

**A fighting
fund to aid
the struggle
in industry**

READERS know of the encouraging growth of the International Socialists. Each week we print reports of new branches opening inside factories, of socialist newspapers launched in Urdu and Punjabi—all helping the fight against a society based on profit and greed.

Socialist Worker continually argues the case to fight the Tories. Thousands of words have been written on the evils of the Immigration Act, the need to fight the Industrial Relations Act, and the 101 tactics the Tories use to divide workers and keep down living standards.

There can be few readers who are not wondering what the Tories have in store for Phase Three, and, more important, how it is to be fought. The International Socialists have the chance of building an organisation with policies that can be fought for in the labour and trade union movement.

Notorious

More than half the new members joining the International Socialists are manual workers. Apart from fighting the Tories, we have to organise our industrial members in their own industries. For example, our electricians must campaign against the notorious right-wing ETU executive, building workers must step up their opposition to the lump, and our engineers have to decide how to react to the AUEW pay claim.

Like everything else, it is difficult to organise our industrial sections without money. Paying for organisers, helping members to travel to policy-making meetings, and producing the thousands of leaflets, pamphlets and newspapers all takes money.

We are asking members and supporters who take our policies seriously to subscribe regularly to our Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. The target is £1000 a month.

Inside IS, branches will be asked to raise a branch levy. Many members are already overstretched so we hope we can involve thousands of our supporters to dig into their pockets.

A weekly progress report on the fund will begin on 1 October, but the appeal fund is now open. **Contributions and donations to Jim Nichol, IS treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.**

Prices, mortgages, rents—and those juicy profits too UP, UP, UP, UP!

ON SUNDAY Peter Walker, Minister of Industry, boasted that 'the prospects for British industry and commerce are better than ever before' and spoke of 'prosperity' ahead.

Five days earlier mortgage rates had risen to a record figure. As a result, millions of working-class families will see £1 a week transferred from their pockets to those of wealthy moneylenders.

Three days earlier, the Prices Commission had let through another wave of price increases, cutting into the spending power of every housewife in Britain.

Two days after Peter Walker's statement, bank interest rates also rose to a record level—ensuring that the extra 50p a week council tenants will have to fork out in increased rent in five weeks' time is handed over by the council as increased interest payments to the rich.

'GREEDY'

When Peter Walker talks of 'prosperity', it is a prosperity which has passed by most people, whose living standards are being cut by rising prices.

Until recently, the government story was that increased prices were caused by 'greedy workers' and rising wages. Their own figures now prove

them wrong. Between October and March, wage costs for industry fell for the first time for years. Yet prices rose faster than ever.

So now they are resorting to a different tale. They claim price increases are inevitable because of the pressure of 'international markets'.

But this is only a small part of the explanation. It certainly does not apply to council rents—raised by British government action—or to mortgage rates—raised by building societies' action. It does not explain many food price increases either. After all, most of the wheat and beef eaten in this country is also produced here.

The government keeps quiet about the massive increase in profits by virtually every section of big business—40 per cent over the past year and 60 per cent since 1971.

The food-processing companies have not been left out. Unilever, which gets permission from the Prices Commission to increase the price of one or other of its products virtually every week, has announced that its profits for January to June this year are up by a quarter. The Economist has noted that 'the profits earned by the big groups, Sainsbury, Tesco, Fine Fare and Unigate, have been exceptionally good.'

The big banks have been doing even better. Barclays, of which Minister of Defence Lord Carrington used to be a director, recently announced that its profits were up from £56 to £95 million. The recent rise in interest rates will have boosted them even more.

Big farmers have not missed out on the profits boom either. Farm profits rose by 50 per cent last year and about another 40 per cent this. So the government ministers who own large farms—such as Heath's closest friends, James Prior, who owns 370 acres at £1200 an acre, and Lord Carrington, who has 700 acres—will have seen that part of their income more than double since they took over the government.

ANGER

It is hardly surprising that ministers talk so often about 'unparalleled prosperity'.

It is not surprising, either, that large numbers of working people are hearing such talk with increasing anger and resentment. When Jack Jones, head of the Transport Workers Union, said on Sunday that if workers were squeezed any further, they would resort to industrial action to maintain their living standards, there was no doubt he was telling the truth.

The trouble is, Jones and the other leaders of the main unions show no signs of making any preparations for such action. This week they have devoted their energies to engaging in yet another friendly chat with Edward Heath.

They have shown by their meek acceptance of Phases One and Two of the wage freeze that they are unable and unwilling to defend their members' interests.

So it is up to rank and file activists in the unions to take the initiative now in demanding:

- End the talks with the government now,
- Massive support for every strike that clashes with the Tories' pay limit,
- Prepare now to back up workers such as the engineers and the miners who have claims in for the autumn.



Some of the 23 strikers on the picket line last week. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

Strike firm plays dirty game

NORTH LONDON:—23 workers on strike at the Seiko watch repair factory in Kilburn plan to black the import of parts to the Japanese-owned firm. The strikers have been out for almost four weeks over management intimidation, the sacking of a worker and recognition of their unions, TASS and AUEW.

Last week the firm's professional strikebreaker, specially flown in from

America, failed to get anywhere when the strikers walked out on him. The strikers also threw out the firm's meaningless 'peace' proposals and now Seiko are playing dirty.

They sent some strikers their cards with their compliments and are seeking to divide Asian workers from whites.

Workers at Heathrow airport have promised to black Seiko goods and it

is hoped that workers at other airports and docks will do the same.

Trade unionists should organise blacking of Seiko goods at other retail outlets such as H Samuel and the sole Seiko distributors, Anglo Continental clock and watch company of Finchley, North London.

Donations should be sent to: G Riley, 36 Gresley Road, London N19 3JZ.

P3 BLACKMAIL

ASSASSINATION
THREAT BY ARMY
IN IRELAND

P5 SWING

PEOPLE
AGAINST
LANDLORDS

P6 ITT

INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISTS AND
TROUBLEMAKERS

£100 for the life of a man

K AND L Steelfounders of Letchworth, Herts, a subsidiary of the giant George Cohen 600 Group, was fined £100 at Letchworth Magistrates Court on Friday for killing 49-year-old electrician and father of five Robert Benish.

Mr Benish was electrocuted in March while fitting heating panels in the foundry's glass fibre shop. He touched bare wires that should have been insulated.

Solicitor David Paton, defending the firm in court, stated that he would not conduct 'a whitewashing exercise', then went on to conduct one.

He claimed that Mr Benish must have known the electricity was not turned off. He implied that it was really Mr Benish's

fault since he did not follow his usual practice of asking for the power to be turned off before he started the job.

K and L were 'technically' in breach of the safety regulations but the firm's system of turning off live electricity was 'as good as can be expected', said Mr Paton.

In fact K and L's method was extremely dangerous and blatantly illegal. It did, however, make for speed and did not interrupt production.

Chairman of the magistrates John Stoddart stated that 'the human element had entered into things with tragic consequences.' But he added: 'The bench took a serious view of the case,' fining the firm £100, one third of the maximum. 'The firm had a good safety record. But it wasn't foolproof on this occasion,'

said Stoddart.

Another example of the firm's good safety record was given at a London inquest in June into the death from leukemia of a 23-year-old apprentice at the factory, Franklin Norwood.

The inquest jury specifically refused to return a verdict of accidental death and recorded an open one after the young man's father, Lionel Norwood, of Eastern Way, Letchworth, addressed the court.

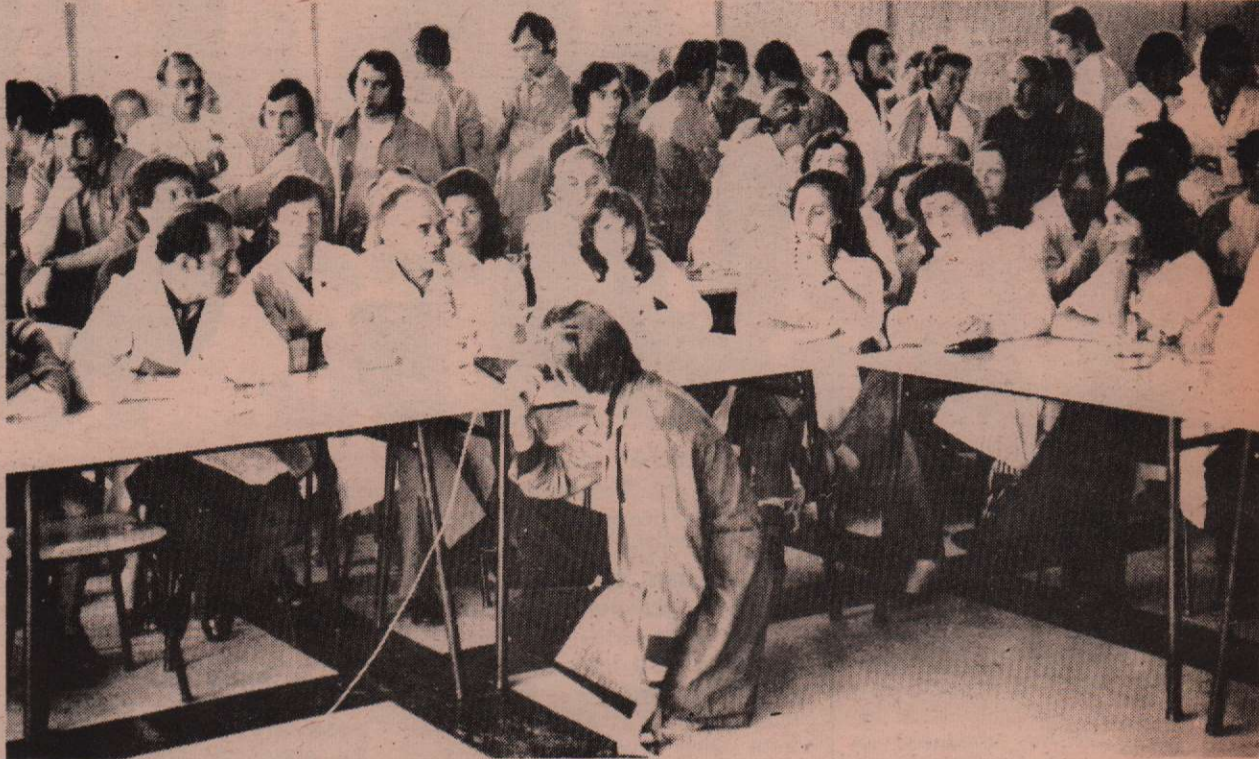
Mr Norwood said that his son had worked excessive overtime with dangerous materials which produced gamma and x-rays at K and L.

After Franklin's death no inquiry was made into the way K and L stored and used dangerous radioactive materials. No prosecution was even contemplated.

Other workers outside K and L will unquestionably be greatly reassured by the statements concerning K and L's good safety record. Vice-chairman of the Cohen 600 group, which wholly owns K and L, is Sir Leslie Robinson, who has been a top civil servant and since retirement has expanded his interests and his directorships into Renolds, Reyrolle Parsons, Hall Thermotank and several other big firms.

Chairman of the 600 Group is Jack Wellings CBE. Mr Wellings was recently appointed to the post of board member on the National Coal Board, where he is believed to be doing sterling work regarding mineworkers' safety.

Laurie Flynn



Lip workers at one of the daily general meetings during the work-in

STORM AS POLICE EVICT WORK-IN

A GREAT wave of working-class solidarity has followed the occupation of the Lip watch factory by police in Besancon in eastern France.

Although the police chose to move in on the day before a major public holiday in the middle of August, when many French workers are on holiday already, the response was immediate. Five thousand workers demonstrated in Besancon the next day, and another 5000 attended a solidarity meeting in Paris.

Among the many solidarity stoppages, a 24-hour strike by railwaymen paralysed major railway centres such as Toulouse and Dijon, and held up traffic at the main Paris stations.

Even workers on holiday took part: 700 workers at a factory holiday camp near President Pompidou's summer castle in Brittany sent a deputation of 60 to demonstrate at his gates.

SHOCKED

The regular police who at first occupied the factory have been replaced by the notorious CRS, the special riot police. There have been street battles every day, and a large area around the factory has been sealed off. Respectable opinion has been shocked by police behaviour in beating up three journalists and attacking nearby flats and a railway depot without provocation.

While there are the usual accusations that sinister outsiders are responsible for 'provoking' the police, informed eye-witnesses believe that most of those throwing stones and even molotov cocktails at the hated CRS are local youths, expressing solidarity with the Lip workers and trying to get even with the forces of law and order.

The four demonstrators convicted of assaulting the police are all young workers from the district. The local working people can be seen applauding the demonstrators and warning them of approaching CRS charges which they can see from their balconies.

The Lip factory had been

by Norah Carlin

occupied by its 1300 workers for almost four months, since the management threatened to close it down in April.

The method of occupation won widespread support. The workers took over the entire running of the factory and democratically elected committees carried out all the tasks which were formerly management's, such as control of the assembly line and safety. The watches produced were sold through trade unions and factory committees to other workers at cut prices, by-passing the usual middlemen.

There was no question of the workers co-operating with the legal process of liquidation—the watches were sold to pay their wages and to keep the factory running. The facts that did emerge when the company was legally investigated show that Lip, which was a French firm taken over by a big Swiss company, had been grossly mismanaged and was heavily in debt.

The trade union leaders of both the social democratic CFDT, the majority union at Lip, and the Communist Party-led CGT were reluctant to raise the issue of workers' control, and preferred to see the

work-in as a demonstration that the 'French watch-making heritage' was worth preserving under new management.

But there is no doubt that most French workers regarded the Lip work-in as a demonstration that workers can run a factory just as well, if not better, without the bosses.

