

# KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER  
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

SATURDAY MARCH 10, 1973  
VOL 22 No 10 ● PRICE 3p



## From Wembley Pageant all out for Blackpool

# Young Socialists 13th Annual Conference Blackpool April 14/15 1973



YOUNG SOCIALISTS have made big plans for the most decisive annual conference on Saturday and Sunday April 14 and 15.

YS members and supporters from all parts of the country will meet in Blackpool to discuss plans to build a mass revolutionary youth movement.

High on the agenda at this important conference will be the discussion on plans to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

Young people who have campaigned for the

Pageant of History at Empire Pool, Wembley, will play a prominent part in the preparation for this conference.

Over 250 resolutions concerning all the main political issues have already been submitted by YS branches. They will form the basis of the discussion at Blackpool.

Visitors are welcome. The conference is being organized to bring the maximum number of young people together to discuss a programme of forcing the Tory government to resign and electing

a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Coaches and trains will leave for Blackpool from all parts of the country. Delegates and visitors will be expected to arrive on Saturday morning. The conference will start at 2.00 p.m. at the Winter Gardens and will be followed in the evening by a dance to the 'Ducks de Luxe' group.

Accommodation for Saturday night will be arranged in Blackpool's hotels and the conference will start again on Sunday

morning. This session will feature a discussion on international struggles of youth. Foreign delegations are expected to attend.

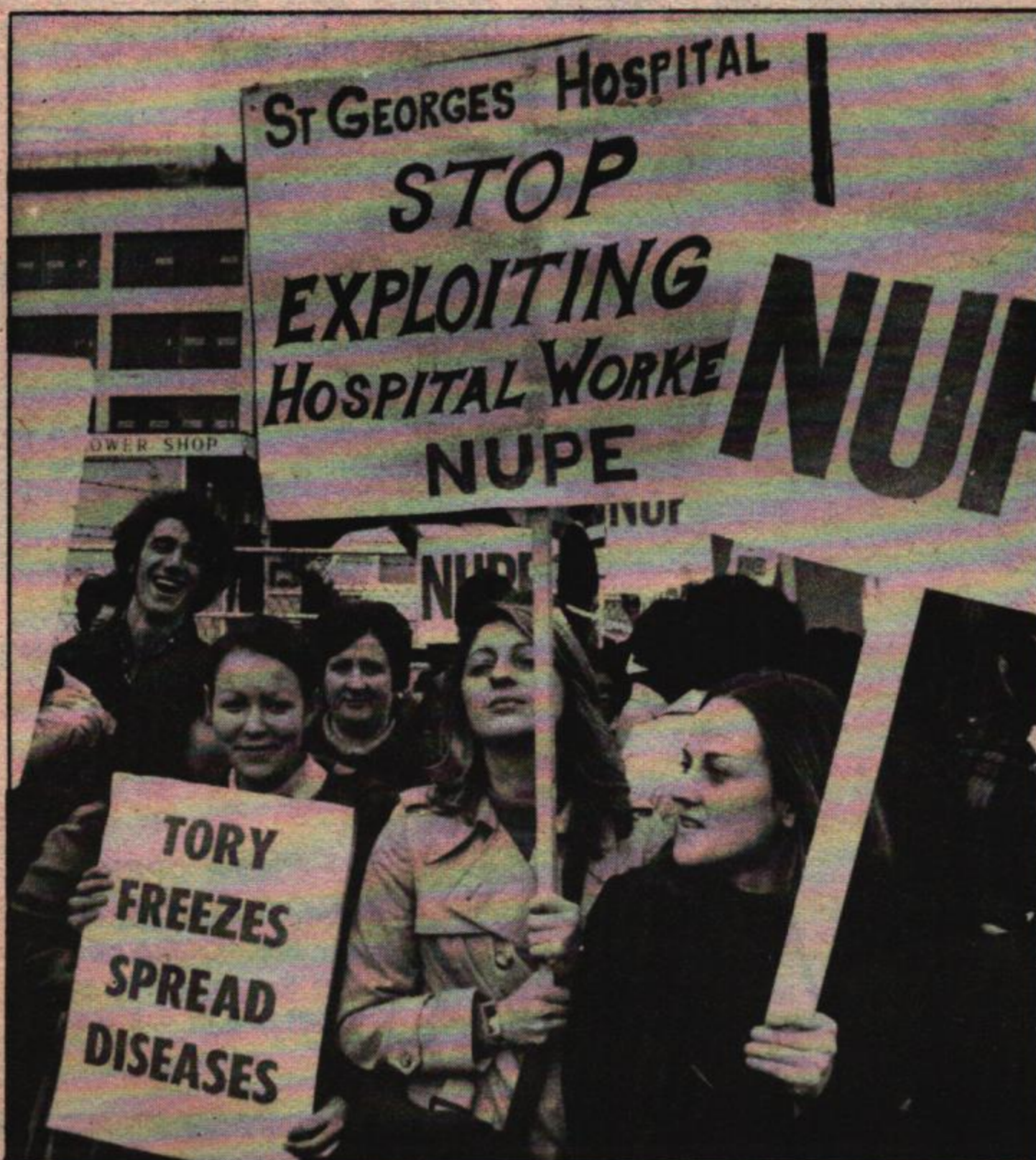
All delegates and visitors will return on Sunday night. The total cost of tickets for the conference

is approximately £4.75 each including bed, breakfast and fares.

We appeal to all young people to come forward now and sign up for this major conference.

Fill in the form on page eight and post it today!

**Defend basic democratic rights \* Make the Tory government resign \* Forward to the revolutionary party**





# Election propaganda in Tory budget

A RETREAT by so-called leaders of the working class is not going to pacify the Tory government. Attempts at collaboration by the TUC were followed last week by another big Tory blow against wages and living standards.

This is the real meaning of last week's two major events—the special TUC's capitulation before the Tory pay laws and the government's crisis Budget.

The TUC's special Congress on Monday completely abandoned the fight for higher wages.

Delegates passed a resolution calling for a one-day national strike, which is not going to make any major difference to the government's plans and its arrogant attitude.

This was confirmed less than 24 hours later when Chancellor Anthony Barber presented his Budget.

The Budget contained a basic programme for attack on wages and living standards. Barber once again laid all the blame for inflation on wage demands. His Budget was presented in the midst of the huge world-wide economic crisis, the inability of world capitalism to come to any agreement on world trade.

Value Added Tax at 10 per cent will be introduced on April 1 in line with Common Market policy. This will mean an immediate increase in prices of about 2 per cent.

During his Budget speech Barber once again returned to the familiar Tory propaganda in support of 'consumers'.

These 'consumers' he said had to be protected against inflation created by demands of the wage earners.

But are consumers any different from wage earners? Are not hospital workers and gas workers consumers?

This is the kind of phraseology which the Tories have consistently used in the past few months in order to win the support of the middle class. Their aim behind the propaganda has been to prepare for a snap election in which they would be able to whip up the middle class against the 'inflationary wage demands' of workers.

The fact is that inflation has been deliberately created by the floating pound. It is a world wide phenomenon which the Tories now want to use against the trade unions.

The handful of concessions thrown towards old age pensioners and children—clothes, sweets, etc.—do not mean very much in real terms.

With this Budget the Tories have basically bought themselves some time to prepare for a comeback. Barber hinted on more 'mini-budgets' to follow.

This fact exposes the capitulation of the TUC as a serious piece of treachery.

Their collaboration with the Tories has to be denounced by the working class. The most urgent task today is not to tame Toryism but to destroy it.

This can only be done with the building of an alternative revolutionary leadership, a task which will be at the centre of the mass rally at Empire Pool, Wembley this Sunday, March 11.



● Lobbyers outside the special TUC with clear demands for a General Strike.

# Young workers demand a General Strike

ON MONDAY March 5 over 1,500 trade unionists and youth demonstrated their complete hostility to the TUC's policy of collaboration with the Tory government outside the special TUC Conference at London's Central Hall, Westminster.

Continuous chants of 'General Strike! Tories Out!' greeted delegates as they emerged at the finish of the morning's deliberations on the next stage of their moves against the Tory pay laws.

Keep Left interviewed young workers—some of whom had travelled hundreds of miles to voice their opposition to the TUC's sham fight against the state control of wages.

Jeremy Vise (19) from Fulham, West London told us: 'The reason I came here was to demonstrate my anger at the TUC's sell out. They have sold us out because they haven't put forward a real strategy for fighting the freeze.'

'For me the only policy can be to mobilize the organized power of the working class to bring down the Tory government and hopefully the capitalist system.'

'The numbers here today demonstrate the anger of the rank and file at the lack of any real strategy,' Jeremy added. 'I have been unemployed since the middle of January now and I think the fight today is to build a revolutionary party to take the working class to power—that is what I would like to see.'

Originally from Scotland, Charles McGoldrick (18) now works in Feltham, Middlesex as a materials technician.



● Charles McGoldrick

'We came here on this lobby to try to get the trade unions to call a general strike to get the Tories down,' he said. 'If we don't get the Tories out now when this Phase Two comes in they're going to take the power of a man to strike for higher wages off him.'

