

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

I was terribly shocked in prison. I just cried all the time.

—ELSIE CARRICK, 63, who lives on a pension of £15 a week

# JAILED—FOR BEING POOR



BILL JACKSON, 73 ... he couldn't pay his rates

SAVE OUR HOSPITALS See pages 8 & 9



A FEW WEEKS AGO, John Howe, leader of Stockport's Tory Council, boasted that his Officials had been able to identify the town's scroungers and that plans were ready for a 'crackdown'.

Well, the 'crackdown' has now begun. So far, it has involved the jailing of two pensioners, one aged 63 and one aged 73, for non-payment of rates.

It has involved the eviction of four homeless families with young children out of a council hostel and onto the street.

And just to round it off, 18 other people who haven't been able to pay their rates are so frightened by Howe's policies that they have gone on the run to avoid being put in jail.

*The first working class person to fall victim to the Stockport savages was 73-year-old pensioner Bill Jackson.*

Bill, disabled after being knocked down in an accident, gets £21.14 a week.

He's so poor that he couldn't pay his rates.

The Stockport Tories had a novel 'solution' to his problems. They refused his

**As jobless total soars, a victory for the 'anti-scrounger' campaign**

offer to pay £5 a week and stuck him in jail.

He would still be there were it not for well-wishers who paid off the £164 arrears.

After Bill, came 63-year-old widow Elsie Carrick.

She gets £15.38 a week to feed herself, the sort of sum John Howe would spend on a lunch for one of his business colleagues.

She couldn't pay £284 rates. Food prices are rocketing, heating going up.

*So they stuck her in jail.*

She'd be still there if friends and neighbours hadn't had a whip round and paid off her arrears.

This is what Elsie had to say about being freed from jail:

'I've worked all my life and never been in trouble. I just can't afford to pay the bills and stay alive.'

'I was terribly shocked in prison. I just cried all the time.'

## VERMIN

Elsie and Bill's crime was that they are poor, poor despite the fact they've worked all their lives, poor because all their lives they've enriched vermin like John Owen and his pals.

The savagery of Stockport is the predictable outcome of the vicious anti-scrounger campaign conducted by the press, the National Association For Freedom and the Labour government.

None of these people care a damn how much heartache, how much misery, they bring to working class people.

They'll happily put defenceless old people in jail.

And they'll go on doing so until the Labour Movement in the Manchester area and beyond shows them the door.

## WILL YOU SACRIFICE...JUST A LITTLE?

THE SOCIALIST Workers' Party received a letter this week which moved us all.

It came from Walton prison, Liverpool, and it contained three pounds and a 50p piece.

The money was sent to the Party Building Fund at the request of Prisoner 726101, Billy Castley.

Billy is secretary of the Skelmersdale Unemployed Action Committee and took part in both Right to Work marches last year.

■ ■ ■

This month he was sent to prison for 'assaulting' a policeman who couldn't remember in court what part of his body had been hit.

Billy sent us his entire income

from his first three weeks in prison plus the coins he had in his pocket when he was taken in.

Lots of other people have responded to our urgent call for money to help build the Socialist Workers Party.

This week we've raised £798 which is nearly a record for a single week.

It shows that the £30,000 target is not that far away. At this rate, we can be there in no

time.

But we must keep the funds flowing in.

■ ■ ■

Our thanks to: M Postlethwaite £4, Lea Valley SWP District £50, North London District £88, Sheffield £16, Inner East London £150, Outer East London £50, Walthamstow £10.50, K D Harding £5, SW Supporters £2, Mid Herts SWP 50p, J B White £3, £3, T Broadsmith (retired) 20p and 35p, V Bitrod £1, Harlow SWP £1, South West London £1.60, Aberdeen supporter £100.

Jim Mudge £5, Sheffield City Poly £6.60, Halifax £5, Coventry £4, South West London supporters £40, Manchester £2.50, Brixton Tube readers £5.41, Manchester SWP removals £1, Edinburgh SW Discussion group 80p.

George Davis, Bolton unemployed, 25p, Ms S Shinya £5, Pontefract SWP £40, Central London £101.01, Stockport SWP £10, Unknown, Notting Hill, £4, Dundee SWP £6.30, SWP supporters for anti-cuis campaign, Bears Engineering, Dudley, £8.75.

□ Please rush donations and collections to The Treasurer, SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# Abortion: This attack must be fought

WOMEN are again under attack from anti-abortionists. A new Bill is going through parliament which will mean a return to backstreet abortion for thousands of women if passed.

The Abortion Act—inadequate as it is—will be curtailed still further.

That is why we need to build opposition to the new Bill now. It's no good waiting until the Bill is law.

We must revive the opposition to the previous James White Bill fast, to show that working women and students won't stand for these attacks on abortion rights.

Unfortunately the National Abortion Campaign (NAC) seems to be doing little to mobilise opposition to the Bill. It is calling for a con-

by **LINDSEY GERMAN**  
SWP student organiser

ference in March and a demonstration in May as the way to fight.

The anti-abortionists aren't going to wait four months for NAC to move into action. The Bill may well be passed by then.

That is why Women's Voice and the National Organisation of IS Societies have called a demonstration for the day of the Bill's second reading in parliament—Friday 25 February—in London. There has to be militant opposition to the Bill that day as the start of a massive campaign in the months ahead.

We would prefer NAC to be

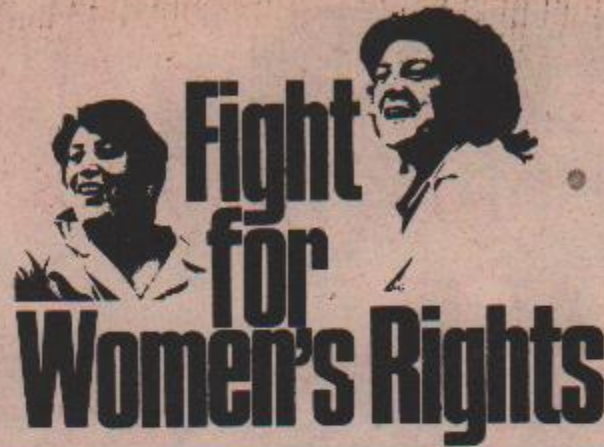
calling that demonstration—but since it is not, we are going ahead anyway. We expect backing from some students unions, trade union bodies and women's groups—and some local NAC groups.

NAC claims to some supporters that it is calling a lobby for the day before the second reading—yet denies this to other supporters. This can only split the campaign and cause confusion. We will support any demonstration

called by NAC—as we have in the past.

We ask NAC to overcome any sectarianism and support the demonstration on 25 February, as a genuine attempt to rebuild a militant abortion campaign.

□ On Tuesday, the University of East Anglia Students Union voted to support the 25 February demonstration and to send a coach.



## RETURN TO THE DAYS OF STALIN?

THE PRESS this week pumped new depths in its vicious campaign against 'Trotskyists'—by which they mean all revolutionary socialists.

The Guardian gave a whole page to a speech by Education Minister Shirley Williams, in which she denounced Trotskyists for believing in 'violence'.

Mrs Williams supported the violence of the Americans military machine in Vietnam throughout that long horrendous war.

The Mirror spoke of the 'Rape of Labour' by secret organisations that were infiltrating the Labour Party and trade unions. Not a mention that these 'secret organisations' publicly produce and sell newspapers that make no secret of their aims.

Or that the Labour movement has long been infiltrated by organisations of the right.

### WHAT WE THINK

But the most amazing attack on the revolutionary left came in The Times. It was by Max Morris, a man who has long experience of writing such attacks—because he began in the 1930s when Stalin was murdering 'Trotskyists' wholesale in Russia.

Morris, recently left the Communist Party.

Morris attacks the Socialist Workers Party (IS) for 'attacking democracy'. But this fake democrat, a past president of the National Union of Teachers, has recently been involved in disciplining union executive members for 'breaches of confidentiality'—for telling union members what goes on at meetings.

Morris claims to be most troubled about the threats to race relations. But the threat for him is not from bad housing, unemployment, Enoch Powell and the National Front. Again the threat is the revolutionary left.

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

# Why Amber, 5, has to live in hiding

**AMBER OGHOUZ, a five-year-old Cypriot girl, is today in hiding.**

She is being hidden from racist police and immigration officials who are trying to deport her and her half-Turkish half-Greek mother, Zehra.

**Leyland told: 'End this test'**

by **FRANK HENDERSON**  
Sheet Metal Workers shop steward, British Leyland Longbridge.

WORKERS at British Leyland's Longbridge plant in Birmingham are campaigning for the abolition of a 'progression test' which management uses to keep black workers in the lower grades.

Workers employed in lower grades, such as labourers, body loaders and cleaners, have to take the progression test before they can be transferred into the main grade of production.

The test consists of a few questions designed to determine that the worker has what the firm calls the required minimum education standards, plus a manual dexterity test.

Most black workers are concentrated in the lower grades at Longbridge. And they are convinced that the test is being used to keep them there and maintain a system of second-class workers.

Black workers who took up the struggle against the tests quickly found that their views were shared by white workers. Any scheme that left management as sole judge could be used to discriminate against anyone who showed himself a militant trade unionist.

It is of crucial importance that the campaign gains the support of the powerful shop stewards movement at Longbridge.

Zehra is imprisoned at London's Heathrow Airport, separated from her husband, son or daughter.

The family was split during the 1974 war on Cyprus, when Zehra's husband, Osman, was sent to the Turkish half of the island because he was a Turkish Cypriot. Zehra and her daughter had to remain in the Greek half.

Osman and his son came to Britain in September 1975 as refugees. Their dream was to reunite their family.

### Misery

Osman Oghouz is still waiting for an answer from the Home Office as to whether he will be allowed to stay permanently in Britain.

But his wife and daughter, like himself, refugees from the misery of dismembered Cyprus, were admitted only on the scandalous basis that they did not live with him!

Instead they had to live at a friend's house. And they were told they must renew their visa every week.

On 15 January Mrs Oghouz was lured to Heathrow Airport to renew her visa. She was locked up without warning and told that she would be immediately deported.

Officials said that she had no case to extend her stay in Britain and that she would be sent to the south of Cyprus!

### Brutal

When it was pointed out that she had nowhere to go there, the officials suggested that she should stay in a hotel. Her husband was told to bring their daughter and their belongings to the airport.

Again, Britain's brutal and inhuman immigration laws are dividing a family and hitting at a defenceless child.

This is only one example of a daily toll in the Cypriot community, and indeed in all the other immigrant communities.

There are at least 200 people in Pentonville alone, awaiting deportation. Every one of those 200 is a personal tragedy: a divided family, people being sent back to homelessness, unemployment—and desperation.

These tragedies strongly underline the socialist case against all immigration controls. While any immigration controls remain, bureaucrats and racist officials will have the power to kick ordinary people around.



Osman Oghouz brings his five-year-old daughter Amber briefly out of hiding.

To anyone who wants a 'humane' immigration policy, we have to say: 'Who will you keep out or kick out? The blacks, the Asians, the Jews? And who will decide?'

Once you agree to any immigration controls, you are accepting that someone will be kept out. You are accepting that immigrants should take the blame for the ruling class's inability to feed, clothe, house and provide jobs for the people who live in Britain.

Until we manage to unite all workers of Britain, of all nationalities, to fight against all immigration controls, the misery and despair forced on children such as Amber will continue to be a daily event.

**Stop the Deportations! Free the Refugees!**

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Wednesday 2 February, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7. Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot, English speakers.

**DEMONSTRATION:** Saturday 5 February, assemble 2pm, opposite Haringey Civic Centre, Wood Green, High Rd, N22 (near Wood Green tube). March through Cypriot community to Newington Green. (North London, Lea Valley, Central London and Inner East London districts SWP to support).

## Borstal for anti-Relf protester

by **AZIM HAJEE**

THE PUBLIC has a right to protection from people like you—with these words 18-year-old Hubert Thompson was given six months to two years Borstal last week.

His 'crime'? Like thousands of others he demonstrated his contempt for Robert Relf, the notorious Nazi. Hubert is unemployed and black.

Now Relf roams free,

gleefully awaiting the parliamentary election in Birmingham Stetchford so that he can further spread his racist venom. Meanwhile one of his opponents does a term in Borstal.

Hubert joined the anti-Relf demo as it came through Handsworth in Birmingham in the summer. Outside Winson Green Prison police tactics caused chaos.

They arrested Hubert an hour later two miles away—supposedly for throwing bricks at the police station.

Hubert was beaten up at the police station and a false confession extracted.

At his first trial in Coventry the jury couldn't reach even a majority verdict on any one of the counts. A retrial was ordered.

At this the jury twice returned without a unanimous verdict and then finally brought in a majority verdict of guilty.

Hubert is to appeal. So far the Handsworth 28 Defence Committee have received tremendous moral and financial support from trade unionists, particularly from the Asian foundry workers in the area. We must now launch a Free Hubert, Thompson Campaign.

□ Information, petitions, draft resolutions from the Defence Committee, Lozells Social Development Centre, Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20.

## CHINGARI OUT NOW!

THE Punjabi language issue of Chingari comes out this week, produced by Southall branch SWP members and supporters. It is four pages and priced at 5p.

The features in this issue are 1976—The Year Race Hate Turned To Murder, the immigrant unemployed nurses, an interview with Leila Fernandes, the wife of the jailed trade union leader in India, and a critical look at the Asian Youth movements by Balwinder Singh, chairman of the Gravesend Asian Youth Organisation.

I appeal to all members and supporters of the SWP to help sell these papers. In one weekend in Southall and Shepherd's Bush we sold 230.

□ Extra copies, phone 01-995 2744.

# This little Hitler must be stopped!



IF THE LAW SAYS IT CAN'T DO IT -RANK AND FILE ACTION CAN!

TO CALL Enoch Powell's speech last Friday an incitement to racial hatred would be too mild. More accurate would be to describe it as Hitlerite ravings straight from a Nuremberg rally.

Every word was designed to encourage the prejudices that divide white workers from black workers, even to bring closer the 'civil war' of white worker against black worker that Powell claims is 'inevitable'.

Yet it seems the powers-that-be do not want to prosecute Powell under the Race Relations Act. They claim it would be counter-

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

productive, turning Powell into a popular martyr.

There could hardly be clearer proof that you can't rely upon the courts to deal with racism, as Socialist Worker has always argued.

But that does not prove there is nothing you can do about Powell.

Powell was shut up a few weeks back. He was appearing on the radio

programme Any Questions speaking to an audience of hundreds of thousands. The programme was being made in Basingstoke.

Local anti-racists, including members of the Socialist Workers Party shouted him down and stopped broadcasting for more than five minutes.

We were denounced at the time,

by people who said we should rely on the law to deal with incitements to racism. Yet now we are told the law cannot do this job.

If such people are honest in their claim that they want to stop incitement to racial hatred and violence, they should reconsider their views and join us in using direct action to prevent Powell and the racists from spreading the poison.

Incidentally, the government and the police not only say it would be counter-productive to prosecute Powell. They also insist on protecting his meetings. Twenty police were present on Friday to protect his right to break the race Relations Act with impunity.



## WHOSE SIDE IS SHE ON?

THE most disgusting reaction to Powell's speech came from Maureen Colquhoun, until now regarded as a 'left wing' Labour MP. She claimed that 'Powell is not a racist' and that he has a 'case to be considered.'

And for once, this was not a case of misquotation by the press.

We have said in the past that there are no depths to which a Labour MP would not go to get votes. But even we were stunned as Ms Colquhoun's statement. There should be no room for people like that in the Labour movement.

Ms Colquhoun did not turn up to attend the meeting of the left-wing Tribune group of MPs on Monday. But if that group takes seriously their own claim to be socialists and anti-racist, she should not be invited to their meetings.

## Support builds up for Liaison conference

SUPPORT for next month's conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions is beginning to build up. Credentials have already been granted to shop stewards committees at Ford, Dagenham, Ambrose Shardlows in Sheffield, Magnatex in West London, GEC Openshaw, and the Merseyside docks.

