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HOW TO SAVE THE JOBS AT NVT

Wolverhampton IS public meeting. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 20 August, 7.15pm, George Hotel, Wolverhampton.

## IRELAND:

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# PORTUGAL: DEFEND THE REVOLUTION!

by Laurie Flynn

THE prayers of businessmen and newspaper editors all over Britain have been answered as a result of the right-wing riots in the north of Portugal.

The splits in the Armed Forces Movement (MFA) have come out into the open. One faction, headed by Melo Antunes and his group of nine officers, is talking openly of the need 'to restore the confidence' of the business class.

It sounds an innocent enough phrase. But it has a sinister meaning. It means that the workers' movement must be shackled. It means that workers' control of the factories must cease, and control be handed back to the bosses. It means that in the armed forces the undemocratic control of the officer class must be restored so that they can be

used against the working class.

It means, in fact, counter-revolution.

But while the right-wing mobs have kicked, beaten and burned their way through the offices of left-wing parties in the north, they have failed to strike fear into the hearts of the Portuguese working class. In the past week the 50-strong delegation to Portugal from the International Socialists have found this out at first hand.

On a visit to Lisbon's central bus garage they were told how, a fortnight before, the bus workers had been deceived into opening the garage gates at night. As soon as they did so, a gang of thugs burst in and set to work damaging buses.

Since then the bus workers have guarded the garage at night. During the day they strain every muscle to repair those buses. They are determined that the buses—formerly owned by rich British businessmen, but now nationalised—will be kept on the road.

At the part ICI-owned Tinco factory in Barreira, across the River Tagus from Lisbon, the IS delegation were taken round the plant by the workers' committees. A member of the committee explained just why it was that he and his comrades gave their time to talk with socialists from a strange land:

'The workers who elected us understand that we have to spend our time learning about the factory, reading about the processes involved and talking about the political situation.'

Why was that? he was asked. His answer tells all you need to know about the nature of the Portuguese workers' struggle. 'Because tomorrow, when the workers seize state power, this factory will be ours.'

Portuguese workers are not fooled by the talk about democracy from those who want to destroy the direct workplace and neighbourhood democracy that the working class has created since 23 April last year. They know that either the revolution goes forward or it will be thrown back forcibly. They know that the choice is socialism or ferocious repression of the kind that was let loose in Chile.

It is important that every worker and socialist in Britain shares that knowledge and uses it to good account.

Harold Wilson and company will say again and again that Portugal must be saved for the 'vote every five years' brand of democracy. They pretend there is a middle way. The failure of Chile's 'parliamentary road to socialism' has taught them nothing.

But there is no reason why it should teach us nothing. Above all, it should teach us that what we do now, before the crunch comes, is vital.

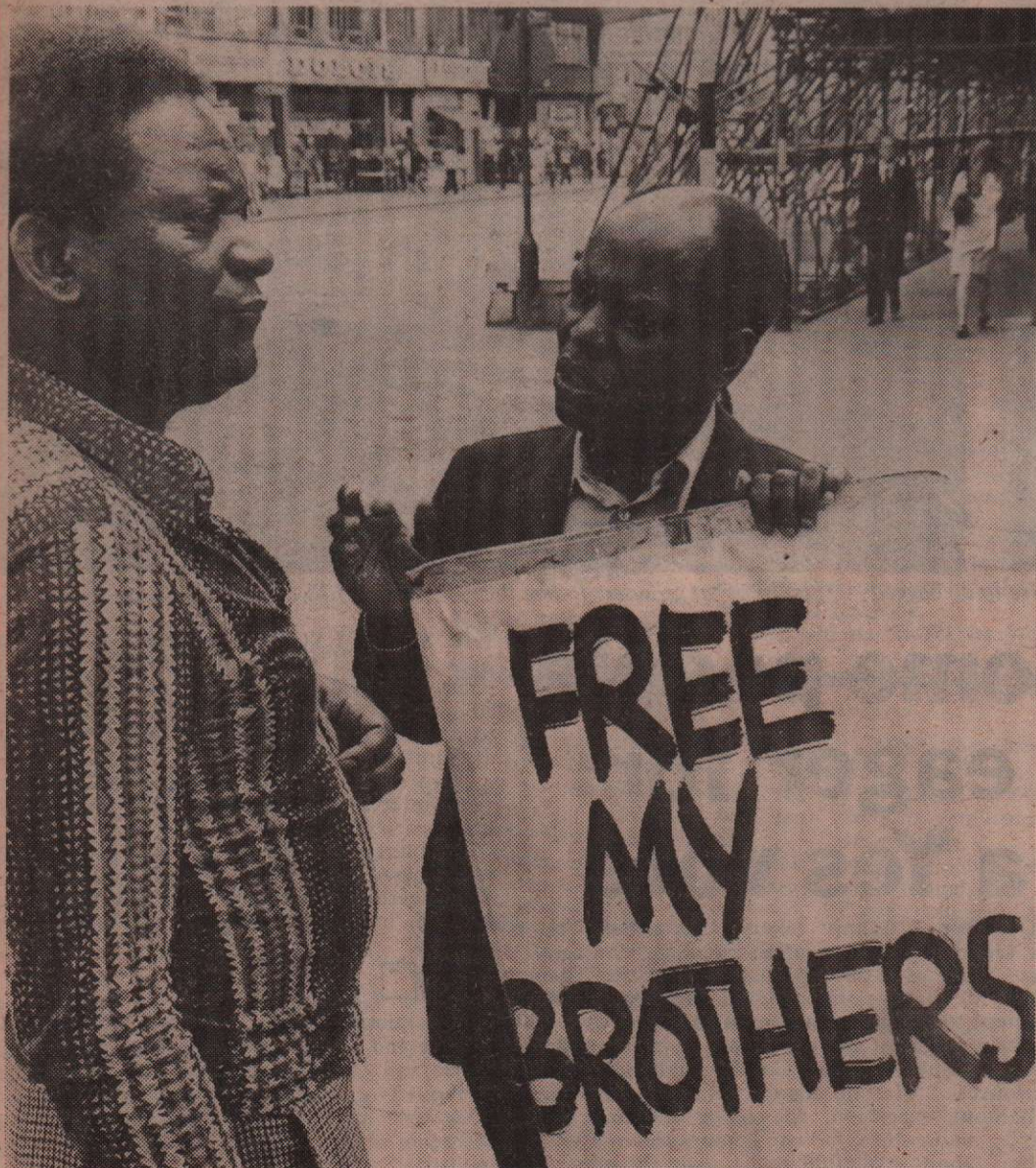
We can help keep Portugal's workers free from a NATO intervention, from the intrigues of the American CIA and its British equivalent.

In standing shoulder to shoulder with the Portuguese working class, we are also helping our own cause. For if Portugal's workers win through, they will be an inspiration to thousands of our mates who still believe that capitalism is unchangeable and that real democracy, however desirable, just cannot be achieved.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Get support now for the 'Solidarity with Portugal' demonstration on Saturday 20 September.

Take a collection for—or send a donation to—the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund to help the work of the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist organisation. This week the fund collected £272.24, with eight new bankers' orders and £16 from the sale of badges. The CPSA summer school collection brought £17.35. Donations to SW Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



## Yes, free all our brothers!

DIDYMUS MUTASA, exiled Zimbabwean freedom fighter, was picketing Rhodesia House in London last week to demand the release of his brother John, who is awaiting secret trial in Rhodesia for 'recruiting terrorists'. Last September the Rhodesian government decreed that anyone found guilty of this 'offence' must be hanged. Forty other people joined Didymus on the picket.

John Mutasa was arrested last April on the cooperative farm where he works in the extreme north of Rhodesia. Arrested with him were Maurice Nyagumbo and Moven Mahachi. The men have been moved from Umtali jail to Salisbury, where the diet is deliberately designed to weaken and sicken the political prisoners. There are mattresses for white prisoners, but only blankets for the blacks.

Didymus Mutasa pointed out that when a white man, Dennis Hills, was sentenced to death by a black African government all hell was let loose by the British government to set him free.

'But when black freedom fighters are locked up by a white government, they say the only hope is a settlement in Rhodesia.'

A posse from the National Front turned up to shout abuse at the pickets, just to show that there are racist thugs in Britain too...

PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

**MINERS BALLOT:**

**THE VITAL LAST WEEK**

**More blood on the coal**

by Neil Pepper, underground miner, Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract.

IN THE FIRST six months of this year, 37 miners were killed at work compared to 19 in the first six months of last year. 292 miners suffered serious bodily injury, compared with 202 last year.

One miner in Yorkshire has died at work every nine days this year. This is more than double last year's rate, and sets a grisly record for the industry in Yorkshire.

Why, in an industry which in recent years has seen large-scale innovation in machinery and where working conditions have improved immeasurably, do we have to put up with these shocking murders?

One reason is the drive for productivity.

When productivity rocketed during the 1950s and 1960s, working conditions more or less improved, as a side effect.

Cutting coal with machines is far quicker and more efficient than with picks and shovels. Conveyors and bunkers increase productivity over ponies—and they are safer, too.

But now the productivity drive has a different effect. Managers unconsciously sacrifice safety and planning in favour of pushing the face forward at maximum speed.

**Devised**

It is considered more important, for instance, for a fitter to repair the motor of a piece of machinery than to repair the guard around it.

All safety modifications have to be 'devised with productivity rates in mind'. Any colliery worker, whether he be miner, deputy or official, will tell you that if every regulation of the Mines and Quarries Act was observed, hardly a tub of coal would be pulled.

Disregard for safety is insidiously planted in the miner from the moment he goes down the pit. You get 20 days' compulsory 'training' under the supervision of an ex-face-worker, who watches over you while you work and generally chats about mining.

The instructor, like all the older colliers, remembers only too well the days when it was considered unusual for a pit to work for more than a few months without someone being killed.

He remembers his own accidents and near misses. His attitude—that mining is dangerous, always has been and always will—is implanted in the trainee's mind, along with the idea that nothing can be done about it.

The trainee also learns about the ways of testing various mining gases, which are about as accurate as the temperature gauge on a pit-head shower bath.

**Kill**

Carbon monoxide (a five per cent concentration can kill in about a minute) is still tested by canaries. You have to watch them in case they fall off their perches.

If machines were designed primarily to cut coal safely rather than quickly; if there were regular directives on safety and union-employed safety officials to make sure they were implemented; if there were teams of men to make sure pit roadways were clear of the litter of girders, props, rails and other materials that cover them now, then there might be a real drop in the accident rate.

There are none of these things because the people who run the Coal Board are the same sort of people who run every other industry. They're interested in the 'quickest return'—even at the expense of workers' lives.

We're going to have to fight for all these things. When people tell us to 'go easy' on wage claims, and be 'moderate', they are the same people who've ignored our safety all along.

**MINERS BALLOT**

**NO TO £6 WAGE LIMIT AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Course, we're all in the same boat, old boy...**

WITH the miners' ballot on the £6 wage freeze in its last week, the press is already dancing with delight. 'The trend in early returns' points, they say, to a Yes vote.

But the Financial Times rightly reported on Monday that if a Yes vote is achieved 'the union's left-wingers will have suffered a severe set-back and the government will have won a vital political bonus for its policy.'

After an astonishing 'leak', The Times last Saturday printed detailed results of the ballot in Yorkshire. The votes are collected at the pithead and are then taken to the Electoral Reform Society for counting.

A spokesman for the society told Socialist Worker: 'No one is supposed to count the votes

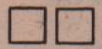
**Vote Yes if you want more unemployment**

until we receive them. We haven't had the votes yet, so, for all we know, the figures in The Times may be an inspired guess'.

Those figures show ten Yorkshire pits voting No. The biggest No vote, 65 per cent, was at Houghton Main, which is attributed by the newspaper to the recent 'accident' there.

In fact, the vote, if accurate, reflects a long campaign by the pit's union committee for a No vote.

On Tuesday, a delegate meeting in the Scottish area urged a campaign for a No vote. It must be taken up in discussion meetings around the pits before the vote.



The following points must be rammed home:

A £6 limit will increase unemployment among all workers.

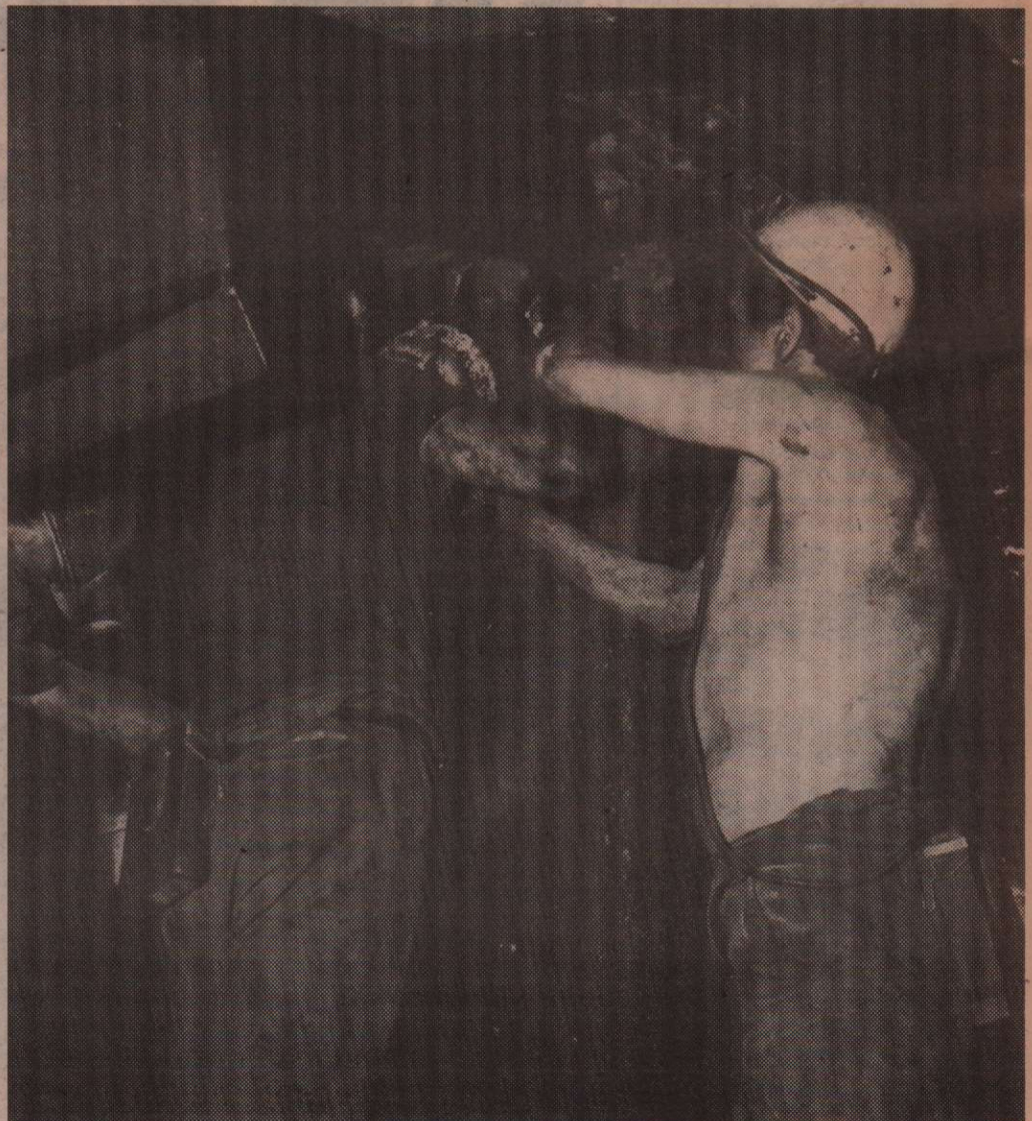
A £6 limit is a wage cut for miners of £1.73 a week.

A £6 limit will weaken the whole trade union movement and bring joy and comfort to every employer and speculator in the land.

**VOTE NO.**



12 August... the Glorious Twelfth... plenty of fat grouse to be bagged... plenty of fat growers to bag them... it was, however, an ordinary day for miners



LANDOWNERS, merchant bankers and all rich people who believe in national sacrifice have encountered another threat to democracy as we know it: the heather beetle.

The nasty little beetle thrives on grouse. He eats them up before the noble Marquesses and their City friends can shoot them up. This is, according to a spokesman, a 'bloody bad show'.

Another spokesman remarked: 'There are no grouse around. I wish we could go out and shoot miners instead'.

A poll on the moors showed that one hundred per cent of the grouse shooters were in favour of the miners voting Yes in the ballot.

THERE'S a crisis at Lloyd's of London, the international insurance market. It's caused by a stampede of people wishing to become members. The Times reported on Monday an 'unprecedented' boom in applications—more than 1000 already this year.

The reason: 'the improving international trend in insurance underwriting'.

**Some people eager for a Yes vote**

Of these 220 have taken advantage of the new Lloyds decision to admit members who can price 'only' £37,000 in personal wealth. The other 750 all have the standard £75,000 which you need to become an underwriter.

There are a lot of rich people from overseas, a lot of bankers, a few lawyers, a handful of auctioneers... but no miners.

Without exception, the 6020 members of Lloyds, whose total income is more than £1000 million (about £160,000 each) want the miners to vote Yes.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE Weekly Bulletin this week produced the figures of income from interest and dividends (money from other people's labour) for 1971 and 1972. The Bulletin tried to pretend that the figures proved a more equal distribution of wealth.

Two million people get some kind of money from interest and dividends. They share £1281 million after income tax.

A quarter of all this money (£314 million) was shared by only 56,000 people. That's £5607 each. Almost the same sum was shared by the 'bottom' 1,268,000; that's an average of £274.



The picture is the same as ever. About a million and a half people have small savings in shares and building societies which bring them in about £4 a week in interest and dividends.

A tiny minority still hauls in huge sums—averaging about twice as much as the average industrial wage. This lot are, all, without exception, for a Yes Vote in the Miners' Ballot.

