

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

VICTORY IN ANGOLA!

**MPLA triumph
- and now
apartheid trembles**

Page Seven



Yorkshire miners back the march

THE Yorkshire miners are backing the Right to Work March. Their area council voted unanimously in favour on Monday.

Yorkshire NUM president Arthur Scargill and general secretary Owen Briscoe both spoke in favour of supporting the march, which begins in Manchester next Saturday.

The resolution passed by 78 votes to none after only ten minutes discussion, read:

Work

'This area council supports any campaign for the Right to Work and for any reduction in unemployment. Although we do not necessarily agree with all the aims of the organising body, we nevertheless call on all our branches to give whatever offer of accommodation and assistance they can when the march passes through Yorkshire'.

They also voted to send delegates to the Assembly on Unemployment in London on 27 March.

The London Port joint shop stewards' committee also voted unanimously to support the Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign. The London building workers Joint Sites Committee voted support

Cuts

More than 200 trade union bodies have now written to the National Right to Work Campaign asking to sponsor the Campaign.

These include 18 trades councils, 34 AUEW branches, four AUEW district committees, 10 UCATT branches, 34 shop stewards' committees, 11 TGWU branches, five hospital branches of NUPE, four SOGAT printworkers' chapels, seven NALGO branches, seven schools and two NUI associations, two divisional councils of ASTMS, 11 ASTMS branches, and branches from nearly every other trade union.

The Scottish National Un-

ion of Students is supporting the campaign and is urging all its constituent organisations to sponsor marches. Fourteen student unions in England have already done so.

Forty-five of the 81 delegates at the TUC Youth Conference last Friday signed a petition supporting the National Right to Work Campaign, the march, the 20 March Rally in the Albert Hall and the 27 March Assembly.

The platform, organised by the TUC General Council, refused to allow any resolutions from the floor.

MINERS' PRESIDENT Joe Gormley worked overtime this week trying to wreck last week's decision of the NUM national executive to ban overtime.

Newspaper editors and television commentators usually without a word of good to say about union leaders have been rushing to back him.

They've been praising NUM vice-president Mick McGahey too, because he couldn't make up his mind and abstained last week, leaving a bare majority of one for the ban.

STATUS-QUO

The reason is that the overtime ban would be for the miners' right to work.

The miners at Langwith Colliery in Derbyshire, threatened with closure, say that while there's coal in the pit, while there are men to work it, while there's a need for coal—then they've a right to work there.

There is two million tons of coal at Langwith, coal that could be keeping pensioners warm. That's why the NCB's 1970-73 development was clear: Langwith was staying open.

PITS: A FIGHT FOR ALL OUR JOBS

Why do they now want it shut?

Because it would cost money to open the way to those two million tons. Why should the NCB spend money when there are easier profits to be made in other pits.

That's why Langwith is a vital test case for all miners. For the same applies to half the pits in

Britain. If Langwith can be shut so can they.

The excuses at Langwith are 'exhaustion of reserves', 'high dust levels'. The NCB can always find excuses—and it will find more if miners don't resist this one.

But there may be more behind the threat to Langwith. The NCB has promised the Langwith

miners jobs at other Derbyshire pits—but at a top level meeting in January last year NCB officials questioned whether there should be any extra jobs in Derbyshire to compensate for Langwith.

This has nothing to do with the cheapness of Derbyshire coal or the efficiency of the workings. The NCB, simply, would like to move the jobs to an area where trade union organisation is weaker, less democratic.

Build

Less chance that way of a repeat of the great struggles of 1972 and 1974.

The miners' overtime ban might be giving a lead in the fight for jobs all over the country. That's what frightens Gormley and the newspaper editors. That's why they've been manoeuvring so hard to overturn what has been clear union policy for four years.

Make no mistake, the 1972 NUM Conference voted to resist all closures unless pits were exhausted or could not be made safe. The January NUM executive meeting voted overwhelmingly, 18 to 3, to fight for Langwith.

Whatever the manoeuvring at the top, miners have made their policy clear. By sticking to it, the miners of North Derbyshire, the miners of Britain, can help the unemployed and toughen the resistance of all trade unionists.

Crumbs for the old

THE crumb of a promise not to cut off pensioners' electricity supplies until June was thrown out by Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Labour's Energy Secretary, on Monday.

Benn insists that there can be no permanent relief from having to pay the bills, which have doubled in the past year. The bills for the present cold weather will arrive in April—which gives pensioners a grand total of eight weeks in which to pay up.

The community ex-

TO PAGE TWO

Abortion charade

SIX MPs have resigned from the House of Commons Committee on Abortion. They told the press they resigned because the committee is set up only for one thing: to make it difficult for women to get abortions legally.

It is time for women to take action on the streets again. It is time to ensure that the trade unions last year passed resolutions in favour of the woman's right to choose, turn these into deeds.

Force the TUC to act—page 13



PICTURE: CHRIS DAVIES (REPORT)

ON THE RIGHT, Marcellino Camacho, a leader of the Spanish workers' commissions. On the left, Michael Foot, declaring his international solidarity.

Foot, Minister of Unemployment, turned up with Jack Jones at this conference in London on Saturday. They are 'concerned' about Spain's downtrodden workers.

Other platform speakers were too polite to point out that another current concern of

Foot and Jones is the knifing of Spanish and other foreign workers in the back.

Foot's department has been urging East London hospitals not to renew work permits. And Jones' Transport Workers Union has been campaigning against the employment of foreign workers in the hotel and catering trades.

With friends like that, who needs enemies?—Full story, page 2.

NOW TUC TURNS TO RACIST DEMANDS

THE TUC leaders, who have allowed unemployment to rise by 850,000 in the past 15 months, are now trying to shift the blame for this on to a mere 14,500 workers from overseas.

The latest issue of the TUC broadsheet boasts that 'a team from the Hotel and Catering Industries Joint Committee led by Harry Urwin of the TGWU met junior employment minister John Frazer last month.' They told him: 'The quota system which allows foreign workers to enter the British hotel and catering industry must go'.

Their justification for this despicable attempt to make overseas workers bear the burden of the crisis is that 'importing cheap labour meant that employers were able to hold down the wages'.

This is a scandalous statement coming from men who are supposed to be building up the strength of the unions.

If wages are low it is because unions in the industry are weak.

The way to raise wages is not to divide British workers against overseas workers. It is for overpaid and overfed full-time trade union officials to get off their arses and to do the job for which they are paid.

Stood

Their present policy can only lead to still lower wages and still higher levels of unemployment. The work permit system enables employers to threaten with deportation any worker who joins the union.

The London Eating Houses chain did this when it locked out several hundred Turkish TGWU members last year. Urwin and the union leadership refused to lead a serious fight. As a result many of the workers have since been deported.

Further restrictions on work permits will strengthen the employers still more.

Only a hair's breadth separates such a policy from the outright racism of the National Front's demand that all immigrant workers be 'repatriated'.

Such is the bankruptcy and the hypocrisy of those who refuse to take on the employers and the government in a real fight for the right to work.

Spanish workers need your help

RENAULT workers in Spain are on strike in solidarity with victimised workers. They urgently need financial help and have appealed to British trade unionists. Donations will be forwarded by the Spanish Solidarity Committee, Box 212, 197 King's Cross Road, London, WC1.

COVENTRY Socialist Worker public meeting: Stop the National Front! Fight for the Right to Work! Speaker: Paul Foot. Monday 1 March, details to be announced.

The thousands who could be deported

by STEVE LUDLAM NUPE shop steward at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.

SOCIALIST WORKER revealed last week how Hackney hospital management were circulating a memo saying the Department of Employment would not renew work permits for 'foreign' workers.

Of the 24,000 members of the Public Employees Union (NUPE) working in hospitals for the Greater London Council, probably around 5000 are foreign nationals. All are threatened by this new policy.

Any widespread application of the policy would 'at best' mean deportation of several hundred militant stewards when their current work permits expire. At worst it would mean the deportation of thousands of our members.

At a special meeting last week the NUPE Health Committee for the GLC area unanimously condemned the Department of Employment's 'final solution' to unemployment and instructed the divisional office to raise this with the national executive and to take action at TUC level.

Three ways to help - and Benn refused

SIXTY THOUSAND old people may die of cold this winter. They die because they know that they cannot afford electricity.

But the one thing Energy Minister Wedgwood Benn will not do is cut the price of electricity for them.

His department spent a year looking into ways to help the 'poor'. They came up with three ideas. Low rates for low-consumption homes. Or free electricity to certain groups. Or a free fuel allowance of, say, £1 for everyone, with the rich paying more in tax.

But Wedgwood Benn rejected them all. Meanwhile, the government's famous price check scheme does not cover coal, which will go up by

another 20p a cwt, or electricity, which will go up by another 16p in the pound.

Another crumb was thrown this week to those struggling to pay fuel bills. It's called 'voluntary savings'.

The Department of Health and Social Security made a deal with the fuel boards. The DHSS will deduct the cost of your weekly fuel bill from your supplementary benefit cheque before you get it. This is to protect you from an irresponsible urge to spend the money on some luxury like a pair of shoes or a blanket.

Credit

If you have an unpaid fuel bill, they'll deduct an extra 50p a week to pay it off. It would take two years to pay

SPARKS SAY: SPREAD THIS STRUGGLE!

The electricians in the Edinburgh EETPU No 2 branch have passed a resolution asking the union executive to instruct members to refuse to disconnect supplies where the elderly, the sick and the young would be affected.

But they haven't stopped there. Willie Black, a member of the branch and a shop steward at Parsons Peebles, told Socialist Worker that they're spreading the fight.

'We went with members of the local

government union (NALGO) gas-workers branch. They are going to put a similar resolution to ours. We also went to gasworkers in the General and Municipal Workers Union, to do the same for gas supply.

Argue

'We have asked the Edinburgh EETPU No 1 branch, which is the supply workers' branch, to send a delegate to our next meeting, so we can argue for them to join us in the fight.



Pickets keep the heat on...

EIGHT Commonwealth Smelting strikers have successfully stopped an electricity disconnection in Avonmouth.

They formed a protective picket outside Roy Daniels' house immediately when they heard the electricity board had sent a man to cut off the family's supply. Roy has been on strike with them for 16 weeks.

He has a total of £23.44 a week to keep himself, his wife and four children—£14.50 from his wife's wages, £6 from strike pay, and £2.94 from social security payments.

When an electricity bill for £17.57 arrived, Roy couldn't pay it. Social Security refused his claim.

The electricity board man came with eight policemen, including a detective inspector. They saw the picket, went to the bottom of the street to talk about the situation for 20 minutes, and disappeared.

The electricity is still on at the Daniels' house.

..for everyone



ALUN MARSHALL is one of 200 electricians out of work in Cardiff. In January his electricity was disconnected—by a member of his own union, the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union.

'We use electricity for heating part of the house, for hot water and for the lights. It was bad for us because the baby, Rebecca, was only six months old,' Alun told Socialist Worker.

'We had a £48 bill which we just couldn't pay. It's virtually impossible to save enough to cover it when you're on the dole. We were dead lucky. Both our parents got the money together to pay it for us.'

'The Cardiff Electricians' branches have voted now not to cut anyone off. But if we hear of any cases, we'll go down and make sure they don't cut a single family off. This doesn't just concern EETPU members—it's everybody.'

A spokesman for the South Wales Electricity Board said: 'We can't promise not to disconnect families with small children. It's one thing to have a child on the premises, and another if there is a sick child on the premises.'

'There is a fine balance between punishing the whole family for an unpaid bill, and punishing individuals in that family.'

off a £50 bill at this rate!

There can be no higher condemnation of Wedgwood Benn's decision to let 'the poor' freeze than this, in the Daily Mail:

'It is to the credit of Mr Tony Benn, the Energy Minister, that he has refrained [from giving a subsidy to pensioners and families on supplementary benefit or from limiting fuel prices].'

'Could it be that the responsibilities of office are forcing Tony Benn to hold his nose and take a refreshing sip or two of the milk of pure Tory pragmatism?'

(Daily Mail, 17 February)



REID BLOWS IN THE WIND

by PETER BAIN, TGWU shop steward, Chrysler Linwood

JIMMY REID'S resignation from the Communist Party last week after 26 years of membership came as a bombshell inside and outside the Party.

Reid seemed to many people the embodiment of the ideal Communist. But his move last week only carried to the logical conclusion politics he has held for several years.

Reid became nationally known when he led the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders work-in against redundancy in 1971.

With the full support of the national leadership he stressed how 'moderate' the workers were, that they were willing to hob-knob with men like Wedgwood Benn and even Harold Wilson.

SUPPORT

Seven thousand of the 8500 jobs at the Clydebank yard—now Marathon—were eventually saved by an agreement with a Texan oil rig firm. But only in return for union acceptance of compulsory arbitration.

Keeping friendly with the management meant that when five dockers were thrown in Pentonville in July 1972, Reid refused even to call a mass meeting.

Reid later became Rector of Glasgow University. Then he stood as Communist Party candidate in the 1974 parliamentary elections.

Reid campaigned by emphasising his own personality and playing down the fact that he was the Communist candidate. In the run-up to the first election he



JIMMY REID

voted on Clydebank Council to implement the Tory rent increases.

The Party leadership, concerned with Reid's vote-winning capacity, ignored all this.

Later Reid agreed to stand for positions in the Engineering Union (AEU). Even then he didn't stand on a militant programme, but on a 'Vote for Jimmy Reid because he is Jimmy Reid' basis.