The Right to Work Campaign has repeated its call for its supporters to get backing for the conference, with resolutions calling for:

- A one-day strike against

the cuts on Wednesday 23 March.

□ Support for all industrial action against the cuts and the Social Contract.

□ Support for the National Right To Work Campaign march from Skelmersdale to London in April.

□ Support for the quashing of the prison sentences on the Right to Work marchers.

□ For a coordinating committee between the Liaison Committee, the Right to Work Campaign and the organisers of last year's Assembly on Unemployment to organise joint activity.

A familiar sight. 15p a pound for spuds. 20p a pound for greens. Even turnips are 12p a pound.

The government last week let out details of how much prices have risen. Just two and a half years ago, potatoes cost only 3p a pound, greens only 6p a pound.

In the same period, milk has more than doubled in price, as have butter, onions, lamb, beef, tea and coffee.

What has caused these increases? Not wages. They've been frozen throughout most of this time.

The employers have caused some of the increases through increasing their profits.

The government has caused others through cuttings subsidies on bread, butter, cheese, tea, milk.

Yet now the government and the employers are saying we need to have another round of wage controls.

The bosses' organisation, the CBI, is saying the biggest pay rise—and this only after increased productivity—must be 6p in the pound. Not enough to catch up with the price of potatoes, let alone anything else.

Picture: PHIL McCOWAN

## Zimbabwe: Aid the freedom fighters!

THE COLLAPSE of attempts to get an agreement in Rhodesia show there is only one way to end the racist regimes in Southern Africa—by physical overthrow.

The talks broke down because the highly privileged white minority insisted on maintaining control of the police, the army and 'law and order'. What this meant was the shown last week when eight supporters of the so-called 'moderate' black party, the Rhodesian ANC, were hanged.

Quite rightly, the black freedom fighters will not accept this. It would have meant accepting that the vast majority of black people would always be oppressed, even with a majority of black faces in the government.

There is only one thing that will stop a long and bloody war in Rhodesia—the rapid military victory of the black liberation forces. It is the duty of socialists in Britain to do everything in our power to hasten that victory.

- Support the Southern



SOLIDARITY BADGE: Southern Africa—Victory to the Freedom Fighters! Red, black and white. 15p plus 6p postage, £1.50 for ten post free, £10 for 100. International Dept, IS, 6 Coltons Gardens, London E2

Africa Solidarity Campaign. (affiliations to 101-103 Gower Street, London WC1.)

- Win support for the freedom fighters, including financial support to help them buy arms, within the trade union and student movements.

- Support the national demonstration called by Anti-Apartheid on 6 March in London.

\* Socialist Worker apologies to readers and members of the SWP who received their copies a day late this week. This was due to a breakdown of the typesetting computer.

AC ARTISEMENT

The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade unionists to support

THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF TRADE UNIONS

CONFERENCE

in London on Saturday 26 February

Fight to make sure your trade union organisation sends delegates to the conference. Credentials from Brother Jim Hiles, LCDTU, 137 Wanstead Park Road London.

**IF YOU THINK JACK JONES IS BAD, LOOK AT THE TWO MEN IN LINE FOR HIS THRONE**

**'WE ARE the infant of a socialist party which can transform society.'**

That's from the new Socialist Workers' Party pamphlet *Why You Should be a Socialist*.

Standing outside a factory gate in the dark on a wet Friday morning, and selling perhaps half a dozen Socialist Workers, the thought of that statement is enough to send a shiver down the spine of the most committed SWP member.

**Crux**

So why do we bother? It's a question worth asking. —And one that I bet enters the head of many members as they lie in bed on Saturday mornings, contemplating whether or not they are 'well enough' to go and spend an hour or two

# Build the paper, build the Party

BY JOHN LARKHAM  
SW Circulation Manager



selling papers on the local high street.

The question cannot be fully answered in a few sentences. But the crux of it lies in the chasm between our own small organisation and the 'socialist party which can transform society.'

As Tony Cliff put it in his Socialist Worker article a few months ago: 'When we sell Socialist Worker the aim is

not by any means only to raise 10p or even make propaganda.

'Above all it is to organise round out politics.

**Red-hot**

'Our organisation must become an accepted part of workers lives where they work and where they live.'

And that's a whole lot easier

said than done.

In the autumn of 1974, our organisation wrongly expected that workers would continue the militancy of the late 60s and early 70s, militancy that made the political climate red-hot.

In the week of the February 1974 general election, we printed 52,000 copies of SW and more than three-quarters of them were sold.

But Labour's social con-trick put a stop to that militancy, cutting workers' standards of living and at the same time defusing the fight back against the crisis of the system which spawned it.

**Sly**

The con-trick worked, but even the slyest con-men get their come-uppance in the end. The emergence over

the last six months of an unco-ordinated and, in many cases, bitter fight-back against the cuts, unemployment and shrinking wage packets, has virtually forced us, as an organisation, to take the bold step of building a Socialist Workers' Party.

We need to recruit and build upon the opposition which is beginning to show and will surely develop in the coming months and years.

Our paper is the most important weapon we have in doing that. Each week is packed out with our politics, with workers' reports of their struggles, with the arguments that our members and supporters use in their workplaces and dole-queues to combat the propaganda machine of the bosses' papers and television stations.

It is no coincidence that the branches and districts of our party which have the best organisation of, and heaviest emphasis upon, selling Socialist Worker have been ones to recruit heavily over the last six months. For example, sales in Clydeside have doubled since the summer—and about 80 new members have been recruited.

**Repeat**

Fifteen months ago a member moved to Chester and started organising around the paper. There are now 16 members in Chester, five of them in one major factory. It is possible to repeat these successes again and again. For the future of the cause, it is essential that we do.

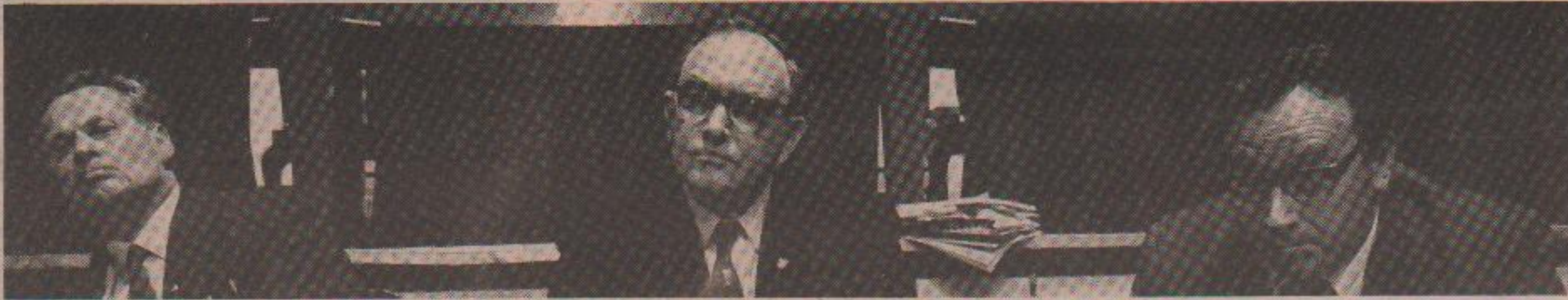
Last November's Socialist Worker Organisers conference voted to:

- **BUILD** sales to the level of ten for every member.
- **GET** the paid sale steady at 75 per cent of all papers ordered. For the past year the price of SW has stayed constant at 10p. But costs have rocketed, so a high paid sale is vital if we are to keep the cover price down.

Every 10p you return to the Socialist Worker circulation department is vital.

One District has a rule about returning to the organisers every unsold copy of the paper. They find this increases accountability, and supplies a pool of back copies for canvassing estate sales.

We're out to reach our targets by March. Once again that is easier said than done.



**NEXT MONTH**, members of the Transport Union will start voting for the union's only full-time elected post: General Secretary.

Jack Jones, the most powerful figure in the Labour and trade union movement, is due to retire.

While his members have been suffering from the dismantling of the health and education service, Jones has been increasing his influence on the national political scene by propping up a rotten Labour government.

But he has only been able to do so because of the power of the TGWU—and the lack of democracy within it.

**POWER**

When the union was formed in 1922, Ernie Bevin, who masterminded it, made sure that the General Secretary would be all-powerful.

In his early years as general secretary, Jones advocated power to the rank and file, particularly through plant bargaining.

Yet Ford convenors are a minority on their national negotiating committee, which is dominated by full-time officials.

This position was fully

exploited in 1971. The officials imposed a sell-out and a secret ballot after a solid nine-week strike by Ford workers.

Two years later, Jones, along with Hugh Scanlon of the Engineering Union, instructed Chrysler workers to work on machines and tracks maintained by blackleg labour. This was in response to an official electricians union strike at the plants. The effects damaged trade union organisation at the Chrysler Stoke plants so much that there was little chance of a fight back against 8000 sackings three years later.

**POISON**

Most black trade unionists are members of the T&G yet the union's record on racism is pathetic.

Apart from the odd Record article, the union has never seriously attempted to combat the poisonous racist ideas of the Press. Enoch Powell and Nazi organisations.

A concerted campaign is needed against racist ideas within our ranks, and anyone who persists in belonging to a Fascist organisation should have his or her union card removed. The coming election, in which, there will be nearly a dozen candidates, is unlikely to produce any change in policies.

Moss Evans, who was in the



TOP: The big three—Harry Urwin, Jack Jones and Moss Evans, and ABOVE what they fear most—the rank and file

**GERRY JONES**, TGWU shop steward at Chrysler Stoke, reviews the new Right to Work pamphlet on the TGWU

thick of the Ford sell-out, looks likely to win but the beginnings of a rank and file movement within the union is on the cards.

That is why socialists should support the rank and file candidate, Tommy Riley.

The pamphlet is an important contribution to the election because it brings together different experiences from different people up and down the country.

The important issues of unemployment, the Social

Con-Trick and racism have to go alongside the demands for rank and file control of the union. The success of Tommy Riley's election campaign will be measured by the building of a rank and file movement which will fight on these issues.

Tommy Riley offers the platform for the Right to Work Campaign. If you get involved, I'll see you at the TGWU Right to Work Campaign rally in Manchester on Saturday 26 March.



## T&G

### Who Rules?

New Right to Work Campaign pamphlet out now!  
Send orders to 254A Seven Sisters Rd. N4. 10p + 8½pp. Orders over 10 post free.

# WHERE WE STAND



**INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:**

The workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

**REVOLUTION NOT REFORM**

The present system cannot be patched up, or reformed, as the established Labour and trade union leaders say. It has to be overthrown.

**THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD**

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling classes against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and

a workers' militia.

At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

**INTERNATIONALISM**

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

**If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 16.**

**Sales**

But here are some suggestions from the circulation department.

• The SW Organisers' Conference agreed that accountability was one of the keys to ensuring properly organised paper sales. Every branch should have a SW organiser.

Branches of more than a dozen or so should have more than one person responsible for organising around the paper.

• Use a planned approach to building sales. Don't try to expand in every area—street, factory and estate—at once.

• Give progress reports at all branch meetings. Discuss the problems and how they can be overcome.

• Discuss what stories you can find for the paper that will take the paper into your area.

• We need above all to put the emphasis back on factory and workplace sales as the industrial struggle grows.

We can, if we organise properly, vastly increase the sales and effectiveness of Socialist Worker.



# The vital aid 150,000 are denied—because they are women

**150,000 WOMEN** are being denied a Government grant for looking after hopelessly disabled relatives.

The grant is available to men, but not to women—because they are women.

It was introduced by the Labour government last year—the first year of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Barred from the invalid care allowance, now £9.20 a week, are married women, women 'cohabiting' with men, and separated or divorced women who are getting maintenance.

## Tumour

This outrage has been brought to light by the horrible case of Drew McMahon, a young Glasgow journalist.

In the summer of 1974, while he and his wife Heather were on honeymoon, Drew was struck down with an advanced brain tumour.

Today, after numberless operations, he is almost completely paralysed. He has lost

### If you are a woman

You cannot get invalid care allowance if you are:

- married and living with your husband; or
- separated from a husband who contributes at least the amount of the allowance (currently £7.90 a week) towards your maintenance; or
- living with a man as his wife.

—from the Social Security leaflet, Invalid Care Allowance.

almost all his memory, and he has no control of his bowels.

Heather gave up work to look after him. She and his parents, Andy and Catherine McMahon, battled against terrible odds.

Their patient needed complicated treatment almost every hour. He takes 80 steroids a day, and his body has bloated from ten stone to 17.

The bills, especially the laundry bills, mounted up. Heather heard of the new invalid care allowance, and applied for it.

A local tribunal in Glasgow, chaired by John Walker, a member of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, and chairman of Glasgow Trades Council, unanimously agreed that she should get the money.

In November, Heather received a cheque for £118 representing the first three months of her allowance.

The Department, representing the Labour government, appealed against the tribunal's

decision—on the grounds that Heather was married and 'should have been at home anyway'. The Appeal was heard in Edinburgh by Commissioner D Reith.

On 5 January, he announced his decision: Heather McMahon was *not* entitled to the money. All payments ceased. When Andy McMahon wrote in protest, he was told: 'You are not entitled to correspond with the Commissioner'. There is no appeal.

### Test case

Andy McMahon says: 'The Department used us as a test case. They didn't want to open the floodgates for thousands of other women to get this allowance.'

'But it's the women who need the allowance.'

'I can't understand how they managed to bring in this new benefit while banning it from the majority of people who need it.'

A spokesman for the

Department of Health and Social Security told Socialist Worker: 'We just couldn't afford to give this to everyone. We felt the married women should be the ones to be cut out first. We're operating under considerable economic constraints, as you know'.

The 'saving' to the DHSS by cutting Heather's invalid care allowance is £9.20 a week.

The cost of hospital treatment for a man of Drew McMahon's condition is £90 a week.

## PAUL FOOT

□ Sheila Arthur, for the Socialist Workers Party women's paper, *Women's Voice*, said:

'These regulations can and must be changed. Anyone who wants to help us fight in Glasgow should get in touch with me at 64 Queen Street.'



'We felt married women should be cut out first.' —DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

# FOR ONCE, A BOOK ABOUT TRUE SOCIALISM...

By Billy Williams, EETPU

easily forget.

The crisis, past and present, the Russian revolution, the permanent arms economy, the corrupt trade union bureaucrats, the parliamentary road to socialism, the power of the rank and file, and finally the need for a socialist party are all, unbelievably, dealt with in 93 pages—and there are some excellent socialist cartoons. So far as I'm concerned, there will be no post mortems or heavy debate on the book's contents.

It's worthiness is proved by the fact that it's selling easily to workmates and friends alike. It's creating a new sense of enthusiasm.

I'm 37, and I've lived 30 years of those in a small South Wales mining community. I was always thought to be an odd-ball about my views on the Labour Party.

Although I was respected and was often elected shop steward, I was often mixed up as to the way to rectify our oppressed position.

According to my mates in the club and at work, the

Labour Party was our only hope.

Every election time we would parade through the streets with placards and photographs of the Labour candidate. That was at the ages of six and seven.

I was thought an extremist because I did not know the facts and could not explain how we could get a square deal. We always fought the bosses to the best of our ability and usually won because of our sense of loyalty.

### BEAUTY

If this book had been written, if the SWP had been formed then, I'm positive most of these people would have become members.

That's the beauty of the book. I'm not praising it out of self satisfaction.

I'm praising it because it paves the way to recruit those honest down-to-earth working class brothers and sisters into our organisation and to show them there is a true socialist remedy for all our ailments.

# WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST

PAUL FOOT

...the case for the new Socialist Workers Party

We socialists are not fanatics or timeservers. We are socialists because we see the prospect which life holds out for all working people.

