

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

THIS WEEK the Rank and File Organising Committee launched a campaign throughout the working-class movement to fight for the right to work.

Roger Cox, secretary of the organising committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The British economy is slipping steadily into a 1930s situation. In the 1930s a quarter of the workforce was out of work. A whole generation of working people was sacrificed to the waste and greed of the profit system.

'Day after day we read of closures and sackings. Workers who have worked all their lives for a firm or industry are thrown on the scrap-heap. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of young people roam the streets unable to find work.

'There is a conspiracy of inaction between trade union officials and Labour politicians who are meant to represent us.

'Union leaders are falling over themselves to accept short-time and sackings. Why? Our movement is not weak—nothing like as weak as it was in the 1930s. Then the miners were still recovering from the terrible defeats they had suffered in 1926.



Now, the miners have smashed through a Tory government twice in the last three years.'

The Rank and File Organising Committee's campaign is based on the formation of rank and file committees—committees which link the industrial strength of the employed workers with the anger and energy of the unemployed.

Said Roger Cox: 'We workers can fight and beat unemployment. But we will have to do it ourselves.'

ABOVE: Workers at Alfred Herberts, Coventry voting last week to oppose 1400 redundancies demanded by their employers.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



No return to the Thirties!

THIS IS WHAT THE CAMPAIGN MEANS — page two



Fight for the right to work No return to the Thirties

THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

WHAT IT FIGHTS FOR

RIGHT TO WORK committees will be fighting in work places and Labour Exchanges for:

- Shop floor control of hiring, firing and manning levels—no discrimination or blacklisting.
- Official ban on overtime to force more jobs. For the 35-hour week.

- Break the £6 freeze. Across-the-board increases to offset inflation and compensate for the shorter week.

- Stop the cuts.
- Five days' work or five days' pay.

Nationalisation without compensation of all firms who can't guarantee the right to work.

- Full wages for unemployed workers now.

- Uncompromising opposition to all forms of discrimination against black and women workers.

OUT-OF-WORK steel erectors in South East London this week picketed a site which stands as a monument to the lunacy of unemployment.

Some of the men outside the Thames Barrier Site in Eastmoor Street, Charlton had worked for only a few weeks this year. Meanwhile, inside, 300 other men—many of them members of the same union, the construction section of the AUEW—are working 12-hour shifts.

Another mass picket is being organised for next Wednesday, 22 October, at 1pm.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

This is where the fight-back begins: a mass meeting at Alfred Herberts, Coventry voting last Friday against sackings

COMBINES—THE CRUCIAL LINKS

ORGANISATION of rank and file committees in combines will be crucial for fighting redundancies. At PLESSEYS and GEC for instance, where huge sackings are planned in the wake of the Post Office cuts, the fight-back is already being obstructed by servile union officials and plant bureaucracies stuck in single unions or areas.

Ernie Ennew, TASS convenor at Plesseys, South Shields, told Socialist Worker: 'We'll never get a battle against redundancies until there are strong

rank and file committees across the combine.'

The Rank and File Organising Committee has already taken the initiative. This week a letter has gone out to all convenors and shop stewards' committees in the machine tool industry in Coventry calling for a meeting to discuss rank and file action against redundancy.

The letter is signed by the Rank and File Organising Committee and by Dick Burdett, Engineering Union convenor at Wickmans, one of the biggest machine tool factories in the area.

What will the Rank and File campaign do?

Organising Committee Secretary Roger Cox explains:

'We aren't going to organise marches begging the government to give out a few jobs. We want to unite the energy, the drive and the time of the hundreds of thousands of workers on the dole together with the organised strength of the shop floor.'

'In every area we are launching campaigns to save local jobs in the work places and to fight for more jobs.'

What can you do to get the campaign moving?

The organising committee is calling on its supporters to set up local Right to Work committees, linking up employed and unemployed workers. Trades councils, branches and shop stewards committees will be asked to support these committees.

'But', said Roger Cox, 'if necessary we'll get local Engineers' Charter groups or workers in the locality who support rank and file papers like the Leyland Worker or Nalگو Action News to get the committees going.'

WHAT IT MEANS

What role should the Trades Councils play?

A delegate in Brent, Phil Naylor, told Socialist Worker about a local conference on unemployment called by his Trades Council:

'Sixty-six factories have shut down in this area in the last five years. But although there were a lot of fine speeches, the conference never really faced up to the practical problems of organising.'

'The platform rejected the formation of a separate Right to Work committee, made up of convenors and stewards and unemployed workers.'

'They thought the Trades Council alone should lead the fight back. But how can it? It's based on trade union branches alone. No stewards committees and no unemployed.'

Who can join the Right to Work Committees?

They will be open to unemployed workers, shop stewards and convenors, as well as trade union delegates.

'The test will be what they do, not what resolutions they pass,' said Roger Cox.

Workers inside a factory fighting against overtime working can be supported outside by a demonstration of unemployed workers handing out leaflets and arguing the reasons for the ban.

The Right to Work committees will establish the links between the two groups.

SUPPORT

The committees will also be organising local actions and demonstrations—outside union offices against complacent union officials, outside shop stewards' quarterlies arguing for support, inside the Labour Exchanges and Youth Employment centres, outside head offices of any firms who announce sackings, on picket lines alongside any group of trade unionists out on strike.

Any factory threatened with redundancies should have a permanent picket of unemployed workers helping to fight.

The committees will be also calling local rallies against unemployment. Roger Cox said: 'These must not be the same old conferences with the same old faces.'

Meetings are already being organised to launch the campaign. In Newham, for example, Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson will be among the speakers.

The local campaign will also seek to win maximum support for national events. The Organising Committee has called on all its supporters to make the maximum effort for the North West TUC Lobby of Parliament on 26 November.

'Above all else', said Roger Cox, 'we have got to get out of our trade union branches and our well-organised factories and bring the unemployed in.'

'We'll have to get round the youth discos and clubs, into the cafes with the pin ball machines. Trades Councils should organise delegations to schools to talk to school leavers about trade unionism.'

'We'll have to say to them—you won't get a job unless you fight for it.'



The Rank and File Organising Committee can be contacted at 46, Prince George Road, London, N16 (phone: 01-249 1207).

SPUC: ALL OUT ON SUNDAY

National Abortion Campaign Conference, Saturday and Sunday 18/19 October, Imperial College, London. Registration £1, or 50p for unemployed and students.

Back-Street Abortion Kills! Counter-demonstration to SPUC. Sunday 19 October, 1pm, Speakers Corner, Marble Arch.

WOMEN are losing their jobs and nursery places for their kids, are seeing their children getting a worse education, and are often having to make ends meet on one wage instead of two. Every cut in the public sector, every job lost, affects them.

At the same time, we are having to fight to retain what rights we have. The abortion issue is a test of our strength against the reactionary MPs, the Malcolm Muggeridges of this world.

We have to get support from the whole of the working class movement. Ten million men and women can defeat the law makers.

Womens Voice and Socialist Worker supporters will be going to the National Abortion Conference this weekend to argue that. Unless we take the campaign into the trade union movement it cannot win.

The Conference isn't enough. Action is the key. That is why, when the right-wing Society for the Protection of Unborn Children demonstrate on Sunday afternoon, we want to be there, too—opposing them.

Socialist Worker is asking as many readers and supporters as possible to be at Hyde Park at 1pm on Sunday 19 October. Any counter-demonstration is better than no demonstration at all.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES

Public meeting organised by the National Rank and File Organising Committee and the Dockworker.

Speakers: RICKY TOMLINSON (freed Shrewsbury picket), DICK NORTH (NUT executive), BILL FREEMAN Snr (NATSOPA, in a personal capacity).

Chairman: MICKY FENN (NASD shop steward, Royal Group of Docks).

Tuesday 4 November, East Ham Town Hall, 8pm, Admission 20p—unemployed free.

WHAT WE THINK

Yesterday's men are back

'LAST week the Wilson government of 1974 gained its Bevin (in Mr Jack Jones) and its Cripps (in Mr Michael Foot). Mr Harold Wilson can now carry out any domestic policy he wishes.'

Bevin was the ex-TGWU boss who took Britain into the cold war, a pillar of the extreme right in the labour movement. 'Austerity' Cripps was the ex-'left-winger' who presided over the wage-freeze in 1948, a pillar of Treasury orthodoxy.

The Economist, which makes the comparison quoted above, goes on to spell out the policies it anticipates: 'very right-wing policies; higher unemployment, more wage controls, protectionist import licensing (which he—Wilson—does not want) or taking new medicine (with new money) from the IMF'.

In the same week the government 'has yielded to mounting pressure to relax some of the provisions of the community land bill' (Daily Telegraph, 12 October) and announced the victory of the employers, the police and Roy Jenkins on the promised law to protect pickets.

EFFECTIVE

There will now be no protection for pickets who are trying to operate in 20th century conditions, no right to stop lorries and therefore, in practice, all effective picketing is illegal.

More and more concessions to the employers, the police and the middle classes, more and more blows for the workers. No wonder the Economist is delighted and conjures up the ghosts of the more notorious extreme right-wingers of 1945-51.

But the comparison is, in some ways, inadequate and even unfair to the Attlee-Bevin-Cripps leadership. That leadership was indeed a right-wing group devoted to putting British capitalism on its feet again after the



One Foot forward, two steps back: Applause for Michael Foot after his Labour Conference speech

war. Yet it took for granted that full employment was both necessary and possible and that welfare services—housing, health, education and so on—could and should be greatly expanded. And it did in fact do all these things.

Attlee and Co had long since ceased to be socialists, but they were still Keynesians and reformers. They believed, following the economist Keynes, that when a slump was developing it was necessary to increase

government spending (and run up a large deficit) and at the same time to increase personal spending. They maintained currency controls to prevent capital being sent out of the country, controls first imposed during the war, and so gained some protection against speculators.

Wilson, Healey and Foot are pursuing the opposite policies. They are increasing unemployment, cutting the government deficit

and cutting personal spending. Where the Attlee government kept interest rates down—to the detriment of financiers—the Wilson government puts them up.

In short, Wilson, Healey and Foot are far to the right of Attlee, Bevin and Cripps. The true comparison is with the Macdonald, Snowden and Thomas government of 1929-31, the government of total sell-out. The importance of this is difficult to overestimate.

For most of the post-war period, Labour's right-wing has believed that the boom-slump cycle that is built into capitalism could be moderated and controlled by government action along Keynesian lines. They have now thrown that belief right out of the window. Now they say that nothing can be done to cure the slump except wait for the next boom. And everyone of their policies—wage cutting, welfare cuts, high interest rates and so on—is helping to make the slump worse.

BANKRUPTCY

We are going back to the world of 'blind economic forces'. We are going back to the 1930s. There could be no more devastating indictment of the bankruptcy of the Labour Party, of the absurdity of 'parliamentary' roads to socialism.

Of course this rush of Gaderene Labour Ministers towards the cliff is a consequence of profound changes in the world economy. Attlee and Co were able to take advantage of the special conditions of the post-war period, conditions that are now as extinct as the brontosaurus. Wilson and Co can only act like right-wing Tories in economic policies. Reformism is finished as a means of gaining reforms.

Even the defence of what workers have gained over the past half-century is possible only by revolutionary means. The struggle for jobs, for pay, for welfare, for working-class rights and civil liberties, all these are bound up with the struggle to create a revolutionary party against Labour and its trade union backers. The day when 'force the Labour Party to adopt socialist policies' seemed plausible is done, finished and gone.

Right pushes army into 'Operation Harassment'

by Eamonn McCann

AT 11 o'clock last Saturday morning, 1400 members of the security forces arrived in Crossmaglen, Northern Ireland. They searched extensively, arrested and roughed up about 40 men of ages ranging from 17 to 79.

Meanwhile, the army's press office at Lisburn churned out statements assuring the world that this dramatic swoop on the 'Provo stronghold' was yielding significant results. In the event, nothing was found during the searches and all the men arrested have now been released, there being no evidence whatever against any of them.

There had been no military justification for this elaborate pre-publicised harassment. It was simply a response to mounting right-wing pressure for action against Republican areas.

Military chiefs continue to make their own policy decisions without reference to Merlyn Rees, the Labour government's man in Northern Ireland, and frequently in response to, if not in connivance



CRAIG: The 'compromise' that he offers is an illusion

with, ultra-right wing opinion.

While the troops were saturating Crossmaglen, the most versatile right-winger of them all, William Craig, won a vote of confidence from a noisy meeting of his Vanguard Party. This has sparked off a great upsurge of optimism in the press that a 'compromise settlement' is again in sight.

This is a delusion. Craig has said that he would give the Catholic SDLP two seats in the Cabinet if they in return will give full backing to the army and the RUC in all security operations.

Even if they did get such a deal signed and delivered, success would depend on the SDLP managing to deliver the support of the mass of Catholics. A five-minute conversation in Crossmaglen, still seething after Saturday's events, makes it clear that the chances of that are slim indeed.

NOW WE NEED MONEY FOR THE CHAPPLE FUND!

IN the High Court this week, it was announced that Socialist Worker has paid Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union, damages for libel. The libel arose from two publications. One was a special electricians' edition of Socialist Worker two years ago. The other was an article in Socialist Worker itself dealing with EETPU-sponsored holidays in Spain.

We are not allowed to disclose the amount paid but you can take it that it is a lot of money, especially when you add on the usual huge lawyers' fees.

Libel actions of this kind are always a hazard to a campaigning newspaper. They add to our costs heavily just when we were getting on top of our fund for new phototypesetting equipment.

The Chapple action makes it all the more crucial that you keep up your contributions to our Fighting Fund. We rely on you more than ever.

In fact we've had another good week, with £347.90 collected.

A trade unionist from Manchester writes: 'After years of trying I've finally managed to win the

pools. Unfortunately, rather than a cool half million, I managed to win the enclosed. Hope it will be some use.'

He sent us £1.50! It's the £1.50s, as a matter of fact, not the cool half millions, which will keep us going.

Our thanks this week to:

A reader, London W14 50p, Bristol IS £15.50, Reader, London NW1 £15, Reader, Fowey, Cornwall £5, Reader, Woodley, Reading £1.50, Staines reader £2, North London Hospitals SW supporters £7, Manor House Hospital SW readers £2.20, Inland Revenue, Bootle £4.50, Kirkby IS (cigarette coupons) £1.50, Manchester pools winner £1.50, From a university professor £250, Wandsworth Teachers IS 40p, Reader £10.30, Bristol SW reader £5, Burnage Estate SW readers, Stockport £2, SW reader, Corpach, near Fort William £2, From a German subscriber £1, Brentwood College of Education IS Society £2, Winnings from a bet, Harlow comrade £1, AUEW fitters' mate, Liverpool 11 Branch £1, SW supporter, Hull £1, GLC manual worker, Lewisham £1, Wolverhampton IS £4, Leeds reader £8, Edinburgh subscriber £3.

Send your contributions to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Free speech not a right, says judge

THERE is no right of free speech in this country—and the law says so, Mr Justice McKinnon, who is presiding over the trial of 14 people under the Incitement to Disaffection, told the Old Bailey last week.