'I think the TUC—like the last time over the Industrial Relations Act—are going to sell us out at the last minute. The shouting here demonstrates that there's a lot of people who have the same views as me.'

From the Fords Halewood plant in Liverpool came a section of workers who were loud and bitter in their denunciation of the TUC's policy of collaboration with the Tory government.

Dave Reilly (24) and John Dillon, a leading trade unionist at the Halewood complex told us:

'We came here on behalf of the working class at Halewood. We came to lobby the TUC conference for a General Strike.'

'We think it's necessary to have a General Strike today for the working class to survive.'

'The TUC doesn't go along

with the working class because it is too far removed from what's going on among workers. They're well-paid bureaucrats who are only interested in protecting their own positions.' Added John, 'I think they're frightened of the working class.'

'They'll maybe call a one-day strike which is just a waste of time. Heath will laugh his head off.'

Said Dave: 'We've been calling for all trade unionists to unite and take the Tory government on and force a General Election to return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

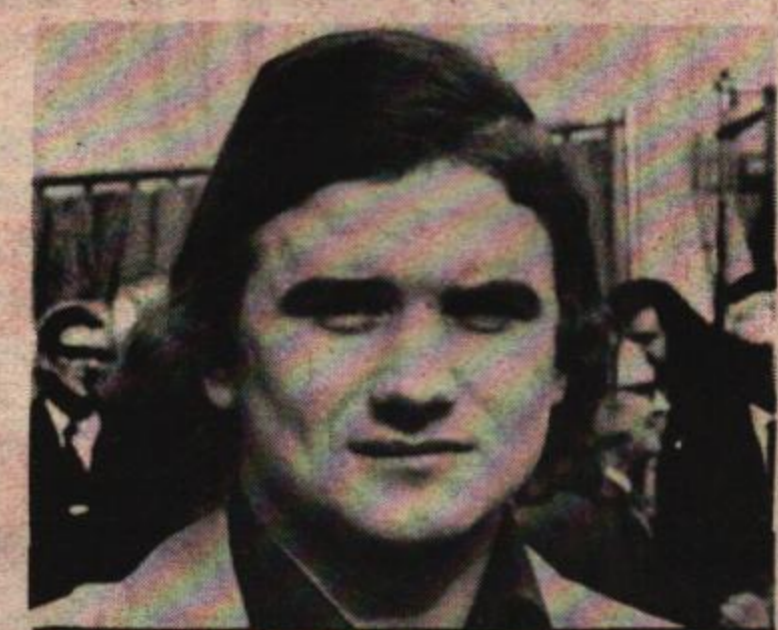
Bill McLinden (22) who has worked at Ford's Halewood for the past four years told us he came on the lobby because he felt like every other worker today that the Tories' pay policies had been responsible for bringing them all together with a common aim.

'I think the only way is to force the Tory government to resign because they're going to become more repressive as the crisis of capitalism increases—the Tory Press themselves have said the system is in crisis.'

'The TUC—because of its so-called responsibilities in society—is using begging-bowl tactics. This policy is based on reformism.'

'The TUC are holding back the fighting spirit of the working class by their policy of three-day strikes and one-day and selective strikes and all the rest. It's a method of appeasing the militancy of workers.'

'Over the past year Ford workers have become more political. We are organizing to make our voice felt with the leadership.'



● Dave Reilly



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WEMBLEY: The Road to Workers' Power. Build the revolutionary party



● A scene from last weekend's full rehearsal.

# THE WAY FORWARD

**THE BACKGROUND** to this weekend's Pageant of History at Empire Pool, Wembley, is one of long and serious rehearsals in four main parts of the country.

Young Socialist members and supporters throughout the country have been engaged in one of the biggest campaigns for the last two months. They have sold tickets for the rally and canvassed for support throughout the labour movement.

Professional actors who took part in the rehearsals were not out to produce a 'play' or a drama. They were taking part, alongside workers, housewives and young people, in the recreation of history.

They were all politically involved in the meaning of the Pageant—"The Road to Workers' Power"—and revolutionary implications of this history today.

Workers and professional people—both young and old—will see at Wembley the recreation of history which is now being 'turned back' by the Tory government.

Major advances were made by the working class and important

rights established through long periods of bitter conflict. Thousands died in that fight.

Today the future of millions more is at stake in the defence of these gains.

That is why the Pageant is no ordinary theatrical presentation. It is being presented to show that the only way forward now is through workers' power. The Empire Pool rally is basically an anti-Tory rally organized to bring together many young and older workers to take part in the building of a leadership that will make the next step to socialism possible.

The rehearsals for the pageant have also involved young workers who previously had never been in touch with the revolutionary movement. In Middleton, Jarrow, Merthyr Tydfil and London they came forward to join the Pageant because it had something in common which they shared. It was their history.

Young miners joined the rehearsals in Jarrow. Tenants and housewives joined the South Wales group and young factory workers played a big part in the Middleton production.

Music for the pageant is being played specially by 'Music Force' whose secretary Vic Brox said:

'I think the kind of struggle put up in the "Road to Workers' Power" and the musician's struggle for his own expression and freedom from exploitation naturally come together.'

Music Force is made up of a group of bands who have formed an organization to 'play and develop the music we want'.

Last week all those taking part in the Pageant came together in Manchester for an impressive complete rehearsal. Over 200 'actors' took part.

At Empire Pool, Wembley this Sunday the whole cast will present the scenes not in any abstract way.

They will be 'asking' the audience to join in and prepare the road to workers' power in Britain.

This is why the central message from Empire Pool will be to go all out for the construction of a revolutionary party.

No other way forward is possible for the working class today.



**EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY  
SUNDAY MARCH 11, 3 p.m.**

## ANTI-TORY RALLY AND PAGEANT OF HISTORY "ROAD TO WORKERS POWER"

**DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS**

Unite in action to make this Tory government resign  
Defend trade unionism and basic living standards

The road to power is through the building of the revolutionary party

**Speakers:**

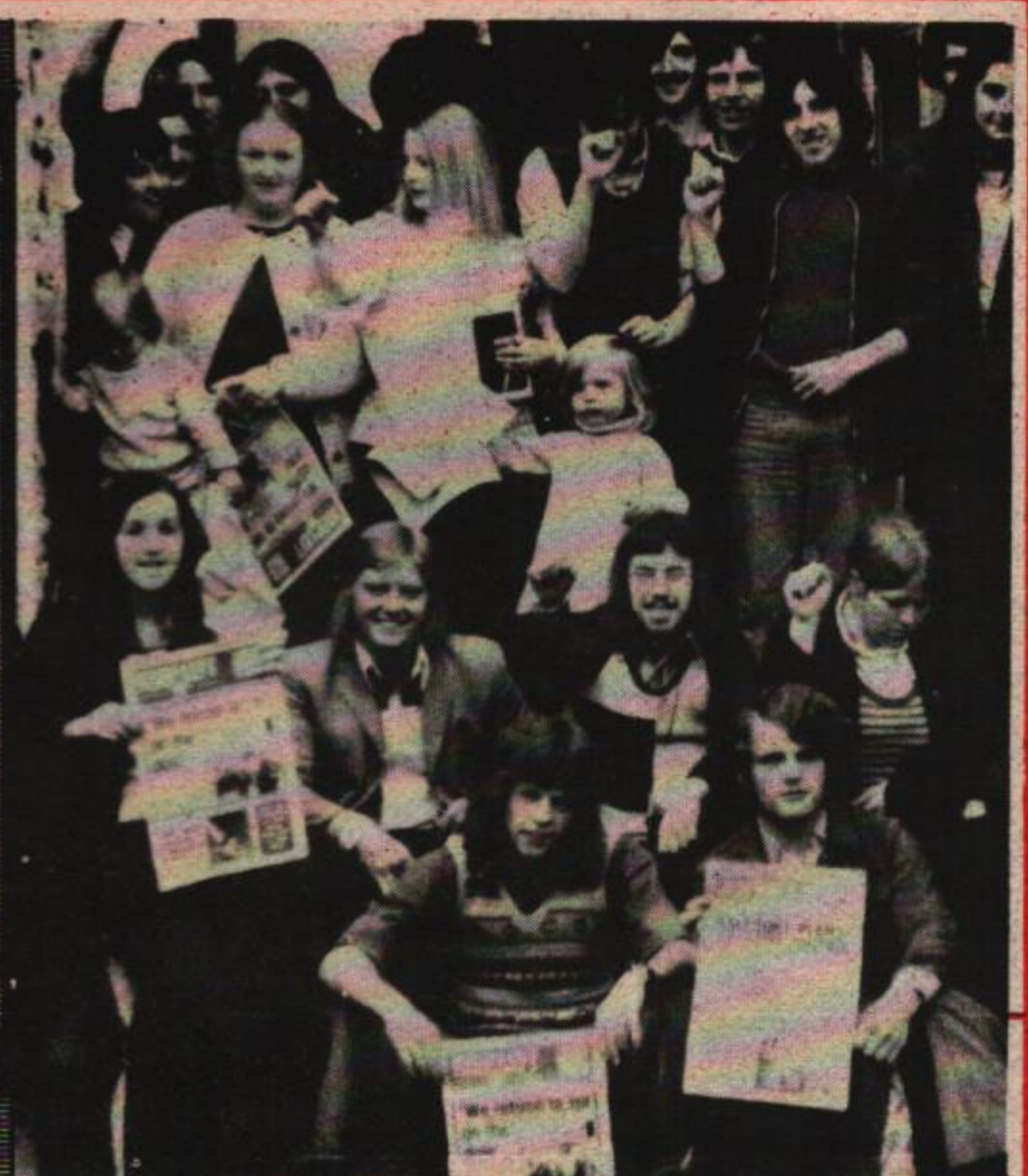
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yet?



