Charles Forte, even says they had a ballot which showed that most of the workers didn't want to be in the union.

Jean Dunn told Socialist Worker what really happened.

## Forces against the strikers



SIR CHARLES FORTE. He owns two and a half million shares in Trust House Forte. Last year alone the dividend on his shares brought him about £60,000 a week. He is making about £400 an hour even when he is asleep.

On top of this he gets directors' salaries and fringe benefits such as the white Rolls-Royce and chauffeur. He has for his personal use.

One of Sir Charles' business associates was John Stonehouse, now in Brixton Prison. While Stonehouse was being extradited from Australia, Sir Charles suddenly resigned in a great hurry from the board of London Capital Securities, the company at the heart of Stonehouse's crooked business empire.

His son, Rocco Forte, is also a director of Trust House Forte. He did own just 100,000 shares, but last year he managed to scrape together the money needed to buy himself another million.

Sir Charles has used his wealth to acquire, among other things, the dinner service of the last Russian Tsar, Nicholas II. Nicholas was shot on the orders of the revolutionary workers' council of Petrograd during the Russian Revolution.

Perhaps one day the same thing will happen to Sir Charles.

'One day the manager, Clive Preston, called all the workers together and got on the stage. He made a speech attacking the union, saying that the place would be shut down and no-one would have a job if the union came in. He said the place would close within a week.'

'People who were in the union were rung up by the supervisor at home and asked to leave. There was someone going round with a list trying to find out who was in the union.'

'That's when they held the ballot.'

'I joined the union because I was so appalled at what went on in the place. I'd complained about things a few times and I'd been told if I didn't like it to get out.'

'Why the hell should we get out? We've a right to improve our conditions. If everyone walked away from a job nothing would ever get improved anywhere. All their profits come from exploiting people.'

'If they'd known I was in the union they'd have had me out straight away.'

Instead Jean Dunn and 20 other workers came out on strike when Trust House Forte sacked the shop steward, Pat McGuire.

'Nobody needs money more than I do,' said Jean, 'but we are not going back until we win. It's the principle.'

'They're afraid of us, of what we'll be like when we go back in there after winning.'

THE Daily Express and Daily Mail have launched a press witchhunt against the Trust House Forte strikers. Last week both newspapers devoted whole pages to denouncing the strikers.

This week in the High Court an attempt will be made to get an injunction to stop picketing of the Night Out Club in Birmingham.

Just a week ago the National Front supporter, the Dowager Lady Birdwood, led an anti-trade union mob through the picket lines at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford. Forty Oxford trade unionists were arrested by the police assembled to protect Lady Birdwood.

In Birmingham the manager of the Night Out led a mob of 80 scabs to assault and beat up pickets, shouting 'Let's get the rubbish off the pavement!'

Trust House Forte have been putting full-page advertisements into national newspapers attacking the strikers, at a cost of about £45,000.

The men who control this massive hotel and catering empire are prepared to use virtually any means to smash the strikes for trade union recognition.

According to a government report, the vast majority of the 750,000 workers employed in hotels and catering are not in trade unions. For nearly all this means appalling wages and worse conditions. There is virtually no security of employment, instant dismissal is commonplace.

Many workers depend on their jobs for their accommodation and so aren't complain.

Thousands of other workers are casual, brought in for a single day. Thousands more, over half in London, are immigrants. If they are sacked they lose their work permits and can be deported.

The profits of organisations such as Trust House Forte are built on these foundations. Last year Trust House Forte made £23 million. In the coming year they expect to make around £34 million.

According to the Daily Mail: 'THF shares show all the signs of becoming one of the City's darlings.'

Trust House Forte are now the biggest hotel and catering group in Britain. Much of the expansion of hotel rooms was possible because of government subsidies. Subsidies ran at the rate of £1,000 a new hotel room between 1969 and 1973. Over £50 million was dished out.

holiday section by all employees in trade unions. and conditions established locally. early every case they appalling.

Contact the workers, make sure the delivery there, make sure they know what's going on, drivers know—SPREAD THE BLACKING!

SUPPORT THE STRIKE FUNDS.

Grosvenor Hotel Strike Committee, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

Night Out Strike Committee, Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.

HOTEL WORKERS ACTION COMMITTEE organised to bring together rank and file hotel workers. Write to 127 Botley Road, Oxford.

Every Trades Council, Right to Work Committee, branch of the Socialist Workers Party near a Trust House establishment.

# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

## Socialist Worker public meetings

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

### Scotland

**DUNDEE** Socialist Worker meetings on the Meaning of Marxism: Wednesdays 7.30pm. Socialist Worker Bookshop, 128 Victoria Road.  
25 May: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Bob Fotheringham.

**DUNDEE** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Alan Barclay. Wednesday 8 June, 7.30pm. Socialist Worker Bookshop, 128 Victoria Road.

**SCOTTISH** speaking tour by Barney Mokgalle, from Soweto, South Africa: Victory to the Freedom Fighters!

**STIRLING**: Monday 23 May, 1pm. Stirling University, and 8pm. Stirling Labour Club.

**ABERDEEN**: Tuesday 24 May, 8pm. Music Hall, Union Street. NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE.

**GLASGOW**: Wednesday 25 May, 1pm. Strathclyde University Students Union, and 5pm. Blairtummock House, Wardie Road, Easterhouse.

**EDINBURGH**: Thursday 26 May, 8pm. Societies Centre, Hill Place.

**DUNFERMLINE**: Friday 27 May, 7.30pm. Carnegie Baths.

**EDINBURGH** Socialist Workers Party/Womens Voice discussion groups on Womens Politics. Saturdays, 11.30am. Room 6, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place (top of Leith Walk).

21 May: Raising the Roof!—Rent and housing struggles.

28 May: Food prices—climbing the butter mountain.

**GLASGOW** Socialist Workers Party **COLOSSAL CHARBANC CAPER** (bus run to Ayr): Sunday 22 May, leaves Georges Square, 10am. Adults £2, weans free! Tickets from 64 Queen Street (phone 041 221 3428).

**PAISLEY** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Which Way Forward for Socialism? A debate between the SWP and Militant. Thursday 26 May, 7.30pm. Paisley Town Hall.

**PAISLEY** Socialist Workers Party Meaning of Marxism series: The Fight for the Right to Work. Speaker: Willie Dolan (Right to Work Campaign). Tuesday 31 May, 7.30pm. Paisley Trade Union Centre.

**EASTER ROSS** Socialist Workers Party fund-raising dance: Friday 3 June, 9pm-1am. Balmagowan Hotel, Tain. Dance to Tumbleweeds. Late Licence.

**GLASGOW WEST** Socialist Workers Party meetings on the Case for Socialism. Every Saturday, 2pm-4pm. Partick Burgh Halls.

21 May: Whose Crisis?

Socialist Worker Youth Movement **SCOTTISH WEEKEND SCHOOL**: 4-5 June at Stirling University. Sessions on: Organising school students, Right to Work Campaign, Apprentices etc. Details from 64 Queen Street, Glasgow. There will be facilities to watch the England-Scotland game.

**GLASGOW WEST** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Crisis, the Social Contract and the Socialist Alternative. Thursday 26 May, 7.30pm. Clydebank Town Hall.

**FALKIRK** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Fight the Health cuts! Speaker: Anne Alden (nurse). Chair: Charlie Penn (IGWU). Tuesday 7 June, 7.30pm. Temperance Cafe.

### North East

**DURHAM** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: World Crisis. A cassette recording by Nigel Harris. Thursday 2 June, 8pm. Colpitts Hotel, Sutton Street, Durham.

**JARROW/HEBBURN** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Traditions, origins and perspectives of the SWP. Speaker: Colin Crane. Wednesday 18 May, 8pm. Borough Arms, Jarrow.

### Yorkshire

**MINERS FOR SOCIALISM**: Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings for Yorkshire miners: Both at 7.30pm at the Devonshire Hotel, Barnsley (next to bus station).

Sunday 29 May: Nationalisation and workers' control. Speaker: John Charlton.



## The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg

Lenin. In Russia he's been made into an icon, in the West a totalitarian baby-eater. Paul Ginsborg's pamphlet rescues Lenin from these myths and portrays him as he really was—a brilliant, compassionate man who played an indispensable role in building a socialist party in the Russian working class which enabled those workers, however briefly, to seize state power. 27p (including postage) from Socialist Worker Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

### North West

#### Socialist Workers Party EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Saturday 28 May, 11am-5pm, Polytechnic of Central London

Shaun Doherty on BEING A SOCIALIST TEACHER

Paul Ashton on THE NEW BLACK PAPER

Workshops on HAVE STANDARDS FALLEN?

WHAT IS COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION, and other PLUS

National meeting for all teachers in the SWP—supporters welcome.

Sunday 29 May, 10.30am-4.30pm, Polytechnic of Central London.

### Bradford Central Socialist Workers Party

meets every Thursday, Textile Hall, Westgate, Bradford.

26 May is the Labour Party socialist? Speaker: Richard Cawood.

9 June: Racism, the new Nazis and how to fight them. Speaker: Geoff Robertson.

**HALIFAX** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract. Friday 27 May, 7.45pm, Room A, Harrison House, Harrison Road (next to police station).

**YORKSHIRE** Socialist Workers Party health and safety school: Saturday 11 June, 11am. Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Leeds. Pooled fare system. Details, contact Derek Howe, 13 Cliff Mount, Leeds 6.

### Humberside

**HULL** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract! Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 1 June, 8pm, Room 8, YPI, George Street. Admission 10p.

