

## The brutal face of Israel



Israeli soldiers drag away an Arab protesting at the seizure of Arab land in Galilee. Six Arabs were killed. Pictures and story — CENTRE PAGES

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

**No action on jobs, a long wait for the old ... AND MORE WAGE CUTS**

# HEALEY'S INSULT

**TUESDAY'S budget was a three-fold insult to those who elected Labour to office two years ago.**

The only people who are pleased are the bankers who dictated it.

It was an insult to the unemployed.

The government claims that it will create 100,000 jobs in 18 months. This will leave 1,180,000 people still on the dole at the end of next year, even if Chancellor Healey's scheme works. It will mean that

the Labour government intends to preside indefinitely over one million unemployed.

It is an insult to the pensioners.

They have to wait until November for their increase. Yet it is now that they have to pay increased electricity bills, higher prices for foods, fags and beer.

As a spokesman for Age Concern put it: 'Very many elderly people will not live to see the up-rating.'

That is not all. Even when the pensioners get the increases, they will be worse off than two years ago.

A basic element in the 'social contract' then was supposed to be a £10 pension for single people. Age Concern points out that to keep up with rising prices would have meant a £16.30 pension this year. The government is giving a mere £15.30.

It is an insult to every working man and woman.

The government is saying that it will cut income tax a little if workers agree to a 3 per cent wage limit from August—even less than the £6 limit and with inflation still in double figures.

Yet the average worker is already much worse off than this time last year. The fare increases, electricity increases and food price increases in the pipeline mean the situation is going to get much worse.

In fact the budget will make it worse for most people.

**Support grows for 21 May picket**

SUPPORT is growing for the picket outside Hendon Magistrates Court when the 44 arrested Right to Work marchers and supporters appear in court.

Every trade union banner outside the court, every labour movement body represented, will be a warning to the police that the trade union movement will not tolerate another Shrewsbury. A large number of delegations, with banners, representing a large cross section of the movement, will be the best possible defence for the marchers.

### Possible

So far the Right to Work Campaign has heard that the following bodies will be sending delegations to the 21 May picket: North Hammersmith NUPE health branch, London Airport EETPU branch, Goldsmiths College of Education, Edmonton and Enfield Trades Council, Edmonton No 1 AUEW branch, Blackburn No 2 AUEW branch.

### Delegates

The North London Teachers Association voted to send five delegates and to circulate all schools covered by the association urging them to send delegates.

Lambeth, Wandsworth and Southwark Trades Councils and Norwood Labour Party voted at their joint unemployment conference last Saturday to send delegates to the picket.

Advertisement

**DEFEND THE 44! NO MORE SHREWSBURYS!**

The 44 workers arrested in the police attack on the Right to Work March will appear in court on Friday 21 May.

The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade union and labour movement bodies to send delegations to a picket outside the court on Friday 21 May at 10am.

outside Hendon Magistrates Court, The Hyde, Edgware Road, West Hendon, London NW9.

Send delegations. Make sure you are represented. Bring banners.

## 15,000 march for abortion

FIFTEEN THOUSAND people marched through London last Saturday against the attempts being made by MPs to change the abortion laws.

The size of the demonstration surprised even the organisers. But if you weren't there you could be forgiven for not knowing it happened.

The Sunday Mirror gave it a five-line report on page 7. The Observer managed three paragraphs on page two. The Sunday Times, Sunday Express, The People, and News of the World had nothing.

The Press Association news service, for the newspaper industry, had a reporter on the demonstration, but issued no press release. Why? The item wasn't considered 'newsworthy'.

Yet last summer the Sunday Times devoted an entire lead article, more than 1000 words, to the James White Bill headed, 'Abortion: an attempt to set the clock



Trade union banners on Saturday's demonstration PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report)

back'. The bill would cause vast individual suffering, said the article.

The Bill still exists. The campaign goes on. But the Sunday Times doesn't consider it newsworthy any longer.

There were many trade union banners on the demonstration—15 trades councils, 12 NALGO districts and branches, six ASTMS banners, nine from NATFHE, banners from the teachers, journalists, the post office, the AUEW, GMWU, TGWU, NUPE,

ACTSS, CPSA and COHSE.

□ In Glasgow, 300 people marched on the demonstration supported by Glasgow Trades Council Women's Committee, Dumfries Trades Council and local branches of ASTMS and NALGO.

□ On the same day in Italy, 100,000 marched in Rome against the new abortion law proposed by the Christian Democrat government. The law would make abortion legal only under exceptional circumstances.



Dr Jean Lewis (ASTMS) speaks at the National Abortion Campaign rally

## FACT

A ROUGH calculation shows how much worse almost all workers will be

Under the present £6 wage limit, most people have been taking home a wage increase of £4 after tax. Under the new scheme, the combined effect of tax changes and the 3 per cent would be as follows:

- If you earn £40 a week, your wages after tax will be allowed to go up by £2.50—
- If you earn the average wage of £70, you get £3 instead of the £4 at present.
- The only people to gain much more will be those who earn so much that they pay the higher tax rates.

Healey has deliberately put up the price of drink, cigarettes and petrol. The fact that VAT on yachts, private aircraft, jewellery and mink coats is to be reduced will not help those who cannot even afford potatoes.

We are told that the budget is part of a 'bargain' between the government and the unions. It is a fraud. We must throw it back in their faces.

WHAT WE THINK—page 3

BEHIND THE BUDGET—page 4



# Touch of the Terror Act loses Frank his job



15-year-old Margaret O'Brien

Monday 29 March, 6.15am.

**TEN police enter the home of Margaret and Frank O'Brien in Walthamstow, East London. Three dogs are brought in to search the house.**

Floor boards are ripped up. Ornaments are smashed. Seven cartons of correspondence, books, bills, every scrap of paper in the house is taken away.

**Margaret 15, questioned by the Special Branch**

MARGARET O'BRIEN is a 15-year-old schoolgirl. She missed her French O-level oral examination last Monday—because the police were holding her under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

'My parents didn't want me to stay at home alone when they were arrested. So the police took me with them.'

'They took three sets of my fingerprints, photographed me and put me in a cell. Then they moved me to Chingford police station away from my parents.'

'Special Branch told me they'd deport my mum and dad and asked me what I'd do then. I kept asking if I could get out. First they'd say yes, then no.'

Police go up and down the street questioning neighbours about the family's activity. The whole family is taken away under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

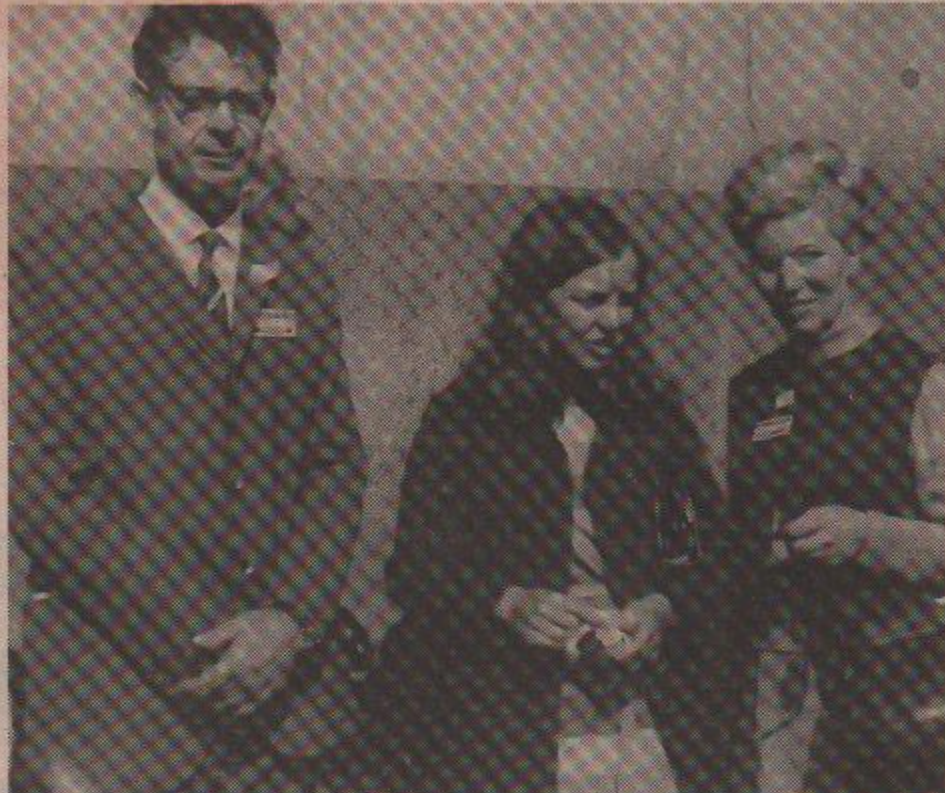
**Tuesday 30 March.**  
'Frank and his daughter Margaret are released. No charges.'

**Saturday 3 April.**  
The mother, whose name is also Margaret, is released. No charges.

The O'Brien family join the list of 1400 people arrested, fingerprinted, photographed and held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The vast majority were also released without charge.

That does not mean they return to their everyday lives. Like hundreds of others, after the harassment and question-



Frank and Margaret O'Brien with former MP Bernadette Devlin after a demonstration in Trafalgar Square, 1969.

ing by the police, they meet the harassment and questioning, hostility and judgement of their neighbours and workmates.

### Meeting

When Frank returned to his job at Thorn Electric on Wednesday, he managed to fit one gas fire before a steward came up to him and told him the men had demanded a meeting—about his activities.

They voted to strike if he stayed at work. They

pressured him to leave his job, a job he had held for 12 years.

**This is the power of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Even though the police found nothing against Frank O'Brien, he's been labelled a terrorist. He's lost his job, his livelihood.**

Frank told Socialist Worker: 'The police are picking up people now because they're Irish. Next it will be because they're black. Or

because they're militant trade unionists.'

'All the fingerprinting equipment looked new. And after I was fingerprinted, they brought in a young lad, must have been about 14, on some petty thieving charge. They fingerprinted him, which they're not supposed to do.'

'The rights of British people are being eroded bit by bit. It's not just against the Irish.'

His wife Margaret was threatened with expulsion from England—because she has helped the families of Irish prisoners. She is secretary of the Irish Civil Rights Association, a legal organisation.

### Complaint

'I went back to work at the Keith Blackman's factory on Monday,' Margaret said. 'There's been no trouble so far. The clerical union steward told me to give him a shout if there is any complaint.'

'You can't fight the Prevention of Terrorism Act alone. You have to join an organisation, a group that will fight for your rights. Your only chance is to have people who will fight for you if you go inside.'

**RANK  
AND FILE  
AGAINST  
THE ACT**

'THE Prevention of Terrorism Act has the wrong name. It should be called the Terrorism Act.'

'It is used to intimidate people, to frighten them off legal political and trade union activity. It is also used to gather information about the Irish community,' said Alan Hayling of the Trade Union Committee against the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The committee aims to build a campaign to repeal the Act and to provide legal aid for those arrested under it.

Trade unionists in North West London have successfully freed some of their brothers arrested under the act.

When an Irish cook was taken from Hammersmith Hospital, two shop stewards went down to the police station and refused to move until they were allowed to speak to him. They contacted his wife. They put up a mass picket outside the police station. They informed the police, there would be pickets until he was out.

### ACTION

And he was. No charges were brought against him.

Quick action is needed whenever anyone is arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The committee is distributing 10,000 leaflets with a central phone number for anyone to ring if they are picked up.

The committee is supported by Barnet, Tottenham and Hackney Trades Councils and many trade union branches including AUEW Chiswick No 5, AUEW Camden No 2, TGWU Heinz and NUPE Hammersmith Hospital.

It is holding a conference this Saturday to report on what has been achieved. Observers are welcome. It will be from 1pm to 5pm at Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London W6.

**IF arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, shout to your relatives or mates about what's happening, and tell them to phone the Emergency Phone Number below. This will be answered day or night, by Release. They will get in touch with a solicitor who will be able to help. Remember this number—you could need it tomorrow!**

**01 603 8654**

## Lying through his Keith

SIR Kenneth Keith, chairman of Rolls-Royce, chairman of merchant bankers Hill Samuel, director of The Times, has given an interview to the American magazine Newsweek about the economic crisis.

The main part of his message to the two million people throughout the world who read Newsweek is simple. It's a call for sacrifice.

'There comes a moment in the life of every individual, corporation or country when you have to tighten your belt,' he says.

And that moment, says Sir Kenneth, who gets about £100 an hour in salaries alone, is NOW.

'Let's face it.'

'If you look upon industry, if you look all round the place, there are very few people who could not do 10 per cent more in the working week and there are very few payrolls that couldn't be trimmed by 10 per cent.'

Let's face it, if you look into this month's issue of Vogue magazine (price 50p), you'll find very few people



who do anything in the working week and very few people whose payrolls could be trimmed by 100 per cent.

Among them is Lady Keith, wife of Sir Kenneth, who gets two pages to herself under the heading: Lady Keith on The Farm.

### Fondling

There are four pictures, one of Lady Keith on a horse outside her front door in Norfolk, one of Lady Keith in her 'secret garden', another of Lady Keith in her drawing

room, and another of Lady Keith fondling her poodle by the swimming pool.

The short article reads:

'When Marie Keith's not in Eaton Square or flying round the world with her husband... she is down on their Norfolk farm. The house, originally built about 1700, was redesigned by James Wyatt around 1790 and has a new wing added by Sir Kenneth. Inside are fine collections of sporting paintings and English furniture.'

'Outside, a pedigree Friesian dairy herd on the farm

proper, walled and secret gardens and stables which house Lady Keith's horses, and the show horses she breeds and trains.'

'A tall and elegant English blonde, she wears clothes by Dior, Saint Laurent, Jean-Louis Scherrer, and Harold and Ian Thomas.'

For some reason, there is no news of Lady Keith's efforts in her husband's campaign to boost productivity. Nothing about cutting out even one secret garden, even one poodle, even one Friesian herd, even one trip round the

world with her husband, even one swimming pool or even one dress designer.

Lady Keith needs them all. If she doesn't keep two houses, three cars, two dozen horses, two swimming pools, five gardens and five dress designers, then how can she possibly keep Sir Kenneth well enough to make speeches and give interviews about the need for sacrifice.

The headline on the Newsweek interview was: 'A STRONG STREAK OF HYPOCRISY.'

## Picket TUC call over work permits

RANK AND FILE trade unionists in London are calling a picket on the TUC in protest at its request for stricter control of work permits.

The picket—on Wednesday 28 April—is supported by the East London Action Committee, the Camden Campaign against the Cuts and Hammersmith Hospital joint shop stewards committee.

The TUC claims that a reduction in work permits and stricter immigration controls will somehow 'help unemployment'.

This is rubbish. Forcing immigrant workers on to the dole, or worse, deporting them, is simply the victimisation of one section of workers.

The immigration laws are designed to weaken and divide the working class, to intimidate one section of workers into accepting rotten conditions, miserable wages and no rights whatsoever. Those laws are designed to create a contract labour force in Britain.

If one section of the working class is permanently under threat of deportation, this weakens not just their own ability to fight for better wages and conditions—and against unemployment—but that of the entire labour movement.

The trade unions in France and Germany have been consistently weakened by their leaders' refusal to deal with the problem of contract labour. Again and again, the strike power of workers has been diluted by divisions between 'our own' workers and immigrant workers.

### Nothing

Bill Iizard, a NUPE steward at Hammersmith Hospital, told Socialist Worker: 'The TUC have done nothing about the real causes of unemployment—the staff cuts in the hospitals, the redundancies and factory closures, the cuts in public spending and pay restraints. They call for immigration controls because it gets them off the hook, it's much easier to use one section of the working class as scapegoats than to take the offensive against unemployment.'

'The TUC must be forced to defend their members' jobs, not sell them out. The picket on 28 April is a step towards a campaign to do that.'

□ The Campaign for the Repeal of the Immigration Act is calling a demonstration in London on Sunday 11 April. Assemble 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.



## DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS

DEFEND the 44. No more Shrewsburys.

The cost of defending the 44 arrested during the police attack on the march will be considerable.

Most of those arrested live outside London. They will have to come to London to consult solicitors at least once, perhaps twice, before they are tried.

Because they are unemployed, the rail fares will have to be met from the fund. This alone will amount to a considerable sum.