We want the commitment of workers who laugh and live and want to end the wretchedness and despair which shuts love and laughter out of so many lives.

We do not have to spend the rest of our lives, and leave our children to spend the rest of their lives, wrestling in struggle against a mean and despotic ruling class.

Society can be changed, but only if masses of working people abandon the rotten shipwreck of the 'leave it to us' reformers, and commit themselves to change from below.

This is our case. Will you read it?

Please send me . . . . copies of WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST at

One copy for 50p\*    Five copies for £2\*    One copy of the book, plus Socialist Worker each week for the next two months for £1.50.\*   Please tick appropriate box. (\* All prices include postage).

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

I enclose £ . . . . (Cheques and postal orders payable to SW Distributors please).

SEND THIS SLIP TO: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

I WAITED for the new booklet *Why You Should be a Socialist* with eagerness, but some apprehension.

Was it going to be another intellectual bulletin which I would have to read five times in order that the finer points could be digested and then meted out to my wary and weary friends?

Or was it perhaps going to be one of those documents which are read by a few committed revolutionaries, to be followed by post mortems as the depth or shallowness of its contents?

I was really hoping that the book would set the old adrenalin going: just like Marx's Communist Manifesto did when I read it years ago.

I was not to be disappointed. To put it bluntly, this book is where true socialism's at.

## PASSION

Chapter after chapter is written in simple form. It outlines the case for the new Socialist Workers Party.

It leaves one with a true knowledge of the class struggle, why the class struggle exists, the need to rectify the capitalist system, and the opportunities and the advantages of the working class achieving socialism.

It's written, as *Socialist Worker* promised, with passion and compassion, and there are many lines and paragraphs which I will not

# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

Laws are always made in the interests of one group or another. So can Law be 'above' politics?

'I CAN THINK of no greater enormity in a civilised society than a man who has something to write and is prevented from doing it.'

Fine words. They came from the lips of Lord Goodman in an interview in *The Listener*. Writer John Fletcher may be forgiven for drawing the conclusion that the same Lord Goodman is something of a hypocrite.

In December 1973 the publishers Davis-Poynter (Chairman Lord Goodman) commissioned Mr Fletcher to write a book called *Haven't I Heard This Before*, dealing with the media coverage of industrial relations over the past 150 years. It was cleared for libel and bought for publication in August 1974.

The 1975 Davis-Poynter prospectus carried a page-long review.

In January that year the Royal Commission on the Press asked to see a copy of the book which was still in manuscript form.

Hearing this, Lord Goodman demanded to see it first. As chairman of the publishing company and chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, he was anxious to ensure there was no 'legal' conflict between the newspaper publishers and the author.

Despite endless requests, Lord Goodman failed to return the manuscript. Eventually, it was taken from his office in his absence by Mr Fletcher's publisher.

It still cannot be published without his permission. As a result of legal proceedings last June, he has agreed to read the book, but nothing has happened since.

By doing nothing at all, Lord Goodman, a great defender of 'press freedom' has managed to suppress the book.

Last word from the press baron: 'I have a great intensity of feeling about any attempt to prevent a man who can write from writing.'

# The law of strength

WHAT IS justice? 'Justice is nothing else than the interest of the stronger.'

So said Thrasymachus, one of the characters in the writings of the Greek philosopher Plato. The recent proceedings in the Court of Appeal suggest that he had a point.

True, Lord Justice 'fine, fighting fascist' Lawton did not actually mention justice in his exchange with the Attorney General. 'I am upholding the law' he is reported to have said and the 'liberal' Lord Denning agreed with him.

As a matter of plain fact they were upholding the apartheid system in South Africa and the persecution and

imprisonment of South African trade unionists by the tyrannical Vorster government. That was the known and necessary consequence of their decision to grant an injunction against the UPW and, since they are neither infants nor insane, they must be held responsible for the consequences of their actions.

## Hanged for 1/-

But what about these grand words, justice, law and freedom? Most people would agree that law and justice are not necessarily the same thing.

It used to be the law in England that a man or woman could be hanged for theft, providing that the goods taken

were worth more than one shilling. So little did this correspond to popular ideas of justice, even then, that juries were notoriously prone to acquit defendants on what judges regarded as frivolous grounds.

The law is a set of political decisions, taken by politicians and interpreted by judges. And it cannot be otherwise. All suggestions that the law is 'above politics' or in some mystical way 'independent' of politics are patent nonsense. Politics, establishment politics at any rate, is largely about making and changing laws.

Laws are made in the interest of some group or other—the group that is, for the time being, the stronger. Whether

or not Thrasymachus was right about justice his statement is self-evidently true of law. Of course, who is the stronger depends on the outcome of struggle and so is subject to change.

## Blasphemy Act

That is why the law changes: either 'constitutionally' by action in parliament or 'unconstitutionally' because a particular law simply cannot be enforced any longer (like the unrepealed Blasphemy Act which makes it a crime to deny that Jesus Christ is the son of God) or by a combination of the two (like the Tory Industrial Relations Act, wrecked by strike action and then repealed as a result).

And justice? It is a matter of more or less widely held notions about what is 'fair' or 'reasonable', which may or may not correspond to the law. But these notions too, are in the last resort political because they depend on some view of what society ought to be like. And since such views depend, at least in part, on interests they are not the same for everyone.

## Whose?

The judges of the Court of Appeal no doubt think it just, as well as lawful, that industrial action in support of persecuted trade unionists in South Africa should be forbidden. We think it unjust. The point is: whose 'justice' will prevail? That depends on the outcome of struggle and there is not much value in having notions of justice unless you are willing to fight to impose them on the enemy.

That, of course, is an infringement of his 'freedom'. It would be hypocritical to deny it. There is, in truth, no such thing as freedom in the abstract. It is always a matter of freedom for some people to do some things; and in our class-divided society this is generally at the expense of some other people.

The National Association for Freedom stands for the freedom of employers to refuse to negotiate with organised workers—as at Grunwicks. It stands for the freedom of scabs to stab their fellow workers in the back. It is an organisation of strike-breakers and scab-herders. Its freedom to do these things in the interests of the rich must be destroyed in order to defend the freedom of working people to organise in defence of their interests.

## Fascists

Some may say: 'If there are no absolute standards of justice and freedom, if it is all a matter of conflict of interests and of power, how can you say that your side is better than the conservatives or the fascists?' Because we are fighting for socialism, for a society free from class-conflicts because it is free from classes and because this is the interests of the immense majority. That end does indeed justify the means and it also shapes them.

# WHEN IS A HYPOCRITE NOT A HYPOCRITE?



'Never attack a landlord or businessman (unless they are black—or foreign)'

But there's another oddity. How did Whitter manage to get those 77 houses in the first place?

Answer: by borrowing money from the decent, upstanding British banks who insisted, before they lent him the money, that his 'return on capital' would justify their loan.

Throughout, they connived in his activities, and shared in his ill-gotten gains.

Barclays Bank, the financiers of apartheid in South Africa, found that their racial prejudice vanished overnight when there was money to be made via a black landlord.

FULL MARKS to Jonathan

Dimbleby for his excellent television exposure of the scroungers myth.

The programme made mincemeat of the disgusting right-wing MP Ian Sproat.

He combined clippings from one of Sproat's lunatic speeches with interviews with some of the people who have to live on social security.

The high point of Sproat's ranting was a story about a Southern Irish family who came to Britain and received £500 a week on social security.

Dimbleby pointed out that to get that much a family would have to have 100 children under the age of 18!

THE POPULAR Press are whipping themselves into a fury over a slum landlord in South East London. His name is Whitter. He is about to sell 77 houses for £33,000.

The local Tory MP calls this 'a disgrace'.

The Sun have 'exposed' Whitter on their front page.

Last week the Daily Mirror carried a picture of

him gorging himself in Montego Bay with his family. How amazing, you might think! When last do you remember the Sun, the Mirror and Tory MPs denouncing a slum landlord.

That's right, never.

So why the fuss now? Easy, Mr Whitter is black.

And one of the golden rules of Fleet Street editors is:

# ERIC: Or little by little

ON MONDAY 17 January the House of Commons started work at half past two, and packed it in two hours and forty minutes later. MPs took the afternoon off 'as a mark of respect for Lord Avon', and imperialist peacock who had died at the age of 72, and good riddance.

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, opposed the adjournment. He complained that a lot of important matters couldn't be discussed in the Commons 'for lack of time'.

'We should understand' said Dennis 'that people outside, whom we represent, rarely have the ability to pack their tools in'

day, other workers have actually stopped work and gone home as a mark of respect to a good comrade who perhaps had fallen to his death.'

Note Heffer's tasteful comparison between the solidarity shown by building workers to a brother killed by the employers; and that which should be shown by Labour MPs towards a brutal old Tory who died, fat, old and comfortable, in his bed.

After Heffer, author of 'The Class Struggle in Parliament', had finished,

Dennis Skinner tried to divide the House of Commons against the early adjournment. Not a single Labour MP, certainly not Eric Heffer, dared to stand forward with him!

## Revolt

In the late 1950's, Eric Heffer was a revolutionary socialist. He used to stand outside Liverpool shipyards shouting 'Socialist RE-volt, three pence!'

Now they have a new name for him, Socialist Revolting.

# Careers Corner:

Unemployed school leavers will be sorry to hear that it is getting more and more difficult to become a police officer.

Although the Metropolitan force is understaffed by 5,000, they are getting more choosier, according to their advertisements in the national press.

What's the reason for this sad turn? Problems confront us which were virtually unknown until fairly recently—sieges, bombings and armed robberies on an unprecedented scale. Not to mention increasing social problems,' says the ad.

'We need truly outstanding people to handle the job.' And we all know what that means.

## Guts

Dennis was followed by Eric Heffer, the champion of the Labour Left, who resigned from the government in 1975. Eric patronised Dennis for 'a lot of guts' in 'bucking the conventions of the House'. He went on:

'In the working class movement, in the building industry particularly, I have been on jobs where workers have been killed. For that



'Truly outstanding' people welcoming Right-To-Work marchers at Hendon.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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

01-739 6361  
739 0185  
739 9043

Circulation department: 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN. 01-739 2639. Published weekly except final week of December. Subscriptions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months, £1.75 for three months. Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU) all departments, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

# FOOD, GIVE US FOOD!



Workers regroup after battling with armed police in Cairo last week

**KASR EL NIL is the Mayfair of Cairo. But last week, instead of the prading rich, it was filled with a mass of marching workers.**

'Food, give us food', they chanted. When the president's riot police threatened, they replied together: 'We are dying of hunger now, so go ahead and shoot us, Sadat.'

Within hours of an announcement of crippling price increases for fuel and food, huge workers' demonstrations had begun. They started in Helwan, near Cairo, the largest industrial complex in the Middle East.

10,000 steelworkers and armaments workers marched from their factories. They destroyed the property of the rich, attacked police stations, and tore up the railway line to Cairo.

Arriving in the city centre, they were joined by students and more workers. They laid siege to the People's Assembly building, calling slogans against the government and President Sadat.

A government curfew and threats to shoot to kill had no effect. Tens of thousands more poured out of the Cairo slums. Demonstrations spread to the working-class areas themselves. Areas such as Shubra, Imbaba, Sayyida Zeinab, came under the control of armed workers.

Everywhere the symbols of government authority—police

## Egypt's workers take to the streets over massive price rises

stations, post offices—and of the excesses of the rich boutiques, nightclubs, casinos—were stormed and burned.

Simultaneously workers in Alexandria marched to the city centres, led by 6,000 dockers. Many were armed. They too burned government buildings, including the headquarters of the ASU, the only legal political party.

### Fearless demonstrators

Similar events shook Suez, Aswan, Minieh and almost all the towns of the north.

The demonstrators were largely fearless. For whoever Sadat orders to be shot he can add little to the misery of Egypt's poor.

The degradation of Cairo alone can hardly be described. In an area perhaps one fifth that of London live 11 million of the world's most impoverished workers and unemployed.

Nine in ten live literally on the bread line—the staple diet being a penny loaf, the size of a small pancake, filled with bean mash. It was an increase of 50 per cent in the cost of bread and beans that sparked off the demonstrations. The rioters were fighting for their lives.

Two million people in Cairo live in the old cemeteries of the City of the Dead—in or on the tombs. Millions more are crammed like insects into slums so crowded that they are three times as densely populated as the worst areas of Calcutta.

Yet Sadat was willing to deepen this misery. With the Egyptian economy in a state of complete collapse; there is a deficit of £16,000 million dollars—and Sadat bowed to demands for price increases from the International Monetary Fund to obtain a pathetic 14 million dollars.

Egypt's rulers are desperate. They are unable to escape the effects of the international capitalist crisis.

They tried an economy roughly modelled on that of Eastern Europe for several years. That failed, so they turned to the West.

Sadat pleased with the multinational companies to set up in Egypt, rape the local labour force, and carry away what profits they could. Massive profits have been made, but all are taken abroad and there is no new investment.

The demonstrations reveal an unexpected degree of underground organisation in the factories. The co-

ordination of workers' activities means that some accusations of 'Marxist' agitation are correct.

Though some four or five thousand workers have been arrested, it is believed that leading militants are still free.

Years of repression have meant that there is no genuine workers' party which can give an overall lead. Right-wing groups inside Egypt's massive army will now be weighing up their chances of a successful coup.

### Shaken

They too will have been shaken by the scale and ferocity of the events. This was a massive mobilisation of the oppressed on a scale comparable to those of Soweto in South Africa last year.

Frightening for Egypt and her 'friends' in the West. Appalling for the other tyrants of the Middle East, and for Israel's rulers.

Slums in Cairo: What looks like a rubbish heap in the foreground is a group of huts where people live.

## General strike in Spain after police kill seven

THERE was a general strike in Spain on Tuesday. It followed the murder of seven left-wingers in two days by the Spanish police and their right-wing friends.

The extreme right seem to be making a last stand in their attempt to prevent the government's limited political reforms. The kidnapping of senior figures in the regime by an unknown group of pretended left-wingers is probably a provocation by the far right.

The moderate 'democratic' opposition has joined with the ex-fascists who make up the government to issue a call for 'peace'. But meanwhile the government has been using armed police to break up left-wing demonstrations in Barcelona and Madrid, a bus

strike in Bilbao and joint demonstrations of construction and metal industry strikers in Valencia.

At the centre of the Valencia strikes is the new Ford plant, which builds the engines for the new Fiesta. The Ford workers on strike there have sent the following account to workers at Ford Dagenham, where it has been distributed as a leaflet:

'Ford said they accepted our demands, and agreed to give us £15-a-week rise PENDING AGREEMENT FROM Ford-Britain. We accepted this, and

went back to work. But three days later they withdrew this, saying Ford-Britain and Germany had vetoed it.

'We workers decided immediately to strike. We set up pickets. Our negotiating delegates returned to hold a mass meeting.

'At this point, supervision and Ford-hired Security Service men (SS) tried to drag speakers from the platform, to create confusion. We workers drove them back, and we won.

'But then Ford called armed riot police into the factory to drive us out. We occupied the

factory, forming barricades, and we stayed there all afternoon.'

'When we left at 5.30pm, the riot police were waiting outside to give us a beating. Many workers were injured.

'During the weekend Ford sent out lock-out notices. We came back to the plant on Monday morning to find it surrounded by riot police. So we tried to hold a meeting to decide what to do—and we were against brutally dispersed by the police.

### Sticks

'Since we couldn't meet in the factory, we tried to meet at a mass meeting in a town called Silla. But the riot police were already there, occupying the town.'

'They attacked the workers: the first time, one of us was injured, but the second time we took up sticks and stones against the police.'

'We have had to struggle to build a form of organisation where all workers can take part in directing our struggle. We try to hold mass meetings, coordinated by elected delegates of the workers, so that we can guarantee direct democracy of the workers.'