For months the trade union leaders pleaded with the French government to intervene and set up a new company to run Lip. They used the work-in as a bargaining token and sought publicity for the workers' efforts as a 'means of persuasion'. Now the government, in the person of Charbonnel, the Minister of Industrial and Scientific Development, has intervened—with a plan which means sacking a quarter of the workers.

The naked use of force by the police and CRS to back up the minister's 'negotiations' shows just what workers are up against if they believed that the challenge of the work-in could be kept within peaceful bounds as a negotiating point, or that the government could act as a neutral 'third party'.

This is the real issue of the Lip work-in, which makes it, though small, the most significant event in France since the general strike of May 1968.

BRIEFING

BRAZIL:—150 armed peasants have taken over a market town in the remote Mato Grosso province. They are small land-owners who emigrated from a life of poverty in the more crowded provinces to scrape a meagre subsistence in difficult conditions at a time when the whole area was 'state property'.

But since the wealthy businessmen of Sao Paulo city began to take an interest in the Mato Grosso, the Brazilian government has been selling off 'property rights' to companies and speculators, who want to use the area mainly for stock raising and turn out the peasant 'possessors'.

The struggle against the companies, by both the peasants and the agricultural labourers who work for the companies at starvation wages, is continuous. In May a French priest, Father Jentel, who supported the struggle of peasants and workers in his work in the Mato Grosso,

was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Brazilian court.

CHILE:—The Christian Democratic Party, the main opposition to President Allende's Popular Unity coalition, has now come out in full support of the lorry-owners' strike which is threatening to bring down the government. Christian Democrat members of parliament have been demonstrating their support for the lorry owners on the spot, and professional associations of doctors and traders have also called out their members in support.

Meanwhile, the fall of the rate for American dollars on the Chilean black market is said to have been caused by the CIA hand-outs circulating.

Despite Allende's sharp swing to the right and the presence once again of top military men in his cabinet, the army has



Workers relax in the directors' hall—something unforeseen in the mural

been used to break this 'strike' of reactionary middle-class elements. Troops who turned up at a lorry depot near Santiago last week in full battledress limited their action to a search for arms, and did not get any lorries moving.

CHINA:—There are still rumours that the Tenth Congress of the Communist Party of China is about to take place, though August, the month initially tipped by Peking foreign gossip circles, is nearly over.

There have been only two congresses since 1945: the eighth was adjourned from 1956 to 1958, and the ninth was held in 1969, marking the close of the Cultural Revolution episode.

At the Ninth Congress the name of Lin Piao, the then Minister of Defence, was enshrined in the party constitution as the only possible successor to Mao Tse-tung as

party leader. Now Lin is dead and denounced, and it is thought that the Tenth Congress will be largely devoted to finishing off his reputation and using him as a scapegoat to denounce all sorts of opposition within the party.

A spate of recent articles about Lin Piao in the leading Peking publications include accusations that he tried to kill Mao no less than three times, and a denunciation of his role as a military strategist.

There are many important issues to be faced by the Chinese leadership: the country's economic future, foreign policy, and the restoration of many officials denounced at the time of the Cultural Revolution. It is often claimed that factions exist within the party on these questions, but it is unlikely that any real debate will take place at the Tenth Congress, whenever it is eventually held.

BLACKMAIL!

A PROMISE by Lord Carrington, Defence Minister, is made to be broken. After two weeks of strenuous lying over the Littlejohn Affair, Lord Carrington was in trouble again last week over the case of Gerry Quigley.

Gerry, who is 18 and lives in the Creggan Estate in Derry, was arrested and put through a 'routine' investigation by British troops. After four hours of questions and threats, he was told he could 'make some money for himself' if he passed on information about the IRA. A telephone number was written inside his spectacle case, and he was told of a secret rendezvous on the Dungiven Road.

When Gerry asked what would happen if he did not co-operate, he was told: 'You have heard of army assassination squads. They are everywhere'. Another gentleman said: 'The SAS will get you.'

As soon as he was released, Gerry

Assassination threat used in attempt to get youth to spy for army

contacted John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party MP, who tape-recorded a conversation between Quigley and 'John Smith' at the 'secret' telephone number.

The call was answered by a Scots voice, who spoke to Quigley as if he knew what the call was about. Half-way through Hume interrupted and revealed who he was. 'John Smith' abruptly rang off.

More than enough had been said to substantiate Gerry Quigley's story.

Lord Carrington has ordered an

'inquiry'. It is expected to have the same results as the 'inquiry' he set up last May into the brutal blackmailing of a Belfast hotel porter by the British army. That porter, too, was given a phone number and a rendezvous where he could pass on information gleaned from hotel guests.

Two soldiers from the 'glorious' Gloucestershire Regiment were 'disciplined' as a result.

Lord Carrington promised: 'This will not happen again.' It has.

Armed police guard court

LUTON:—Three members of Sinn Fein, Phil Sheridan and Sean Campbell and Gerry Mealey, both militant building trade unionists, were arrested a fortnight ago and charged with illegal possession of firearms. By the 7am BBC news the next day, the story was that three armed men had been arrested on information from the 'Irish security forces' for conspiring to rob a shoe factory to finance the kidnapping of a British army

major.

When the three appeared in the locked court room that day with bruised and swollen faces, after being kept barefoot and cold in the cells overnight, they were denied bail and remanded for a week. The Court was guarded by armed police, entry and exit prevented and traffic outside kept on the move during the short hearing, and the three driven to the special security wing of Leicester

Prison under heavy armed guard, having been allowed only a fleeting word with their wives, through bars and in the close company of policemen.

The police were taking no chances with the 'paddy rent-a-bomb mob', as one policeman put it. All three have again been remanded although when arrested, allegedly on their way to rob, Gerry was in a different part of Luton from the others. Members of the International Socialists and Sinn Fein picketed the court, while the police repeated their police-state security precautions.

The case is the latest in a series of arrests of local Sinn Fein members. Gerry Mealey and Sean Campbell are already known to Luton police. Gerry was picked up after the Aldershot bombings and Sean was on strike for several weeks while working on the building site of the new divisional police headquarters.

REPUBLICAN HARASSED

BLETCHLEY:—Joe Gallagher, a carpenter, militant trade unionist and active member of the Irish republican movement, was arrested by Special Branch police in Northampton and charged with 'demanding money with menaces'.

Joe was lured to a public house by a phone call to his home. On arrival at the pub he was given two £5 notes. Immediately on leaving the pub he was stopped and arrested by the Special Branch

and charged. He was held in custody for 48 hours. Since then he has to report to the police station daily. His case is to be heard on Thursday.

Joe has been harassed before by the Special Branch. In January 1972, after the Aldershot bombings, Joe was arrested, his home raided and searched for names and addresses of other republican activists and evidence of his own trade union work. His home was again raided in April.

Supports set on loose coal

FIFE:—The public inquiry into the disaster at Seafeld Colliery earlier this year, when five miners were killed, drew to a close last week. Yet again the facts disclosed in the last few days of the inquiry underlined that the National Coal Board's constant push for cheap and fast production is the cause of what are politely termed 'accidents' and 'tragedies'.

During the last few days of the inquiry it was revealed that:

Some of the roof supports in the D22 section where the roof collapsed were set on top of loose coal. This meant that the supports could not build up the required pressure.

The Coal Board did not inquire fully into the vital distinction between roof support pressure on a flat surface and pressure on a steep gradient like section D22.

Faulty

Twelve of the powered supports in the fallen area were missing a vital connecting pin.

Some of the supports also had faulty valves, on others the front and rear legs were not properly synchronised, and they were all reconditioned and generally inadequate for the job.

Any number of warning signs were just ignored.

The pit's general manager told the inquiry that in future even steeper gradients are to be worked at Seafeld. He had every confidence in the supports, he said.

His confidence is not shared by the miners who realise the need for specially adapted supports for the gradients and who daily become more concerned about their prospects of survival at the hands of the National Coal Board.



SIR ALEC: Remember 1938



WILSON: Sales to Greece

HARRIERS JET INTO FASCISM

AS THE Harrier jump-jet touched down on fascist Spain's one ageing carrier a sigh of relief must have gone out from Britain's arms industry. It may melt the tar on the 30-year-old ship's wooden flight deck but it might also melt a few of British Aircraft Corporation creditors' hearts.

The Spanish want the Harrier for two main purposes. First it would be a useful weapon against any possible uprising against the fascist government. Secondly it can be used in Spain's North African colonies to reduce the risk neighbouring powers might take them over—and the oil which supposedly lies underneath.

Fearless

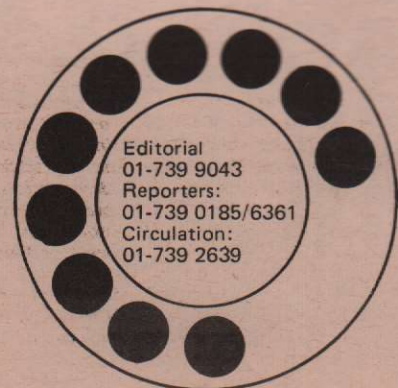
Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home's protestations of innocence over the sale fit easily into Sir Alec's tradition of appeasement of fascists which goes back to his assistance to Neville Chamberlain in 1938. The 'glorious defence' of Gibraltar against Franco takes a second place to making a fast buck for BAC.

Harold Wilson can be a fearless critic of fascist regimes, but only seems to manage it when in opposition.

In January 1970 Labour Foreign

Secretary Michael Stewart opposed efforts by Scandinavian NATO members to cut off NATO arms supplies to fascist Greece. Supplies of spare parts for South Africa's Buccaneer fighter bombers continued while the Labour government was in power.

The Harrier is the one success story of the British aircraft industry in the past 10 years. This has been largely due to the dollars supplied by the US defence department.



Editorial
01-739 9043
Reporters:
01-739 0185/6361
Circulation:
01-739 2639

Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

THE powers that be are getting worried about the Prices Commission. Not about what it is actually doing, which is letting through wave after wave of price increases, but they are worried that the Commission is being a bit too obvious about it.

The big business weekly, the Economist, sums up their attitude in a headline: 'It's not what you do, it's the way that you do it.'

'The Prices Commission announced another batch of price increases on Thursday before going off on holiday,' reports the Economist. 'They were mostly the usual jam-biscuit-tinned fruit-margarine mixture... The Commission's practice of issuing approvals... by the bunch simply reinforces the public's view that it is only there to push prices up.'

How much better, the Economist argues, if increases were announced in a steady dribble that would not make the headlines!

The fact is that the Prices Commission is a fake, as more and more people are realising. The operative part of Heath's so-called Prices and Incomes Policy, the part that actually works, is the Pay Board.

The Pay Board does not deal with **incomes**, of course. It deals only with **earned** incomes, with wages and salaries, and it has been pretty effective in holding them down. Profits, unearned incomes, are rising at an unprecedented rate. They are supposed to be dealt with by the Prices Commission.

But the Prices Commission is, and was designed to be, a 'cosmetic'—to use one of the Economist's favourite terms. Its job is to give the impression that something is being done about prices and profits when in fact they are being let rip.

Sir Arthur Cockfield, its boss, is paid £15,000 a year, nearly £300 a week, for this important service. That he earns his money, from the capitalist point of view, is shown by the fact that average profits were up by 20 per cent in the first six months of this year.

What are the trade union leaders doing about this scandal? Vic Feather has called the Prices Commission 'a sick joke' but he and the rest of the TUC chiefs still carry on with the futile round of talks with the government. This week sees the latest instalment.

The TUC leaders make all sorts of proposals—food subsidies, effective price controls and so on. Yet they know very well that the **only** thing that worries Heath is the prospect of serious industrial action against the wage freeze. The sole effect of TUC-government talks is to give credibility to the idea that there can be a 'fair' incomes policy. There can be no such thing in a society based on production for profit.

Jack Jones justifies carrying on talks by saying that 'the trade union point of view must be heard'. It has been heard by Heath over many months. With what effects? It was Heath himself who popularised the slogan, 'Action not words'. It is a good slogan.

This year's Trades Union Congress will be a non-event unless it moves in this direction.

PURE RACISM

LONDON TRANSPORT has put up notices apologising for its inability to run some of its scheduled tube and bus journeys. The reason? Shortage of labour.

And at the same time police activity against 'illegal' immigrants reaches new heights. So does press and television coverage of it. The capture of a small boatload of immigrants is headline stuff. Or rather it is if they have dark skins.

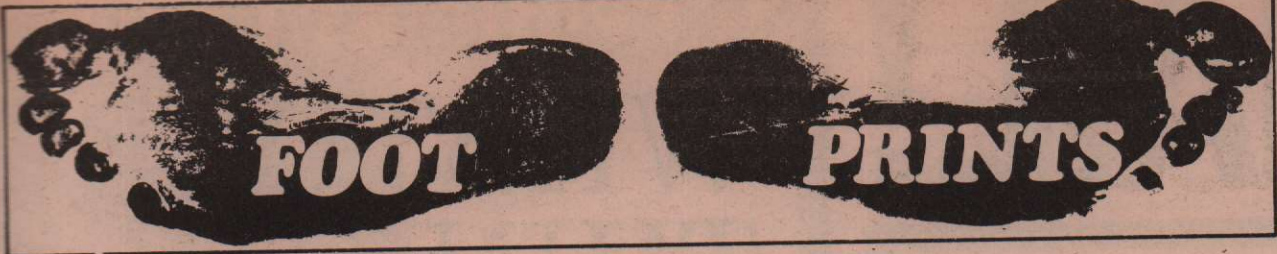
For not only is it true that there is an unrestricted legal right to come to Britain for Germans, Frenchmen, Netherlanders, Italians, Danes and so on, for citizens of any Common Market country. It is also true that 'illegal' **white** immigrants from other countries are not news. Neither are they the object of intensive police searches, spot checks and the rest.

