

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Labour's new tax: the rich rejoice

THE FIRST two days of this year's grouse season were spoilt by rain, but bankers, industrialists and landowners in the stately homes were raising their glasses in a secret toast—to Labour's 'wealth tax' and to Harold Lever.

Lever is the multi-millionaire financial advisor to the Prime Minister. His pleas in the Cabinet that Labour's wealth tax be watered down to a wash-out have triumphed.

Labour's programme, 1973, promised a wealth tax which 'will be progressive on net personal wealth-holdings in excess of £50,000 at present values and will thereby only fall on the richest 1 per cent.'

But Labour's wealth tax, 1974, only applies to wealth of more than £100,000—that is, 0.2 per cent of the population.

According to the jubilant Alan Day of The Observer: 'It is perfectly possible that, for a time, the new arrangement could slow down the drift towards equality.'

That's because of a whole host of exceptions and allowances which accompany the tax. Chief

among these is the promise that each rich man—and his accountant—will be able to assess himself for tax. As the deputy chairman of Anthony Gibbs' (Personal Financial Planning) told the Guardian: 'I really have not found any tax which could not be legitimately avoided.'

So that's it. The enormous fortunes which are made for a handful of people from the work of the majority are protected from Labour taxation.

Last week Shell, the biggest oil company in Europe, announced its half-yearly profits. They were £567 million—compared with £257 million last year. At least £100 million of this bonanza came from petrol hoarded last winter when the price was low and sold when the price soared in the New Year.

'The advantages'

None of these profits, none of the fantastic wealth available to Shell shareholders as a result, will be endangered by the Labour government's proposals.

Another man who is laughing all the way to the bank is Sir Jack Callard, chairman of ICI. This week Sir Jack has sent an impertinent letter to all his workers pointing out what he calls 'the advantages' of private ownership.

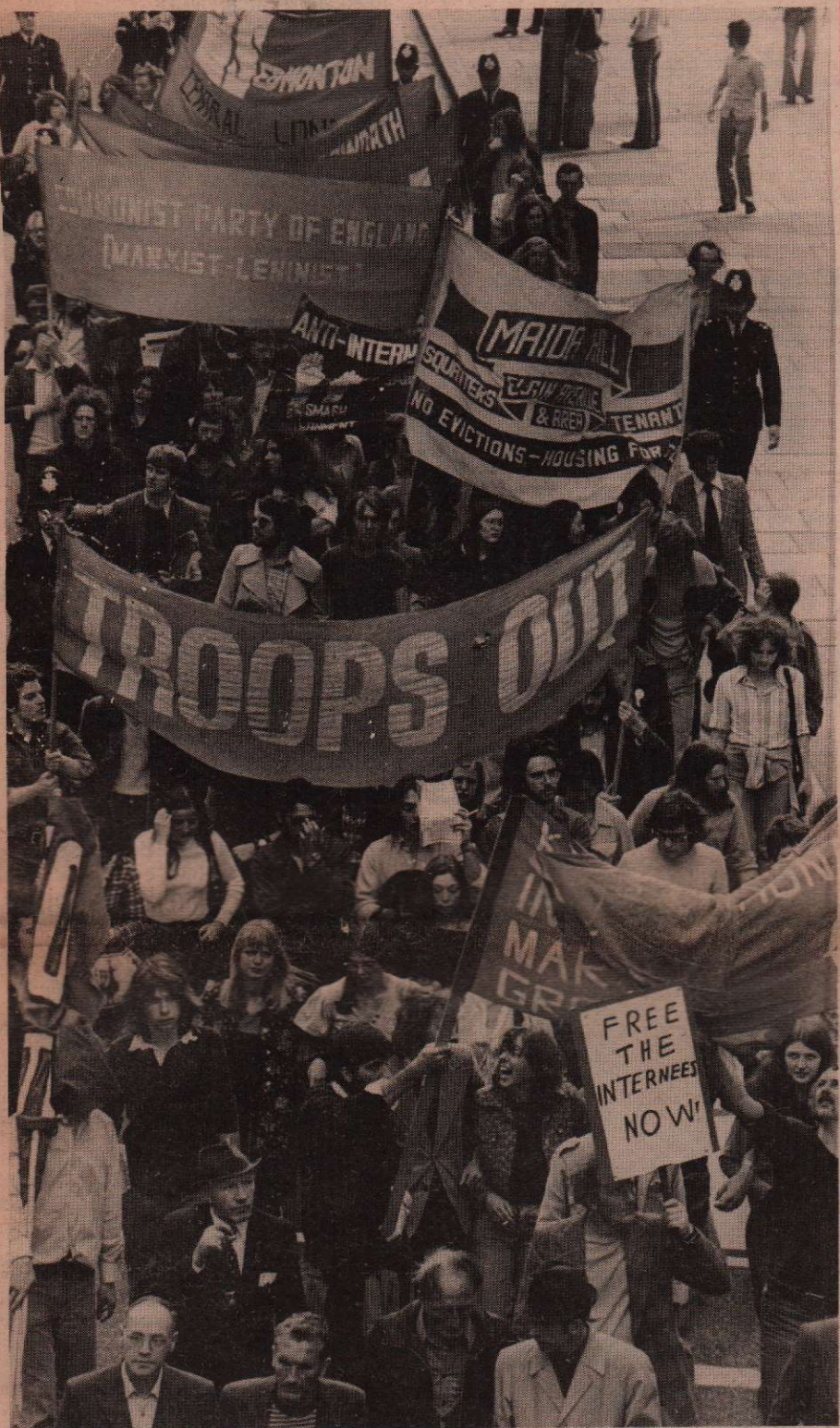
One advantage *not* mentioned by Sir Jack is his own salary—which, last year, was £65,695. That's £1263 a week. Sir Jack makes more in a fortnight than almost all his workers earn in a year—and that's not counting his many thousands in dividends.

Sir Jack wants the Tories in government—because they're his personal friends and class allies. But he knows that if Labour stays in office he and his class allies can buy or bully the government just as they have bought and bullied every Labour government in history.

Shell, Callard, the grouse millionaire—they're all as safe as Harold Lever. But what is the point of introducing a wealth tax which doesn't tax any wealth? The answer comes from 'A City spokesman' quoted in The Guardian: 'I would not mind a wealth tax if it enabled Labour or any other government to institute a meaningful wage policy.'

So here's the policy.

Wealth taxes which tax no wealth and wages controls which control all wages. It's called the social contract.



PART OF the Anti-Internment March from Hyde Park last Sunday. Interruptions to the demonstration came from—the police, who arrested more than 20 people. Most of the arrested marchers were accused of 'wearing political uniforms.'

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)

'A slap in the face for every woman'

THE BIGGEST publishing company in the world, which owns the Daily Mirror, the Sunday People and most of Britain's top-selling magazines, has turned down a mass advertising campaign from the Labour Party which is directed towards women.

And the Labour Party are so frightened at upsetting the Daily Mirror—their only major supporter in the national press—that they are not even complaining about it.

Last month the publicity department of the Labour Party, sensitive as ever to the 'women's vote', dreamed up a massive advertising campaign to woo women to the Labour Party.

The campaign stressed Labour's Equality Bill and other matters (no one knows quite what) which Labour has done for women.

The department wrote to the

International Publishing Corporation, which owns Woman (circulation: 1,841,078), Woman's Realm (948,378), Woman's Weekly (1,802,607) and Woman's Own (1,712,995).

The Labour Party letter set out ideas for four full-page advertisements in each of the four magazines—at a cost of about £20,000.

In late July, the Labour Party received a letter from Mr E G Court, managing director of IPC's magazines division, refusing to publish the advertisements.

Wrote Mr Court: 'Our readers do not expect to see this kind of advertisement in the present editorial context.' Mr Court's letter made it plain that politics—especially politics about women's equality—were out of place among his '20' million readers.

The Labour Party publicity de-

partment drew up a press statement worthy of Socialist Worker.

'This,' it argued, 'is a slap in the face for every woman in the country.' It pointed out that IPC had a 'virtual monopoly' in women's magazines and was 'dictating whether women should or should not take an interest in public affairs.' It was insisting that women should remain 'safely cocooned in a world of dreams, romance, washing-up liquid and underarm deodorants.'

Passionate

This proud statement was then borne by the angry men and women in Labour's press office to the Party's general secretary, Ron Hayward, who was not amused. The Party, he said, had been helped to victory at the last election by the devoted support of the Daily Mirror

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WHO PAYS FOR PRODUCTIVITY?

A smashed hand for that

10 per cent more

ONE OF our mates at Dunlop-Pirelli, Burton-on-Trent, had a serious accident a couple of weeks ago. Just before one o'clock in the morning Brian Armstrong's hand was crushed in the Metallic Bias Cutter.

That Monday afternoon the eight blokes who work this machine had agreed to an efficiency deal which involved increasing production targets from 63 to 92 belts for two operators and from 32 to 52 if there was only one operator. By these weeks later these new targets had not once been achieved.

Brian was on the night shift which started at 10pm that night. The usual machine leader did not turn in so he took over, working with a utility operator who was not fully trained up for the machine.

Throughout the evening they had been in trouble with the machine jamming and a cross movement of the conveyor belt caused by bad sticky fabric. The supervisor had been helping out from time to

This article was published in a recent issue of the Pirelli Worker, a factory bulletin put out by Pirelli workers who are members of the International Socialists.

time because they were falling so far behind the clock.

By one o'clock they were under considerable pressure not having had time for a cup of tea or a smoke since starting. Brian's mate went for his break and Brian was about to follow when the accident happened.

The machine was switched off and with the help of his supervisor Brian was freeing the fabric when his left hand was crushed, causing four bones to be broken and severe gouging of the flesh. Yet nothing could be done for him at the factory except to make a sort of sling, because the management do not take safety seriously enough to employ a nurse on the night shift.

In fact so concerned are they for safety that the machine was used again on the morning shift in the same condition, before a Factory Inspector saw it. Nothing must be allowed to halt the drive for profit.

Later in the day the management admitted the machine was unsafe by getting the fitters to fix two new safety devices. Why should someone have to get hurt first?

For this productivity deal the operators got a 10 per cent wage increase. The deal was accepted after a meeting when a union official told them that the only question was 'Do you want the money or don't you?'

Damage

In fact a lot more is involved. We should fight productivity deals because they increase the chances of injury and in the long term do serious damage to our health.

Pirelli has a great safety record, or so it would seem after reading the local press. They have 'won' two safety awards in recent years. The truth about this is best summed up by a ward sister in a local hospital when she said it was 'laughable'. This obviously meant that a few of her patients had received injuries at Pirelli.

What the papers say doesn't go along with what we know from working in the factory. If any of us look around the shop floor there are numerous hazards knocking about. And there are many others less obvious but just as dangerous, such as noise and excessive heat.

The fact is that accidents are caused, they don't just happen. A couple of examples from the Tyre Division show this.

Years of insufficient cleaning means that the floors are always covered in rubber. Recently an operator slipped and broke his ankle after some petrol had been spilt and turned the floor into a skating rink. Result: five weeks off work.

In one week all three servicemen on one shift suffered injuries to their hands. These were caused by not having enough room to swing their barrows round the corners.

The management are not interested in safety if it costs anything, otherwise they would pay people to keep this factory cleaner, they would ensure that there was sufficient nursing staff, that machines were safe.

Attitude

If anyone is going to fight for better safety it will have to be us, the people who have to suffer the consequences.

We have to fight for a serious attitude towards safety by the union and the management. When you see anything that is, or could be, dangerous report it to the supervisor and shop steward and don't let it rest until they've done something about it.

Some factories may pay average earnings to injury victims while they are off work. We should press for this.

What does the safety committee do? Perhaps we should have safety stewards elected by the workers to fight for greater safety.

We must fight work-systems and productivity deals that worsen our conditions of work.

All these sorts of matters should be taken up at union meetings, which, as we said in our first bulletin, should be held at least monthly according to the TGWU Rule Book. It is now six weeks since the last one, and no plans seem to have been made to have one before the holiday.

Welsh miners injured every day

by Bryan Rees

LAST YEAR was a bad year for the South Wales miners—six were killed, 62 were seriously injured, and more than 8000 suffered injuries of some kind in the pit.

These figures, released in the Coal Board's annual report last week, were the highest for any British coalfield. Yet they were not horrific enough to merit comment by the NCB South Wales Area in their statement on the report.

More important for the NCB was the £30 million loss made in South Wales last year. Already Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, has hinted that some of the £600 million available for investment will not find its way to South Wales.

But NCB investment of the kind that the pits in South Wales need has not been all that noticeable in recent years.

The last new mine that was sunk in South Wales, Blaentillery Drift in Monmouthshire, is still in mothballs—it was never opened.

The Coed Cae drift, near Penceed, closed prematurely nearly 18 months ago, because the NCB sank it in the wrong place.

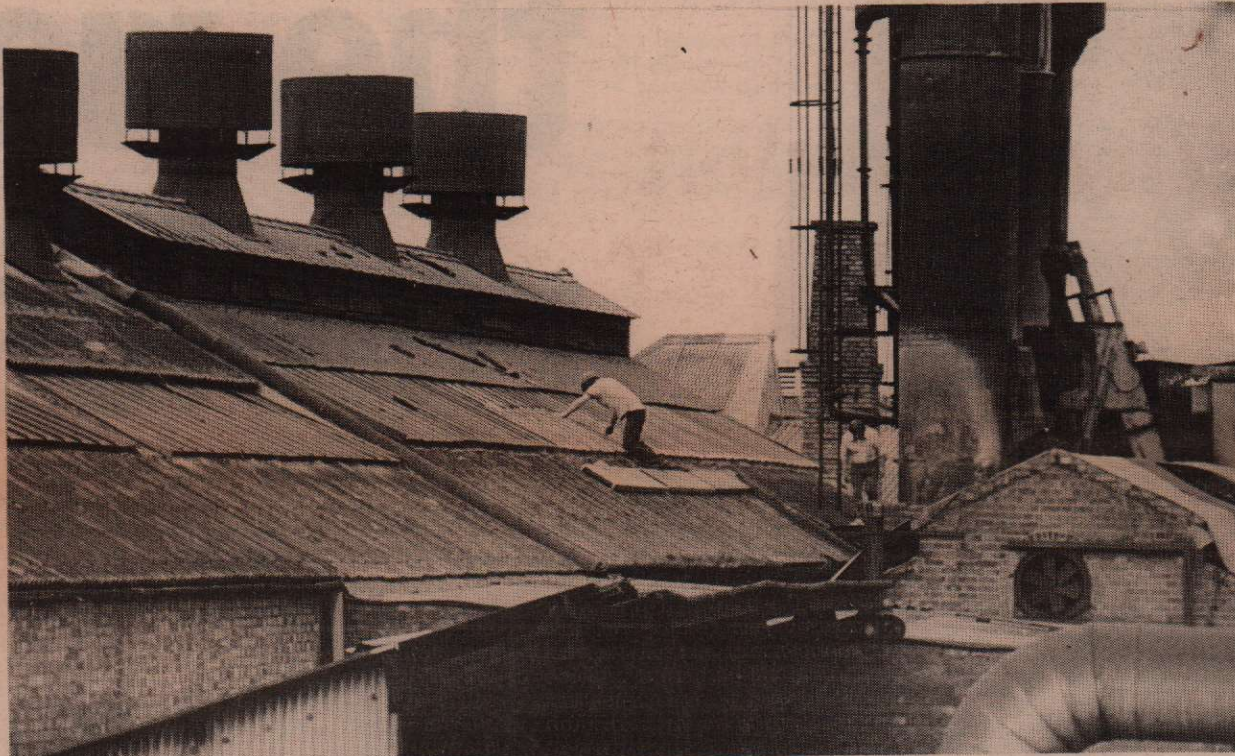
Closures

The massive 'show pits' in the West Wales anthracite field, Abernant and Cynheidre, have had millions spent on them. Supposed to produce more than one million tons of coal each, their combined production is just over a half million tons a year.