**GRIMSBY** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Is Russia Socialist? Speaker to be arranged. Thursday 26 May, 8pm, County Hotel (near Old Market). All supporters welcome.

**SCUNTHORPE** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why You Should be a Socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 2 June, 7.30pm, Central Community Centre, Lindum Street, Scunthorpe.

### Midlands

**WILLENHALL AND WALSALL** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: What would replace capitalism with? Tuesday 31 May, 8pm, The Falcon, Gomer Street, Willenhall.

**WALSALL** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract! Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydeside) and a local trade unionist. Tuesday 24 May, 8pm, Red Lion, Park Street.

**STOKE-ON-TRENT**: All interested in local socialist discussion meetings and/or helping local activities of the Socialist Workers Party, please contact Stoke SWP, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**LEAMINGTON** Socialist Workers Party supporters meeting: The Rank and File and Trade Union Democracy. Wednesday 25 May, 8.15pm, Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street (postponed from 11 May).

### East Anglia

**LOWESTOFT** Socialist Workers Party jumble sale: Saturday 28 May, 2.15pm, British Legion Hall, Clifton Road.

**COLCHESTER** SWP public meeting: CAST present Sam the Man, their hilarious 75-minute show about the Labour Party. Wednesday 1 June, more details later.

### South East

**MAIDSTONE** Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Mondays, 8pm, The Old Palace, Mill Street.

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD** Socialist Workers Party ANTI-JUBILEE DISCO: Friday 18 June, 8pm-late, The Cellar, Old Town Hall, High Street, Disco, bar.

**ESSEX** Socialist Workers Party day school: Rank and file organisation—why we need it and how we can build it. Speakers include Duncan Hallas and Kevin Prior (AUEW shop steward, Heathrow Airport). Group discussions on women, docks, print engineers, public sector, buses, Fords, firemen. Saturday 4 June, 10.45am-4.30pm in Chelmsford. Plus Anti-Jubilee Disco in evening. Details from Chelmsford 59129.

**CANTERBURY** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Tuesday 24 May, 8pm, Prince of Wales, 51 King Street.

### London

**SOUTHWARK** Socialist Workers Party public meetings: The Stirling Castle, Camberwell Church Street (near Camberwell Green), London SE5. All at 8pm.

Thursday 19 May: The fight against racism.

Wednesday 1 June: Why we need a revolutionary socialist party.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Alternates: Wednesdays, 8pm, Charlton House, The Village, SE7. Speaker: Nigel Harris. 25 May: China.

**Socialist Workers Party GAY GROUP** meets alternate Mondays in London. Contact Penny Old (01-405 2705) or Richard Tarry, 19 Redman's Road, London E1 (01-790 2454).

**CROYDON** Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane.

19 May: The Spanish Civil War. Speaker: Mike Marriott. 25 May: Nationalism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**HACKNEY** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The crisis in prisons. Peter Chappell speaks about prison and the George Davis Campaign. Also a speaker from the Hull 76 Campaign, with slides, on the riot at Hull Prison. Monday 23 May, 7.30pm; Britannia Pub, Mare Street (next to Hackney Town Hall).

**WANDSWORTH** Rock Against Racism benefit social: Red Rims, plus disco Saturday 28 May 8pm-12 midnight. Admission 75p (unemployed 35p). All proceeds to defend those arrested on the 23 April anti-NF demo.

**EAST LONDON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Women, Depression and Big Business. Speakers: Dave Widgey (GP) and Denise Fenn (Women's Voice). Tuesday 24 May, 7.30pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road, Plaistow, E13 (off Barking Road).

**ISLINGTON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Whose Law and Order? Speakers: John Deason (Right to Work Campaign), Peter Chapple (Free George Davis Campaign), Kim Gordon (Islington 18 Defence Committee). Wednesday 1 June, 8pm, North Library, Manor Gardens, London N7.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM** day school: Sessions on the theoretical tasks today and producing, selling and ISJ, plus specialist workshops. Saturday 11 June, 10.15am to 5pm, Room 1.15, Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish Street, London WC1. All readers and contributors welcome. Registrations and inquiries to: ISJ, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (phone 01-739 2639).

**HAMMERSMITH AND KENSINGTON** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Whose Law and Order? Speaker: Pete Fysh (Right to Work marcher). Wednesday 8 June, 8pm, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street.

**ISLINGTON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Law and Order. Speakers: Peter Chappell (George Davis Defence Campaign) and John Deason (Right to Work Campaign). Wednesday 1 June, 8pm, place to be announced.

**HACKNEY AND STOKE NEWINGTON** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The need for a rank and file movement. Speaker: Gerry Marsden. Thursday 19 May, 8pm, Centerprise, Kingsland Road, London, E8. All SW readers welcome.

**EAST LONDON** Socialist Worker Youth Movement disco: Saturday 21 May, 8pm, NELP Student Union, Longbridge Road, Barking 50p, school students and unemployed 30p.

### Action in the unions

**CIVIL SERVICE**: Meeting for all SWP members and supporters in the civil service in Scotland, Saturday 21 May, 2pm, Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

**AUEW**: National meeting for all SWP members in the Engineering Union, Saturday 28 May, 12 noon-5.30pm, The Mire Hotel, Cathedral Gates, Manchester 3.

**SCOTTS AND NORTHERN WHITE COLLAR WORKERS** Socialist Workers Party conference. Saturday 11 June, in Sheffield. Details, ring 01-739 6273.

**HEALTH SERVICE WORKERS**: National meeting for all Socialist Worker Party members and supporters in the NHS. Saturday 11 June, 1pm to 5pm, Trades Union Bookshop, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. Discussion on the Social Contract. Save Our Hospitals Campaign, and Building Hospital Worker groups. (All CHSE members to meet at 11.30am).

**NOISS** National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

**MARXISM 77—HELP WANTED!** Can you spare some time between 1-8 July to help organise the running of Marxism 77 at North London Poly (on rate basis). Phone Lindsey German, 01-739 1878.

### SW Notices

**BE A BOOKSHOP MANAGER!** Enthusiastic and responsible comrade wanted for thriving SWP district. Start June-July. Write to Socialist and TU Books, 224 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham 12 (phone 021-643 5717).

**COMRADE URGENTLY NEEDS ROOM**, PREFERABLY IN SWP house/flat, North or Central London. Phone Eli or Terry, 01-609 1260.

**URGENT! Comrade needs accommodation** in South London. Phone Lynden, 0442-52186.

**SOCIALIST WORKER CIRCULATION** is looking for a comrade to work 25-30 hours a week. Applicants should have some office experience, be prepared to work very hard and efficiently, and be able to type. Details, phone John Larkham, 01-739 2639 or write to SW Circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

**May issue of FIGHT**, paper of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement, out now. Single copy 10p (including postage). Orders over 10, 5p each post free. Orders to: SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow.

**The new hours of TU BOOKS**, Basement, 260 Deansgate, Manchester, are Monday-Friday 12 noon-2pm and 4.30pm-6.30pm, and Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm. Volunteers and cans of paint needed.

**WANTED! A DUPLICATOR**—phone Jim Tierney, Alloa 723304, as soon as possible please.

**SNP** Would the anonymous comrade who sent an article to Socialist Workers on the SNP please send their name to Laurie Flynn, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. (phone 01-739 6361).

**1000 BRICKS FOR SALE** Proceeds to SW fighting fund. Details, phone Mel Norris 01 739 1870.

**RAR** Broadsheet now available. Temporary Holding around the slogan Love Music/Hate Racism. 10 copies for £1. Buy it and sell it RAR T-Shirts. Yellow with red RAR symbol. State small medium or large (note: small is small!) £2 each (inc. post and packaging). RAR Badges 22p (inc post) 10 for £1.50 post free.

Contact us through 6 Cottons Gardens London E2. All monies go into gigs and producing more propaganda.



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM** day school: Sessions on the theoretical tasks today and producing, selling and ISJ, plus specialist workshops. Saturday 11 June, 10.15am to 5pm, Room 1.15, Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish Street, London WC1. All readers and contributors welcome. Registrations and inquiries to: ISJ, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (phone 01-739 2639).

**HAMMERSMITH AND KENSINGTON** Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Whose Law and Order? Speaker: Pete Fysh (Right to Work marcher). Wednesday 8 June, 8pm, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street.

# MARXISM 77

Seven days of revolutionary socialist ideas and discussion at the Polytechnic of North London, Friday 1 July to Friday 8 July.

Just some of the things planned for the evenings throughout the week.

- Tony Cliff on The Russian Revolution
- Ian Gibson on Them and Us in Science
- Edmund Saluka on Workers' Struggle in Eastern Europe.
- Marxism and Drama Today—a discussion led off by leading socialist playwrights, who include Trevor Griffiths (Bill Brand), David Edgar (Destiny, Wreckers), Steve Gooch (Female Transport).
- Films include the superb Battle for Chile (parts one and two), Chile: The Reckoning, Black Holiday, October, Battleship Potemkin.

Registration fee £5. Send to Marxism 77, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies.



**WOMEN'S VOICE** Equal Pay stickers: Printed in red. Three sheets (of 12 each) for 50p including postage, from Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Money with orders only.

### DEPORTATIONS



**PAMPHLET ON THE DEPORTATIONS** out now in English, Greek and Turkish. 28p for one copy (postage included). £1 for 5 copies from Cypriot Defence Campaign, 90 Mountview Road, London N4.

