

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ASBESTOS MURDERS

'They have stolen our lives in the pursuit of profit'

by Laurie Flynn

JAMES P McKENNA is secretary of the 7/162 Glasgow insulation workers' branch of the Transport and General Workers Union. One of his main duties is attending his members' funerals.

He says: 'It's a sore thing you know, you could almost call me a professional mourner. I went to 26 funerals in one year. Four were in one week. Everyone of them died from the bug, the asbestos.'

'When the men are ill or in hospital they say to their wives: "Don't let the wee man come up and see me". They're pretty sure they've had it if I come.'

In the course of two brief interviews Mr McKenna rattled off the names of member after member who has been certified dead from asbestos.

Suffer

A letter from the union district secretary Hugh Wyper to regional secretary Ray Macdonald puts a precise figure on the branch's death toll. It records that since 1965 82 members of the 900-strong branch have met a premature, tragic and unnecessary death 'from causes associated with asbestos.'

In addition to this literal decimation, the letter notes that the branch has 50 members receiving

EXTRACT OF AN ENTRY IN		A REGISTER OF DEATHS	
kept under the Registration of Births,		Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965	
DEATH	District No. 619	Year 1974	Entry No. 85
REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT OF GLASGOW			
1. Surname	Name(s)		2. Sex
	Arthur Williams		M
3. Occupation	Pipe fitter		
4. Marital status	5. Date of birth	Year	Month Day 6. Age
Married	1909	3	16 64 years
12. Cause of death			
I(a) carcinoma			
(b) Pleural mesothelioma (left lung)			
(c) Pulmonary asbestosis			
II			

Death certificate of a Glasgow insulation worker—all three 'causes of death' are the result of exposure to asbestos dust.

industrial disease pensions because 'they suffer from asbestosis in varying stages.'

This figure represents the future funerals Mr McKenna will attend.

The men have been slaughtered in the service of large, highly profitable and thoroughly 'respectable' firms such as Turner and Newall, Cape Asbestos and Cork Insulation, until recently part of the good Lord Vestey's Union International empire.

They died and will go on dying thanks to the deliberate negligence of their employers. For the employers declined to do anything to provide a safe working environment and pro-

tect workers from the known hazards of asbestos. It was cheaper and more profitable to kill.

The law, which prevented nothing, has also provided little or no redress after the event. Compensation—for those who have had the staying power to pursue it through the jungle of the legal system—has been paltry. Dying workers have been left to rot, widows left to weep and make ends meet somehow.

Scandal

As John Todd, member of the branch committee and himself classified as 10 per cent disabled by asbestosis, put it:

'They have stolen our lives in the pursuit of profit. Our members occupy so many burial plots, our branch will soon be the second biggest landowner in Scotland after Sir Alec Douglas-Home.'

For some time Socialist Worker has been looking into this one corner of the asbestosis scandal.

In future issues we will be going deeper into what is happening to the asbestos industry's victims in Glasgow—how the law fails them and is kind to the employers, the inadequacy of social security, how the workers have tried to win safe working conditions and once again been misused by the employers.

Pat Kinnersley, author of the book Hazards of Work, will be speaking on 'The fight for safety at work' in Glasgow on Tuesday 7 May, at the AUEW Halls, West Regent Street, 7.30pm.



'Ello, 'Ello,
wot's all this then?

DON'T WORRY, it's not an enemy of Dr Who. It's just a friendly copper from Colombia, South America, showing off his 'special attire' which is to protect him from 'bombs and mobs'. The Colombian government has just spent £1 million on these uniforms and other 'anti-riot equipment'—that's £1 for every 23 men, women and children in the country. Two-thirds of Colombia's working population earn less than £5 a week.

The cop above and his friends were out in force. The 'mobs' were voting in a new left-wing President by a vast majority. President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has no plans to reduce the already monstrous police force nor any of the special 'anti-riot' units in the Colombian army.

Get out and march on 5 May

SHOP STEWARDS at Rolls-Royce, East Kilbride, have found out that they are repairing eight engines for Hawker Hunter aircraft for delivery to the bloodthirsty junta in Chile. These were the same planes used by the junta for bombing the palace of the elected President Allende last September.

As soon as the stewards found out about the engines, all work on them stopped. The engines have been shipped to another part of the factory, where they are rusting.

Meanwhile the stewards have written to Labour Cabinet Ministers James Callaghan, Tony Benn and Judith Hart asking them for direction about what to do next.

The stewards are over-anxious to leave the matter in the lap of the Labour government. But their action so far is a fine example to British workers everywhere. It shows how workers' action can do more to harm the Chilean junta

than any amount of Labour Party resolutions and 'promises'.

On page seven this week Michael Fenn, a London dock shop steward, writes about the demonstration next Sunday, 5 May, called in solidarity with the Chilean resistance, and to demand an end to all diplomatic and commercial and military ties between Britain and Chile.

The Chile demonstration is a must for all readers of this paper. All International Socialists branches must support it to the maximum. The march must be packed with IS and trade union banners. It starts at Speakers Corner at 2pm.

The International Socialists are holding a series of meetings to raise support for the demonstration. At each the World in Action film on the Chilean repression will be shown and there will be speakers from the Chilean resistance organisation Chile Lucca.

EAST LONDON:—Thursday 2 May, 8pm, the North East London Polytechnic, Romford Road/Water Lane, Stratford.

COVENTRY:—Friday 26 April, 8pm, Arts Lecture Theatre, Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry.

BIRMINGHAM:—Saturday 27 April, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4pm, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12.

WEST LONDON:—Monday 29 April, 8pm, George and Dragon, High Street, Southall.

BARNET:—Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, Bull and Butcher pub, High Road, Whetstone, London N20.

SOUTH LONDON:—Monday 29 April, 1pm, Thames Polytechnic Students Union, Wellington Street, SE18.

CENTRAL LONDON:—Tuesday 20 April, 1pm, London School of Economics, Houghton Street,

Janie Jones: Why we published the names

by Duncan Hallas

WE HAVE been criticised by the capitalist press for publishing the names of two rich men involved in the Janie Jones affair. We pay no heed to the capitalist press, but some of our own readers have expressed doubts about the matter and they certainly deserve a reasoned reply.

The main doubts are about blackmail cases. If the names of blackmail victims are exposed to the public, runs the argument, they will never seek the 'protection' of the law from blackmailers.

Now no one wants to publish the names of blackmail victims for the sake of it. In most cases such victims are not going to be named in socialist newspapers.

But, equally, there are cases where blackmail can be used to cover up the identity of witnesses. In such cases there may be every justification in publishing the names. And the Janie Jones case was such a case.

Don't forget, after all, that in spite of the judge's abusive remarks about her, Janie Jones was acquitted of all blackmail charges. The jury did not believe the alleged victims' story about blackmail. Do they therefore have an absolute right to anonymity?

In any case, the names of men involved in the prostitution case, on which Janie Jones was convicted, were also withheld. Why was the name of Mr X in that case suppressed? Would it have been suppressed if he had been a plumber or a busman

involved with prostitutes?

Janie Jones was pilloried by TV and press and sent to prison for supplying services demanded by men like X and Y. They wanted to engage in unusual sexual practices, or perhaps practices that are not so unusual in their circles. They were able and willing to pay to gratify their tastes. If any 'crime' was committed they played a vital part in it. Yet they not only get off scot-free but are protected by the court from all publicity.

The whole business is typical of the rotten hypocrisy that surrounds prostitution in our society. The people who supply it are outcasts. Rich and 'respectable' men who use it must not be mentioned. Their feelings must not be hurt!

As to the capitalist press, its hypocrisy stinks to high heaven. Any court case with a sex-angle gets the maximum coverage and if ordinary people are involved the names are named. Those with long purses and expensive lawyers are treated more carefully. And judges, who belong to the same class as the Xs and the Ys, are apt to take the same view.

This week Socialist Worker reports a real scandal, a scandal that really does demand an outcry from the press, the scandal of asbestosis. We will see whether the Sun chooses to put *this* story on its front page, whether the Guardian will devote one of its moralising editorials to it. Or will they decide it is not 'news-worthy' because it has no sex-angle?



A sign put up at the foundry by Repton management

£10.27 BASIC -AND HIS HEAD CUT OFF

YORKSHIRE:—For the past fortnight 23 Engineering Union members at Repton Foundry, Bingley, have been in a battle with one of the most vicious employers in the Bradford district.

On 3 April the AUEW members, who are maintenance staff, put in a claim for a substantial increase in pay. This was rejected out of hand, and they walked out.

Their basic wage is £27 for working 12 out of every 14 days. In other words, it was impossible to earn even the basic without working every other weekend.

The basic wage for semi-skilled men is £10.27 a week—unless you are one of the four 'blue-eyed boys' on £45.50 basic! Earnings almost totally depend on bonus payments.

Working conditions are appalling and safety precautions non-existent. At least two workers have lost their lives in the past year, and there is a long list of injuries to workers. One worker was beheaded by a grinding wheel.

Management at Repton Foundry, which is owned by Midland Industries, have fought the AUEW members right from the start. The union was only recognised by management in December 1972, after a bitter four-

month struggle in which management tried to sack AUEW shop steward Alan Ninon. Before that, they had been used to a cosy relationship with the Metal Mechanics Union, which represents 150 production workers at

by Kevin Schim

Repton. The other 200 are non-union.

The workers have had to produce their own collection sheets and blacking, notably at David Brown Tractors, Huddersfield, only began after a direct approach from the strikers themselves. Picketing round the clock was only organised after the intervention of Keighley Trades Council secretary Ken Appleby.

As Alan Ninon says: 'These are jobs the union should be doing.'

Blacking must be extended to Reptons' other main customers, Fords' Basildon tractor division and Austin, Longbridge, who receive fly-wheels and spurwheels from Reptons.

Money is also urgently needed. All donations and messages of support to: A Nixon, 12 Queen's Grove, Keighley, Yorks.

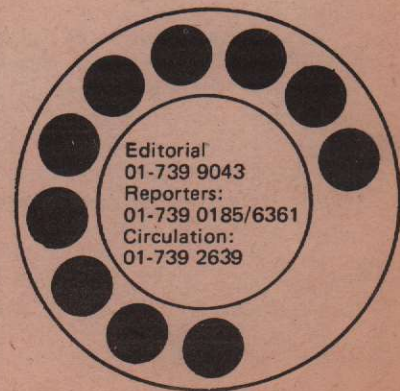
His bite is worse than his Bach

ALEXANDER SKEAPING is an accomplished harpsichord player. He performed last Sunday at London's Purcell Room, playing Bach.

He is also a member of the Liberal Party. Most importantly he is an Islington property developer. He likes to give the impression that he is a 'good' landlord who looks after his tenants.

The Islington Tenants Campaign doesn't agree. So, protesting over the planned eviction of a tenant from one of Skeaping's properties they picketed the Purcell Room.

Mr Skeaping was reported as 'embarrassed and angry' over the demonstration...



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR BARBARISM

THE Queen's Award for Industry this year goes to Yarrow Shipbuilders, on the Clyde, to show the Queen's special appreciation for the building of warships for sale abroad—including four frigates to prop up the barbarians who govern Chile.

Another award goes to Austin and Pickersgill, the Wearside shipbuilders whose directors include Timothy Kitson the best friend of the former prime minister, Edward Heath.

Letter from Derry

WHILE Harold Wilson talked with security chiefs at Army GHQ and Enoch Powell basked in the rapture of 2000 loyalists packed into the Ulster Hall in Belfast, hundreds of children were dancing in the streets in the Bogside.

The children's dancing competitions are part of the Bogside Community Festival, the area's annual holiday from the war. To help the festival the Provos called a week-long truce, as they did last year. Not a shot has been fired for the past seven days as fancy-dress parades, ladies' tug-o-war competitions, open-air late-night discos and round-the-houses bicycle races took over the streets.

Almost everyone in the area is involved in one way or another, eager to use the week of relative peace to the full and determined, as far as is possible, to shut out the effects of the surrounding conflict.

Of course it is not entirely possible. At midnight on Wednesday, in Gartan Square in the heart of the area, a disco session was in full swing, 300 teenagers dancing under the street lamps to the Slade, when a patrol of men from the Royal Artillery Regiment, faces blackened and self-loading rifles at the ready, crept round the corner.

The music and dancing stopped as the crowd became aware of their presence. The soldiers, wary

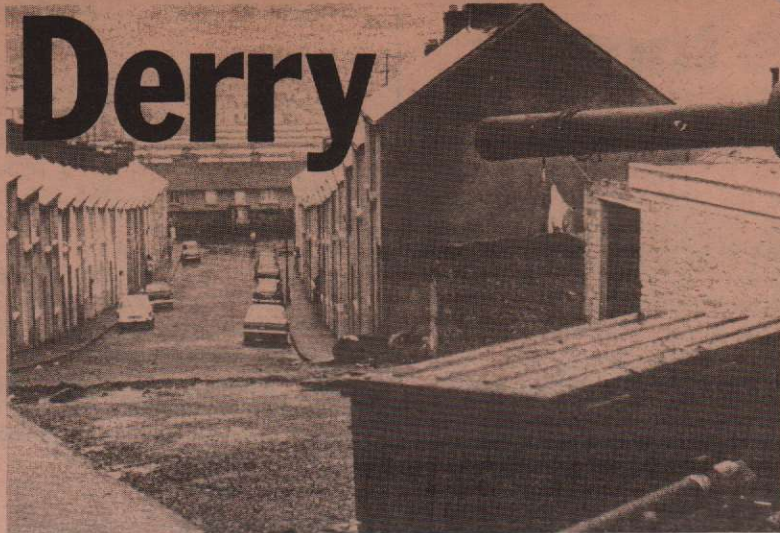
and slightly bemused, skirted the square, peering intently into the throng.

Here and there in the middle of the crowd youths clustered around to shield those of their number who were thought to be on the wanted list, everyone tense lest the army plunge in to attempt an arrest—which would have caused the square to dissolve into vicious, instant riot. But it didn't come to that. In a moment the intruders were gone, the sound system crackled and the music blared again.

Fairness

There is a deal of resentment in the area that the army should appear at all in such circumstances. The Provos agreed to their truce in response to a call from the festival's organisers, the Bogside Community Association—an annually-elected, determinedly non-political body which acts as a sort of combined tenants' association and Citizens Advice Bureau—and most people here feel that, in all fairness, the British, too, should have kept off-side for the duration.

But the army does not see it like that. As Brigadier Mostyn, boss of the English Army Brigade, explained, they would 'take the festival into account when planning operations' but could not be expected to abandon entirely 'the



by Eamonn McCann

fight against the men of violence'.

Last Tuesday, the second day of the festival, the Community association complained bitterly that army activity was coming close to wrecking their event. Immediately the Brigade press officer countered with a statement giving figures to illustrate the unusually low profile which had been maintained in deference to the association's request. In the Bogside in the previous 48 hours only 22 youths had been held overnight for questioning, only five had been arrested and handed over to the Royal Ulster Constabulary for further interrogation.

Only three houses had been raided and searched. The press officer pointed out that in the

Bogside in an average 48 hours between 25 and 30 houses would be raided.

So the festival continued and finished on schedule on Saturday night, 100 events completed and more than 4000 entrants for the children's dancing, singing and instrumental competitions looked at, listened to and marked by the eminent adjudicators. The fancy-dress parade was won by seven-year-old Bernard Duffy of Drumcliffe Drive who went as a rubber bullet.

Today, Sunday, some of the long-haired disco-dancers revert to their day-to-day role or urban guerrillas, as full-scale hostilities resume. There is general agreement that the festival was every bit as good as last year's.

MAX THE HACK

THE Daily Mail published an article last Friday under the heading: 'The revolutionaries who are planning your children's future'.

It was a spine-chilling tale of the activities of 'a militant alliance of Left-Wing teachers called Rank and File'. In particular, the article warned of the dire consequences of two members of the International Socialists—myself and Dick North—being elected to the executive of the National Union of Teachers.

It implied that our election had been undemocratic because of 'postal delays and apathy'. And it went on to expose the alarming future now confronting 'nine million children' as a result of our success.

I feel a few observations are needed on this piece of journalism.

Max Wilkinson, the author of the piece, is former editor of The Teacher, the weekly journal of the NUT. This makes the cheap sensationalism of his approach to serious trade unionists all the more discreditable. Wilkinson's methods are also in the time-honoured tradition of the gutter press.

On the question of our vote in the election, it seems strange that Wilkinson has not turned his attention to the votes gained by the other candidates in the areas where we stood. All got fewer votes than we did. And one, Max Morris, was not elected at all, since he took advantage of his position as ex-president.

But it appears that since they are all right-wingers, Wilkinson's keen sense of democracy does not apply to them. There is no 'silent majority' in the NUT, Mr Wilkinson just chooses to be deaf.

Wilkinson also made a great deal of play with comments by John Poole, who said: 'I think their real aim is to sow confusion . . . to disrupt society and allow the

Press witch-hunt against Rank and File teachers



Beth Stone replies

revolutionaries to take over.' Poole is a member of the Communist Party and deputy editor of their magazine Education Today and Tomorrow.

Of course the Communist Party believes strongly in 'left unity', and this cause is greatly strengthened by attacking left-wingers in the pages of the Daily Mail.

As to us 'sowing confusion', I should like to hear John Poole's reasons for speaking against a conference resolution calling for very modest rights—such as access to a telephone—for the NUT representa-

tives in schools. Perhaps Poole considered this would allow the revolutionaries to take over. In any case the majority of conference did not agree with him, and voted clearly in favour of the resolution.

No doubt they had been 'confused' by Rank and File.

Finally what is the fate that awaits nine million children now that there are two Rank and File supporters on the 44-strong NUT executive? What is the disruption we are scheming?

We want firm action to reduce class sizes so that children and teachers benefit. We want an end to privileged private education for the few.

Rank and File supports democratically-run schools so that a headmaster no longer has total power and so that everyone affected by a school—teachers, parents, children and other school workers—has a say in the life of the school.

Reward

We believe in abolition of the cane and in a decent living wage for teachers to end the present mass exodus from teaching. Rank and File wants the abolition of the present salary policy which gives the greatest financial reward to those who do least classroom teaching.

We are for a democratically-run union, one controlled by class teachers rather than headmasters as at present. We are for a union which protects and advances the interests of its members and of education generally.

We believe that teachers, like all other workers, will only win any gains by fighting and organising. That is why we are in favour of militant action.

So the final question you must ask yourself is: 'Who is really threatening the education of our children—socialists like those in Rank and File, or the people who run and edit papers like the Daily Mail and who will resort to any smear to stop progress?'

To contact Rank and File, write to 86 Mountgrove Road, London N5.

Don't Foot the bill

A VICIOUS, vindictive attack on the basic right of workers to organise in the defence of their interests—that is what Judge Donaldson and his court are about.

Remember, the threat to seize the assets of the AUEW arises from the union refusal to pay £47,000 'compensation' to Con-Mech boss Dilley because of a dispute caused by his refusal to recognise, negotiate with or deal in any way with the AUEW.

Dilley, an Economic League supporter, hates unions and longs for the days when workers had to touch the forelock to the boss. On behalf of this goon, Donaldson continues his war against the AUEW in spite of the promised repeal of the Tory Industrial Relations Act, in spite of the return of a Labour government.

There must be no surrender and no compromise. Hugh Scanlon's suggestion that 'it might be possible to appeal against this judgement [to seize the assets] in a higher court without in any way giving recognition to the Act' is extremely dangerous.

Refusal to recognise the Act and the court and industrial action against its worst decisions are what have produced the promise of repeal. Legal wrangles merely play into the hands of the lawyers. Scanlon has a legitimate complaint about the failure of the TUC to carry out its own policies and support the AUEW. It must not be used as an excuse to give in now.

