

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

RIGHT TO WORK  
MARCHER FREED

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# OUT WITH THE CON-TRICK!

## PRICES

'By the end of 1976 price increases will be down to less than 10p in the £'.

—Government White Paper, July 1975

□ FACT: Prices rose by 15p in the £ last year. The Price Commission predicts they will be rising by 19p in the £ this summer. In the last year, food prices have risen by twice as much as take-home wages

## CUTS

The pay controls are the alternative to 'hard-faced policies hitting straight at public expenditure on services for the people'.

—TUC official broadsheet, 1975

□ FACT: Three sets of cuts in the last year have destroyed thousands of jobs and decimated nursery schools, old people's homes, hospitals, food subsidies, and many other services.

## JOBS

'The wage control plan leads the fight for jobs'.

—TUC broadsheet, August 1975.

□ FACT: Unemployment then was 944,000. Now it is 1,450,000.

## PROFITS

'The price code will be toughly applied so that money waived on wages will not raise profits'.

—TUC broadsheet, July 1975.

□ FACT: Profits of companies reporting in January 1977 were 27.6 per cent higher than a year before.

# Fight for:

- Substantial wage rises now. You need at least £10 more to keep ahead of prices
- 35-hour week to create jobs
- A national one-day public sector strike against the cuts

£500!  
But we  
need  
your  
pennies,  
too

THE MINERS' ballot result shows that the social contract fraud is getting distinctly shaky

Eighty six thousand miners, against the recommendation of their union executive, voted for early retirement for all miners young and old

In Scotland, Kent and Yorkshire, the No vote was overwhelming.

If the leaders of the South Wales coalfield hadn't sold the pass and recommended a yes vote, and if there had been a real national campaign, there is little doubt that the Nos could have been in a majority.

But the only real campaign took place in Yorkshire.

One group of miners did campaign nationally, however: the supporters of the Collier paper. They produced 20,000 leaflets.

They were able to do so because they could use Socialist Worker's press.

That is what Socialist Worker exists for—to step up the propaganda war being waged by rank and file groups like the Collier.

That is why we need the money that members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party send every week. That is why we have set ourselves a fund target of £30,000.

This week's post brought in £983, including £500 from a London supporter.

If other supporters could send this sort of donation, we would soon reach our target.

Supporters are not short of good ideas for boosting the fund. Following the "Scrounger of the Year" article in Socialist Worker, Teesside Poly Students organised an Anti-Silver Jubilee disco which raised £8.

Our thanks to:

Stockport £10; Norwich £4.83; Anon £2; Newham Teachers £50; Outer East London £50; Lampeter £2.50; Husai £5; Swinson £7.50; Portsmouth £100; S E London £35.30; Bedford £4; Edinburgh £8; Inner East London £40; Grays and Tilbury £20; Stockport £18; Dumfries £14.90; Rupi Singh £5; P K Res £5 Anon £21.

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



# No back street abortion!

SUPPORT for the demonstration against the backstreet abortion Bill called by Women's Voice and the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies started coming in this week.

Student unions at the University of East Anglia, North East London Poly and Manchester Poly voted their support. So did the Magazine branch of the National Union of Journalists.

The demonstration is because a right-wing Tory MP is trying to introduce a Bill in parliament to make NHS abortion more difficult, if not impossible. It is vital this move be stopped.

**DEMONSTRATE:** Friday 25 February, assemble 12.30pm, West Smithfield, London (nearest tube Farringdon) for march to rally in Central Hall Westminster. Bring banners and children. Get your union support.



# THE ROBBING OF MOLL FISHER

by LAURIE FLYNN

**IN August 1976 the Asbestos Information Committee, the paid front organisation for the asbestos employers, issued their reply to the campaign to ban asbestos.**

Their glossy hand-out—'Asbestos, Miracle Fibre or Killer Dust'—contained the following remarkable statement about those they've killed and injured in their drive for profit. 'Sadly, existing sufferers can only be helped by good medical care and fair

compensation to them and their dependents. This responsibility the Asbestos industry has willingly undertaken . . .'

**This is a deliberate lie.**

Even as Asbestos Misinformation Committee copywriters were drafting these sentences, one of their members, Turner and Newall, and main sources of income was closing the file on yet another operation to cheat the widow of a former employee.

Sixty-one year old Moll Fisher lost her

husband Sammy in December 1973. He died of asbestosis and lung cancer, contracted courtesy of his employers, Turner Brothers, Hindley Green near Wigan.

He died after 15 years of breathlessness, pain and suffering.

When it came to compensation, Turner and Newall summoned up all the generosity and social responsibility they boast about in company hand-outs and offered Moll Fisher the magnificent sum of £600.

£600 is about what the then Turner and Newall chairman, Sir Ralph Melton Bateman, would pay for a winter coat for his wife.

In return Moll Fisher had to make a signed

declaration that she had no further claim on Turner and Newall.

## Cynical

This 'offer' was a cynical attempt to cheat Moll Fisher.

Turner and Newall knew from years of experience that the widow of a dead worker and a large corporation with teams of specialist lawyers on the payroll are very definitely not equal before the law.

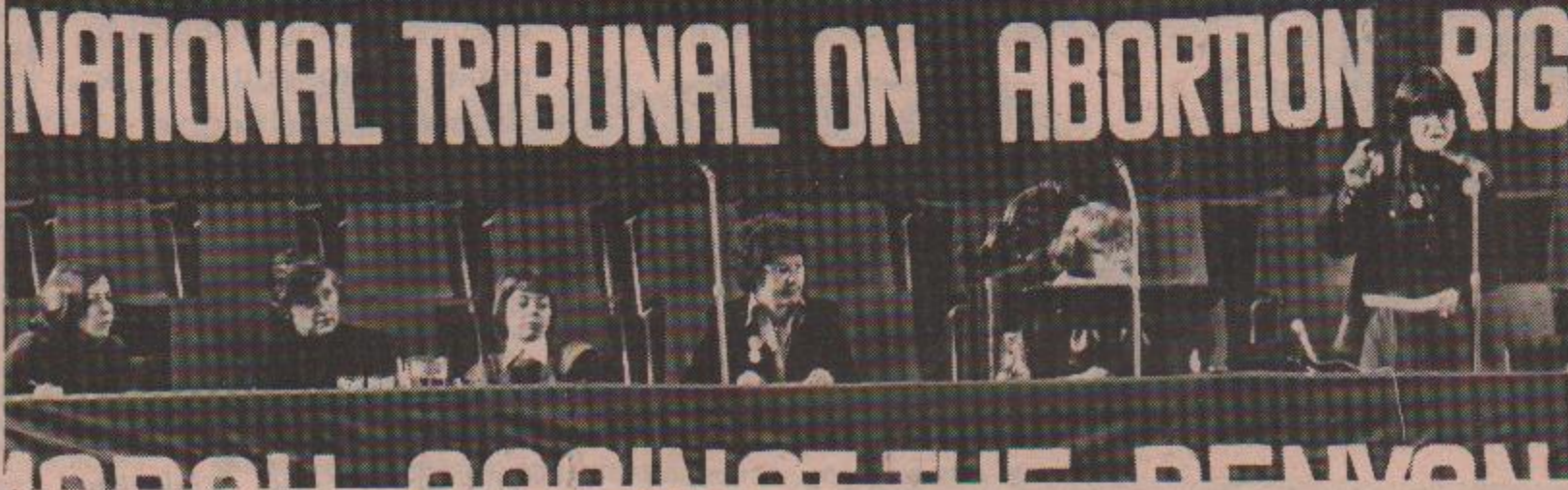
They know that working-class people are intimidated by the legal jungle, worry that they might lose their claim and are ill-served by lawyers readily manipulated by company specialists.

Turner and Newall know too that the robbery of the weak, the sick and the widowed they engage in is all perfectly legal, all specifically permitted.

Turner and Newall know too that the robbery of the weak, the sick and the widowed they engage in is all perfectly legal, all specifically permitted by that Rule of Law so beloved of rich judges and newspaper proprietors.

So Moll Fisher settled her claim, and signed Turner and Newall's form.

But Turner and Newall didn't content themselves with robbing Moll Fisher just once. In June last year, even as their lying £500,000 advertising campaign was at its height, even as they were announcing record £15 million profits for the half year, Turner and Newall cut off Moll Fisher's tiny weekly pension.



The platform at the Tribunal on Abortion in London last weekend.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

## Teesside student fights deportation

**THE HOME Office racists appear to have launched a war against black immigrants in Britain.**

Story after story is coming to the attention of the Socialist Worker, each suggesting that the Home Office Immigration Squad are combing the racist 1971 Immigration Act for new

weapons of harassment.

The most scandalous case this week is that of a 22-year-old Pakistani, Mohammed Yousof Khan, a student at Teesside Poly.

Mohammed's visitor's permit was due for renewal in September 1975. He forgot to call and have it renewed for two whole weeks. Then he sent off for renewal.

The Home Office informed Mohammed that they didn't intend to renew his visa. Mohammed went to an appeals tribunal last August.

He heard not a word until last Thursday! Then he was informed that he had to get out of the country immediately.

Students and staff at Teesside Poly are backing him to the hilt. So far they have obtained a two-week stay of execution and organised a petition.

If their campaign is to ensure victory then they will have to launch militant action. That will keep the Home Office racists at bay much more readily than parliamentary questions alone.



Members of the neo-Nazi British Movement jeering at the Troops Out of Ireland demonstrators last Sunday.

## BIG FINES AFTER BRICKLANE PROTEST

ANYONE with a lingering faith in the impartiality of the British legal system should have been in Lambeth Magistrates' Court last week. They would soon have had it knocked out of them.

Before the court were the first batch of anti-fascist demonstrators arrested last November in Brick Lane, East London, after their march had been attacked by a group of National Front thugs.

Witness after witness flatly contradicted the police evidence, which the defence barristers brilliantly exposed as a pack of pre-meditated lies. Any jury would have thrown out the charges without a second thought.

for two years to the tune of £100 each.

This week 14 more anti-fascists are to appear before Nicholls, including seven on charges of assault and one of possession of an offensive weapon.

With the likelihood of further astronomical fines, and the possibility of prison sentences, the Brick Lane Defence Campaign has issued an appeal of the labour movement for support, especially financial support.

**Please send donations and/or resolutions of support to: Brick Lane Defence Campaign, 169 Amhurst Road, London E8.**

## Ignored

But not magistrate Nicholls. With the greatest impartiality, he ignored the defence evidence and found four of the five in front of him guilty of threatening behaviour. He fined the four a total of £225, with £105 costs.

And just to make sure that next time they were attacked by a gang of Nazis they would make no attempt to defend themselves, they were all bound over to keep the peace

## Because he's black . . .

**NATHAN WAYNE WILLIAMS**, a 21-year-old West Indian from Antigua, is in Rochester Borstal awaiting deportation back to the West Indies.

Wayne came to this country in March 1973. He was

following his parents who had earlier settled down with a job and a house in Britain.

At the end of last year Wayne was found guilty of handling stolen property. Not the property that big landowners or asset-strippers handle daily, but 39 long-playing records.

His sentence was a period of Borstal with a recommendation for deportation. This has just been upheld.

Because he's black, he's too be punished twice over for a trivial offence and sent to Antigua, where he has no relations and no future.

If Nathan Wayne-Williams is drummed out of Britain he will join the 400 blacks successfully deported by the racist Home Office since January 1976.

His departure will only be stopped by the widest possible protest.

## Shocks for the Front

**MEMBERS** of the Socialist Workers Party in Portsmouth and Southampton held a mass picket of the National Front annual meeting last Tuesday. The meeting was supposed to be a closely guarded secret but SWP members were easily able to pinpoint the meeting place.

More than 80 pickets turned out to the meeting which was held in a pub owned by an ex-policeman, the Cumberland Arms. In the event only six fascists turned up, to get a nasty surprise when confronted with our welcome.

Best of all, representatives of the local brewery workers pressed management to have the Front blacked from holding any meetings in their pubs.

## PICKETS NEED YOUR HELP

**TORY councillors in Luton have given the National Front use of the Town Hall this Friday for Fuehrer John Tyndall to address his Nazi friends.**

The local anti-racist committee has ducked out of the struggle thanks to Labour and Communist Party members who want to ignore the new Nazis in the vain hope they will go away.

But Luton and Hitchin Socialist Workers' Party branches have called a demonstration against the racists and urge all trade unionists and socialists to join in.

**PICKET AGAINST THE NAZIS: Friday 4 February, 7.30pm, assemble Smith Mall Lane entrance to the Arndale Centre, Luton, for march to the Town Hall.**

**BRISTOL members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party got rid of the National Front when they appeared at the Haymarket, where Socialist Worker has been sold for six years, last Saturday.**

All members and supporters are urged to turn out this week too to sell the paper and be ready in case the Nazis do show up again.

**PICKET Strangeways Jail against the activities of National Front Manchester, prison officers. Saturday 19 February, 2pm, main gate.**

**STOP THE DEPORTATIONS**

**CYPRIOT 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 Mountview Road, London N4.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

The industry is confident that observance of the 1968 Regulations reduce the risks to a negligible level. Absolute safety, however, can no more be guaranteed for asbestos handling than it can for many thousands of other industrial processes. Sadly, existing sufferers can only be helped by good medical care and fair compensation to them and their dependants. This responsibility the asbestos industry has willingly undertaken, and many millions of pounds have been paid both in direct compensation and in maintaining the earnings of employees transferred to lighter less exposed work.



From the time that Sammy Fisher first 'retired' from the Hindley Green works, the Turner and Newall Welfare Trust paid the Fishers what the Trust pensions officer, C Farrow, is pleased to call a 'pension'—just over £1 a week.

Turnell and Newall guaranteed this for five years from the date Sammy first retired. They keep paying for just two more years. Then on 30 June the Trust wrote to Moll Fisher, that there would be no more payments.

Taking the total pension payments and the lump sum compensation, it cost Turner and Newall exactly £1000 to kill Sammy Fisher and ensure that his widow passes her retirement in object poverty.

So much for fair compensation. So much for the willingness with which asbestos employers undertake their responsibilities.

These vampires know only one loyalty. It's not to human beings. It's to the balance sheets, the yearly and half-yearly profit return.

They know that working-class people are intimidated by the legal jungle, worry that they might lose their claim and are ill-served by lawyers readily manipulated by company specialists.

To boost this they've killed hundreds of workers, left thousands with diseases and mercilessly crushed and robbed their widows. They will continue until the industry is taken out of their hands.

# YES, WHO ARE THE DEMOCRATS?



Shirley Williams: just look at her 'democracy by consent' in action.

**WHO ARE the democrats? A tremendous press campaign is taking place.**

It has been joined enthusiastically by the prime minister and by Shirley Williams, the Education Minister who complains about educational standards and who is closing down dozens of teacher training colleges to make standards worse.