Contributors who have sent money to the Defence Fund this week include:

- Laurie Smith (AUEW national organiser) £2.50;
- AUEW members on strike at Clansons, West London £2;
- EETPU London Airport branch £11;
- Eatons Transmissions, Worsley £11;
- Oxford Right to Work Committee £3.70;
- collection at Cypriot Students Union Club, London, £3;
- Goldsmiths Student Union £25;
- AUEW members collection at Borg Warner £2.75;
- Todmorden Labour Party £2;
- NATFHE members at Thurrocks Technical College £8.84;
- and many others.

### Money

Collect money in your workplace, raise resolutions for an official donation, hand out collection sheets as widely as possible.

Send all donations to the honorary treasurer, Ernie Roberts (AUEW), Right to Work Defence Fund, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

# THE BANKERS BUDGET

EVEN TRADE UNION leaders who have been meeting with the government behind closed doors for months were dumbstruck on Tuesday when Denis Healey announced his three per cent limit on wage increases.

If the limit is accepted, living standards will fall again next year. Any union leader who argues in favour of the limit is saying that the job of the unions is not to defend wages and conditions, but to make them worse.

The fact that Healey picked on the figure three per cent shows the extent to which the government cannot even decide on its own policy.

## Escape clause for the wealthy

Reports tell how in private discussion with trade unionists a couple of weeks ago, Healey and Wilson were talking of a £4 limit (worth nearly six per cent).

What changed their minds was the recent slide in the international value of sterling.



□ ONE scarcely noticed clause in the budget allows people to avoid capital transfer tax (the amended version of death duties) on works of art.

It means the rich can pass on as much of their wealth as they like to their children if they merely use it to buy paintings or statues.

Such are the things that 'socialist' Ministers do for their wealthy friends...

□ The average manufacturing company has stopped paying any tax at all on undistributed profits.

—Sunday Times, 4 April

□ As the threat of the recent sharp devaluation works through, there is a clear threat that prices may rise faster later in the year.

—Financial Times, 6 April

Twice in the last month, those banks and giant firms who own vast quantities of wealth have begun to change it into foreign currency.

The pound has rapidly fallen in value as a result. Healey knew that his whole economic programme would be threatened if this went on.

And so he rushed to appease the bankers by tightening his wage limits.

The holders of massive wealth showed once again that they are infinitely more powerful than mere elected governments.

No doubt, however, there was another calculation in Healey's mind.

He knew the union

leaders would protest. But he has heard them protest before.

They protested at Edward Heath's Phase One, Two and Three wage controls in 1973-74.

But they did nothing to oppose them in practice until the miners forced their hand.

They opposed compulsory wage limits when Labour was elected. Now they accept them completely, argu-

ing only what the level should be.

The rot has gone so far that even the Morning Star seemed, on Monday, to praise Jack Jones of the Transport Union when he called for a percentage wage limit.



Healey believes that despite all their protests, when it comes to the crunch, union leaders will give in to his new

measures as they have in the past.

He knows there may have to be a slight readjustment of figures in the course of negotiations.

But he hopes, by setting a very low starting figure for the bargaining, to make the smallest concession by himself seem like a great victory for the union leaders.

Then workers will forget, he believes, how much worse off they will be than before.

That is why we have to

insist now, in every union:

□ No to Healey's crooked package.

□ No to any negotiations about wage restraint.

□ Fight for the right to work, fight for pensioners and fight against the cuts by opposing the budget.

□ Support the call for a national Day of Action against unemployment against the cuts and against wage restraint on 26 May.



# ASBESTOS

by LAURIE FLYNN  
GIANT steps to tackle the terrible hazard of asbestos have been taken over the past week. At least, that's the version of events you get from the newspapers.

After years of studied inaction, the Labour government has set up a committee. Three or four worthy gentlemen will meet at their leisure, review the evidence and then deliberate.

Some time after that they will complete their private report.

## Deadly

Some time after that the government will decide what, if anything, to do about it.

And while they're doing it more people will be exposed to the deadly hazard of asbestos dust.

So more people will contract the appalling disease associated with the dust. Still more people will have their lives ruined until finally, courtesy of Turner and Newall, Cape Industries and the other

## As the government dusts off its old reports, rank and file action begins

asbestos companies, they meet a tragic and premature death.

What we need is not a review of the health risk to the public. A visit to any one of several cemeteries will bear witness to that.

What we need is action. If we can't get it from above, we'll just have to redouble our efforts down below.

For this reason Socialist Worker would like to congratulate the members of the Civil and Public Services Association who struck last Thursday over the asbestos hazard they found in the Department of Health and Social Security offices in Swansea where they work.

They found that their working lives were being polluted by asbestos dust from the drilling of ceiling tiles. They went out the door after management refused to set up a proper

meeting to discuss the hazard.

They returned to work the following day for a variety of reasons. Their union stupidly declined to make the strike official. Some workers put their concern to pay out claimants above their own safety, once again letting the employers exploit the basic decency of working people.

## Amazing

But the strike has already produced some results. The dust in the offices was more thoroughly cleared up. Under pressure, the Factory Inspectorate is to do a report—amazing how they always arrive at top speed when there's a strike.

The struggle for safety against the massively profitable Cape Darlington Newall Consortium on the

Isle of Grain also came to a temporary conclusion last week.

The lagers, sacked for refusing to work without vital protective clothing, were reinstated last week. The consortium will provide overalls, but the cost will be deducted from their pay over the next year. As if this were not enough, they must also pay for the laundry.

The government's refusal to tackle this tremendously serious hazard right away is not new.

Reports urging action on this and other fronts have been kicking around government departments for years.

The reason for the inaction is simple. Ministers and top civil servants are anxious not to restrict the freedom to profit of the powerful asbestos companies. Safety costs money.



PHOTOGRAPHER John Sturrock recently visited Hebden Bridge, where 40 people have so far died because of Cape Industries' criminal disregard of the government's Asbestos Safety Regulations at Acre Mill.

He was given this photograph, which shows women workers at the mill works party in the late 1940s. To go with the babycham they bought for themselves, the management provided free asbestos. You can see it under the seats and in the background.

It was this sort of 'generosity' to working people that made Cape Asbestos, now Cape Industries, one of the most profitable companies in the land.

On Tuesday this week Cape Industries announced a £10 million profit. It was, said company chairman Ronald Dent—also involved in cheating women workers at the Heatrae subsidiary out of equal pay, 'a record year'.

Behind the budget — by Chris Harman

# THAT 'YEAR FOR BRITAIN' ONLY TOOK US ALL FURTHER DOWN - SO WILL THE NEXT

## Another dead end

THE LABOUR left claim there is one way of dealing with the crisis which does not mean a complete break with the big business system—resort to massive import controls.

Socialists oppose such calls, because they amount to little more than trying to export unemployment. We are as much against unemployment among German, French, African or Asian workers as among workers in Britain.

But import controls will not even work in capitalist terms. If goods are not imported, people either have to do without or to pay more to buy similar goods made by British industry.

On 1 April the Financial Times estimated that import controls on the scale needed to cut unemployment down only a little, to the million mark would be equivalent to another £3-a-week wage cut for every worker. You would suffer it as you paid still higher prices for shoes, for clothing, for cars, for all the things that British big business tried to sell you.

And still the problem of unemployment would not be solved.

### Inevitable

Import controls would inevitably lead to retaliatory action against British exports in other countries. A few more British-made cars might be sold in Britain, but fewer commercial vehicles would be exported.

In the massive slump of the 1930s, virtually every country resorted to import controls including Britain, but that did not end the slump, nor would it this time.

Many workers support import controls because they seem to offer some way of controlling the economy. In fact they leave untouched the real cause of the present mess—the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a minority whose only interest is making profits.

They are the last resort of those frightened of real socialist solutions to the capitalist crisis.

### LIE

Investment is not being made because companies do not have the funds to buy new machines and build new factories.

### FACT

In the third quarter of 1975 companies' deposits and holdings of cash rose by £1,000 million.

### LIE

Inflation has been caused by wages rising too fast for years, so that we are living beyond our means.

### FACT

In the years 1970-75 real disposable pay rose by £5,200 million pounds—that's £260 for each wage earner. Property income rose by £4,600 million pounds—that's more than £4,600 for each property owner.

HAROLD WILSON claimed last summer that if only everyone gave a Year for Britain, then the country would begin to climb out of the economic crisis.

It was this claim that led many trade unionists to swallow their doubts, follow their leaders, and tolerate the £6 wage limit.

Now Wilson's successor and Chancellor Healey's budget are repeating the message. Unemployment hasn't fallen since last July. But if we accept even smaller wage rises next year than this, they say, things will be all right.

The facts say differently.

This was shown graphically last week. When the Labour government least expected it, the value of the pound fell dramatically on international money markets as those with massive financial power gave their judgement on the government handling of the economic crisis. They had decided that the government was not solving the crisis, even in capitalist terms.

### Doubts

Their doubts were fed by a report produced a fortnight ago by the head of the Cambridge Economic Group, former Treasury adviser Wynne Godley.

This concluded that the government's present policy of slashing living standards and social services might produce a small revival of the economy in the next 12 months, but this would only lead almost immediately to a new crisis.

Just as the boom in 1972-73 was followed by the present massive unemployment, any boom in the next year would be soon followed by even greater unemployment.

Said the Report: 'As in 1972, there will be a short revival of production which for a short time will stabilise unemployment. But the upturn will draw in imports, widen the balance of payments deficit and make the pound even shakier.'

Then the government will have to impose a deflationary packet which halts the recovery to check import growth.

He estimates that the government's approach will leave unemployment at the 1½ million mark in 1980 and real wages lower than now. And he ignores the likelihood of another worldwide slump, which would make things in

## FACT

In the financial year 1974-75 companies paid out £2,800 million in corporation tax. This year the total is expected to be between £100 million and £200 million.

Britain much worse.

The government will not be able to stop inflation either.

Every fall in the value of the pound internationally means that imported goods rise in price. Since half our food is imported, the effect on the average worker is immense.

When you add price rises due to joining the Common Market, it can be seen that in the next few months inflation is going to remain high. None of that will be a result of high wages.

Samuel Brittan, economics expert of the Financial Times, concluded last week: 'It will be extremely difficult to get inflation rates down to single figures, whatever Jack Jones says.'

We can look forward to high prices and high unemployment, despite all the talk of 'fighting inflation'. And that is not all.

If there are any signs of an economic recovery in this country in the next few months, the government will come under increased pressure from big business, the banks and the international financial agencies. They will point to a growth in imports, and demand further attacks on living standards and that the cuts in social services planned for next year and the year after be brought in this year.

### Sterling

The Financial Times editorial insisted last Friday: 'If sterling is not to fall still further next week . . . the chancellor should begin actually cutting public expenditure this year. There is room for further curbs on the expenditure of local authorities, especially on unnecessary new housing.'

It won't be long before the Labour government gets the message.

## THIS 'BOOM' WON'T STOP UNEMPLOYMENT

NOT only in Britain are dreams of a recovery from the crisis running into trouble.

In some countries, particularly West Germany, there is the beginning of a new boom. But it is a boom of a peculiar sort. More goods are being produced. But industrialists are not opening more factories or buying new machines.

So, for instance in West Germany, investment is expected to increase by 1 per cent this year and 6 per cent next—which will leave it 17 per cent lower than five years ago.

Nor is unemployment dropping much. In countries like the US and West Germany forecasts suggest that 'the best that can be expected seems to be a sharp cut in the 500,000 or so people on short time and a much more modest reduction in the 1,300,000 unemployed'.

Yet both governments were even more successful than was the British government in holding wage rises below price rises. There could hardly be better proof of the absurdity of pretending that if only we have another year of wage controls, everything will be all right.



## THE MEANING OF MARXISM



Duncan Hallas

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

### Lecture series on THE MEANING OF MARXISM

**SOUTH WEST LONDON:** Every second Monday, 8pm, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11 (Buses 19, 37, 49, 77, 188, 249).  
12 April: Marxist economics. Speaker: John Iure.  
26 April: Racism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
10 May: The State. Speaker: Paul Foot.

**EAST LONDON:** Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London, E8.  
9 April: The Meaning of Marxism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**EDINBURGH:** Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.  
8 April: What is imperialism? Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.  
22 April: Nationalism and Socialism. Speaker: Allan Armstrong.  
6 May: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Harry McShane.  
20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.  
3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

**WEST LONDON:** Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.  
20 April: Why capitalism is in crisis. Speaker: Michael Kidron.  
4 May: What is imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
18 May: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.  
1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

# China

AMAZING scenes took place in Peking on Sunday. Hundreds of thousands of people mourning Chou En Lai ended up fighting soldiers and security police. They set fire to military vehicles and sacked the security police HQ.

The fighting follows long internal struggles among China's rulers which first came into the open in the so-called Cultural Revolution of 1966-67.

Liu Shao Chi, president and a colleague of Mao's for 40 years, was chased out of office as 'a capitalist roader' together with a number of key figures. His replacement as Mao's officially designated heir, Lin Biao, then mysteriously disappeared, along with about half the government. It was later claimed that he had died in an air crash after trying to murder Mao.

Finally, the 'number two capitalist roader' of 1966, Teng Hsiao Ping, re-emerged as the third most powerful person in the country.

Sunday's demonstrators were his supporters, protesting at recent attempts to destroy his power.

Meanwhile, China's workers and peasants are kept as much in the dark about the real issues in dispute between their rulers as are western observers.

They were never told, for example, what the real disagreements were between Lin Biao and Mao Tse Tung. Instead they were fed fairy stories.

## Fuss

Nor have they been told of the real policy disagreements between Teng and his critics.

A lot of fuss is made by some people about the 'participation' of workers and peasants in local decision-making in China.

But those decisions which affect the whole country are left to the infighting between rival groups in the leadership.

In the cultural revolution, one section of the leadership did mobilise students and school children against its opponents. But as soon as the workers entered into struggle, with a general strike in Shanghai early in 1967, those leaders brought the 'cultural revolution' to a quick halt.

A special decree was issued protecting the real bastions of power—the Army and the mass media—from the attentions of red guards, red rebels or workers.

## Struggle

Many red guards who had taken seriously talk about 'opposition to bureaucracy' were later imprisoned. Others fled to Hong Kong, disillusioned.

The same struggle inside the bureaucracy is taking place now.

Most Chinese workers still stand aside when they see supporters of privileged bureaucrats assaulting ranks of privileged security police.

But they have demands of their own, as last summer's strikes in central China showed, and could start fighting for them.



Teng Hsiao Ping: the demonstrators are his supporters



Chou En Lai: his funeral sparked off the fighting



Hua Kuō-Feng: acting prime minister, formerly Minister of State Security

# What is it all about?

WITH disagreements within the leadership spilling over on to the streets, all is obviously not well in China economically.

Visitors usually comment on the apparent prosperity—but for the mass of peasants and workers it consists in living just above the breadline.

It is a prosperity that stands on a knife edge.

Food production is barely keeping up with the increase in the population, so making more and more remote the Chinese leaders' dream of catching up economically with the advanced industrial countries.

On top of all this, there are the massive resources used to defend China against Russia and the West.

## Resources

Bled dry by the western powers for 100 years before 1948, China cannot get the resources it needs to meet all these demands.

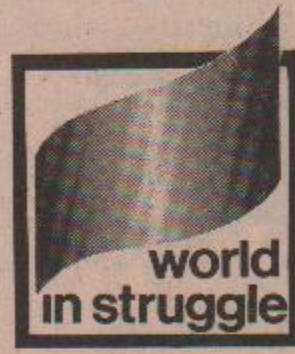
It ran a trade deficit of 1000 million dollars in 1974 and another of 500 million dollars last year.

It has also been hit by the world crisis, which prevents it

increasing its exports to pay for modern machinery from the west.

The problems of a massively impoverished country cannot be solved without the spread of revolution to other countries.

But the Chinese leadership are incapable of giving real encouragement to that—as was shown by their disgusting support for American and South African backed forces in Angola.



## Jamaica's workers fight back



SO MUCH FOR Jamaica being on the road to 'socialism', as much of the middle class-run West Indian press in Britain insists.

These workers know otherwise. They belong to Teachers for a Democratic Jamaican Teachers Association, and are having to fight both the government and the leaders of their own union for better pay.

The sort of problems they face from the government were shown on 24 March when 23 bus drivers were each fined 200 dollars for striking in defence of a colleague.