### Socialist Worker

**NEW LEAFLET** for Socialist Worker estate rounds, etc. Two colours, A5 size. £3 per 1,000 from SW Circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cash with order only.

### STATE AND REVOLUTION

A 30-minute recorded cassette designed to introduce socialist discussion. Harry McShane, former secretary of the Scottish Unemployed Workers Movement, in the 1930s, gives a brief introduction to the problem of the state and revolution.

Marx said that to build socialism, workers would have to overthrow the capitalist state and set up their own workers' state. Why? How would it work? How can we avoid things going wrong, as in Russia?

£1 including postage from SOCIALIST WORKER RECORDINGS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Send stamped, addressed envelope for full list.

## DOWN THE ROAD

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

Sarah Cox and Robert Golden

**DOWN THE ROAD—Unemployment and the Fight for the Right to Work.** 132 pages of arguments, facts, poems and photographs. The authors are giving their 'royalties' to the Right to Work Campaign.

**£1.50, plus 17p postage, from the Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.**

Have a Socialist night out!

**SHIPLEY** Socialist Workers Party Jumble Sale: Friday 27 May, 6pm-9pm, Glen Room, Victoria Hall, Saltaire. Jumble still required, if you have any ring Shipley 55913 or 593669 for collection.

**CARDIFF** Flame and Chingari present: ROCK AGAINST RACISM. A musical extravaganza, with Mountain Child, Watkins Wobly Rock Band, 7th Hotel and others. Friday 20 May, 8pm-1pm, Central Hotel, St Mary Street. Late bar. For further details phone Mike Pearson, Cardiff 397403. Tickets available from 108 Bookshop, Salisbury Road, Cathays, Cardiff, and SWP Bookshop, 58 Bridge Street, Cardiff Central.

**EASTER ROSS** Socialist Workers Party jumble/bring and buy sale: Saturday 21 May, 2pm-4pm, Averon Centre, Ainess.

**Socialist Workers Party INTERNATIONAL FUND-RAISING SOCIAL**: Friday 20 May, 21 Bryantwood Road, London, N7. Food served from 8pm to 10pm only. Exotic Middle Eastern food, £1 for as much as you can eat! Drink, music, fun for all! Tickets in advance from Eli and Terry, and at the door. Phone 01-609 1260. Come early.

**TOWER HAMLETS** Socialist Workers Party Social: Saturday 21 May, 8pm, 19 Redman's Road, London, E1. Food, raffles, beer. Admission 50p plus a bottle. All SW readers welcome. Proceeds to Fighting Fund.

**LEA VALLEY** Socialist Workers Party Jumble Sale: Tuesday 31 May, 8.00pm, (YWCA Hall) 628 High Road, N17. Refreshments available. Please phone 808 9057 or 808 3200 with any offers of jumble.

# How they 'celebrated' the Jubilee of 1898

A GREAT number of organizations of quite a different stamp were preparing to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the ascension of Queen Victoria to the throne.

Diamond Jubilee Day was 22 June.

The Independent Socialist Republican Party decided to celebrate the day in its own way with a meeting in Foster Place on the 21st.

The principal speaker was to be Maud Gonne but the celebration under the slogan, 'Down with the Monarchy; long live the Republic', expanded far beyond that.

Readily joining with James Connolly in preparing the anti-Jubilee demonstrations, she obtained a window in Parnell (then Rutland) Square from which lantern slides could be thrown on a large screen.

TO DIM DUBLIN'S FESTIVE LIGHTS, IT WAS ARRANGED WITH THE WORKERS THAT THERE WOULD BE ELECTRICAL 'FAULTS'



## Coffin

To dim the festive lights which could compete with the slides, it was arranged with city workers that electrical faults would occur at the appropriate time. Daniel O'Brien made a large black coffin on which were inscribed the words 'British Empire'. To lead the procession which was to accompany it through the streets Connolly obtained the services of a workers' band whose instruments would then represent small loss if the police destroyed them.

Maud Gonne then set to work turning out black flags embroidered with the facts on famines and evictions which had marked Victoria's reign, the fruits of Connolly's research.

The convention of the '98 Commemoration Committee was in session on Jubilee Day, as an act of contempt for the Crown, when the band appeared.

The chairman promptly suspended the sitting so as to allow the delegates to join the procession. Such was the simple nature of political protest at the time.

At the head of the procession was a rickety handcart draped in the semblance of a hearse and bearing the coffin. It was pushed by a member of the Irish Socialist Republican Party.

Maud Gonne and Yeats were in the procession, distributing their black flags, as it moved solemnly down Dame Street to the sound of a funeral march.

## Clubbing

By the time the procession reached O'Connell Bridge, police from Dublin Castle, the seat of British rule, were clubbing heads to disperse the spectators.

Connolly soon saw that the procession could not cross the bridge. In a flash of inspira-

tion he ordered the coffin to be thrown into the Liffey River, crying out, 'Here goes the coffin of the British Empire. To hell with the British Empire.'

Connolly was promptly arrested and spent the night in prison. But his arrest did not halt the day's demonstration. As planned, the city was in a black-out when night fell, but a large crowd gathered around Maud Gonne's magic lantern in Parnell Square.

Even though the events at O'Connell Bridge had attracted some of the younger men, many women, children and old people remained to watch. These were baton-charged by the police, and one old woman was killed.

The indignant crowd surged

down to Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) and smashed all the windows with portraits of the Queen and other Jubilee decorations.

It was Connolly's first demonstration and, though it was not impressive, it won headlines in foreign newspapers, and satisfactorily showed that not all Ireland worshipped Queen Victoria.

## Cork

A few black flags flew in Limerick, and one was flown from the municipal flagstaff of Cork, after Con O'Lyhane and his friends stormed the fire station and tore down the Union Jack.

In 1911 demonstrations took place against the coronation of King Edward VII and his impending visit to Ireland.

Once again black flags flew in Limerick and Kilkenny. In Dublin, Countess Markievicz conducted a meeting outside the Sinn Fein office in Harcourt Street which the police broke up.

Connolly spoke at his usual stand, Beresford Place on the Liffey. He also issued a

## Jubilee Mugs

manifesto protesting the visit and urging the workers to stand by the dignity of your class.

He called 'these parading royalties, all this insolent aristocracy, all these grovelling, dirt-eating capitalist traitors... signs of disease in any social state.'

He urged the workers not to participate in any form in the visit, said that every man or woman should have an equal opportunity to attain to the proudest position in the land, and ended with a poem declaring

*That the Thinker and the Worker*

*Are Manhood's only Kings.*

For distributing this manifesto, Walter Carpenter, a member of the Socialist Party of Ireland, was sentenced to three months in jail.

HOW YOU CAN CELEBRATE THE BIG OCCASION THIS YEAR

A scene from Jubilations, North West Spanner's 40 minute cabaret for socials and meetings.

Betty Windsor's been here for 25 years, yet up and down the country thousands of people are actively engaged in continuing the shams of monarchy with jubilee celebrations.

Get an inside look into the royal family's home life—a fleeting glimpse at the past 25 years with guest appearances by Arthur Greengate, well-known member of the TUC national executive and much more.

Then there's the outdoor show...

What has a 15-foot policeman with a parrot on his shoulder got to do with a North West

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In the 25-minute extravaganza, designed specially for outside performances, a dreaded red spectacle emerges triumphant over everyone.

Can be done anywhere, anytime—outside the factory gates, inside if you can get us in, in the precincts, parks, backs of pubs etc.

To book Spanner's new attraction, phone them on 061-881 7845 or Mossley 4627, or write to Drill Hall, Manchester Rd, Mossley, Ashton-u-Lyne, Lancs.

# LABOUR'S BETRAYAL

I RECENTLY attended a meeting addressed by a leading member of the Tribune group of Labour MPs.

During the discussion about the Labour government, he argued for the need to be patient.

It was admitted that the government's policies were wrong but one needed to continue patiently the fight for alternatives within the Labour Party.

A week later, I decided to leave the Labour Party, which I joined 18 years before, and become a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

During my membership of the Labour Party I had frequently been frustrated by the direction in which it was heading. But I always accepted that one has a

WHY I'VE QUIT BY MORECAMBE ACTIVIST FRED ROBERTS



responsibility to campaign for the policies within the party.

So I became active at all the local levels, including becoming a councillor at borough and county level.

## EFFECT

All through this period I considered that if socialism was to be achieved it would be through a Labour government.

Well, we have had Labour

governments and to what effect?

Pay freezes, immigration acts, cuts in social services and anti-trade union legislation ultimately leading to a reduction in the standard of living of the working class.

As a councillor I have listened to Labour spokesmen, in the interests of 'free speech', allow fascists to meet in public halls. And I am told that I must be patient.

I have seen people like Roy Jenkins, the man who kept

the Shrewsbury Two in jail, use the Labour Party to gain a soft job in Europe. Still I am told to be patient.

Eighteen years is a long time to be patient and at last I have decided that enough is enough.

It is not easy to break the links with a party that one has worked and fought for over a considerable period of one's life.

Nevertheless, I must say to comrades who still hold the illusion that a Labour government will introduce socialism: how much longer are you prepared to wait?

To me, the party that has a consistent record in supporting workers in struggle and an exemplary record in the fight against racialism is the SWP.

That is why I am now a member.