The campaign denounces 'Marxists'

## WHAT WE THINK

and 'Trotskyists' as 'enemies of democracy'. Revolutionary socialists, we are told, are not democratic. 'They want government by minority'.

This campaign takes place at the same time as the law lords of the Court of Appeal assert their right to lay down the law.

'Be he ever so high', said Lord Denning last week, 'the law is above him'.

Which means that however many times or by however big a majority someone is elected, he still has to bow to the law lords.

These are not elected, and are drawn exclusively from the ranks of the wealthy. They are men like ex-public school teacher Denning and ex-Mosleyite candidate Lawton.

Lord Denning was cheered in the mass-circulation newspapers, all of whom are controlled by proprietors who are not elected, through editors, news editors and features editors who are not elected.

**Who, for instance, elected him?**

## WHY DO BOMBINGS CONTINUE? ASK THIS PRIVATE...

**THE BOMBINGS** in London last weekend will have stunned many people.

The newspapers have used the occasion to argue how correct it is for British troops to keep a tight hold on Northern Ireland and for the police to have powers to hold Irishmen in Britain under the so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Yet such measures have been in operation for years, and have not brought the trouble in Northern Ireland nearer an end.

Nor have they quenched the hatred that leads many people in Ireland to support the planting of bombs in Britain.

As socialists, we oppose such bombings. They can maim and kill workers who are in no way responsible for what is happening in Ireland.

And they play into the hands of the most reactionary forces in Britain.

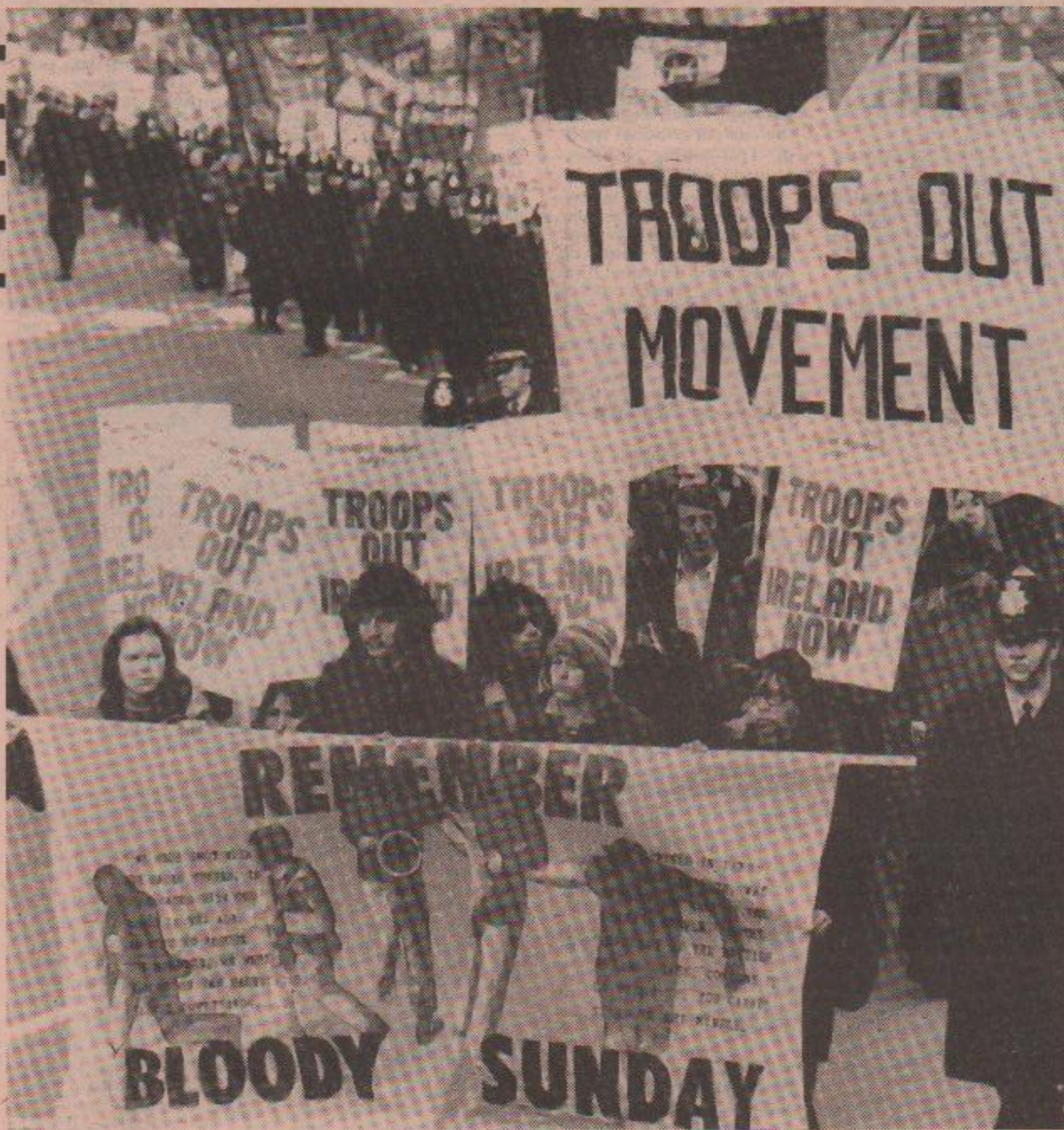
But we also have to understand the origins of the bitter anger that drives ordinary people to plant bombs.

Just one incident last week shows why there is such anger.

A British soldier, Private Roger Surch, admitted before a Northern Ireland court that while on patrol he dragged a woman into a derelict house with the help of five other soldiers and raped her. They were all heavily armed.

The judge let him go free, with only a suspended sentence.

He has now rejoined his regiment and will no doubt return to Northern Ireland to 'keep order'.



Last Sunday's march in London to mark the fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday: 1500 people marched

## Support this conference

A LARGE number of bodies are sending delegates to the conference called by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions on 26 February.

Among them are shop stewards committees from: Albion Motors, Glasgow; Chrysler Linwood; Rolls

Royce Hillington and East Kilbride; Scotstoun Marine, Glasgow; Govan shipbuilders, Glasgow; Yarrow shipyard; RDE Fife; Fords, Dagenham.

There are to be delegates from UCATT branches in Shepherd's Bush, Acton and Westminster, the AUEW-TASS 18 and 24 divisional councils, and the Scottish

miners.

The Industrial Advisory Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, which met last weekend, felt the conference could provide the opportunity for carrying forward the struggle against the cuts and the social contract.

It could provide the basis for uniting the various

separated struggles taking place at the moment by issuing the call for a united, national one-day strike against the cuts.

Clearly the conference is going to be much more important than the last two or three the LCDTU has staged.

Members of the SWP have been urged to press union bodies to send delegates and to support the Right to Work Campaign's call for resolutions that:

CALL for a united, national one-day strike against the cuts and unemployment, for example on 23 March.

SUPPORT the defence of the Right to Work Marchers against jail sentences

The same goes for the army, the civil service, the police.

In all these institutions, people are taking decisions every day for which they are not accountable.

These people have not been elected, and come from the same families and public schools as the newspaper proprietors and judges.

Two weeks ago, ICI decided to sack 500 workers at their Intex plant, in Ashton, Lancashire.

Whom did they consult? By whose 'consent' was that decision taken?

One tiny boardroom, responsible only to a handful of wealthy people, decided the fate of those Intex workers.

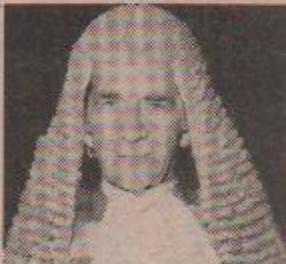
And the same goes for the mass of sackings, bullyings, and indignities imposed on workers every day in factories and workplaces.

All this is accepted by Shirley Williams, James Callaghan and Co.

They champion the right of judges, army officers, big businessmen to make decisions without consultation or consent.

They call this process 'the rule of law' or 'free enterprise'.

Rather than challenge it, they will abandon all the promises they make to get votes in elections.



JUDGE... unelected

**Or him?**



ARMY CHIEF... unelected

**Or him?**



PRESS BARON... unelected

So Shirley Williams, for instance, promised as Prices Minister to hold down food prices but then let them rise.

That's her 'democracy by consent' in action.

We revolutionary socialists fight for a society where power is accountable to the mass of the people.

Where big business power is replaced by workers' councils; judges by juries; where the army and police are replaced by workers' militias, commanded by elected officials.

We are socialists because we want to end the power of the minority class and transfer it to the masses.

## THE GREAT INVESTMENT MYTH

'DON'T worry if wage controls lead to higher profits. Higher profits will mean more investment and more jobs'.

We have been told that so often over the last two years that many people have come to believe it.

The message is being repeated loud and clear this week, as the next stage of wage controls is prepared.

On Sunday the Observer published a secret government document, to be presented to the National Economic Development on Wednesday.

It says the opposite to all the government's propaganda.

The report, drawn up by working parties in 33 industries, suggests that even if there was to be a huge upsurge in investment and a 30 per cent

increase in output over the next three years, there would be no drop in unemployment.

For the increased production would come from 'higher productivity and the introduction of labour-saving machinery'.

This means people sacked as a result of the public sector cuts will have no chance of getting jobs in private industry.

So much for the lie that 'unproductive' workers have to be 'moved into productive industry'.

There could hardly be clearer proof of the need to fight for jobs by rejecting the cuts, by pressing for across-the-board wage increases without any productivity clauses, and by insisting on the 35-hour week now.

ADVERTISEMENT

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.

MEETINGS AND NOTICES



**Right to Work Campaign BENEFIT DANCE:** Friday 11 February, 8.30pm, University College, Gordon Street, London WC1. Late bar, disco, and Counteract theatre group play on The Cuts. 70p employed, 30p unemployed.

**HOSPITAL WORKER:** Orders for issues no 5 and 6, phone business manager Hugh Gurling, 01-733 8443, or write to 19 Redpost Hill, London SE24. Please send money for last issue urgently to above address. Copy date for issue no 6 is 31 January.

**LEEDS Right to Work Campaign public meeting:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapeltown Road).

**POST OFFICE WORKER rank and file pre-annual conference UPW national meeting:** To discuss amendments and motions to secretary's report. Saturday 12 February, 2pm, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Right to Work Campaign social:** Saturday 5 February, 8pm-late, Old Town Hall Cellar, Old High Street, With in The Move disco, and bar. Tickets only (phone Hemel 588660), £1 each (50p unemployed).



**Jamaica Workers Solidarity Campaign public meeting:** PNP Election Victory—what now? Speaker: Tony Bogues (Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica). Thursday 10 February, 7.30pm, Westway Luncheon Club, Ladbroke Grove, London W11 (under Westway flyover).

Meetings

**South London CAMPAIGN AGAINST A CRIMINAL TRESPASS LAW public meetings:** Monday 7 February, 7.30pm, Waterloo Action Centre, 14 Baylis Road, SE1. Speakers: J MacPherson-Quinn (AUEW) and M Duggan (South Bank SU), plus Occupy! a film of the Fisher-Bendix occupation. Wednesday 9 February, 7.30pm, Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, SE14. Speaker: Mike Taylor (INUPE).

**WHICH WAY FOR THE CHARTER CAMPAIGN?** The Working Women's Charter Campaign will be holding their national conference in London on 21-22 May. Place to be announced later. All inquiries to Camberwell Grove, London SE5. Phone 01-701 4173.

Notices

**Issue no 5 of HAZARDS BULETIN is now out.** Articles on the women's asbestos strike in North East London, the shelving of the safety rope plans, shifework, news to 15p for a single copy or £1.80 for a year's sub. Get your shop stewards committee to take out a sub or take out a bulk order for your workplace. From Work Hazards Group, BSSRS, 9 Poland Street, London W1.

**WANTED: Two workers for Uhuru Collective.** One experienced in writing, for political research into the food industry, multinationals etc, plus running wholefood shop. Other interested in community/political work and running cheap cafe. Contact Uhuru, 35 Cowley Road, Oxford.

**Read RADICAL AMERICA.** Latest issue contains Ian Birchall on working-class struggle under the Labour government, Carl Boggs, author of Gramsci's Marxism, on the Italian CP's 'historic compromise'. 80p from SW Bookshops in London and Glasgow, and other left bookshops. For subscription information write to RA, PO Box B, N Cambridge, MA 02140, USA.

**THE DOUBLE SHIFT—agitprop play on nursery provision and women's relationship to capitalism.** Next tour starts 12 April for four weeks: book NOW for your meeting against the Cuts, for free 24-hour nurseries. We need two women for this play. Although acting/musical ability useful, commitment to women's movement and revolutionary socialism essential. CONTACT Counteract, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 (phone 01-251 4977 or, evenings, 01-267 5059).

**BELT AND BRACES roadshow present THE MOTHER** by Bertolt Brecht. Music by John Fiske. Half Moon Theatre, 27 Aisle Street, February 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th 8pm. Telephone 485-2872.

**THE OTHER CINEMA:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 4.5.6 February. **BATTLE OF CHILE—two-part documentary** by Chilean filmmakers in exile. Part one: 5pm and 7pm Friday, 5pm Saturday. Part two: 7pm Saturday, 7pm Sunday. **PLUS—4pm Sunday, double bill, OCCUPY!** (Kirkby rent strike). Discussion led by Kirkby militants. The Other Cinema, 25 Tottenham Street, London W1 (01-637 9308).

# BEWARE THE BLUE MAX!



Max Morris: In the steps of McCarthy

MAX MORRIS, headmaster and former president of the National Union of Teachers, is suddenly the darling of the Fleet Street editors.

In years gone by Morris was often attacked by these same editors because he was a Communist Party member and a militant.

But now he has left the Communist Party, and is a militant no longer. The only militancy he has left is in his persecution of 'Trotskyists'.

In the Times last Tuesday, Morris wrote an article which denounced 'Trotskyists' in the teachers' union as 'enemies of democracy', and which pretended that 'Trotskyists' were wrecking the movements for racial equality and women's rights and the fight for the right to work.



The article was greeted with much rejoicing in the editorial offices of the Daily Mail, which has been carrying out a campaign for more unemployment more racism and more sexual inequality. Morris' article was reprinted in full.

The Mail revealed that the article had been read out in full by the prime minister at the Labour Party National Executive meeting where 'Trotskyist infiltration' had been discussed. Callaghan said that Morris' article proved the case against the infiltrators, and carried the day for a full inquiry into infiltration.

On Sunday the News of the World, whose extreme right-wing politics, unashamed exploitation of sex, and racism goes out to more than 14 million readers, printed yet another article by Morris entitled 'The Truth About the Trots'. This was more vicious McCarthyism than even the Times or the Daily Mail could stomach.

Last week SEAN DOCHERTY, a teacher in North London, wrote a letter to the Times in protest against Morris.

The letter has not yet been published. We print it here.

**I'VE BEEN** a member of the NUT for five years, and I'm not in the least surprised at Max Morris' paranoid contribution to the current national sport of Trot-baiting. I know him too well for that.

