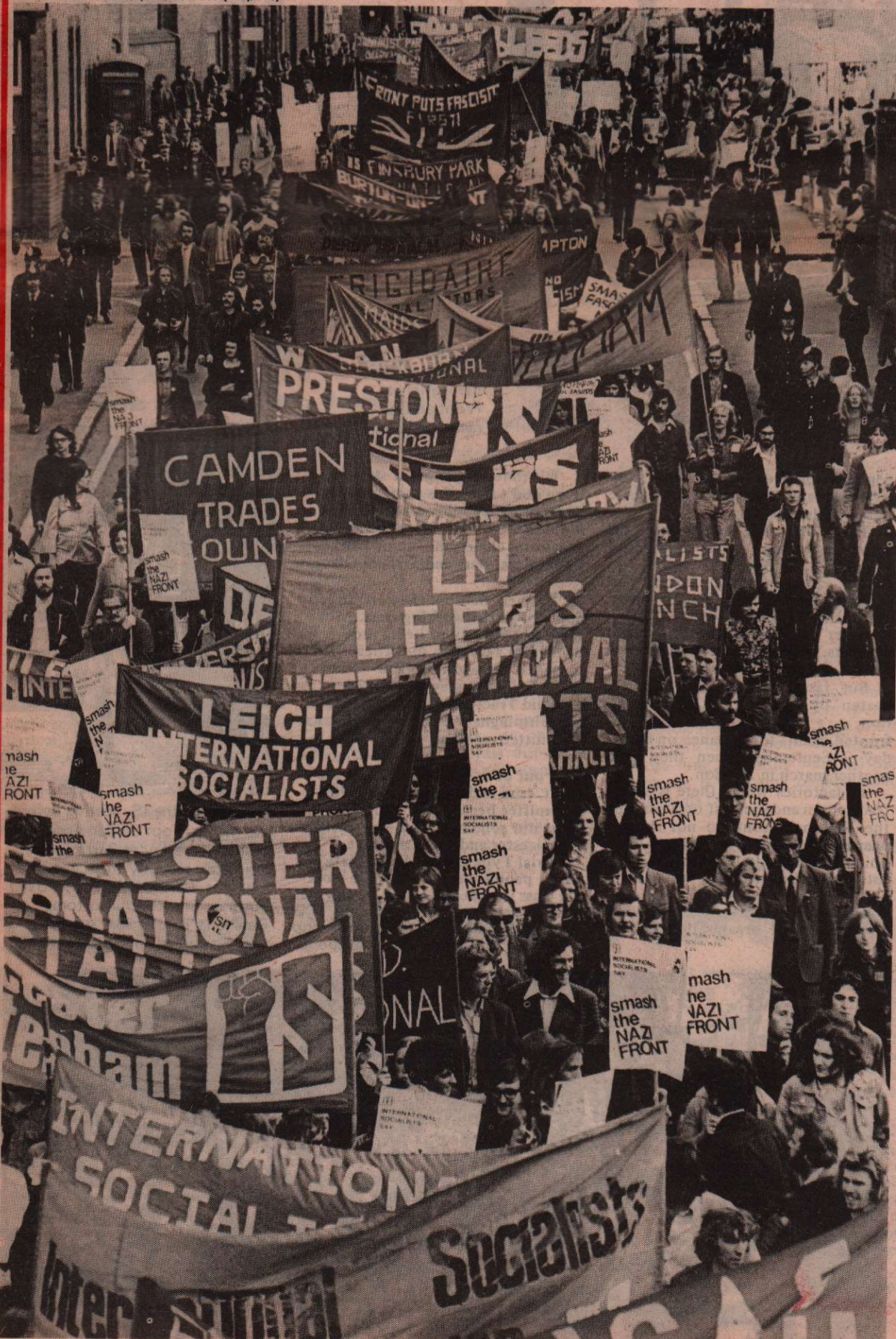


Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

JOBS: IS YOURS NEXT TO GO?

PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)



THE JUMP in unemployment is the biggest for July-August since 1948. 90,000 more workers lost their jobs—double the usual figure.

Next month's figures will be worse. The 3000 out of work because of the Court Line collapse and the 700 redundancies announced last week by Robertsons jam are only the start. Firm after firm is making plans to cut jobs.

We're in for a grim winter. The bosses are preparing an attempt to solve the economic crisis the way they solved the crisis of the 1930s—with massive unemployment. The Labour Party and the TUC, those great defenders of the working class, are pretending it isn't going to happen.

Employment Secretary Michael Foot tells us there will be no attempt to seek economic salvation through high unemployment. The TUC says in its latest report: 'It is still unclear whether the recent increase in unemployment is the beginning of a strong upward trend or not.'

But the bosses, the people who decide whether you're going to have a job or not, are clear enough. The London Business School forecasts a million out of work by winter 1975-76. The Economist heads its latest survey 'Towards two million unemployed'. All the economic forecasts are unanimous in predicting 'a strong upward trend in unemployment'.

Unemployment is written into the small print of the Social Contract. That's what the TUC and the Labour Party, in the run up to a general election, are desperately trying to hide.

For the TUC General Council to admit the facts would be to admit that the Social Contract is a fraud, that TUC policy disarms the working class in the face of the crisis.

The TUC chiefs are terrified of the truth. The last thing they want is to have to fight unemployment or anything else.

On inflation, the Report clutches at straws. 'There are however now

TURN TO PAGE THREE

WHAT WE THINK

The day we humiliated the Front

THE racials of the National Front thought they would have a field day in Leicester last Saturday. They intended to march through Highfields, where many of the black workers they hate so much have to live.

But they didn't get their field day. The calling of a counter-demonstration forced the police to tell them to march elsewhere. That was the first victory.

The counter-demo was itself the second victory. A magnificent 5000-strong demonstration denouncing racialism and calling for determined working-class action against fascism marched through Highfields.

Where the Front did march, working-class socialists were also out in force. They mimicked the Front and their fascism, goose-stepping and giving the Nazi salute. Report and pictures—page 2

INSIDE

Why are the Tories lying about their connections with Court Line

—PAGE THREE



Colonel Stirling's army: It's happened before —PAGE SIX

Eamonn McCann interviews a worried man: the chairman of the Ulster Workers Council

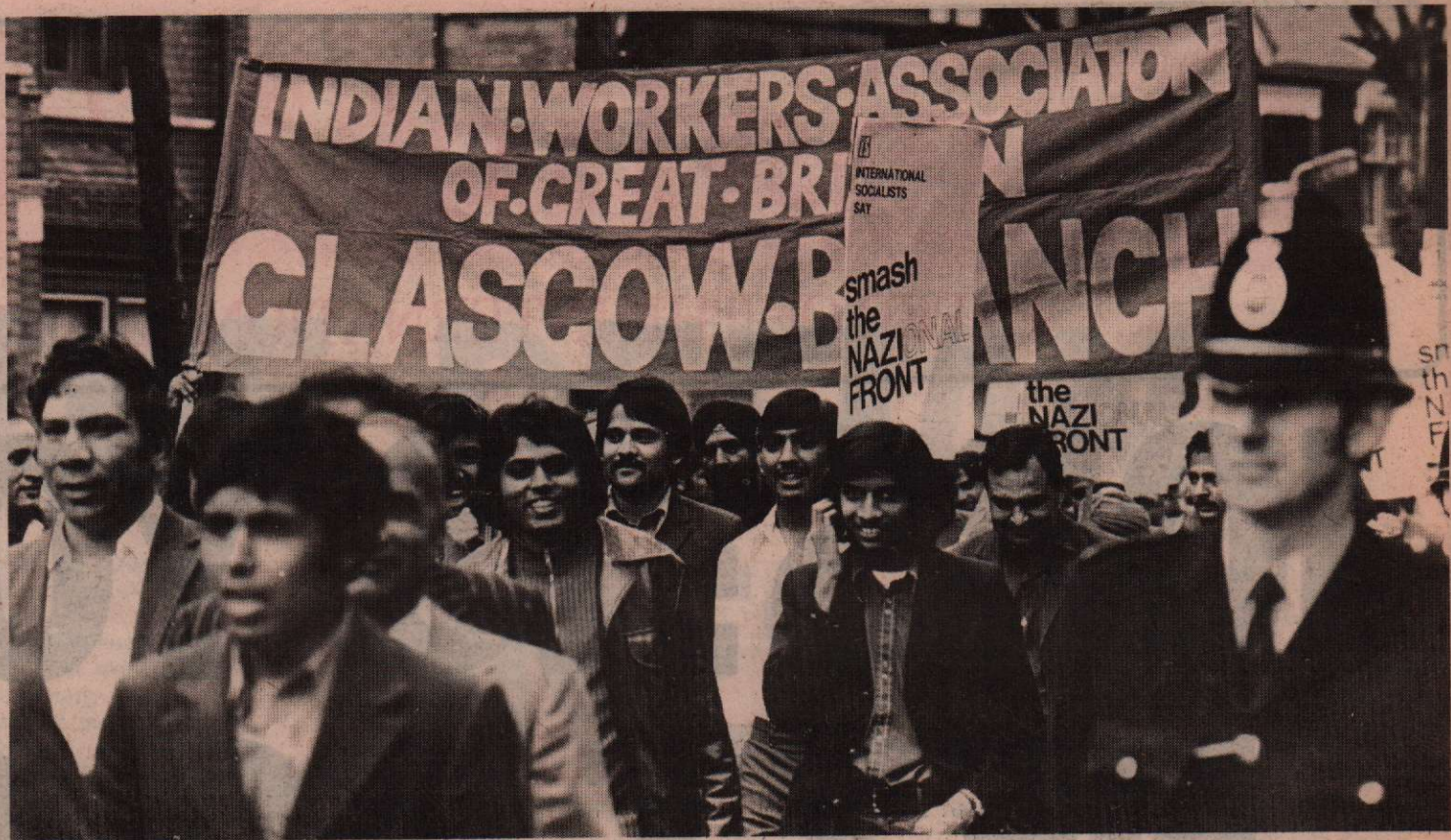
—PAGE FOURTEEN

Why Rockefeller is smiling —PAGE FIVE



The invisible killer of Birmingham —CENTRE SPREAD

WE GAVE THEM HEIL!



PICTURES: Christopher Davies (Report)



LEFT and ABOVE: Some of the scores of people from Leicester's Asian community who joined the march in opposition to the National Front and its racist policies.

EVEN the police estimated that there were 5000 on the march against the National Front and against racism in Leicester on Saturday. Leicester Radio, whose correspondent counted the marchers, put it at 6000. Everyone agreed that the International Socialists contingent was more than half the demonstration.

A huge crowd gathered in Spinney Hill Park before the march for the IS rally and meeting. Darshana Tomkinson, from the IS anti-racism sub-committee, spoke in English and Gujarati: 'We can't just go home. We know what racials like Amin can do. If the National Front is allowed to grow, are we supposed to jump into the sea? We've got to live here, and we'll have to fight for the right to live without being hounded by cranks and maniacs'.

INFLUENCE

Les Kay, a Blackburn busman, spoke of the growth of the National Front's influence in his town and industry, and how, if socialists stand up to the fascists and argue against their ideas at our places of work, their influence can be cut down, as it has been in Blackburn.

The meeting, which quickly grew to more than 3000 people, gave an enthusiastic reception to Safdar Asrar, Transport and General Workers' Union branch secretary at Barrington

Products, Leicester, where 145 Asian workers have been locked out for claiming a pay rise.

'We have been locked out but we won't be intimidated by management,' he said. 'We need the support of all trade unionists—and we need the united support of the community. We can't afford splits among workers, whatever their colour'.

John Deason, who chaired the meeting for IS, called for a massive collection for the Barrington workers. After expenses, this raised £101.

THWARTED

In a fine speech, Duncan Hallas for the IS executive, traced the rise of the National Front. He said that the organisation for the demonstration had achieved an 'important victory' even before it set off. The intention of the National Front to congregate outside the Imperial Typewriters factory and indulge in an intimidating march through the immigrant areas had been thwarted by the counter-demonstration.