Two supporters of the 'Defend the 14' campaign were brought before the judge for contempt of court for handing out leaflets outside the court demanding that the charges be dropped. The two got off, largely because the police had allowed distribution of leaflets—and the sale of

Socialist Worker—on previous days. The defence lawyer made a strong appeal for the right of people to say what they liked outside the court. But the judge interrupted him.

Peril

'It's not a right', he said. 'A right is a legal right, enforced at law. There is not a right to free speech. There is a liberty to speak freely'.

The judge went on to say that

people gave out leaflets 'at their peril'.

The trial so far has mainly been taken up with evidence from soldiers and police about the frequency with which soldiers visited Devizes market, where the 'inciting' leaflets had been handed out.

The judge and the prosecution counsel have gone to fantastic lengths to prevent any discussion of the army's role in Ireland. The judge has refused to allow the whole of the leaflet to be read by the jury.

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THE UNIONS

Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

AUEW: Watch how the Electricians postpone elections



Electricians' executive member Tom Breakell, the man who attacked the Shrewsbury pickets at the TUC, denouncing them as 'gangsters'. Electricians now have the chance to reply on behalf of their jailed brothers

IT'S BUILDERS' QUESTION TIME!

By C Minton (UCATT)

MEMBERS of UCATT, the building workers' union, will soon have a chance to make their union more democratic.

Each branch must hold two or three meetings to vote on the change of rules. There are 77 questions to vote on, all of them on a straight 'for' or 'against' basis.

It is vital that all members attend the Special Summoned Meetings at which no other union business will be discussed.

All the questions are printed in the October issue of the UCATT journal—and perhaps the most important question is number 51. This is about changing the rules so that ALL regional organisers and regional secretaries stand for election every five years.

At present, secretaries are appointed and organisers only stand for election twice in their life. Ideally, members should stay at the meetings for all the questions but a vote FOR on No. 51 is far more important than any other.

Another important FOR vote is No. 75. At the moment the rule book says 'Only members... who are not members of an organisation proscribed by the Labour Party shall take part in any business carried out under Rules 40, 41 and 42.'

These rules cover the political and parliamentary activities of the union. This rule is hardly ever used but it could be in the future.

Those questions which should be voted AGAINST fall roughly into three groups. Questions 2, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 67 are an attempt to cut down the power of the branch.

Frauds

Questions 6 and 8 would stop members attending other branches when voting takes place. This has been a right-wing demand for years in an attempt to cover up voting frauds.

Questions 19, 30 and 54 would mean an increase in check-off, which would destroy branch life.

Finally, questions 3, 35 and 36 deal with full-time branch secretaries. The proposals would introduce a selection committee for branch officers.

Unfortunately, members won't be able to vote on the question of selection committees as it has not been included in the Rules Revision even though several branches made suggestions on this to the Joint Committee.

Selection committees are used by the union leadership to stop members who are 'politically' undesirable from taking part in elections when they have a good chance of winning.

The most blatant example occurred in 1970 when, out of five candidates for the post of an organiser in London, four were declared 'unsuitable', including Communist Party member Terry Heath, who was most likely to get the majority of votes.

The 'lucky' survivor, a right-winger named Chilton, was declared the 'elected' candidate.

Boiled Ham

TREMENDOUS applause greeted the speech of Tom Ham at the Tory Party Conference when he called for more participation in union affairs by Tories. Ham brought the delegates to their feet with his appeal to 'fight elections on the shop floor, and if you lose—fight them again'.

The speech was well received in the London docks, where dockers remember Ham as a former careerist in the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers' Union (NASDU). The dockers recall that Ham stood for steward at Wallis dock in the Royal Group in 1972. He was defeated.

True to the courage and devotion to trade union duty which he urged on the bankers and speculators at the Tory Party Conference, Ham promptly applied for his severance money and scuttled out of the dock.

By an EETPU member
MANY OF US in the electricians' union were astonished to read the hoo-ha in the press and courts about the postponed elections in the engineering union.

Anyone would think it was the first time any union leadership had dared to postpone an election.

That's just what's been going on in our union—and there isn't a squeak of protest in the press about it. Perhaps that's because the press are keen supporters of our union's deeply reactionary leadership.

Seven of the 14 positions in the union come up for election this year. Elections for the executive are rare enough since our freedom-loving leaders changed over from elections every two years of lay members to a full-time EC elected every five years.

Blatant

But two seats now vacant on the executive are not being fought. EC members McKernan and Sheasby representing Northern Ireland and Manchester, died in 1974. Elections here could alter the entire political balance on the executive.

But the executive intends to postpone elections in these seats until after the 1977 Rules Revision conference.

This is not the first time the EC has interfered in elections. In 1970, left winger Charlie Montgomery won the executive election in Scotland. Coolly, the EC declared the election void, and organised another one in which a stooge split the left-wing vote.

The present leadership took control in 1962 after the notorious 'rigged ballot' court case. They promised 'true union democracy'.

These are Chapple's men

Gaffney in Scotland, Clarke in Wales, Blair in London, Clayton in East Anglia, Hammond in Kent, Mott in the South and (worst of all) Breakell in Liverpool. Breakell remember, was the one who called Des Warren a 'gangster'.

All these, except Mott, are sitting members. Only Bill Gannon, a plumber in the South of England, is worth supporting from the present EC.

Let's hope at least some of the Right wing are toppled. But we must realise that electoral changes will not in themselves change the union. There is quite enough evidence of individual left-wingers changing their tune once they get on to the EC.

Since then they have **SCRAPPED** election of officials. Now only 16 of the union's 200 full-time officials are elected. **ABOLISHED** area committees which linked up different factories and sections.

CHANGED the annual policy conference to a bi-ennial conference, and insisted that policy decisions are not binding on the executive. **CASTRATED** the national industrial conference by allowing only one motion from each area industrial conference. The EC can act on or ignore motions as they think fit.

They have turned our union into a machine for the right-wing. Access of the rank and file to the controls is strictly limited.

Refusal

This process has been coupled with a refusal to fight for jobs, a disgraceful attack on the Shrewsbury pickets, and an extension of the check-off system which weakens the shop stewards and puts the union in hock to the employers.

In the elections, we must vote against the sitting executive members and for a change in faces at the top. But this will not solve our problems or change our union.

SMART MOVE!

COUNCILLORS in the Yorkshire borough of Wakefield set up an amazing record last year. They claimed an average of £1760 in expenses each from the ratepayers. This is no less than £700 more than the next highest council in the expenses league—South Yorkshire.

Miners in the Wakefield area should know that the leader of the Labour council is Jack Smart, chairman of the Glosborough NCU branch, the centre of the right wing among the Yorkshire miners. Smart is well-known for his attacks on Reds in the News of the World and other journals.

He is a keen supporter of the £6 wage limit. The heavy vote in favour at Glosborough was chiefly responsible for the Yorkshire miners' small majority in favour of a wage freeze.

How many of the Glosborough miners can top up their salaries with lavish expenses from the local ratepayers?



ADVERTISEMENT
NATIONAL RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Health and Safety at Work

Another series of day schools have been arranged, sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and trade union branches. Please write direct to local organisers for further details.

CARDIFF: Saturday 18 October. Organiser: Brother W Williams, 12 Coburg Street, Cathays, Cardiff. Phone (messages only) Cardiff 387881.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Saturday 25 October. Organiser: Brother J Clifford, 37 Robert Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton. Phone Wolverhampton 788472.

WEST LONDON: Saturday 1 November. Contact through the Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

WEST YORKSHIRE: Saturday 8 November. Organiser: Brother G Shaw, 1 Hoyle Court Road, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks. Phone Shipley 54043.

LIVINGSTONE: Rank and File Organising Committee public meeting sponsored by TGWU 7/162 Insulators branch: Gleno-Asbestos, still a hazard. Speakers: John Todd (Safety Committee, TGWU 7/162) and Tony Hughes (TGWU shop steward, and a hospital doctor). Wednesday 10 September, 7.30pm, Riverside School Assembly Hall, Livingstone.

If there isn't a school in your area why not raise it at your next union branch or shop stewards' committee meeting. We'll be pleased to help you organise one. Schools are being planned in Liverpool, Hull, Ipswich, Tyneside.

The Rank and File safety pamphlet, A CAUSE FOR CONCERN, has been re-printed, and is available at 5p each, plus postage. Cash with orders please. Write to:



National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY. Phone: 01-249 1207.



The face of

By a UCATT shop steward

WHEN THE RIGHT-WING attempted a coup last March and bombed the RALIS barracks, the building workers on the nearby J Pimenta (construction company) Conjunto Turistico da Paripilheira site responded immediately.

They jumped aboard their concrete mixers and lorries and headed out to fight the fascists. They blocked roads near the barracks with huge slabs of concrete and mounted a 24-hour picket on all roads, checking every car for fascists.

Poverty

Under the old regime, conditions on the sites in Portugal were terrible. Every day, building workers were maimed and killed. You lived in poverty and died in poverty on the sites. You had no right to strike, no right to a decent wage to feed your wife and kids.

Now it's different. The Pimenta sites are among the most militant in the industry and the workers have improved the conditions.

After the coup, the bosses fled to Brazil and the workers took over the company. It has a total

WORKERS BUILDING LUXURY FLATS... PLAN TO HAND THEM OVER TO SLUM-DWELLERS

labour force of 2500 in building sites, ship building and making materials for the sites and ships. The workers' commission is elected and has 40 members.

When I contacted the commission, two members took the day off and drove me to the Paripilheira site. The workers there told me they were building luxury flats, which rich people had already paid for. But as soon as the flats were finished they were going to hand them over to workers in the area, who live in terrible slums, shanty towns made out of tin and cardboard, without water, drains or electricity.

They told me that before the overthrow of fascism they were earning between £8 and £10 a week. After the coup, they put their wages up to £25-£30 a week. On the other hand, the tech-

nicians, who before had been earning about £900 a month, had their salaries reduced, by the workers' commission, to £120 a month.

All the machinery used on the sites is foreign, most of it Italian. The workers said they had no spare parts and if anything broke down they wouldn't be able to get them, because of the economic boycott of Portugal. They wanted to get in touch with Italian workers to see if they could help them, and said they would like to send a delegation to Britain to meet building workers.

Luxury

Before they drove me back to Lisbon, the workers took me for a huge meal in their canteen. The food was really good, and there was even a bar in the canteen where the workers could get a drink in break time. Compared with facilities here, it was like a luxury hotel.

I asked the workers what they thought about the Sixth Provisional Government. Their answer was that it did not represent the working class and that the only way forward was a real revolution, made by the workers themselves. A lot of the workers said they had arms, and would use them when the time is right and the call is made.

revolution

Eye-witness reports from Portugal

JEERED, TAUNTED THE CAPTAIN GAVE UP... HIS AUTHORITY TORN TO SHREDS

THE BEST THING about going to Portugal is that all your revolutionary ideas suddenly make sense to masses of people. You don't feel like the odd one out any more. All those seemingly way out ideas, such as the smashing of the capitalist system, have become commonplace.

For a start, you cease to be a foreigner. Most workers can't speak English, but they will find you the one who can, whether you're in the middle of a visit to the workers' commission in the airport or on a demonstration.

It's difficult to hear the slogans on the demos, let alone work out what the words should be, and then shout them out again. Strange sounds from the back of your throat have to do instead. I got caught out doing that once, and an old Portuguese man, marching along beside me, patiently made out the words until I had them right.

He kept turning round, all the way up the hill to Radio Renascenca, to make sure I was keeping it going. It mattered to him even more than it mattered to me.

There aren't a lot of tourists left, so when the soldiers and workers commandeered the buses to take them to Trafaria we looked a little out of place. Especially as 'our' bus was a tourist one, not a council bus.

Miles out of Lisbon, on our way to the military prison, a concerned air force man found a French-speaking woman to talk to us: 'Where are you going? Were you on the way to the airport?'

Cheer

The airport was in the opposite direction. 'No, we're revolutionaries: from Britain. We're with you, on our way to the prison.' She translated and a great cheer went up.

The air force man went down to the front of the bus and repeated the news; another great cheer and applause.

A moment's embarrassment, and then we were suddenly a part of the Portuguese workers' and soldiers fight. It didn't matter anymore that we couldn't speak the language.

Perhaps the starkest change is in the army. In Britain the army is about giving orders and taking them. In Portugal that idea is being challenged.



Soldiers embrace as their sit-in at the artillery barracks in Oporto ends in victory last Friday.

By MARGARET RENN

At the EPAM barracks, in the north of Lisbon, the soldiers have a delegate assembly. It's written into the rules, they told us, that the number of soldiers' delegates would always be a majority over the number of officers'.

Surely, I pointed out, if there are more soldiers in the barracks than officers there's no need for such a rule. I had touched on the real issue, and they knew it. They grinned and explained.

The commanders of each unit are delegates by right, and the rest of the places are distributed between officers and soldiers. Hence the rule.

They knew this wasn't good enough, and explained that the delegate assembly was a concession to be used while, at the same time, they built a revolutionary army from the base, an army with no hierarchy.

We talked about SUV, the soldiers' organisation, and its demands for reorganisation, better pay and so on. A young soldier from Braganca, in the north told us that as a conscript he received 200 escudos

a month, about £4.

He also got 48 hours' leave a month. It cost him 200 escudos for the return fare to Braganca, and the journey took 23 hours each way. He still depended on his father who worked in a factory for pocket money.

A captain who had been working in the room throughout this discussion, could keep quiet no longer: 'I volunteered for the army and have given it 31 years of my life. I earn 10,000 escudos a month, and have actually lost some of the concessions I once had.'

Shreds

He simmered—10,000 escudos is about £200.

The young soldier jeered and provoked him. Eventually he gave up and went back to work. All the soldiers laughed. His only strength, his authority, came from a hierarchical structure that is being torn to shreds.

Not everyone agrees. When Soares got pushed and shoved outside Lisbon's Town Hall on 5

October, I asked a man what was happening.

'It's Soares, he's just walking there. He's got every right to, you know. These other people are all Communists. Not everyone in our country is like this.'

He was proud to be a member of the Socialist Party. Other people will tell you that Spinola needs to come back, and, of course, reaction is organising.

The country is poor. Even on the government buildings the paint is peeling. Except, of course, for the Sheraton Hotel and the Ritz, where American money pays for American businessmen and the world's 'free press' to stay in some considerable comfort.

Everywhere children beg, and have learnt the tricks of the trade, through necessity. Poverty and wealth stare you in the face.

In a revolution, millions of people become socialists. So a revolutionary cuts with the grain. You're no longer the odd one out.

Your job is to push what's there. Your job is to assist the working class to finish off the job, to take power and smash a state which can no longer give workers and soldiers what they want and need.

SOCIALIST WORKER PORTUGAL FUND

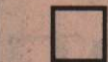


THIS IS the front cover of a new edition of the pamphlet How the Russian Revolution Was Lost... in Portuguese.

The Socialist Worker printshop last week produced 4000 copies which were immediately flown to Portugal—only to meet some interesting problems at the Customs.