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# The fight for

FOUR MAJOR episodes in working-class history will be presented at the Pageant this weekend at Empire Pool, Wembley.

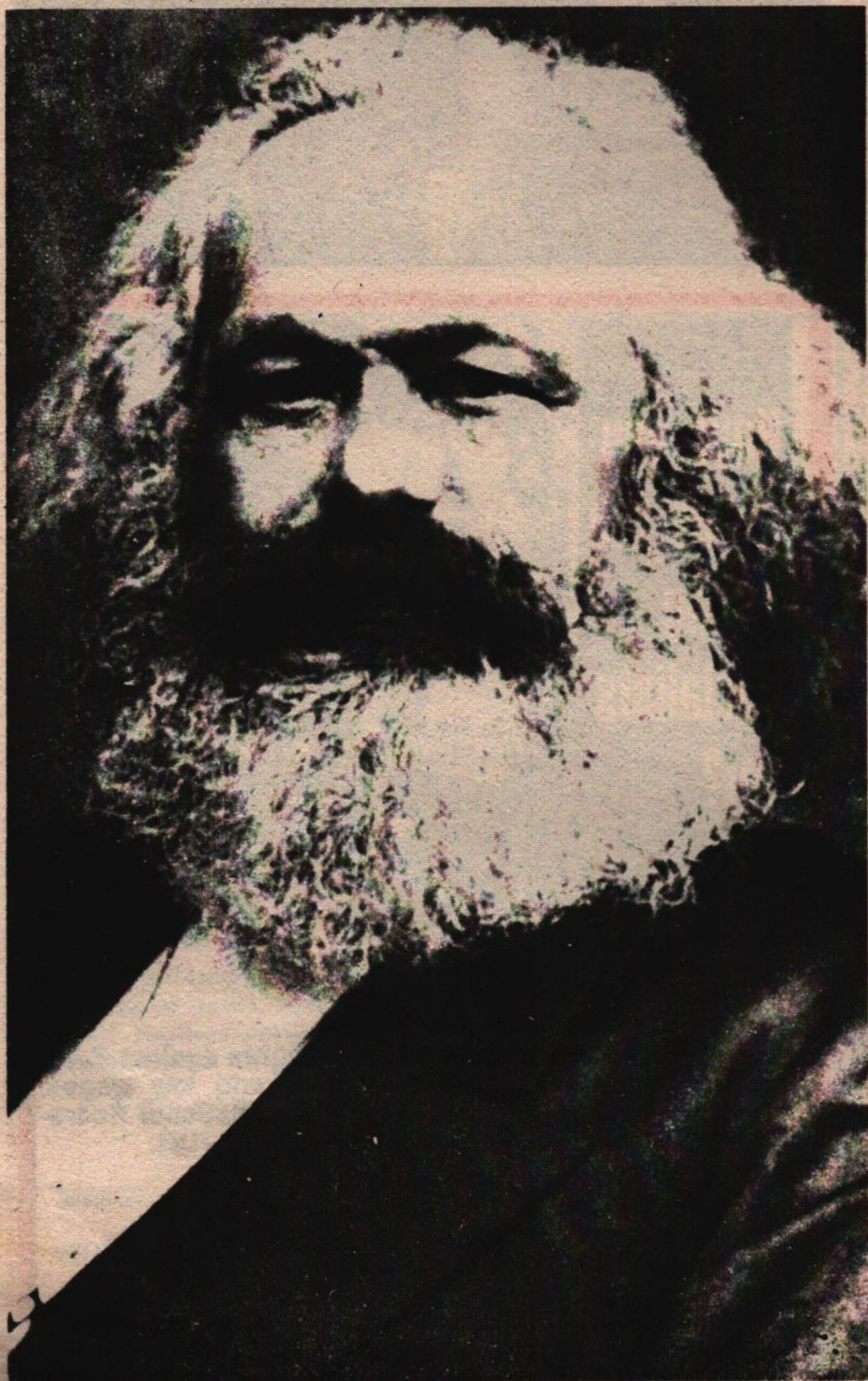
Dramatized versions of history will each last about half an hour and will deal with the fight for free trade unions, the right to vote, the Taff Vale railway strike (and the formation of the Labour Party) and the founding of the First International in 1864.

The background to two of these periods is examined here in special articles by PETER JEFFRIES. The lives of hundreds of workers were 'sacrificed' in the fight for free trade unions. Men like Will Jobling were hanged in a symbolic way by the law and order forces.

Their fight in the 1830s was responsible for one of the first union organizations in the country.

The second article deals with the work of Karl Marx in London and the first International Workingmen's Association.

Marx participated in the struggle of the working class and fought for an international movement which would lead that working class to power and the building of a socialist system of society.



## WILL JOBLING and the

'ALMOST every act of violence, I believe, may be attributed to the combinations into the so-called trade unions amongst working men which have prevailed for too long in this part of the country . . . Gentlemen, these combinations are so dangerous to public safety and so injurious to the peace and welfare of society that sooner or later they must be put down . . . I hope by proper administration of the law as it stands this great object may be effected.'

These are the words of a judge, speaking to the jury on August 1, 1832. In the dock was Will Jobling, a miner at the Jarrow Colliery.

Jobling was found guilty of 'murder' and hanged two days later.

### LESSON

His hanging was aimed against the growing power of trade unions in the north east. And to make sure the lesson was firmly put over to the masses Jobling's body was taken to a nearby jail.

At the prison his clothes were taken off and he was covered in pitch.

Under the direction of two local magistrates Jobling's

body was then locked in an iron case. He was 'gibbeted' and hung so his body was visible from the seafront.

The body remained there for several days under guard. It was meant to remind people of the consequences of organizing into trade unions.

Jobling's body was taken away secretly during the night by miners and given a decent burial. His grave was never revealed.

This major episode in the fight for a miners' union stood out in memory of trade unionists.

It was just one of the many bloody events which went into the struggle for a workers' organization. At Empire Pool, Wembley this Sunday the period is being dramatized to show that trade unions were born out of bitter struggle by millions of working people.

This history of struggle is now re-activated because all the conquests of the working class are under attack again—from the Tory government.

Conditions which prevailed in Jobling's days have changed, but the system of exploitation and oppression hasn't.

Miners in those days were virtual slaves. Each year they had to sign a bond, a contract

of employment for 12 months.

They were not paid in wages, but in vouchers which could only be exchanged for goods at 'shops' owned by the local bosses.

A miner earned about half a crown a day. For that he had to work underground for 16 hours a day. He worked in the dark and never saw the light of day from one week to the next.

### FINED

Miners were paid according to the amount of coal they brought up. Impurities, such as stones, in the coal were the responsibility of the miner who could be fined for such an 'offence'.

It was the life of a slave. And it made men organize into combinations to protect themselves. A man called Tommy Hebburn was the first to start campaigning for trade unions on Tyneside. Among his first recruits was Will Jobling.

On March 12, 1831, 20,000 miners gathered on Black Fell in the County of Durham to discuss their demands for shorter working hours and better wages. It was the first meeting of its kind on Tyneside.

## KARL MARX and the

THE capitalist class continually tries to present a picture of Karl Marx as a quarrelsome German who spent most of his life scribbling away in the Reading Room of the British Museum.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Marx, along with his life-long friend Engels, was above all a revolutionary fighter. He devoted his entire life to the cause of the working class, striving at all times to create a party in that class which could lead it to power and the achievement of socialism.

Driven into exile from his native Germany, he spent most of his adult life in England, then the leading capitalist country in the world.

From the 1840s onwards, until his death in 1883, there was no development in the working class which Marx did not study in detail and, wherever possible, take part in.

But a decisive turning point came with the creation in 1864 of the International Workingmen's Association, or the First International. This was the first time a stable body had been created which aimed to unite the

struggles of all workers throughout Europe and North America.

From the very start Marx was the leading figure within the International, its chief theoretical guide and political leader.

The creation of this body—its first meeting was attended by an enthusiastic crowd of over 2,000 who packed into St. Martin's Hall in London—was closely bound up with developments in the trade union movement.

### CONFINED

After the defeat of Chartism in 1848, trade unionism was confined largely to the skilled workers. Engineers, blacksmiths, building workers, boilermakers and similar groups formed the backbone of the organized labour movement. In many respects their leaders were extremely conservative figures. They disliked strikes and wanted if possible to 'live and let live' with the employers. 'Half a loaf is better than none at all' was one of their favourite slogans.