Now socialists were marching through the Asian areas, past Imperial Typewriters, while the Front were being corralled into a tiny recreation ground and a 200-yard march at the other end of the town.

When we marched back into the park at the end of the march, we were rejoined by a band of 60 singing IS members who had gone to picket the Front demonstration.

That evening, the Leicester IS branch held a further meeting on 'Fascism and how to Fight it'.

About 100 people came to the meeting, including a number of young Asian men who had seen countless IS posters and had been impressed by the demonstration. The meeting, chaired in a personal capacity by Jim Tolton, who is a member of the Leicester District Committee of the AUEW, heard

contributions from several white shop stewards and rank and file trade union militants.

The climax of the evening was when a young Asian challenged Darshana Tomkinson's attack on Indian caste leaders in Britain. His speech caused a lively debate among the Asian workers present.

After an appeal from both main speakers, ten young Asians joined IS.

But fascism and racism are not beaten by one glorious demonstration.

The Front must be confronted again—for instance on Saturday 7 September when they plan another march in London.

In factories where there is strong trade union and socialist organisation, the National Front do not stand a chance. They thrive only where trade union organisation is weak and socialists are victimised. The best way to ensure the defeat of fascism is to concentrate our efforts on building strong socialist organisation on the shop floor.

'It's time people got it straight. If we don't fight this thing now, it could grow, possibly as much as it did in Germany'—Stuart Ferguson, chairman, Junior Works Committee, Barr and Stroud, Glasgow.

'I'm here because they are directly opposed to the working class. All their pretence about being pro-British isn't on with me. Their fight is against the working class'—Terry Gallacher, shop steward, British Leyland Tractors and Transmissions, and Birmingham East AUEW district committee member.

'Four of us have come from the paint, trim and assembly stewards' committee because we wanted to show our solidarity with the workers of Leicester and the strikers at Imperial Typewriters. These National Front people want to split the working class in order to smash it, and we have to get out and show them where we stand.'—Brian Ashton, shop steward, Ford, Halewood, Liverpool.



Some of the 2500 IS marchers listen to Duncan Hallas, of the IS executive, speaking in Spinney Hill Park

MARCH AGAINST THE NATIONAL FRONT
Saturday 7 September
Assemble Speakers Corner,
Marble Arch, London, 2pm
All IS branches attend

OPEN GOVERNMENT

Ugly face of Toryism



MOST of the faces of Edward Heath are well-known: Heath the Politician, Heath the Minister, Heath the Moderate, Heath, the Right-Handed, the Defender of the National Interest, Heath, the Sacrificer.

THE Tory Party and Sir Timothy Kitson, best friend and parliamentary private secretary to Edward Heath, the party leader, have got themselves in a terrible state over Court Line, even to the extent of lying openly.

Last week Ian Wrigglesworth, Labour MP for Thornaby, on Teesside, questioned the relationship of Sir Timothy Kitson with Court Line. He referred to the fact, first disclosed by Socialist Worker as long ago as last February, that Sir Timothy is a director of a 'shipbuilding consultancy firm' called A & P Appledore International, which is part of the Court Line empire.

The Tory Party promptly denied in an official statement that A & P Appledore was a subsidiary of Court Line. 'Only' two-fifths of Appledore shares, said the statement, were owned by Court Line.

This line was taken up by Sir Timothy himself. In a statement last Sunday he threatened to sue Ian Wrigglesworth for suggesting that Appledore was part of Court Line.

But Socialist Worker pointed out two months ago, when Court Line's shipbuilding interests were nationalised, A & P Appledore International is, and always has been, a subsidiary of Court Line.

For although 'only' two-fifths of the shares are held directly by Court Line, another fifth are owned by a mysterious company called Shipbuilding Services, whose board consists of seven main board Court Line directors and (right again) Sir Timothy Kitson.

Now that Ian Wrigglesworth has started to make a fuss about the Kitson-Court Line scandal, he should go further. He should ask publicly whether or not Heath, at Kitson's behest, went to two lunch parties at the Savoy in summer 1973, when Heath was Prime Minister. The lunch parties were organised by Court Line and their object was to sell

23 February: Socialist Worker reveals the Tories' connection with Court Line

Why are the Tories lying over Court Line?

by Socialist Worker reporter

the wares of A & P Appledore International to some of the biggest shipowners in the world.

Ian Wrigglesworth may like to ask whether the presence of such busy shipowners as Stavros Niarchos and Fred Olsen at the lunch was due to the 'star' appearance of the

Prime Minister. Or he might like to inquire about the conventions affecting the business associations of parliamentary private secretaries to the Prime Minister.

Sir Timothy Kitson joined the board of A & P Appledore in 1972—while serving Heath in Downing Street. He is believed to be the first parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister to have taken a job on the board of a private company while serving in Downing Street.

Another area for inquiry which could prove interesting is the £9 million loan granted by the Tory government to Court Line to help them build the Pallion shipyard on Wearside. The loan was granted at very favourable rates of interest—8 per cent, compared with the going rate of 14 per cent—and was followed by a 'further loan' (amount unspecified).

This must be one of the few government loans on record which has been made by a government department to a company with such close links with the private secretary of the Prime Minister.

Five days before the election, Sir Geoffrey Howe, then Minister for Consumer Affairs, refused to refer the merger between Court Line and Horizon to the Monopolies Commission—at the same time as Heath was flying about in unpaid-for Court Line jets.

Eldon Griffiths, Tory spokesman for industry, said in a recent speech at Luton that the Court Line affair could turn into 'Labour's Watergate'. Before long, Griffiths will find the muck he is throwing coming right back in his face.

Eldon Griffiths' personal Watergate—page seven.

Why Harry Murray, chairman of the Ulster Workers' Council, lives in fear—page 14.

NORTHERN IRELAND'S STRUGGLE IN THE DARK

by Eamonn McCann, Newry, Sunday.

NEWRY is still dark as a dungeon with no sign of a settlement in the dispute between the British and Provisional armies over control of the town's lighting.

The British control the electricity supply from a command post in the town centre and say this is necessary so as to give night foot patrols cover of darkness. Cars travelling through the area are ordered to put their lights out. The Provisionals want control returned to the civilian electricity board.

The dispute came to a head on Friday 2 August when 24-year-old Michael Hollywood died when his unit car crashed into a British army barricade in Patrick Street during a black-out. There were widespread protests—and not just from the Provos. Mr Hollywood was the third person to die recently in similar circumstances.

The Provisionals took the initiative by declaring that while the British held control of lighting they would

regard all electricity installations as 'military targets'.

It was this statement which prompted maintenance workers to down tools until the dispute is settled. Reports that the Provisionals had threatened to 'kill' the workers are lies.

So Newry suffers on. It is used to suffering. It is an overwhelmingly Catholic town and successive Unionist governments cared little for its development. The figures show that in July one Newry man in six was out of work.

For socialists the issue is whether the British army have the right to seize control of the basic necessities of life to facilitate its military operations here. In this dispute at least the Provisionals are absolutely correct.

Sixteen: The age of torture

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL this week published information on yet another aspect of the Chilean junta's reign of terror against working-class people.

Their statement on the treatment of the young, school pupils and students, lists 40 verified cases of youngsters who have been tortured and interned by the Generals and their police.

Among the cases documented is that of Hugo Chacaltana Silva, a 16-year-old schoolboy who has been in the hands of the men of law and order since 4 May this year.

Hugo is in the Tera Alamos prison in Santiago. But he has also been taken on several trips to one of the junta's many local torture camps, at 38 London Street, Santiago. There

he has been brutally assaulted and abused.

The United States Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners has accurately summed up the reason for this kind of brutality in its recent report on torture in Chile. This shows that the police indiscriminately arrest and torture the young in order to drive fear into the whole local population.

Despite this picture of intensifying terror the resistance in Chile is building up. According to Edgardo Enriquez, a member of the political committee of the revolutionary socialist organisation MIR who recently spoke in Paris, the resistance committees are now relatively well organised. But, he said, they need to be strengthened and in this international solidarity

is of great assistance.

In this context local Chile solidarity activities become important. As part of their groundwork for the 15 September demonstration in solidarity with the Chilean resistance, the Portsmouth Chile Solidarity Campaign leafleted the Portsmouth Naval Days.

At this event members of the public are invited to survey Britain's latest weapons of destruction. But this time they were met by a Portsmouth Chile Solidarity Campaign leaflet explaining what has been going on in Chile and outlining the complicity and co-operation of the British government and its navy.

Chile solidarity demonstration, Sunday 15 September, 1pm, Speakers Corner. March to Trafalgar Square.

WHAT WE THINK

Jobs: Will yours be the next to go?

FROM PAGE ONE

distinct signs that raw material price increases are slowing down. The Prices Bill and the amendments to the Prices Code will help moderate inflation and so will the rents freeze.

In fact the 'distinct signs' are that inflation is speeding up. The London Business School forecasts a 20 per cent inflation rate for next year.

So with every other feature of the economic outlook. The TUC General Council serves up soothing syrup. The situation gets rapidly worse.

The object of all this deception is to sell us the Social Contract, 'and so enable the government to proceed with progressive policies in the industrial, economic and social fields,' as the Report says.

Wages are falling behind prices, working-class living standards are being cut. Unemployment is rising fast and massive closures are threatened.

The worst economic crisis since the 1930s is developing and the TUC General Council recommends 'wage restraint', in reality wage cuts in terms of purchasing power, and trust in the government's 'progressive policies'!

There will be no 'progressive policies'. The next government, Labour or Tory, will react to the crisis with 'orthodox' capitalist measures to hold down wages and boost profits. It will try to solve the crisis at the expense of the working class.

The Tories would do it ruthlessly. Labour with a shrug and a crocodile tear.

The TUC chiefs are knowingly and deliberately acting as accomplices in the attempt. That is what the Social Contract is about. It is a completely fraudulent device to confuse the minds and paralyse the wills of working people.

It must be fought in every industry and every union. The need to develop a powerful rank and file movement with militant policies and real grass-roots support has been obvious for a long time. In this time of crisis the job becomes more and more urgent. When it comes to the crunch the TUC bosses will behave exactly like their predecessors who betrayed the General Strike. This time they must not be allowed to get away with it.

The working-class movement is immensely strong. It can be

BUSINESS NEWS ECONOMIC FORECAST

A million jobless and 20% inflation

BY MALCOLM CRAWFORD, Economics Editor

THERE WILL be a million unemployed in Britain the winter after next, despite the effect of Denis Healey's recent mini-budget. This warning is given in the London Business School economic forecast, by Professor Jim Ball and Terry Burns, published in Business News today. In a special new longer-term projection the forecasters also calculate that Britain is entering a three-year period of 'extremely slow growth with a high rate of inflation' and that there will be no increase in the standard of living between now and the end of 1977. Inflation may even get worse before it gets better. Ball and Burns say that the economy will be 'stagnant' by 1977. Exports are to grow in volume by about 7% a year—aided by a further drop in the exchange rate of a modest order. The weighted average devaluation of sterling from 1973 to 1977 is estimated to be 30%. The government's spending on goods and services is likely to remain unchanged this year—the planned growth having been wiped out by Anthony Barber's cuts last December. Capital projects actually fall, in real terms, by 25% this year, and are expected to slip a little further next year. The weekly figure is subject to short-term distortions. For example the timetable of company announcements does change from year to year. But the indicator is giving an early warning of the decline in corporate profitability that our economy

defeated only if it is led to the slaughter by treacherous leaders and defeatist policies.

The central theme of these policies is that workers share in the responsibility for inflation and unemployment, so must pay for them. But inflation and unemployment are not the responsibility of the workers. Inflation and unemployment have been permanent features ever since the industrial revolution, trade unions or no trade unions, militancy or no militancy.

The cause of both is the profit system. Because society is run by and for the small minority who control its wealth and its production, its economy cannot benefit the majority.

The system staggers from shorter booms to longer recessions. In the booms, the workers are urged to make sacrifices so as not to spoil things. When, in spite of those sacrifices, the booms turn into slumps, the workers are urged to make more sacrifices to get 'their country' out of the mess.