The threat of closures still hangs over the coalfield. The latest 'investment', Bettws Drift near Ammanford, will almost certainly mean closures in West Wales. And although the NCB have been forced to postpone the closures of Brynlliw and Ogilvie, it is clear that closures will come. Production targets are in operation at all pits and a productivity deal, based on pit and even individual face output, is on the way.

South Wales is bound to suffer from any productivity deal because of difficult seams. And if the proposals of the NCB for coal production to 1985 are implemented then most of the 49 pits in South Wales will close.

The South Wales NUM responded to the NCB Report with a statement from area president Emlyn Williams. 'We are not convinced that this is the real total loss in South Wales,' he said. 'We have been suspicious over many years that the Coal Board are able to pluck figures of millions off trees and expect the public to accept them without investigation.'



After the explosion: Workers repair the John Jones factory roof. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)



Not so easily repaired: Gurmail Singh, who has injuries to neck, head, chest and hands.

BLAST INJURES EIGHT

THEY'RE repairing the roof at the John Jones factory, Loughborough, after an explosion which injured eight of the 16 foundry workers.

Abudl Quayoom was seriously hurt, but he is more worried about his friend, Arfat Ullah, who may lose his sight.

Gurmail Singh, pictured (left) after the explosion, is recovering from injuries to his head, neck, chest and hands. Most of his hair was burnt off.

Rotten wages at the factory have to be supplemented by heavy overtime. One pay slip shown to Socialist Worker indicated 71 hours had been worked that week—a 10-hour day for seven days. A labourer's pay for a 40-hour week is £26.

Workers outside the factory had plenty of suggestions for the cause of the blast. Some said the furnace was overloaded with castings, and boiled over. The overflowing metal heated the water in a trench—and then the explosion followed. Others pointed to the company's modern method of carrying molten metal between shops—in buckets by hand.

John Jones is owned by Bentley Engineering, which in turn is owned by the multi-millionaire Sir Charles Clore. It's been a bad week for Clore. Another of his Bentley factories has been on strike (see page 14).

Portugal's islands of cheap labour

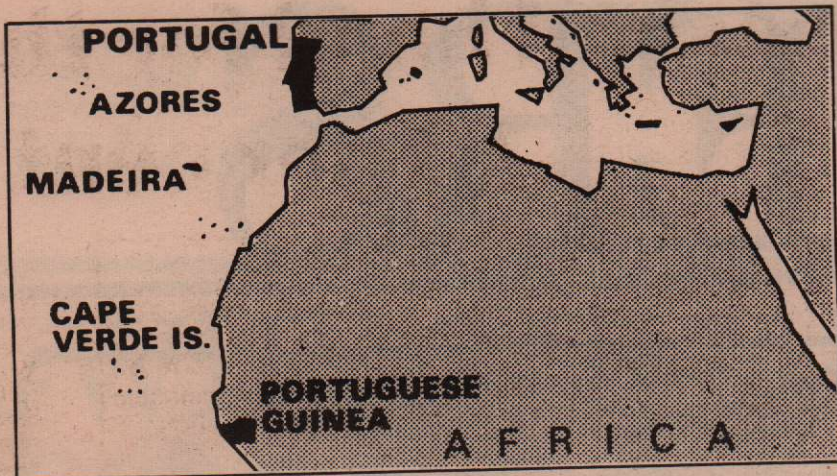
by Anita Sandberg

GENERAL Spinoza, President of the Portuguese Junta, called for a referendum in the Cape Verde Islands (population 270,000), a Portuguese colony since the 15th century. This is an attempt by the Portuguese government to stop the linking of Cape Verde to Guine whose independence is now certain.

The African Party for the Independence of Guine and Cape Verde (PAIGC) control more than two-thirds of Guine. In Cape Verde, the PAIGC is weak militarily, although politically it has the support of the vast majority.

The referendum coupled with propaganda that the islands and Guine are separate geographically and culturally is a deliberate attempt to create artificial divisions.

The PAIGC is expected to accept a referendum in the islands if it gives the options as a link to Guine, a link to Portugal, or Independence. They are certain that the overwhelming majority will vote for the first alternative.



The PAIGC are likely to demand that the referendum is universal, while the Portuguese Overseas Territories Minister, Almeida Santos, has intimated that Portugal might consider 'indirect, non-universal methods of consultation' in Cape Verde—in other words, a manipulated referendum in which the majority would not be allowed to vote, and Portugal could retain a measure of control over the islands.

Airspace

The main reason for this attempt is the islands' strategic importance. Portugal has built a naval base at Sao Vicente and expanded the international airport of Sal so that it can take jumbo jets. This airport is crucial to South Africa because independent African states will not allow South Africa to use their airspace. The Cape Verde Islands are the only route South Africa can use to and from

Europe.

Most important, the islands are strategic to American interests in Africa and Portugal is therefore under pressure from the US government to retain control.

The people of Cape Verde are continually threatened by drought and diseases caused by malnutrition. This has resulted in massive emigration, mainly to Portugal. 100,000 Cape Verdian immigrant workers in Portugal are forced to take on the lowest paid jobs in construction work, mining and service industry.

In Lisbon, two rallies organised by the maoist MRPP were stopped by para-troopers and military police on the express orders of Spinoza. The rallies were called to protest against banning of the maoist weekly Luta Popular, which was said to attack the ideology of the armed forces. At the second rally, 22 people were arrested, and 20 are still presumed to be in jail.

Why Socialist Worker MUST put the price up

by Jim Nichol (IS national treasurer)

WE will have to put up the price of Socialist Worker from 5p to 7p next month.

This decision has been made with great regret and anger. Regret because for nearly two years we have held the price of the paper at 5p. We know well enough how every penny matters to the people who are buying and selling the paper week in, week out. We know how much they have been hit by rising prices of everything else they buy.

We could face the fantastic increases in the prices of services crucial to the paper: telephone and postal charges, rates and so on. These were the excuses used by others to put the prices of everything else up, and we did everything in our power to keep ours down.

Anger because one rise in particular has beaten us—a rise which is brought about precisely by the people we detest. In the past 18 months, while the price of Socialist Worker has stayed at 5p, the cost of newsprint—that's the paper we print on—has risen from £78 a ton to £161 a ton.

We could beat all the other charges—but not this one. This one increased the cost of producing Socialist Worker by many thousands of pounds.

Who benefits from these increased paper prices? Precisely the same people who run the big national capitalist newspapers.

Reed International, the company which owns the Daily Mirror, has 400 subsidiaries, which include at least 20 forests and paper mills in Canada. In other words the people who control the Daily Mirror and whine about the cost of newsprint are the same people who are profiting from that rise! When the Daily Mirror goes up in price, Reed International make extra profits in two ways: from the sale of the more expensive Daily Mirror and from the sale of higher-priced newsprint!

Backed

In a recent speech to shareholders, Reed chairman, Sir Don Ryder said that higher newspaper and newsprint prices were 'here to stay'. Profits have soared at Reed since the price of newsprint started going up. In the past year they rose 63 per cent, from £16 million to £26 million. The other newspaper/paper giants made similar profits from the price increases.

These profits are backed up by the newspaper barons' political beliefs. Without exception, their newspapers have consistently sought to discredit the labour movement. Greedy dockers, printers and other workers are regularly attacked in their newspapers.

Which is not surprising, since the paymasters of the press are the advertisers. At this moment, Tate and Lyle are paying £4000 a page for advertising in all the national newspapers 'explaining' the so-called sugar shortage.

We have no advertising from these sources. We don't make profits from advertising or the price of newsprint. We don't make profits at all. We exist to campaign against a system of society based on profit.

We are proud of our paper and its growth over the past few years.

It must go on growing. But it won't grow if we are hamstrung into cuts in size and quality by the paper bosses' greed for profits.

MISSING FILM MYSTERY

MOST of the cases of the 54 people arrested on the anti-National Front demonstration on which Kevin Gately was killed have still to be heard. Lawyers representing them have been hampered by lack of evidence.

They applied immediately for a viewing of BBC and ITV film taken on the demonstration. The BBC and ITN agreed. They arranged a showing at which those accused and their lawyers could be present.

But each showing lasted less than two minutes and included only the film used in the news bulletins. It was no surprise that this showed the police acting in an orderly manner, showing commendable restraint.

But those watching had been there. Many had suffered truncheon blows. What they needed was precisely the material that wouldn't go out on the news. Where was the rest of the film that had been shot?

'Ah, yes,' explained the BBC spokesman, 'That's been destroyed... You see the film is edited and then the rest... well, it's just thrown away.'

It is clear that film shot on a demonstration after which 54 people were charged with serious offences is of vital legal importance. I seem to remember some case in Washington where some documents and tapes were curiously lost. But then that was in Washington...

UFF join the army in their reign of terror

by Eamonn McCann

FOUR THOUSAND people gathered in the tiny Tyrone village of Trillick on Monday for the funeral of Patrick Kelly, a local publican whose body was discovered at the weekend after a 13-day search. Mr Kelly, a Catholic and an independent member of the local council, had been kidnapped, shot in the head and his weighted body dumped in Lough Eyes.

In telephone calls to local papers the 'Ulster Freedom Fighters' admitted responsibility and promised 'more deaths and more bombings in Republican areas'. The UFF have been killing Catholics at random for the past two years and has now murdered more than 100. They can operate with relative impunity because the police and the army tends to ignore their activities and concentrate their attention almost exclusively on Catholic working-class areas.

In Belfast on Saturday the left-wing People's Democracy organisation claimed that men of the Royal Horse Artillery were conducting a 'reign of terror' in the Short Strand, the small Catholic enclave in the east of the city. The PD detailed a series of incidents in which 12 and 13-year-old children had been beaten up, houses been pulled apart, and men arrested 'for questioning' had been tied hand and foot and dumped into armoured cars, trussed like chickens.

On Sunday afternoon a mixed force of soldiers, police and Loyalist youths attacked an anti-internment march from Belfast to Long Kesh. After the Loyalists had stoned the demonstrators, soldiers moved in with batons and rubber bullets and broke the march up. Some marchers were pursued across gardens and into houses as they tried to escape.

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WHAT WE THINK

Why we say Vote Labour

A TORY government would bring in 'an effective prices and incomes policy,' says Robert Carr. It would be a voluntary policy backed by compulsion, which is like saying something is free—except that you have to pay for it.

So we know where we are. A new Heath government means a new attempt to shackle wages by law. But so does a new Wilson government. As the effects of the social con-trick wear thin, the Labour government looks ahead to its next prices and incomes policy.

Come Labour, come Tory, new efforts to use the state to jack up profits and curb wages will follow as surely as winter follows summer. Why then do the International Socialists say vote Labour?

Not because we believe that on matters other than wages Labour will be more 'progressive' than the Tories. Anyone who is inclined to that belief needs only to look at the record of the 1964-70 government on housing, health, education and so on.

Distance lends enchantment to the view so it is perhaps worth recalling that the last Labour government put means-testing (politely called selectivity) at the centre of its policies for the social services, that it legislated in the concept of 'fair rents', that it pioneered the abolition of free milk for schoolchildren, that its housing record was abysmal, that it tried to bring in anti-union laws, that it slavishly followed US foreign policy and endorsed every atrocity that Johnson and then Nixon inflicted on Vietnam.

But we are for voting Labour, we are for the return of a Labour government not because of its policies but in spite of them. The temptation to say 'a plague on both your houses' needs to be resisted. It does make a difference who wins the coming election.

A victory for the Tories means a swing to the right which would encourage all the most reactionary forces in Britain. It means something else too. A Tory victory, would enable the Labour Party 'lefts' to recover the credit they are now using up in government.

The Allauns, the Benns, the Heffers and the Ormes would gain a new lease of life for their 'join the Labour Party and win it to socialism' platform. Reformists and parliamentary illusions would be strengthened if the Labour Party were in opposition in this period of growing economic crisis. The growth of revolutionary socialism would be hindered.

Before the last election we said: 'We do not believe that the Labour Party is capable of resisting capitalist pressure or that many of its leaders even want to. We believe that the socialist alternative must be built. But part of the process of building it is resistance to any swing to the right and the testing, in practice, of the limits of reformist politics.'

'Every militant should therefore give unconditional support to the Labour Party against the Tories, but support without any illusions. The return of a Labour government will create the most favourable circumstances for carrying forward the struggle. It cannot replace the struggle in any way.'

That remains our position. There are basically two programmes for working-class advance: the programme of social reform and the programme of social revolution. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is our firm conviction that nothing can demonstrate the bankruptcy of reformist politics more effectively and more quickly than a majority reformist government in office at a time of crisis.

Britain's 'peacekeeping'

IN CYPRUS there are two lots of rather unreasonable people, Greeks and Turks, who really have to have their heads knocked together to put some sense into them. Fortunately 'Britain', purely out of the goodness of its heart of course, is there to sort things out.