# Whose law, whose order?

## TROOPS OUT? WE AGREE, SAY SOLDIERS

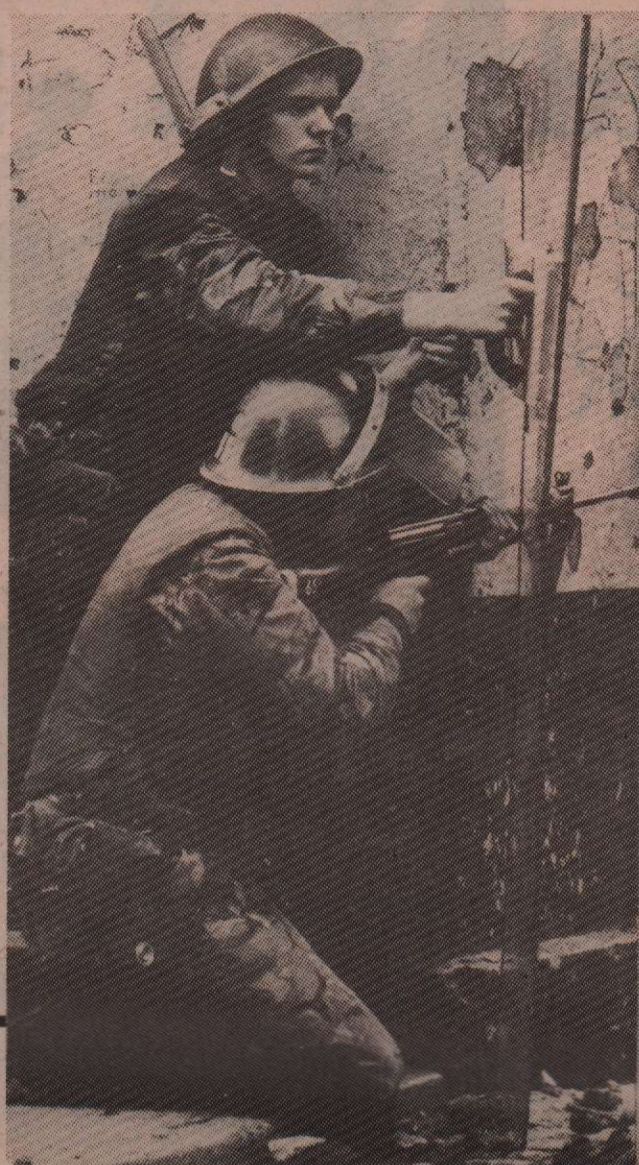
By Ralph Pigott, UCATT

MEMBERS of the Troops Out Movement who picketed last week's Colchester Tattoo found soldiers asking for batches of leaflets to give to their friends and showing general agreement.

The military authorities, obviously worried, quickly moved in. Pickets were constantly moved on by police, and the military police stood by each leafletter, warning soldiers, in or out of uniform, not to take leaflets. Finally, about 30 paratroopers were sent in to ensure the picket was withdrawn.

But, on the last day of the Tattoo, a group of soldiers parading through the main streets of the town shouted agreement with the Troops Out campaign and gave the thumbs up.

It's obvious that a large minority of rank and file soldiers, and possibly even a majority, are opposed to a continuing military involvement in Ireland. And it's equally obvious that the authorities are becoming extremely disturbed about it.



Up against the wall. The British Army in Northern Ireland. Once it was 'repression for reform'. Now it's just repression...

## N Ireland shows which side it's really on

### WHAT WE THINK

against it.

There is one law for Orangemen and another law for Republicans.

Why? The British army was originally sent in to the Six Counties in support of the then British government policy of establishing a 'non-sectarian' regime.

The idea was to pull together 'moderate' Catholics and the less extreme Protestant politicians on the basis of doing away with the more extreme forms of discrimination in jobs and housing.

Some significant steps were taken in this direction. Housing allocation was taken out of the hands of Orange dominated councils.

The B Special Police—the officially supported private militia of the Orangemen—were abolished. So, eventually, was the Protestant dominated Stormont parliament.

Of course this policy—initiated by Labour and carried on by the Tory government—aimed at a reform of the Six County political slum on a strictly capitalist basis. But it did aim at reform.

'OUT OF the grim shadows of Belfast, the young savages explode into fury again.'

That's how the Daily Mirror headlined a story on the Belfast clashes of last weekend. That's how the British press hide the truth about British rule in Northern Ireland today, four years after the introduction of internment without trial.

What the Mirror and the rest of the Fleet Street press do not report is the increasing repression and harassment by the so-called 'security forces' in the Catholic working class areas.

As Eamonn McCann reported in Socialist Worker on 19 July: 'Over the past month there has been a steady increase in the number of clashes between soldiers and Catholic civilians . . . a return to random arrests of youths for "screening", beatings up and so on.'

■ ■

That week, an unarmed Catholic youth, a friend or neighbour perhaps of some of the Mirror's 'young savages', was shot dead by an army patrol in the Falls Road.

And the sectarian killings go on and on. Nearly one hundred people, a big majority of them Catholics, have been murdered in the 'truce' period for no other reason than their religious affiliation. The 'security' forces claim that they can do nothing about it.

Yet the UDA and the UVF continue to operate as legal organisations. Both make no secret of the fact that they are armed, military formations—gunmen to use the term favoured by Fleet Street. No action is taken against them.

The UVF has actually claimed credit for sectarian killings. Still no action is taken

# FOR DES WARREN, IT'S YET MORE HARASSMENT

By Murray Armstrong

SHREWSBURY picket Des Warren has been provoked, charged three times, lost 14 days privileges, and seen his wife and children subjected to callous treatment at the hands of the prison authorities.

All this has happened since 19 July, the day of Nottingham Trades Council's demonstration outside Nottingham jail.

During the summer months, prisoners wear plimsolls. Nobody is expected to wear prison shoes. Except, that is, Des Warren. When ordered to wear regulation footwear on the day of the demonstration, he naturally refused.

## STRIKE

The Deputy Governor 'sentenced' him to 14 days of loss of privileges.

Des protested with 14 days' hunger strike, during which the provocations continued. First, he was refused the use of toilet facilities in day time. Nobody is expected to use a chamber pot during day-time lock-up. Except, that is, Des Warren.

And when he threatened to empty the chamber pot on the desk of the creature who had issued the order, he was placed on another charge.

After nine days on hunger strike, Des, who had been working as a plasterer, was transferred to carrying heavy doors up four flights of stairs.

That day, he was due to receive two parties of visitors—his wife and five children and, later, Labour MP Tom Litterick and his wife.

When Elsa Warren arrived from North Wales, she was refused admission. Despite having all the correct papers, she and the children were told they couldn't see Des because he wasn't wearing regulation prison footwear.

For William Cooper, it's a joke. But then he's very rich

WILLIAM COOPER, a rich Lancashire pig farmer who tried to murder a Ministry of Agriculture inspector, walked out of court in Manchester last month with nothing more than a suspended sentence. He explained to the judge that the inspector came to his farm six times in ten months. Cooper felt he was a victim of bureaucracy. So he got an old revolver and tried to shoot the inspector in the back.

The judge, Mr Justice Crichton, was completely sympathetic to this otherwise respectable gentleman. So, on the understanding that Mr Cooper handed over the running of the farm to his daughters, the judge gave him a suspended sentence.

Who said one law for the rich, another for the poor was a thing of the past?

First the authorities tried to get her to issue the instruction to her husband to put his boots on. When this blackmail failed, she was kept waiting for more than an hour.

Eventually, she and the children were allowed to see Des. After learning of her husband's predicament, Elsa again demanded to see the Assistant Governor (the Governor was away on holiday). Naturally, he refused and Elsa and the children began a sit-in until they were granted an audience.

Tom Litterick and his wife had then come into the prison and asked to see Mrs Warren, before going to see Des. Again the authorities refused this request and Tom Litterick and Elsa Warren had to meet in the car park outside.

After the meeting, insult was added to injury, Elsa was refused re-admission to the prison. Now the five kids were inside and their mother was outside.

As a screw tried to get the kids out through the wicket gate, Elsa Warren slipped in again, and once more demanded to see the Assistant Governor.

Meanwhile, Tom Litterick had managed to see the Assistant Governor but could not persuade him to see Mrs Warren. Eventually Elsa Warren was allowed to make her protest to a senior warden.

There is clearly a deliberate attempt to damage Des Warren's chances of parole, to make him serve every last minute of his sentence, and hold him up as an 'example' to

the rest of the trade union movement.

The Home Office has denied provocation. But the local parole committee reported to the Parole Board on 31 July and, of course, the provocations will have had their desired effect and the report will have been a black one.

Only Roy Jenkins has access to that report and no-one else will know what is in it until Des's parole comes up, probably in September.

All trade unionists should act against this disgraceful series of provocations. Send a resolution from your branch to the Home Office in protest. More important, get a commitment now from your workplace to strike to free Des Warren if he is turned down by the parole board.

Not anymore. British policy in Northern Ireland is in ruins. The Ulster Workers Council strike last year, the uncompromising 'Unionist' majority in the Convention which rejects all 'power sharing', the continued growth of the Protestant para-military organisations; are all milestones along the road of retreat by the British government from 'reform' policies.

Today we no longer have repression in support of a policy. Repression is the policy.

The 'reform' policies could not break the hold of sectarianism on the Protestant working class because they could not abolish unemployment, expand social services, offer a better life for workers of both communities.

In the last resort, they could not reduce the power of Orange sectarianism because the very existence of the British-run statelet in Northern Ireland depends on Orange sectarianism. And so repression, more repression and yet more repression is the British establishment's response.

There is no shadow of justification for British troops in Ireland. They are not in any way a contribution to a solution of the problem. They are part of the problem.

In the end only Irishmen can solve Irish problems. British workers can help, first and foremost, by building a movement here to force the British army to withdraw.

Troops out of Ireland, end internment now.



Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 8DN

## JENKINS AND THE PRACTICAL JOKERS

THE CURRENT strike of ASTMS officers over the arbitrary sacking of probationary officer Judy Cotter is not the first sign of opposition to the excessive authority wielded by Clive Jenkins, the union's general secretary.

Last May, after prolonged protest by the officers' committee, Jenkins was forced to drop his campaign against the full-time officer who, he said, had 'deceived the union' by not admitting to being a diabetic when he joined in 1970.

The officer was obliged to visit a Harley Street consultant to get a clear bill of health.

### Threatened

In another case, two officers played a practical joke on another, writing to him on head office note-paper making him responsible for examining pension schemes—a very time-consuming business.

Jenkins came to hear of it, threatened the two with dismissal and formally reprimanded them.

This sort of action has resulted already this year in two strikes by APEX members at head office.

The present strike is an important test of power within the union. If the officers compromise, Jenkins will be even more powerful than now.

But if, as seems likely, they stand firm and involve the membership in their action, Jenkins' power will be cut.

### Ivor the boss

FIVE YEARS ago, UCATT official Ivor Jordan gave up his Communist Party card so he could become a full-time appointed regional secretary for the union, based on Cambridge.

He has continued his progress up the social scale. Jordan is now working as full-time appointed industrial relations manager for Sindalls, the Cambridge-based building firm.

## THE UNIONS

# YES, it's the social contract A MEDAL FOR LORD ALF...

**MORE THAN 150,000 of the worst-paid trade unionists in the country are to lose an agreed 13.9 per cent wage claim this month because of the government's £6 wage limit.**

Their union leaders have been the main campaigners in the TUC for the £6 limit, arguing that it will help low-paid workers.

The union is USDAW, representing shop workers. It has put down a resolution to the TUC 'welcoming the return of a Labour govern-

ment' and confirming 'support for government policy as outlined in the White Paper.'

On 6 July, USDAW put out a special release welcoming the £6 wage limit. Lord Allen, the union's general secretary, has appeared on television arguing for the freeze.

Half the membership of the union work in shops owned by the big retail chains: Tesco, Fine Fare, Sainsburys and so on. The companies are hugely profitable, yet they pay some of the most scandalous wages in Europe.

Last November, USDAW signed yet another

disgraceful agreement with the Multiple Food Retailers' Association which left the minimum weekly pay rate for a shop worker at £24.80 a week. The maximum rate was 'increased' to £30.20.

USDAW members in the shop made it plain that it was impossible to survive on wages like that. So the union was forced to break with tradition and applied to the supermarket kings for a 'small interim rise'. The employers conceded a 13.9 per cent rise, payable on 4 August, bringing the minimum rate up to £28.25 and the maximum to £34.40.

As soon as the government's White Paper and the TUC's document on the £6 limit was published, the employers, without telling the union, went to the Department of Employment to discuss the interim rise.

They pointed to a sentence in the TUC document, the Development of the Social Contract.

'The 12-month interval between major pay increases' says the document 'must continue to apply'.

A Department of Employment spokesman told Socialist Worker: 'The 12-month limit means you can't have two wage rises within 12 months of the last major settlement.'

But what if both rises together make up less than £6—as the shopworkers' negotiated rises do?

'There's no doubt', said the spokesman, 'that the second rise still contravenes the agreement.'

Could the interim rise be added on to any £6 which the shopworkers might get in November? 'Oh, no, they can only get £6 then'.

The Ministry told the employers that the wage rise fell outside the agreement.

Lord Allen will go on campaigning for the wage freeze, and his members will just have to try to make do on £24 a week until November.

Unless they fight back. Unless they threaten to close every store in the country until the money which the employers have agreed to pay is paid—and unless they start going along to their union branches demanding the dismissal of Allen and a policy of outright opposition to the government's freeze.

## AND A 14% WAGE CUT FOR HALF HIS MEMBERS



Chris Davies (Report)

## The freeze? We're not having it, say CPSA

BRITAIN'S biggest civil servants union, the CPSA (representing 215,702 members, 147,549 of them women), has come out against the £6 pay limit.

By a decisive 15-4 majority, the executive have voted to oppose the policy. It outlined a nine-point strategy for expanding production and extending public ownership.

This is the first public declaration of a major trade union against the freeze.

Six months ago, the CPSA and other civil service unions signed an agreement with the government which has been hailed by the union leadership as 'the greatest landmark in the history of civil service negotiations.'

The £6 limit now gives the government the excuse to rip the whole agreement to shreds.

Bill Kendall, CPSA general secretary, says in a circular to members that even with the £6 increase, CPSA

members will take a cut in their real earnings of between four and 12 per cent over the next nine months.

The executive decision must be supported to the full—but if there is to be a real fight it will have to be carried by the membership.

After all, the CPSA voted against the social contract at last year's TUC, but accepted a wage deal within the guidelines.

The signs are that the same hypocrisy will prevail this time. Kendall has said that if Congress votes for the limit, the union 'will have no choice but to accept the majority verdict'.

There hasn't been one mention by Kendall of industrial action to defend members' living standards—but that's the only way it can be done.

Rank and file civil servants will

have to take up the campaign now for industrial action for adequate wage increases. They cannot rely on resolution-mongering on the executive or at the TUC.

The building of the rank and file movement in the civil service is therefore crucial, and all militants should make a point of attending the Redder Tape Conference in September.

This conference must formulate a campaign of action to ensure that the struggle for the defence of wages does not end in a conference hall, but is taken back to the work-places—and victory.

Details of Redder Tape Conference from: Redder Tape Business Manager, 46, Pymfold Road, London, SE16.

## Socialist Worker Information Service

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with.

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Write to Alan Denean, SWIS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

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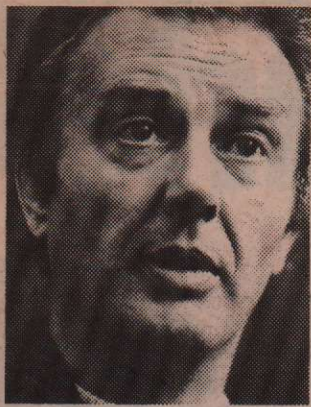
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By DAVE HALLSWORTH,  
a Lancashire textile worker

# Import controls: No way to save jobs...

**MANY WORKERS** in the textile industry, faced with massive redundancies, short-time working and lay-offs, have demanded increased controls on imports. They have failed to see that controls would merely force up prices for workers here and create unemployment for workers abroad.

The government and the textile multinationals generally have opposed controls. Processes of manufacture are shared between factories in different countries, with British workers doing one stage of manufacture, workers in other countries doing additional stages, all of which are married together somewhere else. Import controls would disrupt this process.

British manufacturers used import controls in the past to prevent infant textile industries in other countries encroaching on their markets. But now that companies like ICI, Courtaulds, Coats Paton and Tootals sprawl across the world, controls would hit their profits.

But for one country, the employers and the government have suddenly swung in favour of controls. A ten per cent surcharge has been imposed that could cripple Portugal's textile industry, upon which hundreds of thousands of Portuguese workers depend for a living, and which would cause economic chaos.

During the long reign of fascism, British companies made huge profits in Portugal. Coats Paton, for instance, paid 30p a day wages, although the cost of living was not far below ours. The full force of the state would crush any workers who protested.

*But now this wonderland for the bosses has come to an end. Workers in Portugal are using their freedom from the chains of fascism to demand the rights long denied them.*

And so the multinationals have given the nod to Wilson to do something to get the Portuguese workers back into line. If the workers find their factories cannot sell their goods and they lose their jobs, maybe it will knock a little of the enthusiasm for revolution out of them.



Workers protest against Courtauld's plans to close Empress Mills in Wigan: the bosses, not foreign workers are to blame. Picture: John Sturrock (REPORT).

tile industry operate in many countries. ICI Fibres, for instance, has plants in Australia, New Zealand, US, Germany, Portugal, South Africa, Canada and Pakistan. Courtaulds operate in the US, Canada, France, Sweden, Portugal, Australia, Hong Kong, Spain and Italy.

*They ruthlessly play the workers of one country off against those of another. That is why they have built up such massive profits.*

Take the tights industry, for instance. In Britain, it is dominated by ICI fibres (Pretty Polly) and Courtaulds (Kayser). Last year, the Danish knitwear federation complained that made-up material was being sold in Europe at a price

below what they were paying for the yarn.

The result was that tights manufacturers in Germany were forced to cut production by a third and French manufacturers by half.

ICI and Courtauld's were destroying their competitors in Europe, so as to boost their profits still more, regardless of the effects on jobs either in Europe or Britain.

At the same time, the same two firms were selling in Britain needle cloth from their US factories at less than the cost of making the cloth here, with the aim of driving their British competitors out of business.

The only way to fight these antics is to build up international unity between workers, not to try

to solve our problems at the expense of workers abroad.

To allow the bosses to put the screws on workers in Portugal is to weaken our fight against these same bosses.

We from Intex Yarns (ICI Fibres) in Ashton-under-Lyne call upon all textile workers to resist this attack on our workmates in Portugal.

Demand the withdrawal of the import controls. Raise it on your shop floor, on your shop stewards' committees, at your union branches.

**Workers of the World unite.  
Solidarity with our Portuguese workmates.**

But they are a way of smashing Portugal's workers, aren't they Mr Callaghan?

LAST WEEK, 17 European social democratic parties, with the British Labour Party in the lead, met to consider what steps to take to defeat the left in Portugal.

James Callaghan explained the motives behind their policy of making things difficult for the Portuguese economy. 'We are not in the business of supporting dictatorships,' he said.