What does stick in my mind is that he, of all people, should see fit to lecture your readers on our abuse of democracy in the union. It's a bit like a brewery owner extolling the virtues of temperance.

For nearly 40 years, Morris

A letter sent to the Times by North London teacher SEAN DOCHERTY

was a member of the Communist Party and a supporter of the 'democracies' of Eastern Europe. Not a peep from him then or since about the barbarous repression there of any workers who sought to improve their working conditions or living standards.

Closer to home, Morris has been the prime mover behind the changes that have made democracy in the NUT

something of a sick joke.

Under the notorious Rule 8, no member may take part in, or even propose, any industrial action unless it has executive approval. Anyone involved in 'unofficial' action, like the 'no-cover' sanction now being carried out by 1500 London teachers, can be expelled from the union under a disciplinary procedure in which the executive are judge, jury, appeal court and executioner.

'But', I can hear the Blue Max squeak, 'whether you like it or not this rule has been

approved by annual conference, the supreme governing body of the union'.

Conference itself, however, is far from democratic. Delegacies are weighted in favour of the small, rural branches of the union and the bigger urban branches—traditionally the more militant—are grossly under-represented.

The agenda is controlled by the executive and their 'memoranda' take precedence over motions that the whole membership has voted to discuss. Furthermore, the executive has ignored crucial conference decisions, especially on the size of classes.

We are accused of 'using procedural techniques' to disrupt union meetings.

**Too clever**

I remember when I first joined the union being accused by people like Morris of not knowing union procedure, and being ridiculed and told to shut up because of this ignorance. Now, after years of unravelling the knots of procedure, we are accused of being too clever in our use of it!

Heads we lose, tails Max wins.

The truth of the matter is that ordinary members who want to end the scandal of thousands of our brothers and sisters on the dole queue, and to stop the decimation of the education service, find ourselves in opposition to the spineless policies of the executive.

We work through the official channels of the union where possible, but we also organise independently in the schools for unofficial action. The fight against the cuts is more important than the prestige and authority of Max Morris and the other headmasters who control our executive.

## Building the Socialist Workers' Party

LONDON

ON 19 January, 170 people came to a Socialist Workers Party meeting in North London to hear Paul Foot tell them why they should be socialists, and why they should join us in the SWP. 130 of them were not members, 50 we had never seen before.

Eight people joined that evening, and a further 12 will probably do so in the next couple of weeks. 60 copies of the book Why You Should Be a Socialist were sold.

The bald statistics are impressive enough, but they are less significant than the massive injection of

enthusiasm that the meeting gave us.

It may be useful to other SWP districts to know how we prepared for it. We produced a simple, clear poster and a leaflet which we distributed widely. More important, we approached every socialist we'd ever been in contact with in the area and offered them the book.

**Enthusiastic**

The book became the organiser for the meeting. We found that even people who wouldn't normally be expected to read socialist literature were enthusiastic about the book.

At the meeting we had a

separate stall for copies of the book and membership cards. Every chair had an 'I want to join' slip on it, and a list was circulated for people who wanted more information. This brought us in 70 new contacts.

After the meeting, we divided the list between us. Everyone was visited within a week.

**MANCHESTER**

by Anne Robertson, East Manchester SWP District Committee

MEMBERS of the Socialist Workers Party in Manchester got a big boost from a series



of Why You Should be a Socialist meetings last week.

The best was at Trafford Park, where several factories had been leafleted advertising a meeting. Last year a dozen workers came to a similar meeting, most of them obviously cynical about the idea of a new socialist party. This time there were 40 workers in the room.

All the main factories in the Park, Massey Ferguson, GEC, Geigy and Shell, were represented, and we got new members in all these factories.

We had other meetings of 80 at Openshaw, 80 at Manchester University and 100 at Stockport—a great meeting this, full of enthusiasm.

Ten of the people we'd never seen before at the Stockport meeting were schoolgirls who'd seen the ad we'd put in the local paper. Which proves that such ads can be valuable, especially as two of the girls joined the SWP.

We got about 15 new members in all from the two days.

# WHERE WE STAND

**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 class 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.

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.



**SOCIALIST WORKER** is a revolutionary paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

**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.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists, fill in the form on page 15.

# The hospital where cooks must share a kitchen with rats

By Jean Hemmings  
**PATIENTS** at Springfield Hospital doing the work of ancillary staff.

**COCKROACHES** and rats in the kitchens at St Francis Hospital in Dulwich.

**FIRE ESCAPES** at Dulwich Hospital held up by scaffolding.

These were just some of the horrific facts uncovered by last week's South West London Right to Work Campaign week of action.

Groups of unemployed people also visited bus garages, factories and building sites, taking part in the Save Our Services lobby outside County Hall and joining the journalists' picket outside Mercury House in Waterloo.

We began each morning outside the local employment exchange, where many of the unemployed expressed their bitterness against the lies told by the press and politicians about 'scroungers'.

## Fight

Our leaflets made it clear that the Right to Work Campaign would fight back against this device to divide employed and unemployed.

*One man who'd come to sign on decided there and then to come with us on the week of action!*

The focus was the hospitals. We had got hold of a confidential report by the Area Health Authority listing massive cuts, involving the closure of at least three hospitals.

The report adds: 'little saving would result from closure unless staff are made redundant'.

In each hospital, we split into two groups—one to see the union representative to talk about the cut-backs and closures, and to ask him or her to send a delegate to the Save our Hospitals conference on 19 March.

Meanwhile, the other group

(steering clear of the administration) went into the wards, kitchens, canteen and workshops, selling Hospital Worker and talking to as many staff as possible. We found most people had heard rumours about closures but little else.

We were able to present them with the facts from the report. This had an immediate effect: not only were we able to sell more than 100 Hospital Workers, but at a public meeting held during the week, more than 50 people, including hospital workers,



turned up and a steering committee for the Save our Hospitals Campaign was set up.

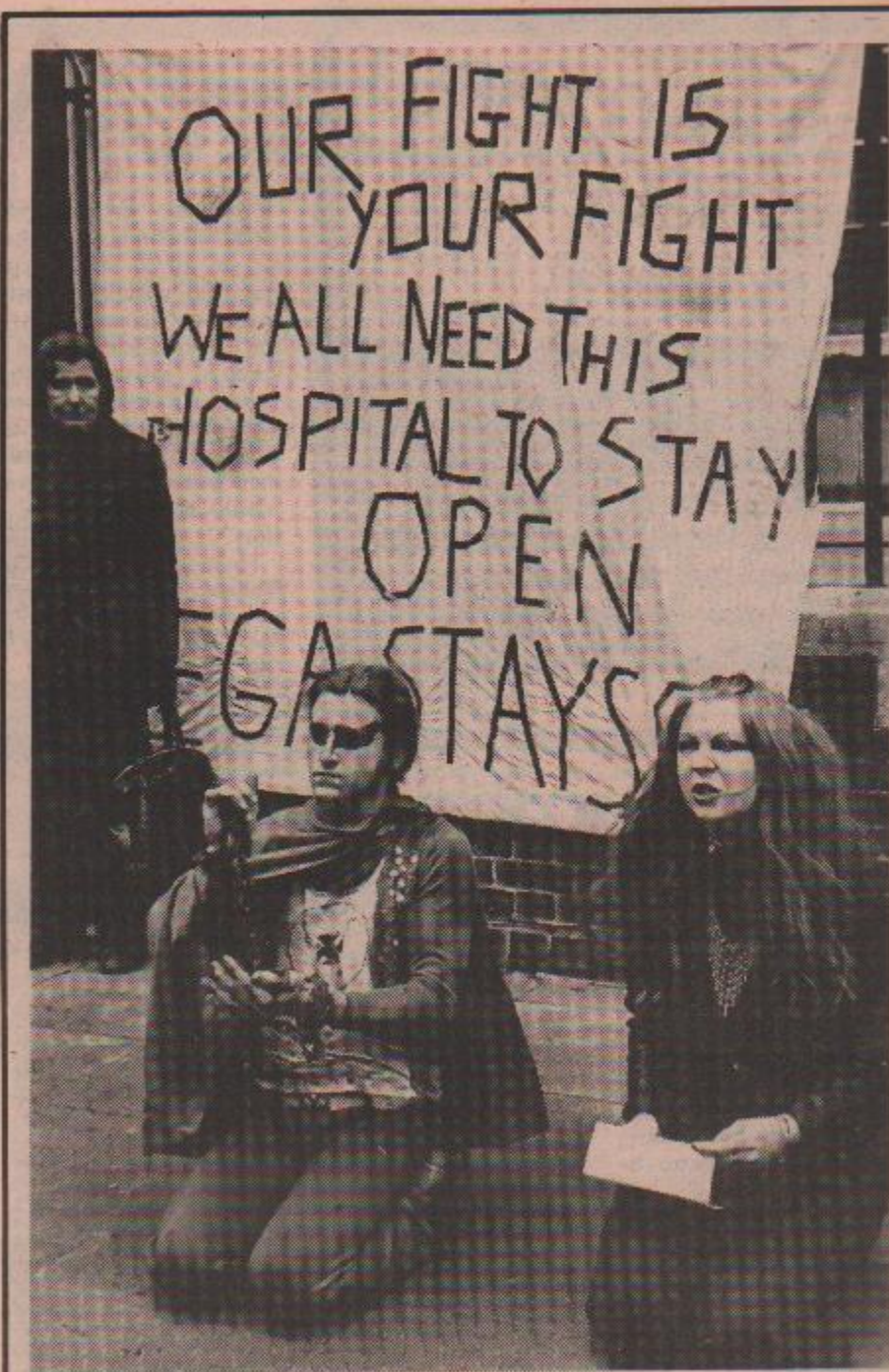
The groups who went into bus garages and building sites sold copies of Platform and Building Worker. They were given orders for 50 more Platforms and 100 more Building Workers.

## Successful

A successful street meeting was held outside the Philips factory in Purley.

Our week of action has brought a lot of publicity for the Right to Work Campaign.

In the hospitals, now that workers have got the facts about closures, they will be better equipped to take action against the redundancies threatening them.



The banner says it all socialist theatre performers taking up the message of workers at London's threatened Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital last week

# MILITANTS UNDER FIRE

**'ANOTHER** London hospital union militant is up for the chop.

Bill Geddes, chairman of Hammersmith Hospital NUPE branch, and Right to Work candidate in the coming NUPE National Executive elections, has been told he is to be made redundant in the latest round of cuts in West London.

## Crude

This is the third recent example of crude victimisation being justified by 'financial savings'.

Two weeks ago, the NUPE branch secretary at St. Bartholomew's hospital was suspended, supposedly for not covering for reduced staffing levels.

And the NUPE branch secretary of Mile End Hospital is faced with compulsory retirement, even

By WENDY PLIMLEY

Save Our Hospitals Campaign

though other porters are well over retirement age.

Bill Geddes, the hospital baker, and the hospital butcher, Malcolm Kurton, were told last week that their two departments would be closed.

Management, who have failed even to justify this in economic terms, have a history of rash cuts.

Three years ago, the Hammersmith Hospital laundry, with 50 staff, was axed in favour of an area laundry several miles away.

The resulting chaos in the linen supply will probably mean that the service will be contracted out to a private firm, leading to the closure of the area NHS laundry, which employs 500 staff.

The butchery and bakery services will undoubtedly be contracted out privately. A case of justifying 'hotel charges' by turning hospitals into hotels?

Bill and Malcolm have been offered 'alternative' jobs as assistant cooks, five grades lower, with salary protection on a personal basis. Management know this is unacceptable.

Both are skilled men and militantly opposed to redundancies.

*Compare this petty viciousness with the fact that there are now ten times the number of personnel officers in the hospital than a few years ago!*

## Winner

The 'salary protection' effectively means 'no wage rises'. With inflation, the effect would be a salary cut of 30 per cent after two years.

Management think they're on to a winner. They can impress their bosses with their attempt to make 'savings' and get rid of Bill who has been a thorn in their

side for years.

But they won't get away with it. Already departmental meetings have been held in the hospital.

Catering staff and stores porters are working to rule. They're refusing to cover for unfilled vacancies.

The mounting anger in the hospital may well boil over. At a mass meeting this week a call will be made for occupation of the administration offices and strike action on 9 February when the Area Health Authority is to rubber-stamp the redundancies and the closure of three hospitals in Hounslow.

Mass strike action in East London won the reinstatement of the St Bartholomews branch secretary.

The same response will stop these vicious cuts in West London.

Get your hospital to take solidarity action on 9 February.

Messages of support to the Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Union Office, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12.



Bill Geddes, victimised

## 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.

## 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

# Axe falls on teachers' colleges - again

EDUCATION minister Shirley Williams made her contribution to the great education debate last week. She announced the closure of 28 teacher training colleges.

Fourteen more colleges will be merged into seven and the number of students at another 16 will be slashed.

## Redundant

These 'socialist' proposals will:

□ **MAKE** thousands of lecturers and ancillary workers redundant

□ **DECIMATE** teacher training, with student teacher numbers cut from 85,000 to

By Andy Strouthos and Garry Bushell

45,000 by 1980.

□ **LEAVE** the existing 30,000 trained but already unemployed teachers rotting on the dole.

□ **LEAVE** the three and a half million children in classes over 30.

They'll be joined by millions more kids who'll be playing 'Spot the teacher' instead of learning.

*Make no mistake, this butchery doesn't just mean more teacher unemployment. It means the quality of education for working class kids will become still worse.*

The estimated two million adult illiterates in this country

weren't turned out by long-haired anarchists.

They're the product of rotten, overcrowded schools designed to turn out workers who know their place and nothing more.

## Bleat

The papers which bleat about education standards are supporting this destruction. They're calling for still more cuts which will wipe out every educational advance made in the last 30 years.

Already there is a movement against these cuts among students and teachers.

But we need a strong militant movement. We need to repeat the occupations of last year. These must be the basis for expanding the battle to employed workers. This means:

- Demanding teachers refuse to cover for vacancies
- Visiting every group of workers affected by the cuts
- Sending delegations to local factories

On our own, what we can achieve as students is limited. We have to link up with the power of employed workers.

Members of NOISS, the student organisation that supports Socialist Worker, must start hammering out a fighting policy in their unions to build the campaign now.

Everyone will be hit hard by the extra £1000 million that's to be cut from government spending

**FOR CHILDREN**, it means crowded classrooms, no meat for your school dinner.

**FOR THE SICK**, it means longer queues in increasingly decrepit hospitals and probably increased charges for prescriptions, the dentist and the optician.

**FOR ALL OF US**, it means higher prices as food subsidies are removed.

*But the cuts can be stopped.*

Portsmouth hospital workers have proved it—they saved 30 nurses' jobs. Merseyside council workers have proved it—they stopped 181 building workers being sacked. London hospital workers proved it—they stopped the closure of hospital kitchens.