SPAIN: Rubber bullets, tear gas and baton charges were used in Barcelona last weekend to break up this demonstration calling for an

amnesty for political prisoners. The reaction of the authorities shows how futile are the hopes of those, such as the new alliance of the main

opposition parties, the Democratic Coordination, who believe it is possible to 'negotiate' with the government.

# WHY THE IRA GETS ARMS

IN ONE of the less publicised peace initiatives of recent years, a team of United States customs officials arrived in London on Sunday to talk to British police about ways of stopping American arms getting through to the IRA.

Despite all the publicity about contributions to pro-IRA organisations falling off, there is no reason to suppose

that money and arms will cease to flow across the Atlantic.

That is to say, there is no reason to suppose it will be stopped by the methods presently being employed.

The Irish-American community dates from the Famine of the last century when hundreds of thousands fled in ragged hordes from the 'Great Hunger' at home.

Many settled in the United States where they nursed

bitter memories of the past and hardened their determination to play a part in righting the wrongs done to Ireland.

Like exiles everywhere, Irish-Americans frequently have a sentimentalised idea of life 'at home'—and a much over-simplified view of the struggle they are supporting.

And that—with the boisterous shamrockery of St Patrick's Day parades—makes them easy meat for parody.

Moreover, they include men like the corrupt demagogue, Mayor Daly of Chicago, and thousands who support his ideas. Many are racist (anti-black demonstrators in Boston last year carried an Irish Tricolour at the head of a march), which makes it easy to dismiss them en bloc as a group of romantic reactionaries not to be taken seriously by progressive people.

But for all that, Irish

Americans have held through thick and thin, and despite denunciations by priests, Prime Ministers and Presidents, to one simple idea about their native land: that it ought to be free and united and that organisations attempting to accomplish that, by whatever means, are deserving of support, and that the British troops ought to be withdrawn.

The tourist-trippers from the US Customs have no chance of success because—like all British 'initiatives' to date in Northern Ireland itself—they ignore the real root of the problem.

The way to stop Americans sending over Armalites to Ireland in suitcases is to announce that henceforth there will be no targets for them...

## TROOPS OUT



EAMONN McCANN

## SOLIDARITY—FROM LISBON TO MANCHESTER

LEADERS of 2400 Lisbon building workers have sent a message of solidarity to a group of Manchester building workers after reading about their recent strike in Socialist Worker.

It reads: 'Your fight is our fight: it is the fight for a more just society, the society without classes.'

The message was sent to the Pochins shop stewards' committee by the workers' commission at the J Pimenta firm.

Ian Hayes, Pochins convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'It's a great gesture.' The shop stewards' committee, replied, saying: 'It is of vital importance that closer links be forged between workers of different countries in order to fight international capitalism.'

'The great Irish revolutionary James Connolly once said: 'The worker of another country is more of a brother to me than the capitalist of my own country.'



FLAME No 6 is now out. It is the sister paper of Socialist Worker and is written by black workers in struggle.

Get your copies from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. 5p each.

Buy it, sell it and write for it.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Duncan Hallas

# It's human nature

Man's nature is made, not by him, but for him. Change conditions and you change people.

SOCIALISM is a French word that seems to have come into English speech in the 1830s.

The idea may have started across the Channel, too, but it is handy to take the Welshman Robert Owen as our starting-point.

Owen was a working man who became a capitalist, a much easier thing to do in the early days of industrialisation than later.

By 1800, he had made enough money out of the Lancashire cotton industry to buy the great mills at New Lanark originally founded by David Dale in association with Richard Arkwright.

Many hard, competent and grasping men were doing the like in these boom years of early industrial capitalism. Owen was as tough, shrewd and

autocratic as any but he was also a man of ideas.

First of all, he was a *materialist*. That does not mean that he was on the make—although he was, just like his pious non-conformist fellow cotton-masters.

## Unalterable

It means that he altogether rejected the notion that there is something called 'human nature' which is fixed and unalterable.

'Man's nature is made, not by him but for him' he was fond of saying.

In other words, the conditions under which people live make them what they are.

Change conditions and you change

people. New conditions make new men.

Now this was—and is—a profoundly revolutionary idea. It is quite incompatible with the conservative and religious view that no fundamentally different kind of society is possible because of 'original sin' or any other myth justifying the 'what has been, shall be'; and there is no new thing under the sun' way of looking at the world.

Of course, Owen did not invent materialism, although he seems to have arrived at it independently.

## Enlightenment

French and German thinkers of the 'enlightenment' of the previous century had made this tremendous advance in human thought.

But Owen, the self-made and self-

taught cotton-master, was the first to attempt to apply its consequences to society in Britain.

It led him, first, to what is nowadays called 'scientific management' and then to socialism.

## Logical

This seems an odd combination to us, but the development was logical enough.

The conditions of the newly-born working class were, in Owen's day, almost unbelievably bad.

Men, women and children toiled in mine and mill, 12 or 14 hours a day, for wretched semi-starvation wages.

Accidents and amputations were the normal lot.

The workforce was herded into insanitary hovels, many to a room, in the hideous new industrial towns and hamlets. Disease and death were daily companions.

Of Manchester, where Owen made his fortune, a French traveller wrote that, having seen it, he now knew what hell was like.

## Surprise

Not surprisingly under these conditions, the workers could be kept to their tasks only by savage repression, innumerable fines for trivial infringements, debt-slavery through the 'Tommy Shop', instant dismissal for the slightest resistance and, in the case of the army of child wage-slaves, the foreman's lash.

The workers were treated like beasts and the middle and upper class view was that if they were not then they would immediately rebel.

## Milk

Owen's first innovation was a simple one. Improve conditions and you will get more cooperation, more efficiency and therefore more profits.

This is the 'contented cows give better milk' discovery and Owen proved, at New Lanark, that it worked.

But he wanted more than contented cows. He wanted a 'New Moral Order' or 'Rational Society'.

Applying materialism to society as a whole he was led, as we shall see, to reject the entire capitalist system.



## Socialist Worker May Day Rally

1926—TUC sells us out  
1976—TUC sells us out.

No more sell outs!  
Build the fighting alternative!

Manchester: Friday 30 April, Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, 7.30pm  
London: Friday 30 April, St Pancras Town Hall, 7.30pm



## Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

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A SHIPLOAD of arms was due to reach South Africa today after being illegally and secretly exported from Britain.

The weapons, 250 rockets with homing systems, are powerful enough to wipe out a city the size of London.

The deal is exposed in this month's issue of *Grass Roots*, the black community newspaper.

## Company

Documents have come into its hands which show that the consignment of weapons was handled by eight companies, some British, some French.

THE SUPPLIERS, Mar-

## APARTHEID GETS BRITISH ARMS IN SECRET DEAL

tin Baker of Chalgrove, Oxfordshire, are understood to have been regularly shipping arms in defiance of the Export Act, which bans the sale of such weapons to South Africa.

THE GO-BETWEENS, the London accountants Aquitaine Maritime Agencies, were to have arranged shipment of the arms to the French port of Bordeaux

and then by air to South Africa.

When a docks strike disrupted the operation, they brought in a haulage company.

THE HAULIERS, Hercules Maritime of Commercial Road, East London, hired a special trailer to transport the rockets to France.

They were taken, under

the code name of Cavalier, to the port of Marseilles, having been cleared by British Customs because of the trick 'final destination', France.

## Consignment

From there, the South African ship Komatiland picked up the consignment and headed for its home ports of Cape Town and Durban.

And so apartheid scores a notable—and humiliating victory over its 'enemies', the Labour government.

It now remains to be seen what those lovers of law and order in that government will do to the British firms which made the deal possible.

## Without Comment

As the economy moves steadily out of recession during 1976/77, there will be scope for increased overtime working and a reduction in short-time working; this would make a low limit for wage rates more acceptable without having an adverse effect on unit labour costs.

—from the Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin, March 1976.



Fidel Velazquez, head of the powerful Mexican Workers Confederation almost since its founding 40 years ago, yesterday berated union officials for perpetuating themselves in office and 'stemming democratic processes within unions'.

—from the Mexico City News, 25 February.

in the not too distant future sport will no longer exist.

but there will be FOOTBALL



WITHOUT COMMENT... from the Foul Book of Football (£1.50 at your newsagent)

Sorry...we just can't afford it...can we?

DO YOU have feelings of inferiority because of the clothes you wear?

Do you feel that your dress lacks that something extra?

Do not despair—you, too, can reach the heights of sartorial elegance.

What you need is a £650 'economy' silver gilt chain and badge.

Be like Labour councillor Tom Hamnett, chairman of Greater Manchester Council.

He felt 'improperly dressed', 'unadorned and anonymous', when mixing with other council chairmen.

But Cllr. Hamnett will soon be rid of his inferiority complex. He's ordered one of the £650 chains.

And when he and future council chairmen retire, they'll each have a pretty,

miniature, replica chain (cost: £50).

There are many disabled in the city who have had bus passes withdrawn; many house hunters refused a council mortgage; many schoolchildren for whom even potatoes are considered too expensive a food...

And all because, as a council spokesman said this week, 'there just isn't enough money to go round'.

STEVE LOUGHLIN

What the men of the Clyde proclaimed and what I went to Clydeside to assert, was the right to work. And that principle cannot, and must not, be denied.

—Harold Wilson, in his introduction to Alasdair Buchan's book on the 1971 UCS work-in.



Every picture tells a story...

We have no intention of adding to the punishment you have already received.

—Ripon magistrate Fred Collinson last Wednesday, on giving solicitor Ian Thornton Howe a conditional discharge for indecently assaulting a 14-year-old girl at knife-point.

Howe's 'punishment'? He will probably have to face Law Society disciplinary proceedings.

Good job he's not a dustman. He'd have got two years...

Norwich City Council, which reduced the Lord Mayor's hospitality fund by £2,000 to £11,000 a year as an economy measure, is being asked to restore the cut.  
The present Lord Mayor, Mrs Joyce Morgan, has overspent her allocation by £290 this month; a reception last week to entertain delegates of the Conservative Central Council, when Mrs Margaret Thatcher visited the city, cost £700.

—from the Daily Telegraph, 24 March.

## A MESSAGE TO ALL RAILWAY WORKERS

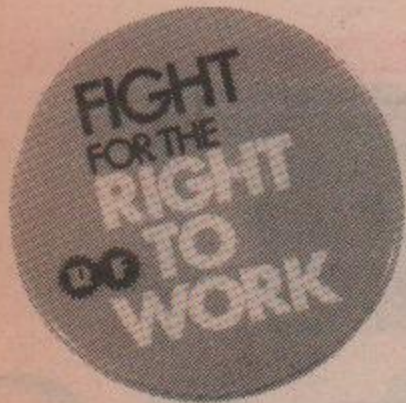
We face the biggest threat to our jobs and services since the days of Beeching. And yet our union leaders are doing nothing.

It's up to us—the rank and file—to resist the cuts, and to force the Bucktons, Weighells and Mackenzies to fight.

That's what Railway Worker aims to do—to draw together militants in all the unions and fight for our jobs and services.

The first issue is out now. It's 10p a copy (inc. postage) or £1 for 20 copies (post free) from Railway Worker, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Don't put it off. Write today.



# THIS IS THE WAY!

## 'With 60,000 repairs to be done, we accept no sackings'

**CAN we fight the cuts? Can we fight for our jobs?**

One man who says Yes to both questions is Frank Jeffers, Transport and General Workers' Union convenor for direct labour department workers at Knowsley, Merseyside.

Frank faces both problems—public spending cuts and sackings—at the same time.

For last month the Labour-controlled Knowsley Council voted unanimously for the sackings of 181 of the 570 directly-employed building workers.

Frank came to a Socialist Worker meeting in Huyton last week where he spoke about the sackings.

There are 60,000 repair jobs

outstanding in this borough on council houses alone', he said. 'There are rotted window-frames, leaking toilets, all kinds of problems which are annoying working-class families—and which our workers can fix.

'If these sackings go through, there's even less likelihood that these jobs can be done.

'Our MP is Harold Wilson, I remember hearing him speak in this hall no more than a year ago. He said that the Knowsley area faced two main problems: unemployment and housing repair.

### Ridiculous

'He was right. But what is the Labour government doing about it?

'They're sacking workers who repair houses. Did you ever hear anything more ridiculous!



Pickets outside Greenings wire factory, Warrington, where they are fighting the sacking of Arthur Conheeney, (above), works convenor, and Geoff Bailey, (left), a fitter for refusing to work on a crane which did not meet safety requirements. Arthur has always insisted on the strictest safety precautions in the factory. A hundred men, including all the engineers, carpenters and electricians in the factory walked out on strike in sympathy. FULL REPORT on pages 8-9.

'I sometimes wonder what we're coming to. The thing that shook me most about these proposals was that the council's Labour group voted unanimously for them. Not a single Labour councillor voted against the sackings.

### Opposite

'These are the people who are meant to be taking the decisions—but they do exactly the opposite of what they promise.

'As soon as the sackings were announced, I called a meeting of the joint shop stewards committee in direct labour. They'd just fought a battle over the "redeployment" of five men—and won it. So they knew how to answer the council.

'They knew that we all had to come out—it was no good one section fighting on its own. It was no good waiting to



Frank Jeffers

find out who was being sacked—then it's too late.

'So all 570 came out. I started organising among the council workers in general—where I'm also a member of the joint shop stewards com-

mittee.

'The refuse collectors agreed to come out—then other sections. Finally when the school canteen workers agreed to come out in support, the council collapsed. They suspended the sackings "pending more negotiations". But that's just a smokescreen.

### Combining

'But what we proved to ourselves and to all workers in the country facing the same problems is that we can fight. We can change the council's mind—but not by polite argument. Only by combining and using our strength.

'They don't dare preside over a local authority which doesn't function. And if council workers are strong enough to stop their authority functioning, they're strong enough to save their jobs'.

## DON'T LET THIS BECOME ANOTHER SHREWSBURY

'WE are not going to have another Shrewsbury trial' Tommy Douras, one of the unemployed workers on the Right to Work march from Manchester to London last month, told Socialist Worker.

The defence campaign is growing for the marchers who were attacked by the police as

they entered London on Friday 27 March. In four separate charges, the police arrested 35 marchers and nine local trade unionists who had come out to meet them.

Tommy Douras was not arrested, so he is helping organise the defence campaign. 'The best way to help the 44 is to get a delegation with banners outside the court

on Friday 21 May, when they are next up in court.

We must also step up the campaign for the Right to Work, and we will be working for the 26 May national day of action.

### Attacked

'We've written to every one of the thousand trade union bodies that supported our march, and we are appealing to all other trade union and labour movement bodies to support the 44.

The issue is basic. We are defending the right of unemployed workers, in fact of all workers, to demonstrate and march against unemployment. The marches of the 1930s were attacked by the police. We need to make it absolutely clear that trade unionists are not going to tolerate that today.

'We need money for the defence, we need resolutions demanding that the charges be dropped. But the best way to influence the courts is a physical show of strength with delegations and banners outside the court on 21 May.'

'We want all local Right to Work Committees personally to visit all the bodies that have supported us, and as many others as possible, appealing for delegations that day. There is only six weeks to the 21st.

### Confident

That means getting resolutions at the next meeting of your union branch, district, stewards committee, and not waiting around.

'There are many union conferences coming up too, where this must be raised, if necessary through emergency resolutions.'

Advertisement

**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN**

Mattresses, sleeping bags and lost property from the march and rally must be cleared from the Right to Work Office by 10 April. Phone 01-802 6145 to arrange collection. Everything not cleared will be sold to raise money for the Defence Fund.

**APPEAL SHEETS** and March Interim Reports are available from the Right to Work offices, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. 100 appeal sheets for 25p to cover postage.

**LEAFLETS** and posters—'ALL OUT 26 MAY'—available soon from the Right to Work offices. Leaflets £1 for 500. Posters £1.50 for 100, both including postage.

**FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK**

**NO RETURN TO THE 30's**

What the Right to Work Campaign is all about. 19p (inc postage) or 10p a copy for orders of ten or more. From Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Advertisement

**RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN MEETINGS**

**MARCH AND ELY:** Fight the Rail Cuts! Speakers include Phil Johnson (NUR) and John Toomey (Peterborough Right to Work Campaign). Friday 9 April, 7.30pm, George and Star, Broad Street, March. (Bar service throughout meeting).