Reid was later asked on TV if his defeat was due to his membership of the Communist Party. He replied that he had received support from many Labour Party members, and that he agreed on many issues with 'people like Tony Benn'.

REPLY

The Communist Party leadership never criticised such statements. They could not, because their own programme, The British Road to Socialism which Reid introduced in its most recent form at the 1969 Communist Party Congress accepted them.

Yet the logic of these statements was for someone with hopes of being an MP or an union official to leave the Communist Party.

Pushing individuals into positions where they are beyond the recall of the rank and file, whether in parliament or in the unions, is bound to produce individuals who eventually drift to the right. This can only be avoided by building democratic and disciplined revolutionary socialist organisations where the 'leaders' are controlled by the rank and file.

Coventry Front threat

AS unemployment in the Coventry area creeps closer to one worker in ten, Labour has announced that the Coventry North West by-election is to be held on 4 March. Their candidate is Geoffrey Robinson, ex-financial controller of British Leyland.

The Tories are fielding Jonathan Guinness, former chairman of the right-wing Monday Club.

But the greatest threat, in a constituency with a high immigrant population, comes from the National Front.

The Front have planned a demonstration on Saturday 28 February. This march is a deliberate provocation aimed at the immigrant community and the trade union movement. It must be stopped.

The Coventry Chrysler Right to Work Committee has called for a counter-demonstration and has organised a local anti-fascist committee to prepare for this.

All Midlands branches of the International Socialists and all other members who can should join this demonstration

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Ireland's toll: Who is to blame?

AS WE go to press no one has been killed by bombs planted in London. We hope this will still be the situation when you read this paper.

No socialist could feel otherwise, faced with the prospect of the tube stations, pubs or flats where workers gather being blown to smithereens.

But if there have been no victims, it won't be any thanks to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins or to any of his friends in our so-called Labour government.

Last week Jenkins deliberately caused the death of Frank Stagg, a busman from Coventry. Stagg was imprisoned for 'conspiracy to bomb' long before any bombs had actually gone off in Britain. He turned to the hunger strike as the only weapon any prisoner has to fight for his rights.

Stagg was only making a modest demand—that he be allowed to serve his prison sentence in the island where he was born, close to his friends and relatives in County Mayo.

The government has granted such requests in the past.

The notorious Callan, the mercenary murderer in Angola, was given that concession when imprisoned for armed robbery in Northern Ireland. He was allowed to serve his sentence in Britain.

Blind Hate

But no such concession was available for Stagg. Instead Jenkins allowed him to starve to death.

Jenkins did so knowing that his inhumanity was bound to provoke a horrifying response from some sections of Republicans, so blinded by their hatred of English politicians that they take a vicious vengeance on workers in England.

But Jenkins is not a lone figure. His policies in the Stagg case are matched by the general responsibility of the whole Labour government for the ever-rising death toll in Ireland.

The root cause of the present horror in Ireland lies in the fact that for centuries British governments have insisted on ruling all or part of Ireland. It

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

was this policy that first created hatred between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland.

This policy has produced thousands of political prisoners, armoured car patrols in the streets of Belfast, the use of rubber bullets, of tear gas, of submachine guns against working-class families.

It is this policy that causes the hatred that drives Irishmen to plant bombs in British cities.

The government has spoken about a 'search for political solutions'. It has appointed commissions of inquiry. It has churned out White Papers. It has had direct rule and power-sharing and still more direct rule.

But nothing it has done has begun to deal with the strife in Northern Ireland.

The one thing it hasn't done is go to the root of the problem and withdraw British troops—a policy that according to opinion polls the majority of people in Britain would support for one reason or another.

And so we repeat:

**Stop the Bombings.
Troops Out of Ireland.**

NEWSMEN WHO DO THE ARMY'S WORK...

APPARENTLY Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, is perturbed at the report in Monday's Times that the army in Northern Ireland has been issuing forged press cards to soldiers for use in 'emergencies'.

Morgan feels that this puts 'genuine' journalists at risk.

I don't know about that. After all, many British journalists in Northern Ireland have been behaving for years as if they were on the army's pay-roll. As far as I know none has come to serious harm.

Last October I wrote to Morgan and asked him what the union proposed to do about members who, at the request of Scotland Yard,

TROOPS OUT



by Eamonn McCann

were writing lies in national papers about a Ms Margaret McKearney, dubbing her 'Terror Girl' and 'Bomb Girl'.

A few days later an old couple named McKearney were shot dead by UVF raiders at their farmhouse in County Tyrone. The UVF believed, wrongly as it turned out, that they were the parents of the girl 'convicted' by the Mirror, Sun, Express and Mail.

In November I wrote again to Morgan expressing my concern for the well-being of a William Hagerty of the Daily Mirror who seemed to me to be tempting providence—if not Provos—in his reports of the kidnapping of Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema.

To put no finer point on it, Hagerty was writing lies. For example, he treated Mirror readers to a lively account of alleged kidnappers Eddie Gallagher and Marian Coyle making love and forcing the unfortunate Herrema to watch.

This torrid tale appeared in the Mirror the day Herrema was released and gave a press conference—and confirmed that there was not a syllable of truth in the story.

Last Wednesday found me writing another letter. This time to the editor of The Guardian:

Knowledge

'Is it fanciful to suggest it might be more than coincidence that the man who ordered the killing of 14 fellow-mercenaries in Angola learned his trade in the Bloody Sunday battalion, the First Paras?'

'Is it unreasonable to ponder whether he might have been marginally more willing to order the massacre for the knowledge that the last person of his acquaintance who supervised the "cold-blooded murder" (I quote the coroner) of 14 unarmed men was denounced as a "homocidal maniac" but awarded the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth?'

'And in the light of that is it unreasonable of me and my neighbours to consider that the comments of Harold Wilson, and editorial comment such as your own, are sick-making hypocrisy?'

Although the editor of The Guardian had space for lengthy missives on subjects such as the origin of button-holes (honestly!) and the reluctance of the British to think in terms of centimetres rather than inches when ordering clothes, he found no room for my terse little communication. It's all a question of priorities, I suppose...



Demonstrators march to the Iranian Embassy in London last weekend in solidarity with the Shah's 45,000 political prisoners and demanding the dropping of conspiracy charges against 21 Iranian students who staged a peaceful occupation of the embassy. On Monday the government prosecutors announced in court that they would offer no evidence against the 21 and a 'not guilty' verdict was returned—a victory for the campaign for the 21 and against the conspiracy laws.

Picture: ANDREW WIARD (REPORT)

Party broken up by fifty police

A SATURDAY night party broken up by 50 police—everyone searched, even children. Don't believe it? Maybe in New York, or Spain—but England?

For the black community in Britain, massive police harassment is becoming a nightmare feature of everyday life.

Lloyd Stephenson, of Northampton, was enjoying a Saturday night party in his cellar with his family and a few close friends, listening to some records. Just past midnight there was a knock at the door.

In Lloyd's words: 'Between 50 and 60 police burst in and started to tear my house apart, searching my 11 and 12-year-old sons for drugs, also my guests and wife.'

Lloyd's wife takes up the story: 'All of a sudden police appeared everywhere. One came flying behind the bar where I was standing, waving a baton. He slammed it down on the counter, and frightened the life out of me.'

They got the two youngest boys out of bed and asked them for drugs. The boys didn't even know what drugs were. They were stripped and

by fifty police

searched. The shock of these events hasn't died quickly. Mrs Stephenson writes, 'My second eldest son has been frightened ever since. He has taken two days off school without me knowing, because he says he thought the police might be there. I have had to stop working as I'm very shocked. My children have been waking up at different times during the night because of nightmares.'

Intimidation

The police made no arrests, no charges. But they took £26 from the house, plus a couple of dozen cans of beer, and Lloyd's passport, which has now been returned.

Lloyd still finds it hard to believe. 'I'm 44 years old, without any criminal or drugs record, and I'm a decent



Lloyd Stephenson

citizen. The reason behind this, I'm sure, is police intimidation.

'There are quite a number of black workers out of work in this town, along with other white workers, who are living on good terms

'But it seems like the police are trying to divide us by harassing the black people to turn us against the whites, and make things difficult for those out of work. If you are black the police grab you on the street and search you.' Lloyd has been out of work since April.

The Stephensons and the black community in Northampton are determined not to be walked over by these uniformed thugs. Last Sunday a meeting elected to set up a Black Peoples Protection Association for their own defence.

INFLATION PROOF?

MANY readers will have seen news of the collapse of another socialist paper, the Workers' Press, last weekend. The rising cost of printing, soaring electricity and phone bills, heavy bank charges finally forced the paper into bankruptcy, following in the path of many other left-wing papers.

Fortunately, we can reassure our readers that there is not the slightest chance of Socialist Worker going the same way. Of course we are hit by the rising costs too. But we have one great protection against them.

Not just that our sales are higher. We know we have wide support among those sections of the labour movement not prepared to compromise with unemployment at the million and a half level and with the £6 wage limit.

Such support is the key to expanding and improving this paper, your paper, despite endless rising costs.

That's where our fighting fund comes in. Collections in the

workplaces where Socialist Worker is sold, donations, however small, from individual readers, the proceeds of socials and jumble sales, all add to our ability to fight for workers' power, for socialism. If you want to help us keep up the fight, then put your hand in your pocket or make that collection, now.

Last week's fund brought in a total £131.07. Thanks to:

- Southwark teachers £1 and £15, J Kelly, Manchester, £1.60, C Nash, Cambridge, £2, R Faer, Ivor, 50p, Peterborough IS £4, Ideal Standard of Hull, £1, Hull SW supporter £1.50, anonymous £5, Ray Hanson, Hull, 50p, McInerney site, Finsbury Park, £7.10 and £6.16, SW supporters, Shelbourne School, N7, £3.50, Aberdeen IS £16.75, Owen Davies, Cardiff, £2, Pat Owen, London, £5, D Jarvine, 50p, Plaistow SW supporter, £3.90, Newcas-

tle Staffordshire readers, £10, NALGO SW supporters, Bradford, £5, Inner West London IS £6.75, Central Manchester £12.18, Allan House, Southampton £3, Bath £5, South Manchester Hospital £1.10, Maidstone £2.70, Newton-le-Willows SW reader £3, Guildford IS, £5.33.

The donation Lambeth £75 last week should have read: Southwark Teachers £75.

Donations and collections to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

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EDITORIAL

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WHERE THE MARCH GOES

THE MARCH FOR THE Right to Work will start in Manchester next Saturday. So far 80 unemployed workers, from places as far apart as Dunfermline and Exeter, are pledged to

march all the way to London. But many more will join them for sections of the route. Hundreds of marchers will join them for the first day, which begins with a demonstration in

Central Manchester which has been called jointly by the local Right to Work Campaign, the Campaign against the Cuts, and the Trafford Worker, a paper produced by trade unionists on the massive Trafford Park in-

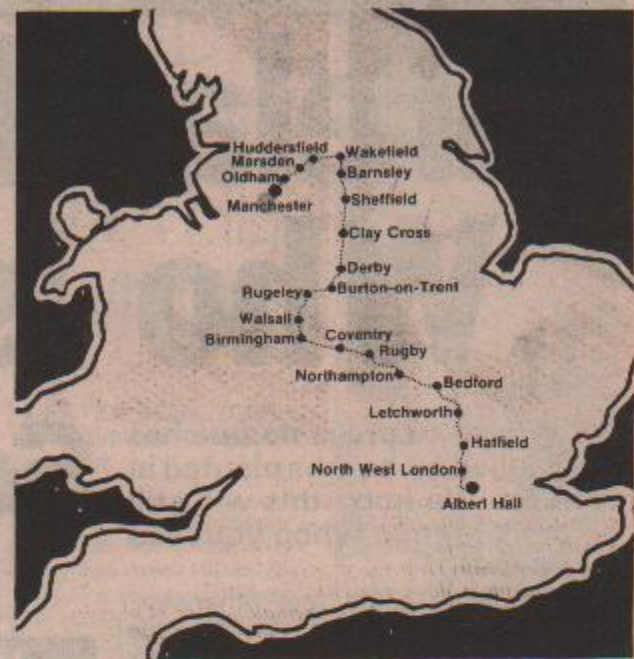
dustrial estate. The send-off demonstration will be at St John's Gardens, off Deansgate, starting at 10am. Jailed Shrewsbury building worker Ricky Tomlinson and unemployed

workers' leader of the 1930s Harry McShane will be speaking at a rally for the Right to Work the previous evening.

All along the route the marchers will be taking part in meetings and demonstrations for the Right to Work.

In many towns they are to be met by delegations from trades councils and shop stewards' committees. In some—such as Clay Cross and Derby—the Labour-controlled councils are arranging civic receptions.

The march needs single mattresses and sheets, sleeping bags, calor gas cookers. Everything cleaned before being returned. Please phone 01-249 1207.



WHAT THEY ARE 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.

BADGES: Fight for the Right to Work. 10p each, plus 6½p postage. Orders over 50 post free.

POSTERS: To advertise meetings in the campaign. 10p for five, £1.50 for 100.

