

Socialist Challenge

FASCIST CARNAGE IN 'RED BOLOGNA'

FASCIST terrorists planted the bomb which last Saturday killed 75 people at Bologna railway station.

On Friday four fascists were indicted in Bologna for a bombing attack on a train four years previously. The attack on the railway station was the fascists reply. On Monday millions of workers went on strike to demonstrate against the attack.

For over a decade Italy has been racked with an acute economic and political crisis. The fascist party, the MSI, has tens of thousands of supporters and gets over a million votes at elections.

Among some sections of the middle class, and the well-heeled sons and daughters of the establishment, fascism is in vogue. Nostalgia for the days of Mussolini and the dream of a disciplined, authoritarian society pervades the far right.

Target

Bologna is a natural target for the fascists. For years the town has had a Communist Party city council. Since the late '60s the Italian fascists have been carrying out acts of indiscriminate terror as part of their so-called 'strategy of tension'.

In 1969 they killed 16 people and injured 81 in an attack on a Milan bank. Since then there have been numerous other bombings and assassinations.

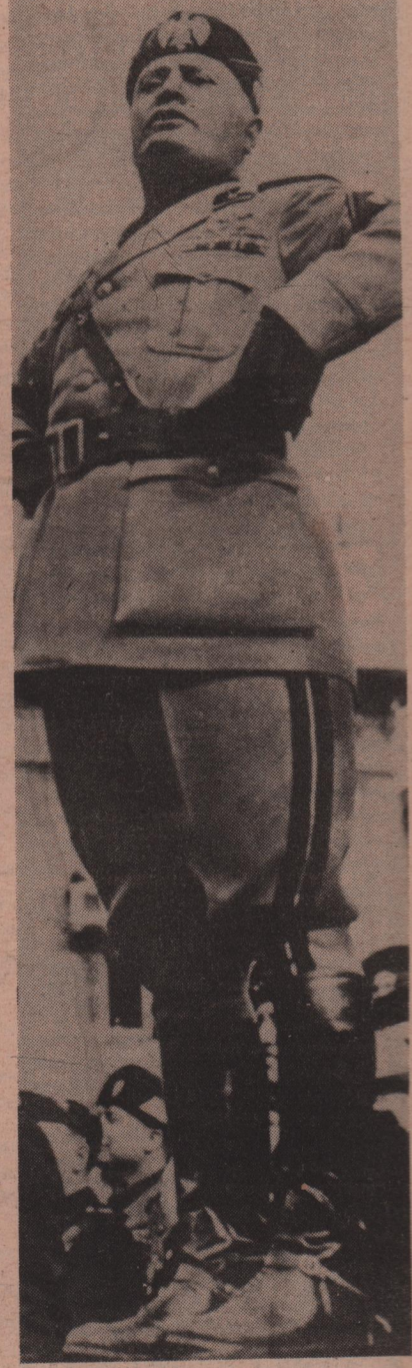
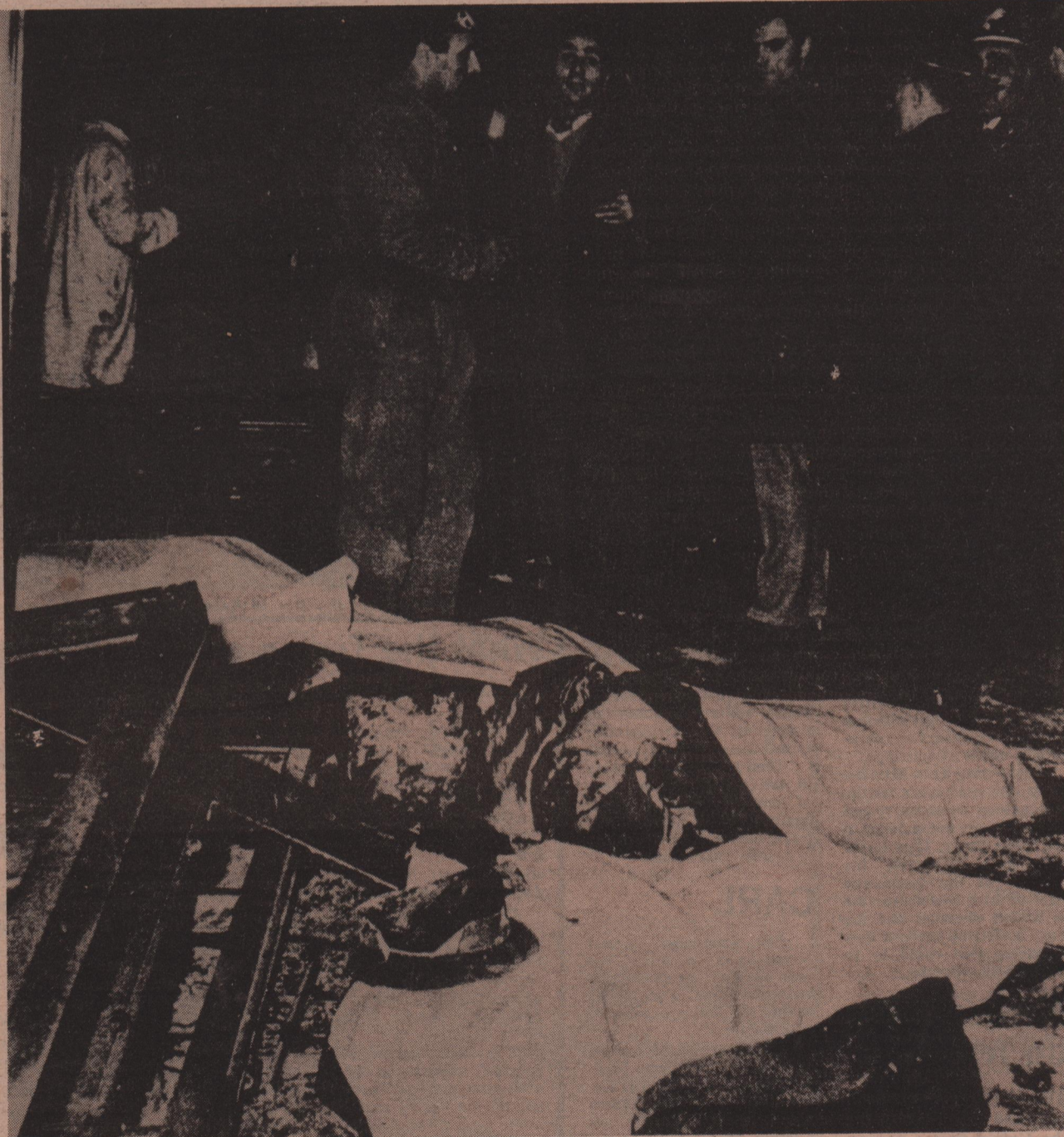
The strategy of tension is a campaign of indiscriminate terror aimed at creating a climate of fear and uncertainty and provoking a military coup, aided by the fascists.

The fascist groups in Italy have many sympathisers in the upper echelons of the army. But over the past decade they have become weaker. Every time the fascists threatened to become a major force, as in Reggio Calabria in the south of the country, the huge organised strength of the Italian labour movement has thrown them back.

Tension

Unfortunately, the 'strategy of tension' has been given a new lease of life by the activities of the 'Red Brigades'. Responding to the treachery and class collaborationism of the Communist Party — the most right-wing in Europe — sections of the left have taken to armed struggle.

Their actions, which have included not only attacks on judges



and industrialists, but also on trade unionists, have alienated the vast majority of the working class. They have also made it much more difficult for the far left — most of whom reject Red Brigade tactics — to gain a hearing.

Only the parties of the status quo — the Christian Democrats and the Communist Party — have gained.

The attack on the railway station at Bologna will be used by the CPI and the Christian Democrats to escalate their call for increased state repression against terrorism. Already a reign of terror exists against sections of the left.

The Italian left should reject calls for more state repression. Only the mass action of the workers' movement can defeat the fascists; the left must stick to its slogan — 'Neither with the state, nor the Red Brigades'.

All out West Brom 17 Aug

MASSIVE support is building up for the counter-mobilisation against the National Front's 17 August demonstration in West Bromwich.

The National Front has been going through a torrid time recently. It has suffered splits and defections, not least that of its erstwhile Führer, John Tyndall.

In order to try to boost its flagging support the Front is holding a demonstration in West Bromwich on the theme 'British jobs for British

workers'.

The fascists are attempting to cash in on the soaring unemployment in the West Midlands by pretending that black workers are causing it.

The truth of course is that black workers, especially the youth, are the hardest hit by the economic recession and Tory policies which are causing unemployment.

Already wide-spread support for the counter-demonstration called by the ANL and Sandwell Campaign against

Racism and Fascism has been expressed by black, anti-racist, and Labour movement organisations. Thousands of people are expected to be there on the day.

17 August for the National Front is not just about whether they can make headway using the issue of unemployment; it is also about whether the National Front can re-organise and re-establish itself as a vital political force.

Let's make sure that the NF is put in its place — back in the dustbin. See you in West Brom!

OUR POLICIES

Capitalism is in crisis. The leaders of the Labour Party and the trade unions offer solutions that are in the interests not of the workers but of the capitalist class.

Socialist Challenge believes that the two vital tasks confronting revolutionary socialists are:

- To build broad-based class struggle tendencies in opposition to class-collaborationism in the labour movement. These should be non-exclusive in character, grouping together militants holding a wide range of political views.

- To begin to fight for the creation of a unified and democratic revolutionary socialist organisation which can, through an application of united front tactics, begin to be seen as an alternative by thousands of workers engaged in struggles.

Such an organisation should be based on the understanding that:

1 The struggle for socialism seeks to unite the fight of workers against the bosses with that of other oppressed layers of society — women, black people, gays — struggling for their liberation. This socialism can only be achieved by creating new organs of power and defeating with all necessary means the power of the capitalist state.

2 Our socialism will be infinitely more democratic than what exists in Britain today, with full rights for all political parties and currents that do not take up arms against the socialist state. The Stalinist models of 'socialism' in the USSR and Eastern Europe have discredited socialism in the eyes of millions of workers throughout the world. We are opposed to them and will offer full support to all those fighting for socialist democracy.

3 The interests of workers and capitalists are irreconcilable on a world scale. Capitalism has not only created a world market, it has created world politics. Thus we fight for working class unity on an international scale. This unity will in the long run be decisive in defeating both the imperialist regimes in the West and the brutal dictatorships they sustain in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Britain it implies demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and letting the Irish people determine their own future.

4 The Communist parties in Europe are in crisis. Neither the 'Eurocommunist' nor the pro-Moscow wings have any meaningful strategy for the overthrow of the capitalist state. New revolutionary socialist parties are more necessary than ever before. Conditions today are more favourable than over the preceding three decades. But such parties can only be built by rejecting sectarianism and seeing internal democracy not as a luxury but as a vital necessity. This means the right to organise factions and tendencies.

If you agree with these principles and want to be involved in activities by Socialist Challenge supporters in your area, fill in the form below and send it to us.

- I am interested in more information about activities in my area.
- I would like additional literature and enclose 50p to cover costs. (Delete if not applicable)

Name

Address

Tel no

NATIONALITIES 'WHITE PAPER' APPLY NAMED

By Davy Jones

IT IS quite appropriate that the government's new proposals on nationality should be presented in a 'White Paper'. The Tories' main aim is to bring the outdated nationality law into line with recent legislation to curb black immigration.

Even the Liberal leader, David Steel, commented that the proposals did nothing to remove the 'repugnant discriminatory features of the 1971 Immigration Act' which had separated citizens into sheep and goats. 'All this does is to divide them into sheep and two lots of goats.'

Born

The 1971 Immigration Act divided the world into 'patrials' and 'non-patrials' according to the infamous 'grandfather' clause — whether a grandparent or parent had been born or registered in the United Kingdom.

This neat distribution lumped the overwhelming majority of blacks into the 'non-patrial' category, with no rights to immigration. British citizenship was and remains reserved for the overwhelmingly white 'patrial' categories.

Other categories of citizenship, mainly black, will again have virtually no rights under the new White Paper.

Sexist

The struggle of women for equality has obliged the government to remove the most blatantly sexist aspects of nationality law. But the White Paper cynically removes rights from both sexes by inserting a new three-year residence qualification for those applying for citizenship by virtue of marriage.

Right-wing Tory MPs are bitter that even more restrictive curbs on immigration and nationality are not included in the White Paper. They would also have preferred the removal of the democratic right of Irish citizens to vote in British elections. But the Tory leadership realised how damaging that could be to Anglo-Irish relations.

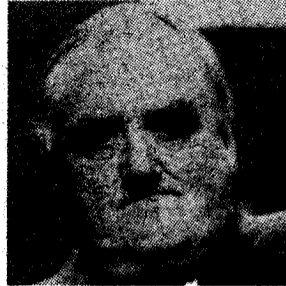
Fascists turn on Iranians

THE National Front has followed the example of the United States government and chosen Iranian and Libyan immigrants as targets for racist hatred.

A bulletin for NF members issued by the Front's branch in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, announces that the removal of these immigrants is the object of a demonstration to be held in the town this Saturday at 3 p.m.

Abandoning the usual law-abiding formulas, the Tunbridge branch organiser, Paul King, attempts to arouse his co-fascists with the declaration: 'We need to kick out this rabble from our town and show them who runs the streets.'

A counter-mobilisation was being considered by local Labour movement organisations as SC went to press.



The content of the White Paper was almost a foregone conclusion. Successive governments — both Tory and Labour — have based their proposals on nationality on Civil Service blueprints.