Yet the Labour Party never put the same sort of effort into fighting fascism in Spain and Portugal that it is now putting into fighting the left.

During the Spanish Civil War, the 'moderates' in the Labour Party supported the policy of 'non-intervention', which meant allowing Hitler and Mussolini to arm the fascists, while opposing attempts to arm the Republicans.

The 1945-51 Labour government followed in the same tradition. Mario Soares is now getting whole-hearted support from the 'moderates' as he incites former fascists to attack left-wingers' homes and offices. Yet in his biography he described the attitude of the 'moderates' when fascism reigned in Portugal:

*The Labour victory in Great Britain, with its promise of social advance and the transformation of the British Empire, brought new hope to democrats in Portugal.*

*Later, observing Ernest Bevin's foreign policy, especially his condonation of the Fascist regimes of the Peninsula . . . I was to revise my opinion of the Labour Party.*

[Mario Soares: Portugal's Struggle for Liberty, 1975.]

The 1964-70 Labour government was quite happy to see NATO supply the Salazar and Caetano regimes with the weaponry to subdue their African colonies and to shoot down Portuguese workers.

Only now, when those workers are fighting for a revolution, do our Labour 'moderates' suddenly discover the need to support 'parliamentary democracy' with economic sanctions.

## WHERE THE BLAME LIES

TEXTILES is always the hardest hit industry when capitalism goes into recession. But that's not because of the government's failure to impose further import controls.

In the First World War, fantastic profits were made from clothing the armies in Europe. None went back into replacing old machinery. Instead they were paid out in dividends.

And so, when the war was over, there was massive devastation of the industry. Because of the ancient machinery, the slump lasted right through to the Second World War. Lancashire was one of the worst of the 'depressed areas'.

The recovery of business during the war did not change the attitude of the employers. Their slogan remained 'higher dividends and more production'.

Even the Board of Trade was forced to report of the textile industry in 1946 that 'the

one thing that must be avoided is the enjoyment in this period of a fool's paradise, eg easy profits, at the end of which the industry and all those who rely on it may find themselves in worse difficulties even than those of the inter-war years.'

*But once again, the employers refused to invest in new machinery. Inevitably, in 1952, a collapse came . . .*

The Tory government decided the industry had to be put on its feet again—and the taxpayers were to foot the bill. With the Cotton Industry Act, they splashed out money to provide 'cash incentives'. The textile bosses traded in their derelict machines, getting £80 for every £6 of scrap, closing factory after factory.

The big boys decided it was their chance to move in, hacking the industry to suit their re-

quirements.

Between 1952 and 1973, more than two textile workers out of three lost their jobs. Trade unions with hundreds of thousands of members found themselves with tens of thousands. Lancashire is crowded with empty mills as a result of those measures.

Output increased by more than a third in the ten years after 1963, while the productivity of each worker went up, on average, by 86 per cent.

Yet once again the textile industry faces massive redundancies and short-time working. The textile bosses want to avoid the blame.

So they are happy when workers try to blame foreign workers, even if the employers themselves do not want controls—except, of course, when they are directed against the revolutionary workers of Portugal.

# 5 FIFTH COLUMN



## JAILS: sticks from carrots...

AT the end of July 12 prisoners climbed out of Albany Jail on the Isle of Wight and sat on the roof for 23 hours. Their banner, made from prison sheets, said 'Probe The Parole System'. For a day or two prisons were once again in the news.

Their protest was against what had been hailed in the press as a reform in the prison system. The method by which prisoners who are considered to have been good boys or girls will be allowed out into the world, provided they behave themselves.

Many people will have thought it yet another example of the ingratitude of these people. Our rulers bring in these changes, and the greedy villains still aren't satisfied.

Many people are wrong. Britain has more prisoners per 1000 of the population than any other country in Western Europe apart from Western Germany. Every year 150,000 people pass through them. Most prisons are old, overcrowded—and in the terms of the defenders of law and order they don't deliver the goods. 70 per cent of prisoners go back to prison.

The other 30 per cent don't get caught again' suggested a radical criminologist, only half joking.

The parole system was a child of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act. Prisoners, on the recommendation of the Parole Board, may be released after they have served a third of their sentence. In reality it has become another carrot/stick to maintain control of those overcrowded institutions.

If you are inside, and apply for parole, the process takes an average of four months, while prisoner and family sit and bite their nails. If you are turned down you are given no reason, you see none of the reports made about you—so you don't know where 'you went wrong'—and if you appear before the parole board the length of interview is under five minutes.

So what are the results? 'In 1971 some six per cent of prisoners opted out of first reviews' wrote sociologist Mike Fitzgerald of Leicester University', and over 12 per cent opted out of second or subsequent reviews.'

The other result? That another method has been found to control the people inside, not to 'reform' them, or make them 'useful citizens', but as in the rest of the world to split people, keep them in ignorance, and thus get round the problem of what the hell to do with them.

What the parole system *doesn't* do is what the floggers and hangers claim. 'Murderers and robbers go into these plush holiday camps for a couple of years and then come out again' they say.

It isn't true, as Christopher Nuttall of the Home Office Research Unit has pointed out. His work gave 'no support to the view that long term prisoners are released after serving only a short time in prison.'

No, they stay there, and after about 10 years turn into cabbages.

FROM the horse's mouth.

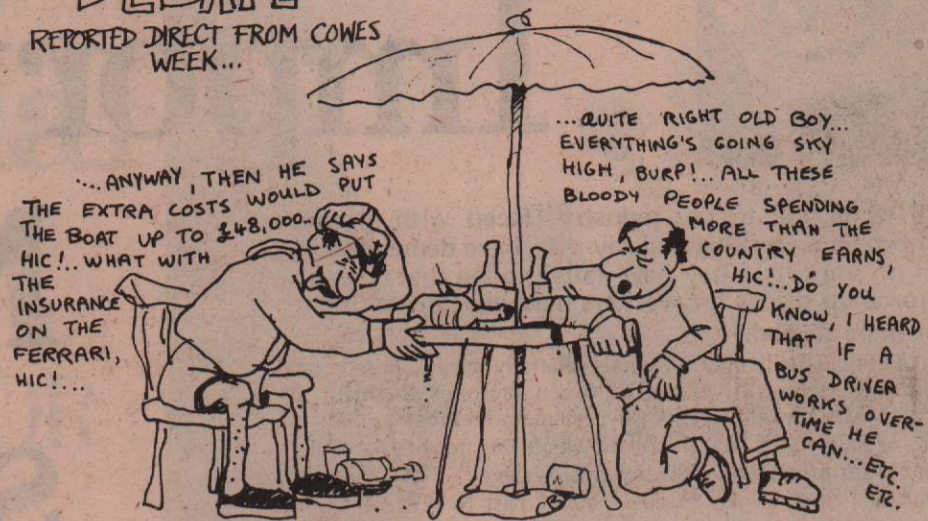
'The regime of the unit is not directed towards providing "treatment": there is no expectation that it will cure prisoners of wanting to stir up trouble; only demonstrate to them that it does not pay to do so.'

'The regime of the unit does not claim to provide a cure: its aim is to provide a framework in which prisoners will demonstrate present willingness and sustained ability to co-operate, and by this means work their passage back to the amenities of normal location in the dispersal system.'

Prison department circular PDG/68 174/4/85 (14 June 1974) from RM Morris (P 3 Division) and G M B Owen (P 5 Division) on control units.

## THE GREAT INFLATION DEBATE

REPORTED DIRECT FROM COWES WEEK...



...ANYWAY, THEN HE SAYS THE EXTRA COSTS WOULD PUT THE BOAT UP TO £48,000. HIC!... WHAT WITH THE INSURANCE ON THE FERRARI, HIC!...

...QUITE RIGHT OLD BOY... EVERYTHING'S GOING SKY HIGH, BURP!... ALL THESE BLOODY PEOPLE SPENDING MORE THAN THE COUNTRY EARNS, HIC!... DO YOU KNOW, I HEARD THAT IF A BUS DRIVER WORKS OVERTIME HE CAN... ETC. ETC.

COLIN BROWN

## CONTROLLED BREAKDOWN

ONE thing our rulers dislike is that prisons cost such a lot of money. That is one reason why paroles, suspended sentences and such have been introduced. The hope is that by this method prisons in the end will be reduced to what our rulers regard as the real hard cases. 'This group will be defined in even more negative and destructive terms,' suggests sociologist Stan Cohen. 'They will be the hard core, the bottom of the barrel.'

'Prisons for this group of offenders are destined to become human warehouses. Places where people are stored until society can think of something else to do with them.'

Within these warehouses sub-

sections are built. The ones that have achieved some publicity recently are the Special Control Units.

In Wakefield Jail now are three prisoners. They are kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours each day, one hour is supposedly for exercise.

They have been in there since 22 May. They are supposed to remain for 90 days. 'If at any time the prisoner is seen to misbehave,' explains Mike Fitzgerald, 'if he stops working, breaks things in his cell, or is disrespectful to an officer he reverts automatically to day one.'

'Only after a full 90 days of "good behaviour" is he eligible to go on to the second phase—the "associative" phase, which includes mixing with

other prisoners in the unit, for work and leisure... If at any stage in the second phase the inmate is seen to have misbehaved or been unresponsive then he begins day one, in phase one all over again.'

'There isn't anything "therapeutic" about these places,' explained a radical criminologist. 'What they are trying to do is break people down, and the SCUs are just a development of the techniques they've been using for years.'

There are two SCUs in British prisons, at Wakefield and Wormwood Scrubs. Only Wakefield is (apparently) in use at the moment, but the more traditional methods of solitary confinement are in continuous use throughout the British prison system.

## It's for your own good...

WHY do prisons exist?

'Simple,' people say. 'To punish people for doing wrong and to change them so they won't do wrong again.'

Then why do 70 per cent wind up back inside?

'It's a matter of commonsense,' comes the reply, 'some people are so wicked that they just go on being evil. We have to protect ourselves...'

An alternative idea, put forward by liberals, is that prisons are inefficient and should be reformed. 'That isn't true,' said a radical sociologist. 'Prisons do work, but they don't control prisoners, they control the people outside.'

'The rest of us are scared of prisons. But the ex-con is on his own. An outcast, someone who is different—someone who invariably can't be employed.'

Prison officers who administer the prisons are the principle defenders of the system. 'Those of them who are liberal are totally cynical,' he explained, 'because it's such a farce. You could never run Marks and Sparks the way they run the jails, with a 70 per cent failure rate. Not only don't they 'cure'—they actively develop people as 'criminals'.'

'One prison officer told me that the only thing you can do with Pentonville is blow it up...'

PROTESTS against the use of solitary confinement and sensory deprivation aren't new. Here is a comment on the subject written over 100 years ago.

'I solemnly declare that with no rewards or honours could I walk a happy man beneath the open sky by day, or lie me down upon my bed at night with the consciousness that one human creature for any length of time, no matter what, lay suffering this unknown punishment in his silent cell, and I the cause, or I consenting to it in the least degree.'

That was novelist Charles Dickens writing in his *American Notes*, in the middle of the nineteenth century. Dickens was a liberal. Roy Jenkins claims to be...

## Chile: murder across a continent...

THE Chilean junta has found a new way of covering up its ferocious repression against the working-class and socialist movement. Known political prisoners disappear from the jails and prison camps, to turn up later as mutilated corpses, often in other countries—where the junta blames its foul murders on 'feuding' among the resistance or 'battles' with the other countries' police forces.

Chilean political prisoners have been disappearing ever since the coup of September 1973. But since March, when the junta agreed to allow a United Nations Human Rights Committee inquiry into Chile's political prisoners, it has needed to eliminate many of the traces of torture and repression from its jails. What better way than if the tortured prisoners could be persuaded to 'disappear'.

General Pinochet, head of the junta, had first declared that '2000 extremists' were training in Argentina for an 'invasion' of Chile. Then the junta announced that two armed groups had crossed the frontier from Argentina, had been involved in an armed confrontation with the authorities, and had even executed the head of Chilean military intelligence at Talca.

The Argentinian frontier police

Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London, N7.

denied there had been any such battle, pointing out that the winter snows made it virtually impossible to cross the frontier at that time anyway.

But on 15 June the junta executed five people accused of taking part in this phoney incident. The five had some months previously been known to be political prisoners in Chilean jails.

On 11 July the bodies of two Chilean citizens, Luis Alberto Guendelman and Jaime Robostam Bravo, were found in a car in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The bodies were riddled with bullets, and badly burned so as to be unrecognisable, though identity papers were found. Over their corpses was a white sheet with the words 'Eliminated MIR militants' and signed 'The black brigades'.

Both had been on the lists of known Chilean political prisoners put out by the Pro Peace Committee of the Chilean Churches.

The junta now announced that the murders 'proved' the lists to be fabrications, produced by 'international marxism' to discredit Chile's wonderful new regime and cover up the activities of so-called extremists in neighbouring

countries.

But overwhelming evidence shows that the two men were political prisoners of the junta. Several international humanitarian organisations had detailed information about their situation in jail: statements from people who had been beside them in the torture chambers, evidence that Luis Guendelman had been under treatment in Santiago's military hospital.

On 21 July, the junta planted stories in minor Brazilian and Argentinian magazines concerning 119 militants of the MIR, the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left. They claimed that 59 of these had been killed or injured in confrontation with the Argentinian police. The other 60 they claimed had been killed in feuds with their own comrades in Argentina, Columbia, Venezuela,

The governments of these countries have denied that any such incidents took place. Every single one of the 119 was on the lists of known political prisoners in Chile. The whereabouts of none is known today.

The inescapable conclusion is that they have been murdered by the junta.

THE soft life inside? Dr Thomas Cleghorn of the North London Blood Transfusion Centre took samples of the blood of prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville. In June 1974 he reported his findings. 90 per cent had hepatitis, brought on by bad diet

## And fighting them

AFTER each major spate of publicity the prisons get a Commission-like Mountbatten in 1967 or a 'working party' as in 1972. The results—a little more liberal rhetoric and more repression inside.

There's no final answer to the problem in this society. Prisons are as natural as having your mind and body crushed on the production line.

Two groups run prisons, the prisoners who go through the farce of their 'rehabilitation' and the warders who live on low pay, and survive on a diet of petty repression. Can you blame them? Yes, but blame a world where training people in robbery, the 'illegitimate' side of normal business activity, and becoming social outcasts, is the real goal of the prison system.

Can it be fought? Yes, the parole laws have to be changed, their use as another lever against inmates has to be ended, prisoners have to be able to organise within the jails, and outside we have got to support and publicise their fight.

In the nineteenth century our rulers sent us to school, to the factories, to the slums, and to the then new prisons. Times haven't changed.

Radical Alternatives to Prison—which campaigns for reforms like the scrapping of Control Units, but more importantly for the abolition of the prison system is at Eastbourne House, Bullards Place, London E2.

PROP, which attempts to build within prisons is at 339a Finchley Road, London NW3.

The Prisoners Human Rights Committee is at 29a Hornsey Rise, London N19.

The aim of the operation is not only to remove the tortured and maimed prisoners. Pinochet cancelled the visit of the United Nations Human Rights Committee delegation on 3 July, three days before it was due to start.

The aim of the junta is also to slander the resistance, particularly the MIR, as a 'terrorist', 'gangster' organisation, when in fact not one Chilean left-wing party takes such a position.

This is why it is vital that working-class protest against the Chilean junta is stepped up all over the world. Such protest can prevent still more political prisoners turning up as corpses in burnt-out cars inside or outside Chile.

Shop stewards' committees and union branches should send telegrams of protest, about the 'disappeared' prisoners, about the deaths of Guendelman and Bravo to the Chilean Embassy in London. They should also support the initiatives of the Chile Solidarity Committee around the second anniversary of the coup next month.

Furthermore, they should step up solidarity with the Portuguese working class, who, if they do not succeed in driving the revolution forward, will be put down with terror and repression every bit as ferocious as in Chile.

# Behind the violence against the left

**JAMES ANDERSON**  
reports from OPORTO

RIGHT-WING mobs have had another active week here in the North of Portugal.

Again the lovers of law and order have sacked the offices of left-wing parties. Again they have gone on the rampage against the cars, homes and persons of suspected Communists—and by Communists they mean anyone and everyone who has in any way been involved in the workers' struggles.

These violent demonstrations have followed directly from the hysterical campaign of the Portuguese Socialist Party, who opened the door for organisations much further to the right.

Now the demonstrations, or rather riots, are organised and led by the right-wing extremists of the so-called Popular Democrats (PPD), the undercover fascists in the Centre Democratic Party (CDS), and backed by the reactionary pro-fascist Catholic

Church hierarchy.

The Church has great power in the North. It has been putting in overtime to work up congregations with fearsome tales about Communism and Communists.

Naturally the British press pretends that what is going on is nothing more than heroic anti-Stalinism. Nothing could be further from the truth. The target is the left and the working-class movement in every shape and form.

Why else would the Santo Tirso offices of the FEC, a Maoist organisation which hysterically attacks the Communist Party, as 'social

fascists', have been wrecked last week? Why else would the members of the tenants' committee in the Matoshinos suburb of Oporto have been attacked with knives?

The explanation for the power of the right in the north is simple. It is a desperately poor region, probably the most backward single part of Western Europe.

The area is densely populated only along the coast. Elsewhere there are only small villages where people try to scrape a living out of a tiny patch of land. These small farmers and Oporto's petty traders provided the social base for fascism. The Portuguese National Association, the party created by dictator Salazar, was strong there. So was his other tool, the Portuguese Legion.

Just how backward the region is can be estimated from the level of illiteracy. In Portugal as a whole it is 40 per cent. In the north, 60 per cent can neither read nor write.

This means that the church almost totally dominates life. The poor illiterate peasants and tenant farmers even have to depend on the church to write their letters to the sons and daughters who have been forced into emigration by the misery of their lives.

## Power

This gives the church enormous power. The priest is everywhere an unchallenged authority. And his masters in the hierarchy are determined to defend that power.

The Archbishop of Braga, who has led some of the most violent of the recent demonstrations, was deeply involved with Salazar and Caetano. At Lisbon Airport last week he had his trousers removed by Customs Officers searching for illegal currency.

They believed the Catholic Church is being used as a channel for funds for reaction, a belief which coincides exactly with the information from former CIA agent Philip Agee, who says money is coming from the US.

Such funding might help to explain the large sums of money that were paid to some of those involved in the riots at Fomalicao to act as ' heavies ' and ' bodyguards ' for the PPD.

## Factor

But there is one overriding factor which helped bring about the present atmosphere in the North—the world economic crisis.