But Marx never confused these leaders with the trade

union movement itself. He recognized in the trade trade unions something unique in Europe. The British working class had created organisations which had no parallel in Europe.

So when a number of union leaders began moves to create an international body to stop the employers using foreign blackleg labour to break strikes Marx was extremely interested and immediately accepted an invitation to attend the inaugural meeting at St. Martin's Hall. As he wrote to Engels, he sensed 'that great powers were at work'.

Marx devoted his entire energies within the International to a patient but determined struggle to turn the unions in the direction of politics. He realized that unions were essentially defensive bodies, interested in negotiating better wages with the employers and preserving past gains.

But Marx knew that the power of the employing class rested not merely upon its ownership of factories. It was through its control of the state, the army, police, Parliament, that the capitalist class maintained its rule.



# basic rights

## the early trade unions

And understandably the employers were extremely nervous. The Mayor of Newcastle arrived with troops and ordered the men to disperse. But the miners' decided not to sign their work contracts—bonds—unless their demands were met.

The employers refused and instead brought in extra special constables to suppress any revolt. But the miners made another piece of history by going on strike.

This is when the first bitter chapters opened. The striking miners were arrested, intimidated and harrassed.

Blacklegs were brought in from other parts of the country to do their work in the pits. A small group of men continued working in the collieries. They were the 'scabs'.

The fury of the miners could not be contained simply by threats and arrests.

On April 18, 1831 about 1,300 men marched to some of the local collieries and reasserted their demands. They even threw baskets, lumps of wood and machinery down the pit shaft to stop it working.

Despite the brutal activities of the police led by local magistrates, the economic pinch of dwindling coal supplies was too serious for the coal bosses. They gave in to

some of the miners' demands which included shorter working hours for children, a higher daily rate of pay, abolition of 'tommy shops' and payment of wages instead of vouchers.

The union grew stronger and Tommy Hebburn was appointed the first full-time organizer. The next year—1831—when the annual contracts came up for renewal there was trouble again. The coal owners were much better organized this time to fight the strike.

### EVICTED

Miners' families were evicted from their cottages and scabs put to work. The scabs were even supplied with arms to fight against union men.

One of the magistrates leading the attack was called Failes.

During the second strike he, together with other legal authorities, made it illegal for any union men to hold a meeting. The strike went on into the tenth week. This is where Will Jobling came into the picture.

Justice Failes was riding on horseback one evening to Jarrow Colliery.

He was stopped by two miners who asked him for

food. Failes replied sharply. He was pulled from his horse and given a beating. The two miners who did this were Will Jobling and another man called Armstrong.

Ten days later, Failes died in hospital. A £300 reward was offered for the capture of the two men involved. Armstrong disappeared soon after. But Jobling was captured and tried for murder. He was hanged.

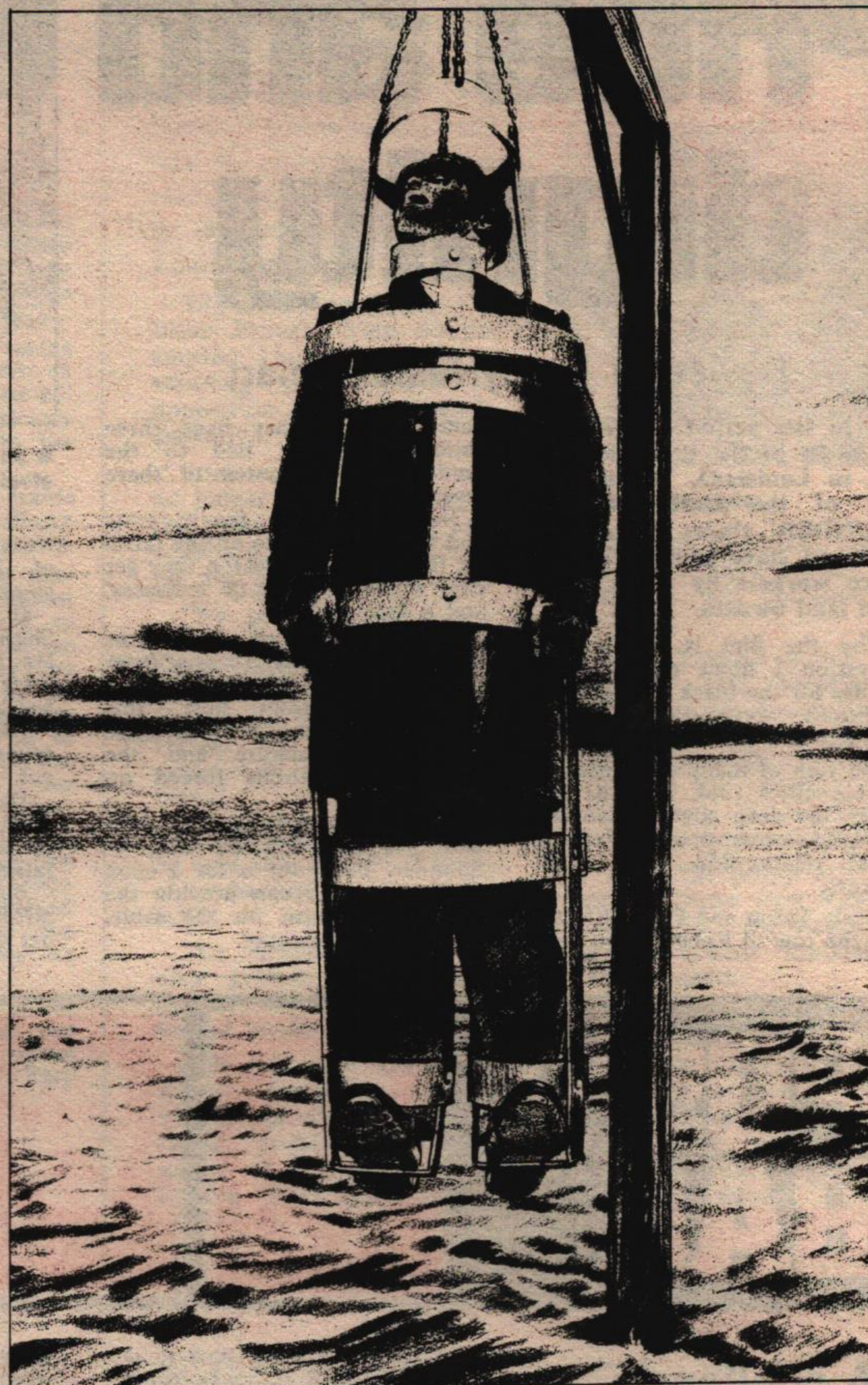
Jobling was murdered by the ruling class because he fought for the right to a trade union.

This trade union was to become the vanguard in the nation-wide organization of working men.

Jobling and many other miners in the north east did not die in vain. They had established an independent right of the working class and forged this class into a powerful force.

Other trade unions sprang up—with equally bitter experiences—in most parts of the country.

The miners' union in the north went on to form a much stronger organization. The Miners' Association of the 1840s was described by the 'Northern Star' as 'the most powerful labour union ever known in this country.'



## the First International

Only if the working class directed its struggle against this state could it finally free itself from capitalist exploitation through the establishment of socialism.

Here is a very important lesson for every Young Socialist attending the Pageant. Today the working class faces great dangers. The Tories are out to destroy its unions and all its most basic rights. Only the removal of this Tory government and its replacement by a Labour government pledged to a socialist policy can halt these attacks.

### REDUCE

Now there are those in the working class movement who advise workers to have nothing to do with politics. Groups like International Socialists and the International Marxist Group, try to reduce the struggle of the working class to one merely against the employers.

They deliberately try and divert the fight away from the main enemy, the Tory government. This of course can only split and divide the working class. The policies of these groups play into the

hands of the capitalist class.

Marx's fight inside the First International showed that these groups are by no means new. From 1864 onwards he fought a bitter struggle against the Russian anarchist, Bakunin. Bakunin and his followers opposed all political action by workers; they were against trade unions on the ground that they were reformist. They glorified militancy for its own sake.

In this fight Marx found his main allies from amongst the English trade unionists. While many of them were opposed to Marx's revolutionary politics they certainly joined with him against Bakunin in the defence of trade unionism.

Although the First International ceased to exist from 1876, Marx's fight was completely vindicated. The great 1871 Paris Commune established in practice the correctness of Marx's insistence on the need to direct the struggle against the state.

It was because the Communards failed to understand this that the 1871 revolution was so ruthlessly smashed by the capitalist state and defeated by the capitalist class.

When however the International was re-established in 1889 (by which time Marx was dead and the leadership of the movement was in Engel's hands) it did so with a political programme directly inspired by the experiences of the First International.

When 200,000 workers took part that same year in the first May Day demonstration they did so by calling not merely for the enactment of the legal eight-hour day but also for a workers' political party to carry through this and other demands. That party was to be the Labour Party, formed in 1900.

For us today, taking part in this great anti-Tory rally, this must be the lasting lesson of the First International. The working class can only go forward now, as it did in the 1860s politically. And to go forward politically it now has the great task of building a revolutionary party which can unite all its struggles and lead it to final victory.

