

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

**INSIDE**



**For rank and file control of Britain's biggest union.**

**VOTE FOR TOMMY RILEY!** He's Right to Work Campaign candidate for general secretary of TGWU when Jack Jones, architect of the Social Con-trick, retires. **PAGES 8-9.**

**What is the profit on a cabbage?**

**59 PER CENT!** And that's official. Keeping down food prices, you'll remember, was one of the bargains in the Social Contract—which is why they have risen 50 per cent in two years. **PAGE FIVE**



**How Labour landed us with wage controls**

**THE BILDERBERG CONSPIRACY.** Never heard of it? Socialist Worker exposed this plot in July 1975. The revelations by Joe Haines show we are right. **PAGE THREE.**



The Socialist Workers Party calls for national support for the counter-demonstration against racism and fascism in Birmingham on Saturday 26 February

**NO NAZIS IN STECHFORD!**

**End immigration controls!**  
**Fight unemployment!**

Assemble Adderley Park, Birmingham, 1.30pm. March to Salfrey Gates

Sponsors include February 26 Committee against Fascism, Indian Workers Association (MIL), Bangladesh Workers Association, Pakistan Welfare Association, Kashmir Workers Union



SIX THOUSAND British Leyland workers in Birmingham marched in anger last week to make it plain to government Ministers, employers and union leaders that they wouldn't stand for any more wage controls.

This week, shop stewards representing the entire Leyland combine—that's 140,000 workers—have issued a call to the entire labour movement. If you've had enough of the Social Con-trick, join us in a massive strike and lobby of Parliament on Tuesday 19 April. **FULL REPORT—BACK PAGE**



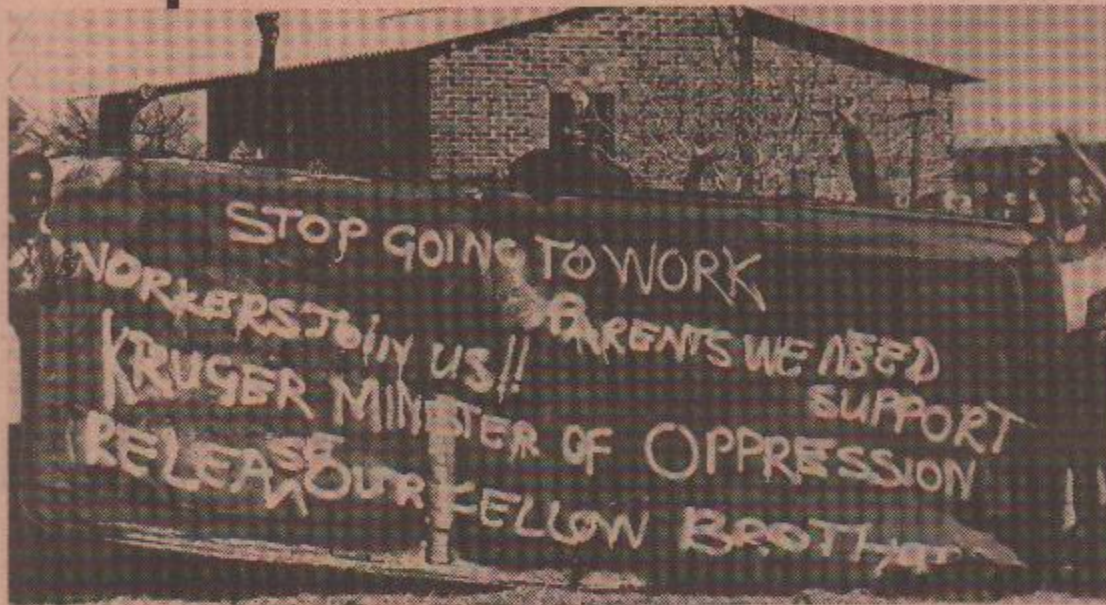
# No more wage controls!

# controls!



BELOW: The spirit, the solidarity and the anger of Soweto's youth. Far right is a burned out Barclays Bank and a bonfire of racist Afrikaans books.

# Still burning ... the fires of



# ABORTION: BASH THE BENYON BILL!

by JEAN GRAY  
**PLANS FOR an out-patient abortion clinic in East London were put off again this week.**

Gynaecologist Peter Huntingford says the clinic would provide free abortion for every woman in the area who needs one—and reduce the cost to the NHS.

This is in a working class area where 61 per cent of women who have the

**NO RETURN TO BACK STREET ABORTION**  
 Demonstrate Friday 25 February

12.30pm, assemble West Smithfield (Farringdon and Blackfriars tubes), London. 3pm, Rally in Central Hall, Westminster. Supported by NUS Women's Conference. **BRING BANNER AND CHILDREN** (creche provided in Central Hall, 3-4pm) **NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN** Thursday 24 February Lobby: 3-7pm, House of Commons March: 6pm, Bressenden Place, Victoria Meeting: 7.30pm, Central Hall, Westminster

operation turn in desperation to private clinics.

In Cardiff an out-patient abortion clinic at the University Hospital has not been used since 1974. There 54 per cent of women who have abortions have to fork out between £60 and £100 for an operation which could be provided free.

The reason? A small group of gynaecologists and surgeons, either from prejudice or greed, refuse to use even the few facilities for abortion on the National Health Service—and 'refer' women to private clinics.

## Defeat

This means that many women can't get an abortion at all.

'One thing we know for certain is that no working-class woman can afford to pay for an abortion,' said Peter Huntingford.

'The public have been too kind to the Area Health Authorities for too long over abortion. We need to put on more pressure.'

'These people who take the decisions are often shielded from the reality of the situation. They don't answer the phone four or five times a day to women who want an abortion.'

That's what it's like for working-class women now. If Tory MP William Benyon has his way, it will be even tougher.

If his Bill now before parliament becomes law, charity organisations such as the Pregnancy Advisory Service will have to close, or find ways around the law.

Prices of private abortions would soar. Charities which

were set up after 1967 have kept prices down by undercutting other private clinics.

But more important, if the Bill gets a second reading in the House of Commons and goes to a committee, the way will be open for anti-abortionists to change the grounds for abortion.

That's why Women's Voice has called a demonstration and rally on Friday 25 February and is supporting the National Abortion Campaign lobby on 24 February.

That's why women have to organise to destroy the Benyon Bill.



ABOVE: A new Women's Voice poster: small size, in three colours, available now. 50p for 20 including postage.

Money with orders to: Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2



Pickets outside Rochester Borstal last Saturday

## Free Nathan, say 100 pickets

A HUNDRED people picketed the Borstal in Rochester last weekend where 21-year-old Nathan Wayne Williams from Antigua is being held.

Wayne is being punished twice. He was convicted of handling stolen goods—an offence that a white youth would have been fined for or put on remand.

Wayne has been in the Borstal since June, and Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has signed an order for his deportation.

Wayne is being held in solitary—one cell with a mattress on the floor. He's a Dread—a member of a religious cult which forbids

its members to cut their hair—Wayne's 'locks' were cut as soon as he entered the Borstal.

Wayne has a job here and his family are here. He has no relatives in Antigua and no hope of getting work there.

Unemployment in Antigua is over 45%.

Rees is now 'reconsidering' whether to deport Wayne. We've got to step up the campaign which has forced him to 'reconsider', and force him to release Wayne.

## RAR concert banned

RIGHT-WING pressure from the students union 'finance committee' at Queen Mary's College, East London, and mumblings about hooligans and outsiders, has resulted in Friday's Rock Against Racism concert being cancelled. All our concerts seem to bring out the racists as well as the anti-racists.

But Brick Lane Defence Fund will be boosted by a Rock Against Racism gig at Thames Poly on Saturday 26 February. The Band will be Bambo (ex Reggae Guitars). That's Thames Poly, Calderwood Road, Woolwich.

## Postal delegates give racists a massive defeat

A HUGE meeting of the London District Council of the Union of Post Office Workers (UPW) has beaten off a racist challenge.