Donaldson's court is doomed and its doom will be hastened by massive resistance to its latest atrocity. The TUC must be forced to rally to the support of the AUEW. The government must be forced to repeal the Act immediately.

Yes, it's time to 'open the floodgates'

NALGO, the government officers' union, is absolutely right to go ahead with its industrial action in support of its claim for a £400 London weighting. It is right in terms of defending the living standards of their members. It is right in terms of defending the public services.

Once again the TUC leadership, the supposed 'general staff of labour' is on 'the wrong side. Len Murray has written to NALGO suggesting that their claim is out of line with the 'social compact' which is supposed to exist between the government and the unions.

Michael Foot, ex-left winger and now Employment Minister, says that to concede this claim 'would open the floodgates to similar demands from other groups of workers in London'. Yes it would. And this would be a big step forward.

Unless big pay rises are won by NALGO members, by the underground workers, by teachers, busmen, and all other public servants in London the public services will be bled white. The escalating cost of living, worse in London than anywhere else, will drive more and more workers out of these vital services. The need is for an united campaign by all groups of workers with London allowance claims outstanding.

We have no illusions in the NALGO leaders. They would be only too happy to agree to sell-out, if they thought they could get away with it. It is only because of pressure from below that NALGO General Secretary Geoffrey Drain says that Michael Foot 'wants to adopt the policies of the previous discredited government, which he attacked as much as anyone' and ignore TUC advice.

But what Drain says is no more than the truth. The attitude of Foot and the Labour government is a Tory attitude. The despicable call from Labour councils for volunteers to scab on NALGO by counting votes in the May elections is exactly what we expect from Tories. All working people have a direct and urgent interest in smashing these policies.

Corbridge Crescent, Corbridge Works, London E2 9DS
Phone 01-739 9043/6361/0185

Daily Mail, Friday, April 19, 1974

THE MAIL PINPOINTS A NEW THREAT FOR PARENTS

The revolutionaries who are planning your children's future . . .



by MAX WILKINSON
Education Correspondent

NEXT month two members of a group of

● Make caning illegal.
● Take away all special allowances from senior teachers and

supported by Socialists of all denominations it is the extremists, including the Inter-

hope all trade unionists, including those in teaching, would help in the movement towards a better Socialist State.

The article in last Friday's Daily Mail

Why 100 police got up at dawn

NORTH LONDON:—Six bailiffs, 'assisted' by more than 100 policemen, evicted seven squatters from 220 Camden High Street at 5am on Monday.

They were acting for Joe Levy and Cromdale Holdings, owners of the property, who have now notched up two evictions from the house in less than a year. Last time they threw out a family who had lived and worked there for years because they couldn't afford the increased rent—hardly surprising since the company had raised it from £15 to £60 per week!

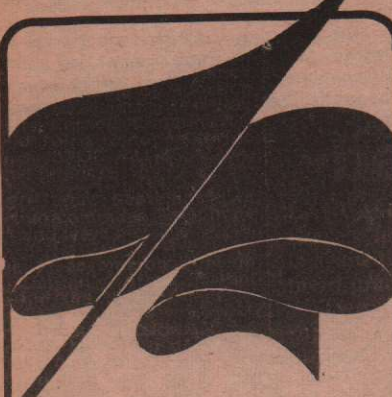
In protest at this move and the increasing activity of property sharks in the area, 220 was occupied by Camden Tenants Federation and for months since then the building has been used as a centre for local tenants' groups and socialist organisations.

Recently the company got a court order for the eviction of the squatters

but early plans made by the police to move in were scrapped when local firemen refused to use their ladders for the eviction and reaffirmed their solidarity with the tenants.

On Monday the police resorted to brute force. They used a lorry to rip out the front door and then sent in bailiffs and constables armed with crow bars. Although about 50 local tenants and workers were quickly on the scene they could do nothing to prevent the eviction, being heavily outnumbered by the police, as well as closely observed by some familiar faces from the Special Branch.

The Tenants Federation is determined to fight on and almost immediately after the eviction a group of local people led by local tenants leader Jim Duggan marched to nearby Camden Road where they immediately took over another empty property—this time owned by Camden Council.



**MAYDAY RALLY
GREATER MANCHESTER
DISTRICT IS**

Speakers Paul Foot and Mickey Fenn
8.00pm Wednesday 1 May 1974
AUEW Offices, The Crescent,
Salford.
Admission 10p.

ARE YOU ON THE
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LETTERS

Hospitals: miners got more, so should we

AS A HOSPITAL worker and a socialist, I am greatly encouraged by the reaction of nurses to their recent pay award.

From 1 April nurses earning less than £1671 per annum (most of them—even ward sisters!) will get an increase of £117 a year—less than £2 a week!

Nurses are disgusted at this. At my hospital, Whipps Cross, a health service workers union meeting of student nurses produced comments like 'We don't want this lousy £2, the miners got more, why can't we?'

A petition campaign, backed by COHSE has produced 4000 signatures from local residents in seven days.

Trade unionists must support this reaction. Put forward resolutions at NUPE, COHSE, NALGO and other hospital union branches calling for an urgent reevaluation of support from all trade union branches.

To hell with Phase Three! Let us begin a fight for a living wage for all nurses.—GORDON DAVIES (NUPE), London, E18.

School lunches, funds and plays

WHEN MY five year old son asked me for eightpence to see a puppet show at his school, I made a visit to the Headmistress for further details, as none were sent home with my son.

I was told it was in school hours, performed by a Bradford Company, and of 'educational value.' The fee to be paid to the Company was £10.

I live in a mining village, the fathers of many children were on strike, many fathers were on three days a week working. Money was short. Some mothers had three children at this school, and a majority had two children.

We are in fact paying twice for our children's education.

We contribute continually to the raising of school funds but get no contributions when we need a helping hand. I fail to see where all our contributions are being used at this particular school.

When I raised this matter with the Education Authority I was told



Georgia Brown—for women on TV, but how about the East End?

No Brown in town...

I HAVE JUST read Michele Ryan's review of *Shoulder to Shoulder* (13 March) and seen episode two on Annie Kenney. I would like to add that the women's movement might be helped if the Midge Mackenzies, Verity Lamberts and Georgia Browns of this world took a leaf out of Sylvia Pankhurst's book and realised that women's rights is the fight not just sitting on chat shows talking about the fight.

Georgia Brown would be doing more for women if she came down from her ivory tower and encouraged women in her native East End of London to organise and fight for their rights.—PAULINE FENN, London, E13.

'Parents were expected to make some contribution to such events arranged by the Head of the school.' I am sure they were making a profit!!! MRS I CROWTHER, Crigglestone, Nr Wakefield.

No sink—she got jug instead

LAST SEPTEMBER we requested a new sink to replace our old one. We were sent one from a condemned house with smashed taps and in a disgusting state. We refused it and have been without a sink since. So we haven't paid any more rent.

Our friend was crippled when her bed-room floor collapsed and she has to have a leg-iron and special shoes.

When she protested at the rent office Mrs Kampel (that's her name) was beaten up and Mrs Hymas also. She then broke all the windows.

Mrs Kampel is suing for injuries. The manager and deputy manager for housing who did the beating had to be prosecuted privately as the police refused to prosecute. The summons were dismissed.

Mrs Hymas who has multiple sclerosis is now in Risley Prison near Warrington.

We still have no sink. The social services tried to get an order for our kids, but they were defeated because they are well looked after.

Now I have to get social security to look after our kids. Because of our rent strike, the social security office said they have to pay rent direct to the council—but after hearing our story they haven't done so.

They told the council 'No rent to you, we pay Mrs Hymas not you.' This is how Bradford treats Italian people.—E HYMAS, Bradford.

WE ARE now involved in the overtime ban called by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The majority of workers I talk to, realise that they are being used to save Scanlon and friends' faces. We have seen our wage claim watered down to such an extent that Scanlon has indicated he would settle for £3.50 across the board.

Our own union the GMWU has instructed us to ban overtime, this has angered many workers because only recently, when we were wanting information for a parity claim, the GMWU did not want to know us and it took rank and file action to get the information.

The fact is the Confederation doesn't want a fight with the employers. We know the overtime ban is just window-dressing. Until the rank and file can make it's presence felt, particularly in right-wing unions like ours, how can we change the present position of yearly sellouts?—JIM KELLY, Hull.

I do like to be by the oil slick...

FOR EASTER we went to North Wales for bank-holiday sun and sea. Like the old music-hall song 'I joined the navy to see the sea, and what did I see? I saw the...' We sat in a three mile traffic jam, eating our sandwiches, drinking tea from the flask, choking in fumes, I forgot the gas-masks.

Winding down the window I asked the family in the traffic queue going the other way 'How far is the coast?'

'Oh! about seven or eight Little Chefs away.' Those are the pre-fabricated huts where coffee costs a gold nugget a cup, because it is shipped from London, and that is why the coffee is always cold.

We eventually got to the coast, I handed over my wage packet so everybody could have ice-creams, sweets and pop. On the beach kids were playing Jump The Oil Slick as the tide came in. Others were playing at Sheikhs and oil companies in the sand-dunes.

Well fortified for the traffic queue home I sat in the back of the car snoring under the gas-mask, dreaming of work in the morning. At least it would be a rest.

Rumour has it that our site is going on strike next bank holiday, unless management lets us work bank-holidays for double time. Who wants to go through the hell of having a break?—NEIL DAVIES, York.

Protest? Sorry no MPs around

I WAS SENT on 20 March by the Central Electricity Workshops (Glasgow) to a lobby of Parliament. It was to try to pressure the Labour MPs to make some noises about the release of the imprisoned building workers, the Shrewsbury Six.

On returning, at a meeting of the Glasgow Trades Council arrangements were made for a meeting on 6 April to report on their representation to the government.

This meeting never took place. None of the MPs took the trouble to turn up.

This is, I think, just one of the pointers which show that the parliamentary representatives will do nothing unless they are forced by mass industrial action. Like they were in 1972 with the mobilisation of the workers over the imprisoned dockers, the Pentonville Five.

I find out that the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions is calling for yet another lobby of Parliament!

At this rate the brothers will serve out their sentences unless mass action by rank and file trade unionists strike to free the three.—JOHN GLEN, Glasgow.

Ireland: you've got it wrong

WHY DIDN'T Socialist Worker reply to RPH's letter (6 April) about British troops in Ulster?

I find it appalling that the International Socialists supported the sending of troops to Ulster in 1969.

Young workers in Ulster (Catholic and Protestant) are continuously harassed by the troops just for walking the streets. Is it fair justice that a British army thug shoots dead an unarmed 72 year old while three black youths languish in jail for a crime they did not commit (6 April)?

Also saying, as some people do that youth join the armed forces just to get a career is an insult to the working class of Britain, who do not want to fight on behalf of the capitalist class.

I don't condone the action of the IRA, whose sectarian bombings send the Protestant working class into the arms of scum such as Paisley and Craig. Your refusal to answer RPH's letter is a contribution to her backwardness.—J F PRESTON, Putney.

On the letters page we print differing views, often views we disagree with. We don't usually reply, we leave it to the readers, our policies on Ireland have been argued in other parts of the paper.

But about our position on troops in Ireland in 1969. Here's what we said: 'Wilson's decision to allow British troops to guard 'key installations' in Northern Ireland is an ominous threat to the embattled people of the Six Counties fighting for their basic civil rights. The troops will free the brutal RUC and even more thuggish B-specials to attack and terrorise demonstrators... if civil war should break out Socialist Worker demands the immediate withdrawal of British troops...'

This appeared under a headline Ulster: British Troops Out (26 April 1969). On 17 July we wrote after the continuing battles in Derry, 'Demand that British troops be withdrawn NOW. After the Battle of Bogside in August 1969 we wrote (21 August) '... the mass of Catholics after three days of bitter fighting were relieved to see the RUC and the Specials withdraw, and to this extent were glad to see the British troops. But it should not be thought that the presence of British troops can begin to solve their problems... The 'law and order' imposed by the British troops at the moment means that the Stormont government is free to arrest without trial 'republicans' while leaving untouched the armed thugs who have burnt whole streets of Belfast... The role of the British troops... is to freeze a situation that looked like getting out of hand and damaging the interests of the British ruling class in Ireland.'

Nuff said?



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Postal Points

COME! . . . The Enfield College Trade Union Society is organising an educational conference for local trade unionists, on the issue of the Shrewsbury pickets. On Tuesday 30 April at 6pm . . . The case has had little publicity and much distortion. As trade unionists at college this year, we wish to redress the balance slightly by using the facilities available to us to help inform you . . . It will be addressed by a member of the Shrewsbury Defence Committee, one of the defendants who was acquitted, and one of our lecturers who will give the legal side of the issue. It is hoped that the meeting will bring local trade unionists together to discuss this case, and its relevance to them and the TU movement generally. Ample time will be allocated for discussion and questions . . . If readers intend to come please notify us in advance at the address below. However, if uncertain and decide to come at last moment still come as ample room will be provided for all who attend. Hope to see you there.—CONRAD BOROWSKI, (secretary Trade Union Society) Enfield College Queensway EN3 4SF.

WHO? NEVER HEARD OF HIM . . . Congratulations to Paul Foot for his unhesitant disclosure of Mr Y in the Janie Jones case . . . It is a scandal that in a 'democratic' society that the working class have their names blazened in banner headlines for petty pilfering of the means to exist, due to the profiteering of capitalist big businessmen . . . More power to Paul Foot's elbow and Socialist Worker. I enclose £1 for your fighting fund.—FRANK HACKETT, Hull.

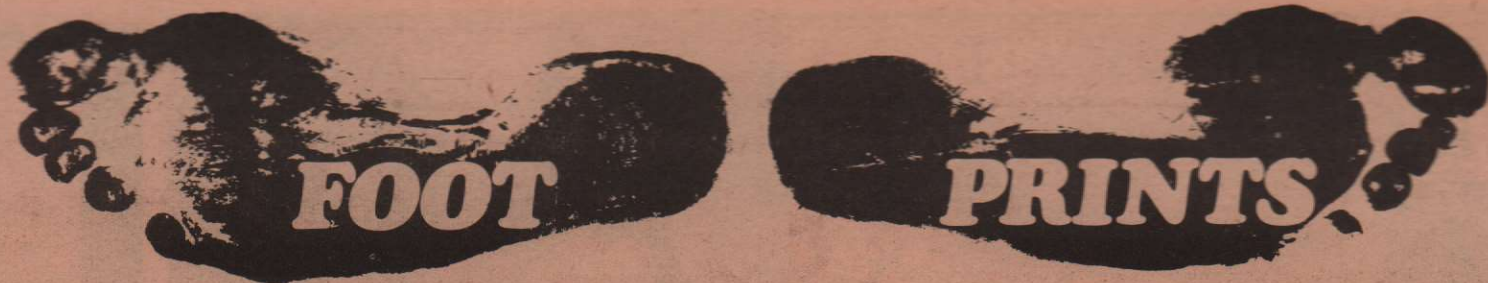
AND ONCE MORE . . . Congratulations on your Easter courage—stop—I wish I had the chance—stop—RAY HAMMOND, (NUJ) London.

INTO THE SUPERMARKET? . . . Tony Cliff said 'The more complicated the argument the more simple the article should be.' . . . Usually I find that slogans as well as short simple articles give me the impression that I understand an argument on a situation while in reality I've got nothing but a half-baked opinion . . . The real question is whether the paper will provide explanations or information. It's easy to inform people and do it simply. Parents do it all the time . . . There's a great way to confuse people by throwing information at them from all sides, it's called mass media—and it involves providing a supermarket of information . . . I expect explanations from a political organisation, in this society information is cheap.—D ELLIOT SMITH, Edinburgh.

TO THY SLOGANS BE TRUE . . . 'For the linking of student struggles with those of the working class' says the Alternative Socialist Platform within the NUS . . . It's a painful yet necessary chore to get involved in student politics but the above quote means much more. How many 'revolutionary' students know the percentage unionisation—like NUPE or NALGO in their colleges? How many try to find connections? To see who the convenors and stewards are? And to tie the struggles together? International Socialist Societies should work like a factory branch, involving all those who work in the education factories of today, whether with text book or tea trolley.—MIKE WOLSTENCROFT, Manchester Polytechnic.

DON'T FORGET THEM . . . I would like to draw readers' attention to another silent and largely forgotten oppressed group. In England and Wales there are approximately 140,000 mentally handicapped and many are vegetating because there is nowhere else for them to go. If they are employed it is usually in 'sheltered' occupations where they are 'sheltered' from the protection of trade unionism.—J COLLIN, Ryton-On-Tyne.

YES BUT GO AND TELL THEM IN BELFAST . . . The solution in Northern Ireland is relatively simple . . . The Catholic workers must over-ride the restrictions of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Protestants break from organisations of Orange capitalism. They must unite 'and overthrow the bloc of capitalists and bureaucrats from Whitehall, who have succeeded in driving a rift between these traditionally militant workers. Your article on the use of the SAS (13 April) shows to what extent the British imperialists will go to repress the 'common enemy' and support friendly guerrilla forces. Well done Socialist Worker!—JOHN MORRISON, Wivenhoe.



No milk today —you're fired!

TONY DEIGHTON is vice-chairman of Chelmsford Co-operative Party. Last Christmas, he was sacked from his job as milkman—by the Co-op.

As a milkman, Tony believed in working hard to provide a service for his customers. Which was fine for the Co-op.

As a shop steward for the shopworkers' union USDAW, he believed in working hard for his workmates. Which was not so fine for the Co-op. In his four years with Chelmsford Co-op he won many improvements in working conditions.

So much so that he was, in his own words,

'a thorn in the management's side'. Something, plainly, had to be done about him.

With appalling irresponsibility, 35-year old Tony refused to deliver eggs that customers hadn't ordered. Management insisted that, though the correct eggs weren't in stock, he should deliver other types. Tony preferred to warn customers that since he couldn't meet their orders, they should buy their eggs elsewhere. For such outrageous honesty, he was sacked.

Now, four months later, an industrial tribunal has found that he was unfairly dismissed—and underlined how such 'independent inquiries' are weighted heavily against workers. The tri-

bunal found that since Tony, who spent nine weeks out of work before getting another job, contributed '50 per cent towards his own dismissal', he should forfeit 50 per cent of the £746 compensation!

Management enlisted the best solicitor in the town and dredged up all sorts of smears against him. Tony, left in the lurch by his own union, fought the case himself.

He won—but the Co-op management didn't let their vendetta rest there. They refused to sell milk to Tony and his wife Janet.

It is hoped that Tony, now an ambulanceman, will have a chance to repay their 'co-operation' the next time they dial 999 . . .

THE WHOLE TOWN'S TALKING ABOUT THE JONES COP

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT Alan Jones is in charge of the Millhench case, and has already been described in the press as one of the Yard's 'most experienced' officers.

One part of that experience which has not been referred to is Mr Jones' handling of the Kirsten Bullen kidnapping case last year. Baby Kirsten, remember, was found in the woods, almost dead after having been kidnapped, and Mr Jones headed the inquiry into the affair.