The purely racist character of the Immigration Act is now absolutely clear except to people who don't want to see.

Unfortunately many workers still don't want to see. They have not yet realised that police harassment and persecution of coloured immigrants under the pretext of looking for 'illegal' entrants is also a threat to the working-class movement.

It is. Every extension of police powers is a new danger to working-class organisation. Solidarity cannot stop at white skins. Racism is poison and the present clamour about 'illegal' immigration is pure racism.

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'THERE has been much public discussion on safety and compensation for injury... It is clear however that our sense of compassion for those few who suffer adverse effects of medicines must be tempered not only with economic realism but also with concern for the interests of the majority of patients who benefit from the medicines.'

From the annual report of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries. A spokesman for the ABPI assures me that the above is not intended to refer to thalidomide.

A Right Honourable activity

APPEARING on television recently, the Rt Hon Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal Party's working-class leader, poured scorn on the left wing of the Labour Party.

'I don't think the nationalisation of the banks is an answer to any of our problems,' he said.

It would certainly not answer the problems of Jeremy Thorpe, who is a highly-paid director of one of the shadiest banks in Britain.

Angry shareholders of London and

County Securities, which hit the headlines this year for its 200 per cent second mortgages and of which Mr Thorpe is a director, are gathering their forces for an attack on the directors at the annual meeting on 30 August.

Although the company shows a healthy increase in profits to £3.6 million, much of this 'increase' is achieved by some 'unusual' book-keeping.

A hefty loss on the taking over of Deakers Ltd last December is written into the books as an 'asset'.

Another curious feature of the London and County accounts is that the bank owns 10 per cent of its own equity shares. The Daily Telegraph of 13 August explained what this could mean: 'This raises some quite fundamental questions. For instance, if London and County is forced on default to foreclose on the loans it will end up owning its own shares—a state of affairs rendered illegal by the last Companies Act.'

What's that? The Right Hon Jeremy Thorpe director of a company which could be breaking company law? What a fine day that would be for community politics!



THORPE: Illegal?

HEATH'S HAYWARD

EDITORIAL and public relations workers for the Labour Party are having a little trouble with their employers over a pay award. The National Union of Journalists chapel has put in for a substantial rise, but have been told by the Party's Salaries Board that they can only get an extra £1 plus 4 per cent.

When the chapel pointed out that it has fewer than 10 members and that any pay award does not even have to be reported to the Pay Board, the Salaries Board took 'legal advice'

on the matter.

The advice was that £1 plus 4 per cent was the absolute limit. 'All firms must follow the code,' said the lawyers.

So the code is being followed.

The Salaries Board consists of party general secretary Ron Hayward, treasurer, Jim Callaghan and leading left-winger Ian Mikardo.

The workers have decided on 'no action' as they are anxious not to embarrass the Labour Party.

A proper Herbert Bird

A CURIOUS state of affairs has arisen in Carlton urban council, near Nottingham, which is Tory-controlled under the energetic leadership of Mr Herbert Bird.

When Mr Bird is not engaged in council matters he is inclined to go down to Bailey Street, Netherfield, and collect the rents of the ten houses which his mother owns.

Tenants in Bailey Street have, for several years, been complaining to Mr Bird, his mother, his father, his brother and even his son, that repairs on the properties are not all that they should be. The Bird family, claim the tenants, are always promising to do repairs, but never doing them.

Early this summer, the local council came to the rescue and voted grants of £475 a house (that's almost £5000) for repairs. Mr Bird, of course, vacated the chair of the finance committee while the committee took this decision, and properly declared his interest. For some reason, however, no repairs have since been done.

About ten weeks ago, the tenants held a little demonstration at the end of their street. It was a peaceful affair,

with some friendly placards about leaking toilets and the like, but it seems to have annoyed the Bird family.

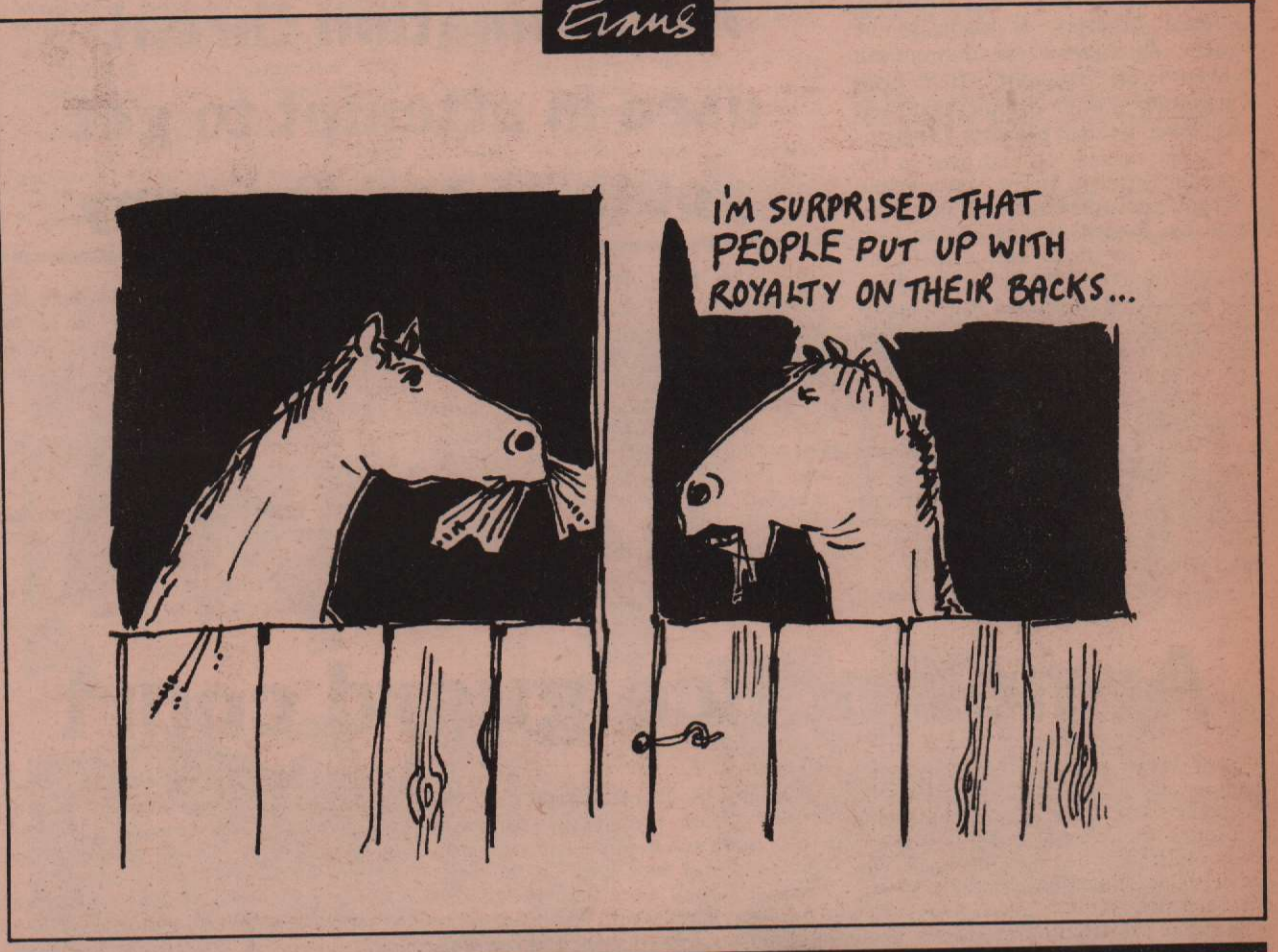
On 10 August, Mr Ken Bullock, a lorry driver, received a letter from the Post Office informing him of instructions from Mrs Bird to take the telephone out of the Bullocks' house.

Mr Bullock and his friend Mr Burrows, a roof tiler, went down to the council recently to complain about harassment.

NO GALE WARNING

TWO detectives in Bedford have been working hard for the past six months on the case of Alderman Ronald Gale, shareholder in two companies owned by Alderman Arthur Jones, Tory MP for South Northants and chairman of the Tory Party's local government committee.

The detectives were following up complaints about Alderman Gale's role in the granting of planning permission on land owned by Jones, Gale and Jones, who are great friends,



Cheapest of them all?

I AM always sorry to report bad news from our main competitors, but it appears that the Daily Mirror is in desperate straits. Graham Piperides, member of Loughborough International Socialists, was approached the other evening on his doorstep by a smooth-looking young gentleman carrying large numbers of Daily Mirrors.

'Would you like to become a regular reader of the Daily Mirror?' asked the caller. Graham replied in the negative.

'Oh, but why not?' said the aggrieved gentleman. 'You can have this one free, and you can get it cheap on a subscription for a fortnight.'

The man eventually departed when Graham pointed out the greater advantages, both in cost and in reading matter, of the latest subscription offer for Socialist Worker.

I understand, what is more, that fewer Daily Mirrors were sold that evening in Loughborough estates than Socialist Workers.

TERROR OF THE BOSSES

ONCE upon a time, there was a print union official in Manchester who struck terror into the hearts of all newspaper executives. A whisper of the mildest dispute would bring this believer-in-the-rights-of-the-working-man roaring into action.

He was the arch trade union purist: his members had a grievance and his job was to worry the management rats until the grievance was recognised, put right and justly rewarded.

He never lost an opportunity of reminding management men that they had it soft, sitting in their parlours counting out company profits, while his men slogged away at boring, repetitive jobs, wondering whether they had enough cash in their pockets to buy a pint at the local.

His rating was high on both sides of the negotiating table: on the management side because he was a man of principle, and clever with it; on the union side because he usually won.

So clearly are his victories in those far-off days remembered that at a recent old boys' gathering of northern editors in exile, glasses were raised to the grey eminence of the newspaper world: Mr John Collier.

But the toast was drunk with some derision—for Collier, that man whose members were always right, seems to have seen the error of his ways and become a management convert. Where once he worked to raise the workers up, he now devotes himself to keeping them down.

Another important aspect of the forecast of Howator consolidated accounts. Thus last year the consolidated net profits for the merged company to buy up UK profits. Only £4.7 millions is expected to be available out of a pre-tax profit of £15.2 million and while this includes an unusually known amount for minority interests, the ruling UK tax rate is 40 per cent.

So expect an important UK acquisition before the end of this year. No one is giving any odds as to what sectors and company will diversify into, on indeed when it exists, or that some financial institutions will be able to do it.

Finally, the document wonders if the economic situation will be one of the business. Among the important aspects of the forecast of Howator consolidated accounts. Thus last year the consolidated net profits were £29.27 millions for the French and only £2.7 millions for the British.

This arises because of a different treatment of certain items. French directors, for instance, are usually entitled to a proportion of the dividend attributable to shareholders. The mid-france director's salary is retained in the written off against profit is part of directors' remuneration but is included in the profit and loss account. In fact, such these approaches. And the 1.5 million in the way in which is spread across several items which are accounted for differently in the two countries.

SWORE

Where once he would have kicked millionaire newspaper owners like Rupert Murdoch in the teeth rather than accept a drink from them, he now sings the dirty digger's praises and takes £10,000-a-year-plus of his money without blinking.

And where once he swore that printers and everyone who worked on the newspaper floor were the salt of the earth, he now accuses them of industrial sabotage.

It was this accusation—from Collier of all people—that brought the machines at the Sun to a standstill last week.

The NGA and SOGAT men had been furious with Collier who—incredibly—is in charge of industrial relations at the Sun and News of the World, because it seemed to them he had not been completely honest when telling the management's side of the story to the Newspaper Publishers Association (NPA).

In all statements put out by the management and the NPA, the printers had, as usual, been painted as grasping, greedy men, wanting even more money

in their already lavish wage packets while poor old Rupert Murdoch was slogging his guts out to survive.

And when Sun editor Bernard Shrimley wanted to put on the front page a statement from Lord Goodman, chairman of the NPA, saying that he knew of no reasonable cause for the present dispute, it was the last straw.

They rightly refused to print it because it was inaccurate.

Shrimley repeated the management dictum: 'I cannot censor Lord Goodman', and that was that. The men walked out to cool off.

They needed to—because conditions in the machine room were appalling and it was the conditions that had caused the dispute, not money at all. At 9am last Saturday morning, when the machines had been still for four and a half hours and the place empty, the temperature was 91 degrees F.

By 9pm every night, it was approaching 130 degrees. If you had tried to fry an egg on the machine room floor, it would have shrivelled up and died. The paper was behaving in the same way. Paper needs humidity, but in that sort of dry heat, it shrank and snapped. The men, meanwhile, struggling to restart the machines, were fainting by the dozen—yet it was in the middle of all this debris that Collier had accused them of industrial sabotage.

But Collier himself may be sweating by now, because during the endless NPA meetings, he was told in no uncertain terms by other Fleet Street management. Max Aitken, who inherited Beaverbrook papers from his dad, even spilled the beans on the radio, by saying that if Murdoch wanted a lockout, that was up to him, but Aitken had no intention of shutting down his papers just to help Murdoch.

Unfortunately for Collier, all this has happened while Murdoch is living it up in Australia. He may not be too pleased to come home to find that his industrial relations director has just divorced him from the NPA.

Leonard Hill

Blackguard Enemies of the people

WHEN farmers become gentlemen, their labourers become slaves, wrote William Cobbett 150 years ago.

Just as those who were employed in the new factories in Britain during the industrial revolution experienced dramatic changes in their lives, so too did those who worked in agriculture.