Labour's Green Paper of 1977 was based on an earlier Tory consultative document, and the present White Paper owes much to the Green Paper.

The Tory and Labour leaders share the same approach to the issue. Both see immigration, especially black immigration, as a 'threat' to British culture and a contributory cause to our economic and social problems.

Accepting this racist framework leads them to propose increasingly undemocratic laws on immigration and nationality to contain the 'problem'.

Vicious

These laws strengthen the aim of the state and its vicious attacks on black people. They allow the police to get away with mass raids on black workers, as recently in North London. They encourage the racists to launch murderous attacks on black people in this country.

Under capitalism all these laws on immigration and nationality are reactionary. They are inevitably used to make oppressed minorities scapegoats for the capitalist crisis.

Their aim is to pit workers of one 'nation' against those of another; to pit one race against another, to prevent international workers' solidarity against imperialism.

CARL

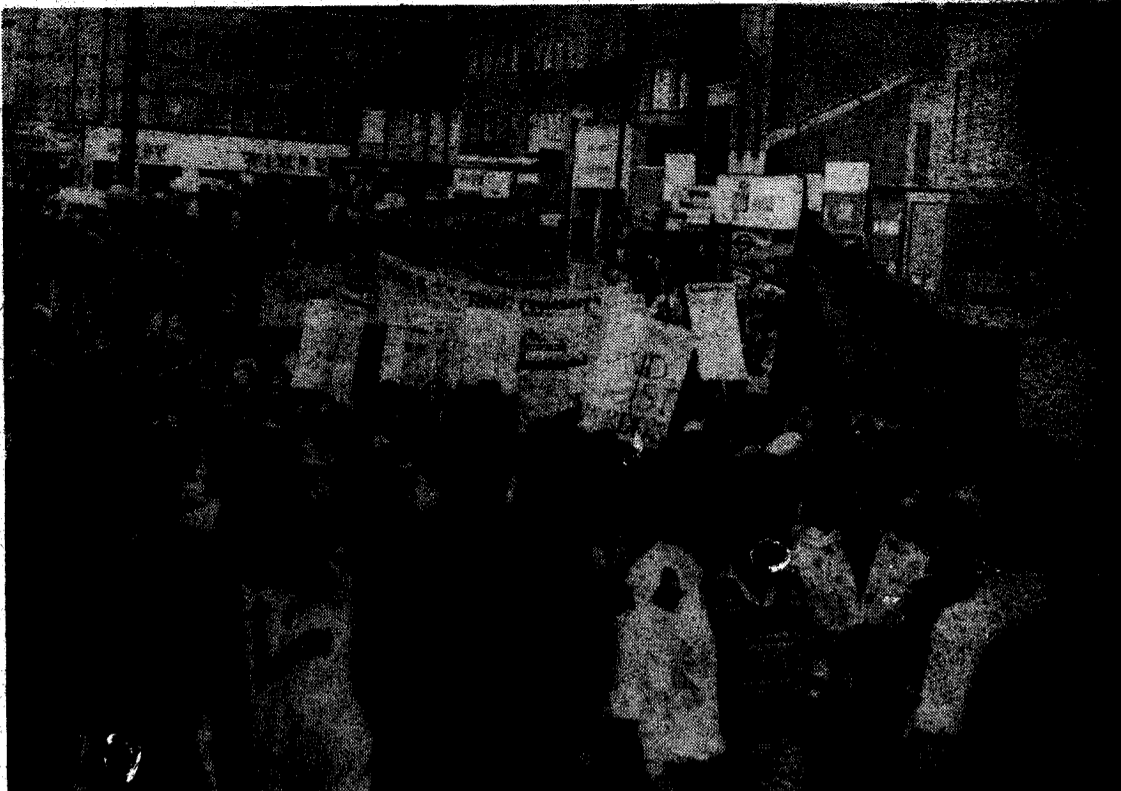
The Campaign against Racist Laws was set up last year to fight against racist legislation, and in particular against the Tory proposals on nationality.

CARL organised one of the largest-ever demonstrations against racist legislation last November, with 20,000 people marching through London. Its campaign of opposition is now being stepped up. Get in touch: CARL, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

A question of racism

HEARD about the BBC's financial crisis? One item on the corporation's expenditure account is a bill for £1,350 from A T Hoolahan, a leading libel lawyer engaged by Robin Day.

Day is extremely upset about his appearance in *It Ain't Half Racist, Mum*, the expose of television's racism made by the Campaign Against Racism in the Media and first screened by the BBC as an Open Door 'access'



Asians protest against murder of Aktar Ali Beg last Saturday in Newham.

What the Tories are up to

The White Paper on Nationality:

- * Replaces the 1948 British Nationality Act.

- * It creates three categories of citizens:

- i) British citizenship for approximately 57m people 'closely connected to the UK'.

- ii) Citizens of the British Dependent Territories living in Hong Kong, Belize, and various groups of islands.

- iii) British Overseas Citizens mostly possessing another nationality, except about 200,000 living in Malaysia, India, and Africa.

- * British citizens will generally speaking be those with parents or grandparents born or naturalised in the United Kingdom.

- * Children born here to parents neither of whom is a British citizen or free of conditions of stay will not

automatically acquire British citizenship though this could leave them stateless.

- * Women will be able to transmit citizenship on equal terms with men to their children born abroad.

- * Similarly both sexes will be treated equally concerning citizenship by virtue of marriage — neither will now be able to automatically apply for registration after three years' residence.

- * Naturalisation qualifications will include approximately five years' residence, good character, language proficiency, and a clear demonstration 'that an applicant has thrown in his lot with the United Kingdom'.

- * There will be no right of appeal against refusal of naturalisation or registration.

One success one failure in immigration cases

By Mark Hackett

TWO immigration appeal tribunal decisions were announced on Wednesday of last week. The adjudicator granted Nasira Begum's appeal against deportation, but turned down that of Anwar Ditta who has been attempting to bring her children to Britain.

The Friends of Nasira Begum Committee in SE Manchester has mounted a successful campaign in her defence, including considerable support from trades union branches, trades councils, regional TUCs, and Labour Party organisations.

The campaign has unearthed and publicised information that the Home Office wanted to keep under wraps. It is still possible, however, that the Home Office will appeal this latest decision.

Unfortunately the Anwar Ditta defence campaign based on Rochdale was not so successful in drawing in local support, partly because of internal conflicts.

The evidence supporting Anwar's case is plain enough. She was born in Bradford, brought up in Rochdale, and then married to

programme early last year.

The Day excerpts show how in the BBC's major debate *A Question of Immigration*, which he chaired, Day attempted to centre the discussion on the views of Enoch Powell.

The BBC's illustrious interviewer wants to sue the corporation for transmitting the CARM programme, and top management seems happy enough to help him try. The lawyer's fee includes two viewings of the film at £250 a time (that's just under £10 a

minute).

The corporation is so ashamed of the programme that when the producer of the Open Door unit visited public service broadcasting stations in the United States a few weeks ago, the BBC refused to let him have a copy of *It Ain't Half Racist, Mum*. He had to obtain a copy from CARM.

It can be hired in 16mm and video from: The Other Cinema, 12/13 Little Newport St, London WC2. Tel 01-734 8308/9. Price £12.

Shops close in support of demo over racist killing

THE streets of Newham, East London were unusually empty as 3,000 people marched last Saturday to protest a racist murder. They condemned, too, the police violence which took place on the 19 July demonstration, also held to protest the murder of Aktar Ali Beg in East Ham last month.

Asian shops and businesses closed in solidarity on Saturday, and many white shopkeepers, aware of the anger in Newham's black community, shut up shop as the march went by.

The demonstrators included people from the local community and black organisations from as far away as Bradford and Birmingham. Local left-wing and Labour movement organisations joined the march.

The National Front — which the previous Monday had turned out in force to give encouragement to the four skinheads accused of Aktar's murder — was hardly to be seen, despite rumours that there was an East End NF mobilisation against the demo.

Disgust

The few who dared to shout racist abuse or give Nazi salutes did so from a safe distance behind police lines.

The march was heavily policed, with horses very much in evidence and riot shields always at hand. The police again provoked the demonstrators and several black youth were arrested.

The demands coming from the demonstrators centred on black self-defence. This demand was reiterated by the speakers at the rally. Mr Kadri, of the Standing Committee of



Asian shops and businesses closed on Saturday.

Pakistani Organisations, called for the setting up of defence committees and for maximum support for the counter-mobilisation to the National Front in West Bromwich on 17 August.

Mr Desai, speaking for the steering committee, placed the blame for Aktar's death on the state.

Asian youth from the crowd who seized the microphone told the rally that Asian youth were tired of flowery speeches from the community elders, who despite the content of their speeches didn't want to fight.

He called on the elders to start showing some leadership. To start with, he said, they should have been at the police station securing the release of those arrested.

The holding of two large demonstrations in the space of two weeks has shown that the black community in Newham wants to organise against racism.

The elders, with their petitions to Home Secretary Whitelaw, are still sowing illusions. Self-defence is the first essential step towards effective

organisation against racism. The next steps in Newham are the

Rastas clash with cops

A mini-riot took place in Leicester on 28 July when police with riot shields and batons confronted some 50 Rastafarian youth.

It began over an incident in the Burlington, a West Indian pub in the Highfields area of the city. Twenty riot police made a rapid appearance, and a mini-riot went on from 10pm to midnight.

The Leicester Mercury report said that a petrol bomb was thrown. Six Rastas were arrested.

pickets of the West Ham magistrates court on 11 and 14 August, when the 29 arrested on 19 July will appear, together with a continuing presence at the court when those charged with the murder appear.



Several black youth were again-arrested on the demonstration.



'A BOOZY OLD REACTIONARY'

THE Queen Mother's 80th birthday has been the occasion for the most sycophantic and nauseating series of newspaper articles, television programmes, and general reactionary drivel. The Queen Mother is a boozy old reactionary, renowned for her support of Ian Smith's regime in Zimbabwe. Her famous 'cheerfulness' and 'radiance' probably derive from her huge yearly state handout. Few other 80-year-olds have such privileges and lead such an easy life.

The sickening, grovelling trivia reached a new high point in the House of Commons as Thatcher and Callaghan made 'loyal addresses'. Fortunately someone was there to sound a discordant note and speak up for ordinary pensioners — Bolsover MP Dennis Skinner. Here we reproduce Hansard's account of the exchange.

The Prime Minister (Mrs Margaret Thatcher): I beg to move: That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty on the eightieth birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and to assure Her Majesty of the great pleasure felt by this House on so joyful an occasion.

An eightieth birthday is always a matter for delighted congratulation. In the case of the Queen Mother the people of Britain celebrate with affection and pride the birthday of a person with a very special place in our hearts. She is a Queen who has been strong with the brave, has mourned with the sad and has enchanted everyone by her grace and wit...

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East): I rise to endorse and support the Prime Minister's proposal.

Mr Ian Stewart (Hitchin): I have the privilege to represent the constituency of Hitchin, which includes St. Paul's Walden, where Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, the Queen Mother, beloved of us all, spent much of the early part of her life. She has a special place in the affections of my constituents...

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover): When I read the motion this morning, my immediate reaction was to think of all the many other 80 year olds in this country, in my constituency and in many others. My second reaction was to read the motion carefully. I hastily came to the conclusion that it was very narrow, and needed to be broadened. That is why I sent to the Table Office a manuscript amendment, through which I wanted to add the words:

'and that this House congratulates all those persons in the United Kingdom who have reached their eightieth birthday and above, especially since many of those aforesaid have managed to survive in much more adverse circumstances, especially during the last 15 months of Tory government.'

This motion is like many others that we discuss on some occasions. It is very elitist and narrow, and comes from a sloppy consensus that I abhor.

Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Lancaster): The words of a very bitter man.

Mr Skinner: I am more concerned with people like Mr and Mrs Shuker, who live in my constituency. One of them lives at No. 3 Sandy Lane, with her daughter and son-in-law, Les Jackson, the county and England cricketer. Her husband lives in a small hospital further down the road in the constituency, at Chesterfield.

One is 87 years old and the other is 88. They are desperately trying to get together for the last period of their lives, but are unable to do so because of the many cuts that have been perpetrated by the Tory Derbyshire county council and the government. I feel that this motion should have included the Mr and Mrs Shukers of this world...

I read in the newspapers recently that the Queen Mother always seems to manage to dress correctly for the occasion. I know many 80-year-old women in my constituency and outside who do not have the opportunity to find dresses for the right occasion...

Mr William Hamilton: I find motions of this sort insufferable.

Mr Robert Atkins (Preston, North): We find you insufferable.

Mr Hamilton: I know that. The sycophancy and the deference that pour from both Front Benches nauseates some of us. I cannot let this occasion pass without seeking to open the windows a little. I agree entirely with my hon. Friend the Member for Bolsover (Mr Skinner)...

We are celebrating a unique occasion. By any standards, Her Majesty the Queen Mother has been a remarkable lady. At 80 years old, she is amazingly well preserved and almost too constantly radiant to be real. We can all try to forget for a few moments the hairshirt economy being created by the flint-hearted iron lady at No 10 and seek some warmth and comfort from our magnificent Royal charmer.

As a public relations officer for the business, Her Majesty the Queen Mother has been superb. However, some who should know have told me on occasions that her political views are far to the Right of even those of the Prime Minister.

Mr Speaker: Order. The hon. Gentleman knows that we do not discuss the views and attitudes of members of the Royal Family....

Mr Hamilton: I was about to say that as long as the Queen Mother and those like her are around, another revolution will be that we bit more difficult to achieve. That is the purpose of the institution...