The profit system does not and cannot work for us. If we accept it, we are condemned to the interminable cycle of inflation and unemployment.

The workers have the power to resist. If they are not to suffer for the faults of a system designed to rob them, they must use that power. If a boss declares them sacked, they must seize the factory, demand its nationalisation without compensation and without jobs lost.

Instead of accepting their official leaders' demands for wage control at a time of price inflation, workers must use their strength to fight for 30 per cent pay rises for everyone.

It's a simple choice. Out of the social contract and the whining pleas of trade union and Labour leaders comes nothing but a longer dole queue and higher prices.

Out of militant struggle comes workers' confidence in their ability to sack the bosses and run a new social order.

LETTERS

Having a nazi time in Leamington

I WAS IN a pub in Leamington last week and here I met a fascist, a member of Colin Jordan's British Movement. 'The black filth of this country has reached epidemic proportions,' he told me. 'It's about time we got rid of this black pollution before we're overwhelmed.'

Thus spake the finest specimen of neanderthal manhood it has ever been my misfortune to meet. It, for surely it could not have been human, looked at me through beady little eyes that had never been graced by the light of intelligence. It looked contented as indeed, flushed with its racialist statements, dogma and a skinful of beer it was. The creature uttered again. 'What do you think then mate?'

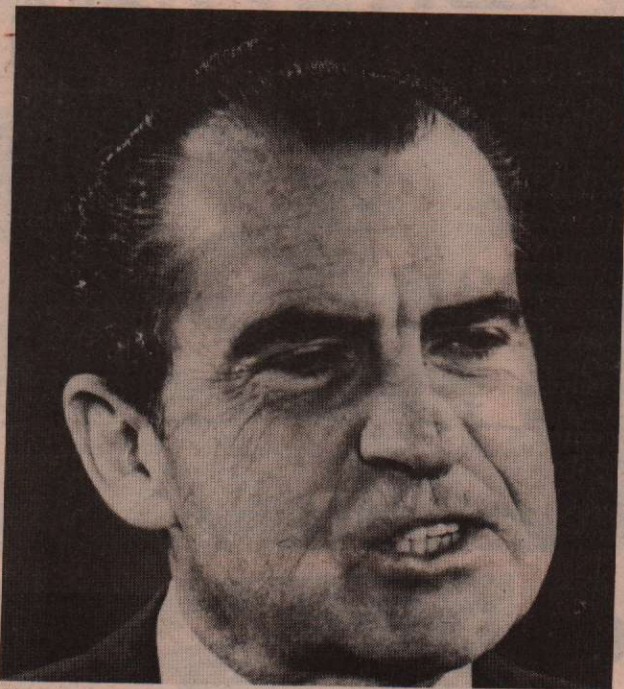
My stomach, which for sometime was fighting a losing battle with my lunch, calmed finally as the adrenalin caused by anger and disgust pumped into my enraged system. I approached the monster as close as I could.

Something flickered in those piggy little eyes. Could it be fear? It took a pace backwards and exclaimed, 'Ere, mate, what's wrong? You've gone all white.'

My mind tore this filth apart but in this instant the creature knew. It left its beer on the counter and backed out of the door.

No blow had been struck, none was needed. I pondered on this example of Nazi bravery. If we can expect this kind of reaction every time then decent people of all creeds and races have nothing to fear.

Unfortunately this is not the case. The day will come when they must not be allowed to run. -TONY BARROW, Coventry.



Nixon, statesman law and order man, crook. He needed a hard hitting law and order man like



Spiro Agnew, outspoken, two faced, crook. He had to be replaced by an honest, stupid man

In defence of NO LABOUR Teamsters VOTE

I'D LIKE TO try and answer the points raised by Socialist Worker and Eliseo Medina in the article on the American Union of Farm Workers, (22 June).

It's not my intention to stab Mexican-American farmworkers in the back. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters represents 35,000 agricultural workers. The boycott of Teamsters produce requested by the 2000 strong UFW would put our members jobs and livelihoods in jeopardy.

At no time have I claimed that since George Meany was reactionary and supported the UFW that socialists should support the Teamsters. I did say that many British workers see Cesar Chavez, leader of the UFW as a socialist revolutionary—but he is a Christian pacifist.

Teamsters started organising farm workers back in 1945. We haven't signed sweetheart contracts, if the employers wanted to then the big and strong Teamsters union would be their last choice.

To boycott California produce is to boycott 35,000 trade unionists. UFW demands this boycott because the workers have rejected them for another union. In any inter-union dispute it's the rank and file who suffer in the end unfortunately. -ADRIAN KARAMEL, representative, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

MY EXPRESSED CONFUSION at the International Socialists' 'Vote Labour' policy was not born out of my misunderstanding it, but is a sceptical wince at its tactical value to the revolutionary socialist movement.

Little of what the IS said or did during the last election influenced the Liberal gains or the Labour-Tory deadlock. What the IS did do, however, was to undermine much needed support for the communist and revolutionary socialist candidates.

What propaganda value is there in voting Labour in preference to Jimmy Reid? -TONY BARRS, Norfolk.

Weighted down by misfortune

CONGRATULATIONS to the Socialist Worker for the leaflet on London Weighting. Unfortunately the article on the Civil and Public Services Association was misleading.

There on the front page were articles pushing for £8 for all Londoners and on the back page the article demanded £550 inner and £350 outer. This is just supporting

How America took to losing Dicky

NIXON'S forced resignation produced a lot of comment in the British press about this being living proof that the American style of democracy really works. I'm on holiday in the States and it's interesting to find our how many people here think that sort of comment is a load of rubbish.

The system failed pathetically. The only thing that worked was the tape recorder, no one believes that without them the Congress of courts would have been able to get rid of Nixon. And the tapes were pure luck.

As for democracy (the voting sort) President Ford has never been voted for as president. He was chosen by Nixon when Agnew got the boot. Ford himself has chosen Rockefeller as vice-president. The world's greatest

democracy turns out to be government by appointment only.

The British press also spent a lot of time praising the new open style of Ford. Not much has been written about his politics. As well as voting against all attempts to limit military spending, Ford has also fought Medicare (a watered down version of the National Health Service) housing bills, raising the minimum wage, attempts to divert highway funds to public transport, grants for education, alleviate pollution, and the poverty programme.

The system that works here is the capitalist system—which now has another of its men at the top. -SM, Massachusetts.

the staff side's official claim and puts no pressure on our executive to scrap the inner/outer London boundary.

At Newham CPSA our branch has agreed to press for £550 across the board. We've written to our General Secretary the venerable Bill Kendall.

He replied that he thought the figure 'unreal'. To be fair to the old, wily gentleman he did say he would do his best!

We, the rank and file at Newham will endeavour to see that he does. The CPSA London Weighting article in the Socialist Worker special hasn't helped our claim. -DOUG BEESLEY, London E15.

Living in caravans—parked in a vicious circle

CARAVAN SITE owners in this country have almost unlimited powers as there are few laws concerning caravan site tenants. On the bigger sites each resident usually has to sign a contract agreement to obey a long list of rules which can range from not being allowed to hang washing in your own garden to agreeing not to have more children once you're on the site.

Most site owners only have caravans on their site either purchased or rented through them. If a resident wishes to sell his caravan he is compelled to sell through the site owner who takes a hefty percentage.

If anyone attempts to sell privately they will be told to take the van off the site. As other sites only have caravans bought through their site owner this creates a vicious circle where the tenant always loses out.

I would urge anyone reading this who lives in a caravan to form a residents association, find out what

rights they have—the Caravans Site Act 1968—and possibly to amalgamate with the National Residents Organisation.

Although at the national level the residents are using 'democratic' channels, that is lobbying MPs, at least if residents become organised they will have more chance of fighting back against the site owners who will have no hesitation in evicting individuals who try to fight back.

Some residents' groups are attempting to rent land themselves on a co-operative basis as land is often leased to site owners by local councils. It is unlikely that this will have much success in a capitalist system.

Laws protect the rights of people such as site owners to make scandalous profits for providing what should be everyone's right. That is somewhere to live.

This isn't the ugly face of capitalism—it is capitalism. -JENNY BROOK, Nottingham.

OPENING UNIVERSITY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY are constantly worrying about the low working class intake they've got and how they can increase it. The OU advertise frequently in the Times, the Observer and the Daily Express and so on to encourage workers to join. After all the workers help to subsidise the OU. It is 'their' university, OPEN to all.

The working class work longer hours, with frequent overtime to allow them to earn a living wage. So they have less time than, say a teacher. But I feel this handicap could be overcome. Time off with pay for study could be given and 80 per cent of 100 per cent expenses paid.

I'm sure that if the Open University knew about Socialist Worker, they would be anxious to advertise to attract shop-floor membership. Why don't you give them the opportunity? -M RUSSELL, Handford.

We don't think the OU would be so keen as you think. . . .



ASBESTOS

The dust that kills in the name of profit

A new Socialist Worker pamphlet that tells the story of the Glasgow insulation workers' union branch, of the men who have died because of asbestos—and of their fight to save others from it. To the series of articles originally published in Socialist Worker has been added a guide to where workers are likely to encounter asbestos, what laws cover its use and how to force management to keep to them.

10p plus 4p postage (10 copies or more post free) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

...and how Rocky took America



... Gerald Ford, so stupid he doesn't know if he's honest, he needed a strong incorruptible man like ...



Nelson Rockefeller, so rich he doesn't know what honesty is. He owns the law, the order, and the bank.

ONE OF the most famous of modern American business enterprises, the Mafia, still has a problem with some of its revenue.

Like all the other great corporations which have made the United States the country it is, the Mafia has big holdings in oil, property and a wide range of 'honest' business concerns.

They also have big interests in businesses which still earn the official disapproval of the United States government. The money is good, but it is dirty.

So they have a process called laundering. The money is shipped out to Switzerland or some other financial haven and then re-imported to the United States to take its place among all the other dollar bills earning a decent living sucking the population. The money has become magically clean.

Survived

But for the older businesses and families a more complex process takes place. For the great old families of the United States don't need to launder their money. They launder themselves instead.

To support Gerald Ford a spotless figure was needed, a man so rich, so powerful, that he wouldn't need bribing. A man who is a byword for wealth—Nelson Rockefeller.

And the laundering that has been

Nigel Fountain

done for the Rockefellers is impressive indeed. Night has been turned into day by his family. For crimes performed by his recent ancestors make the financial deals of Agnew look like dirty deeds on a jumble sale white elephant stall.

Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller was born in 1908, the son of John D Rockefeller Jnr, son of the founder of the dynasty, the man who became the king of Standard Oil—known to us all as Esso.

By 1924, Rockefeller Jnr, was estimated, conservatively, to have an annual income of 30 million dollars.

But this wasn't enough for Nelson. From an early age he set his target as the Presidency of the United States. If you own the company store, he must have reasoned, you might as well have your name above the door.

His interest in politics may well have been spurred by the desire to emulate his famous grandfather from whom he takes his first names, Nelson Aldrich.

As Republican Party chief whip at the turn of the century, Aldrich made himself a popular figure with many presidents. He gave them large sums of money, passed on by grateful bankers and Rockefellers.

Some of it was retained by the resourceful Aldrich. He had run a wholesale grocery business until

1881—leaving it with just 50,000 dollars to his name. Let no-one say that politics is all long hours and self-sacrifice, for he died with a fortune of 12 million dollars. During those years he became known as 'Morgan's floor-broker in the Senate.'

Morgan was America's best known banker, a man not without a sense of humour. He owned a yacht called the Corsair, whose flag appropriately enough, was the Jolly Roger.

Nelson Rockefeller won the New York State governorship in 1958. His early reputation was that of a 'liberal'. The family had spent years attempting to repair the damage done to its name by its exploitation of other citizens of the United States. They built beautiful art galleries on the sites of slums owned by the family.

Even the United Nations owes its present building to the generosity of the family. They donated the slum land on which the imposing buildings were built. And in doing so pushed up the value of the surrounding buildings.

Fortune

This was a useful bonus for the owners—the Rockefellers...