# STUFF THE JUBILEE!

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FROM Socialist Worker Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

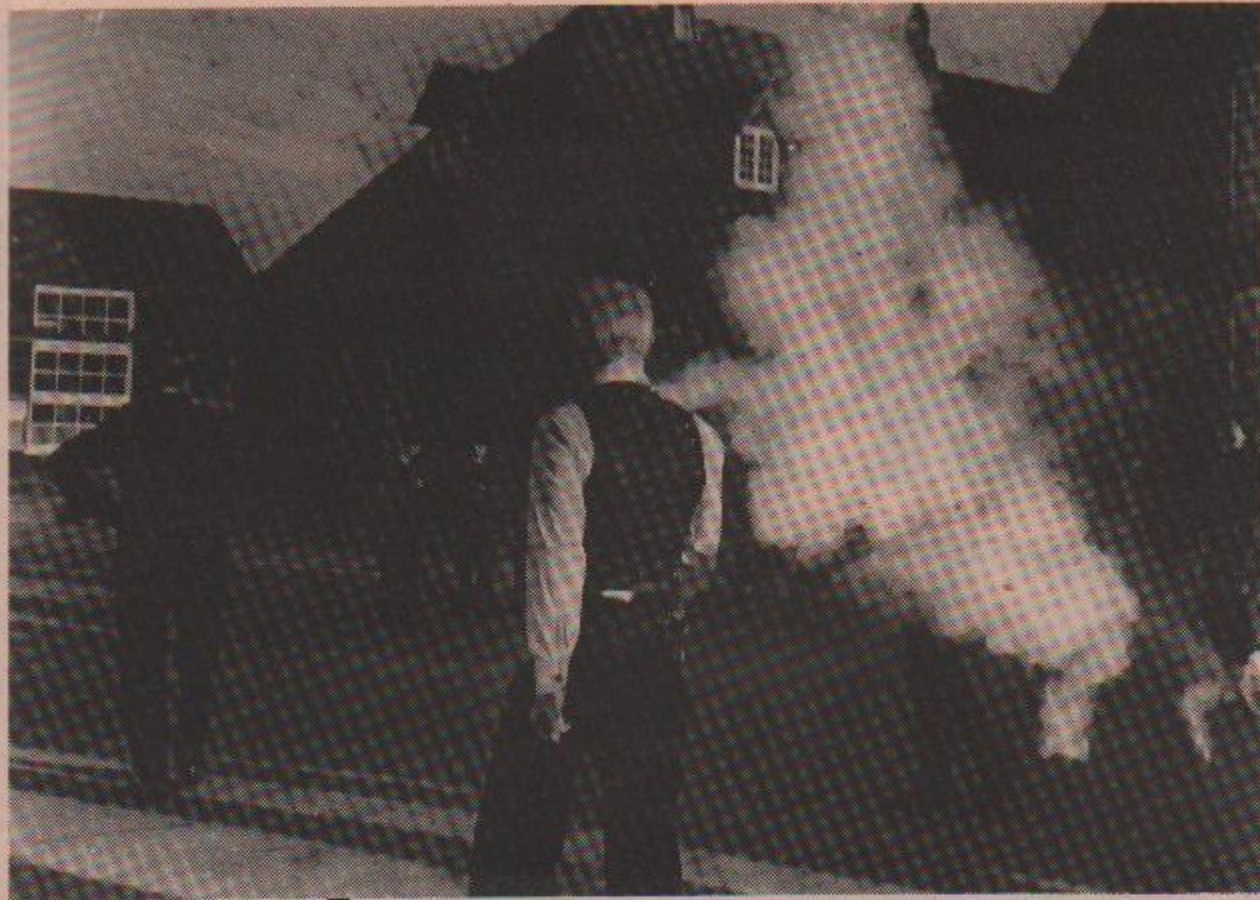


ANTI-JUBILEE POSTERS: Red and black, 30 for £1 (£1.50 if by post) or £3 for 100 (£4 if by post) from SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.



ANTI-JUBILEE BADGES: Red and black, 20p each, ten for £1.50, 50 for £7, 100 for £13, from Sherri Yanowitz, 116 Fortune Green Road, London NW6.

CASH WITH ALL ORDERS PLEASE



## WARNING: We know what fascists do to the unions

THE fascist front is again attempting to infiltrate the trade unions. They have announced the setting up of the 'National Front Railwaymen's Association' to try and recruit workers to their cause.

The Nazis are trying to gain a base in the unions for their ends. They do not believe in the unity and solidarity which should be the foundation of a union, they are only interested in dividing worker against worker, so doing the bosses' work for them.

In 1974 NF members at Imperial Typewriters in Leicester scabbed on striking Asian workers. A year later,

when the bosses closed the factory, they were nowhere to be seen, but their racialism had so divided the workers that a fight against the closure was not possible.

These nazis have nothing to say about the real problems workers face.

What has Gerald Camp, an EETPU shop steward at Metal Box, Leicester, got to say about the Social Contract? Nothing—he just complains about the blacks—but last year his racialism almost got him on to Leicester Council.

What does Gerald Harper, a NUPE steward at Stafford Hospital, say about fighting the cuts? Nothing—and this time, in a branch ballot, the members voted to get rid of him because being a Nazi was incompatible with being a good trade unionist.

This is what should be done about the Nazis. No union can afford to have in it members who are actively trying to have a section of the membership thrown out of the country (not just the union!).

These people don't want the unions to be fighting organisations of working people—they just want to use them as a rung on their ladder to power, just as they did in Nazi Germany. Once the Nazis got to power there the unions were outlawed.

The problems we face—unemployment, cuts, wage freezes—are clear and we must be organising a fight back against them. In this situation the racist mutterings of the National Front are dangerous, divisive nonsense which can only distract us from the real fight.

□ WAYNE ASHER.

## Airport: Were we wrong?

I AM NOT a regular reader of Socialist Worker but bought a copy of last week's issue.

Of particular interest was the article on page 11 about British Airways. This contained some inaccuracies and false assumptions which you may like me to correct.

You are right of course in saying that the Concorde sometimes carries very few passengers. But you have to look at the picture as a whole.

Our loads to Washington have been consistently high—frequently in the nineties in percentage terms—and we have every reason to believe it will be the same when we operate to New York. Loads to Bahrain have fallen off but, like all travel, the business is seasonal.

●●●

I can't think where you got your figure of £96 million as the cost of our advertising. It is wildly inaccurate and overstates the actual by several hundred per cent!

I can understand your criticism of our arrangements whereby we restrict the number of seats that are available for sale on our flights to and from Miami. I won't bore you with the niceties of international law but I'm sure you'll accept it from me that the capacity, i.e. number of seats available for sale, and the frequency of operation are matters that fall within the power of governmental authorities.

No one in British Airways likes waste and bureaucracy any more than you do but you haven't been very specific in your reference to it in British Airways. In fact you couldn't have chosen a worse example than that of the Concorde project team.

●●●

This actually consists of a tiny number of people (less than half a dozen).

With your final point (concerning the costliness of manufacturers' spares) there will be a lot of sympathy from those who run the airlines.

You must remember however that every spare fitted in an aircraft must by law carry an airworthiness approval. And as far as the warranty is concerned I believe the position would be the same for your new motor car if you did a do-it-yourself job on it or replaced the big ends with a cheaper product of someone else's manufacture.

□ BERNARD WOOD, Secretary and Legal Director, British Airways, Heathrow

□ What do readers of SW on Heathrow think? Send replies to Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

## The 'not so secret' ballot

I ARGUED again with our local polling officer last night over an issue that, once you notice, is hard to accept, and still harder to convince people of.

When at the polling station your name and address are checked in the register, the number alongside is read out to the person who issues the ballot papers (which are in a book like raffle tickets—stub and ballot numbered), he writes your number on the stub—I argue that it might as well be my name and address!

They don't seem to understand my annoyance at this hypocrisy, to them it is 'the system' to avoid people voting twice and to keep things nice and tidy. There is no understanding of the use this 'secret ballot' could be put to—even if, as they say, the papers are destroyed after two years!

It brings even more into question the SWP policy on running candidates at elections, as the voters are practically writing a list for the Special Branch.

□ JOE FLEMING, London, SW6.

# Letters

## I'M NOT GUILTY—BUSES OFFICIAL

YOUR ARTICLE on Partick Garage by W Dolan (30 April) has been drawn to my attention.

The character assassination does not surprise me—in fact it is what many of us expect from some of your contributors. However, surely it is not too much to ask that you get your 'facts' correct occasionally.

The negotiations and agreement which were accepted by the members of the Partick garage was carried out by Partick garage representatives

the Glasgow Passenger District Committee.

All the conditions asked for by Partick Committee were met. It might have been made clear by your contributor that no redundancies were involved.

●●●

I must also point out that the article claims I attended two garages and got them to reverse their decision of support for Partick. This is untrue. I did not visit any

garages on my return from Rothesay to discuss Partick garage. In fact at that stage there was no decision by any garage to go on strike in support of Partick.

In conclusion I might point out that the Glasgow Passenger District Committee (which comprises a shop steward from each garage in Glasgow) has unanimously condemned the article by W Dolan as completely inaccurate and deplors the attack on myself.

□ HUGH WYPER, Glasgow G2.

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

## Conkers to the Queen

THE Queen's Jubilee Award Fund Appeal has touched the hearts (and pockets) of the staff at this college. Donations so far include: used betting slips, a tin of catfood, and 'my best conkers and string'.

I'm glad to say the SW appeal did rather better.

□ BRIAN ROSE, Moston College of Further Education, Manchester.

## The protest could backfire

THE local elections show many people have voted against the government's cuts by voting for Conservatives. As a form of protest it can only backfire, since they will now cut services with a viciousness they would not dare to use if their own party was in power.