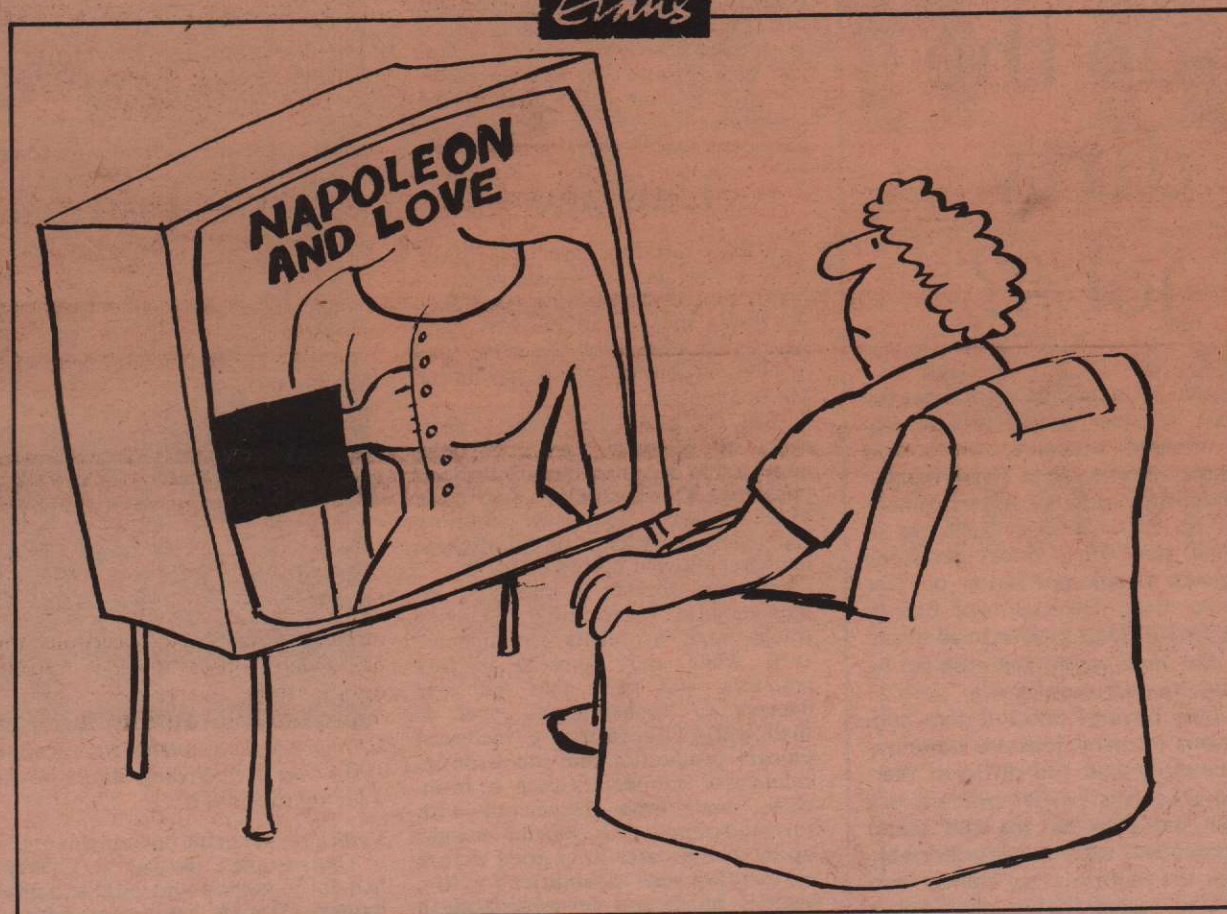
Mary Ranson, 43, an epileptic, was sitting quietly in her home in Bromley, Kent, when a band of policemen burst in and, after finding nothing in a violent search, pulled her off to the police station.

She was kept in the cells for two nights, deprived of the pills she needed to stave off her fits, and her fingerprints were taken against her will. She could not wash or clean her teeth. During all this time she was interrogated by courageous police officers who punctuated their queries with shouts of 'You Liar!'

Mary was then moved to Holloway Prison, where she spent the night on a board, was refused permission to leave the cell to go to the lavatory, and was held down by six warders while she was injected with sedatives. Partly through illness, partly through terror, she failed to convince her 'interrogators' that she had not stolen the baby.

Mary was charged with the kidnapping, but her father soon discovered that at the time of the kidnapping she had been talking to a neighbour over a garden fence. When the case came up, the prosecution offered 'no evidence'.

Mr Jones has been in the news before. In 1969 he headed a murder inquiry in Oxford which involved a Pakistani called Abdul Ghani. Jones and his henchmen invaded Mr Ghani's house and took away everything they could find, including all the family's passports. This was too much even for the Court of Appeal, which later granted an injunction against Jones forcing him to hand the passports back.



Broken Reid

GEORGE REID is the Scottish Nationalist candidate for Clackmannan and East Stirling, which he gained from the Labour Party at the last election. Mr Reid was a very recent convert to the Nationalist cause from the Labour Party and faint stirrings of anti-capitalist ideas still embarrass him in public.

A notable example was his speech on 26 March in the House of Commons about the closure of the Scottish Daily Express.

Said Mr Reid: 'This second factor is the near-monopoly situation being created in the popular press in Scotland; the Scottish editions have been printed from Manchester and the distinctive Scottish characteristics have vanished. If a monopoly is created in the popular press that, too, is at the Government's peril and the peril of the newspaper proprietors.'

The newspaper proprietors? And who are they?

Mr Reid explained: 'The freedom



of the press is not the private property of the newspaper proprietors. It is not the plaything of the Sir Hugh Frasers or the Jocelyn Stevenses.'

Two weeks later Sir Hugh Fraser joined the Scottish Nationalist Party.

NAMING NAMES

I PRINT the following story without comment.

In February 1896, a big prostitute case was held in Glasgow in which the defendant was a Madame of some notoriety.

The Madame was named throughout the trial but the names of her clients, many of whom were famous figures in the life of the city, were not printed by the Glasgow newspapers.

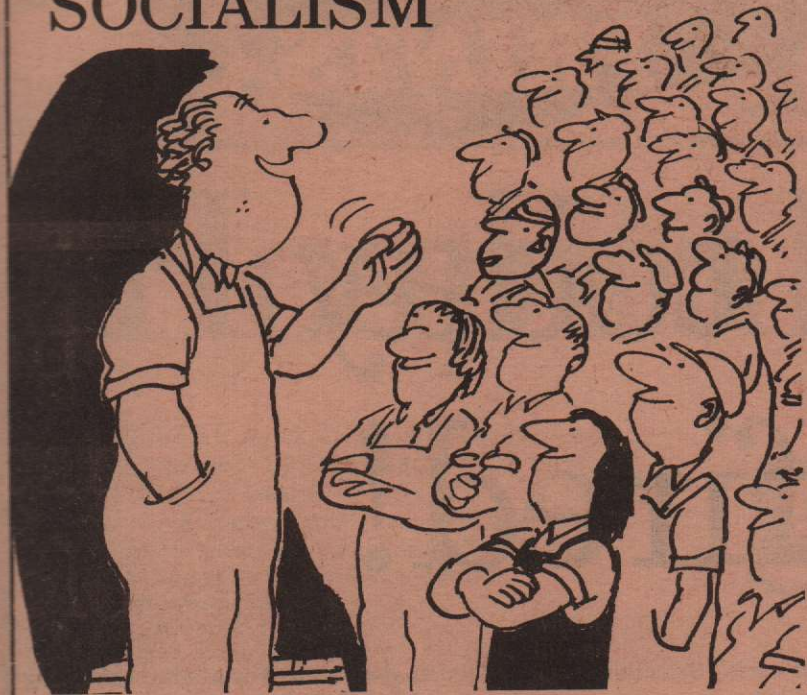
At that time, Keir Hardie was editing the Independent Labour Party weekly, the Labour Leader.

After much discussion, Hardie published the names of the two gentlemen named in the trial who were well-known as defenders of Christian civilisation and law and order in Glasgow.

He never dared name the third, who was known as 'the old gentleman' and was reported to be the city's biggest businessman.

No action was taken by the court or the individuals named.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



IT USED to be a common objection to socialism that there are a lot of necessary jobs that nothing but money would persuade anyone to stick at. If the wages system is abolished, and remember that this is essential to socialism as Marx saw it, if people receive a share of what is produced according to personal and family needs, then no one will be willing to do the hardest and most unpleasant jobs.

Well, there are certain 'dirty jobs' that no one ought to be asked or indeed allowed to do. Nobody, for example, ought to have to handle blue asbestos under any circumstances and if this causes some inconvenience to the rest of us, then so be it. Blue asbestos slowly kills those who handle it.

Leaving aside such 'killer jobs' there is one very striking fact about work under capitalism. It is that the easiest and most pleasant jobs are, generally speaking, the best paid while the hardest, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs are commonly among the worst paid.

It is a lot safer, easier and more comfortable to sit in an office directing the sale of fish than to work as a deep sea trawlerman. It is also a lot more profitable. The man in the town hall who starts work at nine o'clock or later and helps to direct the sanitary department expects, and gets, higher pay and better conditions than the man who gets up at God knows what hour and goes round with the cart emptying the bins.

Unequal

Farmworkers are among the most necessary of all. No one can live without food. Yet farmworkers toil outdoors in all weathers for pay that no self-respecting London typist would work for.

There are, of course, some partial exceptions. Miners and dockers do hard and often dangerous work and are not at the bottom of the wages league. Some white-collar workers are very badly paid.

The explanation is powerful trade union organisation or the lack of it. This modifies, but only modifies, the built-in tendency of capitalism to unequal rewards on the basis of 'who does most gets least, who does least gets most.'

All the really well-paid jobs at

Who would do the dirty jobs?

present go to people who direct the work of other people or who deal in money, property, stocks and shares, or who are in 'head-fixing'—advertising, popular entertainment and so on. It is sheer nonsense to argue that 'dirty jobs' get done because people get better pay for doing them. The argument flies in the face of facts known to all of us.

But how would the problem be tackled under socialism?

One obvious point is that conditions in many jobs are quite unnecessarily bad and difficult. Years ago a socialist writer pointed out that the cabs of the old steam locomotives were so uncomfortable and the controls so clumsy and hard to operate that no middle-class person would tolerate them. If, he suggested, middle-class people were forced to do the job then the locomotives would soon be redesigned to be as comfortable and easy to operate as a motor car.

Curse

Or take a very small but important point. What used to be called 'hourly paid personnel' clock on at seven-thirty or eight o'clock. The office staff sign on at nine. Why?

The general question of work under socialism was very clearly explained by Bernard Shaw. 'We now revolt against the slavery of work because we feel ourselves to be the slaves, not of Nature and Necessity, but of our employers... We therefore hate work and regard it as a curse.'

'But if everyone shared the burden and the reward equally we should lose this feeling. Nobody would feel put upon.'

That is not utopianism. It is plain commonsense.

Duncan Hallas

ACID!

ON THE one hand stand the people of Sutton, an old working-class part of St Helens, on the other Leathers' Chemicals, an acid-producing outfit, part of an American-owned combine.

This is the line-up in the developing struggle between people and profits which is shaking up the complacent Labour-controlled council in St Helens.

This town has been dominated by heavy industry for many years. Along with glass-making, coal-mining and brewing, the chemical industry has been active in St Helens since the 18th century. Vast fortunes have been made here. The price paid by the working class of St Helens has been bad conditions both in and out of work.

In the first half of the last century Frederick Engels, the pioneer socialist, remarked on the appalling environment in the town. Even today, St Helens is visible for miles around by the columns of dark smoke rising from its dozens of industrial chimneys.

The appointed guardians of the people's welfare, the council, prefer not to discuss these matters. But there is a growing awareness among workers in the town that they haven't just been screwed by low wages and dirty work but that their whole environment, at work, rest and play, has been raped.

Damage

A stock response from the authorities is that house chimneys are a major source of pollution, thus playing down the role of industry. This phoney get-out is of the same kind as blaming the hungry for having too big an appetite.

But the game has been given away by Leathers' Chemicals, who admitted at a public inquiry late last year that their sulphuric acid plant exceeded on at least two occasions the generous limits of sulphur dioxide emission allowed by the council.

Sulphur dioxide is known to inflict damage, often lethal, on living things such as plants and lichens, even when only present in tiny amounts. Not only that, but real damage to human health, such as shallower breathing, increased phlegm production and increased incidence of complaints such as bronchitis, are firmly associated with this kind of pollution. A child brought up in such an area has a good chance of carrying such disabilities for life, even if he or she moves to a clean area at an early age.

As if the sulphur dioxide were not enough, Leathers' acid plant also leaks clouds of acid from time to time, according to the council's representative at the inquiry.

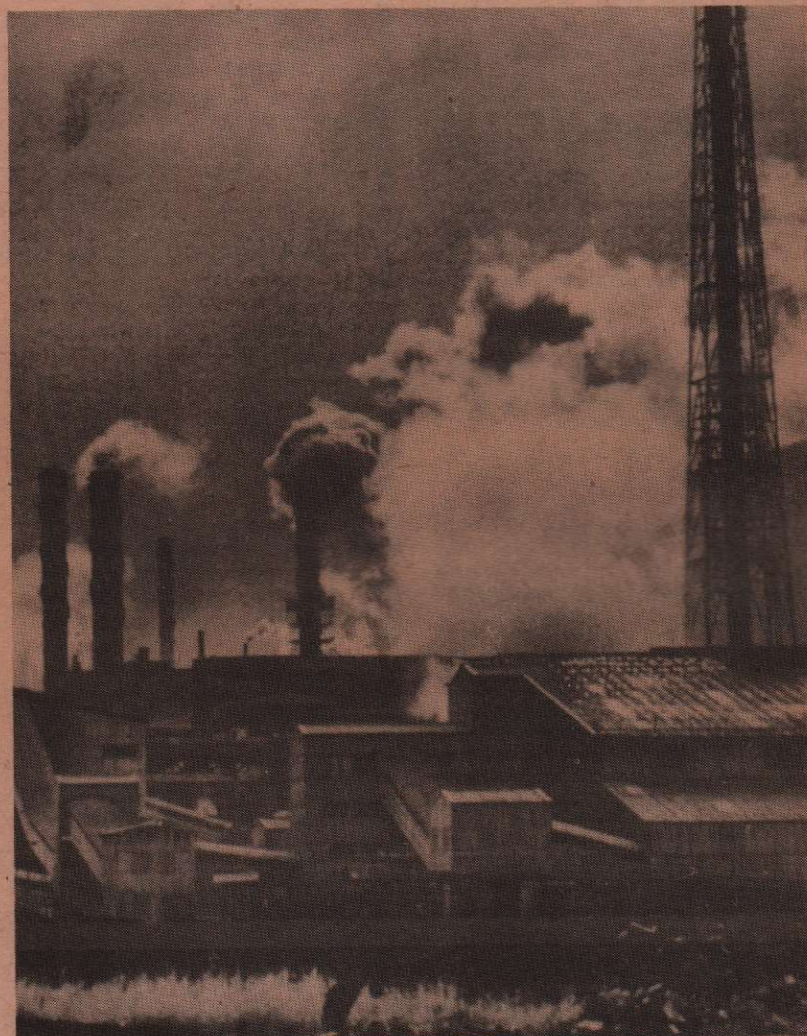
Exposed

The Labour-controlled council had allowed this potentially dangerous plant to be built cheek-by-jowl with working-class housing. Since the acid plant started trials in February 1970 it has been a source of trouble. At first, in contravention of the planning permission, no monitors to measure pollution were fitted. The council had to issue an enforcement notice to get this done.

Since then there have been a number of incidents around the acid plant. Not only has car paintwork bubbled and girls' tights started to disintegrate, but people, including young children, have been enveloped in acid clouds resulting in a burning sensation on exposed skin, skin irritation and peeling, difficulty in breathing and considerable alarm.

Perhaps worst of all have been reports by teachers of school-children suffering from the effects of these leaks. Workers at local factories, Crosby's and Gascoigne Gush and

'We demand our right to breathe' residents told inquiry into plant



... and the authorities blame pollution on house chimneys. This factory, like that in St Helens, would no doubt claim anti-pollution measures would be too expensive.

Dent have reported such incidents.

One woman worker at Crosby's had to be taken to hospital and given oxygen after an incident on 8 March a few minutes after an admitted excess emission of sulphur dioxide from Leathers'. Perhaps there is no connection between the two events, but the people of Sutton would take a lot of convincing of that.

Not surprisingly, they are organising to fight this menace. It is unlikely that the public inquiry would have taken place had there not been an outcry from the workers of Sutton. Now, organised in the East Sutton Residents' Action Group, supported by St Helens Trade Council and shop stewards from local workplaces, they are fighting.

Battle

Just before Christmas a march of more than 150 residents and trade unionists marched from Leathers' gates to the town hall to let the lawyers and officials assembled for the public inquiry know what should be done. Mrs Anne O'Hearne, who lives close to the acid plant, said: 'I demand my right to breathe.' On behalf of the action group, Sam Smith said: 'We find it difficult enough to fight for a living, let alone have to fight for life.'

At the moment there is a bit of a lull in the battle as people wait for the outcome of the inquiry. The

inquiry proceedings were as expected, a lawyer's field day. The people actually affected by this plant, the workers of Sutton, had to fight through a maze of legal niceties to be heard at all, even after the police had attempted to stop many of them getting in.

But their message was clear: they want clean air and are determined to get it even if it does mean closing Leathers' down.

One other good thing came out of the inquiry. The council's expert witness, Professor Morton, Emeritus Professor of Chemical Engineering at Manchester, made it clear that the sulphur dioxide put out by the plant could be dramatically reduced, but that it would cost money.

This is the basic issue—profits versus people. Exploitation doesn't just hit your pocket, it hits your health and that of your children and old folk. It has to be fought by the organised working class whatever form it takes.

This is what the residents and trade unionists who make up the East Sutton Residents' Action Group intend to do. They will need full support from all trade unionists. This is an issue that must be fought and won. Concessions and compensation would be no answer—there are no pockets in a shroud.

Malcolm Hughes

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

The British Army in Ireland and its projected role in Britain

Saturday 11 May 10.15am
Collegiate Theatre, 25 Gordon St, London WC1

Introduced by: David Bolton (Vice-President Scottish NUM)
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by **MICHAEL FENN**

London docker (NASD) and member of the editorial board of *The Dockworker*

I HAVE written this article to explain why I and all my family will be on the demonstration over Chile on Sunday 5 May and why I feel every trade unionist reading this article should join us.

To go on the demonstration may be a small gesture to make. But I feel that workers throughout the world should protest and keep protesting at the butchers of Chile.

Not only do we owe it to the workers of Chile, we owe it to the memory of the men and women in the trade union movement and the socialist movement of all countries who have been crushed and murdered by military dictators with the assistance and backing of the big firms most of us work for.

The road to Chile has been long and bloody. It started with the building of capitalism on the murder and exploitation of black slaves and white workers in mines and factories.

When the moneyed classes of capitalism are in danger of losing some of their privilege and wealth they will resort to the most vicious form of repression. There are many examples.

The memory of the slaughter of the democratically elected government of Spain in 1936 and the civil war that resulted has slowly faded into the past. The trade unionists and socialists who died there are now unfortunately being followed to Spain by trade unionists and trade union officials going on holiday.

The workers may have forgotten the lessons of Spain. The ruling class has not. They have repeated that victory in Chile.

There have been versions of the same in Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Portugal, Greece, Uruguay, Indonesia, South Vietnam and many others. All are controlled by right-wing military juntas, backed and in most cases trained and financed by American and British big business.

Crushed

Many of these countries previously had what are known as democratically elected governments somewhat similar to what we have in Britain today. But when those elected governments tried to make social reforms that threatened the ruling class or American big business they were crushed by the military in what is sometimes called a 'take-over to prevent communism'.

If the military can't do the job as they did in Chile and Greece, American forces will do it for them. This is what they attempted to do in Vietnam and Laos and what they succeeded in doing in the Dominican Republic. There 20,000 American paratroopers overthrew the democratically elected government of Juan Bosch which was attempting to nationalise American fruit canning factories.

The attitude of many workers is often 'Well it can't happen here. Britain is a civilised country and is known as the most stable democracy in Europe.' Well Chile was known as the England of South America, and the most stable democracy in that continent.

The spokesman for the Chilean junta who went on television to justify the executions in Santiago stadium and the brutal murder of trade unionists had an English name and a perfect English upper-class accent. The influence of the British upper class in South America is important and widespread.