The official at Lisbon Airport insisted on one of the parcels being opened. He wanted to be sure just what the contents were. Having made sure, he decided that he wanted a copy of the pamphlet: to read, of course.

He also told one or two other airport workers of his find. One after another, little groups of workers came up and took one or two copies each. Before the consignment was out of the airport, 200 copies were accounted for.



Which just goes to show that the SW Portuguese SW Solidarity Fund is a highly successful operation.

Not only does it help us to give material assistance to revolutionaries in Portugal, it helps us to print useful material in Portuguese. We need to print—and give—more. So keep up the good work.

The best of all ways is to give regularly via a banker's order. We'll send you the form. We'll also send you a collection sheet for your factory, office or estate.

We can also provide badges (new design out soon) and revolutionary posters from Portugal, 50p a time.

Send your orders and your money to Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

The fund this week raised
£352.96

Sale of badges, posters and stickers came to £36.20.

Our thanks to: Yannis Hitos £2, Tottenham IS £12, G Jones £5, M Hewing £8, Lambeth Council Workers £3.50, Rhodes of Exeter £1, A J Laurenson, £1, Maidenhead IS £11, B O'Brien £1.50, Bradford IS £20, Sheffield Poly ATTI members £4, Manchester Agit Prop Social £45, Dave Arrowsmith £3.40, Brother Fransworth £3.64, North London Poly IS Soc £2, Edinburgh Univ IS Society £3.40, John Lucas £5, Wandsworth IS £5.60, Manchester district £36.50, Hackney Teachers SW meeting £11.50, NELP SW supporter £5, J Hindmarch £2, Bath IS £5, Wakefield IS £2.25, Chichester and Portsmouth £40, SW Reader Hatterley factory, Ormskirk £1, J C Papadachi £6.39, Collection at South East London party £3.50, NUR, TGWU, NALGO and NUT members in Exeter £6.50.



THE NATIONAL Rank and File Organising Committee is to organise two delegations of trade unionists to Portugal, Andy Kuttner, a NUPE shop steward at Hammersmith Hospital, London announced this week.

The delegations, in November and January, are open to delegates nominated by shop stewards' committees, and other bona fide trade union organisations.

The delegations will be organised so delegates can make contact with Portuguese workers in the same industry or combine.

Not only will the delegations be invaluable in terms of making contact and furthering solidarity work, they will also provide a unique opportunity to see a revolution from the inside.

Full details of the delegations will be sent to all shop stewards' committees and other union bodies who write to the National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY. Phone 01-249 1207.

And this is the news?

DURING THE GREAT days of Islam, the Caliphs of Baghdad used, every now and then, to throw the head of the Grand Vizier to the people.

It satisfied the popular indignation, and allowed the reigning Caliph to appoint another Grand Vizier to continue quietly enriching himself and his master by the same methods as before.

Symbolic

Or so we are told. And whether the tale is true or not, in point of mere fact, it embodies a kind of symbolic truth. This is indeed how intelligent rulers and establishments divert hostility from themselves.

Attention is drawn to secondary evils, and a great play of reform is staged, so that the root cause of the evil is untouched.

At the moment, a pantomime of this sort



is being played around the theme of TV news and comment. Robin Day, in a newspaper trailer for his new book, declares 'what is called "good" television may often amount to an irresponsible misuse of power which television has'. Peter Jay, a rising star of the news-and-views trade, is on record in much the same sense.

Now the credibility of TV news and

comment is a vital matter for our rulers. Various surveys indicate that a big majority of people depend largely or wholly on TV for their picture of what is happening in the world.

There has never been such a powerful engine for moulding mass opinion. Widespread scepticism about its reliability would be most damaging to the establishment. The 'reformers', shrewd and knowledgeable men, understand this better than most.

Complaint

The substance of their case is that both BBC and ITV 'sensationalise' and 'trivialise' news and issues—which is true as far as it goes—and that more time should be given to explaining the background of events as a corrective.

But the complaint about 'sensationalisation' focuses attention on what is, at most, a

second rate question and the remedy proposed is worse than the disease. We are being offered a Grand Vizier's head, not a genuine change.

What is news? It is what the controllers of the media decide should be news. This simple and indisputable fact has to be kept always in mind.

For example, quite large numbers of people die every day in all parts of the world. Some die of old age or disease, some of starvation, some are drowned, shot or strangled.

Whether a particular death is or is not news depends entirely on the decision of the comparative handful of people who select the news.

The other weekend, 11 people died in sectarian killings in Northern Ireland. That was news and got extensive coverage. That same weekend a considerably greater number of people were killed or maimed in motor accidents in Britain, assuming that it was an average weekend in this respect. That was not news.

What is the basis on which the news is created? It is, and can only be, the assumptions of the news-makers about what is important.

And what determines these assumptions? In the last resort their views, or those of their masters, about society; their political and social beliefs and prejudices.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no clear-cut distinction between news and comment. The selection of some events happening to be news—or not, as the case may be—is itself a kind of comment.

And what is selected is what the news-makers want to comment further on, the text upon which they wish to preach.

To take a simple example; when Portugal was ruled by the Salazar and Caetano dictatorships, it was hardly ever mentioned by BBC or ITV.

Worthy

Never mind the absence of what passes for comment in these circles. The imprisonment and torture of opponents of the regime, the atrocities daily committed by the secret police; these things were not news.

They were not news because the news-makers did not consider them worthy of report. The British political establishment was more or less satisfied with the fascist regime.

Now, when our rulers are profoundly worried about the danger of socialist revolution in Portugal, a steady stream of news—suitably selected and slanted—provides the basis for sermons on the 'threat to democracy'

Or, to consider a more homely example, how much news time and comment did BBC and ITV devote to Engineering Union elections during the long years when the right wing dominated the union?

When Carron's men were voted in, by branch vote on a tiny poll, it was not news.

Now that the right wing is struggling to regain power, the David Dimblebys and Woodrow Wyatts are given prime time to point out how 'unrepresentative' are Scanlon's men because, just like Carron's men (although this is never mentioned), they too were elected on a low poll.

Lies

Shelley wrote: 'Around your face a web of lies is woven.' But the outright lies are less dangerous than the carefully sifted and pre-selected 'truths' which are the staple of TV news and comment.

And this processing, this manufacture of ideas, is naturally carried out in the interests and according to the requirements of the ruling class.

I once heard David Dimbleby ask Hugh Scanlon: 'How many of your members actually voted for you?'

The answer should have been, but unfortunately was not, 'How many people voted for you?'

Dimbleby, like the rest of the pundits, was appointed by the bosses of a hierarchy. And an absolute requirement of his appointment was his 'safe' views.

So it is with all the others, seen and unseen. They are the priests of the cult of the status quo.



THIS MAN SOARES...

MARIO SOARES raised a clenched fist as the recent Labour Party conference stood and cheered him. Judith Hart has called his Socialist Party 'the most left-wing of all the Portuguese parties'.

The real Mario Soares is, however, no more a 'socialist' than is Harold Wilson. And, like our slippery, silver-tongued leader, he is also a pragmatic, professional politician. In other words, a snake.

For instance, in 1972 he published, in exile in France, a book called *Portugal Gagged*.

After the fall of fascism it was also published in Portugal—but not before he had made some judicious changes.

FEW

The French edition attacked the reactionary hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and merely noted how there were a few progressive elements among the clergy.

But, in the Portuguese edition, much is made of these progressive clergy and of how well Soares got on with the Bishop of Oporto.

And, even more interesting, is the disappearance of a footnote on the Fatima cult used by Salazar to prop up his regime.

The axed words are: 'Many Catholics today place in doubt the religious value of the Fatima miracle. Its political implications are undeniable. The Church took over and utilised Fatima in its struggle against the Republic and later as a key element in the anti-communist crusade.'

Workers' control of publishing would put a stop to such deceptions. That's probably why Soares fears it so much.

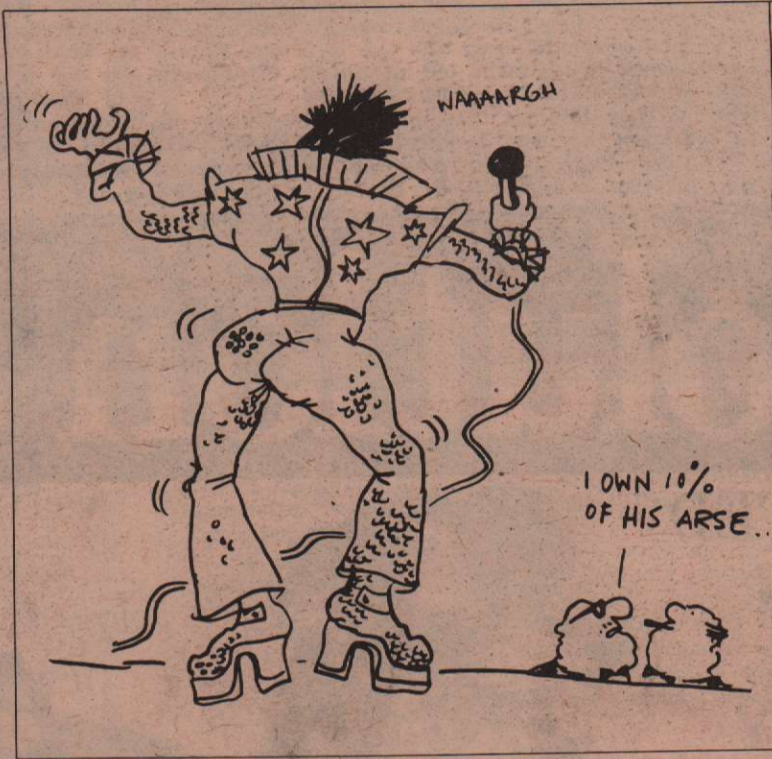
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET

PRESS COVERAGE of Portugal may be biased, but it's going to get a lot worse if the workers (sorry, Communists) do take power (sorry, destroy democracy). After the October 1917 revolution in Russia, the impartial press of the 'civilised' world turned any fiction into rumour and any rumour into fact.

This interesting democratic process reached its peak in 1918 when a number of American newspapers solemnly reported that the Bolsheviks, fiends that they were, had invented a new and dastardly electric guillotine capable of cutting off 500 heads an hour.

The Times' leader writer may have highlighted the Conservatives' immediate dilemma, that Harold Wilson (like Mario Soares in Portugal) is currently the best defender of the 'conservative interest.'

The Guardian, 7 October



SOON AFTER the overthrow of fascism, Soares returned from exile and announced publicly that he was an atheist. More recently, however, at the height of the anti-left wing agitation in Northern Portugal organised by the Catholic Church, he made sure he was seen going to mass.

THE CIA is funding Soares' Socialist Party. According to the New York Times of 25 September, the money, which arrives via European Labour Parties and trade unions, amounts to several million dollars a month and is sent with the personal approval of President Ford.

They call this the Rule of Law

DOUGLAS PURKISS has just broken the £6 wage freeze single-handed. He's gone on the dole—after being sacked from his £10-a-week job.

That's right, £10 a week. And he hadn't had a rise for six years. So he dared to ask for more—and promptly got the bullet by Bournemouth estate agents Gray and Brooks.

Douglas, a 50-year-old negotiator, took his case to an industrial tribunal. He told the tribunal chairman,

Sir Diarmaid Conroy, how he had been a loyal servant to the firm for 37 years and had gone on a one-man strike in protest at being treated so badly.

Sir Diarmaid pointed out that an employer could not be accused of unfair dismissal for sacking someone who went on strike.

Douglas' fearless and diligent counsel, Mr Haig-Haddow, replied: 'I must say I had overlooked that.'

Whereupon Sir Diarmaid ruled that the firm had no case to answer.

IT'S A FREE COUNTRY... 1

ALFRED HERBERTS, the Coventry-based firm, have threatened Dave Gallard with dismissal from his job at their Letchworth, Herts, subsidiary, Herberts Controls.

Why? Because, as a Labour councillor, Dave has to take time off for council meetings.

A Tory councillor in the same plant has not, however, been given the same treatment.

This is not unconnected with the fact that Dave is also an engineering union shop steward who believes in fighting for his members' interests. And the Tory is... well, a Tory.

Meanwhile, the Labour government are handing Herberts' ailing

bosses £25,000,000. In return, those bosses are throwing one in five of their workers on the scrapheap—and trying to victimise a Labour stalwart.

You know Labour government makes sense...



GENERAL FRANCO can rest easy in his bed at night. The Tynemouth branch of the Young Tories are on his side.

They've sent him a letter applauding the recent execution of the five militants and backing his 'stand against terrorists and other international militants who are trying to undermine societies in the West.'

'We were also annoyed,' says their secretary, 18-year-old June Cole, 'by the reaction of other countries. After all, no one would interfere with our problem in Northern Ireland.'

Quite right. Last thing we want is bloody foreigners poking their noses around 'our' concentration camps.

FRANK CHAPPLE has affiliated another 200 members of his electricians' union to the Newham North East Labour Party, so getting five more delegates on the general management committee which recently gave his mate Reg Prentice the heave-ho. This is known as democracy.

It's a free country... 2

THINK OF GLASGOW and you think of Communists. Under the bed. In the woodwork. On the Clyde. Everywhere, Communists.

You don't think of it like that? Well the Ministry of Defence does. And with 6000 of its jobs going to the Scottish Soviet between 1982 and 1984, it's more than a little frightened at what it could be letting itself in for.

Thus a team of spies has, according to The Times, been sent on ahead to investigate 'the strength of Communist influence' in the area.

Thank God it's a free country

These two men were murdered

by friends of 'our' government

The Shah and the terror Labour condones



'Shot while trying to escape'.
Mashouf Kalantari



'Shot while trying to escape'.
Bidjan Jazani

British 'justice' lends a hand

Jim Callaghan, Foreign Minister.

The desire of these people to ingratiate themselves with the Shah, a man with maniacal tendencies to say the least, probably accounts for the sudden topping-up of the charges against the Iranian students in London to include conspiracy.

Certainly, the Shah would have tackled Healey about the invasion of his embassy and demanded firm action. There are powerful indications that he got it.

The Iranian students were held in jail without bail for eight days, a great contrast to the treatment afforded Ukrainian nationalists who occupied the Russian Embassy in 1974. They were granted bail immediately.

More evidence that British government policy is to love up to the Shah came last month when John Watkinson, Labour MP for Gloucestershire South, and Bill Nash, of the National Council for Civil Liberties, visited Tehran.

They investigated the condition of Iran's many political prisoners.

The Shah's regime forbids all dissent, and jails and tortures all those who strike or organise against it in any way.

Little

Naturally, the delegation got little or no assistance. They were trying to find out about the whereabouts and condition of 15 political prisoners.

The British Ambassador Sir Anthony Parsons and other officials made it known that there was almost a shuttle service for British ministers coming in. What's more 4000 British businessmen were expected this year alone.

The Shah is, of course, a very powerful dictator. British ministers, civil servants and businessmen fear him greatly.

Stroke

For if he gets upset, he is capable of cancelling lucrative contracts at a stroke.

British capitalism's strong dependency on the Shah's dictatorship in Iran is one main reason for the trial for conspiracy of the 21 students.