The message ends by calling

for solidarity: 'To break up our strike Ford will try to increase production at Dagenham and try to starve us out. Resist any increased production. 'Anything that is now going to or from the Ford Valencia factory is being handled by scab labour. Black it.'

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Wednesday 2 February, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot and English speakers, plus speakers from other immigrant communities.

**STOP THE DEPORTATIONS**

**CYPRIT DEFENCE CAMPAIGN**

**DEMONSTRATION:** Saturday 5 February, 2pm, assemble opposite Haringey Civic Centre, Wood Green High Road, London N22 (near Wood Green tube). Marc to rally at Newington Green.

North London, Lea Valley, Central London and Inner East London districts SWP to support.

**LEAFLETS AND POSTERS** available for demonstration, also speakers for trade union branches, student unions, etc. Leaflets (Greek, Turkish and English together) £1 for 50, state language required. FROM 90 Mountbatten Road, London N4.

**KUNPIOS EPYOTIS**

**EKETPATEIA AMYNAΣ KYNPION**

**CYPRIT WORKER**—paper of the Socialist Workers Party in the Cypriot community (in Greek). Articles include: Cypriot defence campaign—a major feature. Hypocrisy of the Cyprus government. 'Ar the English-lazy? Earthquake in Turkey. EGA, etc. By post: 12p for a single copy, 30p for 5 including postage. Yearly subscription (12 issues) £1. Write to 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## Soweto . . . in their own words

A USEFUL new report on South Africa has just been produced by Counter-Information Services—Black South Africa explodes (90p from CIS, 9 Poland Street W1).

It differs from most of their previous reports, because it is centred not on financial manipulation in high places, but on telling the story of a popular uprising—the revolt that began in Soweto last summer.

A day-by-day account of the struggle, plus

a marvellous collection of pictures, gives a record of this struggle that should be of value to every reader of Socialist Worker.

You can read the history of Soweto in full, often in the words of the participants themselves.

The report also includes useful information on the role of British big business in providing aid and comfort to the racist South African regime.

**THIS TOWER** block is supposed to be Sheffield's brand new district hospital, the Hallamshire.

But you won't find a single patient in its 18 floors. The builders are still working on it—nearly 40 years after the project first started.

In 1938, Sheffield workers dipped into their pockets and contributed their hard-earned pennies to an appeal fund. A million pounds was collected and six acres of land bought.

The foundations were finished and part of the outpatients department was completed.

In 1970, the health service bosses decided it was about time that they started work on the main hospital block.

*They predicted then that the showpiece hospital would be open in 1975.*

But that year they said: "Sorry, no chance of opening yet, but we should be open by the end of 1976". Then they said 1978.

Meanwhile, spending on many other Sheffield hospitals, especially the antiquated Royal, has been cut to a minimum because the Hallamshire was supposed to replace them.

If staff at the Royal asked for new equipment or modernisation they were invariably told: "Sorry, no chance, but don't worry—the Hallamshire will be opening soon".

In 1969, the contract for the main tower block was given to Taylor Woodrow Construction for nearly £11 million.

The long-awaited work started in 1970, but, unfortunately for the sick people of Sheffield, a couple of years later the Heath government was busy encouraging the property boom.

Speculators rushed to shove up massive office blocks, like the famous Centre Point.

*If that wasn't had enough, the planners also go their figures wrong.*

When they got the Hallamshire's new lifts working, it was discovered they were too narrow to take patient trolleys. So the lifts shafts had to be re-built.

### OPPOSITION

Now the chairman of the area health authority, businessman Michael Carlisle, says he is seriously worried that if the hospital opens in 1978 there won't be a single car-parking space for the hospital's 3000 workers and hundreds of visitors.

For the £½ million that's been spent on sprucing up the Queen's train for her Jubilee, a new carpark for the hospital could be built.

Nurses and ancillaries at the Northern General Hospital 'blacked' new Continental breakfasts that replaced the usual bacon and egg for patients.

The industrial action persuaded management to provide patients with a decent breakfast.

This fight pointed the way to how all the cuts can be opposed.

### DEMAND

Members and supporters of the rank and file group, Hospital Worker, are building the campaign in Sheffield hospitals against the cuts.

And trade unionists outside the health service are becoming involved in a determined drive by the Right to Work Campaign to demand 'Open the Hallamshire—NOW!'

## BEDSIDE MEETING

**TYNESIDE:** Visiting time at the General Hospital became a public meeting against the cuts when 20 supporters of the Save Our Hospitals Campaign took round a petition demanding that four closed wards be re-opened immediately.

The response was fantastic. Nurses and cleaners joined in, collecting signatures from bed to bed and talking to patients and visitors. Discussion in one ward turned into a public meeting.

As a result of ward closures, 392 patients who should be admitted have been left

**They've  
refused  
to open  
this new  
block**

*The Hallamshire: financed with workers' pennies and still not open.*



**They've  
closed  
down  
these  
wards**

*St James in South London: wards closed for lack of money?*



# Our hospitals

### SAVE OUR HOSPITALS.

That is the campaign launched by the rank and file paper, the Hospital Worker, and the National Right to Work Campaign. Its conference is on 19 March.

In town after town, groups of hospital workers have taken on the cuts. Other public sector workers have also taken action.

The London Divisional Committee of NUPE has called a one-day stoppage of all London members of NUPE for 11 May. The local government workers in NALGO are planning an overtime ban

from 1 April.

The resistance is growing into a national movement, but it is a movement without an organised head. The leaderships of the public sector unions are prepared to organise occasional one-day actions. But more than that is needed to beat the cuts.

### ACTION

The trade union officials in London are now organising their own joint-union committees to try and discuss future action.

*But such committees are next to useless unless they represent the rank and file.*

In every locality we need

delegate committees representing local public sector branches and shop stewards committees to organise local support for all action.

The local committees should also campaign among the rank and file membership to force the union executives to take firmer action.

In NUPE, the 11 May stoppage needs to be brought forward, so that we don't have to waste more than three months. The Right to Work Campaign has already suggested the date of 23 March.

And it should be a national one-day strike, involving

other areas besides London and other public sector unions besides NUPE.

The NUPE executive should endorse the call of the London Division and bring out the whole of NUPE's national membership for 24 hours. In all other unions we should fight for them to follow suit.

### FIGHT BACK

Such an action would serve warning to the government of our intention to fight back. But by itself it will not win that fight.

*That is why the argument has to begin now for real, determined action to defeat the*

*cuts, for an unlimited, national strike of all public sector workers against the cuts.*

### BUILD

The Save Our Hospitals Campaign is meant to help build towards these things. Its success will depend not on resolutions alone, but on how many groups of workers supporting it exist in the hospitals.

If one group in a hospital takes action, we want to bring out the whole hospital, and all the surrounding hospitals. We want to get other public sector workers, whether they are school caretakers, from

### It's schools too...

**WILTSHIRE:** More than 3000 NUPE members last week supported a one-day strike against education cuts which closed 130 schools.

Council leader Frank Wilson was met by angry pickets at County Hall, Trowbridge. He tried to assure everyone that he wasn't planning any redundancies—at the moment.

The action closed only a third of the schools because headmasters and some scabs opened them themselves.

**SIGNING UP** support (right) against hospital closures in Wandsworth and Meriton, South London.

The badge being sold in the picture and illustrated on this page is available from the National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4. 10p each, plus 9p postage. 20 for £2.50. 40 and more post free.



stranded, including nine cancer cases and 74 others classified as 'very urgent'. That's just one department.

Newcastle Area Health Authority want to close Sanderson children's hospital in June. Meanwhile the new Freeman Road General Hospital stands empty because they say they can't afford to equip and start it.

On Saturday, a street meeting was held to protest about the closures.

This is a start. We will be looking to turn it into a real fight back, linking the enormous public anger with an attempt to build a rank and file campaign in the hospitals.





They  
want  
to axe  
this  
hospital

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson women's hospital in London. Workers have occupied it



# can be saved

the cleansing department, civil servants or building workers. In every locality, every hospital and hospital trade union should be visited and asked to join the campaign, by supporting the conference on 19 March.

## CHALLENGE

Local groups, whether organised through local Right to Work committees, public sector alliances, or Save our Hospitals groups, should take up the fight against every cut-back and closure. No cut back or closure can go unchallenged.



The killer dust, asbestos, just lying around in the open at the Eastern Hospital in London's East End



# HERE'S SOMETHING TO 'THINK ABOUT,' MINISTER...

AFTER three solid years of campaigning by socialists and health workers in Hackney, the national press have at last woken up. Last week a convoy of reporters, civil servants, hospital administrators and local dignitaries followed Roland Moyle, Labour Minister of State for Health, on a tour of Hackney's rat pir hospitals.

## WORKHOUSE

At Hackney Hospital, a 120-year-old former workhouse, Moyle was met by a picket of health workers and Right to Work supporters demanding an end to the cuts. Moyle said he couldn't promise anything but that he would go away and think about it. Well Mr Moyle, this is what we suggest you think about:  The psychiatric wards where patients have no

privacy, no recreation and no hope of recovery, and where conditions have already led to two suicides.  The geriatric wards where old people lie in wet sheets because there is no money for extra sheets.  The kitchens at the Eastern, condemned every year by Health Inspectors.  The 40 acutely-ill old people who are being flung out of the Metropolitan Hospital when it is shut down this month. Some will be sent home.  The policy of no replacement of any staff, even though we are chronically understaffed.  The plan to chop hospital beds by 1,148 to just

over 4,000. One bed in five is going.  The fact that Hackney has just over 30 health visitors. Even according to the Department of Health, we should have 70.

## HORRORS

According to an official report, 'there is a dire lack of ambulists and patient hoists of any description. There are insufficient trolleys, wheelchairs, cot-sides and bed blocks... the bleep system is not reliable.' This will do for a start, Mr Moyle. A complete list of the horrors caused by your cuts in Hackney alone would fill this paper.

## Action-EGA style

EAST LONDON: Workers at the Metropolitan Hospital, which is due to be closed, have followed the example of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson occupation and are refusing to allow any equipment out of the building. Management have already stopped admitting patients. At St Mark's, management

closed one NHS ward—so workers stopped services to private wards. Management have already agreed to turn eight private beds into NHS beds, but will not give a date for reopening the closed wards. They threaten to lay people off if the blacking continues.

# YOU PARTICIPATE WE PARTICIPATE THEY PROFIT

FROM THE REACTION of the employers' organisations, you would think that the Bullock report on industrial democracy was a revolutionary document.

'The employers have threatened to go on strike', the Sunday Times reported. They had told the government that if Bullock were put into effect, they would deliberately sabotage the economy, by refusing to invest in plant and machinery.

'In effect,' the Sunday Times continued, 'they have told the government that it must choose between its industrial strategy with all its hopes for badly-needed new jobs and investment, and Bullock.'

If any group of workers had threatened the government in that way, the press would be full of screaming headlines about 'holding the country to ransom'.

The government would have been talking about 'threats to democracy'.

No such reaction can be expected to blackmail from the commanding heights of big business, however.

The Observer reported that 'Mr Callaghan and a majority of the Cabinet, conscious of the hostility of employers, have decided against endorsing the proposals'. He who pays the piper...

Don't be fooled by these proposals they're poison

But he insists on other measures that prevent that representation giving any power to challenge the profit system.

## COLLABORATE

Yet, the astonishing thing is that the Bullock proposals do not constitute any real threat to the big business system.

Indeed, what they threaten most is rank and file organisation on the shop-floor.

Bullock makes it quite clear that the aim is to strengthen the present big business system, by persuading workers to collaborate with their employers.

'There must be a new legitimacy for the exercise of management function... We believe the new legitimacy is essential for the long-term efficiency and profitability of the private sector.'

This would be achieved 'by putting the relationship between capital and labour on a new basis, which will involve not just management but the whole workforce in sharing responsibility for the success and profitability of the enterprise.'

In addition to workers and shareholders' representatives on the board, there should be 'independents' who would hold the balance in any dispute.

These are to be 'bankers, accountants, solicitors and union officials'—that is, overwhelmingly, supporters of the profit system.

In the early years, the chairman of the Board—who will of course carry decisive power—would come from the shareholders' side.

The workers' representatives would not be subject to control by the workers who elected them.

An employee representative would be in breach of his duty if he voted in a particular way solely because of instructions of his trade union.

## POISON

'He must be a representative, free to express his own opinions and reach his own conclusions about which policies will work for the greatest good of the company, not a delegate told how to vote by his constituents.'

He will be as cut off from the people who elect him as are, for instance, MPs.

The assumption is that, like Labour MPs, most representatives will soon feel closer to the rich who wine and dine them than to the workers who voted for them.

If there is an industrial dispute because of the clash between the company's drive for profit, and the workers' living standards and jobs, the shareholders representatives on the board will be able to vote, but not the workers' side.

'The workers representatives will have to abstain from voting when there is a strike' and the management's negotiating position should not be subject to detailed and practical consideration by the board.'

Bullock may be an irritant for the employers. But it could be poison for the workers' movement.

CHRIS HARMAN

## BOSSSES

The Bullock proposals aim to make workers feel that they have an interest in bosses getting higher profits, without altering the fact that these profits go overwhelmingly to the employer.

So Bullock offers workers representatives as many positions as the shareholders representatives on the boards of companies.

By Gerry McMorrow, branch secretary, North East London Medical ASTMS.

**SUPPORT THE EGA CONFERENCE**

Saturday 12 February, 11am-1pm at the EGA. Credentials from the EGA shops stewards committee, EGA Hospital, Euston Rd., London WC1.

North London Right to Work Campaign emergency public meeting: Save Our Hospitals! Speakers: Dave Nuttall (ex-Clay Cross councillor), John Deane, and a shop steward from Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Lord Morrison Hall, Chestnut Grove, N 17. (Seven Sisters Tube.) Thursday 22 January, 8pm

**SAVE OUR HOSPITALS CONFERENCE**

Delegate conference for all trade unionists in hospitals Saturday 19 March, Holborn Assembly Rooms, London

Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards committee etc., is delegated. Delegation fee £1 from Hospital Worker Conference, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Sponsored by Hospital Worker and the Right to Work Campaign

# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

## Socialist Worker public meetings

□ Send notices — to reach us first post Monday — to What's On, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



### ROCK AGAINST RACISM concerts:

**HATFIELD:** Thursday 3 February 8pm till late, Hatfield Polytechnic Plummit Airlines and Limousine.

**EAST LONDON:** Friday 18 February, Queen Mary's College, Mile End Benefit for Brick Lane anti-fascist demonstrators. Special Brew and The Derelicts.

**NORTH LONDON:** Friday 4 March, North London Polytechnic, Ladbroke House, Highbury. Joint Rock Against Racism/Carbreakers benefit. Tom Robinson Band.

**BADGE** in Red and Yellow. 22p including postage or ten for £1.50 post free. From Rock Against Racism, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

### Scotland

**GLASGOW RAILWAYS** Socialist Workers Party branch meeting Wednesday 23 February, 5pm-6pm, Sherry's Bar, Springburn Road, Springburn.

**EDINBURGH** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every Saturday, 11.30am, Societies Centre, 21 Hill Place (off Nicholson Street). Open to all SW readers.

29 January. Socialism is workers power.

5 February: The Labour Party—socialism on the never-never.

**PAISLEY** Socialist Worker Rally Saturday 12 February, starting 11am. Paisley Students Union. **SPEAKERS** include: Jimmy McCallum (ISWP central committee, former AUEW/TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering), Peter Bain (chairman, TGWU branch, Chrysler Linwood, in personal capacity) and other local trade unionists. **FILMS** include: Blow for Blow, Fight the Cuts, and others.

**SESSIONS** on: The Broad Left, Ireland, The Right to Work Campaign, Scottish Nationalism, Women, Students, Why we need a Socialist Workers Party. Entrance 30p (tickets available from SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1).

