

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

CHRYSLER: OCCUPY! NATIONALISE!



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Remember Des Warren...

'NO, there are no special visits at Christmas. I saw Des last week, and I've managed to arrange a visit this week by giving up my January visit. I don't think they do anything special at all at Christmas, and it will be grim for him there. He's been harassed a lot by some of the prison officers.

'We were so sure he would be coming home this time. We'd even talked about what we were going to do at Christmas. It was hard when the parole was turned down.

'I think the children take it better than me, though three

years is a long time in a child's life. No amount of sympathy can repay what they have gone through.

That was Elsa Warren, talking to Socialist Worker about her husband Des, who will be spending his third successive Christmas in jail—as a political prisoner. His crime was to picket a lump building site in Shrewsbury during an official dispute. His union leadership and the TUC are 'right behind him'. They do nothing to get him out.

This Christmas, the jailed Des Warren should be on the

conscience of the whole labour movement. The ruthlessness of ruling-class 'law and order', the subservience of the Labour government and the weakness of the trade union leadership are all symbolised in his imprisonment.

This Christmas, every reader of Socialist Worker should send Des a message of solidarity: a card, letter or telegram. His address is H M Prison, Lincoln.

Send a gift to his family through the treasurer of the Shrewsbury Dependants Fund, Ossie Lewis, 25 Park Road, Cheam, who will forward them

THIS isn't lame duckery. It's mass extermination.

On Tuesday the Labour government handed Chrysler boss John 'The Godfather' Riccardo the biggest Christmas present he or any other boss has ever received. £162 million to spend as he likes.

With the present went a request—no, an order—that the Godfather give 8000 Chrysler workers a Christmas present too. Kick them on the dole.

Riccardo's present is a disgrace. The sacking of 8000 workers is a scandal. Taken together, they make a package no worker in Britain should tolerate.

For weeks the Tory press has been telling Chrysler workers to expect a rescue plan from Labour. Now we can see this rescue for what it is. No rescue at all.

The Labour government is instead helping the Godfather push under the water more than half the Chrysler workers at Ryton, Coventry, half those at Linwood in Scotland, and a third of those at Stoke, Coventry.

Soon to follow will be thousands of workers from car component firms, steel mills; electrical industries and other factories dependent on Chrysler.

SCRAPHEAP

Does the sacking of 3000 workers in Linwood mean that the other 3000 are safe? Does it hell!

It means they too stand a fair chance of joining their mates on the scrapheap as soon as the Godfather has spirited his £162 million away to join the other Chrysler millions in a Swiss company vault.

The surrender to Chrysler means above all that the phoney war is over. It means that this Labour government, with policy after policy collapsing around its ears, is going to fight the working-class movement.

In this situation the working-class movement has only one reply. We must fight with every means at our disposal. Chrysler must become for Labour what UCS was to the Tories.

That means that every petty rivalry between Stoke, Ryton and Linwood workers must be set aside. It means that

**Stop the
8000
sackings!
No gifts
for the
Godfather!**

every Chrysler plant should be immediately occupied and used as a base for a massive campaign inside the working-class movement.

The aim of the struggle must be simple: To take Chrysler out of the hands of John J Riccardo and all those like him, Chrysler must be nationalised without a penny compensation.

Make no mistake, such a campaign can win. Just this week Italian workers fighting Dunlop Pirelli in an almost exactly similar struggle have forced the company to turn tail and protect the very jobs it had earlier announced it was determined to destroy.

The alternative is to watch the dole queues getting even longer. The alternative is to sit back, listening to the occasional trade union leader or left-wing MP bleating about growing unemployment, while we do nothing.

The Chrysler crisis comes when already one and a quarter million are in the dole queues. It would be a crime for our movement to allow even one more worker in Linwood, Coventry or Dunstable to join them.

Now is the time to stand and fight!



Barbara Castle (notice the Red Badge of Socialist Courage): she surrendered to the consultants

CHRISTMAS

365 DAYS

A YEAR



Antony Crosland: a question of priorities...

THE GOVERNMENT has agreed to massive Christmas handouts to 6000 hospital consultants, whose average salary is £13,000 a year.

For years, these parasites have plundered the National Health Service with their 'pay bed' system. Paying patients have jumped the queues in National Health hospitals. Nurses and ancillary workers, paid for by the Health Service, were, and still are, exploited to the full to fill the pockets of the consultants.

ABOLISH

After an explosion of protest last year from hospital workers, the Labour Party promised in its manifesto to abolish pay beds. The government to do so next year. So the consultants went on strike. The strike didn't make much difference—not half as much as did the strike of exploited junior doctors.

FOR THE SON OF A PEER - two new homes costing £310,000

School meals service - Use of potatoes

The County Education Officer has sent out the following instruction with regard to the use of potatoes:

Potatoes continue to be very high in price. It will be necessary to continue to use substitutes. The allowance in the unit contracts for 1/2 potatoes and 2/3 substitutes, allowing for potatoes at £4.64 net (£4.90 net less 16p discount).

The following weekly pattern of potato and substitutes would be suitable:

- 1 day roast or chipped potatoes (full portion)
- 1 day home-made roll or scones
- 3 day half quantity of potatoes and half other substitute

The total cost per senior portion of potatoes and substitute for the week must not exceed 8.5p.

It is very important that potatoes should not be wasted either in preparation or serving portions in excess of the children's requirements.

To be read out by all C of E tutors and form staff and posted on room notice boards.

LAST WEEK the Surrey County Council distributed the above notice, insisting that 'the total cost . . . of potatoes for the week' in school meals 'must not exceed 8.5p'.

On the same day, Michael Pearson, son and heir of Lord Cowdray, (Financial Times, Westminster Press, North Sea Oil, Lazards etc) moved into a new house in The Boltons, Kensington. It cost £240,000.

It has a £7000 stereo set; a cinema; a rifle range; a circular bath; a helicopter landing pad and an artist's studio (with artist supplied).

Little

Michael has another little place near Petworth, Sussex, which he also bought the other day for £90,000, but has still to do up.

Michael inherited £7 million in cash when he was 21 and has been spending it ever since.

It won't run out. Not as long as daddy goes on making millions explaining to the populace about the need for sacrifice in this, the nation's hour of need.

FOR THE CONSULTANTS - unless we stand up to them

But Mrs Castle, Minister of Social Security, has conceded almost all the consultants' demands.

She has agreed that only 1000 of the 4000 pay beds in the country will be phased out in the six months after the pay bed laws come into effect.

There is no time limit at all as to when the remaining 3000 will go. Even more incredibly, any plans for phasing out these 3000 will be submitted to an 'independent board' of two consultants, a chairman and two members nominated by the Minister!

This means that 3000 pay beds will not be phased out in the foreseeable future. Only one in four will go: and, at present, one in four of the pay beds are empty anyway!

Finally, Castle has agreed to 'write into law' the

'right' of rich doctors to make fortunes out of peoples' sickness, and the 'right' of rich people to get better health treatment than poor people.

DROOLS

Castle drools that the 'maintenance of private practice' is one of the 'two central principles' of her policy.

This is revolting. Hospital workers should have no truck with it. They started the anti-pay bed move in the first place.

They can finish it quickly with industrial action which demands the immediate banning of all pay beds.

FOR "HERCULES" HAROLD - a banquet and a sermon on sacrifice



IN THE MIDDLE of last Friday's emergency Cabinet meeting on Chrysler, Harold Wilson, Prime Minister, suddenly summed up and left the room.

His astonished colleagues were told he had 'an important engagement'. Wilson changed his suit and took off in a special coach to the City of London where he was offered its 'freedom'.

Fancy

After some Latin incantations by various boardroom witch-doctors (who wore fancy dress), a series of bankers and businessmen made speeches.

EXCLUSIVE: WHAT 'THE GREAT MAN' ATE . . .

Mr John Griggs, the corporation's banker, said: 'The Prime Minister is a man of simple tastes, a serene man, a man of high ideals, a Hercules of modern times.'

'A really great man is a man who makes all men feel great. And that is how we feel today.' Hercules replied with a speech about the need for sacrifice.

No one was sick. Instead, everyone went off to lunch (described by The Times as 'the serious business of the day').

Menu

The menu was one of the best ever seen in the City:

Clay Cross Councillor Cocktail
Sacked Chrysler Workers a la Riccardo

Old age pensioner tartare
National Health Service cutlets
Shop stewards melba.

This was washed down with some Bloody Sunday Burgundy (1972—a very good year for blood), and then everyone sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Sell-Out', and went home.

FOR THE GENERALS - guns before hospitals

THERE HAS been a blazing row in the Labour government over cuts in the £5000 million defence bill.

Miners' MP Roy Mason led the attack—against cuts in the defence bill, which might endanger our glorious British army.

Antony Crosland, a traditional right-winger, argued for them so as to provide a bit more money for the social services.

In the end, the 'cuts' will be—at most—£250 million in two years' time. Meanwhile, arms spending went up £400 million this year . . .

FOR IRISH PRISONERS - the spite of Jenkins

THERE IS one small Christmas concession that Home Secretary Roy Jenkins could make to Irish prisoners in English jails.

He could let them serve the rest of their sentences near their families on the other side of the Irish Sea.

That's nothing more than Home Office policy, after all. And it's a policy applied to Loyalist prisoners who have already been moved from Scottish jails to Northern Ireland.

Six

But after his vicious battle against the hunger striking Price sisters, Jenkins is still holding out.

So last week at least six Irish prisoners went on hunger strike in support of the demand to be moved to Irish prisons for the rest of their long sentences.

Since John McCluskey started his hunger strike at the beginning of the month, he has lost three stone.

He is being supported by Liam McLarnon, Gerry Mealey and Robert Cunningham, who are also serving long sentences.

Hunger

The Home Office says the protest is being supported by another Irish prisoner in Parkhurst prison. And, according to the Prisoners Aid Committee, hunger strikes may be even more widespread.

There isn't the slightest reason in the world why their demands should not be met.

WHAT WE THINK

THIS WEEK the government launches its pre-Christmas 'anti-unemployment' measures. Now any measures to reduce unemployment are to be welcomed. But the government's package is not a serious step in this direction at all.

As we predicted last week it is a public relations exercise, not a serious attempt to reverse the growth of the dole queues.

The particular 'public' the government is aiming at is, of course, trade union members. A little while ago TUC general secretary Len Murray warned Chancellor Dennis Healey that though he and his friends could 'hold the line' in support of the government's £6 limit, cuts in public spending and heavy unemployment this winter, 'there would be trouble' at next year's union conferences if unemployment continued to rise.

It is going to go on rising. It is going to go on rising because the main thrust of government policy—cut public spending, 'no lame ducks' and reduce the real earnings of working people—destroys jobs all the time. Every well-

Labour's lick of paint on a rotting door

informed person knows this. The economic forecasting outfits build the effects of government policy into their predictions—and all predict more unemployment.

This week, to take the latest example, the Henley Centre for Forecasting predicts one and a half million unemployed at the end of *next* year in spite of an upturn in the world economy, which they also predict, and a rise in British exports.

Forty thousand jobs are threatened in the steel industry. Massive cuts in the workforce on the railways will be attempted. In the car and car components industry, British Leyland's plans include a drastic shrinkage of the labour force and the attempted 'rescue' of Chrysler involves a big cut in jobs.

And the effects of the public sector cuts will put many thousands more out of work over the next 18 months.

Against this background, the new

'package' is no more than a lick of paint on a rotting door. It is a political job, not an economic one. It is aimed at defusing the growing concern about unemployment in the working-class movement.

Gesture

The 26 November demonstration showed Len Murray the warning light. Murray then demanded a government gesture to help the TUC to sell their reactionary policies and weaken the growing sentiment for the right to work. That is what these measures are, a gesture to help the TUC bosses.

We can learn something from this, and from the Chrysler 'rescue'. The government is vulnerable on the unemployment issue. The TUC leaders are very vulnerable on the unemployment issue. The Chrysler decision, however unsatisfactory, proves that government policy can be checked. What Len Murray fears, an upsurge of working-class resistance to the job-killers, is what we have to do our utmost to promote.

The National Rank and File Organising Committee's splendid initiative, the Right to Work Campaign, is exactly what is needed. Every socialist, every militant must support it.

Support this campaign

SOCIALIST WORKER calls on all its supporters to back the Right to Work campaign by:

● Moving resolutions from trade union branches through to districts and national conferences, arguing for the demands of the campaign.

● Fighting to ensure that shop stewards committees and all workplaces take up the defence of jobs and act in solidarity with the unemployed.

● Working for maximum support for the Right to Work march. This support must go right to the heart of the trade union movement. Socialist Worker supporters should argue in their trade unions and on shop stewards committees for active commitment to the marchers.

This could be sponsoring a marcher, raising regular financial support, by collections, levies and donations, helping with food, accommodation, footwear and clothing for the march, and sending delegations on parts of the march or to greet the marchers when they arrive in your own town.

Right to Work plan march of unemployed

THE National Right to Work Campaign announced this week that it is to organise a march of unemployed workers from Manchester to London in the first three weeks of March.

A circular about the march has been sent to all trade union bodies affiliated to the campaign.

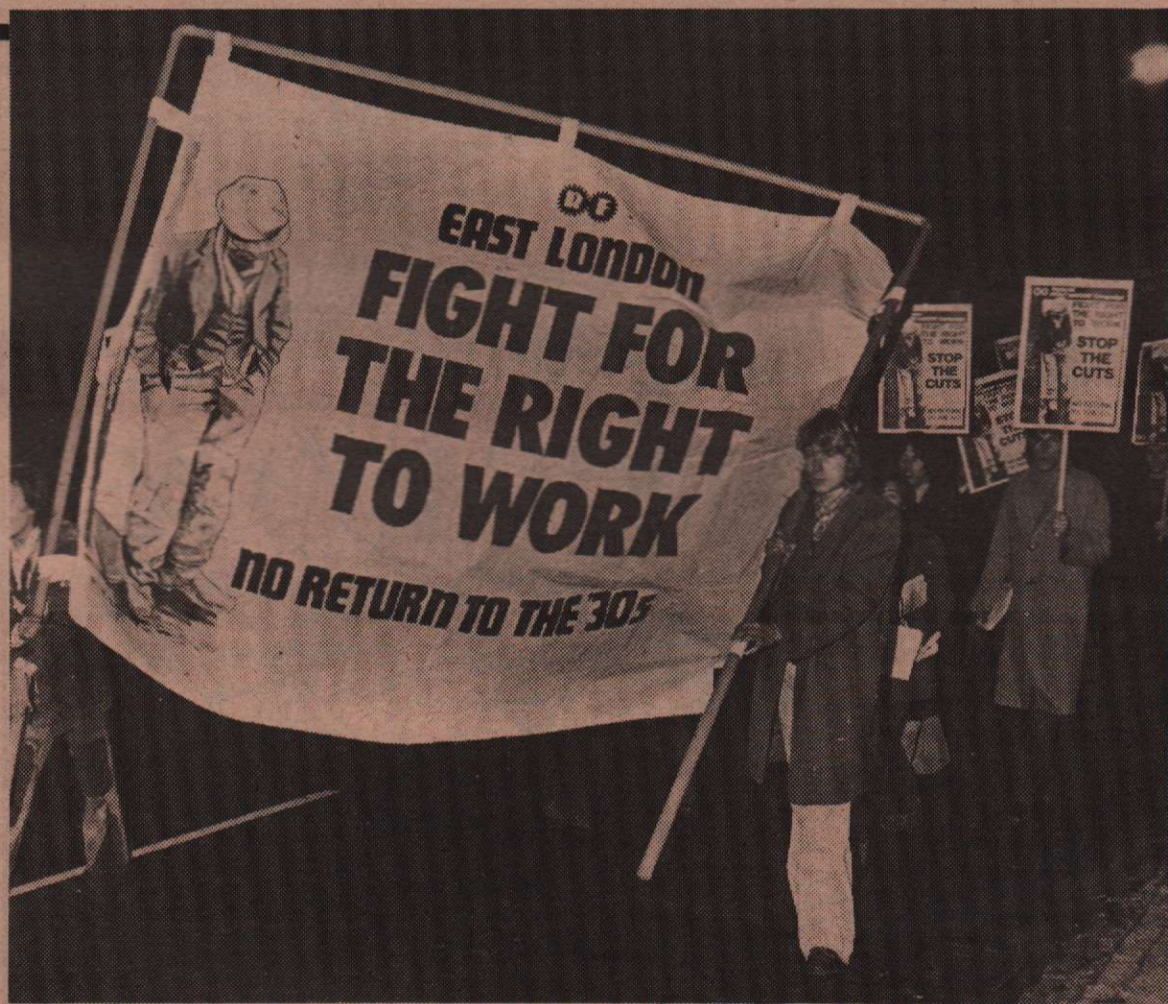
Tommy Douras, secretary of the Liverpool Right to Work Campaign, told Socialist Worker: 'We will be passing through every sort of area. When we go through Yorkshire we will say to the miners: In 1926 the TUC sold you down the river, don't let them do the same to the unemployed in 1976.'