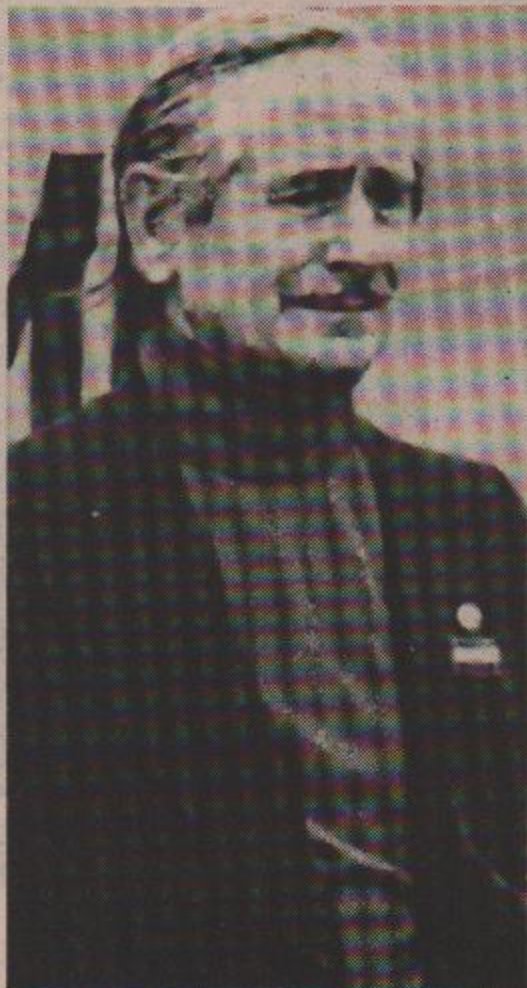
FROM: Right to Work Campaign, Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16. All orders with money.

Support the Right to Work Campaign!

ERNIE ROBERTS

SAYS:

Support this march



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

AUEW assistant general secretary Ernie Roberts

'I wish the Right to Work March the very best of luck,' Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the Engineers Union (AUEW), told Socialist Worker last week.

'A large number of young people will be marching through our cities campaigning for policies to end unemployment. They will be calling for the 35-hour week. The 35-hour week would do more to stop unemployment than any other single policy,' he said.

Socialist Worker asked Ernie Roberts what he thought of the view that the Right to Work Campaign should not be supported because it is 'an International Socialist front'.

'Oh, I've had that from members of the

Communist Party at different meetings,' he replied. 'It's just sectarianism. It sows disunity in the movement at just the time when we need the maximum unity.'

'Unemployment doesn't choose members of political parties. It hits at the entire working class.'

'Of course, it's the most class-conscious workers who take the initiative in the fight against unemployment. They're the people that start organising demonstrations and assemblies. These people may well be members of political parties. They may be members of IS, or they may be Communists.'

'Of course, if some party says "Only members of our party can attend", then they don't deserve anyone's support. But if they say "We want every worker who wants to fight unemployment to join us—then they should be supported."

'That's why the Right to Work march should

be supported.'

'In the 1930s, I was an organiser for the National Unemployed Workers' Movement in Coventry. The TUC and Labour leaders said: "Keep clear of the NUWM. It's a front for the Communist Party".'

'As a matter of fact, it wasn't. Communists started it off but many of us militants in the unions and the Labour Party joined in. Because it was by far the best campaign against unemployment.'

'I'll be speaking at a number of meetings on unemployment in the next few weeks. In all of them, I'll be urging maximum support for the march, the rally, and the assembly.'

□ John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, told Socialist Worker: 'I was delighted to hear Ernie Roberts' views. I would like to stress that the Right to Work Campaign is open to all workers who support our basic demands: for no redundancies, for nationalisation of firms which threaten closure, for the shorter working week and for full maintenance for the unemployed.'

'We have support from workers of many political parties, and of no party.'

Yes, we have a RIGHT to work

'FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK' is a slogan that should not have needed to be conceived or indeed spoken. It is an obligation of society that jobs are there as a right.

This pamphlet by John Deason spells out clearly in my mind the need and urgency of all working people on a national basis to fight and

by **BERNARD LAROCHE**
Federated Father of the Chapel, Kentish Times, Sidcup.

secure jobs for the unemployed.

Its article on our 'do nothing leaders' I agree with. Jack Jones, Len Murray and Harold Wilson have their written agreement to prop up high finance in the form of a

government pamphlet, The Attack on Inflation, which does nothing but stagnate one section of the community.

Put me in the ring with Muhammed Ali and tie my hands behind my back—there you have an analogy of the present pay code.

The pamphlet is well written and a lot of sound investigation has gone into compiling it.

It was once said that the

working man's worst enemy was the working man. Well, I don't entirely agree with that, but a small percentage do come under that category.

The pamphlet goes on to highlight redundancies. My opposition to redundancies and the workers who receive payment for selling their jobs I have made known wherever I can punch the point home, because there is no doubt in my mind that a small percentage of workers that are unemployed at the moment are guilty of receiving vast sums of money for selling their jobs.

No man has this right. Unemployment, the £6 pay limit, modern technology, active participation, high finance, all these points and more are political issues, and should be fought on a sound political basis. It is no good opposing anything unless you intend to replace that something with something else.

As an active member of the Communist Party, my only criticism of the pamphlet is that I cannot see a political alternative.



Right to Work pamphlet available now from Right to Work Campaign, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Price 19p a copy including postage. Or 10p a copy for orders of ten or more.

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 March 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 N16.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Three members of the EETPU who will be on the march. Billy Williams, (left), secretary of Cardiff No 2 branch and an unemployed electrician who is marching for a week, said: 'My boys are going to school wearing Right to Work badges. About 50 kids are wearing them now. The teachers make them take off badges of pop stars, but they won't say a word about the Right to Work badges.' Pip Jones (centre) is being sponsored on the march by a Cardiff construction site—the members there are taking a 50p-a-week levy for him. Linda Jones (right), has been unemployed for 14 months. She used to work at Barr and Strouds, Glasgow. She has a young baby to support and will be going on the march for one week.

Electricians back campaign

A BIG meeting of rank and file members of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union gave its support to the Campaign for the Right to Work at the weekend.

Bobby Buirds, an unemployed plumber and secretary of the Manchester Right to Work Committee, told the meeting in Birmingham last weekend: 'Our trade union officials agree to mass redundancies. We're the ones who get hammered.'

'We've got to get the unemployed off the dole queues to fight for themselves. The Right to Work Campaign can do it.'

'There is apathy, but it's because there's no leadership. The time has gone for sitting on your ass. Unemployed workers should picket factory gates where they're working overtime.'

'We should also picket any house where they try to cut off the electricity. We have cases of unemployed electricians being cut off by their own brothers. In Hulme, Manchester, where two men out of three are unemployed, 100 working-class families were cut off three days before Christmas.'

'It's up to us to stop the disconnections. We'll have to build among EETPU members. We can do it—we can topple pyramids once we get going.'

An electrician from Wulfrun ATE, a GEC factory in Wolverhampton, said: 'It's time we cleaned up our own backyard. We've only got one delegate to conference for 7000 members.'

'GEC Telecommunications are going to lay off 4000 to 5000 in September. We want to save these bloody jobs.'

Colin Calder from Swansea said a solution to this would be to nationalise the telecommunications industry, not farming out profitable contracts to shibbigs like GEC, as in done now.

Dave Davies, a North London electrician, pointed out: 'We don't see 30 or 50 electricians losing jobs at one time. It's a case of 'if he leaves, he doesn't get replaced. If he's 10 minutes late, he's sacked.'

'Since September, 91 jobs have disappeared off one section and another 50 in the building section.'

The message that came over loudest from the meeting was this: When you're fighting for the right to work, you're fighting for union democracy too.

Cardiff EETPU No 2 branch have already sponsored the Right to Work Campaign. Other branches can do the same. Unemployed EETPU members will be marching. A collection sheet with their photos and work details is available from EETPU for the Right to Work, 56 Brightwell Crescent, London SW17.

Edinburgh No 2 branch, Cardiff No 1 and No 2 branches have passed resolutions to the union executive to instruct members not to disconnect electricity supplies.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK Public Meetings

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: Wednesday 25 February, 7.30pm, Campus West, (function room 5, fourth floor).

LETCWORTH AUEW No. 5 branch public meeting: Wednesday 3 March 8pm, AUEW House, Nightingale Road, Hitchin.

EAST LONDON Right to Work Campaign Benefit: Film: The Mattei Affair. Admission 40p, unemployed 10p. Wednesday 3 March, 7.30pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, Stratford.

CENTRAL LONDON: Right to Work marcher Neil Rogall will be speaking at The Plough, Museum Street, WC1, at 6.30pm, Wednesday 25 February.

MANCHESTER Right to Work and Stop the Cuts Rally Friday 27 February, 7.30pm, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter Street. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson (jailed Shrewsbury building worker), Harry McShane (national secretary of the National Unemployed Workers Movement in the 1930s), Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and Colin Barnett (NUPE divisional organiser).

DEMONSTRATION to launch Right to Work March from Manchester: Called by Manchester Right to Work Committee, Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee and the Trafford Worker. Assemble 10am, Saturday 28 February, at St John's Gardens (off Quay Street, Deansgate, near Granada Television studios.) Bring union banners.

NORTH LONDON: Tuesday 24 February, 8pm, Cop Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, N4. Speakers: John Deason and Alex Macdonald (shop steward, Crosfield Electronics). Sponsors include Crosfield Electronics joint shop stewards' committee, Islington NALGO, North London Teachers' Association.

EDINBURGH: Wednesday 25 February, 7.30pm, Edinburgh and District Trades Council Club, 14 Picardy Place. Speakers: Harry McShane (former secretary, Scottish Unemployed Workers' Movement, in the 1930s), Bobby Buirds (secretary, Manchester Right to Work Committee) and local trade unionists.

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

Support the Right to Work Campaign!

Picture: Richard Platt



CAN'T HAVE THE PRINCE'S DINNER SPOILED...

LEEDS City Council were determined that the plight of the city's 15,000 unemployed should not stick in the gullets of Prince Philip and 'prominent citizens'—in other words themselves—while they stuffed themselves at our expense in Leeds Civic Hall last Friday lunchtime.

Within seconds of a Right

to Work Campaign picket arriving on the Civic Hall steps with placards demanding an end to the cuts in spending on the social services, they were surrounded by police and threatened with arrest if they did not move on. The superintendent in charge repeatedly refused to state what law or regulation

was being infringed, saying: 'This is security, now move.'

The pickets moved to the other side of the road and gave out leaflets while droves of fur coats and expensive suits arrived for the £500 feast. 'Have a good feed,' shouted one of the pickets. 'It's costing us enough—and was again threatened with arrest for

'using threatening behaviour.'

The council are refusing to make money available for essential repairs to council-owned bungalows occupied by school caretakers. Most schools in the city are overcrowded and understaffed while teachers are on the dole. The council are demolishing more houses than they are building.

Vicious cuts are being made in the council's own

workforce. Leeds social service spending is among the lowest in the country.

Meanwhile, they spend thousands on cleaning up the route of Philip's tour and get themselves a free feed into the bargain.

Challenge on overtime wins 16 jobs

A CHALLENGE over overtime has forced the management at Hailwood and Ackroyd to advertise 16 new jobs.

Our factory at Morley, near Leeds, has a long tradition of working overtime due mainly to the lack of a decent wage for 40 hours. But last year the bosses decided they didn't want to give everybody overtime. At a mass meeting, workers decided to accept selective overtime, with management doing the selecting.

by MIKE FITZPATRICK, AUEW shop steward at Hailwood and Ackroyd

This later created bad feeling on the shop floor, with some people working over while others, with perhaps a greater need for the extra

money, not having the opportunity.

Two weeks ago management wanted to extend the selective overtime due to an increased order. We on the shop stewards' committee initially agreed, but only on the understanding that we look into the whole question of selective overtime and the possibility of phasing it out altogether.

We have now forced them to take on 16 extra workers.

This is an area particularly hard-hit by redundancies and unemployment. It underlines the fact that the first step towards full employment must be the refusal of those with jobs to work overtime.

One man's overtime is another man's place in the dole queue.

Civic reception

DERBY: A big reception awaits the march when it arrives in Derby on Saturday 6 March. The mayor, the leader of the council's Labour group and the chairman of the Trades Council will welcome the marchers at the Town Hall.

The large meeting hall inside, which holds 380 people, has been booked for a Right to Work Rally. Representatives of the Indian Workers Association and of four shop stewards' committees in the city will be speaking.

SATURDAY MARCHED

1-30 PM MASS PROTEST RALLY ALBERT HALL

All trade unionists and unemployed workers are invited to join the last section of the **MANCHESTER RIGHT TO WORK MARCH**, starting from Shepherd's Bush Green, 11am, and marching to the Albert Hall.



The workers' state

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

Classes cannot be abolished overnight. It's necessary to have the working class organised as the ruling class . . .

I SAID last week that IS believes that a workers' state ('the dictatorship of the proletariat') is an indispensable step on the road to socialism.

As Marx himself wrote, in his criticism of the first programme of the German Social-Democratic Party:

'Between capitalist and communist society lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other.

'Corresponding to this is also a political transition period in which the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat' (Marx's emphasis).

I cite Marx, not because I think that arguments can be settled simply by quotations from the masters; I do not say 'Marx said it, therefore it is so'.

Not at all. Authorities need to be studied critically. But they need to be studied.

Foundations

We do not start afresh in each generation. Not in the physical sciences and their practical applications nor in revolutionary Marxism.

We build on the foundations laid by others and modify only what subsequent experience shows must be modified.