But there is another which brings the issue even closer home in the precise, domestic sense of the word.

Those with wealth, power and control of the legal system in this country are themselves desperate to stem the tide of dissent. It is for this reason that they use again and again the catch-all device of conspiracy.

This alone means that we should rally to the defence of its latest victims.

There is another sound reason. Inside the Shah's dictatorship the Iranian working class is growing more and more numerous.

If we can help in whatever small way to win elbow room for the Iranian working class, they will become our allies.



Denis Healey in Tehran last Sunday: Labour policy is to love up to the Shah, murders and all

By Laurie Flynn

LAST APRIL, Manouchehr Kalantari, organiser in Britain for the Iranian Confederation of Students, got the most terrifying message of his life.

His brother Mashouf, he was told, was dead. So was his nephew Bidjan Jazani.

So were seven other prominent Iranian socialists, each of them known to him, each of them like his brother and his nephew, political prisoners in the Shah of Iran's jails.

The murders were confirmed in the semi-official Iranian newspaper Attelaat on 19 April.

The nine, the paper 'reported', 'had been shot while trying to escape'. There were to be no post mortems and no relatives would be allowed to see the dead men's bodies.

Appalled

'I cannot explain to you how numbed I felt', Manouchehr told Socialist Worker. 'It wasn't just that two of the murdered men were part of my family.'

'It was that the nine were known to all of us. They were the best known of the many political prisoners held by the Shah.'

'It was as if they had shot the Pentonville Five or the Shrewsbury pickets while they were in jail here in Britain. It was appalling.'

Even Amnesty International, the agency which exists to defend

Butchery in Iran, silence in Britain

political prisoners and to whom torture and death is a stock in trade, were shocked.

This was the first time since Amnesty was founded that prisoners it had adopted had been killed.

The members of the Iranian Confederation of Students were stunned, too. But before long they resolved that something had to be done. A picket of the Iranian Embassy in London's posh Princes Gate was organised.

For seven days the picket was kept up. But there was scarcely a word about it in the British press.

Manouchehr explains: 'There was a conspiracy of silence. The petro-dollar, the dependence on the Shah's oil and funds means that the mass media say little or nothing critical of the Shah and his prison camp of a society.'

The same newspapers were, of

course, finding plenty of space to bewail the threat to democracy posed by workers taking control of factories in Portugal.

But they could find no space to publicise the bloody murder of nine leading members of the resistance in Iran.

On the contrary, those same newspapers were queueing up to praise the Shah's regime, often by hiring the despicable Lord Chalfont to write a glowing tribute to his new-found moderate friend.

Numbed

The double standard appalled the pickets outside the Embassy all over again. Something more had to be done—something that the hypocrites who own and control the national press would find it more difficult to ignore.

So, on 29 April, 21 Iranians moved into the embassy in a peaceful 20-minute occupation.

They took down official portraits of the Shah and replaced them without pictures of their murdered comrades. This done, they got ready to withdraw.

Then the police arrived. The 21 were taken to the station for questioning.

Initially, it was implied that nothing serious would happen. After all, they had only engaged in trespass, a minor civil, not criminal offence. What's more, extenuating circumstances were considerable, to say the least.

Thirty-six hours later, however, they were charged with conspiracy to trespass.

This is a criminal offence. The charge has one other attraction to the authorities. There is no limit on sentence.

The Iranian students in fact were being hammered with the same device used at Shrewsbury. They were to feel the law's harshest lash—conspiracy, easy to prove and fearsome in its consequences.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE 21

THE TWENTY-ONE Iranians facing conspiracy charges will come up on trial next February, which means that there is some time to organise opposition to the shameful operation being mounted against them.

They need support from the working class movement in the shape of money and the opportunity to explain their case. The chances are that your firm is either operating in Iran or ex-

porting to Iran.

In the last few years Massey Ferguson, Imperial Metal Industries, Acrow, Chrysler, Leyland, GKN and dozens of other firms have set up plants in Iran. And, almost without exception, big companies in Britain work on export orders for Iran.

Let the Iranian Confederation of Students send a speaker to your branch or shop stewards' committee to explain the issues and outline the

conditions faced by workers in Iran.

The Iranian confederation also need money for their defence fund. Some of the defendants are Iranians resident in Germany who have to come here for each court appearance. This means that the Confederation faces punitive court costs. To meet them they need your help.

Write to the Confederation at 101 Gower Street, London, WC2.

**BRITAIN 1975:
WHERE FEAR OF
HARASSMENT
MEANS YOUNG
BLACKS WON'T BE
PHOTOGRAPHED**

Police terror in Birmingham



'PEOPLE'S going to get mad, people's going to get killed, you watch.' These words were uttered after the police in Birmingham launched what must have been one of the biggest police raids in British history.

In six days more than a thousand black youths, girls, old men, women and children were picked up from the street, from parks, from their homes,

taken down to police stations and questioned, illegally photographed and fingerprinted for the police files.

Hundreds of homes were searched.

This mass attack on the black people of Handsworth was launched within minutes of the fatal stabbing of a Birmingham policeman on the night of Thursday, 17 July outside the Rainbow Club.

After months, years of continued, persistent

police harassment of young blacks, of being stopped, searched and questioned in the street, outside pubs, discos or schools, of being called 'black bastard' from the open window of passing panda cars, of being beaten in the back of police transit vans—the inevitable had happened.

The Birmingham police have regularly made their presence felt outside the Rainbow Club, which is in the city centre. Every Thursday and Saturday night many of the black kids of Birmingham

who have danced to the soul have been picked on and harassed on their way home.

Mr A, a young West Indian, was in the scene in the city following the fatal stabbing of all his mates, wishes to remain anonymous to avoid police retaliation.

'Everyone was going on the street and the police just grabbed you and took you away. . . . all buses leaving the city centre were automatically stopped and all black

young men, and were waved down. Everything coming was stopped.

'They started Handsworth picketing over the place and beat them in and beat nothing. . . . they'd go in and say you're a suspect. . . . nights afterwards keeping off the street. . . . ping at home. . . . swarming with police. . . . Mr B tells me he arrested the next day in the police station, and this was the police station on the Road station to D

Night

'I know because from Thornhill then to Steelhouse Lane they were arresting people day night all the time. Tuesday or Wednesday people were questioned, took their photographs, prints.'

On the Sunday the police arrested a black man, 18-year-old Wilson, and charged him with the killing of the policeman.

Four days later his mother was taken to prison by a friend. They had brought a drink for him, but the officers said he was unable to eat or



Part of a mass picket at the Crompton Arms, Handsworth, last Wednesday where Flame and Socialist Worker supporters protested about a ban on selling either paper in the pub. Several people decided not to go into the pub when the ban was explained to them.

“

Kim Gordon and Azim Hajee spent a day last week walking around Handsworth talking to young West Indians. None of the people they talked to would give their names—for fear of further police harassment. Here are some of the things they said.

When we're at school, we're convicted. When we've left school, we've been convicted again. By the time we're 18, we've done a prison sentence or a borstal. You can't go before the courts and beat the police. No matter how innocent you are, you are a black man. Whether its before a magistrate or jury, you can't go in a courthouse and win, and the police know that.

Take any youth over 14 years old, and he's got a scar—something that's influenced him against the police—there must be some way that the police have got through to him and done him something really nasty.

When a man has his back against a wall, he'll say I can't take no more—and that's what they don't realise—it's going to happen. It's going to take only one more incident and its going to be a concrete jungle.

If a policeman knows you and don't like you, he'll just come and annoy you for nothing. Any time he sees you, he'll come and ask you questions like: 'Where are you going?: What are you doing here this time of night?' And if you say: 'None of your business' you know the first thing he's going to do? He'll pick you up on an assault charge. Whether you kick him or not, when you're in the police station, he'll beat you until he's sick.

It was one Saturday night at about six o'clock—me and my mates, about three of four of us, just walking down town whistling away—not loudly you know, pretty soft. And this big hairy copper come behind us.

He grabbed me by the neck and he starts pushing me about—said 'stop whistling'

—so we stopped. He pushed me about, you know, too much. He didn't arrest us, he said: 'You do that again your in.'

Later on we went to the cop station. We asked the cop if anyone can have you for whistling. The copper said 'Whistle and I'll fucking well arrest you.' So I just walked out.

There was one case in about April. Me and about three other kids. One of us got on a bus which was going to drive away and leave the rest of us, so he stopped the bus and called us.

The same time two police officers came to tell him to come off the bus, and they pulled him off. As he was walking away the two of them bounced into him. They took their truncheons out and started beating him.

”



Picture: Dave Evans

SINCE 1944, Poland has supposedly been a socialist country. But what is the reality behind this mask?

To some extent, the Communist Party has replaced the owners of production as the privileged ruling class. A party member is assured of a good, secure job with excellent prospects, higher education for his children, adequate housing and excellent leisure facilities.

Private ownership and practice, far from having been abolished, is on the increase. Bad planning and lack of responsibility in the agricultural sector has led to the collapse of many 'collectives' and their replacement by private farms.

Although officially a farmer may not own more than 40 hectares of land, a blind eye is turned to owners of 500 hectares and more. Low wages and inadequate facilities have turned the national health service into a cattle-pen, so people turn more and more to the private sector.

Wages are kept extremely low, and wage differentials are on the increase. Officially, the minimum wage is 1400 zloty for a 210-hour month, the maximum 6000 zloty.

Alive

The minimum wage will barely keep you alive. The average wage of 3500 zloty is just adequate for primary needs such as food, rent and fares.

Then there are bonus and incentive schemes and private enterprises where individuals can earn as much as a million zloty a month.

What can a worker think when he sees someone driving a car which he could not afford if he saved his entire wage packet for 300 years?

Although there has been a price freeze since 1972, this does not affect new commodities—so the wrapping is changed and the price doubled or trebled.

There are also dramatic shortages in the shops, for Poland exports most of her produce. To buy ham, one has to queue for up to eight hours.

These shortages, however, do not affect people with foreign currencies—there are special shops for them—or those, such as police or party members, 'in the know'.

Contrary

As Poland is still an industrially developing nation, there is no unemployment. On the contrary, workers are often expected to do a 14-hour day, seven days a week. Overtime rates are the same as basic rates.

You can't go on strike against the bad pay and conditions. The possibility of strikes was never envisaged in the constitution. After all, who could possibly want to go on strike when the workers are in control?

The ruling bureaucracy say they want to 'strengthen the economy' (where have we heard that before?) and so justify shortages and low wages with



A mass meeting at the Zeram motor factory in support of the October 1956 rising. This was never carried through—and the ruling bureaucracy clamped down again.

Poland: The long queue to socialism?

by a special correspondent

the 'need to export'.

They argue: 'The economy has been expanding since the war, but we must be competitive. You must be prepared to make sacrifices for the sake of your country, your fatherland.'

And so it goes on... Why hasn't it changed?

A strong feeling of nationalism is the first way the excuse is hammered home. The second step is to make everyone accept the situation by being 'realistic'. The third, and more important process, is to make people believe that protest is impossible.

This is achieved by close infiltration of all groups, and unrestrained use of the army and the police.

In Poland everyone knows it's bad. Class consciousness is strong. People don't have to be won over to a socialist way of thinking. But everyone is terrified of actually doing anything.

Faction

So how come the December 1970 uprising? One theory is that it was all planned by a faction in the higher echelons of the Communist Party as a solution to its internal problems.

A price increase was due to go through with an increase in wages early in 1971. But, the argument runs, 20 per cent price rises were

announced earlier, in a bid to depose Gomulka and his closest advisors.

The increases were announced just before Christmas 1970, when food and money was obviously important. Workers took to the streets spontaneously—and Gomulka sent in the troops.

Hundreds of men, women and children were mown down by the tanks. But the desired effect was achieved, the theory runs. Gomulka surrendered his position to Gierk.

This is the most widely accepted explanation of the events. But it plays down the role of the workers and plays up the role of 'sympathetic' Party bureaucrats like Gierk.

Drastic

So what are the prospects? Unless there are drastic economic changes, Polish workers will not dare to challenge openly the state bureaucracy, unless they are prompted by similar struggles in other countries.

Nevertheless, there are signs of revolt. Last Easter strange posters appeared in Warsaw showing Gierk at the end of a food queue. How and where were they printed? Who stuck them up? No-one knows.

Last year's festivities for the anniversary of the so-called workers' papers were disrupted by so-called hooligans.

There have been several unreported and naturally unofficial strikes in the ports of Gdynia, Stettin and Danzig over the past 15 months.

Signs

These are signs of a growing restlessness. Let's hope the workers in the so-called People's Democracies can find suitable forms of organisation to unite themselves and overthrow their oppressors, the Polish party puppets and their Russian manipulators.

A small joke shows that the masses are aware of who is in control.

Kosygin and Brezhnev are discussing the Polish premier's visit to the United States. Brezhnev says: 'Did you know Gierk was presented with a gold watch?' Kosygin replies: 'Really. Show me!'

REPORT BY KIM GORDON AND AZIM HAJEE

of the club have way home.

describes the abbing. He, like nymous for fear

uses home, the you off the bus ntre were auto-were taken off, girls... taxis n and stopped—g out of town

going around ng up people all nd just sticking ng them up, for en in the park pick you up and ect. A couple of everybody was streets, just stop-The town was lice.'

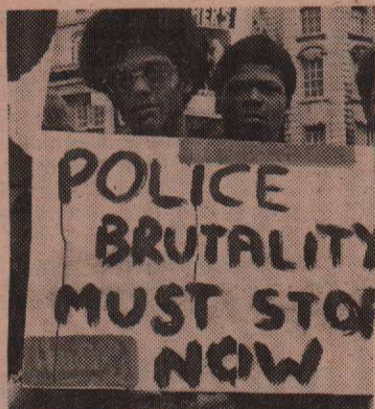
is story: 'I was day. The whole ice station was e the same in all—from Thornhill igheth.

Recently there has been the case of the Stockwell Seven in South London.

Three weeks ago the Swan disco was going to be closed due to repeated smears that it was a haven for 'black muggers'—smears originating in Brixton police station. On the last night of the disco two coach-loads of police were waiting in nearby side streets.

The police claim that a young black who had jumped bail was to be found in the pub below the disco. For some reason they stormed into the disco with truncheons drawn.

Seven young blacks were picked up and charged with offences ranging from possessing an offensive weapon to causing grievous bodily harm. The police are also trying to get further more serious charges added to the list... of affray and riot.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

WHY are we beaten humiliated and hospitalised by the police?

Why are we told 'Sorry, no vacancy here, when we go after a job that we know exists?

Why is it that when we do get a job it is the lowest job with the least prospects?

Why is it that we end up in the lowest streams in schools?

Why is it that we live in the areas where the housing is the cheapest and worst?

Because this society is corrupt and dying. Because the rulers of this society always going to have somebody on the very, very bottom and that is us... As a brother said: 'I think it all really boils down to us uniting together and sticking together to fight the wrong... this society's wrong.'