'We're going to Coventry where the Chrysler workers' jobs are under attack.'

'The march is a way of raising the issue of unemployment and of winning specific support and commitment from trade union bodies both to help the march and to fight for our policies.'

'The march can only take place with the active support of trade unionists along the way, from individuals and branches, districts and shop stewards committees. But we'll also need the support of members of all the unions and work places all over the country. The march may not go past the hospital you work in, but if there's a member of NUPE on it you ought to be fighting for support. This is how the march can become a national focus for the whole campaign for the right to work.'

'We want representatives of every section of workers hit by unemployment on the march. There are already building workers, engineers and an



Supporters of the Right to Work campaign marching in East London last month in protest at planned hospital closures

unemployed nurse ready to march. We are saying to the government:

'We're not begging the bosses. But we are saying to the trade union movement: Together we have the muscle to end unemployment.'

'We shall be contacting every trade union body we can to ask for support. We want the names and addresses to the Rank and File Organising Committee of all other bodies where proposals of support should be raised.'

The march will end with a rally at the Albert Hall on Saturday 20 March.

Where the marchers will go

The route to be taken by the march is: Saturday 28 February: MANCHESTER to OLDHAM, Sunday 29th: Oldham to MARSDEN, Monday 1 March: Marsden to HUDDERSFIELD, Tuesday 2nd: Huddersfield to WAKEFIELD, Wednesday 3rd: Wakefield to BARNSELY, Thursday 4th: Barnsley to SHEFFIELD, Friday 5th: Sheffield to CLAY CROSS, Saturday 6th: Clay Cross to DERBY, Sunday 7th: rest day, Monday 8th: Derby to RUGELEY, Tuesday 9th: Rugeley to

WALSALL, Wednesday 10th: Walsall to BIRMINGHAM centre, Thursday 11th: Birmingham to SOLIHULL, Friday 12th: Solihull to COVENTRY, Saturday 13th: Coventry to RUGBY, Sunday 14th: rest day, Monday 15th: Rugby to NORTHAMPTON, Tuesday 16th: Northampton to BEDFORD, Wednesday 17th: Bedford to HITCHIN, Thursday 18th: Hitchin to HATFIELD, Friday 19th: Hatfield to NORTH WEST LONDON, Saturday 20th: North West London to ALBERT HALL.

THE demands of the Right to Work Campaign and of the march are listed in the circular:

ONE: Opposition to all forms of redundancy. No voluntary redundancy, no job loss through natural wastage, for rigorous maintenance of manning levels and job replacement.

TWO: For official declaration nationally of the 35-hour week. For official overtime bans to force more jobs.

THREE: Shopfloor trade union control of hiring, firing and manning levels. No discrimination or blacklisting. Trade union district registration of all jobs and protection of district manning levels.

FOUR: Five days work or five days pay. For occupations to force the nationalisation without compensation of firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.

FIVE: Stop the cuts.

SIX: Break the freeze, for across-the-board increases to protect living standards.

SEVEN: Full wages for the unemployed. £6-a-week increase now for all unemployed workers as an immediate step towards this.

EIGHT: Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and discrimination. For the equal right of women to a full time job.

NINE: For full trade union rights for the unemployed.

TEN: No co-operation with the employers—no to all participation schemes.

I want to be a
**Socialist
Worker
supporter**

Name

Address

Fill in Cut out Send to
SOCIALIST WORKER SUPPORTERS
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN

PRINCE JACK: DEAL BEFORE STRUGGLE

NOT long ago Socialist Worker was regularly attacked for our repeated criticisms of left-wing union leaders such as Jack Jones.

Despite some limitations, the argument was that Jones was a man of the left, who would bring more, much more, democracy to the trade union movement, who would fight and campaign for socialist policies and generally advance the interests of our class.

Socialist Worker, by comparison, argued that while Jones was not exactly the same kind of customer as a cold war witch-hunter like Arthur Deakin, trade union activists should never put their trust in princes. If they did, they would be sold short.

In 1972 and 1973 our argument met

with fierce resistance, although one great struggle pointed out all the weaknesses of the Transport Union and of its new left-wing leader Jack Jones.

That dispute was Fine Tubes, a strike for union recognition. Today there is another Fine Tubes—the struggle of the Ladbroke's workers in Glasgow for union recognition.

PREOCCUPIED

The same grave weaknesses stand exposed. Again Jones and the union have refused to use—or even consider using—its great strength. Again there is the inability to connect with the struggle rather than bureaucratic

routine. But today the back-cloth to the struggle is different.

Nowadays Jack Jones isn't attacking wage restraint and the iniquities of the capitalist system. On the contrary with Labour in power he is praising them. He is the man whose social contract—which he claimed was going to prevent unemployment—is the direct cause of unemployment.

But where is the link between the failure to help the Ladbroke's strikers and pushing through Tory policies on wages, social service cuts, and unemployment?

Jones, and increasingly his number two, Harry Urwin, are totally preoccupied with dealing with the Labour government and the CBI, with being

statesmen, not union leaders.

Their way of operating in the world is not through struggle but through negotiation, compromise, a 'patch-up' here, a deal there. In this world struggle and organisation, far from being the essence of trade unionism, become an awkward appendage, an embarrassment to otherwise friendly dealings with employers.

EMPHASIS

What's more, it's in the interests of the big men that the TGWU is fragmented, not united. In a sense the union's advertisements give the game away. Above the slogan 'Get the strength of Britain's biggest union around you' (a slogan which must bring tears to the eyes of the men and women of Ladbroke's) there is another slogan: 'Eleven industrial unions in one'.

And each of them separate, one might add.

Then there are the regions, the trade groups, each of them separate.

In this way the Ladbroke's struggle becomes a problem for the appointed regional secretary in Scotland and his junior, the appointed Glasgow district secretary. What does it matter that he is on the left, for the Ladbroke's struggle has been localised when it can only be won by spreading concern and involvement.

It's against this background and similar versions in other unions, that Socialist Worker puts the emphasis on rank and file action and rank and file organisation. It's this solidarity from the bottom up which will win Ladbroke's and other such struggles.

In the weeks ahead we will be returning to the case of Jack Jones. We'll be running a major article by London dockers and Transport Union member Bob Light in the New Year. Order your copy now.

The biggest closed shop in the world

BEEN on the losing end of an argument lately? Was it about closed shops, democracy in the unions and related themes?

If so, cheer up. Your Christmas Unions Page has some good news for you and your argumentative workmates.

Now just dream a little. Imagine that the executive of the Engineering Union had voted six votes to one to sack King of the Moderates John Boyd.

After the dream of course, comes the nightmare. Imagine what the press would do. They'd go berserk. They wouldn't let up for a fortnight. And if they hadn't succeeded in re-instating the noble John after 14 days they'd keep right on screeching until he was.

There'd be front page after front page about purges in the Engineering Union. There'd be torrents of rhetoric about 'democracy'. And at the end of it yet another drubbing would have been inflicted upon the menacing militants, the dreaded left.

Information

Just three weeks ago the president of the bosses' union, Sir Ralph 'Call me Mr Asbestos' Bateman turned round and sacked on the spot one of the members of the Confederation of British Industry Council, the CBI executive.

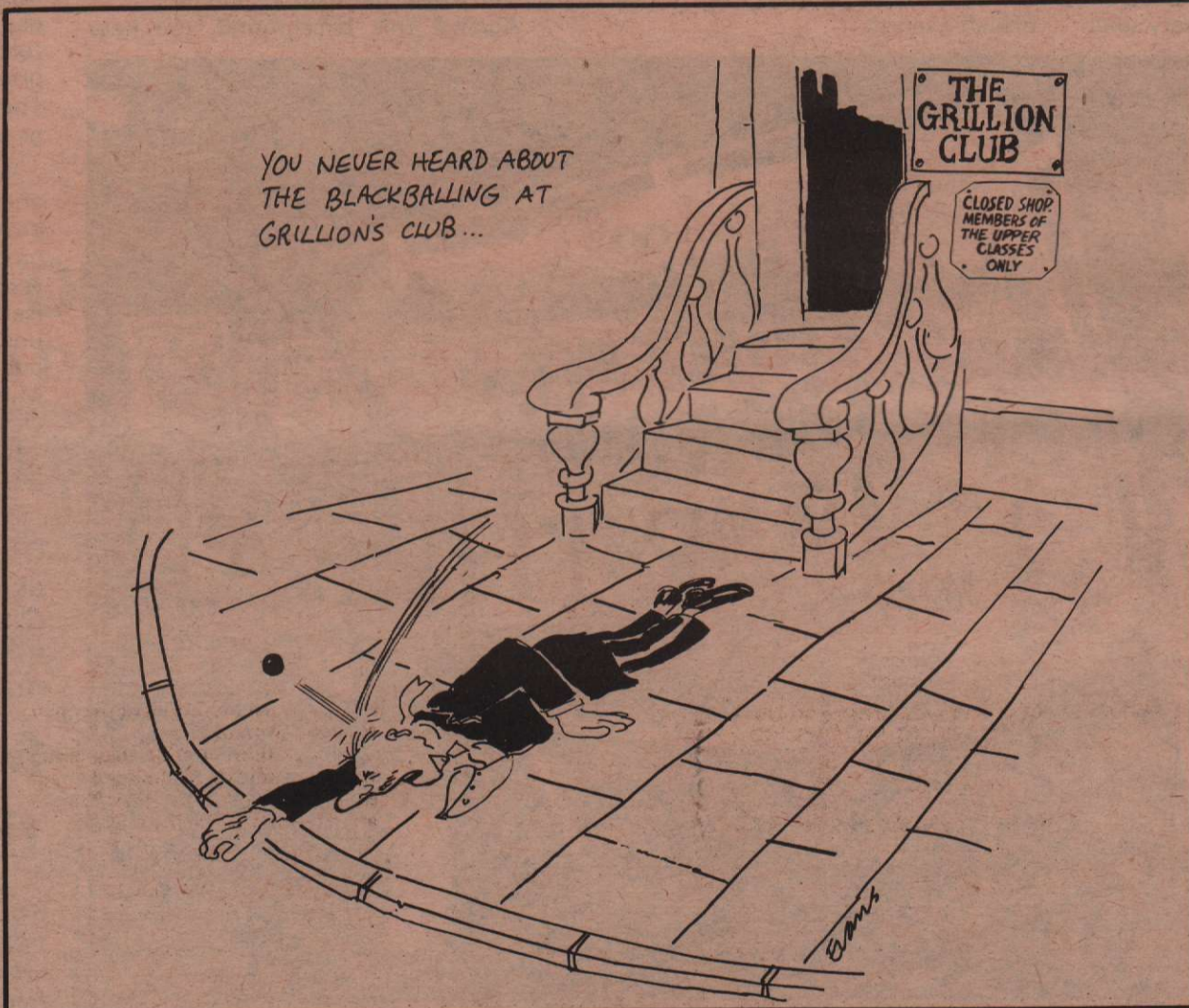
The sacked gentleman, William Poeton, was one of the small company representatives on the CBI council. His enforced departure was greeted with complete and total silence by our freedom-loving press, which continued their important work of telling us all what a lovely gent Mr Asbestos really is.

This brings me to an even more interesting point. Can anyone who reads Socialist Worker ever recall at any time seeing any reports whatsoever that cover the decisions of the CBI executive?

There's page after page about the Engineering Union executive. There's column after column on the TUC General Council. But there's never a word about the decisions of the most powerful and entirely unrepresentative and unelected minority in this fair land—the 'captains of industry'.

The strange, simple truth is that there is a tacit agreement between newspaper executives and the CBI bosses that their affairs will never be scrutinised. And of course they never are.

You never ever hear a word about elections to the CBI council. Although in theory they take place, you can be sure they are carved up from beginning to end. And there's no bloody postal ballots when the CBI want to order a lock-out or provoke a strike.



The line comes down from head office and that's that.

What's more, that way the resulting strike can always be blamed on 'greedy workers' or 'red agitators'.

The situation in the CBI is in fact rather similar to the way one imagines that well known captain of industry, Stalin J, ran his organisations.

When you telephone the CBI press office and ask if it is possible to discover the names of the members of, say, the Confederation's health and safety committee some female Old Etonian replies: 'I'm sorry. We do not disclose that information.'

If you make so bold as to ask why not, the lady from the upper fifth replies: 'We don't disclose that information either.'

By that time you know that Britain really is a free country and that your conversation is at an end.

Not that there's anything unusual in all this. After all, it's just another part of the biggest closed shop in the world—the British establishment.

That closed shop has restrictive practices that would put any Boiler-makers Society's protective agreement to shame about 5000 times over.

The only thing about their organisations is that they don't go

under the name of trade unions. What's more, they are backed to the hilt by the people who own and control the press, who of course are members of the same Masonic lodges, professional associations and Royal Colleges which those with privilege and wealth have created to defend their spoils.

Hypocrites

That's why you never hear about the blackballing at Grillions Club. That's why you never read about the elections to Bencher's Committee of the Inner Temple or the Bar Council. There are no postal ballots there either.

So, brothers and sisters, when you get back after the holiday and one of the mates gives you some of the 'democracy' business give it to them straight. Tell them about how the hypocritical bastards who run this country conduct their organisations.

Tell them that the democracy of the working-class movement—from the rule-book of the Engineers Union to the shop stewards' committee of the Royal Docks—is something to be proud of, very proud.



Chief boss Ralph Bateman, who has just sacked a CBI Council member amid a deafening silence from the press

Executive bid to tighten grip on APEX

by an APEX member

THE executive council of APEX, the office workers' union, is planning what amounts to an attack on democracy.

The 15-member executive intends to put two important rule changes to the union's annual conference in Scarborough next May. The proposals, if accepted, will ensure this conference is the last of its kind.

Action certainly needs to be taken on the structure of the APEX conference. In 1975 the agenda listed 86 motions. Lack of time prevented almost half of these being debated, and they were referred to the executive at the end of conference.

Criticism of this situation has been growing. So much so, that general secretary Roy Grantham asked branches how conference procedures could be changed to allow the agenda to be completed.

Not a single branch suggested rule changes of the kind the executive is now proposing.

The executive chose to disregard the views of the members, and voted seven to six to amend Rule 61, which will cut the number of motions each branch can submit to conference from two to one.

A second amendment would place new restrictions on branches and their delegates. Any branch intending to comment on or refer back any part of the executive council's report would have to give seven days' notice.

Reference back gives a chance for members to pass judgment on the activities and often the inactivity of the executive. The amendment would make this limited form of accountability more difficult to exercise. The written notice would also give the executive the chance to conjure up excuses.

APEX members dare not allow the executive to succeed in this attack. Its success could lead to a further erosion of democracy in the union. A defeat for these proposals would make the task of creating a tough, democratic union that much easier.

THE CHAMPAGNE flowed and toasts were drunk in the exclusive districts of Melbourne and Sydney as millionaire Malcolm Fraser of the Liberal and Country Party coalition accepted his runaway election as Australian Prime Minister as millionaires always do: 'with humility'.

But there was no champagne in the working-class suburbs of Australia's cities. The crushing victory of the uncompromisingly pro-big business coalition last weekend means a return to the era of open union-bashing, involvement in imperialist wars and attacks on the welfare system.

