

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

They're old, they're cold, they're dying

MARY AND TED PHILBIN huddled together last Saturday under two blankets—one only thin cotton—to try to keep warm.

Their coal fire died down, but Ted was afraid they couldn't afford to put more coal on. He had cancelled regular deliveries of coal to their council flat in Mossley, near Manchester.

He bought a bag from the shop when he could. They had been living on cream crackers and bread to save money.

Ted, aged 70, who had retired from his job at a cotton waste factory with chronic bronchitis, died of the cold that day. Mary, aged 66, crippled with arthritis, died on Monday.

80,000 MAY DIE

Up to 80,000 old people like Ted and Mary may die this winter. They will die of hypothermia—extreme low body temperature—or heart attacks, bronchitis and pneumonia aggravated by the cold. Every time the weather turns cold, 300 to 400 old people die in the first few days.

What is the Labour government, which promised at the last election to 'bring immediate help to pensioners', doing about it? Making it worse!

By 'making electricity profitable'. The price has doubled in two years.

By cutting back on public spending. The social services departments 'can't afford' to give even the wretched help to old people they managed in the past.

CONCORDE

This at a time when the government are handing out tens of millions in pounds for supersonic Concorde, Birmingham Exhibition Centres and Chrysler shareholders!

The big popular newspapers which, like the Labour government, call for cuts and profitability, are now calling for our 'sympathy and concern'.

But sympathy and concern alone can't provide the food and heat our old people need.

As Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, put it: 'Our attempts at reasoned arguments with Ministers, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the electricity boards have failed. We are asking for direct industrial action.'

It is up to rank and file trade unionists to turn this call into deeds. No disconnections! Cardiff electricians are putting a resolution to



Jack Jones: What about some action?

their branch to refuse to cut off electricity supplies. Electricians round the country should do the same.

If Jack Jones, chief of the Transport and General Workers Union, means what he says about protecting pensioners, he would instruct all his members not to cut off any fuel supplies.

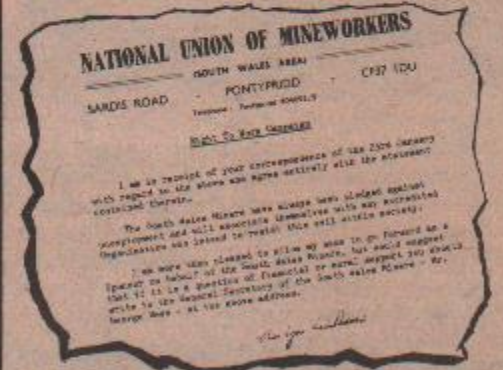
No social service cuts! Demand automatic payment by social security departments of the electricity bills of pensioners, of unemployed and of those on social security. The government is trying to cut back on these payments. This must be stopped.

Free electricity for pensioners! Let them be warm, not worried.

STOP THE KILLER CUTS!



S. Wales miners' president backs Right to Work March



MORE than 100 trade union bodies now support the Right to Work march.

Outstanding among the letters of support received this week by the Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign is one from the president of the South Wales Miners, Emlyn Williams.

Among the bodies now supporting the campaign are:

SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEES: Marsh Farm Site, Luton; Cannon Industries, Wolverhampton; Crossfield, Tottenham, North London; Borg-Warner, Letchworth; Greenings AUEW, Warrington; Massey Ferguson, Manchester; Feniger, Blackburn.

GEC-Elliot, Lewisham, South London; Barr and Stroud, Glasgow; Metal Box, Westthoughton; MK Electric Genista Rd Toolroom, North London; ICI, Huddersfield; Metal Box, Shipley; Thorns, Bradford; Crofts, Bradford.

TRADES COUNCILS: Bangor, Kingston, Waltham Forest, Cardiff, Cannock, Barnet, Greenwich, Wakefield, Northampton.

SOGAT: J C Moores Chapel, Derby Regional Branch Committee, Jefferson Smurfitt Chapel.

NUM: Tursdale Lodge (£5 donation).

ASTMS: No 9 Divisional Council, Executive Staff No 1, Leicester Electrical Branch, ASTMS, Rolls-Royce, Derby, Norwich 797, 9 Division NHS Advisory Committee, South Norwood 648.

UCATT: Northampton, Tottenham, Wolverhampton, Crook.

NATFHE (formerly ATTI): Pitfield Street Branch, Woolwich College Branch.

TGWU: 6/123, 1/696 Manor House Hospital, 9/316 ACTS, Area Committee No 4, London North Central GMO Branch.

NUPE: North Camden Health District Branch, North Hammersmith Health Branch, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Chrysler Linwood 7/266A.

APEX: Horsbury Branch, Westminster Branch.

EETPU: Cardiff 2.

USDW: Co-op Derby/Burton Regional Committee.

TSSA: Glasgow P&T Branch.

ISTC: No 1 Branch, Greenwich, South London.

NUR: Old Oak Common Branch, Paddington No 1.

NUT: Holloway School, North London Teachers Association, Shelburne School.

NALGO: Lambeth Executive, Edinburgh and District Gas Branch, Barnsley Health Service Branch, Edinburgh Gas Branch.

AUEW: Blackburn No 1, Newton 28 NE, Cricklewood No 4, Letchworth No 5, Coventry—74—322CE, Ealing 15, Queensberry, Fords, Dagenham, Manchester No 5, Chiswick No 2, Cathcart Branch, Manchester, Huddersfield 13, AUEW TASS Halifax Branch, Piton-Edinburgh, No 5 Halifax, No 2 Shipley, Wilson and James (GEC), Warrington District Committee, Belper, New Saltgate.

NUSS: Glasgow. **NUJ:** Glasgow.

LABOUR PARTY WARDS: Abbey Ward, Derby; Hebdonroyd and Hepton, Belper.

INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION: Derby Branch.

MAKE ELECTRICITY FREE FOR ALL OLD PEOPLE!



Can we afford it? YES!

Electricity for homes costs 2p per unit. No exceptions are made. You pay 2p per unit if you're a stockbroker or an old age pensioner.

Electricity for industry costs 1½p per unit—on average. Different rates for industry are negotiated by different electricity boards for different industrialists. When Harold Wilson persuaded Alcan to set up a smelter at Lynemouth, Northumberland, and Rio Tinto-Zinc another in Anglesey, both were promised electricity at, or even below, the cost of generating it.

If industrialists had to pay the same rate for electricity as old age pensioners, the electricity boards would get at least ANOTHER £200 MILLION A YEAR. In other words the subsidy to industry is more than enough to provide free electricity for every old age pensioner in the country.

Can we produce it? YES!

This year 23 power stations in England and Wales will close down.

Eighteen part stations will also be closed. By March 1977 another five stations will be closed, and another two part stations. Altogether, these closures will wipe out 3419 megawatts of electricity capacity: that's six per cent of all capacity: or enough to provide heat and light for every old age pensioner in England and Wales.

The closures will also wipe out the jobs of 5000 electricity workers.

QUOTE: 'Electricity consumption is lower than last year—about eight per cent lower. This is the first time for 40 years that consumption has dropped.'—an Electricity Council spokesman.



Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe

HONEST JEREMY, THE BANKERS' RUNNER

FOR a salary of £2000 a year (on top of the £6000 he gets as an MP) Jeremy Thorpe, leader of the Liberal Party, gave his services to a gang of swindlers whose business name was London and County Securities.

He opened their branches. He brought them business and generally helped to puff them up from a backstreet outfit to a backstreet outfit with posh offices, like other 'respectable' secondary banks.

Last week the long-awaited Department of Industry report on the collapse of London and County was finally published.

It is a fascinating document, a blow-by-blow account of how the men of the 1971 Heath boom made fortunes by lying, cheating, swindling and judicious use of other normal business practices. Only because the bank went bust were their methods ever disclosed, methods which, incidentally, were approved by highly respectable auditors and accountants who presumably do similar favours for all other businessmen.

Off the Hook

The government report, however, lets Thorpe off the hook. He's accused of making a misjudgement. Nothing more. Just like a pile of other misjudgements. Like Reginald Maudling's misjudgement of the offshore property swindle or Edward Short's when he took money off Dan Smith, or Tony Crosland's when he took a silver coffee pot off John Poulson.

Even more sickening is the attitude of the press. They defend our Jeremy over the bank robbery while they pursue him over the possibility that his sex life might have involved a man.

Twisted

In their twisted set of values, it is a 'crime' for one man to love another, while it is perfectly all right for a politician to sell himself as a front for crooked businessmen.

Where is the top man in the London and County Securities racket, incidentally? Is Gerald Kaplan in jail like Des Warren and George Davis? Not at all. Gerald Kaplan, businessman, is having a jolly time in Monte Carlo, with unlimited funds and champagne.

The newspapers which so readily insist that the rule of law must be applied to the Shrewsbury pickets, the Clay Cross councillors, George Davis and other working-class people, make not one demand that Gerald Kaplan and his associates be arrested.

On the contrary, they believe that businessmen must be free to use any and every means to make a profit. No greater hypocrites ever laced on shoes.

FACT: Nine out of ten pensioners live in houses colder than 70 degrees F, the government-recommended temperature.

FACT: Old people who are cutting down on potatoes because of the present high price are losing a valuable source of Vitamin C, which they need to protect them from illness.

FACT: There are 27,000 elderly in

Tameside and the Manchester area. Tom Foster, director of Social Services there, said: 'If we were to provide care for our pensioners, we would create an enormous number of jobs. But the government will provide money only for absolute necessities.'

FACT: The maximum heating allowance for a permanently bedfast sick person is £1.65. Added to the £2.20 included in the pension, this makes £3.85. This will pay for a two-bar electric fire for 13½ hours a day. If

you don't use any other electrical goods, that is.

FACT: Two million pensioners draw supplementary pension. Less than half of them claim the heating allowance they are entitled to. If you wonder why, just look at this obscure section from Leaflet SBI, Supplementary Benefits, Pensions, and Allowances, buried on page 5.

'If you have special expenses, for example for extra heating (including central heating), special diet or essen-

tial domestic help, a weekly addition can sometimes be made to meet the extra cost.

'If your requirements include the long-term scale rates, most additions for expenses of this kind are made to the extent that the special expense exceeds 50p weekly (75p if you are over 80). This is the sum already included for special expenses in the long-term rates. But any addition for extra heating expenses will always be made in full.'

The cold and lonely bravery of Frank Stagg

THE agony of Frank Stagg, the Republican prisoner who has been on hunger strike in Wakefield Prison for the past nine weeks, is coming to a close. Stagg, who wants to be transferred to a Northern Ireland prison, was described by authorities at Wakefield at the weekend as 'progressively weaker'.

In face of mounting pressure from many sources in Ireland—including county councils, national newspapers, members of parliament and prominent clergymen—and in spite of Provisional threats of a new bombing campaign if Stagg is allowed to die, Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has remained intransigent.

He thus ignores not only the strength of Stagg's own case but the many precedents he himself has set in the past two years.

Murder Gang

Apart from the well-publicised return of the Price sisters, he has quietly sanctioned the transfer of sixteen Loyalists sentenced for arms or explosives offences in Britain. He also readily agreed to the transfer from Northern Ireland to a British prison of Albert Baker, the SAS veteran who admitted leading a Loyalist murder gang in the killing of four Catholics.

Frank Stagg was convicted under the infamous conspiracy laws. The only evidence against him was possession of a street map of Coventry and



his own admission that he and others had talked in general terms about causing explosions if Catholics in Northern Ireland ever seemed on the brink of outright extermination.

The Tory press denies that he is entitled to 'political' status—the reason behind the demand for a transfer. But the political nature of the offence cannot be denied. Clearly, had it not been for the political situation in Ireland such thoughts would never have occurred to Frank Stagg.

Despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary, Roy Jenkins is regarded in some circles as a man of liberal instinct. There may still be time for him just once to live up to that reputation. He should recognise the justice underlying Frank Stagg's cold and lonely bravery and end at once this needless war of wills.

Two thousand people, including a strong delegation from the International Socialists, marched through West London on Sunday to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when 13 Irishmen were murdered by British troops in Derry. At the start of the demonstration a handful of supporters of the fascist National Front charged into the marchers. One 65-year-old man they attacked was taken to hospital with a broken wrist. In return, one fascist received a bloody nose before police hauled them off and later released them without making court charges.

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

Picture: John Sturrock (left)

WHAT WE THINK

ENTER THE IRON MILKSNATCHER

THE Tories have a problem. Harold Wilson and his colleagues have stolen their clothes. The Wilson government is bashing the workers rather harder than most of the more realistic Tories had hoped to get away with.

Reduction of real earnings through pay policy, mass unemployment to weaken workers' resistance, slashing of social services: all this is being rammed through by a so-called Labour government.

What is more, Wilson and Co have succeeded in getting the trade union chieftains to go along with it all—something the Tories could hardly hope to do.

So how is poor Madame Milksnatcher to make the running? She can, and does, keep one or two steps to the right of the government. She can, and does, make gestures to those deluded middle-class Tory voters who believe that it is possible to march right back into the 19th century when 'Britain was great', the workers were kept firmly

in their places and domestic servants were cheap and plentiful.

The Milksnatcher needs an issue, a red-herring, with which to rally both the Tory faithful and the uncommitted mugs, an issue which steers clear of the central questions of economic policy on which the *decisive* sections of the capitalist class agree with Harold Wilson.

She has found her red-herring—a red scare. The overwhelming might of the Kremlin's armies is poised, according to this Tory lady, to sweep across Western Europe.

REPLY

And the supporting cast of armaments manufacturers, superannuated Admirals, Generals nearing retirement and Colonels who would be Field Marshals join in the clamour. All the forces of reaction can unite around this thoroughly dishonest and totally spurious stunt.

The fact is, of course, that the US army, navy and airforce are the biggest in the world, biggest in numbers, biggest in firepower.

And in firepower, at least, they are getting bigger. A new programme of 30,000 million dollars worth of nuclear and conventional destructive capacity is now getting under way. The cruise missile, a 'great leap forward' in destructive power, is about to be introduced by the US.

It is certainly true that the Russian forces—whose main job is to hold down the Russian workers and the East European countries and to threaten China—are also growing in terms of ability to destroy. The deadly competition in the multiplication of the means of mass-destruction between the super-powers continues, and even grows, in spite of 'detente'.

STATUS-QUO

But the ruling groups on both sides have a common interest—the maintenance of the status quo. Moscow and Washington alike are profoundly conservative, and they are not going to fight each other if they can possibly avoid it.

The Thatcher campaign is a diversion. It is aimed, first of all, to rally her own party's supporters and, secondly, at those workers who are foolish enough to allow themselves to be distracted from the real and immediate threat to their interests—the government's policies which are supported by the Tories.

THE COD WAR

YET again Britain's Labour government has refused to settle the Cod War with the Icelandic government.

Yet again the British Labour government has shown its determination to stand up for the rights of Associated British Fisheries, the Ross Group, Bird's Eye and other British-based multinational fishing companies.

What are these 'rights' that the British press dignifies with the usual patriotic garbage?

First, the right to fish the Icelandic fish stocks out of existence in the pursuit of big short-term profits. Second, the right to sacrifice the lives of fishermen of any and every nationality to the same end. Third, the right to sell fish at rocketing prices due to 'shortages', shortages which, it should be remembered, were created by their own grotesque overfishing.

That's why every Socialist Worker reader should have nothing to do with the Patriotic garbage of the British press and should support Iceland's right to impose a 200-mile limit.

Right to Work: SUPPORT THE MARCH, RALLY AND ASSEMBLY

THE official leadership of the TUC is not prepared to do anything about rising unemployment. Last week the TUC General Council voted by 25 votes to five against calling an emergency Congress to discuss the plight of the million and a half who are out of work.

Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon and the rest are afraid that such a Congress would make it more difficult for them to do nothing. If rank and file trade union bodies are going to take their responsibilities for their unemployed members, they cannot wait upon the official bodies to act.

That is why the initiative of the Rank and File Organising Committee was so important in issuing a call on 26 November for the Right to Work Campaign, for the march from Manchester to London and for the rally in the Albert Hall on 20 March. It enabled trade unionists and unemployed groups to follow the success of the 26 November lobby of parliament with further activity.

Now the London Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering workers has also begun to take action on the right to work. It called three weeks ago for a National Assembly on Unemployment in Central Hall, Westminster, for Saturday 27 March.

Some trade union officials, who have so far done nothing about unemployment, are trying to use this initiative as an excuse to confuse people and to oppose the Right to Work Campaign's march and rally.

But the Albert Hall Rally and the Westminster Assembly should in no way be opposed to one another. The level of trade union support to both is the best answer to such splitting activities.