This should not surprise us. For the doctrine of the 'free market' economy found its first disciples not in Manchester or Huddersfield, but in the great corn-growing belt of the southern and eastern counties.

By 1750 English agriculture was basically capitalist, with a few thousand landlords letting out their land to some tens of thousands of farmers. In their turn farmers employed hundreds of thousands of labourers. Life for these agricultural workers reached extremes of misery and poverty—wages were abominably low, 16 hours were often worked each day, and their diet, housing and health was barely sufficient to exist.

The exploitation and starvation they suffered has been hidden by the historians and little was ever recorded of their lives. But riots, disturbances, hay-rick burning and threatening letters all revealed the brave attempts to fight back.

Heroic

The gentlemen farmers attacked by William Cobbett rarely had it all their own way. Wage slavery in the fields of Suffolk and Sussex was hated by the rural poor just as much as in the new factories of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

After years of unrest and defeat the agricultural workers revolted into desperate violence in the 1830s, attacking the property of their exploiters, marching behind their mythical leader, the heroic Captain Swing. The letters they wrote to their masters tell their own tale.

Sir, Your name is down amongst the Black Hearts in the Black Book and this is to advise you and the like of you, who are Parson Justices, to make your Wills.

Ye have been the Blackguard Enemies of the People on all occasions. Ye have not yet done as ye ought.

Swing

HOW THE SYSTEM STARTED



Part Three by Julian Harber

What were the conditions which drove farmworkers to such bitterness? How had their lives been changed?

For most of the 18th century the quality of their conditions was substantially better. In some areas of the country markets were still regulated by magistrates to ensure that the poor got adequate supplies of cheap bread and other food.

May Days, fairs, harvest festivals and the like brought the whole village together to celebrate and sports, dancing and various other forms of merrymaking took place.

All these events had been under pressure for centuries and, compared to what they had been in the past, they were now only fragments. Taken individually they might not always amount to much, but together they made the essential framework in

which most of the rural poor lived their lives.

Their importance lay above all in the fact that they were living embodiments of the belief that those at the bottom of the social scale had got not just obligations, but also rights.

On the land farmhands were hired not by the week but by the year and were thus guaranteed a regular income whether work was available or not. Common land was also used by labourers who would add to their income by keeping a sheep, pig, or perhaps a few geese.

Also still strong was the belief that those unable to support themselves should be supported at home by the parish, money and goods being provided out of the parish relief fund and local charities.

By the 1790s, however, most of this was disappearing as the rural

poor were reduced to subservient wage slaves with virtually no rights at all.

As the demand for food increased in the new industrial towns and under the impact of the Napoleonic blockade of British ports, profits boomed for the farmers and landlords. Lusting after more and more profit they became more and more ruthless.

In addition the rulers of the countryside, panic-stricken that the events of the French Revolution might repeat themselves in Britain, tried to suppress all forms of militancy.

The attacks on the village poor were multiple. There was enclosure. The previously common or open fields were turned into private fields, and the common, but uncultivated, woodlands, rough grazing, and 'waste' into private property. The cottagers lost greatly. They could not afford the legal and other costs involved and so had to sell up. The squatters lost all since they had only customary, not legal title to the land.

And the labourer now had nowhere to graze his animals, since enclosure was often accompanied by attempts to prevent the use of roadside verges for grazing.

The effects of this open class robbery and the feelings it aroused are well illustrated by the following excerpt from an anonymous letter sent to the gentlemen of Ashill in Norfolk in 1815:

Sir
This is to acquaint you that if your thrashing Machines are not destroyed by you directly we shall commence our Labourers signers on behalf of the whole
Swing

A threatening letter written to a landlord under the pseudonym of Captain Swing

'You do as you like, you rob the poor of their commons right, plough the grass up that God sent to grow, that a poor man may feed a cow, pig, horse nor ass; lay muck and stones on the road to prevent the grass growing . . . There is five or six of you have gotten all of the whole of the land in this parish in your own hands and you would wish to be rich and starve all the other part of the poor . . .'

But enclosure was not the only way the poor were forced into wage slavery. In most parts of the country 'living in' was abandoned, labourers being now considered too lowly to share their master's house. Hiring by the year was replaced by hiring by the week, the day and even the hour. In bad weather the labourer would get nothing.

With this went attacks on all forms of popular leisure. Fairs were closed down, supposedly because they were too rowdy, and sports were discouraged on the grounds that they led to drunkenness and vice.

Vicious

In 1844 the Rev Henslow, of Hitcham, Suffolk, could write of his parish: 'They have no village green or common for active sports. Some 30 years ago, I am told, they had a right to a playground in a particular field at certain times of the year and were then celebrated for their football, but somehow or other the field has been lost to them and is now under the plough.'

The final vicious blow came in 1834 with the passing of the New Poor Law. The administration of relief for those in need was already chaotic and involved much degradation, but the New Poor Law was deliberately designed to be as nasty as possible. No relief was to be given at home, only in the workhouse where husbands were separated from wives and brothers from sisters and where military discipline reigned supreme.

Against all this, the village poor hit back. There were riots in East Anglia in 1816 and 1823, and all over England in the Swing riots of 1830. Enclosure fences were pulled up, property was burnt down, cattle were maimed, attempts were made to start trade unions. But in the end the rural poor were defeated.

Streaming into the new towns of the industrial revolution, rural workers took with them bitter memories. It is not surprising that for much of the 19th century the British worker saw the landed aristocracy as the main enemy.



An old print showing hayrick-burning—the standard response when wage demands were refused

International Terrorists and Troublemakers

WHEN Anthony Sampson asked a successful executive why he had left the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITT), he replied: 'I decided to rejoin the human race.'

That executive was lucky. For most of us, whether we work for ITT or not, it is becoming increasingly impossible to escape from ITT.

ITT is everywhere—not just in telephones. It is in cosmetics and dog food and shorthand and car hire and hair wave and television rental and hotels.

If it doesn't own the thing you're using or driving, it controls the life you lead. It can decide

the rate of exchange of any currency you care to name, it can decide the colour of a government, if necessary it can decide to topple a government. And ITT, remember is only the eighth largest multinational company in the world.

Socialists are often challenged when they assert that big business controls the lives of working people all over the world. Anthony Sampson's book* on ITT is rich in facts to back this assertion.

It shows how ITT is, in the words of one of its senior employees, 'above governments, above controls, above morals'. Success and profit for the company justify everything.

One of the company's biggest 'breaks', for

instance, came from Adolf Hitler. Hitler and ITT built up a special relationship during the Nazi years in Germany. ITT's subsidiary, Lorenz, had a 28 per cent interest in the Focke-Wulf company, whose aircraft were Hitler's main air assault weapons in the Second World War.

ITT helped build the Nazi war machine. In exchange its companies were not nationalised in any of Hitler's empire.

But when Germany was being defeated in 1944, ITT's chairman, Sosthenes Behn, was one of the first to appear in liberated Paris in the uniform of the resistance and one of the first to cash in on the city's rehabilitation.

Throughout the war, while ITT were supplying

Hitler with deadly aircraft and ITT's subsidiary in Britain, STC, over by English gentlemen of patriotism.

ITT's devotion to racism in the company's relationship with Hitler, Harold Geneen, passionate governments of South Africa and write, STC in Southgate, London banned black workers from skills.

The crucial lesson of Sampson: ITT is stronger than the governments in which it operates: still the most powerful government in American government.

ITT busts trust-busters

ONE of the most fundamental policies which brought President Nixon to the White House in 1968 was his call for 'more powerful anti-trust laws'. Nixon and his side-kicks, Mitchell and Kleindienst, who both later became Attorney General, made emotional speeches to small businessmen about the dangerous powers of the great mergers and monopolies.

Soon after his election Nixon appointed Richard McLaren,

whose political life had been devoted to a war on the trusts, as chief of the government's 'trust-busting' operation. McLaren turned his attention to the biggest merger in the history of the world: between ITT and the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

ITT needed Hartford desperately, but McLaren was determined to bust the merger. A bitter legal battle developed, and McLaren swore that he would

take ITT to the Supreme Court.

Suddenly, one day in 1971, McLaren gave in. ITT kept Hartford, and McLaren was appointed a federal judge. Nine days previously, ITT had promised 400,000 dollars for the financing of the Republican Party convention in San Diego.

McLaren and Nixon and all their 'anti-trust' rhetoric had been bought for 400 grand.

All the time ITT is buying governments and local authorities. It employs an army of lawyers to twist the law, press officers and public relations men who are paid 100 million dollars a year to 'win the press', speculators to fix foreign exchange rates, lobbyists—10,000 in Washington alone—to bribe Senators, Congressmen, deputies, councillors, MPs, with everything from a prostitute to a free taxi service.

Resources

ITT specialises in intelligence, and has on its payroll a former director of the American CIA and countless former intelligence officers who feed the resources of state intelligence into the company.

These resources were used to the full in ITT's reckless plan to unseat President Allende before he took office in Chile. If ITT's plan for Chile had gone ahead, hundreds of thousands of Chilean workers would have been thrown out of work, many permanently, and several thousands slaughtered in the interests of a few million dollars compensation for obsolete telephone plant.

*THE SOVEREIGN STATE, Hodder and Stoughton, £2.95.



LORD CACCIA: From Foreign Office to STC directorship



HAROLD GENEEN, chairman of ITT



HITLER: ITT munitions

ITT and Macmillan

IN 1954 Admiral Ellery Stone, a formidable figure in the ITT hierarchy, started to lobby in Britain for landing rights for an ITT transatlantic cable. The cable would have been in competition with a similar cable run by the British nationalised Cable and Wireless company.

Nevertheless, the Admiral lobbied hard, especially his old war friend, Harold Macmillan, who was Defence Minister and Foreign Secretary in the Tory government from 1954 to 1956. In both positions, Macmillan was more than friendly with ITT, seeing the Admiral twice and expressing his support for the ITT project.

In 1956, Macmillan's senior civil servant in the Foreign Office, Sir Harold Caccia, was also friendly with ITT. Lord Caccia, as he now is, is a director of STC, which employs 35,000 workers and is a subsidiary of ITT.

The land of

FOR all their power over the private enterprise governments of the West, Geneen and ITT are happiest when doing business with Russia and Eastern Europe.

'The two sides,' writes Anthony Sampson, 'can reveal a mutual attraction: the Russians need a disciplined and centralised system to deal with while the multinationals see in Russia the longed-for prospect of orderly markets, strike-free factories and predictable five-year plans. Russia... could be the ultimate land of no surprises.'

In other words, Russia represents for ITT the ultimate in capitalist government.

It can assure the multinational mogul the highest rate of profit at the lowest risk. There is in Russia no anti-trust competition which makes all those lawyers and PR men necessary in the West. More important, there is apparently no threat from the workers. ITT's factories in Russia are promised no strikes on terms which are no more expensive to the company than those signed in other countries where a 'no



'WHAT' annual governments is companies, by valuation, help British like gnomes of Zulu new run on the they need look the gnomes Anthony Sampson

strikes' clause by the government

'It is hard,' Sampson, 'not to of dread at prospects of systems and con undisturbed by anti-trust.'

True enough—Russia but all There is no robbery no indignity to ITT. And although so much recent other multinationals Motors, Ford, K

International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER ROSEWELL

THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS POWER

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The 'Act of God' that's hit the buses

by Jack Aldrich and Pete Glatter (TGWU)

LONDON newspapers have been giving a lot of publicity to the pitiful state of the city's bus services. Passengers complain that long waits mean extra time added on to the working day. Outside rush hours, services often verge on collapse.

London Transport's only response is a sorrowful admission of helplessness in the face of the staff shortage, which they treat as an Act of God. For some mysterious reason, they are 4500 busmen short.

Strong medicine, such as one-man buses and cutting the service to ribbons, have been forced down busmen's throats. Although this has not helped, it has become a habit. London Transport has proudly announced that the new 'speedbus' project means 'no change in staff levels through a more efficient of buses.'

London Transport's notices coyly point out that there is a general shortage of labour in the city. But the staff shortage on the buses is as old as the rotten wages and conditions. That is why the Industrial Sociology Unit of Imperial College, London, is doing a survey of why unemployed men do not apply for jobs on London Transport.

The new driver may be mesmerised by the £41 wage advertised on the recruiting posters. He is soon brought down to earth by the actual basic rate of £29. The only extras are a £1.10 shift allowance and a bonus on fares—which is being whittled away by new kinds of tickets and passes.

Pressed

The sordid reality of the job is that one bus in eight is run on overtime as busmen vainly try to catch up with the cost of living. Compulsory overtime is included in some schedules.

This is an unhealthy job and management are quite prepared to make it worse by speeding up running times. Despite traffic chaos, London busmen do more mileage today in 40 hours than they did in 44 hours 20 years ago.

Millions of pounds have been spent on a modern fleet of buses. Yet garages are starved of spare parts. Because of this drivers are constantly being pressed to take out sub-standard or dangerous buses.

Management sabotage has crippled what was once one of the best and highest-paid services in the world. Saboteur-in-chief is £18,500-a-year Sir Richard Way, chairman of the London Transport Executive. The executive's 10 members get an average of £200 a



week. Sir Richard himself knows all about public transport. That's why he travels in a chauffeur-driven £9000 Jaguar.

The executive takes the credit for successes like the £300,000 that was made by working busmen harder and faster through the Oxford Street 'buses and taxis only' scheme. It is the executive that makes handouts like the yearly £450,000 to Harry Hyams for the use of Telstar House, which had been empty for 10 years.