At this month's meeting, the union's Northern District, which is heavily infiltrated by fascists, moved for tighter immigration controls.

Nick Carter, who said he was a member of the Labour Party, called for tighter controls 'to help solve the shortage in public services and to cut down on unemployment.'

The motion was discussed for over an hour. Only

one speaker supported Carter. All the others, black and white, men and women, from all areas, denounced him and his ideas.

Bro. Bernie, a delegate from Overseas Telephones, said that the economic system was responsible for unemployment, not black workers like himself. Unity between workers was vital if jobs were to be protected.

Joan Herron, another telephone delegate, also spoke powerfully against the motion.

It was overwhelmingly defeated, by a show of hands. Only about 25 of the 500 delegates voted for it.

## Victory in Varden Street

PRESSURE from trade unionists and the Asian community in East London has forced the London Hospital Trustees to stop harassing Bengali families in Varden Street.

The hospital instructed the London Electricity Board to cut off the supply on one side of the street because they want the families—mostly Bengalis—to leave.

The hospital wants to sell the houses to Tower Hamlets Council. The Council will only buy them on condition that they are empty, and before April.

## Petition

Tower Hamlets Socialist Workers Party took up the fight and approached rank and file trade union members. A petition was signed by London Hospital unions, NUPE shop stewards, UPW members, NUT members, NUJ members, Hackney Asian Association and the Bengali Housing Action Group.

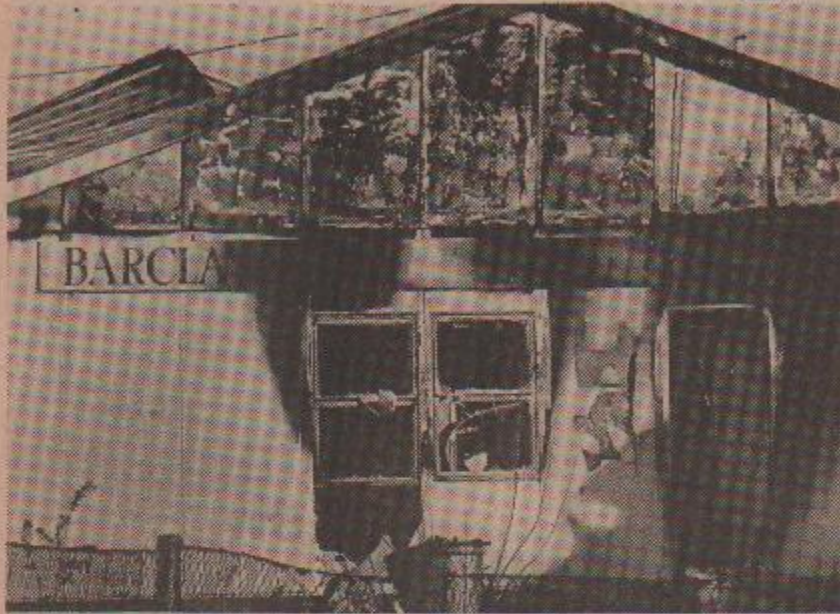
As a result the trustees say they have told their solicitors to allow the LEB to reconnect the electricity. Unless this is done free of charge the fight will remain a union issue.



**LEGALISED TERROR—THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT: A new pamphlet, written by Steve Berry (SWP Irish committee). 10p a copy (plus 8p postage) from SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. More than 10 copies, post free.**



# Soweto's magnificent fury



THE HEROES of South Africa—the black youngsters of Soweto—will not lie down.

Since they erupted in protest last summer, and sparked off a wave of strikes and demonstrations all over South Africa, the white racist regime has unleashed the most bitter repression.

At least 400 black children have vanished without trace after being 'arrested for questioning'.

Last week the black children were protesting again.

They stormed into examination halls in the schools, burnt the textbooks, and shouted abuse at the books' racist message.

A massive boycott of examinations swept the township—and the demand for a boycott has been spreading throughout the country.

# HOW LABOUR LANDED US WITH WAGE CONTROLS

AMONG ALL the intriguing revelations about the colour of Lady Falkender's notepaper, there is one point in Joe Haines' book which will interest Socialist Worker readers.

It is that the 'sterling crisis' of 1975 was deliberately contrived to force the Labour government into wage restraint.

In July, 1975, we carried an article entitled *The Bilderberg Conspiracy*. It referred to a meeting in Turkey in April 1975 of the Bilderberg group of international businessmen, civil servants, politicians and officers in the armed forces.

The British delegation contained Denis Healey, Margaret Thatcher, Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England, and top Treasury officials.

Forget the colour of Lady Falkender's notepaper, this Joe Haines tale really is interesting

## WHAT WE THINK

The meeting discussed the 'necessity' of wage controls in Britain; the vulnerability of the Labour government to a flood of sterling sales; and the 'case for a sterling crisis' as soon as a 'Yes' vote in the Common Market referendum had been secured (in June).

Joe Haines reveals how their plan was put into action. The Treasury and the Bank of England refused to intervene when sterling was sold in small quantities in July.

A sterling crisis developed. The Government panicked. The Treasury insisted on statutory wage controls. Wilson argued that the controls should be voluntary.

And the employers got the wage restraint from which they have benefited for the last two years.

Labour did not want wage controls. It had promised not to introduce them. But it was forced into them by pressure from the rich and powerful. This goes on and on and on.

The trade union leaders

were forced last year to agree to another year of restraint and to abandon every concession in return—under constant pressure on sterling.

The Government conceded cuts in public spending last November—under constant pressure on sterling.

Now, again, sterling is under pressure. The Labour government and the trade union leaders are collapsing under that pressure and recommending another round of restraint.

Cabinet Ministers, whatever they may think or whatever Labour conferences may say, have no power to carry out economic policies against the interests of big business and their accomplices in the Treasury.

You can't change society by Labour government. And you can't change Labour government through the Labour Party. Even Joe Haines' book proves it.



Lady Falkender: most of the press ignored Joe Haines' real revelations

## Why this man of courage must stay

PHIL AGEE is a man of courage and determination.

He broke with his former employers, the Central Intelligence Agency, when he discovered that they were subverting democratic governments and subsidising tyranny and torture.

At great risk to himself and his family, he set about exposing his former masters.

He has done great service to the British Labour movement.

Yet his former bosses and their friends in British intelligence have managed to persuade a Labour Home Secretary to issue a deportation order against him.

In his open stand against that order, Agee has proved beyond doubt that he does not work for any intelligence service.

He is the enemy of all intelligence services which put their government or property before people.

By all accounts Home Secretary Rees has rejected all the evidence.

He doesn't even have to explain why. And so, by the time you read this, Phil



Phil Agee: Rees stoops into the gutter

Agee may have been thrown out of the country. This is a dreadful blow to individual liberty—and especially to the liberty of Labour.

It is also further proof, if proof were needed, of how low into the gutter Merlin Rees and his advisers are prepared to stoop.

## جنگاری

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

# This can shake the Con-trick

SEVEN DAYS AWAY—A VITAL RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE

AFTER the massive display of anger against the Social Contract from the carworkers at Longbridge, next week's conference of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions could be of major importance.

The organisers have now sent credentials out to more than 500 delegates.

Among those they have heard from in the last week are

Austin Longbridge, who are sending a coach, Skelmersdale Trades Council, the town with the worst unemployment in England, and the Maganavox shop stewards committee, where a strike for equal pay has just ended.

The Right to Work Campaign will be appealing at the conference for unity between everyone who wants to fight back against the Social Contract.

In particular, they are urging delegates to support the setting up of a united action committee between the

Liaison Committee, the organisers of last year's Assembly of Unemployment and the Right to Work Campaign.

They are also urging Conference delegates to support the national strike for a return to free collective bargaining called by the Leyland Combine for 19 April.