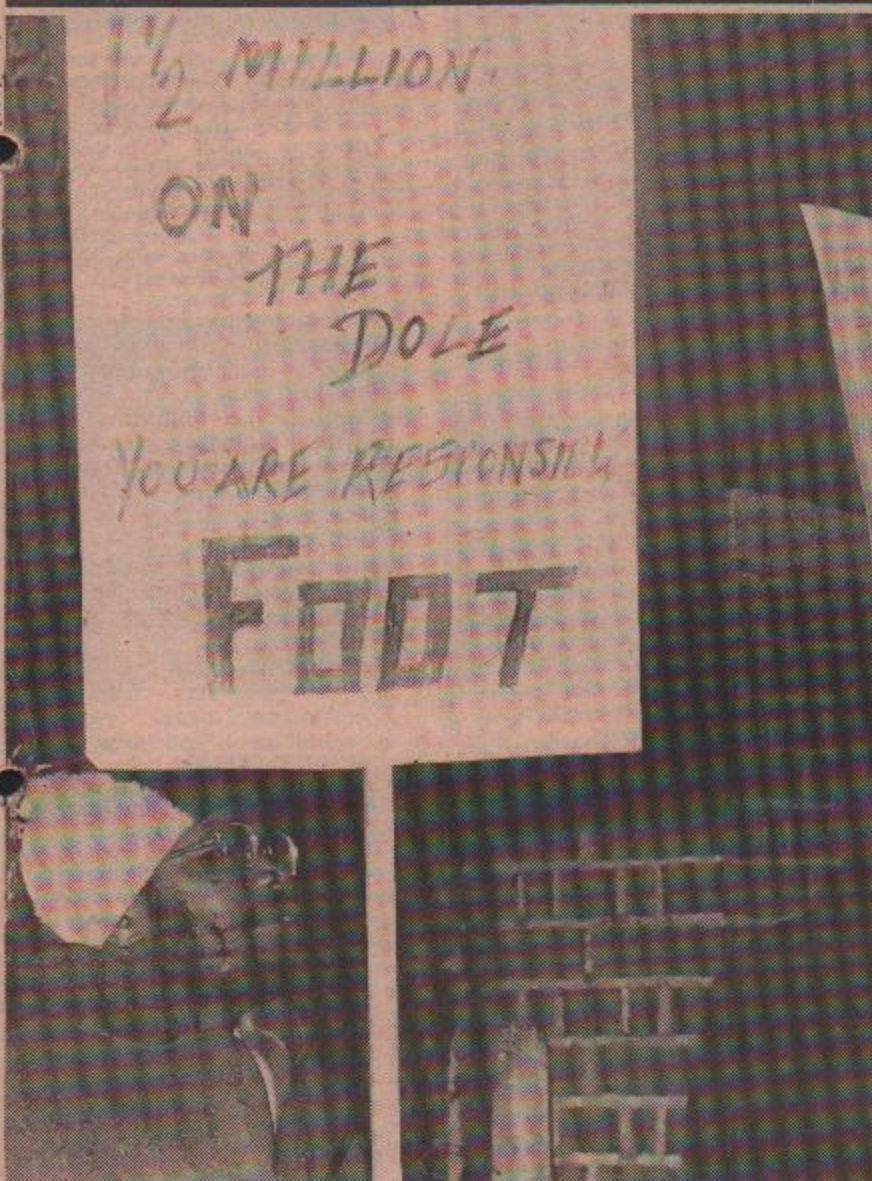
Important

The Albert Hall Rally will be made up of large delegations from trade union bodies. The Central Hall Assembly will be a smaller meeting of delegates for a more detailed discussion. It is important that trade union bodies make every effort to support both.

The National Right to Work Campaign has written to the London Confed suggesting they send an official speaker to the Albert Hall Rally and pointing out that some of the unemployed marchers will be staying in London from the rally until the assembly for a week of action against unemployment. Some marchers hope to attend the assembly.

Already resolutions are being put forward in trade union bodies calling for support for the march, the rally and the Assembly. Socialist Worker urges all its readers and supporters to support such resolutions.

Picture: John Sturges (Report)



ONE of a strong picket organised by the Southall Action Committee against Unemployment which gave Michael Foot, Minister for Unemployment, and Labour MP Sid Bidwell a shock last Saturday. They shouted too at the local bureaucrats of the Indian Workers' Association as they arrived for a public relations exercise for the right-wing Indian government. The action committee, hopes to raise money to send an unemployed Asian worker on the Right to Work March from Manchester to London.

Socialist Worker
 NO GIFTS FOR THE GODFATHER!
 Stop the 8000 sackings Occupy! Nationalise!
 For Des Warren, political prisoner, a third christmas behind bars.

The issue of 20 December as it would look under the new design.

Take a new look at Socialist Worker

NEXT WEEK Socialist Worker will look like this. A new titlepiece, seven narrower columns, more up-to-date news, more pictures, easier to read.

The changes are possible because the SW Fighting Fund last year raised the money to pay for phototypesetting. Our thanks to you for your help.

But we still need your help—in writing the paper, and in raising money to keep it going.

Write to us or phone whenever anything happens where you live, where you work, in your union. We want to know what arguments you hear, how the cuts are biting, how workers all round the country are fighting unemployment.

We want to know what you want to see in Socialist Worker.

We need your money not because we're completely broke but because our bills, like everyone else's, are soaring. This is your paper, and we want to keep it that way. Any donation helps—even the 5p that can be collected from the people you work with.



This week we have received a really good collection. The SW Supporters Fund has brought in £190.82. Our thanks to:

- GLC SW supporters £2.32
- SE London District IS £20
- Halifax IS £5
- P D Jackson, Brighton £25
- York IS £7

- Imperial College IS £10
- Glasgow IS £20
- North London District IS £38
- Enfield IS £4.50
- Phil Appleby 50p
- Lambeth Law Centre £3.50
- Southwark Teachers £15
- Lowestoft £5
- Glasgow SW supporters £10
- Warren Lakin, Essex £2
- Chessington, Surrey. £3
- Anon £20

Send donations and collections for the SW Supporters Fund to: Mel Norris, National Treasurer, 8 Coltons Gardens, London E2.

To contact the Socialist Worker Editorial Office, write to: Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, phone 01-739 6361/0185.

MPS ARE to vote again next Monday (9 February) on abortion.

Exactly a year ago, they voted overwhelmingly in favour of a Bill, presented by James White, Labour MP for Glasgow Pollock, which would have taken away the legal right women have to abortion.

The Bill was supported by more than 90 Labour MPs.

The 1967 Abortion Act allows abortion on medical and social grounds up to seven months pregnancy, if two doctors agree to sign the appropriate forms.

Restrictions

It does not entitle a woman to an abortion merely because she wants one.

A Select Committee was set up to consider White's Bill. The committee had a majority against abortion.

Naturally, all its reports suggested restrictions, some of which have already been taken up by the Department of Health.

Abortions can no longer be performed after five months of pregnancy, unless the clinic or hospital has the facility to keep the foetus alive. The number of women needing such late abortions is tiny.

Impossible Choice

But they will now be faced with an impossible choice—either to have the baby which they don't want, whatever the reason, or to have the abortion knowing that attempts will be made to keep the foetus alive at a stage when that is almost impossible.

Quotas on the number of foreign women using private clinics are now kept, which means that every woman has to prove whether or not she lives in this country. Which is alright unless you happen to be black or Irish, or speak poor English.

The informal, and often more accessible, sources of referral to clinics

The monsters straining at the leash...

IF THESE BARBARIANS RETURN, THE DAYS OF BACK-STREET ABORTION WILL RETURN WITH THEM.

The Select Committee must not be reappointed. The National Abortion Campaign is calling a demonstration outside Parliament on Monday 9 February. The debate is timed from 7pm to 10pm. Demonstrate outside Parliament 4-7pm. Rally Central Hall, Westminster, 7-10pm.

Every SW supporter who can get to Parliament should be there, particularly those from unions which have campaigned against the changes in the law. 6-7pm is the most important hour.

for abortion are no longer recognised. Only specially registered agencies can arrange for women to have abortions.

The MPs on the Select Committee are now insisting that they be allowed to continue their dirty work.

In theory, Bills such as James White's fall at the end of the parliamentary year if they have not been voted on.

Now the government has put down a resolution not only to reappoint the

Select Committee, with the same MPs, but also to continue to discuss the same Bill.

The only outcome would be a fresh attempt to make it harder for women to get abortions. The Committee does not consider improving National Health Service facilities. Restrictions are its only concern.

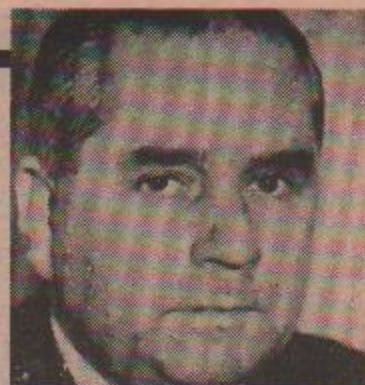
The result of that will be to force women to have unwanted children, or to face the horrors of the back street

abortion—the knitting needle at £100 a go.

The private clinics, prepared to turn a blind eye to the law for a price, will flourish.

Despite these consequences, the Labour government is allowing MPs a free vote. It is a matter for their 'conscience'.

It is a pity they forget that it is also a matter for a woman's conscience whether or not she has an abortion.



JAMES WHITE, Labour MP for Glasgow Pollock: 'I'd never thought about abortion until the 1970 election. But on polling day, a Glasgow paper showed a picture of my Tory opponent with a group of nuns, calling the Labour government immoral for wanting the Abortion Act. How would you like that if you were fighting a marginal seat and it happened to you?'



LEO ABSE, Labour MP for Pontypool: Obsessive anti-abortion bigot. 'Men should not be deceived. Women who demand unduly prolonged fore-pleasure as a precondition to sexual penetration are to be avoided. Their demands are motivated by an attempt to disparage, as pleasure-giving, the male organ itself'.



ANTHONY FELL (Yarmouth) above and **JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON** (Chigwell) below, are the two oldest barnacles of the Tory Right. Both Catholics, both members of the Suez group. They can be seen together any time of the day in the House of Commons speaking up for white Rhodesians, white South Africans, the Chilean Junta, General Franco, and dictators anywhere.



WHY KAUNDA ATTACKS MPLA



THE SUCCESS of the MPLA in defeating the South African and CIA puppet forces in Angola is already having an impact on neighbouring states.

The president of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, last week declared a state of emergency, claiming that the country was threatened by a 'plundering tiger coming in through the back door'. Zambia has played an important role in encouraging South African intervention in Angola and is supporting the anti-MPLA forces.

But the successes of the MPLA are not Kaunda's only worry. He also faces growing opposition within Zambia.

The country has been politically independent since the early 1960s. And the main industry, copper mining, is supposed to be 51 per cent nationalised. But British and American companies retain effective control over the nationalised mines and

their profits. The Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa and Rio Tinto Zinc retain 49 per cent of the shares and get huge fees for 'managing' the mines.

The newspapers are controlled by Lonrho. Again, nationalisation is only a fig-leaf. When the papers were nationalised last year, the head of Lonrho greeted the news with an enthusiastic speech.

Four-fifths of agricultural production is controlled by 500 white farmers, who have racist ideas similar to those of their neighbours in Rhodesia and South Africa.

The companies which dominate Zambia also have huge investments in South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). They want to force the black middle class leaders of the Zimbabwe liberation movements to come to a friendly agreement with the Smith regime. Kaunda has been helping them—jailing, disarming and even murdering those members of the liberation movements who resist such policies.

In Zambia, the impact of the world crisis is devastating the lives of most people. The price of the country's main export, copper, has fallen massively, and by the time the multi-nationals have had their rake-off, there is little left for the workers and peasants.

It is estimated that the number of unemployed school-leavers will reach 400,000 within two years.

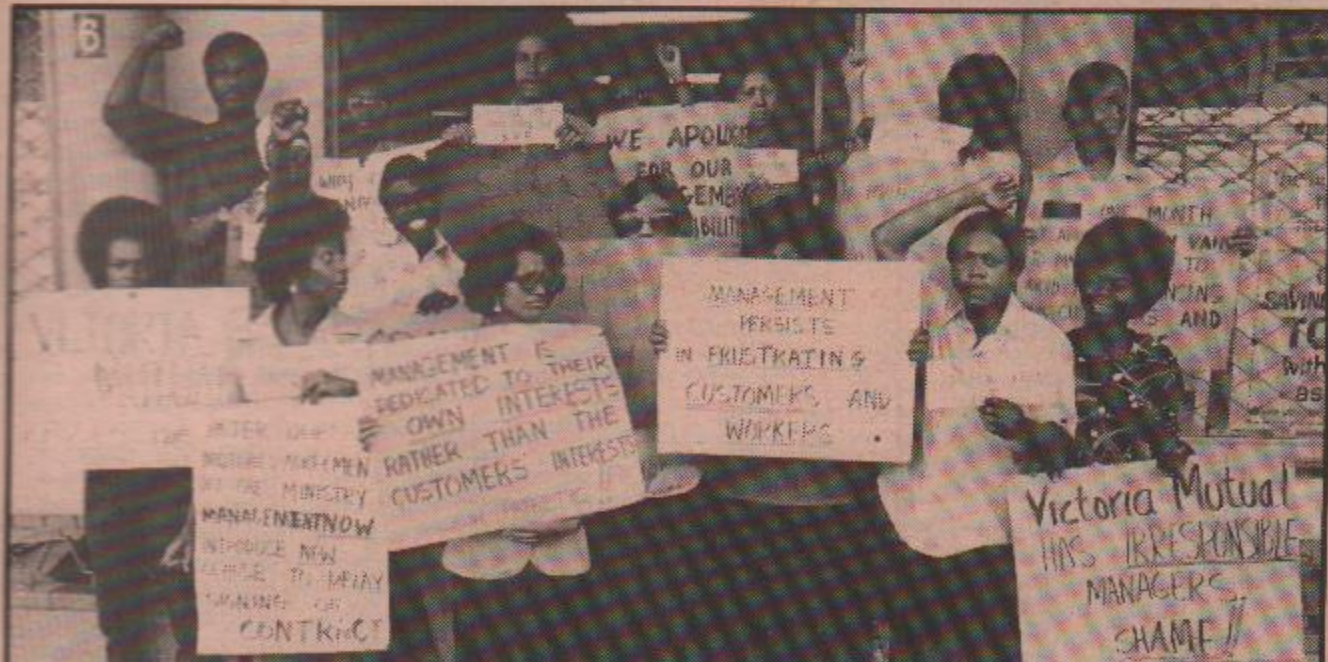
The government has been trying to force unemployed workers into labour armies under military discipline for 'rural reconstruction'.

The threat of redundancy led to three widespread strike waves in the copper mines last year, despite laws which ban strikes.

Discontent

The students of Lusaka university have also been showing discontent with the government, by defying it and demonstrating in support of the MPLA's struggle in Angola.

The Zambian emergency shows one thing. Already, the successes of the MPLA are putting the skids under African leaders who would like to sell out the black liberation movement of Southern Africa and to come to terms with the racist regimes.



JAMAICA'S white-collar workers are beginning to organise

Workers at the Victoria Mutual Building Society (above) are on strike against the 'enshrined right of management' (the boss's right)

to introduce punctuality and attendance systems.

As one of the workers' leaflets put it: 'Slave owners also thought they had an enshrined right to own slaves'.

If these workers are successful, other sections in banking and insurance, some of Jamaica's most profitable industries, are ready to flock into the National Workers Union.

SOUTH AFRICA OUT OF ANGOLA!

Torchlight picket of South Africa House, Trafalgar Square 5-7pm, Wednesday 11 February

Called by Anti-Apartheid Movement Supported by National Organisation of International Socialist Societies.

London IS Societies to attend.



Support the Right to Work Campaign!

Electricians ban overtime in right to work battle

by George Kelly, EETPU convenor, Glasgow Corporation

THE unemployed cannot win the battle for jobs unless we employed workers take the lead in fighting unemployment. We know what the policies are: a ban on overtime, the 35-hour week and so on.

Militant electricians all over the country have got together in a fight for the right to work.

We've got sponsors from all over the country, and we've printed thousands of right to work leaflets calling on electricians everywhere to join the campaign and fight for its policies. We're holding an important meeting on Saturday 14 February in Birmingham.*

Here in Glasgow, all electricians who work for the

council have banned all overtime from last week.

Three EETPU branches in Glasgow, two with more than 2000 members, have asked that the national office affiliate to the Right to Work Campaign and allow us to affiliate.

We are sending one unemployed electrician on the Right to Work March, and an employed man is taking a week's holiday so he can go on part of it. We hope to raise enough money to support them the whole time.

And we're hiring a couple of buses to go to the Albert Hall rally on 20 March.

Employed workers everywhere should be doing the same things. It's a small start for us—but already many of the lads are beginning to connect with the fight against unemployment.

BACK THIS CAMPAIGN SAY SPARKS MILITANTS

FIFTY-FOUR Electricians convenors, stewards and rank and file militants have signed a leaflet calling on members of the EETPU to support the Right to Work Campaign. They are:

Sandy Anderson (former shop steward, St James Square, Edinburgh), Phil Baker (Cardiff No 2), Willie Black (shop steward, Parsons Peebles, Edinburgh), Wyn Bevan (convenor Margam Steelworks), Stan Bishop (shop steward, Central Middlesex Hospital), Alan Brell (Glasgow), Bobby Burds (Port Glasgow plumbers' branch), Colin Calder (Swansea), John Chapman (Assistant convenor, BSC Consett), Franny Clanly (shop steward Lothian Region), Jim Connor (Scotts, Greenock, Glasgow SE), Steve Darby (shop steward, BEA Heathrow), Gerry Davidson (Manchester Press), Ronnie Drysdale (shop steward, Chrysler Linwood), Jed Doherty (Birmingham City), Stan Ellis (London Co-op), R Guy (shop steward, Ferranti, Edinburgh), John Glen (shop steward, Glasgow District Council), Hugh Higgins (convenor Electrical Maintenance, Glasgow District Council), Steve Hunt (shop steward, South Glamorgan Council), Rab Jeffery (shop steward, ICI, Grangemouth), Linda Jones (Glasgow) Mike Jones (Alcoa works, Swansea branch), George Kelly (convenor, Glasgow District Council), Sean Keogh (shop steward, London Co-op, South Ealing) and 13 electricians

(London Co-op, South Ealing), John Dermott (shop steward Plessey Telecommunications, London), A McKee (shop steward, Ferranti, Edinburgh), Jack McKenna (shop steward, Joint Shop Stewards, STC, East Kilbride), Norman Maclean (Waddon branch), Gerry McManus (City District Secretary, Department of the Environment), Frank McNeil (shop steward, Phillips TV, Croydon), Peter Porteous (Glasgow Branch Committee), Mike Shakespeare (shop steward, Worcester Hospital site), Jim Simpson (shop steward, BEA Heathrow), Billy Stavrakis (convenor Cardiff City Council), Stevie Stevenson (former secretary, Alcoa Shop Stewards' Committee), Tom Sullivan (BR, Northampton), Tam Sykes (convenor, Ferranti, Edinburgh), Tom Topley (London Rubber, Harlow branch), Bill Williams (Branch Secretary, Cardiff No 2), Gordon Wray (shop steward, Monkbridge Works, Doncaster).