This has had a devastating effect on the poor farmers and peasants. The market for their grapes and wines has collapsed as the powerful farming lobbies in France have insisted that their trade be protected by the Common Market. The result has been ruin for them.

But in a society where superstition is rife and where the church is so powerful, the blame is not put where it belongs. The situation is blamed on 'Lisbon', 'The Armed Forces Movement' or better still 'The Communist Devils'.

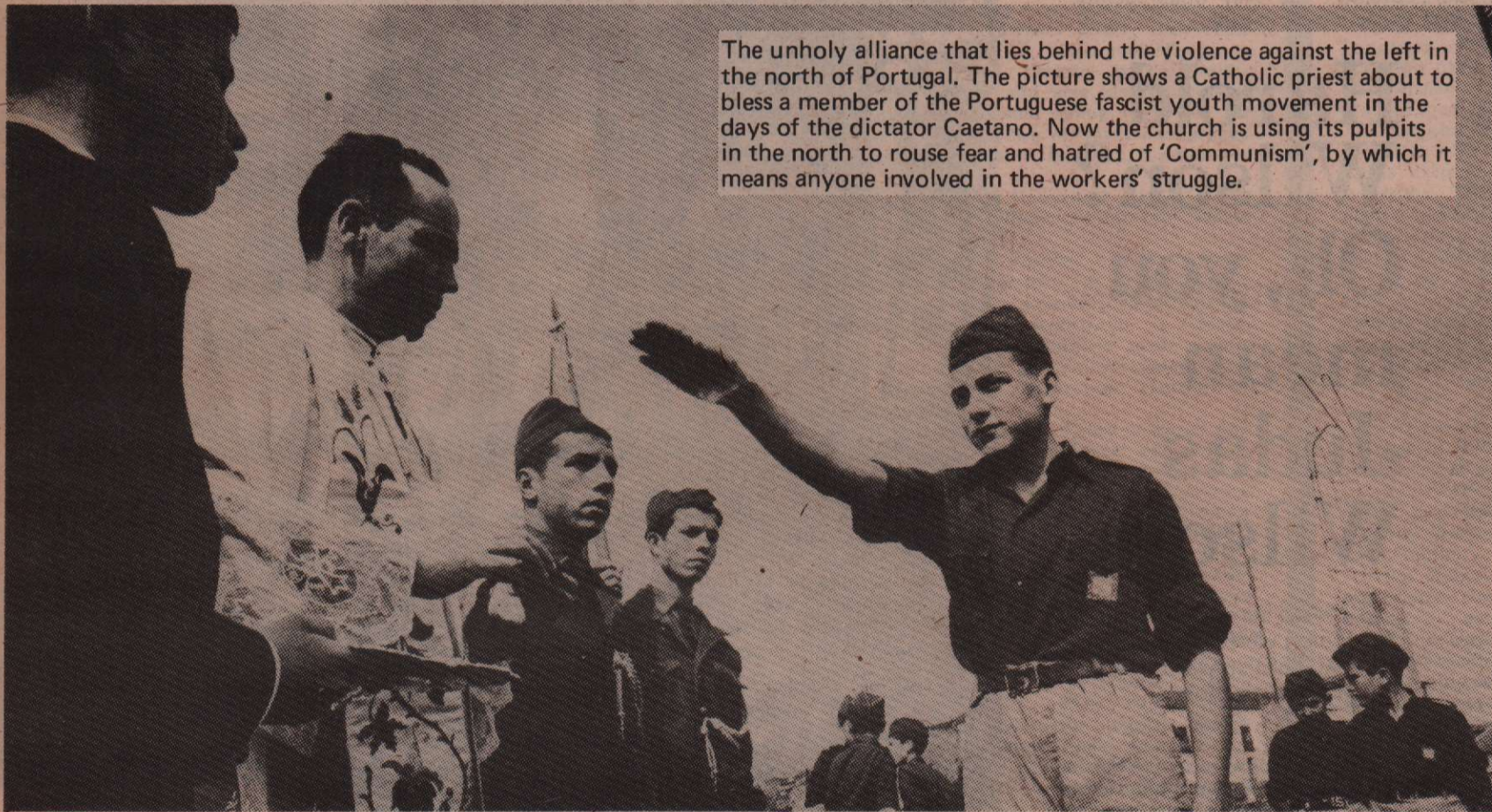
The ferocity of this reaction has been increased by the Portuguese colonists returning from Angola. Many came from the north. Now they return to a life with bleak prospects. They are easy meat for the PPD, the CDS and for fascism as it attempts to reorganise more and more openly.

But it is important to remember that the whole of the north is not fascist and reactionary. Workers in the textile factories and agricultural labourers—the few that there are—have been prominent in the struggles of revolutionary government and for the advance of the revolution.

The danger is that the workers in the north will feel cut off and lose heart. Nevertheless the workers' movement has in no way lost out. It is possible to get through to tradition-bound poor peasants. But not with words and offers of low interest loans. Only deeds, deeds that offer some respite from their misery.



The unholy alliance that lies behind the violence against the left in the north of Portugal. The picture shows a Catholic priest about to bless a member of the Portuguese fascist youth movement in the days of the dictator Caetano. Now the church is using its pulpits in the north to rouse fear and hatred of 'Communism', by which it means anyone involved in the workers' struggle.



## How the workers can defeat this alliance

THE sudden growth of the right wing in the past couple of weeks has posed the sharpest danger yet to the Portuguese revolution. But it is a danger that can easily be beaten back—if the workers' movement makes the correct response.

In the factories, the workers have developed massively powerful and democratic rank and file organisations—the workers' committees. In many places tenants and slum dwellers have formed committees of 'moradores'—neighbourhood committees for working-class districts.

The army in Lisbon and the south is infected with the same spirit. Soldiers continue to insist that if it comes to civil war, they will fight with the workers. All but one of the units of the security force Copcon have condemned the so-called 'moderate' Document of the Nine which called for a halt to the revolution as 'divisive and pernicious'.

In the southern agricultural town of Evora a mass demonstration of land workers and small peasants went to the barracks to demand the resignation of Melo Antunes, the author of the document.

The danger to the revolution comes from the fact that the movement in and around Lisbon has not won over the small farmers of the north. So the middle and upper classes are using the north as a base to attack the workers' strength in Lisbon and their support in the armed forces. The workers

of an industrial area such as Lisbon and the south can defeat the right wing and its northern support if they take the initiative.

IN 1919, IN THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, Petrograd was isolated in the face of an advancing right-wing army. The Russian workers were a small minority compared to the peasants. But mobilised by revolutionary leadership, they were able to defend their city against a more powerful opponent.

IN 1936 IN SPAIN, Madrid seemed weak compared with Franco's Italian and German-backed forces. Yet the workers of Madrid were able to hold out for nearly another three years.

### Bigger

The workers of Lisbon and the south are a much bigger part of the population than were the workers of Russia in 1919 or the workers of Spain in 1936. But victory in such situations can only be achieved by avoiding needless compromises. The army in Portugal is full of officers who, given the chance, will go over to reaction, causing immense confusion

to the rank and file. They must not be given the chance.

The left has to insist now that control in the armed forces rests with the rank and file, that every officer who hesitates in supporting the revolution is removed, and that rank and file delegates from the military units meet rank and file delegates from the factories to plan joint arms training and joint guard patrols.

Second, the economic crisis means that hundreds of thousands of unemployed Portuguese see no future in the present situation. These can be fodder for the right wing. A real economic plan has to be drawn up, to end the expensive luxury consumption of the rich and to guarantee to every worker, every unemployed person, every poor peasant a living wage. The homes of the wealthy must be handed over to committees of the slum dwellers and homeless.

Third, the manoeuvres which take place above the heads of the workers as the Communist Party tries to control parts of the existing state play into the hands of the right wing.

Every worker must be involved in the revolutionary government of the

Lisbon area. That means the election of workers' and soldiers' delegates to revolutionary councils, which will then appoint a revolutionary government.

Only such a government will seem to all workers—including those who at present support the Socialist Party—their government. Only such a government will have the forces it needs—in the factories, the barracks, the neighbourhoods—to control the factories, the districts, the streets.

A revolutionary government could then face the problem of the north with confidence. The peasants are weighed down with debts. It would have to cancel those debts. They need to sell their wine. The government must find the funds to buy their wine by seizing the wealth of the middle and upper classes, their luxury cars, their expensive furniture, their bank balances. The peasants of the north need cheap tractors. The government must turn the car factories—how many Portuguese workers can afford cars?—over to producing agricultural machinery.

While the present government dithers, while the officers argue with one another, while the established political parties fight for government posts, the right wing is operating freely and biding its time. That is why it is stronger now than a month ago.

A revolutionary workers' government, based on workers' and soldiers' councils, could reverse the balance of forces immediately.



**JACK EVERITT**, Transport and General Workers Union convenor at NVT Wolverhampton:

'We've had enough of Poore, and he's had enough from us. He's already had about £20 million from the Labour government in compensation and export credits.

'There's only one answer, and we're all committed to it: here, at Small Heath and at Meriden. Nationalisation, public ownership—and no more money for Poore.'



**JACK HALE**, Engineering Union convenor at NVT Wolverhampton:

'I'll tell you one bloody thing, mate. They won't take anything from here. If they want to get us out, they'll have to take us by force.'



# The looting of Nort

SINCE petrol prices shot up, more and more people in Britain want motorbikes. Sales of bikes this year are estimated at 275,000 compared with 191,000 last year, a huge jump.

Yet this week, the workers at Britain's biggest motorcycle factory, Norton Villiers Triumph (NVT) at Wolverhampton, have been told there is no money left to pay their wages. A few miles away, at Small Heath in Birmingham, Britain's second biggest motorcycle factory faces, at best, a drastic run-down. At Meriden, near Coventry, the only other factory making British motorcycles, the workers' cooperative is in peril.

The government has announced there will be no more assistance for any of these factories.

Why? What possible reason can there be for stopping motorcycle production when demand is rising so fast?

The answers to both those questions can be found at the Norton Villiers factory in Wolverhampton.

A government report out last week revealed that four-fifths of the machinery in the factory is more than 15 years old. A tour round 'B' shop proved that things are much worse than that. Almost every machine is 'repaired' by the workers with some form of makeshift device.

Bill Bassett, an inspector in the shop and an Engineering Union shop steward, explained: 'We can't get spares for most of these machines. So the workers find ways to keep their machines running.'

## Credit

He paused by a milling machine, and pointed to two steel squares embedded in the surface to make it level. 'That's typical,' he said. 'They have to use anything they can get their hands on.'

'I remember seeing a spline-grinder where the diamond-dressing attachment was held together with chewing gum. The workers use cigarette packet lids, old tea-caddies, anything that'll keep the machine going.'

'It's a credit, really it is, to the setters and other workers that they produce such excellent quality goods from such old machines.'

Horace Wilkes, chief quality engineer, was on the picket line. He told me: 'The camform grinding machines are around 45 years old. This means it takes us about four days to plot the camforms. Every percentage point has to be calculated, and everything is done by hand.'

'There is computerised equipment available which can plot these camforms in 48 minutes, yes, minutes. I went down to see these machines, and tested them. They cost £2500 each, not very much. But we were consistently refused permission to buy them.'

## Sold

The sprawling mass of the factory has been looted by the employers in the interest of a quick profit.

Twenty years ago every motorcycle part except the sparking plug was made on the premises. One by one each component shop was sold off to outside manufacturers or closed down.

The stamping shop is now a car park. The contracts for pistons and magnetos have been farmed out to outside firms. The plating and

## Harold Wilson? Oh, you mean Judas Wilson

—Mike Samson, Transport Union white-collar section (ACTSS) steward, NVT Wolverhampton.

furnishing shops were sold to outside contractors who came in and broke up the trade union organisation.

These sales and contracts have left the firm wide open to the corruption of the industrial price-fixing agreements which dominate British engineering.

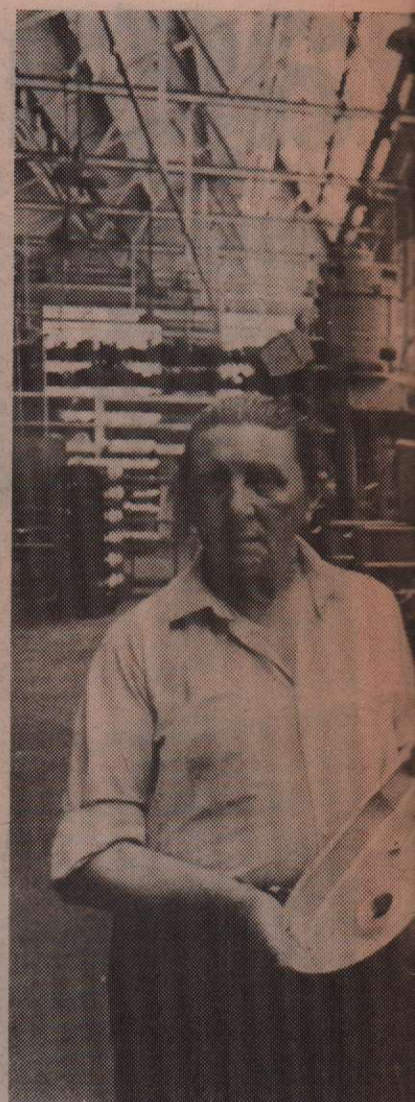
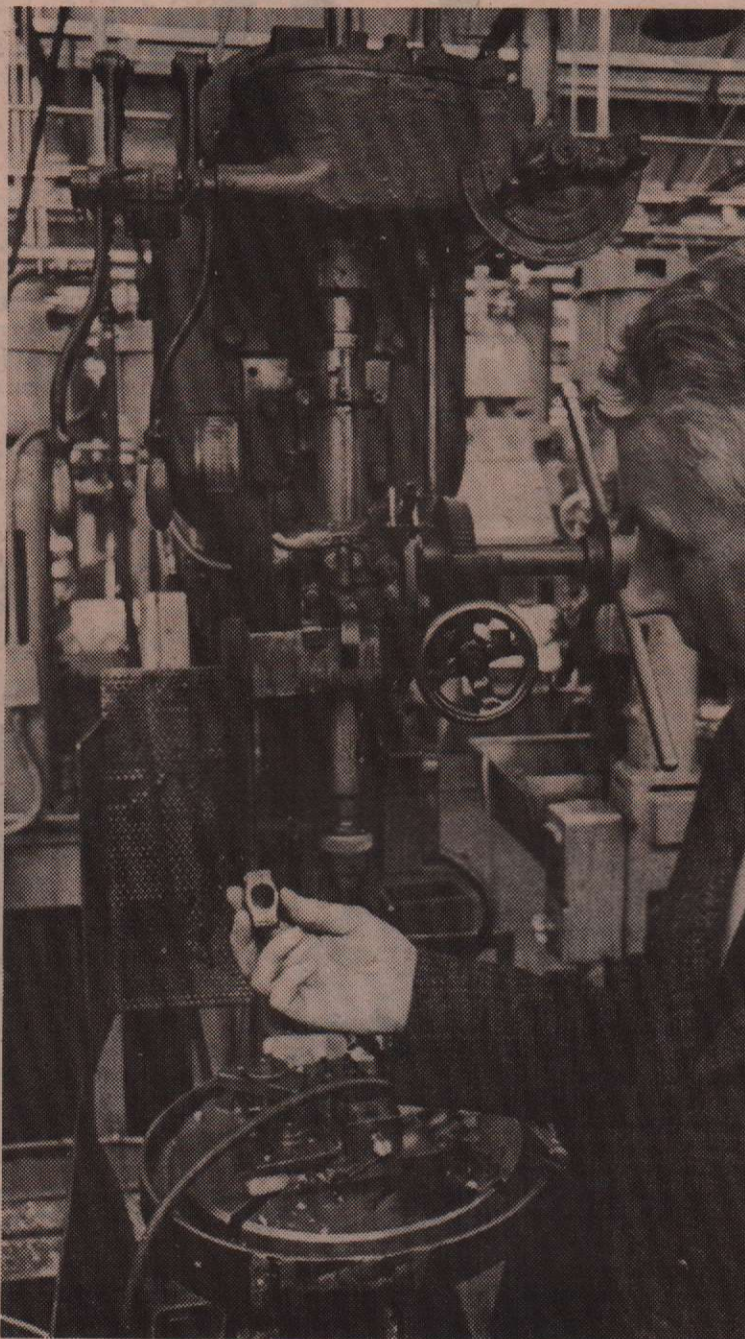
Phil Hanley, a shop steward in the white-collar engineering union (TASS) told me: 'Our magnetos are made by Sibas, a subsidiary of Lucas. The order was placed by a managing director called Pisker some years back. We found afterwards he had an interest in Sibas.'

'Well, we on the design side found a firm which could supply us magnetos at £1.95 less than we're paying Sibas. The saving would have come to £800 to £1000 a week: that's a pound a week for every worker in the factory.'

'But as soon as he heard we were taking orders away from Lucas, Dennis Poore, chairman of NVT, stopped us. He insisted we stay with Lucas. That sort of thing is going on all the time, in every area of production.'

Phil took me to a storeroom where hundreds of industrial engines were piled up. 'We can't sell them because they've just put the price up again. The middlemen make about 100 per cent profit on these. If you bought one here, it would cost you about £60. In the shops, they cost about £120.'

All the lies of capitalism are exposed in the crumbling chaos of



Side by side in 'B' shop, two machines tell the story of Norton Villiers. LEFT, a Pollard machine which used to be driven by a belt until a motor was rigged up behind it. It is about 55 years old and completely deso

NVT's Wolverhampton factory.

Does free enterprise competition ensure efficient production? No. Efficient production is made impossible for lack of investment.

Does free enterprise competition ensure the quickest and cheapest distribution? No. Distribution is made slovenly and expensive by the price-fixing agreements which control wholesaling and retailing.

Does free enterprise competition ensure better design? No. As the Japanese and Italians produced new motorcycle designs with new investment, the British manufacturers shut up shop.

## Skills

The production of small motorcycles by Japanese and Italian firms led to the closing of production lines in Britain. Now that larger bikes are being produced abroad, the whole British motorcycle industry is closing.

No doubt, if some other 'com-

petitor' challenges the Japanese and Italians with new investment, the Japanese and Italian capitalists will also prefer closure to replacing their machines. They too will close their factories and sack their workers.

The demand for motorbikes is there and growing. The skills and capacity for hard work among motorcycle workers are there too. But the efficient production line machinery is not—because the British motorcycle industry has been systematically looted of every penny in the interests of high profits for shareholders, managers and other firms.