Fought

Just like the February 1974 election in Britain the election was fought and decided on one issue 'Which party can best control the union movement? Which party can succeed in freezing wages

and restore business confidence?' But in Australia the Tories won.

The Australian economy is in a mess. Through 1975, unemployment has continued at record levels. More than 250,000 workers are out of work and by Christmas school-leavers will swell the figure to 400,000... equivalent to more than 1½ million in Britain.

In power, the Labour Party mucked around with all kinds of gimmicks and stunts to try to

by Phil Griffiths, of the Australian International Socialists (formerly the Socialist Workers Action Group)

save jobs. They tried to bail out British Leyland when they went broke, but that didn't work. They tried giving cash grants to companies to pay the

wages of workers they were threatening to sack.

Even the famous loans scandal over finance for oil pipelines and the like was an attempt to borrow money for massive development projects that would have provided jobs. But none of Labour's solutions challenged the real cause of unemployment and economic stagnation.

Through the election campaign, Labour responded to union-bashing by promising to bash the unions, arguing that only a Labour government could maintain the wage freeze programme called 'Wage Indexation'.

The more they argued, the more the Liberals benefitted. At the height of the working-class response to Whitlam's sacking, at the height of the movement for a general strike, when 400,000 workers in Melbourne alone were out, it looked as if Labour might win the election.

The ruling class and the middle classes were scared at the possible cost of a Liberal victory.

But it was the Labour Party and the trade union machine that headed the movement off and killed the general strike, and with it, they killed Labour's chances of re-election.

The middle-class outer suburban votes that Labour won in 1972 deserted to the Liberals as soon as it seemed safe.

The Australian working class hates Malcolm Fraser and the Liberal Party. The Liberals have promised an industrial police force to smash

Since the beginning of November, when the Whitlam cabinet was beginning to look doomed, until yesterday, the first day after Labor's rout at the hands of the electorate, share values at Sydney rose by about one third.
—from last Tuesday's Financial Times.

pickets, sack union officials and steal trade union funds.

They are promising a 'no-nonsense attack on the union movement to keep wages down while business 'recovers'.

During the 23 years of Liberal rule, until Labour was returned in 1972, the Labour movement played by the rules... all you need to do is get Labour in and everything will be all right, they said.

The Liberals and the Governor-General tore up their own rulebook when they got rid of Whitlam.

A lot of militants are going to be won to revolutionary politics during 1976 as the Liberals prepare to smash union organisation.

It's going to be a bitter Christmas in Australia and hardly a happy new year. But the struggle will intensify.

Why Whitlam was crushed

Picture: Laurence Sparham (I.F.L.)



Part of last Saturday's demonstration in London calling for the reprieve and release of Desmond Trotter, the young militant due to be hanged in Dominica, West Indies. Desmond was framed on a charge of murdering a white man. He was sick in bed at the time of the crime. His real 'crime' was to be directly involved in a growing movement of unemployed workers and youngsters on Dominica, where unemployment affects two-thirds of the population. His only course of appeal now is to the Privy Council in London, which is why it is essential that pressure is kept up. You can support the campaign by sending money and messages of support to the Fund to Free Desmond Trotter, 37 Tollington Park, London N4.

JAMAICA COUP THREAT

By Lee Kane

TENSION has been mounting in Jamaica amid fears that a CIA-backed coup is being planned to oust Michael Manley's Peoples National Party government.

Jamaica, like Britain, has been hit hard by the world wide capitalist crisis. There has been a sharp rise in unemployment and many big companies and bauxite mines have shut up shop, including the Revere Bauxite plant.

The Manley government's liberalisation, the odd concessions to workers and talk about socialism, has caused a huge upsurge in workers' and peasants' consciousness.

Defiance

The workers' movement is fighting back hard with, for instance, the occupation of the hotel in Montego Bay and the strike of bus workers in defiance of Jamaica's Industrial Relations Act.

Ninety seven of the bus workers now face fines for refusing to obey the instruction of the Industrial Tribunal to abandon their pay struggle.

The local big businessmen and their friends in the international big

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY?
DO YOU DEPLORE THE STATE OF LAWLESSNESS IN OUR SOCIETY?
IF SO, TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS
6.00a.m. to 10.00a.m.
LET THE SILENT MAJORITY SHOW ITSELF

A recent advert in Jamaica's Daily Gleaner—paid for by Concerned Citizens. Never heard of them? Well, they crop up all over South America and they're otherwise known as... the CIA.

business community who control the Jamaican economy don't like any of this.

They think the Manley government is too soft, even though the Manley government's socialism is nothing more than capitalism with a pretty face.

But capitalism in crisis has no room for pretty faces. Instead it prefers attacks on the working class and repression.

What this has involved is a curfew on West Kingston, the main working class area, and the use of the army to

make widespread arrests, apparently without the sanction of the government.

During the teachers' strike at the university in November, an army detachment—complete with tanks—moved onto the campus. This move was made without the Prime Minister even knowing about it and against his subsequently expressed wishes.

Such is Manley's support that the Jamaican Tory Party, which goes under the name of the Jamaican Labour Party, realises it hasn't any chance of winning an election in the

foreseeable future.

Three weeks ago, the JLP were decisively beaten in two marginal elections which they thought they had a chance of winning.

And in a third election they didn't put up a candidate, claiming corrupt electoral practices by the Peoples National Party as their excuse.

Behind the scenes, the JLP and its friends are engaged in corrupt and sinister practices. With the aid of the CIA, they have been buying off army officers and employing gunmen on a wide scale to harass and, in many cases, kill PNP activists and militant workers.

As the advert reproduced above shows, they are working overtime to spread fear. The usual guff about 'Law and Order' and the menace of zCommunism is let loose, of course.

These events led two weeks ago to the formation of a united front involving 20 left-wing groups including several PNP groups and all the revolutionary groups in Jamaica.

Failure

The members of the united front agree that whatever the deficiencies of the Manley government (the Industrial Relations Act, the Gun Court, the failure to expropriate fully the bauxite industry) it must be defended at all costs.

The Revolutionary Marxist Group, the organisation to which SW and IS are closest, explained the situation in one of their leaflets:

'In no way does Manley represent the real interest of the working class and the oppressed. But if Manley is killed then it is us, the workers and the oppressed, who are next.'

Workers and socialists in Britain must watch the situation in Jamaica carefully in the next few months.

We must not let Jamaica become another Chile.

ANGOLA: U.S. BLOOD MONEY POURS IN

HARD INFORMATION on American involvement with stooge liberation organisations in Angola is now beginning to leak out.

According to various American newspapers last weekend, the White House has set aside funds totalling 50 million dollars for 'covert interventions' in Angola. This figure includes 25 million dollars already sent with another identical instalment to follow.

The New York Times reports that the first significant move by the White House was made in the spring with an authorisation of £300,000 in arms and aid to Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA. Further, the top-level Forty

Committee resolved to send more millions of dollars in aid to both UNITA and the FNLA, the organisation led by Holden Roberto. The New York Times also discloses that the CIA has been funding and assisting FNLA for more than ten years.

According to the 6 December issue of the Johannesburg Star newspaper, America is even more directly involved. Quoting UNITA and FNLA sources, the Star reports that scores of American mercenaries are fighting with these organisations.

The highly-paid killers are recruited through a US Special Services officer who is, in all probability, acting on the direct instructions of the White House.

International Socialism 84

REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS TODAY

AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
A DEBATE

Plus: Marxist economics, Notes of the Month

Available, price 30p (inc postage) from ISJ, 8 Cottons, Gardens, London E2

After 1917: Why Stalinism?

'ASSUMING Stalinism hadn't occurred,' writes Nadeem Qayyum, 'why could it not have been possible to make a true socialist state in Russia, as it is so vast that it can be said to be like a world in itself?'

This raises a whole set of problems. What do we mean by Stalinism? Stalin's personal dictatorship and the 'cult of the personality' denounced by Khrushchev in 1956? Or a political tendency represented by the Communist Parties outside the so-called 'socialist states'? Or the bureaucratic dictatorships that rule these states today?

The word has been used to describe all these things. It may be useful to start the discussion with the first meaning—Stalin's dictatorship.



First some facts, as given by Stalin's successor as general secretary of the Russian Communist Party, Nikita Khrushchev at the twentieth Party

Congress in 1956.

'Stalin acted not through persuasion, explanation and patient cooperation with people but by imposing his concepts and demanding absolute submission to his opinion. Whoever opposed was doomed to removal from the leading collective and to subsequent moral and physical annihilation . . .

98 shot

'Of the 139 members and candidates of the Party's Central Committee who were elected at the 17th Party Congress in 1934, 98 persons, 70 per cent, were arrested and shot, mostly in 1937-1938 . . .

'The same fate met not only central com-

mittee members but also the majority of the delegates to the 17th Party Congress. Of the 1966 delegates with either voting or advisory rights, 1108 were arrested on charges of counter-revolutionary crimes, decidedly more than a majority . . .

'Thus Stalin sanctioned the most brutal violation of socialist legality, torture and oppression, which led, as we have seen, to the slandering and self-accusation of innocent people.'

But how was all this possible? According to Khrushchev's explanation, all was well until about 1934, when the wicked Joseph Stalin started to have his comrades murdered or sent to labour camps and made himself into a new Tsar.

This is a fairy tale for children. The dictatorship of the bureaucracy over the working class and the peasants had been established years earlier. Labour camps on a mass scale date from 1928-29, the beginning of the forced collectivisation of agriculture. The despotic rule of a handful of top leaders over the party and the state was older still.

How had it come about, how had the working class lost power? The fact is that the working class that made the revolutions of 1917 was dispersed and largely swallowed up again by the peasantry—and to some extent by the new state machine—by the ruin of the Russian economy by civil war, allied blockade and armed intervention.

Small

E H Carr, in his book *The Bolshevik Revolution* gives these facts. By 1919 Russian industry was reduced to 10 per cent of its normal fuel supply. In 1920, four-fifths of the railway system was out of action. By the end of the year, industrial output had fallen to one-eighth of the pre-war level of 1913.

Now the Russian working class had been small to start with—around five million. Four-fifths of the population were peasants and their families. With the catastrophic drop in output, workers went back to the countryside. Moscow lost 57 per cent of its population during the civil war! By 1921, the working class was down to one million, was exhausted and was incapable of imposing its collective will on a huge, ruined country.

A bureaucracy necessarily took its place, ruling in the name of the working class, but, as time went on, increasingly aware of its own separate interests. Stalin was its leader and, in the end, its master. But Stalinism—the personal dictatorship—was the consequence, not the cause of bureaucratic rule.

Size

The vastness of Russia was not decisive in all this. The size of the working class and the productivity of labour—especially low in agriculture—were insufficient to allow democratic, working-class rule in an isolated Russia, however big.

As Lenin said in 1918: 'We have only just taken the first step towards shaking off capitalism and beginning the transition to socialism. We have never cherished the hope that we could make the transition without the aid of the international proletariat. We never had any illusions on that score . . . The final victory of socialism in a single country is, of course, impossible.'

The isolation of the Russian revolution, together with the numerical weakness of the Russian working class, threw it back. Stalinism was the product of the reaction.

UPPER CLASS CROOK

FIFTH COLUMN'S 'Bad Luck of the Year' award goes this year to a 37-year-old pillar of farming, racing, cricketing and social circles in Rye, Sussex. He is Peter 'The Masked Marauder' Mathews.

On 6 December this unfortunate man copped a 5-year sentence for kidnapping the Viscountess Devonport.

Mathews had been engaged in various criminal activities over the

years and had always, as they say in the trade, 'got clean away'. He fully expected to do the same with the Devonport operation.

As the Daily Telegraph put it: 'Mathews was confident he would not be caught. He thought his local standing would put him above suspicion.'

Bad luck, Peter, it usually works. You can write to Peter at The Hilton Model Prison, Chipping Sodbury.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



AVIS Rent-a-God

AT Christmas time members of the upper classes need re-assurance. That's why they buy the Daily Telegraph Magazine. And that's why last week the Daily Telegraph Magazine carried an article on Jesus by the dreaded Malcolm Muggeridge.

In this the immensely wealthy Muggeridge once again denounces materialism. It's entirely appropriate that his three pages of pontificating are punctuated by adverts for Avis Rent-A-Car, Hennessy Cognac, and 'Dry Dubonnet'. Read with a glass in each hand the article makes you feel fit and well for yet another year of standing up to the unions.

Ross's lunch with the Front

FOLLOWING the deplorable murder of Ross McWhirter last month came the equally deplorable press reaction. To their own satisfaction, the press painted him as a simple, courageous, fighter for individual freedom, whose only crime was to speak his mind.

In the process of canonisation the crucial aspects of McWhirter's activities were simply ignored—the strike-breaking schemes and extremely dubious organisations that he was mixed up in.

One man with particular reason to mourn the untimely death was Kingsley Read, the 'flog them till the flesh hangs off their backs' racist who is chairman of the National Front—he'd just been invited to lunch at McWhirter's expense to discuss 'future joint endeavours . . .'



My money lies over the ocean...

MORE money was invested overseas by British bosses in the first six months of this year than in the whole of last year. This led the top Confederation of British Industry songsmith Jim Slater to compose the following song, sung to the tune of My Bonny Lies over the Ocean.

My money lies over the ocean
My money lies over the sea,
I've sunk it in foreign investment,
It brings back more money to me.

CHORUS:

Brings back, brings back
It brings back more money to me
Brings back, brings back
Much higher profits to me.

In Britain the workers are greedy,
All grasping for more than their share,
They don't give a damn for the country,
So I've shipped all my money elsewhere.

Chrysler and Ford are in trouble,
Leyland is down on its knees,
But I am too busy to help them,
Cos I'm helping myself overseas.

I've bought a hotel in old Malta,
And shares in South African gold,
I've large amounts tied up in Chile,
It all helps to keep out the cold.

My returns they keep on returning,
From my interests over the seas,
So balls to the national interest,
My only interest is me.

Susanna Steel and Mike Rosen.

WITHOUT COMMENT

THERE are moments when I feel that Her Majesty's Opposition is conducted solely by Lord Goodman, solicitor extraordinary. This impression is marred only by the thought that much of Her Majesty's Government seems to be conducted by the same ample figure.

Daily Telegraph city editor quoted in the Financial Times Lombard Column, 12 December.

'We want to turn our workers into Germans or Japanese'—Russian official quoted in The Guardian last week, discussing the possibility of 'creating' unemployment in Russia.

A giveaway?

DOES your loved one earn more than £20,000 a year? Is the Irreversible March of Equality getting them down? Are the Inland Revenue still trying to collect last year's tax? Socialist Worker has the answer. Get him/her a last minute Christmas present. Try one of these items and make this Christmas even better than last.

FOR SALE TAX LOSS COMPANY

actively trading with losses in securities and commodities in excess of £200,000.
Please write Box E.6650, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P.4BY.

—Financial Times, 5 December

TAX FREE

CAYMAN ISLANDS, B.W.I.

Lovely home behind reef and surrounded by coconut palms on Cayman Brac. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Rec. Rooms, Pool, Tennis Court. All fully furnished, complete with cars and motor cycles. 600ft. sandy beach.

FREEHOLD \$325,000.

Write Box T.4236, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

—Financial Times, 29 November



'Just flicking through the pages, with their old photographs and the details of the women's movement in the past alongside today's dates, it is perfectly clear that women have had to fight every inch of the way, even among our own ranks. That's what I like about the diary. The very past and the present overlap so that we can see our own struggles are not just isolated incidents.'

Bernie Dunn, in *Women's Voice*.

Big Red Dairy, £1 post free from Pluto Press, with a special discount for bulk orders. Pluto Press, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1. Also available from all IS bookshops.

Why the car firms are in a mess

SOME of the machinery in Chrysler's Stoke plant in Coventry was in use in 1943.

But no national newspaper tells you that some Chrysler workers have to make do with antiquated equipment.

Instead there is a barrage of abuse and denunciation about 'greedy and stupid' carworkers who, by constantly striking for more money, have driven Chrysler and British Leyland into the ground.