This pamphlet proves it... buy it now 19p a copy, including postage, or ten copies for £1 (post free)

**RIGHT TO WORK CENTRE**  
265 Seven Sisters Road, London E2.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Duncan Hallas

We only have to look at the German Workers' experience to realise the true implications of the Bullock Report.

# A load of Bullock

'EQUAL REPRESENTATION at the level of the board is, or so I shall argue, an essential condition but by no means sufficient for the task of institutionalising the shop steward movement into our system of industrial relations and—for this is the ultimate implication of Bullock—incorporating the shop steward within the managerial revolution.'

'Institutionalising the shop steward movement', 'incorporating the shop steward within the managerial revolution'—he means the managerial structure—that is indeed what the Bullock report is all about.

### Parade

The round off this parade of opinions a voice from the 'left'; the Rt. Honourable Antony Wedgwood Benn PC, MP.

'idea of voters' control of parliament.' No more frightening to whom? The man presumably means to big business. Look at parliament, he says. That has proved harmless enough to capitalism—or at least entirely, compatible with it.

tion' (only Benn has the brass neck to call it workers' control) is a 'good thing for Britain'.

### Bootlicking

It does not. It merely means that the bootlicking at gravelling of Wilson and Callaghan and the TUC to the profiteers has made those profiteers so huffed-up with arrogance that the short-sighted majority on the bosses' side sees no need to wheel and deal, no need to look to the future. They are feeling their oats right now.

## The numbers game (or two plus two is 36)

POPULATION experts in Government departments are panicking. Why? Because all their predictions about Britain 'bursting at the seams' are up the spout.

'poor overcrowded Britain' has been nailed once and for all. In the middle of last year alone there were 15,000 fewer people in England and Wales than in the middle of 1975.

Now all these plans have been dropped. Government statisticians forecast that this trend (of declining population) will continue.

and eager to work. A sane society faced with this situation might just consider encouraging immigration. The young can produce more than they need for themselves and so can help to give the old a decent life in retirement.



SOLDIER Timothy Rooney left the Army with 'an exemplary record' after serving in Ulster. During a fight at a disco in Reading he kicked a student in the neck. The student died.

Nowadays West German capitalism, with its mitbestimmung—'co-determination' i.e., 50 per cent, workers representatives on the boards—and its resulting weak shop-floor opposition to union bureaucracies in cahoots with the bosses, makes the mouths of our more far-sighted and intelligent capitalists water.

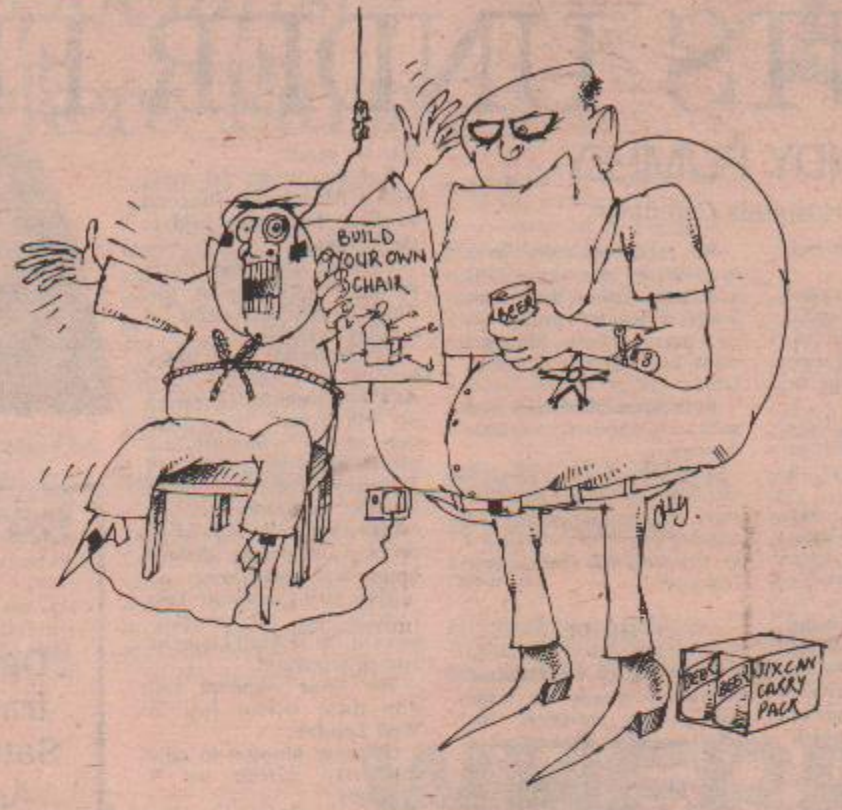
### Fact

As a matter of historical fact it took a threat of general strike action (backed by enormous majorities on a ballot for unlimited strike—97 per cent for the strike by the miners, 95 per cent by the steel workers) to force the Demo-Christian (conservative) government to push through the co-determination law for coal and steel in 1951.

### Huge

The huge votes for action to force through co-determination were obtained on the basis of the German TUC's then very left sounding programme, which included: A planned economy based on production for use and not for profit, nationalisation of mining, steel, chemicals, power, transport and banking, equal voting rights for workers and management at all levels.

ENGLISH, MATHS and MURDER. These are the subjects taught to high school kids at Scarlet Oaks Vocational School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Murder is given a nicer title... 'law enforcement'.



WITH Chrysler's so-called financial problems, a lot of the workers expected the worst when they were told they would receive a company letter. One bloke was convinced when he had to pay 13p unpaid postage!

THE MUCH sought-after Fifth Column Gutter Press Award is bestowed upon the editor of the Harrogate Herald. On 19 January, readers were told the tale of the council's failure to clear the snow and ice.

## The Land of the Free...

THE existence of A Congressional Black Caucus has opened up a whole new area for Congressional lobbying. The 17 Black Representatives (in a House of 435 representatives) and 1 Black Senator (out of 100) are now big business in the US.

REMEMBER the 1974 famine in Bangladesh? The full story of US responsibility for that famine is only now being told. In the 1950's and 1960's, food was exported to developing countries as a form of aid, paid for by the US government.

workers of Bangladesh this policy change meant famine. For almost twenty years before 1974, US wheat had been exported to Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) as aid. 80% of its food imports from the US in 1974 were sent on commercial terms.

Not that Her Majesty will have contributed any of her ill-gotten pennies to this project. It is the parents who are being asked to dig into their pockets and provide this 'luxury' for their children—to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

## Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL  
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# SPAIN: The right on the rampage

THE Spanish police have seized more than 300 members of left-wing organisations and are holding them without trial.

They are rotting in jails alongside 200 political prisoners from Franco's time.

All belong to parties to the left of the Communist Party, such as the Revolutionary Organisation of Workers, the Workers Party, the Organisation of Left Communists.

by James Priest, in Barcelona, and Chris Harman, in London

The police action against these organisations is as severe as that they experienced under Franco. Yet it follows a wave of murders organised by the extreme right.

The murders began the weekend before last when a member of the extreme fascist group, the Guerrillas of Christ the King, killed one demonstrator and the police another.

On the Monday, another group of

fascists shot down in cold blood five labour lawyers in the offices of the workers' commissions union in Madrid. Their intended victims had been leaders of a transport workers' strike.

Demonstrations began in protest at the killings almost immediately.

The police attacked several of these. In Madrid they arrested more than 70 pickets calling for protests.

They also attacked part of a funeral cortege. According to a Financial Times reporter: 'They charged into mourners, sending wreaths flying and chasing people. Eye-witnesses said there had been no provocation.'

In Pamplona one demonstrator, a worker from the SEAT vehicle factory, was seriously wounded after being shot by the police.

Yet the government took immediate steps to strengthen the powers of the 100,000 armed police. It increased the budget massively and restored to them the powers of arrest without trial given to them by Franco's so-called 'anti-terror' law of two years ago.

It also banned all public demonstrations.



Police join fascists saluting during their demonstration at the funeral of three policemen in Madrid



Maria Luz Najera, a 20-year-old student killed by a police tear-gas shell last week. The government has responded to such murders by increasing police powers

## Welcomed

The Western press welcomed these moves. A Sunday Times headline summed up the general attitude: 'Franco law brought back to keep democracy alive.'

But the increased police powers have not been used to attack the right wing which committed the murders.

The head of the Guerrillas of Christ the King, which committed the first, Sanchez Corvisa. He was held by the police for a few hours, then released. No-one else on the extreme right has been arrested.

Meanwhile armed members of Corvisa's gang walked into a Madrid restaurant. They forced diners to sing fascist songs. When the police arrived none were held.

At a funeral for murdered policemen on Sunday, police and army officers joined fascist gangs in chanting 'Franco' and making the fascist salute. No disciplinary action was taken.

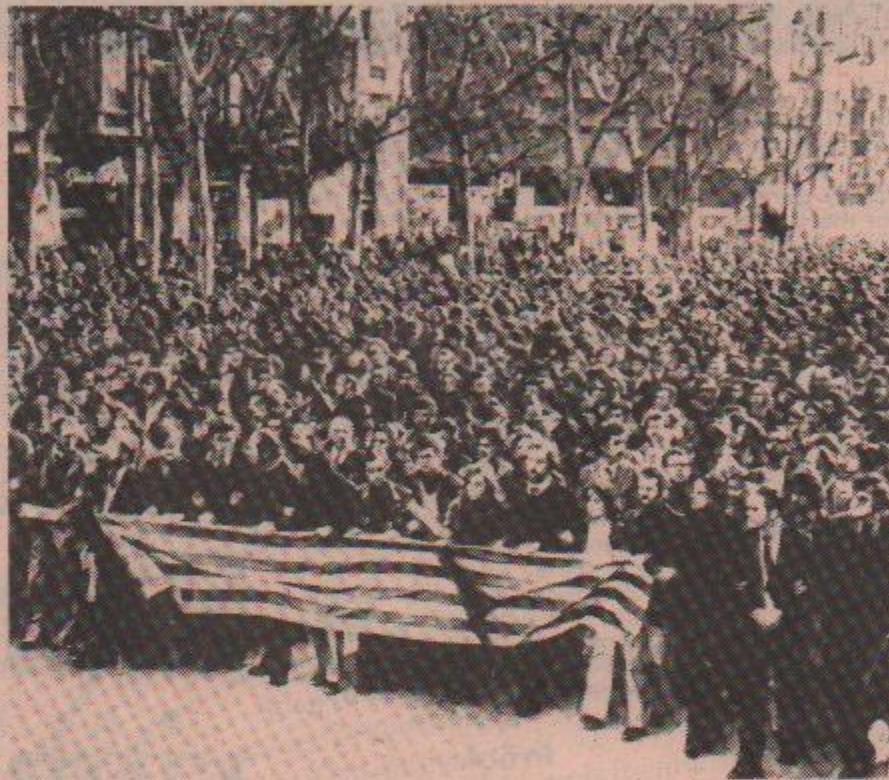
Even Carlos Zayas, a leader of the PSOE, the Spanish equivalent of the Labour Party, which all week backed the government's strengthening of police powers, admitted at the weekend: 'There is a great feeling in the opposition that the government is using the excuse of the extreme right to try and demobilise the left.'

## What the revolutionary left says

THE only organisations in Spain not to rely on the fascists and ex-fascists in the police to 'restore order' are the organisations of the revolutionary left, such as the Organisation of Left Communists (OICE) and the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR).

Leaflets and posters from the Left Communists call for:

- Dissolution of the fascist gangs.
- Popular justice for those guilty of crimes against the workers.
- Dissolution of all repressive bodies, meaning the three armed police forces.
- Conquest of political liberties for the working class.
- Immediate legalisation of all workers' parties.
- The opening of a constitutional process leading to a government chosen by the people.



Tens of thousands of left-wing demonstrators marching in Barcelona after the murder of the five left-wing lawyers.

## The fascist killers who pose as 'leftists'

THE various armed police forces are hated in Spain. But when three police were killed last Friday, it was not by the left.

An organisation calling itself 'GRAPO' claimed responsibility for the murders. Earlier the same organisation had kidnapped two leading military figures.

GRAPO claims it is an 'anti-fascist' organisation. But all the evidence points to it being run by fascists:

- The arms it uses are very modern US weapons of the same type as those used by the fascist murderers of the left-wing lawyers last week. They are of the type known to be issued by the CIA to 'friendly' spy organisations in other countries.
- GRAPO is totally unknown on the revolutionary left.
- GRAPO has only ever carried out five actions. Each

has occurred at a key political moment, and has been used to justify the right in strengthening its position.

### Bombings

□ The extreme right in Spain is in close contact with Italian fascist groups who have often in the past carried through bombings so as to discredit the left.

□ The moderate Madrid paper El Pais announced on Friday that it was 'on the eve of demolishing forever' the theory that GRAPO was a left-wing organisation. Its sources said the kidnapped military figures were being held on a private estate near Madrid.

Why should the extreme right carry on such a pretence?

Because they know that the police forces are dominated

## The response

THE Spanish working class gave a massive response to the murders of left-wingers. All main industrial areas and factories were affected by work stoppages which spread to radio and TV workers and to all the universities.

More than a million workers struck. Hundreds of thousands joined the series of massive funeral processions.

Unfortunately the response of the main workers' parties and unions did not match the popular protest.

Brendan Behan used to tell the story of the man who, assaulted by a gang of policemen, cried out: 'Help! Police!' That was the reaction of the Socialist parties, the Communist parties, and the unions they controlled.

Their analysis of the situation was summed up by the leader of the Union of Workers Commissions,

from top to bottom by men whose attitudes are very much like their own. Indeed, it is probable that many of the right-wing groups consist chiefly of police in plain clothes.

They are quite prepared to sacrifice one or two people on their own side in order to create a climate in which the power of the police is increased and in which the move towards reforms is slowed down.

Marcelino Carmacho.

'The killings are not only crimes' he said, 'they are an open provocation for a fascist coup'.

Large sections of the police are influenced by the extreme fascists. The army is run by officers who rose to power by years of unhesitating support for Franco.

The government itself is made up of men who were only too happy to make the fascist salute until Franco died 15 months ago.

You would have thought the opposition would have called for a massive general strike and for powerful demonstrations to prove that a fascist coup would meet immense opposition.

### Fought

But according to the paper El Pais, the Socialist and Communist union leaders 'fought resolutely against attempts to make the work stoppages into a general strike'.

Instead, their first act was to issue a joint statement—with the former fascists of the government.

'Both parties,' the statement ran, 'expressed their identity of views in condemning political extremism. The head of the government and the members of the commission of the opposition are agreed on calling for serenity and civic responsibility'.

The committee of the unions run by the Communist and Socialist Parties called for 'all workers' to 'maintain

serene attitudes' and to 'avoid actions in the streets.'

A leading Communist Party trade unionist, Sartorius, praised 'the professional attitude of the responsible men in the armed forces'.

The Catalan section of the CP—the PSUC—walked out of a meeting of 17 opposition groups rather than sign a statement mildly critical of the government.