It is to this executive that the Transport and General Workers Union annually sells hard-won conditions for miserable pay rises. Every day the petty officials of management and union get together to carve up the jobs and the workers. One of the bitter fruits of this partnership is clause 17 of the 1967 agreement. This is a penalty clause against strikes—busmen who strike for one day, such as May Day, can lose up to £10 of their week's earnings.

Discontented busmen are beginning to turn away from leaders who collaborate with the other side. Some have started The Platform, a militant rank-and-file paper.

The aims of The Platform include a £40 basic wage, four weeks holiday, a shorter working week, immediate payment for sickness, abolition of clause 17, and the election of full-time officials.

The struggle for these aims is just beginning.

Today I had lunch with our contact at the McLean agency, and I summarise for you the results of our conversation. He is still very, very pessimistic about defeating Allende when the congressional vote takes place on October 24. Approaches continue to be made to select members of the Armed Forces in an attempt to have them lead some sort of uprising -- no success to date.

Economic Pressures

Some business sectors are encouraging economic collapse, hoping this eventually will necessitate a military take-over, or strengthen Alessandri in the congressional run-off. Undercover efforts are being made to bring about the bankruptcy of one or two of the major savings and loan associations. This is expected to trigger a run on banks and the closure of some factories resulting in more unemployment.

HE INDICATED THAT CERTAIN STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN BUT THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL HELP AIMED AT INDUCING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. I DISCUSSED THE SUGGESTIONS WITH GUILFOYLE. HE CONTACTED A COUPLE OF COMPANIES WHO SAID THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN ADVICE WHICH IS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE SUGGESTIONS I RECEIVED.

3. SAVINGS AND LOAN COMPANIES THERE ARE IN TROUBLE. IF PRESSURE WERE APPLIED THEY WOULD HAVE TO SHUT THEIR DOORS, THEREBY CREATING STRONGER PRESSURE.

ABOVE: ITT documents relating to the company's attempt to prevent Salvador Allende becoming president of Chile.

The second document reads: 'Some business sectors are encouraging economic collapse hoping this eventually will necessitate a military take-over, or strengthen Alessandri in the congressional run-off. Undercover efforts are being made to bring about the bankruptcy of one or two of the major savings and loan associations.'

HOW AMERICAN AID TO ECUADOR WAS STOPPED

IN 1971, ITT's subsidiary, all American Cables and Radio was taken over by the Ecuador government. After much hustling by the company, the government agreed to pay 600,000 dollars and hand over valuable land as 'compensation'.

The government delayed in the payments, and ITT promptly demanded that the

US AID fund cut off all development loans and grants to Ecuador. The AID department at first refused, so ITT's top officials 'invoked the names of top Nixon administration figures to bend the bureaucrats to ITT's will' (Business Week, 9 August 1973). The net result was that 415 million dollars in aid to Ecuador was held up for two years.

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as survived the r. Today's chair-ly supports the d Rhodesia. As I n, has effectively d jobs.

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Unilever, and Shell-BP, are just as unscrupulous.

What can be done about it?

'The nation is the only institution strong enough to stand up to the multinationals, and to instil comparable loyalties, for the foreseeable future,' he writes.

So we must all bend ourselves to strengthening the power of the nation state, to reviving our national parliaments, our national press, our national culture and, no doubt, our national monarch.

Sampson's conclusion is not only reactionary. It is futile. For how is that national power to be exercised?

Through parliaments, already hopelessly besieged and corrupted by the power of the capitalist giants? Through the press, itself owned and controlled by these same monopolies?

There is a power capable of confronting the multinationals and of 'instilling comparable loyalties,' a power which Anthony Sampson does not seem to have noticed. It is the power of the men and women who work for the multinationals,

whose labour is robbed, whose skill is humiliated and independence broken by them.

Workers at STC on strike against racism are doing more to shake the power of ITT than any amount of rant from liberal journalists.

It is true that the workers and their trade union organisations have been slow to react to the multinational power of the new combines. Again and again, they are left in the lurch as the combines switch work, money and resources across national boundaries.

This only hardens the argument for political organisation in the working-class movement, for linking the struggle in ITT factories in different industries and different countries. If the workers start to move against these giants in a politically organised and dignified counter-offensive, then all the public relations officers, lawyers, accountants and lobbyists in the world will not be able to keep Geneen and his fellow barbarians in power.

BY PAUL FOOT

International Socialism 61

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YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!

CHRIS HARMAN on the importance of socialist ideas

A READER from Glossop has written to Socialist Worker asking about the attitude of the International Socialists to religion. He writes: 'At our local IS branch meeting a recent speaker said that it was his view that Christianity was incompatible with membership of IS.'

'As a Roman Catholic I consider that being an International Socialist is certainly compatible with my basic beliefs as a Christian and in no way presents any agonies of conscience . . .'

'I have one criticism of Socialist Worker which grieves me. I have yet to read of the efforts of Catholic clergy of leftist orientation . . . In fascist, "most Catholic Spain", for example, young priests were battered and clubbed without mercy after celebrating a May Day mass in which they repeated their demands for the right of workers to belong to a free trade union.'

'At the present time 103 priests and one bishop are held in Spanish prisons for denouncing the dictatorship which oppresses their nation.'

I'll try to deal with the main points.

The International Socialists reject the view that any form of religion can solve the central problems facing mankind. Poverty, the threat of war, the barbarities inflicted by the Americans in Vietnam or the Portuguese in Africa, oppression and exploitation are not problems that can be solved by going down on one's knees. They will only begin to be dealt with when living men get together to fight to overthrow the ruling classes that divide the world.

FREEDOM

The leaders of the different religions not only reject the idea of a struggle by working people to transform society, they go further and give positive support to the efforts of the ruling classes to hold on to power.

Sections of the Catholic Church in Spain may today be critical of certain aspects of Franco's rule. But in 1936, when he first set about destroying the labour movement in that country, he got overwhelming backing from the cardinals, the bishops and most priests.

In Ireland, where the majority of Catholics have traditionally opposed British rule, the attitude of the Catholic bishops has usually been to help the British. They opposed the United Irishmen's attempt to get Irish freedom. They supported the Act of Union with Britain in 1802. They condemned the Fenians and the early Home Rule movements of 1850-1900. They condemned the Easter Rising and they excommunicated republicans in the early 1920s.

In Britain the record of the Church of England has been just as bad. Its

WHERE THE CHURCH STANDS

bishops supported every attempt to subject people throughout the world to British rule, however bloody the methods used. They gave unreserved backing to wars fought to keep this empire. And even today they bless the launchings of nuclear submarines.

The leaders of organised religion have taken up such positions because they themselves are part and parcel of the ruling class. The Catholic Church, for instance, is the biggest single shareholder in Italian industry and has been a massive landowner in many countries. The Church of England, for its part, has an enormous shareholding and owns large tracts of valuable property.

REBELS

This identification of the church with the powers-that-be is not new. It goes back at least 1700 years to the time when Constantine, one of the most bloody of the Roman emperors, made Christianity the official religion of his oppressive rule.

There are indications that the earliest Christians were rebels of some sort. Those gospels that were written earliest, Mark and Luke, contain bitter expressions of class hatred. We are told that a rich man can no more go to heaven than a camel can go through the eye of a needle. There is

the parable of Lazarus the beggar, who died and 'was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom', while the rich man was sent to hell, for no other reason than being rich.

The version of the Sermon of the Mount in Saint Luke's gospel is equally bitter. 'Blessed be the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God . . . But woe unto you that are rich, for ye have received your consolation.'

But as the church grew it came to accept existing society and changed the meaning of such texts. Already in Matthew's gospel, written later than Mark and Luke, we find it is no longer the poor who are blessed, but 'the poor in spirit'. The reference to the rich is no longer there at all.

REJECT

People were now taught to accept their place humbly and abandon any struggle to change things, instead they were promised salvation in another world.

But while the leaders of the churches have supported the exploiting classes, there have always been rebellions against this by the people of these churches. People have often challenged the ruling class, without completely abandoning the religious ideas it taught them.

In Spain, Brazil or Mozambique today, many of the priests do identify with the hatred their parishioners feel for the government, just as in Northern Ireland a few priests give whole-hearted support to the fight to throw out the British.

When individual Christians develop their ideas so far as to accept the main points of the International Socialists programme, we gladly welcome them into our ranks, even though we reject their religious beliefs.

But that does not mean we will stop pointing out to them the contradiction between being in a church presided over by people who justify capitalist society while oneself fighting to overthrow that society.

LETTERS

The meaning of 'homeless'

I WAS pleased to see the small paragraph on the problem of the homeless in Plymouth (Socialist Worker 18 August). As a member of Plymouth Housing Action Group I should like to fill in some of the basic facts behind this situation.

From reliable information it is estimated that more than 100 families are homeless in Plymouth. To one mother of two children being homeless means sleeping many nights since February in the bus station, to another couple it means spending most nights in Devonport Park, to a third family with an eight-month-old baby it means sleeping in a car.

What is being done about this situation? Officially very little. Regulations permit the Housing Department to find accommodation for people who are in 'urgent need' but not for those who are actually homeless. This is the responsibility of the Social Services Department, whose main contribution is to house mothers and children (not husbands) for two or three nights in temporary accommodation. In extreme cases children are taken into care.

All the 'category three' accommodation which the council are, by law, required to provide for homeless families is full at present. At all times the homeless families are faced with the cold hand of official charity.

Is the housing shortage really so bad? The city council does own about 80 empty houses, many of which are admittedly unfit.

The Housing Action Group has an agreement with the council by which the latter agree to provide up to 15 houses a year for the homeless. To date they have provided two but no families have yet been housed, chiefly due to lack of money to carry out essential repairs.

We emphasise that a relatively small amount of money will make an enormous difference in this situation. It will cost about £130 to re-wire one of the houses. A van can be bought for about £10 with a further £20 for tax and insurance, and with this van furniture for the families can be transported.

Any contribution, no matter how small, will mark an important step toward re-housing these families before the winter. Those of us on the Housing Action Group who are members of the International Socialists guarantee that we will not allow the matter to rest once the short-term aim of housing these families is complete.—SIMON HART, 132 Molesworth Road, Stoke, Plymouth.

Tariq's arrest

ON the evening of Tuesday 17 July comrade Tariq Ali was arrested while protesting outside Buckingham Palace against the visit of the Portuguese Prime Minister, Dr Caetano, to this country.

As solicitors for comrade Tariq we would be grateful to hear from anybody who witnessed the arrest and would ask such persons to telephone us at 534 1629 during office hours.—B ROSE-SMITH, Bowling & Company, 2/8 Stratford Broadway, London E15.

Squatters

CLARE BOLD (Review 4 August) is quite right to condemn Ron Bailey for defusing the politics of squatting by relying on antiquated laws. The ruling class find these quite easy to change, as shown by the recent Law Lords' decision which makes conspiracy to trespass

a crime. Trespassing itself is not a crime.

The squatting movement has been disarmed by this precisely because the Ron Baileys and Jim Radfords were allowed to take over and no links were built with the organised working class. Our task perhaps?—I BINNS, London N1.

Race Act

THE undersigned trade unionists condemn the House of Lords' decision to make the 1971 Immigration Act 'retrospective', which would make so-called 'illegal' immigrants liable to be deported and recognises this as firstly a step to harass and intimidate further the black workers in this country, and secondly yet another step by the government to divide and weaken the whole working class and the labour movement.

We endorse the recent statement in Socialist Worker on this question.

—J P Cousins, M Horvath, H Stonier, D Miller, S Walton, T Popplewell, K Wright (shop steward), D Gaskin, all members of the TGWU, Redfearns Glassworks, Barnsley.

A kind of victory

LAST year I wrote to Socialist Worker about a road Leeds council planned to run through the playing fields of the largest school in south Leeds.

I told how an action group of 12 people, including myself and another IS comrade, a former teacher at the school, managed to get a public inquiry set up. A few weeks ago we heard we had won a kind of victory and as much as we could hope for.

The road is still going through but it is to be tunnelled and landscaped over, a suggestion made by the action group but turned down by the road 'experts' as too costly.

Mr Rippon, the environment minister, has also suggested an extra playing field to replace the part to be tunnelled. We intend to press the city engineer for these amenities when we see him.

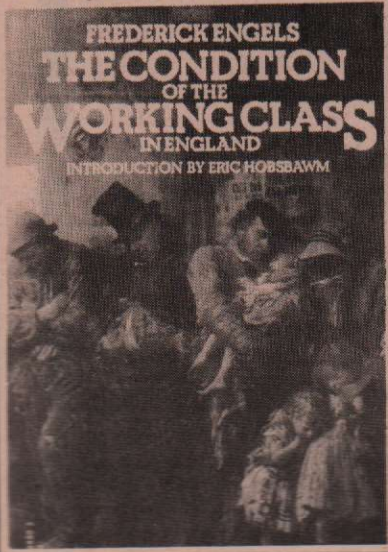
We had little help while fighting this campaign, now suddenly people want to take the credit, notably the Evening Post who refused to advertise our fund-raising schemes. They used headlines such as 'EP campaign pays off' and now have the cheek to use in a TV commercial the slogan 'the paper that gets things done'.

Many people thought we hadn't a chance of winning anything and it's only human to gloat that we have proved them wrong. If one believes strongly enough in anything and is prepared to fight there is a strong chance that they might win, whether it be motorways or industrial disputes. If they fail, well at least they have tried.

The tunnelling will eliminate the noise, pollution and danger to the children, and when one considers this, the fight has been worth it.—JEAN PARKIN, Leeds.