Such attacks cover up for those really responsible for the chaos of the British car industry, for the threat to the jobs of tens of thousands of workers.

According to the Ryder Report, car firms across the world replace all machinery on average every eight to 12 years. In Britain, more than half the equipment is more than 15 years old.

In the Chrysler Stoke plant just 52 machines for the Arrow range are under eight years old. 287 are between eight and 13 years old, 1150 are between 14 and 23 years old, 259 are between 24 and 33 years old, and 51 machines are more than 33 years old.

The value of the equipment available to each Chrysler UK worker is lower than at any other car firm in Europe, except for Vauxhall and British Leyland. The argument that foreign carworkers work harder is a lie. They simply have far better equipment.

'Work harder'

In Italy, British Leyland have told workers in their subsidiary Innocenti that they don't work hard enough and will have to be sacked. Yet in this country, Leyland tell British carworkers that European carworkers work three times as hard...

Three weeks ago, the director of the British Leyland Cowley north works, Mr Des North, told workers that production was too low. He said 'work harder or be sent home'.

A few days later, a joint management-union report on the plant was published, despite management efforts to suppress it. The key problem was 'materials of poor quality or unsatisfactory design' supplied to the workers to produce the cars. Track layout was also 'a very acute problem'.

Far from the workers being responsible, the report said that numerous complaints by production workers about the materials were ignored.

The enormous loss in production each year has little to do with the strike-mad workforce the Daily Express and The Sun talk about.

Lost

In 1969, according to a government survey, half of the production lost was caused by breakdowns of equipment, supply difficulties, repairs and maintenance.

That is, half of production lost was management's fault and had nothing to do with the workers.

In 1974, the wages of Chrysler workers were lower than those of any other group of carworkers in Europe. So much for the greedy, powerful unions forcing the car manufacturers out of business.

But incompetence is not the only explanation of Chrysler's crisis. As a report prepared by workers in the Chrysler Whitley Research Department shows, Chrysler have for five years been deliberately running down their British operations.

In 1974, Chrysler invested in Britain, in new machinery and equipment, £15 for each worker. At Ford, the figure was £430. Even at British Leyland it was £258.

Lowest

Chrysler have concentrated on putting resources in Europe into their French subsidiary, Simca, where there is a company union, controlled by armed thugs.

In 1972, Chrysler in Britain had the lowest fixed assets per worker of any Chrysler subsidiary—£1550 compared to £2274 in France and £3377 in the United States.

By 1974, this had become France £3400, UK £1600.

In 25 years, vast profits have been made in the British car industry... and, just as surely, scooped off, leaving the plants with old and inadequate machinery.

A recent House of Commons report concluded that 'insufficient investment' was the major cause of low productivity in Britain's car factories.

Yet the giant firms, the press and the Labour government are turning on the workers and trying to blame them.

So much for those 'low profits'

THE LOW level of investment by the car firms certainly hasn't been a result of low profits. British Leyland have distributed their profits, made out of the sweat and effort of the workers, to the shareholders.

THIS IS WHY LEYLAND'S IN A MESS

1968-1974
Pre-tax profits £200,147,000
Paid out in divs £60,883,000
Paid out in interest to persons £38,332,000

Paid out in interest to banks £118,699,000

Retained profits for investment £14,090,000

And in case you think the shareholders worked for all that loot, remember that before the Ryder Report, Leyland shares were worth 6p each. Now the government is offering 10p a share—a 66 per cent profit for doing nothing.

Not contented, a number of Leyland shareholders have set up an organisation to demand more.

THE CAR INDUSTRY is facing its gravest crisis. The Labour government says its choice over Chrysler is between either handing over up to £180 million AND sacking a third of the labour force, or sacking the whole labour force.

In Leyland, there are threats that there will be no public money until workers accept a virtual ban on strikes and agree

to 'voluntary' redundancies. To press the point home, investment has been stopped for four months, increasing unemployment in the machine tool and construction industries.

In every car factory, management are telling the workers that the only way to save jobs is to work harder, so that unemployment is borne by workers in

other factories. Some convenors and senior stewards accepted this, and are arguing, not in defence of all jobs, but for grabbing the few jobs that remain for one lot of workers rather than another.

Yet the crisis in Britain's biggest industry is not the fault of the workers. And no amount of 'sacrifice' by the workers is going to solve it.



Chrysler Stoke: some of the machinery is decades out of date

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

SO WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

THE GOVERNMENT and the press are claiming that too many workers are producing too many cars.

Only when the problem of over-production is ended, they say, will the problems be solved. The government's secret 'Think Tank' report says there is room for two, or at most three, car firms and the rest will have to go.

But there are millions of workers throughout Britain and the rest of the world who would like a car if only they could afford one. Among them are many carworkers themselves. They have been unable to afford cars over the

last year because of lay-offs and redundancies.

And there are a vast number of other desperately needed things that the car factories could be used to produce. Linwood used to produce panels for railway trains, in the days before Tory and Labour governments decided to cut down on public transport.

The half million disabled people in this country have been told 'the country can't afford' to give them a car. Instead they have to make do with the trikes which everyone admits are dangerous. The workers who could produce the cars for the disabled are being put on the

dole queue. The millions that could be used to reorganise the industry and the manufacturing capacity along rational lines are being offered to multinational gangsters like J J Riccardo, without even preserving many of the jobs.

RIVAL

This Labour government believes as firmly as its Tory predecessor in 'competition' between rival giant firms as a way of satisfying people's needs. Yet it has been this system that has produced the present crisis.

In the 1950s and 1960s successive governments encouraged the fantastic growth of the road network and of private cars. Public transport was cut back and back. Firms like Chrysler and Ford were subsidised so as to open up in depressed regions in Scotland and Merseyside.

Now the workers who were pulled into the car industry at that time are being threatened with the sack. 'Competition' is disappearing as defenders of 'free enterprise' insist that there is only room for two, or at the most three, car firms.

The giants will only stay in business if the government gives them still bigger bribes to employ still fewer workers.

The fewer workers, of course, will be able to buy still fewer goods, so that

RAISE FUNDS WHERE YOU WORK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

In aid of the 'Right to Work' campaign and unemployed workers
5p £1

PRESTON	FURMAN	STIRLING	DERBY	HUGRY
GLASGOW	WATFORD	LEEDS	ARSENAL	STOKE
YORK	LEYTON	WOLFRAM	CHELSEA	MANCHESTER
BRISTOL	WOLFRAM	EXETER	NOTTINGHAM	MIRA
MORTON	ELTIC	WOLFRAM	EMERSON	CHRYSLER
MANCHESTER	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM
WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM
WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM
WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM
WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM	WOLFRAM

Everyone who supports the Right to Work Campaign can raise money by taking a football card around your workmates each week.

Raise £1 a week— cards on request from local committees or directly from: Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

A stewards' report on Portugal

A STRONG delegation arranged by the Rank and File Organising Committee visited Portugal last week. It included two convenors, two secretaries of shop stewards' committees, and four shop stewards, who spent five full days in Lisbon, though two of these were holidays.

Despite the short-time working and the repression following the 25 November events, the delegation of 12 visited a wide cross-section of Portuguese workers' commissions and tenants' co-operatives.

Among the firms visited were Plesseys, the Pimenta building company, the hospital at Barreiro, the Luar Clinic, Omis—a subsidiary of Metal Box, the two big shipyards at Setenave and Lisnave, Manuel Lopes Henriques textiles, Luso Italiano engineering, the large state brewery and the newspaper Republica. The delegation also had talks with civil service union representatives at the Ministry of Information and with three tenants' commissions in Lisbon.



The delegation returned in a mood of excitement and determination: excitement at the strength and confidence of the working class in Portugal, determination to do all in their power to support the workers against the attacks mounted against them.

Every day there is a new story of repression. At least 200 officers, including the entire staff of COP-CON, the former controlling body of the army, are in prison in the north. They are denied visits or contact with their relatives.

At the same time there have been attacks on farming cooperatives by troops looking for weapons. Farm workers have been bullied and humiliated. There have been several



By the great dock at the Setenave shipyard near Setubal, members of the Rank and File delegation chat to Manuel Gomes of the workers' commission there. Left to right: John Dyson (ASTMS convenor, St James Hospital, Leeds), Mike Duggan (CPSA branch secretary), Roger Cox (secretary of Rank and File Organising Committee), Tommy Ewing (a shopworker from Liverpool), Manuel Gomes, John Murphy (secretary, Birmingham Right to Work Committee), Mike Norman (shop stewards' committee secretary, Brooke Marine, Lowestoft), Paul Gillespie (an NUJ member from Dublin) and Appleby (organiser for the Rank and File Movement).

arrests of South American and German workers in these farms, and in some cases these have been followed by deportations.

The editors of most Lisbon daily newspapers have been sacked and replaced with puppets of the government. At the same time, Melo Antunes, spokesman for the Revolutionary Council, has launched

a campaign denouncing 'foreigners who come here and subsidise health clinics and farm occupations'.



But the repression has not yet touched the workers' movement. Few, if any, workers' leaders have been arrested. The delegation felt that a

right-wing offensive was in the air. They were delighted at the confidence of the workers in their ability to

The delegation also had discussions with leading members of the revolutionary socialist movement. They were impressed by the seriousness and vigour of the workers. They are building a new socialist party.

THE OLD WOMAN SELLING REPUBLICA

UNEMPLOYED worker John Murphy, secretary of the Birmingham Right to Work Committee:

In Armada we talked to a very old woman who was selling the newspaper Republica on the street. We asked her why she sold Republica. She said she would sell only Republica because the other papers don't represent the workers' interests. Almost all the people around her were reading Republica.

In the Republica office we saw the state of the printing works, which was archaic. Everything was very old.

The journalists explained to us

that this is what the social democratic owner had left to the paper.

They said that this was what social democracy meant. Social democrats spent a lot on themselves but nothing to improve workers' conditions or machinery.

They also have a problem with newsprint, since the government has a monopoly contract which allowed them to decide which papers would get newsprint. The workers have got round this by approaching German printworkers, who have promised to supply paper direct if the Portuguese government stops the supply.



Papers come off the presses at Republica.

by Jack Robertson, AUEW shop steward, Massey Ferguson, Manchester.

IN Lisbon the newspaper Republica is a symbol of the most advanced section of workers, tenants and soldiers, who fought to rid themselves of their bosses, landlords and officers. The workers at Republica fought a long battle to prevent being sacked by the editor and chief shareholder Paul Rego. He is a leader of the Socialist Party and was Minister of Information during the Spínola regime, when he suspended production of the paper and

imposed fines on it.

The workers won and Rego himself was sacked. I bought Republica every day I was in Lisbon in September. Republica is not an easy paper to read.

Not only because I don't understand a word of Portuguese, but also because the articles are extremely long, the print is small, there are few pictures, no football, no racing page and no nude on page 3. It has headlines like 'The ideal political position of the IPC workers.'

Nevertheless, Republica is a popular paper. You'll

find workers of all ages reading it in the cafes, on the buses and on the ferry. Reading it line by line, column by column.

Recently an English version of Republica has appeared. It can help to get across to workers here some idea of what Portuguese workers have won and what they are still fighting for. What is more, the 25p you pay for it will help keep Republica going.

Copies available from IS Books or from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2, for 33p, inc post

Villa

CAROL DOURA
Printworkers'
Dickensons, Mer

I talked to a girl who ran a creche for mothers, and for many a lot of children. They up last April after she approached the mill pointed out an empty room explained that the children of school age and only five per cent. Many children only for two hours a day.

OIL:W

FRED GREEN,
steward, Shell Co

We visited two workers' commissions, the nationalised one which has more than 100 members. They were in charge of firing—really all the problems—but are being plagued by what 'capitalist parasites' distribution.

Port

IF THERE'S THE NEED, IT'S DONE

BRIAN PARKIN, TASS representative at Souza, Leeds:

The most impressive example of what workers can achieve came out in a visit we made to a small clinic near the Lisnave shipyard. The clinic had been built after the seizure of an enormous palatial house which had belonged to an official of the Angolan Foreign Office.

They set this clinic up in a matter of months. All the electrical, joinery and building work was done in their spare time by workers in the Lisnave shipyard.

These workers have shown that we can start to build the foundations of a socialist society. The power of their ideas is fantastic.

The clinic's been open since July. So far they've had 5,900 treatments there, and more than 10,000 consultations. Workers have also provided schools in the area and supported a building project in which they hope to house many of the poor people who live around the shipyard.

These are examples of the imagination and confidence of workers. It also points to the inadequacy of the Sixth Provisional Government in providing any kind of social base for alleviating these economic miseries.

The workers have no illusions in the government. If the government doesn't provide these things, then the workers are going to do it for themselves.

I managed to get the address of a workers' commission in Oporto of a factory which is part of the same combine as my firm in Leeds. I'll be writing to them and hope to start contact and joint visits between them and British workers



Vital Portela, of the workers' commission at Setubal, talking to Mike Norman, a shipyard shop steward from Lowestoft. Notice, on Vital's boiler suit, the stickers for Radio Renascenca, and Republica—not to mention the Rank and File 'Fight for the Right to Work' badge.

The missing ships

MIKE NORMAN, secretary of shop stewards' committee, Brooke Marine shipyard, Lowestoft:

The workers' commission at the Lisnave shipyard impressed me a lot. They were very serious about what they were doing and had worked out carefully what functions they should have. They refused to have too much to do with management matters while the capitalist ownership still prevails, but they took a lot of interest in community problems—housing cooperatives, hospital building and so on. They also had detailed knowledge of the yard's order book, and pointed out to me that orders from Britain had dropped sharply.

In 1974 they had 30 British ships go in there. In 1975 only 18.

Speaking in general, I think the thing which hits you most almost wherever you go, is the tremendous inspiration and determination of the working class when they get the chance to do things for themselves.

I'll be taking all this back to my yard, and hope to get discussions going on the shop floor and in my union branch so that we in Britain don't forget what's going on in Portugal.

This is workers' control

LINDSAY GREIG, TGWU shop steward at a transport firm in Hersham, Surrey.

In a brewery which we visited one department was going to be shut down by the management. The workers' commission decided that there was overproduction in that area, but that the plant could be switched to a new product which was needed—I think it was soft drinks.

This sophistication, this direct way of solving things, is the first thing that strikes you when talking to Portuguese workers.

Again, we went to a meeting of

the Consumption Commission in Setubal. The commission was set up to buy food from the farmers' co-operatives in the area and sell it at cost price to the workers of Setubal. Simply and directly, they were applying themselves to solving two lots of problems at the same time.

Everyone is clear that however much control they've got in individual factories or areas, they still haven't got the control necessary to direct enough resources to solve the workers' problems. Many spoke openly about the need for a socialist society.

Political discussion was so natural, that was the thing.

Before coming out here I'd seen the events of 25 November as an attempted coup by the left and a tremendous defeat for the working class. Coming out here, I know now that it wasn't an attempted coup, and the working class have only lost a battle.

advised people on abortion.

Well, Marie went down to the church the next Sunday and demanded that she speak from the pulpit.

The priest refused at first, obviously, but then she said she would leaflet the community on the rumours that were going round about him and the housemaid. With that he immediately changed his mind.

So she gave a talk on education in the community. She said that now they were trying to change society, that had to provide facilities for children, give them proper education. She also spoke about the need to change attitudes about abortion and contraception in a backward country.

Well, after Marie had spoken in the church she called for a collection for the creche and raised 800 escudos!

That's typical of the spirit of these workers: everywhere we went we were amazed at their organising ability in the factories and in communities. It just shows you when it starts to happen just how much our class has got: it gives you a lot of confidence.

NOT GUILTY!

HIGH COURT judge Neil McKinnon certainly knew what the recent trial of the 14 pacifists accused of conspiring to cause disaffection in the army was all about. Which is perhaps not surprising. He is a former squadron leader in the RAF and now as a judge he is pursuing a career in another division of Her Majesty's forces.

McKinnon said during the long trial: 'What no one seems to understand is that soldiers are not just ordinary subjects of the Crown. They are the instruments of the Crown by which a government may give effect its policies in particular circumstances.'