**GLASGOW** Women's Voice public meeting: Are you a Stork Super-Mum? And should you be paid for it? Monday 31 January, 7.30pm, Room 8, City Halls, Albion Street, Glasgow. And every following fortnight.

### North East

**DURHAM** Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Colpitts pub, Sutton Street, Durham City. All welcome.

3 February: Women—exploited houseworkers? The socialist view?

**TYNESIDE** Southern Africa Campaign PICKET Ballet International—South African-financed ballet company—Monday 7 February, 6.30pm, Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne. Followed by **PUBLIC MEETING:** 8pm, Bridge Hotel, with SWP speaker and Soweto student.

**NEWCASTLE ROCK AGAINST RACISM CONCERT:** Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm-12midnight, Guildhall, Quayside, Newcastle. Top local bands Lifemask and The Scratch Band, plus disco, bar. Admission 60p (35p unemployed).

### Yorkshire

**HULL** Socialist Worker meeting: Women's Rights and Socialism. Speaker Sheila McGregor Tuesday 1 February, 7.30pm, YPI, George Street.

### North West

**MERSEYSIDE** Socialist Workers Party day schools for new members: What is socialism and how do we let it? Speaker Duncan Hallas. Saturday 12 February, 10.30am-5pm, place to be announced.

Working as a socialist in your workplace. Speaker John Deason Saturday 5 March, 10.30am-5pm, place to be announced. Social in evening.

Limited number of places available to surrounding branches and districts. £1 employed/40p unemployed, students, etc. Send money to book place to: Merseyside SWP organiser.

**MANCHESTER AREA** Socialist Worker school: Duncan Hallas on The History of Working-Class Papers, and Alan Borrell on Increasing the Influence of Socialist Worker. Sunday 13 February, 2pm, Committee Room, Polytechnic Students Union Building, Cavendish House.

**SALFORD** Socialist Worker public meetings: Every second Wednesday, 8pm, Kings Arms Hotel, Whit Lane.

9 February: The Socialist Workers Party. Speaker Duncan Hallas.

**MANCHESTER AREA** Socialist Workers Party school: Two sessions: Why we call ourselves Marxists, and The Revolutionary Movement after the First World War. Speaker Harry McShane. Saturday 23 January, 2pm, Committee Room, Polytechnic Student Union Building, Cavendish House. All SWP members and supporters welcome.

**CREWE** Socialist Worker discussion groups: Fridays, The Angel Hotel, Victoria Street, Crewe Town Centre.

4 February: Women's liberation and socialism.

**WARRINGTON** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, Bowling Green Inn, Liverpool Road (by Crossfields). All welcome. For details phone Padgate 811584 or Newton-le-Willows 21284.

### North Wales

**BANGOR** Socialist Worker day school: Saturday 26 February, 11am onwards, Students Union, University College. Sessions on Aspects of the British Labour Movement. The

### Scotland

**DUNDEE:** Thursday 24 February, 7.30, The Music Centre, 1a West Bell Street. Speaker: Jim Nichol (ISWP central committee).

### Clydeside

**EASTERHOUSE, Glasgow:** Tuesday 8 March, 7.30pm, Blairtum mock House, off Wardie Road. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**JORDANHILL COLLEGE, Glasgow:** Wednesday 9 March, 12.30pm, College Common Room. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**GLASGOW RAILWAYS** Socialist Workers Party branch: Wednesday 9 March, 5pm, Sherry's Bar, Springburn Road. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**PAISLEY:** Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm, Paisley Town Hall. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**GLASGOW UNIVERSITY:** Thursday 10 March, 1pm, Queen Margaret Union, University Gardens. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**ALL-GLASGOW RALLY:** Thursday 10 March, Partickburgh Halls (near Merkleland Street subway). Speakers: Paul Foot and local trade unionists.

### North East

**DURHAM:** Tuesday 22 February, 8pm, Durham Town Hall. Speaker to be announced.

### Yorkshire

**BRADFORD:** Thursday 9 February, 7.30pm, Rawson Hotel, John Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**DONCASTER:** Wednesday 9 February, 8pm, The Masons Arms, Market Place. Speakers: Paul Foot and Brian Kelly (AUEW shop steward, International Harvesters).

**LEEDS:** Wednesday 2 March, 8pm, Wellesley Hotel, Wellington Street (near Central railway station). Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Chaired by Mike Fitzpatrick (AUEW shop steward, Hailwood and Ackroyd).

**WARRINGTON:** Wednesday 16 February, 8pm, Red Lion, Winwick Road. Speakers: Steve Jefferys (ISWP central committee) and Sadie Blood (NUPE).

**CREWE:** Thursday 24 February, 7.45pm, The Angel Hotel, Victoria Street. Speaker: Paul Foot.

### Merseyside

**CAMMEL LAIRDS:** Wednesday 2 February, 12 noon, Castle Hotel (opposite shipyard main gate). Speaker: Paul Foot.

**KIRKBY:** Thursday 17 February, 7.45pm, Tower Hill Community Centre, Heathfield Tower Hill. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydeside).

**SOUTH LIVERPOOL:** Wednesday 2 February, 7.45pm, Triton Hotel, Paradise Street, Liverpool (opposite Holiday Inn). Speaker: Ricky Tomlinson (TGWU shop steward), Paul Foot and Margaret Renn.

**BIRKENHEAD:** Wednesday 16 February, 7.45pm, details to be announced. Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown shipyard, Clydeside) and Keith Ross (AUEW district committee).

**OLDHAM:** Friday 11 February, 8pm, provisionally at The Bath Hotel, Union Street. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a local trade unionist.

**Revolutionary Party, plus group discussion on the Role of Ideas in Society, Why a Rank and File Movement, etc.** Main speakers: Merlyn Jones and Gerwyn Evans. All SWP, NOISS members and supporters are welcome. Admission 50p.

**BANGOR:** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Fridays, 7.30pm, Liverpool Arms, High Street. All welcome.

28 January: What is the Labour Party?

4 February: Is Russia socialist?

**CROYDON:** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Cobble Road and Park Lane). All readers welcome.

27 January: Rank and File and the working class. Speaker: Eric Hill.

**CHELMSFORD:** Socialist Worker public meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Royal Steamer (behind Chelmsford Station).

27 January: GEC—high profits and low wages. Speaker: A Fleet Street financial journalist.

3 February: How capitalism began. Speaker: Alistair Hatchett.

**10 February: PUBLIC DEBATE:** Can the Labour Party achieve socialism? Speakers: Nick Reynolds (Labour Party) and Teresa Tran (SWP).

**MAIDSTONE:** Socialist Worker is sold every Saturday morning, 11am-12noon, in Week Street (outside



## The case for Socialism

### Public meetings on building the Socialist Workers' Party

**SALFORD:** Wednesday 9 February, 8pm, Kings Arms, White Lane. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a local trade unionist.

**RUSHOLME and LONGSIGHT:** Thursday 10 February, 8pm, The Albert, Rusholme. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a local trade unionist.

**STOCKPORT:** Tuesday 8 February, 8pm, place to be announced. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and a local trade unionist.

**North Wales**

**BANGOR:** Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm, Glanrafon Arms. Speakers: Duncan Hallas, Bob McCann (secretary of Bangor, Beaumaris and Llangefni Trades Council, and branch secretary of UCATT) and Graham Coldwell (ASTMS).

**Midlands**

**NORTHAMPTON:** Thursday 3 February, 8pm, The Guildhall. Speaker: Laurie Flynn.

**East Anglia**

**LOWESTOFT:** Thursday 3 March. Speaker: Paul Foot. Please note change of date—full details soon.

**NORWICH:** Tuesday 8 February, 8pm, Shirehall Hotel (by Anglia TV), Central Norwich. Speaker: Duncan Hallas (chairman, SWP).

**South East**

**CHELMSFORD:** Monday 14 February, 7.45pm, Shire Hall. Speaker: Duncan Hallas (chairman, SWP).

**WITHAM:** Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

**London**

**HENDON:** Thursday 27 January, 8pm, Burnt Oak Public Library, Watling Avenue, Burnt Oak (Northern Line tube or buses 32, 52, 178). Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown shipyards, Clydeside), Margaret Dunne (nurse) and Simon Clarke (London busman).

**LEA VALLEY:** Tuesday 15 February, 8pm, Tottenham Community Project (large hall), 628 Tottenham High Road, London N17. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydeside).

**EAST LONDON:** Monday 28 February, 7.45pm, Manor Park Library, Romford Road, Manor Park. Speaker: Paul Foot.

**South East**

**MARDS and SPENCER:** Maidstone SWP meet every Monday, 8.15pm, The Lamb pub, Fairmeadow.

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD** Socialist Worker discussion meeting: Why Russia isn't socialist. Speaker: Peter Binns. Wednesday 9 February, 7.45pm, Rose and Crown, Old High Street. All welcome.

**London**

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on Leninism, (Mondays), 8pm, Thames Polytechnic Students Union, Thames Street, SE18.

31 January: The State

14 February: internationalism and Imperialism

**BALHAM and Tooting** Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Wednesdays, 8pm, The Wheatheaf (by Tooting Bec tube).

9 February: Women and the economic crisis. Speaker: Mary Phillips.

**WEST MIDDLESEX** Socialist Worker discussion meetings on The Meaning of Marxism: Alternate Mondays, 7.45pm, The White Hart, Acton High Street.

**HACKNEY SCHOOLS** branch Socialist Workers Party public

**INNER EAST LONDON:** Tuesday 22 February, 7.45pm, Princess Mary School, Kingsland High Street (just up from Dalston Junction). Speaker: Paul Foot.

### South Coast

**PORTSMOUTH:** Wednesday 9 February, 7.45pm, Forrester's Hall, Fratton Road. Speaker: Tony Cliff. All welcome.

### South Wales

**ABERYSTWYTH:** Wednesday 16 February, 8pm, Farmers Arms. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

**ELY:** Cardiff, Monday 31 January, 7.30pm, place to be announced. Speakers: Billy Williams (EETPU) and Jim Nichol (ISWP central committee).

**CARDIFF STUDENTS UNION** Tuesday 1 February, 1pm, place to be announced. Speakers: Bob Dumbledon and Jim Nichol (ISWP central committee).

**CARDIFF:** Tuesday 1 February, 7.30pm, place to be announced. Speakers: Billy Williams (EETPU) and Jim Nichol (ISWP central committee).

**NEWPORT:** Wednesday 2 February, 7.30pm, place to be announced. Speakers are: Ray Morgan (EETPU shop steward, Lanwern steel works) and Jim Nichol (SWP central committee).

**PONTYPRIDD:** Thursday 3 February, 7.30pm, place to be announced. Speakers: Iris Phillips (TGWU branch secretary, 4/163 branch) and Jim Nichol (SWP central committee).

### South West

**KINGSWOOD:** Bristol. Speaker: Tony Cliff plus local speaker. Friday 28 January, 7.30pm, Kingswood Community Centre, High St., Kingswood.

**GLOUCESTER:** Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm, St Mary de Crypt schoolroom, Southgate Street. Speakers: Paul Foot and Dave Bundy (AUEW shop steward, Rank Xerox).

**CHELTENHAM:** Thursday 17 February, 1pm, Gloucestershire College of Art and Design. Speaker: Paul Foot.

**EXETER:** Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm, Oddfellows Arms, New North Road. SOCIAL with Staverton Bridge folk group and speakers: Margaret Renn (ISWP women's organiser) and Jimmy Rule (AUEW district committee). Members from all over Devon (Ilfracombe, Torquay, Totnes, Taunton) welcome. Accommodation will be supplied. Phone Exeter 34427 for details. Admission 25p (unemployed 10p).

**LONDON CIVIL SERVANTS** Socialist Worker public meeting: Are we surplus because we are valueless? Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Wednesday 2 February, 6.30pm, The Plough, Museum Street, WC2. All welcome.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON** district Socialist Workers Party: Shock, Horror, Outrage! My Life with the Trade Union Bureaucracy—the inside story, by Dick North. Also a tightly knit group of politically motivated people. Roger Cox (a revolutionary on the shop floor) PLUS an exposure of the red menace in the 1920s—John Deason (Minority Movement and CP parallels today). Saturday 12 March, Ruskin House, Croydon.

**WALTHAMSTOWS** Stop the National Front mass Socialist Worker sale: This Saturday, 29 January, 11am, Walthamstow Market (Joe Street end, near Walthamstow Central tube).

**A great night out in EAST LONDON:** Dance to Limousine, disco, bar, extension. Friday 11 February, 8pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate. Grand social organised by East London SWP.

**WEST MIDDLESEX** Socialist Workers Party Schools branch discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 7.30pm, Ealing Tech Students Union.

2 February: Imperialism.

9 February: Stalinism.

**NORTH WEST LONDON** Socialist Worker 'Meaning of Marxism' discussion meetings: Alternate Sundays, 4pm, Carib Club entrance in Crickwood Lane., NW2 (above Burtons tailors shop).

6 February: Imperialism today. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

**Friday evenings, 7pm, at the University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 (nearest tube Goodge Street).**

28 January: British imperialism and Ireland. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

4 February: Shelley and Revolution. Speaker: Paul Foot.

11 February: The degradation of work. Speaker: John Ure.

18 February: The crisis of British capitalism. Speaker: Mike Kidron.

25 February: Fighting racism and fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

There will be small, group discussions on each topic in the week following each meeting. Give yourself a socialist night out!

### Marxism and the Revolutionary Party

**LONDON** Socialist Worker public meetings on Marxist theory and the politics of the Socialist Workers Party (IS).

Friday evening, 7pm, at the University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 (nearest tube Goodge Street).

28 January: British imperialism and Ireland. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

4 February: Shelley and Revolution. Speaker: Paul Foot.

11 February: The degradation of work. Speaker: John Ure.

18 February: The crisis of British capitalism. Speaker: Mike Kidron.

25 February: Fighting racism and fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

There will be small, group discussions on each topic in the week following each meeting. Give yourself a socialist night out!

### South Coast

**POOLE** Socialist Worker public meeting: Thursday 3 February, 8pm, Branksome Railway Hotel.

### South West

**BRISTOL** Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Baptist Mills Community Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs (off Mina Road, near M32).

10 February: What's happening in Poland?

### NOISS

#### National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

NOISS extended national committee meeting: Saturday 5 February, in London. Details to be announced. One delegate from every IS Society please.

**PORTSMOUTH** NOISS public meeting: Permanent Arms Economy. Speaker: Mike Kidron. Thursday 27 January, 7.30pm, Biology Block ABO 10, King Henry I Street (near Guildhall Square).

**ORMSKIRK EDGE HILL COLLEGE** NOISS meeting: Women and the struggle for socialism. Speaker: Margaret Renn. Thursday 3 February, 1pm-2pm. All students and non-students welcome. Please see your SW sellers for details.

**ESSEX UNIVERSITY** NOISS weekend school 5-6 February. Sessions on the revolutionary Socialist party, the trade union bureaucracy, the Labour and Communist Parties, History of the International Socialists, state capitalism, and Marxist economics. National speakers. Sleeping arrangements and creche available, but please book early. For details contact A Gibson, c/o Essex University Students Union, Colchester, Essex.

### Notices

**Socialist Workers Party GAY GROUP** will meet alternate Mondays in London. Contact Richard Tarry, 19 Redman's Road, E1 3AQ (phone 01-790 2454) or Ruth (phone 01-800 8557).

**BEAT INFLATION** COME TO THE LEA VALLEY SWP district Rummage Sale Tuesday 1 February, 8pm, TCP Hall, 628 High Road, Tottenham, London N17. Entrance 5p. Refreshments available. Good bargains. Jumble welcome. phone 348-2041 or 808-9057.

The Socialist Worker SCIENTISTS GROUP will meet on Sunday 13 February, 11am. Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Jimmy McCallum of the SWP industrial department will be there to discuss our work on health and safety. All scientists in the SWP, and supporters, as well as those interested in health and safety work are urged to attend. More details soon.