*** National Meeting EETPU MEMBERS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK**
Birmingham, Digbeth Civic Hall,
Saturday 14 February, 2pm,
Chairman: Billy Williams (unemployed electrician, Cardiff)
Speakers: Wyn Bevan (EETPU Convenor, Margam BSC, Port Talbot), Bobby Burds (unemployed plumber, National Right to Work Campaign), George Kelly (EETPU Convenor, Glasgow District Council)
Correspondence: Norman Mclean, 56, Brightwell Crescent, London, SE17

'GIVE THE UNEMPLOYED A £6 RISE'

SAYS NEW COMMITTEE WHICH DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO WORK

Wilson speaks on 'world problem'

Cuttings from the local papers in Northampton, where the Right to Work Committee is making headlines as the campaign against unemployment builds up. With support from the trades council, local Labour councillors and the local Labour MP, the Northampton committee is preparing a big welcome for the marchers when they arrive there on Monday 16 March.



MARCHERS : 64 ON THE LIST SO FAR

SO FAR 64 unemployed workers have pledged themselves to march all the way from Manchester to London on the Right to Work March next month. Many more will join them for part of the way.

EETPU: Bobby Burds (Manchester), Gerry Davidson (Manchester), Francis Schofield (Rochdale), Eric Acton (Manchester).

IGWU: Martin Brownbridge (York), Loz Bridgen (Birmingham), Tommy Douras (Liverpool), Sam Strudwick (London), Steven Jones (Liverpool), D J Schofield (Rochdale), Eric Acton (Manchester).

FTAT: Mick Moran (Hull), Tony Jones (Kirkby), Frank Jones (Liverpool).

NALGO: Thelma Kennedy (Bolton), Tommy Kayes (Glasgow), Stuart Dowie (Dunfermline), Paul Bryden (Bristol).

AUEW: Dave Swingle (Birmingham), Jack Cummins (Bolton), Steve Kind (Leeds), Joseph Cronshaw (Manchester), Ken Anderson (Manchester), Robert Dickinson (Manchester), Mick Brightman (London), Pete McDonnell (Cheltenham), D P Fitzgerald (Middlesbrough), Roger Milton (Leeds).

GMWU: Ray Storry (London), Carolyn Conway (Guildford), Erica Burnley (Nottingham), Ken Watson (Manchester), Bob Wilson (Manchester).

NUPE: John Mann (London), Tom MacLue (Manchester), Mike Alderson (Bristol), Mike Martin (Manchester), Nancy Kelly (Glasgow), Robert Graham (Glasgow), Kevin Burridge (Bradford), Padala Vee Reddy (Bradford), Cossar (Bradford), Colin Cameron (Bristol).

Azeem Kahn (Bakers Union, Blackburn), Robbie Marmion, Marcus Luck (Ipswich UCATT), Mike Buckingham (Glasgow NUJ), Neil Rogall (London CPSA), Kevin Wingfield (London NUT), Tina Dickinson (Liverpool Garment Workers), Willie Dolan (Glasgow USDAW), John Evans (Bristol NGA), Graham Cooke (Sheffield NUM), Danny Evaristo (Boilermakers, Greenwich).

Pete Fysh (London), David William Hayes (Newcastle), Mary Littlefield (Leeds), Kerry Abram (Liverpool), John Jones (Liverpool), John Gordon (Hull), Eric Cameron (Bristol), Tom Donoghue (Glasgow), Roy Denham (Manchester), Barry Hargreaves (Halifax).

All these marchers need the support of trade unionists and others everywhere. It will cost £5 a day—for food, equipment, leaflets, posters, propaganda of every description—for each day each marcher is on the march. Call on your trade union branch, trades council or shop stewards' committee, to sponsor a marcher. Hold a collection at your workplace. Send a donation yourself.



Mick Moran, aged 22, from Hull, a member of the furniture workers' union FTAT who has been unemployed for 12 months.



Martin Brownbridge from York, a member of the Transport Workers union, unemployed for five months.



Mary Littlefield from Leeds, Unemployed since December, when she lost her job as a shop assistant.



Robbie Marmion from Liverpool, Unemployed for 10 months, A trained male nurse.

What they're marching for

THESE are the ten demands of the National Right to Work Campaign, which is organising the march:

ONE: Opposition to all forms of redundancy. No voluntary redundancy, no job loss through 'natural' wastage. No productivity dealing.

TWO: For 100 per cent trade union closed shops with shopfloor trade union control of hiring and manning levels. No discrimination or blacklisting. Trade union district registration of all jobs and protection

of district manning levels.

THREE: No co-operation with the employers. No to all participation schemes.

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

FIVE: For the 35-hour week without loss of pay. For official overtime bans to force more jobs.

SIX: Five days work or five days pay. For occupations to force the nationalisation without compensation

of firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.

SEVEN: Stop the cuts.

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

NINE: Full wages for the unemployed and no means testing. £6-a-week increase now for all unemployed workers as an immediate step towards this.

TEN: For full trade union rights for the unemployed.

Right to Work Campaign SPONSORSHIP FORM

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR

(Name of marcher)

FOR

(length of time sponsored)

NAME OF SPONSOR And or TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

I ENCLOSE

Cut out this form and send to: Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N15.

The rule of law..

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

In this country, we have on the bench a fit companion for Judge Jeffries. Who elected this vile creature?

'THERE ARE a lot of people in prison in the United States—and most of them are there because they couldn't afford a good lawyer.'

These immortal words were uttered by the famous Clarence Darrow, best known of all campaigning and defending attorneys in America—or anywhere else for that matter—this century.

Purchased

'Another episode in American legal show business opens today in San Francisco . . . ' wrote Simon Winchester in the Guardian last week (28.1.76).

'And the one issue particularly relevant to the

somewhat soiled reputation of American law is whether or not a girl, circumstantially guilty as charged, can have her freedom purchased for a great deal of money.'

He was talking about the Patty Hearst case, which will hit British TV and press in a big way in the next week or two.

I do not for one moment accept the 'guilty unless proved innocent' approach which Winchester, in line with the rest of the commentators in the capitalist press, adopts in this case.

I do not know whether Patty Hearst is guilty as charged or not—though if I were a jurymen I would be inclined to vote not guilty, simply on the grounds of the tremendous media build up against her.

But one thing I am certain of. If Patty Hearst had been Patty Smith, daughter of a plumber,

or Patty Gonzalez, daughter of a grape picker, she would already be serving 30 years or whatever the maximum sentence is in California. And hardly anyone would have heard about it.

Why? Darrow, a man who knew the system inside out and spent 50 years fighting it, put it this way:

Money

'Justice in the United States is administered with scrupulous regard for the rights of the accused and the presumption of his innocence until he is proven guilty—not of some crime, but of the particular crime charged against him.'

'These rules and safeguards operate fairly when a defendant with money, influence and good lawyers is involved. But for the poor and defenceless prisoner it is a different story.'

Darrow, who was not a socialist, but a radical who had a sense of honour and a conscience, knew from bitter experience just how the law is loaded in favour of the rich.

He had been involved, as counsel or as supporter, in resisting the frame-up charges against Joe Hill, Frank Little, Mooney and Billings, Sacco and Vanzetti and the Scottsboro' Boys.

He had saved some innocent men from the gallows or the penitentiary, and he had fought hard and long to save others and had failed.

True, he had also used his unparalleled skills in the interests of various rich clients.

Rich

In this respect, and in this respect alone, he resembled F Lee Bailey, who, for a fee of 'not less than one million dollars' will defend Patricia Hearst.

Miss Hearst is fortunate that her family is rich enough to be able to hire Mr Bailey—who secured the acquittal of Captain Medina, the mass murderer of My Lai, and snatched the Boston Strangler from the gallows. Good luck to her.

The fact remains that money talks, that there is no 'impartial justice'.

We have been talking about the USA. Is Britain better? My guess is that it is much worse.

In this country, judges have powers, far greater than their American counterparts, to suppress facts and to prevent free comment on pain of imprisonment for 'contempt of court'.

Expose

In this country senior lawyers and judges are drawn from the top ten per cent of the population.

The few honest and conscientious counsel have far less freedom to expose judicial tyranny and corruption.

In this country we even have a Melford Stevenson on the bench, a neanderthal and fit companion for Judge Jeffries, Judge Scroggs and Lord Braxfield.

Who elected this vile creature? Who put this reptile in a position to injure his fellow citizens?

Why, his ruling class friends, of course. That is what is called the 'rule of law'.

THE CLAN McALPINE

“ ANYONE WHO CAN hold a private lunch party and make it virtually impossible to get a Cabinet quorum cannot be without influence and friends. In what other industry can any person boast such a wide and diverse circle of acquaintances? None. ”

That was the trade newspaper Construction News writing about the 1970 McAlpine Christmas lunch at the McAlpine-owned and built Dorchester Hotel in London's posh Park Lane.

At the 1970 McAlpine beano, Construction News disclosed, there were a total of 700 guests, 31 Lords, 92 knights and sundry businessmen and politicians of every hue, including, of course, close friend and Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Shortly after printing this story, the editor and journalists of Construction News began to discover that pressure was being applied by their employers, the Thomson Organisation.

Before long, the editor had resigned, the staff were throttled and McAlpine and other construction industry bosses had got rid of another batch of names on their enemy list.

McALPINES have their enemies. But they also keep on elaborate list of all their many friends.

They publish, for internal consumption only, a special McAlpine 'Who's Who' of important people in the civil service, in local authorities, public corporations, private companies and the City.

The book logs every person obligated to the company in some way. It is, of course, constantly updated and expanded.



In his one published interview, Sir Alfred McAlpine went on record about his 'fanatical dislike for a man who squanders a fortune left to him'. This picture shows his son Alfred James in the Clermont Club . . . squandering a fortune left to him by his dear old dad. The man on the right is the well-known disappearing act, Lord Lucan. This picture was first published (without names) in the Daily Mail. It has since been withdrawn from the Mail picture library in circumstances which can only be called mysterious.

5 FIFTH COLUMN

FIFTH COLUMN looks this week at one of the most dangerous gangs in Britain. It operates under a number of names: Newarthill Holdings, Edger Investments, Marchwiel Holdings, Pochin Joinery and so on. But it is best-known under its family name: McAlpine.

The Clan McAlpine are the biggest civil engineers in Britain. And when they run into any opposition, they know how to take care of it.

Their biggest success in this field concerns a number of innocent building workers who had the temerity to picket a McAlpine site. The Clan McAlpine's power is such that they got a Tory government to jail those men, the Shrewsbury pickets, and then persuaded a Labour one to keep them there.

One of them, Des Warren, is still inside. That's why Fifth Column is interested in the Clan McAlpine.

The day they evicted Sir Alec's nephew...

A WEB of power takes a long time to construct. And it is built in a number of ways. There's marriage for example.

When the McAlpines were on the way up, more than one judicious marriage came in handy.

Then there are other ways to make ties. This can involve illegal favours such as printing election addresses on the company press, for local government election candidates, an operation which can be disguised by putting a false imprint on the bottom. This was done with Alderman George Richards in recent Denbighshire elections.

Then there is the magnificent McAlpine largesse.

For instance, Sir Robin McAlpine has a lovely house in the South of France, which he lets important people use free of charge.

Free

Back in the early 1960s, when Sir Alec Douglas Home was Prime Minister, the good Sir Robin let Home's nephew Robin live on the McAlpine's Aylesfield farm. Rent

free, of course.

But, in October 1964, a terrible thing happened. Sir Alec fell from power. Before very many weeks had passed, young Robin was suddenly and without explanation evicted.

Then there are links achieved by company takeovers.

When McAlpine's took over Pochin Joinery, they netted a valuable ally, former 'socialist' Minister of Housing and darling of the left Tony Greenwood, now elevated to Lord Rosendale.

There's membership in the upper class clubs of London. Sir Alfred McAlpine, for example, holds membership of Boodles. His cousin, Sir Edwin, is a Garrick man.

Sir John Passmore Widgery, Lord Chief Justice of England, is a member of both Garricks and Boodles.

It was Lord Widgery who sent the Shrewsbury pickets back to jail last year.

Innocent - they 'didn't know' it was illegal

McALPINE'S are an octopus. They have their placemen and tentacles everywhere.

But the McAlpine style shows up closest on their home territory, North Wales, where they have a large estate, or rather a kingdom.

Two recent stories will tell you all you need to know.

Last autumn Sir Alfred McAlpine was driving his white Rolls Royce through the town of Marchwiel when he crashed into a milk float.

Amazingly, the case came to court. Inspector Ifor Jones stated at the trial that Sir Alfred had broken the law by crossing the double white lines.

Conflicting

Sir Alfred's representative argued that the evidence was 'conflicting'. Sir Alfred was cleared.

The evidence at Shrewsbury was also conflicting. Des Warren went to jail for three years, Ricky Tomlinson for two, and John McKinsie Jones for nine months.

In another recent case, Sir Alfred McAlpine Ltd were brought to court for breaches of the asbestos

regulations.

They were sawing asbestos sheeting on site in an illegal way, throwing deadly asbestos dust into the air.

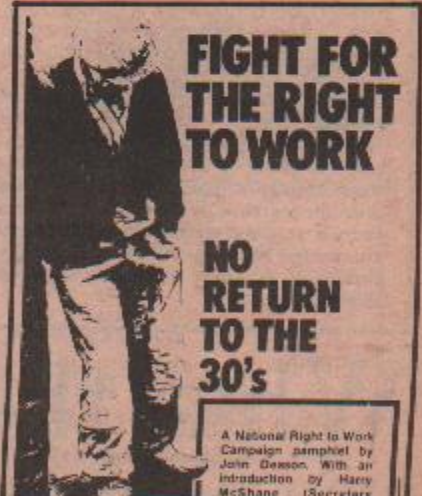
In court, McAlpine's claimed that they hadn't heard of the asbestos regulations. So the magistrate let them off.

By McAlpine's logic, since Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones had never heard of the conspiracy laws they should have been found not guilty.

On appeal by the Factory Inspectorate, McAlpine's were eventually found guilty and fined some petty amount.

McAlpine's asbestos violence and other violence on construction sites kills dozens of men each year. But it's not punishable in any real sense at all.

The rights of each and every octopus to make profits are enshrined in law. That's why Des Warren is still in jail.



FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

NO RETURN TO THE 30's

A National Right to Work Campaign pamphlet by John Deason. With an introduction by Harry McShane, Secretary.

What the Right to Work Campaign is all about. An important new pamphlet by John Deason, secretary of the Campaign.

19p inc postage (orders over 10 copies post free, 10p a copy) from Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.



Philip Agee, the former CIA agent, speaking to 70 people at a Socialist Worker public meeting in Harlow last week. He said the CIA had more than 70 agents in Britain, many of them working within the Labour Party and trade unions.

Italy: CIA backed a coup...

THE US SPY NETWORK, the CIA, was directly implicated in attempts by extreme right-wing officers and former supporters of Mussolini to carry through a coup in Italy five years ago.

And they were indirectly involved in a

bombing which killed 16 people in a Milan bank a year earlier.

These astonishing facts were leaked to the US press last week from a secret Congressional report.

Over the last 25 years, the CIA has paid out more than £74 million to right-wing Italian politicians. One of these figures to receive substantial sums was General Vito Miceli, former head of the Italian secret service, the SID.

BLUE FILMS AND DRUG RUNNING

IN ITS defence of the Western way of life, the CIA has spent some of its £5000 million budget on making blue films and providing prostitutes for rulers such as King Hussein of Jordan.

These facts, revealed last week, follow revelations that the CIA used to finance its activities in Cambodia through heroin smuggling and that it used to give LSD to unsuspecting US military personnel to test its effects.

No protests have been made at these activities by those self-professed guardians of morality, the Festival of Light, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Conservative Women's Association and all those

other bodies which paint a picture of our society as threatened by pornography, promiscuity, and drug taking.

The News of the World and the Sunday People have kept equally quiet—perhaps because to give publicity to such things would make it more difficult to portray the CIA and the Atlantic Alliance on defending 'law and order' and 'our values' against the Red hordes.

So right wing were Miceli's policies that even the head of the CIA in Italy objected to a £400,000 payment to him in 1972. But he was overruled by the US ambassador and by Henry Kissinger, now in charge of US foreign affairs.

These payments were authorised two years after Miceli had tried to organise a coup against the Italian government, with the aim of introducing a military dictatorship supported by the neo-fascists. Viteli is currently awaiting trial for his actions.

As part of the run up to the attempted coup, the right wing decided it wanted to create a climate of insecurity and tension which it could then blame on the left. And so it let off a bomb in the Milan agricultural bank.

One of the men now facing trial for that action is Giannetini, an agent of the secret police working under Miceli's control at the time.

But the first people to be accused of the crime were Pinelli, a railway worker who 'fell' to his death from a window while under interrogation, and Valpreda, a socialist who was held in jail for more than two years.

Published

When various left wing papers throughout Europe, including Socialist Worker, published the names and addresses of CIA agents a couple of weeks ago, we were accused by Tory and right wing Labour politicians of putting 'people's lives in danger'.

But these politicians have said nothing about the CIA's activities in Italy and elsewhere, perhaps because to do so would be to admit that the real danger to life and liberty lies in the existence of the CIA's international murder network.



That's one way to fight for jobs!
Workers at Leyland's Innocenti factory in Milan stage a sit-down at a local railway station to protest at

4,250 sackings.
Their action stopped two-thirds of the trains going into or out of the city.

THE BOSSES' PURGE

WORKERS occupied the Timex factory near Lisbon last week in a battle to save 700 jobs.

Those threatened with the sack include ten of the 15 members of the workers' commission, nine out of 15 trade union delegates and a national trade union leader.

The workers call it 'the bosses' saneamento'. In many Portuguese factories, leading militants are the first to go down the road.

After the April 1974 coup, Timex workers were among the thousands involved in the 'saneamento' struggles—they occupied the plant and demanded that management and administration fascists be kicked out.

They also demanded what was then the national minimum wage, £25, and a 40-hour week.

Now, a year and a half later, reaction, economic chaos and factory closures are a grim reality.

Reaction, represented by the

government, which is using ever more repressive measures to back up its plans for economic 'austerity' and to restore its kind of 'order'; and chaos, caused by international sanctions against Portuguese industry and by companies such as Timex, for whom the profitable era of cheap Portuguese labour is over.

INTRICATE

Two out of three Timex workers are women. Classified as 'unskilled', they do intricate and highly dexterous assembly of tiny watch parts.

Two years of this work results in partial blindness, spinal disorders and nervous dis-ordination of the hands. Under fascism, they were paid just £12 a week.