His Honour didn't just have Ireland on his mind. He made inordinate attempts to stop the Irish question being raised by the defence, which proves just how central Ireland was to his calculations.

But doubtless he was thinking of other instances, such as the use of troops to break recent strikes in Glasgow—and possible future interventions.

After all, that was why the trial was brought—doubtless at the request of the top army authorities, elected by no one and answerable to no one, and who most certainly intend to stay that way.

They are gravely concerned at the possibility of a collapse of morale in the armed forces. What's more, they are simply appalled that others outside the army should be in any position to make contact with the disaffected and help organise for democracy in the armed forces.

FEAR

That's why they compelled Labour's Attorney General, Sam Silkin, to bring this £200,000 prosecution. That's why this week, now that a splendid London jury has acquitted every one of the defendants, the colonels and the generals are more worried still.

They fear any contact between civilian organisation and serving members of the armed forces, which is why they moved against the 14 pacifists.

As Times correspondent David Leigh put it the day after the verdict was announced: 'The Crown took the view in court that the army employed a group of people who, like the insane and the criminal, could not have full civil rights for fear that they would catch, like a disease, the wrong ideas.'

But there's something the captains and the kings fear even more than this—organisation.

The same Times article says: 'The open ethical nature of the campaigners' pacifism seems to have posed little real threat to soldiers' loyalty. British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign supporters never advised disgruntled soldiers to stay in the army and undermine it ...'

Trial verdict is step forward for soldiers' rights

During the trial the judge provided a revealing insight into law and order. He insisted that there was no right to free speech, but only a right to speak freely—a distinction on which he must have worked overtime and which doubtless could be used to mean anything his friends in the establishment wanted it to mean.

He also showed disquiet about the soldiers brought to give prosecution evidence against the 14. In the main their evidence was extremely effective for the defence.

SOLDIER

One of the prosecution witnesses, in fact, had scarcely finished giving evidence for the Crown when he volunteered to go back on the stand and give evidence for the defence. A summary of what the young soldier would say was given to the judge. He predictably ruled that the evidence, while admissible for the prosecution, was not admissible for the defence.

What underscored the whole operation was fear, shock and horror at the very idea that ordinary people could even communicate with serving soldiers.

With the situation in Portugal and the fast-spreading rank and file movement in the French army it is easy to understand just why.

OUTING

In France what appears to have tipped the balance towards organisation and soldiers' committees was a factory occupation. Soldiers barracked at Besancon during the occupation of the LIP watch factory were deeply influenced by events there and formed a committee with the help of trade unionists involved in the struggle.

The trial was another outing—this time under a Labour government—for the infamous conspiracy charge, which is usually a free gift to the prosecution. This is an added reason for celebrating the victory of the BWNIC 14.

But that the trial took place at all and that there are other civil liberty trials in the offing means that our movement cannot relax.

This Labour government believes totally in using the law and order machine which men of property and wealth have so carefully built up over the decades. That means there will be more books seized, more attempts to hunt down dissidents and more attacks on the workers' movement.

mission the Rank Work Ken

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that became a creche

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WORKERS DECIDE

TGWU shop rington:

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HANDS OFF PORTUGAL CAMPAIGN



HANDS OFF PORTUGAL

This new pamphlet, written by Jack Robertson, AUEW steward at Massey Ferguson, Manchester, and Roger Kline, TGWU steward at Massey Ferguson, Coventry, for workers in Britain, traces the development of the workers' movement in Portugal over the past 17 months. It has a vital section on solidarity work, packed full of ideas on how you can support the struggle for workers' power in Portugal.

10p a copy (plus 6½p postage)—or 12 copies for £1 post free

A slide and tape show is now completed for use in the campaign. It lasts 30 minutes, including 200 slides from Portugal, many from inside workers' controlled factories, recordings made in Lisbon on May Day, and Portuguese revolutionary songs. It is ideal for starting off solidarity meetings.

Contact the Rank and File Organising Committee for details. Another delegation of shop stewards and other trade union representatives will be going to Portugal in February. Details from

Rank and File organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

UNEMPLOYMENT:

INTRODUCING the session on the fight against unemployment. JOHN DEASON called for the maximum support from IS for the National Right to Work Campaign.

'Unemployment is not just workplace survival,' he said. 'We have to fight to link the activity of the unemployed with the strength and industrial power of those in work.'

'We shouldn't be afraid of being unofficial. Everyone, the most right wing trade union official, is against unemployment. All over the country everyone is holding conferences against it. But the results of these conferences are almost nothing.'

No factory occupation ever took place as a result of people waiting for procedures to be gone through. A great deal could be learnt from what had happened at Woodheads in Ossett. The stewards kept waiting and waiting for a clear majority. If they had just taken action they would have got the majority and saved the jobs.

START ACTIONS

Action by unemployed workers could force the pace inside the workplaces. Pickets of unemployed outside a factory against excessive overtime working, like the one at Thames Barrier, made the arguments for the militants inside much easier.

'We have to call for and start actions.' Others were just talking. This meant us getting things going. There was no possibility of waiting for the official machine to move. 'It only moves if it's pushed.'

MURRAY ARMSTRONG said this was particularly true of a town like Coventry. It was strongly unionised. But the Chrysler shop stewards' committees were not fighting. 'We can't build a rank and file fight for the right to work by

'WE MUST GIVE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN OUR MAXIMUM SUPPORT'

waiting for the official machine to occupy Chrysler in Coventry. There'll be no occupation if the rank and file doesn't get on and do it. The official machine wouldn't move. The shop stewards' committee at Ryton wouldn't act.

In the motor industry, a number of senior convenors had now been integrated into the other side. 'It's the participation merchants who will lead the next round of the attack on the shop floor.'

In Glasgow, said JOHN GLEN, none of the big battalions were fighting. On the same day as a meeting of 1000 shop stewards, a group of unemployed workers occupied the local jobs centre and had a bigger impact. It showed there is something other than meetings.

From South East London, TED PARKER explained how local IS trade unionists had got support for the Right to Work meeting. It had taken six weeks. But ten trade union bodies had agreed to sponsor the meeting, including four shop stewards' committees.

But it was more than just working for support for the meeting. 'Every redundancy in the area we've been down there outside, arguing. The Right to Work Campaign is offering help to any group of trade unionists that wants to fight. And we've been down on every dole queue.'

A local Right to Work Committee had now been established with unemployed workers on it and delegates from shop stewards' committees and branches. Prominent local trade unionists were actively involved. On 26 November they had brought a coach load of unemployed workers to the demonstration, supported by the Trades Council.

BOBBY BUIRDS from Manchester explained how he had gone round factories and work places asking for money for unemployed workers to go on the 26 November lobby. 'The official unions weren't prepared to do anything, so I went to the factories.'

'I went down to the Manchester docks and asked them to black the products from any factory fighting redundancy. And they said "we'll support anyone". And they gave money to the campaign.' This activity had helped establish the Right to Work Committee in Manchester.

STUDENTS

LINDSEY GERMAN, IS student organiser, said supporters of NOISS, the organisation of IS students, fought at the NUS Conference to get Chrysler shop steward Willie Lee to speak on the right to work. He got a standing ovation and collected more than £260.

But this was only possible because of the base built by our student members in the colleges. It was vital that students were not just turned into fodder for selling Socialist Worker on the dole queues. They had their own role to play in the colleges in the campaign for the right to work, and on issues such as Portugal and Angola.

TOMMY DOURASS from Merseyside said: 'We have to create our own pool, create a broader movement. Everyone else was giving way under pressure. The Right to Work Campaign could sew the seeds for the creation of a real mass rank and file movement.'

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post Monday before publication. Adverts will NOT be accepted by phone. Send to What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Socialist Worker meetings

SOUTHWARK SW public meeting: The Multinational Corporations. Speaker to be announced. Wednesday 17 December, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhithe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

URMSTON Socialist Worker readers have regular discussions on Thursdays, 8pm, at the Nags Head. All welcome, but please check with your regular seller in case of cancellations.

TEESSIDE SW Public Meeting: Unemployment and the Labour government. Speaker: Paul Foot. Friday 16 January, 8pm. AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough. Employed 10p, unemployed free. All welcome.

CANTERBURY and district: Any SW readers and supporters in Canterbury and the surrounding area who would like to get in touch with active supporters in Canterbury please write to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

MAIDENHEAD SE discussion meetings every Thursday at 8pm. All welcome. Details from SW sellers or by phoning Maidenhead 24102.

EAST LONDON SW series of six fortnightly lectures on the Meaning of Marxism. Starting: Friday 9 January, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15.

Friday 9 January: What is Marxism? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

Friday 23 January: What are the causes of the present economic crisis? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

Friday 6 February: Is there a parliamentary road to workers' power? Speaker: Ian Birchall.

Friday 20 February: The Revolutionary Socialist Alternative. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

Friday 5 March: What is Imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris.

Friday 19 March: What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff.

Socialist Worker events

SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION: 60-minute cassette includes Grandola Vila Morena, the song played over Lisbon Radio as signal for the 25 April coup. Alerta!, a song often heard on Lisbon demonstrations, and songs about the tenants' struggle and the African liberation movements. £1.60, including postage, from Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Proceeds to the SW Portugal Solidarity Fund.

FLAME Grand New Year Social: Come, listen and dance to the cream of Afro Jazz played by London-based South African group, Jabula Spear. Saturday 3 January, YMCA, Tottenham Lane, Hornsey, North London, 7pm-11.30pm. Bar and Afro food. (Wood Green, Turnpike Lane, Finsbury Park tubes. Buses 41, W7, W2, W3.) Admission £1. Come one, come all.

WANTED: Trade union and socialist badges. All types required. Send badge or details to: T Allcott, 106 Knighton Fields Road West, Leicester. Donation to Socialist Worker for every badge received.

NORTH HERTS Big Red Xmas Party: Friday 19 December, 8pm. Rock group. Folk music. Disco. Full bar till midnight. Tickets 75p (£1 at door). Youth Wing, Hitchin College, Hitchin. Phone Bedford 854693 or Hitchin 52975.

ASHTON Socialist Worker Social: Bar and entertainment. Friday 19 December, 8pm, Halfway House, Whiteacre Road, Ashton-under-Lyne. Admission 40p.

S E LONDON IS Christmas Social: Friday 19 December, 8pm, Thames Poly, Woolwich. Five mins Woolwich Arsenal station. Disco, bar extension, 50p (unemployed half price).

NOISS

STUDENTS: Posters headed 'International Socialists Society' in red available by return from J Cox, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12. Size 25in x 18 in. Cost £2.50 per 100 including postage. Minimum order 100 posters. Cash with orders only.

IS notices

WITNESSES of the arrest of Terry Povey at the Chelsea Town Hall anti-National Front picket required immediately. Phone 01-609 1260.

WOMEN'S VOICE Christmas postcards: 3p each, 15p for a set of six. All with political nursery rhymes—drawn by Liz Mackie. Send money with orders to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Third issue of FLAME out this week. Send orders to 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6½p postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

WHERE CAN WE FIND A 16mm film projector and portable screen? The North West Agitprop Committee needs the use of the equipment for short periods of time so we can get crucial film showings organised. If you can help, please phone us at 061-881 5011.

IS Day School on SPAIN: Saturday 17 January, in Birmingham. All comrades interested in working on Spain welcome. All districts should send at least one comrade. Please send names to the International Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Agendas and other material will be sent. For place and times watch SW. Pooled fare system.

WE MUST HARNESS THE ANGER

'THE ARGUMENT about unemployment is fundamental in showing the real face of the Labour government,' said Duncan Hallas, introducing the discussion on political perspectives at last weekend's IS Party Council.

'We can expect high unemployment, at whatever exact figures, for the next 18 months.' This was part of the Labour government's general strategy.

They were aiming to increase profits so as to force an increase in investment, all at the expense of the working class.

This meant cutting pay through the £6 limit, it meant a permanent reduction in manning levels, and it meant cutting back the social wage, through public expenditure cuts,

RIGHT

'But,' he continued, 'this is not an easy time for revolutionaries. Whole parts of the left trade union bureaucracy, and the Communist Party leadership, had moved right under the pressure of a Labour government.'

'This is not a time when we can grow with the current. On the whole, we stand out against that current. But we can lay the basis for our future expansion.'

This meant establishing IS as the extreme and unbending hard opposition to the capitalist policies of this government. It means arguing that the £6 limit in itself increases unemployment.'

The argument about unemployment was central to our activity in the coming months. We were not arguing in complete isolation. 'There is a minority prepared to fight. Look at 26 November. The logic of events is that this minority will grow.'

In the discussion that followed, JIMMY

Backing for Right to Work march

DELEGATES voted overwhelmingly to support the call for a march from Manchester to London by unemployed workers.

The march, argued JOHN DEASON, was an essential part of building a national campaign. It meant the Right to Work Committee approaching thousands of trade union bodies and asking for specific help, whether it was sponsoring a marcher, helping to supply food and clothing, providing accommodation on the way down, or sending delegations for part of the march. It helped raise the question of unemployment throughout the movement.

ROGER KLINE from Coventry did not agree. The marches of the 1930s were the acts of workers who had suffered terrible defeats. He was not in general opposed to unofficial

PETER CLARK REPORTS FROM LAST WEEKEND'S I.S. PARTY COUNCIL

30's

Support North West TUC call

ALL OUT ON NOV 26th

March on Parliament Assemble Euston Station 10pm

JOB CENTRE

VACANCY: MUST ASSISTANT.
DISTRICT: MANCHESTER, 1.
BUSINESS: AT LEAST £3.50 PER SHIFT.
SALARY: £4.20 a.w. - 6 NIGHTS.
HOURS: 8.00 a.m. - 6 NIGHTS.

Job Centre vacancy—'at least £3.50 per shift'—side by side with the militant alternative: unemployment is part of Labour's strategy...

McCALLUM argued that the shift to the right could be seen in the failure of the Broad Left in any single union to lead any serious major battle in the last year.

'They have an electoral strategy, but they have no political strategy.' Many ordinary rank and file Communist Party members

looked to the recent Communist Party Congress for a lead—and 'they didn't get it.'

We have to approach, work with and argue with these rank and file Party militants. We had to work out an approach to them. In Glasgow it was because IS members had been hard and attacked the

policies of the CP but worked with the individuals that we had recruited CP members.

TONY CLIFF said it was necessary to be sharper in making clear the political disagreements. But 'we want common action on specifics at every level of work.' The Rank and File Organisation was the best place to make this possible.

'IS supports Rank and File. Our members put a great deal into it. We shouldn't be ashamed of this—we should be proud. We should say to CP members: 'We want you in Rank and File working in there as well.'

'We should say to Bert Ramelson—we are keeping a seat warm for you in Rank and File. There can be no hiding how much we put into it. We want the same contribution from the Communist Party, at every level of activity.'

in associations across the country and fight for support. The march forced out into the open the nature of the differences between now and the 1930s. We can win those in work to support the unemployed.

JIM NICHOL argued that supporting the Rank and File's Right to Work march would involve one hundred per cent of the IS membership. 'There is a gut reaction against unemployment, regardless of how low it is in your particular area. Support for the march can be raised throughout the movement, in every area.'

'We want black workers on it because they are among the worst hit by unemployment. We can raise support for them in every factory and area where there are black workers. We must do the same for women, but also for nurses, miners, carworkers and so on.'

SW LOTTERY

All stubs and money must reach 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 by Friday morning, 19 December. Don't rely on the post. Bring them yourself if necessary.

TAKE IT AS RED

Sweeper on the field... sweeper off

by PAUL O'FLINN

A SPANISH friend of mine wrote a bad-tempered article on soccer last month and headlined it: 'Football: The Opium of the People.'

You could understand his frustration. Five Basques had just been judicially murdered, the old sod himself was dying at last and Spanish fascism was in deep crisis.

Yet, for a while in the national capital, half the men seemed to be interested only that Real Madrid had wiped up Derby County 5-1 and so qualified for the quarter finals of the European Cup.