The onus is on those, like the British, French and Italian and other Communist Parties, who wish to modify—to 'revise' if you like—Marx on this question to show that he was mistaken for this or that reason or that circumstances have so changed that what he said is no longer relevant.

In practice, they choose the latter. Very well. Let us see why Marx and Engels and Lenin held that the proletarian dictatorship was necessary and what they meant by it.

Then we are in a position to judge whether their view is obsolete or not.

What is a state? What is it for? What are its essential

characteristics? Has it always existed and will it exist in the socialist future?

A state is an organisation for 'the use of force for political ends', to use the current cant phrase.

Coercive

Its essential function is coercion. It is, as Engels said, 'a special coercive force' and its essential characteristic is 'special bodies of armed men'; armies and so on.

Or, as Machiavelli told his Prince: 'The main foundations of every state are good laws and good arms . . . I shall not discuss laws but give my attention to arms'.

But why is this coercive force needed? Obviously so that one group or class of people can dominate another class or classes.

And this, in turn, implies that states exist only in societies that are divided into classes.

'The state, then, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies that did without it, that had no idea of the state and state power,' Engels writes in his classic work on the subject.

Hinder

'At a certain stage of economic development, which was necessarily bound up with the split of society into classes, the state became a necessity owing to this split.

'We are now rapidly approaching a stage in the development of production at which the existence of these classes not only will have ceased to be a necessity but will become a positive hindrance to production.

'They will fall as inevitably as they arose at an earlier stage. Along with them the state will inevitably fall.'

Thus, the decision of the party to remove the phrase 'dictatorship of the proletariat' from its statutes—a decision that was undoubtedly greeted by a minority of its members—stems from the party's understanding of the evolution of society. And this evolution itself is reflected in the fact that the people who make up this party of half a million are coming today from parts of society far beyond the frontiers of the industrial proletariat.

—from the Morning Star's report (13 February)

Not, of course, without human actions, without a revolution. But this alone does not explain why a workers' state is needed. The answer is that classes cannot be abolished overnight.

Therefore, as the Communist Manifesto puts it, it is necessary to have 'the proletariat organised as the ruling class' (my emphasis).

That still implies coercion, and therefore a state, but a radically different kind of state, for a transitional period.

The nature of the transitional state, the workers' state will be discussed next week.

Obsolete

At this point the obvious question is: what has changed to make the marxist view of the state obsolete?

No convincing answer has been given, or can be given, by the theorists of the 'new model' Communist Parties.



WHO SAID IT?

My own union has calculated that by bringing in the 35-hour week and by raising annual holidays to four weeks, we could create over two million extra jobs. We believe that nothing less than that is needed. Answer at foot of the column.

JOHN ROSE, an IS member, got a shock when he parked his car near London's Euston Station last Saturday morning.

He was immediately accosted by two policemen who had spotted a 'Tax in Post' notice on the windscreen—and socialist literature on the back seat.

On the floor of the car they found a roller-towel given to John by a garage attendant for a jumble sale.

To John's astonishment, they announced that he was under arrest for receiving stolen property.

He was taken to the police station and kept in a cell until 5pm, a total of six hours without access to a solicitor or food and drink.

Eventually released, he was remanded on bail last Monday.

Moral: if you are involved in left-wing politics, don't give the police any opportunity to pin something on you. Because, by Christ, they certainly will . . .

JAPANESE businessmen spent £3,102,000,000 in 1974 on winning, dining and entertaining each other, according to figures just released.

This bill for beer money exceeded what the United States currently spends in aid to the entire Third World.

ANSWER

Jack Jones, speaking at the 1972 TUC, when there was a million unemployed—and a Tory government . . .

THE TRIKE: ONE MAN'S BATTLE

PETER REID-SEWELL used to be the Engineering Union convenor at Electronic Components, Hirwaun, in South Wales.

Today he is one of the thousands who rely on an invalid tricycle to get around. But he hasn't stopped fighting. Peter knows that the vehicles are dangerous, badly-designed, poorly-maintained death-traps.

And he has campaigned for a reliable, safe form of transport for them.

But a militant invalid is vulnerable. When Peter signed himself off the sick and started looking for work, they decided to take his trike away. Because he was unemployed.

He can have it back when he's got a job. But how can he get around to find a job without transport?

Peter recently hid his trike and began a hunger-strike on the steps of the Welsh Office. In the freezing cold, unemployed members of the Cardiff Right to Work Committee found him there the next day.

A delegation promptly entered the building and demanded to see the office union representatives, arguing that trade unionists in the Department should show solidarity with their brother outside.

After several hours, during which a delegation from the Committee went to demand action from George Wright, Secretary of the Wales TUC, the Welsh Office invented a new appeals procedure—and decided that Peter could keep his trike.

At least until the publicity and the anger of workers in Cardiff dies down.

JULIAN GOSS

TRADE unionists in this country will be interested to learn that there is also a national Right to Work Campaign in the United States. Interested—and appalled.

Because the aim of this campaign is to smash the closed shop.

Backed by big business and sections of the Republican Party, it has

£2 million in its funds.

The money is coming in useful right now to pay the legal costs of nearly 60 workers who are taking various unions to the US equivalent of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Just think of it: not one James Goad, but 60!

PHIL McCOWEN



THE DOGS OF WAR...

READ BETWEEN THE LIES

Spot the difference

THE shadow of Oswald Mosley has been swept from Chelmsford without trace this week with the news that the Chelmsford branch of the ultra Right-wing political organisation, the National Front, has been wound up.

At a crisis meeting last week, the Chelmsford committee decided to sever all links with the National Front party and join the recently formed British National Party, Chelmsford organiser Mrs Audrey Joyce who lives in Fox Crescent, told the Weekly News that they were 'sick and tired of the authoritarian, and neo-fascist tactics of certain members of the National Front leadership, some of whom had been members of the old British Nazi Party.'

'We think many people will want to support a party which offers a real alternative and will put the interests of Britain and the British people first. We have no yearnings for alien ideologies or for the trapping and methods of Fascists and Nazis,' she said.

—from the Chelmsford Weekly News, 15 January.

CHELMSFORD National Front Party organiser Mrs Audrey Joyce has quashed a story that her organisation was being wound up and its members joining the new British National Party.

Mrs Joyce said 'that as a true patriot' she is in absolute agreement with the National Front and their policies.

The winding up story was published by the Weekly News from a written Press statement purporting to have come from Mrs Joyce.

Mrs Joyce has described the statement as untrue, adding that it did not come from her. We apologise for any embarrassment to Mrs Joyce or members of her party.

—from the Chelmsford Weekly News, 29 January.

Fifth Column deplores this disgraceful stunt to bring the National Front into disrepute and wishes to disassociate itself now from those who might seek to repeat it in other parts of the country.

THE 'RESPECTABLE' fascists of the new National Party are being caused more than a little trouble by the loud mouth of their leader, John Kingsley Read.

Seems Kingsley Read used a recent press conference to boast how several big names would be joining his pathetic little band.

The best-known of these was to be John (Hare) Braine, the famous author and bigot.

Which came as something of a surprise to the revolting Braine. Contacted by Fifth Column, he spluttered angry denials down the phone before reaching for his solicitor.

The National Party was just a little too right-wing for his civilised tastes. Just a little . . .

WILLIAM Furnival is an interesting man. Not least because he warned his wife's lover that he was going to 'blow his head off'.

He wasn't joking either. Police who went to his South East London home found a .38 revolver and 50 rounds of ammunition.

Come the court case and our Mr Furnival is fined the massive sum of £15.

This swingeing sentence, passed by Camberwell magistrates on 30 January, followed the announcement in court that Mr Furnival is a senior official in the Foreign Office.

He is also a former Special Branch agent. And a former member of the National Front.

Advice to employers stand by to cash in on a new mood of co-operation by British workers in 1976.

—Trade Minister Eric Varley, quoted in the Sheffield Morning Telegraph, 15 January.

Notes of the month include two years of this Labour Government, the Scottish Labour Party and Spain.



Ian H Birchall gives an outline of the development of the revolutionary left in Europe over the past 15 years, from the Trotskyist tradition, through the rise and decline of Maoism, the student movement to the tasks facing revolutionaries and the building of a new international.

Nigel Harris looks at the life of Chou En-Lai. A life that spans the history of the Chinese Communist Party.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: THE GREAT CARVE-UP

Alex Callinicos writes on the great carve-up in Southern Africa that goes under the name of detente. And the circumstances that have pushed Kaunda into the arms of Vorster and that this stranglehold can only be broken by smashing the Apartheid system.

International Socialism is available, 20p plus 10p postage from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN or from your SW seller.

THE WHITE racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia now face their biggest challenge.

That is the significance of the MPLA victory in Angola.

South Africa has been beaten—the first time in more than 80 years that white troops have been defeated by blacks in battle in Southern Africa.

The presence of the liberation forces along its northern borders has sent a shiver of fear throughout the South African Reich.

The MPLA forces are within striking distance of the Cunene Dam, central to the economy of South African-occupied Namibia (South West Africa).

If some of the fire power now in MPLA hands were given to the Zimbabwe (Rhodesian) guerrillas, the Smith regime could not last two years.

Failed fraud

In desperation, the South African Premier Vorster is trying to avoid this eventuality. He wants to do a deal with middle-class leaders of the MPLA to halt the advance of their forces short of the Namibian border.

Now that his attempts to defeat the Angolan liberation forces by fraud have failed, he is resorting to financial pressure.

He is saying that he and his West European allies will help reconstruct the Angolan economy (which was devastated by the war they unleashed) if the Angolans come to terms.

But whatever agreements may or may not be made, the stability of white-run South Africa has been irreparably damaged. In the years ahead, millions of black workers in South Africa will take heart from the Angolan victory.

Callaghan defends racist regimes

JAMES Callaghan, British Foreign Minister, has leapt to the defence of the beleaguered racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa.

He issued a stern warning last week to the MPLA forces to stop well short of the borders of South African-occupied Namibia.

Claiming that the MPLA forces were run entirely by Cubans, he demanded that they 'make it crystal clear that they were not intending to send their troops on from Angola into Zambia, Rhodesia or any other countries which adjoin Angola.'

'They have not been invited into any of the neighbouring countries in Southern Africa.'

The Angolans have no intention whatsoever of attacking Zambia or Zaire, despite the fact that these regimes helped the forces of South Africa and the CIA in Angola.

Illegal

Callaghan was really referring to the possibility of the Angolans taking on the South African forces in Namibia or the white forces in Zimbabwe.

Yet Callaghan is supposed to accept that both the Rhodesian regime and the South African occupation of Namibia are illegal.

What Callaghan is really worried about is this. Throughout Southern Africa British and American based multinationals own enormous wealth—the diamonds, iron ore and oil of Angola, the copper of Zaire and Zambia, the coal of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the gold, diamonds, car factories, explosive plants of South Africa, the uranium deposits of Namibia.

These are owned by the same corporations and linked by the same railways. But the political regimes in the South are run by white racials, those in the North by middle class black nationalists who are usually in pawn to the

white racials.

Naturally, the multinationals want friendship—'detente'—between the black governments and the white government in South Africa.

They recognise that the weak spot in the calculations is the racist Rhodesian regime, where the 250,000 whites could easily be overthrown by the blacks who outnumber them 12 to one.

Terms

And so they have been trying to persuade the leader of the Rhodesian whites, Ian Smith, to come to terms with middle class black leaders like Joshua Nkomo.

They have managed to persuade Vorster of South Africa and Kaunda of Zambia to cooperate together on this, just as they cooperated in opposing the MPLA.

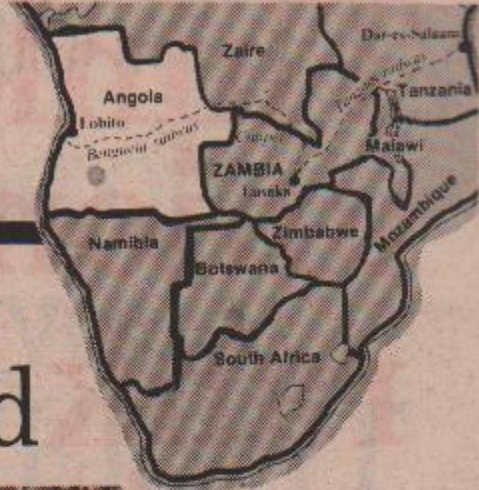
Their efforts failed in Angola and it looks as if they might fail in Zimbabwe.

The victory in Angola has raised the fighting spirit of blacks throughout Southern Africa and the middle class regimes will have difficulty avoiding the consequences.

One thing, however, is clear. Creatures like Callaghan can be relied on to try to bolster up the crumbling dyke that protects racist South Africa.

VICTORY!

MPLA triumph—and drive fear into the heart of apartheid



So much for Cuban stooges: just some of the support the MPLA enjoys among the Angolan people.

WHY THEY WON

WHY DID the MPLA win? According to the press, television and James Callaghan, because of Cuban troops and Russian tanks.

But a different story has been told by someone who should know, Melo Antunes, a key figure in the present right wing inclined government in Portugal and one of the men responsible for negotiating Angolan independence from Portugal.

He told the Common Market leaders recently that victory for the MPLA was 'inevitable, because the Popular Movement had the political loyalty of the majority of Angolans.'

So much for another of Callaghan's lies.

TWO RECENT IS publications give the full background to the crisis in Southern Africa:

The latest issue of IS Journal contains an article, 'The Carve Up in Southern Africa', by Alex Callinicos, which is indispensable for anyone who wants to understand the situation in greater depth.