The Right to Work Campaign will also be urging the Conference to call a one-day national strike on the day of the recall TUC. This is expected within the next two

months to endorse the next stage of the Social Contract cooked up between the TUC and the Cabinet.

The strike on the day of the recall TUC will be accompanied by a mass lobby of the delegates to the TUC. The lobby will be joined by a march of unemployed workers, who will be setting out three days before.

One way to ensure the success of these initiatives is to fight for delegates to the LCDTU and to win support for the Right to Work Campaign's call for united action.

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

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday before publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash with copy (10p a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Carbridge Works, Carbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoice sent.



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

MERSEYSIDE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN Defence Fund Grand Social: Saturday 5 March, 8pm, bar extension till midnight. Tickets 75p in advance £1 on the door. More details later. No More Showabouts—Defend the Right to Work Marchers.

LANCASTER Right to Work Campaign meeting: Wednesday 23 February, 7.30pm, The Golden Lion, Moor Lane. All welcome.

THE COLLIER, rank and file miners' paper—February issue out now, 5p a copy plus 6p postage (more than 10 copies post free) from The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Curdy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

EETPU RANK & FILE CONTACT NO 3 out now. Articles on Telecoms strike, cuts, plumbers etc. Orders to 12a Upper Tooting Road, London SW17. Cash with order. Individual copies 12p, including postage. Orders for more than 25, post free.

DAY OF ACTION in support of Oxford and Sheffield hotel workers called by Right to Work Campaign, LONDON: Picket Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, 1pm-3pm, Saturday 19 February. All London SWP branches to support.

NORTH LONDON RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN Workers Health and Safety School: Speakers: Pat Kinnerly (author of Hazards at Work), Greg Powell (solicitor and expert on industrial law) and Laurie Flynn (Socialist Worker). Saturday 12 March, 1-5pm, Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, N17. Trade union delegates invited through individual applications will be considered. 25p fee in advance or at door from I Brown, 46a West Green Road, London, N16 (800 5550).

WYTHENSHAW RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN HOSPITAL WORKER PUBLIC MEETING: Fight Against the Ward Closure at Withington Hospital. Local trade union speakers. Wednesday 23 February, 7.30pm, Withington Community Centre, Burton Road, Yewtree Road, Withington.

BARNET TRADES COUNCIL BENEFIT SOCIAL in aid of RTW marchers' defence fund: Saturday 26 February, 8pm, Central London Poly, Portover St, W1 (nearest tube Gt Portland Street). Disco, bar, raffle. Admission 50p (unemployed 25p).

ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE: Saturday 2 April, 11am, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Smash the Social Contract. Free Collective Bargaining—£10 now, 35p hour week with no loss of pay, equal pay, job opportunity and equal training for women, the right to work. Credentials from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

### Meetings

WOMEN IN THE THIRD WORLD: A day of films. Speaker: Mary Tyler, imprisoned in India for five years without trial. Films include: Salt of the Earth, Horse of Mud, The Double Day, The Seedling (Ankur), Creche available. Sunday 27 February, 2-10pm, International Students House, 9 Park Crescent, London, W1. Organised by Haslemere Group and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

POLISH WORKERS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN Film benefit: Three Days in Szeccin, Wednesday 23 February, 7pm, The Other Cinema, Tottenham Street, London W1 (Goudge Street tube). Proceeds to the Polish Workers Defence Campaign in Warsaw.

PORTUGAL/CHILE/BRITAIN: Popular power, popular culture! Three-day festival with theatre, music, films, discussion. Friday-Sunday 18-20 February, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 and The Other Cinema, Tottenham Street, WC1. Details from 01-511 0931.

Relt and Braces Roadshow Company present a week long of THE MOTHER, by Bertolt Brecht: Tuesday 22 February, FULHAM Arts Centre, London SW6, 8pm, phone 385-8947. Wednesday 23rd, HORNSEY Town Hall, N5, 8pm, phone 808-1000. Friday 25th, BATTERSEA Arts Centre, SW11, 8pm, phone 223-5386. Saturday 26th, BATTERSEA Arts Centre, 8pm.

### Notices

SAVE MERIDEN MOTORCYCLES CO-OP from the clutches of the wasters. Request from well-wisher for one million people, give £1 each without strings. Meriden Motorcycle Ltd, Meriden Works, Coventry.

## IF YOU THINK THE TRIBUNALS ARE 'FAIR AND IMPARTIAL', LOOK AT THIS CASE... AND THESE FIGURES

'WE FEEL like criminals. It's like trying to prove your innocence, not your right to equal pay.'

That's how Irene Roach and Alice Dugdale described their fourth appearance at an equal pay tribunal.

### Tribunal

Alice and Irene work for Kraft Foods in Kirkby, Liverpool, in the quality control. In every section of the factory, women had equal pay—but not in theirs. So they and four others filled in the forms and went to the tribunal.

The tribunal agreed that the women did exactly the same work as the men—for a basic rate of £29 to £34, compared with the men's rate of £42.45.

But the tribunal found that they were not entitled to equal pay.

Why? Because the men worked night shifts—which women can't do, by law. The men got a special allowance for their night work.

But still, the tribunal insisted, the fact that they did night work made them different to the women and entitled to more money for the same jobs in the day!

### Nonsense

This made nonsense of the Act's provision that women should get equal pay for 'broadly similar work'.

The women appealed. The judge at the appeals tribunal ruled that availability for night work did not constitute a major difference between men and women workers.

# Another equal pay snatch...

## EQUAL PAY TRIBUNALS: THE BOSSES' POODLES

From a House of Commons Answer, 11 January, 1977

29 December 1975 to 24 September 1976	
Cases heard	420
Cases upheld	111
Cases dismissed	309
Cases settled by conciliation	96
Cases settled privately	150
Results not known	653



The Kraft women: we're keeping up the battle

He sent the case back for a rehearing, which is being heard in Liverpool.

Now the company are arguing that the men do different work on the night shift. Some of the men have told the tribunal that the jobs they do at night can't physically be done by women.

'Rubbish' says Alice. Irene says: 'The one job they have to do is to test samples from the bleeding floor.'

When women do that during the day, it is regarded as the lowest grade. Yet they're wanting more pay for doing work which is graded the lowest!

### Expense

At the first hearing, the women's union, USDAW, couldn't run to a lawyer to represent them. The bosses spared no expense.

Thousands of women like Irene and Alice are fighting their way through the tribunals for equal pay. Look at the figures, and you'll see what sort of success they've had.

More often than not, their unions and the Equal Opportunities Commission don't bother to help.

So many women who want to fight for their rights, don't know where to begin. That's

what our Women's Rights Campaign is about.

If you want to fight for equal pay—if you know anyone in the same sort of situation as Irene and Alice—why not write to us?

We can put you in touch with other women who are fighting or are prepared to fight.

Write to: Women's Rights, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



Saturation coverage: SW on sale outside an East London newsagent's last week

## ONE WAY TO PUSH SW...

ONE IDEA for the Socialist Worker Organisers' Handbook comes from an East London branch.

Having got a number of newsagents to take the paper, they proceeded to advertise the fact.

A simple leaflet was produced and stapled to back-copies of SW which were then posted through letter-boxes.

This is just one of what must be a host of different ideas and methods of increasing the sales and influence of the paper.

### IDEAS

We have also had contributions from Chester SWP on how they built their branch, and from Glasgow, Dumfries and Easter Ross.

Let's have your branch's ideas NOW, so that a comprehensive handbook can be produced.

Send to: SW Organisers' Handbook, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 or ring 01 739 2639.

## They let my child die - now I'm fighting back

REMEMBER Afzal Galiara? His picture appeared on the front page of Socialist Worker last October.

His baby had died soon after being born in a lounge at a London airport detention centre.

While the baby was being born, security guards stood by and laughed—and refused to call a doctor or take his wife Zahira to hospital.

Socialist Worker took up

Zahira's case—in the paper, at the Walsall by-election, and in a demonstration at London airport.