Timex workers have been on short-time working for months. The bosses were planning a series of lockouts to introduce a three-day week.

The occupation is demanding a 40-hour week, no loss of pay and no redundancies. The initiative could give a lead to thousands.

A joint committee of workers' delegates from Timex, Transul, Lisnave, Parry and Son, and the Sociedade Portuguesa de Navios are organising support for the struggle.

Cinema workers in nearby Condes put on special film shows to raise funds. And workers at Lisnave and Parry and Son have sent food.

The workers' commission are appealing to Timex workers in other countries for solidarity. They've sent a message to the Dundee factory which supported their occupation in 1974.

As the workers' commission told Socialist Worker: 'Unless the multi-nationals are opposed by a workforce united internationally, they will continue to manipulate governments and throw people out of work at will for their own profit.'

PORTUGAL



The Lessons of the 25th November 1975

For 18 months after the overthrow of fascism, the revolutionary movement in Portugal grew and grew. It was the most exciting working-class upsurge for decades.

Then, on 25 November, it suffered its first major defeat. An abortive coup by paratroopers gave the right-wing the chance to disarm and disband left-wing military units.

This important new pamphlet explains what went wrong—and what needs to be done to put Portugal back on the road to socialism.

10p (plus 9p postage) from International Dept. 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Tear gas attack on strikers

TWO workers were seriously injured and 21 were arrested when 1000 strikers at the Pitsos electrical factory in Athens were attacked by police a fortnight ago.

The workers, who had been on strike for 42 days, were trying to prevent busloads of scabs getting into the factory when six tear gas vehicles and three water cannons were turned against them.

The government's use of police against strikers has gone hand in hand with its attempt to rig the trade union movement.

It has appointed its own supporters to positions in the unions since the overthrow of the military junta 18 months ago, and called a congress of trade unions last month.

Unions were given three days to choose delegates and submit resolutions.

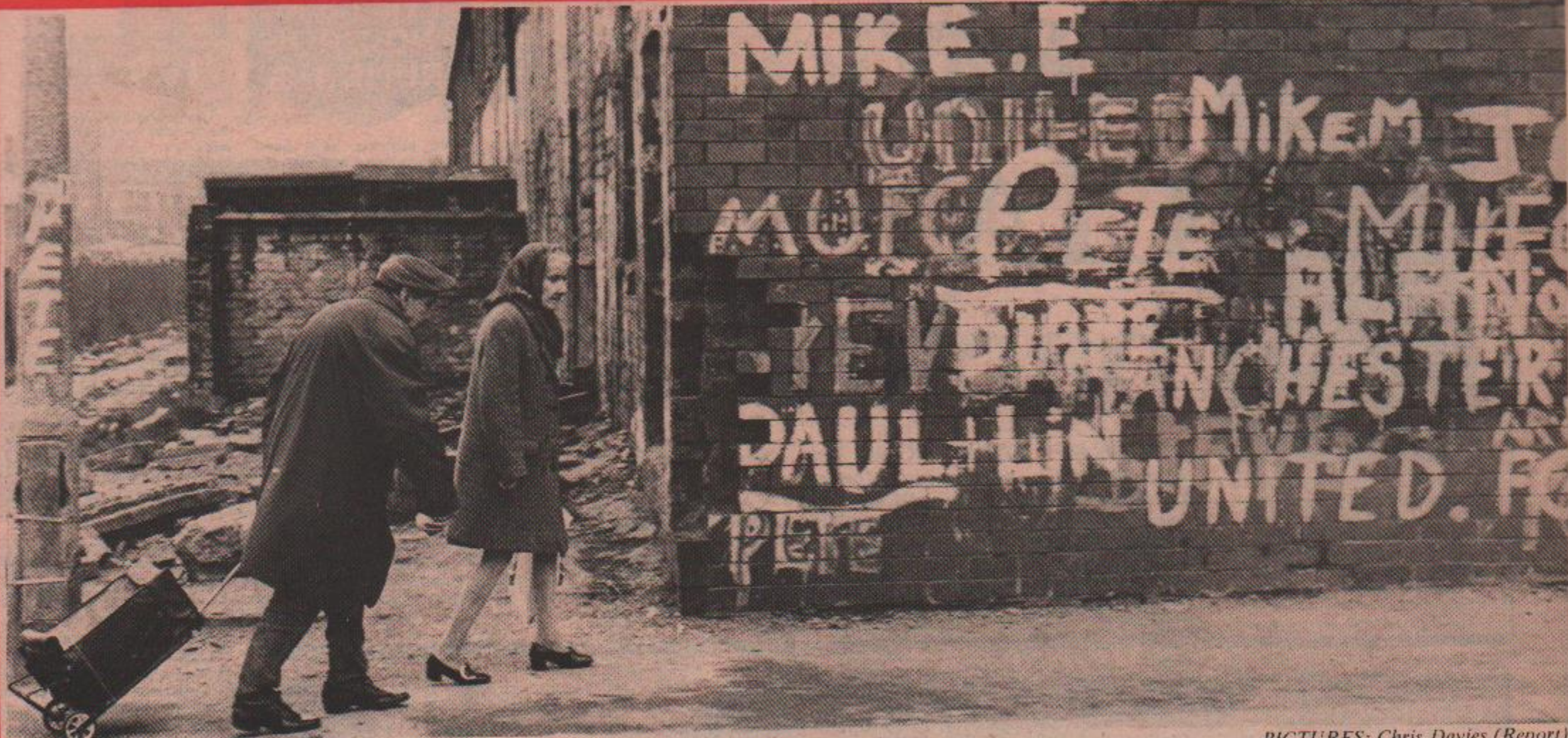
Many of the most powerful unions could not attend because they had been banned by previous right wing governments.

Ten thousand workers marched in protest to the Congress, where they were met by police and armoured vehicles.

On 23 January a Patras court heard the appeal of six revolutionaries sentenced to eight months' jail for putting up posters protesting at the use of police by the government to break strikes.

Their appeal was backed by a protest meeting supported by many political groups and striking workers from the Pitsos and Kalidaris factories.

The sentence was cut to three months suspended.



Salford 1976 or Salford 1930?

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

Nightmare on the

TWO LETTERS FROM SALFORD



Ken Anderson in his occupied home

From Ken Anderson (AUEW)
I LAST had a full-time job about 12 months ago. At that time myself, my wife and my baby were living with my parents in a two-bedroom council house and it was very overcrowded.

Well, with losing my job, this led to trouble with my parents and also with my wife. We were always fighting and arguing about never having money and sitting about the house all day.

All this led to the wife and baby suffering with bad health. All this time I was trying to find a job, also a flat or house. Anything so we could get out of that house.

Then I heard about this house in a demolition area, that had come empty and was going to be bricked up. Well, I was so desperate that I decided to squat in it. We moved in, made some repairs, decorated, and made it fairly nice.

That was nearly 12 months ago and I have made attempts to pay rent to the owners, who are the North Western Water Board. But they said no, and that I was

trespassing.

So I approached the social services, and asked them if they could help me. Also at this time my wife was eight months pregnant. Well, they said that when we get thrown out on the streets we should go back then, and they would put my wife and kids in a hostel and I could walk the streets. A lot of good that would do us.

Well, I am not leaving this house till I get somewhere for us to live. While all this is going on, I am still trying to find a job. Because all the trouble I am having with a house and financial trouble all stems from being out of work and not being able to afford anything decent.

Terrible

This house being in a condemned area, some of the conditions around here are terrible, and with having a young baby nearly three years old, and the wife expecting another one any day now, me being out of work—well, what is there for us to look forward to?

I have joined the Manchester Fight for the Right to Work Committee and hope that my little bit will help some way in these very bad times.



Joseph Cronshaw outside the house that disqualified him from the council's housing list

From Joseph Cronshaw (AUEW)
I DON'T know how many jobs I've had since I came home from Australia in 1973.

I left one job because the firm threatened to close down. I was laid off from the next two weeks before Christmas 1974 without holiday pay.

I got myself another job as a lorry-driver, but was made redundant there too. I went to Lincoln and got a job and promise of a house—but the house never appeared.

I was trained and went into the factory—but I couldn't get a house, and couldn't afford to live away from the family. So I came back to Manchester.

Nightmare

Housing here has been one long nightmare. We moved into this privately-rented house on the advice of the Manchester Housing Department. We were promised it wouldn't affect our place on the housing list.

But when we went back to change our address on the form,



The four Cronshaw bedroom

the housing list with a big grin said our position had changed because we had moved out of the housing area!

My wife had last year, so we with us in the street Maria (15), Ber (11) and Joseph share the front

Advertisement

National Rank & File Organising Committee INVITES

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

Shop Stewards' Committees, Branches, District, Division, EC's of Trade Unions and Trade Councils etc

TO

SUPPORT AND SPONSOR

the National

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship fee £1 details from

46 Prince George Road, London N16

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

BLACKBURN: Wednesday 18 February, 8pm, Veteran Hotel, Eanam. Speakers: John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Len Blood (candidate for AUEW assistant general secretary) and local speakers. Meeting sponsored by Feniger and Blackburn Shop Stewards' Committee, Blackburn AUEW No 1 branch.

HACKNEY AND TOWER HAMLETS Right to Work Campaign social: Saturday 7 February, 8pm, 179 Sandringham Road (Unemployed Centre), Hackney, London, E8. Admission 50p, unemployed 10p.

EAST LONDON Right to Work Campaign book sale. Please bring unwanted books to Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford, E15 before 7pm, Friday 6 February. Sale starts at 7pm. Includes new books!!

HACKNEY AND TOWER HAMLETS Right to Work Committee urgently need any spare furniture, radios, televisions, record players, records etc, to equip the campaign's unemployed centre in Sandringham Road. We also need jumble for a jumble sale. If you have anything you can part with please contact us at 179 Sandringham Road, Hackney, London, E8.

MOSS SIDE, MANCHESTER: Thursday 19 February, 8pm, Moss Side, Neighbourhood Centre, Moss Lane. Speakers: Bobby Buirds (Manchester Right to Work Committee), Tom McLure (Moss Side Neighbourhood Council), a speaker from Flame. Organised by Manchester Right to Work Committee, Moss Side Neighbourhood Council and Flame.

WEST CORNWALL: Friday 13 February 7.30pm, Sam the Man by CAST. First time in Cornwall. A celebration of the 30-year fight for socialism in parliament. Plus Paul Foot, Tuckingmill Pavillion, Camborne. Admission 50p. Unemployed, OAPs and kids 25p.

DEESSIDE: Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm, Hawarden Castle Hotel, Station Road, Queensferry (by Old Bridge). Speaker Tommy Douras.

MASS PROTEST DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT: Assemble Shepherds Bush Green, 11am, Saturday 20 March, to meet the marchers as they come into London and to march with them to the Albert Hall Rally.

MEETINGS AND

SOUTHWARK: Saturday 7 February, Dawes Street, George IV pub.

BADGES: Fight for Work! 10p each, Orders over 50p

LEAFLETS calling Right to Work members details of the campaign sponsorship form for 500, including

POSTERS to advance the campaign. 10p each.

FROM Right to Work Rank and File Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Orders please.



In the Lower Broughton area, wild dogs roam the streets . . .

one dole



How children in the room that is their bedroom. Mother, father and baby share the back

anager came out
ll over his face and
n was completely
se we had now
the Manchester

a baby in March
have the baby in
all back bedroom.
adette (14), Sheila
(13) all have to
room.

Whenever I go and complain
now about overcrowding I get told
that if I complain too much I will
be put in an even older house or a
multi-storey block, high up.

With this kind of luck, I have not
had the nerve to try to get a better
house privately. It is a nightmare,
here. The look of the place causes
vandalism. Even people delivering
treat you with contempt.

Should we sit down and just take

it? It's so easy just to surrender
everything and become like that
bloke in the posters: hunched over
and finished.

Well, I'm not giving up. I know I
won't get anything from grovelling
to officials or landlords. You have
to fight. So I'm marching to
London. And I'm looking for the
support of all trade unionists to
help get me there—and keep my
family while I'm away.

PARLIAMENT'S 'GREAT DEBATE' ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Hear no protest, See no protest, Speak no protest

by Laurie Flynn

ACCORDING to every newspaper, radio and television pundit in the country, last week's House of Commons debate on unemployment was 'absolutely crucial', 'a vital test for the government and its whole range of policies'.

From my vantage point in the press gallery of Westminster's most hallowed of halls, I could clearly see that this was so. At the height of the debate, as left MP John Mendelson spoke of the obscenity of the system in which we live, there was a grand total of 37 out of 630 MPs present.

The rest of the boys on their respective teams were clearly so anxious to take part in reasoned debate and so upset by the tragedy of unemployment that they had to drown their sorrows in the House of Commons Bar or some other exclusive establishment.

For those 37 there was the usual cut and thrust of debate, which was about as sharp as a Gillette bonded shaving system six months after the blades got thrown away.

For even if every one of those people to whom we sign over the democracy in our lives had been in their places it would have made little difference.

Here in Parliament, the results are known in advance. The compassionate rhetoric on this or that 'grave question' has been rehearsed so often before that no one believes it any more.

Left-wing Labour MPs are so used to being beaten, so conscious of their own powerlessness, and so stifled by the stinking politeness of due parliamentary procedure that there is precious little fight left in them.

The truth of the House of Commons and its crucial debate on unemployment is that there is about as much power and ability in parliament to do anything about unemployment as there are substitutes on the substitutes bench of a fourth division football club two hours after the end of a match.

Deliberate

Unless, that is, Denis Healey and his chums in charge of the Labour government can find ways of increasing it still further. And there is a very good chance of that. For once you set their stage compassion aside, it is clear the creation of unemployment is deliberate policy.

Healey's own contribution to the debate did not directly disclose this. Instead, in his rich rose-hip syrup voice, he talked of what the government was going to do in ballbearings and diesel pump industries. This being said, he added that there was nothing else he could do since the measures available to him would take too long to have any effect!

Interestingly enough, it was a Tory millionaire, Peter Walker, who in a speech squeezed in before he rushed off for a good dinner underlined what was in the pipeline: sackings in the civil service, sackings in steel, sackings in machine tools and ship building.

ment is being moved and will be supported in the House and in the country today.

Mr. Heffer: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We have just seen a demon, striking by young people who are obviously deeply concerned—

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have not seen anything. It is the convention of the House not to refer to what happens in other parts of the House. We are concerned only with what happens on the Floor of the House.

Mr. Heffer: Further to that point of order, Mr. Speaker. Whether we saw it or not, according to the rules of the House, I actually saw some young people throwing something on to the Floor of the House, and something hit my hon. Friend.

I have in the past come into the House from outside when there have been demonstrations, and I have asked that the people who have been demonstrating—when they have been involved in conflict—should be treated leniently because of their deep feelings. I am asking that the Officers of the House should recognise the deep feelings of these

'Officially, it doesn't exist . . . ' The official report of the protest in parliament.



Two of the Right to Work protesters who threw leaflets at the MPs, pictured after their release.

sackings on the railways and plenty more besides.

What Walker was saying in short was: in store for non-MPs is continuing high unemployment.

And what are we to do about this? Are we to book our places for another 'keynote' House of Commons debate on the subject in a year's time?

Hypocrisy

There were more than a few people at last week's debate who thought not. They were from the National Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign.

These people, God forgive them, interrupted the hallowed debate from the public gallery. 'Enough of this hypocrisy', they shouted. 'We demand the right to work.'

They even flung some Right to Work leaflets on to the House of Commons floor before the atten-

dants waded in and bundled them out of the chamber.

Their demonstration prompted an excellent intervention from Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool Walton, where one worker in five is unemployed.

He got to his feet without hesitation and insisted that the people removed from the gallery must be treated leniently because they felt strongly about an important issue. As a result of his intervention these intruders from the world outside were not jailed.

And as a result of these goings on the Speaker of the House of Commons was given an opportunity to show the world what parliamentary democracy is all about.

'Order!' he intoned. 'We have not seen anything. It is the convention of the House not to refer to what happens in other parts of the House. We are concerned only with what happens on the floor of the House.'

NOTICES

street meeting, 11am, junction of East Street, by

for the Right to Work Campaign, plus 6½p postage. Post free.

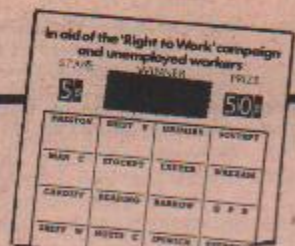
for support for the Right to Work Campaign, including leaflets, aims and a leaflet now available. £1 plus postage.

for support for the Right to Work Campaign, including leaflets, aims and a leaflet now available. £1 plus postage.

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RAISE FUNDS WHERE YOU WORK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

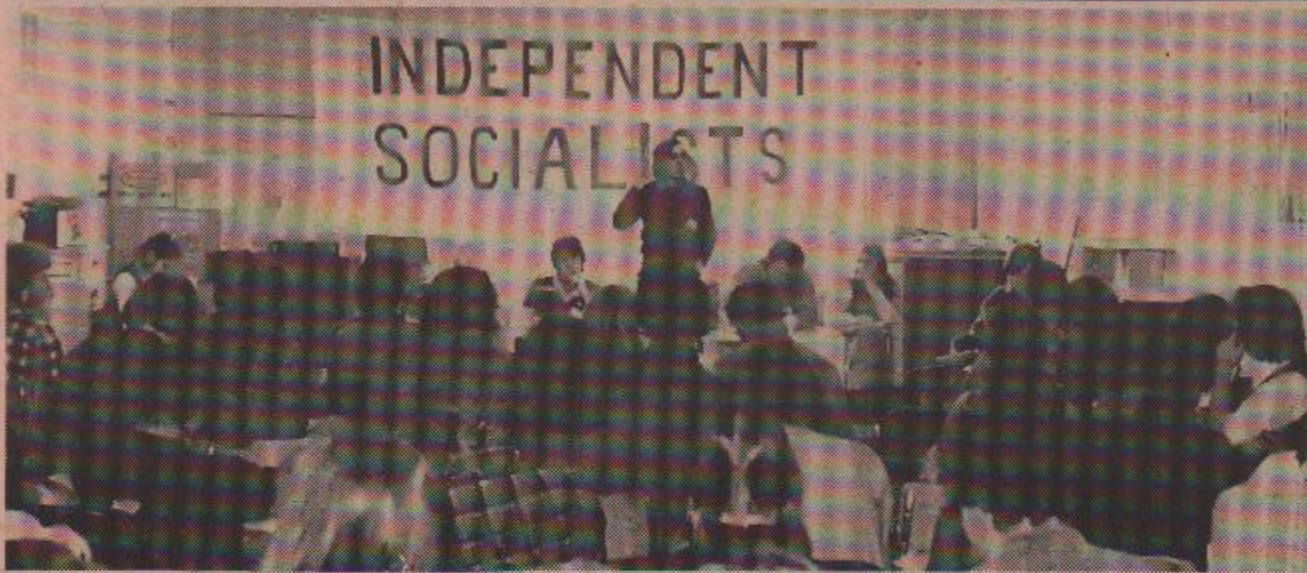
Everyone who supports the Right to Work Campaign can raise money by taking a football card around their workmates each week. Raise £1 a card, or 50p a card. Cards from local Right to Work Committees or Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.



HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 50p FROM EACH FOOTBALL CARD TO THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN OFFICE?

Each £1 is divided 50p to the local campaign and 50p to the national. The national campaign urgently needs money. Send off those 50p pieces today!

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY



Canada: Now it's the International Socialists

THE first founding organisation conference of the Canadian revolutionary socialist organisation the International Socialists took place in Toronto last month, changing its name from the Independent Socialists.

This is an important milestone in the history of the socialist left in Canada, where the working class is militant, well organised and facing the all-out assault of a government determined that workers will pay the price of the employers' crisis.

In the one year since the Independent Socialists emerged from

the left of the New Democratic Party, their paper Workers' Action has gone from strength to strength.

Now their conference has given them the confidence in their organisation and their policies to move still further ahead. They have begun to move towards becoming a workers' organisation with influence in the Canadian working class.

Socialist Worker salutes the endeavours of our Canadian brothers and sisters and wishes them every success in their struggle to realise humanity's noblest ideal—socialism and the achievement of workers' power.

TROOPS OUT CAMPAIGN

THE escalation of violence in the past few months in Northern Ireland, with assassinations, reprisals and army harassment, makes it almost certain that the truce will break down. If so, the violence will continue to mount, with no doubt a resumption of the bombing campaign in Britain.

This makes it more important than ever to organise a broad-based campaign in the British labour movement to withdraw the troops. Members of the International Socialists and supporters of Socialist Worker should work with the Troops Out Movement where its local branch has some real base. We should win affiliations to the TOM from trades councils and trade union branches, arguing about the role of the army and calling for an immediate withdrawal.

Where no TOM branch exists or where it has no base, IS branches should hold meetings demanding Troops Out of Ireland.

A campaign launched by trade unionists in Northern Ireland under the slogan 'A better life for all' is inviting British trade unionists to send representatives to a trade union rally in Belfast in March. The Troops Out Movement is sending another delegation of 100 trade unionists in May. We should support both delegations.

Details of activities and speakers are available from the IS Irish Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Students back Right to Work fight

THE Right to Work Campaign is gaining support among students. More reports of money to sponsor marchers are coming in.

Bradford College students have agreed to sponsor a marcher, Mary Littlefield, an unemployed ex-student from Leeds, at £5 a day for the whole of the march. Students in London are beginning to win sponsorships—£50 from Enfield College and £20 each from Bedford College and the Institute of Education.

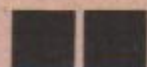
But student work around the campaign doesn't end with getting money, important as it is. We have to be mobilising constantly between now and 20 March to get support for the march and protest rally in London. That means not just raising money through football cards, discos, and collections but also holding meetings with speakers from the Campaign, pushing for delegacies for the Conference on Unemployment in Education at the end of this month, and booking coaches for the rally.

Our work will be a major item of discussion at this weekend's Conference of IS Societies (NOISS) in Manchester. Speakers from the National Right to Work Campaign have been invited to lead the session. We will be able to find out what the campaign is doing, and to pool our experiences so far.

Response

The conference is an attempt to cover all the main areas of our work—international, overseas students, women, and the National Union of Students—while always stressing links with workers. Response so far has been good, with registrations from as far apart as Edinburgh and Exeter. It looks like being the biggest NOISS Conference so far. Hurry for delegates' credentials now—it's your last chance.

NOISS National Delegate Conference: This weekend, 7-8 February, UMIST Students Union (five minutes walk from Piccadilly Station), Manchester. Credentials for delegates (£2) and observers (50p) from NOISS, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Don't forget your sleeping bag. For details of transport from London, phone Lindsey German, 01-739 1878.



The IS Office needs to know details of delegates to the next National Council. Write to: Liz Balfour, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, IMMEDIATELY.



THE February issue of Flame, Socialist Worker's sister paper for black workers in struggle, is now out. It includes articles on the recent riots in Jamaica, the Right to Work Campaign, Angola, and the National Front.

If Flame is to be used properly it must be sold regularly and in the right places. Flame Discussion Groups must be set up as a follow-up to sales.

If Flame is to become a better paper and to increase to eight pages, the financial side of the paper must be taken seriously as well. Money received from sales must be sent immediately to Flame, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Flame must be built and built quickly. It must become the focus of the black revolutionary socialist current in the community.

How to sell out SW

By Bernie Wilcox, Socialist Worker Organiser, West Manchester

CONCENTRATE on one aspect of selling Socialist Worker at a time and get that going really well before moving on. We increased our sales by first electing an SW Organiser who actually wanted to take on the job—me—and not just someone who wasn't doing anything else. This is essential because an unenthusiastic organiser breeds unenthusiastic sellers.

Then we concentrated on four main precincts for street sales. When I took over there were sales of little significance going on all over the place without co-ordination and very irregular. There is now one precinct that is coming up to scratch in Urmston. We are helped by SW supporters to sell there and usually have five or six sellers on at the same time for two hours.

I have been concentrating on this one for the past six weeks, and am now going to start bringing the sales on Salford precinct up to scratch, which should take another six weeks. Then Eccles. Then Hulme.

During this time I hope to be developing the local SW Organisers into an effective

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post on the 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

CROYDON SW public meeting: Unemployment—A Weapon against the Working Class. Thursday 5 February, 8pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

PORTSMOUTH SW public meeting: Stop the Bombings—Troops Out of Ireland. Speaker: Paul O'Brien. Monday 9 February, 7.45pm, Forrester's Hall, Fratton Road.

CENTRAL LONDON SW public meeting: Trade Union Democracy and the Media. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 12 February, 7pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1.

EDINBURGH SW public meeting: Stop the Butchery in Iran. Support the Iranians on Trial in Britain. Friday 13 February, 7pm, Societies Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh.

ABERDEEN SW readers' meetings: Every fortnight in Trades Council, 24 Adelphi off Union Street, near ABC Cinema. Monday 16 February: Can Socialism Come Through Parliament?

HARLOW SW discussion meeting: Fight for the Right to Work. Thursday 12 February, 8pm, Tye Green CA, Bush Fair. Speaker: Roger Cox.

AFRICA FORUM: Socialist Worker Africa Group will be holding monthly forums on different aspects of the struggle in Africa. The first discussion will be at The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1, on Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm, on the effect of the Angolan War on the general situation in Southern Africa.

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 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.

LEICESTER SW Public Meeting: On the Dole with Labour—Fight for the Right to Work. Thursday 12 February, 7.30pm. Venue to be announced.

CENTRAL LONDON SW Public Meeting: The Fight against the CIA. Speaker: Philip Agee, ex-CIA agent, and Steve Jefferys. Thursday 5 February 7pm, Mary Ward Hall, Tavistock LPlace, London, WC1.

HACKNEY SW Public Meeting: The Bosses' Crisis and the Socialist Answer. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thursday 5 February, 8pm, Centreprise VBookshop, Kingsland High Road, Dalston.

CENTRAL LONDON Socialist Worker series of six fortnightly lectures on THE MEANING OF MARXISM starts Tuesday 3 February, 6.30pm. The Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road (nearest tube Goodge Street). Open to all SW readers.

17 February—What are the causes of the present economic crisis? Speaker: Duncan Hallas

2 March—What is imperialism? Speaker: Nigel Harris

16 March—Is There a parliamentary road to socialism?

30 March—The revolutionary socialist alternative

13 April—What is a revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Tony Cliff

Socialist Worker EVENTS

CHILE SLIDE AND TAPE SHOW: 45 minutes, 125 slides, produced by the Socialist Worker Agitprop Group for SW discussion meetings. Sound track includes Chilean Songs. Hire £2 from Rob Lumley, Flat 4, 165 Pershore Road, Birmingham 5. Please book well in advance.

NOW AVAILABLE—the first pamphlet of Practical Notes.

Includes Working as a socialist on the shop floor, working as a socialist in your trade union branch, public speaking, chairmanship, writing for Socialist Worker, SW discussion groups.

copies 10p each, 17p including postage. Five copies or more post free, from: Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

WORKERS' POWER

Paper of the US International Socialists is available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4

£1.75 including postage for 10 issues, or £1 for 10 issues delivered to local IS branches with Socialist Worker (paid in advance), £2.50 for six months, £5 for a year.

WOMEN: FACTS AND FIGURES

EVERY branch, district and union fraction of IS must send a delegate to the meeting of the IS Women's Committee this Saturday, 7 February, starting at 11am at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. If you cannot be there please phone Nina Streich, 01-739 9772.

Every delegate must bring to the meeting details of unemployment among women in the local area of union, including names of factories and workplaces that have laid off women, numbers of full and part-time women made redundant, numbers of girl school-leavers unemployed, details of local government cuts taking place or planned, details of activity planned or in progress around unemployment and the cuts.

NOISS

STUDENTS: Thousands of IS Society posters both plain and with designs will be available at the NOISS Conference, 7-8 February. Cost only 2p each (200 for a mere £4). Bring plenty of money or cheque book.

IS meetings

IS OFFICE needs part-time or full-time help. Office experience and typing useful but not vital. If you can help out, ring or write to IS office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 (01-739 9772).

ENTERTAINMENT UNIONS RANK AND FILE: All members of the International Socialists and readers of Socialist Worker who work in the entertainments/communications industry or are in ACTT, ABS, Musicians Union, Equity, NATTKE or EETPU, please contact Andy Reilly, 120 Horn Lane, Acton, London W3 (phone 01-993 0356).

SOUTH WEST LONDON IS District Aggregate: 8.00pm, Thursday 12 February, Lower Hall, Brixton Town Hall. For details ring branch secretary.

WEST YORKSHIRE DISTRICT IS: Jumble wanted for jumble sale late February. Will collect. Phone 0274 55913.

INNER WEST LONDON District IS general meeting for all members: Wednesday 11 February, 7.30pm, sharp, Fulham Town Hall, Fulham Broadway. Perspectives discussion for Party Council, Right to Work Campaign. All members to attend.

All IS members and SW supporters delegated to the trade union conference on SPAIN, 14 February, please contact the IS International Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 01-739 8600.

SOCIALIST WORKER needs typewriters. Age no problem, but working order preferred. Please phone Margaret, SW editorial office, 01-739 6361.

IS WOMEN'S SUB-COMMITTEE: Saturday February, 11am, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. Eva, branch or district and each union fraction must send a delegate. For further details, accommodation etc, phone Nina 01-739 9772. Pooled fares scheme will operate—London members must come prepared to put into the pooled fare.

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOLS: 21-24 June, IS full-timers school. 19-22 July, Womens Voice School. 2-5 August National Cadre School (Manchester). 23-26 August, National Cadre School (London). Details from Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

SPEAKERS' NOTES on Angola have been produced by the SW Africa Group. Send stamped addressed envelope to 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

WOMENS VOICE needs a business manager. It requires about two or three days a week, or equivalent evenings. Urgent. Contact Nina (01-739 9772).

WILL ALL DELEGATES to the AGM of the Chile Solidarity Campaign please contact the IS International Department as soon as possible?

WOMEN and the Cuts Conference: Saturday 28 February. All IS members and contacts attending or wishing to attend the conference should contact Joy Leman (01-229 8869) as soon as possible.

Cheshire and Shropshire district IS meeting for IS members: Friday 6 February, 7.30pm, Cross Foxes, Boughton, Chester (on A61 near Chester engineering works). Agenda: Party Council meeting 14-15 February, election of delegates, Right to Work Campaign, district organisation and perspectives. Members and/or branch representatives invited from Runcorn, Macclesfield, Warrington, Crewmarm, Bangor, Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham. Agendas available from Chester IS, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Non-members invited.

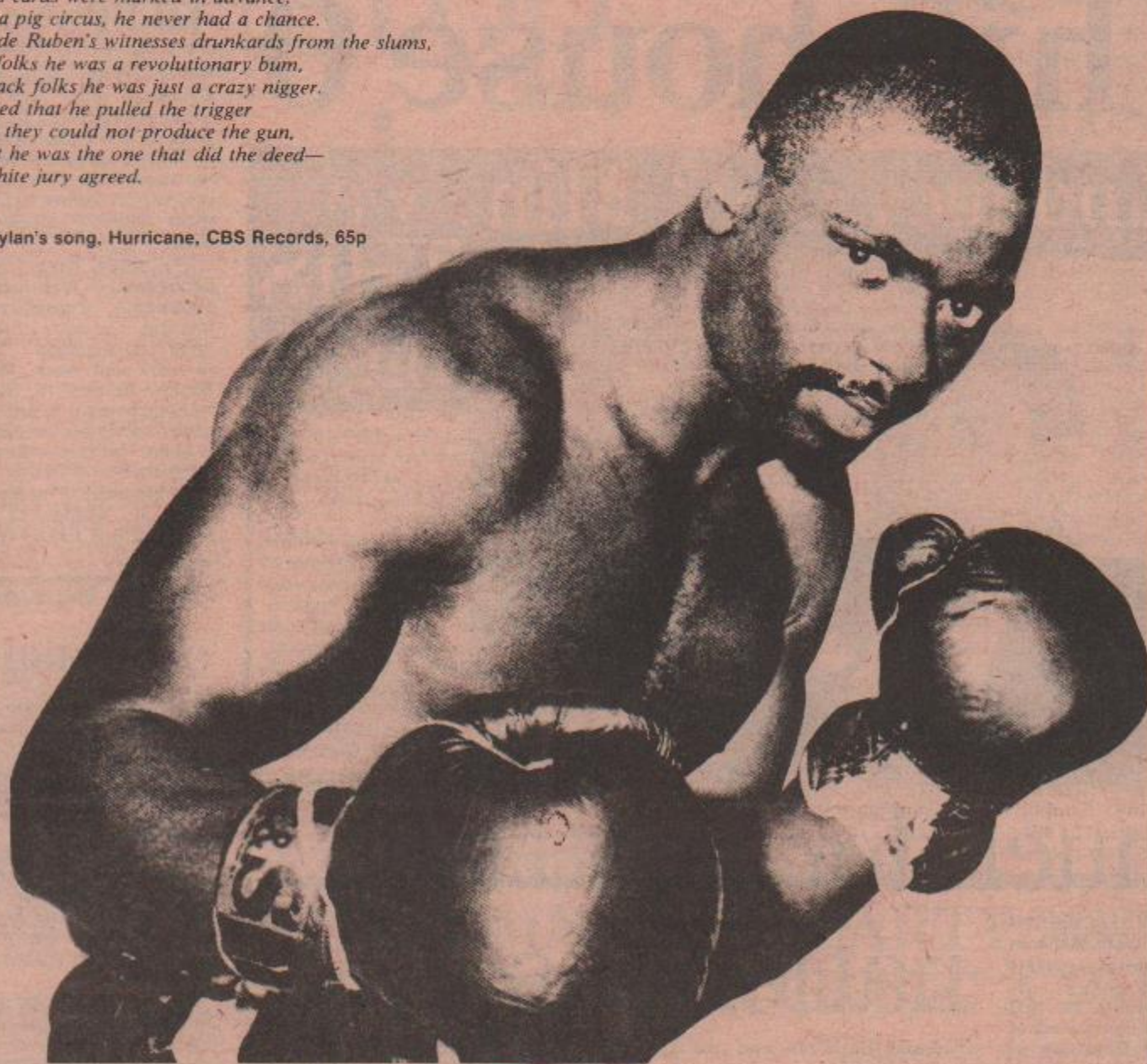
LABOUR WORKER: Ancient copies of Labour Worker, Socialist Worker's predecessor, needed to make up bound volume for SW office files. Scour your attic! We need issues 30, 32, 35-37, 39, 41-43, 50-52, 54, 58, 60, vol III issue 5, vol II issues 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, vol I, all issues except 2. Send to SW editorial, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

Let me tell you 'bout Hurricane

RON SENCHAK ON HIS BOY-HOOD FRIEND, NOW A PRISONER AND A LEGEND

*All of Ruben's cards were marked in advance,
The trial was a pig circus, he never had a chance.
The judge made Ruben's witnesses drunkards from the slums,
To the white folks he was a revolutionary bum,
And to the black folks he was just a crazy nigger.
No one doubted that he pulled the trigger
And although they could not produce the gun,
They said that he was the one that did the deed—
And the all white jury agreed.*

—From Bob Dylan's song, Hurricane, CBS Records, 65p



The Apaches were a local gang of black youth in Paterson New Jersey, USA. In 1948 they got done for knocking off some sweatshirts from a shop. They were put on probation for two years. The leader of the gang was 11-year-old Ruben Carter.

Today Ruben Carter is going blind in the New Jersey state penitentiary fighting for his release for a crime he was framed for by the police and the racist state structure of New Jersey.

Made

Oh, but if you had known him and seen him in 1963 in the Market Street gym in Newark, or played pool with him next door you would have thought he had it made. For even though he'd been in prison for ten years since 1948, he was now one of the best middleweight fighters in the world. He was good and

Hurricane Carter worked his way to being a top class middleweight boxer. He stood up for himself on the street, he was a 'mean nigger', so they got him.

he always encouraged the kids in the gym like myself. You would have thought that that was some man, that Hurricane. But the tentacles of racism and ghetto life never let go. If you're black, you're always in trouble.

They got Hurricane Carter back, the racist scum, the Paterson police force, and the courts.