● Left: Karl Marx. Top right: The gibbeted body of Will Jobling. Right: Provisional rules of the first International Workingmen's Association.

**ADDRESS**

AND

**PROVISIONAL RULES**

OF THE

**WORKING MEN'S**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION,**

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 28, 1864,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT ST. MARTIN'S  
HALL, LONG ACRE, LONDON.

—

PRICE ONE PENNY.

—

PRINTED AT THE "BEE-HIVE" NEWSPAPER OFFICE,  
10, BOLT COURT, FLEET STREET.

1864.



# MIAMI

'SOUNDER'

Radnitz/Mattel Production  
Directed by Martin Rittfor 20th Century-Fox  
Cicely Tyson, Paul Winford

## Pride and dignity

Reviewed by Sylvester Smart

SET in the period of 1933 in the midst of the great depression in Louisiana, a southern part of the United States, 'SOUNDER' shows the conditions and slave exploitation of Negro workers by white capitalist land owners.

Why the film is set in the depression I don't really know, because for the black workers the conditions were there before 1933 and for some time after.

The ruin of many capitalists in the big cities took its toll, but not in the deep south. Here the rich land owner prospered on a feudal relationship with black workers.

Cicely Tyson and Paul Winford play the role of Rebecca and hus-

band Nathan. They have three children and are tied to the feudal landlord's system of 'share cropping'.

Nathan and his family grow and harvest the cane on the farm. At the end of the season they get paid with a few tins of 'molasses' and a few dollars.

They are deprived of the most basic human rights. To exist from day to day is a struggle.

'Sounder' shows how this family survives the struggle against both nature and the economic conditions forced on them.

Nathan is seen hunting at night with his son and his dog — Sounder. The hunt is for a coon so that Nathan can provide the family with meat on the table. But the coon escapes.



● At the Wishbone Labour Camp, David Lee frantically searches for his father who has been jailed for stealing some meat.

Faced with a starving family Nathan is forced to steal a leg of ham from the landlord's smokehouse.

It is not long before the Sheriff comes to take him away. He is allowed a trial and the price imposed by Justice is one year's hard labour.

All links of communication between him and his family are cut.

David Lee asks for assistance from a middle-class white woman to find the whereabouts of his father.

But in the process of finding information she is reminded about her position in society and her

racial differences by the Sheriff. Consequently she hesitates before telling the boy anything, but does so because of a sense of guilt.

David Lee is sent by his mother on a hopeless search for his father. He finds the prison camp with all the black prisoners but is denied a chance to see his father.

Meanwhile the landlord back on the farm wants to know how Rebecca is going to do the share cropping now that Nathan is in prison.

He is worried about the repayment of debts and his share in the cropping.

Rebecca is now forced to carry on without Nathan.

The film shows her toiling from dawn to dusk with her three children. They sweat in the intolerable heat but they struggle with pride and dignity. They ask for nothing. They fight for survival with hate and anger.

The hatred is also shown when Sounder, the dog loved by the family, is shot by a guard when they take Nathan away to jail. It would have been no different if it had been a Negro.

The film is enough to stir deep emotional feelings in any audience. The quality and content of the film is clear and sharp.

## POST BAG



### A challenge

WE ARE members of the Kingston Young Socialists and we agree with what you are saying—we agree we should get the Tories out because we think we haven't got much of a future ahead of us when we leave school whilst the Tories are governing our country.

We have a good netball team and we will challenge any other Young Socialist teams to a game.

Jill, Sue,  
Kingston YS.

### Have bigger meetings

AS A member of the Young Socialists I think the weekly meetings should be bigger and attended by more young people.

The most important task of the present members is to recruit new members.

This is even more important at the present time.

Why? Because we have to show young people, who are not conscious of the situation, how the working class fought for a decent standard of living years ago.

We fought for clothes and food, the necessities of life, which are now often taken for granted. We fought for the right to free speech, decent wages and shorter working week.

We fought for trade unions and the right to strike if necessary.

Now the Tories are slowly but decisively taking away our rights. The point is that many people — young people especially — do not fully realize this. They do not know

what is happening and it is our own task to make them aware of this crucial situation.

Martin Henderson  
Peckham YS.

### Redundancy in North London

EVERY action of the Tory government ever since it was elected has been an attack on workers living standards. We have seen this very clearly in the enormous price and rent increases, the Industrial Relations Act, Common Market entry and state control of wages.

The basic right of workers to defend and improve their standards of living has been taken away by all kinds of anti-working class legislation which makes workers fighting for these rights into criminals.

The cowardly leaders of the Labour Party and trade union movement refuse to fight the Tories and have accepted every piece of Tory legislation.

Last week at the special TUC all they could put forward was a protest one-day strike. The fight to build a new leadership is of the utmost importance.

An example how the present trade union leadership fights can be seen in North London, where I live.

The welding division of British Oxygen Company is to close down making 750 workers redundant. The firm is moving its plant to Skelmersdale (with a £7m government grant) where it will employ less than half the present workforce.

The reasons given by the local reformists for not fighting to save these jobs is that unemployment is high in areas like Skelmersdale. Therefore, they say it would

be wrong to oppose the firm moving there!

We can do without this kind of leadership. The urgent task is to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to nationalize all industry under workers' control.

Brian Johnson  
Edmonton YS

### The Aldwych shooting

LONDON police were proud on Tuesday February 20 after hearing the quick decision made by their colleagues at India House.

They shot dead two boys carrying toy guns.

Three young men who were 15, 18 and 20 years old raided the Indian Embassy armed with knives, ammonia spray and toy pistols. The police came through the back door and shot two of them.

Even after a lot of publicity people have not realised the objective behind the acts of the three boys.

There are about 93,000 Pakistani prisoners-of-war held in Indian camps under conditions of starvation and degradation.

What is puzzling is that American prisoners-of-war have been given their freedom almost immediately after the so-called end of the Vietnam war. Pakistani PoWs have been held for the last one year and four months.

Surely we in Britain must rally together and force the Indian government to release the prisoners. We have sat back far too long.

We must demonstrate and show the Indian government we mean business. And we are not going to be talked out of it.

Mazhar Hafeez

## A gloomy careers guide for school leavers

FOR young people forced to stay on at school by the Tory government's raising of the school-leaving age, the latest issue of the 'National Union of Teachers Guide to Careers Work 1973' offers nothing but a pessimistic outlook.

Writing on 'Careers Guidance and the Raising of the School Leaving Age', David Driver, Deputy Principal Careers Officer for Manchester comes to the conclusion that staying on at school an extra year may well make it harder for youth to get into certain types of jobs because he will cost the employer more money.

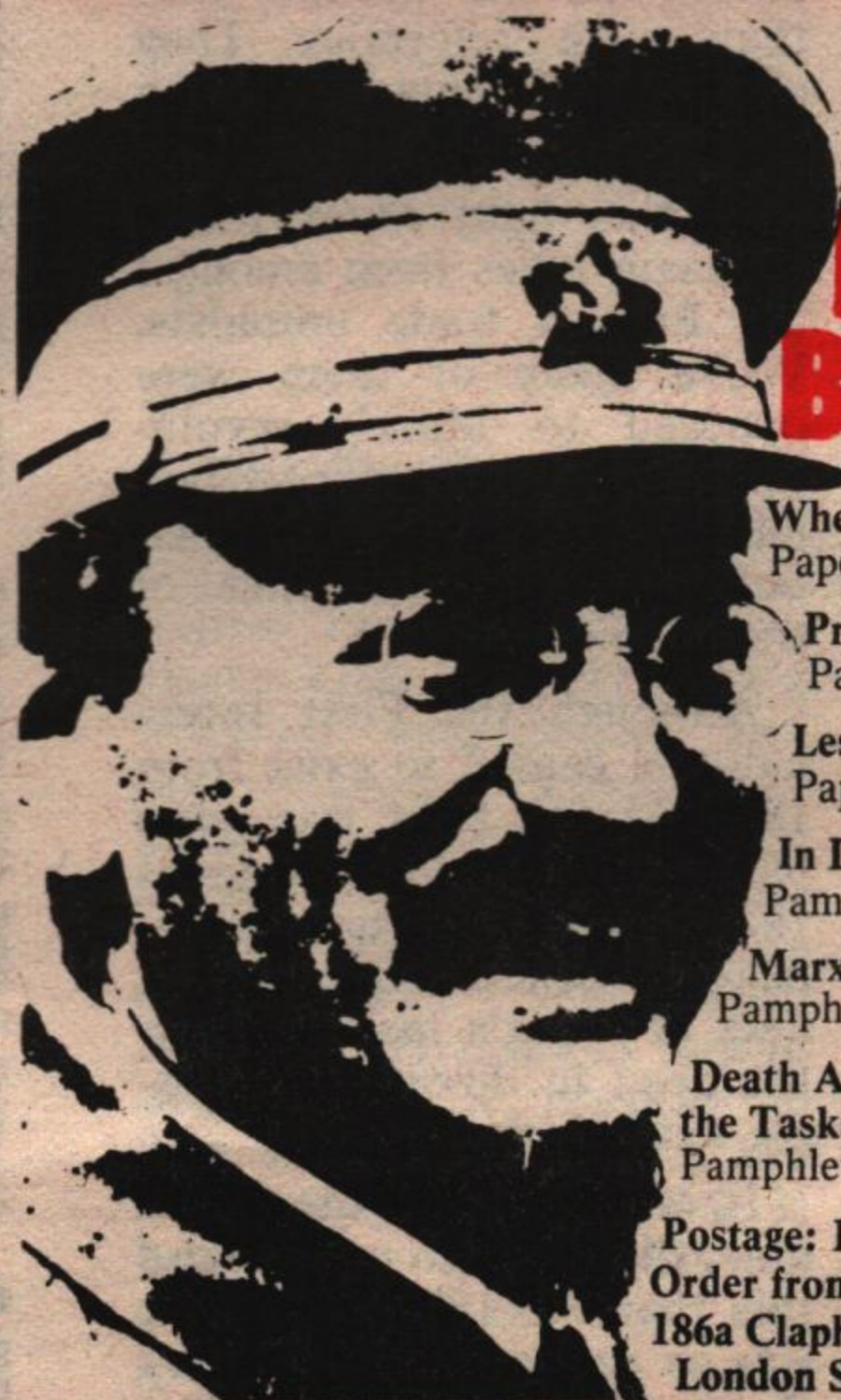
'The new sixth former has two major problems: firstly because wage rates relate to age, he may cost an employer more than the fifth year leaver without having any