For 15 years Rockefeller governed New York, only quitting at the end of last year. Among his early aides was Henry Kissinger, who he presented to Richard Nixon in 1968 as Special Advisor on Foreign Affairs, to run the foreign side of the family business.

As the years of governorship passed, So Rockefeller's liberal image faded. Occasionally from within the velvet glove, the scrawny old Rockefeller hand would reach out.

In 1971 there was a protest against the appalling conditions in Attica State Prison, New York. The prisoners occupied and asked to negotiate with Nelson Rockefeller.

They got their reply. The State Police were ordered to move in, and use their weapons. 43 prisoners and hostages were killed.

When Rockefeller left the New York State governorship he announced that he intended to devote himself to his new 'Commission on Critical Choices for Americans'. This elaborate charade employs a large number of rich people to decide new ways of fobbing off poor people. Among them is Mrs Nancy Kissinger, whose critical choice on where to spend her honeymoon with Henry was thoughtfully solved by the provision of a private Rockefeller plane.

A congressional inquiry is now investigating the legitimacy of Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller's financial affairs. To a less blinkered group than the United States Congress this would be a task similar to looking for a haystack in a haystack.

POSTAL POINTS

TOM BEGINS . . . The first public meeting of the Birmingham Troops Out Movement drew an audience of 120 people mainly from the local labour movement . . . The next initiative will be a meeting on the government white paper which has been sponsored by local Labour Party wards, LPYS wards, and shop-stewards committees, and will have speakers from as many tendencies in the labour movement as possible in order to ensure a large meeting. From this meeting it is hoped to set up an ad-hoc committee to mobilise for the national demonstration in October called by the Troops Out Movement/British Peace Committee.—JOHN PARKINSON, Publicity Officer, Birmingham Troops Out Movement.

CYPRUS . . . Both Makarios and Sampson were getting money from the CIA. When thieves fall out information about their operations sometimes leaks out . . . It's necessary to carry out a determined campaign among the Greek Cypriots to discredit Makarios. To often calls for Marxists to wage a joint struggle with such forces only cover class collaboration.—L HOLLEY, Bath.

WE WILL . . . As a pensioner I look forward to your publication every week. It is the only left-wing weekly packing a punch and harassing the Selsden Park skinheads of the Tory Party. Keep up the good work.—J A BEST, Glasgow.

WE COULD ORGANISE A COACH . . . If anyone is finding it difficult to buy sugar from the shops they will have to play bingo in South Elmsall. They are giving away sugar as prizes. Yet in the shops in South Elmsall as you get is 2lb of sugar if you're lucky.—A WOOD, South Elmsall, Pontefract.

THE IRA, OR NOT? . . . It seems generally assumed that all the bombs which have been planted in Britain are put there by the Provisional IRA. Certainly most workers I seem to come in contact with believe this . . . But looking further it seems to me that all the bombs aren't IRA perpetrated. They've been so many, planted in the wierdest places, lots of them not going off, those which do with no prior warning. A pamphlet written by Conservatives, criticising the Monday Club points out that in situations where the army or state security forces infiltrate a situation can arise where if the agent 'expects his enemy to plant bombs and he is gearing public opinion to such an event and (when) it does not happen, the counter insurgent is likely to plant the bomb . . . The implications this theory has for the labour movement and the left are obvious . . . We must make the fight against fascism the major priority before it's too late.—MICK BRIGHTMAN, Cricklewood.



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



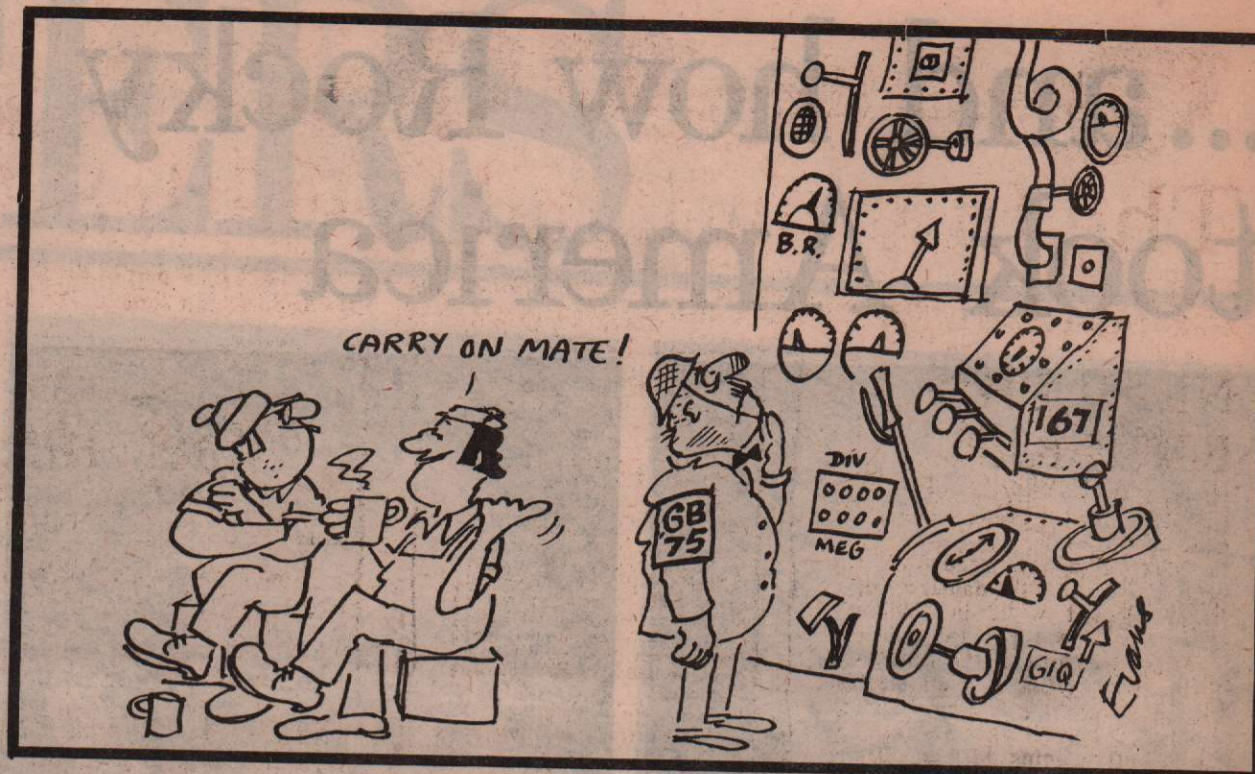
If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____

It's happened before... and it's happening again



THE NEWSPAPERS and television are full of the antics of extreme Right-wing leaders planning volunteer forces to 'take over' in the event of industrial unrest.

Until recently, the articles have concentrated on Sir Walter Walker, a retired NATO General, who is building an organisation called UNISON, and Mr David Petri, leader of the National Association of Ratepayers Groups.

Walker has been quoted as saying that the British 'might choose rule by the gun in preference to anarchy' while Petri has admitted that the rates issue is a cover for building a right-wing volunteer organisation.

But Walker and Petri are political amateurs. Their importance is more in sensing the hysterical mood of the British middle classes, rather than in their ability to organise something really powerful.

Colonel David Stirling is a different matter altogether. He is trying to organise Great Britain 75 'to keep Britain moving in the event of a serious breakdown of law and order'.

Stirling is no amateur. He has recruited, organised and led mercenary armies in the Persian Gulf. Many of the sheikhs who govern that part of the world owe their kingdoms (and their armies) to the military intelligence and skill of Stirling.

Stirling has talked openly about 'moving into State institutions' in the event of a crisis caused

1974: 'Democrats' preparing for rule by the gun

by strikes. His organisation, according to the Daily Express, is 'backed financially by leading businessmen from the City and from industry'. Stirling is far too clever to get his organisation hitched up in the tresses of political organisations like the National Front.

The cause of all this organisation—and the publicity for it—is the economic crisis. The men who own and control property know that their economic system will (at best) stagnate in the coming year.

They are deeply concerned at rising trade union militancy, and they know that before long they are in for a major battle.

In this situation, tacit support and not so tacit publicity will be given to the hawks in the ruling class—the men who want to take on the workers at their own game, who want to prepare their resources for strike-breaking on a massive scale.

The champions of law and order suddenly

become champions of men who openly advocate 'rule by the gun' and talk about 'moving into State institutions'. The defenders of parliament suddenly defend armed bodies of men who care not a hoot for parliament.

These men have no official support at the moment. But the State machine is not unprepared. An extraordinary paragraph in last Friday's Guardian announced:

'Senior officers' (presumably of the army) 'pointed out yesterday that contingency plans exist for emergencies, as was demonstrated by the presence of the military at Heathrow Airport and the intervention of the army in the Glasgow firemen's strike at the end of last year.'

In other words, the forces of law and order are gearing themselves through so-called 'exercises' for the class battle which is looming.

When that battle breaks out in earnest, these same State forces will refurbish their resources with private armies of volunteers such as those being organised by the Stirling/Walker mob.

The strengthening of the State machine and the open advocacy of private armies are further arguments against those socialists who imagine that we will change capitalist society by co-operating with the military authorities and leaving political activity to impotent representatives in Parliament.

They are organising their real strength. So must we.



The 'volunteers': Colonel Stirling and, below, General Walker.



1926: Blacklegs by the thousand

IT HAS all happened before. In July 1925, City bankers told the Tory government that to restore the international prestige of the pound they needed . . . wage cuts all round.

Soon afterwards, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin announced that 'all the workers of this country have got to take reductions in wages to help put industry on its feet.'

Encouraged, the coal-owners led the attack with wage cuts of up to a quarter and an extra hour on the working day. A national lockout of miners followed. Labour responded quickly with a triple alliance of miners, railwaymen and transport (including dock) workers. A total embargo on the handling of transport of coal was declared.

Postpone

The government, unprepared for this unusual display of unity and determination by the trade union leaders, decided to buy themselves a breathing space. Baldwin agreed to grant a subsidy to keep miners' wages at their previous level, but this was to run for only nine months. As Churchill later said, the government had 'decided to postpone the crisis in the hope of averting it, or if not averting it, coping effectively when it came.'

A top civil servant was discreetly given the job of chairing a small Emergency Committee on Supply and Transport. England and Wales (Scotland was treated separately) were divided into ten divisions, each to be put under the control of a government minister.

By November 1925 the

plans were complete. Details of transport routes, naval manning of power stations and mobile police squads were worked out in the following two months. Stocks of food, fuel and coal were built up.

Side by side with the government's secret preparations, there appeared in late 1925 an 'independent' organisation of strike-breakers:

OMS, the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies. Led by Lord Jellicoe, Admiral of the Fleet, General Sir Francis Lloyd, Sir Lynden Macassey and other trusted servants of the British ruling class, it soon received public support from the government.

In the 1920 coal strike, 70,000 volunteers had been



The showdown was coming. The government and OMS organised . . . unlike the leaders of the Labour Movement.

By IAN HAMILTON

recruited into Defence Units, temporarily attached to the regular army.

OMS drew most of its earliest recruits from these same people: ex-army officers, upper class students, disgruntled members of the middle classes and the President and Vice-President of the British Fascist Organisation.

Worked

Small and large firms alike made generous contributions and several factories equipped with private railways were made available for training purposes.

Just before the General Strike, OMS handed over its list of 100,000 volunteers to the government. From then on it worked closely with the government and its 'emergency' divisional organisations.

When the strike began on 3 May, the massive response from the workers underlined the government that only the 'volunteer' blacklegs of the OMS could break it.

Problems soon arose, however. The OMS could not provide the skilled workers needed to carry on many

vital jobs. As a result, the railways system and many other public services collapsed, though the OMS did manage to run many bus services.

A skeleton service on the underground was also maintained. At many power stations, naval ratings, OMS blacklegs and non-union technicians kept the turbines going.

To overcome the disruption of transport and to seize the initiative from the strikers, the government's emergency regional organisation moved into action.