If there was really the possibility of a right-wing coup last week, the attitude of these parties and unions was insane. It amounted to telling their members to leave the police and the army with a free hand.

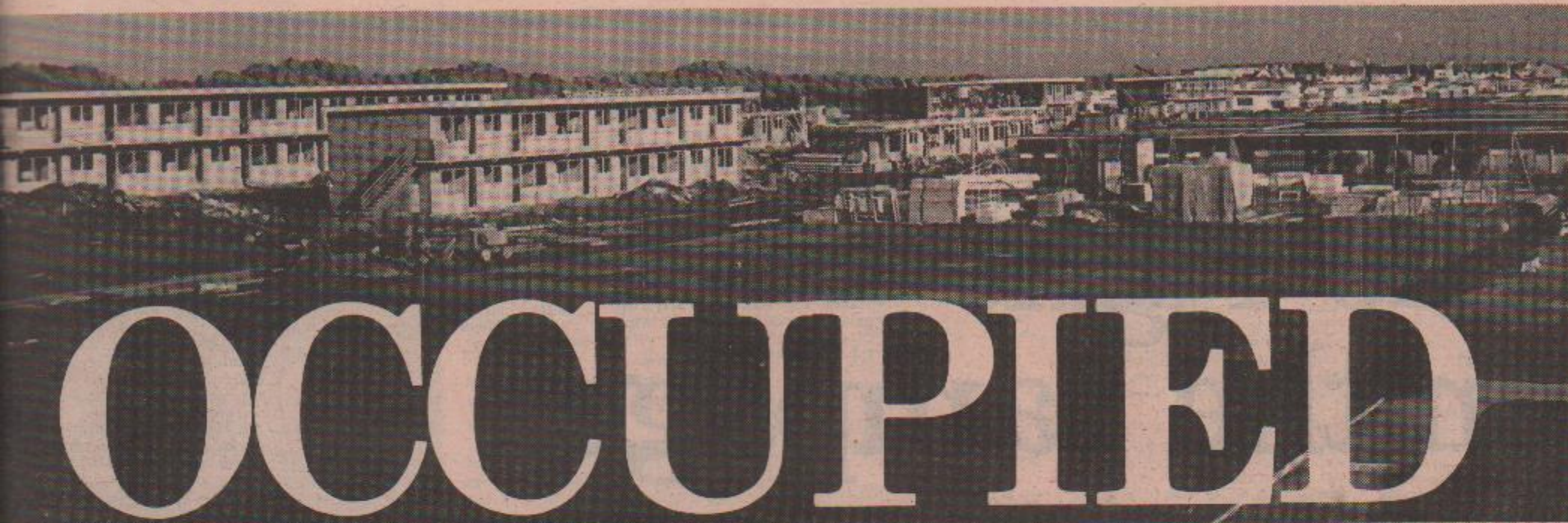
Yet the coup could only have come from the police and the army.

But the aim of the extreme right may have been less than a total coup. It may have been to persuade the government to slow down the speed at which reforms are undermining the old fascist structure, and to persuade the opposition to accept this.

If that was their aim, the extreme right have succeeded.

The friends of the right in the police and armed forces have been much strengthened. No doubt they will use this strength to harass the left in the run-up to the elections due later this year.

★ Free the political prisoners. Amnesty Now. Smash Francoism. Torchlight picket of Iberian Airlines, Regent St, Nr Oxford Circus, 5.30 Thurs 3 Feb.



# OCCUPIED



**TWO HUNDRED building workers have occupied Pontins holiday camp at Prestatyn in North Wales.**

They are settling in for a long battle—for trade union rights and for the right to work. Barry Scraggs, site convenor, told *Socialist Worker*:

Three weeks ago, the firms which run this site—there are three of

them and Fred Pontin is managing director of all three—sent two new men David Kent and Alan Cadman, on the site. They came to cause trouble.

### Intimidation

They tried everything they could to undermine the trade union rights which we'd won on the site. They issued notices—we call them 'intimidation notices'—to 45 workers saying their work was not up to scratch.

But all these men were earning more than £1 an hour in bonus. That proves very hard work indeed.

Well, we obviously weren't going to stand for that and so we came out on strike, calling for the withdrawal of the notices. The managers wouldn't even discuss the matter.

On Thursday last, everyone on the site, and I mean everyone, even the canteen girls, got a letter telling them they were sacked because of

the strike.

We realised they would try to bring in scabs, so we got into the site and have held it. This is the best place to protect us from scabs—on the inside.

This isn't just a chance dispute. It's been carefully planned. We're now in Phase Two of a scheme to refurbish this camp, which Pontins bought from Thomas Cooks in 1975 for £500,000.

Phase 3 is the biggest phase. It involves building new chalets in a field next to the site. They've got planning permission for it already, but they've refused to tell us when the work starts.

We think they want to build these chalets with lump labour, and that's why they want us off the site. Well, we're not getting off. We're staying on.

### Proof

If we needed any proof that this dispute was planned by management, we can see it all around us.

*Every single organised site in North Wales is either on strike or just finishing a strike which has been provoked by management.*

The Hydro-electric scheme at Llanberis; the Leisure Centre at Rhyll; the Bangor Hospital site; Brossley Homes at Wrexham and even the construction department at British Steel, Shotton—all of these workers have had struggle forced on them.

I've already accused Laing, the local employers federation secretary, of organising this.

ABOVE: Convenor Barry Scraggs and fellow building workers—that's former Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson in the middle with the beret—at the holiday camp they've occupied

## For trade union rights! For the right to work!

Perhaps he's a bit thick to do it. More likely it's been organised by Fuller, the employers' secretary in Manchester, or Joyce, their secretary in London.

One way or the other, the employers are using the deperate unemployment in our industry to try to smash union organisation and decent con-

ditions wherever they exist. That's what we're fighting against and we need the support of every organised building worker in the country.

□ Messages of support and donations to: Pontam Site Fund c/o No. Hewitt, 24 Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, North Wales. Cheques made out to Pontam site fund.

## THE TIDE IS TURNING

**AS ANGER GROWS OVER WAGES AND THE CUTS, WE MUST CHANGE GEAR**

THE STRUGGLE against the cuts is growing with tremendous speed.

And there is a rising mood of anger among workers against the wages policy.

The lull of the last three years is over as we witness a new upturn in the struggle.

That was the conclusion of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, which met last weekend. The committee brings together 40 of the Party's leading members from industry.

It devoted itself to discussing the changes in tactics necessary to react to this new situation.

Speakers stressed that it was no longer any good merely being against the cuts or the Social Contract.

We were no longer alone in opposition to these. But we were the only people who would call for the spreading and the generalising of struggles needed for victory.

Alan Fisher, of NUPE would, under pressure, allow support for local one-day strikes. Frank Chapple would call a one-day stoppage for his members in telecommunications.

*But they would not call for simultaneous action by all those affected by the cuts.*

It was up to the members of our Party and supporters of the Right to Work Campaign to put every effort into uniting, generalising and extending the struggle.

That meant calling for a united one-day strike against the cuts in the near future, and

campaigning for an all-out unlimited stoppage of the public sector unions.

It also meant pressing for large, across-the-board wage increases now.

If we failed to relate in this way to each and every one of the new struggles, there was a grave danger we would be left behind by the rising movement.

Last year, when there was little struggle against unemployment, the cuts and the Social Contract, the Right to Work Campaign had been ahead of the wider movement because of its willingness to march and demonstrate.

Now it could only keep ahead by being seen in every dispute as the body that stood for wider, more united, more militant forms of action.





The face of white Rhodesia: but time is running out for the racist regime

# Rhodesia: Why our rulers are worried

BY PENNY GRAHAM

**WHY ARE** Britain and America suddenly so concerned about civil rights and a peaceful 'transfer of power' in Rhodesia?

The answer is simple—profit.

For years, they have shown no concern for the Zimbabwean masses and the atrocities committed by the racist government.

But that was when Smith and his regime seemed firmly in control.

American interests lie mainly in Rhodesia's asbestos and chrome. About 75-80 per cent of Rhodesia's industry is in the hands of foreign firms, mainly British and South African—Dunlop, Unilever, Schweppes, Metal Box, Rio Tinto and Lonrho.

Hence Dr. Kissinger's famous majority rule speech in Lusaka last April.

At the same time, former US intelligence chief General William Yarborough was making his fourth visit to the Rhodesian capital for talks with Smith and the Rhodesian Army leader, General Peter Walls.

The Geneva talks that

followed are now in ruins. This comes as no surprise. The white minority no intention of giving up its power and privilege.

The Geneva Conference and Ivor Richard's latest shuttle were all part of the same attempt to ensure that power passed only into the hands of 'moderate' blacks who would respect these interests.

## Sell-out

They accepted the original Kissinger proposals for that reason. They would have kept control of the Army and police.

But the black nationalists couldn't accept the sell-out. So Britain and the US had to think again.

Ivor Richard was sent off to Africa with a new set of proposals, including greater British involvement in the 'transfer of power'.

But Smith never intended there to be any transfer of power.

He is planning to achieve his own 'settlement'. A stooge grouping, known as the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation, was set up under the leadership of two tribal chiefs in December.

Chiefs are appointed and paid by the government and act as the instruments of its policies.

But the people of Zimbabwe are not fooled. Despite terrible harassment from the racist forces, they have continually sheltered and assisted the guerrillas.

Young blacks stream across the borders to train as freedom fighters.

Their success is reflected in the number of nationalist leaders anxious to identify themselves with them.

The early white settlers established their rule at gun-point and that is how they will

try to hang on to it.

Mass arrests, torture and killings are still common in racist Rhodesia.

When asked in Geneva why the Rhodesian government is no longer releasing the names of those hanged for political offences, Foreign Affairs Minister P.K. Van der Byl, replied:

'Why should we? Anyway, it's academic because they are normally dead after it.'

To prevent them giving support to the freedom fighters, more than a quarter of a million Zimbabweans have been uprooted from their homes to be locked up in 'protected villages.'

In the Chiveshe area 40 miles from Salisbury, 50,000 people were moved in three weeks. The result is starvation and disease.

Rhodesian defence spending has risen from £34.8million in 1971-72 to an estimated £122million this year.

Call-up has been extended from one year to 18 months and the age limit has been raised to 50.

## Fascist

About 1,000 foreign mercenaries have enlisted in the Rhodesian army and police force. At least 400 are Vietnam veterans who get instantly promoted to non-commissioned ranks.

Groups of mercenaries have been training in camps organised by fascist organisations near the Portuguese border in Spain.

Three new airfields have been constructed to handle large transport carriers. Runways at other air bases have also been extended to carry bigger aircraft.

Western equipment is being used in this exercise, which is reported to have the backing of the CIA.

The success of the freedom fighters' campaign is undermining the Rhodesian economy and white morale.

Vast numbers of whites are packing their bags and leaving. More than 7,000 left last year out of a population of 25,000. 1953 left in December alone.

This, and the increasing militancy among black workers, is hitting hard.

Whole-hearted support must go to the freedom fighters. We must oppose any attempts by the British government to intervene on behalf of international capital.

Genuine independence for Zimbabwe will not emerge around a conference table.

It will be won by the heroic efforts of Zimbabwean workers and peasants themselves.

## ZIMBABWE: AFTER THE TALKS WHAT NEXT?

Public meetings organised by the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign

**LONDON:** Speaker from ZANU. Friday 4 February, 12.30pm, London School of Economics, St. Clements Building.

**Tuesday 15 February,** 12.30pm, North East London Polytechnic, Barking precinct. Speakers from Zimbabwe and SASC.

**NEWCASTLE:** Monday 7 February, 8pm, Bridge Hotel, High Level Bridge.

Picket performance of South African-financed Ballet International Company, Theatre Royal Newcastle, Monday 7 February, 6.30pm.

PICTURES: John Sturrock (Report)

## Panic

When the mounting success of the armed struggle showed them that Smith wouldn't last, they started to panic about their massive investments.

**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?

## WHAT WE CAN DO

THE NEED FOR a solidarity campaign to win support for the freedom fighters is clearer than ever with the breakdown of the Geneva talks.

Only the victory of the armed struggle can smash the Smith regime, and the freedom fighters have only their own strength to rely on.

The imprisonment of ZANU militants in Zambian jails in 1975 shows that the 'front-line' states will try to use the freedom fighters to force Smith to the conference table but will

try to call off the struggle when they see a chance of a 'settlement' with the racists.

It is, therefore, an urgent task to raise material aid for the military struggle. This can be done in many ways: through socials, film shows on the Southern African struggle, collections at pickets or street meetings outside companies' offices with South African links, or through sponsored fund-raising activities.

Information, speakers and literature available from SASC 101-103 Gower St. London W.C.1.

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# Sheer poetry

★  
**TAKE  
IT AS  
RED**

**At school it was all odes to skylarks, but this is pure magic...**

WHAT DID Percy Bysshe Shelley, old Etonian son of a wealthy landowner and baronet, who never earned a penny in his life, have to do with working-class revolution?

Quick answer, in frightened chorus from textbooks, dons, and respectable literary critics for the last 180 years: nothing whatever.

Shelley, you learn at school or read in the papers or hear on the radio, was a 'lyric poet'. He specialised in odes to skylarks and west winds and cranky deities like Pan.

Any 'unorthodox ideas' which creep into his poetry are explained away as the result of 'a recurring stomach illness' or 'an unfortunate homosexual experience when a boy'.

In his lifetime, Shelley was universally denounced and boycotted by the lords of literature.

When he was safely dead and buried, the same gentlemen started to patronise him.

They could not ignore his genius, so they insulted it by separating it from its revolutionary inspiration.

Shelley's works were 'selected' and 'abbreviated' so that his revolutionary ideas were tucked away from respectable society.

Richard Holmes' glorious book\* uncovers the real Shelley: the atheist, republican, feminist Shelley.

## Pirate

The Shelley whose *Queen Mab* was reprinted in 14 cheap pirate editions which sold in factories and slums between 1823 and 1841.

The Shelley whose poems of protest were published and republished by Richard Carlile and the other publishers who fought and won the battle for the right to publish radical and socialist literature.

The Shelley whose poems were read aloud to thousands of workers by Thomas Cooper, the 'rhymist' of the Chartists, the mass working class movement of the 1840s.

The Shelley of whom Karl Marx said: 'He was essentially a revolutionist and would always have been in the advance guard of socialism.'

And of whom Frederick Engels declared: 'Oh, we all knew Shelley by heart!'

'This is the age' wrote Shelley in his (censored) introduction to *Hellas* 'of the war of the oppressed and the oppressors'.

And his poetry rings with

## SHELLEY AND REVOLUTION

Speaker: Paul Foot

Friday 4 February, 7 pm, Assembly Hall, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Malet Street, London WC1. (Goodge Street and Russell Square tubes).

Part of the Central London SWP series of meetings on Marxism and the Revolutionary Party.

I CAME HOME one evening a few weeks ago and switched the telly on.