The NOISS pamphlet, 'The Struggle in Angola', explains what the MPLA is, and discusses the impact of its victory.

GOOD NEWS, BUT..

IN THE WAKE of the MPLA victory, the black governments in Tanzania Mozambique and even Zambia are talking about ending attempts to get an agreement with Ian Smith.

Kaunda of Zambia has spoken of the likelihood of a 'bloodbath' in Zimbabwe.

This should be good news to every opponent of the racist regimes in Southern Africa. But a qualification is needed.

Many Zimbabwe freedom fighters are still held as prisoners in Zambia, and even

Mozambique.

The black middle class leaders haven't dropped their hope of an agreement with the South Africans.

They see the threat of renewed guerrilla action as a means of putting pressure on Smith to accept such an agreement, rather than as a way of igniting black workers' struggles throughout the area of white domination.

Portugal bosses rampage

From SW reporter in Lisbon

THE OFFENSIVE of the bosses in Portugal is intensifying.

Many of those hundreds of bosses kicked out of their factories last year—and others who deserted the factories—are now trying to get them back, with a little help from their friends—the so-called Socialists in the government.

A good example comes from Codiproal, a Lisbon supermarket. Last week the police, accompanied by a former member of management, closed the doors.

New law

A year ago, the workers had occupied the firm and displaced the bosses. As one worker said:

'We founded a co-operative because the sabotage and the pomposity of the boss obliged us to. Thus we were able to re-employ five workers and employ 13. We increased turnover three times.'

But under a new law being implemented this month, it was the old administration that applied for and was

granted recognition

At Martins and Rebello, which markets 70 per cent of the country's packaged dairy products, the old boss was sent away last June, partly through the pressure of the workers.

Rich

A new administration was set up to work out a plan to solve the problems of the dairy industries. But the state has now put the old bosses in total charge of the works.

One of the workers on the sacked administration said: 'Our dismissal indicates that the government isn't interested in organising the dairy industry. It is more interested in helping the former bosses.'

At another big plant in the north, the textile firm Manual Goncalves, the bosses said they were returning on condition that 17 militants were sacked.

A meeting with workers was held, and, in spite of threats of

closing the firm down, the majority of the workers supported the 17.

But a group of workers supporting the management tried to organise a secret ballot. During the speech of a well-known reactionary, the workers started shouting, 'The right to work' and fights broke out.

The majority left and a vote was forced with the few workers remaining.

For more than a year, the workers at Pao de Acucer (Sugarloaf) supermarket chain, the largest in the Lisbon region, have worked without any bosses.

Money

A year ago, they combined with the workers from two other chains, A C Santos and Nutripol a Boa Aiuda Modelar. They had organised this without the blessing of the government.

As Fernando Goncalves, representative for the co-

ordinating committee of the workers, said: 'This integrated organisation was the first thing that the government didn't like about us.'

'Our other crime was that our wages have gone up 25 per cent since last March and the turnover has increased faster than inflation. We have employed another 100 people.'

Vultures

'The government refused to give us funds but now it has made available £2 million for its own stooges.'

Elsewhere, the bosses are sitting like vultures on the sidelines waiting for the occupations and co-operatives to collapse.

The problems are immense. International markets and supplies have been cut off, retail networks have collapsed, technical expertise has been withheld.

In hundreds of factories, the workers are struggling to rebuild their working lives—in the midst of a world economic crisis and one of capitalism's backwaters.

Join us in Skegness!



There are still places left for the Socialist Worker rally in Skegness at Easter, where there will be a full programme of political meetings, discussions, films and entertainment. Four days, Friday to Monday, 16-19 April, for £16.25, covering all meals, accommodation and entertainment. Children are free.

Ask your local Socialist Worker seller for details.

NOISS pamphlet

THE STRUGGLE FOR ANGOLA

By Alex Callinicos and Peter Alexander

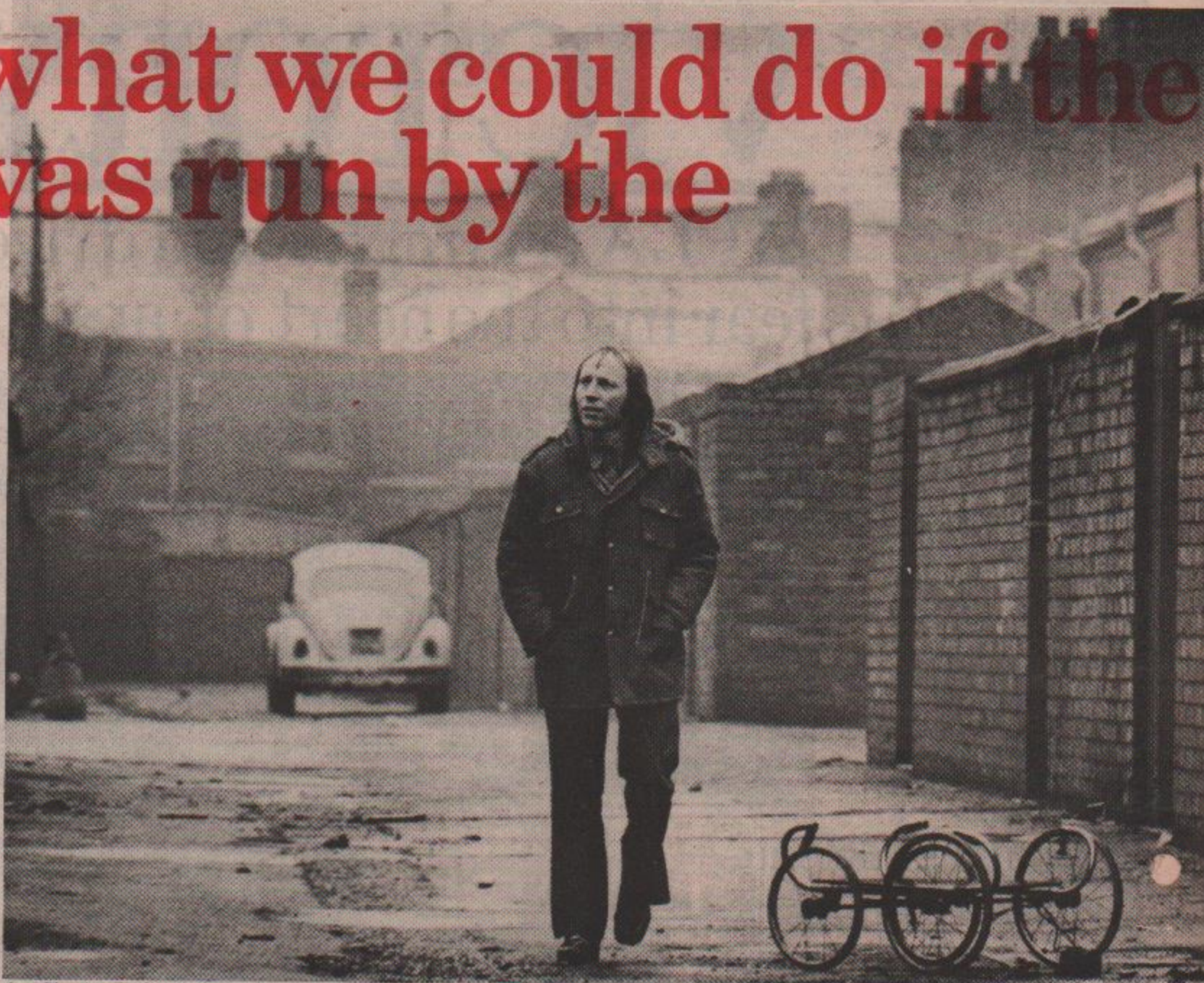
10p

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Gives the background to the present war and exposes the fake 'neutrality' of the Western powers and their African allies.

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Think what we could do if the union was run by the rank and file ...



Len Blood in Earlstown, Lancashire

'JUDAS! You've sold us out!'

The shouts echoed through the huge Top Rank ballroom where workers from the transmission plant at Fords Halewood, on Merseyside, had gathered to listen to their union officials.

It was the eleventh week of the great Fords strike of 1971. Moss Evans, Transport Workers Union official for the car industry had just given details of a settlement for an £8 a week rise—£7 a week less than the men's demands.

The interruption came from a small, fair-haired steward in the front row.

Evans, dapper and glib, look startled. 'But just think how much money I've won for you', he replied.

'You've never won anything for us', yelled the steward. 'We've won every penny—by striking and starving. And now you sell us for £8, when we could have got all £15'.

Moss Evans almost broke into tears.

Len Blood, the interrupter, had been a steward at Halewood almost since he started work at the plant four years earlier. 'I got the steward's job', he explains, 'because I challenged the former steward's habit of doing things without first consulting his members'.

'That Fords strike was magnificent. We convinced the membership that the £15 could be won. The lads were hard and militant.'

Then, just as we were winning, Jones and Scanlon went round the back of the negotiating committee and sold us for half what we could have got.

Lost £7

When Hugh Scanlon, the Engineering Union (AUEW) president, came to an AUEW function in Newton a few weeks later, Len Blood refused to shake hands with him. 'You've never won £8 a week for your members in your life', said Scanlon, angrily.

Len replied: 'No. And I've never lost them £7 a week either!'

In union elections this March, Len Blood is standing for assistant general secretary of the AUEW as the Engineering Charter candidate.

His main credentials are an undying hatred of the employers and their system, confidence that the workers have the power to beat both, and contempt for union officials who cut themselves off from those they represent and sap the workers' strength.

'I don't know where I got the hatred from', he says.

Blood brot

'At the railway works where I got my first job, the foreman wore bowler hats, and you had to call them Sir. I've always detested that sort of thing: workers bowing and scraping to dictators and idlers. I've always hated stewards and officials who go along with it.'

Len Blood was on the strike committee in two big disputes at Ruston Paxman's factory in Vulcan Village, Newton le Willows. The militant workforce at the Vulcan led the engineers' campaign for the 35-hour week in 1972.

Tone it down

'I remember the report back from the final negotiations at Knutsford', says Len. 'They were led from our side by John Tocher, the union's Manchester divisional organiser. Tocher was one of my heroes. I had him down as a left-winger and a fighter.'

'Our local district secretary, Jim Coffey—he really is a good official—was steaming away at the bosses, when Tocher suddenly stopped the talks and took us stewards outside. He said to Coffey: "Look, you're a union

'When we took over Ruston Paxman, we occupied the boardroom. Some of us sat round the table pretending to be directors. Others would knock on the door and creep in cap in hand: "We're sorry, Sir", they mimicked, "we're frightfully sorry. But we can't go on with it, Sir. Will you be kind to us, Sir." And when we could stop laughing we would say: "I'm sorry, that's not good enough." And one bloke went out and came back again crawling on his hands and knees!'

official now. You're behaving like a shop steward. Tone it down, will you.'

Said Len: 'He bloody well ought to have behaved like a shop steward. If Tocher had behaved like a shop steward, we might have won the dispute.'

The workers went back without winning the 35-hour week, and the employers pressed home their advantage. They sacked John Deason, a militant steward, on a trumped-up charge.

The workers were out again—for seven weeks. This time they occupied the factory.

Again the dispute was sold. Bob Wright, AUEW executive member for the area, offered to withdraw Deason's credentials. From that moment, the strike was doomed.

Len Blood was put on a redundancy list, and left for a job at Greenings wire factory in Warrington.

THREE big disputes—and three union sell-outs. What happened at Fords and at Vulcans had a profound effect on Len Blood's thinking about the union.

The officials *did* sell us out. It's not because they're left-wing or right-wing. It's because they're not accountable to the rank and file.

'I wouldn't trust myself becom-

ing a union official if I was on my own. I'd probably sell out too.'

'But I'm the candidate of the rank and file Engineers' Charter. Unless I represent that organisation and its militancy, I'm finished.'

'Just think what we could do if the union was run by the rank and file. Think what we could do about unemployment.'

Sat back

'We could run a real campaign, a national strike campaign for the 35-hour week—just like we should have done in 1972. We could win the 35-hour week.'

'It's not a dream. It's a real possibility. And that would put a stop to this unemployment nonsense once and for all.'

'I think Bob Wright's performance at Chrysler was dreadful, dreadful. He just sat back and told them to bow and scrape.'

'If it had been me, I'd have gone among the stewards right from the start. I'd have said, "Right lads, you've got a fight on your hands."

'There's no reason on earth why we should give £170 million to some crook in a boardroom. We're not giving them 8000 jobs.'

'The lads would have been convinced as they were at Fords, and the government and Chrysler

wouldn't have known what hit them.'

'Our union isn't democratic enough. I'd like to see executive members stand down after each three-year stint and go back to the shop floor. Instead, you get people who assume they've got a right to a union job because they've had one for several years.'

'I want amalgamation from the bottom up, so that you have clerks and draughtsmen and foundry workers and engineers in the same branch, represented on the same district committee.'

'And I want to see *all* our officials elected—TASS officials as well.'

'I don't want office. I don't like the idea of leaving here for a start. But I'm standing because the rank and file have got to change the union: if we don't change the union, we won't change our lives'.

THERE'S hardly a trade union job available to him which Len Blood doesn't hold.

He's branch secretary of Newton 28 NE branch of the AUEW. He sits on the Warrington district committee and the Manchester divisional committee.

He is secretary of the Newton Trades Council, an executive member of the Merseyside Association of Trades Councils, a member of the TUC North West Regional Council.