Question put and agreed to.
Resolved: That Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, Mr. Secretary Whitelaw, Mr. Norman St. John-Stevas, Mr. Michael Foot, Mr. Merlyn Rees, Mr. David Steel and Mr. John Parker do wait upon Her Majesty with the said Message.



NASIRA Begum — won her fight against deportation

Pakistan. While living there she had three children, who are now aged between six and nine.

Anwar returned to Britain with her husband in 1975, but the Home Office disputes the parentage of the children and will not allow them entry to Britain. This is in spite of the fact that Anwar has birth certificates, medical records, and photographs.

The campaign to secure their right to come to this country is continuing. The defence committee, which urgently needs funds, is at: 127 Crawford St, Rochdale, Lancs.

HOMENEWS

By Brian Grogan

THATCHER'S present blitz on the working class is politely termed 'monetarism'. What this term sums up is a historic regression to economic policies and theories of the late 19th century.

It is an admission that present capitalist society can no longer even promise progress. It justifies and provides a rationale for a future of mass unemployment, slashed living standards and the destruction of the welfare state.

Thatcher's monetarism is a set of policies centred on the creation of mass unemployment to make the working class pay for the crisis of the capitalist economic system. It is fitting that the high priest of this creed — Nobel prize winner Milton Friedman — is also the chief economic adviser to the butchers of the Chilean working class.

The basic idea of monetarism is that governments restrict the expansion of the money supply. This is a radical change from the policy of all post-war governments dedicated to 'Keynesianism'.

Credit

Keynesianism is a policy of managing demand in such a way as to ameliorate the effects of the periodic recessions of capitalism. Very simply, governments extended credit to the bosses, so that profits could be made by mobilising under-

WHAT IS MONETARISM?



ARGUMENTS FOR SOCIALISM

utilised capacity.

This policy was the price the capitalist class was prepared to pay to safeguard their profit system against a working class that refused to go through another period like the '30s, and the horrors of fascism and the Second World War.

Today the bosses are faced with powerful trade union organisation which prevents them from off-loading the crisis of the system onto the backs of the working class at the level they need if the economy is going to be re-launched on an expansion basis. They have been unable to overcome the falling rate of profit.

So Tory governments, starting with Heath in 1970, set themselves the task of breaking the backbone of the trade union movement — especially the shop stewards organisation. What Thatcher learned from Heath was that this can't be done through the use of legislation or political appeals alone. Laws to shackle the unions, incomes policies and political attacks only work if a material threat is created to union strength — the

weapon of mass unemployment. What is new and specific to Thatcherism is the use of unemployment as a deliberate and most fundamental tenet of government policy.

Thatcher's policies haven't created the recession. But they have deliberately made it worse. She has abandoned many of the instruments developed by successive post-war governments that have prevented the full effects of the recession from creating a reserve army of labour. This is the coherence of the whole of Thatcher's interlocking measures — each formerly pioneered by Labour.

No-one knows how high unemployment levels might have to go to have the hoped-for effect. In June alone unemployment levels have leapt by 20 per cent (on official figures from 1.6m to 1.8m).

It is the possible response of the working class to such vicious policies which is creating all the nervous talk about U-turn just now. Only the most tentative evidence exists to support that the policy is working.

In the face of 1.6m unemployed, wage settlements were still running above 20 per cent. The Post Office engineers have settled for 23 per cent and the miners are claiming 36 per cent. If the Tories have to go to 2.5m or 3m jobless they fear that the revolt of the working class will engulf them.

Her opposition to incomes policy has nothing to do with defence of free collective bargaining — as many skilled workers who voted for the Tories the last election were confused into thinking. In Thatcher's opinion incomes policy will not work without first severely weakening the class, but it also gives a focus for unifying the class behind the strongest detachments. This is how the weakly organised push for their demands. Her opposition is not to incomes policy as such, but to making it the central instrument of policy. In the Thatcher-Joseph variant of monetarism, the unemployment weapon dominates instead.

Demands

For all the talk of Tony Benn and his co-thinkers, the capitalists are not in favour of de-industrialisation. They are not in favour of giving up the core of their British-based wealth producing industries.

They are in favour of making quite considerable sacrifices if the result is a defeat for the working class and a decisive weakening of its organisation. Removed of all its verbiage such are the high ideals summed up by 'monetarism'.

We should take charge of the post office!

By Colin Talbot

POEU Westminster branch

THE Post Office Board is not made up of people who are likely to be sympathetic to the needs of ordinary working people. The Chairperson of the Board now earns £53,000 a year, while other full-time Board members earn around £40,000 a year. That doesn't include all the fringe benefits.

People who move in such a luxurious and rarified atmosphere as the top PO managers have more in common with their counterparts in private industry, although they themselves may have come from more humble beginnings.

However, most of them can't even claim that distinction. Sir William Barlow, the PO Chairperson, is currently the director of at least six other (private) companies in addition to his role at the PO. Before starting at the PO he had done almost 20 years as a manager for various branches of English Electric, one of the components of GEC.

Ken Young, member of the Board for personnel, also comes from GEC, where he was their personnel manager.

Sam Wainwright, head of Giro Bank, comes from a merchant banking background in the City, while Peter Benton, head of Telecoms, was a manager for Unilever, Shell, and Berger at various times. Out of the six full-timers, only two have come up through the ranks of the PO. The other four have held (or in some cases still hold) directorships in a total of over 30 companies.

Privilege

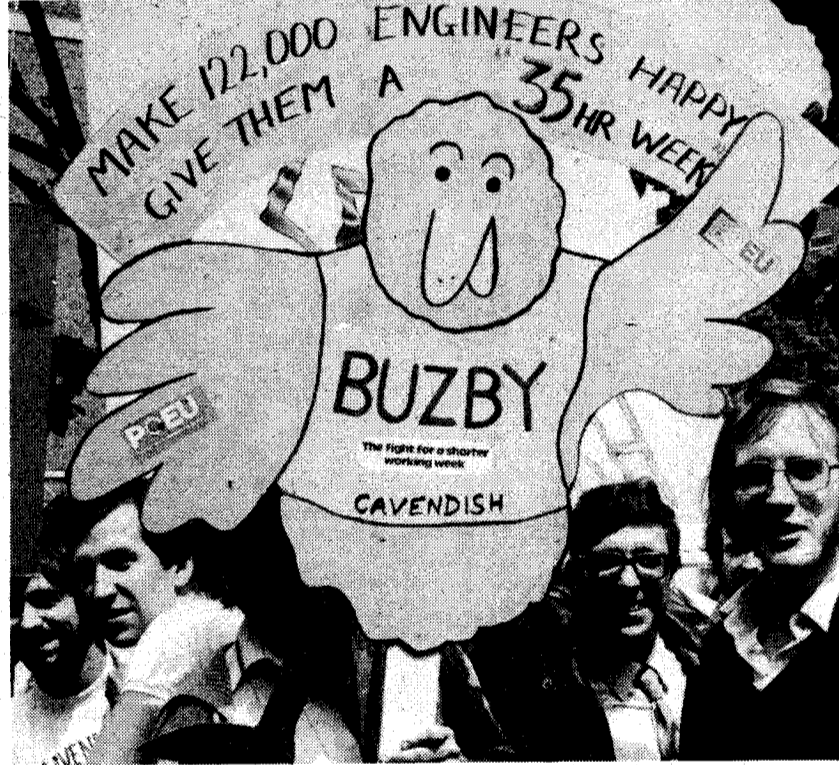
Of course the policies of the PO Board reflect their position of privilege:

Bending the system — according to the 1978/9 figures, not more than a third of the telecoms income comes from businesses. Private circuits (lines permanently hired for computer links, etc) accounted for less than 3 per cent of total income. Yet, when System X is introduced in the early 1980s, this new exchange system is going to be used exclusively for business traffic from the major conurbations. Ordinary subscribers, who foot most of the bills, will have to wait till the demands of the large companies and finance houses have been satisfied.

System X rip-off — the new, all electronic, digital, computer-controlled exchange known as System X is being jointly developed by the Post Office, GEC, Plessey and STC. These private companies get the advantage of a guaranteed market (the PO) and the use of the



Photo: Bob Murphy (Socialist Challenge)



POST Office engineers on the march for the shorter working week in 1978. Today the fight for control of the Post Office itself has to start.

massive £60m a year research facilities of the PO in the sure knowledge that if things go wrong, and System X doesn't get the sales abroad they hope, their investment is still sound.

But that isn't enough for some. STC is owned by the giant IIT, which has its own System 12 due out before System X and which has remarkably similar features. It has even been reported that the software for System X and System 12 are being developed in the same room by STC, who are thereby getting their partners to fund their own schemes.

Interest — from 1971 to '79 Telecoms paid out £2,373m in interest payments — the equivalent of almost an entire year's income. This money goes, via the Treasury, straight into the coffers of the City of London banks and finance houses.

Workers' control and workers' management are traditionally two stages on the road to socialist planning. Such planning cannot come about without the overthrow of capitalism once and for all and without the working class as a whole being organised to run society through democratic workers' councils or soviets.

Nationalisation of basic industries can lay the basis for a planned, socialist economy. Bringing together all the privately owned sections of any industry into a single nationally organised unit, where production, research, and distribution can be rationalised is the first step to socialist planning.

The wasteful anarchy of private ownership means that companies compete against each other, duplicating every aspect of their

operations from administration to research and development. They jealously guard their secrets against their rivals and thereby waste the progress that could be made by pooling the results of research and experience.

But as we have shown, the nationalisation of industries like telecoms doesn't automatically lead to them meeting the needs of their own workers or the working class as a whole. In fact, just the opposite can happen: the industries can end up serving the needs of private capital more efficiently than they would have in private hands. The bitter disputes that have rocked steel, the mines, Leyland, and the Post Office are good enough evidence of this antagonism between workers and bosses in nationalised industries.

The only solution is for the workers in industries that are nationalised to begin to take charge themselves. It means every worker in the industry, through mass meetings and joint stewards committees, being involved in the process of taking control. It means opening the financial books of the Post Office to find out how the private telecoms manufacturers rip it off, how the private sector is subsidised, how the system is designed for their needs. It means vetoing all decisions of the management that go against PO workers and working people as a whole.

Socialist democracy, genuine socialism, is about ordinary working people controlling our own destinies. The best place to start is in the workplace. In my industry it's about wresting power from the tiny group of six bosses who want to dictate to half a million Post Office workers.

Monopoly breach only first step

WHEN Sir Keith Joseph, Tory Secretary of State for Industry, announced his plans for ending the Post Office Telecommunications monopoly, some people breathed a large sigh of relief.

Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, wrote to POEU branches claiming that the union's campaign in defence of the monopoly 'has had some effect in reducing the scope of the government's proposals from what they might have been.'

In fact, Joseph's statement was only the opening shot in the Tories' campaign to hive-off the profitable parts of British Telecoms (formerly Post Office Telecommunications) and to make the basic telecommunications network even more subservient to the needs of British capitalism than it is already.

Hiving-off

The Tories make great play of the fact that their hiving-off activities will mean greater 'competition', and that this will mean better services to the customer. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There will be no real competition between British Telecoms and the private sector. Firstly, British Telecoms is having to invest £1,500m a year in modernising the basic telecoms network and is having difficulty generating this money from its own revenue, despite its high profits. The government-imposed cash-limits mean that there simply won't be the capital for investment in the areas where the competition with the private sector will be fiercest — customer apparatus. British Telecoms will have its hand firmly tied.

Secondly, private firms will be free to use their huge profits and reserves to subsidise their products while they get their initial hold on the market, while British Telecoms is going to be specifically prevented from doing so. 'British Telecoms will need to account separately for those subsidiaries in which it is competing with the private sector. We intend that precisely to avoid cross-subsidisation,' was how Keith Joseph put it.

Thirdly, GEC, Plessey, STC, and their ilk will be free to go to parts of the world where workers don't have luxuries like trade unions. They will produce their wares at far cheaper rates, on the backs of the oppressed workers of those countries.

Finally, while the private companies will be free to make incursions into the profitable parts of British Telecoms, the reverse will not be true. The restrictions which prevent British Telecoms entering into manufacturing in a big way will not be lifted.

In short, the Tories intend to effectively hand over the most profitable parts of British Telecoms to their friends in private industry. These proposals are merely the first step along the road.

The people who profit will be the real monopolies, the giant electronics firms that already carve-up the private parts of telecommunications between themselves. The losers will be ordinary working people who will have to pay more in order to subsidise the telecoms network which will in turn be milked by the private monopolies.

The latest price rises for telephones are a direct result of the Tories' cash-limits policy, and an ominous sign of things to come.

First victims of the Employment Act

ROYAL ASSENT was given to the Employment Bill last Friday, so that it has now become law.

The police and courts have jumped the gun in two important disputes — at Adwest and the Brixton unemployment benefit office. Strikers in both disputes have called for support for mass picketing.

at Adwest...

By Steve Potter

THE STRIKE at the Adwest plant in Reading is at a critical stage. Fifty-eight workers — many of them women and Asian — are fighting for reinstatement. Police action against pickets has not only anticipated Prior's law, it has gone beyond it.

They have denied the workers any right to picket. The courts have backed them up with convictions and fines for the first of the 26 arrested at the last mass picket, which was held on 14 July.

This makes building a mass turn out on 11 August a vital matter, not just for the strikers, but for the whole labour movement as it prepares to fight the Employment Bill.

The strikers are asking for resolutions from Transport and General Workers Union and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers branches to make the strike official and to raise money for the fund towards the defence costs of those arrested.