**PETERBOROUGH, STAMFORD, AND ELY:** Defend the 44! Fund-raising social with Alan Davie and his music. Plus special bar and service. Friday 14 May, 7pm onwards. Coach and Horses, 41 High Street, Old Fletton, Peterborough. Tickets 50p, unemployed free. Phone Peterborough 61685.

**GLASGOW:** Build the Fight against Sackings. Meeting sponsored by more than 30 trade union organisations. Wednesday 14 April, 7.30pm, City Halls, Glasgow (Albion Street entrance). Speakers: Tommy Douras (National Right to Work Campaign) and local trade union delegates.

**SPEAKERS:** If you would like a speaker for a Right to Work meeting, or to address a local trade union or Labour Party meeting on the Right to Work Campaign, contact the Right to Work Centre and we will put you in touch with local speakers. Phone 01-802 6145

**MANCHESTER RIGHT TO WORK COMMITTEE**

Calls on all its supporters to ensure maximum support for the

**DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CUTS AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

Called by the North West Regional Council of the TUC IN Manchester on Saturday 24 April

**Starts 12.30pm outside AUEW offices, The Crescent, Salford, marching to New Century Hall for a meeting.**

**Did you see the police attack the marchers?**

The police are trying to throw the book at the arrested Right to Work marchers. This must not be another Shrewsbury case, with trade unionists jailed. Anyone who saw the attack—particularly building workers on the Staples Corner MI site and workers at Smiths Industries, Cricklewood—should contact the Right to Work Campaign immediately. Phone 01-802 6145.

**Help the Defence Fund**

It will cost a lot of money to keep up the Right to Work Campaign and defend our arrested brothers and sisters. So, brothers and sisters, dig deep, raise the matter in your stewards' committee and branch. Affiliate to the campaign and/or send us some money earmarked for the Defence Campaign. Send all monies to: Right to Work Campaign Defence Fund Treasurer, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



Israeli soldier, Arab protester against the confiscation of yet another 2000 acres of Arab land for Jewish settlement

G

Israe

Israeli Sett  
in Occupie

SETTLEMENT



Mediterranean Sea

El Arish

SINAI PENINSULA

# Convenor sacked over safety is



A safety poster on the gate at Greenings. For refusing to operate a crane that did not meet safety requirements, two were sacked.

**ARTHUR CONHEENEY**, works convenor at Greenings wire factory, Warrington, has been victimised.

About 100 workers from the engineering, electricians, and carpenters unions are on strike in protest. About 400 other workers are

still working, but are refusing to load or unload lorries.

If the sacking of Arthur Conheeneey is allowed to stand, every engineering worker in central Lancashire will suffer. He is one of the most respected convenors in the district, and a member of the Warrington AUEW district committee. For ten years he has fought

tirelessly for his members' interest.

He led the recent fight in Greenings to resist redundancy with an overtime ban by all engineering workers in the factory.

The ban infuriated the Greenings management, recently taken over by the huge Firth Brown steel combine based in Sheffield. Terry Bucks, a National Society of Metal Mechanics shop steward at Greenings, told Socialist Worker: 'Some weeks ago I overheard a Firths Brown man say: "When we smash the union here, we'll be OK". That's just what they're doing now. Smashing the unions'.

Arthur Conheeneey and the other engineering stewards have always fought for safe working conditions. In particular, they have insisted that cranes should not be worked unless they are properly 'isolated'.

A week ago last Friday, an engineering worker, Jimmy Hill, came to Arthur complaining that the lock on the isolator wasn't working. Arthur tested it, found it defective, and instructed Jimmy not to work on the crane.

The chief engineer was told. The following Monday he declared that the isolator was fixed. But it wasn't. A

demonstration quickly switch could still be a position, though the should have prevented.

The crane was deca Arthur went for a local factory inspe impression from b behaving properly'.

Last Tuesday m engineer, Geoff Baile to work on the crane, not been fixed. A Arthur, he refused.

## Sacked

The chief engineer, then instructed Arthu work the crane—and Arthur was then management's office and Geoff Bailey we carrying out a man tion'.

Stuart Parker, steward in the facto Worker: 'You coul blatant case of victi been a really good str They've picked a s trumped up a charge 'I think they're prep



Three stewards on the picket line (from left): Stuart Parker, Billy O'Neill and Terry Buck. PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report).



# The Maulers of Galilee

## They kill six as Arabs protest at land seizure



Protesting mourners raise the coffin in the air after putting the body of 24-year-old Raja Abu Raya in the grave. He was one of six killed by the Israeli police.



**THE TRUTH** about the state of Israel was battered out last week as the Israeli police and army murdered six Arab demonstrators.

Israel, we have been told for nearly 30 years by an almost unanimous press, has a 'civilising mission' in the Middle East, based on 'socialist principles', to provide a 'homeland' for an oppressed minority. But last week the Israeli state was clearly shown to rest on the use of terror against its own Arab minority. The state of Israel was created by the expulsion of more than a million Arabs from their homes and from their land. Ever since, these Arabs have lived in refugee camps on Israeli's borders, scraping a living from United Nations relief. 150,000 Arabs were left in Israel. These have been consistently discriminated against as viciously as racial or religious minorities anywhere in the world. In every field, they are treated as fourth-class citizens.

### Exclude Arabs

By 1960, after 12 years of 'civilised colonisation', 97 per cent of Jewish children were in secondary schools—and only 56 per cent of Arab children. Almost all Jewish homes had electricity—and only 11 per cent of Arab homes. The great city of Tel Aviv was built explicitly to exclude Arabs from living and working there.

Arab farmers were grossly discriminated against by government pricing policy. In 1960, for instance, Jewish-produced olive oil was sold at 607 Israeli pounds per ton. Arab oil was artificially held down at 324 pounds per ton, ensuring that the Arab farmers remained poor.

Not until 1959, when the labour market was 'sewn up' for Jewish labour, were Arab workers allowed to join the single trade union organisation, the craftist, corrupt Histadrut.

For 30 years the Arabs in Israel, now 450,000-strong, 15 per cent of the population, submitted to this discrimination.

### Militancy

But in the countryside north of Tel Aviv, where Arabs are 60 per cent of the population, the young Arabs have watched the rising militancy of the Apestinian people on the West Bank of the River Jordan, occupied by Israel in the imperialist war of 1967.

They have watched the Palestinian armies in Jordan and the Lebanon shaking reactionary governments to their foundations. They have found a new militancy and a new strength of purpose.

Early this year, the Israeli government announced plans for

by  
**PAUL FOOT**

more 'settlements' in the Arab lands around Lake Galilee. They ordered the confiscation of 2000 acres of land, mostly Arab land, and its colonisation by armed Jewish settlers.

Such 'settlements' were set up all over the Arab lands occupied by Israeli armies in 1967. Whole Arab towns and villages in Gaza, in Golan and on Jordan's West Bank were depopulated to make room for Israeli 'civilisers'. But this was the first time for years that the Israeli government had proposed settlements on Arab lands inside Israel itself.

The Arab people around Galilee rose in protest. A call for a general strike from the Israel Communist Party, Rakah, was answered unanimously by Arab workers and peasants in the Galilee area.

The Israeli Government decided to 'teach the Arabs a lesson'. They moved in their most ruthless police force and, reinforced by troops, launched violent unprovoked attacks on Arab marchers and demonstrators.

### Deported

Six young demonstrators were shot down.

A street food-vendor was taken to Beit Jalla Hospital with all his limbs broken. He died from his injuries. When the hospital chief, Ahmed Hamzed Natshi, protested, he was deported to Jordan.

An unnamed Arab demonstrator was taken to Nablus Hospital suffering from multiple injuries. He too died later.

Every day, more deaths are reported from the hospitals around Galilee and further south. The strikes and riots have gone on, blanketed by Israeli news censorship.

The American government, which spawned and fostered the Zionist monster just as the British government spawned and fostered the Orange movement in Ireland, is trying, like the British government in Ireland, to calm its monster down. President Ford is 'discouraging' the land settlements in the Arab areas.

But as in Ireland, the monster does not easily lie down.

Zionism, like Orangeism, draws its life-blood from discrimination enforced by paramilitary terror. It will continue to assert its right to discriminate against and terrorise the Arabs even against the advice of its paymasters.

Zionist imperialism and savagery has united the Palestinian Arabs on every side of Israel and in Israel itself. Just as the Arabs of Galilee have taken confidence from their countrymen on the West Bank and in Lebanon, so now these countrymen will take strength from the courageous strikes and protests in Galilee.

For nearly 30 years, Israel seemed invincible. Now suddenly, the Palestinian people are uniting their resistance, and Zionism is in peril.

### ISRAEL 'ARMED ATOM BOMBS IN 1973 WAR'

By Our New York Staff

Israel's nuclear arsenal of 13 atomic bombs was activated and made ready for delivery during the Yom Kippur war of 1973, according to a report published today in Time magazine.

The bombs have a 20-kiloton yield, roughly the same as those that obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. All 13 can be delivered by specially equipped Kfir and Phantom fighters or by Jericho missiles.

The report says that when the first Israeli counterattack along the Suez canal failed and Israeli forces were forced to retreat on the Golan heights, orders went out to have the bombs activated. All 13 were assembled during a 78-hour period, but by that time the tide of the war had turned and they were subsequently returned to desert arsenals.

Lebanon truce threatened—P4

From the Daily Telegraph, 5 April.

## Issue

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think they'd be prepared to lose a few thousand quid to get rid of Arthur. Well we've got to be ready for a fight too.'

Most of the workforce is still in the factory—though all the workers have voted not to load or unload any materials. Bill O'Neill, Metal Mechanics' steward in the perforation department, says: 'We are not loading or unloading. Arthur is our convenor just as much as the engineers. He's supported us for years. Now it's time for us to support him.'

The Warrington AUEW district committee is likely to make the strike official this week. But AUEW members in the area will have to organise their full strength if they are to stop this victimisation.

There is every possibility that the firm will try to move goods in and out under police protection. Mass picketing must be arranged, and workers from factories throughout the district should start now to arrange delegations to the picket lines.

Donations and messages of support to the treasurer, Roy Dutton, c/o AUEW House, Froghall Lane, Warrington.



# Don't miss it

Send in your greetings NOW

This May Day is going to be special. A Socialist Worker special. For the 50th anniversary of the General Strike, Socialist Worker is bringing out a special issue. Make sure your Trade Union organisation gets its May Day greetings in. For only £1 you could reach over 100,000 fellow trade unionists and their families.

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Socialist Worker

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# Socialist Worker NEWS... and WHAT'S ON

## NEXT WEEK'S SOCIALIST WORKER . . .

... will be printed early because of the Easter break.

It will be taken to the stations on Tuesday evening, and must be collected Wednesday morning. Sales can then be reorganised for Wednesday and Thursday.

Changes in orders should be phoned through now to the circulation office

# STEVE COX: A TRIBUTE.

ALL THE comrades in North Herts IS were stunned recently by the tragic death of Steve Cox in a motor bike accident.

Steve joined the branch a year ago following an IS picket of the local National Front. From then on, he tirelessly and fearlessly organised and demonstrated against the NF locally and nationally, selling SW, leafletting and agitating among young people.

He was twice assaulted and once arrested but always came back personally and to urge the branch to continue our picket of the fascists.

Steve was a true internationalist, invariably to be seen holding one end of the branch banner on demonstrations like those of Solidarity with Portugal, Free Indian Political Prisoners, and Commemoration of Bloody Sunday.

He was the prime mover in



Steve Cox (second from left): a true internationalist.

forming a local branch of the Troops Out Movement and organising a TOM speaker at Stevenage Trades Council.

A member of the Engineering Union, Steve rarely missed a meeting of his branch, Stevenage No 1, which he got to sponsor an unemployed

AIWEW marcher for a day on the Right to Work March.

A delegate to the Trades Council he helped secure their support for the March. The marchers will remember him marching with them through Stevenage Industrial Estate and then shyly welcoming

them on behalf of his branch and the Trades Council at the lunchtime meeting in the town.

At meetings he showed a political maturity far beyond his years and frequently led the arguments. Steve will be sadly missed

by his comrades, but his example of dedication, enthusiasm, and good humour will remain with us.

We have collected £50 from the comrades and SW buyers for the SW International Fund in his memory.

NORTH HERTS IS

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

## SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

**PETERBOROUGH SW public meeting:** The lessons of Clay Cross. Speaker: Dave Nuttall (Clay Cross Labour Party). Chairman: David Toome. Tuesday 27 April, 7.30pm. The Still, Cumbergate (near B1 Station).

**SW School on the Labour Left,** Saturday 10 April, 2-5.30pm. International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**CHESTER SW Inaugural public meeting:** Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 May. Venue and further details to be announced.

**CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IS District Aggregate:** Friday 30 April. Report back from Party Council. Further details later.

**LONDON PUBLISHING BRANCH SW public meeting:** The Freedom of the Press. Speaker: Ron Knowles (editor of the NUJ's paper, The Journalist). Tuesday 13 April, 8pm. Punch Tavern, Fleet Street.

**EAST LONDON SW public meeting:** Southern Africa—What Next? A speaker from Zimbabwe and Pete Alexander. Wednesday 14 April, 8pm. Ross Wyld Hall, Church Hill, E17 (corner of Hoe Street).

**LONDON PUBLISHING BRANCH SW Business Meeting:** Tuesday 12 April, 7pm. Punch Tavern, Fleet Street.

**CENTRAL MANCHESTER International Day School:** Saturday 10 April, 11am-5pm. TU Books, 260 Deansgate. Topics included: World Crisis, Internationalism in Practice, and Towards the Revolutionary International. Speakers: Ian Birchall, Joanna Rolfo.

**FLAME Public Meeting:** The Struggle in Southern Africa. Speakers: Alex Callinicos and Victor Machingize (from Zimbabwe). Tuesday 13 April, 8pm. North Library, Manor Gardens, London N7 (just off Holloway Road).

**HIGH PEAK meeting for all IS members and SW supporters:** Friday 9 April, 7.30pm. Swan Hotel, New Mills (Newtown). Speakers and discussion on Women in Industry—The Fight for the Right to Work, branch organisation and future activities. Representatives from Macclesfield and Stockport IS branches welcome.

Will all gay SW supporters contact Sybil Cook, 9 Grove Dwellings, Adeline Grove, London, E1.

**SOUTHWARK TEACHERS SW public meetings:** Next series starts 29 April. Trade Unions, Militants and Moderates. South Bank Polytechnic Students' Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. Further details: Gail Lowenstein, 622-1090.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**FOR SALE:** SW Collection from No 207 to date (few missing). Private Eye No 235-350 (few missing). Ink (all but 2). Proceeds to Fighting Fund. Rush offers to 46 Westport St, London E7.

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

**PUNJABI CHINGARI** out now. Lots of news and views from India, TUC, unemployment and work-permits. The Education Act and immigrant children. Send in money for the last issue. NOW, Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**THE MEANING OF MARXISM** is now back in print—but the file of back orders from IS branches has been mislaid. Please reorder copies: ten copies £2.50 (£1.75 if cash with order) from Mary Philips, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 2639.

**LABOUR WORKER:** Back numbers still needed to make up official file for SW office. Search your attic! Issues needed: 60, 51, 43, 41, 39, 37, 36, 32, 30, vol 3 no 5, vol 2 nos 1 and 2, any in vol 1.

**ROOMS** available for IS members in three houses in London. Phone Liz Balfour, 01-739 9772.

**NALGO FEACION Meeting:** for all IS NALGO members in London. Tuesday 13 April, 7pm. The Pill Box, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. (Opposite County Hall).

**BACK NUMBERS** of International Socialism journal. Copies available since issue 36 (except 42 and 51). Before IS73: 20p inc postage. After IS73: 30p including postage. IS Journal, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT EASTER?

## Come to the Socialist Worker Rally Skegness 16-19 April

## Adult places available

There are still some adult places for the Rally at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp in Skegness. If you want to go, phone 01-739 1870 or 01-739 9772 or write now to Skegness, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Price: £16.25 for each adult, all inclusive.

## Idle the weekend away —or join the fun



JUST SOME of the entertainment lined up for Skegness. Above left, the Newcastle Beggar Men, the North's best Irish band. Above

right, the Young Groovers, Birmingham's best black band. Below right, the Kartoon Klowns ('the best socialist theatre ever

produced'—Micky Fenn, Socialist Worker). And, below left, Mike Carver on the piano.