Conflict

My former employer, Lord Vestey, owns vast cattle farms and meat factories which are a vital part of the economy of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. He has the appearance of a civilised gentleman. But I have no doubt he would be glad to have had the dockers he came into conflict with at Midland Cold Storage executed as were the dock leaders in Santiago, Chile after the coup. Their crime was organising a strike. Ours was picketing.

The firms involved in South America are those we or our fellow trade unionists work for and battle with. In Chile ITT operates and intrigues. General Motors, Chrysler, British Leyland, Perkins Diesel and many others also have their hands deep in South America. All rely on the repression of trade unions and if necessary the imprisonment and execution of trade union leaders to maintain their profits.

Could this happen here? The



Spot the difference? On the left is a poster of General Pinochet, leader of the Chilean junta. On the right is the British Army's own Major-General Kitson



Yes, it could happen here

Why you should be on the Chile Solidarity march next Sunday

events of the past four years show signs that it could. The imprisonment of dockers by the Industrial Relations Court and their release by rank and file trade union support and the two defeats of a Tory government by the miners has taught the ruling class that they should prepare measures to crush British workers when the need arises.

First arm the police—the Special Patrol Groups. Then smash picket lines and arrest workers, as they did last May Day when two dockers, Charlie Alexander and George Scott, were snatched from the middle of a London march and charged with assaulting the police. Both were prominent in the picketing of Pentonville prison the previous summer. But there is more, much more to it.

The Sunday Express reported on 13 January that the Home Office, under a 'Department F4', had Special Branch reports on two million people, many obtained from photographs taken on industrial demonstrations. They are already tapping our phones and reading our mail.

Then we get the police and army working as a combined force—as when they surrounded London's Heathrow Airport to 'protect' it from terrorists 'somewhere in Europe'. In charge of this little operation to get the British people used to seeing the army and the police acting together was one Chief Commissioner Gerrard. About a month later he was put in charge of miners' pickets.

The lessons the British army is learning in Ireland using plainclothes, undercover units, can easily be used in Britain.

Major-General Frank Kitson, commander of the army's top training school for infantrymen, Warminster, is quoted as saying that he can see 'nothing wrong with getting rid of

unwanted members of the public'. That would mean any shop steward, trade union official or socialist Brigadier Kitson wants it to mean. Kitson could become the boss of a British Junta, Britain's Pinochet.

It would seem the British employing class has little to fear from the present Labour government. It is, to say the least, unlikely they will seriously attack wealth and privilege.

Speaking of the frigates ordered for the Chilean navy, Roy Mason, Labour Minister of Defence, put it nicely: 'We are not a nation to welch on our contracts'—contracts with a government that murders and oppresses trade unionists and socialists.

Gunboats

If we do ever get a government that seriously attempts to take the 85 per cent of the wealth from the 7 per cent of the population who own it, the Kitsons and others so far unknown will be only too willing to do to British workers what their friends have done in Chile. And when that day comes, they too will be looking for gunboats and other kinds of military help from abroad.

This is why British workers should be concerned at the views and statements of people like Kitson. For the symptoms of Chile are here no matter how faint they may appear.

If there was a military regime in Britain the likes of Roy Mason, James Callaghan and the rest of the so-called socialists in the government might find refuge in Sweden or Denmark. I very much doubt if Mr Mason would even be required to leave the country.

But the real leaders of the working class in Britain, the shop stewards, some trade union officials, leaders of the tenants would not be so fortunate. They would probably finish up either dead or in concentration camps like our brothers and sisters in Chile.

As I said at the start, going on a march is not a very great hardship. When we consider the hardship now being suffered by the workers and socialists of Chile it is no hardship at all. The British working class will have to suffer far greater hardships before we achieve socialism in Britain.

FICTION

SIX DOCKERS SHOT DEAD

by A HACK

The government today announced that six dockers, three of them stewards, including the PLA chairman Tilbury D Marks, PLA chairman West India Docks, J Connelly and PLA chairman Royal Group, L Burley and three dockers G Thackum, B Light and B Lynch have been executed at the Prison Camp set up at Orsett in Essex. The reason for the executions was that these men had been in a manning dispute involving stoppages of work in all the London Docks. The Army are now controlling the docks, after their patriotic take-over of the Communist backed government of Harold Wilson.

This government during its term of office nationalised the docks industry, banks, insurance companies, shipping companies and the Stock Exchange and handed over control of British Leyland to the workers. Brigadier Frank Kitson, the Military Controller of Industry said that no matter how sorry they were at these tragic deaths, the rule of law must be upheld. All forms of strike action were illegal under the NIRC and anybody participating in a strike would in future be executed.

FACT

The Financial Times Tuesday October 23 1973

Chile shoots 6 workers

BY HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

SIX WORKERS were shot recently in the Chilean port of San Antonio as the result of differences between the military and stevedores about the operation of bulk loading equipment.

Three dock workers, Sr Héctor Rojo, Sr Samuel Núñez and Sr Manuel Alvarez, were detained in San Antonio while meeting to consider the action of the military in reducing the number of dockers manning the bulk loading facilities at the port. The facilities were installed in the port in 1965 and had been a bone of contention between employers and dockers since then.

The stevedores' union had secured an undertaking from employers that the new plant would cause no layoffs but as a result of last month's coup the military decided in consultation with the Cámara Marítima, the employers' organisation, to reduce the workforce. After the arrest of Rojo, Núñez and Alvarez they were imprisoned in the Tejas Verdes military installation in the area of a former Socialist Party, another dock worker and a former stevedore were shot.

March: Sunday 5 May, 2pm, Speakers Corner, London

Fact and fiction: from *The Dockworker*, the rank and file dockers' paper

The official Dept of Dirty Tricks

ONCE Kenneth Lennon was one of us. Like many people who read this paper, he was an active trade unionist with an interest in socialism. A young family man with a keen interest in the Northern Ireland civil rights movement.

Then the polite bastards from Special Branch moved in. They waited till his wife was seriously ill in a London hospital. They used police photographs taken on a demonstration in Newry to blackmail him. They threatened to intern his sister in Ireland. They fed him booze and money.

They systematically trapped him. Then they systematically used him.

They told him to worm his way into the Republican movement in Luton. Not some far away fictional place where evil things are done by bad people. Here. In Luton. In Bedfordshire.

They got him to pour cold water over the political activities of Sinn Fein and egg them on to military actions. The Special Branch instructed him to build up an arsenal in his back garden. They got him to organise a wages snatch at a Bletchley building site. In the car park the police lay in ambush.

Sean Campbell, Jerry Mealey and Philip Sheridan are all rotting in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham. For ten years. For conspiracy.

But Special Branch hadn't finished with Kenneth Lennon yet. They got him to take an 18-year-old lad, Pat O'Brien, 'a young kid and a bit of a romantic', out to Winson Green to plan a jail break. The lad was given a three-year jail sentence . . . for conspiracy. Lennon was shielded throughout the trial. As the police told him: 'The proper strings will be pulled.'

Quite what string was finally pulled we don't

know. But Lennon's last words to lawyer Larry Grant were: 'It is possible Special Branch might want me killed. I look like an IRA job.'

This is how their conspiracies work. Special Branch use the subtleties of informing, of provocation, how the crimes they are supposed to be half trap and destroy human beings. It does somewhere else or in the past. It happens now. Labour or Tory. It is as English. And it is as essential to this society as bank books.

Spy began an uprising

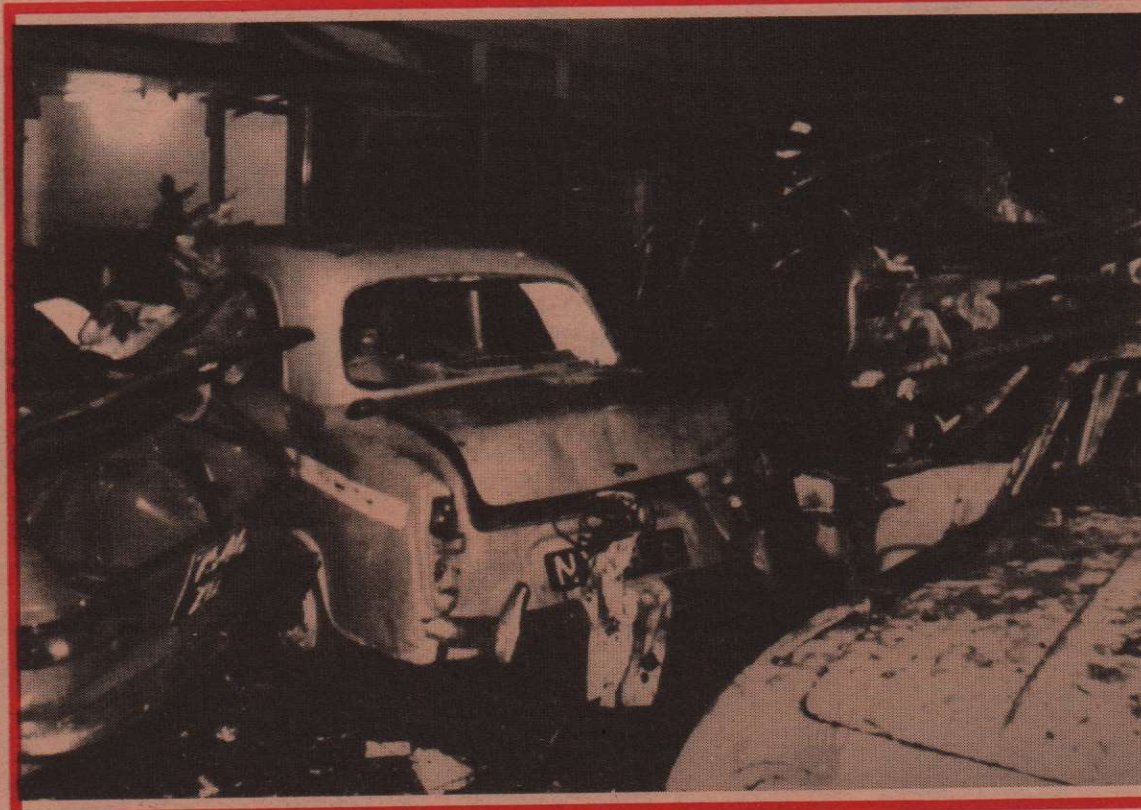
OLIVER the Spy was a government agent who virtually single-handedly organised armed risings in the West Riding of Yorkshire and Nottingham in 1817.

William Oliver as he called himself—his real name was W J Richards—suddenly materialised in London radical circles from debtors' jail and 'began to make very vehement professions of patriotism, and expressed uncommon anxiety to know whether there were any political associations into which he might obtain admittance'.

He quickly gained entry to the inner circle of London reformers and prevailed on them to be sent on a tour of the provincial centres of discontent. 'O's tour', as it was known to the secret service, took him to Birmingham, Sheffield, Wakefield, Dewsbury, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Barnsley, Ossett, Leeds and Bradford.

After each meeting he reported to his spy masters in London and at a delegate meeting in Wakefield made large promises about the support for armed rising in London.

Having persuaded the Northern radicals that an armed rising was their only hope and filled them with delusions as to the strength of support and organisation in London, Oliver drew up the plans himself. He then delivered the



entire government-organised plot into the hands of the government's army.

The final delegate meeting before the rising at Thornhill Lees, near Dewsbury, was surrounded by soldiers and the delegates captured. In the Huddersfield district too, several hundred clothing workers were persuaded to declare themselves for Oliver's

provocation.

As the radical commentator Cobbett put it: 'Oliver drew towards London, leaving his victims successively in the traps he had prepared for them. The employers of Oliver might, in an hour, have put a total stop to those preparations and have blown them to air. They wished, not to prevent, but to produce those acts.'

How the cops run guns



MEYRICK: Set the trap

he was told that an Irishman was going the rounds offering inside information on how the Special Branch compiled its information, he jumped at the chance to get his own back.

The man was called Jack Tierney and he claimed he could even get his hands on a photostat of a Special Branch file. What he did not mention is that on the other side of the pub were two Flying Squad men, Detective Sergeant Meyrick and Detective Constable Snodgrass.

A further meeting was even better covered. Tierney was accompanied by a 'girlfriend', Policewoman Carol Scard. In the toilet was Detective Constable Snodgrass. Outside the door was Meyrick and his boss Detective

Inspector Barton. Jack Tierney himself carried a microphone which transmitted the conversation to a nearby Flying Squad van.

Andy Ellesmore, blissfully unaware of these extras, was generously piled with drinks and then Tierney began to tell him how easy it would be to organise a jail break to free the Angry Brigade members already convicted. He became extremely insistent about the guns, saying: 'You are going to take these guns or else'.

Eventually Andy Ellesmore said he might be interested in guns, to get rid of Tierney's browbeating and to give himself time to think. Having said the magic words he went to relieve himself. Barton followed him into the toilet and announced: 'I have reason to believe that you have been conspiring to procure firearms and I am arresting you'.

In the Old Bailey the issue was clear. Andy argued that the trial was a political frame-up which hinged on turning a self-confessed informer into a police provocateur and based on a desire 'to get' a political activist. The jury threw the police's case out.

BOMBS TO AID THE LAW 'N ORDER BOYS

IN DECEMBER 1972 a most convenient bomb went off in Dublin. In the Dail, the Irish parliament, a last ditch opposition was being put up to Jack Lynch's attempts to push through a comprehensive new security law, the Offences Against the State Act, which was to provide the Irish police with the legal right to make summary arrest, to send journalists to jail and to ban meetings.

Suddenly two bombs went off outside, killing two people and injuring dozens. A wave of horror shook Dublin. Lynch used the 'atrocities' as an example of what his new police laws were designed to prevent and the opposition collapsed.

But who let off the bombs? Both military wings of the

Republican movement were fairly frank about the actions, even the ones, emphatically and repeatedly denied. Lynch knew only too well an explosion at such a time could only help Jack Lynch. Nor would they have targets Liberty Hall, the trade union headquarters. Republicans themselves would hold meetings, at a terminus which also continually used by Rep-

There are few in Dublin who do not know the bombs were the work of the British secret service. Little help from their British friends. Lynch, after he lost the election, said he believed the explosion was made in Britain.



The copy of Pravda forged with Special Branch help

PRAVDA THAT WASN'T

THE Special Branch have always kept a close eye on exiles. They not only spy on left-wingers but offer ideological and practical assistance to those whose politics it approves of.

In 1920, as part of a government operation whose scale is only now coming into view, forged copies of the Bolshevik's daily paper, Pravda, were produced in London. The bogus newspaper had a title heading identical to the real thing. Its masthead stated that it was the official organ of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Communist Party and that it was published in Moscow. Wednesday 22 September 1920. But it contained a series of terrible tales about the doings of the Bolsheviks, boasts of their executions and murders and general falsifications.

The paper was actually produced by a group of right-wing exiles for distribution among Russians in London and more important, for smuggling into Russia to discredit the Bolsheviks on their home ground. It was printed by a London commercial printer who insisted that, as usual, his firm's name and address was duly included on the bottom.

But an especially large gap was left above the imprints, and the exiles then took their illegal anti-Bolshevik enterprise along to their friends in Special Branch who provided a Scotland Yard guillotine to slice off the London printer's imprint. They also used their courier service to transport and distribute the forgeries within revolutionary Russia.

When George Lansbury's Daily Herald, which in those days was a fighting socialist paper, exposed the entire operation on 28 February 1921, the rest of the press considered such allegations against His Majesty's Police Force were simply the ramblings of a fortunately obscure extreme left-wing periodical.

But the following week the Home Secretary publicly admitted the complicity of government employees in this forgery. He also said that he himself had known nothing about the operation 'until a day or two ago'.

Frame-up that failed

AGENTS PROVOCATEUR were used frequently to frame unemployed workers in the 1920s.

Wal Hannington, an organiser of the Communist Party, describes them at length in his memoirs.

'On the evening of 10 October, whilst the session, one of them entered late, and handed me a document in a sealed envelope addressed to me.'

'It was a terrorist document but it had been cleverly framed in order to involve me in a council, McShane and I opened it. It opened with "Concerning action activities which have already discussed, the are . . ." and then set out a number of terrorist activities, including the burning of cabinet ministers, the use of physical violence against them, and the burning of certain government buildings.'

Hannington described the document immediately the next day, his office by Bow Street detected it.

He wrote later: 'If the document had been found and used against me, it would have been extremely difficult to convince people that it was a "frame-up"; the impostor was very clever in the way of it and I should have been very heavily sentenced for servitude and the would have been dis-

by Tony Barrow TGWU deputy convenor, Ford, Leamington



PARKER: Wanted to 'help'

The Special relationship

IN JUNE 1972 a full-scale Special Branch provocation involving a whole unit of the Branch and a star professional informer was most embarrassingly revealed in the middle of an attempted police prosecution.

The Hackney Arms Trial was swiftly hushed up, but its implications are sensational. The trial concerns a group of Republicans who had left Ireland in order to set up a branch of the welfare organisation Northern Distress in East London. Their aim was to collect clothes, food and money. Early on they met a most helpful Irishman, John Parker by name, in a Hackney public bar much frequented by local Irish people. Parker said he too liked the idea of Northern Distress and that he was keen to lend a hand.

He knew of a nearby shop empty and for rent. He offered the Irish group hospitality in his home.

He had also been an employee of Special Branch as a professional informer for 25 years. He met regularly with a senior Special Branch officer who works under the name of Dave Lee. 'Dave Lee' suggested that Parker might drop another idea into the head of his new-found friends, that they enlarge their welfare contributions to include .303 rifles and that they together rob a Cadet Corps armoury in Feltham.

The Irish group did not take a great deal of persuading, used clothes seeming a rather restrained contribution to be making in the circumstances. Meanwhile, 'Dave Lee' staked out the shop with his plain-clothes men.

The whole operation would have gone quite smoothly if John Platt-Mills, the defence lawyer at the trial, had not asked some rather awkward questions about a pistol which had been added to the box of .303s for good measure. It turned out that the pistol was stolen in 1966 and had been recovered by the police who had kept it ever since. The prosecutor withdrew his entire case.

The tale does not end there. The same John Parker again used his Special Branch driving licence to help a fellow Irishman. This time his victim was a socialist bus driver, Noel Jenkinson. It was this car hire operation which was the only 'evidence' to link Jenkinson with the bomb explosion at Aldershot for which he now serves a life sentence.

MANY of the finest militants in the country are in the Communist Party. But militants cannot exist on militancy alone. They need clear, concise politics and a revolutionary party behind them.

The Communist Party is not a revolutionary party. Its militants become enmeshed in bureaucracy. Their thinking becomes jaded and, like flies in a spider's web, they die politically.

Ian Birchall's new book* blows the gaff on the Communist Party not only in Britain, but everywhere. It is a must for all politically-minded workers, especially those in the Communist Party who feel that all is not right with the world or, more appropriately, not left with the party.

'Socialism in One Country' was the slogan which killed the Russian revolution. The failure to extend the revolution into the capitalist countries forced Russia into competition with those countries. The pressure of that competition, in turn, imposed 'state capitalism' on Russia. Stalin's Russia turned in on itself. Stalin treated the Communist International with contempt.

Obliged

Ian Birchall's book opens with the Second World War and shows how Stalin used the war as a means of extending Russian influence in Europe.

It suited Stalin that his own hysterical nationalism was reflected in the attitudes of Communist Parties throughout Europe. The parties obliged. In a broadcast from Moscow during the war Maurice Thorez, leader of the French Communist Party, said: 'All that is French is fighting, or burns to fight for the liberation and regeneration of the Fatherland.'

It is said that after this speech a high-pitched hum was heard from Highgate cemetery, where Karl Marx is buried, such was the speed of the spin.