In the summer of 1966 Carter and a mate, John Artis, were picked up for questioning for the murder of three whites. They were released when a wounded victim positively stated that they were not the men who had done the shooting. Four months later they were picked up again. The police had come up with 'new evidence'. Two ex-convicts testified against them, after being promised a 10,000 dollar reward and reduced sentences on burglary charges.

The court sentenced Hurricane and his mate to life. The ex-cons who identified him now admit they lied. Hurricane has been getting continuous support

from Mohammed Ali. The black mayor of Newark, New Jersey, Kenneth Gibson, declared 6 September 'Justice for Ruben Carter Day'. Bob Dylan has written a protest song which is in the charts both here and in the States, and he is raising money for Hurricane's defence fund.

Hurricane has been in jail for eight years. He is now appealing. He might get released. Even if he does he's right back to square one, with the rest of those kids who were the Apaches in 1948. In between jail sentences on the dole, miserable health in the squalor of the slums.

Frame-up

He is just one of thousands of blacks jailed—on a frame up or for a petty crime. How many of them will manage to get out? And how many more of the kids in the local gangs in Paterson will be caught by the same racist police tentacles?

What we want is justice for Hurricane Carter. And justice for all blacks incarcerated in American jails.

TAKE IT AS RED

God? Well, she's black...

I SUPPOSE for a lot of people the laugh of the year will have been the Vatican's pronouncement on sex now available in pamphlet form and entitled Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics.

There's an obvious absurdity in the idea of a dozen or so virgin cardinals beavering away in private for a couple of years and solemnly concluding that masturbation is 'a seriously disordered act' and that 'every genital act must be within the framework of marriage'.

Yet ridicule, though understandable, won't do. The Catholic Church is not the same as, say, Aims of Industry or the Primrose League, ruling class organisations whose membership is restricted to lunatics, corpses, mice, psychopaths and Sir Alec Douglas Home. Throughout Latin America there are revolutionary socialists who are also Roman Catholics. Many brave militants in Northern Ireland and across Britain are members of the church.

ATTRACTION

The right sort of response is suggested by Lenin's 1905 article Socialism and Religion. Following Marx, he sees part of the attraction of religious belief as rooted in particular social and historical circumstances:

Impotence of the exploited classes in their struggle against the exploiters inevitably gives rise to the belief in a better life after death as the impotence of the savage in his battle with nature gives rise to belief in gods, devils, miracles and the like.

Once these roots wither—once social and historical circumstances change—then religion will begin to wither too.

This Marxist view that religion is, in the last analysis, the product of shifting social conditions conflicts most sharply with Catholic belief in an eternal, unchanging deity as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. For the Catholic, God made Man. For Marxists, people make gods.

REMADE

This process of making and remaking gods can be seen in societies all over the world and even within the Christian tradition itself. At first the Jews worshipped a variety of gods and only slowly were they replaced by the stern figure of Jehovah, the punishing father of the Old Testament.

In time the god of the Old Testament gives way to the god of the New Testament, the forgiving and redeeming Christ. His image in turn is constantly being remade.

This remaking of god is best summed up in a rueful joke I've heard Christians tell against themselves.

It's about a man who died and then came back to earth. People clustered round him,

'What's He like?', they cried. 'Does He have a long white beard like in all the paintings? Tell us, describe Him!'

'Well,' the man began, 'she's black

The joke points to an awareness of how god is formed by culture and history. Out of awareness of that sort and the experiences that lead to them comes the impetus that can and does enable people to break free from the limitations of religious belief.

That's where their liberation generally comes from, rather than from forceful and possibly insensitive attacks on religious belief by outsiders. As Lenin pointed out, attacks of that kind are a bit of a diversion and too many diversions, like the cardinals used to say about masturbation, can make you blind.

PAUL O'FLINN

Eh? What was that again?

There is a great booklet out called Noise. It is a must for all shop stewards and workers who are employed in noisy conditions. It must be used in talks with management, especially now the new safety and health act is in force.

For too long management have got away with the noise problem because workers thought it too

technical a subject. They did not know what other effects it had on the body, other than loss of hearing. Well, this booklet does away with all that. It explains it in a way even an idiot manager would understand. It is written for workers which in itself is a novelty.

If it has any drawbacks, it is in the way it assumes all noisy places are trade union organised, and this will solve the problem.

Management think that solving the noise problem is a costly business, eg slowing down lines and modifying machinery. So the perks are offered and sadly taken—the extra hourly rate and bonuses. When will people realise these do not compensate for deafness on retirement and that the time to fight and preserve their hearing is now.

by Tommy Riley TGWU

Noise, by Tony Fletcher, British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 25p. Copies from BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG. Orders of ten or more copies at reduced rate of 20p a copy.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

VICTOR SERGE
MEMOIRS OF A
REVOLUTIONARY
1901-1941

Translated by Peter Sedgwick



WHICH WAY TO SOCIALISM? Every socialist asks the question. The Russian Revolution mapped the road part of the way, but then took several horribly wrong turnings, mistaking the signposts during a storm of famine and civil war. Victor Serge followed the road with them and spent years in deportation and jail for pointing out the errors. Serge's vision of socialism remains clear. His memoirs are essential reading.

£1.45 including postage, from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from IS bookshops in Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Hull, Glasgow, Liverpool, Dundee and Coventry.

ON THE BOX

THURSDAY
WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN (BBC-1) finds the Seaton family out of coal. The episode is written by Alex Glasgow.

BBC-1 is A NIGHT IN CASABLANCA, the Marx Brothers' classic. TUESDAY
DECISION OIL (ITV) examines the way Occidental Petroleum decided to develop the Claymore Field in the North Sea.

FRIDAY
The Friday Film on

LETTERS

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

Linda Lovelace 1 Mary Whitehouse 0

INSIDE Linda Lovelace is a book about sex, and we should all be relieved to know that the jury has decided that it is not likely to corrupt and deprave us.

If they had found otherwise, half the books on the market would have needed to be hidden under the counter.

Which is where most things about sex are to be found. Sex is the biggest taboo subject in our lives, specially for women.

And that is what some people dislike so much about this book. Not only is it about sex, but it is written by a woman, and a woman who enjoys sex at that.

It might, if widely read, encourage some women to fantasies, greater expectations, greater enjoyment. And if you happen to be Mary Whitehouse that is the biggest sin of all: a clear indication of the declining moral standards of the nation.

Our society's attitudes to sex are distorted and hypocritical. Women are used to sell everything from Captain Morgan's Rum to The Sun.

Yet for themselves it is something they find out about by default, and is essentially to do with having children.

And then pornography flourishes. It fills a gap created by the society we live in. The problem is not sex itself, as the Festival of Light makes out, but a society that makes money out of it.

If Inside Linda Lovelace had been banned, it would not have disappeared. It would have cost £5 instead of 50p.—MARGARET RENN, London N16.

You've got it wrong

NO, Ron Burford (Letters, last week), we shouldn't withhold subs to our trade unions. That would just be slitting our own throats.

The rank and file movement is built by workers fighting together—with official support if they can get it, and unofficially if they can't—for jobs, for better conditions, for equal pay, whatever.

When this happens, we learn more about strength and what a union really means. And how we can do it for us.—CELIA SPRAGG, Hackney.

No surprise

THE REPORT in last week's SW about the TUC asking the government to stop issuing work permits to foreign workers in the catering industry did not come as a shock to me.

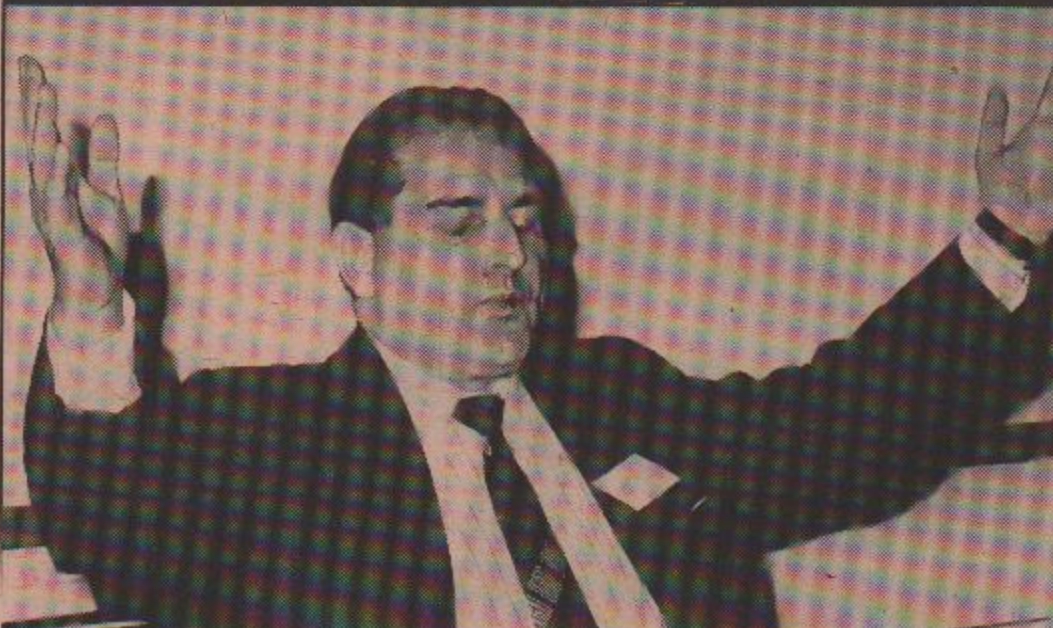
One of the TUC proposals for fighting (sic) unemployment, has been curbs on foreign imports. In other words, they are prepared to see workers in other countries become unemployed.

It is therefore not surprising that the TUC now wants to throw out foreign workers just as they want to throw out foreign goods.

We cannot overemphasise that the ban on foreign imports is the first step to a ban on foreign workers. In fact, neither of these is a part of the solution to the present crisis, nor do they cause it.

Having accepted massive wage cuts and the sacking of 1000 workers a day, the TUC is putting all its effort into getting 8000 work-permits abolished. Having capitulated to the bosses, they are now turning against the workers of this country with a vengeance.—JAMSHED METHA, Paddington.

Redundancy pay? Mine was THIS big..



A NEW LOW has been set here in Coventry by the TGWU convenor of Chrysler Stoke, Bob Morris.

Some of us wondered why he was so keen to get the government's deal accepted.

Now we know why. He negotiated some voluntary redundancies—and who was first in the line? None other than Bob Morris — CHRYSLER WORKER, Coventry.

So much for Scottish nationalism...

CAN JIM McKechnie (Letters, last week) tell where Sir William McEwan Younger fits into his Scottish 'separate identity'?

Or Sir Hugh Fraser, or, for that matter, the good Earl Douglasses of Home? Or the Chief Constable of Glasgow, or that city's slum landlords who've made fortunes out of our misery?

Is it not the case that the fundamental question facing workers in Scotland is exactly the same as that facing workers in England and Wales?

And that is the need to get rid of the parasites who control our destinies and install a system based on direct working class democracy.

Outlaws

Surely Comrade McKechnie isn't serious when he says that the Scottish Labour Party might be part of a movement towards socialism?

Jim Sillars, one of its founders, was the very man who availed himself of the pages of the Daily Express (or was it the Scottish Daily Express?) to denounce Glasgow's firemen when they struck against the Tory government's wage controls.

And if Brother McKechnie prefers not to argue in terms of individuals, has he not noticed that almost the first act of his beloved Scottish Labour Party is to issue a list of bans and proscriptions outlawing the Inter-

national Socialists and the Communist Party?

And while we're at it, the nature of a party is not only decided by what radical sounding programme it adopts. It's decided by whether it will fight for that programme and how it will fight.

The IS does not support a British Reich, but neither do we believe that a Scotland with its own House of Parliament will transform the system.

Only the working class can do that. And it can only do it by developing alliances with every group of workers on the receiving end of the multinational giants that rule the world.—HUGH McILROY, Glasgow.

Why I go to jail

FOR THE following reasons, I am unable to pay my income tax:

I have been bombed, blasted, burnt, sandbagged, walked upon, sat upon, stood upon, held down, kicked down, flattened out, kicked out and squeezed out by income tax, purchase tax, beer tax, spirit tax, motor tax and tobacco tax.

The government have governed me until I do not know who owns me, or

who the hell doesn't.

I am suspected, inspected, never respected, examined, informed, requested and commanded, so that I do not know who I am, or what I am, where I am, or why I am here at all.

All I know is that I am supposed to have an inexhaustible supply of money and time, for every need, desire or hope of the few that run me, and because I will not, and cannot, pay my taxes I must go to prison.—ONE of the poor tax-payers, Lancashire.

WHAT THIS country needs to put it back on its feet, is a benevolent fascist dictatorship, something on the lines of the Greek colonels or the Chilean Junta. These are the views of Nicholas Cutter, treasurer of the Wilmslow, Dean Road Ward, Conservative Club, who was pictured on the front cover of the Sunday Times Magazine colour supplement of 25 January.

He added: 'I fell out with him when he stabbed the Tory Party in the back, but I think Enoch Powell has said a lot of sensible things. England, after all is said and done is a white, temperate nation and we should have stopped the Sambos coming in the first place'.

Of holidays, he states: 'It's no coincidence that I've been to Majorca seven years running. You go to Spain and think what a lovely government they've got'.

Nicholas Cutter should prove a valuable asset to 'Iron Maiden', middle-class, Maggie.—OSSIE LEWIS, Cheam, Surrey.

I WAS APPALLED by Duncan Hallas' article on the family (24 January). Just what sort of socialism is he talking about? Presumably one where he and his like are dealing with the 'important decisions' on the workers' councils while the children, adolescents, women and old are left to cope with a society which sweeps human emotions under the carpet.

You can count me out when it comes to your brand of socialism, Comrade Hallas.—JILL FREEMAN, York.

RIGHT TO WORK? YES, BUT...

SW MUST explain the Right to Work Campaign more fully. It's not just work we want, but to do away with work as it is under capitalism.

Technology can be harnessed to be the slave of man to do all the hard, unnecessary labour and give more and more leisure by reducing the working week.

We could have a paradise, an abundance—if we owned the means of production. Leisure would be a blessing. The curse of work would be lifted from mankind. We don't want to work and work. We only work because we need to. Nine out of ten workers hate work, and rightly so as it is now. They are so alienated.

Most workers don't see any alternative to work other than unemployment. You must let them see what it would be like under socialism.—A CHATTIM, Bolton.

The scandal of Glasgow

MARGARET Thatcher started it by cutting school milk. Now the attacks on the working class's 'social wage' are being stepped up, specially here in Glasgow where the local council is certainly putting the boot in.

We've the worst housing in Europe—so they've knocked a million off the housing programme.

But the cuts hit every aspect of life. I work for the Water Board and, after an overtime ban, management promised us no redundancies and no job losses.

The men accepted this, and management let the shop stewards know how they meet the local council's and government's stringent budget.

'Easy,' says the boss. 'We are not going to renew old pipes into the city'. Since most of the renewal work was done by contractor, there would be no loss of staff.

Brain Washed

Happy Water Board, happy shop stewards. But what about the people who will have to drink dirty water?

Glasgow's water already contains 20 per cent more lead than any other city's, and lead affects the brain cells, specially those of young children. But perhaps they're smarter than we think: what with all that lead in the air, we will be easy meat for head fixing.

For all those who are not yet brain washed: support your local Right to Work Campaign, support the Right to Work March. I do and so do members of the Glasgow EETPU branch.—PETER PORTEOUS, Glasgow.

IF PAUL FOOT had relied on his own sound common sense instead of being panicked by those damned Corbridge academics (Letters, 17 January), he would have realised that being dead is no impediment to political ambition.

After all, Churchill's corpse for years did duty as premier in our own fair land. Not only has Britain had a dead prime minister, we have also had the first one in orbit. For years MacDonald, in his own words, went 'up and up and on and on' a clear case of Ga-ga before Gagarin.

When Wilson leaves these inhospitable shores to assume duty as US President and part-time pulpit supply at the First Church of Chrysler the Corporation, I am sure the joint ministrations of a good taxidermist and a cosmetic embalmer should fit Roy Jenkins for his role as prime minister.—VINCENT FLYNN, Lecturer in Senility and Sewage Disposal, Edinburgh.

GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT!

TWENTY-SEVEN trade unionists were arrested in Dewsbury last November while demonstrating against the National Front. While the National Front stood on the Town Hall steps shouting 'Hitler was right' and 'Long live Franco', the police pulled people out of the demo at random.

The 27 appear in court on 24 February. Although we have raised more than £200, we need double that to pay for any fines and legal expenses. On 21 February, three days before we appear in court, we will be holding a demonstration in Dewsbury against racialism, the National Front and the decision of the Labour-controlled Kirklees council to let the National Front use council property.

We are using the work put in against the National Front to establish a Right to Work Committee, since that is the most effective way of cutting the ground from under their feet.

The demonstration will assemble outside the public baths in Aldans Road, opposite the bus station. All money for the Dewsbury 27 Defence Fund should be sent c/o Selwyn Smith, 20 Healey Drive, Ossett, West Yorkshire.—PETE ELLIOT, Yorkshire.

POSTAL POINTS

I WAS DISGUSTED BY Bert Ramelson, industrial organiser of the Communist Party, when he appeared on a recent BBC2 programme. Asked if the Party, if elected to power, would implement the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, Ramelson said the Party had not used the term for years.

For the benefit of Bert Ramelson, I would like to remind him of Lenin's words in the pamphlet State and Revolution: 'Only he is a marxist who extends the recognition of the class struggle to the recognition of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. This is what constitutes the most profound difference between the marxist and the ordinary petty (as well as big) bourgeois.'—GRAHAM SAWYER, Willenhall.

MY FATHER is dying from cancer of the spine. He may last two years. Recently I tried to get rid of some old clothes, but the only place I could find that would take them was a charity shop for cancer research. It struck me that one doesn't find charity shops for nuclear weapons. But then, of course, war is more profitable than medicine. Forward to the revolution.—PHIL McCOWEN, Miami.