There seemed something more than usually repulsive about the programme. I guessed it was the Nine O'Clock News but it turned out to be a Tory Party Political Broadcast—same thing only different.

## Despair

Before struggling across the carpet to the off-switch, I caught one or two choice bits. There was a chillingly nasty lady in perm and pearls going on about the end of civilisation as we know it—caused, apparently by

## PAUL O'FLINN ON BYRON

enormously high Social Security payments.

'People say,' she concluded in tones of shocked horror, 'Why should I knock myself out when you can get more for doing nothing?'

If people really are saying that, then good for them. We have, after all, reached a level of technological development where it ought no longer to be necessary to work ourselves into a stupor every day just to avoid starving.

But Tories are not happy about this. Their ideal, if their broadcast was anything to go by, would seem to be a concussed society in which people knock themselves out daily for

the profit and amusement of their employers and so spend their lives in a sort of coma, too inert to think, never mind revolt.

The problem is that these appalling characters have a fair chance of forming a government before long and we might be faced once again with the gloomy fact that Tories, for all the killing absurdity of their ideas, are still able to win support and pick up votes.

It's an old problem, and it's one that Lord Byron examined 160 years ago in a poem he wrote shortly after the hatred and gossip of the Tories had driven him out of England into exile.



Shelley and his funeral in 1822: drowned off the Italian coast, his body was burned at Viareggio

## PAUL FOOT ON SHELLEY

### From Shelley's Charles the First

Ay, there they are—  
Nobles and sons of nobles, patentees,  
Monopolists and stewards of this poor farm,  
On whose lean sheep sit the prophetic crows.  
Here is the pomp that strips the homeless orphan,  
Here is the pride that breaks the desolate heart.  
These are the lilies glorious as Solomon,  
Who toil not neither do they spin—unless

his hatred of oppression, of kings, tyrants, priests, lawyers, spies, bishops and the rest of the 'Hired braves' who keep oppression going.

But he did not simply shriek at oppression. He wanted to end it.

Cynthia, the revolutionary heroine of Shelley's longest poem, the *Revolt of Islam*, shouts to the sailors who hold her captive of exploitation and oppression, and concludes:

*This need not be. You can arise and will*

*That gold should lose its power and thrones their glory.*

He saw that change could

only come by the action of the masses, and that the masses had to be stirred into action.

The rise and fall in the quality of his work is closely linked with the rise and fall of his optimism as to whether or not the masses would respond.

## Hatred

But his hatred of the power of man over man, and especially of the power of man over woman, never waned.

In his introduction to his book, Richard Holmes writes:

'I have redrawn the critical estimate of both Shelley's major poetry and his prose, and attempted to set it as vividly as possible in its immediate physical setting, and against the disturbed and excited political period which brought into being, and which flashes up through the years to our own'.

That's exactly what he's done. And that's why his book is an absolute necessity in every socialist home.

It's not just a good book in

*It be the webs they catch poor rogues withal.  
Here is the surfeit which to them who earn  
The niggard wages of the earth, scarce leaves  
The tithe that will support them till they crawl  
Back to its cold hard bosom. Here is health  
Followed by grim disease, glory by shame,  
Waste by lank famine, wealth by squalid want,  
And England's sin by England's punishment.*

## Biography.

MR. PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY, a man of extraordinary but perverted talents, and the author of the *Cenci*, *Queen Mab*, and some less censurable productions, has, it appears, lost his life in an aquatic excursion. It has been

MR. BYSSHE SHELLEY, the author of that abominable and blasphemous book called *QUEEN MAB*, was lately drowned in a storm somewhere in the Mediterranean. His object in visiting that part of the world, it was said, was to converse with some others of his own opinions to write down Christianity. The visitation is, therefore, striking; and the termination of his life (considering his creed) not more awful than surprising.

They danced on his grave: the reports of Shelley's death in 1822 in *John Bull* (top) and the *Literary Chronicle* (above)

itself—it's an introduction to some of the finest political protest writing ever written in English: *Queen Mab*, the *Masque of Anarchy*, *Peter Bell the Third*, the *Revolt of Islam*, *Swellfoot the Tyrant* and all the shorter, simpler poems with which Shelley denounced the Tory government of 1819.

Reading these—and learning them—will

enrich every socialist's understanding—and in the most magnificent language he or she has ever encountered.

\* *Shelley: The Pursuit*, by Richard Holmes (Quartet), £3.65 inc. postage from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Also available: *Selected Poems of Shelley*, £1 (inc. postage).

## Choice

The roads to freedom have many barriers, and in his personal despair and exile of 1816 Byron was all too aware of them.

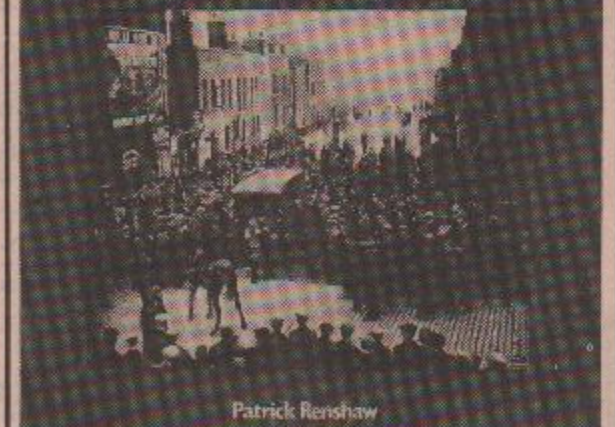
But five years later Byron was more aware of the ways round those barriers, and he wrote with a confidence and perception that can still move us today:

*The Powers mean to war with the people. Let it be so—  
they will be beaten in the end . . .  
There will be bloodshed  
like water and tears like mist, but the  
people will conquer  
in the end. I shall not live to see it, but  
I foresee it.*

*The waves which dash upon the shore  
are, one by one, broken,  
but yet the ocean conquers  
nevertheless.*

## BOOKMARX CLUB

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Patrick Renshaw

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## Scroungers? It's A Myth

TUCKED away on page three of the Daily Mirror (25 January), I found a small story headed 'Benefit Fraud a "Myth"'.  
A report from the government-sponsored National Consumer Council had said that 'far from scrounging, people are not claiming hundreds of millions of pounds to which they are legally entitled'.

Further, 'more than three million people are not claiming benefits—valued at £645 million. Fraudulent or incorrect claims are a molehill compared with this mountain of unclaimed cash'.

I wonder how many Tory or Labour politicians will start

demanding an inquiry into this particular abuse of the system?

In fact the government are happy to allow this state of affairs to continue—as many employees of the Department of Health and Social Security will confirm. Their instructions are not to inform claimants, or potential claimants, of any benefits they may be entitled to unless specifically asked about them.

So unless you are aware of the forms of benefit you are entitled to, the DHSS certainly won't tell you.

Let's see the new 'moderate' Daily Express splash this sort of news over its front page!

□ RAY CARTWRIGHT, Stockport.



## Job Creation - only if it's cheap

HOW seriously is the government tackling the problem of unemployment? Hardly at all if the experience of one group of unemployed youngsters in Leamington Spa is anything to go by.

They got jobs through the Manpower Services Commission Job Creation Scheme at the Bath Place Project, an independent community group working in an old school. The project sponsored these young people to do socially useful work while Manpower provided the wages.

Manpower Services can pay up to £50 a week. Pay is the local union rate for the job.

But community work being poorly unionised, the workers were given flat-bottom rates—in some cases scarcely more than the social security payments they received while unemployed.

The workers pressed for higher rates. Job Creation workers in nearby Coventry were receiving more money for comparable jobs.

A Manpower official visited the project in November, but refused to speak to the workers—only the sponsors. The workers were then told Manpower were withdrawing their money at the end of the month because of the unconventional nature of the project.

In effect they were sacked. The project threatened Manpower with legal action over this arbitrary decision. They protested they would be breaking the terms of the workers' contracts—which stipulated that two months notice should be given.

Reluctantly the regional Manpower Committee, which includes trade union representation, climbed down and agreed to pay the workers' wages while they worked out their notice.

But they insisted the workers had to go because of the cuts.

Now these young people must line up in the dole queues again, after a spell of low pay and job insecurity courtesy of Job Creation. Their experience shows the government isn't really concerned in the jobs but only to reduce the unemployment statistics.

□ DAVE MILES, Leamington.

## Stop the Chile game!

FURTHER to the article in Socialist Worker (22 January), we have formed a 'Stop the Chile game' committee in Glasgow.

We feel, as trade unionists, that workers in Scotland should show the Scottish Football Association that the ordinary football supporters regard this tour as a holiday jaunt, and that the idea of playing Chile is totally abhorrent.

If this game goes ahead it will be an insult to the Scottish and Chilean working class.

We intend to leaflet football grounds,

approach players, writers and supporters, to organise meetings. We will also be taking the argument on to the shop floor and we are having petitions produced to help build support.

We will be raising the question in our union branches and shop stewards committees, to get the unions to take a stand against the SFA.

Anyone who wants to help and get involved, even in the smallest way, should phone me on Glasgow 221-3426, or write to me at 146 Copland Road, Ibrox, Glasgow.

□ ALAN WILSON, Glasgow.

## Do they make sacrifices?

I HAVE been out of work for four years now. I'm 40, and being disabled—though I don't look it—makes it much harder to find work.

What makes it even harder is the infamous Labour Party making cuts all over the place and the men of too much power, the union leaders, telling us we must all make sacrifices.

I somehow don't think they make too many sacrifices.

Do they have to buy second-hand clothes, save up for a year to buy a pair of boots, be afraid of becoming ill because there will be little money for treatment, or a hospital bed?

They ask us to make sacrifices. We have given up meat, going to the pub, butter, going by London Transport, we write fewer letters etc.

The men and women with too much power, who make all the rules, they must go, for they have caused too much hardship and suffering. Give this country to the ordinary working people. It's about time we had our say.

□ MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, Ilford, Essex.

## The cowards in blue

MATTHEW GURRY (SW, 22 January) gives the same excuse for police brutality as the leaders of Nazism gave at the Nuremberg Trials. Orders from superiors are no excuse for the treatment they dish up.

In most cases they take the jobs they have chosen because it is in their nature.

From way back, the police in this and other countries have never shown the slightest drop of loyalty for fellow workers. Constant attacks on workers, gatherings have been perpetrated by the cowards in uniform throughout history—the Peterloo Massacre, O'Connor Street in Dublin, Crowe Park, Stevenson Square Massacre—the Union Jack was bathed in blood in every corner of the world.

Nobody should show surprise that the British police and army will attack innocent workers.

I myself had the honour of being one of the Right to Work marchers from Manchester to London, and also on the Brighton march. I was arrested at Hendon and will never have faith in British

justice, having seen and been a party to it.

Mike Lynch, now in jail after the police attacked our march, is one more victimised worker—and another nail in the coffin of those great Pillocks of Society who administer justice in the name of her Royal Hypocrisy.

A great number of the older police joined the service to avoid having to do military

service in Korea, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus and Kenya, not because they were conscientious objectors, but because the other side were in a position to fight back.

They will get no sympathy from me for being puppets. I will do everything I can to make them pay for the things they have done to people.

□ JOE CRONSHAW, Manchester.

## POSTAL POINTS

I WAS angry to see that the report about the victory at Automat (SW, 22 January) made no mention of the women involved in that struggle.

SW seems to have fallen into the trap of identifying successful trade union disputes with all-male organisation. In fact there were a number of women, including shop stewards, who played a leading role from the very beginning of the strike—holding

together picket lines, fighting hard for support from other AUEW members and other women—as well as coping with their families and juggling shrinking incomes.

□ ANNE ROBERTSON, Manchester.

ON THE front page of Socialist Worker (15 January) we read of 'a wonderful new book, Why you should be a socialist'.

Why, as the only serious revolutionary socialist party in this country, are we resorting to Readers Digest-type sales techniques?

If it is so good and so crucial for the socialist struggle then let's use an adjective that implies exactly that.

□ JANET RICHARDSON, Crawley, Sussex.

IT IS a great relief to see that Socialist Worker has recognised the essential priority the struggle for women's rights must have in any socialist struggle. But sexist slurs and neglect of women's psychological oppression is still evident in the paper.

For example cartoonist Evans can aptly illustrate the real messages behind

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

to a doctor (GP). If this comes about then it really means the Health Service will cease to exist.

It would of course mean an increase in the profits of the private insurance companies, since patients would have to start privately insuring themselves against illness.

There would be an increase in the NHS bureaucracy, more top salaried people employed to supervise the collection of money.

Meanwhile we would return to the pre-NHS situation where people died or were unable to get treatment because they could not afford it.

The NHS has done much to cut infant mortality and illness. Often with children, babies and pregnant mums, it is the watching over a period which is important and to be able to ask them freely to come to the surgery at intervals.

Old people and the handicapped, whose care has been greatly improved under the NHS, also often need visiting at regular intervals.

All this would disappear if the question of payment arose. I can see that my medical treatment would be less efficient because all the time would be thinking 'Should I ask them to come back? Should I really send them into hospital? Can they afford it?'

It makes a complete farce of what the NHS was supposed to be when in 1948 it was described as a system where 'poverty would not be a disability, and wealth not an advantage'.

□ JEAN LEWIS, general practitioner, Pontefract, Yorkshire.

sickening, capitalist advertising posters but only in relation to males—'Be a man, Eat concrete!'

What about the bulk of ads that degrade and insult women as mindless, idiotic amusement objects for males, merely ornamental property to be brought by men with money?

□ R TAPLIN, Cambridge.

FRANK CONWAY (Letters, 22 January), while quoting Lenin on self-determination, is ignoring the realities of Britain. Surely nobody can claim that the Scots and the Welsh are dominated by the English nowadays? The capitalists who dominate the whole of the British Isles are not all English.

For years workers of the various nationalities of Britain have fought side by side. I believe devolution is a threat to that unity. Scottish workers, for example, are being encouraged to talk about 'our oil'.

Nationalist struggles against foreign capitalist domination must, in general, be supported—but surely nobody can fail to see that in this country Scottish nationalism, Welsh nationalism, yes and Irish nationalism, are divisive influences, and should be opposed by all workers.

□ JIM PARKES, Walsall.

## Union plans to boycott Scotland internationals

A decision by a sub-committee of the West of Scotland division of a major trade union could mean that its 12,000 members will be asked to boycott Scottish football internationals.

The decision of TASS—the white-collar section of the engineering union—follows the refusal of the Scottish Football Association to change its plans for Scotland to play Chile in June.

Mr Brian Wainwright, the committee convenor, said yesterday that he expected a similar decision to be taken by the Glasgow branch which is responsible for a further 6000 members.

The proposal was likely to go before the annual congress of the RUC in April and could eventually affect the engineering union's 900,000 Scottish members if it were to receive a

From The Scotsman, 26 January.