The demand cannot be met, the workers and their skills are threatened with the scrap heap because the men who run the industry have no skill, no capacity for work, no interest in design. They worship only the Great God Profit and are prepared to sacrifice everything, especially human beings to it.

## WHAT WE THINK

THE workers at Norton Villiers are angry at the betrayal by the employers who promised them their jobs and are angry at what they call the 'bosses' who have gutted the industry.

But the workers at Norton Villiers are more so, at Small Heath in Birmingham. There is still a tendency to think of them like an easy or quick solution. If motorcycle jobs are to be saved, we must learn the lessons from them.

## DON'T LET THEM

When BSA went bankrupt, the workers were accepted by the government. A good heart, which is still a man's heart, television about 'the day after tomorrow'. The Shawcrosses and



# Case of the secret agent

The trial of nine Irishmen accused of taking part in the Birmingham bombings is expected to end this week. Here EAMONN McCANN looks at some of the evidence the court is trying to ignore.

ON 1 November last year, the night two bombs exploded in Birmingham and killed 21 people, a visitor arrived at the home of a local supporter of the National Front, Thomas Watt.

The visitor was Kenneth Littlejohn, self-confessed British government agent who was then on the run after escaping from Dublin's Mountjoy Prison. Littlejohn stayed at Watt's home from that night until his arrest some weeks later.

This curious fact emerged during the trial at Lancaster of nine Irishmen charged in connection that and other bombings. Watt was the star prosecution witness, having been a workmate of two of the accused men, John Walker and Richard McIlkenny.

Littlejohn, as he freely admits, originally infiltrated the IRA with the express intention of urging it towards extreme actions which would alienate public sympathy. That he should arrive in Birmingham the night the bombs went off, and present himself at the front door of the man later to be a star witness at the trial, is a coincidence so bizarre as to be incredible.

But the matter was not pursued at the trial. Nor, indeed, were other aspects of Watt's evidence which seemed to suggest that there was more to the case than met the eye of Lancaster Crown Court.



Watt claimed:

That Walker had always warned him when bombs were going to go off in the Midlands.

That Walker had drawn a sketch of a bomb for him to prove that he really was an IRA bomber.

That Walker had admitted going to Ireland for 'IRA training'.

That Walker had asked his advice about where to buy cheap alarm clocks to make the 1 November bombs.

That he had kept the police informed about all this! Watt said that he had first reported his suspicions to the police on 19 June last year, that a Bomb Squad detective had called at his home four days later and that between then and 1 November he had reported to the police 'quite a few times'.

If Watt was telling the truth—and the prosecution presented him as a trustworthy witness—the implications are enormous. The least sinister construction which could be put on his evidence is that some policemen knew a lot more about the bombing campaign last autumn than they pretended.

It would certainly seem the Special Branch and the Bomb Squad were not simply hunting Irish 'terrorists' but engaged on a much more subtle and complex operation.

The other aspect of the trial which merits examination was the prosecution attempts to explain away the fact that six of the defendants had been savagely beaten up while in custody.



The men maintained that confessions had been beaten out of them. The prosecution denied this and suggested that the attacks had been the work of other prisoners at Winson Green Prison, Birmingham. But the medical officer at Winson Green testified that he had examined the men on arrival at the prison, where they were brought by police after interrogation, and that they had already been injured. He estimated that the wounds were 12 hours old.

In his summing up, prosecution lawyer Harry Skinner told the jury: 'Dr Harwood is either being untruthful, or he was a very, very bad doctor.' Skinner avoided mention of a third and glaringly obvious possibility—that the doctor had got it right, that the police had indeed beaten the men to extract confessions...

The Lancaster trial posed more questions than it answered, questions about police brutality, agents provocateurs and the continued involvement of the Special Branch's dirty tricks department in cases connected with Ireland.

The police are unlikely to volunteer the answers and the Home Office under Labour's Roy Jenkins will not order disclosures. For the moment the untold truth about what really happened in Birmingham will stay secret. Socialists must see to it that it is not allowed to stay secret forever...



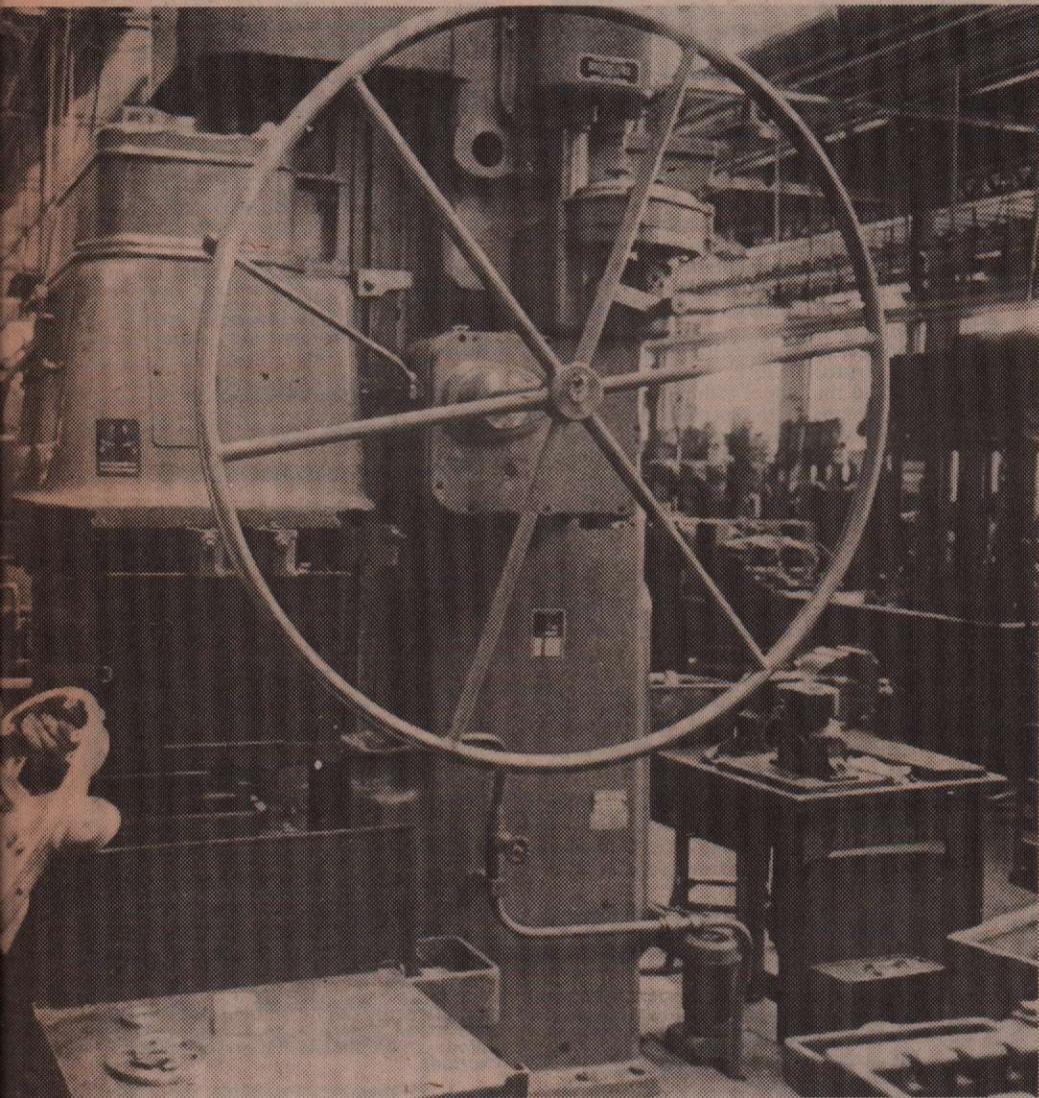
JACK COLLINGSWOOD: Engineering Union convenor at Cannon Industries, Wolverhampton:

'This Labour government's behaving just like the last one. It's the Treasury running the country again.

'These jobs must be saved. All three factories must be nationalised and kept going. I've been sent by my stewards' committee to promise all the support we can muster for the workers at Norton Villiers.

'The AUEW district committee must levy its members 5p a week. That'll start the ball rolling for regular collections and supporting pickets from all over the area.'

# Norton Villiers



## THE POORE WOT GETS THE GRAVY

THE history of an asset-stripper.

1951: Dennis Poore, now chairman of NVT, takes over Manganese Bronze, a thriving manufacturing company, and sets about stripping its assets and selling them off for profit. In 1966, Manganese employed 4339 workers. In 1972, it employed 905.

1965: Manganese takes over Norton Villiers, motorcycle manufacturers.

1969: Norton Villiers' most valuable factory at Plumstead in South East London, employing its highest-paid workforce, is closed. Hundreds of workers made redundant. Poore gets a development grant for new motorcycle factory at Andover.

March 1973: Poore stops all production at Andover and moves machinery and key workers to Wolverhampton. One hundred men redundant. Poore tells Motorcycle News: 'A hundred jobs is neither here nor there.'

July 1973: Christopher Chataway, Tory Minister for Industry, names Dennis Poore as the government's choice as 'saviour' of the British motorcycle industry. Gives Poore £4.8 million of government money.

September 1973: Poore closes down Meriden—the biggest factory with the highest-paid and best-organised workforce. Workers sat in.

June 1974: Government offers £4.95 million to set up workers' co-operative at Meriden. Poore gets £4 million of this.

July 1975: Poore announces intended closure of Wolverhampton NVT factory, and proposed drastic run-down of Small Heath factory. If he gets away with it, he will clear huge profits from sale of factory and machinery.

## Two machines that tell the whole story

It takes one minute to drill one hole. ABOVE, what Bassett, the Engineering Union steward in the picture, describes as 'one of the few new machines in the whole shop'. It drills 12 holes in an eighth of the time the Pollard takes to drill one. Countless pleas to replace the Pollard have been turned down. One man works a full shift every day drilling 60 holes an hour, and watches the man next door drilling about 5000 holes in the same time.

## HOW TO SAVE THE JOBS

Norton Villiers are angry: angry at the Labour government, which says the industry would be saved, and call 'the financial whizz' who took their factory and their jobs.

Wolverhampton and, even though they are not used to militancy, they are jumping at what seems to be a way to be saved, the workers' fight of past closures and actions.

GET AWAY WITH IT: In the last two years ago, Lord Basset, said: 'The redundancies of employees concerned with a factory all respected.' Lord Basset, the millionaire who prattles on about the dangers of militancy'.

the Poores grow rich on the sale of the factory and machinery.

the plight of docile, humble workers who 'take the sack in good heart'. They should be told where to get off. The workers must insist: NO REDUNDANCIES.

**DON'T ACCEPT A 'ONE FACTORY' SOLUTION.**

Poore is trying to split the workers at Small Heath from those at Wolverhampton. If he succeeds, both factories will be emptied without a fight. A joint committee between the two factories and the Meriden cooperative must be set up to coordinate the fight for jobs.

**DON'T BE CONNED INTO A COOPERATIVE**

The Meriden experiment has shown that a cooperative is an easy way out for the employers. It hands them massive compensation. For the workers it means lost jobs, lower wages, harder work and longer hours.

**DON'T BE CONNED INTO A CAMPAIGN FOR IMPORT CONTROLS**

Import controls mean higher prices for other workers. They are an excuse for bosses to go on producing without the necessary investment and design changes. They only save jobs at the expense of someone else's jobs in another country.

**THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER: NATIONALISATION WITH SHOP STEWARDS' CONTROL**

The government must be forced to nationalise without compensation all three factories, and guarantee all the jobs.

The stocks and machinery in all three factories must be held in ransom for the jobs. No work without wages. Both factories must be occupied now.

Support must be won from the whole Labour movement. Shop stewards' committees and union district committees must be visited by delegations from the occupying workers. Regular collections must be fought for in all factories, mines and building sites all over the country.

# LABOUR STALWARTS QUIT TO JOIN IS

TWO LEADING members of the Labour Party in Peterborough have joined the International Socialists.

Their decisions were announced in two front-page headlines in the local paper, and have led to widespread discussion among Labour Party supporters in the town.

David Bunch, a member of the General Management Committee of the city's Labour Party and secretary of Central ward, has repeatedly attacked the Party leadership locally and nationally for its right-wing politics.

A few weeks ago, he issued a press statement severely criticising the local MP, Michael Ward, for organising a petition among MPs to 'save Reg Prentice'.

'We had 40 print workers locked out at Sharmans,' says David, 'and Ward never opened his mouth. But when one of his right-wing friends in parliament is told to get out by the people who chose him, Ward leaps to his defence.'

## Hopeless

'I've always believed that when things move, they'll move through the Labour Party,' says David Bunch. 'But I just don't believe that any more.'

'I think this government's actions have shown just how hopeless parliamentary politics are. Nothing happens in the local Labour Party at all. The only people doing anything to fight against the government are the IS.'

The other member who has joined is David Toone, chairman of the Bourne Deepings ward Labour Party and a member of the local NALGO branch executive.

He told Socialist Worker: 'You can't wheel and deal your way to socialism—and that's what the Labour Party's trying to do.'

'The government's trampling on all the socialist principles they pretend to believe in. I want to be in a party which not only says it believes in socialism—but does something about it.'

Peterborough IS have issued a public challenge to the leader of the Labour group on Peterborough council, Charles Swift, and to Michael Ward MP, to debate the issue of the parliamentary road to socialism. So far, they have had no reply.

IS BULLETIN out 27 August, 10p. Orders from branch secretaries (with money) to Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

## Labour man says 'I quit'



One bombshell after another. Last Tuesday's Peterborough Evening Telegraph—and last Wednesday's

## Labour Party hit by another resignation



by Colin Felton  
ANOTHER leading left-winger has quit the Labour party on the eve of his potential adoption as a by-election candidate.  
Mr David Toone, chairman of Bourne Deepings Labour party and an executive member of the NALGO white collar union has resigned after "much soul searching".  
Tomorrow he was due along with other candidates, to be interviewed to stand for Market Deeping as a county councillor. He could have been asked to fight the seat for the party.  
Mr Toone's resignation follows only 24 hours after Mr David Bunch, another leading Labour party man. Both men have now joined Peterborough International Socialists.  
Mr Toone claims he is disillusioned with the way the Labour party has been going

many contacts with city socialists. It is not in a minority as Mr Ward claims. Mr Bob Jewell, secretary of the Deepings Labour party, comments: "I am disappointed whenever any of the Labour Party, I don't think the International Socialists are a force to be with or a viable alternative to a government."  
Mr Jewell went on to say that I would have been better if Mr Toone had stayed within the party if he had made changes.  
**Wilson states**  
MR Wilson plans to make a statement today to kill speculation that the Government's moves during the collapse

# Portugal: It's up to us

EVERY district of IS, and every major branch, should hold a half-day school on Portugal in September or October for all members and supporters.

The IS Portugal Group is preparing a slide/tape show and will provide speakers. Organise the school along these lines:  
Use the tape and slide show, and then have a local speaker. Every District probably has comrades who have been to Portugal this summer. They should also speak at local public meetings.

## Detail

A speaker from the IS Portugal Group can then give more detail on the lessons and perspectives of the current situation. The IS Spanish group can supply speakers on the prospects in Spain.  
Give adequate time for questions and discussion, and then arrange for smaller work groups, each to take a different aspect of our solidarity work:  
How to raise the issue of Portugal in your workplace, using the workers'

**Solidarity with the Portuguese Revolution**  
Demonstrate Saturday 20 September, 2pm, Charing Cross Embankment. Called by Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee and supported by Socialist Worker and the International Socialists.  
The demonstration and rally originally called for 30 August is cancelled in support of the above united demonstration.

control aspect of the Portuguese struggle to connect with workplace issues here in Britain. How to investigate capitalist links with Portugal, and build workers' links to oppose them.  
How to raise the issue of Portugal in the trade unions—putting the inter-

national arguments for supporting Portuguese workers in moving a resolution in your trade union branch, shop stewards' committee, trades council.  
How to organise our own IS work on Portugal—arguing for support for the SW Portuguese Solidarity Fund and, through it, support for the PRP.  
End the school with report backs from the groups with specific proposals for action within the district.  
These should not simply be internal IS meetings. We need to be raising the need for support for the Portuguese workers throughout the workers' movement now. Every effort should be made to get SW readers and supporters to these meetings.  
For speakers and the slide/tape show contact the IS Portugal Group, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 6273.

EVERY DISTRICT should have one person in charge of Portuguese work. Appoint someone now if you haven't done so already. All these organisers must watch this page carefully.  
MONEY IS CRUCIAL to our solidarity work for Portugal. Day schools are an ideal opportunity for raising it, particularly by using the Bankers Order forms for the Solidarity Fund.  
The Day School in East London brought 20 bankers orders, ensuring a regular flow of money into the fund for the next six months.  
So far nearly all the orders have come in from London. Other districts should be able to raise at least the same amount—and so guarantee at least £1000 a month into the fund.  
Updated Speakers' notes on THE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL: Send 2p plus stamped addressed envelope to Elna Dallas, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Now includes list of British companies with factories in Portugal, and draft resolution of solidarity for trade union branches, trades councils, etc.

## IS journal - in Spanish

A SPANISH-LANGUAGE edition of IS journal has just been published. It contains translations of important theoretical articles by Andreas Nagliatti, Nigel Harris and Chris Harman, as well as an interview with a leading Chilean trade unionist, Alejandro Alarcon, on his experiences in the Junta's concentration camps.  
The journal will play an important role in spreading marxist ideas among Spanish-speaking militants in Britain and abroad.  
All IS bookshops and districts should order copies. There are a large number of Spanish and Latin American workers and refugees in Britain and we must make a major effort to contact them.

It is vital that the journal is read outside Britain as well. Comrades with friends in other countries who would be interested should obtain copies and send them direct.  
There is still a large number of the French-language edition of IS journal available. Comrades with French-speaking contacts should make an effort to use it.  
Copies of the Spanish journal can be obtained from: SLJ, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.  
Copies of the French journal from Box F, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



## 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 smashing of 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. 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 workplace, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT'S ON

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

- IS public meetings**  
CAMBRIDGE IS public meeting: Socialism and human nature. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Monday 18 August, 8pm, Duke of Argyle, Argyle Street, off Mill Road.  
PORTSMOUTH IS public meeting: Crisis in India. Speaker: Soonu Engineer. Foresters Hall, Fratton Road. Monday 18 August, 8pm.  
BANGOR IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Monday 18 August, 8pm, Gwynedd Hotel.  
CENTRAL LONDON DIST IS public meeting: Progress of the revolution in Portugal. Report and discussion from comrades and trade unionists just returned from Portugal. Friday 22 August, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road.  
TYNESIDE IS public meeting: Portugal—the struggle for socialism. Speakers: Colin Sparks (just back from Portugal) and local trade unionists. Thursday 21 August, 7.30pm. Bridge Hotel (end of high level bridge near Castle).