stronger qualifications; and secondly, particularly in the case of boys, they may be too old for craft apprenticeship. Industry is not interested in the 17-year-old for craft training.'

Driver goes on: 'There is no evidence that the industrialists are concerned in any way about this other than to state categorically that teachers, and particularly head-teachers, persuade young people to stay at school against their interests.'

Driver's article makes it clear that the Tories' desire to raise the school-leaving age to 16 was not inspired by any interest in giving working class youth better education chances.

In fact, of course, one of their main aims, was to provide an artificial cover for the unemployment problem which now faces so many youth directly they leave school.



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**NUS 'national day of action'—March 14**

# Students say grants campaign is a farce

THE National Union of Students has called for a national students strike on Wednesday March 14 as part of its campaign for higher grants.

After a number of scattered protests — including regional demonstrations—the NUS hopes to make this the end of its 'campaign'.

Originally the NUS leadership had only planned another round of selective action for March 14.

But government officials have made it quite clear now that there is no chance of increased grants for students.

A delegation of NUS representatives was told by St John Stevas, Under Secretary for Education, that the prospect for all round £85 increases next September was 'doubtful' in the present economic crisis.

The government has also dismissed the possibility of an annual grants review. This would only be useful as 'an advisory exercise', the NUS was told.

So much for the protest campaign organized by the NUS leaders.

The students union executive, dominated by Stalinists of the Communist Party, tried to lead

the grants campaign by hoping to put enough pressure on the Tory government.

After the blunt rejection by St John Stevas, an executive statement said:

'We accuse the government of procrastinating over our just claim, of laying the basis for a future situation in which only the sons and daughters of the rich will be able to enter further or higher education, and of trying to drive a wedge between students and the rest of the population.'

After this statement the NUS executive proceeded to issue notice of the strike on March 14. The plans have already been denounced by many students as a 'farce'.

Students occupying Thames Polytechnic in Woolwich said last week that the activity planned for that day was 'in no way a "strike"'.

In a leaflet the Woolwich students said that the NUS had asked students to 'approach college authorities for cancellation of lectures, which if not successful is to be followed by a call for a Governors' meeting to discuss the matter!'

Students have also been apparently asked to approach college

refectories and request a close-down of canteen facilities. These are only two of about 20 'essential activities' to be undertaken in preparation for the 'strike'.

Thousands of students taking part in the day of action on Wednesday will be doing so because they have suffered seriously from the steep increase in the cost of living.

Their demand for higher grants and the end to the discretionary awards system is fully justified.

But it would be a huge mistake to think that the present NUS leadership is prepared to lead this campaign. As far as Digby Jacks and company are concerned this is the end of the grants protest. Their advice from now on will presumably be to return to normal and wait till the Minister of Education has finished considering the claim.

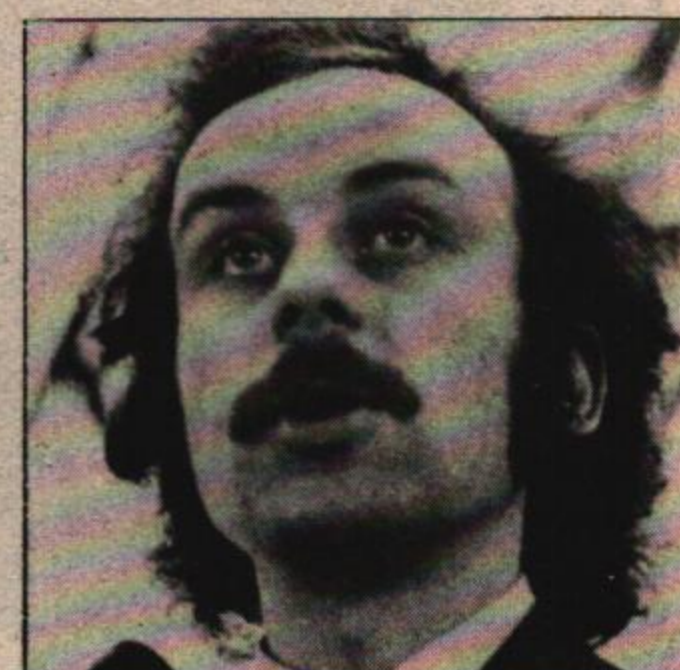
This is no way to proceed on an issue as important as the grants claim. Students on strike on Wednesday should demand that their executive stop the half-hearted pleading before the Tories.

The only way forward is for students to join with the rest of the working class in a united campaign to remove the Tory government from office.

# YS candidate to challenge NUS leadership

LEADERSHIP of the National Union of Students will be challenged at this year's Presidential elections by a candidate from the Young Socialists.

The YS candidate is Brian Prangle from Southampton University, who is standing for election in opposition to last year's executive.



● Brian Prangle

Students, he says, can no longer tolerate a leadership which talks left and collaborates with the Tories on every occasion.

'We cannot have a president who lunches with Tory ministers and launches public attacks on militants like those at Stirling University to encourage the authorities to discipline them.'

In his election manifesto he says that the NUS needs a leadership to meet the crisis.

'An executive that can only protest cap in hand against the Tories cannot defend students' rights.'

'We will not allow the grants campaign to be wound up after the traditional protest has been made. If students are to survive then cash supple-

ments are an urgent necessity. We have fought for this and will continue to do so.'

Brian Prangle points out that the Tory government faces an unprecedented international economic crisis. The government's attempts to break the working class are forcing it to change every institution in Britain.

'Even the police are now armed. Those who want to protest—like the Pakistanis in the Indian Embassy—end up dead.'

'Only an all-out struggle by the whole working class to remove this Tory government and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies can guarantee our rights to higher education.'

## Woolwich occupation against low grants and poor housing

STUDENTS at Thames Polytechnic, Woolwich, last week decided to continue their sit-in which is aimed against the 'pathetic inactivity' of the NUS leadership on students' grants.

At a general meeting of 400, a large majority voted to continue the occupation. They also repeated their call to other student unions to come out in support.