That is the picture painted by the press and TV. They work on the principle stated by the great American showman, Phineas Barnum, in his immortal slogan, 'There's a sucker born every minute'.

Just for the record. The Cyprus problem was created by British imperialism just as the Irish problem was. James Callaghan is not engaged in an impartial 'peacekeeping' exercise. He is promoting the interests of British (and US) imperialism. British bases in Cyprus exist to protect the Middle East interests of the oil companies. And a British 'solution' to the Cyprus problem means a 'solution' in the interests of big business.

LETTERS



Death in the corner of the yard. Asbestos waste in a Scottish factory

Asbestos: How my father died

I HAVE been reading Socialist Worker for about two months and have started selling it in my local pub. We had quite a discussion on what I thought was the excellent series on asbestos murders and I decided to write my experience of this industrial problem.

Eighteen months ago, my father died—the death certificate said of lung cancer. Many people die of lung cancer but the number of lagers (my father's job) is remarkably high. Discussing the matter with my mother, we agreed that not one lager known to my father for over 40 years in his job is still alive. My father died at 67—his mates at similarly early ages.

As a child I can vividly remember him suffering from an atrocious skin

condition which kept him in hospital for some time. Nobody was aware at that time that the cause was probably the material with which he worked.

My dad was possibly the strongest man I have met but once carcinoma of the lung tissue became apparent the painful path towards death was mercifully quick.

The irony of the situation was my father was never aware (and never made aware) of the severity and danger of his working conditions: heat, dust, lack of safety provisions and the materials used.

People tell me that nowadays proper safety precautions are taken—let's look at what that means in fact. I remember my dad complain-

ing about—about the so-called 'safety masks' he was issued with: 'I found it impossible to work with it on—I just couldn't breathe.'

More recently, I met a girl who had worked with asbestos at a firm in Cleckheaton. One day, the dust was so bad, she put on the mask she had been given. The foreman told her to take it off 'or everyone would want one.' When she refused, he accused her of being a 'trouble-maker'. She had the sense to leave shortly afterwards.

Profits in the insulation industry have kept pace with the deaths. To watch someone die from working with asbestos is disturbing but the 'washing of hands' attitude of those firms responsible is devastating. All

they are concerned with is the net profit.

My dad died early because he was a lager—the same may have applied if he had been a foundry worker, a miner, a building-worker or whatever. He was merely a tool to be used to feed the capitalist system and thrown aside when finished with. Millions like him continue to be used in this way.

Profits soar, asbestosis kills, yet who cares? Only the relatives and friends of workers who have died merely to increase the material wealth of the murderers involved. 'Socialist Worker' has done a good job in bringing the savagery of British industry to the attention of workers everywhere.—DAVE LITHGOW, Shipley, Yorks.

UHH . . . HE'S RESIGNED . . . For Christ's sake have something serious on Nixon!!-FRUSTRATED FIREMAN, London SE1.

NIXON, SUGAR, NATIONALISATION . . . I'm dismayed at the superficial nature of the articles on Nixon (3 August) . . . What we want is analysis of how the situation arose, how if one set of people are removed the system will carry on . . . Frivolous comments do nothing to advance the socialist education of readers . . . The article on the sugar shortage (3 August) should have linked up with political demands recently formulated . . . We need an article on the role of the police and troops in industrial disputes . . . But the debate over the tactic of nationalisation is excellent.—STEVE MARRIOT, Canterbury.

OBVIOUSLY A BIG GOOSE . . . After your excellent expose of Sir Denys Lowson it's worth mentioning that he intends to pay back the £5 million he stole—but that he most probably has been able to make good use of it, the £5 million will have lost value through inflation, but he should have picked up perhaps a million in interest. Just a little nest egg?—P RILEY, Liverpool.

ITALIAN ECHOES . . . Recent elections to the Supreme Soviet have startling similarities to the methods used by Mussolini . . . Like the Italians were, the Russians are presented with a list of candidates they can only say yes or no to . . . As in Italy the list is selected by the party . . . The Russian minister of culture was recently involved in a scandal when it was discovered she used her influence to get building material at wholesale instead of retail prices . . . One wonders the difference between 'Kremlin type' socialism and fascism.—MARK SUMMERS, Derby.

GET YOUR HANDS OFF! . . . Sadly Rod MacFie who suggests dropping Womens Voice, the International Socialist Womens' paper (3 August Postal Points) is exhibiting a complete lack of understanding of the nature and consequence of female oppression, particularly in relation to working class women. We all appreciate the difficulties of penetrating the cocoon of social conditioning before the adult revolutionary can wriggle out . . . Female oppression acts as an additional reinforcement to the cocoon . . . Therefore Womens Voice is needed . . . As a working class woman and IS member for two and a half years I say for Gods sake be careful with our revolution.—LESLEY SMITH, Wigan.

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Translated and introduced by Mike Gonzales



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Theft? No,
that's
called profit...

I HAD JUST read the front page (3 August) about the artificial sugar shortage caused by the sugar monopoly, Tate and Lyle, in order to boost their prices and profits even more, then looking through the London Evening News I saw a story about a mother of four who had been fined £25 for taking ten of those little sachets of sugar (worth 1p each) from the luxury London Metropole Hotel where she worked as a £18 a week waitress.

I was really angry and disgusted. The Marylebone magistrates who probably have not the faintest idea what it is like to live on £18 a week, let alone raise four children, fined this woman £25.

Tate and Lyle who rob millions of people every day, are now conspiring to take even more of our wages. Their profits for the first six months of this year, £14.2 million, are more than double those for the same period last year and nothing happens to them.

To cap it all, not only was she fined by the compassionate upholders of ruling-class law and order of Marylebone Magistrates Court, but she was also sacked from her job.—S MASCARENHAS, London NW2.

BUILDING OPPOSITION

THE ROTHERHAM Branch of the AUEW (Construction Section) is submitting a resolution to the forthcoming North East conference of the union. It condemns police brutality against the left wing whilst we were counter-demonstrating against the Fascist National Front, which resulted in the death of Kevin Gately.

We also called for the disbandment of the Special Patrol Group, who are continually harassing left-wing workers and students whilst allowing the Fascist NF to openly parade and display their brutal tactics. We feel it is a must that all trade union branches send resolutions to their union conferences similar to the one we sent. This is one of the ways we can show the rank and file workers of all unions condemn the way the police operate against all militant workers while protecting and actually condoning the activities of the National Front.—DAVE HENDERSON, Rotherham.

Reds in white collars

OVER 40 per cent of workers in Britain now have white collar jobs. The proportion is higher among women trade unionists (over half), and among London workers (over 60 per cent). White collar unions have been growing fast, in numbers and in rank-and-file militancy.

However, two aspects merit more attention than they get from trade unionists. The resentment of some manual workers towards some white collar workers, and the 'policing' and ideological functions of some white collar jobs, such as those to do with supervising, or the concocting and spreading of ruling class ideas as in journalism, teaching, etc.

Resentment is declining as white collar workers demonstrate their ability to fight as trade unionists. But militant trade unionism does not necessarily ensure a sympathetic attitude from, or towards, other workers, and the 'policing' and ideo-

logical jobs will remain as a divisive element within the working class until socialism is achieved.

Socialists in white collar jobs have particular responsibilities and opportunities. Socialist journalists should organise in their unions to blunt Tory press attacks on 'greedy trade-unionists,' and here the print unions are also strategically placed.

Social workers have taken solidarity action alongside their clients, and ASTMS members at the Institute of Psychiatry took action with fellow members sacked by the head 'shrinks' who didn't like their research conclusions that drug addiction had social rather than simply psychological causes.

Tackling such issues is not a substitute for fighting on pay and conditions. It is an addition which must increasingly become part of the same fight.—JAMES ANDERSON, Central London.

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

ESSEX: WHY THEY ALL GOT WORRIED

WHEN LORD ANNAN'S report on the 'disturbances' at Essex University came out a fortnight ago it was greeted with near hysteria by the bosses press. The Mirror and Daily Mail gleefully quoted stories of 'wild-men' and 'revolutionaries' running amuck on the campus. They used all the usual tricks which our rulers employ to divide one oppressed group from another. They lumped acts of pointless (if understandable) violence with legitimate direct action. They blamed it all on a conspiracy of revolutionaries out to smash the state. In short they tried to fill any 'decent minded' worker with dis-

gust at the mention of the word student. Why? Because the picket at Essex was respected by lorry drivers, Colchester Trades Council and the Yorkshire district of the miners union. Our bosses are scared stiff when workers and students come together like this.

Whenever it happens all the stories of 'wild men' and revolutionaries' come out again. This attempt to turn workers against students should be resisted by all socialists.—PHIL BENSON, Essex University.



The 'Bridge Builders' in the land of Apartheid. The British Lions rugby team arriving in South Africa at the beginning of their recent tour.

The 'bridge' the Lions built

AT THE RECENT champagne party which he attended to fete their return, Sports Minister Dennis Howell described the British Lions rugby team's rejection of all appeals not to tour South Africa as 'an honourable difference of opinion on how best to kill off apartheid in sport'.

In the media too the fact that the Lions had played an African and a Coloured team was widely hailed as a victory for the 'creative contact erodes apartheid' lobby.

Recently a letter (published in the Sunday Times, London) was written from the South African Minister of Sport to a Mr McFarnell who had proposed a programme for inter-racial sport within the country. This letter

completely contradicts such propositions.

In the relevant passage, the Minister wrote: 'The traditional and historical policy of South Africa—that of multi-national development—is aimed at the preservation of each population's group's identity, the elimination of points of friction and disorderliness and providing opportunities for each member of each group. Multi-national development in this regard is also applicable to the sports policy.'

'South Africa is a multi-national country with different nationalities on the road to separate, distinctive and autonomous development, and as such provision is made at the highest level of competition, namely the

international level, that all participants, both white and non-white, who have achieved certain minimum standards of requirements, have the opportunity to participate in multi-national sports meetings in South Africa.'

In plain language what he is saying is that non-segregated sport will remain reserved for the privileged few (usually where and when this helps white South African sportsmen to get into international events).

What is true in sport is true in all other spheres of life. Apparent liberal changes in South Africa's official stance have a beneficial effect on almost no blacks. They are simply propaganda stunts designed to deflect less knowledgeable critics and opponents.

Sportsmen who play in South Africa are advancing personal sporting careers and could not care less about the effects their actions have on the lives of the majority of the people. Businessmen who invest in South Africa are exploiters of one of the most downtrodden working-classes anywhere in the modern world.

And politicians who dither about expressing their 'condemnation' of apartheid on the one hand, whilst hobnobbing with or encouraging such sportsmen or businessmen on the other, are thoroughly disreputable hypocrites.—T DAVIES, Southampton

It's tough in Bromley...

THE MEDIA, especially the press are forever publicising the screams of the middle classes against the workers' demands for better pay, and a fair deal at work which are said to be 'ruining the country'. In the Conservative controlled borough of Bromley—by whose grace I receive a council house—the truth of the matter is rather different.

The self-proclaimed 'hard working patriotic middle classes' are doing very well indeed for themselves. Yet they have the effrontery to accuse the working classes of demanding 'too large' a share of the cake.

It's quite apparent that the British middle classes are getting the lion's share if Bromley is anything to go by! They occupy large houses, employ servants, daily 'helps', gardeners and chauffeurs, drive expensive cars and send their children to expensive boarding schools.

There is plenty of money about—but it is not in the hands of those who produce it—the workers.—SHIRLEY PIERCE, West Wickham.



WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION

We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM

We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM

We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other 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 all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplaces, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

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 _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

THE POWERS BEHIND THE BENCH

AT SOME TIME in their lives most people will appear or be summoned before a magistrate court. Those of us who already have been will know you haven't got much of a chance.

After due deliberation you will probably be on the receiving end of a fine or a prison sentence, or be sent for trial at a higher court because the magistrates feel you should get an even longer sentence than they can inflict.

We have all heard stories about magistrates. 'If you come up in front of so-and-so, you haven't a chance. He's a right git.' Or 'If you

get her, she'll put you away for ever, given the chance.'

Yet magistrates are supposed to be 'impartial', they are not supposed to let their personal fears, prejudices, political beliefs, religious doctrines or any other thought interfere with administering the written law of the land, a law bad enough already.

But do they?

These magistrates wield great power both inside and outside court. When they are not fining or imprisoning you they will be found among the local so-called dignitaries—employers and directors and the like.

You can be sure that the position they hold outside the court does not make them sympathetic to working-class people or our problems—bad housing, schooling, health, environment, employment and unemployment. After all, these conditions are not suffered by the vast majority of magistrates.

PRACTICE

There are 19,000 magistrates in England and Wales. They try nine out of ten criminal cases. They are clearly crucial people. But little is known about them.

So who are they? What are they? Who elects them?

A fascinating article by John Walker and David Bartlett in the magazine *New Society* in April reveals a few facts about the 43-strong magistrates' bench in Rochdale, a working-class town in Lancashire.

Technically appointments in Lancashire are made by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Both are members of the government.

But in practice the choice is made in every area by a magistrates advisory committee, says the article. The identity of those who form it

is officially a secret, supposedly 'in order that they be shielded from undesirable and unwanted influence.'

According to the article:

'It is arguable that far from a guarantee of objective selection, this results at least in the suspicion of more subtle hidden influences.' This is putting it mildly.

'Certainly the identity of the three men who comprised Rochdale's advisory committee was known to some people. They are Norman Wolfenden, aged 69, a Liberal, Rotarian and Mason, magistrate since 1950, chairman of the bench and of the local hospital management committee; Albert Golland, a Conservative, Rotarian and Mason, magistrate since 1952 and local accountant; and Derek Walker, aged 56, leader of the Labour group on the council, magistrate since 1953 and self-employed.

'The committee is virtually self-perpetuating as it nominates a successor for any member retiring.'

The article says that according to the official Central Office of Information booklet on the legal system the magistrates' bench is supposed to be broadly representative of the community which it has to serve.

RELIGION

Yet in Rochdale only one employed manual worker is a magistrate. Not one of the town's 6000 Pakistanis is on the bench. Nor are any Catholics, though a large section of the community are Catholic by religion.

On the other hand the article shows that some sections of the community are, shall we say, over represented. Twenty-one magistrates, nearly half, are members of the Rotary Club or its associated 'Inner Wheel'. Twelve—more than a quarter—are members or wives of members of the Masonic movement.

Six are members of the hospital management committee. Seven are on the health executive committee and 13 are directors or the wives of directors.