Last week, Afzal joined the Socialist Workers Party.

He says: 'I have decided to join because I realised that by myself I didn't have the power to do the things that need to be done.'

'You were the only people who supported my demands to expose the immigration officials who allowed my child to die at Heathrow airport.'



Afzal, demonstrating at Heathrow last November over the death of his child

## Yorkshire tour: 22 join

I'VE JOINED the Socialist Workers Party because there's no other organisation that's fighting for socialism.'

Those are the words of Ray Evans, a Barnsley miner who has recently started at Woolley Colliery.

I agree with Socialist Worker that the Social Contract is a con-trick,' he added. 'It's not just an attack on wages, but on the whole quality of life—on hospitals, education, everything. Unemployment is escalating still further as a result of all these cuts.'

The Labour government bows down to the bosses all the time. Everything is being

cut except profits.'

Ray is one of 22 people who joined the SWP in Yorkshire in just three days last week.

Other new members include another two miners, three UCATT members, the CoHSF branch secretary from a Barnsley hospital and seven students—three of whom are from Doncaster colleges facing Shirley Williams' axe.

### Packed

The new members joined during a three-day tour by Paul Foot. He spoke to packed audiences in Wakefield and Doncaster as well as meeting and talking to

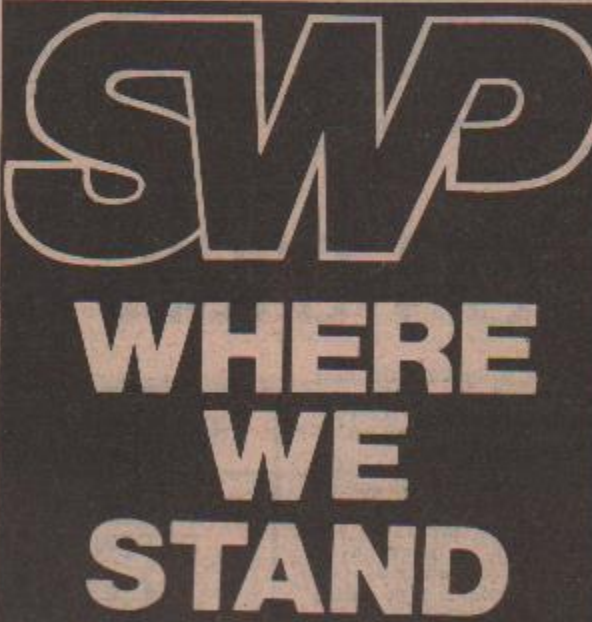
groups of workers.

He was also invited to address two meetings of Doncaster student teachers who are organising to stop the closure of High Melton and Scawby Colleges of Education.

A new SWP branch has been started with seven members at South Elmsall, a mining village near Barnsley.

SWP branches on the Yorkshire coal-field are confident that these successes are not just a three-day wonder. On the contrary they are the beginning of a big new recruitment drive in the area.

Branch delegates met in Wakefield last Saturday to draw up further plans for the campaign.



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.

### 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.

The experience of Russia

demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

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

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

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

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





# THE MAD AXEMAN

## Cutting up rough—a health chief who plans to close our hospitals

THE EALING and Hammersmith Area Health Authority got a shock last Wednesday. 250 hospital workers turned up to blast them about hospital cuts in our area. Six shop stewards from local hospitals had written to the Authority asking if they could speak. They were turned down.

The organisers of the lobby were determined that the workers' case should be heard. The police tried to restrict us to 140 inside the hall. There was uproar. Another 60 were promptly allowed in. When the chairman announced the proposal to close the Hounslow hospital, banners and placards were unfurled all over the hall, and shop stewards and nurses demanded the right to speak.

This was refused. The public were then told to block the entrances while the workers put their case.

Ancillary workers, nurses, doctors, and administrative staff representatives then blasted the bureaucrats for their inhuman plans to close hospitals.

### Abandoned

As soon as we had finished speaking, the chairman abandoned the meeting.

This gives us valuable time to mobilise support in the battle against cuts and closures. The Area Health Authority will meet again to discuss their rotten plans.

We must be prepared to put our case to them with equal force once more.



Stella Rowe, NUPE nurses' shop steward at the West Middlesex, letting Smith and his fellow-bureaucrats have it.

**BUT I'M ONLY DOING MY JOB YOU REALISE**

Bill Smith, health authority chief and Tory councillor, tells the demonstrators: 'I'm on your side.' But he couldn't promise not to support cuts...



# The thin end of the veg...

A GOVERNMENT report last week revealed astonishing profiteering in fresh vegetables of every kind.

The report can be flung back in the faces of all those people who pretend that price increases are 'beyond our control' and are usually the result of drought.

For the first time in history, an inquiry was carried out into the profit margins in fresh food.

### Inquiry

It was ordered by the Price Commission, which has no power to control prices in fresh food.

The report found that the people who make profit from selling food—especially the wholesalers and the retailers—have been making even more of it.

Between September and November last year, a pound of cabbage could be bought wholesale for 4.2p a pound (it was bought from the farmer for 3.3p, by the way).

But the price in the shops was 10.2p a pound, a nice little

OFFICIAL — PROFITEERS TREBLE THE PRICE OF FRESH FOOD



profit of 6p a pound for retailer and wholesaler.

That means the profit on a cabbage was 59 per cent of the price we pay in the shops.

In the same period for 1975, the profit on a cabbage was 51 per cent.

In 1975, the profit on a cauliflower was 40 per cent of

the shop price. In 1976, the profit was up to 44 per cent.

The profit for the five most popular fresh vegetables—sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cauliflowers and turnips—is up from 51 per cent in 1975 to 52 per cent in 1976.

These fantastic profit margins need to be compared



with the already far too high margins in other foods.

The same Price Commission report discloses that the wholesale and retail profit in all food and drink is 28.8 per cent. The profit for fresh vegetables is nearly double that!

And since November, the

prices of all these vegetables have rocketed. Whatever the cause of the increases, one thing is certain:

The only people hurt are the people who buy food.

The people who sell it—either shops or wholesale—are doing even more nicely than they were.

## SAVE OUR HOSPITALS CONFERENCE

Delegate conference for all trade unionists in hospitals  
 Saturday 19 March, Portland Hall,  
 16-22 Riding House St., London W1  
 (Gt. Portland Street Tube)

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



TALKING ABOUT  
SOCIALISM  
Geoff Ellen

It's time that socialists tackled the question of rates and exploded the myth that the rich are keeping the poor.

# Socialists and rates

FEW THINGS arouse the fury of Tory backwoodsmen—or the passionate indifference of socialists—more than an increase on the rates.

After all, it's strictly an issue for middle-class misers who prefer the world to begin and end at their own front door and whose definition of social welfare is a healthy bank balance.

At least, that's what many socialists think, though of course they may not put it quite that crudely.

That being so, perhaps it's time we thought a little more deeply about it. Our minds are about to be concentrated

by the matter as a result of the government's cuts in public spending.

Already, in county after county, councils are loyally (if they are Labour) and eagerly (if they are Tory) pushing through some of those cuts following the cutting of the Rate Support Grant by our socialist government.

Inevitably, that is producing big sackings, savaged public services—and outbursts of anger from thousands of workers. Almost as inevitably, it is also producing a 'simple solution' from many trade unionists: Increase the Rates.

## Revenue

It seems simple because it comes down to a straightforward piece of arithmetic, add revenue and you don't

need to subtract jobs or services.

And it appears to be a solution because, as so many short-sighted trade union officials never tire of insisting, the country can't afford it, the government can't afford it, but the rate-payers can.

This beautiful simplicity even takes on a tinge of militancy in the minds of some who should know better when councils, midful of coming elections, refuse to budge.

In reality, it is neither simple nor a solution. As for its militancy, it's rather like an ostrich demanding a mechanical shovel to help bury its head in the sand.