- GLC COUNCIL WORKERS IS public meeting: No to the wage freeze and the cuts! Speakers to be announced. Thursday 28 August, 12.30pm, The Pillbox (opposite the Island Block) County Hall, SE1.  
S W LONDON DISTRICT IS public meeting: Fight Labour's wage freeze! Speakers: to be announced. Thursday 21 August, 8pm, Lower Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall.  
SOCIALIST WORKER TUC public meeting: Fight the £6 Freeze. Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), Vincent Flynn (former General Secretary, SOGAT), Monday 1 September, 6pm, Kings Arms, Blackpool.  
**Meetings for IS members and Socialist Worker supporters**  
YORKSHIRE Regional IS summer school: weekend 30-31 August (starts 11am Saturday). Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapelton Road, Leeds 7.

- IS Motor Fraction Executive meeting: New date. Sunday 31 August, 12 noon—4pm, Birmingham. Further details from Industrial Department.  
IS TEACHERS fraction school! Thursday and Friday 28/29 August, starting 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Sessions on The Crisis in Capitalism: economic background, Portugal and the Education Cuts: Building the Party: the Role of teachers. For accommodation/crèche, contact Jeanie Holborow, 9 Crosby Road, London E2 (01-634 1980).  
**IS notices**  
Part-time clerical assistant wanted for IS work at Cottons Gardens. Office experience preferred. Apply Mel Norris, 01-739 1878.  
NORTH LONDON IS are organising a fund-raising jumble sale in early September. We need all the jumble we can get. It should be brought to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4—or phone 01-802 6145 to arrange for collection.  
WILL IS members attending the Trades Union Congress in September either as delegates or observers please contact Industrial Department: 01-739 6273

- E LONDON IS Disco: Friday 5 September, 8pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate. Entrance 50p. Bar extension to 1am. Raffle.  
E LONDON IS jumble sale: 13 September. Save your jumble and contact Steve 01-590 5846.  
INNER E LONDON DIST IS needs jumble for 6 September jumble sale in aid of SW Portuguese Fund. Bring to 43 Allen Road, Stoke Newington, N16.  
CHELMSFORD IS Party in aid of SW Portugal Fund. Revolutionary music, plenty of booze, Saturday 30 August. Details from Chelmsford 59129. All welcome.  
LOWESTOFT IS jumble sale: Saturday 16 August, 2.30pm, British Legion Hall, Clifton Road.  
HULL IS bookshop opening soon: room available for IS member/sympathiser. Would anyone moving to Hull contact Martin Shaw, 67 Salisbury Street, Hull (0482-492733) urgently. Also needed: books, furniture, etc.

- SW Litho are offering a Printing Apprenticeship to start in September. Applicants must be under 19 and have a mechanical aptitude. Application in writing to: Training Officer, SW Litho, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.  
Practical schools for photographers: Write to Socialist Worker Photographs, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 for further details or phone Margaret Renn (01-739 6361).  
**IS AGITPROP CONFERENCE:** sessions on photography for socialists, designing and producing posters, using slides and tapes, socialist films, socialist theatre, organising a political social—everything to do using art to help build a socialist workers' movement. Weekend 27/28 September in Manchester. Registration £1 to Roland Muldoon, 11c Cabbell Street, London, NW1.  
**WOMEN'S VOICE** needs someone to work unpaid at least half a day a week, to look after the subscriptions and bookshop orders. Ring Barbara 01-739 2639.

# And they said they were fighting fascism



THIRTY years ago this month, the Second World War—the bloodiest in history—came to an end.

Many of the 30 million who died gave their lives in what they believed was a crusade to defend 'freedom' and 'democracy' against fascism.

At least, that was what they had been told, and that same message will, doubtless, be coming over loud and clear in the next few weeks as television and newspapers commemorate 'those who died that we should be free'.

*It was an idealism glorified by men whose real motives were vastly different.*

Britain's ruling class, for instance, had no objection to the murder, torture and imprisonment by Hitler and Mussolini of thousands of Communists, socialists and trade unionists. Neither had the other Allies...

If this was a war for 'freedom' why had most British Tories spoken with open admiration of Hitler and Mussolini as 'firm' rulers who knew how to deal with troublesome workers?

## Fight

If this was a crusade against fascism, why did Churchill, as late as 1940, speak glowingly of Mussolini as 'the Italian law-giver' whose only mistake, as he added later, was not to have stayed neutral in the war?

*No. The ruling classes fought for reasons that had nothing to do with idealism. That was merely the gloss...*

Britain, for instance, went to war only when the Nazis embarked on a policy of conquest that threatened the interests of British capitalism.

In Europe, the ruling classes—their countries overrun—generally managed to come to terms with the Nazis quite easily.

But the fight was carried on mainly by workers and peasants

March 1939—and 'our man' in Berlin, Sir Nevile Henderson, chinwags with history's best-known mass murderer. Remember this picture when the Hendersons of today tell you they fought the war to stamp out barbarism...

who wanted more than a return to the pre-war status quo of unemployment and poverty.

And so the problem for the rulers of Britain, Russia and the United States was how to overthrow the fascist powers without risking a revolution which would also overthrow them.

Hence all those Conferences and meetings of heads of state to carve up the world into 'spheres of influence'.

Britain's aim was to preserve the Empire and get rid of German industrial competition.

In 1941, Britain and the US had issued the Atlantic Charter, a deliberately vague statement of war aims which did, however, promise every country the right to determine its own future.

It was one of many war 'aims' to be quietly forgotten once the

## IAN BIRCHALL on the myths about World War 2, which ended 30 years ago this month

war was over. At the Yalta Conference in 1945, Churchill told the other powers that 'the Atlantic Charter did not apply to the British Empire'.

At the Potsdam Conference in the same year, Stalin raised the question of doing something about Franco's Spain, a dictatorship just as fascist as Hitler's or Mussolini's.

### Dropped

Churchill refused, referring to the 'valuable trade relations which Britain maintained with Spain'. Stalin tactfully dropped the

matter.

Meanwhile, in Italy and Germany, the British and American occupying forces made sure that the old fascist administrators stayed in power. They rebuilt a capitalist state machine and staffed it with the very people they had just been fighting.

*So much for all the lofty rhetoric about 'freedom' and 'destroying the dark forces of fascism'...*

The problem of Japan remained. From the end of 1944, Japan was subjected to massive 'conventional' bombing. One raid alone killed

His [Mussolini's] fatal mistake was the declaration of war on France and Great Britain... Even when the issue of the war became certain, Mussolini would have been welcomed by the Allies.

—Winston Churchill, in his Memoirs, *Closing the Ring*

If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany and that way let them kill as many as possible, although I don't want to see Hitler victorious under any circumstances.

—Harry Truman, later to be US President, June 1941

At the end of August 1939, British dealers were tumbling over one another in their eagerness to sell Germany tin, rubber, copper and shellac—in the clear knowledge that war was going to break out in a week or two.

—George Orwell, *The Lion and the Unicorn*.

more than 100,000 people.

But, though Japan was on the point of surrender, the US was anxious that the war should not end before they had tried out their new weapon—the Atomic Bomb.

As Henry Stimson, the man in charge of the US atomic programme, told President Truman: 'I was a little fearful that before we could get ready the Air Force might have Japan so thoroughly bombed out that the new weapon would not have a fair background to show its strength.'

## Today

The A-Bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not needed to ensure a Japanese defeat, only to show the Russians what the US was capable of.

We are still ruled today by the heirs of men who carried out the great carve-up in 1945. They are the ones who tell us: 'We hate the National Front as much as you do, but we don't agree with how you fight them'.

Fascism may indeed offend their delicate feelings—but in the last resort they'll always compromise with it rather than risk workers' revolution.

It will only be finally defeated when the whole rotten capitalist system is smashed.

# Whitewashing a blackshirt

By Colin Sparks

THE BBC, always ready to describe the murder of militant Portuguese workers as a victory for moderation, last week produced an hour-long programme on our home-grown fascists.

Fall Like Lucifer, a grovelling documentary on the career of British Fascist leader Oswald Mosley, was put together by Robert Skidelsky, the man who wrote a biography of this blackshirt thug claiming he was 'much misunderstood'.

It was more of a surprise to find that the man who interviewed Mosley was Labour MP Philip Whitehead.

Whitehead believes you defeat fascism by winning the arguments in the drawing room and in front of the television camera. All he succeeded in doing was to provide a platform for one of the most viciously anti-working class demagogues the British ruling class have ever produced.

## Mistake

The programme made Mosley out as a talented individual who made the little mistake of putting on a blackshirt.

But in the depression of the 1930s, Mosley argued for a 'solution' along the lines put forward by Hitler. He organised crowds of uniformed thugs who beat up trade unionists and Jewish workers. He gained wide sympathy and



financial support from big business, as well as from Mussolini.

The mistake he did make was to underestimate the strength of the working class. He was beaten by organised workers who went on to the streets in their thousands to smash his marches.

None of this was in the programme. According to Whitehead, anti-Mosley demonstrations were accidents and it was the British love of fair play that led to his downfall.

Oswald Mosley, Baronet and close friend of Edward VIII, is a

perfect specimen of the British ruling class.

In the 1930s he made the mistake of losing out to workers. The BBC, the voice of the ruling class speaking through the mouth of a Labour MP, has decided the time has come to forgive the old criminal.

Mosley still waits in France for the call to come. He is a bit too old for that job now.

Still, it's obviously time for the ruling class to start rewriting history: they might need a younger version in the next few years.



Mosley: he was halted by the opposition of thousands of workers (TOP), not by 'enlightened' opinion...

## ON THE BOX

### SUNDAY

BBC-2: 9.55pm. Since almost everything you see at the cinema is determined by the dual monopoly of Rank and ABC

they never released THE BREAKING OF BUMBO, about a 'young Guardsman who becomes involved with a group of anti-war demonstrators'

### MONDAY

BBC-1: 11.15pm. Lawrence Daly of the Mineworkers union and Alan Sillitoe, author of 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning' are on the embarrassing paperback book programme READ ALL ABOUT IT.

### TUESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. THE TIME DETECTIVES: THE THREE THAT PUT THE CLOCK BACK looks at the 'oldest living thing in the world'—the Californian Bristle Cone Pine, 2000 years old when Rome was founded. CROWD OF THE DAY (BBC-1, 6.20pm) is a documentary on the 18,000 cricket fans at the West Indies/Australia match on 19 August. MASCULIN FEMININ is a film directed by Jean-Luc Godard of Paris in the 1960s. Godard films are often extremely irritating, but also can make you see the world, and film in a new and exciting way (BBC-2, 9pm). THE FINAL SOLUTION—AUSCHWITZ (Part Two).

### WEDNESDAY

BBC-2: 8.10pm. THE ASCENT OF MAN: GENERATION UPON GENERATION on biology and the 'complex code of human inheritance'. A TASTE OF BRITAIN is about Yorkshire cooking (BBC-2, 7.45pm). NIGEL FOUNTAIN

## THE SACKING OF JUDY COTTER

MY UNION branch discussed the sacking of trainee Judy Cotter and the subsequent strike by ASTMS full-time officials.

A couple of interesting points came out, in addition to those made in Socialist Worker.

A trainee officer has a two year contract, the first six months being a probationary period. No written report of Judy Cotter's work was submitted, but verbal complaints were made, as you mention.

The procedure in the past has been for the probationary period to be extended for another six months.

The contract of employment gives the general secretary the right to sack a trainee if, in his opinion,

he or she is not suitable. Jenkins took this option.

We fight in our workplace against contracts of this kind, yet give them to our full-time officials.

One of the first points new members of a union learn is never to see the management on their own, but to be accompanied by a union rep. This basic principle was denied to Judy.

She, like all full-time officials of ASTMS, is a member of ASTMS. The union of which she is a member refused to let her have a union representative with her at the meeting with her management.

This is not a situation we would allow at work, and we should not allow it to exist in our union.

Moves were made by some members of the NEC to reverse Jenkins' decision but these were unsuccessful. Pressure must be put on Jenkins and the NEC by branches to change this decision.

My branch sent a resolution of support for the Divisional Officers to the NEC and made a donation to their strike fund.

The fight for trade union rights for full-time officials is part of the fight for democratic control of the union. If the union was controlled by the members, if full-time officials were elected by the membership and were responsible to them, this situation would not arise.—MARGARET FALSHAW, Harlow.

## Portugal: How we're backing the revolution

THE PORTUGUESE Revolution is in a critical phase. The future of the Portuguese working class is in the balance. The experience of Russia proves one thing above all else: a socialist Portugal will not survive if left isolated.

This means the solidarity campaign with the Portuguese working class is essential. For revolutionaries throughout Europe and for IS in Britain, the responsibility for preventing another Chile or an isolated revolution lies on our shoulders.

At the Hammersmith Hospital, London, a successful solidarity campaign has just taken root. The Hammersmith Hospital Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Group,

set up around the special fund, holds fortnightly Sunday meetings.

We discuss the politics of the revolution, counter the slanders of the capitalist press, by using the PRP-BR paper *Revolucao*, Portuguese leaflets and SW, prepare the Portuguese workers to demand solidarity from other workers, and collect money for the SW fund.

If the solidarity campaign is to be successful, to be in a position to defend the gains of the Portuguese working class and extend them through the British revolution, then the activity at Hammersmith must be repeated wherever there are Portuguese workers, and also where there are none.

If the campaign is not successful we must be held responsible if the Portuguese working class is smashed. We must build solidarity to defend the revolution. We must build IS to expand the revolution.—A KUTTNER, NUPE Assistant Secretary, Hammersmith Hospital.

## These laws hit all workers

THE IMMIGRATION and other similar laws leave a large section of the British labour movement, immigrant workers, in a condition of social, legal and political inferiority.

Immigrant workers in Britain total about two million and in some sectors like domestic service, ancillary workers in hospitals and schools, and the catering industry, they are in a majority.

Under article 42 of the 1971 Immigration Act, the Home Secretary can serve a deportation order on any alien if he deems 'that his presence in the country is not conducive to the public good,' or if 'it is in the interest of the UK for political or security reasons'.

For this he doesn't need to present any specific charges or evidence, and the person concerned has no right to appeal except about the country of destination.

These dictatorial powers are being used against 'threats to the British State', that is, any immigrant worker who happens to be a militant trade unionist or just stands up against the appalling conditions of discrimination he or she is subjected to.

For this reason, and because of the poor response of the British trade union movement when the victimisation of a foreign worker happens, many immigrant workers are asking themselves 'why should I risk deportation by fighting with my English mates if they are not going to do anything in the event of it happening to me?'

Immigrant workers will scab unless this situation changes. A principled struggle has to be taken up against the victimisation of foreign workers, and for their social legal and political equal rights.—HOSPITAL WORKER, N W London.

# LETTERS

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 250 words.

# Abortion: They're punishing women

THE recommendation of the Parliamentary Select Committee that abortions after 20 weeks must be carried out where adequate facilities including resuscitation (heart electrodes, respirators, high technology medicine) are available must be exposed.

The lies in the book, *Babies for Burning*, that foetuses are 'carried screaming to the incinerator' are apparently accepted by the Committee. And so they conclude that foetuses over 20 weeks must be protected at any cost.

These are stupid ideas that have to be rejected, along with the proposed changes in the regulation of the Abortion Act.

All National Health Service hospitals are already supposed to have adequate facilities, including resuscitation, for babies. The idea that 20 week foetuses should be singled out for 'special care' is doubly obscene.

Not only are they to be saved at any cost, but full term babies in need of special care will have to make do with less than adequate facilities at the local maternity hospital (unless it has already been closed down because of cuts).



On the march for safe, legal abortion: now MPs are turning the clock back

Picture Chris Davies (REPORT)

Examples of people in need of late abortion come from my own hospital. A 14-year-old girl at a mentally subnormal school had her pregnancy noticed by the teachers because her tummy was swelling. A 45-year-old woman, whose missed periods were put down to the change of life by her GP, was in fact pregnant.

Any 22 or 24-week-old foetus has a poor chance of survival. The

prospects are even worse if they do, the risk of permanent brain damage is very high.

Efforts should be put into avoiding the situation where women come late to ask for help. The priority of the people on the Select Committee is still to punish the woman rather than help.

Safe, free, legal abortion is still what we have to fight for.—IS DOCTOR, London.

YOU ARE mistaken in saying in last week's abortion article that 'non-approved agencies will be blacklisted'. In fact there would be no blacklist—only a 'White' list, which is far worse... clinics will lose their legal status if they accept women for treatment who have been referred by agencies or bureaux that do not appear on the DHSS list.—BARBARA SMOKER, London SE6.

## WHY WE NEED ONE UNION

I AGREED with the article *No Jobs—and our Unions Feud* (19 July), but it did not emphasise the urgent need for one builders' union.

Several organised sites have four different unions or more. UCATT and TGWU officials tell their members to scab on a strike on the same site, and poach members from other unions. These same organisers are often supposed to be left-wing, or Broad Left.

I say to hell with the different unions and the divisions associated with them. There are 250,000 building workers unemployed now, with the threat of 500,000 by Christmas.

The rank and file must push for one union on the site, and take up the fight against membership fees and for better pay claims to keep up with the cost of living.

We must have a say in what we build. We need houses for people to live in, and not these bloody banks and hotels and other buildings associated with free enterprise.—JAN GOLAB, UCATT, London.

## How we can shake Chapple

THE ARTICLE *ETU subs—paid by the Boss* (2 August) is a warning to every trade unionist of what happens to a union under right-wing domination.

The present EETPU leaders came to power in the early sixties after Communist Party members had been exposed for ballot rigging in their efforts to maintain control of the union.

Since then such democratic features as District Committees, elected local officials, a rank and file appeals committee, and branch ballots have all been eroded and replaced by a structure which is a delight to the employing class and their press.

### Assume

The present power which Chapple and his Executive Council hold can be seen in the Electrical Contracting Industry where the EETPU have sole negotiating rights through the 'Joint Industry Board.'

We can only assume that the



Frank Chapple: absolute power

latest JIB agreement, whereby the employers pay our union subs, has been brought about by the drastic loss in EETPU membership in our industry since the JIB was formed in 1968.

Yet, while shop stewards on the

sites fight to stop the slide, their conference decisions are totally ignored by the union leadership. Possibly the next step will allow for the employers to appoint our shop stewards!

Members are confused by the new subs ruling, when union rules clearly state that 'all members shall pay to the funds of the union.'