You will notice the words 'secret', 'mason', 'rotarian', 'director' appear throughout these comments. These words and the people they describe have sinister meanings for the working class. What we have could in fact be called the 'International Association of Businessmen and Employers' plus members of a reactionary secret society.

These are the people who are magistrates. And magistrates have the power not only to enforce laws designed to keep the people down, but to do so in ways that underline the point.

They are in a position to produce the desired results and at the same time keep the whole process from being public knowledge. How democratic can you get?

Who are your local magistrates and what do they do to ordinary people?

Ian Olley

(TGWU, London docks)

Racist poison on the shop floor

THE far right, the fascists represented primarily by the National Front, have begun attempts to move into the trade union movement in the past few years.

They know the importance of establishing a base in the working class. Earlier this year they tried to call a conference for National Front 'trade unionists'.

Although that conference failed they continue their efforts. They are helped by management attempts to use racism to divide the workers and by failures of trade unionism, among both black and white workers.

A militant at Dunlop-Pirelli, Bruton-on-Trent, explains how management used racism:

'Many new operators on the shop floor complained of tight piece-rate timings. They had heard from foremen and other supervisors that the Pakistani and Indian workers were to blame for accepting ridiculous rates because "All they were interested in was money."

'It was a lie. The Asians were pressurised by the management. They were told that they would either be "out the gate" or "have to grab a brush".'

'The Asians didn't have proper shop-steward representation. They couldn't speak English properly—and they were blackmailed and misled by management. As a result they were made scapegoats by the white workers.'

'What we need, obviously, is for all workers to fight the tactics management are using.'

A worker from British Leyland, Longbridge, Birmingham, pointed out another problem. 'Ten to fifteen years ago the rotten jobs in the factory, the labouring jobs and so on, were often done by blokes who came in from the Black Country, from all the little towns out from Birmingham towards Wolverhampton. Now they are done by black workers.'

Attitude

'I can walk into Longbridge and tell you what kind of job the worker will be doing by the colour of his face. Nine out of ten of the labourers are black.'

'To get on the track all I had to do was fill in a form. The black workers have a really long procedure to go through. One said to me: "I've got to prove I'm better than you to get on."

This kind of attitude provides material for the National Front—and there are a few members at British Leyland. 'There's this bloke in the West Works, who plasters the



The face of the extreme right: members of the National Front on the march, Red Lion Square, London 1974. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

by NIGEL FOUNTAIN

place with Britain First, their paper,' said a Leyland militant. 'It's supposed to be 5p but it's so tatty he just gives it away.'

Over at GKN-Salisbury Transmissions the works manager, Tom Finegan, is the National Front parliamentary candidate for Erdington in Birmingham. He got 1145 votes in the last general election.

A steward at Salisbury Transmissions described the election campaign in the factory: 'Well there wasn't one. One of the lads stuck his posters up round the factory with a swastika drawn on his fanny. And someone else wrote a song which wound up with the chorus line, "When Finegan's in parliament we'll all sing Sieg Heil! Seig Heil!"'

'But management gave him three weeks off for the election.'

Finegan has urged workers to greater triumphs of productivity for the GKN bosses, telling them: 'Stick with me, I'm going to the top and you people are going to help put me there, make no mistake.'

Said one worker: 'He'll try and make out the Front are socialists. So you point out that they're fascists, talk about people like their top men Tyndall and Webster and how they're straight Nazis.'

'"Oh we'll have them out," he told us, "all we want is a greater Britain."

Socialist militants often find they face this basic problem of racism and the 'greater Britain'.

'Two of us went up to the pub, the Fitter Arms,' explained an International Socialist at Longbridge. 'We argued with this bloke. He agreed with all the socialist arguments and then at the end of it all he says: "Well I believe in Britain for the British."

Nutter

Socialists and militants on the factory floor are often inclined to throw in their hands at this sort of obstinacy. Said one: 'It's easy to give up and go home. But it's worth keeping up the argument not because you'll change the mind of the individual racist but because you'll influence the people around you.'

'We kept on at this nutter who sells Britain First. We kept on saying to him: What does it mean to you, putting Britain first? What does Britain mean to you?'

'He kept quiet for a bit, and then he said: "The Buckingham Palace Garden Party," and everyone laughed. Every time he comes up with his Britain First, people ask him when he's going to get his invitation to Buckingham Palace, and no one takes his ideas seriously.'

'They see that if he's a nutter over one thing, he's probably a nutter about everything else.'

Young socialist workers like the two in Birmingham are raising the issue of the National Front menace in the Birmingham Labour movement—with some success.

Birmingham Trades Council has passed motions by large majorities calling for trade union support for an anti-National Front counter-demonstration in Birmingham in September, and for the banning of use of local council halls by fascists.

The mover was a young member of the Transport Workers Union who pointed out what had happened in the 1920s and 1930s in Germany. He was backed up by a worker who had been brought up in Austria and Germany before the war.

He said the German Social Democrats had told them: 'Ignore the Nazis. Demonstrate by staying home.'

'We all know how that lot of fascists disappeared through lack of attention!'

March Saturday 24 August, 2 pm, Spinney Hill Park, Leicester

CHINGARI

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JAMES NEILL (Barbarians) LIMITED

IT IS worth reading the article on the right in full. The papers are full of reports from Chile about the trials of men for supporting the former government of President Allende. Recent visits and inquiries by Amnesty International have exposed to the world that no atrocity or torture is too horrible for the Chilean military junta, provided it is carried out against the left.

James Neill (Holdings) is a highly profitable engineering concern based in Sheffield. Profits last year were £1.6 million compared with £1.1 million the year before. The shareholders of Neills are lucky people. Last year they were handed £654,000, more than a third of the profits.

Opportunities

The chairman's report last year was quick to point out that export orders were rising fast and singled out South America for special attention, reporting that a 'prolonged study of export opportunities there' had led to the purchase of a Brazilian hand tool factory.

No business was done with Chile as long as it had an elected government. But as soon as the barbarians of the present government took over, Neills sent their 'consultants' to sniff out any likely profit. The report, used as a lead article in the Business News section of the Sheffield Telegraph tells its own story.

TAKING THE BISCUIT AWAY FROM TAXMAN

IT IS with profound regret that I report the death of Neil William Gardiner, for many years technical director of Huntley and Palmer, the biscuit manufacturers. I have been trying to find out just what the job of a 'technical director' of biscuits is, without much success. But if any readers see a vacancy for the job, it's obviously worth applying. Gardiner left £232,829. The greedy taxman took £35,404 of that, leaving a miserable £197,325.

NEWSPAPERS, radio and TV are not the only organisations to receive regular reports on political, economic and social conditions in foreign countries. Many large business concerns are kept informed by their agents abroad. Today we reproduce part of a recent report to James Neill (Sheffield) Ltd from Santiago, the capital of Chile.

Nine months have now passed since the combined military, naval, air and police forces ousted the previous marxist government.

Generally speaking the country has recovered rapidly and the general situation is one of quiet confidence in the future and hard work. Class hatred, street riots and strikes have been eliminated and production figures show an encouraging increase and most people are happy and content with the military administration.

Nationalised industries are being returned to their rightful owners with the exception of the large copper mines, commercial banks, and large farms which are under consideration.

Financially the country is in a much healthier situation although, obviously, a return to normal will take a little time, especially with regard to the internal economy.

The general policy of the government has been to return to private enterprise and freedom of work and prices but certain controls are still necessary in order to avoid too rapid an increase in costs.

Stabilise

The Chilean currency has been devalued regularly each month. There are two main rates of exchange, one the Bank rate for imports, exports payment of commissions, etc.; the other the broker's rate used for payment of certain fees, travelling and tourists and certain other applications.

It is thought that the two rates will meet sometime

soon and will then stabilise around 1,000 escudos per US dollar but with a possible continuation of a reasonable rate of devaluation caused by inflation.

Internationally Chile has improved her image - except in socialistic countries like Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and of course all the communistic countries. The US is again promising help, both financially and technically, and it is thought Chile will pay compensation for the nationalised copper mines.

Foreign exchange is plentiful and in this short period of time the Central Bank has about US\$40,000,000 surplus in foreign exchange against a previous deficit, and with the present price of copper, Chile's main export, the future looks bright.

Payment by credit is difficult and expensive for the importer. He has to pay interest to the bank from the

date of the opening of the credit until the day the credit is paid at a rate of 6 per cent p.a. and once the goods have been received and for a period of 150 days forward, he must pay a rate of 18 per cent p.a.

No credits

Generally speaking the outlook for sales is good as more articles are being permitted to be imported, in order to compete with the locally manufactured product and drive to improve quality and cost of the Chilean manufactures.

Sale of capital goods is not yet good, due to a lack of credits for deferred payment over five or more years. Great Britain is particularly bad at the moment and it looks likely that the US will make a determined effort to recapture lost ground. Also Argentina and Brazil are striving to increase their exports by means of long-term credit loans.

Report from Chile

Comrade grovels

A READER in Bootle has sent me a recent copy of the Bootle Times which has a story about Ron Morris, prospective parliamentary Communist candidate for the area. According to the report, Morris read an article in a recent issue of the Financial Times

which stated that 'an eminent financier, Dr P Reasbeck, had stated that two new plants would soon be built to produce lead cell batteries.'

Morris, who has made many a speech in the town demanding an 'end to the capitalist system' promptly wrote to Dr Reasbeck, extolling the virtues of Bootle as a site for the factories. He was quick to point out that government grants would be available should Mr Reasbeck set up his factories in Bootle.

Morris also refers to the 'surplus of skilled labour' in the area. Our reader comments: 'Surplus labour, being translated, means cheap and ripe for exploitation.'

I doubt whether Morris will be able to answer these comments. I gather he refuses to buy Socialist Worker on the grounds that it is 'counter-revolutionary'.

BARGAIN HUNTERS

SOME PEOPLE, at any rate, take comfort from impending economic disaster. Mr J R N Stead has a letter in the International Herald Tribune of last Monday taking his American colleagues to task for running down Britain.

'The downturn in industrial investment,' he writes, 'must mean inevitably that Britain will have some of the lowest-paid workers in Europe within a very short time...'

And so, says Mr Stead, 'my own company cannot justify any reason for establishing manufacturing plants outside the United Kingdom...'

'All of which suggests that there may be an opportunity in Britain for you, and that opportunity is now. After all, with the prices now on the Stock Exchange, Britain is going for a song.'

Then as now

So you think Labour is bringing socialism?

IN AUGUST 1924 the summer was hot, London was emptying and MacDonald's minority Labour government was drifting towards an inevitable election. On 4 August The Morning Post contained the following items:

INDUSTRIAL UNREST: LORD SALISBURY OUTLINES A REMEDY

'Addressing the Cleveland Unionist demonstration at Marske-by-Sea on Saturday night the Marquess of Salisbury said the present industrial unrest was deplorable. It was a thing they ought to do their utmost to avoid, and it was due to want of confidence and trust between employer and employed. He believed the working classes should have representation on the board of management, so that they could have access to the books and other information, and thus ascertain they were receiving fair treatment.'

HYDE PARK ORATORY: MEETING OF PROTEST AGAINST COMMUNISM

'The usual kind of oratory from speakers under the Red Flag could be heard yesterday. But not many feet from the Red Flag was the Union Jack which attracted over a platform where youthful speakers appeared in convincing language for common sense and a spirit of patriotism. A black man had been acting as 'chairman' of the Communist meetings and this fact, together with the obvious influence of aliens in the audience, did not escape caustic comment.'

SCOTTISH SHOOTINGS: ELEVENTH HOUR RUSH FOR UNLET MOORS

'The favourable reports in hand of grouse shooting prospects would appear to be responsible for the eleventh hour rush of sportsmen to obtain the few moors which are unlet. Sir Victor and Lady Warrender are going this season to the famous Braemoredee Forest in Ross-shire. It extends to 46,000 acres and besides 75 stags per season yields an abundance of all other kinds of highland game. The house is a very fine one, and most beautiful situated on the mountainside 7500 above the valley.'

SAILORS GAOLED

'Two seamen found astride the buffers of the Newcastle-Euston Express were fined 20 shillings each in Marylebone Magistrates Court yesterday. When they proved unable to pay, they were sentenced to two weeks hard labour.'

A HISTORY TEACHER ON SOCIALISTS

'In connection with the City London Vocation Course in Education a number of interesting lectures were delivered yesterday at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr Hughes said: 'We can see the living past in the political circumstances of the day. What we are seeing is not the Socialists bending to present as the past moulding the Socialists. Members of the Labour Party are becoming every day more and more wise servants of the people and every day is making them wise servants of the state. The newspapers are full of their conservatism'

COMMUNISTS AND ARMY: POLICE VISIT THE PARTY'S HEADQUARTERS

'The Communist Party of Great Britain in a statement issued Saturday stated: From visits in the last few days by police officers to the HQ of the CP it is clear that Labour government is contemplating taking action against The Party for recent articles in The Worker Weekly.'

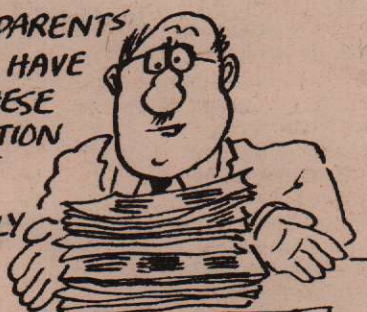
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Pamphlets produced by the International Socialists:

The Struggle for Workers' Power, by Roger Rosewell, 10p

Can Socialism come through parliament, by Roger Kline, 10p

Workers against racism, by Paul Foot, 10p

Women fight back, by Kath Ennis, 10p

Trotsky, by Duncan Hallas, 5p

Lenin, by Jim Higgins, 5p

The Meaning of Marxism, by Duncan Hallas, 25p. **Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism**, by Richard Kuper, 10p

The Politics of Lenin, by Paul Ginsborg, 20p

Russia: How the revolution was lost, by Chris Harman, 15p

by **Walt Castle and Marion Danton** of the US International Socialists.

CHILE—THE ROAD TO DISASTER, This is a revolutionary socialist analysis of the rise and fall of Allende's experiment in 'socialism'. It looks at the history of the Chilean left, its lack of a revolutionary workers' movement and its terrible failure in not being able to challenge the Chilean state. It concludes with a suggestion for a strategy for Chilean workers' fight against the present dictatorship. 20p.

MILITANT SUFFRAGETTES

by **Antonia Raeburn**. This book examines the progress of the women's movement between 1904 and 1914. It uses much original material from interviews with Suffragettes who are still alive today. 75p.