Look at the facts: in the last year, the Labour government has ordered cuts in public spending totalling £6,000 million.

Exactly this amount of wealth could, it is estimated, be produced if the 1,500,000 workers now on the dole were allowed to work.

Meanwhile, much of the cut in public spending is not a cut at all, but a redistribution from the poor to the rich. The price of hospital closures, for example, is increased 'investment incentives' (in simple language, bribes) for big business.

## Spending

And, in the true spirit of Labour's overall policy there will be no cuts in the massive amount of public spending which is handed over to the rich in the form of interest payments. By 1980, this is expected to be running at a figure of £10,000 million.

12p in every £ spent by local authorities in 1975 went in such debt charges. And that proportion of public spending which lines the pockets of money-lenders is on the increase.

Labour's commitment to the cause of the rich couldn't be clearer. But in many trade union officials it seems to have produced a curious blind spot.

## Harder

To argue for rate increases when Labour is handing over so much money from the poor to the rich is merely to argue for more of the same. Which brings me back to the myth of rates.

Those who believe rates are only the concern of the well-off should look again. Rates—far more so even than taxation—hit the poor much harder than the rich.

The Department of Employment's survey of family spending for 1973, for example, showed that families with a weekly income of £8 paid an annual average of three times that income in rates, while those living on more than £72 paid less than two-thirds of it in rates. The higher the income, the more marked the disparity.

## Poorest

In other words, public sector unions which demand a rate increase to protect services and jobs are really saying, whether consciously or not, the same as the government: the workers must pay for the crisis, and the poorest workers must pay most of all.

It's not a particularly inspiring platform from which to win the support of workers not in the public sector, or even to win to the struggle public sector workers who may not feel directly threatened by the cuts.

But it's that very unity which is so essential if the fight is to be lifted out of local, sectional disputes with this or that council into a massive national movement of resistance against the real enemy: the Labour government.

## No sex please, we're women

REMEMBER when 1976 was going to be the year in which women won equality, and sex discrimination was finally swept into the history books?

Well, more than a year after the Sex Discrimination Act, advertisements like this are still appearing in the papers—and what's more it's legal.

There's nothing to stop anyone aiming their advertisement at one sex or the other, although supposedly they should not refuse to serve you on grounds of sex.

The famous El Vinos case has yet to be heard. So when this advertisement appeared in The Times on Thursday one woman, attracted by the prospect of 'a most entertaining luncheon' in Westminster, not to mention the 'no cover charge', rang to book a table.

'Is it for you?' asked the girl who answered the phone.

When told it was, she replied: 'But this place is for men. Do you know what the New Gaslight is like?'

Not having been there, of course, the would-be diner did not.

'Oh, well,' said the girl. 'There are topless waitresses who, giggle giggle entertain the gentlemen.'

As an afterthought, she added: 'I suppose if you came along with a gentleman you would be served, but I don't think you'd like it very much.'

**THE NEW GASLIGHT**  
A GENTLEMAN'S WINE BAR  
with a Difference  
12 Noon to 5 P.M., Monday to Friday  
A magnificent Buffet Table of assorted Meats, Pies, Fish, Salads, etc., and a Choice of Hot Dishes  
Wine by the Glass  
You'll be served by adorable, chatty young ladies who will promise you a most entertaining Luncheon  
No Membership or Cover Charge  
4 Duke of York St., S.W.1  
Tel. 734 1071



A 17-YEAR-OLD Sicilian girl was subjected to exorcism by a friar after her father saw her distributing Marxist literature. The friar denies that it ever took place, but girls her own age in the town of Corleone say that Marx is considered to be the Devil incarnate.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: 'There is only one other person like me and that's Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.' — the Duke of Edinburgh.

WORKERS AT Harvey's bakery in Wigan, part of the huge Rank, Hovis, McDougall's empire, aren't even getting the crumbs the employers throw their way. A six-monthly prize awarded to the bakery which produces the best loaf in the group has consistently been won by Harvey's, and each time the £15-£30 prize money has been shared among the management and foremen.

On Thursday 240 workers held a one-day protest strike to demand their slice of the loaf.

THE COST of the anti-submarine cruiser Invincible will be almost £200 million when it is completed in 1980. The first estimate in 1973 was £96 million.

KIM GORDON had no difficulty recognising one of the magistrates at his court hearing in Walsall where he pleaded not guilty to obstruction.

It was none other than one of the racist candidates in the Walsall by-election. The magistrate, Mr Wright, is standing in Stechford on behalf of the New Britain party.

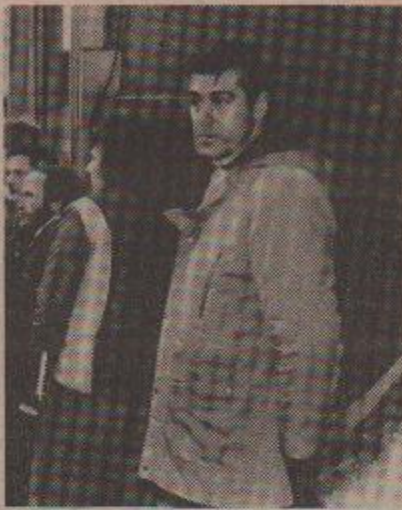
Kim was found guilty and fined £30 with £20 costs.

LIVERPOOL MAGISTRATE Eleanor Barton is alleged to have told the solicitor defending 60-year-old Peter Owens: 'Out of kindness it might be better if your client could be put down like a dog.'

Since that course of action is not open to magistrates, Mr Owens, whose crime amounted to stealing £5 worth of razor blades and a razor, was given a three month suspended jail sentence.

An inquiry into the alleged outburst is being held by court officials.

## Spot the heavy mob...



THESE FACES may be familiar to many Fifth Column readers. They are the 'heavy mob' who regularly turn up on demonstrations. Here are the 'comrades' from the Police Federation on the Bloody Sunday demonstration recently. Demonstrations in London just wouldn't be the same without the veteran on the left who was featured in Fifth Column recently.

## Justice: 'Off with their heads'?

MAGISTRATES in Sheffield showed last week just whose side the law is on.

One of the cases in the city's number 4 court was a classic example of the social security 'scroungers' that the Sun goes berserk about.

It concerned steelworker Barry Green and his second wife Patricia.

They were ordered to pay more than £200 in fines and compensation for the scandalous crime of Patricia continuing to claim a single parent's benefit after she had re-married.

Barry, with a top-line pay packet of £40-a-week, told

the magistrates he could only afford to pay-back the fines at £1.50-a-week.

After hearing that he has to keep his second wife's two children and four children by his first marriage, the well-dressed justices scoffed at this offer and doubled the repayments.

## Bother

The same magistrates heard later that day that the Sheffield steel giant, Edgar Allen, had failed to report any of the 60 accidents that had happened at its Imperial Works over the last two years.

According to factory regulations they're supposed to report to the factory

inspector any accidents that put workers off work for more than three days.

But the firm didn't bother about this especially when men like moulder Don Holden got badly burned when molten metal splashed over him from an exploding mould.

Edgar Allen admitted three offences and were fined £225. They offered to pay the fines within a week and this was accepted.

So the moral of these cases is that if you are a multi-million pound company that maims the workers who make your profits, you get a paltry fine and a license to go on making money at the expense of workers' lives.

If you happen to be a

hard-up steelworker who fiddles a bit from the SS, you are branded a 'scrounger' and saddled with fines that make you and your family's life a misery.

CHAND MIAH and his wife Dilwara live in an East End slum area. Chand has not worked since last year when he was sacked for being ill.

Judge Neil Lawson had the solution to their problems when they appeared at the Old Bailey.

You are a pathetic couple quite unable to cope in a country such as

SAD MOMENTS NO 309: Wing Commander Rupert Golding, the sole member of the Middle Class Party who fought an election in Bristol South East, has emigrated.

It will come as no surprise to readers to discover that he has gone to Durban, South Africa, to offer his middle class support to the whites.