### Ensure

Many members also argue that the JIB itself is contrary to our principal objects (rule 2) which 'especially supports policies which will ultimately give the workers ownership and control of industry.'

The EETPU is at present a highly centralised computerised, bureaucratic machine. But it can be smashed by a strong rank and file organisation and replaced by a structure which will ensure the union becomes the fighting workers' organisation that every trade union body should be.—EETPU shop steward.

## POSTAL POINTS

BECAUSE of our unions and the TUC, we are going to be lumbered with acceptance of the £6 limit on wage increases... so why not make acceptance conditional on MPs' salary rises being restricted to £6 a week; all Cabinet Ministers accepting 20 per cent cut in salaries; all low-paid workers and pensioners getting £6 now? It's a case of better half a cake than no cake.—L S CHELL, Brighton.

IF Socialist Worker is to be a paper of the working class, as well as for it, then longer letters must be allowed, letters that can present a reasoned analysis, not just a brief point. The letters column should be expanded back to two-pages at the expense of those little gossip pieces you insist on publishing.—STEVE MASON, York.

THE BROADER political issues are absolutely vital if we are to put across our policies. People must see the fight against wage cuts as the fight against the whole capitalist system. Workers are interested in hearing about the history of our class. Let's hear about Wat Tyler, the 1871 Commune, the slave revolts, the Red Clyde 1926, Wolfe Tone and Connolly... Socialist Worker must be the memory of the class. At the moment it has amnesia. Secondly, it is essential to start a series on marxist economics.—ROB STEPHENSON, Wigan.

International Socialists say:  
 **STOP THE CUTS!**  
**STOP THE SACKINGS!**

# This is where the money's going

by Danny Connor (Transport Convenor, Hillingdon Civic Centre site)

**BUILDING** workers on the £14 million Hillingdon Civic Centre site in West London have discovered that the basement of Phase 2, now under construction, is an atomic bomb shelter.

The shelter is well under way but members of the local council claimed to be unaware of its intended use when the story leaked recently in the local and national press. The Labour-controlled Council summoned the borough architect to make a statement to the press since the leader of the council, Alderman John Bartlett, was on holiday in Russia.

The Alderman was the only member of the council fully aware of the plans. I wonder whether the Russians are aware of the importance of this man!

The architect said the basement was not an H-Bomb shelter but a 'secure' basement which would have a 'protective factor against radiation of 100' and would have an air filter to keep out radioactive dust. He said the secure basement was simply a communications centre for emergency use which the Home Office had agreed to equip with radios, telephones and teleprinters.

## Alarm

The sort of emergency envisaged, according to Mrs Winifred Poneroy (would you believe), chairman of the council's Special Projects Panel, was a potential air disaster. Hillingdon is near Heathrow Airport—or the flooding of several small rivers and canals in the area.

Hence the need for the radioactive dust filter and special radio and telephone equipment, no doubt!

The Civic Centre will be occupied on most days by hundreds of local government workers and women and children shopping. But the shelter is not for them, despite the fact it has been designed to operate even if the rest of the rest of the Civic Centre collapses.

Apparently it will be occupied by an emergency committee, including Alderman Bartlett and Mayor Alderman Ken Gigg. They have certainly set themselves up all right and hard luck on the

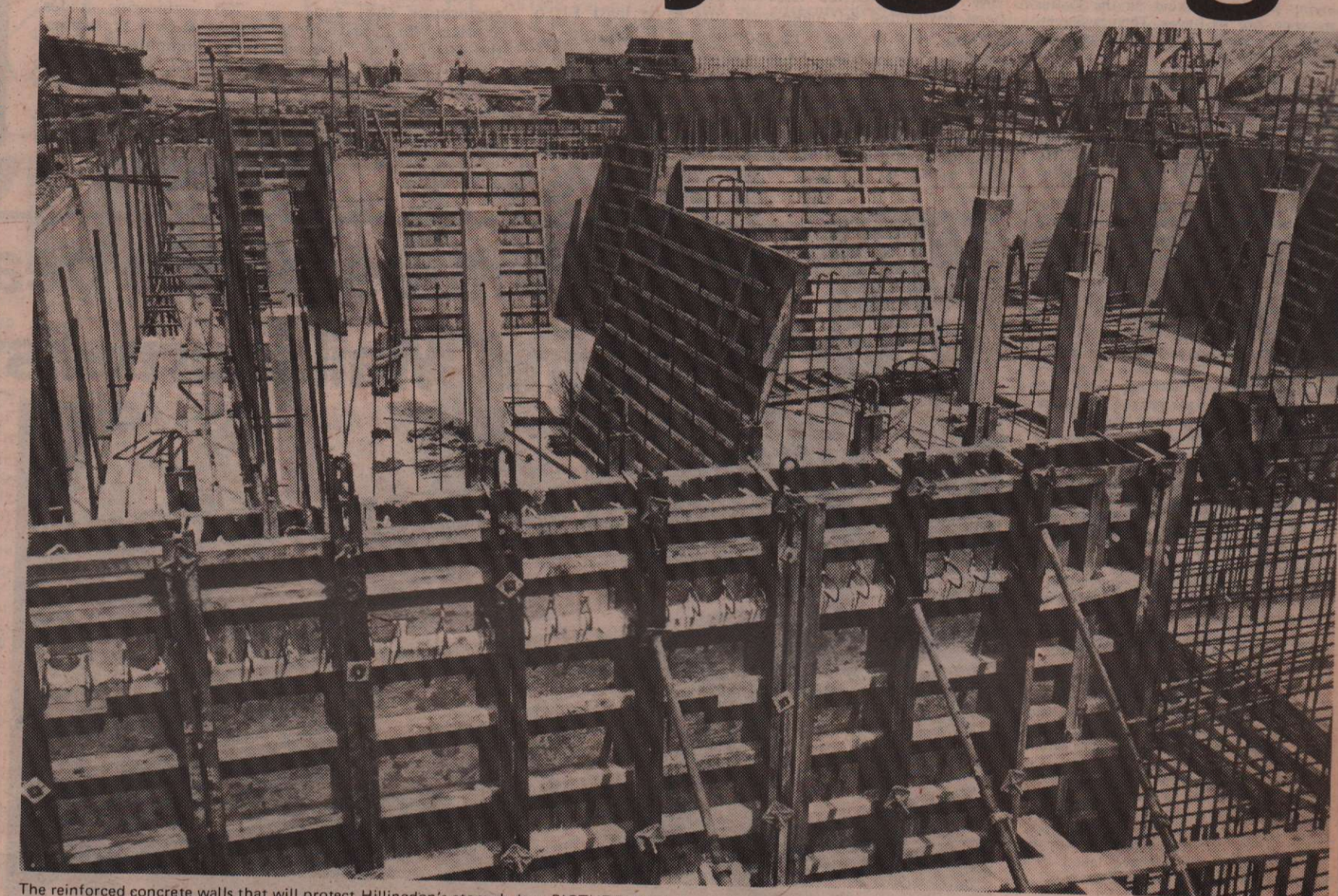
## Cuts claim a victim

COVENTRY Council Social Services Committee met to discuss the cuts recently. But they refused to admit the press or the public.

The 'behind closed doors' decision means a publicity clamp-down on news of council sackings and unfilled vacancies. Why? Because the councillors are frightened. Rotten conditions on council estates are being answered with promises of more repairs and tighter inspections that will never be kept.

Broken promises have already claimed their victims. Four-year-old Carol Nichols lived in Ivy Walk, Willenhall. Some days ago Carol was playing on the balcony of the flats when the metal guard gave way and she fell 20ft to her death on the concrete below.

Checks showed that the metal had rotted away and the bolts had sheared. A guard rail missing since the family had first moved in two years ago had never been repaired,



The reinforced concrete walls that will protect Hillingdon's atom shelter. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

workers upstairs.

The feeling of the men on site is that this shelter is an attempt by the councillors to look after themselves and as such is a complete waste of money.

The Labour government tells us to tighten our belts. If the Labour councillors in Hillingdon were really interested in the welfare of local people they would spend the money on housing, hospitals and old people's homes.

The running down of the arms race was supposed to have taken a step forward, what with the American and Russian astronauts shaking hands in space above Bogor Regis and the agreement reached in Helsinki. Perhaps the news hasn't filtered through to Alderman Bartlett yet,

despite being reported. Carol's grandfather, Reg Nichols, accused the council of criminal negligence.

A few days after young Terry Cranston fell 16ft from a similar balcony in nearby Fingal Close when a panel gave way. He is now in hospital suffering from fractured ribs and a broken elbow. Maintenance men who are now checking balconies on 8000 similar council flats are finding the one-eighth inch bolts rusty and dangerous.

## Ignored

The flats have now been up 20 years. A special report by Shelter, the housing pressure group, singled out the Ivy Walk area two years ago and called for urgent action. But Coventry's Labour Council ignored that report and its warnings. How many more like Carol Nichols will have to suffer under the government's cuts?

## WHERE THE WELFARE STATE HAS REACHED THE END OF ITS TETHER

by Nigel Fountain

TOWER HAMLETS, in London's East End, is a record breaker. The records are for homelessness, drug addiction, alcoholism, mental breakdown and sweated labour. They are records local people could well do without.

Last Friday 200 social workers demonstrated that they'd had enough. The flash-point was Area Two, Stepney and Whitechapel, where the social work team have been working without any senior social workers since the end of July. This means that the whole burden falls on a few junior social workers. They are learning their trade the hard way.

Key decisions on social welfare for the 42,000 people of the area can't be made. Families can't be taken into care, new cases can't be taken on—because there's no one there to carry the can, or sign the chit.

The reason? 'They've advertised for the two jobs', explained a council youth worker. 'But Tower Hamlets pays only the basic rate, and they can't fill the vacancies.'

Kathy Wood, who works in Area Two, emphasised this: 'Tower Hamlets pays less than any other London borough.'

It was in Kathy's area 100 years ago that the entire British tradition of social work started, with the first voluntary centres of Victorian England. It was a disaster area then, and now, with a Labour government in power, it remains one. That is the meaning of a century of social progress.

'We've got the total sympathy of our clients' said another striker. Four people are doing five people's work on three people's pay.'

To talk about 'government cuts' in Tower Hamlets gets a hollow laugh. 'There's no need to cut jobs in Tower Hamlets', said another social worker. 'In places like Islington they've been on strike to make sure that vacancies are filled—

there are people ready to fill them. But not down here—when a job goes vacant there's nobody who wants to fill it!'

'Why do I work in the Isle of Dogs?' said another worker. 'Because I've got an overdeveloped death wish, that's why.'

Isaac Michael is the senior medical officer at the Chest Hospital. 'I'm responsible for 33,000 out-patients plus 2000 in-patients. I'm supposed to be supervising students. How can I? I haven't got the time or the resources. When I'm on holiday there is no replacement for me.'

'We feel the situation is desperate. We make reports, suggestions, but the situation has got steadily worse, particularly over the last five years. I'm breaking my

head against a brick wall.'

'Four generations of my family have lived here, I buried by grandfather last week' said Technical Services representative Joe Taylor. 'Tower Hamlets should be treated as a national problem. In Bethnal Green one in three families are below the poverty line. It's an impossible situation—and we're all getting a hammering.'

In the good times people forget about places like Stepney. Now as the public spending cuts sweep across Britain, the social services are beginning to crack under the strain, but down in this part of London they aren't regretting the passing of the good times.

They've never had them.



**Their programme  
— or ours?**

LABOUR'S programme of public spending cuts means worse living standards, worse social services and fewer jobs.

We must step up the fight now for our programme: A genuine socialist society can find work for the one million unemployed.

No cuts in local authority building, maintenance or housing services.

Cancel all local authority debts—remove this noose the City businessmen have round our necks.

Abolish the rates—no rent rises.

No cuts in any social, education or health services.

Make the government pay for all public spending—tax the rich.

Total nationalisation of all public services under workers' control.

# News in brief

## LONDON FITTERS: 'WE STAY OUT'

AFTER nine weeks, installation fitters, members of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, are still striking at the Walter Lawrence site in Lower Thames Street. They want parity with other building workers on the site.

The giant Haden Young firm is their contractor—and is paying them under £2 a week bonus. £690 has been collected by other workers on the site who are blacking all Haden Young work. Some other SMWU branches have backed the strikers, but they want the strike spread to other Haden Young jobs.

Are YOU a building worker? Then black Haden Young work on your site, and send support and money to A Robinson, 21 Goldsmith Ave, Corringham, Essex.

## MANCHESTER: ACQUITTAL FOR LEAFLETTERS...

TWO people arrested in July for leafletting the Manchester Show with anti-Army material were acquitted last week. The Clerk of the Court advised the magistrates that there was 'no case to answer' for one defendant. Six defence witnesses contradicted the evidence of the one police witness—the arresting officer.

But before the case opened the prosecution announced that details of the affair had gone to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Six more people are being charged for putting on a street theatre outside the show. 'All eight may face more serious charges,' suggested a supporter, 'like incitement to disaffection or conspiracy.'

## ACCRINGTON: 1000 LAID OFF

AFTER a four week strike by 100 fitters at Platt Saco Lowell 1000 workers have been laid off. Management have imposed a £75 ceiling on the fitters' piecework earnings.

'This could be the thin end of the wedge for limiting all workers in the factory,' said one fitter. 'The employers report they can no longer afford to pay but they've got £1 million worth of stock in hand. Platts have taken over another firm, Scraggs, not with peanuts.'

## LADBROKES: SPREAD THE STRIKE

280 LADBROKES betting shop workers in the West of Scotland, were sacked last month after striking for higher wages.

Last Saturday a coachload of strikers went to Edinburgh and closed 11 of the 13 Ladbrokes betting shops in the city. Tommy Shaw, chairman of the strike committee told SW that management claimed new staff had been trained for the jobs. No new staff have been heard of or seen, and management has refused to enter any discussion.

A meeting with the local Transport and General Workers Union officials takes place this week to discuss spreading the strike into Ladbrokes hotel and catering chains.

Messages of support to the Ladbrokes Strike Fund, c/o TGWU, 216 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2.

## Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (3p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**NORTH WALES FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS:** John and Margaret Llywarch invite you to a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from a mainline station. For terms phone 069-186 2272 or write Bryn Iddon, Bron y Gorth, Oswestry, Salop.

**PICKET** outside Queensland House, The Strand, WC2 (near Australia House). Thursday 14 August, 12 noon-2pm. Demand that the Queensland government drop the charges against Walker, Garcia and Lacey and abolish the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Acts. Self-determination for Australian aborigines. Immediate, unconditional land rights.

**Social scientist,** research experience, required for salaried research post on marxist project on Northern industrial city. Write to Box M, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

**Manchester Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting:** The crisis and the wage freeze. Speaker: David Yaffe. Basement Theatre, Town Hall extension, Tuesday 19 August, 7.45pm.

# SECRET POST OFFICE PLAN TO SACK 2200

A SECRET letter is circulating to key telephone bosses demanding massive sackings in the next three months.

The letter, dated 29 July and from the Director's Office of the London Telecommunications Region, says that the Post Office telecommunications service has been instructed to make real cuts of at least £10.6 million over the next 12 months and to increase its profits by a minimum of £15 million. It adds ominously: 'It is still possible that we shall be required as a business to do even more.'

The London Telecommunications Region has to slash £3.1 million from its spending, the letter states. This means:

Further cutbacks in overtime—already less than two hours a week for the men who maintain the telephone exchange equipment.

Sacking 2200 workers, nearly 4 per cent of the workforce, telephone operators, engineers, labourers and clerks, by 1 December.

The sacked workers 'will be made up of 1500 non-engineering staff and . . . 700 engineering grades'. 'Notices will need to be given to staff by 1 September', the letter states. The plan is to 'compulsorily retire' virtually all LTR workers aged over 62. The first to go will be the 300 workers who are aged over 60 and who have built up a pension equivalent to half pay.

The Post Office is proposing a nice retirement for them! Five years of unemployment on 1975 levels of half-pay. These sackings must be fought!



The top of the secret letter

## Crisis in the Print

# Plain clothes police beat up Post and Mail journalist pickets



One plain clothes policeman threatens journalists on the Post and Mail as another (back to camera; left) beats up one of their fellow pickets.

by Bill Freeman senior, NATSOPA machine chapel, The Observer

THE fight at The Observer must be seen as the start of attacks on all printworkers in Fleet Street. The Newspaper Publishers Association have chosen it as a starting place in their war on printers and their unions.

This is where the fight for the right to work must be taken up by the combined efforts of printworkers throughout Fleet Street and Manchester. Jobs lost at The Observer today will mean jobs lost at other newspapers tomorrow.

We have listened too long to tales of woe and to stories of how hard up the print bosses are.

The so-called consideration which The Observer directors gave their employees was deplorable. How nice to go to work one day and be told you are out of a job!

So much for the directors' recent expression of thanks to all the employees for their wonderful response and co-operation in the time of the company's difficulties. When the building was pulled down and rebuilt, we slaved to get the paper out on four old, out-dated machines. Those letters of gratitude go down well now.

Workers at The Observer have challenged the rights of the financial speculators to tell a human being that he or she is expendable. They are not, I'm pleased to say, prepared to join ever-increasing armies of unemployed, to have their dignity and human spirits crushed.

All workers must fight for their right to work and must reject completely the rat-race system which does not allow them any say in the deciding of their own futures.

## IF OBSERVER JOBS GO SO WILL MANY MORE

In other words, this is not just the fight of workers at The Observer. It is the fight of the working class to get rid of the rotten system which has kept them downtrodden for so long. A system under which a minority of rat-faced over-fed profiteers with insatiable greed can deny so many the right to work, to a decent life free from poverty and insecurity.

To win this fight we must halt the process towards increasing concentration of power in fewer and fewer hands. It is time to get rid of the giant monopolies which dominate just about every branch of our economy.

Our many right-wing trade union leaders, who all too often betray the interests of the working class, must be challenged and pressured from below.

We must ensure that the purpose of every trade union is not to make the system work a little better but to transform it to bring about a real socialist system under workers' control.

I therefore say to printworkers: Start now to get organised—and support your fellow trade unionists at The Observer who are in the forefront of the struggle for the right to jobs in our own industry.

PRINTWORKERS on The Observer, having shown their determination to fight mass sackings, are now ready to campaign throughout Fleet Street for support.

JOURNALIST pickets were attacked and beaten by a strong arm squad of plain clothes police as they tried to bar a lorry carrying blacked newsprint outside the offices of the prestige Birmingham Post and Mail building last week.

The 'officers', members of the Serious Crime Squad dressed in jeans and T-shirts, moved in on pickets, all members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).