Price 50p, plus 6p postage

IS BOOKS
6 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN



THE MILLION POUND STRIKE

THE strike in defence of trade union rights at Roberts-Arundel, Stockport, in 1967-8 was a victory for working-class solidarity. Millions threatened to strike in solidarity, thousands blacked the factory's products, and management was forced to climb down. The firm made such losses in the confrontation that it later went out of business.

Trade unionists won the first round at Roberts-Arundel, and lost the second at Fine Tubes. Be ready for the third.

THE MILLION POUND STRIKE, by Jim Arnison, introduction by Hugh Scanlon 45p (postage included) from

IS BOOKS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

The Meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas

20p plus 3p postage
IS Books
6 Cottons Gardens,
London E2 8DN

Luxemburg

Reform or revolution 40p
Mass strike 40p
Spartacus 20p
plus 3p per title postage
IS Books,
6 Cottons Gardens,
London E2 8DN

Socialist Worker wants to hear from you. Letters should be brief—no more than 250 words please—and should reach us by first post Monday. Handwritten letters must be legible, with names in capital letters to avoid confusion please.



A scene from the Half Moon Theatre production about the children's strikes, soon to go on tour.

CHILDREN'S STRIKES IN 1911, by Dave Marson, History Workshop Pamphlet No 9, 30p.

TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP, THE BOYS ARE MARCHING

DAVE MARSON is a Hull docker. Researching at Ruskin College, Oxford, into the history of his own people, he accidentally discovered the big wave of school strikes in September 1911.

'It was a photograph that really affected me,' he said. 'It was a picture of the children picketing the gates of Courtney Street Primary School, the same school I had been to myself. I identified myself with those strikers—some of them might have been the parents of the children I went to school with.'

He went on to follow the course of the strike through 62 towns in England, Scotland and Ireland, and presents us with a fascinating, moving, simply-told account in this pamphlet.

The 'strikers' were mostly children from the poorest quarters of the towns. In Hull they came from the district where dockers, labourers and workers in the oil-crushing mills lived. This is where the author was born, and, he says, 'it is rough'.

They suffered from all the children's ailments, the most obvious being 'nits in the hair', which 'straight away marked them down as something different because they had their heads shaved.' 'They were

thin, their eyes bulged... Some had no shoes. In some cases boys had no shoes but wore a collar and tie. In the summer time their thicker clothes were generally pawned because they were safer there.'

To the newspaper columnists they were the 'dunces'. 'The Truant Class'.

An old worker, Harry Burns, reminiscing, says: 'The teachers treated the poor kids as the dumbest pupils in the class. They usually ended up sitting in the very front desks. That was so they could keep an eye on them because if any trouble started in the class, it was usually the poorer children who started it: simply because they could not concentrate.'

'When they got bored they would start talking among themselves. The teacher would walk across and hit them with whatever he had in his hands at the time or throw things, as the best way of dealing with any insurrections.'

DEMANDS

The strike started in Bigyn School in Llanelli on 5 September 1911, after a deputy headmaster punished a boy for passing a piece of paper around his class urging his colleagues to strike.

It spread to Liverpool next day, where a strike committee was elected which presented its demands to the teachers: abolition of the cane, an extra half-day holiday per week, payment for monitors. They marched through the town and attacked 'scab' pupils with sticks.

It spread to Manchester, where it gathered momentum quickly. 'Pickets' were appointed and provided with rough tickets to wear on their coats as they went round to schools to endeavour to get the boys to strike in sympathy, carrying out their operations with great seriousness.'

These were the first of the flying pickets. The idea quickly spread.

June, July and August 1911 had seen a huge wave of industrial strikes all over the country. The lesson and the method was not lost on these young rebels. As one boy said: 'Our fathers starved to get what they wanted; what our fathers have done we can do.'

BLACKLEGS

And they did. The strikes now spread south as far as Portsmouth and Southampton, north to Glasgow and Dundee, east to Hull and Sunderland, and west to Wales and Dublin.

In Hull the strike started on 13 September in St Mary's Roman Catholic School, and quickly spread in the working class East End. 'Soon there were crowds of boys standing outside their respective school gates, howling and shouting "come out!" and "blacklegs" at the pupils who were returning to their classrooms.'

There were demonstrations with banners throughout the country, marching to the two most popular songs of the strike, 'Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching', and 'Fall in and follow me,' accompanied on tin whistles and mouth organs.

In many places the demonstrators or flying pickets were quite fearless. A report on Rivinghill School,

Islington, North London, said: 'Some carried stones, pieces of iron, and sticks. One small boy had no less than three half-bricks tucked under one arm as he marched through the street.'

'The strikers were particularly formidable in Shoreditch, East London, making heavy raids armed with sticks, stones, iron bars and belts. They breathed sufficient fire and slaughter to cause a dozen police to be specially called out. Police were also out in force in Liverpool.'

Leicester strikers carried banners saying: 'We want 30 shillings a week and less hours per day.' Other demands were 'Steam heating apparatus, age limit fixed at 14, potato lifting holidays, free pencils and rubbers.'

The youth of the strikers was remarkable. At Rivinghill their ages ranged from 5 to 13. Two small children of 6 and 8 were brought before the magistrates at Twoer Bridge police court charged with 'wandering abroad without proper guardianship.' They replied: 'We are on strike!' They were discharged into the care of their mum and dad.

The strikers were mostly boys. Girls are mentioned only in Portsmouth and a couple of Scottish towns. In Dundee, the biggest strike centre, there were thousands of strikers.

Strikes happened in 62 places. They lasted minutes, hours or days, according to the superior strength of strikers, or of heads, teachers, policemen and mothers.

CANE

Some teachers actually set loyal pupils against the strikes. At Maryport, 'the upper standard boys were sent out to capture the picket leaders, and a battle followed in the market-place. Stones and fists were used.'

Many strikers dispersed immediately after heads or teachers ordered them to return, others refused and attacked them verbally or by stone-throwing. Sometimes the police took a hand, but by far the major strike-breaking force was the mums. They filed in long processions into the schools, dragging their unwilling young hopefuls with them, often straight up to the head's room, where the usual comment was the cane.

In some places the mums mounted counter-pickets. At East Wall National School, Dublin, they gathered in force, armed with all sorts of weapons, and cleared the strikers off.

While on strike, if not busy with the actual business of demonstrations, picketing, street meetings, the boys made up 'street theatres', went picnicking, swimming, blackberrying, simply sat around discussing, paraded singing patriotic songs, or making up their own songs with their own words. They were exhilarated and jubilant. For a brief period these stilled, barefoot, shaven, lower-class 'dunces', who sat in the front of the class for easy attack by the teacher, felt free.

Dave Marson's account breathes the exhilaration of the event. It is a gem of historical anecdote.

Chanie Rosenberg

The politics of Sexuality

THE POLITICS OF HOMOSEXUALITY, by Don Milligan, Pluto Press, 20p.

AN estimated one man in 20 is committed to gay sexuality, one man in three has experienced homosexual contact to the point of orgasm and perhaps no man—with the possible exception of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery—has not at some time felt attraction to members of his own sex.

At the same time police prosecution of gays actually increased between 1965 and 1969, the outlandish use of Clockwork Orange type therapy to 'cure' the 'disease' is becoming more common and prominent left-wing folksingers still see fit to use digs at homosexuals as punch lines in their songs.

The importance of Don Milligan's excellent pamphlet is that it opens up the possibility of a marxist analysis of homosexuality and a socialist understanding of sex in general.

It is an area important to all of us, yet glibly consigned by many of the 'realists' of the left to the edge of the discussion. Gentlemen whose knowledge of working-class culture would seem to stem from a careful analysis of Andy Capp visualise the 'aberration' as one likely to vanish After The Revolution, while others with an enlightened perspective that has more in common with The Guardian editorial than marxism say: 'It's their hard luck, leave them alone.'

Strange positions for revolutionaries: the first would seem wedded to a conception of the family and sexuality not out of place in the Mothers Union, the second to a notion that something as important as human sexuality and the repression which surrounds it can be solved by the exercise of a bit of decent liberal tolerance.

The thinking behind both is that the problems of sexuality are only indirectly related to the class nature of society through things such as bad housing, insufficient contraception, generalised intolerance and the incompatibility of love and shift work.

But important as such obstacles are, this argument fails to grasp how capitalist values reach right into the heart of human

sexuality. For our image of masculinity is rooted in competitive individualism and that of femininity as the quiet presence which gives passive support to her man in the struggle of each man against each other. At the same time sexuality becomes seen as a commodity which must be packaged, bought and exchanged like any other.

The system therefore maintains as paragons of virtue those sexual moralities which fit its own overall values and systematically persecutes all who deviate.

Stigma

Don Milligan documents this link well but the weakness of his book lies in the way he makes the connection. Homosexuality is repressed in capitalist society, because it represents a blatant pursuit of sex for pleasure without the possibility of producing children—the central permitted objective of official sex. But such repression needs relating to the dominant values of our age to explain why certain instances of homosexuality are tolerated and others stigmatised and, most important, what forms of sexuality—both homosexual and heterosexual—are compatible with socialist ideals.

For it is simply not true that sex for pleasure is still frowned on in contemporary

capitalism. Well-regimented enjoyment plays an important part in keeping people in their place. I am certain adolescents in the 1930s argued that pre-marital sex was prohibited because of capitalism—but they didn't allow for the flexibility of the system.

For there is tolerance within the system, where threatening ideas and individuals are co-opted into the existing morality. So permitted homosexuality under capitalism will merely be freedom to develop caricatures of existing male-female relationships got up into pseudo-marriages with equal potential as adequate work and consumer units.

Milligan's list of basic demands—for an end to job discrimination, abolition of the laws relating to consent, end of police and medical harassment—are excellent and should be part of any socialist programme. So too is his contention that such a struggle must be part of the overall fight against sexism in the socialist movement in general.

But they must be backed up by a thorough analysis of how the system makes a travesty of all sexual relationships, how interim demands may be granted without fundamentally altering the status quo, and what precisely are the sexual freedoms that we are fighting for.

JOCK YOUNG

TELEVISION PREVIEW

NEXT Monday BBC-2 has a couple of programmes that might be worth watching.

The latest in the 'Yesterday's Witness' series is on the Spanish Civil War, 'A Cause Worth Fighting For'. It deals with the 2000-strong British Battalion of the International Brigade, of whom 500 were killed in the battle against Franco's fascists.

According to the BBC the film contradicts the belief that most volunteers were radical romantics and middle-class marxists. Most of the volunteers were workers, and the

film features some of them.

'Blues Like a Shower of Rain' deals with the conditions which nurtured the Blues. It relies on speech, song and still pictures, some of the music coming from Paul Oliver's 1960 field recordings. The musicians in the film include Otis Spann, Lightnin' Hopkins and Lonnie Johnson.

On Friday 31 August BBC-2 will show the first of two screen adaptations of the works of the Irish writer James Joyce, 'Finnegan's Wake'.



Girls on the GEC picket line turn away a delivery lorry.

Threat to arrest pickets is dropped

COVENTRY:—The picketing at GEC's Spon Street plant has really begun to bite this week. Large scale lay-offs have followed.

The police have also backed down on their threat to arrest pickets if they persisted in standing firm on the picket line. The police made this threat after management complained that they were not doing enough to help lorries bust the picket line. But when the women stood firm the police went away and have not appeared since.

With a total shutdown of the plant

expected soon, the picketing women will be turning their attention to other GEC factories in the area. Already the joint union committee is blacking all Spon Street work throughout Coventry.

The behaviour of Albert Beardmore, Spon Street's AUEW convenor, continues to outrage the women production workers, who have been demanding what the union district officials intend to do about him and his anti-strike activities.

This week the union district committee has to decide whether to back Beardmore or Elsie Moles, the deputy convenor who has helped lead the fight and who has the support of most women workers in the plant. Beardmore has done everything in his power to hold back the women's fight for decent piecework rates.

Money has started to come in for the strike fund. Many of the women on strike are single and some have families to support. So donations are badly needed. Send to Spon Street Strike Fund, c/o 17 Lindlay Street, Stoke, Coventry.

NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

POLICE HARASS LEFT NEWSPAPER SELLERS

by Nigel Siederer

A LAW designed to protect traders is being used by the police as an excuse to harass left-wing groups in Guildford.

The 1967 Guildford Corporation Act requires anybody wishing to sell anything in Guildford town centre to have a licence from the local council. This law was designed to prevent the number of street traders from growing so large that they drive each other out of business through competition.

The Guildford branches of the Communist Party and the International Socialists had been regularly selling their papers in Guildford High Street on Saturdays, without a licence, until the police warned them several weeks running that they were breaking the Guildford Corporation Act by selling.

Then a plain-clothes man

threatened to arrest the next person seen selling papers in the town centre.

Each of the two groups then applied to the Council for a licence to sell their papers. Predictably, Guildford's overwhelmingly Tory council rejected both applications. The grounds for the rejections were the only possible grounds allowed by the Guildford Corporation Act—that sufficient licences to sell the type of article in question had been granted already.

The only other news stand in Guildford High Street sells the Evening News, and the seller has said that he doesn't regard Socialist Worker or the Morning Star as in competition with him.

Both the Communist Party and the IS branch decided to continue selling

papers despite the ban, and members of both groups have several times had not only their names, addresses, dates of birth and occupations taken by the police. These details, say the police, go on a form which will be drawn to the attention of the council, which in turn will decide whether or not to prosecute the sellers.

At least one council meeting has been held since the first names were taken, and the matter has not yet been raised. The IS and Party members are now speculating about the real reasons their personal details were noted by the police.

Two recent developments are also interesting.