NO ONE went to school in Toledo, Ohio during December because the Board of Education ran out of money. They shut all the schools down.

It wasn't the richer kids who suffered, of course. Their families moved out to the suburbs years ago where they pay higher taxes to make sure schools stay open.

The inner city of Toledo has been deserted by both business and well-to-do residents. There is nothing there to tax but crumbling tenements and derelict shops.

IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE: Publisher Robert Maxwell is reported to be writing a book about 'the guilty men of Britain... those responsible for getting us in the mess we're in now.'

we have. You are completely out of your depth in society here. In your own interests you should go back to your homeland.'

Chand was found guilty of ill treating his five-month-old son and Dilwara was convicted of manslaughter.

It might not have occurred to Mr Justice Lawson that it isn't only immigrants who find life difficult to cope with in Stepney, one of the worst areas in London, or being hounded as a scrounger while trying to live on the 'generous' offerings of the DHSS.

## Socialist Worker

### EDITORIAL

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# INDIA: The only

# answer to her tyranny and her misery



Her son has died in a mine disaster at Chasnalla: the emergency has brought speed-up—and greater risks for workers

## WHAT INDIRA GANDHI'S STATE OF EMERGENCY MEANS

- **BANNED**—all strikes, open air meetings, criticism of the government.
- **ARRESTED**—opposition trade union leaders and militants.
- **CUT**—wages of unskilled workers slashed by 12-13 per cent in 1975-76 in Ahmedabad, Coimbatore and Madras, and by six per cent in Bombay.
- **SPEED UP**—in the public sector. While unsold coal stocks mount, another mine disaster in Sudamdih in October saw 50 workers killed.
- **LOCKED OUT**—about three-quarters of days lost in dispute last year were through lock-outs.
- **SACKED**—official total layoffs in 1975-76 were 820,000



Mrs Gandhi: election fraud

## AND HOW THE WORKERS HAVE HIT BACK

- **NEARLY** a quarter of a million workers have struck in Western India (Bombay) over cuts in bonus payments.
- **ENGINEERING** and pharmaceutical workers struck in December.
- **BOMBAY** port workers staged a work-to-rule in October.
- **PROLONGED** go-slow, Jamshedpur steel works; stoppages in the jute mills, longer strikes in shoe, tobacco factories, and the tea estates in eastern India (Calcutta).
- **STRIKE** at Bangalore Indian Telephones—300 arrested, and factory closed for a week to repair damage.
- **OFFICIALLY**: June-Dec. 1975—483 strikes by 149,370 workers (1.5 million days lost); Jan.-Jun. 1976—625 strikes by 300,783 workers (1.7 million days lost).

**INDIA'S Premier, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has announced a general election next month. What does it mean?**

In June 1975, she imposed a new Emergency to stop the courts attacking her for corruption. Much of the opposition leadership—and opponents within her own Congress party—were arrested.

She then set about changing the constitution to ensure she could never be challenged under the law.

Most of the Western press protested vigorously. Only the Soviet Union offered praise. Few reported the real

### The anti-beggary campaign

'BY 10.30 TODAY, more than 425 beggars, including 100 women and 50 children, had been picked up. . . The police said the entire operation was smooth. There was no resistance. . . However, a one-legged beggar was reported to have attempted to throw a stone at a television camera man'.

—Evening New of India (1 March, 1976)

'AS MANY AS 900 beggars of the 1,250 in the Ralegaon camp. . . have escaped custody. . . They would be rearrested and sent to a special forest camp. . . where they would be forced to work'.

—Times of India (14 March, 1976)

### Compulsory sterilisation

UTTAR PRADESH Government employees of Varanasi District will not get their March salary on April 1st if they fail to motivate at least two people each for vasectomy or tubectomy operations'.

—Times of India (8 March, 1976)

'EVER SINCE they operated on me, I haven't been able to work, and now there's no money coming in at all. During the operation I bled quite a lot so they put in three stitches. I was told to go back and have them removed in two days. When I went back, the Family Planning Centre had gone. . . Nobody came and three days later the wound was completely septic. . . I can't ride my bicycle any more, so I can't even look for work'.

—Economic and Political Weekly (22 May 1976)



The strength of the workers: this is where the real resistance has come

oppression—the smashing of workers' organisations, cutting of wages, driving up of unemployment and arrests of militants.

Mrs Gandhi's two most important contributions to 'socialism' in India have been driving the poor and beggars out of the cities and compulsory sterilisation for the masses.

To do this, she has had to continue the massive expansion of police and army.

There are said to be 140,000 political prisoners, most of them held without trial.

Mrs Gandhi has done everything to help private business and the rich farmers. As *The Times* reported on 25 January:

### Threat

'Management was pleased at the introduction of emergency rule in June 1975, and its spirits remain high today. At the time of its declaration, the workers regarded the emergency as not necessarily directed against their interests, but have since changed their minds.'

The only real fight against the Emergency has been by workers in strike action, illegal under the emergency.

The press has been censored so there is little way of telling

how far the peasants have fought.

The rural masses have been sinking into debt for ten years. The poorest are now reduced to selling themselves into 'bonded serfdom' to borrow enough to survive.

The emergency gave the landlords a chance to turn the screws. Even in the censored press, there are stories of the results.

For example, *The Patriot* reported on 17 December:

'Twelve peasants have been killed and 47 seriously injured so far in clashes with hired

hooklums of the jotedars (landlords) who forcibly harvested the paddy in Murshidabad district during the last two weeks. No steps have been taken against the culprits'.

### Action

Mrs Gandhi and Congress control the structure of power and perks. Calling a general election is a mark of her contempt for the opposition, who hold no threat to her power.

The general elections will

achieve nothing. Only revolutionary power can now overthrow the Congress Mafia.

The elections are merely to disarm the criticism of the old opposition, and for foreign opinion.

Michael Foot and his like who support Mrs Gandhi will use them as a weapon to beat her critics.

Meanwhile, the workers and mass of peasants continue to fight unrecognised by the supposed 'opposition'.



**SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
Sunday 6 March, Assemble 1.30pm Hyde Park Corner.

Organised by: Anti-Apartheid Movement  
Supported by: National Union of Seamen, NALGO, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, National Union of Students

The Socialist Workers Party urges all members and supporters to make this a demonstration of massive support for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and black workers throughout Southern Africa.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

### ZIMBABWE AFTER THE TALKS

Thursday 17 February: Birmingham Poly South Centre, Bristol Road South; 11.30am. Speakers from ZANU and SASC.

Wednesday 23 February: Kingsway Princeton College, Grays Inn Road, 12.45pm. Speakers from ZANU and SASC.

Thursday 3 March: Sussex University (watch for details).

### Film shows featuring Last Grave in Dimbaza

Wednesday 23 February: Edinburgh Trades Council, Picardy Place, 7.30pm. Speaker: Eddie Kauhoe