THE NEW UNIONISM

by **Ken Coates and Tony Topham**. This is subtitled 'The Case for Workers' Control'. It is largely concerned with the possibilities of 'self-management'. Nevertheless there are interesting sections on shop-floor control, the role of the union apparatus and the political role of the unions. 60p.

More from Watergate. Said to be the best analysis of events so far—**ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN** by **Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein**. Looks closely at Nixon's mafia and their day-to-day operations. 75p.

Back in print—**WOMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD** by **Sheila Rowbotham**. 35p.

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Would you buy a Ford from this n

SO NIXON has resigned. On 22 June 1972 he made his first public statement on Watergate: 'The White House had no involvement whatever in this particular incident.'

Two years and two months later he told the world what it had known for two years and two months: he had known about the Watergate burglary and cover up all along. It was probably the first even half-truth statement Nixon has made in his political life.

Now the other professional liars—the press—will get to work. The new brand of lie takes two forms. Already they are pleading that Watergate, and the cover-up, was all a slip, the single aberration that discoloured our hero's true greatness. All he did was tell a few fibs to protect his friends and followers, like a good all-American boy.

And the 'liberal' press will slump back into their easy chairs and assure us that it was just that Nixon himself was a scallywag. One bad egg.

But people like these wouldn't tell the truth even if they understood it. The real scandal of Watergate is very different.

Lust

Oh, there's no doubt that Nixon had a proud track-record of political filth. His political career has been 25 years of unbroken frauds and deceptions, pushed on by an insatiable lust for power.

He earned well the name 'Tricky Dicky'.

Nixon's record was no secret. In fact for the Republican barons it was his recommendation. It was just because he was known as a fighter who fought dirty that the Republicans took Nixon off the shelf, dusted him off, gave him five close shaves a day and made him President.

It wasn't the case of the wrong person being in power—Nixon would never have been in power unless he was the wrong person. Nixon was hand-picked as the standard-bearer of American capitalism.

Make no mistake, they backed Nixon. In 1968, his campaign raised 38 million dollars. And it didn't all come from cocker spaniels. Clement Stone of the Insurance Exchange gave 500,000 dollars. J Howard Dews of Sun Oil 208,000 dollars. Mellons, the banking family from Pittsburgh, 279,000 dollars. Max Fisher of Detroit Industrial Complex gave 100,000 dollars. Ford, Chrysler, ITT, Firestone and all the big companies invested in Richard Nixon.

Debts

In 1972, Nixon was even more heavily backed. The New York Times checked the top 100 profitable companies in the US. More than 40 admitted giving Nixon money. Others probably did but kept quiet. All told, Nixon collected 68 million dollars for his re-election.

Even Colonel Sanders, the Kentucky fried chicken, gave a finger-lickin' 250,000 dollars.

Once elected, Nixon set about paying his debts. First to himself.

Nixon found a new life as a tax genius. In 1969 and 1970, for instance, he looted 800,000 dollars in salary and property speculation in Florida. On that he paid 1600 dollars tax and on top

by
Bob Light

Watergate
—where it
all started



of that got his house improvements on the state.

The US Treasury spent more than a million dollars decorating Nixon's two private houses at San Clemente and Key Biscayne, all in the name of 'national security'. It included 76,000 dollars on a lawn sprinkler, a swimming-pool cleaner, two golf carts and an ice-making machine. And this was the man who mercilessly attacked 'welfare spongers'.

Then Nixon repaid his paymasters. The work was hardly subtle. He ordered the dropping of an anti-trust case against ITT, which had given 400,000 dollars to the Nixon campaign.

It was the same story in the milk industry. On 12 March 1971 Clifford Harding, the Agriculture Secretary, announced the ending of government support for milk prices—13 days later he announced that far from ending, milk credits were going up from 4.66 dollars to 4.93, which gave dairymen an extra 500-700 million dollars. During those 13 crucial days, dairymen had donated 2,500,000 dollars to Richard Nixon's re-election campaign.

Nixon was always a good buy for capitalists. Lockheed donated only 100,000 dollars and received 225 million dollars' worth of government contracts.

And remember, while these political idealists were swopping briefcases full of dollar bills, the working people of America were enjoying a wage freeze.

Denied

To his enemies—the poor, the blacks, radicals and the Vietnamese—Nixon wasn't so charitable.

Three months after winning the 1968 election by promising 'peace', Nixon ordered the saturation bombing of Cambodia. A Congressional Law of December 1969 specifically outlawed an American invasion of Laos. In the pursuit of law, Nixon ignored it and invaded. Then in the interest of order, he denied to Congress that he had done any such thing.

At home Nixon showed the same feeling for the rule of law. He set up the Law Enforcement and Assistance Administration. Its budget increased from 63 million dollars in 1969 to 1750 million dollars in 1973. But it wasn't over-concerned with 'crime'. More than nine-tenths of the money was spent on intimidating Nixon's enemies.

Meanwhile the Mafia were being given a sharp slap across the wrist with wet straw. Nixon's closest friend, Bebe Rebozo, has been a front man for the Mafia since he made his millions selling second-hand tread tyres during the war.

In 1972, out of 2000 applications for presidential clemency, five were granted. The first was to the Mafia's union boss, Jimmy Hoffa, who had done an easy five of 12 years. The second was New Jersey torpedo Gyp de Carlo who had done 19 months

testified before the Senate Subcommittee that the Pentagon Defence Control Index of Investigation had dossiers on 25 million 'potential or actual subversives'. Maybe the silent majority were silent because they knew someone might be listening.

Nixon was no political mutant. He was merely carrying on a long and proud tradition of presidential tyranny dates back through Johnson and even that golden boy of liberal fairy tales, Kennedy. Johnson had his own enemies list—although he called it the 'Anathema List'.

Kennedy's pedigree was even better, plotting the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and sending 25,000 US 'advisers' to 'advise Vietnam into a bloodbath'.

Even in 1958 the New York police force had four police officers investigating Mafia crime networks. Meanwhile 423 were keeping an eye on the activities of the tiny US Communist Party.

And when you raving about the democracy in action. If Nixon has egotistical as to be record his every still be President.

Nixon was his own stupidity. He had become ment to his class. were his stren cunning, unquenc —are now just pro

Pox

But in the w the only crime is The ruling class know only one shark ethic—eat Nixon has served now he has gone.

Nothing has ch wasn't just one whole poxy chick stinking rotten.



Pickets at one of the strike-bound factories in East London

used man?

see the press vindication of Nixon, think on and not been so big himself and word he would

ught down by Nothing more. an embarrass- What in 1968 gths—his low able ambition vocations.

world of thieves getting caught. of the world morality, the the wounded. his purpose, so

anged. Nixon bad egg—the en farm is

His successor Gerald Ford is no better. But that's what the US master class today want. Someone with no idea above his station. Someone who will be merciless in a quieter way. Ford has spent six years as Senate Republican Leader supporting Nixon and his schemes. Ford's proudest moment in 25 years in politics was sponsoring as a picket-busting 'Right to Work' Act.

But, above all else one fact burns inside me. While Nixon's henchmen do their bird in Longpark Open Prison with facilities that makes Butlin's look like Colditz, while Nixon is punished with an early retirement and 160,000 dollars a year in pocket money, one of the finest Americans who ever lived, the black freedom fighter, George Jackson, spent 10 years in Soledad prison for stealing 70 dollars and was murdered in cold blood.



NIXON: Just carrying on the presidential tradition

AT 7.43 on Monday morning I arrived for work at the Trust House Forte restaurant at Barnsdale Bar, about eight miles up the A1 from Doncaster, two minutes early and eager to please my new employers.

The manager handed me my new uniform—badge ('We're glad you're here'), white coat and cap. 'You've no need to wear the cap after the Hygiene Inspector has finished this morning,' he apologised. 'That's why the place is looking fairly clean.'

I went down to the offices to sign on. 'A 40-hour week, isn't it?' I checked as I filled in the details.

'Well no, actually it's 42½. You are allowed 40 minutes a day for meals and tea-breaks, though.'

'Oh? I thought the manager said 40 hours at the interview. Still, the basic rate is £17.80?'

'Well, yes, but you're only 18, so I'm afraid you'll only be on £15.20.'

'It's lucky there's free transport provided.'

'Ah, but unfortunately you don't live in the right place, so you'll have to arrange your own. Still, it's only about £2 a week.'

'I suppose I'll have to do even more overtime. Time and a half for the first eight hours and double time after that, isn't it, with time and a fifth for unsocial hours?'

by Neil Pepper

PIE PRICES UP BY 8p IN SECONDS

'The manager must have made a mistake when he told you that. It's time and a quarter for the first six hours with time and a half after that. And only time and a fifth from 8 to 12, not for the whole of the evening shift.'

'How much do I get stopped a week, then?'

'Well, there's graduated pension, your stamp...'



'Any union fees?'

'No, nobody's ever bothered with a union here. It's not really necessary you know.'

On my way back I did some quick mental arithmetic. After my interview, I had reckoned that after stoppages, and by work-

ing 50 hours a week—we students are anxious for money—I would be earning on average just over £25 a week (no tax for students). After my new 'negotiations', I would be averaging, after stoppages, expenses and 50-hour week, a fraction over £17 a week!

Still, at least I didn't have to pay union fees, and perhaps these companies are finding it hard to make ends meet, what with rising food costs, labour charges...

'Neil! Come over here! There's a job I want you to do.'

I walked over, sweating already under the heat of the ovens (about 85-90 degrees F).

'Take the cellophane off these pork pies and then re-wrap them in this cellophane here. Right?'

'Why?'

'Well, you see, Walls not only stamp the date they should be eaten by on the cellophane, but even worse they stamp on the recommended retail price—here, 10p. Now, that's no good when we sell them at 18p, is it? So to avoid any unpleasant scenes we have to re-wrap them. Don't worry, you'll learn. When you've done that, I'll show you how to make the soup.'



On finishing the pies, I went to wash my hands, but had to abandon that idea, since there was neither soap nor towel provided at any of the four kitchen sinks. Making the soup was easy. You made it up to the manufacturer's specifications and then added a quarter as much again of water. Simple.

When we broke for a meal I listened to the latest gossip.

'Anyway, when I asked if I could go to the toilet I was told that it was quite out of the question to go between 11.30 and 2.30,' related a waitress.

'Did you know what happened last night? You know those sandwiches—those breadcakes with a slice of ham, lettuce leaf and half a tomato that sell for 34p? Well, the manager saw one that seemed to have more than the standard 1 oz of ham in it. Anyway, when he weighed it he was right—he was right—he didn't half tell Steve off about it.'



My gaze wandered and came to rest on another group. My heart warmed to Sir Charles Forte. Fortes may have some bad points, but at least here was a service they were selflessly doing for the community. Employing about eight mentally-retarded middle-aged people from a local hostel, for virtually no reward, I caught a snatch of conversation.

'Do you know, I drew nearly £12 last week,' boasted one.

'Did you do much overtime for that, then?'

'Well, yes, they did tell me to do a fair bit,' admitted the lucky one.

Suddenly I was overcome by a sickening feeling. Was it the heat? Or could it be the famous Forte's food and service? Or was it the whole stinking air of the place that had affected me?

Pickets face the gun

A WAVE of strikes—almost unreported in the British press—has swept the South African port of East London, which is becoming a haven for British firms who want to exploit cheap black labour. Over the past two weeks, more than 20,000 black workers—almost the entire adult black labour force in the town—have been on strike for higher wages.

Among the factories that struck were Cyril Lord, the carpet firm, where 600 workers were on strike, and Distillers, the company that sold thalidomide. Cyril Lord set up his two factories in East London with machinery transported from two factories in Lancashire six years ago. All the Lancashire workers were sacked. Now the African workers are meeting the same exploitation.

The East London strikers caused panic in the local authority and in the police force. Bus workers on strike were rounded up and driven to the police station in their own buses! But so great were the numbers on strike that even the police found it impossible to charge them.

The strike wave spread into the Transvaal, to the towns of Germiston, Benoni and Springs—and later to the capital, Johannesburg. In all these towns, as in East London, the employers were stampeded into early wage increases. At GEC, Germiston, for instance, 400 workers struck for two days and were granted a wage increase of 15 per cent.

These wage increases were swiftly granted for fear that the strike movement would spread and the workers' demands would be increased.

Last year increases of 25 per cent were won by striking workers in Durban. This year, the rises have been held down to less than 15 per cent. In the first six months of this year, prices have risen at an annual rate of 13 per cent, so the real increase for the workers is almost negligible.

Yet the enthusiasm and solidarity of the black strikers has shown black people in South Africa that there is a way to fight back against the racial tyranny which bans their trade unions, discriminates against their colour and shifts hundreds of thousands of their women, children and old people into specially-created homelands and townships.



Police sent to watch the pickets—with alsatian dogs and pistols

'The patriotic soldiers came marching down the pike
Prepared to shoot and slaughter in the Colorado strike,
With whiskey in their bellies and vengeance in their souls
They prayed God would help them shoot the miners full of holes.
In front of these brave soldiers loomed a sight you seldom see,
A white haired rebel woman whose age was eighty-three.
Charge! cried the valiant captain in awful thunder tones
And the patriotic soldiers charged and captured Mother Jones.
—from a 1914 ballad.



The 83-year-old who kept the miners out

I saw her once in Monaghela. She was trying to organise the mines. She came down Pike Street in a buggy and horse. Two company thugs grabbed the horse by the bridle and told her to turn round and get back down the road.

'She wore a gingham apron and she reached under it and pulled out a .38 special pistol and told them to turn her horse loose and they sure did. She continued on to the park and spoke to a large crowd of miners. She wasn't afraid of the devil.'

That is how one man remembered Mary Jones—Mother Jones as she was known to miners and workers all over America. In 1867 her husband and four children died in a yellow fever epidemic. Mother Jones was nearly 40, but from then on she became an active union organiser and travelled the country from strike

ANNA PACZUSKA WRITES ABOUT MOTHER JONES

to strike.

She became a fulltime worker for the miners' union which was just beginning to fight for recognition in mines all over America.

In 1900 she arrived in Arnot, Pennsylvania. The miners had been out on strike for over four months. Despondently they voted for a return to work. Mother Jones persuaded them to reverse the decision and continue. The company brought in scabs.

Mother Jones organised the women to see to the scabs. She marched 2000 women over the mountains armed with brooms and mops to set free the mules and stop the scabs from working.