But how do we fight? The recent victory in the Cliff McDaniel case by the new Black Parents Movement of North London has shown us the way. Parents must take up their children's fight. Parents in work must take the fight to their workplace to their unions. We must organise self-defence groups

We must use our spare time usefully to build us a future together in which we can all have hope. This is a socialist future where we all—old, young, black and white, men and women collectively rule the country. Where we are the rulers and the rich and powerful the ruled.

Meetings for supporters of Flame and Socialist Worker in Birmingham
AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT

Sunday 26 October, 3.30pm
Speakers from the International Socialists, the Desmond Wilson Defence Committee and the Black Parents' Movement, London. Showing of TUNDE'S FILM, about harassment in East London

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG BLACKS
Sunday 9 November, 3.30pm
Both at Lozzells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth

PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

Tony Cliff's pamphlet on the revolution in Portugal is vital reading for anyone looking for the road to socialism—not just in Portugal, but in Britain or anywhere in the world

50p including postage from Sue Baytell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



BUILD NOW FOR WOMEN'S RALLY

By Sheila McGregor
editor, Womens Voice

WOMENS VOICE is organising a massive rally on 29 November. It's a call to action for every woman angered by the way the crisis always affects us first.

Some women are already fighting back against cuts in school dinners and lack of school buses for their kids. As the cuts in social services really bite, yet more facilities will go.

Jobs will be lost. And unemployment means women having to go without their second wage, looking after men permanently on the dole.

Those of us who want to fight back are looking for a lead in the socialist movement. That's what Womens Voice is all about.

The rally is for all working class women wanting to fight, whether at work or on the estates. They must come, discuss the problems and plan how to fight back. This is a chance for us to build a women's leadership in the working class movement.

LIST

Each IS district must draw up a list of women militants in the area who should be approached to go to the conference.

Male members must organise for women in their factories to go to the conference.

Nursery and baby-sitting must be organised in the districts, so that every woman can attend. That means starting now with organisation.

Transport must be paid for by the districts, and should also be organised now.

THE SOCIALIST Workers Movement in Ireland, have launched an appeal for £1000 for typesetting equipment of which the International Socialists have agreed to raise £400. We realise that, with our own typesetting fund and the Portuguese fund this will put an extra strain on our members and supporters.

But with the growing loyalist threat in the North and wholesale unemployment in Ireland, it is vital for the SWM to expand the sales and influence of their paper. This equipment will ensure a better and more regular appearance of The Worker.

We are asking for IS branches to send £2 and for individual donations. Send cash to P O'Brien, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

THE LATEST issue of Chingari in Punjabi comes out this week. It is packed with important articles—on the crisis in India, Turkish workers in Britain, the Labour government's wage freeze, the Portuguese revolution—and many more. Get your orders in NOW to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

EACH Socialist Worker will contain a special pull-out supplement next week, listing many of the books now available from the IS bookshops around the country. Remember it's coming. Ask your SW readers which books they want to order. Get your branch to order a new selection.

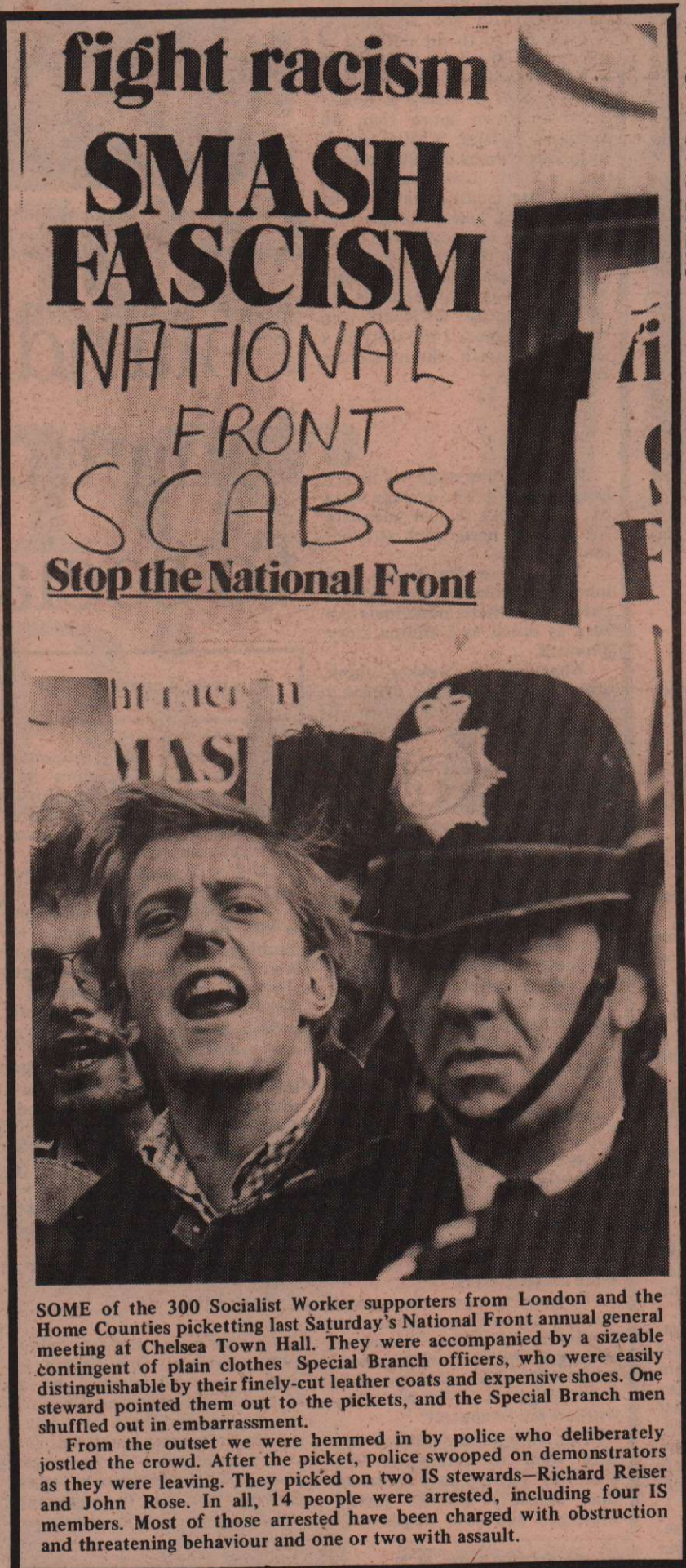
NOISS NATIONWIDE RALLIES

SOCIALIST WORKER and the National Organisation of IS Societies has organised a series of rallies in universities throughout the country, from 22 October to 1 November to step up the fight for socialist ideas.

The rallies must be seen as the launching pad for real socialist organisation which can carry the argument at all levels in the colleges: about Portugal and Spain; about the need for socialist revolutionary organisation and for a real rank and file campaign against the cuts in the education service.

The meetings NOISS has already organised, have proved that these meetings can be huge and enthusiastic—but only if there is real preparation. Big meetings don't just emerge if you put up a poster in the entrance hall.

Every meeting must be advertised with



SOME of the 300 Socialist Worker supporters from London and the Home Counties picketing last Saturday's National Front annual general meeting at Chelsea Town Hall. They were accompanied by a sizeable contingent of plain clothes Special Branch officers, who were easily distinguishable by their finely-cut leather coats and expensive shoes. One steward pointed them out to the pickets, and the Special Branch men shuffled out in embarrassment.

From the outset we were hemmed in by police who deliberately jostled the crowd. After the picket, police swooped on demonstrators as they were leaving. They picked on two IS stewards—Richard Reiser and John Rose. In all, 14 people were arrested, including four IS members. Most of those arrested have been charged with obstruction and threatening behaviour and one or two with assault.

SW sales are up again

THE SALES of Socialist Worker continue the sharp rise which has been sustained for more than a month now. Over the last two weeks, the print order has risen by 4000—by far the biggest jump since the general election of February last year.

One of the most remarkable increases has been in North London. Phil Marfleet IS organiser, says:

"Two weeks ago we were getting 500 papers and were paying for slightly more than half of them. This week we are taking 850 and are paying for 65 per cent."

Phil also says that he has become the SW organiser for the area. At a meeting of full-timers last weekend, several people argued that the full-timer in any area should be the Socialist Worker organiser.

Socialist Worker meetings

CLAY CROSS SW public meeting: Clay Cross, the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 6 November, 7.45pm, Royal Volunteer.

NORTH WALES SW day school: Saturday 18 October. Sessions on the revolutionary party and Portugal. Evening social. Details from IS branch secretaries or Graham Coldwell, Llys Hywel, The Close, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd. All SW supporters and IS members welcome.

ENFIELD SW public meeting: Labour's attack on the workers. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 16 October, 8pm, Celbic Hall, Lancaster Road, Enfield. Buses 135, 231, W8.

LOWESTOFT SW public meeting: The Portuguese struggle for workers' power. Speaker: Rick Noss (just back from Portugal). Friday 17 October, 8pm, The Norfolk (upstairs room), Denmark Road.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE SW/Chingari public meeting: India. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Friday 24 October 1pm, Civil Engineering Room 207 (South Kensington tube).

YORK SW public meeting: Workers and the government cuts. Local NALGO speaker. Thursday 23 October, 8pm, The Lowther Hotel, Kings Staith, York.

CHELMSFORD SW public debate with the Labour Party: Speakers: David Bunch (IS) and Chris Funnell (Brain Free Labour Party). Friday 7 November 8pm, in Braintree. Place to be announced.

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Multinational Corporations. Speaker: Joanna Rollo. Wednesday 29 October, 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, corner of Peckham Park Road and Old Kent Road, London SE15.

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Nationalised Industries. Speaker: Christopher Hird (author of 'Your Employers' Profits'). Wednesday 12 November 8pm, North Peckham Civic Centre, corner of Peckham Park Road and Old Kent Road, London SE15.

WAKEFIELD SW public meeting: The struggle in Portugal. Speaker: John Charlton. Wednesday 22 October, 8pm, Elephant and Castle, Westgate.

N W LONDON SW public meeting: The crisis of the Labour government. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 30 October, 7.30pm, Willesden Junction Hotel, Station Road, (Buses 260 and 266, Willesden Junction Tube). All welcome.

E LONDON SW public meeting: Inflation, Wages and Unemployment. Saturday 25 October, 1.45-5.30pm. Forest Gate school, Forest Lane, Forest Gate. Tea, creche provided. Further information, phone 505-0684. All SW readers welcome.

HACKNEY IS TEACHERS public meeting: Building the Rank and File Movement. Speaker: John Deason. Monday 20 October, 5pm, Duke of Wellington pub, Balls Pond Road, N1 (Junction of Culford Road).

LETCHEWORTH WOMENS VOICE public meeting: No return to back-street abortion. Speaker: Sally Laver (National Abortion Campaign steering committee). Wednesday 22 October, 8pm, Letchworth Labour Hall, Norton Way North.

DARLINGTON WOMENS VOICE public meeting: The social service cuts. Speakers: A NUPE convenor (in a personal capacity) and a housewife. Wednesday 29 October, 7pm, Public Library Annex, Crown Street.

MID-HERTS SW public meeting: The Crisis—why Labour betrays the working class. Speaker: Mike Kidron. Thursday 23 October, 7.30pm, Beehive pub, off London Road, St Albans.

CENTRAL LONDON UNIVERSITY SW public meeting: Labour, The Crisis and the Social Contract. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 28 October, 6pm, The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (near Warren Street tube).

NORTH LONDON DISTRICT SW public meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: John Deason and Bill Freeman Sr (NATSOPA, in a personal capacity). Thursday 30 October, 8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton.

NORTH LONDON SW Grand Hallowe'en Dance: Don't miss the event of the year. Bar, extension, food, disco and special Evans extravaganza—all this for £1. Friday 31 October, The Red Lion, Tottenham High Road, N17. Organised by North London District International Socialists.

EAST LONDON: At long last! The social you've all been waiting for. Inner East London district International Socialists are having a social on Saturday 25 October at St Hilda's East, Club Row, E2 (nearest tube Bethnal Green). Music! Music! Music! and booze! entrance 50p.

NOISS

AGITATOR out this week. Orders to Paul Cunningham at Cottons Gardens. Articles on Portugal, Spain, Abortion, the Cuts, NUS, and Economics. Make sure payment is prompt.

STUDENTS: Posters headed 'International Socialist Society' in red available by return of post from John Cox, IS Books, 224 Derham High Street, Birmingham 12. Size 25in x 18in approx. Cost is £2.50 for 100, including postage (minimum order 100 posters). Cash with orders only.

NOISS public debate: Students and the struggle for socialism. Speakers: Pete Gillard, NOISS, and John Webster, Communist Party (both NUS executive members). Thursday 23 October, 7pm, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1. Nearest tubes: Goodge Street or Russell Square.

NOISS needs money. We've already printed thousands of Solidarity with Portugal posters. We're bringing out a new copy of Agitator. We're organising a national speaking tour with Paul Foot. There's loads of other things planned for later in the term. And of course there are all the other expenses—phone calls, circulars, train fares. You can see how it mounts up. So appoint someone in every IS Soc to make sure the money gets in.

Send in: 30p from every NOISS member for their card. The NOISS affiliation fee from every IS Soc. £1 levy from every IS student. Rush these to: Dick Mungin, NOISS Treasurer, c/o Students Association, Stirling University, Stirling, Scotland.

International Socialists

S E LONDON IS DISTRICT student cell: meeting to discuss perspectives for this term. Monday 20 October, 7.30pm, Thames Poly Student Bar, Thomas St, SE18. All members to attend.

WANTED: Socialist Worker Film Tour needs driver/projectionist (we can teach you to operate the projector) to take film and equipment round the country in the first weeks of December. Expenses paid. Phone Pete Marsden 01-739 9043.

WOMENS VOICE Factsheet on Abortion. 1p a copy plus postage or 75 for 50p from SW Distributors, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

IS TECH STUDENTS or sympathisers going to the Further Education Sector National Conference of NUS please phone Simon Turner (01-739 1878) now.

IS BOOKS (London) require part or full-timer. Send applications to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, with any relevant details, by 1 November 1975. IS members only.

SW LONDON SW Irish Social: Saturday 25 October, 8pm-midnight, Foresters Arms, Mitcham Rd, Tooting Broadway. Dancing to Irish music.

TWO comrades (couple) want accommodation in East London. Phone Richard, 739 1878.

BOLTON DISTRICT IS Disco. Friday 24 October, 8pm, Balmoral Hotel, Bradshawgate. Admission 30p.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs someone who can translate from Czech. Do you know someone in or around your organisation who can do this? Write to Laurie Flynn, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, or phone 01-739 6361.

NALGO ACTION Group Conference: 18/19 October, UMIST Buildings, Manchester. All IS members in NALGO to attend.

PORTUGUESE SONGS for socials in aid of the SW Portuguese Solidarity Fund. 35-minute cassette prepared by SW Agit-Prop Group includes 'Grandola Vila Morena', the song banned by the fascist regime and used as signal for the 25 April coup by Lisbon Radio. £1.50 plus 10p postage from Pete Marsden, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Proceeds to the solidarity fund.