Contributions to: The Treasurer, Adwest Defence Committee, 46 Berkeley Avenue, Reading. Picket Adwest from 6am on Monday 11 August.

...and Brixton

By Geoffrey Sheridan

D-DAY approaches for Phil Cordell and Richard Cleverley, the Civil Service union activists who have upset the establishment by such ungentlemanly pursuits as participating in a Parliamentary lobby on abortion rights on behalf of their CPSA branch.

Both face dismissal, and will appear before the Civil Service Appeal Board on 13 and 14 August.

Support for their reinstatement is unprecedented within the Civil Service. Unofficial strike action at the Brixton unemployment benefit office, where both are employed, is now in its fifth week, and over £7,000 has been raised to mount the defence campaign.

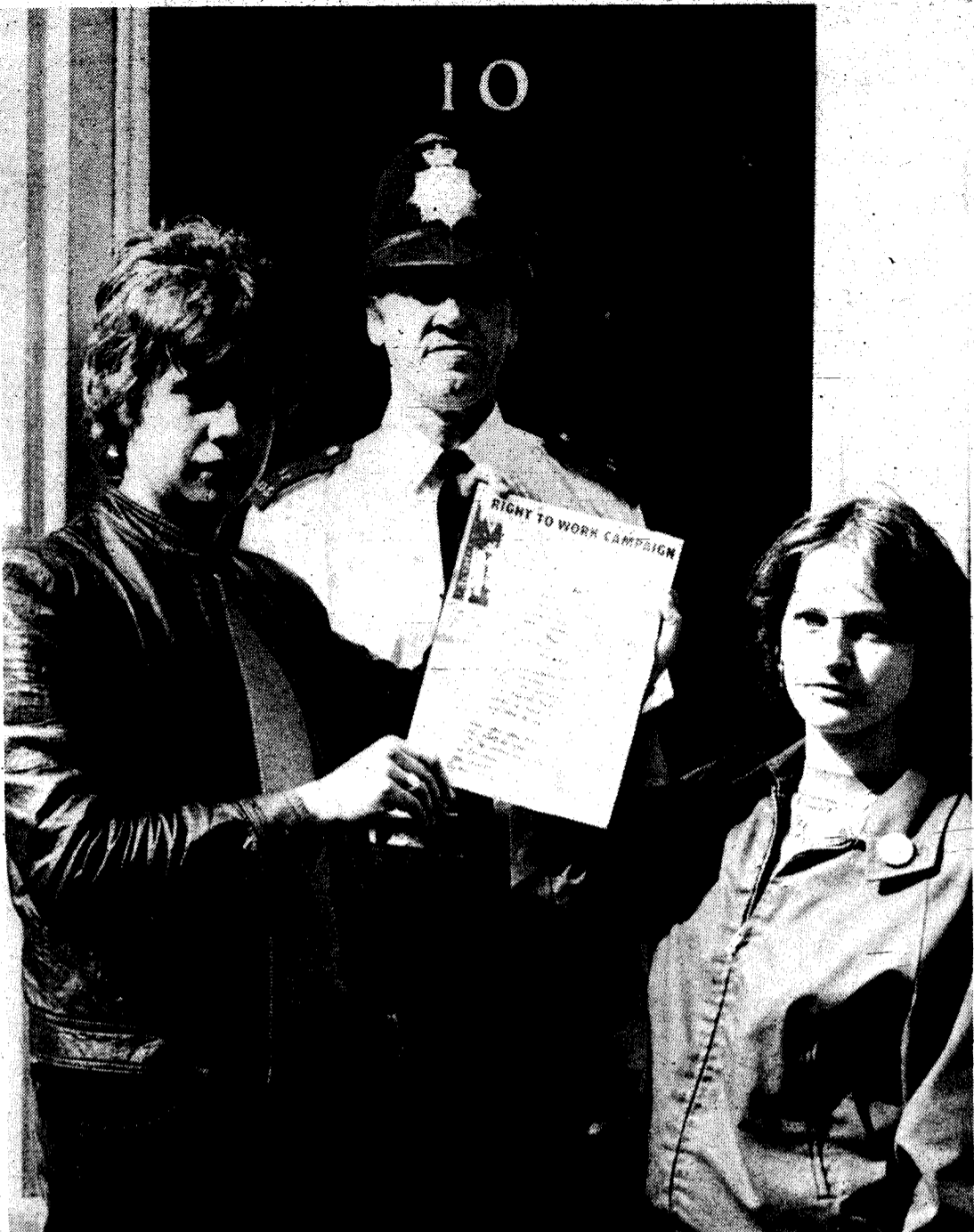
None of this is thanks to the CPSA leadership, which has put out a circular denouncing the unofficial strike. The police, too, are doing

their bit to defend the state apparatus, limiting the number of pickets to six. Richard Cleverley was arrested for a picket-line offence and the magistrates court has instructed him not to go within half a mile of Brixton UBO as a condition of bail.

'Union branches are writing in to the general secretary and the executive demanding that they support our case,' says Phil Cordell. 'It's a crucial strike for civil servants because it is about basic trade union principles.'

The next meeting of the CPSA executive, on 26 August, is to be lobbied, and — for trade unionists everywhere — there is to be a mass picket of Brixton UBO on 13 August, from 7-9.30am.

Brixton UBO is in Coldharbour Lane, close to Brixton tube. Send cash to: Brixton UBO Campaign for TU Rights, 16 Knowlton House, Cowley Estate, Cowley Rd, London SW9.



Hundreds of sponsors for Right to Work march

OVER 40 Labour MPs are among the sponsors of the Right to Work Campaign march to the Tory Party conference, arriving in Brighton on 10 October.

Leading left MPs such as Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Joan Maynard, Jeff Rooker and Neil Kinnock are among the supporters. Over 200 Wales executive of the National Union of Mineworkers,

councils, and Labour Party wards have also agreed to be sponsors.

So, too, has the South Wales executive of the National Union of Mineworkers,

an appropriate endorsement for the campaign as the march will start from South Wales.

A number of those who will be taking part in the march delivered a letter to Margaret Thatcher last week protesting at her 'advice' to the unemployed that they should move home in order to find a job.

The letter promised That-

cher: 'You can meet us and many thousands more like us outside your Tory Party conference.'

When the Right to Work campaigners delivered their protest outside 10 Downing St they were stopped from wearing their traditional orange jackets.

Press freedom behind bars of steel

By Geoffrey Sheridan

THE documents revealed by Granada TV's World in Action programme during the steel strike were embarrassing enough to the British Steel Corporation.

A total of 250 'secret' BBC documents were leaked to Granada, suggesting that the strike had been brought about by government policy, against the wishes of BSC management; that the government had intervened in the conduct of the corporation's affairs; and that the productivity of BSC's workers was not as low as BSC management were pretending.

In short, they showed that both the corporation bosses and their superiors in Keith Joseph's Department of Industry were lying through their teeth.

BSC, remember, is a nationalised industry. It's meant to be owned by all of us, and in theory it is accountable to the whole population by — virtue of which World in Action ought to be accorded the kind of treatment presently

being received by the Queen Mother.

Instead, thanks to the decision of the House of Lords last week, someone at Granada now faces jail because the company refuses to name the source of the leak.

The Granada executives, concerned about the renewal of their franchise, are doing their best to finger one of the World in Action researchers — Laurie Flynn, a former journalist on Socialist Worker — as supposedly the

only person at Granada who knows the identity of the mole in BSC.

The press is up in arms about the House of Lords law-making decision. The Times went so far as to say that the judgement was not only an attack on press freedom, but that it showed that the law lords are out of touch with society.

For investigative journalists (and there are few enough of them around) it means quite simply that their sources could dry up, fearing

exposure through the courts.

Yet the moves at Granada show that the press barons and their editors cannot be relied on to defend even the limited press freedom that presently prevails in Britain.

The National Union of Journalists and ACTT, the television technicians' union, should consider very seriously calling an all-out strike on this issue.

They will not lack support.

Sree Lekha Kazi dies

THE anti-racist movement suffered a great loss recently with the death of Sree Lekha Kazi.

Sree had been unconscious for some time after a road accident at Easter. Her fight for life since then was indicative of the way she fought for black people.

In her home town of Oldham her defiant record was equal to none: from encouraging black workers to challenge racism in the mills, to setting up Asian women's groups.

But it was in resisting immigration laws for which she was best known; starting with inspiring the Bengali population of Oldham to successfully oppose the deportation of Abdul Azad, and going of from that to helping promote defence campaigns against deportations in many parts of the country.

Tragically she leaves a three-year-old girl from whom a memorial fund has been established. Donations welcome, c/o CRE, New Vale House Oldham, Lancs.

Oldham International Marxist Group



Members of the NUM and Latin American exiles march in solidarity with resistance to Bolivian coup in London last weekend. Andrew Wiard (Report)

WHAT'S LEFT

RATES for ads to appear in What's Left. 5p per word or £4 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat. prior to publication. Payment in advance.

ACCOMMODATION offered to Marxist under 35ish (pref male). Large council flat, Dainton area. Inquiries c/o Box JH, Socialist Challenge.

ANOTHER woman reader of Socialist Challenge wanted to share my 2 bedroom flat in Queens Park, NW6. £15 per week, plus share of bills. Please reply Box ET Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1.

BIRMINGHAM Other Bookshop requires a manager from September. No previous experience required. Closing date for applications Friday 15 August. Write, giving details, to: Bookshop Manager, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham.

PICKET of Old Street magistrates courts, London EC1, against first of the trials of the ten arrested during the Gay Pride march last month. Wed 13 Aug, from 9.45am.

MAKE Ireland an issue in the Labour Movement! Support Tameside Trades Council, disaffiliated by the TUC for its stand on the Irish War. Join the lobby of the TUC. March to assemble Wed 3 September, 12 noon, outside Brighton train station. Public meeting: Tameside and the fight ahead. Speakers Dave Hallsworth (Secretary, Tameside, TC, speaking in a personal capacity) and Mike Freeman (SPTAC). Wed 3 September, 6pm, the Playhall, Resources Centre, North Rd, Central Brighton. Organised by the Revolutionary Communist Tendency.

FOR sale: Capital and Class, numbers 6-11, £7. Radical Science Journal Numbers 5-9, £5. Postage included. Phone 01-579 5770.

LEICESTER 13 August. Defend Nasira Begum. 7.30pm, Highfield Community Centre. Called by Leicester ANL and ARC.

LEICESTER 20 August. Troops Out meeting. Highfields Community Centre. Report from Ireland.

EXHIBITION on Ireland: TV film Creggan; history slide show; photographic exhibition; stalls. Admission free. St Mathew's Crypt, St Mathews Rd, Brixton. Sat 9 Aug, 10am to 6pm. Followed by Irish social Coronation Hall, Union Rd, SW6. 8pm to 11.30pm. Organised by S London TOM.

SMASH the Prevention of Terrorism Act campaign speaking tour in defence of Tameside Trades Council. 'British Workers', the TUC and Ireland. Speakers include: local trade unionist; David Hallsworth (Secretary, Tameside Trades Council, speaking in a personal capacity), and a SPTAC speaker. Liverpool: Tues 12 August, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3; Bradford: Tues 19 August 7.30pm, Textile Hall Social Club, Textile Hall, Westgate, Bradford; Preston: Tues 26 August 7.30pm, Windsor Castle (Bottom room), Egan Street, Preston; Manchester: Tues 2 September, 7.30pm, The Whalley Hotel, junction of Withington Road and Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester 15. For further details write to: BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX or ring 01-274 3951.

THE Revolutionary Communist Tendency is holding further forums on imperialism, following its successful series of meetings on Ireland. Wed 13 August 7.30pm: Vietnam — the US anti-war movement and how not to fight imperialism. Speaker James Wood. 27 August 7.30pm: The French state and Algeria. Speaker Kevin Gree. Venue for both: The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, Warren St/ Goudge St tubes.

REVOLUTIONARY Communist Tendency International Conference on Imperialism 5/6/7 September. How do the imperialist powers line up? What are the prospects for the anti-imperialist struggle? Debates: imperialism, the current phase: Middle East; US and its rivals. Workshops: British imperialism; EEC; Immigration and racism; Southern Africa; Crisis and the USSR; Ireland, and others. Fee £5 in advance. 6.50 p.m. Venue: University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1. Contact Helen Swift, BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX.

SCEVENTS

MANCHESTER SC supporters sell at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURY in the shopping precinct; and at Metro Books; at STOCKPORT in the Merseyway precinct; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percival's Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

NEWHAM: SC sale every Saturday, 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Market, Upton Park.

SWINDON: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat., Regent St (Brunel Centre).

TEESSIDE: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and in Newsfare, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and in Green's, Spencer Market, Stockton.

TEESSIDE: SC supporters meeting Thurs 7 August, 7.30pm: The Press and the unions — a socialist view. Venue: Borough Hotel, Corporation Road, Middlesbrough.

TEESSIDE SC supporters meeting Thurs 21 August, 7.30pm: 'The truth about Afghanistan'. At Borough Hotel, Corporation Rd, Middlesbrough.

TOWER HAMLETS: SC supporters sell every Friday 5-6pm Watney Mkt, Sat 11-12.30pm Whitechapel tube, Sunday 10.30-12.00 Brick Lane.

IMG NOTICES

CPSA comrades are urged to come to the national fraction Sat 30 Aug 12 noon, National Centre.

ABORTION fraction. Sat 6 Sept. Details from Jude at centre.