The British Communist Party had not been involved in a fascist occupation but still had the same view. During the war they were more concerned with the fact that if the British worker took a hand in the running and organisation of his factory, production could be turned to the advantage of the progressive cause.

They opposed all strikes and campaigned against absenteeism. They became so respectable, in fact, that the 1943 TUC withdrew its 'black circular' that banned all Communists from office.

Sphere

Stalin had clear aims just before the end of the war. He wanted the Balkans firmly within his sphere of influence. To do this he was willing to be friendly and obliging during negotiations. For this reason he put the bloc (excuse the pun) on other Communist Party organisations outside his sphere of influence so he could get dominion of Eastern Europe.

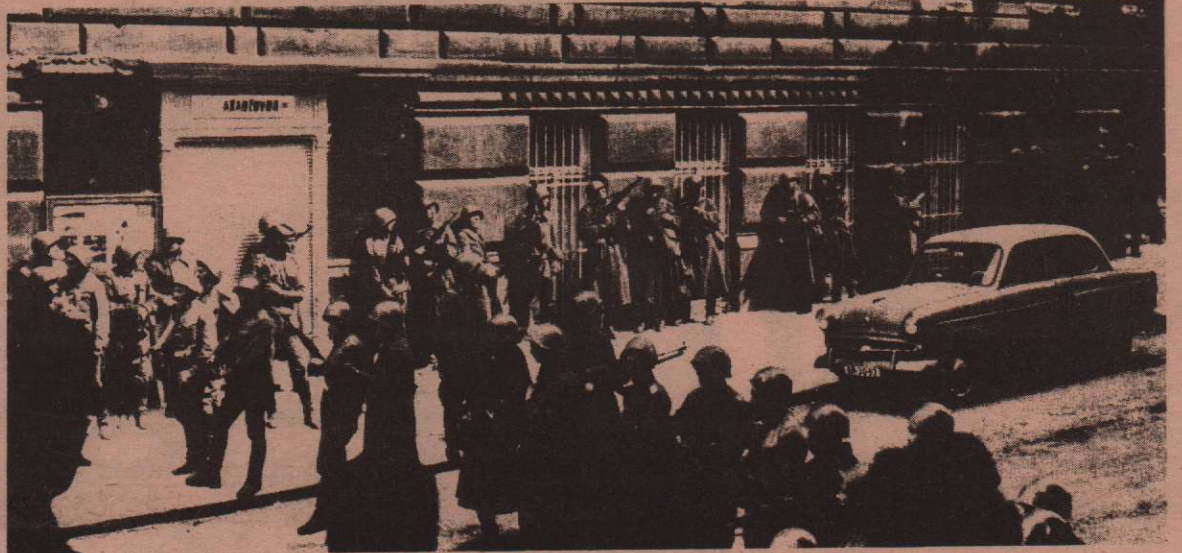
The liberation of France was an ideal opportunity for the people to seize power, and they almost did. People's courts sprang up and collaborators were shot out of hand—the people knew who their enemies were.

If only the French Communist Party had been able to break away from the grey star that was Stalin, if only . . .

But they did not. Worse, they allowed themselves to be conned by de Gaulle, and joined his government.

In Greece, where there was a possibility of a marxist revolu-

*WORKERS AGAINST THE MONOLITH, by Ian Birchall, Pluto Press, paperback £1.50/hardback £3.75.



Rusian troops invade Czechoslovakia, 1968: The logical result of Stalin's policies

High-pitch hum from Highgate Cemetery

tion. Stalin allowed thousands of Communists to be murdered on the streets, and not one word about it in Pravda or Izvestia. This was because he had agreed with Churchill that Greece was to fall under 'British influence'. Without backing, the Greek Communist Party treacherously declared their country 'under the sphere of British responsibility' and even supported a regency.

In Germany the Communist Party had suffered terribly, but several local committees on which communists played a leading part were to be found. The British and Americans destroyed them when encountered. The Russians

ordered the dissolution of all spontaneously-formed bodies.

Stalin was making sure that there was to be no interference with the carve-up of Germany by the Great Powers.

The book unfolds a picture of treachery unparalleled in history. Wherever true communism tried to force itself through it was destroyed. In Indo-China the Trotskyist Tia Sang group knew that the struggle had to be extended and presented the British troops, who had come to take over that sector under the Potsdam Agreement, with insurrection. The Communist Party-controlled Vietminh saw to it the leaders of the

Trotskyist opposition were quietly murdered.

Birchall asks: 'Was revolution possible?' The answer must be for the reader to decide, but the only answer he or she can come to is yes, it was possible. It was only the lack of vision of the so-called Communist Parties that prevented it.

The same lack of vision they now present to the working class, and that is why the Communist Party, of Great Britain at least, is a paper party, full of paper people. This is why they should read this book and find out what they have become.

Control

In Chile Allende found out too late what the betrayal of revolution was. It cost him his life. The conviction that the parliamentary system will bring the Communist Parties power will, and has been up to now, their undoing.

The workers must take control.

The words at the end of the book sum everything up:

'To whom does the worker in our country sell his labour? To those that have at their disposal the means of production, in other words to the central political bureaucracy. On account of this, the central political bureaucracy is the ruling class.'

Under marxism there is only one ruling class, and that is the class that rules itself, those that produce and own the means of their own production, those that control their factories, the workers. It is long past time the Communist Party realised that. Communism is one thing, the Communist Parties are another.

International Socialism

Monthly Journal of the International Socialists

This year's miners' strike had more political impact than any other industrial struggle for 50 years. It led directly to the general election and the defeat of the Tory government. Yet the strike itself was remarkably quiet and when it was over, a large section of the work-force, the surface workers, were left with their claim unmet. And although the miners broke Phase Three, other union leaders are accepting cuts in their members' living standards under Phase Three on the grounds that the miners were 'a special case'.

In the latest issue of International Socialism, Bill Message provides an account of how pressure for a struggle built up in the industry, of how the decision to strike came about, and how the union leaders then kept militancy to a minimum and went for a settlement that left out in the cold many of their own members and all other workers suffering under Phase Three.

The article provides all the evidence needed to prove that the words of national union officials are not to be trusted, however militant they sound. 'Fighting leadership', it concludes, 'is not a matter of personalities; it can only be guaranteed when those elected are held directly accountable to their members . . . by building a movement within the union that is capable of acting independently then leadership from above is lacking.'

Elsewhere in the journal, Kath Ennis writes on the way capitalism forces narrow and constricted lives on women, and on the way in which a revolutionary socialist organisation has to take up the issue of women's oppression. Mike Miller describes the background to the latest upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland. Duncan Hallas continues his fascinating account of the revolutionary ideas and tactics developed by the Communist International before Stalin's rise to power.

20p per copy (inc post) £2.10 for 12 issues, from IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2

The Cockney suffragettes

THE suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst 'saw that the fight for women's rights could not be separated from the struggle for socialism. From such women we have most to learn,' wrote Michele Ryan of Bradford on this page recently.

She was writing of the first of the TV series about the suffragettes, *Shoulder to Shoulder* (BBC2, Wednesdays at 9pm).

The fifth and sixth episodes to be screened next, and the following, Wednesday deal specifically with Sylvia's agitation and organising in East London. The following article gives the background to the East London Federation of Suffragettes during the First World War.

IN 1914 the long awaited breach between Emmeline Pankhurst and her socialist daughters was made public with Sylvia's expulsion from the Women's Political and Social Union.

Sylvia reports that the split came because 'we had more faith in what could be done by stirring up working women than was felt at headquarters, where they had more faith in what could be done for the vote by people of means and influence. In other words they said they were working from the top down we from the bottom up.'

Mrs Parsons, a docker's wife from Canning Town, put it more bluntly still: 'It was a good thing to have a separate party in the East End from the West End, as they did not say anything about our work in the East End at the meeting at the Empress Theatre and that Sylvia Pankhurst is our leader down here; they have their own two leaders.'

Sylvia had moved in 1909 to live at Bow at the house of the Paynes, who were both shoemakers, and began to build suffragette branches with the help of a handful of middle-class friends who shared her politics.

She first approached known radicals, but soon attracted a core of working-class women leaders who were born agitators. Women like Charlotte Drake, ex-barmaid, labourer's wife and mother of five, Melvina Walker, a one-time ladies maid and, like many of Sylvia's sup-



Sylvia Pankhurst in the East End



Sylvia as played by Angela Down on TV

porters, a docker's wife, whose scandalous inside stories of high society made her a favourite speaker, and Mrs Creswell, a mother of six and married to a paint factory worker who eventually became Mayor of Poplar.

At first the message spread among the tailoresses, serving women, factory girls and wives of Stepney, Limehouse, Poplar and Bermondsey by word of mouth, the minutes recording: 'Membership is growing through afternoon tea parties. The outdoor meetings were not successful; too cold'.

But the colours of the East London Federation, the old suffragette purple and green with red added, were soon seen at early morning dock gate meetings, Mothering Sunday marches, the traditional speaking sites at Victoria Park and Gardiner's Corner—when the male listeners raised the traditional cry, 'Wot about

the old man's kippers!—and on street pitches and outside picture palaces.

The Women's Dreadnought newspaper which exposed the conditions of women home workers, campaigned on behalf of single mothers and the victims of hat-pin abortions and published articles on 'The schooling of the future' and 'Red Russia'. It sold about 8000 copies, with the Bow branch holding the record with a regular 800 a week and a claimed 1600 one week.

Some sellers complained of the police, the difficulty of selling to immigrants who could not speak English and of male hecklers who 'crowded but did not buy... giving us a very rough time'. But these problems were countered by determined and imaginative publicity campaigns with late-night Dreadnought 'chalking parties', 'red stickybacks' and the

hiring of a pleasure boat in Victoria Park from which were unfurled parasols spelling out DREADNOUGHT.

Sylvia found her first real happiness among the Poplar Cockneys, who despite her middle-class backgrounds took her to their hearts, calling her 'Our Sylvia' and providing her with a bodyguard called Kosher Hunt, a local prize fighter.

Meanwhile Mrs Pankhurst and Sylvia's sister Christabel, while stepping up the apparent militancy of their campaign for the vote, were actually lurching to the right. After years of painstaking and exhausting constitutionalism, the WPSU was virtually transformed into an upper-middle-class urban guerrilla army, autocratically commanded from a secret HQ in Paris.

Immediate

The prospect of martyrdom and glory did not appeal to the working women who had until then supported the suffrage campaign. The ladies broke the windows but the working women hung back. Sylvia's sustained community organising in East London tried instead to get to grips with their more immediate problems—food, rent, and working conditions.

The East London Federation campaigned against government calls for food rationing. When bread prices went up, they suggested: 'Someone should go into the shop and ask for it at normal prices and if it were refused, go and get a number to back her up and then take it'.

They tried to start a 'No Vote, No Rent' strike but the idea was rejected by the WPSU because 'it was impossible to work it through their organisations as their people were widely scattered and it is only in working-class homes that women pay the rent'.

In 1918 Miss Smyth reported that at the last meeting of the Poplar Trades Council she had suggested that 'the Russian example be followed and the empty houses in any part be commandeered for people now in the work-house. This was supported by other delegates



British Labour and the Russian Revolution—this pamphlet is a reprint of 'What Happened at Leeds' which was prepared from reports in the Daily Herald and first published in 1917. The Leeds Convention of that year was called by the United Socialist Council, stimulated by the events of the Russian Revolution. It attempted to unite the fragmented British left, bringing together political figures as different as Ramsey Macdonald, and Tom Mann and Ben Tillet, two of the great rank and file leaders. This is fascinating reading, and there is an interesting introduction by Ken Coates (40p) **History of the Bolshevik Party**—an illustrated edition of Grigori Zinoviev's account of the development of the revolutionary party from its beginnings in the 1880s to its victory in 1917. Written while Zinoviev was president of the Communist International. (£1.50)

Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p for books.

Available by mail order and direct from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and directly only from IS BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Coventry Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

If I could I'd live in a tent...

CATHERINE WATKISS and her husband Stuart live with their two young children in South Elmsall. It's a mining village in Yorkshire—near Pontefract.

They live in Stuart's mother's house. She lives there too, with five teenage children of Stuart's late sister.

Here Catherine tells her story of a family's search for a house: 'Nobody has got round to 'reclaiming' a piece of land for the Watkiss family to live on yet. Though Wilson said something about 'nationalising building land'...

WE have been staying here for two years now. We have a room of our own that we share with our two children, Sean is nine and a half months and Michelle who is three. The room is little bigger than a box-room.

My late sister-in-law's three teenage boys share another room and her two daughters have the smallest room. My husband's mother, who is a pensioner, has to sleep on the settee downstairs in the living room. This room is always full of smoke because of a faulty chimney, which means that she never has a full night's sleep.

We applied to the local Labour council in June 1972 for a council house. When I knew I was having my son I went back to the council

and asked if there was a shorter list we could go on. They then put us on the Minsthorpe list at number 66.

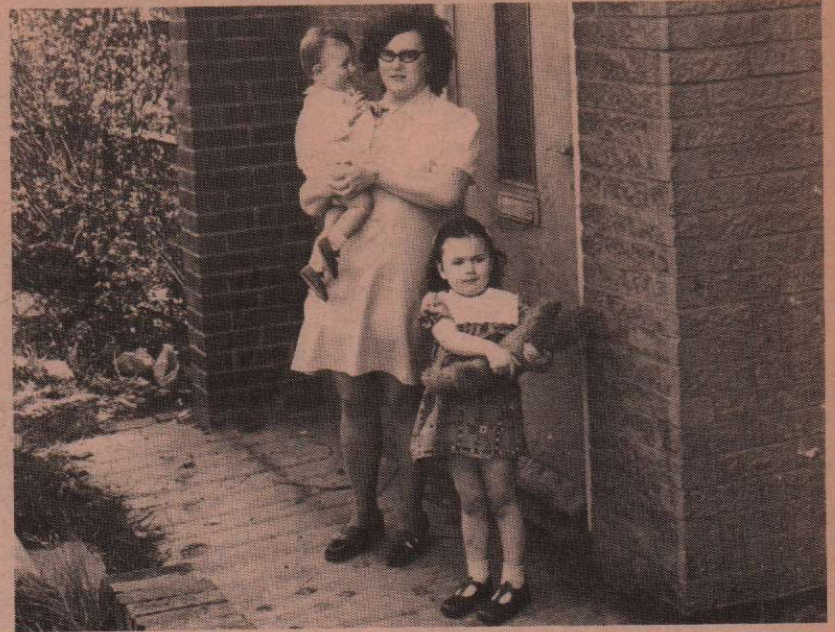
My pregnancy was a difficult one due to the overcrowding. The midwife sent the welfare department to see if they could help. We applied to be put on the priority list a while before Sean was born, but it was not until he was two months old that we were put on it.

Priority

During this time of waiting my husband and I have gone out at night, after the children are in bed, looking for some place to stay—only to be disappointed so many times. I myself have walked the streets with the children day after day chasing ghosts. Every time I have heard of a possibility I have gone. We can't afford to buy a house either. If we could we should have had one a long time ago.

We have asked for help from our local councillors, one of whom has a reputation for getting things done, but all he said was that we were lucky to be on the Minsthorpe priority list since normally there wasn't one for this area.

During this time I have watched my daughter Michelle turn from a happy well-balanced child into a



Catherine Watkiss with her two children

miserable scrap of humanity. She is being treated by the doctor for her nerves with phenobarbitone, but he has now taken her off this in case she becomes addicted to it. She wets her bed frequently, has tantrums and cries a lot. There is hardly a night passes when she isn't awake, sometimes until three or four o'clock in the morning.

We have had some help from a local reporter who has printed our story in the local paper and we have joined the International Socialists during our stay here. I myself suffer from severe depression, but since we joined IS the help and understanding we have had from our

new friends has been marvellous.

There has been a house empty for three weeks now in the area where we are supposed to be getting one, but despite inquiries there is no sign that we shall be given it. There are empty houses on other estates in the area. I don't know what we can do now. If I could I'd live in a tent.

I know there must be a lot of families worse off than we are and when I think of all that, and when a council can treat people like this, especially when there are houses standing empty, I don't think that we are all as free as some people like to make out.

Dave Widgery on when the women's movement first turned to the working class

and as a result the Bow Council was meeting on Thursday at 5.30 to receive a deputation on the subject.

The Federation was accustomed to working with local men trade unionists. They joined the general campaign against the 'Sweated Trades' and particularly took up the cause of women finishers who sewed buttons and seams on soldiers' trousers and demanded that 'if a woman does a man's work she shall have a man's pay'.

In return union branches of the Stratford gasworkers and the Stratford and Bromley railmen heard women speakers on Adult Suffrage, and the trades councils turned their members out on suffrage demonstrations.

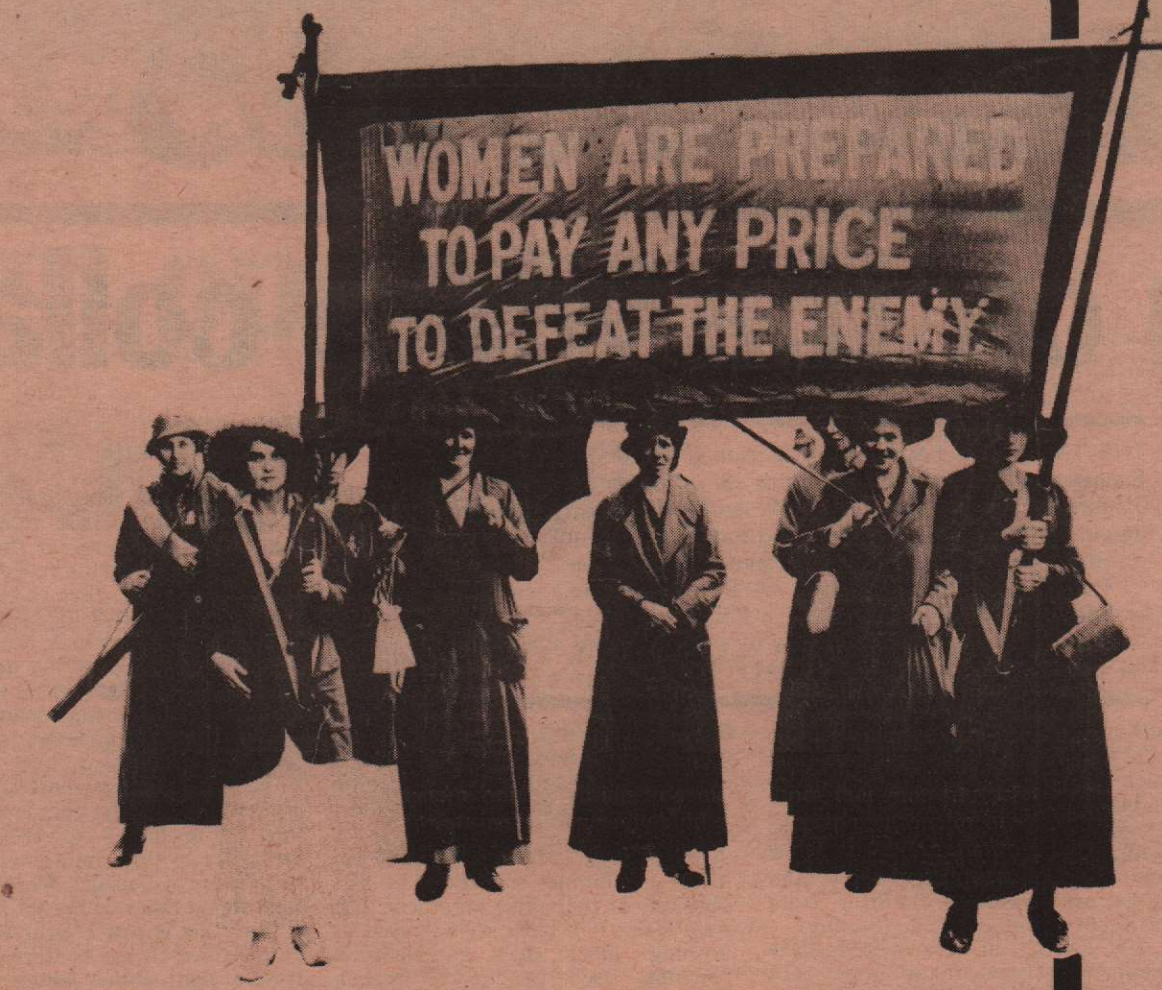
The scale of these activities is hard to estimate but an impressive degree of organisation must have been necessary for the People's Army of Defence to have drilled men and women recruits in street fighting tactics against the police. They turned out 700 people armed with staves and marching in tight formation.