One of the pickets was manhandled off the front of the lorry by a police 'heavy'. He was pushed up against a wall, throttled, punched, and his glasses were broken.

Several pickets, believing management had called in 'cowboys' to break up the picket, immediately waded in to defend their battered colleague. The 'heavy' said he was a policeman, but would not produce identification.

The scuffle continued until another plain clothes policeman produced his warrant card to identify the thug.

Earlier about two dozen uniformed policemen, including crash-helmeted motorcycle crews, had arrested pickets who were peacefully sitting in front of the lorry.

More than 200 journalists working for the Post, Mail, Sunday Mercury and Sports Argus were instantly dismissed six weeks ago after they turned down a pay offer of £1 a week—a 'final offer' made ten months after the start of negotiations.

## Fight

Last Friday printworker members of the National Graphical Association (NGA) working on the Birmingham Mail stopped work after two scab journalists, who are attempting to resign from the NUJ, walked into the building ready for work.

As a result the Birmingham Evening Mail, with a circulation of over 300,000, was not produced for the first time in over a century. Later in the day their NGA colleagues on the Birmingham Post gave full backing to their action and refused to set overnight stories for the following day's Mail.

Throughout last week the management had been running in supplies of newsprint behind the back of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has blacked all newsprint supplies to the company.

Earlier the leadership of the NUJ had called off national one-day strikes after the Post and Mail management had approached the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Service to settle the dispute. This appalling move by the NUJ leaders may have encouraged the management to get more belligerent.

Donations to the strike fund and messages of support to Disputes Committee, Birmingham Press Club, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

## CRISIS IN THE PRINT: THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

Called by Rank and File Observer workers against Redundancies Speakers: Bill Freeman (NATSOPA machine chapel, The Observer); Bernie la Roche (Imperial FoC, Kentish Times); Ross Pritchard (NGA National Council). Chairman: Bill Barnes (FoC, NATSOPA machine chapel, The Times)  
Wednesday 20 August, 7pm, St Brides Institute, Fleet Street.

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE  
TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL NUMBER 5

DON'T GIVE YOUR EMPLOYER  
TRIVIAL REASONS FOR  
VICTIMISING YOU ...



## ASTMS officials strike: Why Communist Party wanted it called off

ALL FULL-TIME officials of the supervisory staffs union ASTMS are still on strike over the arbitrary sacking of trainee official Judy Cotter.

A mass meeting in Birmingham on Monday voted 46 to 21 to continue the strike after hearing that general secretary Clive Jenkins had refused to allow the sacking to be taken through the union's appeal machinery.

*The vote disguises some astonishing behind-the-scenes moves involving top officials of the Communist Party.*

By the beginning of last week, the strike was so solid that Jenkins desperately needed to weaken the officials' solidarity.

He turned for help to Bert Ramelson, the industrial organiser of the Communist Party, and asked him to call for a return to work.

He argued that the success at the TUC of the ASTMS resolution against the government's £6 limit was imperilled by the dispute. He also suggested that, if he was forced to retire as a result of the dispute, he would be replaced by a right-winger.

Ramelson agreed—and told the Communist Party's ASTMS full-time officials to seek a return to work, pending arbitration.

## Why Communist Party wanted it called off

Astonishingly, this was accepted by some Communist Party ASTMS officials, notably Reg Bird, who is being groomed to succeed Jenkins as general secretary, and Digby Jacks, former President of the National Union of Students.

But other CP members refused. The officers' committee, which unanimously recommended continuing the strike, contains at least two Party members.

### Best

One of them—Alec Day, ex-president of the Scottish Trades Union Congress—made the strongest of the speeches for the strike at the Birmingham meeting.

The Party's attitude towards the strike is a scandal. Judy Cotter, herself a CP member, was sacked arbitrarily, without even the right to be accompanied by an independent union official to put her case.

One reason for her sacking was that she didn't tell her superior officer, a Roman Catholic, that she was going to have an abortion—until after she had had it.

For the sake of dubious advantage in the higher brackets of the Trades Union Congress, the Communist Party is prepared to align itself with right-wingers, to oppose strike action and, in the process, to ditch one of its more active women members.

# GUYLEE'S: £10 ALL ROUND!

by some Socialist Worker readers in Guylee's SHEFFIELD: A mass meeting at Jacobs Guylee's voted overwhelmingly on Friday 8 August to reject management's offer of rises totalling £6 over six months. We had lodged a claim for £10 across-the-board just before our annual shut-down in July.

Management promised a reply on our first day back at work. We got that reply. It was: 'nothing now, but we're willing to talk'.

The 600 Jacobs workers and stewards took the view that we had been talking long enough, and held a mass meeting which voted unanimously to work to rule. After only one day of the work to rule, management locked out the night shift, and the following day all the other workers stayed out in support.

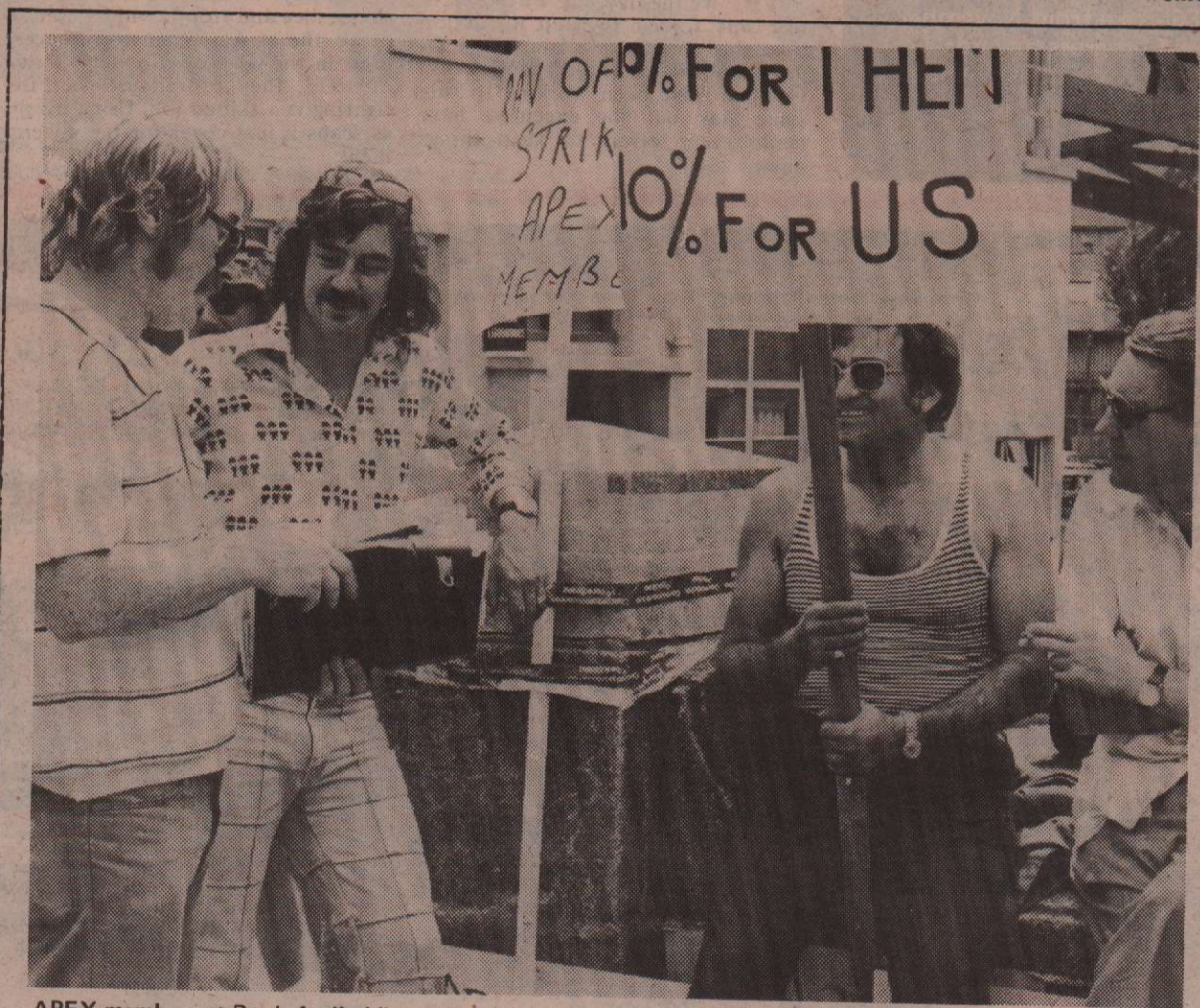
At the first meeting after the lock-out, the three full-time officials of the unions involved (AUEW, GMWU, National Society of Metal Mechanics) warned that procedure had not been followed and that we should return to work so that negotiations could take place.

George Caborn, the AUEW district secretary and a Communist Party member, quoted the government's White Paper on inflation, promising us there was between £4 and £5 to be had by all.

This completely disregarded the mandate from the shop floor and AUEW national policy, which is to fight the £6 freeze. Only a few weeks before, the same George Caborn had argued in favour of Sheffield Trades Council mounting a campaign against the government's £6 wage freeze.

The last thing we need is full-time officials slashing our claim by 40 per cent before they're prepared to start talking.

Donations and messages of support to R Tomlin, 905 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield 7.



APEX members at Rank Audio Visual, Brentford in the third week of their strike. Rank Audio Visual, part of the multi-million pound Rank organisation are refusing to pay a ten per cent cost of living increase to APEX members. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

## CHEADLE STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY

CHEADLE, Stockport:—The three-week strike by 50 Engineering Union members at Huntfield Engineering ended on Monday in victory. It had begun after management refused to consider a claim for £10 across-the-board.

The company sent a letter to all the workers saying they could not pay a rise because of government restrictions.

On 21 July, management made an offer of £1.50, saying they would like to settle before 1 August. The members answered this insult by saying they wanted £10 and it was up to the company whether they paid it before or after 1 August.

The turning point came when the Blackburn factory of Huntfields blacked all work from Cheadle. This meant the company had to settle or have both factories shut down.

### Profit

Faced with a determined stand by the strikers, management caved in and agreed to pay rises of between £8 and £10 between now and the beginning of 1976.

Although this is not by any means a total victory, it is an important start in ending the cheap labour system the company has thrived on for so long.

The task now is to consolidate the links made with the Blackburn shop stewards' committee and to make contact with the Armstrong Equipment group shop stewards' committee, as Armstrongs have recently taken over the Huntfield group.

The dispute has shown clearly the need for a strong combine organisation to fight this vicious employer.

## Automotive Products: 700 out

LEAMINGTON: 700 ACTSS clerical workers at the Automotive Products factory have been on strike since last Friday over the victimisation of five of their members. They are calling for the backing of all AP products by other workers in the motor industry.

## Alvis workers vote to lift sanctions

COVENTRY:—600 production workers at Alvis, part of British Leyland, voted on Tuesday to lift sanctions after management threatened another lock out.

Two weeks ago, the workers were locked out as management stepped up their bid to smash the piecework system.

Engineering Union officials succeeded in getting Tuesday's mass meeting to agree to lift the sanctions, imposed to protect the piecework system.

Alvis is one of the few factories left where piecework still operates. The determination of the management is such that they have refused to settle a wage claim even within the government's £6 limit unless the 'new brochure' is accepted.

An Alvis worker told Socialist Worker: 'The original claim was for 25 per cent, but because of govern-

ment pressure, the AUEW officials have recommended £6 across-the-board.

'But even that is not the really important part of the fight in a piecework factory—it's the fact that the management is trying to saddle us with a form of Measured Day Work.'

'Most of the lads see that this means more than a possible drop in their earnings, it is also a threat to our organisation on the shop floor.'

The new 'brochure' contains a second attack on earnings which is just as serious as the threat to piecework. This is a 'restrictive earnings' clause which puts an upper limit of £75 on piecework earnings.

One day worker said: 'This restrictive earnings business is important to us on day wages, but it's also important to other factories that still have piecework.'

'If the management win here, then it'll be Rolls Royce next and Maseys after that. The employers tore up the Coventry Toolroom Agreement in 1971 and now they are trying to break up individually.'

'The toolroom rates have always been a standard that others could fight to achieve. If we don't win this, everyone else will tumble that bit more.'

'What's required now,' said another Alvis worker, 'is an indefinite strike with pickets on the gates to stop the whole factory.'

## Leyland Worker

THE second issue of British Leyland Worker, the voice of shop-floor workers in British Leyland, is out now.

This issue takes up the fight against redundancies and lay-offs in the combine with a major article on the Ryder Report and how to fight it.

Other articles cover the struggle in BLMC plants in Britain, South Africa and Portugal.

Leyland Worker, written and produced by rank-and-file trade unionists, needs orders and sellers in British Leyland plants everywhere.

Orders to: Business Manager, 15 Berners Close, The Hill, Coventry. Individual copies 12p including postage. 12 or more, post free.

## WHAT THE LADS ARE SAYING

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

### White Watch, Holloway Fire Station, North London:

Firemen have been shitted on right left and centre. They've exploited our conscience for years.

### Old Street Fire Station, East London:

The Greater London Council bosses gave themselves a £70 rise. We are not asking for the earth, just £6 a week and a 40-hour working week—and that's not till next year.

### Les Higgs, chairman of Plaistow FBU branch, East London:

Not all our lads are very political, but they realise that they are being attacked. They are sorry that it is a Labour government that is attacking them but we still have to defend our living standards.

### Cannon Street Fire Station, Central London:

Use the police? What a laugh. Anyone on the street can sprinkle water. It's a bit different when it comes to using breathing apparatus to get someone out of a backroom.

### Euston Fire Station, Central London:

At the time of the Moorgate tube disaster we were the best blokes on earth. We were really wonderful. But today the press talk about us as the biggest shitbags on earth.

# Firemen: We'll turn on the heat

### WHAT FIREMEN GET:

At 18: £41 a week before tax. After five years: £58. After 15 years: £59. This is for a basic 48-hour week, including two 15-hour night shifts, plus covering for absences.

### WHAT FIREMEN WANT:

£6 extra from November, and progress towards a 40-hour week by November 1976.

**'THINGS are reaching a critical stage. The lads are moving to the situation where they will go out only when life, not property, is at stake.'**

The words of Harry Louvre, regional chairman of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) district for Tyne and Wear, sum up the mood in fire stations this week.

Last Wednesday the FBU executive was forced to step up action over their members' claim for a £6 pay rise and for the 40-hour week. Firemen have been working to rule since May but the executive have made every effort to keep things quiet.

When rank-and-file pressure for militant action built up in the Strathclyde Brigade, the executive responded by expelling the entire nine-member brigade committee from the union. They have backed down on point after point of the original claim.

Now pressure from working firemen has forced them to take a stand on what remains.

Already threats are being made that police and troops will be used to break the strike. When troops were used in the Glasgow firemen's strike of 1973, they proved useless. Fire-fighting is a skilled job. Using troops as scabs is just cover for the government.

The bosses' press is starting a witch-hunt against the firemen, claiming they are turning the country into a fire hazard. The real cause of fire hazards is the attempt of successive governments to cut spending on the fire service. Firemen are forced to work long hours on inadequate money. Not enough men are available for fire prevention.

### Danger

The local authorities that are refusing firemen a decent wage are planning further cuts in the service. The Greater London Council plans to cut the number of London firemen by 766 in the next year.

With the claim for shorter hours, firemen are in the front line against the government's wage restrictions and spending cuts. The danger of fires could be reduced overnight if the government was prepared to pay firemen decent wages to do a dangerous and exhausting job. They deserve the support of every trade unionist.

Strike action can win the claim. The Glasgow firemen proved in 1973 that all-out action is the quickest and safest way to win a dispute.

The full claim now. No more sell-outs by FBU leaders.

Immediate re-instatement of the Strathclyde district committee.

All trade unionists should contact their local fire station and offer support. Invite FBU members to address your union branch and shop stewards' committee.

Mass pickets of fire stations if troops are used.

## Support India picket!

THE Deputy High Commissioner of India, Kunwar Natwar Singh, will defend the repression and the locking up of more than 50,000 political prisoners when he addresses a meeting celebrating India's Independence Day this Saturday at 7pm, at the Indian Workers Association in Southall, West London.

Left-wing Indian organisations have approached the local International Socialists and asked for support for a mass picket outside this meeting—which promises to be one of the biggest in Southall's history.

West and North West London IS districts are supporting the picket, and other IS members are urged to attend. The meeting is this Saturday 16 August, 7pm, Dominion Cinema IWA office, five minutes from Southall station.



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WORKERS at Swan Hunters shipyards on Tyneside voted unanimously last week to stay out for their claim of an extra £8.30 a week.

The company refuses to pay. The government has its £6 limit. Now the General and Municipal Workers Union has lined up against the workers. National organiser Ken Baker tried to persuade stewards to recommend a return to work. He failed. The strike stays solid.

PICTURE: Ray Smith (IFL)

## Want to get rid of the Astors?

THE bosses of The Observer newspaper joined the rush to put workers on the scrapheap of unemployment this week. But the workers at The Observer weren't having any of it. Right too.

David Astor, the paper's editor, claims that the workers must cough up to get his paper out of difficulty. He can't. You see he's got a big house in St John's Wood, a most exclusive part of London, to maintain. Then he's got his country cottage—a 30-room mansion at Sutton Courteney. Then there's a castle in Cornwall and half the island of Jura in Scotland.

And that's only half the story. The other half of the Astor family have got as much again and more. In all, the Astors

have a total family fortune of £150 million. If the workers pay for this crisis in the bosses' system they'll have even more.

Socialist Worker exists to help organise opposition to the Astors, their kind, and their system of society. If we're to do that better we need a share of your family fortune. Your pennies, your shillings, your one and five-pound notes. After all it's a sound investment with rich returns.

The total this week has been £395.15, bringing the fund to £747.89 so far this month.

Thanks to:

SW supporters at Cov-Rad £8, Southampton IS Jumble sale £40, Portsmouth IS £50.15, North London hospital workers £2, Manor House Hospital SW readers £2, Bangor IS £30, Kingston IS £5, Cambridge IS £2, Manchester reader £5, SW supporters, Heinz £5, Halifax IS £5, Watney Mann SW supporters' June collection £4.80, Watney Mann SW supporters' July collection £4.70, Oxford reader £2, Southwark Teachers IS £26, Womersley, near Guildford, reader £5, Leeds £40, Darlington SW supporters £1, Dudley IS £5, Reading reader £5, East London Hospital Workers IS £81, Brighton reader £1.50, Bath IS £5, Anon donation, Edinburgh £40, Chelmsford SW reader £20.

Please send donations to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.