Soccer, it could be argued, is dope. It's one of capitalism's main entertainment industries, though that's sometimes hard to remember when you're standing on wet terraces in February and Peter Storey's kicking big bits off Bob Latchford as Everton and Arsenal struggle to score as many as 0-0.

Certainly the fortunes of soccer and capitalism in Britain have often run closely parallel. The game changed from being a kickabout pastime to an organised activity

with rules and governing body during which economists call the golden age of British capitalism, the 1850s and 1860s.

Its recent prosperity—abolition of the maximum wage in 1961, victory in the World Cup in 1966—coincided with the end of the post-war boom, and its present problems—declining attendances, Luton Town and others going bust—are obviously linked with the economic slump.

Property people

Like other capitalist industries, it treats its employers as scarcely human and totally expendable. Apprentices are dumped in droves and given no rights to day release while they're on the books.

Attitudes to the full extension of the player's capacities are perhaps best summed up in the immortal words of Billy Nicholson when manager of Spurs: 'I prefer players not to be too good or clever at other things. It means they concentrate on football.'

Capitalism trumpets its respect for the individual but under that sort of management the individual clearly can't develop.

George Best, for example, soon stopped being George Best and became George Best Enterprises, with a biography written by Michael Parkinson Enterprises and his name, his identity, sold to a company for £25,000.

Best's reaction was normal. First boredom, then muddled rebellion:

'I remember seeing that film Charlie Bubbles where Albert Finney sat in a conference and shut out all the sound from his ears so that he could see the mouths moving but he wasn't listening ...'

'I used to do it when I went to business conferences and they talked about "exploiting my commercial potential" and all that bollocks.'

'I used to fill my head with music and remember great games I'd played and nod occasionally. They'd think I was listening but I hadn't heard a word they'd said.'

Reading that, you get a glimpse of something important about football. It's a game, it's play, and as such it's the opposite of the sheer dreariness of most work.

Bolts

At its best it nourishes, in however diminished a way, the imagination and creativity and excitement that capitalism denies.

All over Britain there are kids in schools being told about blank verse techniques in Hamlet and there are kids in factories sticking flange nuts on plastic bolts.

But that's not what they're really doing. In their minds they're running on to a perfect through pass, slipping round a defender and flicking the ball into the top left-hand corner just past the teacher's/foreman's right ear, at least in the moment before they're told to stop daydreaming and get back to work.

Those dreams are important. They are part of a full humanity.

They shouldn't be dismissed as dope just because, like most pleasures from sex to poetry they're pinched by businessmen, diluted and sold back to us at nine guineas an ounce.

DOCK, WHARF, RIVERSIDE AND GENERAL LABOURERS' UNION

Of Great Britain and Ireland.
President: TOM MANN. Treasurer: F. N. CHARRINGTON, L.C.C. Gen. Sec.: BEN TILLET.
Registered Office: 93, MILE END ROAD, E.

Our Motto: "A Nation Made free by love, a mighty Brotherhood Linked by a jealous interchange of good."

VICTORIA & ALBERT DOCK DISTRICT.

A MASS MEETING

WILL TAKE PLACE ON Sunday, July 5th, 1891,

AT MORLEY'S CORNER, BARKING ROAD, AT 4 P.M.

When Addresses will be delivered by the following Friends of Labour, on the Benefits of Trades Unionism and Labour Representation:

PLATFORM No. 1

CHAIRMAN

BRO. TOM WATTS, D.L.U.

SPEAKERS

BEN TILLET, JOHN BURNS,

TOM MCCARTHY,

KEIR HARDIE, MR. RATCLIFF,

Labour Candidate North West Ham

Labourer D.L.U.

PLATFORM No. 2

CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLOR GEO. LAMBERT

Labour Candidate North West Ham D.L.U.

SPEAKERS

TOM MANN, J. H. WILSON,

W. THORNE, DR. JOHN MOIR.

Gen. Sec. of the Workers' Union

ON WHICH OCCASION THE

HANDSOME NEW SILK BANNER

Of the TIDAL BASIN No. 3 BRANCH will be unfurled by

JOHN BURNS and KEIR HARDIE.

A Grand Procession will start from the District Office, 225, Victoria Dock Road, at 2.30 p.m., and march through the principal Streets to Morley's Corner.

All Trade Unions are cordially invited.

COME IN YOUR THOUSANDS AND SUPPORT TRADE UNIONISM. ALL SHOULD READ THE "TRADE UNIONIST."

W. KRANC, Branch Secretary, TOM WATTS, Branch Chairman

GEO. REYNOLDS, 25, Stepney Green, London, E.



Early Labour leader George Lansbury in the East End— from the museum's photograph collection

TRY A SLICE OF WORKERS' HISTORY...

THIS poster, dating from the days after the winning of the dockers' tanner in 1891 gave a boost to trade unionism all over Britain, is one of the many posters, leaflets, photographs that make up the workers' history on display in East London.

They are all to be found at the National Museum of Labour History. 'It doesn't make sense to lock it up in universities,' the curator Terry McCarthy said. 'How many dockers would go and read about their grandfathers in the London School of Economics?'

It is well worth a visit, to cut yourselves a slice of your history.

The museum is in Limehouse Town Hall, Commercial Road, London E14. It is open Tuesday to Friday, 11am to 4.30pm. A monthly lecture series starts Sunday 4 January, when Walter Southgate will talk about The Clarion Club, which combined socialist action with cycling and of which he was a member. It starts at 2.30pm.

ON THE BOX

CHRISTMAS, aside from everything else, is traditionally a time for old films and comedy programmes. This year is no exception.

TUESDAY: THE NIGHT THAT PANICKED AMERICA (BBC1 *) is a film version of Orson Welles' Martian invasion scare. Humphrey Bogart stars in CASABLANCA (BBC2, 10.15pm).

CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas is cancelled for Ronnie Barker in a 45-minute PORRIDGE (BBC1, 8.25pm). BBC1 are showing a new Kojak film*.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Usual golden age offering, HAROLD LLOYD'S WORLD OF COMEDY (ITV1.45am), and this week's star attraction, BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (BBC1, 8.45pm). THE WIZARD OF OZ (BBC1 *) is on for the kids.

BOXING DAY: Get over it all with the Beatles' LET IT BE (BBC1, 10.55pm), a RUTLAND WEEKEND XMAS SPECIAL (BBC2, *), the last TRINITY TALES (BBC2*) and DAVID COPPERFIELD (BBC2 *).

SUNDAY: THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR (BBC2*) has commentary and projections on current affairs 1975 and 1976. Guaranteed to break the Christmas spell.

*Times unknown at going to press—the BBC refused to tell us.

Unity—they discovered it too late, in jail

EVEN with the huge amount of books on the market, particularly paperback, it's still difficult to recommend unreservedly a book to Socialist Worker readers. But Fontamara is a book that presents no problems.

Ignazio Silone's book is easy to read, exciting, humorous, and packs a political punch.

The novel is set in a southern mountain village in Mussolini's Italy. It tells the story of a peasant township weighed down by lack of education and superstition, being exploited by government officials and landowners. Then when they try to fight back, they are brutally put down by the fascist police.

The book shows the real face of fascism—brutal and greedy—with government corruption and lies bewildering the peasants.

Although in one way a tragic story, with violent death, rape, and suicide, it has a certain humour.

The political message, although present throughout the book, takes real form when Berardo, one of the peasants' likely leaders, soon to be

murdered by the fascist police, makes a speech to his friend in prison:

'Unity, it's a new word. That is solidarity. That is strength. There is only one thing we lack—unity. All the rest will come itself,' he says.

The book ends on a down note, with the peasants split and asking 'What are we to do?'

But the lesson is still there. Fascism

must be fought. The main weapon in the fight is unity of the working class. GEORGE KELLY

FONTAMARA, by Ignazio Silone, Journeyman Press, 75p. Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, 85p including postage.



There's something for everyone at your local IS Bookshop

IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 BIRMINGHAM: IS Books, 224 High Street, Deritend, Birmingham 12.

COVENTRY: Trade Union and Socialist Books, 65 Queen Victoria Road.

DUNDEE: Angle Books, 4 Roseangle.

GLASGOW: IS and SW Books, 64 Queen Street, C1.

HULL: Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank.

LIVERPOOL: IS Books, 28 Berry Street, Liverpool 1.

TEESSIDE: IS Books, 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough.

The London IS Bookshop will be open until 7pm on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December, and will then close for Christmas and New Year. Reopening Friday 2 January.

LETTERS

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

CREATING THE HEALTH MARKET

WHENEVER Socialist Worker writes about the Health Service and the cuts, one fundamental feature of its structure is always overlooked—the purpose the NHS is serving. Only when we understand that can we understand why, for instance, millions are spent on the NHS each year with little or no sign of improvement in the population's health.

Last week's SW carried an excellent letter showing an advertisement about a drug to 'cure the strains of redundancy'. September's Womens Voice showed another advert for a drug which would keep women docile while they live in appalling conditions. So it's surprising that you fail to draw the correct conclusions.

Under capitalism—and most forms of state capitalism (China is a notable exception)—we labour under the illusion that health is a commodity that is administered by a group of highly specialised technicians, that our bodies are somehow entirely separated from our minds and that they require servicing like motor cars, that our health is not our concern, but the concern of doctors.

People obtain from these peddlars and the system they represent medical packages and therapies which we mistake for health. In 1973 in the USA over 50 per cent of money spent on the health 'industry' was spent trying to cure people suffering from the maladministration of other medical products.

IMPLORE

Health is not a commodity to be obtained from some group of specialists, any more than socialism can be obtained by electing a group of political specialists.

As someone who joined the International Socialists because of its emphasis on the self-activity of the working class as the only way to socialism, I implore you to give more intelligent analysis of this question in future.

Someone's health is something that can only be decided by that person, and at least four-fifths of anyone's health is decided by the way people organise their lives. Only a tiny fraction is dependant upon the administration of specialist products by a highly trained elite.

Under socialism the budget for the Health Service will be slashed.—JAMES MADGE, West London.

Long arm of the 'anti-terror' Act

THE reality of life in Northern Ireland was brought home last Friday to a large audience of Sheffield trade unionists and students at the first meeting of the local Troops Out Movement.

They arrived to find that the two speakers, Pete McGee and Pat Arrowsmith, had been met off the train not by the organisers, but by a posse of police who removed them to cells 'on suspicion of possessing subversive documents' or alternatively, 'on suspicion of having committed an arrestable offence'.

They weren't released for an hour and a half, just as a mass picket was to be mounted at the police station.

The police claim that they were merely acting on a tip-off from someone who left the train at Leicester and heard 'two Irishmen talking suspiciously about Ireland'.

The meeting sent a demand to the trades council that it hold an emergency meeting to protest against the arrests.—MIKE SIMPKIN, Sheffield.

Watch out! There's a dole cut about

ABOUT four weeks ago, I received a form (B3), from the local social security office informing me that the weekly benefit for myself, wife and three children would rise from £22.30 to £25.75, from the week commencing 17 November.

Two weeks later, while signing on the dole, I was handed a notice explaining that in order to alleviate

queues, I would have to sign a day earlier each week in future.

This change was taking effect from 17 November—the week of the rise, and because I'd only be signing on for five days instead of six, the first week I would lose a day's benefit, and any supplementary benefit would be reduced by a sixth.

I've just received benefit for that week, including the rise. Grand total

for family of five: £21.46. On going to Kirkby Social Security office to inquire how I could reclaim the £4.29 my family had been robbed of, I was directed upstairs and downstairs, and all around the place, from one department to another, each section blaming the other.

On asking to see the manager, I was told he was extremely busy, and I would have to make an appointment

for some obscure time in the future: DEAD END.

I then said I was a member of the newly-formed Merseyside Right to Work Committee, and was inquiring not only for myself, but for many other claimants in the same situation. Mr Jack, the manager, saw me immediately.

I found out that the changes affecting the financial situation of many families here, already on the poverty line, arose from a local decision of Mr Jack, and the reason he'd picked the week of the increase was to soften the blow, and not, as I suggested, to pathetically blind the issue.

Test area

Neither could we claim the money back this or any other week, but everything would sort itself out when we managed to find work. Kirkby has an unemployment rate of over 20 per cent, rapidly increasing weekly.

Mr Jack did not agree when I said this could be a test area for future social security payments cuts. I said I'd seek legal advice about his unarmed robbery.

But I see the only fight back against blatant attacks on living standards such as this is the building and strengthening of local Right to Work Committees, linking unemployed and employed workers in a militant active offensive against the capitalist class and their lackeys in the Labour government.—BRUCE SCOTT, Kirkby.

Workers on or off the dole interested in participating in Merseyside Right to Work activity contact T Douras, secretary, Merseyside Right to Work Committee, 39 Peveril Street, Walton, Liverpool 4, or Anthony Jones, secretary, Kirkby Right to Work Committee, 34 Roughwood Drive, Northwood, Kirkby, Liverpool.

Craftsman lashes 'sexist' charge critics

AS a cartoonist and the mother of two wonderful goldfish I was horrified to read the letters from Norah Carlin and Andy Wistreich complaining about my drawings advertising the coming Skegness Weekend! I would like to assure them that infants will not really be leg-ironed to the wall. (The authorities would never allow it, for one thing).

Really, it is about time they realised that hundreds of perfectly ordinary people these days are prepared to have their legs ironed—I mean pulled-by cartoonists. I am sorry to report that these 'jokes' (as they are known) are fairly common.

I am also sorry that the lady in the other offending cartoon—why does Andy Wistreich assume she is 'a mother'?—looks 'gormless and misshapen'. Over centuries us artists—Leonardo, Titian, Rembrandt, Cezanne, Picasso—and now me—have had to put up with this sort of stupid criticism. It is really not worth answering.—PHIL EVANS, North London.



What about Rudolf the RED nose reindeer, then?

CHRISTMAS is coming, heralding an enormous ideological onslaught from the ruling class against the working class. The most obnoxious symptom is the battle for our children's minds involved in Xmas carols.

'Good King Wenceslas' is a classic tale of class collaboration, when the Bonapartist Wenceslas seduces an old working man with food and drink.

'While Shepherds washed' is mystic gibberish designed to cover up the terrible working conditions of the farm workers at the time—all day and all night working, with no seating or protective clothing.

I think this monopoly capitalist conspiracy is revolting.—W R PAINE, Clapham, London SW4.

Send Des a Christmas card—and jam their post

DES WARREN has been in prison for a long time now.

This will be his third Christmas inside, and these have been three years when his plight has been virtually ignored by the official labour movement, and during which the efforts of the rest of us to get him out have been unsuccessful.

So remember Des on your Christmas card list and send him a card at Lincoln Prison to say: 'We're behind you mate'.

Ten thousand cards will cheer him up and will certainly fuck their post room up for a week or two.—TONY HODGES, Cambridge.

Who should run nurseries?

IN the report in Socialist Worker on the Engineers' Charter Conference, the point I was trying to make was misunderstood. I was arguing against a brother who said that one of our demands should be for workplace nurseries under union control. I was pointing out that this was a bad demand, not because—as you reported—I didn't want my kids nurseried near the factory, but because the management can use these to intimidate women workers.

Ask for higher wages, or do anything about your working conditions and not only could you lose your job but your nursery

facilities as well. It does not matter where the nurseries are, (as long as it's convenient) so long as they are run by the right people—the social services department of the local council.

Of course white-collar workers in colleges can make the demand for workplace nurseries, because they're already employed by the local authority, but even then they should be run by social services and controlled by the people who use them.

Nurseries should be universally available for pre-school children just as schooling is provided for those over five. Women AUEW members who want to fight for this demand and discuss all other aspects of their activity in the union should come to the Engineers Charter Women's meeting, in East London on Saturday 10 January. Full details are available from the National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

The rest of your report on last week's conference was very good and showed that the Charter is making a real start in getting a rank and file movement organised in the AUEW. It's now up to us to follow it up with a good turn-out in January.—BERNADETTE DUNNE, London, NW2

WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

IT seems to me, as a sympathiser, that there is an important omission in the International Socialists' principles outlined weekly in Socialist Worker—there is no mention of the ultimate goal of IS activity.