Sylvia spread her ideas to other industrial towns in Britain and lectured in Denmark, Norway, Budapest and Vienna on socialism, suffrage, education and child care. She had particularly close links with the Clyde engineers.

But the activities in East London were in continual danger of caving in under sheer weight of misery. The Federation had to create places where working-class housewives could meet and support each other practically before it led them on to the streets and into the grim cells of Holloway Jail. A toy factory was started in Bethnal Green for workless women and run under a kind of workers' control with equal pay.

From it sprung a creche where 'working mothers can leave their babies for the day at a charge of 3d a head. For this the children receive three meals, the loan of suitable clothes and are cared for in every way'.

A pub, The Gunmakers Arms, was converted to a maternity centre, The Mothers Arms, with a resident nurse, cheap mater-



nity foods and hygiene and health talks. By 1915 mother and baby clinics had been set up in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and West Ham, connected to Dreadnought readers' groups.

Cost-price restaurants linked to the paper served stew and rice and meat pie and potatoes in Bow and Poplar. In Walthamstow a League of Rights was set up by the wives of soldiers and sailors.

Self-activity

It is true that by 1917 the East London Federation had not produced great results. The distress relief always tended to become a disguised form of revolutionary charity instead of the working women's self-activity that was intended. What with people running off with the cash, the co-operative factory being bankrupted by commercial firms and the maternity nurse watering down the milk, only the remains of the Federation's private welfare scheme remained to be taken up by Poplar Council.

And Sylvia's fierce and consistent opposition to the war, although applauded by the Scots engineers and Welsh colliers, cut her off from her old friends in East London. Hope

came only from afar, from the Bolsheviks and the Soviets in Russia. It was to them and to the Communist Parties being organised throughout the world in the glow of the Russian Revolution that Sylvia and her supporters turned.

Like most British socialists, she was probably unsure what exactly Bolshevism was and certainly unclear about its relationship to her feminism, but she was to adopt wholly for the next few years its aim, the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

As she told the judge who tried her in 1919 for agitating among the forces: 'I started four clinics and have sat up night after night with the little ones. I also set up a day nursery but all my experience shows me it was useless to try to palliate an impossible system. It is the wrong system and has got to be smashed. I would give my life to smash it'.

Further information can be found in the *Radio Times Special guide to the series (30p)*, Sheila Rowbotham's paperback *Hidden from History (£1.50)* from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4 (please add 5p postage) and Hannah Mitchell's *The Hard Way Up, a working-class woman's account of the suffrage movement, which is out of print—but your local library may have a copy.*

Socialist Worker would be glad to hear your views on the series.

No fascist passed that day!

SOME months ago a book of poems was published called *Elders*, poems with a difference because they were all written by working-class people of pensioner age and the proceeds went to the London Trade Union and Joint Old Age Pensioners Committee.

The poems are worth tracking down. They are sharp, sarcastic and without a trace of sentimentality. Poems about what ten bob found in the street means to someone on a pension, poems about what it means to measure out your week in small change, poems about approaching death.

One pensioner poet, Millie Harris, wrote about her youthful memories of the East London street fighting between Oswald Moseley's blackshirts and anti-fascist demonstrators.

Eva Widdowson, a Manchester teacher and member of the International Socialists, particularly enjoyed Mrs Harris's poems and told this to Chris Searle, the London teacher who helped put together *Elders*, after she heard him speak at a meeting in Manchester.

It turned out that Millie Harris was now living in Manchester. Eva tracked her down and talked to her about what East London was like in that October in 1936 when working-class London stopped the fascist march and Moseley complained: 'This is the first time that the British government has openly surrendered to the Red Terror.'



This is the poem:

*We stood at Gardiner's Corner,
We stood and watched the crowds,
We stood at Gardiner's Corner,
Firm, solid, voices loud.*

*Came the marching of the blackshirts,
Came the pounding of their feet,
Came the sound of ruffians marching
Where the five roads meet.*

*We thought of many refugees
fleeing from the fascist hordes,
The maimed, the sick,
the young, the old,
Those who had fought the fascist
lords.*

*So we stopped them there at
Gardiner's,
We fought and won our way.
We fought the baton charges,
No fascist passed that day!*

'Well the fascists had been active in the East End for a long time,' Millie Harris told Eva. 'They would come storming in with their gangs. Once they overturned a bus. Once my mother saw them throw a little boy through a plate glass window at Gardiner's Corner.'

'The left was also active. Much of the activity was organised by the Communist Party about bad housing and high rents. There were marches and demonstrations. Fascism, unemployment and racketeer landlords were discussed together as parts of the same system. There was a left-wing bookshop at Aldgate which became the casualty centre on the day of the big battle in Cable Street.'

Stopped

'The fascist march was planned as the climax of a long campaign. They boasted they would blast right through the East End and show us. The march came from Tower Hill, and was planned to go up Leman Street and Aldgate aiming for Victoria Park, which was a sort of East End 'speakers corner'.

'But we stopped them. The police had to divert them down Cable Street to try and get them through, but it was no use, we stopped them there too.'

'Thousands of people who had never taken part in politics before turned up that day, both Jews and non-Jewish people. Before the demonstration, I was not very in-

involved in that sort of thing but I felt I just had to go this time.

'I went to fetch my brother. His wife was frightened to let him go—but he pointed out he would keep out of trouble looking after me, so she agreed. A boy was killed that day and hundreds of people were injured so her fears were well-founded.

'When we got there the place was black with people. There must have been 6000 people in Aldgate alone. There was an overturned lorry across Cable Street and the housewives who had filled buckets full of slops and filthy water stood in the first floor windows all along the road, ready to throw them down on the fascists as they passed.

'The police charged the crowd to try and clear the demonstrators away and let the march through. They appeared to be always on the side of the fascists. At one point one of them was about to hit my brother and me, but we quickly said: "We're just going through" so we got away that time.

'After that day the fascists still held their meetings, down at Lime House Town Hall and elsewhere, but they didn't grow. The fact that we stopped them so they couldn't get through the East End as they had boasted—that was a real smack in the eye for Moseley. It turned the tide against them.'

ELDERS is available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, price 39p, including postage.

The bad Mister Goodall

THE Awe-ful Mr Goodall is awful. If it has not occurred to you that TV is a weapon in the ruling class armoury (which it is) then watch Mr Goodall at work.

A couple of weeks ago he was finding out why a senior civil servant had attempted suicide. It was the same old stuff about a civil service super-clerk becoming a security risk because of her personal life, the sort of stuff we've seen a thousand times before except that the new slant—so the telly people claim—is that character takes precedence over plot.

This, presumably, refers to the character of Goodall, which is presented as the essence of all those strengths and virtues that built an Empire, won two world wars, shot unruly wogs, kept a stiff upper lip and now keeps the red manace at bay. The script gives Goodall the opportunity to deliver little speeches along these lines, together with protestations of his love and reverence for queen and country.

It's ludicrous. What we are really being fobbed off with is an idealised picture of how the ruling class sees itself and how it wants us to see it. It's amazing that there are still hacks who will take money for writing this sort of drivel, which assumes the rightness of reactionary, militaristic jingoism without question or criticism.

In fact Goodall, with his cultured smoothness, smiling politeness and twinkling eyes, is the officer who gently cajoles the prisoner, calls him 'old chap', gives him a cigarette, then leaves the room while the NCOs stick the boot in.

I make this last point since it demonstrates the ruling-class tactic of 'divide and rule'. As long as one section of workers can be persuaded to assault another section then 'heros' like Goodall can show up to maintain the status quo in the name of 'freedom', 'democracy' or 'law and order'. This applies even to civil servants and potential blackmailers.

If you must watch *The Awe-ful Mr Goodall*, then consider what Goodall represents, what he is defending, and from whom.

JOHN PRANCE

PREVIEW

SUNDAY: ITV, 10.15pm. Second play in *CHILDHOOD* series is *AN ONLY CHILD*, about a boy growing up in Cork at the time of the Dublin Easter Rising of 1916.

MONDAY: BBC-1, 10.15pm. Enid Blyton sold 85 million books by 1967. She is the subject of *SUCCESS STORY*. 'What has never been clear is why so many adults have been angered and upset by her books,' says the blurb. Answer, because they are racially prejudiced, class prejudiced, sexually prejudiced and bloody awful.

TUESDAY: BBC-1. Jack Charlton, manager of Middlesbrough is profiled in *TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY* at 9.30pm. The third part of *THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE* is *THE ABBOT OF HOKE-YO*—about the leader of the Zen-ai Kaigi, which combines loyalty to the Family and the Emperor with militarism, an efficient gangster network and alliance with the government. Red Star of the week 10.40pm.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 8.45pm. *OUTRAGE* is the fifth installment of *SHOULDER TO SHOULDER* on the suffragettes increasing militancy, and the girl who threw herself under the King's horse on Derby Day. Lance Percival, who has never had an original idea in all the times that viewers have been forced to watch him, had, according to ATV, the original idea for *UP THE WORKERS*, ITV, 8.30pm, a comedy series set in a small Midlands engineering family.

THURSDAY: BBC-1, 9.25pm. Dennis Potter wrote some good plays and later some bad plays, his new play is about a playwright writing a play—which was an earlier *Play for Today*, the new play is called *ONLY MAKE BELIEVE*. Hmm. ON BBC-2 at 7.32pm is *SEE IT THIS WAY* on housing, and why people don't have any.

FRIDAY: BBC-2, 9pm. Federico Fellini is a fine film director, at the time of release *LA DOLCE VITA* packed audiences in as one of those dirty, foreign movies. It is a good film, about Rome, and about 'an aimless and amoral society enjoying the "sweet life".'

THE UNIONS

A stain on the white collar

WHITE-COLLAR trade unionism is nothing new to our labour movement. Militant white-collar trade unionism is.

That militancy was introduced into the traditionally quiet backwater of the office largely by the efforts of one union, DATA, the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association, now the Technical and Supervisory Section of the massive AUEW.

DATA established its reputation as a fighting union in the 1970s. In the boom years of the 1950s the wages of manual workers in engineering had risen rapidly—due in the main to strong trade union organisation on the shop floor.

This left the wages of draughtsmen, designers, technicians and the like way behind. DATA members quickly realised that right-wing leaders and the policies that go with them could no longer be tolerated.

An enormous transformation followed.

In drawing offices, planning offices and laboratories trade unionism was beginning to mean something. Recruitment was stepped up and organisation improved at plant, branch and combine level. Changes were made within the union to ensure that the maximum muscle could be used whenever necessary.

Disputes

Many disputes led to massive lock-outs and victimisation of union activists. Within three years the union took on a national fight for members in shipbuilding, which resulted in a lockout, national campaigns for increased wages, campaigns which involved thousands in strike action, and a lockout at Rolls-Royce Coventry which lasted for weeks.

This is a formidable record considering the union was only about 80,000-strong. It fought these and many other struggles single-handed—and won them!

The question of amalgamation with the AUEW was raised and eventually a ballot of members agreed to merge with the AUEW manual section. The

THE Technical and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (TASS) holds its annual representative council conference in Blackpool next week. Issues raised at this conference will determine the future structure and nature of the union. Many TASS members feel it is the most crucial conference for years.

This article, written by several TASS members who are also members of the International Socialists, outlines the union's record, some important issues now confronting its members, and suggests the way forward to a rank and file movement inside TASS.

advantages are obvious—membership of a union of a million and a quarter members that covers all sections of industry.

But recent experience of relations with the manual section of the AUEW have raised some difficulties, and there are problems resulting from different rule-books and structures.

In TASS, full-time officials have traditionally been appointed, not elected. This relied on trust rather than on accountability, a system that many union members are increasingly doubtful about.

Problems

In the latest issue of the TASS journal Ken Gill, the incoming general secretary, states that in future full-time officials will be elected by the members. But he also says that the present appointed officials will stay in office on the basis of their previous appointment—for life.

At branch level amalgamation could mean something and be effective. But the branches of the four sections of the AUEW are to be kept separate. And the TASS branches will lose their right of access to the executive committee and conference, since these are to be replaced by a small national committee.

Over the past three years TASS has undergone what many union members describe as a decline. The executive has been increasingly reluctant to back disputes. There has been an absence of national campaigns on wages and conditions. The executive has taken a less than principled stand on the victimisation of some militant members.

The journal and newsletter no longer mention current disputes. Instead they are becoming vehicles

for pious claptrap about progressive 'lefts' in the trade union movement or uncritical and apologetic statements about the Labour government.

The Broad Left within TASS was once a genuine reflection of the opinions of the active members. The past few years have seen it used as nothing more than an electoral machine, used to exclude certain militants and socialists from office in the union.

Of course the economic atmosphere has changed enormously since the 1960s. But for the TASS leaders to urge moderation in a period of growing capitalist crisis is to lead

the members to demoralisation through inactivity.

When the leaders of any union refer to a situation as hopeless due to the apathy of the rank and file, then they must also consider the type of leadership that has led to this.

The truth is that TASS is no longer seen as a fighting, campaigning union by its members. Many must now feel that the former democracy and traditional fighting power of the union are being undermined by a leadership more and more detached from its members.

Next week's representative council conference in Blackpool will bring into focus many of these issues. Delegates to this conference who are supporters of Socialist Worker will be fighting on these and other issues.

But this is not a fight which can be confined to the conference alone. It is a fight about issues that concern every TASS member in the office and factory. That is where such issues have to be raised—with the rank and file. And that is where any movement concerned with democracy and fighting power must be based.



KEN GILL

How the postal workers union helped a militant...

POST OFFICE management in Oxford have been breathing immense sighs of relief in the past fortnight. They have successfully victimised the man who was central in bringing independent and determined trade unionism into the Oxford telephone exchange.

And despite a clear-cut case they have not met with any real resistance from the Union of Post Office Workers at national level.

Gordon Mowbray became a telephone operator in 1966. By 1970 he was branch secretary of the UPW night telephonists in the Oxford exchange.

After long bitter struggles with

local Post Office management, he achieved some significant results in the face of indifference from headquarters and usually against their advice. For example, he gained an overtime agreement which for the first time gave full-time telephonists the opportunity of doing reasonable amounts of overtime.

He also managed to stop the management practice of falsifying service observation—testing the time taken by operators to answer waiting signals and operating efficiency—to justify understaffing. On both issues the effective attitude of union headquarters was 'there's nothing you can do—don't stir things up.'

Gordon Mowbray refused to let the inertia and conservatism of union headquarters prevent him fighting for the best interests of his branch.

By 1971 the Post Office, in breach of the nationally agreed disciplinary code, had embarked on a campaign which was to lead to his dismissal on the 10 April this year. Union headquarters, despite frequent attempts to involve them, made no attempt to intervene on his behalf at any stage.

The so-called grounds for Gordon's dismissal were his supposedly persistent failure in handling a reasonable workload, and his 'attitude' to supervision. Other more trivial charges were made but later dropped, presumably because they might be too difficult to prove.

The main allegation against Gordon was that when his work was tested it fell far short of the expected quota. Management insisted he was achieving only 128 points per hour.

Suspect

In theory the points per hour should average around 200. But the work measurement ideal does not correspond with reality. The average for all workers has been shown by the branch to be 125-130 points.

The charge that his attitude was unreasonable and 'not conducive to the achievement to good staff relations' is similarly suspect.

There is no yardstick for measuring 'attitude'. And to defend yourself is, of course, a sound indication of the 'wrong attitude'.

An appeal was eventually launched

by union headquarters against the dismissal, after considerable pressure by the Oxford branch. One might expect the appeal to be in the strongest possible terms, refuting the charges and insisting they be withdrawn. All the relevant figures were supplied so this could be done, as well as the most detailed dossier on the background of the case written by Gordon Mowbray himself and confirmed as accurate and objective by two general meetings of the branch.

Disagreed

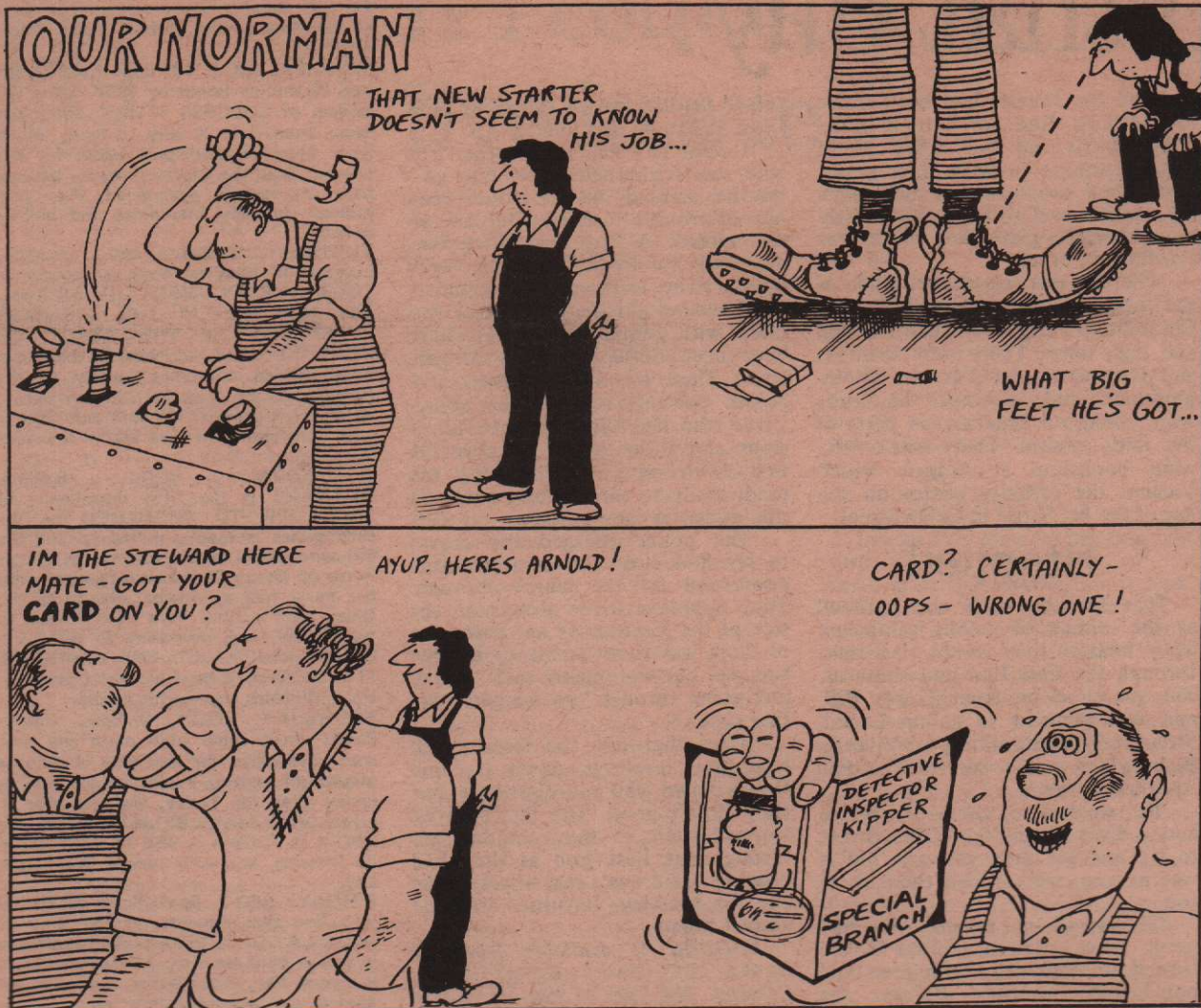
But the appeal was off-hand and almost apologetic. It was written by George Forsyth, assistant secretary of the UPW, to the Director, Eastern Telecommunications Region, in Colchester and dated 20 March. It makes interesting if rather bland reading.