John Nightingale, IS member, was delivering copies of Socialist Worker to regular readers on a Guildford

housing estate when he was stopped by a policeman who noted his personal details. The policeman said certain papers were 'banned' by the council and he thought Socialist Worker might be one of them. The Guildford Corporation Act does not cover that part of Guildford, so the council has no power to 'ban' the selling of Socialist Worker.

Last Saturday, as well as taking the names and personal details of the street sellers, the police threatened them with arrest for 'obstructing the free flow of traffic and pedestrians' in the High Street. It is doubtful whether that particular charge could be made to stick, even in true-blue Guildford's magistrates courts.

For Guildford High Street is closed to traffic on Saturdays, which leaves well over 40ft of roadway free for pedestrians to pass. The average paper seller is no more than 2ft wide.

WHAT'S ON

Copy for What's On must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 5p per line, semi-display 10p per line. CASH WITH COPY. No insertions without payment. Invoices cannot be sent.

IS MEETINGS

PARTINGTON
Socialist Worker public meeting
HOW TO FIGHT THE TORIES.
Speaker Wally Preston (AUEW). Thursday 30 August, 8pm, Community Centre, Partington, Cheshire. All welcome.

MERSEYSIDE DISTRICT IS
public meeting
THE 1926 GENERAL STRIKE AND ITS LESSONS FOR TODAY. Speaker Harry Wicks (active socialist for more than 50 years and a local leader in the General Strike). Wednesday 5 September, 8pm, Strand Hotel, Brunswick Street (near Pier Head).

IMPORTANT CORRECTION
The Factory and Industrial Branches School will now be held on Saturday 1 September, starting at 11am, at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. At least two members from each factory and industrial branch to attend.

WARLEY IS public meeting: Why the Trade Union Leaders won't fight. Speakers: Norman Goodwin and Wal Collins. Thurs 28 August, 7.30pm, Herdott Arms, Birmingham Street, Oldbury.

WANDSWORTH IS public meeting: Prices: Can they Rise any Further? Speaker John Palmer. Wednesday 5 September, 8.00pm, Business Library, Lavender Hill, SW11

CHELMSFORD IS public meeting: The Crisis in British Capitalism. Why it won't go away, and Why Economic Expansion will be at the expense of the Working Class. Monday 3 September, 8pm, Cricketers' Arms, Moulsham Street.

EDINBURGH AREA IS
public meeting
THE MINERS' PAY CLAIM AND THE WAY FORWARD. Speaker Bill Message (Yorkshire IS organiser). Saturday 1 September, 11am, Mayfield Labour Club, near Dalkeith. All welcome.

TEESSIDE IS RALLY
Paul Foot speaks on The Facts of Life in Tory Britain, and How to Fight for Socialism. Thurs 6 September, 8pm, James Finegan Hall, Eston.

IS AUTOMOTIVE FRACTION: Essential meeting for all IS carworkers. Sunday 16 September, 11am to 4.30pm, Digbeth Civic Hall (Lecture Room 3), Birmingham. Session 1: The Carworker, introduced by Gerry Jones (Chrysler, Stoke). Session 2: Phase Three and the Motor Industry, introduced by Roger Cox (CAV, Acton). For further information, phone IS industrial department at 01-739 6273.

IS NOTICES

TYPIST NEEDED by Socialist Worker to take news stories over the telephone (headphones), Mondays and Tuesdays. Write to Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS or phone 01-739 9043.

COMRADES coming to Colchester in September/October please contact Mike Voss, 61 New Park Street, Colchester. Phone Colchester 49621. Possibility of finding accommodation.

IS JOURNAL requires editorial assistant and business manager. Typing essential. Apply to Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-739 1879.

IS SOCIAL WORKER is starting work for Waltham Forest soon and requires accommodation, preferably in that area or elsewhere in North East London, any time in September. Local comrades, especially in Walthamstow, who can be of any help please contact Pete Feldon, 67 Salisbury Street, Hull, Yorkshire. Phone 0482 403141.

IS MEMBER wants to share flat with other members in North London. Anyone with spare room please write to Box MG, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent E2 or tel: 739 2636.

NOTICES

FIGHT THE RENT RISES! National Conference for tenants and trade unionists. Sunday 23 September, 2pm-6pm, in Manchester (exact meeting place yet to be fixed). Delegates and visitors credentials 10p each from Conference Organising Committee, 61 Tynley Croft, Harlow, Essex.

BUSH THEATRE W12 743 5050 8:00 Shepherds Bush Green (next door to BBC TV) RAMSAY MACDONALD — THE LAST TEN DAYS written and performed by the Belt and Braces Theatre Co. 65p and 35p students plus 25p membership.

THE JOKE'S OVER—a survey of the 'Social Needs of Homosexuals', published by Rat Studies and Gayprints. A valuable contribution to gay liberation. Writing on the Wall. Price 20p (inc p&p) from Gayprints, Dept SW, Box GP, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

LARGE YORKSHIRE ATTIC bedsit, low rent from October in exchange for being in the house most weekdays from 4pm-6pm with two small girls aged 5 and 7. Contact Carey, 6 Grinville Terrace, Bingley, Yorkshire.

GAY MARXIST NO 2 now available: 10p (including postage and packing), from 18 Dickenson Road, London N8.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MARXISM Today. The Socialist Party aims at building a world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racialism, all war. The September Socialist Standard considers the importance of Marx's ideas today. Free copy from Dept SW, The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

120 at 'Fight Racism' meeting

MORE THAN 120 people packed into the Lord Morrison Hall last Thursday for a meeting organised by the IS North London District Committee to combat racism.

The speakers were Hermine Whitfield, a West Indian health worker, Mel Norris, a local trade unionist and former councillor, and Europe Singh, an Indian teacher. All three speakers emphasised the need to fight racialism and not to expect it to go away on its own.

Among the audience were 12 strikers at Standard Telephone and Cables, most of them black. Chester Walrond made an appeal for the strikers and spoke so well that the meeting donated £41.50 to the strike fund.

Alan Watts, a local AUEW shop steward and member of the IS National Committee, pointed to the STC strikes as an example of the weakness of trade union organisation left to itself. To fight STC, he said, we had to organise politically. He called on people to join IS.

Eight people joined.

GEC striker puts case

COVENTRY:—George Peake, anti-racialism organiser of the International Socialists, spoke last Friday to a crowded industrial workers meeting of Coventry District IS. He spoke about the roots of racialism, how it divides the working-class movement, and the effects of the latest attacks on black people.

A speaker from the GEC Spon Street works, where white and Indian girls have been on the same picket line, briefly put their case. Four more people joined IS.

The previous evening, Coventry Trades Council had agreed to organise a large public meeting with national and local speakers to explain the dangers of the House of Lords' decision on 'illegal immigrants'. This is an important step which should be followed up by trade unionists elsewhere.

Profiteers sack porter

NORTH LONDON:—A property firm has sacked the porter of a block of flats for allegedly being 'constantly drunk' so they can throw him out of his flat and rent it at an exorbitant price. But the tenants of Alexandra Mansions, West Hampstead, are rallying round Fred Bell, who was only given a week's money, and he is squatting in the flat until he finds a new place and job.

The agents, Roger Samuel and Company, acting for the owner, Neil Rogers, have refused to pay Fred his two weeks pay and holiday money, but under the Industrial Relations Act he cannot sue for wrongful dismissal because he has not worked for them for two years.

In nearby Inglewood Mansions, the agents pocketed a £300 rise meant for the porter, who had been praised by tenants for his efficiency. Management of this block was taken away after tenants reported them.

100 join mass picket

SHEFFIELD:—100 engineering union members at Footprints Tools engineering factory mounted a mass picket on Monday as the firm started work after two weeks holiday. Their strike over shop steward victimisation is now in its ninth week.

The picketing workers voiced their indignation that the General and Municipal Workers Union official has still not given any support to the strikers, and has blatantly encouraged his 200 workers to carry on working.

The continuous picketing, often with hooters, horns and rattles—even a water pistol—has had a demoralising effect on blacklegs, many of whom prefer to start an hour early than to walk shamefaced past their fellow workers.

HOTEL MILITANT SACKED

RON VENN, chairman of the Works Committee maintenance workers at 24 London hotels owned by Grand Metropolitan Hotels, was removed from work by police last Monday after insisting on trade union recognition.

The police were called in by Grand Metropolitan after Ron had insisted on a letter of dismissal, which was refused.

Ron's sacking follows a long battle over a pay and productivity deal which had been rejected by representatives from all the eight hotel sections. The Grand Metropolitan management responded by refusing trade union recognition to maintenance staff.

They circulated their proposals for the workers individually, and demanded signatures of acceptance. Half the workers signed, but half held out, including Ron Venn, who was then ordered to work what he describes as 'impossible' shifts.

He refused, and was sacked. His sacking is a blatant case of victimisation. He is meeting with representatives of his union, the electricians, and fellow workers this Thursday to plan his next move.

Any Grand Metropolitan worker who can help him publicise and fight for his case should ring Ron at 01-330 1058.

Don't leave it to chance: take out a postal subscription to SW

IT'S FIRST TIME EVER VICTORY FOR 400

MANCHESTER:—After less than a week on the first strike ever at James Halstead's vinyl flooring factory, Whitefield, the 400 workers have won a complete victory.

Their victimised union officers, convenor John Nielson and branch secretary, Frank Logan, have been reinstated without conditions.

The two men were sacked after mass meetings of the men had demanded payment of £12,000 under a production bonus agreement made several years ago which the management had overlooked and the union—the Rubber, Plastics and Allied

Workers—had 'lost'. The employers' total responsibility under the scheme is £28,000.

The reason for the sacking was given as 'blatant disobedience of the firm's instructions'. But John Nielson's and Frank Logan's real crime was to organise the workers for the first time and to threaten to use industrial strength to satisfy their demands.

On 13 August the factory was completely shut down. The next day the management pleaded with the pickets to allow vital materials into the factory, but were turned down flat.

Management then offered to take back the two stewards on condition

they lost their stewards' credentials and took a three month 'education course in union matters'.

The same day, the management offered to take back the stewards if the workers voted by ballot for their reinstatement. Both these suggestions were contemptuously rejected as 'impertinence'.

TOUGH

Finally, last Thursday, the management surrendered completely, and both men were reinstated.

Frank Logan told Socialist Worker: 'We are fed up with dictatorial methods in the factory. We are beginning to get organised, and to

find out how to hit them where it hurts them most.'

John Nielson said: 'If government laws and tough companies have to be fought for a decent standard of living, then we must do this for our members.'

The strike has been unofficial. When the strikers' leaders went to the union offices on the afternoon the strike started, they were told that the relevant official, Bro Walsh, was not in. The convenor waited outside, and was surprised a few minutes later to see the two top managers at Halsteads coming out.

He pushed his way past the secretaries and discovered Bro Walsh sitting at his desk.

Rents: Shadow boxing again

by Hugh Kerr

WITH another 50p rent rise due in October under the Housing Finance Act Labour councils are beginning a repeat performance of last year's wobbling.

A meeting of Labour councillors on Saturday, including some from Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Salford, Norwich, Newport and Clay Cross, discussed a common approach to the rises. After some hours' deliberation they adopted their 'fighting' strategy: they are going to seek a deputation to see Heath and Barber!

Some of them must have short memories, for they asked to meet Heath last year and were refused!

In the meantime, they are going to ask all Labour councils to hold off the increases until they have had a reply. This miserable attempt to save their consciences will be of no help to the tenants, indeed it could confuse the situation in the same way as last year's evasive action.

Frozen

The only possible action for Labour councils if they are serious about defying the rent rises is to follow the lead of Clay Cross and refuse to implement the rent rises.

Tenants' organisations can put no trust in the posturings of these Labour councils, which threatened to prosecute rent strikers last year. They must begin to organise all tenants to fight the rent rises in October by rent strikes backed by industrial action. With prices shooting up, wages frozen, and 'fair rent' assessments jacking up rents, council tenants are in a mood to fight.

This makes the job of the National Tenants Action Conference in Manchester on 23 September even more important. This conference is sponsored by some of the tenants' associations which have put up the stiffest fight against the rent rises, including Dudley, Liverpool, Oldham and Kirkby. The stress of the conference is on action, and will attempt to co-ordinate the most militant tenants in every part of the country and produce a fighting strategy for October.

Credentials for delegates from tenants' associations or trade union organisations are available from the Organising Committee, c/o 61 Tylney Croft, Harlow, Essex.

Chocolate workers stage walk-out

NORTH LONDON:—A walk-out of workers at Caxton's chocolate works, Wood Green, on Monday forced the management to stop transferring a woman worker to a different shop without consulting the union, USDAW.

The dispute ended after seven hours when the management promised that the woman would only move if she agreed.

Convenor H Floyd said: 'This dispute has demonstrated that our unity can force the management to treat us with respect.'

Military tattoo picketed

by Alice Murray

EDINBURGH:—Local International Socialist members picketed and circulated 1000 leaflets exposing the real role of the British Army at the opening night of the military tattoo which traditionally kicks off the world-famous Edinburgh international festival.

The festival itself is usually full of highbrow recitals, fringe theatre and avant-garde shows which few working class people see.

The tattoo is different—hordes of workers come every night in bus loads from all over Britain. Groups from factories and youth clubs come to witness the spectacle of the tattoo, the grand display of marching skill put on by Her Majesty's armed forces, mainly Scottish regiments to swell local pride, with a few Commonwealth regiments and the Navy to emphasise that the old country isn't dead yet.

The picket was mounted on Friday because the tattoo is the army's major propaganda exercise in Britain. They perform nightly for three weeks to 8000 people every night. Seats are booked months in advance and hundreds are turned away because of its popularity.