I can only hope this will have beneficial effects in stirring those whose traditional allegiance has been to the Labour Party and have gone along with the policies of cuts believing that it was all for the good of the country. We are entering a crucial stage in the fight against the cuts.

□ ROGER PRICE, Knighton, Leicester.

## Ask the Partick workers, Mr Wyper

closure of Partick provided they got a 'written promise' of no further closures.

It was raised from the floor at a mass meeting of the Partick busworkers that the next district committee should be picketed. Unfortunately for the Partick workers this was never taken up.

The district committee have nothing to be proud of—this is the second garage closure in just over a year, will a 'written promise' save a third?

Sandy Busby, from the Partick Garage Committee, told me: 'It's only natural that Wyper will deny this—the report is accurate—I'm just sick of the whole thing.'

What a pity, Hugh, that you didn't write to Socialist Worker, or any other paper on the left, urging support for the busworkers in the dispute. I hear you are asking how I got the story. The answer is simple: I was at Partick Garage—you were not.

□ WILLY DOLAN, Glasgow.

## LOW-PAID? DEMAND £15

THE World in Action television team recently exposed the plight of the lower-paid workers in Britain. While watching I began to think about how best the lower paid could tackle the fight for higher wages.

Rapidly you realise that to a large extent the fight is an ideological one. The idea, for instance, that the Heathrow engineers or the Leyland toolroom workers should hold back in order to let the lower paid catch up is basically misguided.

And if the suggestions of Scanlon are taken up by the TUC about a new round of

wage restraint, then the lower paid will most definitely be worse off.

According to the Financial Times (2 May), Philips and Drew, the stockbroker firm, expect an increase in retail prices in 77/78.

This would mean to me a pay increase next January of £3 after tax, while I really need at least £15 now just to catch up with the last two years drop in my living standards.

At the moment I take home £28.23 for working as a shop assistant in a new supermarket just opened up in Dundee, Asda Superstores, a subsidiary of Associated Dairies.

WILLY DOLAN REPLIES: IF the article is 'completely inaccurate' then presumably Partick Garage is still open, and the campaign waged by the busmen never took place.

I can assure you, Hugh Wyper, that my article was very kind of you — had you actually been in the vicinity of Partick Garage on the day of the meeting—it might have been more than your character that was assassinated.

What you were called from the platform of the meeting—I thought it should be left out of my article.

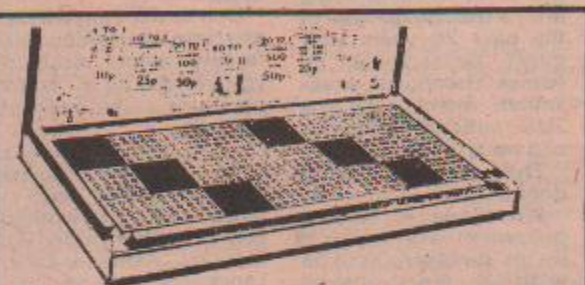
●●●

If the account of what happened is wrong, then the whole of that mass meeting has misjudged your role—unfortunately you weren't there to explain it to your members.

The agreement you speak of was indeed negotiated by the Partick Committee, and seven points were agreed, but that would only come into operation if the garage closed. After all, the busmen still had the court hearing to come—and were still fighting the closure.

Again there were no redundancies—I never inferred otherwise. But I did make clear in this and other reports that when the garage closed, job opportunities would be lost.

The busmen's district committee support you—that's only fitting, after all they voted weeks ago to accept the



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Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# What the North Sea boom will mean to you and me

THE ONLY government ever to challenge the oil monopolies seriously was the revolutionary workers' government that took power in Russia in October 1917.

In his extremely useful book on the oil multinationals, *The Seven Sisters*, recently published as a paperback, Anthony Sampson tells this marvellous tale:

Exxon's dealings with the revolutionary Soviet regime revealed a good deal of the political naivety and arrogance of the oilmen, and conjured up for the first time the spectre which was later to haunt the industry round the world—nationalisation.

## Pick up

At the time of the Revolution in 1917 Russia was producing about 15 per cent of the world's oil; a third of her oil was controlled by the Nobel Brothers and Shell controlled some of the rest.

After the October Revolution there was chaos and Bolsheviks rebelled in the oilfields. Oilmen rushed to the scene, hoping to pick up bargains from the confusion, and Teagle (boss of Exxon) was approached by the Nobel Brothers (who desperately

wanted American diplomatic support) to buy half their interest.

While Exxon and the Nobels were still discussing terms, the Red armies seized all the oil properties, but astonishingly, Exxon continued negotiating; as Teagle calmly explained, there was 'no alternative but for us to accept the risk and make the investment at this time.'

After consulting John D. Rockefeller II and the State Department (who would not promise diplomatic support) Teagle made an agreement in July 1920 to buy out the Nobels with £11.5 million dollars paid secretly through a Swiss company to disguise Exxon's ownership.

The agreement, the company historians admit, 'appears to have been one of the most ill-considered ever made' by the company.

While Teagle and the Exxon board waited expectantly for the collapse of the Bolsheviks, the Red Army

remained. Teagle was soon in the quandary that would so often repeat itself in the oil industry.

On the one hand he was righteously indignant about the Communists' expropriation: 'the one fundamental thing about Communists that we need to know, and that so many generally overlook, is that the Communists repudiate the civilised code of ethics ...'

## Compensation

On the other hand the Russians were now busily producing oil, offering it at cut prices, and Exxon's competitors including Shell and BP were trying to make deals with the Soviets. The nightmare loomed of Exxon's European markets being flooded with cheap oil as Exxon had flooded Shell's markets in the past.

Eventually in July 1922 Teagle and Deterding with representatives of

fourteen other oil companies met in London to try to form a United Front to insist on compensation from the Soviets. But Teagle quite rightly did not trust Deterding, and just after the policy was published, Deterding began secretly to buy large quantities of Russian oil, which he sold in the Far East to undercut another of the sisters, Mobil.

Teagle, as he made clear in worried memos, was increasingly torn. Russian oil began flowing into Europe. The more other companies made deals with Moscow the less effective were Exxon's demands for compensation.

The diplomatic atmosphere became more conciliatory after Britain recognised Soviet Russia in February 1924. At last Teagle and most of the board came round to reality.

Teagle met again with Deterding, and they agreed to form a joint company 'for the restoration of the Russian oil industry'. For the next two years they went on arguing with the Russians, who at one time even promised some compensation.

But eventually the talks were broken off by Teagle's insistence on more money, and by sudden indignation from Deterding: 'I feel that everybody will regret at some time' he burst out in January 1927, 'that we have anything to do with these robbers.'

FROM the oil rigs and platforms in the North Sea to the yards where the rigs and platforms are constructed immense profits are being made.

For some there is an oil boom. But not for the workers on these projects.

The boom is strictly for the directors and shareholders of Shell, BP, Conoco, Philips Petroleum and the rest.

They sit back in plush offices and luxurious homes and count the spoils of other people's labour.

The price the workers pay by contrast is enormous. It lays low the myth which Jim Callaghan, Anthony Wedgwood Benn and many another like to retail.

## Dubious

The myth that North Sea Oil will save us all, solve all 'our' problems and revitalise the economy.

It will do nothing of the kind. I have had the dubious privilege of being able to observe the great oil boom at close quarters.

For some time I worked in the Methil Rig Yard building rigs. The boom didn't last long and I was sacked, alongside my comrades, for resisting redundancy and refusing to work in dangerous conditions.

After that bitter experience and a spell of unemployment I worked for some time out at sea on one of those hellish rigs where the big money is supposed to be made and where, really, dreams and people die.

*I've seen the glory of the great oil boom at first hand. And it hurts.*

It hurt me most on a rig out in the North Sea. One of my co-workers was killed. It is our time-honoured practice in the construction industry to stop work for a day if one of our workmates is killed.

## Multinational

It may not be very much. But it is a mark of respect and defiance. When this young man died in an incident only too typical of the way the multinational oil companies squander life, we moved to stop work.

But our masters insisted that production should go on. Unfortunately that proposal found favour with a good many of the lads on the rig, workers from



## By JOHN 'Red Adair' ROBERTSON

Germany and the United States who have sadly been deprived of the same trade union traditions.

The North Sea Oil Boom has one theme and one theme alone to it—the remorseless pursuit of profit. Let me start 'On shore' and talk about the yards where the rigs are built.

## Resistance

At Kishorn, workers are out in all weathers, for the sake of a few extra pounds. This agreement was reached with the treachery of the trade union hierarchy in connivance with the employers.

Any resistance has resulted in the various sub-contractors paying people off and then after a period, re-employing more workers.

The price paid on this site has been the loss of a basic trade union right to 'cabin-up' in adverse weather (which took long years to establish in the construction industry) and leaving workers open to unsafe working conditions by working on wet steel.

At Nigg Bay yard the story is even worse. Up until two years ago, the only accommodation available locally (besides a miniature camp housing about 100 men) was two ex-Greek liners

with roughly 450 men in each.

Workers had to sleep four to a small cabin with no proper ventilation. There was no safety drill—just a take-it-or-leave-it attitude from the main employers, Highland Fabricators (another name for the Brown Root firm that built the Tiger Cages in Vietnam.)

*Conditions were atrocious. And the wages for the workers who, in the main had travelled hundreds of miles on false promises, were rubbish.*

In a 4½ year period hundreds of workers who had gone up to Nigg Bay stayed an average of two or three weeks and threw it in, through sheer disgust.