This is how she describes the scene in her memoirs:*

'Up the mountain side yelling and hollering she [a miner's wife] led the women and when the mules came up with the scabs and the coal she began beating on the dishpan and hollering and all the army joined in with her.

'The sherrif tapped her on the shoulder. "My dear lady," said he, "remember the mules. Don't frighten them."

'She took the old tin pan and she hit him with it. "To hell with you and your mules." He fell over and

**The autobiography of MOTHER JONES, published by Charles H Kerr and Co, Chicago 1972, \$2.95.*

dropped in the creek. Then the mules began to rebel against scabbing. They bucked and kicked the scab drivers and started off for the barn. The scabs started running down the hill followed by an army of women with their mops.'

After months of hardship the strike was won.

Mother Jones' later strikes were tougher. Company thugs and the military starved and evicted the miners. They dragged people off to jail never to be seen again. They killed the miners, their wives and children by spraying their shacks and tent colonies with bullets. Union organisers frequently got killed or disappeared mysteriously.

Later she fell foul of the mine-workers' president Mitchell when she advised a miners' convention not to buy a house for Mitchell's wife until they had bought their own wives houses. At the end of her life she wrote...

'Never in the early days of labour struggle would you find leaders winning and dining with the aristocracy...

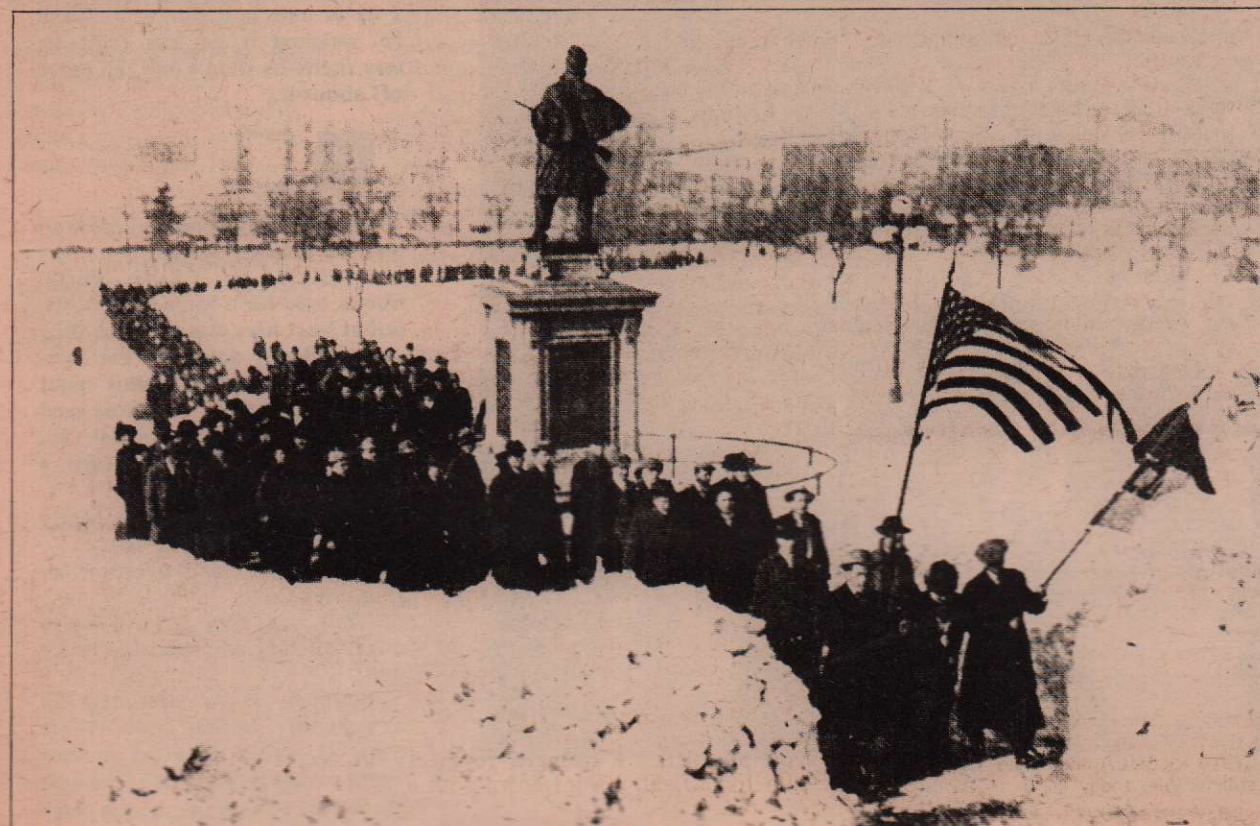
In those days labour's representatives did not dine in fashionable hotels with the representatives of top capitalists.

Inspired

'They did not ride in Pullmans or take trips to Europe. The rank and file have let their servants become their masters and their dictators. The workers have now to fight not alone their exploiters but likewise their own leaders.'

She had a touching (and wrong) faith in American justice—like many early radicals she believed in the new America and its superiority over the old class-ridden societies of Europe. But no one can have anything but admiration for what she achieved and for the way she inspired thousands of men and women to fight against the employers.

When she died she was over a 100 years old. Thousands came to pay their tributes. Thousands more wept in their homes. Her struggles still remain an inspiration to all of us who are concerned with the fight for equality and freedom.



Mother Jones heading a strikers' protest march in Denver, Colorado

NURSERY WORKERS FORM ACTION GROUP

by Gill Doust and Sue Kerslake

NURSERY workers have been dissatisfied with pay and conditions for a long time but have been reluctant to take any action as they know one of the most vulnerable sections of the community would suffer. But the situation has reached such a stage that it can no longer be ignored.

Because of the disgusting pay and long hours the nurseries are drastically short of permanent staff. The council's only answer is to employ agency staff.

For doing the same work without full responsibility, the agency nurse takes home double the pay of a nursery nurse who has done two years training. We only take home between £14 to £20 for a 40-hour week.

An open meeting held in Islington, North London, by the government officers' union NALGO, decided that all agency nurses in Islington nurseries should be phased out within 90 days, beginning on 1 August.

We also decided that no new children should be admitted to day centres unless adequate permanent staff are available to care for them, that no more agency staff be taken on, and that from 1 November we would refuse to work with agency staff.

Nursery workers in London are getting together in the Nursery Staff Action Group.

BEHAVED

Leaflets outlining our demands were handed out at a demonstration organised outside County Hall, where Ron Keating, an officer of the public employees' union NUPE, was speaking about the prospects for nursery workers. This meeting was for NUPE and non-union members, so there was anger when it was announced that only those with union cards were to be allowed in. After much protest it was decided to let everyone in, on the condition that we behaved and left our banners outside.

It was made obvious from the beginning that Ron Keating and associates had no time for action groups and called them 'the froth on the beer'. Keating offered no course of action apart from reading out the totally inadequate pay scales proposed by NUPE.

The official ratio of staff to children is one to four but in reality it is often one to ten. When this problem was raised Ron Keating said he fully understood how we felt as he had once looked after his five children for one whole day while his wife was out.

At the end of the meeting it was proposed from the floor that there should be more open meetings of this kind. Hopefully these will reach some course of action. Even if we are only the froth of the beer the Nursery Staff Action Group will still continue pressurising the unions to get better pay and conditions.

Information from the NSAG, c/o 11a Aboyne Drive, Raynes Park, London SW20.

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TUC PREPARES FANFARE FOR SOCIAL CON-TRICK

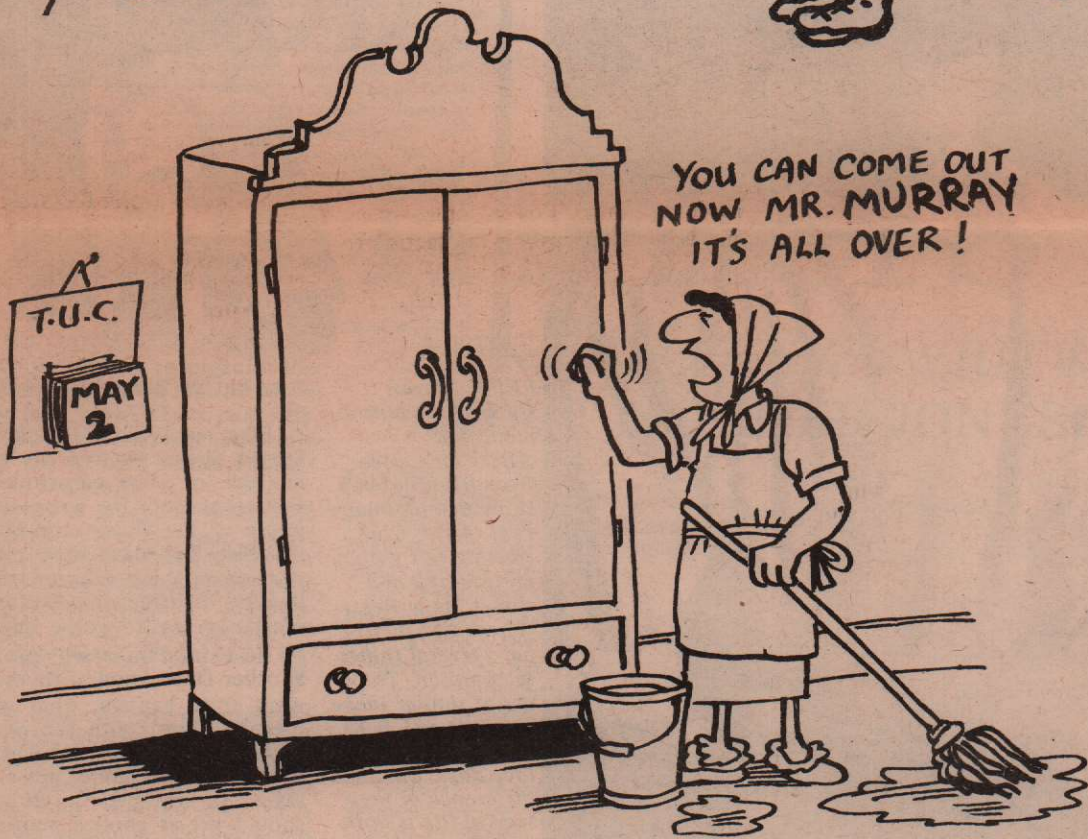
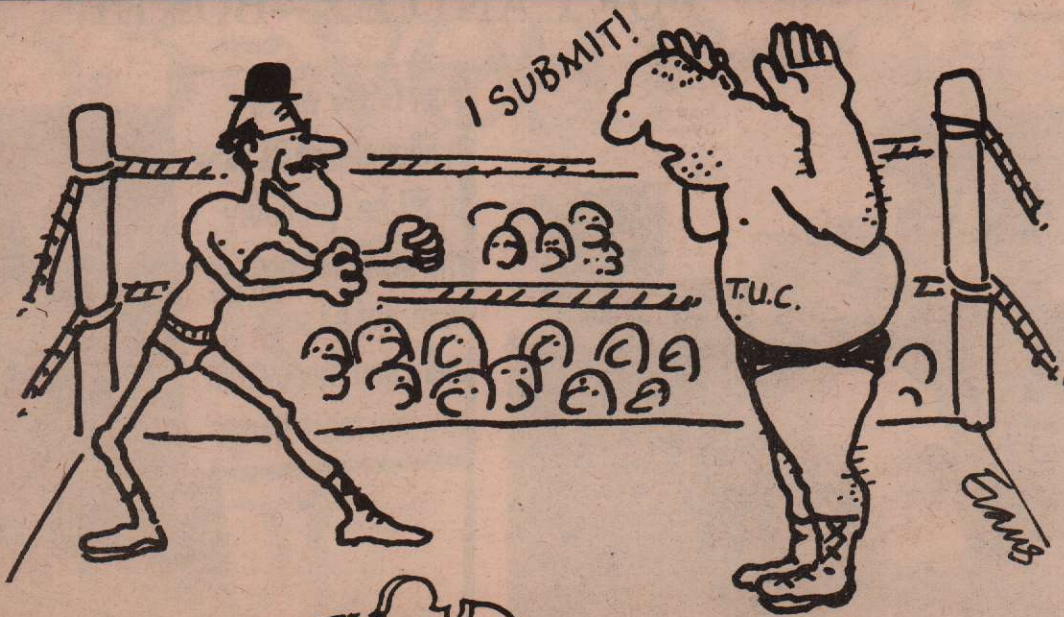
THE preliminary agenda for this year's TUC at Brighton in two weeks time indicates that Congress is going to be a low key affair.

There is scarcely a contentious motion on the agenda, without doubt a major achievement for the top men and women in the trade union movement. It means there is going to be little or no challenge to their voluntary brand of incomes policy—the social compact.

Motion after motion 'welcomes', 'endorses' and 'upholds' the social compact fraud, which is really a way of obtaining formal restoration of free collective bargaining in return for a binding agreement not to engage in it.

Only a motion from the Technical and Supervisory Section of the Engineering Union in any way challenges the logic of the social compact, and then only unsatisfactorily.

Evans on the TUC



SEE - IT'S IN THE CONTRACT!



TASS seeks to tie some strings to the social compact. The motion says the compact cannot be accepted unless there is a large scale redistribution of income and wealth, substantial increases in public ownership, vastly improved social services and like progress on the items agreed by the TUC—Labour Party Liaison Committee.

The trouble is that this accepts that there can be some kind of 'fair' incomes policy in a society where unfairness and inequality are built into the system.

What is needed is not only a head-on challenge to the ideas and assumptions of the social compact, but an outline of a way ahead in the present situation.

Strangely enough a motion from the shop workers' union USDAW, whose secretary, Alfred, Lord Allen, has been such a bold pioneer of the social compact form of incomes policy, expresses the inevitable consequences of 'incomes policy'.

Referring to poverty and low pay, a subject debated at every TUC for as long as anyone can remember and then largely forgotten until the next round of resolution passing, the USDAW motion points out that poverty has increased since the TUC's 1970 resolution on the subject.

RHETORIC

The reason it has increased is not least because no co-ordinated challenge was put up to the Tories' Incomes Policy. And it will increase again because the top levels of the trade union movement are set to endorse the social compact fraud in a blaze of rhetoric and self-congratulation in Brighton in two weeks time.

Perhaps even more serious is that there is simply no attempt to appreciate the gravity of the present economic crisis and no attempt to assess why it came about and how it might be solved permanently. Instead the motions regurgitate the familiar TUC stand—fond hopes for a bit of protection from the storm when it comes.