The Road Commissioner in each division, usually a senior civil servant, co-ordinated the work of the Haulage Committees to keep essential supplies moving. The docks were opened under military or police protection, and were worked 'of a fashion' by OMS volunteers.

10,000 special constables were sworn in and an appeal for 50,000 more was broadcast on BBC radio.

How had Labour prepared for the battle?

No plans for distributing food to strikers and their supporters had been worked

out, nor was there an effective system of communication and regional organisation.

Bevin later recalled 'there had been no preparation for it all.' Baldwin and Churchill were therefore all the more confident of their policy of confrontation.

There was some urgency and determination in the Labour movement, however. The Minority Movement, an organisation of rank and file trade union militants, urged trades councils to form Councils of Action and called on the TUC to convene a National Congress of Action.

In some areas, strike committees took the initiative, publishing strike bulletins and controlling all forms of transport.

Beaten

During a House of Commons debate, MPs were told that in Newcastle 'the OMS has completely broken down . . . the authorities have approached the trade unions and asked them to take over vital services.'

The OMS was beaten only when rank and file councils had taken the initiative. The strike was sold out by the TUC. But if it had gone on much longer, the OMS could have gone a long way towards breaking it.

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

FOOT

PRINTS

The International Wealth Service

PRIVATE health practice is becoming really big business. On 20 August, the London Evening Standard carried the following advertisement:

NEAR THE KNUCKLE

IT IS most pleasing to report that compensation for losing a finger has gone up—for some.

Craig Callingham, aged four, has been awarded £2000 damages for a finger he lost while in London's University College Hospital.

Craig, aged one at the time, was apparently playing with an electric fire in a reception room when he touched a live connection, severely burning his finger. This fell off during bandaging.

Any power press operator who lost a finger thanks to his employer's negligence would be lucky to get £500.

Craig Callingham is, of course, the grandson of the well-known idler Lady Docker. And as everybody knows an upper class finger is valued higher than a working class one.

The future of the Private Patient?

Will any group interested in providing accommodation of the highest class for Private Patients by erecting a building incorporating full surgical and medical services and providing for 125 beds (each with bath) plus additional beds for intensive care, please contact the advertisers who own a freehold site, close to Harley Street, W.1, for which full planning permission exists.

This is a profitable field and full technical and management help is available.

Enquiries are invited from Principals only please.

Will Respected Agents and others kindly understand that correspondence will only be strictly limited to Principals. It will be appreciated if they will so advise their clients, who should either write on their business notepaper or disclose their association.

Full details are available from Box R223, Evening Standard.

But that's only part of the picture. Dentists in practice in the London area were surprised last June to receive a letter which started like this:

EXCITING PRE-F.D.I. MEETING ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7th 1974
BLOOMSBURY CENTRE HOTEL, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.

Meet the Mittlemans

A unique opportunity to have a day with two of the leading exponents on Preventive Dentistry in the U.S.A.

Jerry and Bev Mittleman, from New York, have agreed to give us the benefit of their wide experience in patient education, motivation, etc, and Beverley, with a degree in Nutrition, can answer your questions in this complex field and how to handle Diet Control programmes.

The Meet The Mittlemans Day was advertised for 7 September at the Bloomsbury Hotel. Applicants had to write to Preventive Dental Systems, 15 Rivington Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire.

In July, the same dentists received another notice from Mr L B Lux, the course director of Preventive Dental Systems: It ran:

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Mittlemans' are altering the format of their day Course in the light of the present Health Service crisis.

They will include the following vital items:-

- 1) Converting a patient to Private Practice.
- 2) The role of a dental staff in a development of Private Practice.
- 3) The relationship between a preventive orientated practice and increased demand for Crown and Bridge work.

This really does make the event unique and not to be missed.
Post your cheque NOW as numbers are definitely limited.

A Socialist Worker correspondent plans to go to the course to meet the Mittlemans and report fully on their disgusting enterprise.

Trade Fair profits great

THE newspapers have been full of pictures of Princess Alexandra and her husband, who is a businessman called Angus Ogilvy, walking about smiling in anticipation of the British Trade Fair in Brazil, which is on all this week, and which the Princess opened with customary charm and grace.

No newspaper has reported the fact that Mr Ogilvy, a former director of Lonrho, whose name was closely associated with some of the dealings of that company in 'illegal' Rhodesia, is a director of a number of companies which have been making the running for the big markets in Brazil.

Brazil's balance of payments deficit is so huge that the country's traditional dislike of foreign capital has been shelved.

Over the last year, foreign capital has been bribed into Brazil in huge quantities. The rush is likely to turn into a stampede if the Brazilian military junta lifts its ban on foreign shareholders taking profits in unquoted Brazilian companies out of the country.

One company likely to benefit from all this increased trade is the Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance company, one of Britain's 'big six' insurance companies, which has been operating in Brazil since 1806 but whose business there has increased hugely recently. One of the directors of GRE is (you've guessed it) the Rt Hon Angus Ogilvy.

This will not be the first time that the smiling Princess has acted as PR woman for her husband's companies. When Swaziland was declared independent in 1967, she represented the Queen at the independence celebrations.

A year later, she went out again with her husband to attend the first anniversary of the celebrations. Many observers were surprised at such dedication to a tiny Commonwealth country by the Royal Family—until it emerged that the Rt Hon Angus Ogilvy had somehow managed during his visit to clinch a crucial mining concession deal for Lonrho with the King of Swaziland.

PS. It seems, incidentally, that the British trade fair will not greatly assist the people of Brazil. In an article about the Princess' visit last week, I read the following:

While the economy has been booming the living standards of most Brazilians have fallen. Real wages have dropped again and again, while inflation, artificially held at 15 per cent. last year, is officially forecast to reach 32 per cent. this year.

The minimum wage has been raised only 20 per cent. It is now £23.50 a month (the price of a restaurant meal for six) for long working hours.

This is probably a heavily biased account. It came from the Daily Telegraph, 21 August.

Walker on the right

AMONG the buffoons who have written to retired NATO general Sir Walter Walker, offering their services to his planned volunteer force Unison is Mr Raymond Selkirk, secretary of Sunderland Flying Club.

Sunderland Labour Council leases the airport to the flying club, and one or two Labour councillors were heard to object to the idea that their airport could be used for these purposes. So Mr Selkirk explained everything to the local press.

'I am a middle-of-the-road Englishman,' he said, 'and am in complete agreement with the General, but people seem to think we are going to mount machine guns on our aircraft and shoot all left-wingers. This is not so.'

Of course not. Not all left-wingers, anyway.

Just what the dock Tory ordered

IT IS difficult to write the words Eldon Griffiths without vomiting. As Tory spokesman on Industry, he is constantly putting out loud-mouthed and reactionary statements about the current political scene.

Last Friday, for instance, Griffiths made his way to Luton where he spoke to workers thrown out of work by the Tory directors of Court Line. The Court Line business, trumpeted the appalling Griffiths, looks like turning into Labour's Watergate.

Before Griffiths goes around accusing his political opponents of corruption, he ought to look into his own cupboard at the golden skeletons there.

A few weeks ago, I reported that Mr Griffiths had been appointed as 'consultant' to Howard Machinery, a farm machinery firm which employs about 3000 people in East Anglia.

For some reason the people at Howards were very shy about talking to me about how much Mr Griffiths was paid to advise them in between fighting for his constituents in parliament and for the Tory Party on television.

I reckoned then that he probably took home an extra £3000 a year for a few days' work for Howards.

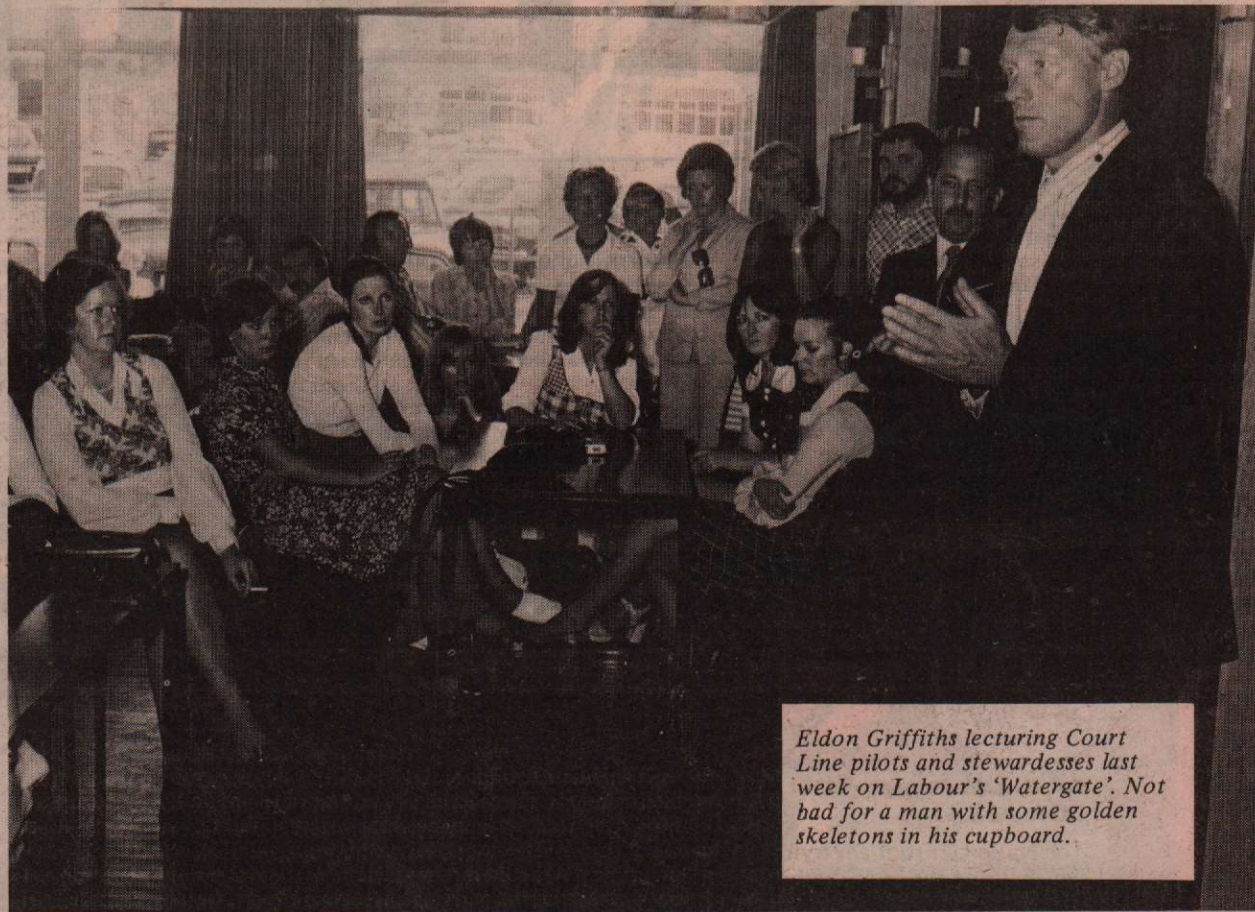
It obviously wasn't enough. The other day Griffiths was whining about the government's plans to nationalise the ports, or rather, some of the ports.

After some standard rant about the advantages of free enterprise, Griffiths then produced the following rather curious statement:

'The best port in Britain, private enterprise Felixstowe, in which I must declare an interest, will be levelled down to the standards of Hull.'

Note the crucial phrase 'in which I must declare an interest'.

Only last month, without any official statement being put out from Conservative Central Office, Mr Griffiths joined the board of Felixstowe Tank Developments Ltd, a



Eldon Griffiths lecturing Court Line pilots and stewardesses last week on Labour's 'Watergate'. Not bad for a man with some golden skeletons in his cupboard.

subsidiary of the Felixstowe dock company.

Felixstowe Tanks, as it is known to its friends, specialises in oil storage tanks, and its profits shot up under the last Tory government (in which the revolting Griffiths was Minister for Sport) from a mere £52,000 to £102,000.

A Mr Palmer at the Felixstowe docks, who answers questions from the Press, couldn't tell me why Mr Griffiths had been appointed a director. He assured me that Mr

Griffiths had no connection whatever with the company in the past.