BRANCH ORGANISERS. National meeting Sat 20 Sept. Venue to be announced.

NALGO FRACTION. Sat 13 Sept. National Centre. 10.00-5pm.

ANTI-CRUISE FRACTION. London and south of England branch reps to attend. Sun 17 Aug 11pm. National Centre.

WHEN 250,000 TO TEACH RUS

On Thursday 7 August, 35 years and one day after the first atomic bomb was dropped, the government will announce an increase in Civil Defence spending of £18m. However the bulk of that sum will go towards special deep shelters for the administration of central and local government. Working people do not need anything so extravagant as a deep shelter.

The Stationary Office pamphlet *Protect and Survive* tells us we can survive by white-washing our windows and wrapping our head in a jacket when the nuclear war-heads arrive. It's a pity the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not have the benefit of this advice.

These latest proposals really spell out ruling class policy. For the

rich, and for the state administrators, nuclear shelters will be bought or provided for. The mass of the people will be left to take their chance.

The cynicism of these proposals is unbelievable, until you remember that they are proposals made by the same ruling class that murdered and maimed some three-quarters of a million people in two atomic raids in 1945. Such proposals should not surprise us. What they should do is reinforce our determination to pursue the class war more vigorously, so that we can remove from their hands any power they have to launch a nuclear war.

BOB PENNINGTON recalls the horror of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

HARRY Truman, the US president, claimed that the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 was a military necessity to shorten the war with Japan and save lives. His reasoning was dutifully echoed by the Labour Party leader Clement Attlee, prime minister Winston Churchill, and William Rust, editor of the Communist Party newspaper the *Daily Worker*.

Cynical

In reality the bombs were cynical diplomatic blows against the Soviet Union. The Cold War began before the 'hot' one had finished.

From 1941 until the spring of 1945, the United States, Britain, and the USSR had co-existed in an uneasy, temporary but necessary alliance.

By April 1945 Hitler's forces were being crushed between the advancing Red Army and the Allies. In the Far East the Americans controlled both the seas and the skies.

On 23 April, Admiral Leahy, one of Truman's military advisors, wrote: 'No particular harm could be done to our war prospects if Russia should slow down or even stop its war effort in Europe or Asia.'

The US Joint Staff planners told their chiefs the following day: 'Early Russian entry into the war against Japan is no longer necessary to make invasion feasible.'

Retreat

With Germany almost finished and Japan in full retreat, the basis of the alliance with the USSR was beginning to crumble. The Americans were becoming preoccupied about the shape of the post-war world.

In East Europe the old regimes were done for ever. The despised dictators and monarchs had been sent packing. From the Baltic in the north to the Adriatic in the south, pro-Russian governments were taking control.

In West Europe, the working class was demanding social change, and in France and Italy large Communist Parties en-

joyed mass support. Throughout the third world there was a stirring of nationalism.

With the military pressure easing up, and the political pressure mounting, it was — in Truman's words — time to tell the Russians that if they did not cooperate 'they could go to hell'.

What made the US president so cocky was his knowledge that America was on the brink of producing the atomic bomb. During the late spring and early summer of 1945, the scientists were urged to come up with the goods. The US War Secretary, Henry L. Stimson, wrote to Truman about his impending meeting at Potsdam with Attlee and Stalin commenting 'the greatest complication' would be '...if the bomb had not yet been "laid on".'

Bomb

Truman replied that he had postponed the meeting until '...15 July to give us more time'.

Truman was far more interested in impressing the Russians with the Bomb than he was in getting peace with Japan. He already knew that the American State Department had received a Japanese peace feeler via Portugal.

Moreover, the Americans had intercepted a message saying

that a former Japanese premier was visiting Moscow to explore the chances of peace. Stalin asked Truman at Potsdam whether this merited a reply, but Truman was too determined to teach the Russians a lesson to say 'Yes'.

The atomic bombs were

Eisenhower: 'The A-bombings weren't needed.'

THE American magazine *Newsweek* on 11 November 1963 reported the views of Dwight Eisenhower, the former supreme military commander of the Allied forces in the West and US President from 1952-60 about the A-bombings.

'I voiced to him (Secretary of War, Stimson) my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated... It wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing.'

dropped on 6 August and 9 August — the latter being the day the USSR entered the war against Japan. American imperialism needlessly killed 250,000 people, maiming and mutilating hundreds of thousands more. It was their way of telling the Russians in particular and the world in general who was top dog.

Dust, blood, and vomit were everywhere...

TERUFUMI Sasaki was a doctor on the staff of Hiroshima's Red Cross Hospital on 6 August 1945. This is how American journalist John Hersey reported Sasaki's experience:

'By nightfall 10,000 victims of the explosion had invaded the Red Cross Hospital, and he was worn out, moving aimlessly and dully up and down the stinking corridors with wadges of bandages and bottles of mercurochrome.'

'Other doctors were putting compresses of saline solution on the worst burns. That was all they could do.'

'After dark they worked by the light of the city's fires and by candles that the ten remaining nurses held for them. Dr Sasaki had not been out of the hospital all day; the scene inside was so terrible and so compelling that it had not occurred to him to ask any questions about what happened beyond the windows and the doors.'

'Ceilings and partitions had fallen; plaster, dust, blood and vomit were everywhere. Patients were dying by the hundreds, but there was nobody to carry away the corpses. Some of the hospital staff distributed biscuits and rice balls, but the charnel house smell was so strong, few were hungry.'

Wilhelm Kleinsorge, a German priest, told Hersey that when he was going through the woods a man in uniform asked: 'Have you anything to drink?' Thinking there was just one soldier Kleinsorge approached with the water.

'When he penetrated the bushes he saw there were about 20 men, and they were all in exactly the same nightmarish state: their faces were wholly burned, their eye sockets were hollow, the fluid from their melted eyes had run down their cheeks... Their mouths were mere swollen, pus covered wounds.'

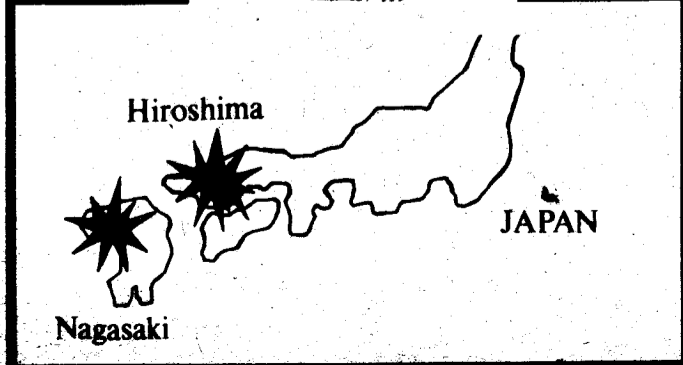


Wilhelm Kleinsorge, a German priest, described the nightmarish state as this: 'They down their cheeks...'

Truman is now dead and all his old advisors are either dead or retired. But the same type of people run the American state.

Error

In Britain they can rely on Thatcher, David Owen and Bill Rodgers to act as their apologists, just as Truman could rely on Clem Attlee to take the message into the labour movement. In 1945 the labour movement left it to the right-wing leaders. Today too much is at stake in terms of mega-death ever to make that error again.



JAPANESE DIED A A LESSON



Survivors in Hiroshima when Truman's bomb was dropped. He saw 20 men in the same way were wholly burned, their eye sockets were hollow, the fluid from their melted eyes had run

The survivors say that they saw "hell".

A conservative estimate a million people died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Another 580,000 were injured in the blast.

The energy give off from the explosion was roughly as follows: 50 per cent blast, 35 per cent thermal radiation, and 15 per cent ionising radiation. The temperatures reached temperatures of several million degrees Centigrade.

Up to 1.2 kilometres from the centre of the explosion, people were shrivelled and roasted. At 4 kilometres from the centre, thermal radiation was 20 times greater than that from the sun, and exposed human skin was badly burned.

As the moisture condensed the particles, a 'black rain' of ash and dust fell over the cities. A shock wave swept through the streets, smashing everything in its path.

The survivors — called the Hibakusha — say that they saw hell. Even those who lived and suffered no physical damage have been haunted ever since by the nightmare of seeing peoples' bodies hanging in swathes around their bodies; their eyes blowing out of their faces, and insides

spilling out of their abdomens. Everything lay in ruins. The hospitals were turned into rubble. Fire stations, public transport and local administration simply disappeared. People lay buried beneath piles of masonry. They lay on the pavements, in the streets, burned and bleeding, and there was no one to help.

The enormity stunned everyone. For countless survivors there was to be a future of illness, disease, and mental disorder. Kelojds — an awful disfiguration of the skin — leukemia, cancer of the lung, the breast, and the thyroid, are just some of the after-effects of the

two bombs. By March 1977 the number of people granted 'Hibakushu' status totalled 366,532. Over 30 years after the bombs dropped these people were still suffering. Figures such as 250,000 dead, 580,000 injured, 366,523 still classified as victims are almost impossible to comprehend. They are unreal.

What is real is the murderous nature of imperialism. To defend its power it was quite prepared to incinerate and mutilate hundreds of thousands of human beings. Hitler's gas chambers and Truman's atom bomb show that capitalism can lead us nowhere but along the path to barbarism.

Thousands of killer-tons

THE Hiroshima bomb was equivalent to 12 kilotons of TNT and the one dropped on Nagasaki was equivalent to 22 kilotons of TNT.

Today the destructive power of nuclear weapons is many hundred times greater. We cannot afford to allow the ruling class in Britain or the United States the right to decide when they want to use them.

Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki

THE DEAD of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be remembered in the next weeks in actions organised throughout Britain by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Vigils, petitions and meetings will also warn against the present trend towards nuclear escalation, the most dangerous step being the introduction of Cruise missiles into bases throughout Western Europe.

NEWBURY

A 75-hour continuous vigil will be held directly outside the main gates of Greenham Common Royal Air Force base outside Newbury, one of the two proposed sites in Britain for the Cruise missiles. The vigil will run from 8.15am on Wednesday 6 August to 11am Saturday 9 August. These are the exact dates on which the atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Over 30 MPs have pledged their support for the vigil.

MANCHESTER

A mass demonstration will take place on Saturday assembling between Mancunian Way and Booth Street (on Oxford Road) at 1.30pm. The march will move off to arrive at a rally in St. Peter's Square at 3pm.

SCOTLAND

A day of action will take place throughout Scotland on 9 August, involving mass leafletting and petitioning in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Haddington. (Contact Ian Davidson 041-942 1099 for further details.)

In Glasgow there will be a commemoration ceremony on Sunday 10 August at 2.30pm at the Cherry Trees (in front of Art Galleries).

YORKSHIRE

A Nagasaki Day march will assemble at 2pm at Heworth Green car park, marching to Clifford's Tower via York Minster for a rally at 4pm. A feeder demonstration will assemble at 9.30am that morning in Easingwold Market Square marching via Hawkhills to York to join up with the main rally.

BIRMINGHAM

On Nagasaki Day, petitioners will meet at St. Martin's in the Bull Ring at 11am.

LONDON

Hackney's Second Anti-Nuclear Festival will take place in Clissold Park, Stoke Newington on Sunday 10 August.



No replacement for Polaris!
No Cruise Missiles!
No more Hiroshimas!
DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 9 August
1.30pm Mancunian Way, Oxford Road, Manchester 1. Rally 3pm, St Peter's Square. Speakers include Frank Allaun MP. Organised by CND.

(All North West Socialist Challenge supporters are asked to attend. Join the Socialist Challenge contingent. 'Britain out of NATO! US Hands off Iran and the Caribbean!')

GEARING UP FOR NEW VIETNAM

By Fred Feldman

THE Soviet Union was about to invade the Persian Gulf, seize the oil, and place the West at its mercy. In case you had any doubt about this newspapers and magazines sought to remove it by publishing maps. Those thick black arrows showing 'traditional' invasion routes into Iran from Afghanistan and Soviet Central Asia were supposed to strike terror into our hearts.

One of Carter's answers was the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). Its creation was proclaimed as a response to the Soviet action. It had been under discussion before, claimed the 4 February issue of *Newsweek*, but the invasion of Afghanistan made the RDF, 'definitively, a key element in US defence planning for the 1980s'.

The Rapid Deployment Force, which was formally established on 1 March, is supposed to be a 150,000-strong crack outfit that can rush anywhere in the world to counter 'Soviet aggression'.

Of course the definition of 'Soviet aggression' is very flexible. The Soviet leaders don't have to actually do anything... or even think about doing anything.

Lt Gen Paul Kelley, the marine who commands the RDF, made a valuable clarification when he announced on 18 June that the force could 'be ordered to launch a pre-emptive strike to seize threatened ground before the Russians got there.'

He told *New York Times* correspondent Richard Halloran that 'the "pre-emptive strategy" had evolved in the first one hundred days of the new deployment force.' But Halloran raised a note of uncertainty: 'Would an American President defy precedent to make such a decision before an attack?'

Perhaps Halloran has been lost in transcendental meditation while the 20th century was marching on, but I think the people of Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Cuba, Haiti, and quite a few other countries could come up with a quick answer to that one.

The RDF propaganda has been fakery from the start; it wasn't a product of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. It didn't start on 1 March, and it has nothing to do with resisting 'Soviet aggression.'

The RDF is a new label for military forces that have long had no other purpose but rapid intervention in countries where the interests of US big business are threatened.

Even in its present form, the for-

mation of the RDF long preceded the Soviet role in Afghanistan. On 22 June, 1979 — seven months before Soviet troops entered Afghanistan — the US Army announced it was drafting plans for a 'quick-strike force'.