Even now, workers at Nigg are being blackmailed that if they do not accept a more savage agreement they will not get the new order that is being placed there.

## Erosion

The price being paid on this site is similar to Kishorn—a gradual erosion of basic trade union rights and standards.

Most yards are in their death throes. Predictably, no provision has been made to provide any

alternative work for the local labour. There will just be huge holes left in the ground where these sites stood.

On the oil rigs and platforms it is even worse. There is little or no union organisation. Safety is a sick joke and the iron fist of the employers reigns supreme.

The injury rate is far above that in the construction industry on shore (and that is scandalous enough). The fatality rate is horrifying.

Most workers generally do a 12 to 15 hour shift depending on what rig you are on. If you do not do these hours you are told in no uncertain terms to fuck off.

They put you on a helicopter home and wheel in a more pliable type of person. A man working these sort of hours after several days gets tired and a tired worker is a dangerous one on these rigs.

## Hilt

There have been several attempts to set up unions on the rigs but all have failed because the hierarchy of the unions concerned would not back up their members to the hilt.

By and large they sold them out by doing nothing. And the length of the blacklist for offshore workers is notoriously long.

Wages are far from being great after tax. And considering the deprivation of normal life, etc, they are in general a scandal: average hourly rate between £2.50 and £3, with the wages of two weeks on having to cover two weeks off.

*The oil boom, as far as any worker is concerned, is a boom only for big business corporations and large shareholders whose greed and lust for profits surpasses all human barriers.*

The long list of mutilated bodies and the list of dead ones does not mean anything to these mercenaries of the capitalist dehuman society.

The kidology of the present government that shortly we will all benefit from the proceeds of the oil boom is typical rarified horseshit.

Big business will keep their half of the profit and provide no investment for other industries and the government will waste the other half on arms spending and

the like, whereas it could be put to use by providing jobs for nearly two million unemployed.

The Scottish National Party are saying to the people of Scotland, 'But it is your oil,' to ensnare more supporters.

But the SNP know that even if they were voted in tomorrow, the British government would not give up their half and likewise the American companies would say if you can get over our army, navy and airforce, only then could you have it.

While we live under a capitalist system, the only boom the workers of Britain can expect to witness is the boom made by the share index as profits rise to even more staggering limits—and the living conditions of the workers worsen and the dole queues grow longer.

## BOOKMARX

265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

The National Front by Martin Walker £1

The First Shop Stewards' Movement by James Hinton £3.50

People of the Abyss by Jack London £1.20

Class Struggle and the Industrial Revolution—early capitalism in three English towns (Foster) £2.75

Women and the Welfare State (Wilson) £2.20

Workers say no to the Shah; Labour law and strikes in Iran £1.50

Add 15p for postage.

# OCCUPIED!

## Greenwich steelworkers take over plant after BSC sack six

**S E LONDON:** 80 workers have occupied the British Steel Reinforcements factory in Greenwich in defence of six sacked workers, including the shop steward, Paul Lutener, and seven others who were suspended for five days.

The factory is one of four facing closure by British Steel. Two are in Greenwich.

At the same time, five local hospitals are being closed. Paul Lutener explained: 'We took strike action on 11 May, to link our fight over the proposed closure with the same cuts that are threatening our health service.'

Two days before the strike, Roebuck, the manager, told us disciplinary action would be taken if we went out.

'In the light of management's threat only one voted against the strike.'

Feeling against the cuts swelled into a massive day of action on the 11th. Workers from every hospital were joined by workers from four factories who struck for the day, including Greenwich Reinforcements.

They were joined by school bus drivers, school keepers, local authority workers, teachers and students.

The next day, management acted on their threat.

An occupation was launched—and on Mon-

day it staged a meeting of local workplace delegates which was attended by John Deason, Secretary of the National Right to Work Campaign.

The meeting called for a mass picket outside the factory on Wednesday 25 May, at 9.30am, which will then picket BSC headquarters at 11.30am.

Messages of support and donations to: Greenwich Reinforcements Occupation Committee, 90 River Way, Greenwich, London SE10. Phone 01-858 1390/1380.



## We want the right to join a union!

By Barry Moroney, AUEW shop steward, Desoutters, Hendon

**N W LONDON:** 150 Engineering Union members at Desoutters—one of Britain's main suppliers of industrial air tools—have struck for union recognition.

Machine shop workers walked out on Friday when management refused to meet shop stewards over a grievance.

Time and again, victimisation and blacklisting have been used to crush any attempts at union organisation.

But this time our members are determined to win. A mass meeting voted unanimously on Monday to stay out until management agreed to negotiate with our stewards.

The machine shop has almost 100 per cent union membership. With order books full, the Hendon factory is at a standstill.

Stewards at nearby CAVs have agreed not to maintain Desoutters drills and airguns, used throughout the factory. With this kind of rank and file support and strong effective picketing, we shall win.

Donations and messages of support to Desoutters AUEW shop stewards committee, c/o 10 Yewfield Road, London, NW10.

## ANOTHER BATTLE ON THE GRAIN

**ISLE OF GRAIN, Kent:** 36 members of the construction section of the engineering union employed by Dyers on the Isle of Grain Power Station site have been on unofficial strike for two weeks.

During the six-month strike by Babcock and Wilcox men last year, the Dyers workers were laid off but were promised they would be taken back as soon as the strike ended.

Dyers refused to take 16 of the men back until six weeks later.

While Laings and Cleveland Bridge have paid compensation to the men laid off, Dyers have refused.

Dyers have also said they want to renegotiate a new bonus scheme, while the men want to use the one in operation before the Babcock and Wilson strike.

The men are also demanding a decent redundancy scheme.

## Printers come under attack

**HOUSE OF COMMONS** parliamentary papers are being printed by blackleg labour while 300 printers in NGA and NATSOPA have been laid off by the Government printers HMSO.

Two weeks ago, on the same day that Parliament was debating whether to split up the St. Stephens Press into two separate printshops, management escalated a trivial dispute over the payment of one hour's overtime into a mass layoff.

The workers now believe that this dispute was deliberately engineered by the HMSO to back up their argument that the St. Stephens Press is 'too large to manage.'

Messages of support and financial donations to: NGA and NATSOPA joint strike committee, St. Stephens Press, Pocock St, London, SE1.

## Notices and meetings

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

**POLITICAL CENSORSHIP**—an international perspective. Panel includes Jan Kavan (Czechoslovak student leader), Eric Abraham (South African journalist, exiled 1976), Carlos Fortin (nominated Chilean Ambassador to US under Allende). Thursday 26 May, 7pm, ICA, Nash House, The Mall, London, SW1 Admission 85p.

**WHICH WAY FOR THE CHARTER CAMPAIGN?** WWCC national conference, weekend 21-22 May, City University, St Johns Street, EC1. Credentials from 1a Camberwell Grove, London, SE5. Phone 01-701 4173.

**REMEMBER SOWETO!** 16 June 1976. DEMONSTRATE on 18 June 1977. Assemble Speakers Corner, 1 pm. Rally Bullring 3pm. Called by National Union of Students, supported by the National Union of School Students and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Contact NUS International Dept, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1 (phone 01-387-1277) for details and publicity material.

**Socialist Medical Association Conference on THE FUTURE OF OUR DENTAL SERVICES:** Saturday 28 May, 9.30am-5.30pm, Unity House, Euston Road, London NW1 (opposite Euston station) £3 fee. Details phone 01-455 9621.

**BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN IRELAND**—and the consequences of a withdrawal. British Peace Committee Conference, weekend 28-29 May. Central London Polytechnic. Details from BPC, 84 Claverton Street, London SW1 8JAX.

**DERRY IRISH FRONT** public meeting: Thursday 26 May, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (near Holborn tube), London W1.

**TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT FORUM** First of a monthly series of educational forums organised jointly by the North and North West London branches of the Troops Out Movement. Friday 20 May, 7.30pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 (Euston end). The Loyalist Stoppage—What happened? Speaker: Gerry Lawless.

**WOMEN AND WORK 1977.** Workers Educational Association school, Saturday 28 May, 10am-4pm, YMCA, Great Russell Street, London. Speakers: Philippa Langton, Sarah Benton, Sally Groves.

## ALBION WORKERS FIGHT LOCK-OUT

**SMETHWICK:** More than 200 engineering workers at Albion Bottles are fighting on against a lockout imposed because they struck against the Social Contract on 20 April.

Benson, district secretary of the Engineering Union in West Birmingham, has made excuses for not defending the workers.

This rat stated in the local press that the men had brought it upon themselves and there were extremists at

the back of it.

It's quite true, there were extremists behind it—the management who denied workers the right to strike.

The district committee voted by 13 to 11 not to make the dispute official. Management's latest move has been to advertise for workers.

Donations and messages of support to Strike committee treasurer, P McGowan, 66 Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Birmingham 23.

## Stewards act over scab official

**GARSTANG, Lancs:** The strike at Laings Water Treatment Site, now in its ninth week, is still unofficial because of opposition from one man, Eric Hughes, the regional secretary of the building workers union, UCATT.

A telex message from Hughes to the management saying there is no dispute has been duplicated and used to induce scabs to cross the picket line.

But the strike remains strong. There was another mass picket on Monday.

Shop stewards will take disciplinary action against Hughes. The strikers want a collective bonus and a 40-hour week.

## Journalists lock out

**WEST LONDON:** 16 journalists at the Middlesex Chronicle in Hounslow have been locked out.

The chapel (office branch) has been in dispute over time off for evening and weekend working. Meanwhile the editor took on more staff—on his own terms—before the negotiation procedure was finished.