For some reason, moreover, Mr Palmer wouldn't say how much Mr Griffiths was going to get paid for being a director of Felixstowe Tanks. 'About as much as the others' was all he would say, when pressed.

Well, there are six directors of Felixstowe Tanks—who last year were paid a total of £10,000: that's only £1500 (£30 a week) each.

But some of the directors are also on the main board of Felixstowe

Docks—where eight directors got £48,000—£6000 (£120 a week) each.

Let's be charitable to Mr Griffiths and say he gets paid about £60 a week extra which he can add to his £150 a week for being an MP.

What a decent bonus for a man of initiative and enterprise. And how cheap for Felixstowe Docks, considering that their newly-hired director has access to the national press any time he likes to describe the company which pays him as 'the best port in Britain'.



In the shadow of Spaghetti Junction; while the levels of lead in the blood of people living nearby soar, the 'experts' turn a blind eye

SPAGHETTI JUNCTION, opened in Birmingham two years ago as a masterpiece of constructional engineering, is slowly poisoning thousands of working-class people unfortunate enough to have to live nearby.

While the powerful road-building lobby rejoiced over the millions it had made them, and local big business counted up the savings in transportation costs, the warnings of the human cost were ignored.

No-one took any notice of the socialists, environmentalists and academics who said the enormous concentration of traffic at the motorway interchange would cause unacceptably high atmospheric lead levels because of the large amount of lead in petrol, and so create a serious health hazard to the residents.

In April 1972, just before it opened, 100 residents were found to have an average lead level in their blood of 12.2 microgrammes per 100mls. By last January, that level had more than doubled.

Protect

Yet the residents knew nothing of this until recently. Then the local press published a report delivered to the Birmingham Health Committee by Dr S G Phillips, Senior Administrative Medical Officer for Environmental Services.

The residents immediately set up an action committee. They demanded to know how dangerous the increased lead levels were—and how could they organise to protect themselves and their children.

They have canvassed local MPs, doctors and councillors but each time have been fobbed off with

the advice: 'Don't worry—there's no danger yet.'

The truth is very different. The published figures are only average figures and so conceal the real extent of the danger to individuals.

In one household of five living about 200 yards from the interchange, the latest adult readings are 39, 27, 49 microgrammes per 100mls, an increase of three times since the Junction was opened.

Birmingham's Medical Officer of Health and his deputy said they could not remember the extent of the range of the lead levels measured between last October and January.

The figures also conceal the dangers to children, pregnant

women and the sick, who are much more likely to suffer ill effects from high body lead levels than a healthy adult.

A pregnant woman risks damage to the central nervous system of her unborn baby. Lead in her blood can pass into the baby's bloodstream.

And the official response to all this? Birmingham's Medical Officer of Health Dr Millar, and his deputies, have indicated that the highest levels are 'not a cause for concern'.

The Chairman of the Health

Committee, John Charlton, has said: 'We are naturally concerned at the sharp upward trend but none of these people are in immediate danger and there are no plans to rehouse them.'

Danger

Dennis Howell, Labour MP for Small Heath and Minister for Sport, made a spectacular visit to Spaghetti Junction in the company of numerous TV cameras and reporters—only to reassure residents that there was no need for public alarm at present. He added: 'The lead levels shown are not at any danger point.'

Dennis certainly has no personal cause for concern. He lives in an expensive detached house in a pollution-free area of middle-class Moseley, many miles from Spaghetti Junction and his constituents in working-class Small-Heath.

To satisfy local opinion and quieten the protests he set up a working party largely composed of 'experts' from the Department of the Environment to look into the problem.

We didn't have long to wait to see which way the 'experts' would jump. They declared that all was well. The atmospheric lead levels were normal for urban areas and the blood lead levels were 'physiological', ie normal.

By RAY OSBORNE
A Birmingham hospital doctor

Killer Junction

Pictu

John
Sturr
(Rep

But to talk about a 'physiological' level for a known poison such as lead is absolute nonsense. Have you ever heard of a 'physiological' cyanide level?

After such an 'official' pronouncement, it was obviously expected that the local people would keep quiet. Instead they demanded further meetings with the local 'boffins', who obviously hadn't got a clue about lead poisoning, and then set up a new Action Committee, with a representative from each street, to continue the fight.

The point is that they know something is very wrong. During the rush-hour, a thick blue smog hangs over the houses and you can smell the fumes. Every gallon of premium petrol contains three grammes of lead. And yet it only takes about three milligrams to raise the blood lead level from 40 to 100 microgrammes per 100 mls and so to poison you.

Reassure

Indeed the lead is so dangerous that workers have been killed while adding it to the petrol. Meanwhile the oil companies continue to reassure us that we needn't worry.

The real reason why nobody, least of all the oil monopolies, want to change things, is because it would mean investment in new plant and machinery to produce lead-free petrol.

Howell admitted this recently when he said it would cost Britain an extra £300 million a year to buy lead-free petrol. The money, of

course, would go

panies in increase to profit from pollution. In fact, w Junction residents experience—that lead and harmful—has confirmed by doctors. Many now a levels between 3 potentially dangerous in children.

Suff

Professor Br Reading University as the most dangerous atmospheric pollution pointed out the symptoms of lead adults—weak wrists, abdominal cramps later on. Long before is reached, lead cause workers to sleeplessness and d

Those most at are, however, children are prone to the effects of lead, which causes retardation, behaviour and convulsive disorders, whose brains are being damaged.

If any of the child living or growing in the area, they will get all their power and get the child remain

Meanwhile the continue to play football of land directly Junction, and the time to move into the area.

NATIONAL FRONT
the new nazis



organise against them

Socialist Worker pamphlet
OUT NOW

The National Front are trying to build a base from which, using the same methods as Hitler, they can take on and destroy the organisations of the working class.

They must be stopped.

This pamphlet is a start, and a weapon to be used by all Socialist Worker readers to show that only the struggle for socialism can destroy once and for all fascism and the system that breeds it.

Available from IS BOOKS
265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4
Price: 10p plus 5p postage
Bulk orders post free

Pollution? Blame

the workers

THE FAMILIES of Spaghetti Junction are not the only ones in danger of lead poisoning.

Last year, high lead levels were found in the blood of many children living near Lucas' Formans Road Battery factory in Sparkhill, Birmingham. The average level measured was 26 microgrammes per 100 mls, but 14 children had levels of more than 36. The parents of six of these children worked at the factory, and four children were later referred to specialists for further investigation.

Very high levels of lead dust were found in the playground of the Ley's Secondary School next door to the factory where most of these children go to school.

In 1972, Lucas spent £12½ million on 'Research and Development'. Last year its pre-tax profit was £26 million. A fraction of this vast wealth would have safeguarded the health of local people, yet nothing was done until the residents began to organise and fight back.

They challenged the company's reassurances at a series of lively public meetings, but soon found that they were fighting not only the company but also the local press, the health authorities, and local bigwigs such as Roy Hattersley, Labour MP for Sparkbrook.

The management was so frightened by the public outcry that it sent a lengthy letter, written with the full approval of the

Area Health Authority and published in the local press, to Lucas workers and local residents.

The letter said the lead levels measured were 'generally satisfactory' and implied that the responsibility for lead pollution lay not with the company but with individual employees who were taking lead home on their clothes.

On both counts, the truth lies elsewhere. Average blood lead levels of 26 are certainly not satisfactory, and it is difficult to see how Lucas workers could be responsible for high lead dust levels in the houses of families who have nothing whatever to do with the factory.

However, as far as Mr Hattersley was concerned, the company was blameless. He issued a statement to the local press 'reassuring' parents that there was 'no danger'.

The local residents are furious at the indifference of the authorities and the company, and fed up with empty promises from people like Mr Hattersley. They are particularly incensed that the Lucas management was told about the very high blood lead levels measured in three local children *before* the parents!

Struggle

They are angry that the promise to provide free school milk to local children has not been fulfilled, since the calcium in milk reduces the likelihood of lead poisoning.

They want to know exactly how the company is spending the £500,000 it promised to spend last year on reducing the lead hazard. They also feel let down by the stewards' committee inside the factory, who have done little to help them.

However, they are well organised and determined to continue the struggle until they have endured that their health and that of their children is no longer at risk.

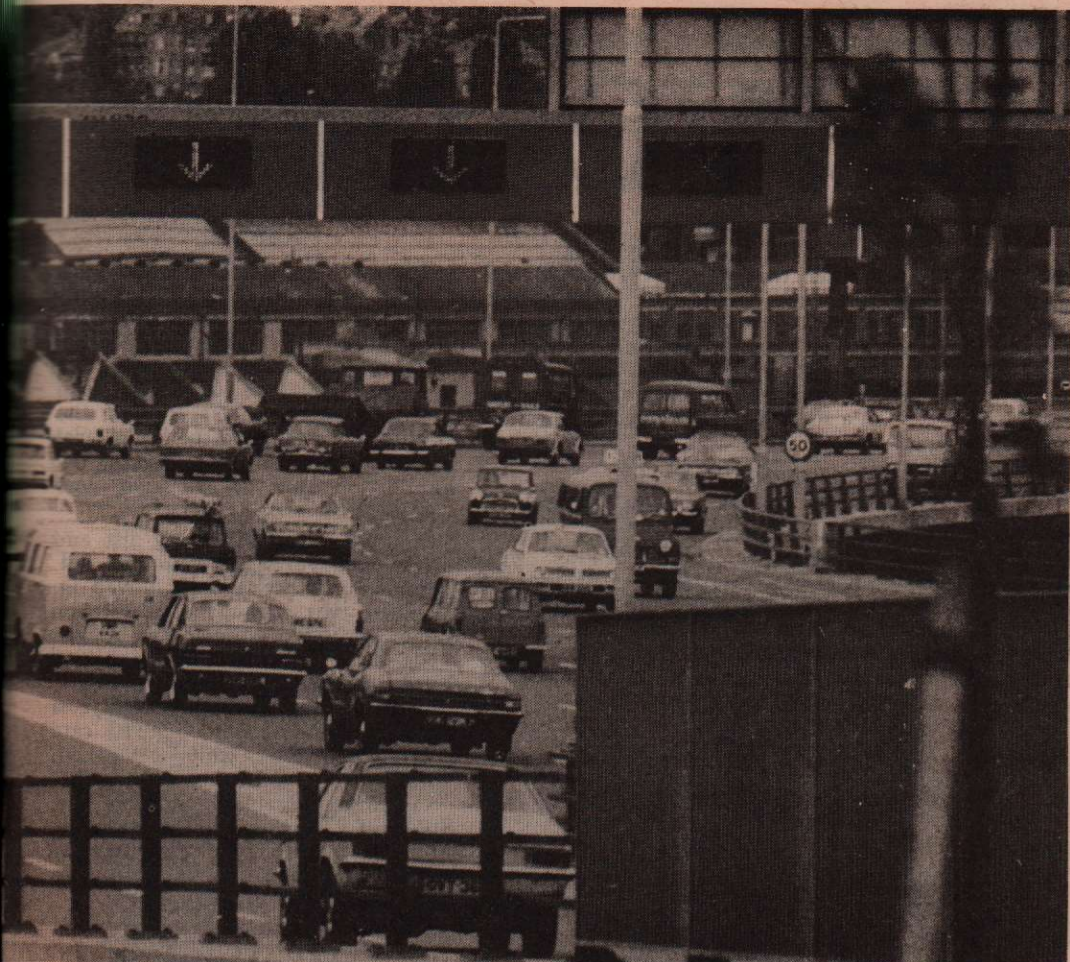
Trade unionists and socialists elsewhere can learn from the experience of these workers and should demand:

Measurement of atmospheric and human pollution from lead in those areas in which there are high concentrations of traffic or industrial plants using lead.