## POLITICAL EVENTS INCLUDE

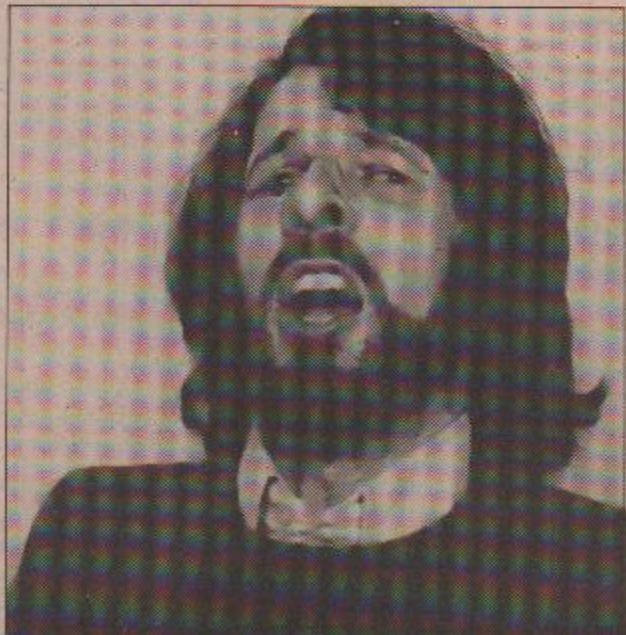
**JEAN McCRINDLE** (who visited China last summer) on Women in China.

## PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOOL

Learn how to take a good photo at last. Open to anyone who brings a camera—but not Instamatics, please.

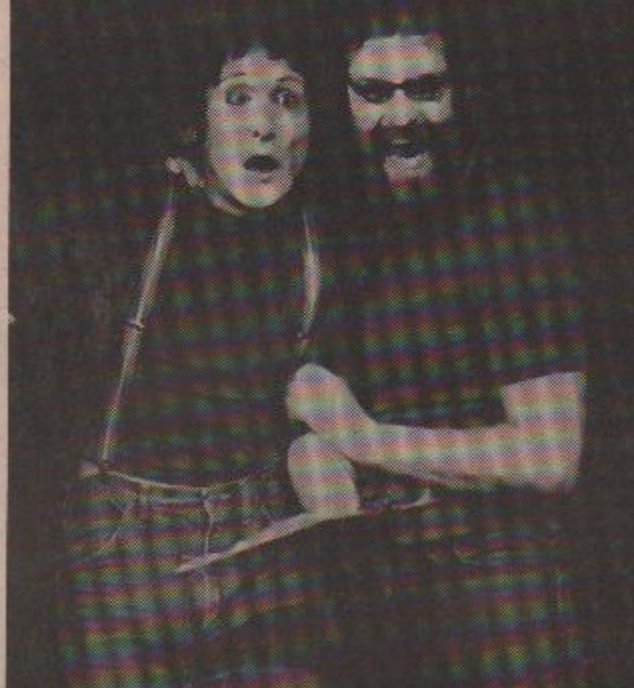
John Sturrock and Angela Phillips from Report will be running a school during the weekend.

If possible, we will also have our own dark room—so you can learn how to process your own film.



## HOW TO PAY . . .

Don't send any money to Cottons Gardens after Saturday 10 April. Bring it with you to Skegness. The Camp Authorities will not allow anyone to stay who has not paid.



**FILMS**

**The Good Woman of Wapping**

WHAM! Quick as a flash, P.C. Boot lunges with his truncheon into a Wapping Corporation grit bin. Aaargh! Foiled again! There is nobody there.

P.C. Dixon's mummified torso has finally been wheeled behind a desk. His place on the beat at Dock Green (Wapping) has been taken over by the bungling Boot, hot on the heels of corruption in High Places.

The Good Woman of Wapping, is the new play at the Half Moon Theatre. It is the grisly tale of that wretched borough's ransacking by the property developer, hand in hand with Wapping's local version of T. Dan Smith on the council.

The Good Woman is a middle-class, kaftan-wearing do-gooder who moves into condemned Clipper Road in a pathetic attempt to rescue the derelict inhabitants from the bulldozer and the bedbugs. Needless to say, her well-meant squat founders miserably.

**Tragic**

The Good Woman's soup kitchen is thereupon quickly transformed into a bomb factory, with tragic results.

This play is a devastating attack on the 'Social Worker' approach to politics. It is harrowing but full of fun. The scene of the Wapping councillors in session, for example, would make the Pied Piper's 'Mayor and Corporation' look super-honest.

Perhaps readers of this paper won't need to hear some of the speechifying about the need for a workers' revolution, but it's a play well worth a visit. And it's all in the congenial setting of corrugated iron fences splashed with Socialist Worker anti-fascist posters, what's more...

Go and see it. It's on until 24 April.

□ **Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, London, E1 (nearest tubes Aldgate and Aldgate East).**

PHIL EVANS

**The machine-smashers' days are over**

'ONE sometimes gets the impression that the mere words 'Socialism' and 'Communism' draw towards them with magnetic force every fruit-juice drinker, nudist, sandal-wearer, sex maniac, Quaker, 'Nature Cure' quack, pacifist and Feminist in England.'

Thus wrote George Orwell in *The Road to Wigan Pier*, in a bad-tempered moment that tells us more about some of Orwell's odder prejudices than it does about socialism.

But though we might want to reject his list, the thrust of his argument—namely that some would-be anti-capitalists are mere cranks—is worth salvaging.

One group of cranks who are a particular menace these days are the anti-technology lot. Science, technology, machines, capitalism—they use the terms interchangeably—have, they claim, taken all the poetry out of life and concreted it over. Down with machines and back to the land!

It's too easy a sneer to say that you often hear someone



**ROGER HUDDLE REVIEWS TELEVISION'S 'THE ROCK FOLLIES'**

LEFT: The three girls of the group before the rock business takes them over. BELOW: Afterwards.

**BEING a rock music and telly addict, I have been glued to the box on Tuesdays for the last six weeks watching Rock Follies.**

The series gave a pretty good insight into the corruption behind the scenes of 'show business'. But for me it also exposed some of the rotten sides of the profit system generally.

Right from the first episode I related to the three women. They came across as both victims and combatants.

My attention was held for the whole series as the struggle of the three women won me over. Their fight to break free from their chosen 'female role' and their suffocation by the morality of the system. They partly justified my conviction that rock music is potentially a forceful celebration of life while at the same time just another commodity for the bosses to dull our minds and make money out of.

**Dole**

Dec. Q and Anna come together while desperately trying to stay off the dole as actresses. They decide to try and make it as a rock group—the Little Ladies—partly for the money, but mainly in the belief that they could make it and control what they do—their image, their music and their lives.

In the second episode Jack, Anna's boyfriend, sums up all the men's objections to the group when he says 'I want you to stop. You are moving out of my sphere of influence'.

In the early plays the women struggle against the oppression of their men. In doing so, they grow in confidence and independence. The men become parasitical



**THE ROCK TRAP**

on them.

The free-living bloke from the commune even tries to strangle his girlfriend as she breaks loose from his control.

Finance dictates the rest of the plays. To survive, compromises are forced. They sign a contract with Stavros of Pleasure Productions who is 'diversifying' into music.

Once trapped by a contract, they are given a pretty dolls image. Stavros brings in a (male) wig designer, a male gown designer and a male dancing instructor. They are shaped as a commodity to be sold in a market dominated by men. Their strength is strangled.

They are finally used, with

change of name to The Victory Girls, to promote an image of patriotism, concerts for the troops in Northern Ireland, dressed in uniforms from the Second World War, singing about Glenn Miller and labelled austerity rock.

Stavros opens a club called the Blitz, selling spam and chips at £10 a head.

But Stavros is just a middle man and the club is blown up by the real money people for 'tax purposes'. The bombing is blamed on the IRA and the parasites leave the Little Ladies with their dreams shattered but not their strength.

The way the series ended opens up the possibility of other series.

A Rock Follies album has now been released. And there are Rock Follies tee-shirts and a game called Rock Follies. The series is being used to make money in exactly the same way as the play.

PAUL O'FLINN

**IN LONDON'S FAIR CITY**

To the tune of 'In Dublin's Fair City'

In London's fair city,  
Where the bankers sit pretty,  
I first set my eyes on  
Hot money on loan.  
Healey deals there and borrows  
Through Rothschild and Hambros  
And we're carved up and roasted alive, alive-O!  
Alive, alive-O! alive, alive-O!  
Carved up and roasted alive, alive-O!

I saw Chancellor Healey  
Down on his knees kneeling,  
He was kissing the feet  
Of the Shah of Iran:  
'Oh, please may we borrow,  
Today or tomorrow,  
Your shekels to keep us alive, alive-O!

Says the Shah, 'Hold your horses,  
We know Britain, of course, is  
In debt to its eyeballs,  
Your money's all gone.  
So if you want to borrow,  
Then cutback tomorrow,  
On schools and welfare economise-O!

Healey signs the agreement,  
And guarantees payment  
Of ten per cent interest  
By that afternoon.  
Then he tells us, with sorrow,  
It'll be tough tomorrow  
But it's all to help Britain survive, survive-O!

In London's fair city,  
Where the bankers sit pretty,  
You can set eyes on  
How the money's all gone.  
Healey wheels, deals and borrows  
To pay interest tomorrow.  
We're dying to keep bankers alive, alive-O!  
Alive, alive-O! alive, alive-O!  
We're dying to keep bankers alive, alive-O!

MIKE ROSEN and  
SUSANNA STEELE

**Film of the secret war**

A SECRET war is being fought against the people of the Gulf States. Sultans, Shahs, oil companies, kings and mercenaries combine with the British army against a raggle taggle liberation army, supported by the poverty-stricken South Yemen Republic (Aden), fighting the classic 'people's war'.

Optimistically a group of Lebanese film makers have produced a 62-minute colour film entitled 'The Hour of Liberation'. It takes us behind the scenes, showing the roles of the imperialist forces and their puppets and pointing to the motivating force: greed for oil.

This film is worth seeing and showing. Although well made, it is essential that any showing should be followed by a speaker to bring it up to date and place it in context.

□ Obtainable from: **Other Cinema, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2.**

**PRE-VIEW**

**SATURDAY**  
HIGH NOON (STV) is a good Western. A good laugh guaranteed if you watch GRANDSTAND (BBC1)—Princess Anne and Mark Phillips at the Badminton Horse Trials.

**SUNDAY**  
THE NATIVE AMERICANS (BBC1)—the first of this series is about Cherokee, North Carolina, where most of the Indians were driven out in 1938. It tries to find out what it was like before the white man 'civilised' the place.

**MONDAY**  
WORLD IN ACTION (ITV) uncovers the oil companies' dirty deals in Italy with £5 million to Italian politicians for favourable legislation.

**TUESDAY**  
Buffy Sainte-Marie, a Cree Indian and radical singer, is on WHISTLE TEST (BBC2).

**WEDNESDAY**  
MICROBES AND MEN is on BBC2. JOHN MACNAB is the story of three bored ruling class twits who decide to become poachers for excitement. If you watch it, first remove any objects that you might use to smash in the screen.

**THURSDAY**  
Laurel and Hardy shown on OMNIBUS (BBC1).

**FRIDAY**  
1776: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (BBC2) with Prince Charles as King George III and former US Ambassador Elliot Richardson as John Adams.

**TAKE IT AS RED**

pushing this line in an environment made possible by advanced technology—electric light, central heating, ice in the drinks and stereo in the corner.

What's more important to remember is the kind of thing that technology has freed us from. Take a simple example. The area where I live is flat and near the Thames. In most winters before the present century the place would have been flooded.

The reaction of primitive peoples to this would have been to try to appease the river God with prayer and sacrifice. Colourful and poetic, perhaps. But also wasteful and, when it proved useless,

tragic.

We don't spend much time on our knees by the Thames these days, tossing in sheep's entrails or whatever. The river doesn't flood because we know why it floods and so hire someone to juggle with the locks and stop it.

When you think of the washed-out crops and the wrecked communities that sometimes must have bordered the Thames in the past that's magnificent, liberating progress.

Socialism is impossible without advanced technology. Take it away and most of us are at once condemned to a life of back-breaking labour to avoid starvation, with no surplus left over for luxuries like pensions, schools or hospitals.

**Entrails**

You can, of course, reply that kneeling by the Thames presenting its God with sheep's entrails is no more or less absurd than sitting at home like sheep watching the God slot on the box, which is what a lot of people do instead.

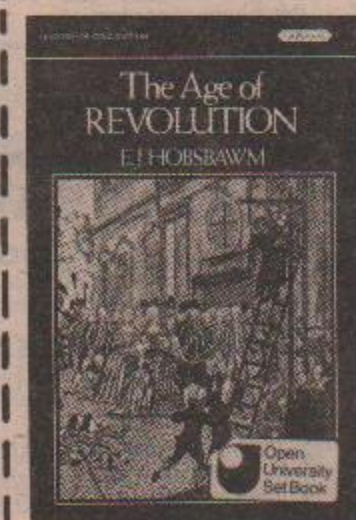
But that misses the point. Technology has liberated us

from whole areas of fear and superstition and from slavish dependence on nature. The fact that it's also been used to create new forms of slavery is a fault of its controllers, not of technology.

To sum the arguments up with another example: a hammer is a great machine for knocking in nails. The fact

that it can also be used for knocking out people's brains isn't an argument for banning hammers.

But it is an argument for taking them out of the hands of people who misuse them in that way.



A good Marxist look at the two revolutions of the late 1700s—the 1789 French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution that started in Britain. £1.25 including postage.

From **BOOKMARKS**, 263 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, or direct from **15 BOOKSHOPS** in Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Hull, Coventry, Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds.

**Book of the Week**

# Tut, tut, those

# nasty ultra lefts!

I MUST congratulate everyone involved in the 27 March unemployment conference at Central Hall, Westminster.

On such issues, the left must unite if we are to succeed.

The Morning Star stated, on 12 January, that 'support should be given to all workers resisting sackings and cuts, whether by occupations, strikes, work-ins or forms of struggle which may develop.

'This is the way to defend the 'Right to Work' and safeguard the future of Britain'.

*Why no support for the Right to Work march then?*

I remember the last time flying pickets went into action; they also finished up at the mercy of the law courts.

## Ovation

Elsa Warren fully deserved a standing ovation on Saturday. But standing ovations do not get Des out of jail.

Are we going to let down the 44 marchers in the trade union movement like we have the Shrewsbury pickets?

Despite the sectarianism in our Party by certain individuals, the Right to Work March gathered momentous support on its trek from Manchester to London.

It was done by getting onto the streets and into the factories and building sites, talking to workers in struggle. Tut, tut, those nasty Trots and Ultra lefts!

The March is now over but I call on all the Labour Movement to discard its sectarian colours and mobilise (along with the 26 May) mass action and financial support for the Marchers.

Let's not have another Shrewsbury, because that's the alternative.

I see nothing ultra-left about getting among the working class and fighting for the Right to Work. That's why I'm a bloody Communist!

Keep fighting comrades.  
**Paul Johnson, a car worker, Rubery branch, Communist Party, Longbridge.**

SW HAS recently shown how the Communist Party (especially via the Morning Star), has tried to put the boot in on the Right to Work Campaign.

Such reporting is absolutely necessary. However, it is important (as you also mentioned), to remember that many rank-and-file Communists are not behaving in such a sectarian fashion.

Here in Peterborough, for example, the Right to Work Campaign is being actively supported by prominent local Communists, some of them members of the Trades Council.

Indeed, much of the fire for the Campaign has come from the committee secretary—an especially articulate and dynamic young CPer, himself on the dole having been booted out of the Post Office just before Christmas.

Although we have made some headway publicity-wise (both in the local press and on regional television), the real work in the factories and on the dole queues is progressing at a slower pace.

But the slog would be much harder if city Communists were not among the non-IS members who, without hiding deep political differences, are able to work fraternally in the fight for the right to work.

David Bunch, Peterborough.

I HAVE sent all the photographs of the police brutality against the Right to Work Marchers to my children's pen friends in Rumania.

I have asked those children to show the pictures to their friends, teachers and parents.

Our wonderful police, our right to protest, our freedom and democracy, are going to look very tarnished in their eyes.

Kevin O'Brien, Poole.