When the National Union of Journalists members took action, they were locked out.

## WOMEN STRIKE OVER PAY CUT

**S. YORKSHIRE:** After ten weeks, the 22 electricians at the Dinnington Colliery site have won their strike in the teeth of opposition from their general secretary, Frank Chapple.

They were demanding a 35p increase in the hourly rate.

The employers, Hall and Kay, have agreed to pay the increase and have now written to the Joint Industrial Board, which oversees wages in the industry, seeking approval.

## Regard

This now leaves the way clear for every contracting electrician working on a small site to put in a claim for a 35p special dispensation order to the JIB.

Dinnington has forced a crack in the door. Other sparks can now force it wide open.

This victory was achieved against an intransigent employer who tried to discredit the strikers with claims of misuse of money.

It is also a victory achieved in the face of the official structure of the electricians union.

According to union rules,

the men were instructed back to work.

Frank Chapple, general secretary, described the strike as 'political' and said he couldn't help because of the

Social Contract.

The Dinnington lads knew they had to rely on rank and file EETPU members to win.

From the beginning, strike bulletins were produced to

explain their case to other workers.

Support was won from sites and factories all over the country.

The victory is the first step towards uniting rank and file EETPU members in a fight against the stranglehold of the JIB on wages and conditions.

There are real signs of the growing anger in the contracting industry against the JIB. The rank and file conference against the JIB on 28 May is the next step.

That's why the Dinnington strikers have been publicising the conference.

# BLOW FOR CHAPPLE AS ELECTRICIANS SHAKE THE JIB

## WOMEN STRIKE OVER PAY CUT

**HARTLEPOOL:** 220 women are on strike at the Fashion Industries clothing factory over a £10 wage cut.

The firm was recently taken over by Blackman and Conrad, who then claimed that the piecework rate was wrong.

They cut it from £2.20 for every 100 garments to £1.85—and the women immediately walked out.

Management are taking on new workers with a promise of £36 a week.

By Anne Hansen and Pat Gallagher

One new employee realised the lies she had been told when she only took home £18. Next day she asked to join the picket.

The women, who have been sacked, are picketing every day to stop the scabs arriving and to stop work coming out and going to one of Fashion Industries' other factories at Blackhall eight miles away.

The women at Blackhall

held a meeting and decided they would not do the work sent from Hartlepool.

Now they are also threatened with a cut in pay.

The women from Hartlepool are determined to win. Shop steward Sue Gordon told Socialist Worker: 'We've had stoppages and lockouts six times in the last year and gone back with nothing, but this time we're sticking to it.'

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That's why the Dinnington strikers have been publicising the conference.

## Rank and File Contact Conference Against the JIB

Saturday 28 May, Memorial Hall, Sheffield. Chairman: Billy Williams, (Cardiff EETPU). Leaflets and further details from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

## THE OTHER CINEMA

25 TOTTENHAM STREET (at Charlotte St), W 1 637-9308/9

**A SENSE OF LOSS:** Marcel Ophuls' staggering documentary on Northern Ireland—a film rejected by the BBC for being 'pro-Irish'. Friday 27 May—Thursday 2 June, 8.45pm.  
**I WAS, I AM, I WILL BE AND THE TIGER POUNCED AND KILLED, BUT HE'LL DIE:** Two powerful films on Chile, Sunday 29 May, 3pm, and Wednesday 1 June and Thursday 2 June, 5pm.

## Burton's sackings CAN be fought

BURTON'S, Britain's largest tailoring firm, has announced that 1430 workers in Leeds, Warrington and Bolton are to lose their jobs in August and that 77 shops will be closed.

The news came as the firm published its annual balance sheet showing losses of £3½ million, resulting from 'changes in fashion from suits to casuals and the extended hot summer of 1976'.

Workers are expected to draw the conclusion that the sackings are beyond the directors' control and that, regrettably, nothing can be done.

A closer look at the company records, however, tells some interesting tales.

### Voted

In the last ten years, Burton's have never shown a loss, amassing more than £50 million in profits, much of which has been deliberately turned away from investment in new manufacturing processes and into property speculation.

The current company report also shows that the 11 directors voted themselves a pay increase of £61,000 or £5,500 each. So much for the Social Contract!

But the workers can save their jobs

If they refuse to accept every redundancy and reject every move to remove machinery

If they unite throughout the Burtons manufacturing sector to form a joint rank and file action committee

If the tailoring workers set up links with the shop workers

If they campaign for solidarity among the thousands of clothing workers in Leeds and other towns

If they demand nationalisation of the whole enterprise.

## Police raid workers' homes

HARLOW: Police armed with search warrants recently raided the homes of four warehousemen from the local depot of International Stores. They were looking for stolen goods, but found nothing.

The reaction of all the workers was immediate. Next morning they all stopped work and 'occupied' the canteen, refusing to work until management gave an explanation and an apology, as well as compensation to the men for disrupting their evenings and an assurance that it would not happen again.

Management later agreed to send letters of apology and to have further talks with the Union.

### Search

Shop steward Bert Chalk was angry about the incident. He said that at no time had management hinted that any stock was missing, and that they even had an agreement where a company-run security firm could stop and search any workers or their cars coming out of the depot.

Harlow Trades Council is taking up the case, and Harlow MP Stan News has agreed to look into it.

International Stores is part of the mighty British American Tobacco Company, and in the opinion of some of the depot workers, the long arm of BAT was used to get the search warrants in an effort to try to break the strength of the union.

# Kettering: It's nearly over...

**KETTERING:** Total victory in the 24-week lock-out of journalists was only a signature away this week.

Then East Midlands Allied Press management rattled on the deal.

A settlement drawn up by Bill Keys, general secretary of the printworkers union, SOGAT, was accepted verbally by management and the National Union of Journalists.

It gave the NUJ chapel at Kettering everything they had been asking for, including the recognition that

resignations from the union by nine scabs were invalid.

NUJ disciplinary procedures against the nine were to be completed by 31 August and if they wanted to leave after that a meeting of the TUC's Printing Industries Committee would be called.

### Scabs

Instead of sticking to the deal, management placed another condition on it—that it be accepted by the scabs.

Having encouraged the nine to defect and having

supported them on full pay for six months, EMAP was forced to sell them out.

To the management's public humiliation, the nine refused to accept Keys' deal.

So the NUJ chapels are still locked out and not being paid.

They are demanding an immediate meeting of the union's executive to step up pressure on these double-crossing employers.

That includes national blacking of Press Association copy, of EMAP contract printing, and selective area strikes among

Newspaper Society journalists, who have given tremendous support to Kettering.

Six courageous members of the printworkers union, the NGA, have refused for a week to cross journalists' picket lines.

### Honour

Their action is forcing the NGA National Council to act. A motion from the Mid-County Branch Committee calls for an instruction to all members at Kettering to honour picket lines. Warehouses in London,

which handle EMAP magazines, are again being asked to black them.

Journalists from Kettering visited the Grunwicks picket line this week with a £50 donation. They are now trying to link the two disputes by organising support for Grunwicks.

Copies of the lockout committee's leaflet, which should be distributed to all printworkers, are available from:

NUAAW Offices, Cattlemarket, Kettering, Northants. Kettering 516145.

## MASSEY STRIKERS LOCK OUT BOSSES

KILMARNOCK: 1200 workers at the Massey Ferguson combine harvester factory are now in their tenth week on official strike.

The strikers, members of the AUEW and the Sheet Metal Workers Union, have taken control of the gates and are maintaining a 24-hour picket.

Management and staff have been locked out and the factory is closed.

The strike started because, for more than two years, the company had refused to consider putting 125 assemblers onto a fixed cycle agreement.

### Allow

These agreements already operate in other departments.

Shop stewards called off their picket last week to allow a national meeting between the union and the company.

They now realise this was a mistake. Management removed records from the factory to the Excelsior Hotel at Glasgow Airport, where they are now working, and offered nothing at the meeting.

Convenor Sam Kay said: 'We want Massey Ferguson goods blacked everywhere. If we can get the support of the dockers, then we can really hit the company.'

Donations and messages of support to: Ian McDonald, AUEW Halls, 65 King Street, Kilmarnock, Scotland.

# LAIRD PORTCH: WE FIGHT ON

## HOW WE CAN HELP THEM WIN

**EAST KILBRIDE:** The 400 equal pay strikers at Laird Portch voted unanimously last Friday to continue and spread their four-week-old strike for equal pay.

160 workers from two Kilmarnock factories in the same Jaeger chain who walked out in support two weeks ago are still out on strike.

The Tailor and Garment Workers Union are refusing to support the action.

Pat Walker and Irene Nisbet, from the Kilmarnock factory, told Socialist Worker: 'We are entitled to equal pay. We take home £23 a week for 40 hours. That's why we voted four to one to come out on strike with East Kilbride.'

The East Kilbride strikers are demanding parity with unskilled male workers in the factory. The company have been fobbing them off since January 1976.

Ellen Nicklin, convenor at East Kilbride, said: 'If we win our claim, it could blow the lid off the clothing industry, which has lot of women on low wages and working in terrible conditions.'

### Spread

The clothing Manufacturers Federation know this. That's why they don't want Jaeger or any of the other firms in the industry, to give in.

They are prepared to back the company to the hilt to make sure that the women are forced back to work and that the fight for equal pay doesn't spread.

The parent firm, Coats-Paton, employ 27,000 workers in Britain. That's why they want to smash the East Kilbride and Kilmarnock strikes.