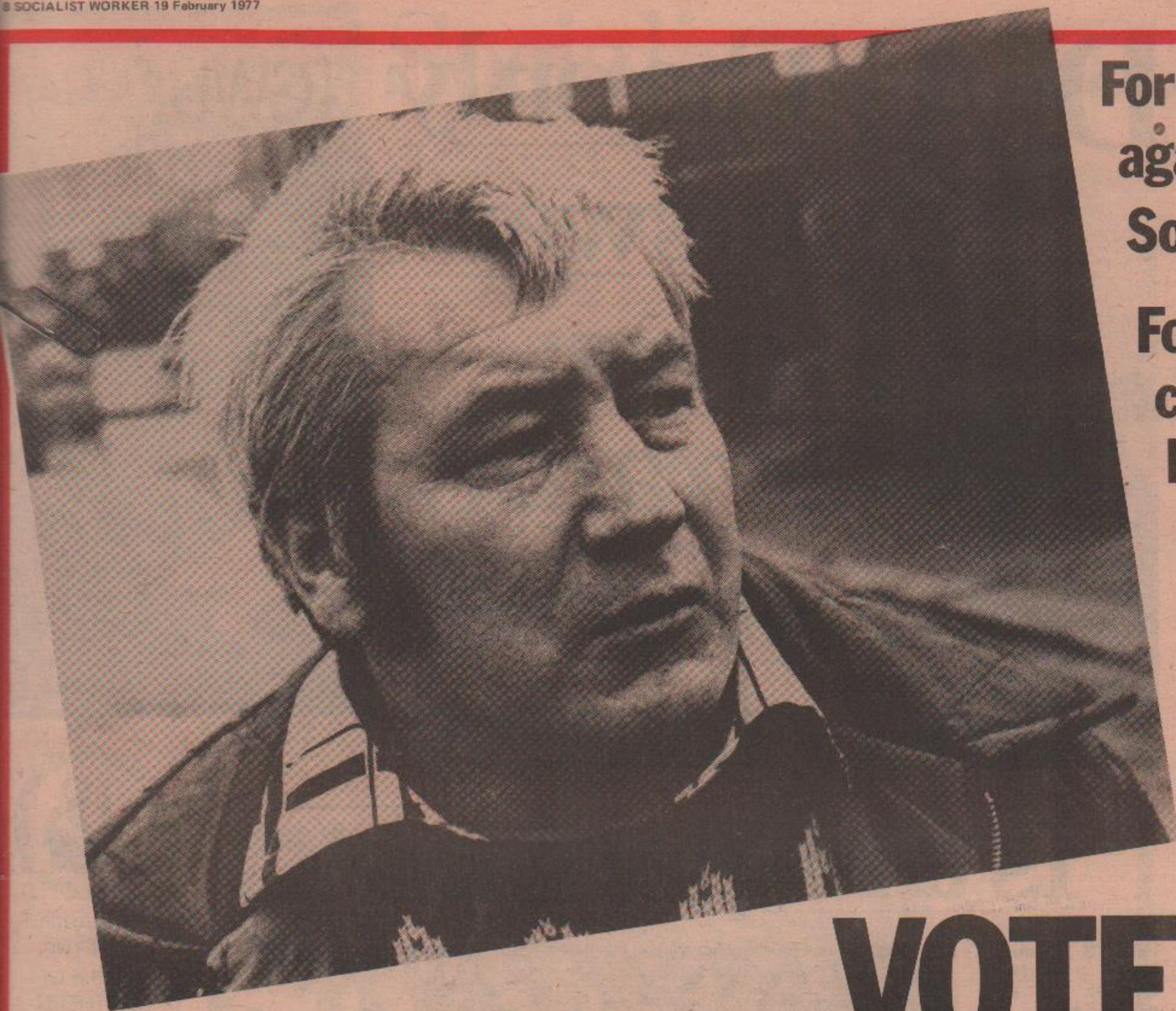
Thursday 17 March: Glasgow: Watch for details

Saturday 5 March: SASC Forum on Southern Africa, sessions on South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Solidarity work: 10am-4pm, Polytechnic of Central London.

SPARK—Second issue out now. Articles on Zimbabwe, Black unions under attack, Namibia. 10p plus postage. Ten or more post free. Order from SASC, 101-103 Gower St., London WC1.

Socialist Worker Africa Group is holding a discussion on Zimbabwe: Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm—The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, Central London.



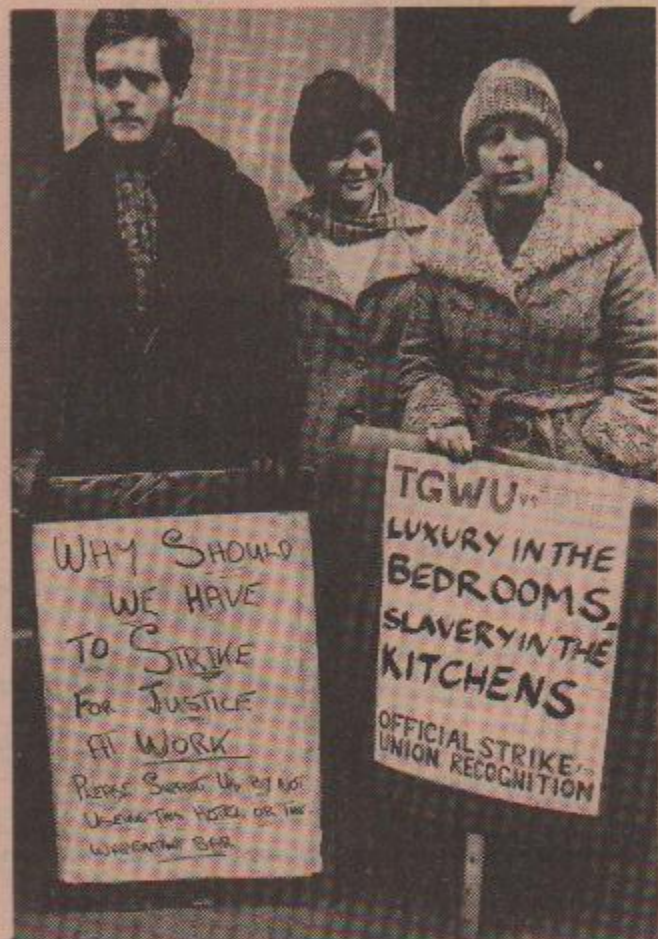


**For a real fight  
against the  
Social Contract  
For rank and  
control of  
Britain's  
biggest  
union**

Tommy Riley, Right to Work Campaign candidate for general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, works at Metal Box, Westhoughton, Lancashire, where he is the deputy TGWU convenor. **VOTING IN THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE BETWEEN MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY AND SATURDAY 16 MARCH**

# VOTE TOMMY RILEY

for general secretary, Transport and General Workers Union



VAL SAYNOR (above right) has been on strike for the past eleven weeks at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Sheffield. She is a member of the strike committee. 'I support the Tommy Riley campaign because it is about the rank and file. We're supposed to run our union, but we're not. The officials are running it. 'During the strike we have found out about our officials. They shouldn't be appointed. We should be able to vote for them. Jack Jones, or whoever, is general secretary, should have no say at all. 'The executive won't put on national blacking so that we can win our strike. We, the rank and file, have got to campaign for it. 'We appeal to all TGWU members through the Tommy Riley campaign to put on the national blacking against Trust House Forte. This is the policy of our group in the union, Food, Drink and Tobacco, and the Midlands and South Yorkshire regional committees.'

THIS IS only the fifth time ever that the two million members of the Transport and General Workers Union are being allowed to vote for a full-time official.

Jack Jones, the general secretary and the man who made the Social Contract, is retiring. His successor will be elected just once—until he too retires. No other full time officials in the TGWU are ever elected by the members.

One in six of the members are women, but only three of the 483 officials are women, and there are no women on the executive of 39.

Not all the members will get the election addresses. They are distributed through 160 district offices to branch secretaries. In some branches there are enough election addresses for only one member in 20. In other branches there are enough for one in 80.

Voting takes place in the branch meetings. But many members will not even get as far as a meeting where the election addresses are handed out or put on a notice board.

## IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP THE UNION

Members in factory branches, or bus depots, or workplace branches, will have meetings. But in every district there are members in district branches, many of which don't meet at all!

In Cardiff, members of one TGWU branch can't remember when they last had a meeting.

According to the TGWU national headquarters in London each region is responsible for arranging ballot boxes for the members. But in Bolton the district committee has announced that there will be no

ballot available in the district offices.

The extraordinary reason they have given for this is that there must be two scrutineers for each ballot box, and they can't arrange that.

Voting takes place at branch level. The ballot boxes are then taken to the region where they are counted. Members of the lay executive later scrutinise the returns from each region.

There is therefore no record of each branch's vote and no way that branch secretaries can challenge the vote in their region.