The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT) has put down a motion calling on the TUC to take up the issue of picketing rights and the Shrewsbury trials.

The motion demands that all steps be taken to ensure that no building worker tried at Shrewsbury be held in jail any longer—the appeals of Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are due in October. They are at present out on bail.

The motion, in saying that the sentences were excessive, is more than charitable to the prosecution which in no way differed in aim from the jailing of dockers' pickets at Pentonville in the summer 1972.

But it does point out that the charges were pressed only because the strike was successful and because the employers were anxious to intimidate the workers concerned. It also demands a review of the law on picketing and 'requires satisfactory curbs on the use of conspiracy charges in strike situations.'



The fate of this motion should prove one of the more interesting aspects of the Congress. Socialist Worker will be publishing the names of those unions who vote against and will report the attitude of the General Council.

They may decide that to demand such changes in the picketing laws is an unwarranted intrusion on the future of the social contract.

Among the many motions on safety is a Mineworkers' call for bronchitis and emphysema to get official acceptance as industrial diseases.

Doubtless this will be passed. The real question is why didn't the NUM leadership make the scheduling of these diseases part of the recent pneumoconiosis package. They could certainly have won. But instead they chose not to press the matter, and go through the motions of having the TUC pass a resolution.

SUPPORT

Similarly the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) puts up yet another motion against private patients in the Health Service. The TUC has been passing these for years. NUPE recently passed up an unprecedented opportunity to end private practice when, with industrial action in full flight, officialdom swallowed another of Barbara Castle's inquiries.

There are at least two truly intriguing motions on the agenda, both sponsored by the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union. Frank Chapple, the EPTU boss, seems to have discovered that all is not well in his beloved free world and has put a motion concerning repression in Brazil.

The union also has a motion down in support of its vehemently pro-Common Market stand. This seeks to persuade Congress to take up representation on all Common Market committees and institutions.

What is slightly humorous is the radical language used to urge this course of action. The move is compared to working men taking up the struggle for representation 'in a capitalist-dominated parliament'.

Socialist Worker Leader

Don't hang about.. Fight inflation now phase 3 is out

PHASE 3 IS DEAD: It died on July 26th when five months after taking office the Labour Government finally abolished the Pay Board.

The passing of Phase 3 means any shop steward's committee of trade union can now legally claim wage or improved conditions from the boss. It doesn't matter when the last agreement was made, whether it was one month or nine months ago. The 12 month bar on new deals has gone. You can claim however much you want. The legal limit is the amount you can be paid last year.

Your employer doesn't have to notify anyone about any increase in wages or conditions in what you get. You can now get the 12% threshold payments consolidated into your basic rate.

Put Your Claims In Now Don't hang about. Phase 3 may be dead, but inflation isn't. Wealthy big business, like Major Barro's, is out of the beginning of August that 'long before' wage could well be a done by early next year. If they are then very few of us will be going to work on them.

Among those who will still be able to trade in style are Members of Parliament. One of their last acts before going on a 6 month holiday was to give themselves the equivalent of £2 a week 'expenses claim'.

They should be to use the new system for years in the House of Lords by £1.50 a week. Just a little bit more than the £2.2 extra a single old age pensioner got the same week.

Hang on! What's so very wrong with it all. 'No-one, except the taxpayer' he said. Alas! As personally referring to his fellow MPs' and

The International Socialists issued a new information leaflet on the wages struggle this week. It sets out the facts about inflation and the social contract fraud and outlines the kind of wage agreements workers should be pushing for. At 15 pence for 100 copies, the leaflet is available from the IS Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

Two more AUEW protests

TWO Engineering Union branches in Sheffield have passed resolutions condemning the AUEW executive's ban on Socialist Worker from attending the union's national committee meetings. Sheffield No 9 and No 10 branches also passed resolutions condemning the behaviour of the police on the Red Lion Square demonstration, on which Kevin Gately died, and calling for the disbandment of the police Special Patrol Group.

DATE	EARNINGS			CUMULATIVE TOTALS				DEDUCTIONS					TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	NET PAY	NAME			
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Management at Kenilworth Components have repeatedly told the press they pay women workers £15 a week, a sum they seem to think is acceptable. This pay slip shows that management have been lying.

This is what Asian workers in Britain are fighting

LEICESTER:—When 30 Asian women at Kenilworth Components demanded an increase in their hourly pittance of 34½p a year ago the management simply sacked them all.

But now, with new militancy growing among Asian workers, the management can't get away with such bullying tactics—not that it doesn't have the odd try though.

The women at Kenilworth demanded a £2.40 threshold payment. The management threatened them with the sack.

The women workers walked out. Outside the factory they joined the Transport Workers' Union. Two hundred workers from nearby factories joined their picket.

The union officials, on edge because of the TGWU's performance at the recent Imperial Typewriters strike also in Leicester, moved fast and negotiated a return to work. The basic rate went up to the princely

by NERGIS

sum of 45p an hour.

But here is the catch. The women have been put on a three-day week, working from 8am to 6.30pm with no overtime pay after eight hours or for those who work a Saturday as part of their three days.

'They've speeded up the work so that we now do in three days what we used to do in five. And we get no more pay than before,' the women told us.

The Department of Employment has had the cheek to announce that it is going to help Kenilworth slave-

masters Norman Peake and James Rowland Jones to increase productivity.

The women know they are being cheated. They went back to work on condition that there would be no redundancies. But last Wednesday union official Ken Hampstead reported that management were now insisting that eight women would have to be 'made redundant'. The reason given was that there wasn't enough work. This doesn't square with the Department of Employment's search for ways to increase productivity.

Employment exchange officers have been trying to tempt the women with offers of jobs elsewhere, to damp the fire among the women

militants.

It seems the government is desperate to smooth things out, patching up here and there without attacking the employers.

The women demand a return to a 40-hour five day week with no sackings. 'We know there is enough work,' they say. 'The management has speeded up production and has even given some of the work to secretaries and office staff.'

The women must stick together. They know that a lot of other women workers toiling for £12 a week or less are watching their struggle. And they know that if they don't win now, 30 other women will have to go through the same hell all over again.

BLACK BUSMEN ASK FOR SUPPORT

by Les Kay

editor, North West Platform

BURNLEY:—More than 40 striking busmen jammed into the Islamic Centre in Brierfield last Friday night to hear a report from their action committee on their attempts to get the re-instatement of Mohammed Bhatti, fired for refusing to work overtime.

Speaker after speaker underlined the strikers' determination to stay out until Bhatti is unconditionally re-instated. One told of how the management had attempted with some success, to drive a wedge between the black busmen, who are all out, and the whites, who are all working.

In an article in the local newspaper, the Burnley Express, Roy Marshall, the BCN Bus Company general manager, was quoted as saying how 'encouraged we are with the attitude of the white workers, doing overtime and working rest-days to keep the services running.'

The Asians hoped, however, that if Bhatti is not re-instated at the Tuesday meeting of the management transport committee, the white crews will join them. A meeting of union branch committee members from the three garages involved, Nelson, Colne and Burnley, has already agreed to give support.

Younis Khan was attacked by a passenger on his late-night bus. Naturally he defended himself. But when the police arrived they arrested Younis, not the passenger. He was later fined £50 for assault and fired by the bus company.

Some months later, while investigating another attack on a busworker, the police arrested the passenger Younis had allegedly 'assaulted'. The passenger admitted in court that he, and not Younis, had committed the earlier assault, but when Younis went for his job back they would only take him on as a new starter, and he lost all his seniority, holidays and sick pay.

Rehmat Khan was attacked in the bus depot by a Special Police Constable who had followed Khan's bus into the depot. When Khan asked the garage inspector to call the police and an ambulance he refused and went home, saying that it was none of his business.

It is against these high-handed management tactics that the Asians are fighting and giving a strong lead which the white workers can ignore only at their peril. As Fazal Karim, the action committee secretary, said: 'The management have used the oldest trick in the book, divide and rule. We are appealing to the white workers to support us in this action because if we go down they will be next.'

North West Platform is a new rank and file paper for busworkers in the North West. It is available from 99 Tinton Crescent, Blackburn.



Strikers at Sir Charles Clore's Cottons factory in Loughborough leaving a meeting last week after unanimously rejecting a miserable company offer in response to their demand for a substantial wage increase. Three years ago there were 1800 workers at Cottons. Now there are 600. Two major offensives by the company were not fought by the unions. The workers have not had a rise for more than 15 months—and not a penny of the

threshold either. Bill Gunn, senior AUEW shop steward, told Socialist Worker that other shop stewards' committees in the group had promised immediate financial help and industrial action if the strike continues. Although the picketing has been good, Bill Gunn said the pickets needed to be increased in size. 'The fight is won or lost at the gate,' he said.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report).

IT'S BEEN A BONNY DAY AT BONARS

by Tony Van Der Kuyl

AUEW, Bonar and Long, Dundee

DUNDEE:—400 workers at Bonar & Long's, have forced the B&L bosses to end their two-and-a-half-day lockout. Pushing for a £3.50 increase on the basic and rises in the productivity scheme, workers in the factory had started an overtime and time-sheet ban: for this the bosses locked everybody out. Furious negotiations took place with personnel and full-time officials, and management conceded every point of contention.

Stewards in the factory saw this as a complete victory. However, workers in Bonar & Long mustn't get too complacent. The result of the productivity deal—incidentally, the local full-timer, Communist Party member John Brown, called it the best he had seen—has been 400 jobs lost since it started. Management boast that production in the same period has doubled.

Engineering in this area is booming just now, but for B&L workers to protect their living standards, action will have to be taken again. Action on equal pay for

women fell by the wayside, and most differentials were maintained.

But, despite this, the workers have won a victory. We have been strong and together, and this must be a lesson for the future.

Buses protest jams town

by John Noone

TGWU Blackburn Corporation Transport

BLACKBURN:—The town centre was paralysed last Saturday morning when the bus station was jammed with buses left by striking bus workers. As traffic jams spread, the strikers had a mass meeting outside the Transport Department's offices.

The strike started after Ken Riley, a busman employed by the corporation, was suspended for refusing to drive a bus without a fire extinguisher. Ken is in-

involved in the local 'Platform' group of rank and file busmen.

The incident was reported to the union steward, who took no notice, so some bus workers decided to take the buses off the road themselves. The operation was an immediate success. In just over an hour the driver concerned had been re-instated, all buses fitted with new fire extinguishers, and the strikers had been paid for the time they had lost.

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.

THE COLLIER: July/August issue now out. 5p—now 8 pages! All orders to 29 Station Road, Dodworth, Barnsley.

SUPPORT WANTED for Islington Tenants Campaign picket on Prebbles Estate Agents. Meet 9.30am-12.30pm every Saturday, 82 Parkway Camden Town, 109 Upper St, Islington and 564 Tottenham High Street.

HOSPITAL WORKER No 10 NOW OUT. Four-page special (price 3p) on latest developments—hospital engineers' strike, radiographers, nurses, private patients and London Weighting. Orders to 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2. Please add postage.

B&ICO public meeting: Bill Warren on Imperialism. Thursday 19 August, 7.30pm, Conway Hall.

GKN WORKER, the newsheet written and produced by rank and file trade unionists in GKN. Latest issue now out. Price 1p per copy (plus postage please), from 165 Tame Road, Witton, Birmingham 6, or IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—SIX YEARS OF 'NORMALISATION' public meeting organised by the Committee to Defend Czechoslovak Socialists. Speakers: Jan Sling, Monty Johnstone, Joe Greenwood. Wednesday 21 August, 7.30pm, Mary Ward House, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1.

GOOD DANCE GROUP available for IS and trade union socials in London—£20 but negotiable. Phone Mike at 01-567 4575.

IMG comrade with seven-year-old son and animals wants non-sectarian comrades(s) perhaps with child, to share friendly house in London NW5. £9 per week inclusive. Phone 01-485 0077.

LEICESTER ANTI-FASCIST DEMONSTRATION Meeting of a broad all-London mobilisation committee to arrange support and transport for the anti-fascist demo at Leicester on Saturday 24 August, Sunday 18 August, 7pm, 220 Camden High Street, London NW1.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leaderships, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to One World (SW), The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

Murder in Italy—and 200,000 remember

by Dave Schonfield

BOLOGNA, Friday:—There are 200,000 of us here gathered for the funeral of the 12 victims of fascist terror on the Florence-Bologna railway line.

Thousands have been arriving in Bologna since noon for a demonstration which begins at six o'clock.

The President of the Republic and other Christian Democrats are coming to shed crocodile tears for the victims of the fascism that they protect and ally with in parliament.

But the only colour which matters is red. Banners of the engineering workers, railwaymen, the partisans—fighters against Mussolini and the Nazis. Flags of the farmworkers, oil workers, from Fiat and from Pirelli.

Men and women they struck for half a day on Monday and Tuesday. Now they have come to show their power before the very eyes of their rulers.

Suddenly a storm of hatred surges from the crowd. It is six o'clock. The politicians are arriving. Here is Fanfani, secretary of the Christian Democrats, ex-fascist. He enters the cathedral, behind him are the President and the Prime Minister, Leone and Rumor.

Inside the cathedral the service begins, here outside the crowd is silent, self-controlled. Nearly an hour passes before the coffins emerge, followed by the politicians. Red banners encircle the stage.

Vague

The voices of thousands shout 'Outlaw the MSI!'

'Down with the government that protects the fascists.'

The only speech is made by the Communist Mayor of Bologna. The speech is short and vague. There is some applause, especially when the anti-fascist traditions of Bologna are mentioned, but there is a roar of disapproval when the speaker says that only constitutional methods can be used to fight fascism.

The speech ends. The government and party leaders hurry away. For them the demonstration is mercifully over. The crowd begins to disperse, marching away with flags held high. Shouts and songs. Songs of the struggle against Mussolini, songs of the partisans.

Clenched fists and banners in the air. The soldiers looking from the barrack windows raise their fists in salute; a small red cloth is waved.

The working class and revolutionary movement in Italy has grown enormously in strength in the past months, but the Communist Party leaders persist in their moves for alliance with the Christian Democrats.

Meanwhile even the corrupt police machine has moved to arrest certain extreme right wingers.

But these are few among many more, in the police and in the army. The government protects them, and the Communist Party covers up for the government. The destruction of fascism and those that protect it will be accomplished by the revolutionary workers' movement.