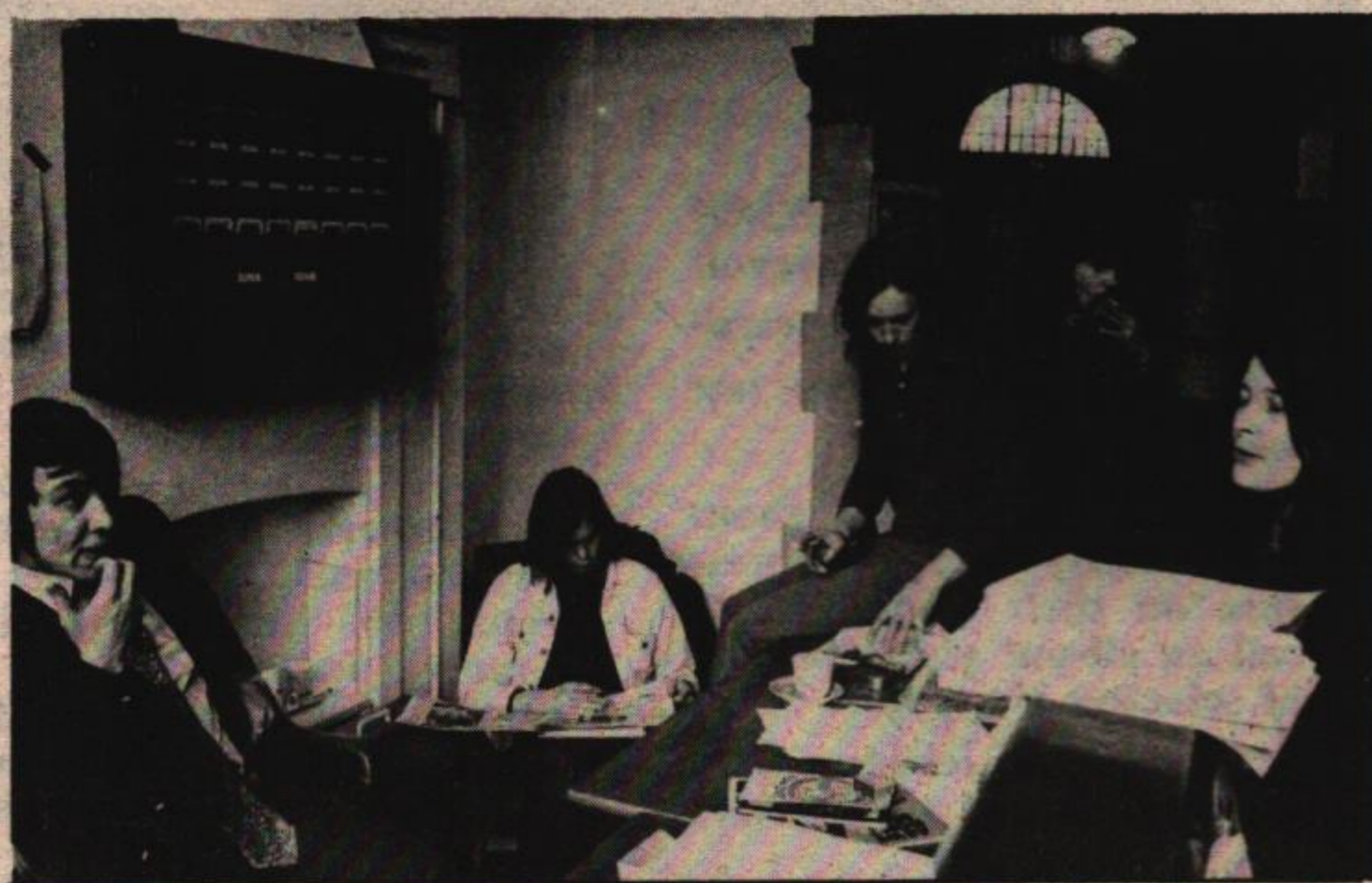
The Woolwich students are angry about the half-hearted NUS grants campaign. One-day demonstrations and token stoppages, they say, are not going to achieve higher grants.

At a meeting with Digby Jacks, the NUS president, representatives of the Woolwich occupation committee were reminded about the need for 'responsible leadership' among students.

About their occupation, Jacks said: 'It's nice, it's grand, it's lovely, but . . .' He went on to talk about the incapability of other college students to take such a militant position.

A typed sheet distributed to students at Woolwich said: 'After attempting to reason with Digby Jacks in the bar afterwards and getting little out of him—except a pint—the TPSU hurried back for their pizza having confirmed in their minds that we will get little help from the NUS.'

Support for the occupation has come in from colleges and universities throughout the country. Local trade unionists have also backed them. Among them are mes-



sages of support from Green- wich Labour Party and National Union of Teachers executive.

The students are continuing to allow sympathetic academic staff into the building and to hold informal tutorials. Other college facilities — library, canteen, cleaning, etc. — are going on as usual.

Students' committees were also elected to carry out specific tasks during the occupation.

'Our actions were precipitated by the positive militant feeling within the college and the apparent lack of initiative shown by the NUS in the grants campaign.'

The main issues in the occupation were grants and housing. Only a few students receive the full annual grant. The majority have to be subsidized with money from parental sources.

Paul Pearson, a student in the Humanities department of the Polytechnic, said he received only £110 a term.

This had to last for up to 13 weeks during the mid-term—under £9 a week. The rent for the Polytechnic's residential halls is £8 a week.

The Halls of Residence at Woolwich provide accommodation for only 300 out of the total of about 1,100 students at the Polytechnic. The rest have to find 'digs' independently, which are frequently more expensive.

Martin Ogara, a student active in the occupation, said a lot of students were forced to spend nights sleeping on floors of the college. Some have even spent nights at the local railway station.

Political economy student Ian Rudden, said the NUS campaign on grants was not sufficient.

'The aim of our occupation is to put a boot behind the NUS to get other colleges supporting our action.'

A general meeting on Friday March 9, was planned by the students to decide on further action.

### WHERE YOUR YSSS MEETS

- BRADFORD UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Branch meetings every Thursday, 1.00 p.m., Room E22.
- OXFORD UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Meets every Monday, 8.00 p.m., Jesus College, Seminar Room 'A' (New building).
- EXETER UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Meetings every Thursday, 1.15 p.m., Room C&D, Devonshire House.
- NORTH LONDON POLY YSSS:** Meets every Wednesday, 2.00 p.m., Ladbroke House, Room 215.
- LEEDS UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Marxist classes every Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
- POULTON-LE-FYLDE COLLEGE YSSS:** Meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Room 16.
- BRADFORD YSSS:** Meets every Friday, 2.30 p.m. Bradford Art College, Room II.
- IMPERIAL COLLEGE YSSS:** Meets every Tuesday, 1 p.m. Mechanical Engineering Dept. Room 320.
- LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS YSSS:** Meets every
- Monday, 1.00 p.m., Room S400.
- SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Meets every Wednesday, 1.00 p.m., Clubs and Societies Room.
- PORTSMOUTH POLY YSSS:** Meets every Monday, 7.30 p.m., Union Council Room.
- PRESTON YSSS:** Meets every Thursday, 4.30 p.m., Sixth Form College, Winkley Square, Preston.
- NOTTINGHAM YSSS:** Meets every Monday, 8.00 p.m., Room C21, Portland Building.
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON:** Meetings every Friday, Digby Room.
- TRENT POLY YSSS:** Meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Sports and Societies Room, Byron building.
- LEICESTER UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Meetings every Thursday, 1.00 p.m., Union Lecture Room, Percy Gee Building.
- SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY YSSS:** Meetings every Tuesday, 1.00 p.m., TV Room: Bookstall every lunchtime, 1.00 p.m. in foyer. Classes on Marxism every Tuesday, 8.00 p.m., Committee Room 2.

### JOIN THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS STUDENT SOCIETY

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Fill in this form and post to:

YSSS 186a, Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.



# EASY WIN FOR HAYES



THE GAME opened up with Hayes scoring their first goal in the first few minutes. It came very quickly and the trend continued. Within 20 minutes Hayes were leading by five goals. At half time the score had doubled and it stayed there for the rest of the game. Kingston scored their first goal at the beginning of the