**SINGLE ROOM WANTED** near Corbridge Works, London E8 area if possible, in friendly household. Phone Austin at 739-1870 during the day or write to Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

January issue of FIGHT, paper of the Socialist Worker Youth Movement, out now. New eight-page edition. Price 5p. In this months issue—SWYM Rally in February, Apprentices, Job Creation Schemes, Rock Against Racism, and more. Orders to: FIGHT, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## چنگاری

**URDU CHINGARI**—issue 18 now available. Branches/districts south of Birmingham send orders to Kim Gordon, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Northern branches/districts send orders to R Minihans, c/o 40 Hamilton Terrace, Leeds 7. Phone Leeds 626404.

**CYPRIOT WORKER**, paper of the Socialist Workers Party in the Cypriot community (in Greek). Articles include: Cypriot Defence Campaign—a major feature, Hypocrisy of the Cyprus Government, Are the English lazy?, Earthquake in Turkey, EGA etc. By post: 12p for a single copy, 30p for five, including postage. A year's subscription (12 issues) £1. Write to Cypriot Worker, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**Bengali paper of the Socialist Workers Party** 6 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON, E2.

**PRAGATI STICKERS** are now available (headline is red on white) for £1.00, plus postage. Money with orders (cheques made out to C Knowles please). Orders to: C Knowles, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# McCarthy:



McCarthy and assistant

## He climbed on the bandwagon, but who set it rolling?

IF YOU think America is the Land Of The Free and the home of democracy, go and see The Front.

It is a film written, acted and directed by people blacklisted after the war and prevented from working because of the views that they held, and in some cases, the views they were rumoured to have held.

Those days bore the name of a man who did not invent the anti-Communist purge and never purged any

Communists, but made purging a public spectacle.

His name was McCarthy. This is his story.

In 1946, Joseph McCarthy, having won a war medal for breaking his leg at a party and another for 25 combat missions that he never flew, was elected to the Senate. Among those who supported him was, ironically, the Communist Party.

The following year, Richard Nixon discovered the Committee on Un-

American Activities. It had been set up in 1938 to look into racism, but had since lurched rapidly to the right.

The spectre of 'Communism' had appeared on the horizon. And, as they say in politics, if you want to get ahead, get an issue. So Nixon did.

### Fifth

Soon, lists of subversives and suspected subversives were circulated to employers

and even published as newspaper supplements.

Nixon called suspects before the committee and if they took the Fifth Amendment and did not answer any questions they were blacklisted. If they only answered some of the questions they were jailed for contempt.

If they answered all the questions, they had to name other people as suspects and still they might be blacklisted.

Within three years, virtual-

ly every Communist who worked for the government had been sacked, the Rosenbergs had been electrocuted for stealing papers, and Alger Hiss had been jailed on evidence that Nixon would let no-one but himself see.

### Issue

McCarthy, meanwhile, only jumped on the bandwagon when it had nearly reached the end of the road.

In 1950, with Senate elections looming, he needed a safe, popular issue to keep his

seat. He found it—or rather invented it: a 'secret list' of 'Communists in the State Department.'

The alleged number declined dramatically—from 205 to 81 and then one—the more his claims were investigated.

But the truth was unimportant. McCarthy was now the figurehead of the anti-Communist hysteria.

Money poured in and went straight into his personal account.

### Plot

Over the next two years he was instrumental in winning the Presidential elections for the republicans.

But his only major innovation to the hysteria was to make homosexuality a Communist plot.

With Eisenhower as President and Nixon as Vice-President, McCarthy announced his retirement from Communist hunting.

But you can't keep a good demagogue down, and within a month he was back, this time with two full-time assistants and an official Senate sub-committee. Even Bobby Kennedy became a McCarthy investigator.

Soon, however, he was overstepping the mark. When one of his assistants was drafted, he started investigating the Army.

### Bully

His days were numbered. When Nixon appointed a committee to censure him, he called it a Communist plot and was promptly shown the door.

The small-time bully had threatened the big-time bullies—and was thus purged himself. In the 'interests of democracy', you understand.

Within three years he was dead. Drinking and the collapse of his shares on the stock exchange had taken their toll. The papers resurrected him as a hero.

By the way: it couldn't happen here—unless you're a Trotskyist in the Labour Party, that is.

By MARTIN ADAMS



The depths to which the anti-Communist hysteria sank: a picket of the Russian composer Shostakovich



Richard Nixon: he set the ball rolling



Robert Kennedy: He joined McCarthy's team

## Why Lady C took leave of her censors



By PAUL O'FLINN

THE MIDDLE-CLASSES and their representatives in the Tory party have been going on a bit about censorship lately, so it's a good time to have a look at their record on this issue.

It's a doubly good time because it's just 50 years ago this winter that D. H. Lawrence was at work on the most famous and one of the most heavily censored of all British novels, *Lady Chatterly's Lover*.

He had returned to Britain from his travels in the summer of 1926, arriving after the collapse of the General Strike but while the miners were still out on their own. He was shocked by what he saw. After visiting his family who lived in the heart of the Nottinghamshire coalfield, he wrote: 'The women have turned into fierce communists—you would hardly believe your eyes.'

### Class fear

By October, he was back in Florence where he had made his home and by December he had written a novel called *The First Lady Chatterly*, not published in this country till 1972.

He rewrote this book twice in 1927. The second version he called *John Thomas and Lady Jane* and the third,

finished in 1928, was *Lady Chatterly's Lover*.

The first version burns with Lawrence's disturbed feelings in the wake of the General Strike. His heroine Lady Chatterly is obsessed by 'a special class fear', a fear that Britain is on the verge of a Bolshevik revolution.

Her relationship with the gamekeeper—who is called Parkin in this first version—stalls again and again around her reluctance to 'leave the ruling class and enter the subversive class.'

The problem is posed even more sharply in the latter part of the book when Parkin quits his post as gamekeeper and goes to work in Sheffield. There he becomes a factory branch secretary of what Lawrence calls 'the Communist League.'

The tension is resolved in the final pages when Lady Chatterly comes to

accept that she has nothing to fear and everything to gain from an end to the dead life she's been living. She decides to leave 'the slime of her ladyship' and marry Parkin.

By the time Lawrence had rewritten the novel twice, much of this tension is lost. Parkin is renamed Mellors and vastly changed: still a gamekeeper but 'almost a gentleman' and very anti-Bolshevik. The whole Sheffield section is cut out.

Lawrence was writing in Italy, which had been Fascist since Mussolini's advent in 1922. As he revised the novel, it drifted further and further from the truth—from the raw British reality he had touched in 1926—and more and more into absurdity.

Some of this absurdity is sexist, as critics like Kate Millet have argued—for example the notion implicit throughout and made

explicit at one point that 'the only bridge across the chasm (of doom) will be the phallus.'

Some springs from the sort of political idiocy that goes with settling in a Fascist society—for instance the book's closing insistence that what the working class needs to do to find happiness is to learn to live on 25 shillings a week, wear scarlet trousers, carve their own stools and 'acknowledge the great god Pan.'

And yet, for all that, there is much in the novel that is good. When Lawrence finished it, he wrote: 'I feel I must get another blow in at the lily-livered host. One's got to fight.'

### Same story

He struck out at things gone dead and repressive in British life and the extent to which at least some of his blows landed can be gauged from the way the book was banned in this country till 1960. Since then it's sold millions.

This treatment of Lawrence is typical of that experienced by many great artists. Whether it's 19th-century poets like Blake and Shelley or 20th-century novelists like Joyce and Lawrence, the story is the same.

The establishment does its best to shut them up while they're alive and does its best to make a lot of money out of them when they're safely dead.

# Letters



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

**This  
was  
the**

CONGRATULATIONS to Socialist Worker for highlighting the proposals of the General Electric Company (GEC) which will mean a doubling of the income of the shareholders, when at the same time the earnings of its employees are well below average, with warnings of further cuts in living standards to come. The company has also announced its intention of making 'a major expansion of

overseas bases', which in my view is equally outrageous because of GEC's failure to invest in plant and equipment in this country. On Merseyside alone, over the past few years three plants have been closed and the remaining factory reduced in size. The labour force has been reduced from more than 15,000 in 1969 to only 4,000 now. With Merseyside one of the highest unemployment areas, it is crying out for investment. Compared with other capitalist enterprises, for example three major West European rivals, investment in new plant and equipment per employee is substantially less in GEC.

The latest figures, provided by Labour Research, are:

	£ Millions	Year ended
GEC	272	Mar 1976
Phillips	577	Dec 1975
AEG	517	Sept 1975
Siemens	487	Sept 1975

No doubt it is the intention of the

company to increase their investment in even more lucrative countries, thereby maximising their profits—countries such as South Africa, where the exploitation of the black labour force employed by the company is criminal. Recent figures produced by Christian Concern indicate that the majority of the coloured employees are receiving wages below the poverty line.

**Punk rock  
—a kick  
for the  
woolly  
pullover**

THERE'S a lot of sense and a lot of nonsense been written in SW about punk rock. As a youth rock cult, as it is in the South East, it's nothing new. We've seen it all before—the Teds, the Mods and so on. What's different about punk is that it's born in different times. It's because of the crisis that the groups are reaching for politics, however hazy. That's why the Pistols call themselves anarchists, that's why Clash sing anti-fascist, anti-racist songs.

**Blinker**

It's rubbish to say that Clash, for example, can't be revolutionary because if they were Polydor wouldn't sign them. Do Penguin publish books by Trotsky because he was a political moderate?

To imagine that revolutionary songs have to be Das Kapital put to church music, or three woolly pullovers singing the songs of Siberian sand-samplers is not only blinkered but incredibly naive. Socialists have to realise the importance of popular music in people's lives and ideas.

Of course there's no 'inherent virtue' in punk. Of course it could go the wrong way. But it's got revolutionary potential as well.

And for us to ignore it, to turn our backs on those groups that are associating with revolutionary ideas, to turn our backs on young working-class people looking for new ideas, would be criminal and dangerous. **GARRY BUSHELL, London W12.**

**Israel's terrorists**

ALTHOUGH I have no time for those who commit acts such as the Munich 'massacre', I must say that the Zionists and pro-Zionists are the least-entitled people in the world to protest about terrorism.

The plain truth is that the state of Israel owes its existence mainly to the terror campaign by the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Did the Zionists ever organise demonstrations to protest against the murder by Irgun of more than 100 people—including many Jews—at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem?

Haganah, the 'official-unofficial' Zionist army during the British occupation, could have trodden on Irgun at any time, had it chosen to. It did not choose to do so until after Israel had become independent—when Irgun had done their dirty work.

It has been said that anti-Zionism is a 'cover' for anti-Semitism. Strange! Years ago in Iraq there was an organisation called the Baghdad Anti-Zionist Group. This organisation, which incidentally was viciously persecuted by the British-installed Royalist regime of Iraq, was composed mainly of Jews! **JIM PARKES, Walsall.**

## livelihood of 6500 workers —and GEC demolished it



The former GEC/AEI factory in Woolwich, South East London—within weeks of sacking the 6500 workers in 1972, GEC had demolition men at work.

**Appeal**

My only reply to date is a letter from Stan Thorne advising me that he was seeking the support of North West Labour MPs. I am awaiting developments with interest. Through your paper I would be obliged if you would allow me to appeal to all active trade unionists employed by GEC to do the same, also to raise the issues involved in their branches and district committees, further to test the usefulness of the National Joint Consultative Committee, which from the trade union side is represented by trade union officials.

In the past the NJCC appears to have been merely a means for the company to announce redundancies and closures.

Because of the failure of the rank and file, and the lack of support of the officials in previous attempts to set up a shop stewards combine committee, pressure should be brought to bear to ensure that these issues are raised at national level, but in the ultimate, the only answer is public ownership under democratic control.

**WALTER J BROWN, convenor, AUEW, GEC Liverpool Works.**

I HAVE BEEN reading some of the political writings of William Morris and would recommend them to every socialist.

SW could take a leaf out of his book and write a bit more about how things might with 'proper socialist planning'.

After all, people don't just become socialists because they are dissatisfied with our society, but because they also have dreams and ideas of a new society.

**Colin Crane, Newcastle.**

**Ambulance workers' thank you**

I WOULD like to thank you for your support and press coverage of the recent Essex Ambulance dispute, which resulted in donations coming from all parts of the country.

I would also like to thank the local branch of the International Socialists (now the Socialist Workers Party) for the marvellous help and support they gave us in fund-raising, leaflet distribution and provision of professionally artistic posters. This support will never be forgotten and trust one day we will be able to return the gesture.

**K WASH, secretary, COHSE Essex Ambulance Branch, Maldon, Essex.**

**Hate—that's what the bombs bring**

EAMONN McCANN boasts about his intimate relations with retired terrorists (SW, 15 January). I wonder if you will publish these words for him to read out to them in a loud voice all over Ireland.

Ray Slater was blown up on 30 December 1975. He was an unemployed worker who had the misfortune to be born in a Protestant area.

He went in for a pint at his local and then... Well, let Ray tell it himself.

'See, there was an arm of a chair stuck through me. It was stuck through my back and stomach, and the doctor pulled it out there and then. I felt it coming out all right... I knew I was badly hurt. I had no feeling in my right leg at all.'

It is hard to have any sensation in your leg when it has been blown off.

The friends of Eamonn will doubtless say that such measures are necessary to bring to the attention of the people of the earth that the

Irish people want out from under the yoke of the Westminster parliament.

It would probably be their contention that by doing such they are making progress along the road to effecting an all-Irish union. Let Ray Slater have the last word on this:

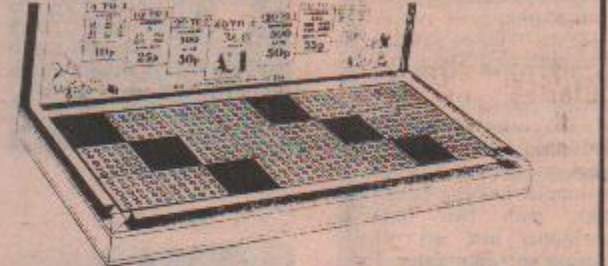
'When I think to the fellow who planted the bomb that injured me, all I find myself wishing for him is a slow and painful death. And there's too many people in this country, like me, looking for vengeance.'

So, Eamonn, all the bombings of your terrorist friends are of no avail. They've not made one step towards convincing the Protestant workers of Ireland's northernmost province of Ulster that a united Ireland would be to their benefit.

All they have done is stir up a vast hatred

**From a worker-student, H C MULLINS, Glasgow**

**RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE**  
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Please print address clearly in BLOCK LETTERS.  
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Rank and File Organising Committee, 1 Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.

**IRELAND: WORKERS' ACTION NEEDED**

MANY workers in Britain are confused about the struggle in Ireland. Many still don't understand why it has to a large extent taken a sharp turn from basic socialist demands to extreme nationalism.

While there has always been great feeling for independence, this was seen as part of a process where Protes-

tant and Catholic workers would unite to fight the common enemy—capitalism.

Irish workers waited for the initiative which they created to be built by the international solidarity of the British labour movement, pressuring the government to withdraw. But this solidarity did not appear, and the nationalist elements

found it easy to propagate anti-British (anti-workers and bosses) feeling among Irish workers.

Many socialists are still part of a nationalist Provisional IRA campaign, only because they know the struggle will change towards socialist policies if that solidarity from British workers appears. We

can help them and other Irish socialists by building mass solidarity among workers in Britain to get British troops out of Ireland.

A large attendance at the Bloody Sunday demonstration would be a start... a great start.

**BILL FORSTER, Islington SWP.**

# Five years after

**BLOODY SUNDAY** wasn't an accident.

It didn't happen because Parasquaddies lost their cool and let loose. It went perfectly according to plan. And the plan had been approved in advance by the British government of the day.

The men who masterminded the murder of 14 Derry workers were not—or at least not only—the military tacticians at Army HQ: they were Heath, Maudling, Carrington and the rest of the genteel barbarians who comprised the Tory cabinet and who have found in Callaghan and Mason successors of the same stamp.