NO 'THE END' FOR US—FILM WORKERS

by Dave Widgery

LONDON'S second ever work-in is now under way at the heart of the film industry in Soho's Dean Street. Two weeks ago the 70 film technicians at De Lane Lea Studios, the Rolls-Royce of sound recording, read a paragraph in the trade paper. It announced that they were to be sacked and that the studios were to be closed down and sold.

'At first, we were stunned', said Red Swanscott, ACTT steward. 'We tried to talk with management, and got nowhere.'

'Then somebody said from the floor, quite spontaneously, "Why don't we take it over?"' The stewards got hold of a full set of keys, shut off the power and posted a 24-hour watch on the studios which contain dubbing, recording and mixing equipment unique in Western Europe and worth nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

'It was magnificent', said Jack Amos, National Association of Theatre and Kine Employees steward. 'Everyone was very together.'

Humphries Holdings, the company which owns De Lane Lea and who are forcing the closure, appear baffled that the film workers should object. Initially, Mr Nutman, the hatchet-man in charge of the operation, refused even to speak to the stewards.

When he did consent to meet them, said Jack Amos, it was 'like a head master talking to naughty school kids'.

Humphries has failed to give cast-iron guarantees that the studios will stay open. Until they do, the film-in goes on.

FREE-LANCE

But behind Humphries stand the real villains: British Electrical Traction, last year they declared profits of £30 million.

'Obviously these people don't have the slightest knowledge of the film industry' said Ernie Cousins. He is a veteran sound-recording free-lance who has worked at De Lane Lea for 20 years and is chairman of the sound section of the ACTT.

'They just see it as a very nice bit of property in the middle of London.'

'But De Lane Lea is literally irreplaceable. It's world-famous for dubbing and it's the only studio where all stages of the process can be done under one roof.'

'We've got Otto Preminger's new film "Rosebud" scheduled to come through. Well, we're going to do it whether Humphries likes it or not. We have the support of the film-makers who are as worried as us about the loss of facilities.'

The impetus for the work-in is strengthened by the film-workers'

feeling that their studios have been poorly managed.

The stewards suspect that the studios have been deliberately run down so that Humphries can claim the closure is economically inevitable.

Now there is a lot of excited talk of workers' control.

The De Lane Lea closure highlights the urgent need for government money if the British film industry is to survive, but unless nationalisation is carried out and supervised by the film production workers themselves, it will simply become another exercise in pocket-lining for the like of British Electrical Tractors.

But a real campaign to pressure the Labour government into saving De Lane Lea could make the film unions' abstract demand for nationalisation and workers' control really come alive.

In the meantime the film workers continue to run the studios, to strengthen their control over the building, and to build up trade union support. ACTT's executive have given whole-hearted backing but, more important, messages of solidarity from the shops and branches of both film unions are flowing in.

Messages of support should be sent to The Joint Trade Union Committee, De Lane Lea Studios, 75 Dean Street, London W1.

Chrysler vote lays up trouble in store

by Peter Bain (TGWU)

GLASGOW:—Five days after returning from holiday, the 7000 manual workers at Chrysler's Linwood plant voted overwhelmingly last Friday to accept the company's pay offer.

The increases range from £6.25 for grade 5 to £9.07 for grade 1, giving basic rates of £41.44 to £50.12 respectively. There will also be one extra day's holiday. The consolidated time rate, used to calculate shift and overtime payments, has been increased proportionally to the grade increases. Shift workers gain £2-£3 on top of the basic increase.

The shop stewards submitted an 11-point claim in May. On items like the 35-hour week, equal pay for women, more relief time, and improvements in lay-off pay, there was no offer at all. Further, we demanded an across-the-board increase, but accepted a widening of differentials.

Linwood's grading structure, five grades with less than £6 between top and bottom, was the best in the car industry. Chrysler's intention is to get us onto the same eight-grade structure as Coventry.

INCREASE

The acceptance of widening differentials started at a joint stewards meeting the day before the holiday, when the negotiating committee reported that the company wouldn't budge on our demand for an across-the-board increase.

A press shop senior steward, Willie Lee, who is an International Socialist, moved that we should reject the company's proposals and fight for an across-the-board increase. The main spokesman for widening the differentials was Ronnie Rigby, AUEW sub-convenor and member of the Communist Party. After a recount, the stewards voted to go for a deal which widened differentials between grades.

When the company, no doubt



LONDON:—Twenty-four members of the white collar union ASTMS, picketed last Saturday's National Executive meeting at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, in protest against the banning from office of number five division representative Ian Gibson.

Ian was kicked off the executive at its July meeting after the EC ruled that a Socialist Worker article he'd written was 'contrary to the interests of the union'.

The growing concern at this undemocratic manoeuvre has at last led to the setting of a date for Ian's appeal which will be heard on Wednesday.

The pickets were not allowed in to the executive meeting. ASTMS president and vice president Len Wells and Doug Hoyle came out to speak to the pickets however.

PICTURE: Paul McNicholls, International Free Lance Library

Assistant general secretary Muriel Turner informed the hotel manager with a view to getting the British Transport police called to throw them out.

Ian Mikardo the left wing Labour MP and member of the executive had his very own contribution to make to the furtherance of union democracy.

He suggested that Ian Gibson should be up for expulsion because his speech to the union executive was reprinted in last week's Socialist Worker.

Mr Mikardo concluded with the profound remark that in his experience people who talked most about democracy did least to effect it. This is obviously a serious reflection about parliament and left wing MPs in particular.

reaching the government's estimate of the rise in the cost of living this year. The fact that the 'Threshold' was closed, and that £1.20 was not consolidated, was pushed aside by the magic £8.

There are still a tremendous number of grievances about the outcome. Many workers express dissatisfaction about the settlement and have the feeling that more could have been won.

For the first time since January 1972, Linwood workers had the chance to negotiate unhampered by government legislation.

But we've settled for an increase which fails to keep up with the cost of living. An offer which has split the workforce and caused a tremendous amount of bad feeling in the factory.

Those who pushed through the deal can be sure of one thing—it won't be long before the chickens come home to roost.

DEATH OF A FIGHTER

JAMES LEAHY (1903-74) died in Dundee on 2 August, ending a life of revolutionary work and thought. He was born in Dublin in 1903 and was brought up during the time of the great Irish labour struggles, and later, after his family had been forced to emigrate to Scotland, on Red Clydeside.

Like many men of his time he sought to understand and fight the system that was trying to force his class into poverty. The result was a lifelong interest and commitment to Marxism. He joined the Communist Party in its earliest years, staying in it until the 1930s, when disagreements with the Moscow-controlled leadership forced him to leave.

By this time his militant union activity in Glasgow had led to his being blacklisted throughout the city, and he had moved to Dundee. In the 1930s he worked with the Unemployed Workers Movement in the city.

In later years Jim's closest political links were with the International Socialists. Though his increasingly bad health stopped him from taking full membership, he donated whatever he could afford and spoke at the IS branch on such topics as Revolution and Art.

His death has robbed the revolutionary and labour movements of one of its most articulate and committed members, and his family and friends of a warm, intelligent man.—Dundee IS.



INDUSTRIAL WEEKEND SCHOOL

TWO more weekend schools will be held this summer for IS industrial workers. Each will include sessions on working as a revolutionary on the shop floor, the rank and file movement and Ireland.

CARWORKERS SCHOOL: 17-18 August

ENGINEERS SCHOOL: 24-26 August (Saturday to Monday inclusive).

Both schools in London, accommodation arranged. IS members specially urged to attend. Contact IS Industrial Department (phone 01-739 6273) or branch secretaries.

Skimp on the Imp

ANYONE who buys a Hillman Imp in the next few weeks might detect the smell of engine fumes while driving. Don't worry about it—it's only Chrysler trying to cover up labour shortages.

When the Linwood workers went back to work on Monday 5 August after three weeks holiday, the assembly track was 30 minutes late in starting due to absenteeism. The management drafted 'new starts' on to the track, but were unable to man all jobs.

One job they didn't man was the fitting of small pads over vents in the back corner of the Imp. The Imp engine is at the back, and these pads prevent fumes from entering the car.

Missing

The reason these pads weren't fitted is quite simple—further down the track a large 'trim' pad is fitted which covers the small pad. So nobody will know the small pad is missing.

This went on all day Monday, and nobody was put on the job until Tuesday morning.

So if you're driving along and conk out because of engine fumes, say a prayer for Chrysler's profits before you pass out. After all, you can't expect Chrysler to provide adequate absentee cover and protect their customers' lives.

SOCIALIST WORKER FIGHTING AND DEFENCE FUND

READERS have sent £225 to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund this week, making a total of £856 so far for August. We need £2000 by the end of the month, so keep it up! Every little helps.

Our thanks to: Lambeth £29.31, Paddington £17.67, Fulham £8.20, Summer School, Ruskin £1.50, Scarborough £10, Socialist Worker readers, Thamesmead 50p, Socialist Worker readers, COVRAD £3, Basildon £5, Walthamstow £53.33, Lowestoft £10, North Herts £17.40, Croydon £10, Croydon Sporting Office £1, Wandsworth £5.11, Birmingham £8.75, Socialist Worker readers, William Press Gas Conversion, Bootle £2.50, Worcester £4.05, Paddington £20, Lambeth Council Workers £8.

Send your contribution or collection to National Treasurer, Jim Nichol, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

The price of Socialist Worker is to be raised—see page 3.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

EEPTU SHOCK!

Business consultants draft new union rules

by Laurie Flynn

THE executive of the Electricians and Plumbers Trade Union is to go into special session on Sunday to consider a special report on union structure—by a firm of business consultants.

The report says the union should take a few more steps along the bureaucratic path. It recommends the creation of five national heads of department and pushes for the general secretary to have more and more powerful, personal assistants.

Most important it recommends that the union should no longer have two top officials elected every five years. The post of general president, says the report, should go, and the general secretary become the undisputed supremo. In place of the union president, the report says the executive should elect a chairman every year, presumably from their

own numbers.

The re-organisation would in some ways merely formalise the situation which has existed at the top of the EEPTU since the death of Sir Leslie Cannon in October 1970.

Since then his associate Frank Chapple has remained the one and only top official by a series of executive-approved manoeuvres.

If the report is endorsed throughout the union there would only be one top official. The most likely contender for the post would be (right again) Frank Chapple.

The report has been done for an undisclosed fee by the Glasgow based firm of business consultants Higher Productivity (Organisation and Bargaining) Ltd. The firm, which this month changed its name to HPL Management Consultants had free access to all EEPTU offices up and down the country while investigations were being carried out.

Managing director of HPL is James Dobbie Houston, a man whose enthusiasm for making higher profits by getting fewer workers to do more work is so intense that a fellow employer once described him as 'a really dynamic bastard'.

Houston is an intimate of Frank Chapple's and of former EEPTU president the late Sir Leslie Cannon. His association with their faction in the union seems

to have started around 1966 when Houston was productivity, work study and sackings boss for Fairfield's Shipyard on the Clyde. He helped stage Fairfield's productivity propaganda courses at the EEPTU's Esher Place training college in Surrey.

But Houston's interest in the affairs of the Electricians' and Plumbers Union is even more immediate. For Houston is chairman of the Joint Industry Electricians' for Electrical Contracting in Scotland and in England and Wales.

According to Houston, the late Les Cannon, then unchallenged boss of the union, offered him a job at the JIB. The JIB is a scheme close to Houston's, Chapple's and Cannon's hearts since it allows the employers and the national officials to do wonders for higher profits by together policing the industry.

Two other figures active in HPL could also be said to have vital interest in maintaining and extending the type of trade unionism developed in the EEPTU by Cannon and Chapple. They are Houston's co-directors on the HPL board, top Edinburgh lawyer Alexander M Hodge and the high flying Scottish capitalist Sir Iain Stewart.

BIGGER

Hodge is an important enough businessman in his own right. He is deputy chairman of Britain's third biggest insurance company, Standard Life. His politics can perhaps be gauged from the fact that he is on the board of an organisation called the Scottish Union Jack Association.

Sir Iain Stewart is an even bigger fish. A Tory, Stewart is a director of the family firm Hall Thermo-tank, of the McAlpine's Dorchester Hotel Company, of the Thomson and Beaverbrook newspaper empires and of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Even more interesting he is a director of Eagle Star Insurance. This company is directly interested in the electrical and electronics industry where the EEPTU organises, through its major shareholding in the Rank Organisation.

Houston's other business partners are also interesting. Through two companies, Market Penetrations Ltd and Industrial Communications (Public Relations and Publications) Ltd, he is linked with former Thomson Newspapers executive Harry Henry and with film star Sean Connery. The Rt Hon Ray Gunter, your man from Securicor, is also on the board of Industrial Communications.

UNUSUAL

Over recent months Chapple EEPTU general president/secretary has been extremely anxious about the confidentiality of the HPL report on the union's structure. At the meeting of the executive where the report was first discussed Chapple insisted on all the copies of the report being handed in to him at the lunch break.

Houston too is keen on confidentiality. 'There is nothing unusual in this exercise', he told Socialist Worker.

Asked if his company had drafted rule changes for any other union, he replied: 'I can't give any details at all about this or any other matter.'

'The report is the property of the union executive. I do apologise. But it's rather like being a consultant surgeon. Clients don't want information about their operations being divulged.'



Socialist Worker supporters on the 400-strong march. PICTURE: Peter Harrap (Report)

Bengalis protest over repression

FOUR HUNDRED Bengalis demonstrated in London last Sunday in protest against mounting repression in Bangladesh. One speaker said it was 'the first-ever demonstration of Bengalis in Britain'.

The joy at Bangladesh's independence last year after the brutal atrocities of the Pakistani invasion has quickly evaporated. President Mujibur Rahman, who only 18 months ago was voted in by an enormous majority, has now embarked on a series of atrocities against dissenters and in favour of big business firms which keep him in office.

The Bangladeshi workers and peasants are now as badly hit as ever,

and are suffering diastrophically from floods from the Himalayan rivers.

More than 5000 have been killed and 200,000 marooned. Millions have lost their homes.

These floods were predictable. Everyone knew the floods were coming. Everyone knows what to do to stop them. A fragment of the wealth sucked from Bangladesh by foreign businessmen would have built the flood barriers necessary to prevent such a disaster. But nothing was done—and the wealth still finds its way into the pockets of landlords and businessmen, who will appear at expensive charity functions for the relief of Bangladesh's flood victims.

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ANTI-FASCIST DEMONSTRATION
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All IS branches to support