But Len is not a trade union professional. He never uses the bureaucratic language of trade union officialdom. He despises the privileges provided by trade union slush funds.

He left the Labour Party in disgust two years ago, and joined the International Socialists. He was worried at the time that he

Paul Foot Len Blood

would lose his inf friends among the were still loyal to L

On the contrary, Walking throu with Len Blood afternoon is a slow few yards he is str introduction, a jok

He is president judo club, and secretary of its trophy Group.

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But he stands shoulders above th



The parking space won for invalid drivers.

THE Engineers' C Blood up for this e trade unionists with WAGES
 Opposition to all
 For national, m wage increases w propaganda with claims.
 For £60 minima
 For full equal women workers.

SADIE'S MOTTO:

You get nothing out of society unless you fight for it - so FIGHT

IN 1972, Sadie Blood won a large bottle of whisky in a Co-op raffle. Len, her husband, wanted to raffle it for muscular dystrophy. Sadie had another idea: 'Let's take it to the Miners' Welfare and raffle it for the pickets', she said. Like most other working-class women, Sadie Blood is a victim of the meanness of public spending on health and social services. In this interview, she tells of her long battle against the authorities to make life easier for her crippled child.

'PHILIP was always slow at walking. We took him to an orthopedic surgeon and he prescribed built-up shoes. We bought the shoes—they were very expensive—but they didn't make the slightest difference.

'He was three years old before we knew any more. Another doctor saw the way he pushed himself with his hands on his knees when he wanted to stand up. The doctor suggested a blood test, which we had done.

'Len had to go to the doctor one Friday and I asked him to find out the result of the test. I didn't think much of it.

'When Len came home, he was crying. He said: "Our Phil's got muscular dystrophy". I didn't know what that meant.

'The next day a senior children's specialist came to the house. "Strip the child", he said.

'I took Phil's clothes off, and he did some tests. He stood up and said: "Your child has an incurable muscular disease. Don't have any more children".

'And he walked out of the house. I was six weeks pregnant.

'I went down to the hospital, and the doctor said: "I can't be sure that your baby will have the disease. I can't possibly recommend an abortion." The sister turned round on him and said: "Will you be the one who tells the mother if the child is born with the disease?" She really went for him.

Panting

'So I saw another specialist and agreed to an abortion that afternoon. I had to run back and get Len's signature agreeing to the abortion. And run back again.

'When I got to the operating theatre, the surgeon said I was the first person he'd ever seen panting on the operation table!

'I had the abortion without anyone ever explaining to me what muscular dystrophy was. Now I know that it slowly kills off the muscles so that the child gets weaker and weaker until he dies of a heart attack'.

'For four years since then I've had one struggle which has completely dominated my life. I've tried to get a lift to take Phil upstairs. He weighs four stone. I weigh just over six.

'I had to get the lift. Phil couldn't sleep downstairs. I have to be near him at nights.

'Well I've had all sorts of social workers and other people here.



Sadie and Philip Blood with the wheelchair lift she fought so hard to get

First they said the stairs wouldn't take the weight of the lift. I think many working-class women would have accepted that, and left it there.

'But I refused to accept it. I went on ringing them and fighting for the lift.

'Then one social worker said to me: "You realise if you have the lift, then we'll have less funds for other people in need". I told her it wouldn't solve anything if I had to carry Phil upstairs. That's the way I saw it.

'For four years they've been putting me off, switching the responsibility between local authorities, delaying, changing their minds. I've had to fight until nothing else was allowed to matter.

Finally, just the other day, the lift was put in. We won in the end.

'Then there was the problem of Phil's school. The special school

said, no, they were very sorry, they couldn't fit Phil in. We argued, and still they said No.

'So one day Len went down to the school and said that he would bring Phil the next day and leave him on the school doorstep unless he could get his legal right to a school place.

Suddenly they found a place for him.

'Living with a tragedy in your home is bad enough.

'But living with a tragedy which the authorities make worse and worse just by meanness is terrible. Do you know the council here spent a few minutes deciding to buy a Rolls-Royce for the Mayor?

Purse

'Four minutes to get £8000 of our money for a Rolls-Royce for a Mayor—and four years fighting to get £900 for a lift for a sick child.

'When I raised this at a Labour Party meeting, they told me the money for the Rolls-Royce and the lift came out of different purses. I asked them what purse I paid my rates into.

'I think a lot of people just accept things—and give up. They become zombies. But there's one thing I learnt through all this. I've learnt it watching and supporting Len's battles in the factories, but most of all I've learnt it here in the home.

'It's this. You don't get anything, anything at all out of this society unless you fight for it.'



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head and professional

trade unionists who are his main rivals in this election.

This is the comparison. On the one hand John Weakly, with his lawsuits against the union, and Bob Wright, with his pathetic stammering at Chrysler—'I'm the moderate now', he said. On the other, the furious plans for fighting threatened redundancies which Len Blood and his workmates are making at Greenings.

If people like Len Blood, with the strength of rank and file organisations behind them, are elected to control our trade unions, those unions can become dynamic instruments of workers' power.

Battles for jobs, wages, houses, pensions, control over our own working lives can move away from the corridors of impotence into the factories, mills, mines, offices and council estates where there is real life and power.



The Engineers' Charter group has started a new journal, written and edited by rank and file members of the AUEW. For a copy of the first issue, which includes articles on the postal ballot, equal pay, the Right to Work Campaign, and the AUEW right wing, send 17p (including postage) to ENGINEERS CHARTER, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

...it's not a dream

arter, which is putting Len action, is an organisation of in the AUEW who stand for: forms of incomes policy. meaningful, across-the-board official campaigning and the membership for such n time rates. ay and job opportunity for

JOB SECURITY

- For the 35 hour week
- For official opposition to closures, short-time working, speed up and voluntary redundancies.
- For official occupations to force nationalisation, without compensation of plants threatened with closure.
- For 100 per cent closed shops and strong shop stewards' organisation to maintain manning levels and control of work speeds.
- For district committee control of job replacement and registration

UNION DEMOCRACY

- Against the postal ballot, for return to branch balloting and full discussion of election addresses.
- For official encouragement of improved shop stewards' organisations—for joint shop stewards' committees including representatives from staff unions (for meaningful amalgamation).
- For official efforts to build combine committees.
- For majority of shop stewards' representation in district committees, and for bi-monthly

district stewards' meetings.

- For official efforts to build combine committees.
- For a majority of shop stewards' representation in district committees, and for bi-monthly district stewards' meetings.
- For the average engineering wage for full-time officials and full accountability
- APPRENTICES AND YOUNG WORKERS**
- For 100 per cent trade union membership
- For the full adult rate at 18.
- For junior worker committees inside each factory, representation on joint shop stewards' committees, and the right to direct negotiations

PRE-VIEW

THURSDAY
Set in a mining town, WHEN THE BOAT COMES IN (BBC1), has had some good moments. This week's episode is by Alex Glasgow. Anyone at home at 5.50, might find PSYCHOSEXUAL DIFFERENCES (BBC2) worth a glance—despite the title. It looks at the way boys and girls are expected to assume sex roles from childhood.

FRIDAY
TONIGHT (BBC1) profiles John Cleese. OPEN ALL HOURS (BBC2) is a new comedy series with Ronnie Barker. Wonder if he'll be as funny as a small shop keeper as he was in jail. The MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2) reports on Argentina where inflation is running at 35 per cent... maybe they're getting us prepared for '77.

SATURDAY
This week's CENTRE PLAY (BBC2) looks interesting. It's 'Two men from Derby' by Barry Hines, who wrote the book Kes was based on. Set in a mining village, the two come to sign up Freda's husband for Derby, but he's out—and the only bus to catch.

SUNDAY
Bud Abbott and Lou Costello star in IN SOCIETY (BBC1) as plumbers who cause chaos at a high class party. What would Frank Chapple say?

MONDAY
Anyone interested in ancient civilisations should tune in to BBC2, where HORIZON looks at the city of Chan Chan in the Peruvian desert. Said to be the 'greatest ancient city in the Americas'. This week's FILM AS EVIDENCE (BBC2) shows extracts from cinema newsreels before the war, and asks how they prepared the British people for the war.

TUESDAY
Cancel everything and stay in for PLAY FOR TODAY: CLAY, SMEDDUM AND GREENDEN—three short stories by Lewis Grassic Gibbon set in north-east Scotland, between the wars. His book, Scots Quair, is one of the great socialist novels.

A good night out

WANT a good night out this weekend? If you're in London, you can see Northwest Spanner.

They'll be doing their play Winding Up—the story of textile workers fighting to save their mill from closure combined with the get-rich-quick-out-of-war-contracts story of Sam Courtauld.

It's well worth seeing. It's at the Oval House, Kennington Oval, London SE11. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 19.20 and 21 February at 9.30pm. Tickets 50p.



Down, dog, down...

THE BRITISH, they told us at school, are famous all over the world for their love of the underdog.

This may well be true of certain sections of the British people.

The way, for example, that penniless Jewish refugees fleeing Czarist pogroms in Russia in the 19th century or, more recently, South Americans escaping from Henry Kissinger's Chile have for



the most part been received and welcomed into British working-class communities is certainly remarkable.

But if you turn to the British ruling class and their press spokesmen you see

that that lot love an underdog only in the sense that it gives them something to boot.

The blood lust of our masters hasn't had a really good war to glut itself on for some time now, and fox-hunting and spattering the brains of hapless grouse all over the moors is a pretty limited substitute.

The result is that nowadays when someone is down or cornered, the ruling class vandals and the people they hire to write their

newspapers start to mill around, baying and snorting and sniffing blood.

Take the case of Frank Stagg, the Provisional IRA man who died last week on hunger strike in Wakefield Prison.

Perhaps a twitch of human sympathy for him, whatever the political differences, from, say, The Guardian, the conscience of British liberalism? Nope.

'Moral blackmail,' says The Guardian, by a man who 'in addition to his illegal acts persists in the grievous moral evil of taking his own life.'

Well said, Carruthers; throw another peasant on the fire while you're up, will you?

Then there were the Newcastle schoolgirls who walked out of Heaton Comprehensive last month because the headmaster planned to start beating them.

Most decent people that I've spoken to aren't strongly in favour of adults laying into young girls with a blunt instrument.

Underdog

But most decent people aren't the Minister of Education or editorial writers.

Linked to this hatred of the underdog is the press's fawning attitude towards topdogs.

You may feel, in your twisted Marxist way, that the people really in trouble these days are the unemployed, the old dying of hypothermia and the young whose education is being cut to ribbons.

Not so. These problems pale before the problems of the rich, hounded from these shores by the taxmen. There was an article just the other day about the plight of William Douglas-Home, brother of Sir Alec.

Because of the fierce inroads of the taxman, William, a second-rate playwright, is now down to his last couple of racehorses.

Wrecker

But that's not all, there's worse to come. William (brace yourselves for this and send the kiddies out of the room) William drives a car that's three years old. Jesus, it's tough at the top.

The man next door to me has been making cars all his life. He drives a bicycle that's 20 years old and the only time you read about him in the papers is when he puts in a wage claim so he can pay his electricity bill. Then he's called a wrecker.

Yet it's only the decency of the wreckers that makes this society livable in at all. Ask the Jews and the Chileans.

But don't ask the newspapers.

Paul O'Flinn

Who said politics and theatre don't mix?

GOING into the theatre business was something new for us in Swansea.

We brought a theatre group down for one production just before Christmas.

Then, last week, we ran a full week of performances—in the Port Talbot Working Men's Club, the Pontardulais Mechanics Institute and the Swansea University Arts Theatre.

Having experienced some of the ups and downs, we would certainly recommend the idea to comrades in other parts of the country.

We have worked so far with only one theatre group, the 7:84 Company. They take their name from the 7 per cent who own 84 per cent of the wealth of this country.

Highly professional and immensely entertaining, their aim is, in their own words: 'a few laughs, some good sounds and a good night out—not as well as the politics, but as part of the politics.'

Turnover

We had a total of 1300 people at these performances, and a turnover of £1000.

What's more, the International Socialists here are now seen in a different way.

To find out more about how Swansea IS organised their week of theatre, ring Colwyn Williamson, 0792 56270.

To contact 7:84, ring Sandy Craig in London, 01-722 7186, or Feri Lean in Edinburgh, 031-226 4300.

We're obviously not just a small group of somewhat strange people who 'couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery'.