It is part of the army's public relations work to show itself as a daring, exciting but peaceful force. Old loyalties are played on—ex-soldiers, many of them trade unionists, forget in the excitement of swirling kilts, rousing music and sword expertise that it is the army which is murdering Irish workers and which breaks any strike that is affecting ruling-class



interests.

Under the heading 'Whose army are you watching' the leaflet says: 'Tonight people will be witnessing a magnificent display of gymnastic skill, daring, musical ability etc. This will be performed by the British army.'

'Advertisements for army recruitment show soldiers basking on sunny beaches, learning trades, flying to foreign lands. Is this all that the British army is about... a happy carefree life of travel, skills, thrills and military tattoos?'

'In answer to this the International Socialists say a definite no! The British army has only ever existed for one purpose and one only. To protect the interests of the bosses. All the rest are side issues—propaganda to fool people into not only joining the army, but giving it moral and political support.'

PICTURE: Wolfgang Schuch

600 start sit-in

READING:—The Adwest Engineering factory was occupied by its 600 workers on Monday morning, demanding higher pay and assurances that the factory will not shut down.

Adwest have made record profits over the past two years and their order book is bulging. They supply Jaguar and Rover cars and British Leyland buses with steering parts.

The firm has opened a subsidiary, Power Steering, at Pennywell, Sunderland, and workers are worried that work would be transferred to this new factory. Their fears were confirmed last week when attempts were made to move machinery out of the Reading works.

When union representatives met management they were given no firm assurance that full production would continue at Reading. Management merely complained that they were short of labour and that the workers had resisted speeding up the machines.

The shop stewards pointed out that the factory is short of labour because of the desperately low wages. A TASS official said he knew of no firm in his division paying lower wages for comparable work. This is despite a successful strike last autumn for a £4 rise.

So with no guarantees of job security and continuing low wages a mass meeting voted unanimously to begin an indefinite sit-in. Shop stewards convenor Mansel Clark said: 'We are not releasing our hold on the factory. We have as much right as anybody to be here.'

ANGER AT 'STRINGS'

MERSEYSIDE:—Workers at the Otis Elevator factory at Kirkby are on strike against an attempt by management to tie productivity strings to the statutory £1 plus 4 per cent wage rise they are negotiating. This has angered the workers, especially because it would mean further steps in a 'temporary' cost reduction exercise which has already cost 500 jobs.

Ten months ago, when the agreement was introduced, management claimed that failure to agree would mean the closure of the factory. One argument management used was that another company had taken £4 million worth of work off them. But, as Harry Schultz, the AUEW branch secretary, told Socialist Worker, the sales of the other company have totalled just over £1 million altogether.

'We say that enough is enough. The honeymoon with the company is over. We conceded their wishes on a temporary basis and, as far as we are concerned, that is now over,' he said.

This is a crucial struggle in Kirkby, where there is high unemployment. 450 workers at the nearby Williams and Harvey factory and 800 at Tinklins of Prescot face the sack over closure threats.

The strike is as yet unofficial. Donations are urgently requested. Send to Harry Schultz, 153 Roughwood Drive, Kirkby, Liverpool.

JOURNALISTS STRIKE

NORTH LONDON:—Journalists and designers at Projects File, in Hampstead, are in the second week of their official strike for union recognition. The five strikers are also demanding sick pay, proper equipment and an end to slave labour.

The firm, which produces educational kits aimed at teenagers, has resisted union organisation since the beginning of the year. The boss, Derek Clark, who also owns the Friary Clark printworks in the centre of London, is a complete autocrat concerned to screw every penny out of his workers.

Clark insists that his employees provide their own equipment, and issues memos to the staff instructing them on every

conceivable aspect of their behaviour in his office.

When the union began to get organised, he fired the Father of the Chapel, Geoff Bell, and the chapel clerk, Derek Kirk. He then re-employed them as freelancers, under a system closely akin to the lump in the building industry.

Management is still refusing to negotiate seriously. Clark has gone off on holiday for two weeks. But the strike is hitting home. Printworkers at WW in Aylesbury, where Clark prints some of his products, have blacked the work. So have printers at Friary Clark. Clark's single most prestigious publication, FA News, magazine of the Football Association, has also been stopped.

Lift for beer strikers

GLASGOW:—230 Scottish and Newcastle drivers and mates returned to work on Monday victorious after a week's strike that cut beer supplies to nearly half of Glasgow's pubs during last week's heatwave. The dispute was over measured day working introduced last year, which has given time and motion men the chance to devise ways of getting more work from the same or fewer men.

The strike cut through the employers' 'scientific method' because the men demanded a third man to be sent out with the driver

and his mate when the load contained more than two pallets of beer cans.

These pallets, some four feet high, are the most difficult to load off into pubs and off-licences. The job is extremely heavy and exhausting. Heart attacks are common and one picket said: 'I've been here 22 years and no drayman I know has ever reached retiring age still on the job.'

The return to work came when the personnel director conceded a review of the time and motion study and

also promised that a third man would be sent when three or more pallets needed loading.

The strike showed that working conditions can be improved if the men stick together, and that lesson will be remembered.

Bar staff at the Stepps hotel and some other Scottish and Newcastle hotels and pubs also showed a new solidarity since the union campaign last year. They refused to serve Tennents' brewery beer that management had brought in to try to break the strike.



I would like to join the International Socialists

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN



LONDON: 200 building workers and other trade unionists attended last Friday's meeting at Conway Hall called to mobilise support for the North Wales 24, building workers who are being prosecuted for picketing during last year's official strike. They go on trial in Shrewsbury in October.

Bill Jones (pictured speaking above), from the North Wales Charter Defence Committee, spoke about the terrible hardships being inflicted on the men involved

in the trial. He appealed for cash to assist them and called for the charges to be dropped.

'In the event of the Tory government jailing any of the 24 we would expect an even bigger mobilisation of the working class than was seen for the Pentonville Five,' he said.

On the right is Lou Lewis, chairman of the meeting.

PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

CHRYSLER SPARKS STEP UP STRUGGLE

COVENTRY:—The 156 electricians at Chrysler's Stoke and Ryton plants are stepping up their strike to win payment of a £250 increase.

Management had previously agreed to pay this, but now denies it and says that in any case the Tory government will not allow such a payment.

So far the strike, now well into its third week, has led to an almost total shut-down of the two plants and considerable lay-offs at Chrysler's plant at Linwood in Scotland. At Dunstable production of light vans is still going ahead but they are being made without engines.

There is a high level of involvement in the strike among the electricians. They are manning 24-hour pickets, particularly at Ryton, and met on Tuesday to plan ways of stepping up the strike and putting more

pressure on the company.

The Electricians Union made the strike official this week. The union leaders' purpose is devious. They want to put pressure on the company to concede a paper agreement to pay the money in the full knowledge that the Tory Pay Board will then put a stopper on it.

The union would then cave in on the grounds that while the law of the land could not be defied, the responsibility for stopping payment would be seen to rest on the Tory government. The Pay Board has already indicated that the £250 is above the Tory ceiling for wage rises.

But at the moment there is little chance that Chrysler will concede such a paper agreement. The company's application to raise the price of its cars is under consideration by the Price Commission and

Chrysler is concerned at the effect any concessions whatsoever to the electricians would have on other Chrysler workers with wage claims in the pipe-line.

So Chrysler is anxious to foster as much hostility between the different sections of workers as possible. This is the real purpose behind the company's blatant dishonesty with the electricians and its statements that they might be able to pay them a little more if the extra came out of other workers' £1 plus 4 per cent.

Woofie Goldstein, Ryton and Stoke electricians' senior steward, said this week: 'We've got the minutes of a meeting on 2 August where after our insistence Hewlett, Chrysler industrial relations manager, said the money could be paid without interfering with other men's money.'

DISPUTE

'We don't want that kind of money anyway. In February the company agreed to pay. Today they are hiding behind the Pay Board.'

Management has been given some comfort in its attempts to divide the workers by rumours about the electricians' 'scabbing' during the 'shoddy work' dispute.

This is simply not true, says Woofie Goldstein: 'Our members have at no time broken any pickets. It is our policy to honour pickets. During the recent 'shoddy work' dispute, safety men were allowed in at the request of the Ryton senior stewards. We wanted to withdraw everyone.'

In the present battle transport drivers at Ryton and Stoke are still under instruction from their union, the Transport Workers, to cross the electricians' lines.

This is a short-sighted policy, to say the least. With the Tory pay freeze being upheld so firmly by Chrysler the only possible way through it is a firm, principled stand in support of the electricians

FIGHT THE RENT RISES

Demonstrate

Saturday 1 September
Assemble at 2pm

The Windmill, Tower Hill, Kirkby,
near Liverpool. Organised by
Tower Hill Unfair Rents
Action Committee

PRICE OF A SCAB

GEORGE HILL, an expelled member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is expected to go back to the law courts soon to get an order to seize union funds or property to the value of £2800 as 'compensation' for exercising its right to expel him.

Hill, the latest Tory stooge to use the National Industrial Relations Court against the union, scabbed on a strike at the International Synthetic Rubber factory in Southampton. After the strike AUEW members refused to work with him.

Ten days ago Lambeth County Court ordered the AUEW to pay the compensation after the union had ignored a similar order from an industrial tribunal. The union was not represented in court. The county court order should be served by this weekend. But the union has no intention of altering established policy and paying up.

Hill is therefore likely to go back to the court for an order to seize the money from the union's bank account. Alternatively the court may decide to send in bailiffs to take union property.

'Sabotage' cry an excuse for witch-hunt against miners

DETECTIVES from West Yorkshire police are swarming about Goldthorpe pit, Mexborough.

They are *not* checking on the woefully inadequate safety precautions in the wake of the disaster at Markham.

They are *not* looking for water leaks of the type which killed seven miners at Lofthouse colliery—not far from Goldthorpe.

They are *not* testing the strength of the pit props which are bringing so much profit to mining machinery firms, but whose weakness helped to kill four miners at Seaford Colliery, Fife, earlier this year.

No. The West Yorkshire police are hunting 'saboteurs' among the miners, who, according to the statements of Mr John Mills, Coal Board chief for the Doncaster area, have been tampering with equipment in the pit in order to maim and murder their fellow-workers.

Mr Mills and all the newspapers have had no hesitation in concluding that there has been 'sabotage' at Goldthorpe—even before the police have finished their inquiries. But miners at Goldthorpe and other pits are complaining that the much-publicised police hunt and the Coal Board statements are a lot of nonsense.

They share the view of Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, who, unlike

Mr Mills, has worked in the pits 21 years.

He told Socialist Worker: 'There may well have been a case of carelessness here—when you work as hard as miners do you can't help being careless now and then. But sabotage implies deliberate intention to do damage for political purposes. That's what I don't believe—and that's what the Coal Board wants us to believe.'

The sabotage story is based on only three pieces of evidence.

ONE: A link of a chain to a conveyor belt was half sawn through. Says Dennis Skinner: 'This could easily have been the result of a fitter being moved to another part of a pit when he was half way through his work. This often happens in a pit—where fitters are overworked and always needed for emergencies.'

Gearbox

TWO: A lock-out button on the conveyor did not work. Says Dennis Skinner: 'When this inquiry is over, they ought to carry out an inquiry into the hundreds of 'lock-out buttons' which do not work throughout the coal fields.'

THREE: Some 'debris' was found in the conveyor's gear-box—as it could be, according to many Yorkshire miners, in almost any pit in the country.

The entire episode reeks of witch-hunt. The Sheffield Telegraph, after repeating the sabotage allegations, recorded: 'The Doncaster area is one of the most militant union strongholds in Britain. There have been other acts of sabotage at neighbouring pits in recent years, as well

as countless walk-outs.'

The press and the Coal Board have combined to give the impression that sabotage without concern for the lives of miners is the stock in trade of the militant miner.

The effect has been, first, to gloss over the Markham disaster, responsibility for which was accepted by the Coal Board in the same week as the 'sabotage' report, and secondly, to discredit militants in the pits on the eve of another massive confrontation between miners and Coal Board.

Many Yorkshire miners have been surprised that Arthur Scargill, the National Union of Mineworkers secretary for the Yorkshire area, so speedily accepted the management's sabotage story.

Many miners are contrasting Scargill's call for 'maximum co-operation with the police' at Goldthorpe with his leadership during the heroic battle against the police at Saltley, Birmingham, during last year's miners' strike.

Initial inquiries by the police have produced few clues. On Tuesday, the police announced: 'Every man employed underground might have to be interviewed.'

What started off as a minor inquiry into allegations on the slightest evidence is turning into a massive police witch-hunt involving up to 1300 miners.

The forces of 'law and order' which did not interview one negligent machinery manufacturer after the Markham disaster in which 18 men died, nor one rogue profiteer after the pit-prop scandal, is at last taking an interest in miners—because there's a chance to do them down.

STC strike picket spreads

NORTH LONDON:—Strikers at the Standard Telephone Company factory in New Southgate, now out for six weeks, decided this week to continue fighting for the reinstatement of Roderick Adams, the black worker who was sacked while training as a setter.

At a progress meeting the strike committee reported that STC, a subsidiary of the multi-national ITT, had to pay for 3000 hours lost because of lack of work. Picketing was reported to be successful with lorry drivers and Post Office engineers giving valuable support. The strikers called for more support from

the factory, and appealed to immigrants still working to join them.

Last week strikers also picketed the STC head office and the Sheraton Hotel, owned by ITT near Heathrow Airport, London. STC are negotiating to supply £30 million worth of equipment to Nigeria and strikers also lobbied the embassy to take the contract elsewhere. Next week the strikers will be appealing to other factories and STC plants for support.

The stewards have petitioned the AUEW district committee to discipline some white stewards who are not only strike-breaking but openly taking the bosses' side.

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