## Awesome

Bloody Sunday was designed to bring peace. That is to say, its perpetrators hoped, by one awesome act of savagery, to stun a whole people into acceptance of defeat. Instead, it burst the dam which had held in hatred of British rule and let it out to swamp the land.

It swamped politics, too. In the hysterical aftermath, as men quite literally formed queues to join the Provos, there was little time and less inclination to think hard about perspectives or debate different analyses. For most militants, the armed struggle was all.

And the legacy of that, in lost chances of building a socialist alternative, in the stiffening of sectarian attitudes, can be added to the price the Irish people are still paying.

## Boasted

In the five years since, the struggle has ebbed and flowed as regularly as the tide. At each ebbing, British ministers and military chiefs have boasted that the enemy was scattered, that 'terrorism' was on the edge of defeat.

At the tide's turning, they have cursed the recalcitrance of the Irish and summoned the resolve for another final assault.

And while the militants were being bludgeoned, the moderates were being bought off with bribes: Cabinet jobs for Catholic leaders who would settle for compromise.

Stormont was first 'reformed', then abolished. An Assembly was elected in its place, a majority of whose members agreed at Sunningdale to try a 'power-sharing' experiment. It lasted a few months.

## Guidelines

More recently, the Constitutional Convention where, supposedly, Northern politicians would devise a solution without British interference—but within guidelines which Britain had laid down—rose, then very rapidly fell.

Which left Britain with no policy to complement military repression except to encourage the Peace Movement in the hope of isolating Republicans.

The main reason these 'initiatives' collapsed was the inability of the Orange monolith to assimilate change. But associated with that has been the fact that the lessons of Bloody Sunday were well learned in the Catholic ghettos where the bona fides of

# Bloody Sunday, nothing's changed



any British plan for Ireland elicited only bitterness and scorn.

**NO SOLDIER has ever come to court for the Bloody Sunday killings. Far from it. The Lord Chief Justice of England was called in to cover up, which he did with contemptuous disregard for simple truth.**

The Widgery Report was a compendium of lies assembled by a man so corrupt that, in comparison, Ananias was the epitome of honesty: the perfect personification of British law in Ireland.

At Westminster, politicians on both front benches accurately prejudged what Widgery would find and exonerated the Paras the very day after the slaughter.

30 JANUARY 1972 is a date burned deep into the memory of Irish people.

On that day, in Rossville Street, Derry, British paratroopers opened fire on a peaceful demonstration against internment. Thirteen people were murdered. A fourteenth, seriously wounded, died later.

Five years on, repression is still Britain's only policy in Ireland. Five years on, nothing has changed. Five years away from the immediate shock of brutal murders carried out by British troops on the orders of British politicians, it is every bit as vital to campaign for Ireland's freedom.

That is why, on the fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Socialist Worker is proud to publish Eamonn McCann's record of that day and what it meant.

They were immeasurably more outraged when Bernadette Devlin hit Reginald Maudling—not hard enough—on the face than by 14 Irish workers being gunned down in their name.

That was noted in the Bogside and filed away for future reference. As was the attitude of Fleet Street, which lauded the killers, labelled the victims and served up Widgery's excreta on exultant front pages.

And lest there be any doubt left in our minds about where Britain, officially, stood, 11 months later Her Majesty the Queen



One of the 14 victims: the man who organised the massacre later got an OBE.

By  
**EAMONN McCANN**

bestowed an OBE on the man who had led the Paras into action, Lt.-Col. Derek Wilford. Clearly, he was considered to have done well.

In the light of all that one sees more plainly the reason Catholics reject seemingly 'reasonable' proposals; why the Provos, despite all, retain formidable support; why the Peace Movement has had so little effect.

The image of Bloody Sunday, of the bodies in a bundle outside Rossville Street flats, is burned too deeply into the consciousness of every Catholic ghetto to be

faded by time, obscured by events, or smoothed over by political soft-talk.

**THERE HAVE been other atrocities, certainly: others by the Army, by the Orange paramilitaries, by the Provos themselves. They could be said to be commonplace.**

But Bloody Sunday remains by far the most important to remember and for socialists in Britain to dwell on at length—not only for the cold-blooded precision with which it was accomplished, but because nothing else has so illuminated hard political fact.

That the class which rules thinks nothing at all of killing workers by the dozen to hold on

to its power. That parliament, the press and those who dispense law are mere ancillary agents in the same brutal endeavour.

That there is no person prominent in British bourgeois politics today, no person in an editorial chair in Fleet Street or on a bench in a British court, who has begun to earn the right to condemn the violence of others.

The violence done at their bidding is better armed, better organised and achieved with more casual efficiency than any which comes in reaction. And there is no reason to suppose we will soon see an end of it.

The government of Callaghan is every inch as determined as Heath's to impose a solution which would preserve British interests and leave the community which suffered Bloody Sunday a unfree as before.

## Killers

Nothing new is being offered on the verge of being taken which is why peace is not at hand: peace now would, of necessity, be on terms made by Britain, would be victory at last for the Bloody Sunday killers.

That is why there will be war in Ireland throughout the rest of this year, and on to other years ahead: until the men whose perfect planning came to bloody fruition five years ago in Derry are gone from Ireland for good.

## GOOD MORNING, IT'S A FINE DAY FOR A KILLING

**THE BLOODY Sunday march against internment—introduced the previous August—was one of a series held in defiance of a ban imposed by Brian Faulkner's Stormont government.**

Faulkner was under extreme pressure, from the ultra-right led by Craig and Paisley, who wanted even harsher repression, and from 'moderates' of his own party who were uneasy about internment and threatening to defect. This was the countdown:

□ Monday 24 January 1972: Craig announces that a number of organisations,

including the Orange Order and Apprentice Boys, have joined together to form 'Unionist Vanguard', claims 100,000 members, threatens campaign to topple Faulkner.

□ Tuesday 25: Two unionist 'moderates', Phelim O'Neill and Robert Simpson, desert Faulkner for recently formed Alliance Party.

□ Wednesday 25: Meeting of Stormont Security Committee to discuss Derry march attended by Faulkner, right-wing Home Affairs Minister John Taylor, Army chief General Tuzo and RUC Chief Constable.

□ Thursday 27: Paisley condemns

'weakness' of government, announces a 'law and order' rally to be held across route of Derry march.

Tells Stormont that failing decisive action 'the Protestant people will take the law into their own hands.'

Faulkner flies to London, has hour-long private meeting with Prime Minister Heath, Heath immediately summons Cabinet Defence and Overseas Committee to Downing Street, attended by Maudling, Barber, Carrington, Whitelaw and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

□ Friday 28: Irish Times headline: London worried about weakness of Faulkner's position. At Stormont, Paisley

has private meeting with Faulkner. No statement issued afterwards.

□ Saturday 29: Paisley calls off 'law and order' rally in view of 'assurances I have been given'.

□ Sunday 30: First Battalion Parachute Regiment, stationed outside Belfast, mobilised and driven 72 miles across Northern Ireland to take up positions at the edge of the Bogside in Derry.

At 12.45pm, local reporter Nell McCafferty is greeted by soldier as she comes out of mass: 'Good morning folks, it's a fine day for killing'.

□ 2.30pm: March 10,000 strong leaves Creggan Estate in carnival spirit.

# ESSEX SET FOR SAVAGE CUTS

## Confidential document tells all

### A CONFIDENTIAL Essex County Council document outlining proposals to cut more than 2000 jobs has come into the possession of Socialist Worker.

According to the document, issued by the County Personnel Officer, the council are seeking spending cuts of £8,584,000.

The result would be 967 jobs lost through natural wastage and another 1213 through sackings, making a total of 2180.

The axe falls heaviest of all in education, with more than 1600 jobs to go and 'savings' of a staggering £7 million.

Clearly the Tories who control the council, and who preside over the most overworked schools in the country, are going to enjoy breaking down the floodgates that the Labour government has so invitingly opened for them.

Meanwhile, there will be no cut in the £16,000 the council spend on sending 40 upper-class children to a private school in Brentwood.

Worst-hit by the cuts will be school-cleaners, with 400 part-timers facing the sack. 150 kitchen staff also face redundancy.

Outside education, the fire brigade are increased by a cut of 12 full-time firemen and 20 part-time cooks and cleaners. Essex firemen have called a picket of the county council finance sub-committee at 10.30am next Tuesday (1 February) to show their anger.

□ **Socialist Worker will supply copies of the confidential document to any trade unionist in Essex. Write to: Socialist Worker, Box A, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.**

## MENACE WE MUST ALL FIGHT

by Bobby Buirds

**IN THE LAST** few years there has been a cut back in the building and construction industries caused by the capitalist crisis.

This has thrown 350,000 building and construction workers on the dole and a lowering of living standards of many other construction workers by wage control.

A few years ago, most construction workers could pick the jobs, but now, if you are not willing to travel to other areas, you find yourself on the dole or on small jobs where the money is not very good.

These small jobs now employ the biggest number of construction workers. And those workers face the biggest attacks on their conditions—pipfitters, steel erectors, riggers, welders, electricians and mechanical fitters—managements are pushing for more flexibility by offering pennies and trying to break demarcation lines, which for a small workforce are hard to keep unless you look for help from the bigger jobs.

### Bigger

By getting more flexibility, managements can reduce the intake of workers and make bigger profits.

In the light of the heavy unemployment, we must stop this.

We must protect the demarcation lines and use them as a weapon to get more people employed.

We must stop pipfitters doing welding and rigging and, in some cases, three different types of welding. This applies to all trades.

We should start arguing for and fighting for one worker, one job.

Some unions see this as a chance for making closed shops of one union. But all that does is start inter-union fights with management laughing up their sleeves.

A campaign by construction workers must be taken up on the sites and in the union branches to stop these deals with management and to fight for more jobs.

**MANCHESTER** Right to Work Campaign supporters please make contact for the picket of the court when the Right to Work marchers depart from St Peter's Square, Manchester, 5pm, Monday 31 January. Already four TU bodies are backing the picket. Bring your own banners and slipping bags. Accommodation arranged. Further details c/o TU Books, 260 Oldham Street, Manchester.

**HENEL HEMPSTEAD** Right to Work Campaign social Saturday 5 February. 8.00pm. Old Town Hall, 111 Eastgate St., Wilm in the Hall. Free disco and bar. Tickets only. Phone Henel 056603. £1 each (50p unemployed).

# 28 training colleges face axe

**TWENTY-EIGHT** teacher training colleges are to be shut.

A further 14 colleges are to be merged and cut down to seven. The numbers at another 16 colleges are to be drastically cut.

Andy Durean, a member of the National Union of Students executive and of NOISS, the student organisation that supports the Socialist Workers Party, said:

'This is the worst example yet of how the cuts are hitting students in education.

'Thousands of children will be taught in understaffed schools if these cuts are allowed to go through.

'NOISS will be fighting every attempted closure. We want this taken up not just in teacher training colleges but by students everywhere.'

### Refuse

The new term has opened to a wave of occupations and protests against the cuts and students' conditions.

**MANCHESTER:** Students occupied the university telephone exchange on Tuesday after the vice-chancellor refused to negotiate on increasing the amount of money received by the student union.

The vice-chancellor has threatened to have us evicted. Members of NOISS called for the occupation.

Messages of support to Gwyl Stevenson, Education Officer, Manchester University, Student Union, Oxford Rd., Manchester.

**MANCHESTER:** A general meeting at the Polytechnic has authorized the student union



Trainee teachers picketing the Department of Education in London this week over the closure of 28 training colleges.

executive to organise direct action in the near future against the cuts.

**BOURNEMOUTH:** Students occupied the Institute of Higher Education overnight in protest at the lack of library facilities.

**LONDON:** Students at the Central London Polytechnic have occupied the administration buildings in Regent Street. They are protesting against their Academic Council's deci-

sion to accept a ten per cent quota on overseas students.

Police arrived in the reception area, but had to leave after the convenor of the public employees union, NUPE, threatened immediate strike action.

Members of the local government workers union, NALGO, and the lecturers' union NATFHE, were unable to work and took part in meetings and discussion on the occupation instead.

## READING: THIS IS THE WAY TO SAVE JOBS

**READING:** 8 jobs were saved at Robert Cort after 150 engineering workers came out on strike last Friday.

Management wanted to make five fitters and three welders redundant because, they claimed, orders were slack.

But they were forced to back down on Sunday after 24-hour picketing threatened to keep a valuable export order from leaving the yard.

Robert Cort is a private concern whose management like to pretend that the workforce are all part of one big happy family.

But conditions inside the factory are atrocious. Some of the roofs are lined with exposed asbestos, and when the sun shines the air is thick with a metallic haze from the lathes.

Management have hired and fired workers according to the state of their order book. The man who owns the firm has no such problems.

He owns three Mercedes

# Magnavox equal pay strikers go back to work

**BARKING:** After nearly two weeks on strike for equal pay, the men and women at Magnavox have gone back to work, with only half of what they want.

The grade have been reorganised, giving everyone some more money. But it is still a long way from equal pay.

The local full-time official of the engineering union, J. Gibbard, told the workers that was all they were going to get.

If he had been as determined as the men and women who stood out on the picket lines in freezing snow and rain, the result might have been much better.

But at least something has been achieved.



## STING IN THE TAIL

by Jenny Spencer

**HAMPSHIRE:** Four women who won an equal pay claim of £11 a week at a tribunal last August have been made redundant by their employers, Racal-Milgo.

They have been told there is no work for them to do, yet other departments in the small electronics factory are still working four nights a week overtime. The women say their work is being contracted out.

The company is still fighting the tribunal decision. Not surprising, since they own three bigger factories in the area where hundreds of women could claim equal pay.

The four victimised women are determined to fight on by claiming unfair dismissal.

## SACRIFICE, BY A BOSS

By Marcus Luck  
Ipswich Right to Work Campaign

**BURY ST. EDMUNDS:** Eight women workers at the T. H. Nice group of garages are on strike for equal pay.

The women, all office workers, are the lowest paid in the group. Their wages range from between £16 and £32.64. The minimum rate for manual workers is £34.50.

The strike is supported by their union, IASS, and the Bury and District Shop Stewards Association.

T. H. Nice is part of George Ewer, Chairman, H. G. Ewer picked up a cool £232 a week plus dividends, expenses and a company car during 1975.

### View

He has written to each of the women, saying: 'Whilst understanding the sincerity of your viewpoint I have to remind you that we are all being asked to make some financial sacrifices in the nation's interests.'

Burrells opened their new £250,000 showroom in Ipswich recently. Racing driver James Hunt did the honours for an undisclosed fee and management had a champagne beano. No doubt they toasted the Year of the Beaver.

□ **Donations and messages to: Sue Austin, Strike Committee, 111 Eastgate St., Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.**

# Hatchet man Millan

**SCOTLAND:** Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, last week announced proposals which would cut the number of teacher training colleges in Scotland from ten to six, make 400 academic staff redundant, and reduce student intake by 1,150.

Already the Strathclyde Education Authority are saying that they may not employ any new primary school teachers.

### Fight

Supporters of the Rank and File group in the EIS have argued for a fight to lower class sizes, which would create more jobs for student teachers and teachers already on the dole, and better education in the schools.

This year the building of links between student teachers and other public sector workers will be essential.

Any notion that teachers can be treated as a special case

**SPARKS: ALL OUT ON 14 FEBRUARY**

**THE ELECTRICIANS union, the EPTU, has called a one-day strike in the telecommunications industry on 14 February in protest against cuts in Post Office spending.**

The recent and additional cuts in the Post Office have

threatened the future of the British telecommunications industry.

20,000 redundancies have already taken place and another 20,000 are expected in the next two or three years, if the cuts continue.

**By Jack MacKenna, EPTU convenor, STC East Kilbride**

TUC committees and union conferences have regularly issued policy statements calling for nationalisation of the industry.