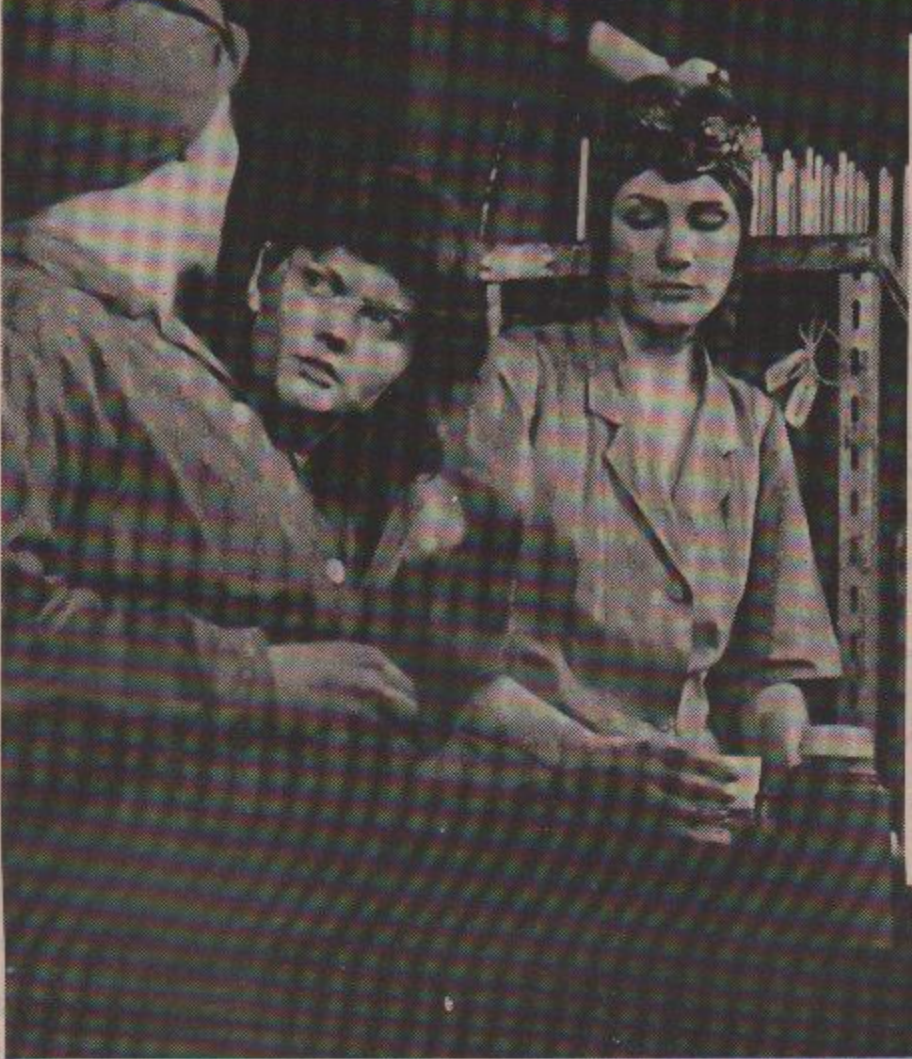
We brought good, socialist entertainment to the area—and our audiences were better than those for any conventional stuff except pantomime.

Handful

This was mainly possible because of our general political work in the factories, particularly around the Right to Work Campaign.

We have had our setbacks—only a handful turned up for the show planned at Pontardulais.

But we have also had moments of glory—an audience of 350 absolutely wild about the marvellous



A SCENE from Yobbo Nowt. It's magnificent. Superb material by John McGrath and Mark Brown goes hand in hand with superb performance.

The story is of a youngish working class mother who begins to discover herself only after she throws out her brutish—but all too typical—husband and is obliged to fend for herself and her children.

She has to deal with social security and employment officials who think they are doing her a favour.

When she gets work, it is for £17.50 a week during a 'training' period—although the job only takes a couple of minutes to master.

The union official turns out to be not only in the employer's pocket but the kind of pig who thinks it is amusing to keep fondling them as well.

All of which leads her to take up what she calls her 'hobby'—finding out what makes the capitalist system tick.

COLWYN WILLIAMSON

Yobbo Nowt show. Anyone trying it for the first time should be a little less ambitious. A full week of theatre is a lot to handle, particularly a week after a steel strike.

With that proviso, we would seriously urge comrades to apply the idea in their

locality. Financial help can almost always be found locally. We were assisted by the local Association for the Arts and by the Students Union at the university.

Renewed confidence in the power of our ideas and bringing home the socialist alternative to a wider audience—these are the results.

And it is great for husbands and wives to spend an enjoyable night out together.

There was a bonus, too. The 7:84 Company performed in London the week after they were in Swansea.

They asked for a collection for the strike fund of the Alcoa construction workers in Swansea—and raised nearly £100.

SWANSEA IS DISTRICT COMMITTEE

JACK JONES: A TRIBUTE

Jack Jones well and known to everybody
Round about the market, don't yer see,
I've no fault to find with Jack at all
Not when he's as he used to be,
But since he's had the bullion left him
He has altered for the worst.

For to see the way he treats all his old pals
Fills me with nothing but disgust.
Each Sunday morning he reads the Telegraph,
Once he was contented with the Star.
Since Jack Jones has come into a little bit of cash,
Well, he don't know where he are.

Not our 'friend' Jack Jones, but another. Charlie Chaplin sang this song on his first night in an Aldershot music hall in 1894.

Book of the Week



Robert Tressell will make you laugh, cry and see things in a new way. And he'll never lose your interest.

This book is a gripping expose of working conditions in the building industry at the turn of the century—and one man who spells out a socialist

alternative. Worth reading for the Great Money Trick alone. If you're not a socialist before you read it, you should be after.

£1.15 including postage.
From IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from IS BOOKSHOPS in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Hull, Coventry, Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds.

IS Books

Students take on the Right -and win

By Lindsey German
RIGHT-WINGERS in the student movement got a rude shock last week. They had been trying to smash the power of the National Union of Students by getting local student unions to leave it. They seemed all set to gain some successes among the universities, following a vote for disaffiliation from St Andrews in Scotland. But then Manchester University, where the right is quite strong, threw out their call by a massive majority. Even more surprising for the right was that they were defeated in a secret ballot. And this after a large union meeting had decided by just one vote to disaffiliate. The right had expected that a secret ballot would give them overwhelming support.

Good
 But the right wing had reckoned without the Manchester members of the National Organisation of IS Students Societies (NOISS). The NOISS members set out to ensure that the largest possible number of students had heard all the arguments against disaffiliation. They distributed 3500 leaflets in halls of residence and outside lectures, as well as in the union building and coffee bars. John Penney from the Manchester University IS Society told Socialist Worker how they argued against disaffiliation: "We didn't just go round saying NUS is wonderful, because it isn't. We said "stay in NUS and change it—make it more democratic".

Bars
 On the day of the vote we plastered the place with hundreds of posters and addressed the voters with loudhailers, telling them to stay in. This activity clearly paid off, and the vote to stay in was decisive—2128 to 1694. The example of Manchester shows that the right can be defeated if they are argued against politically—and if the left breaks out of cliquishness and talks to students who don't necessarily go to union meetings. At Plymouth Polytechnic, the right got an even bigger bashing from the "silent majority". The call for disaffiliation was lost by 500 votes to 25.

Clique
 But the lessons of the Manchester vote have been lost on the Communist and Labour Party student organisations. At the weekend they issued a joint statement with the Broad Left editorial board, the Conservative Students Federation and the Union of Liberal Students calling on student unions to "play a full and active part in NUS". By doing so, they are providing a cover for Tory politicians who periodically urge their supporters to join unions so as to weaken them.

MEETING for IS members and SW supporters who are NUJ members in publishing. Saturday 21 February, 2pm, St Brides Institute, off Fleet Street.

ABORTION: MP'S VOTE IS A THREAT TO EVERY WOMAN

Now the TUC must be forced to act...



JAMES WHITE'S Bill had one intention. To change the 1967 Abortion Act which had, for the first time, given women some legal right to abortion. The Act's main clause says that if there is a risk to the physical or mental health of the woman, or her family, then

she has a right to an abortion, if she so chooses. James White wanted to change that to read 'grave risk'.

By MARGARET RENN.

It is not just a matter of one word. Every woman who wanted an abortion would have to prove that her need was 'grave'. Doctors signing the forms would have to be convinced that the risk was 'grave', for fear of prosecution. Fewer women would be entitled to abortions. And for those who were, delays would occur while it was proved. Delay is the worst difficulty for women wanting an abortion. Yet James White's Bill was full of requirements which would delay abortion even for those entitled to one.

Against
 And then, as a final blow, he proposed reducing the time limit for abortion to five months! That's why there was so much opposition to the Bill, and why so many union members campaigned against it. That's why we're against the reappointment of Parliament's Select Committee, which has no other purpose than to continue to discuss that Bill, and to

Last September's TUC Congress overwhelmingly passed this resolution: 'Congress opposes the attempt being made through the Abortion (Amendment) Bill to weaken and restrict existing legislation governing abortion. Congress further recognises that in many areas, the 1967 Abortion Act has not been implemented and the decision on abortion is left to doctors rather than the women concerned. Congress therefore calls upon the General Council and on all affiliated trade unions to campaign actively in the labour movement a) to defeat the Abortion (Amendment) Bill and any other attempts to introduce restrictive abortion legislation b) for the right of all women to adequate services for contraception and abortion on request available free of charge on the NHS and c) to resist any changes in the 1967 Abortion Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of the women in this country.'



James White: His Bill is a threat to every woman

and to change the law accordingly. Yet when the vote was taken on reappointment, no less than 78 Labour MPs who are sponsored by or are members of unions voted for it.

There can be no confusion over what they were voting for. The motion read: 'That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the matters contained in the Abortion (Amendment) Bill committed to a Select Committee in the last Session of Parliament... The TUC agreed to 'campaign actively' against the Bill. It's up to us to make sure they do. Union branches should carry resolutions demanding that: □ MPs be instructed to vote against the Bill or any similar restrictive legislation

Attack
 □ Money should be provided to organise publicity campaigns among union members pointing out their rights under the 1967 Abortion Act and how they are under attack □ Members support the demonstration called by the National Abortion Campaign on Saturday 3 April. **Speakers and the 1p fact sheet on the James White Bill are available. Contact Nina Strehl, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2, 01-739 6273. Speakers notes, leaflets, badges and posters will also be available soon.**



Harold Wilson and Shirley Williams: they voted for the Select Committee

Free abortion on demand!
A woman's right to choose
Demonstrate Saturday 21 February, 12.30pm, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

Liverpool Council is trying to prevent the National Abortion Campaign demonstrating and leafletting in Liverpool. Organised by North West Region of the National Abortion Campaign.

LABOUR'S 78 SCABS

ALL OF THESE Labour MPs are sponsored by or are members of trade unions. Most of them are voting against their union's declared policy. The asterisked MPs are those who didn't vote last year, but knowingly came to vote for the James White Bill for the first time two weeks ago.

NUT
 Ronald Atkins Preston
 *Barry Jones E Flint
 *Edward Short Newcastle Central

USDAW
 H Boardman Leigh
 *E Fernyhough Jarrow
 Frank McElhone Glasgow, Queens Park
 Walter Padley Ogmere
 *Sydney Tierney Birmingham, Yardley

NUR
 Richard Buchanan Glasgow, Springburn
 *Ron Lewis Carlisle
 Tom McMillan Glasgow Central
 Leslie Spriggs St Helens

TGWU
 *Donald Anderson Swansea East
 *Jeremy Bray Motherwell
 Lewis Carter-Jones Eccles
 Peter Doig Dundee W
 James Dunn Liverpool Kirkdale
 *Jack Dunnett Nottingham East
 *John Ellis Brigg and Scunthorpe
 *David Ginsburg Dewsbury
 *Harry Gourlay Kirkcaldy
 John Horam Gateshead
 *Hugh McCartney Dunbartonshire Central
 Kevin McNamara Kingston-upon-Hull
 Simon Mahon Bootle
 Bob Mellish Southwark
 *Mike Noble Rossendale
 Gordon Oakes Widnes
 Michael O'Halloran Islington N
 *John Watkinson Gloucestershire W
 Terry Walker Kingswood

NGA
 Ivor Clemiston Luton E

GMWU
 *Robert Brown Newcastle W

A Duffy Sheffield Attercliffe
 Michael English Nottingham W
 James Johnson Hull W
 *J Dickson Mabon Greenock and Port Glasgow
 Fred Peart Workington
 *Ernest Perry Wandsworth, Battersea S
 John Smith Lanarkshire N
 *Frank Tomney Hammersmith N
 *Frank White Bury

TSSA
 Stanley Cohen Leeds SE
 *Walter Johnson Derby S

EETPU
 Thomas Cox Wandsworth & Tooting
 Walter Harrison Wakefield

NUM
 Alex Eadie Midlothian
 Alan Fitch Wigan
 Adam Hunter Dunfermline
 Michael McGuire Ince
 Roy Mason Barnsley
 *Albert Roberts Normanton
 Edwin Wainwright Dearne Valley
 Alec Woodall Hemsworth
 Robert Woolf Blaydon

AUEW
 Dan Jones Burnley
 William Small Glasgow Carscadden
AUEW (Construction)
 James Hamilton Bothwell
AUEW/TASS
 James Lamond, Oldham E

UPW
 Harry Ewing, Stirling
 Charles Morris Openshaw

ASTMS
 *Bruce Grocott, Lichfield & Tamworth
 Fred Willey, Sunderland N
 Harold Wilson, Huyton