## THE STAR MUST COME CLEAN

I WELCOME the Morning Star reporting on the 27 March Unemployment Assembly. But it has major faults. First, its report talks of 'overwhelming majority' and 'Assembly accepted' without telling us once that the Assembly voted. Were there any votes at the Assembly?

Secondly, it does not tell us what action in solidarity with the charged Right to Work Marchers is proposed. Thirdly, Bill McLoughlin is reported as regretting that

the international Socialists did not listen to proposals that were never made!

If the Shrewsbury pickets are guilty of no crime, then what happens to the charged Right to Work Marchers depends on the response of the workers' movement. The Morning Star must defend the Marchers wholeheartedly. This it has not yet done.

Jon Fine, Cheltenham.  
*This letter was also sent to the Morning Star.*



The Confed Assembly on Unemployment: the left must unite on such issues.

# Letters

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

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOMBERS

YOU ARE now openly at war with the British people.

For several years, many of us on the revolutionary left have argued your case and taken up your fight.

We have argued for self-determination for the Irish people.

We have demanded immediate withdrawal of all troops. Until they pull out there can be no solution.

But increasingly in the past year you have hit working class targets.

The result is not rising pressure on the government to withdraw the military. Instead the outrage is being channelled into mass reaction against your struggle.

We are now experiencing an intensified working class demand for more law and order both here and in Ireland.

It hardly needs to be spelled

out that this forced reaction plays right into the hands of the Right, which represents a very real step back for all struggles in the labour movement.

Have you not learned from your own history that to the British ruling class, *BLOOD IS CHEAP*—especially when it's working class blood, and not their own.

They must be attacked where it hurts—the citadels of power and the centres of their wealth.

Until then, you can't count on the British working class as an ally.

M Craig, Glasgow.

A TUBE TRAIN in West Ham is the wrong place and the wrong time.

No-one wants people injured in any campaign to make the British government change its policies in Ireland, but if the Provos are going to place bombs on trains carrying workers through London—killing the very class whose sympathy they should be wooing—then they stand revealed not as freedom fighters or liberators, but as an Irish equivalent of the Spanish 'Warriors of Christ the King'.

Let us leave aside the point about the British and Irish governments' repression. Let us concentrate on the facts.

A LETTER from me recently appeared on this page appealing for money towards John Lancaster's likely fine after being arrested on the anti-National Front demonstration in Coventry.

John was eventually fined £41 with £6 costs. Thanks to donations received in response to my letter, this amount has been met in full.

We would like to thank all those who contributed, particularly a pensioner from Hertfordshire. Any money over will be sent to the Dewsbury Fund.

Pat Stack, Portsmouth Branch, International Socialists.

## POSTAL POINTS

WAY BACK in 1932, when the Hunger Marchers reached Hyde Park, they were greeted by a large crowd of sympathisers.

However, the mounted police made repeated baton charges and many people were hurt.

The leaders of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement were arrested.

It seemed the authorities were determined on a brutal show of strength. This action was taken to stop workers organising against unemployment.

So history repeats itself when John Deason and his comrades are arrested.

All trade unionists and workers should unite in support of the National Right to Work Campaign.

Enclosed £5 to further the struggle.

Harlow branch, International Socialists.

WITH SOME friends, I recently attended a Women's Voice meeting on abortion. The speaker

made a point about broadening the issue and talked about the nature of this society.

On leaving the meeting, we found a man sleeping in an alcove in a shopping precinct with his head on a small suitcase and shivering.

A policeman lurking nearby was obviously moving in to harass the man.

We woke him up, took him home and put him up for the night.

We found this incident to be a crash course in what we'd just been hearing about at the meeting—the absolute corruptness and stench of this capitalist system.

Chris Barltrop, Southampton.

I RECENTLY addressed a union branch in Edinburgh on the Right to Work March. Several members of a revolutionary organisation who were present said the March and the Campaign were 'non-political'.

If other SW readers come

## Sickness called profit

ONCE MORE we see an example of the sickness called capitalism.

It's not a great number—75. It's not many men to sacrifice to the god of profit.

But add the accumulated years of work that these 75 men have given to Cashmores and then we may get a clearer picture of who has got the most right to call themselves the owners of Cashmores.

Three years ago Glyn-Wed absorbed Cashmores into their empire. At that time it was a growing, profit-making concern.

They drew off two years' good profit and now, after the first year showing a loss (according to the management's figures) they are prepared to sacrifice their Newport workers to ensure that next year's figures are more favourable.

The old question. Which has the most importance under our system—workers or capital?

Their idiotic argument is that the fact that Newport's production figures (225 per cent up on the first ten weeks of last year) only make things worse.

The more that we produce, the greater the loss they record.

What rubbish. Or what bad management.

If this profit-mad management has its way, all our 'unprofitable' orders will be transferred to the Greatbridge Works. So next year change the name from Newport to Greatbridge and do we have the same story all over again?

I don't intend to wait to find out. Let's save the toenail before we lose the leg.

Peter Cuck, TGWU shop steward, Cashmores, Newport.

## JOKING ASIDE...

YES, TERRY Stewart (Letters, last week), a joke is a joke (as long as it's funny, anyway).

But humour isn't neutral in the class struggle.

Jokes can be either reactionary or progressive, can either reinforce racialism and prejudice, or can raise two fingers to authority.

Jokes which make out that Irish people (or blacks, Jews or people from Dumfries) are stupid, divide us up, make one group of working class people feel superior to another group,

And they called me a 'CIA agent'...

SOME WEEKS ago, I argued at my trade union branch that it was very important for us to support the Assembly on Unemployment. The resolution was carried and I attended as a delegate.

I was dismayed and horrified to be accused at the end of the meeting of being 'in the pay of the CIA' for adding my voice to those asking the Assembly to change its Day of Action from 26 May to 21 May, to coincide with the court appearance of the 44 arrested Right to Work Marchers.

The chant 'May the 21st' was taken up by those of us who felt it was terribly important to show the militant unity of the working class when it came to defending ourselves and each other against attacks by police and the State.

The chanting may have seemed 'disruptive' to some—but 'democratic channels' were simply not open. No amendments were allowed to the proposals from the platform.

And the request was hardly a divisive one. Ernie Roberts and Dennis Skinner MP had spoken in favour of it.

The organisers' speeches now have a hollow ring. There was no special reason for a Day of Action on 26 May—and every reason for it on 21 May.

The Right to Work Marchers were not only good working-class militants who were demonstrating against the very unemployment the Assembly was so concerned about—they also put a lot of effort into canvassing support for the Assembly, which has now betrayed them.

The Marchers and those who supported them were accused of showing 'to the Press' (?) that we were united.

Comrades, the only real unity (and the only unity the Press and ruling class are worried about) is unity in action.

No wonder Des Warren is still in prison.

Anine Nehmad, ASTMS, Cambridge  
*This letter was also sent to the Morning Star.*

I MUST protest against the fatuous phrase (SW, 27 March) that the Catholic Church believes 'sex is wrong, for procreation only'.

Neither the Bible nor traditional moral theology teach that sexual pleasure is 'wrong' or that the use of sex is only for procreation.

R Wilkes, Bilston.

## BOOK BARGAIN Until Easter

Michael Farrell: **NORTHERN IRELAND: THE ORANGE STATE**

The first political history of the puppet state and its current disintegration. £5 paperback.

Geoffrey Bell: **THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER**

The history, the culture, the jobs, the politics of the 'most criticised and misunderstood community in Western Europe'. £2.00 paperback.

Pre-publication Offer: £5.00 for both, post free (cash with orders only).

Pluto Press, unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



# Union president has executive gagged



Kate Losinska

by MIKE McGRATH  
CPSA branch secretary, British Library, in a personal capacity.

**THE Sun headlined its report: 'Anti-Reds Kate fights union gag'.**

An accurate headline would have read: 'Union President gags own executive in High Court'.

Last Thursday Kate Losinska, president of the civil servants union, the CPSA, was granted an injunction in the High Court to stop her own executive publishing their news about an article she wrote in the Reader's Digest.

The article appeared in the February edition, one of four under the heading 'The Marxist Battle for Britain'. The others were by Lord Robens, now an extreme Tory who advocates a 'businessmen's government' to solve all problems, Brian Walden, the right-wing Labour MP, and Frank Chapple of the Electricians' and Plumbers Union.

Losinska's articles dealt with the extent of 'left-wing penetration' in the civil service. Among its accusations was that the International Socialists had a 'cell' in the Inland Revenue, so was in a position to blackmail the parents of illegitimate children.

## Deplore

The CPSA national executive took exception to the way Losinska was using her position as president. They passed a resolution 'deploring' her action as being 'grossly irresponsible' and causing 'widespread injury' to the union.

Losinska decided to go to the High Court to stop the executive from informing the members of their decision, using the argument that it would harm her chances of re-election as president.

The High Court agreed that she had the right to abuse her members in the Reader's Digest and that the democratically elected executive had no right to reply.

So Losinska has established another precedent for the courts to interfere in the democratic workings of our

**Anti-Reds  
Kate fights  
union 'gag'**

UNION president Kate Losinska yesterday claimed she was being gagged after writing an anti-Communist article in a magazine.

—from The Sun, 1 April.

## Court spells danger for all unions

unions.

Even more alarming is the reference in Losinska's statement to the court about the Radcliffe Report into the civil service in 1961: 'It is my belief that recent events in the association [the CPSA] relating to the appointment of officials and the attempt to engineer my defeat in the forthcoming elections will bring about a situation similar to that which gave rise to the investigation into the security procedures in the public services'.

Radcliffe was set up to investigate 'communist penetration' in the civil service and in the trade unions representing the civil service.

Part of the report reads: 'We are disturbed at the number of Communists and Communist sympathisers who are holding positions in those bodies either as permanent full-time



the unions

paid officials or as unpaid officials or members of executive committees'.

Two full-time officers of the CPSA were 'prematurely retired'—in other words, sacked—as a result of the report.

The CPSA is now better organised than in 1962. It will be much easier to defend all our full-time officials, even though they are not elected and all our lay officers from any anti-red witch-hunt launched by Losinska and her allies.

At the same time we defend her right—and our own—to criticise the union leadership, but without recourse to the courts. We cannot tolerate a situation where candidates can say what they like about the leadership of the union, but the leadership is not allowed to reply.

## Open

The best answer to these attacks is to campaign openly both for the policies we believe to be correct and for a more democratic union. This means opposing incomes policy and demanding the election of all full-time officials.

In this way we expose the right wing in all its weaknesses and in its total inability to 'protect and promote the interests of its members'.

## Resolution banned from union journal

This is the first resolution the CPSA executive tried to get published. A milder resolution has also been banned.

This national executive committee deplores the improper use of the office of president of CPSA to attack the properly authorised industrial activities of some members of both this association and other public sector trade unions.

We consider the publication of the Reader's Digest article (February 1976) to be a public demonstration of gross irresponsibility and therefore agree to immediately issue an 'all members' circular disassociating the national executive committee from the views expressed and to write immediately to all other trade unions either directly or indirectly criticised by the president expressing unqualified regret.

Since the offending article and subsequent reprint leaflets have received a circulation far beyond the boundaries of the Association both at home and abroad, the executive committee additionally recognise that such widespread injury done to the association must be effectively countered by existing means.

It is therefore agreed that an authoritative report of the official decisions thus far taken be produced in Red Tape [the official CPSA journal].



I WORK as a technician in Leeds. The field I'm trained in is electronics, a field with huge potential. Yet that potential is completely twisted by the present system of society.

Let's start with consumer electronics—televisions, stereos, tape recorders, cassettes and radios.

If workers ran society we could make all of these things in much greater numbers, at much less cost and much, much better.

At present people have to get into debt to get the benefits of consumer electronics—if, that is, they get them at all. What's more, the products they buy are not designed to last nor to give the maximum quality.

What happens is that GEC competes with Ferguson which competes in turn with Sanyo which competes with Sansui... Each of these firms has designers whose job is not to engineer the best possible product, but to get below the price of their rivals.

## Rubbish

To do this you have to cut corners and produce rubbish that lasts only a little while before it falls apart.

In a sane society we could put a stop to that. We'd design to last. We'd produce for the long term and we'd produce cheaply. The electronics revolution would see to that.

As a result all could enjoy the benefits of modern technology as of right.

I'll tell you how mad it is. When I work on an ordinary job, on goods to be sold in the shops, I work to a much lower specification than on something for the Ministry of Defence. It's war production that gets all the quality. Mere people get all the shit.

## Equipment

Take resistors, a vital little part in all equipment.

If a resistor is rated at 13 watts for commercial use, the Ministry of Defence will rate its capacity for use as up to 9 watts. They insist on quality, and of course fabulous, almost unlimited sums of public money are employed to pay for it.

What's it all for? Equipment that will hopefully never be used and which is in any case

by ROGER JONES (ASTMS)

totally wasteful. The skills and talents of me and people like me are squandered by this system of society. In a socialist society these skills could really help people.

We could design and produce the most marvellous domestic equipment. Every household could be provided with sophisticated house aids that would transform people's personal lives and relieve them of much drudgery.

Everyone would have the best quality cooking, washing and dishwashing equipment. These could be automatic, the sort of thing only wealthy people can afford right now.

## Tragic

But it doesn't end there. The computer revolution, the emergence of mini and micro computers, means that machines can run whole factories. Already this revolution is having some results.

But what are these? Redundancy and the dole queue for people like us and high profits for the boss.

That's what's happened at Rank Hovis McDougall in Selby. There the whole plant, working from raw wheat to milled flour, is run by a couple of people. They've computerised the operation and sacked everyone else.

In a sane society all the rotten jobs would be automated out of existence, but the result wouldn't be the scrapheap for those workers. It would be more leisure time, more freedom, more life for ordinary people. That's what socialism is about.

## CPSA members refuse to dole 'pigeonholes' plan

ON the dole? The government's Manpower Services Commission would like to pigeonhole you.

It has four categories from A, 'a good worker and desirable employee', to D, the lowest category, on the basis of three questions—your length of employment in past jobs, your job stability (whether you've left jobs for 'justified' reasons or not) and realism (whether they think you are being realistic about the type of job you want).

This they call the Job Category Scheme. Members

of the civil service union CPSA have been fighting it for two years.

A pilot project in 15 employment exchanges in North London had to be abandoned because CPSA members said they would put everyone in Category A, the highest placing.

## One Job

But the Manpower Services are still trying.

Mary Littlefield has been unemployed since she graduated from university last July. She's been offered only

one job—and didn't get that. She went on the Right to Work March.

Mary told Socialist Worker: 'This scheme is disgusting. Classification like this doesn't give people freedom to find jobs they want. We are being pressurised, categorised, told that we should uproot ourselves from our homes if we want to work.'

'I think the CPSA reaction is absolutely fantastic. It's a classic example of employed and unemployed working together. It shows that people in the union can help the unemployed.'

## OUR NORMAN



**HOSPITAL WORKER**  
CUTS IN THE RANK AND FILE PAPER  
**EVEN MORE CUTS**  
HASTIE THE TUC  
GONE MAD?  
HOSPITAL WORKERS  
RACKLE ON THE MUG

Hospital Worker, the rank-and-file paper for workers in the National Health Service, has been produced again as a national paper. For the last 18 months, it was replaced by a whole number of local Hospital Worker papers. But now, the government's cuts and the threat to jobs in the industry has made it essential to mobilise nationally. Hospital Worker is available from 15 Ethelton Road, London W12. Price 12p for single copies, or 50p for 10 (including postage).

Advertisement  
**Change of Address  
National Right to  
Work Campaign  
Rank and File  
Organising  
Committee  
have moved to  
THE RANK AND  
FILE CENTRE**  
265a Seven  
Sisters Road,  
London, N4

**THE COLLIER**, the rank and file miners' paper, is being published again. A group of miners in Barnsley have formed a provisional editorial board with the backing of the Rank and File Organising Committee and an issue has just come out.

Articles include warnings about NUM president Joe Gormley's attempts to kill the £100-a-week claim for faceworkers, and the threat of more pit closures. There is an interview with Dennis Skinner, chairman of the miners' group of MPs, who warns about the dangers of overtime working and coal stocks which now total 30 million tons.

Copies from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

# FIGHT FOR JOBS—STOP THE CUTS!

**BUSMEN** are now organising back against the savage cuts in services threatened in many areas.

Pete Glatter, a London busman, spoke to Socialist Worker about why supporters of the rank and file Platform paper are helping to set up a national Newsletter in the industry.