This fight must be taken up throughout the trade union movement.



50,000  
STRIKE  
AGAINST  
THE CUTS

PART of the 10,000 strong demonstration in London against the cuts.

With 50,000 out, it was the biggest strike in London since the one against the Industrial Relations Act in 1970. But the BBC didn't even mention it.

The strike brought into action people who haven't been out before such as women kitchen staff and school cleaners.

If a school caretaker is on strike, the school automatically closes. But when all the 'kitchen ladies' are out, this is not the case.

So without solidarity action by the other unions in the school, especially the NUT, the women's strike would have had little impact.

At my school, we had to get the school closed. The first step was to set up a picket.

The two NUPE technicians and all the kitchen staff decided to picket in the morning. The NUT, which should have

By C Rosenberg, NUT Hackney Downs School

instructed its members to join the strike but didn't, asking them not to cross the picket line. So the school closed.

Every single 'kitchen lady' was on the picket together with the NUPE technicians, some teachers, and a GLC Staff Association Officer.

A flying picket was sent

to another school where, as a result, the NUT teachers stayed out, leaving the scabbing Headmistress to cope with all the children.

The picket also turned back the dustcart to cheers from all.

The strike created a situation we've never had before in our school—real fellow-feeling and unity between the different sections.

## Strike spreads

LANARKSHIRE: The public employees union, NUPE, have called out cleaners and janitors throughout the county.

About 25 schools are affected and the strike is going to spread.

Some headmasters have asked pupils to clean up and so act as scabs. Pupils must take a stand against this.

The role of the EIS, the main teachers union, has been scandalous. The leadership have warned teachers who refuse to cross the picket line not to expect any support if victimised.

The strikers and pickets are confident. 200 of them picketed the City Chambers to show their opposition to these cuts.

But they need support from all workers.

Rank and File Teacher  
Public Meeting  
SUPPORT  
THE NUPE  
CLEANERS  
AND JANITORS

Speakers include strikers, plus Henry Maiples (EIS Braidhurst), Marilyn Tweedie (NALGO Shop Steward, Coatbridge), and John Glen, (local authority electricians shop steward). Chair: Helen Blair (EIS rep, Holy Cross, Hamilton). All in personal capacity. Monday 23 May, 7.30pm, AUEW Halls, Hamilton Road, Motherwell.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

## FREE SPEECH FOR FIREMEN!

A NEW paper, Rank and File Fireman, came out last week—and the union's 'left-wing' leadership resorted to military-style discipline to try and crush it.

Ronnie Robertson, chairman of the Strathclyde Brigades B Division, was given an ultimatum: Promise not to distribute Rank and File Fireman at Conference and not to have anything more

to do with it—or be suspended from office and banned from Conference.

That message came from executive member Willie Miller last Thursday. The Fire Brigades Union Conference begins this Wednesday (18 May).

And last Tuesday another rank and file contributor, Pete Goben, a Brigade Committee member from South Yorkshire, was summoned to appear before his Regional

Committee.

The Rank and File Fireman's group immediately produced a leaflet calling for Free Speech for Firemen. This was being given out to the 250 Conference delegates and distributed at fire stations throughout the country.

The real issue facing firemen is how to turn the FBU into a militant trade union campaigning for substantial improvements in wages and conditions.

Rank and File Fireman is calling for an immediate £15 wage claim and action to back it up.

Terry Parry, 'left wing' general secretary of the FBU, is now apparently opposed to a third stage of the Social Contract. But he has supported Phase 2 and wants nothing to do with any demands that might frighten the employers.

SHEFFIELD: 150 firemen from South Yorkshire attended a meeting on Monday called by Rank and File Fireman.

A fireman works a basic 48-hour week, which consists over a 12-month period of an equal number of nine-hour day shifts and 15-hour night shifts.

This includes weekend working on days and nights. A fireman receives a basic rate with no shift or weekend allowances.

His life-style and that of his family must revolve around his duty system, which in various ways restricts both his social life and outside pursuits.

### Examples

Here are some examples of take-home pay given by service members:

- Single with 15 months' service: £34.36 a week
- Married with two children and five years' service: £45
- Married with two children and 14 years and 11 months service: £45.81
- Married with two children and 6½ years' service: £49.25
- Sub-officer, married with two children and 16 years' service: £52

The meeting decided on the following policy:

1. A £15 a week rise plus consolidation of previous pay rises and then negotiations on a percentage rise to cover the cost of inflation.
2. A 40-hour week on a two-shift system, not a three shift system, which the Executive Council favour.

To pursue this claim, the meeting resolved to join a picket of the FBU Annual Conference on Wednesday to lobby delegates.

The meeting also resolved that if the conference does not decide on a substantial pay rise, then a meeting for the entire South Yorkshire Brigade will be held to discuss industrial action in pursuit of the claim.

# GRUNWICKS: THE FACTS BEHIND POLICE AGGRO

A SENIOR police officer has been kicked out of the force following repeated harassment of strikers at Grunwicks in North London.

And he has now joined the firm as a full-time security officer.

Chief Inspector Johnston, of Willesden Green station, was dismissed on the orders of the Home Office and the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

### Experts

He will now link up with another former Willesden Green officer, Mr Woollett, in Grunwick's 'security' division—which also extends to the employment of a firm of surveillance experts.

Grunwick's extraordinary relationships with the police go further still.

Last Monday, for example, managing director George Ward was an honoured guest of a Harlesden police officer at the Metropolitan Police Amateur Boxing Championships.

The same officer was subsequently seen in the back seat of Ward's Mercedes when he made one of his regular nocturnal visits to harass the picket line.

Socialist Worker believes this cloak-and-dagger involvement of the police is the direct result of the National



Association for Freedom's attempts to defeat the strike.

NAFF leaders have given lectures to serving police officers since the 1972 miners' strike.

Sir Robert Mark, the recently retired Commissioner of Police for London and a dedicated NAFF supporter, has just taken up an appointment as a director of the Phoenix Assurance Company.

Chairman of the Phoenix, Lord de L'Isle, is also chairman of the NAFF.

Meanwhile, the Grunwicks strikers have now been out for nearly 11 months for the right to join a trade union.

They could win this long and bitter dispute—if the trade union movement lived up to their responsibilities.

As Dave Percival, chairman of the Croydon branch of the Union of Post Office Workers, told Socialist Worker:

"We should re-impose the postal ban on Grunwicks. Our union could break those dirty bastards in two days."

### Windbags

"Our Executive go on and on making eloquent speeches about Grunwicks but we'll see whether they support us this week. If they don't they'll be exposed for the bloody windbags they are."

Dave chaired a successful public meeting last Sunday called by the Grunwicks Strike Committee on the eve of the UPW conference.

Most of the 70 delegates at the meeting committed themselves to persuading Conference to re-impose the ban and defy the law.

The National Association for Freedom stopped the original ban with a High Court writ.

Mahmood Ahmed, secretary of the Grunwicks Strike Committee, told the meeting:

"The TUC sent out a circular calling for help for the strikers. But the electricians union, for example, wouldn't do anything because they said they'd end up like the UPW."

There was plenty of toing and froing between the different unions but in the end nothing ever got cut off, he said.

Join the pickets of Grunwicks. Details from Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 High Road, Willesden, London NW10.

WEST London hospital workers after storming into the sendate headquarters of the local Area Health Authority last Wednesday.

They were protesting about the closure of Hounslow hospital.

The Authority's well-dressed gentlemen were expecting only a polite delegation.

Instead they took a verbal pounding from hospital workers and shop stewards from other industries.

AUEW shop steward John Cooney from London Airport wanted to

### Health chiefs get shock

know why student nurses from overseas would be denied work after they'd completed their training.

Bill Geddes, chairman of Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards Committee, demanded that the health officials took a stand against the closure.

The officials uttered words like "sympathetic to your cause" and "nothing we can do".

## 4000 occupy Chloride factories

MORE than 4000 workers at Chloride, the multinational motor batteries firm, occupied three different plants on Monday.

Mass meetings held simultaneously at Swinton in Manchester, Dagenham, and the main distribution depot at Cannock, voted overwhelmingly to occupy.

The workers are fighting the attempt by management to impose a new productivity deal which would tie earnings directly to production.

As the strike committee at Dagenham told Socialist Worker: "We might put in the same effort, but because they

could be different batteries the work would be more intricate, output would be lower and down would go our earnings."

"This will not help pay the bills at the end of the week. If anything has gone wrong with production in the past,

our earnings have not been affected. Now management want us to pay for their mistakes."

"In 1969, when this company was rock bottom, we got them out of the doldrums."

"Now, with their profits up

20 per cent for this last year, and record profits for each of the last five years, they want to start kicking us around the head."

At Dagenham, most workers are IGWU members, with about 150 tradesmen and 150 women. The occupation is supported by both staff and hourly-paid workers.

Security guards are guarding the factory for the workers, girls on the switchboard are taking emergency calls for workers only, and even the supervisors are taking their turns on the rota.

Messages of support to the SSC, Chloride, Swinton, Manchester.

### PORT TALBOT INSULT

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation are refusing to start negotiations with the Port Talbot electricians if any shop stewards are present.

This hardline attitude adds insult to injury to the strikers, who only last week were lulled into accepting the pleas of union general secretary Frank

Chapple for a return to work. Chapple had told the men they couldn't win.

But BSC will only talk to full-time officials about a return to work.

Shop stewards with a 'watching brief' have been told they are not welcome.

Chapple for a return to work. Chapple had told the men they couldn't win.

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