In Llanelli, the Council of Action went beyond TUC instructions in immediately calling out steel, gas, electricity and brewery workers. All 'essential services' were stopped. The police stations and the market were commandeered. Food was distributed from the market to the needy while the police receive instructions from the Council of Action and actually conformed to their orders for the turning back of lorries of blacklegs.

—HYWEL FRANCIS, in South Wales, in The General Strike edited by Skelley, page 238.

# How Red was my valley?

**WHAT IS Welsh nationalism? What does it mean? What do the nationalists want?**

I feel strange when I hear Welsh people shouting Home Rule for Wales. Give us the right to rule ourselves.

What that really means is: Give them the right to rule us, the workers.

## Parasites

And who are 'they?'. The ruling class, the capitalists, the parasites who don't know what it is to work at a coal face for eight hours but still find time to tell the miners to dig more coal, or the steel men to make more steel and various other workers to be more productive while they sit on their backsides counting the profits that the workers of Wales and of other lands gave made for them.

Do not let us forget the struggles of our forbears many years ago, either. Can any Welshman or woman really believe that all the many miners and miners' wives who have gone to prison in the course of the struggle were fighting for Home bloody Rule?

If they do, then they should start reading Welsh history, not of course that it's all that easy to come by.

I have, for example, read and enjoyed Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley* which was recently on TV.

But *How Green Was My Valley* is not a true reflection of the struggle. It's too romantic by far in its interpretation of the class struggle.

## Violent

The struggle throughout the last century was a violent part of a violent history in which the working people of Wales were exploited and persecuted. But they did not passively accept their fate. They fought back like lions.

In those battles many fine people were killed, families were ruined, enormous sacrifices made.

But never let us forget the reasons why. They weren't fighting for home rule. They were fighting for something greater by far: for themselves, for their families, for direct control over their lives.

Unknown to themselves maybe, they were fighting for

**WELSH MEN AND WOMEN HAVE DIED FOR SOCIALISM. ARE WE TO FORGET THEIR STRUGGLE AND SETTLE FOR HOME RULE?**

socialism, true socialism, not the Labour Party variety.

These are the breed of people the nationalists have forgotten. You can see them best in the run-up to the great strike of 1926.

I'm sure that the people of Cwmgrach will not forget. They'll remember the Reverend Teilo Owen who was fined £20 or two months jail for stating in the course of his sermon during the strike:

*We have been squeezed. It is time to rebel.*

*I have turned rebel.*

The workers of Wales would do well to remember those words. There could be many thousands of you saying them in the not too distant future.



Anthracite strikers after being freed from prison in 1925. Their crime was to resist the oppression of the owners, just like the Shrewsbury pickets of our day.



Miners at the funeral of a dead comrade. Their masters had insisted that they work while the man was buried. So they went in working clothes.

**By PIP JONES**  
a Cardiff electrician

Let's not forget the rest of the workers of Wales. Those magnificent Maerdy people whose enthusiasm during the 1926 strike inspired the whole mining community, and spilled over into the workers movement as a whole.

Who can forget the solidarity and creative power of the workers in this period? There weren't many blacklegs around the valleys of Wales then, by God!

The people of Wales, the workers of Wales, must realise that socialism is the only answer

to the problems of Wales. Socialism—a system in which us, the workers, can control our own destiny, where power is in our hands, not the hands of a tiny band of parliamentarians in London or Cardiff.

No Welshman wants more independence more than I do. But I want independence from this filthy, corrupt system which exploits the working class.

Devolution cannot bring us freedom. It will only enslave us to more power-crazy bureaucrats.

more corruption of local government in Wales. And, by God, we have enough of that already.

*I say to the workers of Wales: Rally to the cause of socialism. Educate your children to that same cause.*

Only then can we rise up and take our country from these parasites (Welsh, English, whatever) who have bled the workers of Wales and every other land.

I leave you with the words of Thomas Paine, a great revolutionary of an earlier age: 'Let them call me a rebel and welcome. I feel no concern from it. But I should suffer the misery of devils were I to make a whore of my soul.'

## Unite

The capitalists are united. The bosses are united. The miners were united when they brought down Heath—Welsh miners, Scottish and English miners. So don't let us fight each other.

**Let us all unite to bring true socialism to Wales.**

# The great dream of '26

*Do you remember 1926? That summer of soups and speeches, The sunlight on the idle wheels and the deserted crossings, And the laughter and the cursing in the moonlight streets?*

*Do you remember 1926? The slogans and the penny concerts, The jazz bands and the moorland picnics, And the slanderous tongues of famous cities?*

*Do you remember 1926? The great dream and the swift disaster The fanatic and the traitor, and more than all,*

*The bravery of the simple faithful folk?*

*'Ay, ay we remember 1926,' said Dai and Shinkin, As they stood on the kerb in Charing Cross Road,*

*'And we shall remember 1926 until our blood is dry'.*

IDRIS DAVIES

□ LAURIE FLYNN WRITES: These verses are a small part of the poem *Gwalia Deserta* by a great Welsh working class poet.

Idris Davies, was born in the Monmouthshire town of Rhymney. As a young man he was an underground miner, experiencing the great struggles of the period from the end of the First World War through to the General Strike. Later he became a teacher and poet, writing about his roots and the long struggle for human emancipation waged by his people.

Davies died, aged 48, in 1953. His collected poems are available in paperback (price 45p) from Gwasg Gomer, Llandysul, Cardiganshire. The book contains *Gwalia Deserta* in full and also Davies' magnificent epic poem of 1926, *The Angry Summer*.

**NATIONALISM OR SOCIALISM? A socialist Worker pamphlet.**  
17p each including postage (10 copies for £1) from:  
SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, SW, 9 (1FL) High Street, Edinburgh, SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## Jewellery firm gives scabs a fiver

**BIRMINGHAM:** Eleven workers at Morton T Colver jewellery firm, who have been locked out and then sacked by the company, are still picketing.

Meanwhile the workers inside have been given a £5 rise and have had two hours knocked off their working week.

Meanwhile the workers inside have been given a £5 rise and have had two hours knocked off their working week.

The dispute started in the Dickensian sweatshop when workers wanted to visit their union office. They had joined the jewellery workers' union NUGSAT because conditions are so bad.

Pickets tell horror stories of mice in the wash basins, no men's toilets, people injured by unsafe machinery.

Said one picket: 'I was going up to tidy the loft. I put one foot on a beam and one on what turned out to be hard-board. My leg went straight through and my body after it.'

'I landed on the teatable below. They didn't even offer me a cup of tea, never mind a doctor or a nurse.'

□ Send money and messages of support to: Morton T Colver pickets c/o NUGSAT, 19/23 Pitsford Street, Birmingham.

## Suffolk picket

by **MARCUS LUCK** (Ipswich Right to Work Campaign)

**BURY ST EDMUNDS:** The eight women workers on strike for equal pay at T H Nice were sacked last week. The company said they can reapply for their jobs and will be given 'reasonable consideration'—if they call off the picket and accept the company's demands.

The women all earn under £30 a week. They have been on the picket line for five weeks.

□ A mass picket of the factory by all trade unionists has been called by the TASS Divisional Council for Wednesday 9 February, 1.30pm.

□ Messages of support and donations to: Sue Austin, 111 Eastgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



Essex firemen protesting in Chelmsford on Tuesday

# Firemen march against the cuts

by **JIMMY JOHNS**

**ESSEX:** Opposition is growing among rank and file trade unionists to the country council's proposed £8½million cuts in spending.

On Tuesday, the country's firemen marched through Chelmsford to picket County Hall.

At Chelmsford fire station, Fire Brigades Union branch secretary Peter Cast said: 'The men are really angry, especially over the council's determination to do away with the travel allowance for men who have to

operate stations away from their home district.

'Even now these men can only claim up to a maximum of 75p a day, and pay the rest out of their own pocket.

'Now the council tell us they'll give nothing at all. At a station like this, local men could staff only one watch out of the necessary three.

'So the council are really telling the other men who have to travel from as far as Clacton (35 miles) and Grays (25 miles), that they'll have to take the equivalent of up to a £4-a-week pay cut.'

Branch chairman Roger Jakes pointed out: 'It's not only that, either. As well as the plan to do away with 12 firemen, the council wants to axe 20 cooks and cleaners.

'As far as we're concerned, the cooks and cleaners are workers just like us. They are as important to the fire service as the uniformed staff.

'So we're fighting for their jobs as well.'

It looks as if the firemen won't be the only ones fighting back.

### Rank and file

Bill Horslen, chairman of the TGWU bus branch in Chelmsford, told Socialist Worker: 'After three years of the Social Contract wage restraint, workers are now cheered off and angry. And now they're being asked to put up with cuts in services, falling standards and fewer jobs.'

'I reckon it only needs a spark to set the whole thing off.'

□ Copies of the Essex County Council's confidential document listing the £8½ million cuts and 2,000 lost jobs can be obtained from: Box A, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

## Vibroplant: We need help

**COUNTY DURHAM:** 12 fitters, all members of the AUEW, have been on official strike at Vibroplant in Washington for 10 months. Following the victory of the Automat strikers in Manchester last month this is

now the longest running strike in England.

The strike is over the right to organise a union in Vibroplant, an anti-union firm that runs 21 plant hire depots up and down the country.

### Cleaners' victory?

by **GARRY BUSHELL**  
**LONDON:** After 17 long weeks on strike, the Holbrook cleaners seem to be near victory. The management at the North East London Poly have now said they will concede most of the points.

But as striker Ann Nicholson told Socialist Worker: 'I'll believe it when I see it in writing.'

The management have agreed to have the building made safe by unionised industrial cleaners and the asbestos sealed.

They have also agreed to reinstate the sacked cleaner, Loraine Webb, to pay three weeks backpay, to send the cleaners on four weeks paid holiday while the building is cleaned up, and to set up a negotiating committee for the union throughout the Poly.

## THF blacking spreads . . .

**SHEFFIELD:** Thirty hotel workers at Trust House Forte's Grosvenor House hotel are now in the eighth week of their strike for trade union recognition.

Blacking of THF and its subsidiary companies is spreading in the area. Last week the Sheffield Trades Council, the Transport and General Workers district committee and a meeting of all

### . . . at Oxford too!

**OXFORD:** The Linton Lodge Hotel strike is beginning to bite. The management arranged a meeting with TGWU district organiser Geoff Hulett and offered to buy off the strikers, who have now been out 11 weeks.

Last week the strikers picketed a local fishmonger who had been crossing the picket line.

At the Randolph Hotel the strikers are being hampered by the TGWU dragging its feet

# TGWU election: Back the rank (and file) outsider!

by **STEVE JEFFERYS**

**SWEET-SMELLING** and sycophants! That's the impression you get from reading the election addresses of the Transport and General Workers Union full-time officials aiming for Jack Jones' job.

With balloting due to start in two weeks' time, the campaign season is now open. Tiny numbers of election addresses have been sent to all branches, about one address for every 20 members.

The 14 candidates include five full-time officials and one former official, standing for TGWU general secretary.

Moss Evans, national organiser of the Transport Workers, heads the field. An appointed full-time official for 21 years, his election address jokes: 'My day-to-day contact with the shop floor has not been interrupted.'

### Sell-out

On the Social Contract sell-out he is silent, except to hint that 'the sacrifices . . . made . . . justify now a return to normal collective bargaining'.

He is a Jack Jones man right down the middle. Jones too is in favour of a 'return to normal collective bargaining'. The questions Evans doesn't answer are when? and for what demands?

The others are Alex Kitson, executive officer and a full-time official for 30 years, Larry Smith, Passenger Transport Group secretary and a national official for 11 years, Bill Walsh, Clerical Group secretary and a full-time official for 26 years and John Miller, secretary of the Chemical and Rubber Group and a full-time official for 15 years.

None of these dares directly

to criticise the Social Contract. Why? Partly because they all agree with it, partly because Jones instructed them not to.

Untrammelled by any present allegiance to Jack Jones, John Cousins, the son of Jones' predecessor, is cashing in on a famous name and going a little wild. His election address does call for 'an immediate return to free collective bargaining'.

Eight rank and file TGWU members will also appear on the ballot form. Six submitted election addresses.

### Witch hunt

The Right to Work Campaign candidate is Tommy Riley, a checker in the General Workers' section of the union and deputy convenor at the Metal Box factory in Westhoughton, near Bolton. His election address is the only one that calls for action now to win the 35-hour week without loss of pay.

He points out that 'strong rank and file organisation could have kept TGWU member Ricky Tomlinson and the other Shrewsbury pickets out of jail'. He calls on TGWU members 'to help build the Right to Work Campaign and all rank and file groups'.

'I'm not standing for votes,' Tommy Riley says. 'They don't mean anything in a union where the balloting and counting procedures are as accidental as ours.'

'I'm campaigning to get TGWU members across the country on the move against the Social Contract and in the fight for jobs. This battle won't end on 19 March like the campaigns of the other candidates.'

□ A TGWU Right to Work Campaign Protest Rally against the Social Contract is to be held in Manchester on Saturday 26 March, after the ballot.

Two other candidates opposing the Social Contract are Willie Bennett, convenor at the Dunlop Indiatyres factory at Inchinnan, Glasgow, and Alan Thornett, the often witch-hunted Cowley shop steward.

Socialist Worker believes that in this election a vote for all three rank and file candidates, Riley, Bennett and Thornett, is a positive vote for change in the TGWU.

But of the three we urge our readers to vote—and more important to campaign—for Tommy Riley. Support for him is not just support for an individual, but for the Right to Work Campaign. And the TGWU Right to Work Campaign will still need that support once this election is over.

Calling all TGWU members

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGN**

Smash the Social Contract  
Fight for the Right to Work

TGWU Right to Work Campaign leaflets, election addresses in Punjabi and Urdu, badges and pamphlets are available NOW from: Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Leaflets £1 for 500, election addresses £2 for 500, badges £1 for 10, TGWU: Who Rules? pamphlets £1 for 10.

□ Come to the TGWU Protest Rally against the Social Contract - Saturday 26 March, 11.30am, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

## Chemist shop pickets hit Grunwicks

**NORTH WEST LONDON:** The North London District Committee of the engineering union is calling a mass picket of Grunwicks Film Processing in Willesden on Friday 11 February.

The call has gone out to all local engineering factories to support the picket, which will assemble outside the Chapter Road factory at 7.30am.

It is now up to rank and file trade unionists to mobilise a really massive demonstration of working-class support for the six-month fight against brutal intimidation and disgusting wages and conditions.

The determination of the 200 Grunwicks workers is winning growing support from other trade unionists. On Saturday trades councils through London picketed chemists shops which deal with Grunwicks and its subsidiaries.

Picketing by the strike committee in Willesden



A chemist shop picket in North London

was so successful that as customers turned away and stood talking to the strikers, vanloads of police were used to try to reduce the picket.

Selfridges, in Oxford Street, Central London, was one big store which as a result has now refused to deal with Grunwicks.

## CPSA stops action against cuts

by **GERRY MARSDEN**, SWP Civil Service fraction executive.