NUJ
 Colin Jackson Brighouse
 *Philip Whitehead Derby N

NUPE
 Ted Leadbitter Hartlepool
 Tom Pendry Stalybridge & Hyde

APEX
 Bruce Millan, Glasgow Craighton

NUB
 James Tinn, Teesside Red-car

AUBTW
 T Urwin Houghton le Spring

EQUITY
 *Andrew Faulds Warley E

AUT
 *John Roper Farnworth

EIS
 *Dennis Canavan Stirlingshire W
 *W Ross Kilmarnock

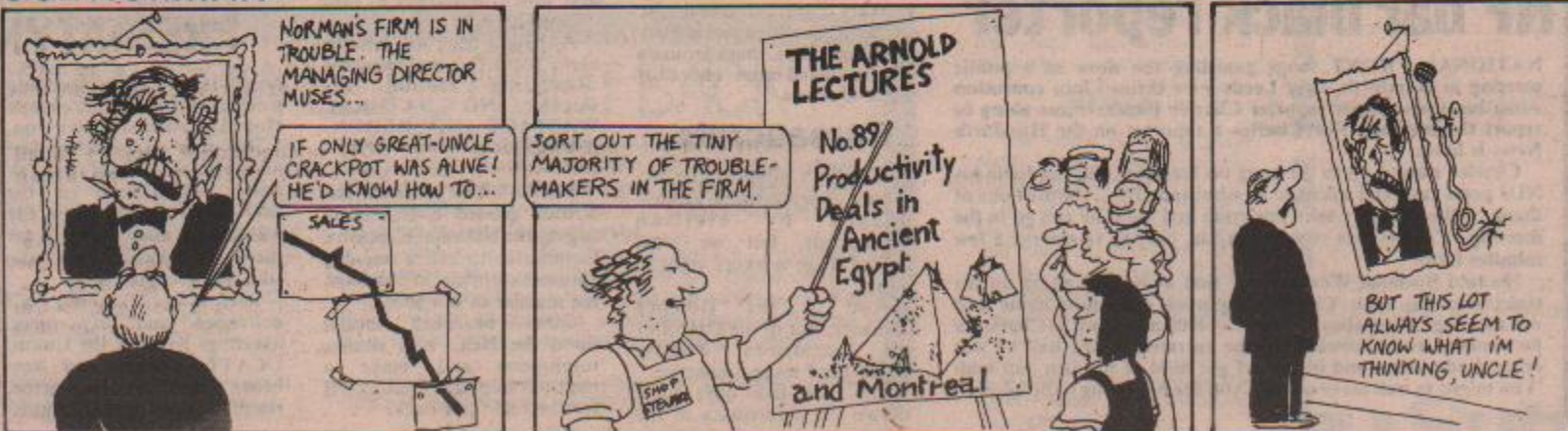
MUSICIANS UNION
 *Brian O'Malley Rotherham

MPU
 *Shirley Summerskill Halifax

NATFHE
 *Alan Williams Swansea S



OUR NORMAN



IF ONLY GREAT-UNCLE CRACKPOT WAS ALIVE! HE'D KNOW HOW TO...
 SORT OUT THE TINY MAJORITY OF TROUBLE-MAKERS IN THE FIRM.
 BUT THIS LOT ALWAYS SEEM TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING, UNCLE!

OCCUPY! NATIONALISE! FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

GREENINGS: 'NO SACKINGS' VICTORY

WARRINGTON: Management's attempt to make 75 hourly-paid workers redundant at Greenings has been defeated.

When they called a meeting to announce sackings, management grinned as the local General and Municipal Workers' Union full-time official grovelled to them.

But the engineering union full-time official, Jim Coffey, quickly wiped the smiles off their faces.

FORCE

He told management: 'We oppose any form of redundancy and we will meet you with the full force of our organisation.'

Convenor Arthur Conheeny then announced that the workers weren't going to accept any redundancies.

WOMEN REJECT GEC OFFER

RDIF: 400 workers at GEC, Treforest, are striking for a basic rate of £31.20.

The strikers, who are women members of the Engineering Union, angrily rejected the offer. They want the full semi-skilled rate and they intend to stay out for it.

The factory makes telecommunications equipment for the Postal Office, and local postal workers are refusing to cross the picket line, which has about 30 women at any time.

AUEW District Secretary Tom Evans has admitted that APEX and ASTMS members are still crossing the picket lines.

The will to win is there. In the recent wages battle at nearby Kayser Bondor and Northgate factories, women successfully took on and defeated the giant Courtaulds group by spreading their strike across the country and saving thousands of their fellow workers.

Spreckley Sage fiasco

NORTH LONDON: Two weeks ago, 500 workers at Spreckley Sage, South Tottenham, were told that their company was bust, they could collect their cards, and get down to the dole queue—all the jobs were gone.

The firm, one of London's largest shopfitters, is part of Spreckley Industries. The Spreckley collapse, even the bosses' own press has admitted, has been because of open property speculation and bad management.

Spreckley Sage has made a profit over the last few years—in 1975 some £500,000. This 'profit' was squandered in speculation.

Now the jobs are to be 'saved'. In a sudden swoop on the dismembered Spreckley empire, Courtney Pope,

The meeting told management to go back to the drawing board and try something else.

At another meeting, management said they would accept voluntary redundancies instead and that they thought they had enough 'volunteers'. In fact it was a total climbdown.

They want to get rid of 30 engineers. Only one has volunteered, and he's emigrating.

So management were told that the workers couldn't stop them accepting voluntary applications for redundancy—but they would fight to restore every vacancy this created.

A mass meeting was then called, where men and women in their hundreds, including hourly paid and staff, stood together on a fundamental issue and backed the stand against redundancies.

Corby bosses get sit-in warning

CORBY: A mass meeting of 450 out of the 500 workers at British Sealed Beams voted unanimously on Sunday to occupy the factory if management went ahead with their plans to close the plant.

Most of the workers are women. They have seen their husbands and friends thrown out of work by the rash of closures which has swept through Corby over the last few months. They aren't prepared to join the dole queue without a fight.

On the stewards' insistence, management agreed to delay handing out redundancy notices till after Sunday's meeting.

Contact

There, speakers stressed the shop-floor workers' determination not to accept the bait of redundancy pay.

Stewards would have to contact other factories, particularly in the car industry, to

persuade the unions there to press for the use of BSB sealed beam headlights.

As a first step to ensuring the workers don't pay for the recession, Sunday's meeting voted unanimously to refuse to accept the redundancy notices due to be given out on Monday.

If management persist in their attempts to close down the factory, they'll be faced with a full-blooded occupation.

Blackman's sit-in called off

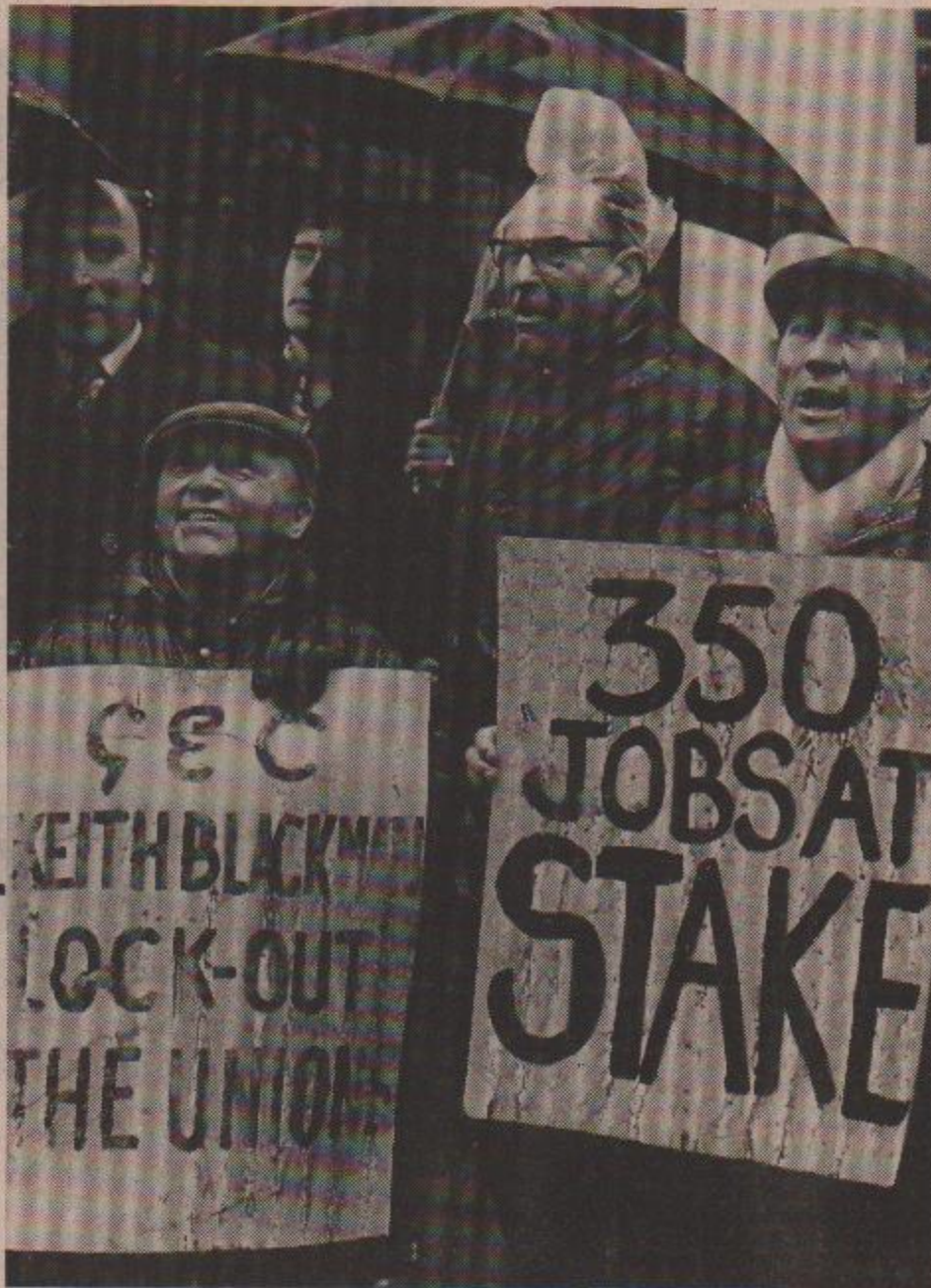
NORTH LONDON: Workers locked out at the Kelth Blackman plant picketing the head offices of its owners, GEC, last week.

The workers' disputes committee organised a full-blooded occupation last Wednesday. Or so the 350 workers thought.

After 36 hours, the factory was handed back to management.

Stewards say this was a 'tactical' decision which would 'keep GEC guessing'.

Within minutes of the announcement of the occupation, the local Right to Work Committee organised its sponsoring bodies in an attempt to



PICTURE: Andrew Ward (Report)

Sageways: We've occupied to save the jobs

SOUTH WALES: 200 workers at Sageways, Abercynon, have been occupying the factory for two weeks in defence of their jobs.

John Harman has worked there for 21 years. His wife also works there. He told Socialist Worker: 'The firm has loads of orders. That's not the problem. Since the Spreckley Investment Group took over the firm, the goods we produce have been sold at a low price to other subsidiaries of the group, which have sold them at a profit. Our jobs have miraculously disappeared while vast profits were being sucked out of the firm.'

For this reason, Engineering Union convenor Will Lloyd, sitting in the manager's office, told Socialist Worker:

'We intend to set up a workers' cooperative. We are asking the Welsh Office to put up about £½ million to pay off the National Westminster Bank, who originally forced the closure.'

Agreed

'We recognise, however, that the Welsh Office will obviously want to put in their own manager. But we are prepared to accept that to protect our right to work.'

Two shop stewards from IPD, the workers' cooperative on Merseyside, have agreed to come down and tell us how they organised when they took over.'

The workforce is solid, as no-one has signed on the dole. They are determined to win, and with 12 per cent unemployment already in the Cynon Valley, their struggle will vitally affect the whole area.

Donations and messages of support to Frank Edwards, Sageways Occupation Committee, 3 Nant-y-fedw, Ynysboeth, Abercynon, Glam.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

East Manchester public meeting Thursday 26 February, Lecture Theatre, Openshaw Technical College, Ashton Old Road, Manchester, at 8pm. Speakers include Bobby Buirds (Manchester Right to Work Committee) and Paul Foot (Socialist Worker).

SHETLANDS BATTLE GOES ON

SHETLANDS: Transport Union catering workers strike against Grand Metropolitan Hotels is continuing at the Firth Voe construction camp in Mossbank with the Strike

Committee sitting-in. They are demanding Island Allowance of 25 per cent of the basic, a slightly smaller shift allowance, flights home, travelling time for workers

living out, a subsistence allowance and proper overtime rates.

Management have so far conceded the demand for flights home but are still negotiating the other demands. A demonstration was held last Monday in solidarity with the strikers.

Strike

The strike is taking place right in the middle of the North Sea oil rigs.

It is of major importance in fighting for trade union rights and decent working conditions on the rigs and construction sites of the North Sea oil boom. Your support is needed now.

Send messages and donations to Donald Wilson, secretary, Strike fund, c/o Mossbank Post Office, Shetland.

TEACHERS: NOW LET'S FIGHT BACK

A VITAL CONFERENCE for teachers and all those who work in education has been called for Saturday 28 February in London. 5000 teachers are already on the dole. Another 16,000 fully-trained teachers will not be able to find jobs when they leave teacher training college this summer, according to the Sunday Times.

Teachers have every right to expect a militant lead from their union, the NUT. Instead they have got only a passive declaration of intent to safeguard standards.

The only way teachers and other workers in schools will safeguard jobs is to implement a

militant policy at classroom level that will protect every single job in education. This means demanding the replacement of anyone who leaves, the refusing to do any work for non appointed staff and refusing to take large classes.

To create jobs for college leavers, increased preparation time must be fought for. These are the kind of policies and actions that will be discussed at the Conference Against Unemployment in Education. If you work in education, send a delegate.

Details and credentials from 18 St. Agnus Close, London E9. Phone 01-986 8719.

Socialist Worker



Please send me more information about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists

Name

Address

Send to: National Secretary, International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

Support!