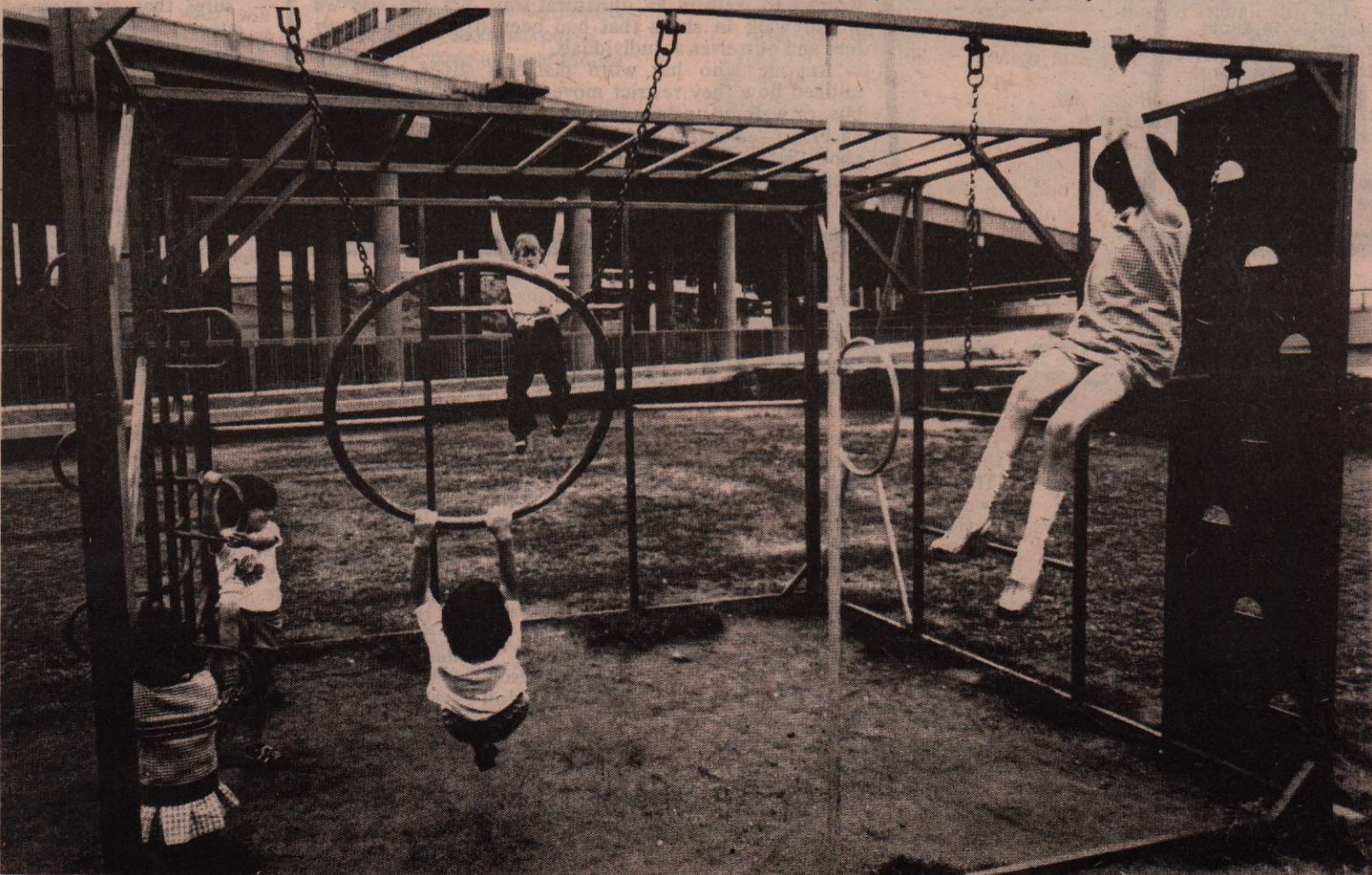
Full public disclosure of the facts.

Complete abolition of lead in petrol now!

Adequate safeguards in all factories and work places using lead (guidance on this can be obtained from the Department of Employment Code of Practice for Health Precautions).



It comes that-a-way. The children of Leys School, who share a playground with lead dust from the Lucas factory next door.



Children play amid the fall-out of exhaust fumes. They are among the most vulnerable to lead poisoning.

Public meeting for all Lucas workers

THE LEAD HAZARD IN BIRMINGHAM

Speaker: Ray Osborne

Friday 30 August, 8pm
Wagon and Horses, Warwick Road, Birmingham

On being a have-not

THE MAJORITY OF US spend the best part of our lives working to keep a roof over our heads, to buy a few clothes, to have food to eat—with little or sometimes nothing to spare.

At the end of our working lives we get a small pension—and accept an even lower standard of living. No matter how hard we work, the poor are always the losers.

I was born in the 1920s, in a part of Coventry that has now disappeared.

I remember when I was five my father taking me and fetching me from school. He would come to see

The best things in life may be free—but the rest costs a packet. KAY, goes out to work and has a daughter at school, writes about the struggle of being a one-parent family and about what has made her a socialist.

me at playtimes. I would rush over to the playground railings, it was the best part of my day!

I realise now that he must have been unemployed for long periods. But I was too young to know.

He died when I was 10, leaving my mother with my four year old brother and me.

I remember the cold most of all, having no fire in winter, going to

bed during the day to keep warm, sitting with a single candle burning because there wasn't a penny to put in the meter.

There was the walk to school, often with holes in my shoes. Mother would cut a piece of old lino and put it inside the shoes but the snow would still come through. I remember having clothes given to me.

It must have been far worse for my

mother than I ever realised. Sometimes she would get into terrible rages, we soon learnt to recognise the look on her face and keep out of her way. Now, years later, I can understand the pressures and anxieties of a single parent family.

Possible

My daughter was three when my marriage broke up. My ex-husband just disappeared. My dealings with Social Security were shattering. I had always thought the welfare state was there to help people in need. I soon learnt that the help given is the least possible, enough to exist but

not to live.

In a way I was lucky, I has only one child and eventually she got a place at nursery school, so I started working part-time. The wages were low, but at least a little better than social security. I was free of the continuous battle with the Social Security for every penny and the humiliation and despair that goes with it.

I went on the housing list and after three years got a council flat. I remember the day we moved in. We had two old chairs, a kitchen table and two stools, two divan beds, two suitcases and the rest of our belongings in cardboard boxes.

School holidays were always a problem, finding someone to care for my daughter while I worked. Another worry was when she was ill.

I would stay home to nurse her. But here a mother who has to work is really torn in two. You have to nurse a sick child but you are always aware of the shortage of money.

Walked

School uniforms are a big expense. And then there are all the extras needed for school. Remembering my own school days I try to provide my daughter with the money and items she needs. But there are times when I have not succeeded—such as when her only pair of shoes fell apart and I walked home from work every night because I had spent the money for the bus fares on new shoes. It takes me exactly one and a half hours to get home!

Shopping I have grown to loathe, always having to look for the cheapest food. This is my biggest problem now. With rising prices I find myself spending more money for less food. Meat, bacon, and fresh fruit are now luxuries instead of the everyday things they used to be.

Even worse is the constant awareness that every penny is needed. That I have to plan everything I buy. And that I have to go on doing this, not just for a few weeks but all my life. Of knowing that some of the things people take for granted are not for me—a washing machine, carpets on the floors, holidays, even buying clothes because one likes them and not because they are needed.

Drastic

So although I am better off than my mother was in the 1930s—the gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots' is widening. Both Tory and Labour governments have introduced measures that are supposed to help the poor sections of our society. In actual fact very little is done so we always remain poor.

Only a really drastic change in our society can help. We need a society which values people more than things. A society that will help us now, not make promises for a future that never comes.

I believe only socialism can do this and that is why I am a socialist.

Is this good for your soles?

LADIES!—if you want shoes that last a few days, give your aching ankles and an empty pay packet try the British Shoe Corporation.

The British Shoe Corporation is only one of the subsidiaries of Sears Holding Ltd, which is owned by none other than Sir Charles Clore. Recently Which?, the consumers guide magazine, did a survey on women's shoes and came up with the news that those shops belonging to BSC were, overall, worse than average on all counts.

BSC includes shops we'll all have bought from at some time—Dolcis, Saxone, Freeman Hardy and Willis etc.

Which? showed that one in seven women had problems with shoes they bought and the majority of these troubles appeared only one or two weeks after buying them—which goes to show the shoddy manufacturing we pay as much as £15 a pair for.

One shoe shop assistant pointed out that in Saxone, where he worked, the policy of the shop was always to avoid giving the customer a cash refund—although the customer is entitled to this under the Trades Descriptions Act. But too many women just grin and bear a badly fitting shoe.

'Platform shoes which have polyurethane soles are brought back all the time,' said the assistant, 'because there is no bend at all they frequently break, and they also come apart at the sides.'

'When shoes are brought back by customers we have to remind them that their complaint is against the manufacturer and not the shop—hard to swallow when your heel's just fallen off!'

So—if you've just bought a pair of platform shoes that have already fallen apart—cheer up, you're not alone. A London local paper recently featured 'Hip Youngsters Slam "Shoddy Mod Shoe Makers"'. It gave a report of local girls who had bought platform shoes, usually costing £14 a pair, which had fallen apart within a few days.

A local manufacturer blamed the young people themselves, for demanding a fashion that was im-

practicable and unnatural. Unnatural they may be, but when there is so little difference between one style of shoe and another it is difficult to buy anything else. Unless you're Sir Charles Clore—then you have your shoes handmade to fit. If we don't like hobbling along five inches above the ground and twisting our ankles every time we get off a bus, we're forced to resort to Hush Puppy brogues and the one or two styles offered to our grandmothers.

Platform shoes are a health risk. Doctors receive hundreds of women complaining of mysterious pains in the legs, back and buttocks. The style of the shoes forces women to walk in an unnatural way, not the way we would walk in shoes that had been fitted to suit our feet and ourselves as individuals.

Anyone who has worn platform shoes will have noticed how they restrict movement. Try running for a bus, or walking upstairs, or just bending down—it's quite an effort—an effort that makes women stop and think about what they look like to others, instead of just getting on and doing what they want—unrestricted.

JACQUY HAYMAN

Now they want to shut the garden up

ONE OF THE resolutions on the preliminary agenda for this year's Trades Union Congress comes from the Society of Civil Servants. They call for the winding-up of the TUC Women's Advisory Committee and the Women's Conference. They say these are out of date, because the problems of women workers will only be given the right amount of attention when they're seen as problems of workers and not of women.

They are right—in theory. For donkeys' years the trade union leadership have been shrugging off the real problems of low pay, job opportunity, lack of training and discrimination as being only 'women's problems' and not the concern of the whole trade union movement.

As one of the delegates said at the 1972 Women's Conference, 'They shove us off to play in our own garden and then won't let us play in theirs.'

In 1972 several white collar unions (mostly having equal pay) sent in resolutions to the Women's Conference calling for its abolition. Very heated opposition came mostly from the manual unions, who argued that women workers were so ignored and neglected that if the Advisory Committee and Conference were scrapped they'd be left with no voice at all.

Many delegates pointed out how few women got the opportunity to speak at Annual Congress or their own union conferences, and how difficult it was to get resolutions about women workers on conference

agendas.

There is much truth in this. But how representative is the Women's Conference itself? Many of the delegates are full-time officials, executive members of their unions or executive-appointed. Most union branches aren't invited to nominate delegates or send in resolutions, so these are left to the full-timers to formulate. Trades Councils can't submit resolutions either, and their delegates don't even have a vote.

Problems

But the worst aspect of all is that many excellent resolutions which are debated and passed at the conference are never followed up. There's never any attempt at all to implement them either at national or grass-roots level. Many of the real

problems of organising and involving women in the trade union movement are ignored or glossed over. The Advisory Committee can only advise.

So, we certainly don't want to retain the Conference in its present form. If there's a need for a TUC Women's Conference at all (and many women trade unionists certainly feel there is), we must fight to change it through our union branches and trades councils. It must become a genuinely representative body which fights for the power to carry out its decisions and organise at grass roots level in the broad labour movement. Only then will the broader trade union movement begin to take it seriously and take up its demands as their own.