COME OFF IT, Ethel Freeman: (Letters, 17 January). Have the working class been the victors in any revolution to date? One only has to look at Russia to realise that it is NOT 'the working class under the leadership of a revolutionary party' but the workers under the domination of the Supreme Soviet. Such an insidious reversal to dictatorship could be avoided by the workers making absolutely sure that they control their government and by the workers owning their factories.—CHRIS JOHNSON, Durham.

ART-RESEARCH is a revolutionary school (among other things) open to everyone, including the blind, deaf, dumb and disabled. Nobody studies for a degree or certificate or wins prizes for being top of the class. There is no formal enrolment.

We simply want to share our work with anybody who is interested in learning about or practising the revolutionary arts of today. The correspondence course costs only the price of postage, paper and pens. Send a stamped addressed envelope and we'll let you have a revolutionary work of art and details of what we are doing. ART RESEARCH, 42 Princess Road, Liverpool 8.

Should we stop slanging Sirs?



Why is Sirs grovelling to the sirs?

WHILE steelworkers all over the country are striking and demonstrating against sackings and wage cuts, their biggest union, the 120,000-member Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is grovelling to the employers. Every day it makes a new concession on weekend payments or on sackings. This is nothing new. Throughout the union's history, in crisis and in boom, it has adopted the same posture: flat on its face before the employers. Apart from the 1934 General Strike, the

THE UNION'S

policy of the executive can't be changed except by an annual delegate conference, but there hasn't been such a conference since the union was formed 40 years ago! Now at last, under prolonged pressure from its members, the executive has conceded a delegate conference this year. This has been hailed 'as a growth of steel' in one day. The union has £2 million in investments. Close collaboration, however, for its membership, industry and steel—flow have been the backbone of the Confederation's... in Scotland.

The headline on Socialist Worker's article criticising Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC).

A LETTER FROM THE MAIN STEEL UNION

I WRITE with reference to the articles 'Why Is Sirs grovelling to the Sirs?' and 'History of a Company Union', the last by Peter Ingham, in your edition of 17 January 1976.

It is unfortunate that your paper has chosen to link an analysis of the present bitter situation in the nationalised steel industry with a thoroughly negative and destructive attack on the principal steelworkers' union, the ISTC.

Mr Ingham is factually inaccurate in his comments on the formation of the ISTC. For example, the confederation arrangement was virtually forced upon the existing steelworkers' unions because of the terms of the current Trade Union Act of 1871 and the Amending Act of

1876, which demanded the two-thirds majority consenting vote of the memberships of amalgamating unions.

Attack

It is worth remarking that the ISTC felt the 1917 confederation scheme to be a definite move towards the progressive ideal of industrial unionism, and tried to realise this ideal during the 1920s and 1930s by seeking confederation arrangements (some successful, some not) with the forerunners of the present APEX, ASTMS, AUEW (TASS) and AUEW (CONS).

Your articles ignore points like this in the union's history but concentrate instead on personal attacks on individual ISTC officials (as if they

alone were the union).

At this time, a considered analysis of the threat posed by the BSC's actions is needed, and a realistic programme which meets the needs of British steelworkers, who are under the triple threat of plant closure, redundancy, and slashed earnings and pay guarantees.

This analysis and programme will not be achieved by harping negatively on the demerits of particular organisations—such a tired approach shows a poverty of theoretical analysis, and presents no real alternative for steelworkers.

In addition, Mr Ingham's cynical appraisal of the achievement of an Annual Delegate Conference, which is a major democratic advance, ignores the dialectical changes that take place in organisations under the pressure of

events such as the current dispute, and is, therefore, a fundamentally non-Marxist approach.

Instead, the Socialist Worker articles resort to the methods of the anti-working class press, namely, misinformed generalisations about trade unions, and the character assassination of union officials.—KEITH L. L. JONES, ISTC No 3 Divisional Organiser, Sheffield.

Why then was conference abolished?

Peter Ingham comments:

Brother Jones's facts do not disprove my facts. The law did require a two-thirds majority of the members to approve an amalgamation, so the leaders of the five steel unions called for a confederation, and thus side-stepped the problem of campaigning among the membership to get the necessary majority.

The question to ask is why did the new Confederation abolish the delegate conference as the supreme policy-making body of the union? And why after nearly 60 years, does the present leadership only allow a delegate conference lasting for one day? There is nothing cynical in asking these basic questions.

As for dialectical changes, with the record of the ISTC in attempting to solve all conflicts with management through Joint Boards, and not through the application of the power of the collective strength of the membership, the only change likely to benefit the membership must come from the mobilisation of the rank and file.

Paper Victory

Joint Boards, such as those set up to 'weed out overmanning' and decide on redundancies through flexibility and mobility, do not depend upon union muscle. The BSC know this. That is why, despite the paper victory of the union over the guaranteed week and weekend shift premiums, which have to be conceded in any continuous process industry, the management will now be able to use union officials and branch committees to send their fellow workers down the road.

Can it be called anti-working class to urge all ISTC members at all levels to reject this part of the agreement and to fight for a policy of 'No Redundancies, Voluntary or Compulsory'?

What do you think of this dispute? Is Brother Jones right? Why not write to us?

THE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE SUPPORTING A FASCIST

A FASCIST has been allowed to sit as a delegate to the Norwich Trades Council. This disgraceful decision was taken after Communist Party and other allegedly left-wing delegates spoke up for the fascist's 'right to speak'.

A resolution was moved at the trades council's meeting last week to refuse credentials for a member of the Transport Workers Union who is chairman of Norwich National Front. The mover reminded delegates that the National Front, like all fascist parties, intended totally to destroy trade unions.

He also referred to the Front's racist policies, which clearly discriminate against trade unionists on the grounds of the colour of their skin.

The fascist made a speech which quickly proved all these

arguments. He referred to 'left-wing meat-heads' and argued for a total ban on all black immigrants. In spite of this, he was allowed to take his seat.

Sixteen delegates who voted against the fascist have written an open letter to the Norwich Communist Party. It says:

'We deplore the position of those delegates who, as members of the Communist Party, refused to oppose the appearance of National Front members on the trades council. We believe that fascist influences in the trade union movement must be resisted at all times. Refusal to fight the National Front can only encourage its infiltration in the labour movement to the detriment of trade unionism and labour organisation'.

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.

Teachers: Stop this rule!

By Jeannie Holborow, Redbridge NUT

THE DAILY MAIL and Telegraph delighted in telling their readers this week that the National Union of Teachers is at last strengthening its hand against the class room militants 'who are wrecking the schools'.

The NUT leadership is bringing down the hammer on all those teachers who are tired with its lack of leadership and who want to fight the cutbacks.

Rule Eight of the union, which says there can be no action unless sanctioned by the executive, is being backed up by new rules to suspend members without a hearing.

This power is vested in the officers of the union, and after 21 days the members concerned are to go before a new disciplinary body. These new plans were put through the last executive meeting as an 'urgency report'.

Supporters on the executive of Rank and File teacher, the organisation of classroom teachers, objected without success. Beth Light accused the executive of going through recent attempts to discipline members and plugging the loopholes. Max Morris, leading Communist Party member, admitted this but supported the

executive's procedure. In other words, teachers such as those at William Tyndale school will face automatic expulsion.

The rules alter the rights of members. Previously a member had to prefer charges. Now the full power of the officials is brought in. Before, the disciplinary panel was a regional lay body answerable at election time. The new panel will be made up of national officers with final appeal to the executive.

Previously members had the right to have a solicitor acting as a 'friend' in any hearing. This will not now be allowed. But the union's case will be put by one of their senior officials, people who have considerable experience in legal matters.

Hidden

All NUT members should oppose this new rule, which will be brought to conference at Easter. It will be hidden away in the Annual Report, a document rarely seen by the membership and only available to delegates shortly before conference.

We should insist on a full discussion in local associations and mandate delegates to vote against this and fight for control of our union to be vested in the members.

GLASGOW: NOW THREE STRIKES FOR EQUAL PAY

THE EQUAL Pay Act became effective a month ago. But, like all such legislation, it promises much, and gives nothing.

There is only one way to get equal pay—fight for it!

At Magnetic and Electrical Alloys in Hamilton, Glasgow, 60 TASS workers, including 29 women, have been on strike for three weeks for equal pay. Some of the women on strike earn £10 less than male supervisors doing the same work.

The shop floor is backing the strike, and members of the Engineering Union have refused to handle goods which get through the picket.

At Whewy Watson, Hillingdon Industrial Estate, Glasgow, ten members of TASS, nine women and one man, are in their



third week on strike. They are demanding that the wages of the women staff be brought into line with the 60 shop-floor workers.

A number of men on the shop floor have been laid off for refusing to handle blacked goods. More help is needed on the picket line from other local factories.

At Cockburn Valves, Hillingdon Industrial Estate, Glasgow, another 60 TASS members, half of them women, are also on strike. Again the women get £10 less than the men.

Donations and messages of support to: MEA TASS strike fund, c/o Stan Martin, 179 Dunbeth Court, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire.

OCCUPATION WAVE SWEEPS SEDDON

LANARKSHIRE: Factories of the Seddon-Atkinson group in Preston, Walton le Dale, and Oldham have been occupied for more than a week now over management suspension of a labourer at the Walton le Dale plant.

He refused to accept promotion to a higher grade while another man was sick. Management then went against its own procedure in suspending him indefinitely.

All the lads at Walton le Dale downed tools straight away, an action repeated at Preston, Bamber Bridge and Oldham. Several hundred workers are now occupying. The only work done since last Monday has been the changing of towels and toilet rolls.

SUPPORT

The company admitted being at fault after a week, but the stewards are now demanding that lost pay be made up.

At mass meetings in all the plants, the members have shown overwhelming support for the stewards.

The sit-in is likely to remain solid, specially as convenor Tom Machell is following the wise policy of keeping full-time officials out as long as possible.

The only problem has come from Social Security, which now pretends that a sit-in doesn't count as an industrial dispute and won't pay dole.

Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday preceding publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash with copy (5p a word) to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

CONFERENCE Against Unemployment in Education: North London Poly, Holloway Road, Wednesday, 28 February. Open to students, teachers and workers in educational establishments. Details and delegates' credentials from 18 St Agnes Close, London, E9. Organised by the Education Cuts Conference Standing Committee.

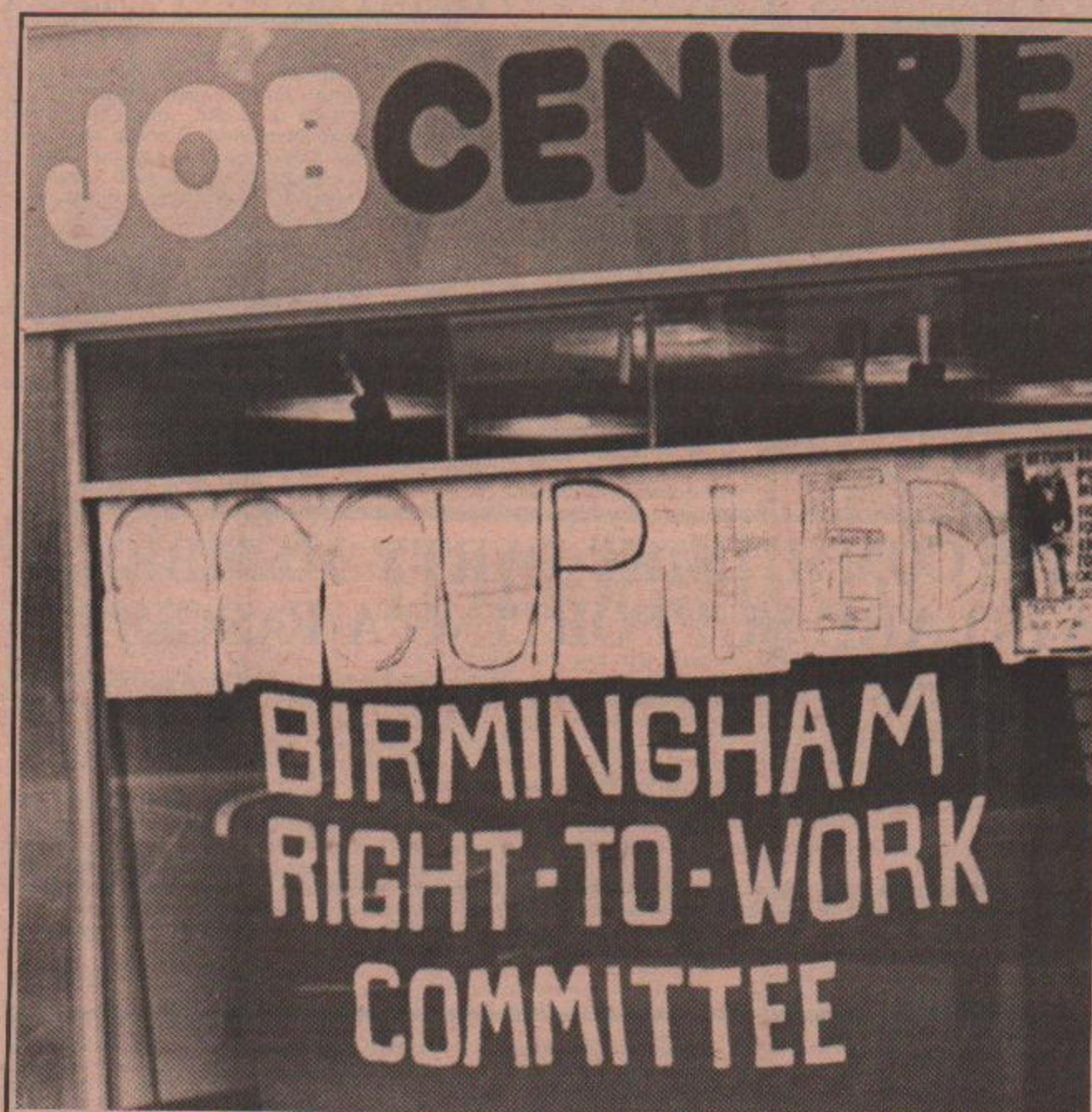
Sheffield Engineers Charter Meeting: The need for an Engineers Charter. Speaker Len Blood. Saturday 7 February, 12 noon, Prince of Wales Pub, Division Street, Sheffield.

PUBLIC MEETING called by Southwark Trades Council and the South London group of the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese working class. Chair: Mike Loosley (President Southwark Trades Council). Speakers: Ernie Roberts (Assistant General Secretary AUEW), a PWCC representative, Mike Duggan (CPSA) for the Solidarity Campaign. Plus showing of the film Republica. Thursday 12 February, North Peckham Civic Centre (library hall), Old Kent Road, London, SE15. (Junction of Peckham Park Road, and Old Kent Road). All trade unionists welcome to this important meeting.

WALTHAM FOREST Women's Action Group, Community Centre. We have rooms available. Anyone interested in teaching crafts, skills, etc, come to 161 Markhouse Road, London E17. Or ring 521 6368 or 520 1803.

MANCHESTER SPANISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE public meeting and film: Thursday 12 February, 7.30pm. The Wheatseal, High Street, Shude Hill North West Demonstration: 14 February, 11.30am, Oxford Road, off Mancunian Way, Manchester.

CRITIQUE, the journal of Soviet studies, is organising a series of seminars. The next one will be on Tuesday 10 February, 7.30pm. John Quail on Anarchism and the British working class at the turn of the century. LSE, St Clement's Building, Room 3418.



ISLE OF GRAIN, KENT: 13 workers have been sacked at the power station construction site in the second dispute over safety in less than a month.

For three weeks, they have been picketing the works. They were sacked for refusing to lag boilers without protective clothing although they were working with fibreglass and silicates. This can cause diseases like asbestosis.

When the site is completed, the power workers will all have protective clothing for working with this material. But the men who put it up are expected to work without protection.

The local factory inspectorate agreed with the men's demands for protective clothing but refused to do anything about the conditions. As picket Jim Burns told Socialist Worker: 'This proves that the Factory Act isn't working in the interest of workers'.

The Joint Sites Committee for the 2000 workers is providing the daily picket with financial help, tea, coffee, and wood for their fires. If the strike is made official by the men's union, the GMWU, the whole site will stop in support.

Donations and messages of support to the Strike Committee, 18 Berwood Close, Corringham, Essex.

Rank and File Organising Committee Health and Safety Schools: Because of the expansion in our schools we need help from qualified scientists, engineers, chemists, lab assistants and all others with expert technical knowledge to assist in our coming programme. Please contact Roger Cox, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10 (01-451 0739).

MANSELL'S STRIKE GOES ON

EAST LONDON: When Terry Collins started work at Mansell's Banner Street site 11 weeks ago, the conditions were bad. There was no union organisation and lump labour was being used.

Management refused to act so Terry, a Transport Union member, called in the factory inspector who closed the site down for half a day. Management and the subcontractor, John O'Neil, then started victimising him.

Last month he was summoned to the office and asked to sign a redundancy note—at a time when O'Neil was taking on more labourers. Terry refused.

Three days later, without Terry knowing, his local union official met management about him. He offered Terry a transfer. Terry refused.

He was then told he would be put under the subcontractor. Terry agreed as long as he received the same money as other O'Neil labourers.

The next Saturday he received his cards through the post without any explanations. His site has been out since Monday. Workers from other building sites, including the Barbican and McInerney's, Seven Sisters Road, have joined the picket lines.

Last Friday, 30 police arrived at the site after O'Neil's driver had falsely claimed that Terry had assaulted him and threatened him with an iron bar.

They told some of the Irish pickets to 'get off back to Belfast and make some bombs'. A complaint has been made to the local police and Scotland Yard. Meanwhile the strike goes on.

LOWESTOFT COMMITTEE TO FIGHT THE CUTS: Open meeting. Wednesday 11 February, 7.30pm, Labour Hall, 79 St Peters Street, Lowestoft.

IN BRIEF

TOTTENHAM: Members of the National Society of Metal Mechanics write: The lockout of 360 union members from the GEC owned company, Keith Blackman, is now in its fifth week.

Talks between union officials and representatives of management the previous week have not produced a solution.

The management's attempts to bleed us dry financially are only hardening the resolve of those affected to resist. A management attempt to use contract lorries to collect finished products outside picketing times was foiled by a special mass picket of 80 people.