PLACARDS AND BANNERS for the Portugal demonstration for sale to branches and districts. CASH WITH ORDERS ONLY. Placards 10p. Banner £3. To arrange collection, phone 01-739 1878.

NATIONAL FRONT—The New Nazis. Any IS branches that still have copies of this pamphlet please return them urgently to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. You will receive credit for them. The pamphlets are urgently required as orders for them are still coming in and there are none in stock.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM JOURNAL: Issues 33, 36 through to issue 73 available at reduced rates. Price list available from International Socialism Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

KEEP FLAME BURNING! Flame, Socialist Worker's new sister paper for black workers in struggle, we need articles, interviews and letters on all subjects, our brothers' and sisters' opinions of our first issue and suggestions for future work. Send in money collected from your sales NOW! Flame, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

ROUGE FETE—18/19 October: The LCR (French section of the FI) is organising a fete in Paris. A large number of political organisations in Europe, including IS, Lotta Continua, Revolution, LO and AO, have been invited to send contingents. There will be debates on Women, Marxism Today, the Economic Crisis, the Press/Mass Media, Social Democracy and Portugal, a pop festival in the evening. A creche and a mini-forum for kids is being organised.

Although IS has major disagreement with the FI and many of the organisations invited to the fete, this is an opportunity to discuss with and influence their members. IS members and SW supporters interested in going should contact the International Sub-committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN as soon as possible.

Days of Fear - for the middle-class

PAM BRIGHTON (Sarah in TV's Days of Hope) talks to Socialist Worker

IN THE BBC, they get into this silly argument about drama versus documentary. Drama is art, they say, and not really about life.

So in a way, they don't really know how to cope with a Jim Allen play, it's so far removed from what they think of as life.

Look at the different way they treated Days of Hope, and the documentary that went out last year on the General Strike. Did you know that documentary was scheduled originally to be shown when the miners' strike was on?

But they withdrew it at two weeks' notice, because they thought it was too explosive. Then they showed it late on Friday night on BBC-2, so it wouldn't be seen by too many people. The director of that programme, incidentally, got the sack over it.

Superb

So you might say they underestimate the power of plays like Days of Hope. They judge them on their quality as drama, and that's where people like Garnett and Loach and Allen stand up high; they're superb.

In fact most good modern playwrights are left wingers of one kind or another. But most plays the BBC produce are certainly not left wing.

It's crazy to think the BBC is run by lefties. Most of the plays you see present a right-wing, middle-class, suburban world—stuff to show the middle class that their life is true, that their world is real.

As soon as you show the working-class capable of acting on its own, being articulate, they can't accept that that's true to life. Because it frightens them, and threatens them.

So they say it's propaganda. But all the stuff about middle-class life, that's not propaganda.

A lot of working-class people have been stirred by what was put over in Days of Hope, specially people old enough to remember those days.

I suppose it was aimed first of all at Labour supporters and trade union activists who were sold all the old illusions and who were betrayed. They are deeply touched



Sarah and MP husband Philip Hargreaves: the BBC's expensive—and most explosive—drama.

by what was put over.

Loach cast some of the workers' parts using trade unionists, not professional actors. They could really understand the politics behind what they were playing.

The bloke who played Smith comes from Barnsley, and was one of those workers who put all their life into the Labour Party. But he broke with it about three years ago, over the Rents Act sell-out.

And he's close to IS now. Some people of his generation have made the break, you see.

When Loach brought us together—professional actors and workers—

we all had books to read about the period, and we were also shown the General Strike documentary I mentioned earlier.

Sink

I was a bit concerned about the woman I was playing. At the beginning, she had a political consciousness, working with Lansbury in the early days. But then she seemed to sink into domestic life.

Dramatically it was good, because she could then step in during the general strike.

At times in the middle episodes

I felt she was being used for light-relief, while the fellows had all the political scenes.

Logically she would have come into contact with the East London Women's Federation and Sylvia Pankhurst. She could have gone on and developed politically.

But on the other hand, a whole generation of such women did get sucked into domestic passivity.

You have to decide what to follow through. You can have an accurate reflection of the situation. Or you can raise the possibility of such women achieving more, following their rebellion through. These

women were in touch with revolutionary feminism.

I'm not sure that by just showing them sinking into subjection and uselessness you don't help carry on the harm.

But in the last episode you did see her coming into her own, because of her sense of having been badly let down and betrayed.

In spite of loving Philip, she faces the crisis of telling him he can go his own way without her.

I felt a bit uneasy that the mass of the people involved in the strike weren't shown enough. The play concentrated on the sell-out at the top.

Partly, of course, this is a question of budget. They really overspent on the first two episodes, and this was the most expensive thing the BBC drama department has done.

Focus

But, on the other hand, you can be simply romantic if you just show the strikers marching and organising. The point of this section was to focus on the manoeuvre at the top.

The surprise for everyone was the hysterical reaction to Days of Hope by the Daily Telegraph. They usually keep a low profile.

By kicking up such a stink they made sure we were in the news, and gave the play publicity. They must have felt so strongly threatened that they blew it.

They just can't bear to see the truth. The BBC drama chiefs must be feeling a bit confused. It was a fantastic success. They've already sold it to Germany for instance. But it really stirred things up.

The question, I suppose, is will they show it again, and if so when?

Pam Brighton was interviewed by Judith Condon.

FASCISM'S IRON HEEL



By
MAL COLLINS

FOR thousands of young people denied any serious socialist books, *The Iron Heel** was a landmark in our political development. I remember being thrilled to find that a man whose adventure stories were accepted reading at school could also write so totally committed stuff. It was my own road to Damascus.

The novel was first published in 1907: the tragic prophecies that Jack London made in the book have been cruelly acted out in countless countries and decades since.

For *The Iron Heel* is about fascism. It is the Germany of yesterday; the Chile of today. Written in the form of a diary, it tells how the ruling class shed their liberal veneer to hold on to their economic power.

BRUTALITY

The 'diary', supposedly written by the wife of a socialist leader and discovered after the socialist revolution, describes the brutality of the repression which to begin with, is aimed only at the organised working class but spills bloodily over into class genocide, destroying liberal academics, farmers and small businessmen.

It describes how the Iron Heel uses different sections of the confused lower middle class against the workers only to turn on them in the

future. How it employs agents provocateurs to incite workers to resist and then mercilessly crushes that resistance. How a timely bomb outrage can be blamed on the socialists and used to justify their suppression.

The novel also describes the heroic response of the working class to the Iron Heel. It shows how individuals are forced by the enormity of events to take sides. It is London's personal testament to the courage and integrity of our class.

But the book has definite and tragic faults. London was a self-educated man; a one-time pearl diver, sailor, boxer and prospector who taught himself to read. Sadly, like many self-educated men, he can't resist proving it all the time.

The language and style of the book is often ponderous, stuffed with irrelevant detail and educated references. The opening chapters con-

tain London's socialist ideas expressed through a series of dinner conversations with suitably stupid opponents. The arguments against socialism are shadows that our hero can easily dispel.

More important, however, is London's inability to describe the organised working class. We are not told how the Socialist Party organises or what the American trade unions were doing—a surprising omission when you think that in 1907 American trade unionism, under Samuel Gompers, would make the CBI look like a red plot.

RACIALIST

A son of the people he was, but Jack London never held a union card in his life. Equally bad is the complete absence of blacks. Odd that in a society obsessed with race, that the Iron Heel should not use this most handy of weapons to split the working class. The reason is that London himself was a racist.

Warts and all, *The Iron Heel* is well worth reading, if only to show how far socialist ideas have come since 1907.

**The Iron Heel*, by Jack London (Journeyman Press) 75p. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Add 13½p for postage.

LETTERS

Write to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

North London: The strength is there to fight sackings

I LIKED your feature about North London last week. It's time somebody woke up to what is happening around here.

One of the troubles is that people are so used to full employment that they find it impossible to believe that redundancy is here to stay. We had a case here at Smiths the other week, when 20 people in the tool-room were sacked. Of course, these included the best militants in the toolroom.

There could and should have been a fight about these sackings throughout the factory. But the workers, without a lead from anyone, think that it's just a small matter—what's 20 people out of more than 1000, some of them said. They'll soon see as management use their victory in the tool-room to smash their way into other parts of the factory.

I hope the Brent Trades Council sets up some committees like the one you suggest which will bring together all the convenors in the area to fight every redundancy. You just have to walk through this area to see what strength we have if only we came together to use it.—AUEW member, Smiths, Cricklewood, North London.



Problem and solution: A closed-down factory in North London plastered with posters calling for the setting up of a rank and file Engineers Charter group. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Official silence to hide Irish prison beatings

THE British Home Office has recently decided not to give any more information in reply to inquiries about the treatment of Irish political prisoners.

This decision, obviously not taken at civil servant level, follows im-

mediately on the recent disclosures of the beating of prisoners in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, the appearance of Sean Kinsella in court in Liverpool with a broken arm, the appearance of Paul Hill at the Old Bailey with a black eye, and the admission of the Home Office through

the pages of the Daily Telegraph that Gerard Hunter and Michael Sheehan had been assaulted in Wandsworth Prison, South London. Other less publicised incidents of physical and mental harassment of Irish prisoners fill our files.

Until September complaints to Poy Jenkins brought a bland non-committal reply from a Mr J C G Evans at the Home Office who appears to be in charge of all Irish prisoners. In September Mr Evans announced that he would reply to no more requests for information.

Last week a member of the Prisoners Aid Committee was denied permission to visit a 17-year-old prisoner, John Cleary in Strangeways, Manchester. John Cleary is on remand and we have reason to believe he is being ill-treated. No reason was given for the refusal and other visitors leaving the prison confirmed that rumours in the prison told of his being beaten.

It is clear that the British authorities are determined to build a wall of silence around Irish prisoners. In the case of Gerry Young, Eddie Byrne and Martin Coughlan, friends who had been 'cleared' by police and allowed to visit have now been told that they can no longer do so. No reason has been given.

Some prisoners with families in Ireland have very few visits as a result of these tactics and are isolated at the mercy of the authorities—the same authorities responsible for what happened in Winson Green last November.

Anyone who remains silent now in face of the evidence of a deliberate policy to brutalise Irish prisoners and to make them suffer isolation and mental anguish will have only themselves to blame when the screams from the cells are their own.—JACQUELINE KAYE, Prisoners Aid Committee, London, SE24.

WRONG ABOUT LABOUR?

YOUR COMMENTS on the Labour Party conference (4 October) were wrong again. You said that the party had never sunk so low.

But even a cursory glance at the conference voting trends would show that it was the unions who voted right-wing.

The party membership in the constituencies has moved considerably to the left. Get your facts right.—ARTHUR GEORGE, London E1.

How can you fight if you're isolated?

I WORK as a nursing assistant at a psycho-geriatric hospital in East Anglia which employs about 50 nurses, only about ten of whom are trained.

Most of the nurses belong to COHSE, but there is no shop steward and never any union meetings.

This week we had a unit meeting at which the senior nursing officer announced that the local Area Health Authority did not intend to employ any more nursing assistants or even replace those who leave. Only trained staff would be replaced.

Once again, there was the same old story. They had 'overspent' and the present difficulties were 'inevitable'.

We were allowed a few questions on how we were going to cope with this 'crisis', but nobody seemed really concerned.

I have been an IS sympathiser for some time now, but everyone I work with seems disinterested or else confused about the political aspects of the cuts in the National Health Service.

And, as most of the staff have a right-wing outlook anyway, I feel terribly isolated as it is so easy to be victimised. I was when I first started the job about a year ago and, quite frankly, I got really demoralised.

If only people would wake up to the reality of how bad this crisis is—and soon. What can one do in a situation like this?—IS SUPPORTER, Norfolk.

Pension scandal

THE government's new pensions' scheme will be operational some years in the future.

There will still be a degree of difference between low paid and top paid. Single people on £20 a week will receive £13.70; the top paid on £81.20 will get £29. Married couples will get proportionate amounts.

At today's prices, pensions are not enough, but with the present rate of inflation we will certainly have died of starvation.

Why, on retirement, should we have to accept a greatly lower standard of living? the pension should be equal to your wage. And it should increase according to rises in the cost of living.

Yes, we need a socialist government, not a conservative Labour government. Socialist Worker is very much in the way I think.—ARNOLD ASHWORTH, Rochdale.

WHAT ABOUT THE PRP?

SOCIALIST WORKER'S reports from Portugal are unrivalled among the British press. One failing, however, has been the lack of coverage of the PRP, the only revolutionary group capable of leading the Portuguese working class to power.

The publication of the 'Open Letter to the PRP' last week showed the problems still to be overcome before workers' power can be achieved. Yet many readers must have found it confusing, given the lack of

information previously about the PRP, let alone the other groups which comprise the Revolutionary United Front (FUR).

This 'Open Letter' must be followed by articles, alongside the reports from Portugal, explaining the problems the PRP faces, both in its own organisation and in its attempts to build a mass revolutionary party.

PETE WATERS, London, E2.

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VICTORY TO THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE

One year ago, on 5 October 1974, Miguel Enriquez, general secretary of the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) was killed in resistance in a suburb of Santiago. In homage to him and in support of the growing resistance, West London Chile Solidarity Campaign has sponsored a meeting THIS FRIDAY.

Speakers include Edgardo Enriquez, former Minister of Education in the Popular Unity government, Neil Kinnock MP, an official MIR speaker and a speaker from the Chile Solidarity Campaign national executive. Music and poetry recital

Friday 17 October, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Tickets 40p on the door

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MAGNIFICENT!

A workers' paper?

Well ask us!

SOCIALIST WORKER calls for solidarity with Portuguese workers. But think how much stronger the call would be if it was a better paper.

We need a strong, honest paper that puts out the facts and analysis in depth. Why not a Socialistscope (like the Daily Mirror's Mirrorscope), columns called, perhaps, Factory Floor, or Under the Desk, stronger front pages, strong, imaginative layout and variety in the way things are written (SW often offers only sermon articles).

And let's have consistent campaigning. For instance, SW made a big thing about the Immigration Act and how it would be used to hound militant Indians and Pakistanis. It did the same with Jenkins' Counter-Terrorism Act. But SW didn't link up or keep up the campaign on either.

These are some of my suggestions. Hundreds of other readers must have ideas, too. You say you are a workers' paper. Well most of us readers are workers. Why not ask US. Have a big questionnaire. Find out. It's easy enough.

I have a flame burning inside me. Thousands more have. I see it, too, in Socialist Worker. Don't smother it.

If Portugal's workers are to get solidarity, it will only be by using your paper to make those flames into a fire.—EAMON DOLAN, Camden Town, London.

What do other readers think? Send us your ideas.

POSTAL POINTS:

ALREADY one worker in 20 is unemployed in Britain. There are no secure jobs. Some of the population are condemned to enforced idleness and others compelled to work themselves to death. Such is the logic of capitalism. The fight for full employment and the right of school leavers to be able to use their talents, energy and skill in productive work must be a prime political demand.—R W, Harlow.