NANCY HALL



There are still a few copies left of the bound edition of International Socialist Journal issues 36 to 55 (April 1969–February 1973). It includes articles on Ireland, fascism, the Communist Party, women, racism, the Minority Movement and many other important issues.

Price £7, plus 35p postage (UK) or 60p postage (overseas).

IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.



The deadly city

NIGEL FOUNTAIN REVIEWS THE FILM CHINATOWN

IF THE PRESENT is unpleasant, go back to the good old days. This is the current motto of the film industry. Since Bonnie and Clyde the 1930s has been ransacked for stories of hardworking gangsters and commens making a go of it against the odds, the economic system, the mafia or the bankers.

Recently *The Sting*, set in 1937 and starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman, has been a huge box-office success.

Chinatown, also set in 1937 and also likely to be a smash hit, makes *The Sting* look like a gnat-bite. It uses the old Hollywood private eye film formula and works brilliantly at two levels. It is an excellent thriller, and a parable of the development of the American system.

While *The Sting* used economic injustice as a backcloth, *Chinatown*

Perhaps I don't know anything after all... Private detective J J Gittes thinks twice as the revolver hits his ear.

takes that injustice as the central theme. It shows that the injustice isn't an aberration, but the core of the regime of gangsters that is capitalism.

The hero is J J Gittes, played by Jack Nicholson, who is hired to investigate an adultery case involving water engineer Hollis Mulwray. Before long he is investigating murder. As the story develops it becomes clear that he is dealing not with a random killing, but a small fragment of a huge conspiracy.

Corrupted

It is a conspiracy concerned with the growth of the city of Los Angeles. A conspiracy central to the way the system expands, to the way the city grows, to the way people are ruined and other people concentrate vast power in their hands. As it happens everybody is corrupted.

Some more than others. John

Huston plays Noah Cross, the man who with Mulwray had developed the privately-owned water system of the city. While Mulwray had been the public-spirited engineer who wanted to sell the water system 'in the public interest', Cross had resisted—but then appears to accept the municipal takeover.

But capitalists don't give up that easy. If the business is to be taken over by the public authority—why then, take over the public authority.

As Cross expands across the city and the state, more and more lives are ruined as money and power seep back towards him.

He accumulates and accumulates. To survive he must go on, on till he has consumed and ruined the earth. Inside his own family, he sexually accumulates and consumes his children and their children... driven by the same compulsion.

If Cross is evil, then in an imperfect world, Gittes is what passes for good. He has, the film indicates, learned his trade as a city detective in *Chinatown*. That is a place where you cut the corners, are violent or have violence used against you, bring the 'law' of the white establishment to the Chinese. Out of it Gittes has developed a primitive but workable moral code.

A lot of Americans learned their trade in *Chinatown*. Only now it's called Vietnam. A lot of Americans have also learned through that experience *who* sent them there, and why.

Gittes learns the hard way.

Power

Robert Towne, who wrote the screenplay, describes Gittes as 'a guy who was sophisticated enough to be cynical about people but who thought there were limits to how bad people could be.'

The film isn't just fiction. The financial fraud which Gittes investigates did take place—but in the 1920s, not the 1930s. The man who perpetrated it may have passed on, but their sons and daughters are still there, more powerful than ever. The orange groves of Southern California are still the power base of the far right of the Republican Party.

The director, Roman Polanski, has done a brilliant dissection job on power in America. He has shown how good is turned to evil, how the future is corrupted by the past and how power and profit accept no limitations at all except brute force.

There is no easy answer in the film. He dangles the enigma of the title, *Chinatown*, as an escape route—and as a threat to the corruption of the United States. But the Chinese just look on.

Go and see it! It is a magnificent film.

Chinatown is showing at the Empire, Leicester Square, London. After pre-release showings it will go on general release in late September, October.

On the box

SUNDAY

ITV: 10.15pm. What should be the priority viewing of the week, *OCCUPATIONS* by Trevor Griffiths. It is a play set in Turin, Italy in 1920. The tide of factory occupations led to the possibility of socialist revolution. The failure of the movement was to lead to Mussolini's triumph in 1922. This excellent play by one of this country's only marxist playwrights, centres on the discussion and arguments between an agent of the Communist International and Gramsci, the great Italian revolutionary.

TUESDAY

ITV: 10.30pm. Ray Davis of the Kinks wrote and stars in *STARMAKER* 'a rock comedy with a sting in its tail'.

Coining-it-in Street

WITH few exceptions, those responsible for what is shown on TV are middle class and so most of the programmes reflect their view of the world.

Part of this view is the assumption that to be middle class is desirable, and that if we were all middle class then most of our problems would be solved.

When the working class is portrayed on TV, the image is of a sort of middle class 'reserve team', whose best members will eventually play for the 'first team'.

Some series like *On the Buses*, *Love Thy Neighbour* and *Thick as Thieves*, depict workers who will never make the grade because they are too clownish, stupid or criminal. These shows degrade workers in general since they uphold the middle class picture of workers as figures of fun, good for nothing but laughing at.

Other programmes, however, ask to be taken seriously because they seem to be realistic in showing the day-to-day life of workers, and *Coronation Street* is the most obvious example. This 'idea' by Tony Warren, who is probably now laughing all the way to the bank, amounts to nothing more than building in a studio what looks like a working class street in Manchester, putting in a lot of middle class actors and getting them to play at being working class.

Talent

The word 'play' is meant literally, since in *Coronation Street* the real and serious problems affecting the working class are ignored.

The action dwells upon rivalries, quarrels and antagonisms that are treated always as a *clash of personalities*. Those who show the best talent for compromise and conciliation are the ones who 'get on', or in other words get into the first team.

This is a totally false picture of a society in which class discrimination is still the main factor in deciding not only who 'gets on', but also who gets what.

Crossroads is another example.

'It all began as an elaborate joke. When I first created *Coronation Street*, people always talked about it portraying life as it is really lived in the industrial north. Well, that was as false as the six new noses and the two facelifts which some of the 'ordinary' folk down *Coronation Street* have had over the years. The truth is I simply invented a jokey North Country language after listening to Northerners talk.

'My nickname for *Coronation Street* is "the sequined purse" because it's such a magic money machine.'

Tony Warren, 'creator' of the series.

Again the story line revolves around personal intrigues, secrets kept or given away, romances or marriages that are on or off. The dialogue never gets beyond the discussion of trivia nor above the level of bickering.

Big moments are usually indicated by one of the characters speaking the words: 'Now let's get one thing straight...'. Only middle-class actors doing the job just for the money are capable of going through the puppet-like motions which is all that this serial requires of them.

What *Coronation Street* and *Crossroads* have in common is the way they reduce all conflict to a personal level. Although many workers must watch these serials, what they are watching is not put on for their benefit, but for those who make a profit out of TV and those who need the reassurance of comforting, cosy, middle-class ideology.

All TV portrayals of the working class ignore the reality of class conflict, in fact they take it for granted that this is a myth. But one day the first team and the second team will be in the Cup Final...

John Prance



Good God! Not ANOTHER rotten apple...

by Nigel Fountain

ONE PERSON deserves the credit for the discovery that 25-year-old Mangalsinh Jadeja was wrongly convicted five years ago of possessing an offensive weapon: God.

Detective-Sergeant Grant Smith confessed last week that he had planted a knife on Jadeja at an anti-South African rugby tour demonstration.

Smith did so to advance his career. But since meeting God he now considers honesty the best policy.

But God is not blameless. While introducing himself to Smith and thus bringing about his salvation, he seems to have been exceedingly unwilling to get acquainted with the rest of the constabulary.

Vicar

Peter Hain, chairman of the Stop the Seventy Four Campaign, claims the police planted evidence on at least 30 demonstrators. One of them, apparently, was a vicar who was 'discovered' with drugs.

Smith admits having planted drugs on two people—both black. Among the 30 planted demonstrators was a pacifist accused of wielding a broken beer bottle. And at a match in Newport a demonstrator was accused of having LSD.

It is difficult for the media to accuse Det-Sg Smith of being a lying, biased left-winger with a dislike for the law and order brigade. In all the other cases round the country where socialists, trade unionists and black people have been framed, beaten-up and sentenced to jail, nothing has happened.

Biggest

Occasionally, the police hold an impartial inquiry, conducted by the police, on behalf of the police. Usually the accused sits out his or her sentence or pays the fine. Right now, for instance, Horace Parkinson and Lloyd James of Brixton are doing just that after their conviction over last year's Brockwell Park affair.

Short of the biggest conversion since the Sermon on the Mount hitting the British police force, this situation is going to continue. But there must be continuous publicity aimed at exposing these affairs. If it has happened to you, when it happens to you—let us know.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

THE DEFIANT ONES

by Eileen Healey, USDAW

LIVERPOOL: Women at the Wingrove and Rogers electrical components factory at Old Swan have been on strike for nine weeks now over threshold payments.

Their last rise, 12 months ago, won them 66p. At that time management promised to introduce a bonus scheme and brought the time and motion men into the factory to fix a rate.

But the study wasn't quite finished when the management realised how much they would have to pay out. So they scrapped the scheme.

All the workers have been offered is £2.75 as the yearly rise. And this in-

cludes the 66p they got a year ago! So in reality they are only getting £2.09.

No matter how much they have to do, the basic pay of £20.09 is all they get. After tax and deductions they are lucky to take home £15.

Sylvia Finney, a member of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker that the only way they can try and keep

up with the rocketing cost of living is to go for the threshold.

The conditions in the factory, she explained, are disgraceful. There are holes in the roof and if it rains you get soaked. The place is filthy and toilet facilities inadequate. Management refuse to do anything about it.

At the moment, non-union labour is

being escorted in and out of the plant by management, who have done all they can to intimidate the workers into going back to work.

Women have been visited in their homes by foremen who try to 'persuade' them to go back to work.

All the women have had their cards sent to them. The firm claim they have breached their contract by going on strike.

But the management have also said that they can have their jobs back if they all return to work on the firm's conditions. The women are determined to stick it out. But they need all the support they can get, particularly from Liverpool docks and airport and British Rail, who handle Wingrove and Rogers' goods.



They've been out nine weeks, they've been intimidated. But the strikers at Wingrove and Rogers are determined to win.

The butchers Labour supports

THE Chilean Junta is not the only dictatorship the Labour government is treating with more than a little consideration.

British diplomats in Seoul, the

capital of South Korea, are systematically declining to associate themselves with any protests against the brutal repression being unleashed against trade unionists, students,

teachers and writers.

According to the Guardian reporter, Robert Whyment, there is an unusually familiar reason for this stand. South Korea is a land of great opportunities for British businessmen.

Shut

Protests against the arrest, torture and judicial murder of dissidents won't do those golden opportunities any good. So the British ambassador and the civil servants out there are keeping their heads down and their mouths shut. Except about business opportunities, that is.

This of course is exactly what happened in Chile during the Junta's bloody coup. Then the British embassy refused to give asylum to any of the Junta's victims in case it would damage other profitable business relations.

Possession

That was under a Tory government. Now Labour is in office—but it makes little difference.

Big business decides the priorities for those in possession of office because it is in possession of power.



DEFEND SOCIALIST WORKER

STEVE JEFFERYS, a member of the IS executive, being arrested in Leicester last Saturday. He was arrested after complaints by NF members.

Steve has been charged with 'actual bodily harm'—which can be a serious offence. (The two men charged with the attack on Martin Webster have been charged with assault.)

This arrest and charge adds another to the long list of state attacks on Socialist Worker. It will be another case which must—and will—be vigorously defended.

It is another case which will cost money. Another case which means that SW

readers must step up their efforts to swell the Fighting Fund.

Last week we got £298.34, making August's total so far £1400.76. That's still a long way from our £2000 target with only a week to go. Keep it up, and we can do it. Thanks are due to:

SW Readers Westinghouse Air Brakes £7.70 and to these IS branches: Stafford £20, Southampton £20, Aberdeen £5, Leicester £5, Falkirk £4, Preston £30, Lowestoft £10, Kirkby £8.74, Accrington £1, Maidstone £4, Ilford £2.20, Wood Green £5.90.

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