Although patchy, this document defines union policy in a

number of areas around which rank and file members can organise action to save jobs.

The one-day strike is an opportunity for all union members to demonstrate their opposition to unemployment and to organise stronger and more effective action against Labour's Tory policies.

## Jewellery workers locked-out

BIRMINGHAM: The jewellery firm Morton T Colver is out to prove that not only the city's jewellery quarter belongs to the 1870s but that the wages, conditions and industrial relations belong to the 1870s as well.

The firm has locked out nine members of the National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades (NUGSAT), for going to their union office. After two week's picketing the nine were sacked.

The dispute started back in November when the workers decided to join NUGSAT because their wages were so low—about £19 a week. The union wrote to the firm asking for recognition—and got no reply.

The sacked workers picketing the firm are being supported during the lunch hour by other jewellery workers from the jewellery quarter, who are also paying a voluntary levy. Delivery drivers are also blacking the firm and the pickets are being supported by workers in the Metal Mechanics Union.

The success of the strike depends on support from other workers, both financial and on the picket line. Please send messages of support and money to: Morton T Colver strikers, c/o NUGSAT, 19/23 Pilsford Street, Hockley, Birmingham 18.

## Swindon 1200 threatened

SWINDON: Workers at Garrards engineering factory have been told that up to 1,200 jobs could be lost. This has struck the town like a bombshell—we were recently told that Garrards had a rosy future.

Management has assured the workers there will be no redundancies among piece workers but that there could be some among time workers. Senior shop steward Bill Baxter told a mass meeting: 'This is a deliberate attempt to divide and rule the workforce and must be resisted at all costs.'

'Full employment must be maintained. If we haven't got a job, we haven't got anything.'

The meeting voted overwhelmingly for a campaign to save the jobs—including an immediate ban on overtime.

Messages of support to: Garrards Engineering Shop Stewards Committee, Newcastle Street, Swindon, Wiltshire.

## In brief . . . In brief . . . In brief . . .

LEICESTER: In the latest of a series of attacks on shop-floor organisation Bentley Engineering management have announced plans to close Wild Mellor Bromley's Ayleston Road works. This means nearly 400 out of work and a similar number transferred to the St Saviour's Road works.

A mass meeting on Monday declared total opposition to the redundancies and pledged support for any action that the stewards thought necessary. Decisive action needs to be taken quickly.

EAST LONDON: Five courageous cleaners at the Holbrook annexe of North East London Polytechnic look set to win the right to work in safety after 17 weeks on strike.

Poly director Dr George Brosan has promised two student union vice-presidents that the governing body, the JEC, will agree to the cleaners' demands.

Student vice-president Dick Clark told the cleaners: 'If



Right to Work Campaign pickets on the Post House, Reading



The TGWU 5/35 branch bus which arrived at the Oxford picket loaded with food.

## OXFORD: Canteen workers on strike

by MIKE COX Linton Lodge Strike Committee

OXFORD: Our two strikes for union recognition at the Randolph and the Linton Lodge hotels are now in their ninth week. Most casual customers are now being turned away at the Linton Lodge, and last weekend the Open University cancelled a conference of 80 people.

Canteen workers at British Leyland's nearby body plant are holding a one-day token strike in our support. They too are employed by Trust House Forte.

Some sinister things have been happening. The local Transport and General Workers Union full time official has received a threatening letter telling him to call of the pickets or else.

One night a group of white Rhodesians drove up to the hotel and unsuccessfully to break the picket the management are white South Africans.

# Sheffield: Blacking begins to bite

THE blacking of products from Edgar Allen Balfour in Sheffield is beginning to bite.

Lay-offs are beginning at Smiths Industries, which produces all the magnets needed for speedometers in the motor

Lay-offs will follow soon in British Leyland and other car plants.

For seven weeks 2,500 workers in the Edgar Allen Balfour group have been on strike to stop the loss of 400 jobs and the closure of one plant.

The reason for the employers' determination to break the strike becomes

clear. Last week another company in Sheffield declared 570 redundancies and the closure of the Millspaugh factory, owned by a Swiss multinational, Sulzer.

The Sheffield employers are terrified of a movement confident to challenge their power to hire and fire.

Firms that have attempted to break the dispute and should be nationally blacked are Earls Transport, Rivelin Valley Transport, and Philipps Haulage.

The district committee of the Sheffield Engineering Unions Confederation which called the huge half-day stoppage and demonstration, was meeting on Thursday to discuss further action. The strike committee, many of whose members feel the confed has been dragging its feet will be picketing the meeting and demanding that a district wide shop stewards' meeting is called.

### Dignity

The employers still insist that the Capitol Tool Works will close on Friday. The EAB shop stewards committee replied this week in a statement: 'Trade unions did not come into existence to be whipping boys for smug employers or biased newspapers. They were built to improve the standards of living of working people and to give them dignity.'

'They didn't succeed by listening to employers who promise all but give nothing, or being fragmented, weak and disunited—neither will we.'

Money is still needed. Send to the strike committee, New Inn, Carbrook Street, Sheffield 9.

## PICKETS FLYING AGAIN!

THE FLYING PICKET is alive and well and living in North Wales, despite all the schemes and jailings of building workers.

After threats to sack several workers on the new Pontin's holiday camp site at Tower Beach, near Prestatyn, the workers staged an absolutely solid strike last week. They were determined to stop the victimisation of brickies' steward Fred Walker and of Ricky Tomlinson, another steward on their site.

Their pickets were sent out to Pontin's main holiday camp development where a trade fair was on the go. The workers' solidarity should with luck mean a speedy victory.

## Tribunal NO! Workers YES!

LEICESTER: Thirty workers at the Leicester Photo Company are staying out on strike for the right to belong to a union after an industrial tribunal refused to reinstate one worker.

Bob Shaw was sacked as management tried to break support for the clerical

workers' union APEX. The union decided to argue that this was unfair dismissal.

Only four cases have ever been fought on these grounds. All have been lost. So instead, the workers are staying on strike and keeping up the pickets.

Brosan rats on his promise, the situation is escalated.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Steelworkers at Greenwich Reinforcement Services received a fine welcome back from the management after a strike over safety.

The 70 members of the iron and steelworkers union, ISTC, went back to work on Thursday. On Friday morning they were given redundancy notices.

KETTERING: Journalists out for eight weeks over a claim for better conditions voted by an increased majority to stay out.

Other chapels (office branches) of the National Union of Journalists in East Midlands Allied Press are being asked to obey a national executive instruction to come out and the NGA print workers urged again to support the strike.

Management clearly intends to smash NUJ organisa-

tion at Kettering and has offered bribes for members to scab and join the right-wing Institute of Journalists.

Money and messages of support to Jerry Connolly, 2 Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough. (Phone Kettering 516145).

WEST MIDLANDS: 55 members of the General and Municipal Workers Union at Beane Industries, Tipton, have voted to continue their strike over holiday pay and wage deductions.

## WIZARD, FIDDLER AND DUNN!

WIZARD, Fiddler and Dunn are the appropriately named managers of Haskins Light engineering factory in Basingstoke, part of the Braidy group.

Wizard, Fiddler and Dunn concocted a new bonus scheme, which as James Langfear, and Engineering Union shop steward, told

Socialist Worker, 'would have had us working 25 per cent harder for the same money'.

After an argument, the management locked out half the workforce. Now nine weeks later all AUEW members are occupying.

Letters sacking the whole workforce were collected in a sack and sent back.

Wizard, Fiddler and Dunn are now going to the courts to try and get the occupation stopped.

Support and donations are welcome. Please send to F Kitson, Strike Committee Treasurer, 13 Lundy Close, Popley, Basingstoke, Hants.

# Nationwide pickets on hotels

PICKETS stood outside Trust House Forte hotels all over the country on Saturday in support of hotel workers on strike for union recognition at Oxford and Sheffield.

The pickets were called by the Right to Work Campaign.

Milk wasn't delivered at the Post House hotel, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD. The milkman, a member of the Transport and General Workers Union, spoke to pickets for a few moments—and then agreed not to deliver.

The 7am picket by six members of Hemel SWP hit the front page of the local paper—that evening Right to Work Campaign supporters swelled their numbers to 13.

The hotel's workers had been warned by management on no account to speak to the pickets. A woman who came out to ask for a leaflet said the manager was apologising to all the hotel guests for 'those dreadful people outside'. At CRAWLEY Right to Work Campaign supporters leafletting the George Hotel discovered that some part-time workers are on 47p an hour—even on Christmas Day.

Staff have to work long hours without a break. One youngster described working for 13 hours, with a half-hour unpaid lunch break.

One man worked 69 hours and got £33—including pay for six hours the previous week.

Other pickets were held in Leicester, Reading, Manchester and other towns.

### Strike

John Deason, secretary of the National Right to Work Campaign, said on Saturday: 'These pickets are just a start. We want local Right to Work committees to carry on harassing Trust House Forte until they give in.'

'We want TGWU branches to pass resolutions calling for national blacking of THF, and we want THF workers—particularly in the canteens in big factories—to start taking solidarity strike action. TGWU members should approach all THF workers for action against this firm.'

'We want pickets at unexpected times outside any big function at THF hotels, right across the country!'

Support the strike funds: Randolph Hotel strike fund, 41 Bridge St, Osney, Oxford; Linton Lodge strike fund, 127 Botley Rd, Oxford; Grosvenor House strike fund, c/o Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

## SHEFFIELD: 80 on the picket

By John Donachi

SHEFFIELD: 'We are going to win.' That was the message from Martin Clayton, one of the 50 workers on strike for union recognition for seven weeks at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

He was speaking at the end of a two-hour solidarity picket of the hotel on Saturday, attended by 80 supporters of the Right to Work Campaign.

On Wednesday delegations from the strikers went to London to lobby the national executive of the Transport and General Workers Union. They were joined by pickets from Oxford.

### Response

The National Trades Group Executive of the TGWU called on the national executive for national blacking of Trust Houses Forte. The Yorkshire regional secretary also called for blacking of Gardner's Merchants, a subsidiary of THF, who act as industrial caterers in factory canteens.

Treyor Jones, a shop steward at the Grosvenor House, said:

'It's not just in Sheffield and Oxford we're fighting. This strike is important for hotel workers everywhere.'

'When we win this strike it will be a real breakthrough. We can begin to get as many hotels organised as possible. Morale has been boosted since the news that blacking and other solidarity action is spreading.'

Four people arrested by police on a peaceful mass picket of the annual staff dinner at the Grosvenor House on 9 January are to appear in Sheffield Magistrates Court on Tuesday, charged with obstruction. The Right to Work Campaign is organising a picket of the court from 9.30am onwards.

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# Socialist Worker

## KILLER FIRE: ANOTHER 'ACCIDENT'?

By Anne Robertson

**THE HORROR** of last week's sweat shop fire in Manchester hit me especially hard.

I work alongside the mother of one of the seven women who were killed.

Anne Mathews had just had another baby. She had returned to work at the Northern Punch Company building three days before the inferno.

### FORCED

*She hated the place and had handed in her notice.*

That's the grim reality, so far removed from the nonsense in the newspapers about the women working for pin money.

They worked because they desperately needed the cash. And their desperation forced them to tolerate the appalling conditions.

Two of the other women, Lena Lily Myers and Hilda

### Quote

£100 could have saved the women—the cost of a smoke detector alarm. These women would have known of the fire in good time, and made their escape. The alarms aren't compulsory and the fire brigade have no power to enforce them.

MANCHESTER FIREMAN

King, both married with children, relied on their earnings to supplement their husbands' wages of £30 a week.

All of the women were married with young children.

The building was a death trap. Despite £8,000 supposedly spent on fire precautions, there had been no fire drill and the manager admitted that the women didn't even know where the fire escapes were.

There were no automatic sprinklers. There was no automatic heat-sensitive alarm, only a manual one on the ground floor where there was no-one to activate it.

*Why were the women unable to get out the door to the fire escape?*

### RISK

How many more sweat shops and small businesses operate from similar buildings throughout the country?

While we have low wages, poor conditions and lack of nursery facilities, not to mention meagre fines for health and safety violations, the lives of our sisters will go on being sacrificed.

**COVENTRY:** For the second time in 18 months, workers at Massey Ferguson have been served with High Court writs to end an occupation of the factory.

In June 1975, the company used the courts to break a strike and occupation over wages.

This week they went again to the judges to try to break the five-week-old strike against a lockout.

And on Tuesday the High Court issued an injunction—and the strikers decided to call off the sit-in. But the strike goes on.

136 men were locked out before Christmas for 'inadequate effort' and have been supported by more than 1,000 workers of the tractor assembly shop.

### Break

Shop stewards from the assembly shop strike committee told Socialist Worker: 'We deplore the company's use of the court in trying to break our strike. We have occupied over defending our agreement on wages.'

'Nowhere in the agreement does Massey's have the right to take men 'off the clock' without going through the procedures, and this is what they've done.'

*'We firmly believe that this*



The factory where seven women died: no-one knew the fire-escapes

## Children die as fire sweeps home

LOUSY working conditions killed those seven women in Manchester last week.

Lousy living conditions struck down the Matthias family in North London last week.

Hyacinth Matthias, a single parent forced to live on Social Security, lost three of her four children as fire swept through her home. Mark, seven, Debby, six, and Tyrone, Four, were all killed.

### Fault

She managed to save baby Anishea by jumping from a first-floor window. She is now seriously ill in Central Middlesex Hospital.

The fire began after an electrical fault downstairs.

Hyacinth was one of six young black women recently dragged through the courts after organising against police harassment.

It is unlikely that the police will devote such energy to investigating the cause of the fire which ravaged her family.

Socialist Worker sends its fondest greetings to her in hospital.

## Judges smash sit-in - again



Office staff at Massey's returning home as the sit-in took effect: then the judges moved in.

*involves all workers in Massey's and not just us. It could be anybody next time.'*

'And it's not just in Massey's that they're doing this. In other factories in Coventry, and probably the rest of the country, companies are trying to impose their wishes by taking men off the clock.'

'They think because there's 1½ million they can beat us. Well, they can't.'

### Need

The Coventry strike is being supported by Massey Ferguson workers in Manchester and Knowsley near Liverpool, by Coventry Trades Council and the local Engineering Union district committee.

Support for the lockout and occupation is now urgently needed. The 1,100 on strike are determined to win, because they feel a defeat

would hand to the company cheap rates for tractor assembly for the next ten years and would pave the way for measured day work in the factory.

But they don't feel strong enough to face the law courts on their own.

The company have refused to negotiate until the men return to work.

□ Money and messages of support to: Massey Ferguson Assembly Shop Strike Committee, c/o AUEW Halls, Coronation Street, Coventry.

## ALL OUT ON TUESDAY!

TWO MORE Right to Work Marchers facing jail will be making a crucial court appearance next Tuesday.

Last week unemployed miner Mike Lynch was sent down for three months after Middlesex Crown Court upheld his conviction for assaulting the police.

Now Bobby Burds, sentenced to two months, and Willie Dolan, one month, have their appeals heard.

The convictions follow the police attack on the Manchester to London Right to Work March last spring.

The Right to Work Campaign are calling a picket of

Support the Right to Work Marchers  
**DROP THE CHARGES  
FREE MIKE LYNCH**

Tuesday 1 February: March from the appeal courts (where Bobby Burds case will be heard) to Pentonville Prison, Assemble 10am, Middlesex Crown Court, the Guildhall, Westminster Square. BRING BANNERS

the court and then a march to Pentonville Prison, where Mike Lynch is held. Among those supporting the picket will be Manchester trade unionists from Wilsons Brewery URTU shop stewards committee,

Salford, TASS Wellman shop stewards, Geigy Shop Stewards Partington EEP-TU and others.

□ Two other Marchers, Joe Cronshaw and Mike Alderson, had their convictions quashed on appeal this week.

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