'SOCIALISM, you fool!' is the obvious answer that might be thrown back at me in reply. But obviously socialism means different things to different people—Marx and H Wilson undoubtedly have totally different interpretations.

'Join Socialist Worker in the struggle for socialism', but nowhere in the IS principles is there a hint of what socialism actually entails. The principles themselves are transitional

aims and demands leading to the preconditions for socialism being established.

I'm not asking for a blueprint, which is obviously impossible, but there seems a need to outline at least some distinguishing features of a socialist society. Marx himself gave a number of hints: emphasis upon an abundance of material goods, the ultimate abolition of money, dramatic reduction of the working day, and particularly important—abolition of the market economy.

It would seem a step forward to define the IS interpretation of that much-abused term, socialism, and include it in the 'What we stand for' section.—JAMES WATSON, Edinburgh.

MAKING FASCISTS LOOK STUPID

NATURALLY, as a pacifist I don't believe in violence. I think the use of violence against the National Front is likely to prove counter-productive—that it is not in our interests to use the same kind of tactics as the fascists themselves use as, if we do, we are more likely to lose public support than to gain it.

The best way to demolish fascism is to expose its emptiness and evilness—to attack it whenever we possibly can by argument. It may well not always be easy or possible to do this, but I believe it is in our own interests in campaigning against this barren, dangerous philosophy to try to.

What I said at the meeting in Manchester last Sunday was that in the past I had observed fascists crushed at meetings by being offered the chance to put their case. They were so taken aback they did not know what to say and made fools of themselves. As a matter of fact, this tactic worked vis-a-vis the McWhirter brothers when they tried to break up CND events back in the 1950s.

I never suggested it would have worked at the meeting last Sunday in Manchester, I merely said it was an approach to the problem that was worth considering.

Incidentally, I was, regrettably (fortunately for me?) late for the meeting because I was driven up to Manchester by Eamonn McCann, whose car developed engine trouble en route.

Solidarity, Peace and Freedom.—PAT ARROWSMITH, London N8.



IN an otherwise good editorial on IRA bombings in England, (SW, 6 December) one incorrect inference was made. In the section dealing with the withdrawal of troops from Ireland, an analogy was drawn with the French situation in Algeria. This implied that once the troops were withdrawn from Ireland, the bombings would stop and the Irish situation would resolve itself automatically.

This is dangerously incorrect. Troop withdrawal is only the first step in the fight for a united socialist Ireland. Nowhere was the demand for troop withdrawal coupled with the demand for self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, and a potentially good article was ruined.—AL RAINNIE York

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

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.

JOIN

Socialist Worker

IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Become a Socialist Worker Supporter—fill in the form on page three.



PICKETS at Alcoa, Swansea, where 500 men have been out for eight weeks on unofficial strike against redundancies designed to break union organisation on the site. More than £1500 has been collected in support, mostly from other building workers. Now the South Wales miners have given £100 and promised more. Donations and messages of support to: S Stevenson, 4 Carlton Terrace, Swansea, Glamorgan.

SHILOH MOB KEEP THE SMELTER SHUT

by Gerry Llewellyn

COOKSLEY'S Commandos, Len Wilson's paratroopers and the Shiloh mob, led by the Sheriff of Shiloh, are doing a grand job.

They're the three shifts which make up the 24-hour picket at Commonwealth Smelting, Avonmouth, the only zinc smelter in Britain.

'We've been so effective that now most traffic doesn't even bother to leave home', said Len Wilson.

The seven-week-old official strike by 638 Transport Union members has stopped all British zinc production. The picketing and solidarity action from local workers, has stopped all movement of zinc and is threatening to close other chemical factories in the area.

'We've been heartened that so many apparently unconnected factories and workers have acted to black products from Commonwealth Smelting,' said Len. They've included Rolls-Royce at Filton, Bristol, Tennaco at Avonmouth, and Bristol dockers.

The strength of the smelter workers' case is a prime reason for this solidarity. Theirs is a classic example of workers being asked to pay for the results of unplanned production. A payment that would involve not only redundancies but danger to the men's health too.

Alan Beynon, vice-chairman of the stewards committee, explained the build up to the strike: 'The zinc industry clearly shows the way the capitalists run their show. Last year zinc was overproduced to a ridiculous extent. Now Commonwealth Smelting are trying to lay off men to get over the resulting recession.'

DROPPED

In March the firm cut back zinc production by a quarter. The cutback in jobs this meant was achieved without any actual redundancies. Then in August and September they dropped their bombshell.

They announced that the annual shift clean-out would involve a ten-week shutdown instead of the usual five, during which time 400 shift workers would be put on days, losing £16.20 a week. They also

announced 114 jobs cut and another 40 temporary redundancies—during the shutdown—with no guarantee that the same 40 men would be re-employed.

They weren't interested in the workers' view. The management's attitude has consistently been that they alone know what the manning levels should be.

Management refused to take the matter to arbitration. 'Because they knew they'd lose', said Alan Beynon.

'Twice we've taken them to arbitration over manning and twice we've won.'

So the men struck. Their determination has been hardened by the fact that the new manning levels would affect health standards. Said Alan: 'Three years ago many people were suffering from lead poisoning. The Windeyer Committee at the time recommended that for health reasons no more than 40 hours should be worked weekly on the site.'

The new levels would mean more overtime, meaning more than the 40 hours. Management say they'll wait and see if any damage is done—but they're not going to play games with our health.'

The company is a subsidiary of the Australian AMS, which in turn is a subsidiary of Rio-Tinto Zinc. 'Local management is being pushed by Melbourne', said Alan. 'They want manning down to this level and they don't care

George Davis case gets the whitewash

'IT was a whitewash from start to finish,' was how Rose Davis summed up Lord Widgery's decision to turn down her husband's application for appeal, leaving George Davis to serve a 17-year sentence for alleged armed robbery.

Widgery was the man who crushed the main court appeal of the Shrewsbury Two, Ricky Tomlinson and Des Warren, and put them back inside. He also cleared the army of the killing of 14 unarmed civilians in Derry on Bloody Sunday. So he's certainly no amateur with whitewash.

Now George Davis has experienced his handywork. Davis' application for leave to appeal was based on a log book, a new witness, and the 'breaches of regularity' during his first trial. These, Judge Widgery deemed were 'insufficient grounds for appeal'.

The forces of law and order are determined to keep the Davis case closed. He got 20 years after only five out of 38 witnesses picked him out of an identity parade. By a remarkable coincidence all five were police officers. Several are now under official investigation.

George Davis was fitted up, and now the police are doing all they can to hush it up and stifle protests. Supporters of the 'George Davis is innocent' campaign who dug up the Headingley cricket ground were refused bail on a malicious damage charge, where even a guilty verdict would not have entailed prison.

how they get it. They were hoping to crack the blokes' resolve because of Christmas. I only expected the strike to last a week.'

A disappointed Commonwealth Smelting have threatened to close the smelter down if they don't get their way. 'If they do we'll occupy immediately', said Alan. 'But I can't see it happening. They've got a new electrolytic smelter in Holland, but this can only handle high grade ore. We can process low grade ore. They don't want to lose us if they can help us.'

It's a matter of who breaks first. The local press—the Western Daily Press, and the Bristol Evening Post, both part of the Beaverbrook Empire—have unsuccessfully done everything in their power to break the men.

STRIKER

This has included a home-grown 'Get the husbands back to work' campaign, centred round one wife, Ivy Waite. A demonstration to back the campaign two weeks ago was attended by only one wife—Ivy Waite.

So the papers have been forced to concentrate on traditional 'reds under the beds' stuff. One striker, Bert Brewer, commented: 'The papers have been bloody awful. We're only fighting for good trade union principles. Papers such as Socialist Worker are only ones giving us fair coverage.'

One interesting aspect of the strike has been the men's confrontation with the social security. Acting on advice from the Claimants Union, they submitted a mass claim. They met with total opposition. So a demonstration of more than 100 strikers, their wives and children was organised, followed by an occupation of the regional headquarters.

Colin Cameron, a member of the strike claims committee, explained: 'Previously, section 10 of the social security Act said that no social security could be paid to strikers, but section 13 over-ruled this for cases of extreme hardship. Now an internal civil service code has in effect suspended section 13 for strikers.'

'These people aren't elected by anyone and here they are altering the law,' he said. The claims are going ahead.

The future for the strikers looks good. Len Wilson outlined the next steps: 'Now we've got to spread the strike, by involving other factories within the RTZ complex, and by continuing our programme of contacting other local factories, including a tour of South Wales by our members.'

'It's just a matter of how long it is before the management go to arbitration', said Alan Beynon. 'I can't see any way that these lads are going to accept manning by decree.'

Or as Bert Brewer said: 'We will be stopping out until these bastards give in'. Donations and messages of support to Mike O'Dea, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol. Official collection sheets available.

BRITISH STEEL: SIX PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Steel News' recipe for success—cut 40,000-50,000 jobs



Sparks: Why the right swept in

THIS STATEMENT (right) from Bill Sirs, our General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Confederation, has been prominently displayed in our local papers for the last two weeks.

It has heralded one of the most worrying Christmases steelworkers have had to face since the war.

While our 'leaders' were calling for more wage cuts and sacrifice, for the sake of investment, Sir Monty Finneston, Bob Scholey and their cronies have been busily sharpening their knives:

- They plan to reduce the wages bill by £170 million.
- This means 40,000 jobs could be lost, 13,000 in Wales alone.
- Workers now face compulsory redundancies.
- The guaranteed working week is to be terminated. We have already been told in Trostre, Velindre and Port Talbot that notices to this effect will be put up this week.
- Once again they will be switching production from the older to newer plants.

Few printable words can begin to describe the cowardice of our officials. Bill Sirs (or should it be Sir Bill?) has already promised that in the face of this massive attack on our living standards, he will not threaten retaliatory strikes.

Without the guaranteed week, we are mere pawns to be pushed around at the whim of the bosses.

Management are using their age-old tactic of playing one section of

"The British Steel industry depends on the success of the Government's Counter Inflation policies.

The stark reality facing steel workers is confidence in the future of the British Steel industry and not what increase they get now.

At present we are striving to compete with the modern technologies of other steel producing nations.

To succeed we need continued capital investment every year for the next ten years.

Investment on the scale necessary is just not possible whilst prices rise at 26% annually.

In order to help reduce inflation to below 10% as quickly as possible, wages as a part contribution should be contained within a 10% increase over the next twelve months.

We wholeheartedly support the Government's policy for only that way can we ensure for Britain and British steelworkers a highly efficient well paid and secure industry."

W. Sirs
Bill Sirs, General Secretary,
Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

DISASTER

THE RIGHT TO WORK... 40,000 TIMES OVER

THE THREAT to 40,000 steelworkers' jobs shows the cynicism of the Labour government towards unemployment, said John Deason of the National Right to Work Campaign this week.

He told Socialist Worker: 'At the same time as they refuse to nationalise Chrysler, they choose to attack the nationalised steel industry. Looking after the profiteers' concern for viability is put before working people's livelihoods.

'£180 million of our money is ploughed into Riccardo's private hands. Yet nationalised steel is to be slashed. That's

Labour's Christmas message. Once upon a time they cried: "Back to work with Labour". But that was at election time.'

This was why a rank and file Right to Work Campaign was being built.

'Most of our trade union leaders, far from leading any struggle, put the sanctity of this government before our jobs. Within the rank and file, we say: Jobs come first—Fight for the right to work.'

'Unite the unemployed and employed, fight for occupations and a militant campaign to force nationalisation without compensation of Chrysler, maintenance of all manning levels in steel, a 35-hour week without loss of pay. Jobs before profits.'

BY IS steelworkers' branch, Swansea

steelworkers off against another. Bob Scholey, BSC chief executive, has already said that the burden of the scrapping of the guaranteed week would fall 'on older plants'.

Some of our own people are stupid enough to play the same game, taking it in turn to plead for development in their own plant at the expense of their workmates in other plants.

This is the second time this year that we

have faced the threat of mass redundancies. This time steelworkers are taking the threats far more seriously. The seeds for this latest attack were sown last May when our union leaders, paralysed by their own fear, refused to stand up to Finneston.

Last May, Wedgwood Benn stepped in to 'save' the industry. But, as always, the saving was at our cost. Then, just as now, the government, the press and our own officials told that we should accept wage

cuts to prevent unemployment. But we know this is a lie.

In the last six months, jobs have gone by the board, conditions have worsened, short time working has been introduced and our pay packet has fallen miles behind prices.

Once again Finneston and Scholey are using the big scare tactic. In their fright, our 'representatives' will again compromise and lose sight of the real issues. But we are sick and tired of their alternative schemes.

We don't need any scheme for putting more men on the dole and reducing our wages even further. What we need is a resolute and united NO to all schemes.

The officials have shown they have not the guts or ideas for giving a lead. We have constantly stressed in our leaflets, we have to organise ourselves. This must be done across the plants and the unions.

We must forge a fighting policy that can direct the fear and anger of all steelworkers against the bosses. We did not cause the crisis in steel and there is no reason why we should shoulder the blame for their mistakes. We must demand:

- NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES
- NO REDUNDANCIES
- A FULL WEEK'S WORK OR A FULL WEEK'S PAY
- KEEP THE GUARANTEED WEEK.

Brown, together made £66 million in 1974. Compare that to the £98 million BSC made at the same time. Just think how BSC's finances would improve if the whole steel industry was nationalised!

BSC's solution to its financial crisis won't be to nationalise this lucrative private sector, or to demand repayment of the £268 million extra given the steel bosses, or to stop paying the heavy interest payments on loans.

They made the mess. Let them sort it out. But not at the expense of steelworkers!

Why BSC is in such a mess

BRITISH STEEL is now trying to sort out the mess it got itself into when steel was nationalised in 1967.

It inherited a 'rag bag of over-capitalised assets and no reserves', according to the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries report in 1972-73.

In plain English, the old steel bosses were overpaid for their decrepit plant. Overpaid by £268 million—BSC's own figure.

Those bosses were only too glad to be rid of their out-of-date plant. Maintenance

had been skimped. Defeats soon showed when production was pushed up, causing high maintenance costs as well as high operating costs. Two-thirds of the plant was old-fashioned.

In short, the government paid too much for worn out equipment. But they made another mistake, typical of nationalised industries. They left the most profitable section in the private sector—refined steel.

That section accounts for about one-tenth of steel produced, but it earns up to half of the profits. Two private firms, Dunford Elliott, and Johnson and Firth

Notices and meetings

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post on Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Invoices cannot be sent.

LAMBETH NALGO Branch secretary needs a secretary. Shorthand/typing essential. Salary £2910 per annum (£256 pw). Ring: Mike Waller, 274 7722 extension 455/445

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT invites you to an evening of music, theatre, dancing and food from many countries (and English beer). Friday 19 December, 7.30pm. Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylors Road, London, SE1 (near Waterloo Station). Entrance 50p

RED LADDER THEATRE requires an administrator. She/he should have organising experience, and knowledge of the Trade Union and Labour movement. Also an interest and willingness to participate in all other areas of the company's work (except performing). To begin by end of January 1976. Salary £35-45 a week. Applications in writing as soon as possible, stating: 1. Theatrical/political/administrative experience. 2. Reasons for interest in this work. 3. When you can start. 4. Telephone number. The company will be based in Leeds, but applications to 58 Wray Crescent, London, N4. (Tel 01-263 1053).

VIVA PORTUGAL! New colour film by Cinema Action showing 15, 16 December, 7.30pm. Collegiate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London, WC1. Admission £1.

WANTED: office space with access to telephone, for Angolan Solidarity Committee. Phone (01-734 9541).

RADICAL AMERICA—a revolutionary socialist magazine covering the history and current condition of the working class, reports on shop floor and community organising, analyses of the history and politics of socialist movements, black liberation and the women's movement in the United States and Western Europe. A one-year subscription for six issues costs £2.50. Send to: Radical America, Box B, N. Cambridge, Mass. 02140, USA.