◆◆

SOCIALIST WORKER is asking for new ideas for increasing sales. Why not a weekly two-page sheet given away or flyposted? This would have a much wider circulation and people would be more likely to buy SW after reading it.—R HOLLAND, Lancaster.

by John Clarke, NUPE convenor, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, East London.

WE FOUGHT the cuts at our hospital and we won. Last week all 90 ancillary workers at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in East London went on strike for three days.

We came out against the attempt by the hospital management to carry out drastic cuts. The NUPE branch gained access to a letter to heads of department from the house governor which said cuts must be made 'even if by so doing the level and quality of the service to patients is affected.'

It continued: 'Examples of such measures are: closing beds and sections of departments, not filling existing or imminent staff vacancies; cutting out overtime working by essential staff; and stopping or severely curtailing supportive services such as pathological investigations. All possible measures, no matter how drastic, must be carefully considered.'

We decided to go on token strike for 24 hours to publicise the letter. Standing on the picket line in the Hackney Road, we handed out leaflets to the public about what the governors were trying.

The response was fantastic. People came up to us and said: 'We didn't know anything like this was happening.' 'Is it really true?' 'I can't believe it!'

One parent said as she came out from visiting her child in hospital 'I thought there was something up—only two nurses in a ward of 40 beds.' Another mother with her child in a pushchair took some leaflets and said she would come back and join us.

Knockout

People stopped their cars and got out. Two members of the Health Service Employees Union (COHSE) from Claybury joined us on the picket line. The expression on people's faces was a knockout. It shows how important it is to get bulletins and leaflets out about what is happening.

After 16 hours we called another meeting and demanded an inquiry into the letter and a meeting with the chairman of the board of governors. She is Audrey Callaghan, wife of the Foreign Secretary, Harold Wilson's right-hand man, Jim Callaghan. Management refused and we extended the strike.

We sent out delegations around other hospitals. St Leonards in Shoreditch promised support. Then all the Hackney group of hospitals promised to come out in support on Monday.

Tenants on the local housing estates came to the picket lines to get information. Some of them got

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 mili-

tant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards 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.

Local support helps hospital workers' picket beat the cuts

up a petition to support us around the estates. And people were very willing to sign. In the local pubs they put up collection boxes to raise money for us.

Then on the third day we withdrew all essential services. This did the trick. Management quickly convened a meeting. They stated that none of the proposed cuts would take place at our hospital.

Management also agreed to give

us a detailed summary of action that had been taken, and details of the number of workers in departments where the Public Employees Union (NUPE) has members. The figures are to be given for two separate dates. NUPE branch officials are to be informed before management makes any changes in the running of any section. And management agreed to give us more information in negotiations when we requested

it. We beat the cuts because we had a strong, well-organised trade union branch, where all the members knew what the cuts meant to their conditions and jobs. We learnt that when the public are told what is going on they are behind us all the way. But first we had to get out in the road with the leaflets.

With this sort of support it should be possible to build local committee against the cuts, made up of trade union bodies, and tenant and community groups. United, these committees can give every group of hospital workers who come out against the cuts the support we received.

STOP THE CUTS!
HANDS OFF OUR HEALTH SERVICE!



Delegates at the conference called by the Medical Committee Against Private Practice last Saturday. The 500 delegates included miners from South Wales and port shop stewards from Hull. They agreed unanimously that they would return to their organisa-

tions and work for the formation of local action groups. Supporters of the Rank and File Organising Committee have been working for such committees in some areas already.

Hampshire: 'United action will win'

Rob Silverstone, NUPE shop steward, Royal Portsmouth Hospital

HOSPITAL workers at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital heard of the latest cuts to be made in our health service last week—no replacement of nurses who

leave, reduction in student intake, and, worst of all, the sacking of student nurses on finishing their training.

That is the logic that runs through the Department of Health—they spend three years and thousands of pounds to train nurses—then sack them!

We felt we couldn't tolerate these

proposals and a mass meeting was called for Friday morning which was attended by nurses, cooks, porters and domestics.

The feeling of the meeting was that if these cuts were allowed to go through, then wards would be closed down, then porters and domestics would also be chopped. So the following resolution was overwhelmingly adopted:

'All hospital workers must be united in the fight against the savage cuts in the NHS. We deplore the cuts in the nursing staff in the Portsmouth and South East Hampshire district. We also feel that all the unions should work together in every way possible to prevent the decline of the NHS.'

Example

'To set an example to other hospitals of our determination to preserve the Health Service, we agree that all hospital workers at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital will ban overtime, work to rule, and demand a workers' inquiry into the hospital's finance.'

'We do not expect to fight in isolation, and issue a fraternal call to all trade unionists in the Portsmouth area to respond to our example, and ensure a united struggle to achieve a full comprehensive Health Service for the workers in Portsmouth and the community as a whole.'

There is a tremendous spirit in the hospital to fight these cuts. Nurses and domestics, who until now had nothing to do with the unions, are prepared to take action in defence of their jobs and their Health Service. There is also a feeling that the divisions which for so long have existed between the Health Service unions should be forgotten, and that all hospital workers should unite in this fight. If we remain united, and if we gain the active support of trade unionists outside the NHS, then we must stand a great chance of winning.

SW

What we stand for

SOCIALIST WORKER is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

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

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STOP THE CUTS! STRENGTHEN UNION DEMOCRACY!



Social workers strike to aid homeless family

by Derek Relph, secretary of the Social Services shop stewards' committee, Tower Hamlets NALGO
EAST LONDON:—55 social workers came out on strike for half a day last week in protest against the appalling homeless situation in the borough of Tower Hamlets. In particular we were striking against the inhumane treatment given to one homeless couple with a five-day-old child.
 For two days the management and council had tried to force the family into a bed and breakfast hotel. Two weeks earlier they had given an 'unconditional guarantee' that a flat would be made available as soon as the baby was born. They broke their promise.

The response of the social workers was to squat the family in their office. Magically a flat appeared but, according to management, it could not be ready for one or two days. Furthermore, if the family continued to squat, a high court writ of eviction would be sought and their flat allocated elsewhere—naked blackmail!

Neither the workers or the family gave in under these threats.

Management buckled and the family's demand for a written guarantee of housing the next day was met.

So incensed were our members, however, that next morning the Bethnal Green workers voted to walk out. Another 30 in other area offices followed suit despite only one hour's notice.

It is now union policy in the department not to admit children under one year old to hostels. We mean to stick to it. There are at this moment in Tower Hamlets 150 homeless families in hostels. They spend an average of nine depressing months there before being rehoused.

This situation is getting worse for Tower Hamlets Council estimated spending levels in 1975-76 is £50,000. This has just been revised to £485,000—more than a tenth of the department's annual budget. So where are the savings, in this era of nil growth, to be made?

Our stewards' committee intends to find out and to campaign for no admissions to hostels. Only this way can our council be faced with the consequences of its rotten policies.

Workers from GEC Coventry working in Telecommunications lobbying the House of Commons last Monday. 4800 jobs are threatened across GEC.

Other telecommunications workers also face massive cuts. 2000 jobs are going at Plesseys, 500 at Pye-TMC in Dulwich, 8700 engineering jobs are going in the Post Office next year. STC are closing their Larne factory and sacking 760 workers

A meeting of delegates from all factories in the industry has been called to discuss the crisis. It is in The Griffin, Boar Lane, Leeds on Tuesday 21 October.

This meeting is vital for all telecommunications workers. Credentials from A Marshall, 113 Long Lane, Attenborough, Beeston, Notts.

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

Victory to the MPLA! Zaire Troops Out of Angola! Picket the Zaire Embassy (Belgravia) Thursday 16 October, 1-2pm. Called by the Angola Solidarity Committee.

Communally-owned house in Islington has space for couple plus one child to join five adults, two kids. Share of mortgage £18 a week. Phone 01-607 3402.

Roy Jenkins releases information about the beatings of Irish prisoners in English jails. Prisoners Aid Committee, Box 100, 119 Railton Road, London SE24.

Rank and File Teachers Social: Saturday 18 October, 8.30pm, City of London Polytechnic, Fairholt House, 102-105 Whitechapel St. E1. Bar, music, 25p. Nearest tube Aldgate East.

SPGB public meeting Thursday 23 October: Parliamentary Road to Socialism—a reply to the left. 8.45pm, the Royal Oak pub, York Street off Baker Street, London W1.

Revolutionary Communist Group Scottish Regional Day School. Saturday 8 November in Glasgow, 11am-5pm. Sessions on inflation, the crisis, and the post-war boom, and the tasks and methods of revolutionaries. For further information and suggested readings write to RCG, 49 Railton Road, London SE24.

Socialist Teachers Conference: 25-26 October, Saturday at Argyle School, Tonbridge Road, London WC1, Sunday at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. 10.30am start on both days. Discussion on education cuts, Healey's measures and unemployment. £1 admission. Creche available.

Rank and File Teachers delegate conference on education cuts: the extent and effects of the cuts so far, the cuts and the economic crisis, fighting the cuts. Saturday 18 October, 10.45am-5.30pm, Polytechnic of North London, administrative building, Holloway Rd, N7. Delegates invited from NUT Associations, school branches, Rank and File groups and other trade union bodies. Credentials and information: B Peach, 18 St Agnes Close, London E9. Organised by Rank and File Teacher and supported by National Rank and File Organising Committee.

London Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting: Chris Davies and Frank Richards on the Trade Unions, the Left and the Crisis. Tuesday 21 October, 7.30pm, Conway Hall (Holborn Tube).

CONFERENCE ON PALESTINE and rally in support of Palestine and Dhojar, October 25-26, sponsored by Strathclyde Students Association. Conference supported by Arab Students Union, CAABU (Scotland), GUPS (Glasgow, Palestine Action). Invited speakers Said Hammami (PLO), Syrian Ambassador, Fred Halliday, Akivah Orr, Ghada Karmi, Andrew Faulks MP. Details from Organising Committee, Strathclyde Union, 90 John Street, Glasgow G1.

WARWICK CUTS PLAN WILL KILL 2600 JOBS

by Murray Armstrong
COVENTRY:—The Chief Officer of Warwickshire County Council has drawn up a 'crisis plan'—a list of cuts in spending to be made in 'an emergency'. This plan is to be presented to the county council this month.

The plan is a list of 142 services where cuts can be made, in order of priority, so that the government standstill in local authority spending for next year can be carried out, and so that the council can cut back 'in the event of a crisis'.

Details of the plan have been kept secret by the Tory-controlled council, but sections have been leaked to the local Tory paper. They mean:

- Five-year-olds would not be admitted to school.
- Schools and libraries would be closed.
- Road and street lighting maintenance would be cut.
- School dinner supervisors would go.
- Homes and hostels would be closed.
- Lollypop crossings would go.
- Fire brigade services would be cut.

All this means redundancies too—998 full-time and

1614 part-time workers would lose their jobs. It means massive cuts in education and youth grants, ten per cent off the youth service and £83,000 from school equipment, materials and books.

It means 15 per cent cuts in the fire service, such that national fire standards could not be met.

It means seven libraries would be closed and all the others put on short time.

It means that 1322 school meals assistants would be sacked, with the remaining teachers and older children expected to fill the gap.

PICKET

We are told that this plan is only for 'an emergency'. The plan would save £6½ million, but for the council a 'no growth' policy means a cut-back of £7 million. So they mean to go ahead with it.

This means that as a matter of urgency the cuts have to be fought. A combine committee covering the whole area has to be built and the redundancies and cuts relentlessly opposed.

Croydon teachers face sack

CROYDON:—Two teachers at Croydon Technical College were told last week that they are to be made 'redundant'. Both teach in the printing department—one is its head, both are in their early sixties and would be unlikely to get other jobs. One has worked 20 years in the college and the other 13 years.

The sackings are a result of cuts imposed on the college by the local council, which has closed down poorly-attended courses but which would not let popular courses be expanded.

The Rank and File Teachers Group in the college has decided to press for an all-out strike if the redundancies are confirmed by the governors. The technical teachers' union branch (ATTI) will be asked to lobby the governors' meeting, to demand a guarantee of no redundancies, and to get the college closed down on the afternoon of 21 October so that staff and students can participate in the TUC lobby of parliament against education cuts.

The governors ought to support the lobby, because they all blame the government! In a recent letter to the Croydon Advertiser, the Conservative chairman of the education committee suggested that teachers' should use their energy in making

every effort to induce the government to deal justly with this borough'.

We shall see whether or not he really meant it.

The sackings and the cuts this year are the thin end of the wedge. If a report recently discussed by the education committee is adopted, the education budget could be cut by £2 million next year. That means the loss of 400 teaching jobs and increasing class sizes back to the 1968 level.

An action committee of teachers, parents and students has been set up to fight the cuts. Technical college teachers will be looking to this committee, and to the rest of the trade union movement in Croydon, for maximum support

CALL FOR BAN ON BIG CLASSES

GATESHEAD:—A second meeting of unemployed teachers here last week decided that the NUT should immediately ban classes of more than 25 in secondary schools, including reception classes, and 30 in junior schools. This is crucial if educational standards and jobs are to be saved.

This is one way employed teachers can fight for the unemployed. It was also stressed that married women teachers have as much right to re-employment as newly-qualified teachers have to a job, and both have to be fought for.

These demands must be campaigned for by the NUT. The Rank and File Teacher Conference on the Cuts this weekend must organise the fight to stop more teachers losing their jobs.

TRAIN DRIVERS STRIKE FOR A DAY

SEVERAL hundred train drivers staged a one-day strike last Sunday in the opening shots of a battle against cuts.

The men, members of ASLEF at Stratford, Ipswich and Norwich, effectively closed down the Eastern Region. Said one: 'Management wanted to cut back on services throughout the week. We negotiated and they backed down—on everything except the Sunday services. So we came out. We know the cuts will mean still fewer jobs for us. But they will also mean still

worse services for the public. We're fighting on both fronts.'

British Rail, who insist overmanning is the reason for their problems, are in fact short of staff on the Eastern Region as in most other places. The lack of drivers already means weekday services being cut. Now they want to cut back even further. But action such as that by ASLEF members last Sunday can begin to put a stop to their plans to decimate jobs and increase chaos for the travelling public.

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

Lobby 'being sabotaged'

THE call by the South East regional committee of the TUC for a lobby of parliament against the cuts on Tuesday 21 October has been given official backing but no serious official support.

The National Union of Teachers is committed to supporting the lobby. But when one executive member, Dick North, a supporter of the Rank and File teachers' group, moved a half-day stoppage so that teachers could join the lobby, he was defeated. Opposition to the resolution was led by Max Morris, a prominent member of the Communist Party.

Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, said: 'The call is being sabotaged. Almost no work has been done by union executives or by the TUC regional committee. Union members aren't some sort of stage army that can be marched out and marched back at will.'

Lindsey German, of the International Socialist students' organisation, NOISS, said: 'The NUS Executive is officially backing the call for the lobby. But they are doing very little about it. All NOISS members should attend, and should try and get their local student union to organise maximum support. IS Society banners and NOISS placards should be brought to the lobby.'

Assemble Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, at 2pm for a meeting and march to the lobby.

Rally organised by the Centre for Educational Advance at 7pm, Central Hall, Westminster.