Asked on 21 June if this was a 'concept or a concrete decision,' General Bernard Rogers replied: 'The Army intends to do this'. The purpose of the force at the time was not described in terms of 'Soviet aggression'. It was the 'answer to President Carter's desire for a specialised force for conflicts in the Third World'.

It was to be a 'go-anywhere' force rather than one specifically targeted on the Persian Gulf or any other area'.

In the preceding months, popular unrest and a rebellion in the army toppled a pro-Washington dictator in Afghanistan; the Iranian masses had driven the Shah from his peacock throne; and Pol Pot's regime in Kampuchea had been toppled.

As General Rogers made his announcement, a mass insurrection was routing the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua.

Washington had backed these tyrants against the people of their countries, sometimes for decades. And Carter administration officials could hardly hide their chagrin that the anti-war mood in the United States made it impossible to pour in US troops to keep the dictators in power.

That is what the public relations ballyhoo about Soviet aggression, including the rechristening of the US armed forces as a 'Rapid Deployment Force' is all about.

It is aimed at pounding the American people into accepting higher military spending, the restoration of the draft, and the inevitability of new and even more bloody Vietnams.

The immediate target isn't Moscow, even though Washington is infuriated by the aid that the revolutionary government in Cuba and liberation forces in Indochina, Southern Africa, and elsewhere have obtained from Moscow.

The Soviet Union also has nuclear missiles, however, and the US rulers are not anxious to assure their own destruction by launching a nuclear conflict. It's the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, and other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who are the intended victims of 'rapid deployment' — working people like ourselves who are trying to create a just society.

It is not non-existent 'Soviet aggression' but the US government's drive towards war in defence of corporate profits that threatens the rights and well-being of the American people, and the people of the rest of the world.



The people of El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, and other countries in Asia, Africa are the intended victims of 'rapid deployment'.

By Joan Twelves

JOHN Corrie's anti-abortion Bill was defeated last March after a massive campaign which drew together the women's movement, trade unionists, Labour Party activists, students, and young people.

Now that attacks on abortion rights are no longer front page news, the Department of Health has been trying to introduce Corrie's proposals by the backdoor.

Not content with sacking two civil servants who supported the lobby of Parliament on 5 February, the Department has been imposing harsher restrictions on charities such as the Pregnancy Advisory Service, and it continues to employ ex-CID officers to police the 1967 Abortion Act.

Hospitals are imposing their own time-limits and existing facilities are threatened by cuts.

Those of us in the National Abortion Campaign who believe that women should have the right to

Abortion and the labour movement

choose without legal or medical restrictions are sick and tired of having to defend an Act which doesn't even give women that choice.

All the pro-choice groups are agreed that we have to go on the offensive. The best way to do that is now being debated.

Various options by way of Parliamentary Private Members Bills are under discussion. One is to attempt to make the provision of abortion facilities mandatory on the NHS. Another consideration is the decriminalisation of menstrual extraction, an abortion method which can be used up to 6-8 weeks into pregnancy.

At a recent meeting at the House of Commons, a working party was set up by several pro-choice

groups, including NAC and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign (LARC), to examine these possibilities.

While a parliamentary focus is important, Parliament will not be the main arena where the fight for a woman's right to choose will take place.

To win this right we have to mobilise the strength that defeated Corrie, but this time behind NAC's position of no legal or medical restrictions. The task is to force an in-coming Labour government to legislate in accordance with Labour Party policy.

The draft Labour Party manifesto includes a sentence on making a reality of a woman's right to choose. But without pressure on the Labour Party that policy will be ignored by the Parliamentary

Labour Party.

Without the fight being taken into the unions, block votes will continue to support the vote for Labour MPs on abortion, thus ignoring the wishes of millions of working class people who are Labour, and perpetuating the myth that abortion is a matter of individual conscience not class.

NAC is holding a women's forum on 2 November to take up the discussion on how to fight for a woman's right to choose with women inside and outside the labour movement.

Plans are also well under way for a NAC/LARC labour movement conference next March. This has already been sponsored by NUPE and the NUS.

What you can do: Get your union branch or CIO to sponsor the NAC/LARC trade union conference.

Have your women's group, union, student union or other organisation to support the Women's Forum and affiliate to NAC.

If your trade union is affiliated to the Labour Party, take up the issue of the free vote.

TONY BENN TO SPEAK ON IRELAND AT LABOUR CONFERENCE

TONY Benn has agreed to be one of the speakers at a meeting on Ireland to be held at this year's Labour Party conference in Blackpool.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Labour Committee on Ireland, the grouping inside the Labour Party which has been largely responsible for getting ten resolutions on Ireland submitted to the Blackpool conference.

Speaking at the 'Debate of the Decade' earlier this year, Benn said: 'I was brought up to believe that the partition of Ireland was a crime against the Irish people. I have said so on many occasions'. But this is the first time Benn has agreed to speak in public specifically on Ireland.

The LCI resolution, which the fringe meeting is designed to promote, notes, 'the evidence that the clear popular wish of the Irish people favours a British withdrawal from Ireland,' and 'calls upon the next Labour government to immediately begin the process of this full political and military withdrawal'.

Seven of the resolutions submitted to the conference are based on this one from the LCI, but despite the significant increase from last year in the number of constituency Labour Parties calling for a debate on Ireland, there are signs that the party leadership could make an attempt to have no debate at all on Ireland at the conference.

The evidence is the 4 July issue of *Labour Weekly* which reports that a 'working party' on the North of Ireland, set up at last year's conference, will not now make its final report until 1981. This, says *Labour Weekly*, could persuade this year's 'conference managers' to 'call for motions to be deferred pending the working party's findings'.

Flynn

As Don Flynn, secretary of the LCI writes in the current edition of the organisation's bulletin, *Labour and Ireland*:

'It is absolutely essential that the present upsurge of interest in the political situation in Ireland should not be allowed to fade away for a whole twelve-month period... All constituency parties will have a



chance to ensure that there is no clamp-down by moving this amendment to the resolutions.'

The amendment reads: 'Furthermore, conference calls on the NEC working party on Northern Ireland to include the above proposals as its terms of reference for its researches and its final report.'



Whatever happened to the 'Stickies'?

By Geoff Bell

A RECENT advertisement in a new Irish magazine declared: 'We fly to schedules carefully worked out to meet the businessman's needs. To help you make the most of your time.'

In itself, not an exceptional advert. What makes it interesting is the magazine in which it was placed. This goes under the title of *Workers Life*, a peculiarly named journal in which to advertise 'businessman's needs'.

Worker's Life is the official organ of Sinn Fein, the Workers Party, whose evolution over the past 11 years is an object lesson in Irish politics.

In August 1969 what was to become the leadership of the organisation was then in control of the Irish Republican Army, and its political wing, Sinn Fein. When these split in 1970, Official Sinn Fein — the predecessor of SFWP — was one result; the Provisionals, the other.

The Officials quickly became known in Belfast as the 'Stickies' because a badge they distributed had gum on its back which the bearer was meant to 'stick' on to his/her lapel.

At the time of the split many saw the Officials as the left wing of the Republican movement. This

SFWP votes in the North of Ireland

	% of votes
May 1973 local elections:	3.0
February 1974 Westminster elections:	1.7
October 1974 Westminster elections:	3.1
May 1975 Convention elections:	2.2
May 1977 local elections:	2.4
May 1979 Westminster elections:	1.7
June 1979 European elections:	0.8

was because the 'Stickies' had a left social democratic programme, tended to be critical of the militarism within Republicanism, and had links with the Communist Party of Ireland.

The Provisionals, by contrast, at the time of the split, denounced the 'Marxism' of the Officials and cited it as one reason for the split. The Provisionals' other criticism was the failure of the leadership of the IRA to adequately defend the Catholic population of Belfast against the Loyalist attacks on the Catholic ghettos in August 1969.

There was a suspicion that the Provisionals had been largely financed by members of the 'green Tory' Fianna Fail party in the south of Ireland.

The truth of this last rumour has now been clarified by the recent revelation on the southern Irish 'arms crisis' of 1969/70 published in the Irish magazine *Magil*.

According to *Magil*, the Provisionals did receive some 'Fianna Fail gold', but it has been revealed that so too did the Officials. Both these payments took the form of 'conscience money' by members of

Fianna Fail to the beleaguered Catholic population in the north.

The payments were also designed to ensure that Sinn Fein caused no trouble for the Fianna Fail government.

A further spectacular exposure from *Magil* is that two 'Stickies' in the IRA Army council were regularly informing on the IRA to the Southern Irish state forces.

It is unlikely that such infiltration explains the subsequent degeneration of the Officials, but that degeneration certainly took place.

The level to which it has now reached is evident in SFWP support for: 'a devolved parliament' in the North of Ireland; the H-Block policy of the British government; the increase of Unionist seats at Westminster as 'a democratic and natural step in bringing Northern Ireland into line with the rest of Great Britain.'

As a consequence of such attitudes SFWP now has hardly any support in the Catholic ghettos of the north. Its decline in votes is evident from the table produced here.

The party fares a little better in the south but its boast at the last southern Irish election that it would win three seats in the Irish parliament proved hollow. Its policies in the South were summed up in a recent statement by SFWP president Thomas MacGiolla: 'We do not attack the (Irish) Labour Party, even when we disagree with what it says.'

Behind such thinking, especially as far as the north is concerned is a theory about how 'socialism' can be brought about in Ireland — and it is a theory which is often repeated in Britain.

At its core is an insistence that before anything else can be considered there must be 'unity' between the northern Protestant and Catholic working class. Consequently SFWP has decided to either not raise the national question, or when it does to support the Loyalist version of the issue.

Unfortunately for the SFWP, the Loyalists have shown they aren't interested in 'workers' unity' in the first place, and the Catholic working class has totally abandoned SFWP because of its attitude to the national question.

The political degeneration of the Officials, as well as its decline in support, once more emphasises that those in Ireland who do not put the issue of British presence in Ireland to the forefront of their thinking may as well take one of those 'businessman's' trips to the other end of the world.

WOMEN IN IRAN

ATTACKS on women's rights have been a prominent feature of the Khomeini regime in Iran. These attacks have sharpened over recent months, but there has been a new willingness by Iranian women to protest against such measures as the imposition of the veil.

Continuing a series of articles on women in the 'Third World', we talked to Azar Tabari, a prominent activist in the Iranian women's movement, who was in London recently.

What has happened recently in Iran on the question of women?

The issue of women's rights has been polarised around the question of the veil. Khomeini made a speech about the corruption from the Shah's regime which still existed in government departments. He attributed this to the fact that there was not true Islam in Iran and that state employees weren't revolutionary enough. He did not actually mention the veil but in the minds of his followers it was clear enough.

There is a strong popular feeling against corruption because of the Shah's regime. Not wearing the veil has been made a symbol of that corruption.

Polygamy

Women were given ten days notice to appear with the veil and were then fired if they defied the order.

The speech affected all women who didn't wear the veil in public. Women walking down the street without veils were threatened with acid and knives. I had first hand experience of this myself when I was called a prostitute for being without a veil in public. So while the ruling is restricted to government employees at present, in fact it extends to everyone.

This was not the first time this had happened. Khomeini made a similar announcement last year. Then there were big demonstrations against his ruling and the government had to back down.

The new regime wants women back in the home too. They have introduced various measures reversing certain policies passed under the Shah. For example, women have been barred as judges, coeducational schools don't exist any longer, only men have the right to divorce, and polygamy is now unrestricted.

Laws

In addition there have been a number of new attacks on women like closing down all day-care centres and the new labour laws which reduce maternity benefits. This will force women back into the home and will effect working class women equally.

Many feminists have argued that women were better off under the Shah. How would you reply to this?

Well women's situation as women may have been better, but that doesn't mean anything. Women made some gains under the Shah only because capitalism was developing and there was a need to expand professional skills — and this extended to women. So it was within the limits of capitalism. This doesn't mean we want to return to the Shah; it means that we have to have a third road — neither Khomeini nor the Shah.

In other words it shows the need for a strong women's movement to fight for the needs of women within the revolution, doesn't it? What has happened to the women's movement?

Before and after the International Women's Day demonstrations last year, women's groups emerged — mainly attached to one political organisation or another. And in November 1979 the first unified congress of women was held to discuss joint action against the family laws (on polygamy and divorce).

While this congress did not involve women factory workers it did involve a broad spectrum including teachers, nurses, and other state employees. It can't be dismissed because of its social composition. It was the beginnings of a movement — the first of its kind in the Middle East probably.

Banned

However since that time almost all of the original groups have ceased functioning. This is partly because of the difficulties of organising politically at the moment, but also because of the political organisations to which these groups were affiliated. They began to think that the issue was a diversion.

So when this latest attack came, women wanted to do something but they were unorganised. Despite this 3-4,000 people turned up to a demonstration against the veil. Another form of protest has been wearing black as a sign of mourning. A further demonstration was planned but

'Women walking down the street without veils were threatened with acid and knives'



Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali — one of the reactionary mullahs who has been at the forefront of attempts to impose the Islamic code on women.

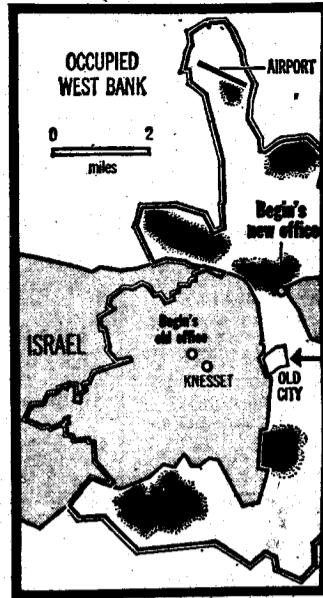
standing up for democratic rights. That's why the left has to take up these issues and win forces like these women to its side.