'In the course of carrying out these duties he disagreed vigorously on a number of occasions with management proposals and decisions. Mr Mowbray alleges that his dismissal is an act of management revenge, ie victimisation. I would want to make it clear that I am not making this particular allegation as the basis for an appeal.'

The last sentence is particularly instructive. 'Under all the circumstances I would ask you to give the most careful consideration to this appeal with a view to reversing the decision or at least mitigating the severity of the punishment of dismissal.' [Our italics]

It seems hardly surprising the Post Office rejected such a mild appeal, and Mr Forsyth duly informed the Oxford branch the matter was closed, but not until Gordon Mowbray's last day at work. In fact Gordon was never personally informed of the result.

Why Forsyth failed to argue along the lines given to him by the branch and why the UPW has made no attempt to continue the fight is open to question. But one can justifiably conclude that both regard the present unemployment of one of their most capable and dedicated branch officials, and the total collapse of their own credibility in at least one branch, with perfect unconcern.





Campaign opposes ban on street sales

BRIGHTON Town Council is out to extend the local by-laws against 'Hawking and Touting' to the few streets at present exempt.

Behind this effort to protect the people of Brighton from gypsy fortune tellers and itinerant menders of pots and pans is an attempt to give the police official legal backing for their harassment of sellers of Socialist Worker and other left-wing newspapers.

The announcement was made in the small print of the public notices section of the local paper.

A committee which includes members of IS, the International Marxist Group, The Revolutionary Communist Group, the Labour Party, the NCCL and local community organisations and newspapers has organised

a campaign against this, defending the right of workers' organisations to sell their newspapers. It has attempted to link local problems with the general national moves towards increased repression.

Action taken has included a mass street sale every Saturday morning, a petition to the Home Secretary which gained more than 2000 signatures, the arrangement of a public meeting on May Day, the winning of support from Labour Councillors who will raise the issue at council meetings, and an attempt to gain the support of the local Trades Council. This has agreed to petition the Home Secretary, but refuses to have anything officially to do with the public meeting. It is dominated by the Communist Party, in whose ranks the campaign has caused some confusion.

Recent events have also caused some embarrassment for the guardians of law and order. Conversations at the street sale normally take the form of a puzzled 'Ere, ere, Wot's all this then' followed by a quick knees-bend and an effort to assume an intelligent expression. Last week, one sergeant restrained an over-enthusiastic constable who was threatening charges of obstruction and breach of the Queen's Peace, telling him: 'Get yourself out of here. They know more about the by-laws than you do.'

Machine

The police oversee applications for street-sellers' licences and have been refusing one for Socialist Worker for four years.

Due to local council reorganisation, it is not certain when the bureaucratic machine will next move into action. Till then, the committee hopes to mobilise support, to make this issue a live one in Brighton, and to fight not only for the right to sell in the few streets which are allowed, because of an oversight by those who framed the original law, but freely anywhere in the streets of Brighton.

VITAL MEETING FOR I.S. MINERS

ONE of the most important meetings ever organised by IS is to be held in Blackpool on the weekend 18-19 May. It is for all IS miners and their immediate contacts in the NUM.

The response to the school has been excellent. More than 50 miners have already filled in application forms. The weekend will be split into five sessions on the history of the Miners' Union, the history of the left in the union, the structure of the NUM, the building of The Collier paper and the Rank and File Movement, and the building of the fraction, Socialist Worker and the pit branches. On Saturday evening there will be a film showing of The Battle of Algiers.

Although there has already been a response from every pit branch of IS in the country, it is crucial that IS branches in mining areas organise the maximum attendance at the school.

Time to build, say builders

MANCHESTER:-The IS building workers group held a one-day school on Saturday. The morning session was kicked off by Laurie Flynn who talked about the employers in the industry, how they were organised and how they operated. This was followed by a lively discussion ranging from the organised graft and corruption which dominates the industry to ways of exposing and fighting this.

MANCHESTER IS district conference: District perspectives. Sunday 28 April, 2.30pm. Same venue as previous conference. All members to attend. Creche provided.

CENTRAL LONDON IS district day school: Perspectives for work among women. North London Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, NW5. Saturday 4 May, 1.45-5pm. All district members to attend. Credentials from Irene Brueghel, 83 Queens Crescent, NW5.

LETCHEWORTH IS public meeting: Life under Labour-socialism or the social contract? Speaker Hugh Kerr (IS National Committee member). Tuesday 30 April, 7.45pm, Community Centre, Jackmans Estate, Letchworth.

MANCHESTER District IS May Day Rally: Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and Mickey Fenn (NASD London docks). Wed 1 May, 8pm, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford. All socialists and trade unionists welcome. Admission 10p.

BARNET IS May Day meeting: Which road to socialism? Speakers and film. Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, Bull and Butcher, High Road, Whetstone.

BRITISH LEYLAND IS public meeting. Speaker: Joe France (American IS—Detroit carworker). Friday 26 April, 8pm, Birmingham IS Books, near Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

BRADFORD IS May Day meeting: The Labour Party and the struggle for socialism. Speakers: Duncan Hallas (Socialist Worker) and Jim Singleton (Standard Triumph, Liverpool). Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, Star Hotel, Westgate.

BARNESLEY IS public meeting: Free the Shrewsbury Six. Speaker: John Llywarch (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury). Thursday 2 May, 8pm, Devonshire Hotel, Barnsley.

BARNESLEY IS social to raise funds for Shrewsbury pickets: Saturday 4 May, 8pm, The Red Lion, Worsborough Bridge, Folk groups, theatre group, music, food, bar. Tickets 20p. All welcome.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: IS and the local elections. Speakers: Elmo Eustace. Thursday 25 April, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road, Twickenham.

NEWBURY IS May Day Fair at The Plaza, Newbury, 7.30pm: Socialist Theatre, from CAST, 8.30pm: The Way Forward. Speakers: Tony Cliff, Gerry Kelly (UCATT) and Michelle Ryan (Birmingham IS). 10.30pm: Late night film—Salt of the Earth. All socialists and trade unionists welcome. Admission 25p.

CHESTERFIELD IS public meeting: The Labour Party and the employers' offensive. Speaker: Roger Kline. Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, The Spread Eagle (opposite police station). All welcome.

DEAL IS public meeting: What is socialism? Speaker: Duncan Hallas (Socialist Worker writer). Sunday 28 April, 7.30pm, The Mill Inn, Mill Hill, Deal. All welcome.

STEVENAGE IS public meeting: The General Strike. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Thursday 9 May, 8pm, Bedwell Centre, Bedwell Crescent. All welcome.

COLINDALE AND HARROW IS Jumble Sale and Bazaar: Saturday 27 April, 12 noon till 3pm, Co-op Hall, Masons Avenue, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex. Proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

STEVENAGE IS social: Friday 3 May, 8pm, The Red Lion, Stevenage High St, Old Stevenage. All welcome.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE IS public meeting: Chile since the coup. Speaker: Chris Harman (editor, International Socialism journal, and writer for Socialist Worker). Wednesday 1 May, 12.45pm, Civil Engineering room 207, All welcome.

TWICKENHAM IS open meeting: Socialism through parliament? Speaker: Cecily Hastings. Thursday 2 May, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road, Twickenham.

EAST LANCASHIRE district IS public meetings: Why Labour won't fight. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 2 May, 8pm, Windsor Castle Hotel, Egan Street, Preston. Friday 3 May, 8pm, Blockade Hotel, King Street, Accrington.

PADDINGTON, FULHAM and HAMMER-SMITH IS public meeting: Trade unions, the government and the struggle for Workers' power. Speaker: Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Thursday 2 May, 8pm, The Workers Music Hall, 236 Westbourne Park Road, London W11.

GREAT YARMOUTH IS public meeting: The Coming Crisis and the Way Ahead. Speaker: Tony Cliff, Great Yarmouth Town Hall (Supper Room) Friday 26 April, 8pm. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

WEST MIDDLESEX IS public meeting: The World in Action film REPRESSION IN CHILE, plus a speaker from the Chilean resistance group Chile Lucca, and a shop steward from the London Royal group of docks. Monday 29 April, 8pm, George and Dragon, High Street, Southall.

TOWER HAMLETS IS Social: Saturday 27 April, 8pm, Films, Bengali music, discussion. Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1.

TEESSIDE IS Social for the opening of new premises and bookshop. Tickets on the door. Wednesday 1 May, 8pm, 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough.

BRIGHTON IS public meeting: Free the Shrewsbury Six. Speakers: John Llywarch (building worker convicted of picketing at Shrewsbury) and Alan Watts (AUEW). Thursday 2 May, 8pm, Prince George pub, Trafalgar Street, Brighton.

GLENROTHES IS public meeting: The socialist alternative. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Tuesday 30 April, 7.30pm. Tenants Meeting Hall, Auchmuty, St Regulus Gdns.

ABERDEEN IS public meeting: The socialist alternative. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Wednesday 1 May, 7.30pm. Music Halls, Union Street, Aberdeen.

DUNDEE IS public meeting: The socialist alternative. Speaker: Jim Nichol. Thursday 2 May, 7.30pm, Trades Council, 6 Allan St, Dundee.

MK branch of IS, North London, presents
ROCK AND ROLL FROM THE FLYING SAUCERS
One of London's leading bands plus Rock and Roll disco at The Nightingale, Wood Green, London N22. Friday 3 May, 8pm. Admission 50p. Bar extension to 1am. Tickets and information from 01-348 2041. Discount on tickets to IS branches. Proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

IS AGIT-PROP want a projector operator/driver to take socialist film on national circuit over ten days in late June. Expenses plus. Contact Roland Muldoon at 01-734 5795.

WOMEN'S VOICE: latest issue printing this week. Branches please phone orders to Harlow 37205.

SMALL ROOM in IS flat, Southall. Available immediately. Phone Jenny at 01-977 2318 after 6pm.

SOCIALIST WORKER NEEDS A WORKER to: 1. Establish firmer contact with IS branches and district committees, encourage, bully, promote more articles from workers for IS; 2. Act as office manager, getting some kind of order out of the chaos—running a minimal filing system, picture filing, manning of phones and taking of copy down from people who ring in; and 3. Take charge of pictures—the finding of pictures from agencies and photographers. Main requirements are experience of IS and knowledge of it, some ability to type, a good temper. Apply to the Editorial Board, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-739 9043.

BUILDING WORKER: latest issue now out. Articles on Shrewsbury, property sharks, electricians, UCATT conference, the fight ahead. 3p plus 3p postage from Building Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

LUTTE OUVRIERE fete: Festival for revolutionaries near Paris. Stalls, music, theatre, film, etc. in revolutionary socialist setting. Saturday-Monday 1-3 June. Discounts for IS members and Socialist Worker readers. Write now for details to Box F, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, 8 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.

With one bound Jack was free...

SINCE the momentous events of 1972 the docks have been unusually silent. The main reason is that after the 1972 national strike the dockers declared an amnesty to give the Jones-Aldington Committee time to look into and solve the problems of our industry.

Now, after nearly two years and 32 meetings, the 16 man committee have produced a 16 page report. It gives dockers absolutely nothing.

All it gives is the employers' 'determination' never to unload men on to the Unattached Register. The port employers are not world-famous for keeping their promises. Even so, this was the very least Jones-Aldington could hope to get away with.

The Unattached Register was the flashpoint for the whole 1972 campaign. Then we had more than 500 men on the unattached in a state of permanent limbo between dole queue and a regular job.

But it was only a symptom. Jones-Aldington does nothing to cure the disease that afflicts the docks industry. It just applies make-up to the spots.

In the past 10 years dockers have seen dock after docks closed down around them. We've lost 31,000 jobs in seven years.

The reasons for this industrial genocide are simple. Having milked uncountable millions out of generations of dockers, the employers have invested some of that money in container depots and ports outside the Dock Labour Scheme. Where they can avoid the levies and responsibilities of the ports covered by the scheme.

They don't have to contend with the traditional militancy of registered dockers. They don't have to meet the manning scales and wages that were won over years of bitter struggle. Most important: outside the Dock Labour Scheme the employers have got absolute control over hiring and firing.

Jones-Aldington does nothing to put an end to this. All it recommends is that the government take some kind of action if there is still a 'significant' use of casual labour by 30 September this year.

But the difference is: most of these pirate ports have long outgrown casual labour. They are too big, with too much investment tied up in them. But then Jones-Aldington has a block-buster up its sleeve. It also recommends that: 'All undertakings which handle containers should satisfy themselves that these requirements have been met'. This is like asking Richard Nixon to check his own tax returns.



JACK JONES: The report has got his union and the port bosses off the hook

by Bob Light (TGWU)

Jones-Aldington offers no cure for the problems of the dock industry because there is no cure until every single container base and every single port is inside the Dock Labour Scheme. Not because as the press makes out, we want to get all unregistered dockers pushed out of their jobs. At the one major container base we won in 1972, Chobham Farm, not only did the unregistered men keep their jobs, but they got a nine-hour cut in the working week and a £10 wage rise.

In fact it's now obvious that the Jones-Aldington Committee itself was never anything more than a dirty manoeuvre to 'stabilise' an extremely difficult situation. In other words to get both the unions and the employers off the hook.

By the end of the three weeks strike, the employers were getting desperate. The Transport Union in particular was in danger of losing

control of the situation. For years, it had allowed the employers to ride roughshod over dockers. What little action it took was through the law courts. To no one's surprise we lost 34 out of 35 cases. The case we won involved two jobs.

By the end of 1971 the position had reached crisis level. It was then that the National Port Shop Stewards Committee seized the initiative and started their guerrilla campaign to win back our work. The success and the tactics of the committee frightened the life out of the union which set about trying to jump on the bandwagon—so they could apply the brake.

Disarm

The aim of Jones-Aldington was simple: to defuse the explosive situation on the docks, and to disarm the national stewards' movement. And up to now they've had some success.

Jones-Aldington has promoted a deep complacency among dockers. And the unions will only go as far as they are pushed.

The National Port Shop Stewards Committee now have the task of breaking that complacency and of picking up again the campaign of blacking and picketing.

For Jones-Aldington has proved once and for all that we'll get nothing out of pleading in the oak-lined boardrooms of the employers' city offices.

As long as our industry is driven and geared by the lust for profits, dockers will have to stand up and fight to safeguard their future. From now on the place we must make is that stand on the picket line.

SIXTY POLICE STORM SIT-IN

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire: Police broke into the Strachans factory early last Friday morning and evicted the workers sitting-in in an attempt to stop the factory being closed.

The bailiffs had appeared on the Thursday morning with senior police officers to enforce a court order requiring the pickets to leave the premises. The pickets refused.

In the evening, when a police move against them seemed imminent, the occupying workers decided to barricade themselves in, but to offer the police no physical resistance. Shortly after 8pm, the police cordoned off the factory and the 30 pickets settled down to a long cold wait.

At 5.50am on Friday several van loads of police arrived. Amid a crashing of glass the first policeman forced his way in through the kitchen window. Within ten minutes the police were in complete control of the factory.

Seen in the light of this police intervention, the company's 'red scare' was an attempt to turn public opinion against the occupiers. Now Fowler, the Strachans managing director, is saying the sit-in delayed the sale of the factory. He claims the sale will provide many new jobs, which is rich coming from a firm that's just scrapped 600 jobs.

REMOVE

Mike Marshall, joint union committee secretary, takes up the story: 'On leaving, we locked all the doors on the outside and our picket is there. We have not lost any of our occupation force. We have still got the company tied up. We have the means of getting back into the factory at any time.'

'The company is unable to move any equipment out because they can't remove our locks. And if they did they have still got to open the doors to get things out.'

'We have not lost this fight. We will not lose this fight. The only difference between now and last week is the temperature.'

A delegation from Strachans visited Sheffield last week, raising £100 for

their strike fund in two days. The best response was from workers at Batchelor Foods and promises of more money came from Firth Brown, Firth Brown Tools, British Acheson, Davy United, Snows and Shardlows.

In two days on Tyneside £130 was raised. Steward Andy Nagle said: 'We have only just begun visiting areas away from Southampton to inform trade unionists about our dispute and to get support, and the response we have got here on Tyneside has been really encouraging. Our meeting with Coles Cranes stewards was particularly useful because they fought and won a similar dispute to ours last year and were able to give us a lot of invaluable advice.'

Donations are still urgently needed and should be sent to T Hann, c/o TGWU, Transport House, 67-71 London Road, Southampton.

The gnomes of Yorkshire

WORKERS at Rio Tinto Zinc's Capper Pass smelter near Hull accepted a wage offer of 7 per cent plus a threshold agreement last week after management said they would pay a lump sum bonus of two weeks wages on top of it.

The men at first unanimously rejected the offer after an inspired speech from Transport Union official Peter Grant on the arrogance and rigidity of the management. But then there were more talks between stewards and management and RTZ agreed to the bonus. Another mass meeting accepted it by an overwhelming vote.

Attempts to get details of the threshold deal were fobbed off with references to the Labour government's 'social compact' with the unions. After it was accepted the details became known. Payments are only to be made when the cost of living rises by 15 per cent, more than twice the usual threshold.

If members had accepted the first offer and prices rose 15 per cent, RTZ would have had to pay out £3.20 a week above the Phase Three rise. But now they have to pay only £1.30 a week in the lump sum bonus.

Clever stuff yet again from the gnomes of Yorkshire, saving £1.90 a week per man. They definitely play a major part in squeezing out RTZ's £225 million-a-year profits.

Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

ROOM, FLAT SHARE OR FLAT needed in London. Phone Peter 01-733 5150.

TWO AMERICANS looking for London flat for June and July 1974. Prefer North London but not essential. Reply to Julia Wrigley, 1217 Rutledge Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, USA.

CARTOONS: From £1 for IS branches and rank and file papers. Send details to Phil Evans, 18 Windsor Road, St Andrews, Bristol. Phone 421956.

FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS in North Wales: within easy reach of the station, fishing, friendly pubs, pony trekking, frequent transport to the coast, bring your wellies... Six-berth self-contained caravan, all mod cons, £10 per week. Bed, breakfast, evening meal and packed lunch, £10.50 per week—reductions for children. Phone Chirk (069186) 2272.

HARROW/HILLINGDON Socialist Women's Group forum: History of the women's movement. Monday 6 May, 8pm, Baptist Church, College Road, Harrow. For further information call Jacky, 01-204 3358.

FISH OUT OF WATER. Important documents Towards the Development of The Revolutionary Movement. Pamphlet available at most left bookshops or send 18p to: Autonomous Revolution, Box Number 253, c/o Rising Free, 197 King's Cross Road, London WC1.

REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS RALLY organised by International Marxist Group, Saturday 4 May, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Further information from IMG Student Commission, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.

MARCH AGAINST THE HOUSING ACT: Saturday 27 April, 2pm. Assemble at Charter House, London SE7. Clay Cross organisers and pipe band. Organised by Greenwich Tenants and Residents Campaign Committee.

CONFERENCE ON SHREWSBURY MOTHERS: Organised by United College Trust, Cambridge. Conference, April 11-13, 1974. Speakers: Emma, April, Susan, Catherine, Barbara, Emma, at United College, Shrewsbury. Further information from Shrewsbury Mothers' Campaign, 200, The Strand, London WC2R 2AL.