BREAK ALL LINKS WITH FASCIST SPAIN! Public meeting organised by West London Spanish Solidarity Committee at Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge Road, Southall, on Friday 19 December, 7.30pm. Speakers include Sid Bidwell MP, Fred Gore (ETU convenor, Heathrow), and a speaker from PWCC. Sponsored by Southall and Hounslow Trades Councils.

New edition of SQUATTERS HANDBOOK, 10p plus postage. Squatters Handbook, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1.



Pic: Dave Evans (IFL)

Some of the 500 people who marched in Birmingham last Saturday against the government's spending cuts. Several trade union branches were represented, as well as the Birmingham Right to Work Committee.

The cuts in public services are hitting hard in the city. There is a big campaign called 'Keep an eye on Gran' being pushed with buttons, badges, and ads on local radio. It urges people to look after elderly relatives.

That seems fine—until you realise that this is a cover for massive cuts in local social services. There are fears of a great increase in the death rate of old people this winter.

NAZIS RUN INTO TROUBLE

NORTH LONDON: Picketing by local trade unionists and Socialist Worker leaflets have made National Front public meetings miserable affairs—attended only by Front members.

At a Highbury Ward election meeting only a pathetic handful of non-Front members braved the picket, even with the added protection of Front stewards with dogs.

'Populist' Roy Painter's meeting in Islington suffered a similar fate. Widespread leafletting encouraged a tiny attendance, but some time before the meeting was due to begin, 100 trade unionists paid it a visit.

The visitors took considerable pleasure in examining the Front's battle flags, spiked banner poles and literature. They won't be using these particular items again. The Front heavies failed to appear.

Effective picketing and leafletting hits them where they really hurts. As they are finding out in North London—who really wants to go to a Front meeting?

STOP PRESS: In elections in the High Cross Ward, Tottenham, where there was a 30 per cent poll, the Front candidate received a staggering 60 votes.

Alacra: 40 occupy

SKELMERSDALE: Just a few days after completing a £560,000 contract, the bosses of the Alacra printing works have told the SOGAT print union chapel of their Christmas package: 17 redundancies out of a SOGAT workforce of 40.

Following official SOGAT policy, the chapel refused to accept the redundancy notes. With management making no effort to discuss the situation, the workers took the matter into their own hands and took over the factory.

A spokesman for the Kirkby Right to Work Committee told Socialist Worker: Despite the absence of any active support from SOGAT, these lads are settling in for a long siege. While the rest of us are spending our holiday money, the workers will be occupying. Everyone should dig into their pockets to help them out over Christmas.

'With unemployment on Merseyside above the national average, and unemployment in Skelmersdale at 22 per cent, we must give our full support for anyone fighting for the right to work.'

Donations and messages of support to: Strike Committee, 254-256 County Road, Walton, Liverpool.

REMEMBER STRIKERS THIS CHRISTMAS...

This will be a hard Christmas for most workers. For those on strike it will be particularly grim. This is the time of year to make a special effort to send contributions, however small, to the workers whose strikes are reported regularly on these pages. In Glasgow the Ladbroke's strikers are entering their seventh month. In Skelmersdale, workers at Alcoa are planning to sit in over Christmas. In Derby, women at Newtons are entering their eighth week on strike, so are strikers at the smelter in Avonmouth. Eight weeks too for the 500 out at the Alcoa site near Swansea.

Many of these workers are receiving little or no strike pay, and the social security argues over every penny. Make a special collection in your workplace and send to the addresses given at the end of each report.

Asians victimised after asking for the £6

STOCKTON: Eleven Asian workers have been locked out at Cradock Allison's in Eaglescliffe, part of the Crosley group. Their crime was to ask for a £6 wage increase for all workers in the factory, black and white.

The management persuaded the white workers to withdraw and then immediately sacked five Pakistani workers. Six others walked out in sympathy and the plant manager announced he would have 'no more coloureds again'.

The eleven have all presented themselves for work and been told they were sacked. They refused to accept their cards. Mohammed Hanif said: 'We will never accept these conditions again.'

The Race Relations Board is investigating the works, where there were two canteens, one white and one black. Asian workers were made to work a 72-hour week while overtime was voluntary for whites. The Asian workers were excluded from the best-paid and cleanest section of the works.

But this investigation could take months and cannot change the working conditions and basic pay—£30 for 40 hours—appalling for all workers. Nor can it help the wives and children of the locked-out workers, who have been refused unemployment benefit and social security.

Since being out the gates the Asian workers have organised themselves into the building workers' union, UCATT. Dave Ayre, UCATT branch secretary, said: 'This ruthless employer has been allowed to operate divide and rule tactics for years. He has successfully played the white workers off against the black workers for his own profit.'

Now the black workers have rebelled against these tactics and against their disgusting pay and conditions, bad even for the building industry. The result is this lock-out. They deserve the assistance and support of the entire working class.'

Messages of support and donations to Cradock Allison Lock-out, c/o Crook UCATT branch secretary, Dave Ayre, 3 Alma Terrace, Stanley Village, Crook, Co Durham.

THE latest editions of both Urdu and Punjabi Chingari, the revolutionary socialist paper for Asian workers, are now out.

Copies from Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Phone 01-739 6273.

NATIONAL FRONT HIT AT "TROOPS OUT"

by Diane Frost

EAST LONDON: A group of Front supporters attempted to force their way into the East London Troops Out Movement Conference last Saturday. Those on the door of the building noticed something was wrong and by the time the Front members reached the third floor, the door of the meeting room was barred. They were then chased from the building.

On the way, two of them sprayed something corrosive into four people's faces, temporarily blinding them, and they got away in the confusion. This reinforces the need to be particularly careful about security arrangements for meetings on Ireland.

Equal Pay strikers out seven weeks

by Moira Simpson

DERBY: I am one of 21 members of the office workers' union APEX, 19 women and two men, at Newtons Derby, an electrical engineering company. We have been on strike for seven weeks, and have picketed daily from 7.45pm to 4.30 pm with 100 per cent success.

We are fighting for proper job evaluation and equal pay. If you haven't got a proper salary structure or grading scheme your Equal Pay is highly questionable. Talks have dragged on since December 1973, with the company seeking to impose their own unrealistic scheme unilaterally. The average take-home pay of the women is £20-£30 for a 37½ hour week, and the men's wages are little better.

The strike is official but the management have been telling lorries at the gate that this is not so. They have also been bringing in new employees to do some of our jobs. We feel that the company does not recognise our union as they will not meet the APEX area organiser. All they want is for me—the staff



Pickets outside the Ladbroke's betting shop in Notting Hill, West London

Picture: Mike Shary (IFL)

PICKETS DENT LADBROKE TAKINGS

PICKETS outside betting shops all over the country made a small but noticeable dent in Ladbroke's pocket and pride last Saturday.

The number of pickets at each shop, the cold weather and the nearness of other betting shops determined the degree of success, but Ladbroke's now know that the strikers in Glasgow are not fighting on their own. The

national picket was called by the National Rank and File Organising Committee.

In **NORTH LONDON** a large picket turned two out of every five people away. In **BLACKBURN** they turned away as many as half. The manager came out to speak to the pickets because he'd had a complaint from one punter. He supported the Glasgow workers.

At another shop the workers inside gave £2 to the strike fund, and at one shop in the south they said they would join the union too if someone from the Transport Workers Union came round with the forms.

In **HITCHIN** nearly £5 was collected

before the police intervened. Hundreds of leaflets were distributed and the local papers all sent reporters to the picket line.

In **GLASGOW** itself, trade unionists, unemployed workers, housewives and students turned out to help the strikers' pickets. The shops were picketed all day and the strikers were pleased with the support they were given. The shops in Easterhouse and Glasgow city centre did virtually no business at all.

Most of the regular punters refused to cross the picket when the strikers' case was explained.

Tommy Shaw, from the Ladbroke's strike committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The support given was excellent. It was a great boost to the people who have been

picketing right through this dispute. It's the kind of support we need.'

In **PRESTON** one shop steward said he would tell people at work not to bet with Ladbroke's, and in **SOUTHAMPTON** a TGWU shop steward went into the shop to collect his winnings and put half of it into the collection.

In **BIRMINGHAM**, pickets collected nearly £16, and in **NEWCASTLE** £12.88. In **DUMFRIES** and **Notting Hill Gate LONDON**, regulars said that business was down on a usual Saturday.

betting

One pensioner gave 20p in **EDINBURGH**, remembering what it was like when she had worked in the betting trade. The picket there turned away half of the people wanting to go into the shop, and collected £14.20.

Pickets were also held in **BRAINTREE, CHESTER, WELLING, MANCHESTER, BRIGHTON, HULL, LOUGHBOROUGH, OXFORD, WALTHAMSTOW, WAKEFIELD, BOLTON, BURY**, several places in **LONDON**, and more that have not sent in reports.

Every trade unionist can help by making sure his or her workmates don't bet with Ladbroke's, by having collections at work, by organising regular pickets of Ladbroke's betting shops on Saturdays or at lunchtimes.

TGWU members, wherever they work, should organise support for the strikers—who are fighting for the right to join their union. Resolutions demanding Jack Jones and his executive take decisive action to support the strikers and demanding action by the TGWU should be carried.

The union is no longer paying strike pay. Money and messages of support from other TGWU members should be sent to the strikers in Glasgow, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.



Supporters of Rank and File argue with a punter at Welling in Kent

Picture: John Sturrock (report)

DECEMBER 19
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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

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 Tickets £1. 50p unemployed. Limited
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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

LINWOOD: NOW LET'S OCCUPY

By Peter Bain
TGWU Steward, Chrysler
Linwood

OCCUPATION is the only answer at Linwood.

Thousands face the sack. What real guarantee have the rest got that the other jobs won't go as well?

Four weeks ago, a mass meeting overwhelmingly endorsed the shop stewards' call for nationalisation and occupation of the plant if Chrysler tried to pull out.

Now we have to make it clear that this applies to the Labour government's attempt to slaughter our jobs.

ONLY WAY

Occupation of the plant is the only way to save jobs. Otherwise, thousands will be down the road this week, before Christmas, and the rest will face a massive onslaught on working conditions and shop floor rights.

In the last few months, the plant leaderships in all the Chrysler plants have wavered and hesitated.

The leaders of our unions, the Transport Union and the Engineering Union, have done nothing so far. This is why the government has dared to go so far.

Now we have to make it completely clear that we will not accept any



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

redundancies. We must confiscate the machinery and the plant and keep it under our control.

We must stop the movement of all goods and machinery. Pickets must be sent out to all Chrysler plants and to all depots and showrooms to paralyse Chrysler throughout Britain.

We must appeal to all trade unionists

to black everything connected with Chrysler. We must not sit passively in the plant and let the government wait it out. Instead we must use the occupation as a base to fight Chrysler and the government.

The occupation will need support from a massive campaign throughout the car industry, throughout the west of Scotland, and throughout the trade union movement.

Already 1000 shop stewards in the local area have pledged their support for whatever action we take to defend jobs.

The government has put Linwood in the front line of the fight to save jobs.

We must say loud and clear—we will accept no redundancies.

We must occupy and force the government to nationalise Chrysler without compensation.

'IN THE PRESENT situation, with the forces of the political right taking the offensive, all contributions of solidarity have a key role in the building of a victorious response from the working class.'

With these words, the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP) in Lisbon sent thanks to Socialist Worker last week for the £500 we were able to send them from our solidarity fund a fortnight ago.

At the moment, all the other political forces in Portugal are turning their venom on the revolutionary left.

Whatever their other political differences, the extreme right, the 'moderates' and the Communist Party are united in blaming the revolutionaries for the events of 25 November—even though the revolutionary left played no initiating role in the movement of paratroops on that day.



This means that solidarity with the revolutionary left is more important than ever now for us in Britain.

Part of our solidarity has been sending money to Portugal. Another has been the publication, in Portuguese, of a new IS pamphlet, *Licoes do 25 de Novembro* (Lessons of 25 November), which discusses the lesson of that defeat and the ways in which the revolutionary

Portugal fund: Keep it coming!

left can build up the necessary support in the working class to prevent Portugal becoming another Chile.

None of this would have been possible without massive financial support from our readers.

In the past few days, the biggest boost to our funds has come from three donations of £100 each from North London readers and another donation of £100 from a Leicester reader.

Coming on top of the donation from one reader of £500 a fortnight ago, it has enabled us to step up our solidarity activities.



But the smaller donations have been equally welcome:

Portsmouth IS Society £16; P Parkes £1.60; SE London IS £15; Halifax IS £5.45; Bradford IS £8; Hull University IS Soc £3; Ian M Colquhoun £2.50; SW Supporter St Andrews, Fife £10; London comrade £5; R McClarron £10; A Seymour and Chris Rooney, Truro, Cornwall £1; Rochdale IS £6; J Gilding, Hove £1; Collection Ever Ready £2.65; A Aberystwyth IS Soc £8.80; Southampton University IS Soc £6.10.

A Lavender £2; SOAS IS Soc £13.70; Wimbledon SW supporters £3; Hammersmith Town Hall collection £8; NELP IS Soc £15; Exeter Univ IS Soc £1.66; D Lewin £6.55; Bristol IS Soc £3; Two engineering workers Preston £3; Tim Potter £1.50; Lampeter NOISS £1; M Runnel £10; Grimsby IS £2; SW reader Accrington £1; Ipswich IS £15; Chesterfield IS £9; Walthamstow teachers £12; SW supporters Hackney £1; Bobby Noyes £1.50; Kingston IS £30.



Some money for the typesetting fund arrived after the fund was closed and we have added it to our Portugal fund. So we also want to thank:

P Jackson £30; P Artin £10; GLC SW readers £2.20; NELP £1; Walthamstow SW reader 50p; Peterborough IS £5; Dudley IS £3.50; L Pinner £5; Two hospital workers Edinburgh £1; Hull SW supporters £1; Livingstone and West Lothian SW readers £1.80; M Newman £1.50; NALGO SW reader £1.20; University of Bradford readers £10; SW supporters Glasgow £15; SW readers Chiswick £1; SW supporter £12;

Wolverhampton IS £5; A F and P J Thomson £10; Manchester Poly ATTI SW supporters £4; Norwich SW reader £1.50; AUEW members Gloucester £1; A Cunningham 60p; SW supporters McInerney site, Finsbury site £7; East Manchester SW supporters £1.20; Leicester IS £15; Inner East London IS £2; Portsmouth IS £10; Scottish SW supporters £3; Sheffield Town IS £2.20; Chesterfield IS £9.60; Preston IS £5.40; Hayfield New Town IS £2.20; Chesterfield IS £9.60; Preston IS £5.40; Hayfield New Mills £3.95; M Townsend £3; B Smith £2; Mr Smith Snr £2; anonymous £25;

Leeds SW reader 25p; J and W Weston, Liverpool, £3; Chessington pub sales £2; Harlesden IS £15; M Jones £2; Central London Hospital Workers £7; SW supporter Ideal Standard, Hull, 50p; Margate SW readers £5; Cambridge IS £22.72; Kingston IS £5; Teesside NALGO £3.35



Altogether we have collected £1497.48 in the last three weeks. Our thanks to everyone who has sent us money. But remember, the battles in Portugal are not over yet.

Make it a good start to the New Year by sending us a donation to the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

POLICE INVADE JOBS CENTRE SIT-IN

POLICE broke through the doors of the Jobs Centre in Dundee on Monday after it had been occupied by 20 unemployed workers and trade unionists, protesting against the Tory policies of the Labour government.

The occupiers were held by the police, but were eventually allowed to leave without being charged.

The National Right to Work Campaign told Socialist Worker that they would be raising the question of police harassment of the occupiers. Dundee is particularly affected by Labour's policies. One worker in four in the city earns less than £30 a week. One in 12 is unemployed. 12,500 families are estimated by the Low Pay Unit to be on the breadline.

THE GEORGE DAVIS DEFENCE COMMITTEE has called a picket over Christmas outside Scotland Yard. They particularly want to draw attention to the internal police investigation into officers involved in the case. The picket starts at 9am on Christmas Eve and is carrying on throughout Christmas until 9pm Boxing Day. (Scotland Yard is near Central Hall, Westminster.)

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