Women have retreated temporarily because the general situation, but contradictions still exist for middle class and working class women alike.

Clashes will come between the Islamic code and women on

a far larger scale. Iran is not a typical colonial country. It has a certain level of capitalist development and sooner or later Khomeini will have to deal with the economic problems.

The women's struggle has to link up with that of the national minorities. And while there may now be a pause for rethinking the issue of women's rights will become central in the future again.



Protests mount over Israeli seizure of Jerusalem

SEVERAL thousands of Arabs took to the streets of Jerusalem on the weekend in protest at the decision of the Israeli parliament to declare its sovereignty over the whole city. At least 50 demonstrators were arrested.

The western part of the city has been Israeli territory since the state was established, but since the 1967 war Israel has also been in occupation of the eastern half — an occupation repeatedly condemned by the United Nations.

Autonomy

Last week the Israeli parliament voted by a large majority that all of Jerusalem is the state's 'eternal capital'. To emphasise the decision premier Menachem Begin is to move his office to the eastern half.

The formal annexation of the area has been attacked by even the most moderate Arab opinion.

The pro-western King Hussain of Jordan warned at the weekend that a 'tremendous disaster is obviously in store for all concerned in the area if there is no progress towards the establishment of peace'.

So strong are the protests that President Sadat of Egypt has been forced to postpone the latest round of the Israel/Egypt talks, aimed supposedly at establishing Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

Highlight

For its part the Palestinian Liberation Organisation is to press for economic sanctions against Israel at the United Nations.

Even before the Israeli parliament's vote, Arab anger in the occupied territories had reached a new pitch. This stemmed from the recent deaths of two Palestinian political prisoners. They died of hunger strike, undertaken to highlight the abysmal conditions in the Nafha prison.

The prison protests have now escalated, involving nearly 600 political prisoners. There have been widespread clashes in the streets between Arabs supporting the prisoners and the Israeli security forces.

By Roy Alexander

THE recent bitter strike launched by black municipal workers in Johannesburg is part of a much wider struggle between the South African government and the new, rising organisations of the black working class.

For the past five years black workers have been steadily rebuilding their trade union organisation, despite the almost complete denial of trade union rights to black workers under the apartheid system.

South Africa: black trade unions rebuilding

Given the growing importance of black workers to the South African economy, this forced the government to make some concessions in recognising the new unions.

But it was determined to give no more ground than necessary.

Black workers' unions are now entitled to basic trade union rights on condition that they are 'registered' with the state. This allows the state to interfere in their

operation and to prevent them taking up 'political' issues — like the injustice of the whole apartheid system.

Most importantly, registered unions are not allowed to be 'racially-mixed' — that is they cannot include both 'African' and 'coloured' workers.

This is nothing short of a blatant attempt to divide-and-rule. One of the main reasons most black unions have rejected registra-

tion is because they have a substantial 'coloured' membership, or because they represent black workers in industries where there are members of both groups in the workforce and where unity of the entire workforce is essential to effective trade union activity.

The South African government has responded by declaring war on unregistered unions.

The Johannesburg city council refused to negotiate with the Black Municipality Workers Union, not

because of the content of their demands, but because it is an unregistered union that insisted on its democratic right to decide its own affairs.

This is a basic principle of trades unionism and one which every British trade unionists will understand.

We should translate this understanding into sympathy by giving the black trade union movement in South Africa the support it needs to establish its democratic right to exist free of state controls and interference.

Why CIA seeks to oust Manley

By Fred Feldman

'MANLEY Will Have to Pay the Piper'; 'Manley's Day of Judgement'.

Headlines like these from *Newsweek* have appeared in many American newspapers and news magazines. They have set the tone for an open campaign by Washington, backed by US and Canadian big business, to topple Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley — whether through elections scheduled for the autumn or by other means.

On 2 July in the Jamaican capital of Kingston, Louis Wolf, co-editor of the *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, revealed what he said were the names of 15 CIA officers in the US Embassy. Their assignment: bring Manley down.

Why the rush to get rid of Manley?

Black

Jamaica has economic, political, and strategic importance for US imperialism. With 2.3m people, 90 per cent of them black, it is the largest English-speaking Caribbean island.

As the world's second largest bauxite producer, it provides much of the bauxite used to make aluminium in the United States and Canada. Jamaica is a major sugar exporter as well.

While US and Canadian aluminium barons pull in huge profits from Jamaica, its people face deepening poverty. The 'average' yearly income is £346. This statistic is misleading because the 60 per cent of the population at the bottom gets only 24 per cent of the national income — the same percentage skimmed off by the top five per cent.

Half the adult population is illiterate.

Foreign banks and corporations have had it easy in Jamaica for a long time. Independence from Britain in 1962 did little to alter imperialist domination of the island. But things are changing.

Jamaicans have been fighting back. The example of the Cuban revolution, only ninety miles away, has had a growing impact. And now the revolution in black, English-speaking Grenada is being felt also.

Under the pressure of the struggle of the Jamaicans for improvement in their lives, the government of Michael Manley, elected in 1972, moved to the left. Although Manley's People's National Party is a capitalist party, he proclaimed a programme of 'democratic socialism'.

Nationalised

The government nationalised the electricity company and took a majority interest in much of the bauxite industry. It imposed new taxes on the revenue of the aluminium companies. And Manley tried to forge an OPEC-type cartel to protect the interests of the bauxite-producing countries of the world market.

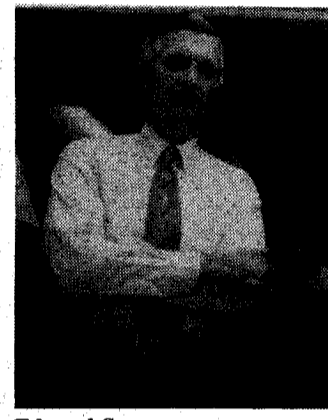
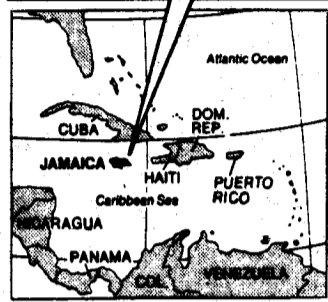
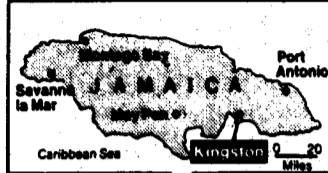
Land was purchased from some of the big landlords and agribusiness combines and distributed to poor farmers.

Some of the money from taxes on the aluminium companies was used to finance jobs and other benefits for working people.

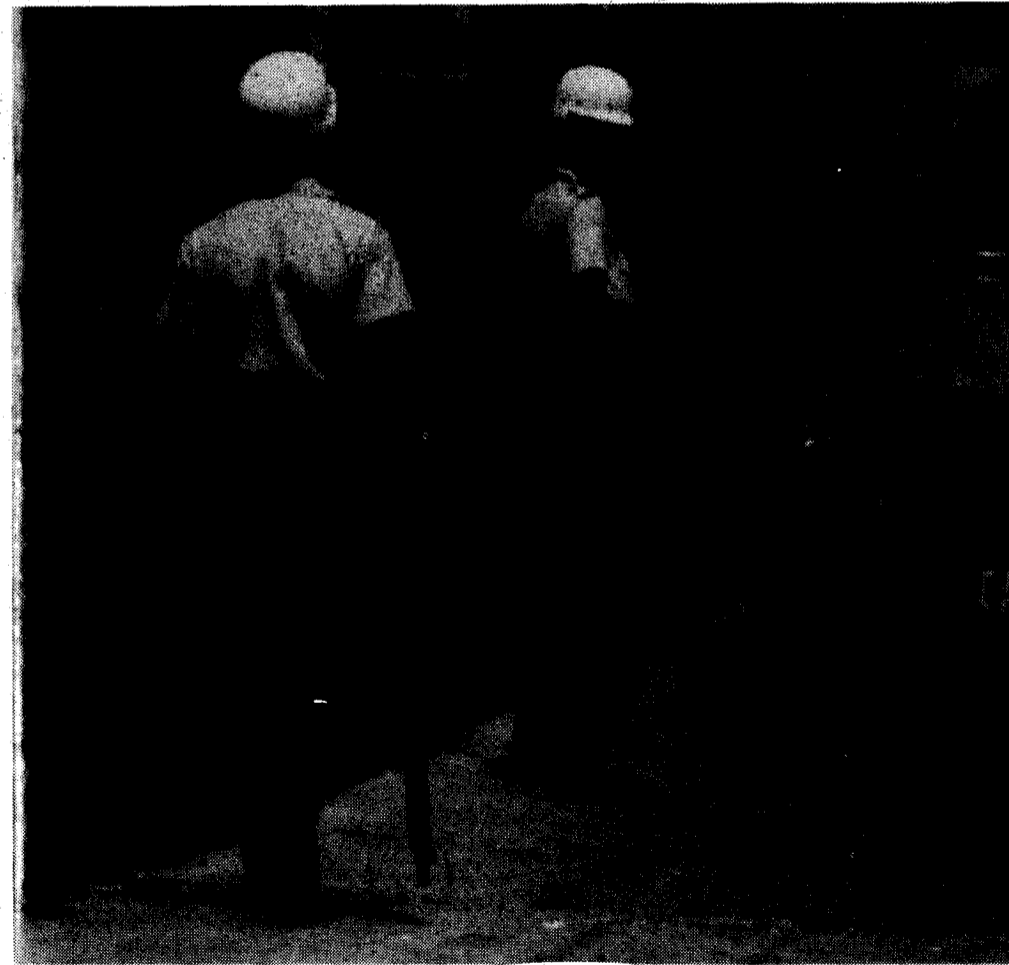
These actions alone might have been enough to put Manley on Washington's hit list. But he combined them with the establishment of friendly diplomatic relations with Cuba. Hundreds of Cuban construction workers, teachers and doctors came to Jamaica. Their selfless behaviour undoubtedly won even more people to the idea that Jamaica should follow the Cuban road.



Michael Manley



Edward Seaga



Manley has tried to fend off dissent through repression.

In 1976 the Central Intelligence Agency got orders to arrange for Manley's overthrow.

According to Ernest Volkman and John Cummings writing in the 1977 December issue of *Penthouse* magazine, the CIA funnelled money to the rightist Jamaica Labour Party. Its heavily armed gangs went into action, aiming to assure the election of JLP candidate Edward Seaga, a businessman. Three attempts to assassinate Manley were planned by the CIA but none succeeded.

On 15 December 1976, Manley won re-election by an overwhelming majority. Once re-elected, he tried to shift to the right. He accepted an austerity programme dictated by the International Monetary Fund as the price of loans.

The results were rocketing food prices, cuts in real wages, and an

unemployment rate of 30 per cent (50 per cent for youth). Manley tried to fend off dissent through repression and by purging the left wing of the PNP, headed by DK Duncan.

It didn't work. Strikes and uprisings spread throughout the island and Manley pulled back. He announced in early 1979 that he would ignore a ceiling in wages demanded by the IMF. After the IMF cut off all loans to Jamaica in December, he rejected its terms outright.

A resurgence of left-wing forces in Manley's PNP led Washington to doubt that he could block the masses' growing desire to take the road of Cuba and Grenada. Washington had remained hostile anyway, since Manley had retained friendly relations with Cuba and had supported many of Castro's positions at the September non-

aligned conference in Havana.

On 6 October 1979, Manley joined the governments of Guyana, Grenada and St. Lucia in denouncing Carter's formation of a military task force for the Caribbean as a threat to any government in the region that asserted its independence. In retaliation US food aid was cut off.

Now the CIA is again heavily backing JLP candidate Seaga in the upcoming elections. The JLP gangs are relying on violence to make the point. Thirty-one officers and soldiers of the Jamaican Defence Force and one civilian have been arrested since 22 June as part of a planned military coup.

The US media are unanimous in predicting Manley's defeat in the autumn elections, but his most knowledgeable foes seem far from confident.



AROUND THE WORLD

United States

AFTER the decision of the Law Lords, ordering Granada TV to name the 'mole' at British Steel, journalists may well again look to the United States and pine after the Freedom of Information Act which operates there.

But in the US, too, 'press freedom' is not all it's cracked up to be.

Last week, a select committee of the House of Representatives approved a bill that would make it a crime to disclose the identity of a 'covert agent' of a US intelligence agency. The Bill would even make it a crime to try and expose such a spy, even if such an attempt was unsuccessful.

The measure is aimed at ex-agents like Phil Agee who has named hundreds of CIA spies, and Leonard Wolf, who publishes a newsletter that has listed an estimated two thousand CIA agents.

El Salvador

EL SALVADOR'S Commission for Human Rights last week accused the right-wing ruling junta of waging 'a war of extermination against the people'.

If that sounds like an exaggeration, junta member Jose Antonia Morales Ehrlich has threatened that the government's campaign against the left, trade unionists and liberals could leave 'at least 300,000 dead' before it is finished.

The guerillas fighting the government have vowed to launch an all-out offensive within 45 days. A statement issued by the freedom fighters said: 'We must take immediate action to lift the masses' morale before its combativeness is drowned by right-wing repression.'

A timely statement recently issued by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International has called for 'all out action to stop the assassins of the Salvadorian junta'.