'In London we are launching a campaign against the 25 per cent fare increase in June', he said. 'This increase is part of the renewed drive for

## Busmen fight fare increases

100 per cent one-man operated buses by 1985. Every extra penny the conductor collects takes him one step nearer the dole queue.

'Outside London, the cuts include at least 113 jobs lost and a reduction in 1½ million miles of route covered by the

Eastern National.

'A 14 per cent fare increase in Glasgow in April, and the closure on 1 May of all days of the Bridgeton Garage with the loss of 138 jobs.

In Liverpool they are cutting 197 buses, seven million miles and 23 routes. But the

strikes against this in Liverpool and Glasgow have been effectively blacked out by the national press.

'So has the effective ban on one-man operation on Eastern National. The news of the fight back has also been blacked out of the TGWU

Record.

'That is why we need a national Newsletter to unite this resistance. We need to spread the news of how different areas are fighting back.

'After the second issue we hope to hold a national rank

and file meeting. The officials are too frightened to lead the fight back, and that means we are going to have to.'

□ **National Platform Newsletter**, 5p a copy. **NO BUS CUTS** stickers (plate donated by London busworkers) and **CUT FARES NOT SERVICES** stickers 25p for 100. Available from: 8 Buller Road, London, N17 9BH. Next London Platform meeting: Labour Room, 169-175 Romford Road, Forest Gate.

## Harlow workers fight wage cut

**HARLOW:** Workers at Standard Telephones and Cables are fighting wage cuts of up to £7 a week. STC is a subsidiary of the giant multi-national IIT, which last year made £800 million profit.

Not only are management refusing to honour the latest stage of a pay agreement settled last year, they are using the excuse of the £6 wage freeze to take back some of the increase already paid.

A one-day strike called on 30 March by Engineering Union shop stewards met with solid support.

Another mass meeting was planned for last Wednesday.

# CHILDREN'S NURSES FACE SACK

**DUNDEE:** Just one month ago 30,000 workers struck against the cuts. Now the Tayside Regional Council is sacking 50 nursery nurses.

Three new nursery schools, already built and fully equipped, will not be opened. Instead they will stand empty on three council estates, Menzieshill, Ardler, and Whitfield, where there are massive waiting lists for places.

In other nurseries, the number of staff looking after each child will be cut down. Thirty of the 50 nurses threatened with the sack are students. They were taken on by the council two years ago with the promise of a worthwhile and secure career. Now when they qualify in June, they will be sacked.

### MANCHESTER CORRECTION

We have been asked to point out that the references in SW 487 to Mr Billy Williams and a site meeting, and in SW 468 to Mr Williams as an advertised speaker at a public meeting, were inaccurate. The article and advertising were printed by us in good faith, but the first meeting did not take place and Mr Williams did not attend, nor has he agreed to speak at the second one.

### Notices and meetings

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

**EAST LONDON** Social organised by the East London Action Committee against Cuts and Unemployment, Saturday 10 April, 8pm-midnight, City of London Polytechnic Students Union, Aldgate East. Disco, bar, admission 50p.

**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION** Sunday 25 April—Against cuts in the NHS—Ban all private practice. Called by: National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS. Sponsors include: NALGO, Socialist Medical Association, NUS, AUEW District Committee, Sheffield. March from Uxbridge Park to Trafalgar Square, finishing with a rally. For further information and copies of mobilising literature posters etc, please contact Dr P Stern (secretary), 55 Bridge Lane, London NW11.

**NHS IN CRISIS, HOW TO FIGHT BACK.** For speakers on this subject or any other issue within the health service contact Bill Gaddes, 15 Etheldreda Road, London W12, 01-749 4834.

**THE COLLIER** Editorial Board is reformed. An issue will be out within the next three weeks. Contributions, information and orders from The Collier, 38 Cundy Cross, Barnsley.

**North West Regional Council TUC:** March against cuts in public expenditure and unemployment. Saturday 24 April, 1pm, AUEW office, The Crescent, Salford, to New Century Hall, for a meeting.

**Manchester Troops Out Movement** forums on Ireland.

Tuesday 13 April—British imperialism and Ireland.

Tuesday 27 April—The role of the army in Ireland.

Tuesday 11 May—Ireland and the British labour movement.

Tuesday 25 May—Why self-determination?

The Black Lion, Chapel St, Manchester 3. All meetings start at 7.30pm.

## Dundee pupils walk out

**DUNDEE:** 200 school pupils walked out of Lawside Academy last Thursday in protest against the stopping of school buses and concessionary fares.

An 80-strong deputation marched to the City Centre where they picketed the Education Department and the Regional Council offices.

Tory Councillor Nigel Law, who has been active in implementing the cuts throughout Tayside, told the deputation to blame the Labour government.

Meanwhile, school pupils under 16 face rises from 1p to 4p. Those aged 16 and over face a rise of between 7p and 10p.

When the number of buses is cut at the end of the month, many school pupils will have to join the already long queues for ordinary buses.

Many of them left school to become student nurses. They are now faced with the scrapheap at 18.

A public campaign to get the three new nursery schools opened up has been launched by Tayside Region branch of the local government workers' union, NALGO. NALGO is also committed to an overtime ban.

The local Right to Work Committee has already been out leafletting as part of the campaign.

Committee secretary Johnny Miller told Socialist Worker: 'A major stumbling block to the fight against the cuts is the lack of any effective body to unite trade unions in the public sector. No joint plans have been laid for action against the cuts when they occur.'

'Magnificent as the 5 March demonstration of 8000 in Dundee was, the real test of trade union organisation is just beginning.'

'If the council gets away with closing the nurseries and sacking the nurses, then more attacks will follow.'

'We must prepare to take strike action in support of the nursery nurses.'

## Students: All out on 14 May

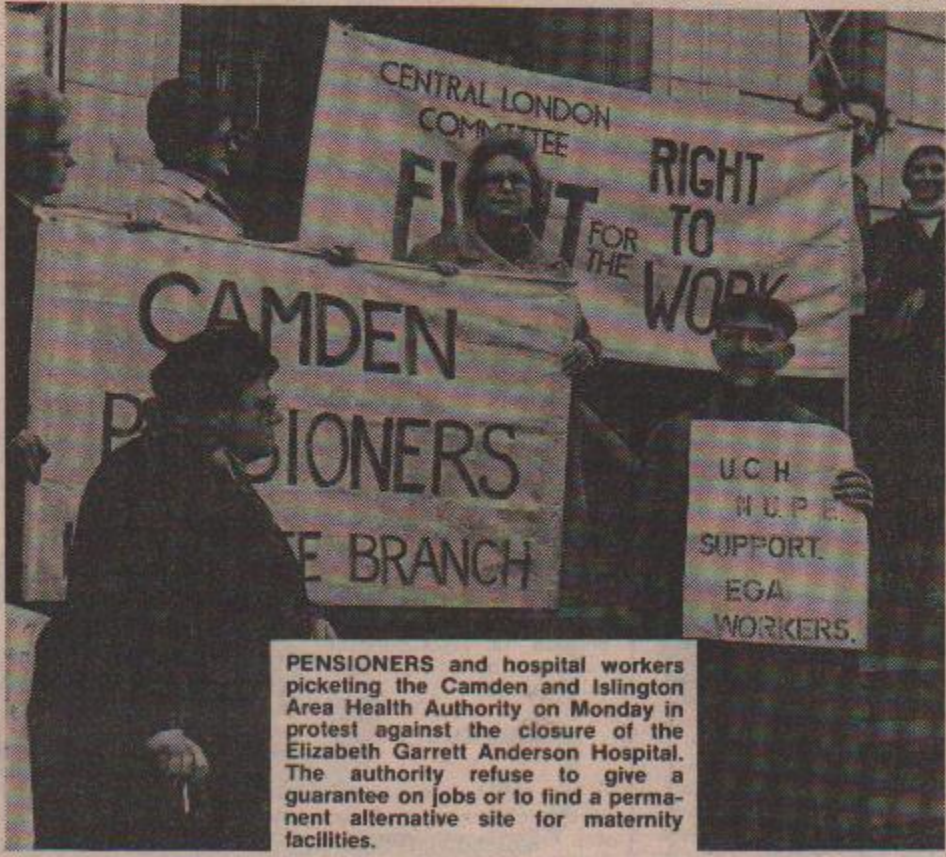
**STUDENTS** at Bristol University face the threat of victimisation. Last term more than 300 students were involved in an occupation over the demand for nursery facilities.

Now the authorities are taking advantage of the student vacation to move against selected individuals while the university is empty.

They are hoping to split the leaders away from the students, and to destroy any possibility of a fight back.

Bristol students will be moving an emergency resolution at this week's conference of the National Union of Students asking for support.

They are also calling for a national demonstration in Bristol on 14 May against victimisation. All members of NOISS and student readers of Socialist Worker should prepare support for it.



**PENSIONERS** and hospital workers picketing the Camden and Islington Area Health Authority on Monday in protest against the closure of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. The authority refuse to give a guarantee on jobs or to find a permanent alternative site for maternity facilities.

PICTURES: Laurence Spaham (FL)

## SANKEY BEATEN

**BILSTON:** GKN Sankey management have withdrawn a pay deal, negotiated over three months, after the final draft had been approved and accepted by the shop stewards' committee.

They put forward a new draft involving a progressive loss of threshold payments already negotiated.

We imposed day-to-day withdrawal of labour, section by section.

Within hours, management agreed to meet the original claim in full. What a try on—and what a complete victory for the solidarity of the workforce!

# It's not bloody good enough!

By Tim South, Chairman, St James Hospital NUPE Branch

'IT'S NOT bloody good enough.' That was Jeff Thompson's reaction when he heard that industrial action throughout all Leeds hospitals had been called off on the initiative of Reg French, the NUPE acting divisional officer.

Jeff is shop steward for the five window cleaners whose jobs management are trying to phase out and hand over to private contractors.

A few days earlier, he had

get now.

The men took a magnificent principled stand and turned the jobs down.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to start a policy of non-co-operation from the following week unless management agreed to continue employing the window cleaners and give an undertaking not to hand any further work out to contractors.

Although the phrase 'non-co-operation' could mean

anything or nothing, stewards at St James' had met and decided that the only action that would mean anything was a series of stoppages at busy times.

Management were panicking. They saturated the hospitals with a leaflet giving 'their side of the case' and described by one steward as 'a pack of lies'.

Then they went to ACAS—the government's Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, to try and prevent our action.

We thought we couldn't lose—but then Bro French managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

He pressurised the district chairman into unilaterally calling off the action on the grounds that ACAS wouldn't hear the case while our action was on.

# Trades Councils: The battle goes on

**THE BATTLE** against bans and proscriptions in Trades Councils continues. The TUC General Council has instructed all Trades Councils to adopt a new rule 14 which widens the description of banned organisations.

policies or activities are contrary to those of Congress.

### Support

Support for rank and file initiatives such as the 26 November demonstration or the Right to Work Campaign would inevitably fall into this category. So would support for the policy of a union which opposed the £6 pay limit which the

General Council has endorsed. Already the TUC has suspended Camden Trades Council.

SUFFOLK Association of Trades Councils voted to reject Rule 14 on Saturday. The vote was carried 6-3.

Ernie Potter, UCATT regional official and a member of the Communist Party, had argued that Rule 14 should be accepted since it was 'more progressive than the last one', which forbade trades councils

to support with funds the Communist Party or fascists.

The secretary ruled that the meeting could not go on, since the Association would have to be immediately disbanded.

In the end, he decided that all the delegates would have to take the issue back to their trades councils, get a mandate and vote again at the next Association meeting in three months' time.

**NORTHAMPTON:** A letter from Tim Graham, Secretary of the TUC Organisation and Industrial Relations Department, claims the Northamptonshire Association of Trades Councils cannot be represented at the Trades Councils Conference.

### Victim

This was a lie. He also tried to prevent any of the stewards involved from attending the ACAS hearing.

He claimed that the case of the porters victimised at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary last year was lost because the action they took was unconstitutional.

Of course, the real reason three men lost their jobs is because the officials thought they could get them reinstated by getting round a table with management instead of organising solidarity action from other workers.

### Action

We've succeeded in getting the stewards' meeting reconvened, and supporters of the rank-and-file paper Hospital Worker will be arguing at it to take action as we originally decided.

But we've lost a lot of momentum and many of our members are confused by French's manoeuvrings.

It is possible that our own officials have dealt a severe blow to rank and file organisation and effectively sabotaged our first real opportunity to fight against the cuts in Leeds.

ADVERTISEMENT

THE NATIONAL RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE  
THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN calls on all its supporters in London and the Home Counties to support the demonstration against the cuts in public expenditure in London

Sunday 25 April, 12.30pm, Hyde Park, London

And all its supporters in Manchester and the North of England to support the demonstration against the cuts in Manchester.

Saturday 24 April, 12.30pm, AUEW Office, The Crescent, Salford.

# WHY THE SU WORKERS LOST

**THE SU Carburettor strikers in Birmingham have been bludgeoned back to work.**

Bludgeoned by the press and television, who even held them responsible for the falling pound.

Bludgeoned by the leaders of their own union, who went out of their way to help the employers and preserve their beloved £6 wage limit.

Yet last week the toolmakers could have won.

The Leyland empire was grinding to a halt with toolroom workers out in Coventry and Llanelli.

But the Engineering Union leaders and employers isolated SU Carburettors and got the strike settled.

## DEFEND

Hugh Scanlon intervened personally to get the Triumph workers back to work, despite the opposition of the Coventry AUEW District Committee.

Management backed down over the Rover dispute and agreed that the pay anomaly would not arise again.

By the weekend only SU Carburettors was left. They were isolated and driven back to work.

If a truly powerful rank and file organisation existed in the motor industry, and in the engineering union, the strikers would not have been isolated.

Their case would have been put across to other workers in the Leyland empire and other workers outside. And what a case they have!

Before the £6 limit, the SU workers were promised parity with other toolroom workers in Jaguar, another part of British Leyland, where the rate is approximately £10 more.

Then, courtesy of the limit, Leyland were able to backtrack.

No matter that the SU toolmakers couched their demands in terms of craft and differentials. Here were workers moving into action against an aspect of the £6 limit and therefore worthy of every decent trade unionists support.

## DIRTY

What did Sir Edward McGarry, Leyland Triumph convenor in Coventry do?

He threatened to organise against the SU pickets and to ensure that they were broken.

He probably got the inspiration for this dirty trick from Hugh Scanlon's and Jack Jones' operations against the Chrysler electricians three years ago, an operation that signalled the annihilation of trade unionism at Ryton.

It's time a halt was called to such abominably anti-union behaviour.

The motor industry—and the engineering union—needs militants to get together to organise and fight.

Otherwise there will be more successful witch-hunting operations like the one at SU.