FOR SHOP FLOOR CONTROL! STOP THE SACKINGS!

Treachery by Triumph convenor

COVENTRY: The sit-in at Triumph by members of the clerical workers' union, ACTSS, is continuing. Management is refusing to put the results of a grading exercise into operation because they are favourable to the workers. But the exercise was agreed as part of the 1975 wage deal, which said the results 'shall be implemented'.

In advance

As picketing became more effective, stewards from the shop floor who were worried about the effects on production, approached the strikers last week. They knew little about the strike, although Transport Workers' Union convenor Eddie McGarry had been told

By Barry Collins, ACTSS shop steward

a week in advance.

McGarry has tried to get us to go back to work while he arranged negotiations. He also got Alan Law, the TGWU full-time official, to tell drivers that the picket was unofficial and they could cross.

Some production stewards threatened to escort lorries through the pickets. In the face of this treachery, one of the ACTSS branches produced a leaflet arguing their case. This led to support from the shop floor which undermined the stewards' threats.

Jim Mahers, another ACTSS shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'We are forced to comply with formal agreements, but they seem to think they can make arbitrary decisions. Why do they make agreements they

don't intend to honour?'

Bill Bell, an ACTSS shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'It's a disgraceful state of affairs when a so-called trade unionist can threaten us with having his stewards escort lorries through the picket line.'

Support promised

Not content with that, McGarry has contacted the convenor of Harpers Transport, who bring the body shells from Liverpool, and asked him to get his men to come through. Naturally he refused. How low can you get?

'At the York (BLMC Combine meeting) we were promised support from all the convenors except the two in our factory, McGarry and Griffin'.

Motor industry: Now let's fight back

THE FIGHT-BACK in the motor industry is under way. On Saturday 15 November, all four combines, together with workers in component factories are meeting in Birmingham.

The conference has been called by the Rank and File Organising Committee as part of their campaign to fight back against sackings and redundancies.

A new fact sheet prepared by the organising committee shows that the car companies are planning cut backs on manning in 1976 of between 11 and 15 per cent.

Another 150,000 to 200,000 jobs will be lost along with the 200,000 already gone. The fact sheet says: 'It will be difficult to do this through 'voluntary' redundancy alone. Some manufacturers are planning large-scale sackings.'

All active trade unionists in the motor industry should attend the conference, especially since the attempt to form a national shop stewards' organisation in the industry has broken down.



Colonel Stirling: Yes, he's in there, too

THE MEN OF MONEY BEHIND AUEW RIGHT

By Laurie Flynn

VOTING started last week in the crucial Engineering Union elections—amid an astonishing campaign by millionaire 'democrats'.

One after the other, top businessmen have been falling over themselves to plug right-wing candidates.

And the 'freedom fighters' number some of the most bitter and outspoken enemies of trade unionism. Men such as:

ALASTAIR BURNET, £30,000-a-year editor of the Daily Express and intimate of Ted Heath.

He privately circulated advance copies of a speech to the Conservative Political Centre with a covering note to all newspaper radio and television editors.

The speech—which stressed that union elections were 'more important than any parliamentary by-election and most elections for control of a city or a county'—was the signal for a deluge of press propaganda.

'OPINION POLL'

Burnet's own paper carried a witch-hunting article last Wednesday on the left in the AUEW. Then, the next day, it carried the full text of his speech.

That day, too, JIMMY GOLDSMITH, multi-millionaire boss of Cavenham Foods and associate of Rothschilds and the Beaverbrook bosses published his own privately commissioned 'opinion poll' on democracy in the trade unions. It cost him £5000.

This gentleman, a close friend and intimate of vanished Mussolini admirer Lord Lucan is, of course, elected by no one. But he has done his bit for the right wing in the AUEW and for himself and his big business friends who desperately want a bosses' union.

This involvement of top businessmen in the AUEW election may help to explain the sudden financial flourishing of the extreme right wing organisation Truemid, which was set up with the collaboration of former British intelligence man COLONEL DAVID STIRLING.

NEEDED

Truemid have, suddenly, expanded to the point where they can afford six full-time organisers in their London offices. They have also arranged for three trade union card-holders to campaign full-time for the right in the AUEW elections.

Time off—with pay, Socialist Worker understands—has been granted by their employers, leading engineering companies in the Midlands. Personnel, of course, is badly needed.

Secretary of Truemid of Ron McLaughlin, former personal assistant of AUEW leader Jack Tanner.

Boyd openly works with top business leaders through the Working Together campaign, set up and funded by the extreme Tory outfit Aims of Industry.

WORKERS at MK Electric in North London where Engineers Charter local candidate Alan Watts works, have found a way to organise against the tremendous press propaganda in support of the right.

When photostats of a witch-hunting article in the Daily Express were circulated in the plant, they underlined the obvious contradictions in the argument and pinned it up on the notice board. They also added a well-argued reply. This proves that real workplace democracy can deal with the intrigues of the bosses.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

ON THE PICKET line at Louis Newmarks, Ipswich. This is the second week of an official equal pay strike for a rise of between £14 and £15 a week. Production is at a standstill.

The women's take-home pay is £21 to £23 a week for skilled and semi-skilled office jobs. They all joined TASS in July and, with the support of Tony Foley, Divisional Organiser of TASS, set up a picket line on Monday.

A mass meeting of the men decided to join them on the picket line and they say they will not return to work until the

women get a fair deal, even if the men's own bonus claim is dealt with.

Management say the Equal Pay Act does not apply to the women here, as no man does their job, but as Norma Eltringham, the spokeswoman, said: 'It's not surprising, no man would do our job for the wages we get, we should at least get the same as the semi-skilled men in the factory.'

So far all management have offered is the same pay as the lowest-paid man, who was retired and made the tea,

Ladbrokes: This way to victory

GLASGOW: The strike by 280 members of the Transport Workers' Union at Ladbrokes has moved into its 17th week. Despite the determination of the strikers, Ladbrokes have re-opened several betting shops in the West of Scotland with scab staff.

But in one area in particular the workers have shown how the Ladbrokes empire can be beaten. The Easterhouse

shop in Glasgow, the biggest in Britain, had only 50 customers on Saturday because of an effective picket line supported by trade unionists.

This is the key to victory. Calls by officials of the Clyde district of the CSEU, the TGWU and the Boilermakers, while welcome, are not enough.

Only if financial and physical support is raised in the rank and file of the

trade union movement will the strikers win.

Donations and messages of support to Michael Docherty, Ladbrokes Strike Committee, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow. This Saturday the strikers are looking for support on the picket lines at shops still open in the City Centre and at Easterhouse. All SW readers in Glasgow are urged to help.

WALTER LAWRENCE BATTLE

LONDON: Work stopped on the Walter Lawrence site in Lower Thames Street, on Monday as a mass meeting voted unanimously for the unconditional reinstatement of two crane drivers.

The drivers were made redundant last Friday. Kerry Cranes, their employers, refused to discuss alternative jobs.

Last November, the drivers were in the forefront in organising the site. They they were sent letters threatening that after this job was over they would never again work for Kerry.

Now the firm is taking its revenge. There are still jobs for the drivers, but they are being sacked to soften up the other trades, who will soon be affected as jobs on the site come to an end.

Every union, and all sub-contractors' men were at the mass meeting, and on the first day of the strike a promise to black a Kerry crane on the Tarmac site in Brixton was received.

We demand unconditional reinstatement, and ask other building workers to

black Kerry Cranes, or tell us where they are so we can picket them.

For information, or messages of support, contact: Convenor-steward, F Westerman, 27 Buckingham Road, London, N1.

LAMBETH: Building workers on the Roberts site in Kennington Lane are on strike for the immediate sacking of a foreman who assaulted two steel-fixers, one a Transport Workers' Union shop steward. Management want to sack the two.

The men have formed a joint shop stewards' committee for all council sites in South London. If management won't sack the foreman, they'll call a strike in the whole area.

Says the T&G steward, Michael Brook: 'See the difference. The Shrewsbury lads get sent away for two and three years for suspicion of assault which was never proved. This foreman assaults two men in front of 30 witnesses, and the boss wants him to stay at work.'

Losing

Frank Henderson, Sheet Metal Workers' shop steward at Austin Longbridge, told Socialist Worker:

'The major companies are suddenly pushing workers' participation with one hand and pushing further redundancies with the other. We've got to fight against losing what independence from the management we've still got.'

'And that's why the 15 November Rank and File Motor Industry Meeting is so important. It'll give us the opportunity to discuss a real fighting programme with militants from right across the industry.'

CRISIS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY 1p fact sheet produced by supporters of the Rank and File Organising Committee in the industry. Postage extra—bulk orders, 100 plus, post free.

NATIONAL RANK AND FILE MEETING

Crisis in the Motor Industry Saturday 15 November, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, 11am-5pm. Credentials 50p from the Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

'We'll resist Dale's sackings'

NORTH LONDON: Workers at the John Dale factory have been told that it will shut, section by section, over the next nine months. This will mean another 600 jobs to add to the 460 lost at Dales in the last eight months.

This has nothing to do with falling orders. Production is being moved to sites at Bury, Skelmersdale, Huddersfield, and Colney, London.

Engineering Union steward Khan voiced the workers' anger: 'It was a terrible shock—the way it was done without consultation. Many of the employees are above 40 years, and it will be impossible for them to get jobs in a hurry.'

'We on the shop stewards committee have told management we will oppose closure of the factory by whatever method we can. The whole situation is diabolical. We intend to fight.'

Strathclyde 'shock' report

needed. 11 new centres for children under school age who need care have to be built.

There's a shortage of 1025 secondary school teachers.

These reports should not shock anyone. What is significant is that they appear at a time when the Labour government is hellbent on slashing public spending.

BIRMINGHAM WOMEN WIN

BIRMINGHAM: The ten-week strike by nine women at Power Development has ended in victory. They have been reinstated with recognition for their union, the AUEW. And they have won a minimum of 80p an hour (instead of 50p), four weeks' holiday with pay, shorter hours, tea-breaks and a longer lunch break.

The strike was well supported financially, not only by the AUEW members, but also by members of other unions, notably the Transport Workers' at Ansell's brewery. It shows what determination can win, even in a small firm.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

PORTUGAL: On-the-spot reports from Robin Ellis and Chris Harman

NOW THE SOLDIERS MOVEMENT SPREADS

BOTH SIDES are arming—fast. On one side, the workers and rank and file soldiers. On the other, the wealthy and the privileged, and the political parties that support them, ranging from the extreme right to the so-called Socialist Party.

They believe that they have a god-given right to control industry, the banks, the radio stations, the newspapers and, above all, the army.

More and more their attention is concentrated on the army. Every day, sometimes several times a day, they issue communiques ordering soldiers not to support left-wing demonstrations, commanding the radio stations not to report the decisions of soldiers' meetings.

These lovers of the freedom of information and the press have sent in commando shock troops—armed to the teeth—to control the Radio Renascença broadcasting mast. They have also sent them into the CICA barracks in Oporto.

Despite this, the rank and file revolt in the army is spreading wonderfully. The rank and file soldiers evicted from the CICA barracks immediately occupied the RASP Heavy Artillery barracks nearby. They seized the artillery as well as the barracks. And, in place of right-wing officers, they have elected representatives, their own representatives, to give orders.

They have received massive support in Oporto and in the Central Military Region to the South. Last Thursday, in the university city of Coimbra, 2000 soldiers and 15,000 workers marched on a demonstration called by the rank and file soldiers' organisation, SUV.

OWN MOVEMENT

The rank and file movement has also been growing in the air force, traditionally a safe preserve of the right wing. Rank and file airforcemen refused last Friday to take part in the officer dominated Air Force Assembly and also made it clear that they were going to build their own movement.

Regular meetings are now being held of delegates from 16 out of 20 military units in the Lisbon region. Most delegates are privates.

At Bairolas, where most of the arms supplies are concentrated, soldiers have voted not to allow any more arms to leave the dump. They took this decision after reports that the government wanted to put the arms into the hands of 'reliable' units.

'Revolution the only solution'

THE STRENGTH of the left lies not only in the rank and file soldiers' movement but in the working class, as last week's half-day strike of 200,000 metal-workers showed. The union's call was followed even in the most reactionary towns in the North.

The most widespread slogan among the working class is 'For Popular Power'. But the slogan is capable of at least two interpretations.

For the revolutionary left, it means a structure of rank and file councils which will completely replace the present set-up in the factories, estates and barracks.

PAGE FIVE:
The face of revolution

But many workers are still not prepared to go all the way with this. The Communist Party, still very influential in the workers' movement, give the slogan a different meaning.

For them, rank and file pressure

should be put on the Sixth Provisional Government to win small changes and concessions.

In line with this approach, the Communist Party is raising the slogan 'No to Civil War'. But the right has already shown it is prepared to use force to protect its interests.

Reality

In reality, the only way to prevent a repetition of the bloody disaster of Chile is to prepare the armed force of the working class. As an SUV speaker put it to the Coimbra march:

'The only way to prevent civil war is by preparing to fight to the end against capitalism . . . to fight for the conditions which allow the replacement of the bourgeois army by the armed wing of working class power.'

Back-street Abortion Kills! Free Abortion on Demand

Counter demonstrate to SPUC. Speakers Corner, Marble Arch, 1pm, Sunday 19 October.

Bring Womens Voice and IS banners. As many IS members and Socialist Worker supporters as possible in the London and Home Counties should be there.

Soares incites the middle-class

THE SO-CALLED Socialist Party moved in hard in Oporto last Friday against SUV, the growing rank and file organisation in the army.

Mario Soares addressed a demonstration supporting discipline and opposing democracy in the armed forces.

The left feared that the events of the previous evening would be repeated. Then right wingers had attacked the RASP barracks and troops had opened fire on the left. So on Friday night the left organised. 30,000 strong they came to the RASP barracks which the soldiers had occupied and then smothered in red-flags.

United

'Soldiers always, but always, on the side of the people' was the cry. 'Workers, peasants, soldiers, sailors—united we will win'.

A soldier from SUV spoke: 'We will fight side by side. For in victory or defeat we are the people. We are the majority. When reactionary soldiers talk about discipline, they mean their discipline,

their orders for us to act against the people.'

This was the discipline Soares was upholding at the nearby Socialist Party demonstration. He sought to inflame the passions of the middle class.

His words were quickly translated into deeds by the crowd. The offices of two left parties were immediately attacked by members of extreme right-wing organisations who now use the Socialist Party as cover, and who wear Socialist Party badges.

The great crowds at the RASP barracks held firm, refusing to be drawn by what they saw as a deliberate provocation.

But the lesson was not lost on them: these marauding attacks will cease only when the workers and soldiers have sufficiently expanded their own power and armed forces.

BOYCOTT FRANCO'S SPAIN STOP THE REPRESSION

March this Saturday, 18 October. Assemble 2pm, Speakers Corner and march to Trafalgar Square for 3.30 meeting to be addressed by Bob Edwards MP and George Anthony. AUEW.

Organised by the Committee against Death Sentences in Spain.



Revolutionary soldiers on the march in Oporto: their movement is spreading to the air force

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