OXFORD: More than 70 Transport Union members working at Blackwell's bookshellers are on strike following the sacking of Ted Heslis for his activities as union representative. Although this dismissal started the strike, the main demand is for recognition of the TGWU, which has been growing steadily among the previously non-unionised workforce. Support for the strikers has come from

local Post Office and NCL workers, who have blacked deliveries to the shop. Ruskin College and university students have also given support on the picket line.

It is hoped to extend the blacking to cover fuel deliveries and air freight, and to gain support of other local TGWU branches, specially those in the Leyland factories.

Messages of support, donations and offers of help with picketing are still needed. Contact Val Davies, 387 Woodstock Road, Oxford, Tel Oxford 55335.

LONDON: The Community Development Project Information and Intelligence Unit, the organisation which helped, with CIS, to produce the recent report on The Cuts, has had its grant suddenly cut off by the Home Office.

The unit's staff and their union, ASTMS, are protesting about the cutting off of funds. In a statement, the CDP workers insist that this is a blatant attempt to censor forthcoming critical findings.

The King's Heath job centre occupied by unemployed workers for five hours last Thursday. The local radio station gave good coverage throughout the day and promised to cover the Right to Work march when it comes through Birmingham. The occupation also resulted in some of the unemployed workers appearing in an hour-long phone-in programme on Monday.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

Public meetings.

BOLTON: Monday 16 February, 8pm, Spinners Hall, AUEW House, St George Road. Meeting supported by T Ryder and Sons Shop Stewards Committee, Hawker Siddeley, Lostock, Shop Stewards Committee, Bolton AUEW Number 9 Branch.

PETERBOROUGH: Thursday 12 February, 7.30pm, New Inn, New Road.

CHRYSLER: The fight for jobs goes on

Our chances are great — so let's fight back

'DESPITE past setbacks we now have the advantage. We must now lead the fight back—in our sections, in our shops, and with Chrysler Worker, our rank and file paper. The opportunities are tremendous.'

That's how Andy Enever, Transport Workers Union steward at the Chrysler Stoke engine plant summed up the National Fightback meeting organised by supporters of Chrysler Worker last Saturday.

This important and useful meeting was chaired by Bill McKay, Engineering Union fountry steward at Chrysler Stoke. It was opened by the man at the centre of the Linwood storm, John Hepburn, Transport Union steward in the knock down department—the section where Chrysler management declared its latest battle in the war to destroy trade union power.

Andy Enever spoke of the need to build shop committees throughout the plants, and to use all the links possible between Linwood, Ryton and Stoke.

Peter Bain, TGWU steward at Linwood, said the government and the company were out to break the organisation in the plants and were using Linwood to do this. They hadn't expected the response they had got.

'Chrysler are not hell bent on pulling out now. They want to get their hands on the government money. But they want to crush the unions as well,' he said.

'The rescue operation is at best only a two-year stay of execution. The present recession is far deeper than they would have us believe. That means that Chrysler workers not only have to fight the immediate fight on the shop floor, but continue the campaign for the nationalisation of Chrysler, without compensation, and under shop floor control, to defend the jobs.'

Dave Nisbet, AUEW millwrights steward at Stoke, spoke of the dangers of voluntary redundancy, and the need for a concerted fight to ban all overtime and introduce the 35-hour week throughout the labour movement.

Shortsighted

John Fisher, ASTMS official, said that total dependance on shop stewards committees had proved shortsighted. He stressed the need to build rank and file links.

This was taken up by Willie Lee, Press Shop senior steward at Linwood: 'The leadership is again running to the Scottish TUC and their favourite MPs. They won't win our battles for us. We know the sore truth about that.'

'At Linwood we really thought that we could win before Christmas. We really thought that a few militant stewards would be able to carry the decision.'

'We knew we had the right arguments—but we made mistakes. And the most fundamental mistake was our failure to keep real contact with the shop floor.'

'That means producing bulletins, getting militants together, and using Chrysler Worker like we've never used it before.'

'The members are not robots. They are not a stage army that we can ask to support us from time to time. Voluntary redundancy was only accepted because people were sick—not because they were greedy or shortsighted or scared—they were sickened.'

'So we have to seek everybody out and we have to make sure that we can support every section that goes into dispute. Because that's what the next period means for us—battle!'

THE ANGER THAT LED TO A MINI-RIOT...

COVENTRY: 1500 workers went on the dole from the Chrysler Ryton assembly plant last week—and not a squeak of opposition was heard from the factory leadership.

Worse, in the middle of the foremen's strike, the convenors instructed the stewards to hand out redundancy slips for the company!

Order of Boot the dole

Many stewards refused, but that didn't deter the union leadership in the factory. Joe Molloy, Transport Workers Union steward and chairman of the joint shop stewards committee, personally delivered the order of the boot to all those members whose stewards had refused.

At the same time, the convenors were working hand in hand with the company, ensuring that the foremen's strike was smashed. They allowed stewards to carry out foremen's jobs in cahoots with scabbing managers.

This sorry defeat is the direct result of the Company's two-year policy of wearing down union resistance with carefully provoked disputes in all the plants. They work to

STOKE SUPPORT LINWOOD STRIKE

THE CHRYSLER Stoke Joint Shop Stewards Committee unanimously passed a resolution last Monday in support of the Linwood strikers.

This reflects a significant change in the factory in recent weeks. Although the management have yet made no moves in Stoke, and are still collecting names for voluntary redundancy, many are waiting for the attack to begin both on jobs and on conditions.

When it does begin, the issue will be the same as in the Linwood strike—a defence of conditions and trade union organisation.

sicken workers into leaving and then they are not replaced.

This did not go unnoticed last week. As redundancy notices were handed round, so resentment from the shop floor built up. Minor acts of sabotage, born of frustration, built up to a mini riot last Thursday on the night shift.

Workers were kept in the factory until 3am before the company condescended to pay out the wages and redundancy money. Some sections were kept in until 5.30am. Throughout the whole factory lights were

smashed, fire alarms were raised and sprinkler systems were let off.

Brooms and overalls were burnt, and tools were stolen. Jigs were welded to machines and, on one line, an exhaust pipe was used to foul up the track gear. That is the kind of hatred Chrysler has called forth.

All of this was kept extremely quiet by the national press and only a small report appeared in a local paper. But it was clear that the resentment and frustration over being thrown on the scrapheap was there. The fight just hadn't been tapped by the trade union organisation.

More Sweat

For those left in Ryton, the fight is still ahead. Another 800 redundancies are due in June, when the Alpine is supposed to begin production. Meantime, new man-assignments are to be introduced this week. The track speed is going up from 27 cars an hour to 34. With 1700 fewer workers, it can only mean more sweat.

The immediate job is to resist this worsening of conditions and to defend all sections attacked or threatened with victimisation. That way resistance can be built for the next round of sackings.

The duty of the stewards' committee is to declare support for the Linwood strike and to be prepared to take action in solidarity. The support is there on the shop floor, nearly everyone sees it as a provocation. So let's go.

Steel bulletin goes down well

OVERMANNING? NONSENSE, JUST UNDERPLANNING. That's one of the headlines in the Steel Right to Work Bulletin which went down well at this mass meeting of women workers at Port Talbot steelworks during the big strike last month. The Bulletin aims to bring steel militants together. Copies still available from the Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

AFTER a few days of deceptive peace, the slaughter of jobs in steel has started up again. At plants all over the country this week, the British Steel Corporation bosses have been making their demands for tens of thousands of sackings.

An ominous sign came from the special steels plant at Panteg, near Pontypool in Gwent. This plant has packed order books, and was not considered a danger plant by anyone.

Yet last week, the local bosses demanded 105 sackings out of a workforce of only 900. This pattern is repeated in Sheffield where

the Corporation has already announced 2300 redundancies, many of them to be compulsory.

If the sackings at Sheffield and Panteg are repeated throughout the South Wales steel industry, the total sackings in South Wales could well total 13,000 in the next two months.

The bosses hope that the white-collar unions will at least be willing to fight.

The determination of the bosses has been encouraged by the complacency of union officials. The Steel Right to Work Campaign offers the only hope of rolling back the redundancies.

Why the foremen gave in

AFTER A BRIEF sit-in by foremen at the Ryton and Stoke plants last week against compulsory redundancies, all action has now been called off.

The foremen's resistance was broken by a combination of weak trade unionism and outright opposition from other workers.

ASTMS area managers openly defied the instructions of their union and the company managed to prevent the plant from closing. But much more serious was the disgraceful attitude of some stewards, particularly at Ryton, who co-operated with the scab managers and did the striking foremen's jobs.

The opposition towards the foremen from the shop floor is understandable, given the recent history of company attacks which have been carried out on the line by the foremen.

In one section at Ryton, workers had a look in the foremen's contact book while they were on strike. This is the book in which foremen from different shifts leave messages for each other.

Principle

That book effectively killed any sympathy for the foremen's action. It stretched back years and spoke of 'lazy operators', so-and-so 'is not pulling his weight,' and 'we'll have to try and get so-and-so suspended'.

Nevertheless, despite all the drawbacks, the foremen should have been supported to the hilt in a matter of trade union principle.

They were fighting for their jobs against the same employer as the shop floor, and no matter how weak another section of workers is they should be supported.

What's more, once the company beats the foremen it gives them the confidence to step up the fight against other sections.

John Fisher, the ASTMS official responsible for the Ryton and Stoke foremen, told Socialist Worker: 'The fight is not yet over. The company is attempting to order the workers and the foremen around with the threat of instant sackings for refusing to comply. They are also insisting that the ASTMS chairman goes. In other words they're saying, not only do you not have a right to a job, but you don't have the right to choose your representatives.'

Charter boost

'I DON'T want to be over optimistic' said Mick Brightman, secretary of the Engineers Charter, this week, 'but our first issue is selling well all over the country'.

The Charter appeared two weeks ago. In Preston the secretary of the local Charter group, Steve Brindle, says that all 100 copies were sold in just five days and more have been ordered.

The first issue includes an article by Len Blood, who is standing in support of the policies of the Charter in the coming elections for Assistant General Secretary. Ballot papers are being sent out soon for the voting in March.

A vital conference

THE ASSOCIATION of County Councils announced this week that there would be 'substantial' numbers of teachers unemployed next September.

This glorious understatement from the employers (already 7000 teachers are unemployed) came in response to attacks from the leaders of the teachers' union, the NUT.

The NUT has accused the government of deliberately refusing to disclose teaching quotas for next year, so covering up the extent of teacher unemployment.

'This is a blatant manoeuvre... to prevent the general public knowing,' thundered Max Morris of the NUT executive.

But not all teachers think that public speeches are enough. And that is why the Conference Against Unemployment in Education has been organised in London on 28 February. Open to delegates from all students unions, NUT Associations and all workers in schools and higher education, it aims to hammer out a militant policy for action that can effectively combat unemployment.

As well as discussing the specific fights in

By Anna Deason, NUT

the schools and colleges of education, the conference organisers see the need to urge teachers and students to link with other workers fighting unemployment.

Raise the issue of unemployment in your school or college as soon as possible. Get your school group to discuss this important conference and support it. Organise a meeting this week.

For details, agendas etc write to 18 St Agnes Close, London E9.

Cuts demo

BRIGHTON: A demonstration of 300 marched through the town protesting against the spending cuts. The demonstration was called by the local Brighton Action Committee Against the Cuts by the Trades Council.

Two photographers on the march were followed afterwards. They went back to the local police station!

THEY NEED SUPPORT

DUNDEE: 1000 jobs are at risk, local union officials announced when calling an unprecedented meeting for all shop stewards on Wednesday.

The local press has been headlining proposed cutbacks in welfare services. Tayside, the area with the highest unemployment and lowest wages in the United Kingdom, faces even greater hardship.

It's not only workers that will have to face these cuts, but the young, the handicapped and the old, those in most need of care and least able to defend themselves.

Nursery schools, old folk's homes and a new and badly needed high school are all to close.

Pocket money for handicapped kids and the free packet of cigarettes for residents of old people's homes have also been stopped.

The callousness of the councillors is an indication that they mean to take government policy to its logical conclusion. A spokesman for the Right to Work Campaign said: 'In the face of such determination by local councillors to attack standards of living in Dundee, deputations and protests by trade union officials will not be enough.'

The call must be direct, immediate militant action. The Right to Work Campaign will make sure that the call is heard.



By Ian Parker

LERWICK, SHETLAND: Catering staff at the Firth Construction Camp recently joined the Transport Workers Union and demanded parity with other construction workers on the site on pay and conditions.

Management refused to negotiate and instead brought in scab labour after suspending the catering workers. When the 400 workers on the site refused to eat the scab food, they were all sent home. For some of them this meant being sent to Ireland and England.

This strike is a crucial part of the fight to win union recognition in the oil industry. Donations and messages of support to Donald Wilson, secretary, strike fund, c/o Mossbank Post Office, Shetland.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

CHRYSLER PROVOKED THIS STRIKE

by a Chrysler Linwood steward

AT Linwood this week we have been fighting to defend the very existence of trade unionism.

Not that you'd get that impression from reading the paper, watching the television, or listening to Eric Varley, Labour Industry Minister or John Boyd, general secretary of the Engineering Union.

According to these creatures the Linwood lemmings have been on strike for an extra £1 a week for a handful of men.

But just pause for a moment and ask yourself how you'd feel if your boss walked in and said to hell with the wage and conditions agreement he agreed with you. Imagine if he indicated to you that from now on you and all your workmates were going to do anything and everything he and his whims wanted you to do.

You'd be angry. You'd be furious and you'd fight. John Boyd OBE would fight if someone mucked around with his wages and conditions as a union official. You bet he'd fight. As for £16,000 a year Eric Varley, he'd fight to the death.

But when some multinational corporation does just this to thousands of trade union members, Boyd and Varley become nothing more than mouthpieces for those who are out to destroy trade unionism.

Yet that's exactly what is at stake here at Linwood, as even a slight examination of the facts will prove.

According to the plant agreement, when Chrysler closed the Johnstone plant and moved some men to Linwood, they should have put the men into the appropriate Linwood grade.

Chrysler point blank refused to do this. When challenged by the stewards, Chrysler insisted on going ahead. When informed that, again

THIS ISN'T A NIGGLE OVER £1—IT'S WAR!

JOHN HEPBURN is the shop steward at the heart of the Linwood storm. A member of the Transport Union, he works in the knock down section where the men from the closed Johnstone plant were moved.

John went to the Chrysler Worker Fightback meeting in Coventry last weekend. This is an extract from his speech.

'We have to get the message across loud and clear—this is not a niggles about £1 by greedy carworkers. The company are refusing to honour agreements. They want to implement their decisions and then maybe talk to us. And that's the greatest danger to any trade union organisation.

according to the agreement, the company should go through agreed procedure, Chrysler again refused point blank.

Chrysler, in short, were declaring war. They were prepared to shut down the plant at a cost of £50,000 a day in order to save £57 a week. They were prepared to do this because they are out to destroy trade unionism, frighten still more workers into

'They are prepared to upgrade the forklift drivers from the Johnstone plant who are £3 under the Linwood drivers. They are prepared to downgrade other workers at Linwood. But they are not prepared to upgrade the Johnstone operators whose differential is only £1.09.

'Apart from the fact that this is totally against our plant agreement, a dispute on this scale for £70-odd a week to them is nothing other than sheer provocation.

'They are trying to push us as far as they can, but the stewards are 100 per cent. I've never seen them so solid. The membership is solid too. "If this is it," they say, "so what! We won't work for anybody under these conditions".

Pity the poor shareholder... what!

DO YOU pity Chrysler, the poverty-stricken multinational that is so unfairly attacked by the Linwood Lemmings and their associates the Coventry Luddites, as the press puts it? If so, you're being conned.

The decisive shareholdings in the Chrysler Corporation are secretly held by the multi-billionaire Rockefeller and their family trusts.

This explains the amazing

ability of the Chrysler Corporation to hold the British Labour government to ransom and obtain £162 million in return for giving men the sack.

So closely are the Rockefellers involved in Chrysler that their own family financial adviser, J Richardson Dilworth, sits on the main Chrysler board. WR Hewlett of the Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank is also there.

The stupendous wealth of

the Rockefellers has resulted from a century of unparalleled business ruthlessness.

They ordered the Ludlow massacre against the early American trade union movement. They own a controlling interest in ITT, which helped bring murder and bloodshed to the workers of Chile.

They will always try to crush anyone who stands in the way—even on the shop floor at Linwood.



THE MEN AGAINST THE STRIKERS (from left): Chrysler boss Ricardo, AUEW boss John Boyd, Industry Minister Eric Varley, and the man who calls the tune, David Rockefeller.

Help us aid the struggle down under

WE have just received £250 from Australian International Socialists towards the cost of Nigel Harris' coming speaking tour of Australia. With the money was a note:

'Australian IS now have twice as many members as their predecessors, SWAG, the Socialist Workers Action Group, just two months ago. One of the central tasks for us at the moment is building a national organisation. We have branches in Melbourne and Hobart and we are now building in Sydney and other cities. 'Nigel Harris' tour in March is crucial for this. We have raised £250 towards his fare and we are appealing to British revolutionaries to support the International Fund so that Socialist Worker can help us with the rest.'

So far we have raised another £75—earmarked for the ticket—but we still need £125 to buy it.

The SAG, our fraternal organisation in Germany, discussed at their conference last weekend the role of their new paper, Socialist Arbeiterzeitung they are launching in May. They have asked us to send a comrade from the SW staff to Germany to train their members in writing and producing a workers' paper and sent money for the ticket.

Australian IS and SAG have given this week's total fund quite a boost but we still need a lot of money to keep up our regular international work—we can't afford to neglect it. So please give the solidarity fund as much support as you can.

This week's total is £656.75.

Our thanks to Thames Poly IS Society £10.50. P Jackson £25. GLC IS members £15. B Mellor £18. G Core £1. Imperial College IS Society £4. North London District IS member £25. A J White £20. Leeds University IS Society £3. Cambridge IS £12.20. South East London District IS £20. R Stewart £100. North London comrade £50. G Brown £25. Australian IS £250. SAG £65. Sale of Lessons of 25 November pamphlet £13.05.

We also received 12 more banker's orders, giving an extra £30 a month.

Donations please to SW International Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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