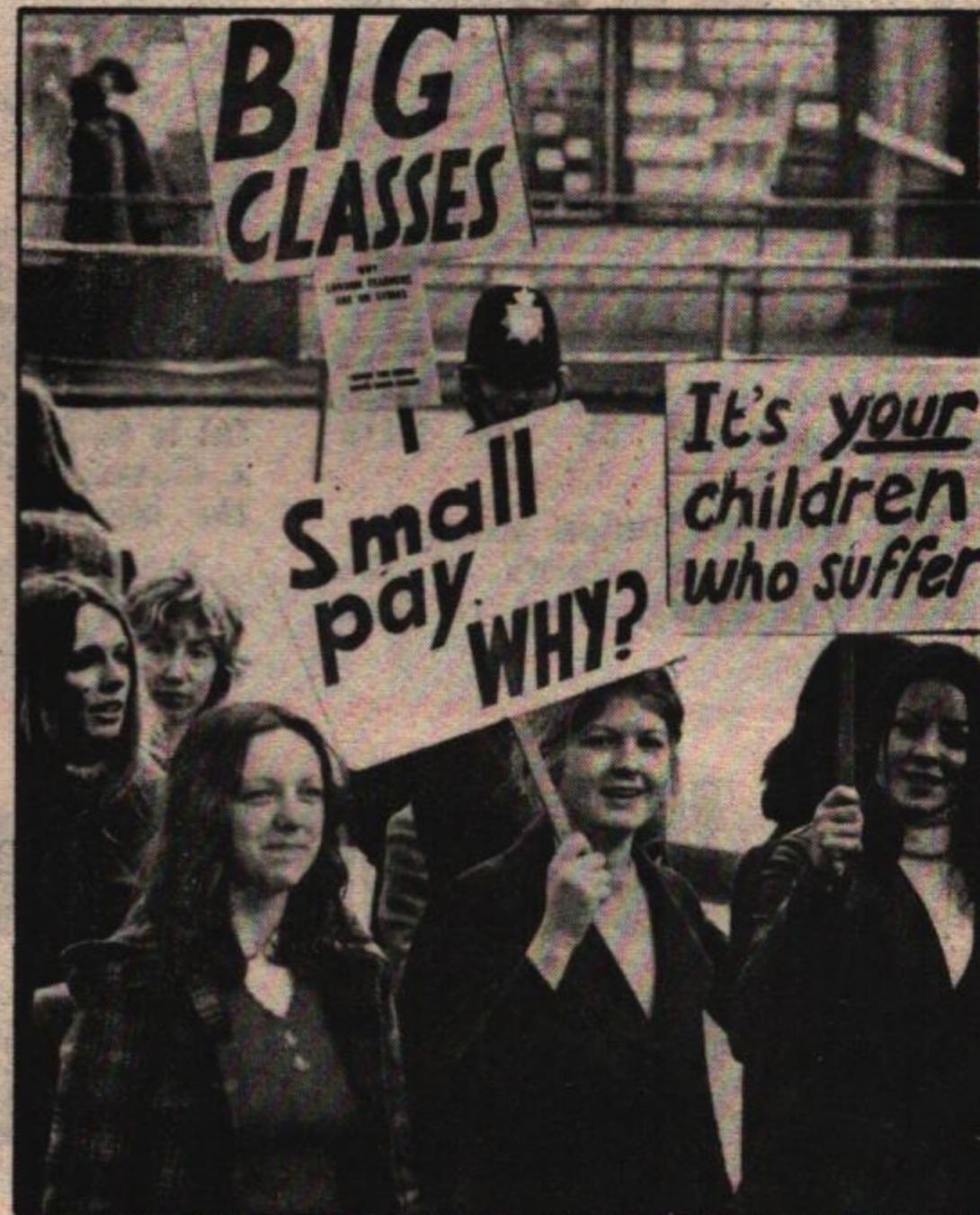
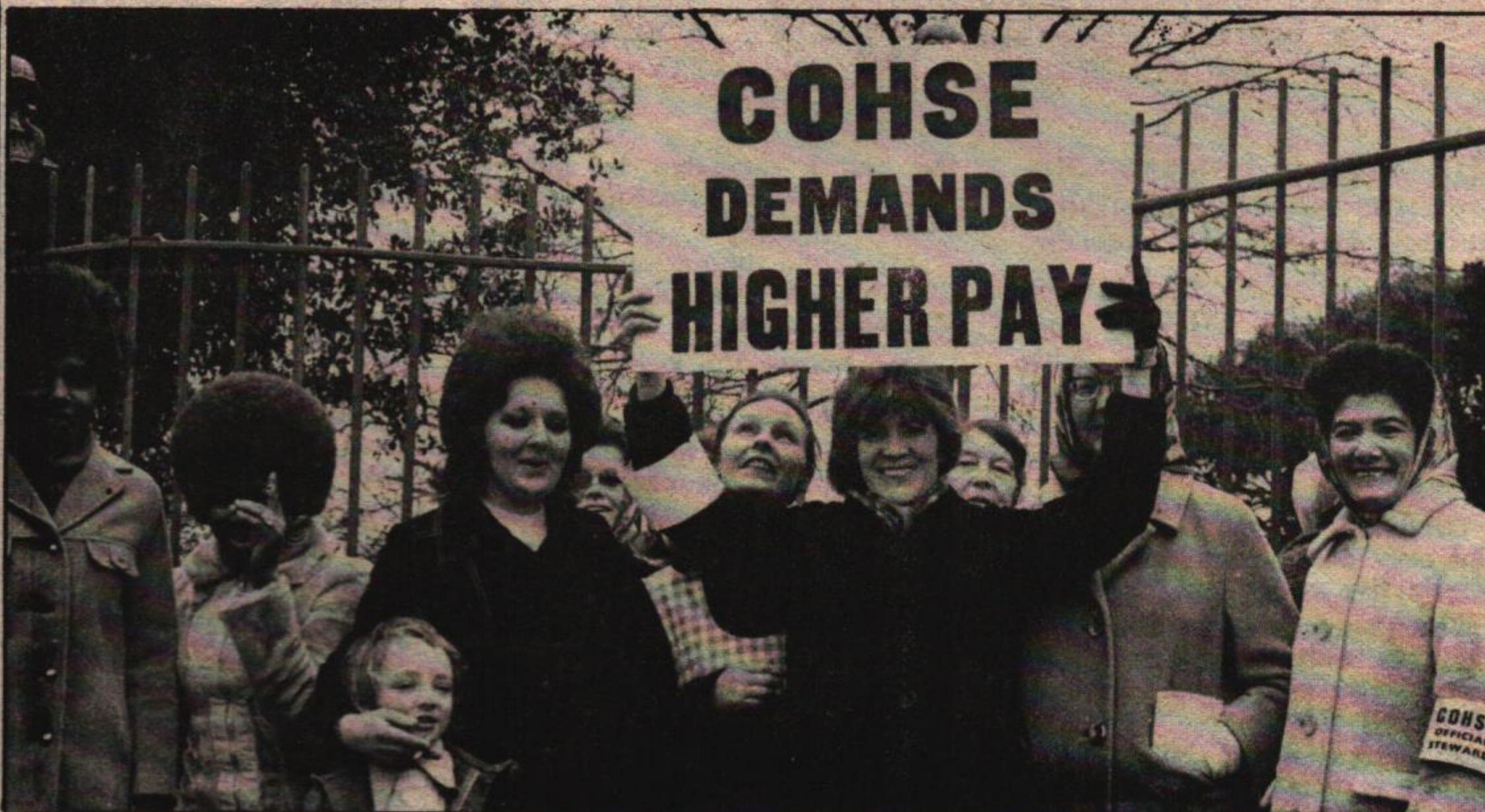
second half. Their frequent attacks were only held off by fine defence on the Hayes side.

During the last 15 minutes of the game Kingston managed to score three more goals.

The team made some very good attempts but they ran out of time.

Picture by Bill Poulton.

# Thousands strike against pay laws



Top: Hospital workers, they demanded all-out action Above left: Gas workers, right, London teachers.

THOUSANDS of workers joined the huge revolt against the Tory government's state pay laws last week.

Gas workers throughout the country kept up pressure on their leadership to call an all-out strike instead of selective stoppages.

Gas union leaders were expected to tell the govern-

ment that they intended to cut off supplies to major industrial and commercial gas users. The Gas Council said the effects would be 'crippling' for industry.

Also last week—Chancellor Barber's Budget week—hospital ancillary workers at about 263 hospitals in the country were on total or partial strike. Demands for a national strike grew stronger after hospital

workers were accused of endangering lives.

The teachers' union received almost unanimous response in 21 London boroughs. Over 2,400 teachers refused to work in support of their claim for an increase of the London allowance from £118 to £300.

Miners were also preparing for industrial action. So were railway drivers.

## 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

# APRIL 14/15 1973

### WINTER GARDENS BLACKPOOL

Coaches and trains leaving from all areas. Cost approx. £4.75 includes conference, dance, bed & breakfast, return fare.

NAME.....  
 ADDRESS.....  
 Paid £.....

# WHAT'S ON WHERE

**CAMBRIDGE YS**  
 meets every Tuesday  
 'The Rose and Crown'  
 (Corner of Newmarket Rd/  
 East Rd)  
 8.00 p.m.

**HIGHFIELDS YS**  
 meets every Thursday  
 Discotheque every  
 Saturday  
 Queen Victoria  
 (Near 'Leicester Mercury  
 offices)  
 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm  
 Adm: 10p

**Sanford YS**  
 meets every Tuesday, 7.30 pm  
 Methodist Church Hall  
 Broad Lane, L13

**LEEDS**  
**Middleton YS**  
 meets every Thursday,  
 7.30 pm  
 St Peter's Church  
 Belle Isle, L11

**TOOTING YS**  
 meets every Tuesday  
 Tooting Baths Club Room  
 Tooting Broadway  
 S.W.17

**BILLINGHAM YS**  
 Education classes, discussion,  
 discotheques  
 every Friday  
 Billingham Tech  
 8.00 p.m.

**EDMONTON YS**  
**DISCOTHEQUE**  
 Thursday March 15, 8 p.m.  
 St. Mary's Centre  
 (opp. Craig Park Youth Club)  
 Lawrence Road, N.9  
 Adm.: YS members 10p  
 non-members 15p

**BALHAM YS**  
 meets every Thursday  
 Balham Baths Club Room  
 Elmfield Road  
 Balham  
 S.W.12

**SOUTH SHIELDS YS**  
 Discotheque  
 every Wednesday  
 TUC Hall  
 Westhow  
 7.30 p.m.

**SHEFFIELD**  
**Hackenthorpe YS**  
 meets every Thursday, 8 pm  
 Frecheville Community Centre

**Parson's Cross YS**  
 meets every Tuesday, 8 pm  
 Mansell School

**Firth Park YS**  
 meets every Thursday, 8 pm  
 Shiregreen Middle School

**Central YS**  
 meets every Wednesday, 8 pm  
 YS Premises, Portobello  
 (near Jessops Hospital)

**HERSHAM YS**  
 meets every Thursday  
 7.30 p.m.  
 The Choir Vestry  
 The Congregation Church Hall  
 Queen's Road  
 Walton on Thames

**DURHAM**  
**Murton YS**  
 meets every Wednesday  
 7.30 pm  
 Miners Welfare Hall, Murton  
 Records and discussion

**PRESTON LARCHES YS**  
 Youth Club  
 Every Friday  
 St Peter and Paul's  
 Park Avenue  
 7.30-10.00 p.m.  
 Adm: 5p Records