Said the United Secretariat: 'It is necessary to demand that all governments break immediately their diplomatic relations with the junta, and cease all military and economic aid. In particular it is important to demand that all parties defining themselves as part of the workers' movement, and who participate in any governments, demand that their ministers immediately take up the question of a total blockade of the junta and of Salvadorian reactionaries.'

'The trade unions and workers' parties must simultaneously organise a massive public campaign to denounce the crimes committed against the Salvadorian people, and to give full political and material support to the revolutionary organisations... who organise and co-ordinate the defence of the masses against terror.'

India

ABOUT 306m people, more than half India's population, was living below the poverty line in 1977-78, according to official estimates issued in India last week.

United States

'WALL Street, here I come. Let's make millions of dollars together.' These were the words of Jerry Rubin, writing in the *New York Times* last week.

Rubin, older readers may recall, was a leader of the quasi-anarchist Yippies in the late 1960s and author of 'Do It Now!' Now Jerry is to become a 'securities analyst' on Wall Street — the heart of US capitalism. Rubin's previous experience on Wall Street was in 1967 when he and a couple of others threw dollar bills on to the floor of the stock exchange in a 'symbolic protest'.

Recalled Rubin: 'The floor brokers stopped trading and rushed after the falling dollars'. Now Jerry has decided to join the rush.

Japan

THE new Japanese government, headed by Zenko Suzuki, has announced an increase in its defence budget of nearly ten per cent.

The plan is to spend £5 billion on new military equipment over the next couple of years. The army plans to increase the number of tanks from 840 to 1,140, while the navy is planning 16 new destroyers and five new submarines.

Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

In this week's issue: an exclusive interview with Maurice Bishop, prime minister of Grenada; what the Republican Party convention showed; report of 26 July celebration in Cuba; and more.

Single issue 40p incl p&p, or £6 for 24 issues. To IP/I, PO Box 50, London N1.

CAPITALISM IN DECAY

THERE have never been poor dentists, and there never will be. The complaints of poverty you will hear when you are encouraged to accept a course of private dentistry are to support a standard of living beyond the wildest dreams of, say, nurses.

Earlier this summer nurses received a pay increase of 14 per cent, representing a cut in their real income of nearly 10 per cent. Dentists and doctors were awarded a 30 per cent pay rise without hardly having to bother to ask.

It so happens that 30 per cent of £12,000, which is the average pay for dentists, represents the entire income of a nurse.

Fear and ignorance about what goes on inside your mouth are exploited to the full by dentists. The toothache which keeps you awake at night, one of the severest pains your body has in store for you, will be endured for days by some people because the alternative is going to the dentist.

The patient in pain is in no position to consider whether the dentist is entitled to an emergency fee or to shop around for the best deal. And how would you know what a good deal is?

Suffer

Dentistry comes on faith. You will be told that tooth-coloured fillings cannot be done on the NHS, which isn't true. Or that better materials are used for fillings done privately, which is also a lie. If your dentist is at all motivated by the profit incentive, it's your dental health and purse which are likely to suffer.

For example, you may be sold a private porcelain crown for over £100 which is decidedly inferior to an £18 UMK-type crown on the NHS. The latter looks the same but is much stronger and more expensive to make.

Even dentists don't always know when a more sophisticated, expensive and time-consuming solution to a dental problem has any advantage over a quicker and cheaper method. The emphasis at dental teaching hospitals is on sophistication. Research comes up with better solutions to a patient's problems, but they are nearly always more time-consuming and expensive.

Prevention

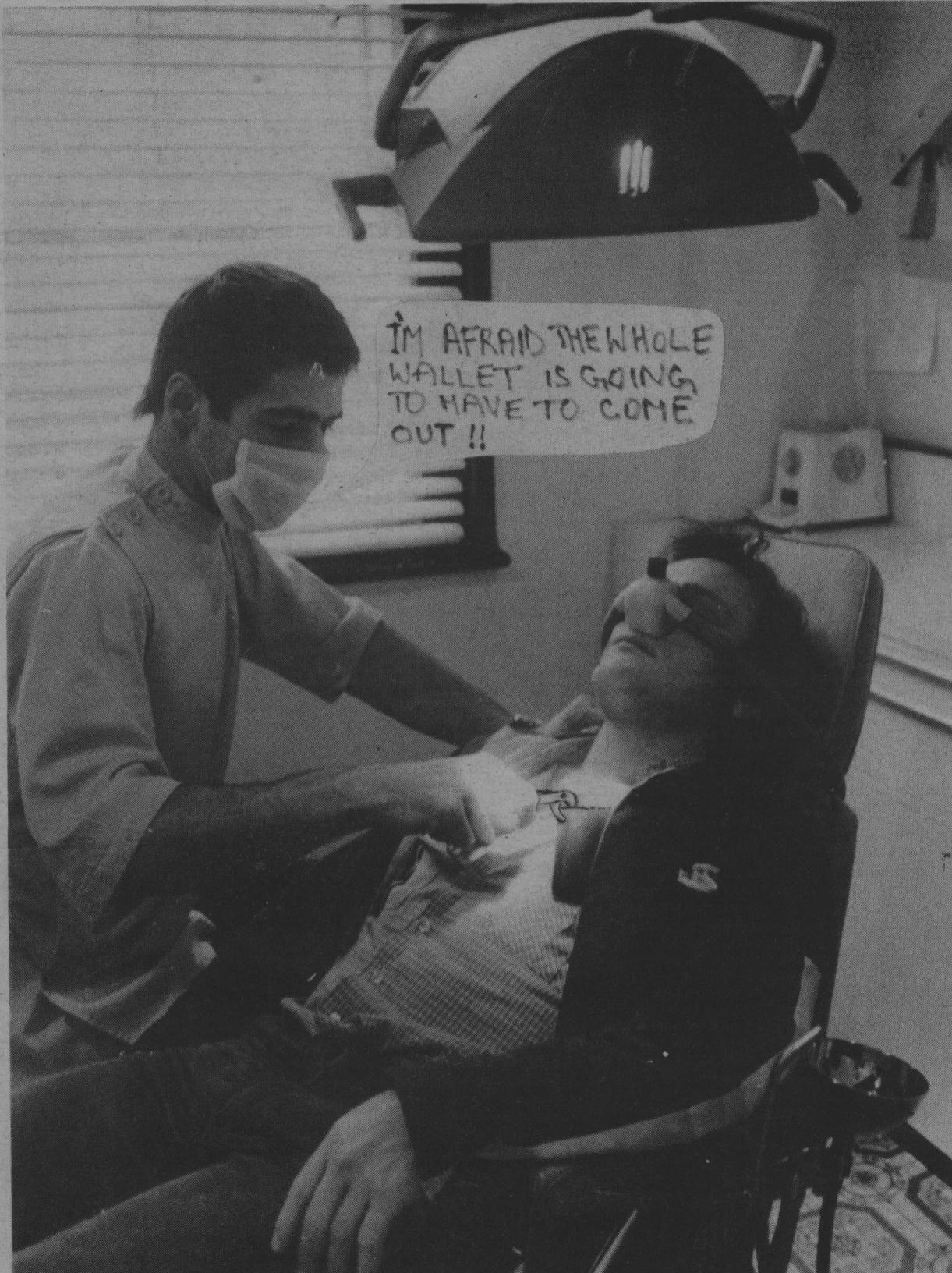
The result is brilliant solutions to the problems of a few while the dental health of the population as a whole is neglected. The real task in dentistry is prevention. Caring for already mutilated mouths is essential, but can it be allowed to take precedence over prevention?

Plaque, a soft, white deposit which

There's gold in them thar fillings

Open Wide! PAUL SHAFEE describes how many of his colleagues in the dental profession

demand this not only of their patient's mouth but of their purse.



DENTIST Paul Shafee demonstrating how many of his colleagues work

forms all the time on your teeth, is composed of bacteria. This is what you brush off, and it has been shown to be the cause of both tooth decay and gum disease. Thus except for orthodontics — coping with the problems of overcrowded teeth — the two diseases that dentists combat are wholly preventable.

Is this reflected in the care you receive from dentists?

The NHS will pay dentists a £16 fee to show a patient once a year how to effectively clean their teeth, which includes the use of a harmless red dye to disclose plaque so that the patient can modify her or his toothbrushing, followed by instruction on the use of dental floss, and extended scaling and polishing.

Many dentists claim this fee. Do you receive the instruction?

Another important factor in tooth decay is the way in which the food industry manipulates our diet so that we eat refined food high in sugar which promotes disease. Then there's fluoride. Adjusting the fluoride content of water would cut

tooth decay by half and benefit working class children most.

The system produces dentists who are primed for cheque-book dental care, but at least with pure private practice you know what game is being played. Most dentists cannot find sufficient private patients so they attempt to means test patients, giving priority to those who can pay privately and filling the rest of their books with the parts of NHS dentistry which pay the most.

The result is that it is hard to obtain dentures or bridges on the NHS, or for children to be treated. Dentists have forgotten the ethics and joined the 'Nash bash'. Some happily admit to first and second class treatment as between private and NHS patients.

At present I offer only NHS dentistry and by never working out which treatment earns me the most I don't allow cash to influence my treatment planning. I still make a relatively large sum of money.

Since I pay a standard 50 per cent of my earnings to my principal, who supplies

me with patients, a surgery, and staff, I am not involved with the money which goes into wages and equipment. The practice I work in exemplifies the caring, professional attitude of my principal and other associates who like me work for him.

The nurses at the surgery receive £35 a week, with a one-week holiday entitlement after six months' employment. Even on these wages and conditions there seems to be no end of school leavers who — without any training — are working on their own in a surgery from their first day on the job.

Is common sense enough to cope with potential emergencies in a dental surgery?

The nurses may not even be attached to one dentist, but be 'floating' — travelling to different surgeries during the week. There is no standardisation in these surgeries, and dentists have quite different routines.

One uniform and a lot of abuse; that's what nurses can expect. Yvonne was sacked for taking an afternoon off to go for a job interview. The dentist who dismissed her had just taken a day off to look for a

new job.

At another practice owned by my principal the nursing staff were lectured one lunch-hour on the need for them to show respect to the dentists, including calling them 'doctor' in front of patients!

My principal goes to some lengths to maximise his profits. He employs 15 to 20 associate dentists, creaming off half their earnings.

He has replaced boxes of tissues with what look like large toilet rolls. Ancient equipment is repaired by him, using sellotape instead of electrical insulating tape and forceps in place of spanners.

Because a reducing valve had not been fitted to my high-speed drill it screamed like Concorde. Eventually the air pressure became so great that the cable exploded, causing the unfortunate patient to leap out of the chair.

The surgeries are old, with curled hino as the floor covering. It is a trap for mercury and amalgam, which give off toxic fumes.

Profits

My contract says that if my monthly gross drops below £2,500 the principal receives 55 per cent instead of 50 per cent.

He specialises in importing freshly-qualified dentists from South Africa and Australia to come here to knock the NHS, make as much as they can, and leave after six months — sometimes taking with them Inland Revenue's share and leaving behind patients whose treatment has been only partly completed.

My patients are surprised to see me for two successive six-month treatments. They are used to a new face every time they come to the surgery. The profit motive lends nothing to dental care.

The status of my principal is indicated by his Rolls Royce. Yet how can he be forced to plough his profits into his surgery equipment and staff wages? If I or any of the staff withhold our labour we would be immediately replaced.

Sound

I would like to start an ideologically sound preventive NHS practice, but to do so is an extremely capitalistic enterprise. Paying high wages and using only the best equipment is easy — deciding what income you are prepared to take is not so easy. Neither should such a practice be charitable or exploitative to patients or staff.

I would like to meet any dentists who have the same problems as me. Please get in touch c/o Socialist Challenge.

LATE NEWS: Paul Shafee has just left the dental surgery where he worked. A few days ago the faulty air-pressure cable he mentions in his article blew up for a second time. He refused to patch it up and suggested to the principal that he might plough some of his profits into increased wages and better equipment.

His boss went berserk. Shafee was told he was an 'ignoramus' and given one month's notice.

Studs Lonnigan on TV

JAMES T Farrell, the American socialist writer who died last year, said of his major work *Studs Lonnigan*: 'I view it as a tragic story of how defeat can come in a setting of spiritual poverty.'

The setting is the Irish Catholic community in Chicago's South Side during the years of the Depression. Studs is a tough. You can follow part two of his career in ITV's Best Seller series next Monday, 11 August, at 9pm.

The 800-page book is published by Granada at £2.50. It's available from The Other Bookshop.

Manushi

Manushi, the Indian feminist magazine mentioned last week, is available from Shakti Bookhouse, 46 High St, Southall, Middx. Tel 01-574 1325. Price 80p incl p&p.

THE OTHER BOOKSHOP

THE EYE OF THE HERON, by Ursula le Guin and others.

Excellent new science fiction from the author of *The Dispossessed*, plus five other sci-fi short stories by women authors. Panther £1.25

COTTERS ENGLAND, by Christina Stead.

Set in post-war England, the work explores political and personal themes through the lives of one family. Virago £3.50

NOVEL ON YELLOW PAPER, by Stevie Smith.

Witty, poetic novel about a woman writer in the '30s. Virago £2.50

THE HARDER THEY COME, by Michael Thelwell.

The story of a country boy trying to make it through the hard music world of Kingston, Jamaica. Pluto £2.95

WOMEN IN NICARAGUA, by the Nicaragua-Solidarity Campaign.

How women participated and struggled in the Nicaraguan revolution. 50p

All available from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1. Tel 01-226 0571. Add 15% if ordering by mail.