## BOOMING FACTORY CLOSED TO SAVE ON TAX

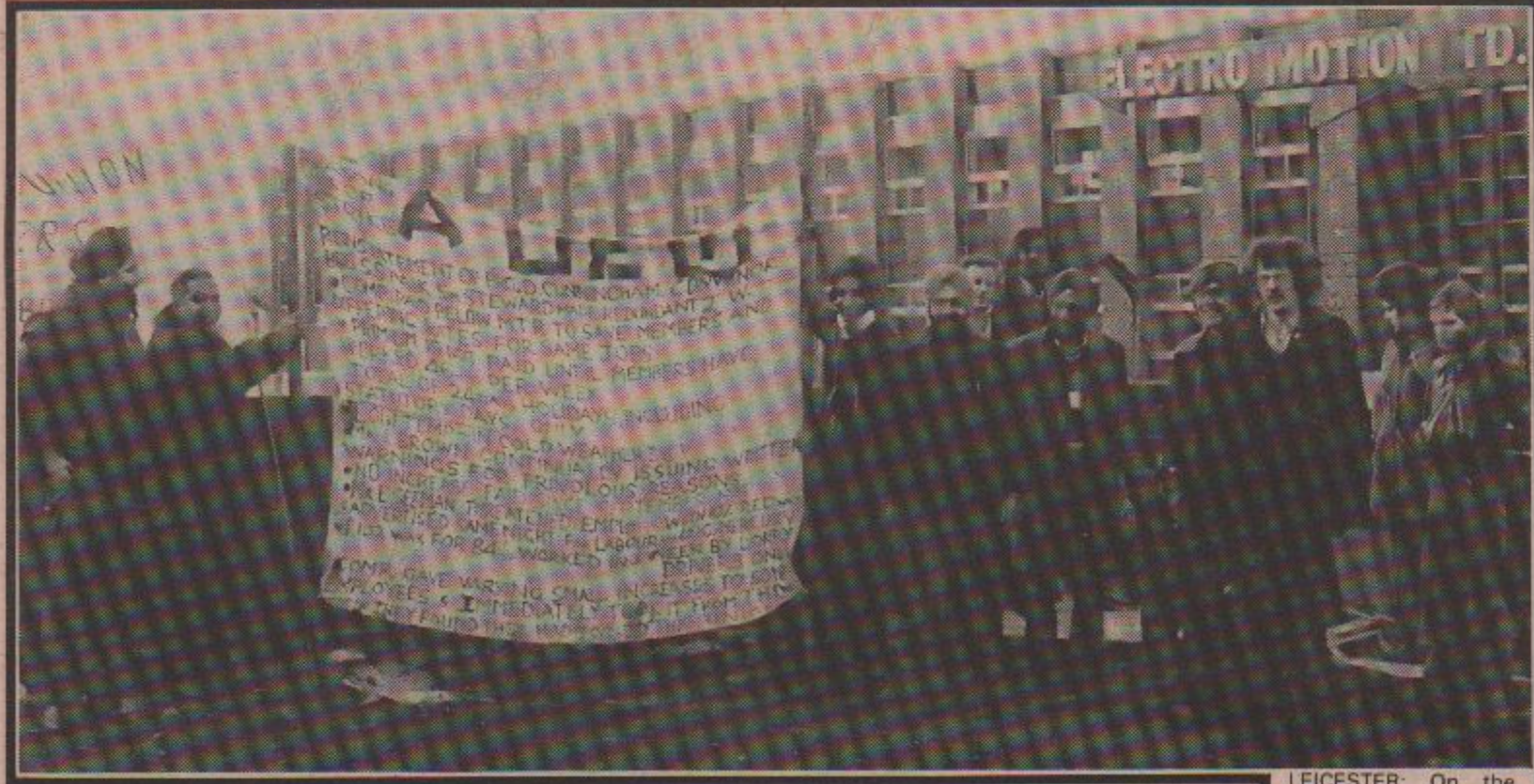
**TIPTON, West Midlands:** An action committee has been set up to defend the jobs of 130 workers at F H Lloyd, who have been told the factory is to be shut down.

There are none of the usual excuses. The factory has £½ million worth of orders from one source alone. The order book is full up until November.

## SHUT

Management say it is worth their while paying rent and rates for two years on an empty building rather than maintaining the jobs.

They have already shut two plants, at Jamesbridge and



## VICTIMISED!

By Ivan Crane, AUEW

**HALESWORTH:** Three leading trade unionists have recently been victimised at Howard Rotavator for their role over the past two and a half years in organising a strong shop floor organisation, and their leading role in an occupation last year in defence of jobs. The plant employs 500.

The workforce was put on a four day week in December. Management immediately announced they wanted another

## VICTIMISED—NOW A COURT CASE

**EALING:** In another attack on the right to picket, two trade unionists arrested during a dispute at Clansons typewriters have been ordered by magistrates not to 'loiter near the premises' so as to prevent them 'intimidating witnesses'.

This means they are not allowed to be on the picket line. One of the two, AUEW shop steward, Graham Watson, writes:

## Rotavators sack three militants

30 to go.

Without any negotiations, they issued a list of these 30, including the deputy convenor, a shop steward, and the secretary of the stewards' committee.

Four typewriter engineers, including myself, have been fighting for union recognition and for my reinstatement as steward after having been victimised.

On Tuesday 30 March, after 12 weeks on strike, we decided to step up the pressure by occupying our workplace. We didn't expect a long occupation, because of our limited numbers, but thought that two or three days' lost production

A mass meeting endorsed a work to rule. The militant sections walked out. Still the company refused to budge. They were determined these men should go.

Working is now back to normal, the company having restored five-day working and promised that everybody else's job is safe.

The shop stewards and the militant sections are bitter. Even militant plants are vulnerable in a crisis—beware!

would pressurise management into reinstating me and recognising the union.

After only three and a half hours, management smashed their way back in with the help of two lump building workers. This was achieved by demolishing an upstairs toilet window and door and smashing a downstairs door and frame with hammers and crowbars.

Once they were inside, we left peacefully and called off the picket of local trade unionists outside.

That evening, two detectives arrived at my flat and took two of us to Ealing police station for questioning. After three and a half hours at the cop shop we were charged with causing criminal damage to two second hand typewriters and an obsolete collator valued by them at £180.

We caused no damage to the property, where there were a large number of new typewriters worth more than £400 each. The only thing we are guilty of is defending our jobs with trade union rights.

We are due for trial at the Crown Courts on 6 May.

Donations and messages of support to Graham Watson, 72 Argyle Road, Ealing, London W13.

## 3-MONTH BID FOR EQUAL PAY

**GLASGOW:** The dispute at Cockburns Valves on the Hillingdon factory estate goes on.

The 45 members of TASS have been on strike for three months in their attempt to win equal pay for the women members.

Messages of support and donations to: Cockburns Valves strike committee, AUEW/TASS offices, 7 Ince Street, Paisley, Scotland.

## Leicester: 2000 in crucial Bentley strike

**LEICESTER:** The most important fight in the city for years entered its second week on Monday, 2000 workers in the Bentley Group of engineering factories are on indefinite strike, following the attempted victimisation of a convenor, Geoff Hill.

The Bentley workers are among the best organised in the district and have always set the pace on wages and conditions. For months, management have been trying to divide the workforce by selective short-time working.

This tactic has had less success at the New Bridge Street factory where Bro Hill is convenor. There the men decided that no one would work five days while others were on short time.

When Bro Hill and the 17 men on his section refused to work five days, they were sacked.

The same day, most of the other factories struck in support.

A mass meeting of the group workers and visits to other factories in the Clere empire are planned.

The Engineering Union District Committee is recommending that the strike be made official.

One of the most vicious aspects of this strike is the attacks of the local paper and radio.

Most of the press reports seem to be written by an Engineering Employers Federation spokesman.

If the employers can get away with sacking Bro Hill, they will have taken on one of the best-organised factories in the district and won.

Nobody would then be safe from victimisation.

Messages of support to Tom Aimes, Secretary, Bentley Group Stewards, c/o AUEW District Offices, Vaughn Way, Leicester.

## QUOTE

Although I have cut expenditure in many social fields, I have been increasing expenditures in the business field. The relief I have given business anywhere in the world during this period of high inflation. And very few manufacturing companies will be paying any tax at all in consequence this year.

—Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, interviewed in Business Week, 29 March, under the heading British Labour's Turn to the Right.

## Victimised—and then officials sell out

**NIGG, ROSS-SHIRE:** The strike by 2000 workers at Highlands Fabricators Oil Rig construction yard collapsed on Friday.

Full-time officials persuaded the shop stewards' committee to accept arbitration over the sacking of our convenor Bill Lindsay and the night shift steward Alan McBeath.

Only a week before, an overwhelming majority of the workers voted to strike until the two stewards were reinstated.

When one worker said at the next mass meeting that the return to work would destroy the strength of the shop stewards' committee, the construction union official, Bill Lafferty said: 'shop stewards' organisation and trade union credibility can always be built up again.'

## Women take on GEC

**ALDRIDGE:** 60 women strikers at Birlec, a GEC factory, are still out for equal pay. They share picket duties, turning back everything.

The struggle for equal pay with fellow office workers started in 1972 after the law on Equal Pay.

In 1973, the women—members of TASS—received £1.25 as a first contribution. In December 1974, when they asked for a grading structure, they were told they were already on one.

They were graded according to pay more like a wage band system in which the lowest two grades were only women and the lowest grade had only one man.

The men's lowest grade meant £8 more than the women's highest grade.

Their struggle would be greatly strengthened if the male office workers joined the picket line.

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Support!

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

## BROAD LEFT GETS TORY HELP TO WIN STUDENT ELECTIONS

**Llandudno, Tuesday:** TORY votes enabled the Broad Left to strengthen its hold on the executive of the National Union of Students this week. The Broad Left is an alliance of Labour and Communist Party students. It has always justified its compromising politics with talk of the need to 'keep the Tories out'. But in the elections for the NUS

president, the Tories advised their members to transfer their votes to the Broad Left candidate, Charles Clarke, a Labour Party member, so as to defeat the independent socialist, Hugh Lanning. The Tories' leaflet was headed: 'Clarke before Lanning' and argued: 'Clarke does lie nearer the politics of reason than does Lanning and hence we urge our supporters to vote (a)

Tory (2) Liberal (3) Broad Left'. In the elections for Deputy president and treasurer, the Tories did not even put up their own candidates but opted directly for the Broad Left candidates. This enabled the Broad Left to defeat Lanning in the election for treasurer by 14 votes. In the election for deputy president, the combined Broad Left-Tory vote of about 400

enabled the Broad Left candidate to defeat his principle opponent, member of the International Socialists, Tim Whitfield who got 176 first preference votes.

### Endorse

Sue Slipman, a Communist Party member of the Broad Left, won the secretaryship. Pete Gillard of the National Organisation of IS Societies (NOISS), got 112 votes. The willingness of the conference to endorse a militant policy was shown on Monday night, when they heard Cardiff electrician Pip Jones, from the Right to Work Campaign, His description of the Manchester to London march and of the police attack on the marchers was greeted with enthusiastic support.

### Strength

A collection of nearly £200 was taken for the defence fund. Later the conference overwhelmingly referred back the NUS executive's report on government economic policy because it had refused to support the Right to Work March.

NUS president, Charles Clarke tried to explain the executive's refusal to support the Right to Work Campaign by reading out the campaign's demands. As he read out each demand the conference delegates cheered their support.

### Attempts

The conference so far has shown that the Broad Left is losing its old strength and can only stay in office because the extreme right prefer it to the revolutionary left. But the revolutionary left itself has made a reasonable showing. The NOISS has more delegates than ever before.



## WOMEN'S VOICE

Latest issue out now. Special feature on Women's health and safety at work plus articles on the abortion campaign, unemployment among women, equal pay. 6p from your Socialist Worker seller or direct from Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

# BOYCOTT THE BAKER!

**THE Sayers family, owners of Sayers Bakeries, is openly insulting trade unionism on Merseyside.**

At the firm's West Derby bakery, all the engineers and electricians have been on official strike against victimisation and arbitrary sacking since 6 November last year. Every day for five months they have manned official picket lines. Sayers' reply has been to house some of the scabs in caravans behind the factory and to jeer at the pickets with offensive posters outside the factory.

## Directors £174,000 Wages £20 a week

SAYERS has six directors. T Sayer, J F Sayer, Mrs L C Sayer, F Sayer—and two strangers to the family, K J Lyon and G F Harrison. These six have become very rich, and adept at making more and more money from other peoples' labour.

YEAR	PROFIT	PAID OUT IN DIVIDENDS (Sayers family owns nearly all the shares)	DIRECTORS' SALARIES (for six directors)
1970	£297,720	£83,911	£82,258
1971	£283,827	£86,872	£80,585
1972	£328,331	£98,719	£87,336
1973	£337,011	£98,719	£118,799
1974	£36,588 loss	—	£180,478
1975	£108,209 loss	—	£174,382

Before you start crying about Sayers' loss over the past two years, notice that the directors paid themselves more than their losses in both years.

Also note that in 1975 a Sayers subsidiary, Golden Bake sold some property and 'paid back' £350,000 to its parent company. Partly as a result of this nice little property deal, the number of workers employed by Sayers went down from 2784 to 2460.

The average pay of these workers in 1975 was £1065 a year—that's £20.48 a week. The directors are on an average of £30,000 a year—£600 a week.

**It is time Sayers were taught a lesson.**

The strike started when a militant van driver who was leaving the bakery was pounced on by the company's 'security forces' and charged with stealing 76p worth of bacon and cheese from Sayers.

The other bread drivers, who were demanding a pay rise, saw this as blatant victimisation—and came out on strike. The engineers and electricians struck in support.

Later the same week, the van drivers voted to return, and the engineers and electricians agreed to go back to work after the weekend. But the management, furious at their solidarity action, insisted that all the men report for work at Sunday midnight.

This was pointless bullying. The men agreed to return on Monday morning.

Instantly, without consultation, Sayers sacked engineering steward Joe Connolly and two engineering workers, Don Chong and Sam Bentley.

The engineers walked out in sympathy. Some electricians followed.

Picket Mal Parris told Socialist Worker last week: 'We want full reinstatement of the three men, nothing more, nothing less.'

The strike has been declared official by the AUEW. Last month all AUEW members in Liverpool were instructed to come out on strike in support.

But the strike was botched. Notices went out to branches from the regional AUEW



The picket line at Sayers last week—with the management's jeering banner.

office only two days before it was due to start. The notices didn't even mention the mass demonstration called on behalf of the Sayers workers by the AUEW.

Small wonder the pickets feel they are not getting adequate support from the engineering officials.

Now the AUEW has called another mass strike, demonstration and picket throughout the city next Monday, 12 April. This time the pickets are determined not to let the matter slip.

Next Monday's action is crucial—not just for those pickets at Sayers but for all local workers in small factories whose managements would take heart from a Sayers victory.

## Merseyside: All out next Monday to aid Sayers workers

## Success for cake shop pickets

by BRUCE CATON

IT can be done—and it can work wonders.

Last Thursday Right to Work Campaigners in Kirkby picketed a Sayers shop in the town centre. Four or five people, working in two-hour shifts, kept the picket up all day. They gave out leaflets with the facts of the dispute, and asked people to boycott the shop.

The response was magnificent. More than four-fifths of

the potential customers refused to cross the picket line. Many women said they worked part-time in a local engineering plant and were paying a levy towards the Sayers strike fund.

One of the highlights of the day came when the manager, who gave his name as 'John Toshack', asked people on the pickets for their names and places of work. When he was politely refused this information, he sent for the police and was very impolite when they refused to move us on.

At closing time, the shop was still full of unsold cakes and rolls.

This action was being taken all over Merseyside. Everywhere, the Right to Work campaigners had as much success as we did. We will go on with this action until the management change their attitudes.

## COUNCIL BLACKS SAYERS BREAD

SAYERS can be fought outside the factories too. Last month Knowsley's Labour-controlled Council struck Sayers off its suppliers list. Bread and rolls for council staff and schools will be found elsewhere.

The motion to black Sayers was moved by an AUEW councillor—after pressure in his branch. Sayers also sell their goods through bakeries and confectionery shops throughout the North West. These go under the names Sayers, Family Bakers, Griffiths Confectioners (Chester), (Golden Bake).

Watch out for these shops. Get your local Right to Work Campaign to picket them. Let the people who buy goods in the shops know what a scabby lot the Sayers management are.

## Three reasons: Callaghan, asbestos and abortion

THREE good reasons why you should give a donation to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund this week.

First, James Callaghan. We are not going to join in the sickly praise for the Junta's man that you will have read in the Tory press. But you will find, if you look through the back issues of Socialist Worker, the run-

ning story of his connection with Cardiff financier Julian Hodge.

It was Socialist Worker that first told, back in February 1973, how Callaghan was going round Labour MPs trying to sell them shares in Hodge's Commercial Bank of Wales.

Second, asbestos. The press has just discovered that asbestos dust has been killing workers wholesale.

Socialist Worker, together with Granada TV, broke the story of the murder factory in Hebbden Bridge way back in 1971.

For five years we exposed the lies of asbestos firms and the factory inspectors.

Finally, last week's abortion demonstration. If you relied on the national press you would never know that thousands of people demonstrated last weekend.

But Socialist Worker can only publish such stories because of the funds that flow into our office every week from our readers. The bigger the contributions and collections you send to us, the more we can expand our news coverage and expose the evils of the present system.

The total received this week was: £131.44. Donations received included North

London District IS £15, T M Hill £5, T Tull £5, Ormskirk SW supporters £1.42, Cramlington SW supporters £1.80, D Smith, Torquay 50p, Manchester NATHE SW supporters £4, Hammersmith SW supporters £1.40

Donations and collections should be sent to: Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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