THE executive of the civil servants union, the CPSA, has voted overwhelmingly to call off industrial action against the cuts by its members in the Department of Employment.

Since November they had been refusing to collect statistics as part of the CPSA's fight against the cuts. After pressure from the TUC and threats from the government to lock out civil servants, the executive has backed down.

Among those who supported the decision to call off the action were members of the Broad Left, including Communist Party members and Militant supporters. Mick McGrath, a supporter of Redder Tape and a member of the Socialist Workers Party, voted the same way. The SWP's civil service fraction state that this vote was mistaken.

Building a rank and file organisation in the CPSA is about building the sort of strength that makes it impossible for any executive member to behave in this way.



Intex workers picketing a meeting over the closure in London last week

## INTEX: WHAT WE NEED IS A SIT-IN

500 MEMBERS of the AUEW, TBDTU (textile workers) and the white-collar ASTMS face the dole queue at Intex, Ashton under Lyne. G. H. Heath are buying their process for textile production and moving it down the road.

Intex is the biggest employer in the town, where 13,000 are on the dole. A member of the Intex Action Committee, Ken Ryding, told Socialist Worker: 'What better will there be to do, than to occupy the factory?'

# 'MAKE OR BREAK' WEEK FOR BALFOUR STRIKE

SHEFFIELD: 'It's make or break week,' said Les Frith, shop steward at Edgar Allen Balfour's, where workers are now in their ninth week of dispute to stop redundancies and a factory closure.

A series of important meetings are taking place which should give management no option but to settle. On Tuesday, a meeting of all Confederation shop stewards will discuss further action following their half-day stoppage if the employers refuse to budge.

### 'Step up'

Clive Hartley, convenor of the Fitzwilliam works, told Socialist Worker: 'It is now necessary to step up a campaign against EAB across the whole Confederation district. I am in favour of this meeting calling for a 24-hour stoppage and a district overtime ban if

the redundancy notices are not withdrawn.'

All 2,800 EAB strikers will be meeting on Wednesday morning to consider their next step.

The strike is still receiving messages of support from around the country. Upper Clyde shipyard have sent a cheque for £1,000 and Jimmy Airlie will be speaking at the mass meeting on Wednesday.

One of the strikers who has been visiting local factories,

## 84 OUT AT ALLCARDS

SHEFFIELD: 84 workers are on strike at Easterbrook Allcards.

Management stopped 10p an hour from the bonus of drillers and grinders, claiming work was shoddy.

Ken Whitmore, explained: 'People say to us, "if you lose who's going to be next? You must win or else no one will stand a chance".'

□ Donations still urgently needed. Send them and messages of support to: EAB Strike Committee, New Inn, Carbrook Street, Sheffield 9.

A mass meeting decided on Monday that 84 workers should go out on strike, closing the entire drilling and grinding section, and that the rest of the workforce would pay a £1 levy to compensate them.

# MASSEYS: THE FIGHT GOES ON

## COVENTRY: 'We're not going to let a High Court Judge smash our strike.'

That was the message from Massey-Ferguson workers fighting to defend jobs and their agreement with management.

Last week the company got an injunction which ended an occupation of the occupation.

The next day a mass meeting of more than 90 workers voted unanimously to stay on strike and keep the picket going.

'Not one person at the meeting spoke against carrying on', said Terry Lindsay, of the strike committee.

'We all realise how important this is. It's important to our section because we've been militant in the past and management want to put an end to that.'

### Important

'It's important to all workers in Massey's because it could be them next time.'

Massey's locked out 136 men in the tractor assembly section just before Christmas for 'inadequate work'. Another 1000 men walked out with them.

Said Terry: 'Nowhere in our agreement does it give the management the right to take men off the clock without going through the procedure.'

Management are refusing to negotiate until the men go back to work.



—from the strikers'

bulletin:

This week 27 lorries, with a police escort and a management scab in each cab, broke through the picket.

Strikers fear that they may try to take tractors out in them.

The men are getting no strike pay and sorting out social security has been a long job.

The Coventry Evening Telegraph—the management's strike journal—has launched a cam-

paign against the men.

Massey Ferguson workers in Manchester and Knowsley near Liverpool are supporting the strike. So is Coventry Trades Council and the Engineering Union district committee.

□ Send messages and donations to: Massey Ferguson Assembly Shop strike committee c/o AUEW Halls, Coronation Street, Coventry.

In brief . . .  
... In brief  
ief . . . In br

MORE THAN 130 journalists employed by East Midland Allied Press will be ordered out by their union the NUJ, if talks fail to settle a nine-week dispute by Kettering journalists.

The NGA chapel on the Northants Evening Telegraph has also voted to take action if talks break down.

Even the Newsagents Federation has threatened to boycott the paper.

□ Messages of support to Jerry Connolly, 2 Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough, Northants.

DUMFRIES: Workers at Cleancut Clothiers have been on strike for three weeks for union recognition. Management want them to join the Tailor and Garment Workers but the workers favour the Transport and General Workers.

Most are women, starting pay £23 a week.

One picket told Socialist Worker: 'We are out until we win. If we go back before that, our lives in there will be hell.'

HULL: Management at Richard Sizars have tried to sack electricians' mate Frank Robinson who has worked at the factory for 11 years. The reason is that Frank is a diabetic.

All 100 workers have walked out in his support and organised a picket.

ABERDEEN College of Education students voted at a massive general meeting on Tuesday to campaign against the cuts.

The first of our series of one-day actions took place on Wednesday, with a flying picket, leafletting NALGO members working for the District Council.

We aim to make it clear through press and TV coverage that we are fighting all the cuts, not just those in education.

## Bosses attack UCATT pickets' hut

by Phil McCowen

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: The contracts manager at Marshall Andrew's site viaduct pulled down the UCATT's pickets' hut.

Management have been trying to evict the pickets from what is technically part of the site.

But the strikers have refused to go without a court injunction and are holding their ground.

The unofficial strike, which started last June, is to demand an end to labour only subcontracting and for direct labour of the main trades.

No bricks are getting through the picket line and the site had only enough to last another month. Scab bricklayers are being offered £2.50 an hour.

### Disgraceful

One of the pickets, Roger Feel, told Socialist Worker: 'It's disgraceful when union officials come down to the picket line and talk cement

loiry drivers through.

Support for the strike has come from sites all over the country but now the union is trying to discipline the strikers.

Resolutions of support are urgently needed from UCATT branches to the union executive, demanding the dropping of all charges under the union rules.

□ Please send donations and copies of resolutions to Marshall Andrew's Viaduct Site Picket Committee, c/o Welwyn Garden City Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

## BUILDERS FIGHT LUMP

by Brian Higgins, UCATT

BEDFORD: We are in dispute against the lump at Shanleys.

Trouble began when a foreman told convenor Mick Presland, that UCATT regional organiser Jim Colman had an arrangement



On the picket line at Chamberlain's

that the self-employed could have six weeks to come off the lump onto the books.

In front of witnesses, the owner of one of the contracting firms, Michael Peters, also made this allegation.

A mass meeting was immediately called. Four gangs failed to turn up. The lump had immediately fled.

Brother Colman had denied the allegation to the regional secretary, but he refused to come to the site and face the employers. We want to see them together to get to the bottom of this. And we want Michael Peters off the job.

The alleged 'deal' is a gross breach of National Working Rule Agreement. Last summer the employers tried to sack us for organising a go-slow. They claimed that this was breaching the national agreement.

LEYTON: Chamberlain's management have failed to break trade union organisation.

After a four-week official strike by 250 workers, they have been forced to take back Ray O'Brien, the Engineering Union steward they wanted to axe.

The proposed settlement was due to go to a mass meeting this Wednesday.

AUEW shop stewards Mike Webb and George Cochrane explained: 'The victimisation of Ray O'Brien took place because he is a good shop steward.'

'Some 18 months ago, four managers from Ford's came to the firm. Since then we have had to fight all the way. But Ray

## 'BASH THE UNION FIRM FOILED

O'Brien and the other stewards forced them to pay out £100,000 in essential safety improvements.

'They were not too pleased about that. Now these Ford's whizz-kids are after getting MDW, a new payments system introduced.

'That is why they wanted Ray out because he has the most experience of bonus, pay and conditions in the factory.'

## WHITBREAD LOCK-OUT

WHITBREAD depots throughout London are at a standstill because 400 drivers and some staff have been locked out.

The company are trying to impose, without negotiation, a new system of working.

Kenny Willis, Transport Union steward at Manor Park depot, said: 'This will mean a threat to our jobs. If the

company can get away with ignoring the procedure agreement we might as well tear up our union cards and go home.'

Ken Bentley, the TGWU branch secretary at Manor Park, added: 'The company issued an ultimatum. We are standing up for our rights. They have walked in with hobnailed boots and we are not going to accept it.'

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# Socialist Worker

## BBC strike-breakers: We name the 'dirty dozen'

A CAMPAIGN to weaken the National Union of Journalists is being carried out by several top London broadcasters.

Using BBC notepaper and BBC secretaries, they are calling on NUJ members in the BBC not to join an official

by PAUL FOOT

strike this week.

The leaders of the campaign are known as the 'dirty dozen'. They have gone to great pains to preserve their anonymity.

Socialist Worker can reveal that they are:- **John Hosken.**

BBC radio's industrial correspondent, **Peter Smith**, its 'business and labour' correspondent, **Chris Underwood**, its Home Affairs correspondent, and **Stephen Jessell**, education correspondent.

There are also four BBC

reporters—**Mike Vestey, Stephen Claypole, Geoffrey Wareham and Robert Baston**—and four sub-editors, **Blair Thomson, Charlie Thomson, Andy Shiels and Ian Hyams.**

The 'don't strike' call was taken around by hand to NUJ members by John Hosken's secretary.

The document claimed that the reasons for the strike 'have nothing to do' with London journalists in the BBC.

On the contrary, the dispute in Sheffield is a fight for jobs which affects every working journalist.

Seven weeks ago, Roger Currell, a Radio Sheffield producer, refused to broadcast sports material in protest against the regular hiring of a non-journalist as sports reporter, Bob Jackson, the non-journalist, is a prosperous greengrocer and a member of the Sheffield Rotary Club, the businessman's society.

The Sheffield journalists argued that there were plenty of full-time journalists who could do Jackson's work.

### Black

The NUJ executive called on them to black all sports copy until a full-time sports journalist was hired to do Jackson's work. Roger Currell obeyed. He was suspended—and 12 of his colleagues have been on strike and picketing Radio Sheffield ever since.

Last week, the BBC and the NUJ agreed to 'local talks'—and to Roger Currell's reinstatement. But the Association of Broadcasting Staffs refused to take part in local talks.

ABS members have been scabbing on the strike.

Robert Jackson, the potato king, joined the ABS after the dispute with the Sheffield NUJ had started. Now the ABS, eager to recruit among journalists in radio, are supporting their scabs in the dispute.

The NUJ had no alternative but to spread the strike. They started discussions in the radio chapels (office branches). The chapels voted 21 to 17 to spread the strike for four days across all the BBC.

The strike call went out.

But now the cosy correspondents in London are on the warpath. Their jobs, they imagine, are safe. They identify totally with the BBC bureaucrats.

To the cheers of their employers and employers everywhere, they are leading a battle against organised trade unionism in the media.

# JOIN THE SPARKS!

JOIN the electricians and strike on 14 February—that's the call made by the Right to Work Campaign to all workers in the telecommunications industry.

Tens of thousands of members of the Electricians Union (EETPU) have been called out by their executive that day—a week on Monday—for a one-day strike against the Post Office cuts in equipment. So have thousands of members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineers' Union (AUEW).

Already 20,000 workers have lost their jobs in telecommunications because of the Post Office cuts. Another 20,000 stand to lose their jobs in the next nine months.

Fifty factories have already been shut. Even the executive of EETPU has been forced to begin organising resistance. But telecommunications workers in other unions have not been called out.

The executives of the manual section of the Engineering Union and of the Transport Workers are silent, letting the right-wing EETPU executive make the running.

### Massive action

The Right to Work Campaign is organising for a massive extension of the action so that all telecommunications workers come out for the day. Special leaflets and posters warning against the cuts and calling for action are being distributed to factories through local Right to Work Committees.

Other electrical industry workers should try to join the stoppage.

Shop stewards committees in every telecommunications factory should be approached to organise united action. Resolutions should be moved in the EETPU, TGWU and AUEW, calling on the executives to give immediate official approval to all groups who take industrial action against the cut-backs.

Union executives are quite happy to support

## Work in telecommunications? Then strike against the cuts

one-off general protests. We must commit them to active support for every action taken.

Whatever the union executive do, shop stewards committees can prepare for the fight back now. All overtime working should be stopped immediately. Links are needed between each factory to ensure that no work and no equipment can be transferred.

In the past year the Post Office telecommunications section has made a massive profit, estimated around £400 million. With this

massive profit they have pushed prices up so high that many people can no longer afford a telephone.

As a result they have had to cut back orders for equipment, thousands of jobs will be lost, skilled workers will be on the dole, and even fewer people will have telephones.

That is the economic lunacy of the cuts. That is why Monday 14 February must be turned into a massive one-day strike against the cuts and for the Right to Work.

SUPPORT THE EETPU/AUEW(TASS) STOPPAGE.  
STOP THE TELECOMS SACKINGS  
ALL UNIONS OUT FEB 14th  
FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK



ABOVE: Bobby Buirds (centre) on the Right to Work protest before the case.

LEFT: Jubilation after his jailing was suspended

## RIGHT TO WORK MARCHER STAYS FREE!

RIGHT TO WORK marcher Bobby Buirds has had his prison sentence suspended on appeal.

In Westminster Crown Court on Tuesday he was fined £250 and the sentence suspended.

Bobby was one of 43 unemployed workers on the Manchester to London Right to Work march last Spring who were arrested when police at Hendon in London baton-charged the march.

Three marchers were sentenced to prison. Mike Lynch, an unemployed miner from Dunfermline, is now in London's Pentonville Prison serving three months, without remission.

Bobby Buirds was sentenced to two months by Hendon magistrates before Christmas.

Willie Dolan from Glasgow will be appealing against a one-month prison sentence this week.

Outside the court, Bobby told Socialist Worker: 'The campaign to get all the charges dropped is going on. Mike Lynch is still in prison. Willie Dolan could be there tomorrow.'

'And in May John Deason, the Right to Work Campaign secretary, faces charges which

could put him down for several years.

'We must go on campaigning. One reason I am free today is the pressure that has been put on by trade unionists throughout the country. That pressure must continue.'

'The unemployed are not going to be intimidated from marching or demonstrating for the right to work.'

'The fines and all the other costs are building up now. We

need financial help now. On behalf of all of us I want to appeal to a-all trade unionists and Right to Work Committees to try and raise money this week and send in a donation. Make a special effort this week.'

□ Money to the Right to Work Defence Appeal should be sent to Brother Ernie Roberts, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

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Name .....

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Please send me more information

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