LAW AND CLASS—Company law and capitalism. Fifth in a series of meetings. Speaker: Harry Rajak. Tuesday 7 May 6.45pm, Room 510, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, London WC2. Admission free. Organised by the Haldane Society.

WORKERS FIGHT public meeting: Roy Ratcliffe on The Triple Alliance and the lessons for today. Sunday 28 April, 7.30pm, Golden Lion, Britannia Street, Kings Cross, London N1.

CANADIAN LEFT CONFERENCE: Weekend 27-28 April, St Antony's College, 64 Woodstock Road, Oxford. Speakers and discussion on: Origins of New Left in Europe and America; Organised Labour in Quebec; Extra-parliamentary alternatives in Canada; Working with Women in the trade unions; Community Politics; Nationalism and Socialism in Canada. For details contact: George Boshyk, 59651 extension 207 (Oxford).

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST Society for Protection of Unborn Children March—which 'mourns' the passing of Abortion Act. Counter Rally against Reaction, assembles Speakers Corner, London W1, at Noon, Sunday 28 April. London Ad-Hoc Committee against SPUC (01-863-2294, 01-863-6089, Sue Spilling).

FLAT WANTED for September in Birmingham for two comrades. Telephone Leicester 833821 and leave message.

COMRADE needs accommodation in North London. Can only afford £5 rent per week. Phone Jim 348 3881. Urgent.

RAYMOND and JEAN NORMAN are pleased to announce the birth of a son, George Owen, on 7 April. Greetings from us to Lowestoft Group.

Two public meetings at Caxton Hall, London SW1 Tuesday 14 May, 7.45pm THREATS TO IMMIGRANTS AND EXILES Speakers: Fritz Eflaw, R A Hashini, Dave Clark Wednesday 29 May, 7.45pm THREATS TO CIVIL LIBERTY Speaker: Benedict Birnberg Organisers: National Secular Society, 696 Holloway Road, London N15.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a new world community without frontiers based on common ownership with production solely for use not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all religions, all forms of racism, all war. Write for specimen copies to: The Social Party, 50, The Strand, London WC2R 2AL.

£10 WAGE CUT -because of bosses' attack on union

LANCASHIRE:-GEC's Ruston Paxman Diesels factory at Newton-le-Willows is again the scene of vicious management practice.

Two weeks ago members of the supervisors' union ASTMS walked out in protest against the management's failure to respond to their wage claim. Night-shift workers were then told they were being laid off without pay because there was no supervision.

This instruction was read out to night-shift workers by the night-shift superintendent who, though he is an ASTMS member, went into work.

The night shift refused to listen to him and a man from higher up the management tree was called in. He came out with the same line. The response was to lock him in the gatekeeper's lodge until the night shift was given the right to work their shift.

Management schemed a reprisal for this smack in the eye. The next week's night shift were laid off without the lay-off pay they are entitled to under the guaranteed week agreement.

Dispute

This is the sort of thing management engages in every spring. They provoke a dispute with the white-collar workers and then lay us off. They then try to wear down the Engineering Union members with a long dispute. They did this in 1972 with the engineering pay claim and then again last year with the victimisation of a shop steward.

After each dispute union organisation at the plant has been considerably weakened and wage rates have dropped accordingly. Some

workers estimate up to £10 per week fall in earnings over the past six months as shop-floor agreements and the ability of the union organisation to defend wages is being eroded.

There is strong criticism from the shop floor about the lack of decisive lead coming from the convenor and shop stewards committee. Without such a lead individual militants who are worried about the possibilities of isolation and victimisation are unlikely to take the actions needed to organise a fight back against GEC.

The other tack the management adopted this year was redundancies. Three weeks ago they sacked 270 shopfloor and office workers. They handpicked their targets in a blatant attempt to get rid of good trade unionists. In the absence of a clear lead from elected trade union officials there was no fight back.

Whose side are you on, Danny?

'DON'T ROCK the boat, was the dominant theme at this year's Scottish Trade Union Congress. One national union Executive Committee, six trade union branches and seven trades councils had protested at the STUC's attack last October on the Glasgow firemen.

But not one delegate rose on Tuesday morning to move reference back of that disgraceful part of the General Council's report.

The Standing Orders Committee, run by a majority of Communist Party members, castrated the militant resolutions against Incomes Policy.

The composite motion that was carried unanimously is important because it generally opposes Labour's decision to keep the Tory pay laws, but it carries no commitment to action and makes no mention of the 'social compact'.

It just 'urges the Labour government to (a) rescind the anti-inflation legislation; (b) abolish the Pay Board; (c) provide the basis for an immediate and irrevocable return to free collective bargaining.'

The one mention the 'social compact' got was in a right-wing emergency motion from the shop workers' union, USDAW, that 'welcomes the efforts being made by government and the TUC to implement' it.

But to ensure that no real division took place, and that no-one would even refer to the phrase from the rostrum, the left-controlled General Council simply decided not to find time to discuss it.

Action

Jack Jones, Transport Union General Secretary and keenest publicist for the 'social compact', left Congress on Wednesday so he missed the pay debate.

He returned to London for a session with Lord Aldington on the future of Britain's dockers. Brother Jones, OBE was present, however, on Tuesday when he voted in favour of a resolution congratulating 'those members of the Trade Union and Labour Movement who do not accept nor participate in the charade of the so-called Honours List.'

Scottish UCATT Executive member, Danny Crawford deplored the savage sentences on the Shrewsbury pickets, but also launched a vicious attack on them.

'By trial by jury,' he said, 'these lads have been found guilty by the law of this country. Violence and intimidation is the same thing whether it's committed in Santiago or Shrewsbury.'

At this the roar of protest forced him to finish. The majority of the 400 delegates knew the answer to the question posed by the following speaker, Ken McMillan from East Kilbride Trades Council: 'Whose side are you on, Danny?'

Congress overwhelmingly passed the motion which called on the government to release the pickets, but, unfortunately left it at that.

The issue that raised most enthusiasm was, as is customary at the STUC, international solidarity with workers fighting oppressive regimes in distant parts of the world. Such solidarity is vital, and the motion condemning Labour's decision to send the four warships to the fascist Chilean Government was important.

Recoiling from real militancy on domestic issues, like wage restraint, oppression in Ireland, the Special Branch and so on, many of the delegates polished up their middle-aged consciences by being militant in the away-matches.

Heinz means lies!

NORTH LONDON:—Following last week's report in Socialist Worker about the mass meeting at Heinz, the Transport Union Convenor saw fit to put up a slanderous notice attacking so-called extremists on the factory notice board.

He denounced the Heinz International Socialists and supporters of Socialist Worker for allegedly discrediting the union and misleading branch members. He even went as far as to accuse one IS member in the plant of causing redundancies when he was a shop steward at a previous job.

Heinz IS have put in a leaflet refuting these allegations and slanders and demanding a formal apology at the next branch meeting.

This is the first time for many months that the convenor has seriously attacked anyone and it is directed against fellow trade unionists rather than management. No member of the rank and file in Heinz who read the Socialist Worker report has so far disagreed with it. On the contrary, many have said it was 'too mild'.



Big march against the lump

PRESTON:—Several hundred people, led by Hogarth's Brass Band, marched through the town centre last Saturday demonstrating against the Lump. The demonstration was called jointly by UCATT and TGWU, the construction and transport unions, and included building workers from all over Lancashire.

At a meeting afterwards six speakers attacked the Lump, but only Stan Thorne, Labour MP for Preston South, connected the campaign against the Lump with the Shrewsbury pickets. He said it was necessary to link these and other issues in the fight for a socialist programme. He illustrated the 'cracks in Labour's socialist policies' by telling of meetings with Cabinet Ministers over Clay Cross and warships for Chile.

He said everyone must put maximum pressure on Labour in demanding the release of the pickets and the abolition of the Lump.

GUTTER PRESS IN LEAGUE WITH LEYLAND

by S W reporter

'WORKERS in, militants out' and 'Sack Thornett' were among the slogans carried by 200 demonstrating wives of British Leyland workers at Cowley on Monday.

This movement of wives has attracted massive publicity both nationally and locally—especially in the local Oxford Mail and a scurrilous advertising paper called the Oxford Journal which has found its way through most Oxford letter-boxes.

How did this tragic situation come about?

On Friday 5 April, the British Leyland Transport Department, where Alan Thornett is a shop steward, walked out in a dispute over layoffs. The following Wednesday management withdrew recognition from Thornett as a shop steward. Since then the strikers have been prepared to meet management on the issue as long as their full delegation of elected shop stewards is present—and that includes Thornett.

The company have refused to budge—so the 150 drivers have stayed out. As far as they are concerned, management do not

have the right to determine who shall or who shall not represent the workers.

John Symonds, the plant director, who refused to meet an elected delegation of shop stewards and find a way to end the strike, welcomed with open arms a completely unrepresentative delegation of local wives.

The wives plan to hold another demonstration at the Transport Union's local office and a public meeting in the town.

Resign

The union's reaction was to bend to this pressure. Instead of reporting their determination to back Alan Thornett to the hilt, the local Automotive Committee passed a resolution calling for 'an inquiry by an appropriate body into Mr Thornett's conduct as a shop steward and deputy convenor'.

Meanwhile, a right-wing group of trade unionists in the plant have called on all the senior shop stewards to resign and stand for re-election. In particular they singled out Alan Thornett.

Now that Thornett has been attacked, they are demanding a mass meeting of all

Transport Union members in the factory to decide whether or not to support Thornett.

Twelve thousand Cowley workers have been laid off for more than two weeks by the dispute. Because of previous disputes, several thousand of these have received little wages over the past four or five weeks. And this immediately follows their losses during the three-day week.

The company have deliberately provoked these disputes. They brought in industrial engineers with stop watches. They laid off drivers while there was still production in the factory. They withdrew recognition from Alan Thornett.

The company want a showdown. They want to break shop-floor organisation. They have taken a consistently hard line over the past year. As a result, strikes have usually ended in defeat and this has led to a divorce between the shop floor and the union leadership.

Trade unionists throughout the car industry must remember what is at stake in Cowley. If Thornett goes, the right to elect stewards goes too. If Thornett goes, British Leyland, using the age-old weapons of press witch-hunt and provocation, will have won a great victory.

They will extend their campaign into other plants—against other militants and stewards. So Alan Thornett needs the full support of trade unionists throughout the industry. He needs it now.

Getting worse with Shell

TEESPORT:—The 180 members of the 8/347 branch of the Transport Union have withdrawn labour from Shell UK's Teesport Refinery after the intimidation of one of the members by management.

Transport Union members at the refinery imposed an overtime ban and a ban on signing clearance certificates for maintenance workers after three years of moderate but fruitless negotiations to bring manning to agreed levels.

But then Malcolm Brown was approached at 5am last Friday and ordered to sign a clearance certificate. He declined and was immediately given a first 'warning letter'. After two such letters the next step is the sack.

The union branch chairman then in-

sisted that management withdrew the letter since it was blatant victimisation of a member carrying out a union decision. Management refused hoping the branch would back down.

Over the weekend the members shut down and made safe the refinery and on Monday morning went out on strike.

The strike is the first major dispute since the Teesport refinery was opened six years ago. It has already led Shell to divert three crude oil tankers which were bound for Teesport.

To their horror the ships have been blacked throughout Britain. One of the main reasons for the solidarity is that other Shell workers have been fighting for the same things for months.

MILITANCY IN THE AIR

HEATHROW:—Cabin crews working in the Overseas Division of British Airways have voted overwhelmingly for strike action to improve conditions of work. The men and women involved are demanding a reduction in working periods from 12 to 10½ hours and an increase in pay to compensate for anti-social hours.

The British Airways Stewards and Stewardesses Association have called for strike action from 7 May and have requested the parent organisation the Transport Union to declare their action official.

A mass meeting to brief members has been called at the Excelsior Hotel, near Heathrow for 6 May.

Hawkers workers sit-in for parity

by Phil Liston (AEUW)

MANCHESTER:—2000 aircraft workers at Hawker Siddeley at Chadderton staged their first ever factory-wide sit-in strike on Monday in support of parity with the final assembly plant at Woodford near Stockport.

The sit-in took place amidst growing resentment against a piecework system which has never been made to pay and has constantly kept the Chadderton workers £6 below the Woodford average.

Some sections of pieceworkers are on a non-negotiable system which has a lot of similarities with measured day work. Other sections operate a more conventional system being able to fight over the times.

Between these two systems is a link which gives the non-negotiating side a percentage of the negotiable pieceworker's monthly increase.

Management's offers have so far included the seven per cent allowed under Phase Three and £2 in October to be given to sections who in their opinion are underpaid. There is also a vague proposal for a pilot flat rate scheme to be introduced for six months on one section only.

None of these offers were accepted and on Monday shop stewards were pushing for a £39 minimum piecework earnings level. If achieved this would put an end to the divisive tactic used for so long by management here of splitting one section from another.

On Tuesday a mass meeting accepted a settlement which did not fully meet this. Although the increases for some seemed quite favourable, in any case they came no way towards overcoming the split within the factory. We remain quite reliant on a management-controlled piecework system.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

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Help us put your side of the argument

THIS WEEK carworkers' wives in Oxford, who allowed themselves to be used to weaken the British Leyland strike, were on every front page in Fleet Street. Suddenly the daily papers have become full of pious drivel about the plight of strikers' wives, for whom the press lords have nothing but contempt for during the rest of the year, except as potential customers of baked beans and underwear.

Every week Socialist Worker sets out to put the other side of the argument, putting the real issues behind the strike and the voices of the men and women who the Sun insults every breakfast time. And we show how housewives' real interest lies not as political pin-ups in the Fleet Street comics but as equal partners in the struggle to transform this society.

Our readers know this. They, like us, are proud of the paper. And they show it by putting their hands in the pockets. This week shipbuilders at Scotts, Greenock, sent £6 and London International Telephone Operators sent £21 for our Fighting Fund.

Among IS branches sending money, most of it collected from readers, were:

Maidstone £1.17, Hackney £18, Lewisham £3.25, Capper Pass £2.50, Leicester £6, Bath £5, Wigan £10, Oxford District £8.50, Cardiff £10.

The grand total for this week was £259.64, bringing the total so far this month to £1136.93.

We quite literally depend on our readers to keep our head above financial water. If you agree with Socialist Worker, organise a whip-round and show us how much you care.

Please send to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DS.

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

ARROW
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£400 NOW!



Members of NALGO assembling for the march to picket the TUC. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

EMPTY THE TOWN HALLS

THE ISLINGTON branch of the government officers' union—NALGO—is in its third week of strike in support of the £400 London weighting claim.

As militancy builds up more members are demanding action. But other pressures are coming from Employment minister Michael Foot and are directed to the TUC. In turn the TUC are pressing the NALGO leadership to call off action.

But Islington is fighting—and other areas are increasingly militant. The branch has been holding two meetings a week. These have been attended by over 1000 on every occasion.

The Strike Committee has co-ordinated appeals, demonstrations and leafletting in other boroughs. A successful rally and march attracted 2000 and lobbied parliament, picketed the union's national executive, and went on to the TUC.

Last Monday the branch passed a motion demanding that the union call all Inner London branches out from next Monday. 'There is a lot of work that needs to be done to make the strike effective' pointed out one striker.

Stabbed

There certainly is. The NALGO leadership finds itself in the forefront of the struggle against Phase Three—but they are planning little apart from token gestures. 'Without escalation we're on our own' pointed out another striker. 'The NEC is talking about overtime bans and selective action but that isn't enough. We wouldn't need to be stabbed in the back—we'd just dry up.'

With 1500 already on strike the NEC last week decided to bring out only another 26 members in London. They snubbed the TUC's intervention—but haven't backed it up. Yet plenty

NALGO members call for all-out strike

of London branches are in a position to call out large sections, if not all, of their membership. Where strikes have started the rank and file have demanded their fullest extension.

Apart from action within the union the Nalگو Action Group, which publishes the rank and file paper Nalگو Action News sponsored a London-wide meeting with teachers and civil servants last week. The meeting decided to establish links with other unions in dispute over London weighting—and to hold a large scale rally.

These moves have taken place in the absence of any similar moves from the union's official leadership. Next Monday at noon NALGO members will join teachers in Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC1, in a march and lobby.

The struggle has opened up the union. 'We've gained hundreds of new members over the last year,' said an Islington militant. 'And it's not just in Islington but all over London.'

'It is a combination of the scandalous pay situation and the growth of the rank and file. The General Secretary of NALGO, Geoffrey Drain, came round and congratulated us all, "Well done, I'm proud to be associated with you, you're making NALGO history," but then he stabbed us in the back!'

An Islington NALGO shop-steward put the issues on the line.

'The NALGO boycott has put the May local elections in jeopardy. London's social services will have to come to a halt before Micheal Foot recognises our 'special case'.

'Miners and firemen were special cases—because their strength was in total withdrawal of labour.

'We'll win this struggle when local government workers, teachers, civil servants, Transport and salaried staff workers join forces and build a London-wide movement.'

Messages to Strike Committee, Room 29, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1, 226-5441.

SHOCK FOR THE BOSS

OSSETT, Yorks:—For a long time now the low level of organisation in the Jonas Woodhead shock absorber plant has been a source of great delight and profit to the management.

The workforce composed mainly of women has rarely shown any signs of militancy. Whenever there have been grievances in the past the part-time evening shift, again mainly women and with an even lower level of union organisation, have always proved a stumbling block.

It now appears that those days are over. Last week four men from the day shift worked over into the evening shift at the management's request and in defiance of the national engineering overtime ban. The following day when this was discovered the day shift stopped work and demanded

that the management stop all overtime.

When the evening shift came on half started work and the remainder supported the day shift. Those women on the shift who were union members asked Colin Moore, convenor in the neighbouring coil spring plant to help.

He called a meeting of the whole shift of 100 women and explained the issues involved. 'You've been on your knees for too long, now's the time to get up and fight,' he said.

At the end of the meeting all the women agreed to join a union and elected stewards. The following day the management agreed to the women's demands and also to pay them for the time they had stopped work.

Battle for four days

GLASGOW:—The 570 transport union members at Goodyear's tyre factory are now in the fourth week of their strike. 'What we're looking for,' says convenor Tommy Duffy, 'is the elimination of the Friday night shift without loss of earnings.'

This would mean a two and a half hour cut in the length of their working week. It would be achieved by working the present hours of the rotating three shift system except for Fridays when the shift would be five.

'Our members have been wanting to cut out the five night shifts for four years. We believe the present system is damaging to our health, our social lives and the community. When we put the claim to the management I used some of the arguments from the Hazards of Work book.'

Goodyear offered rises of between £3.50 and £3.60 under Phase Three. But the men unanimously rejected this in favour of giving the lower paid workers £2.50 and setting the rest of the money against the cut in the working week.

Technically this would all be within Phase Three. But Goodyear has refused to concede the workers demand

ALWAYS A VICTIM...

SOMEBODY, somewhere is always being victimised by John Lang, one of the biggest construction firms in this country. At the moment they seem to be concentrating most of their efforts in London.

On the Barbican Arts Centre contract last week 250 men came out following the victimisation of an Indian joiner, Gurdal Singh.

The strikers joined forces with lads from Laing's YMCA contract in Tottenham Court Road, who have been on strike over

the sacking of Jack Kettle, another man suddenly found to be 'unsuitable'.

Len Eaton, UCATT regional secretary, has come up with some interesting ideas about the battle. He has said that if the two men had accepted their dismissal as good lads and put no pressure on the company, he would have been able to get them reinstated.

The truth is that the unions are not putting their energies into fighting the systematic blacklisting of trade unionists by building firms. It's about time they did.

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