Last year three right-wingers from British Leyland's Cowley plants scored an incredible vote in elections for the automotive committee and the union executive. If the votes are to be believed, Reg Parsons, Bill Roche and Jack Adams were supported by nearly every one of the 6,000 workers in the Body Plant.

In fact voting was only possible during the lunch hour in the canteen. Very little interest was shown in the elections. There was no canvassing.

After a series of com-

plaints, another election was held. This time there were ballot boxes in every building, open for five hours, and members' cards were checked before voting. The total vote was massively reduced.

For many TGWU members there is absolutely no way to check up on what happens.



That is why Tommy Riley and the Right to Work Campaign are making one of the major slogans of the election: Clean Up the TGWU.

If the left wing were in control of the TGWU, the national press would be waging a national campaign on 'undemocratic electoral practices', 'left-wing ballot rigging' and so on.

Instead there isn't a word. The national press are confident that Moss Evans, the man from the TGWU machine, will win the election and carry on with Jack Jones' policies, and that means with the Social Contract.



JOHN (left) the p been trade Ins chair Lagg safety past mem have 'T' recot can't appo fight 'W We l every the u good on a slagg who 'In mem in th burn his s mem are a only 'I' Riley more fight the r guar



An advertisement by the National Right to Work Campaign

# TGWU: Who rules?

**TOMMY RILEY**, rank and file candidate in the TGWU general secretary election, is going on tour to meet union members up and down the country. Public meetings are taking place in the following places to which all TGWU members are invited:

- YORK** - Thursday 17 February, 7.30pm. Tyre and Rubber Company, Treforest Trading Estate.
- SHEFFIELD**: Friday 18 February, 7.30pm, The Foresters Division Street.
- DERBY**: Saturday 19 February, noon.
- LEICESTER**: Saturday 19 February, 5pm, Wesley Hall, Mere Road, Highfields.
- DUDLEY**: Sunday 20 February, 7.30pm, The Smiling Man.
- BIRMINGHAM**: Monday 21 February, 7.30pm, Transport House, Broad Street.
- COVENTRY**: Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm.
- PONTYPRIDD, South Wales**: Wednesday 23 February, 8am, Homerton.
- BRISTOL**: Wednesday 23 February.
- NORTH LONDON**: Thursday 24 February, 8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton, N18. Joint meeting with Engineers Charter.
- CENTRAL LONDON**: Friday 25 February, 7.30pm, pre-liaison committee Conference Meeting, Friends House, Euston Road, London N1. Speakers include Tommy Riley, John Deason (secretary, National Right to Work Campaign), Eddie Prevost (rank and file paper Dockworker) and Jack Aldrich (rank and file busworkers paper Platform).



## The man the troops like

ALEC KITSON is going for the 'Left' vote in the union. His election address spends four paragraphs boasting about his achievements as a full-time official.

But it does not mention women workers or equal pay.

It does not mention black workers or racism.

It does not mention unemployment.

It does not mention the Social Contract.

It pays lip service to 'accountability' of officials—but Kitson is against electing them.

Kitson's mettle was tested during the 1975 dispute in Glasgow when TGWU member who drive dustcarts went on strike for parity with private contractors' drivers. Kitson refused to spread the claim to other cities.

And when troops were moved in to smash his members' strike, Kitson meekly complied.

## The man for Dad's job

JOHN COUSINS, son of Frank, former general secretary, is getting a lot of publicity. His election address says he is against the Social Contract.

It doesn't mention equal pay or women workers.

It doesn't mention racism or black workers.

It doesn't call for any fight against unemployment.

And it doesn't support the election of officials.

John Cousins may be against the Social Contract now—but he supported it 100 per cent when it was ushered in by Jack Jones in the summer of 1976.

Just when Jones and Co were ramming wage restraint down TGWU members' throats, Cousins walked out of the union—into a nice, plum, well-paid job with NEDO, the government agency which brings together employers and union leaders to help enforce the Social Contract!



## The man that Jack built

MOSS EVANS (below right) is favourite for the job because he is Jack Jones' nominee. His election address boasts about his career as a full-time official, and at 'international conferences'.

It does not mention equal pay or women workers.

It does not mention black workers.

It does not mention the Social Contract.

It does not mention the unemployed.

It does not mention union democracy.

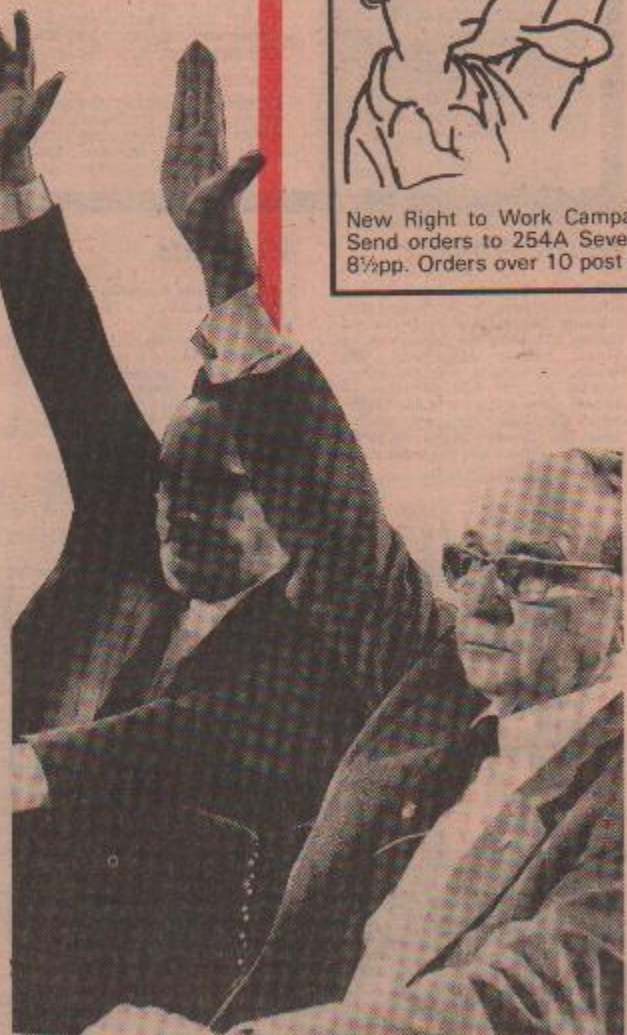
Moss Evans has built his reputation on a long line of sell-outs, the worst of which was the 'settlement' at Fords in 1971, made behind the workers' backs. The workers got £8 when they could have won £15.

## The other left candidates

THERE are two other Left candidates worth a vote in this election: Alan Thornett, a militant in the British Leyland Cowley car factories, and Willie Bennett, senior shop steward at Inchinnan Tyre factory, Scotland.

Both are rank and file candidates. Their election address stresses democracy in the trade union, and a vote for either is a vote for the rank and file.

But Tommy Riley's election address and campaign is, we believe, far more powerful than Bennett's or Thornett's. Of the three, Riley is the outstanding candidate.



**Bro. TOMMY RILEY**  
BRANCH NO. 6/123  
RESIDENT AT BOLTON, LANCs

Brothers and Sisters,  
I am standing for change. WE MUST REFORM THE T.G.W.U.  
Smash the Social Contract — Our Union and General Secretary are closely identified with the "Social Contract". The result has been that our wages have been held down while prices have gone on rising and public services have been cut. Unemployment has hit 1½ million.  
Most of the other candidates standing are full-time officials. They weren't elected. So it's no wonder they agree with the way things have gone. A vote for them is a vote for frozen wages, rising unemployment and more cuts.  
I'm standing so YOU can say:—  
\*We've had enough of wage freezes.  
\*We've had enough sackings.  
\*We won't take any more cuts.  
Fight for Democracy — This is only the fifth election for a full-time T.G.W.U. official in 56 years. Corruption or neglect in informal democracy are widespread. The members are controlled by the Union Machine rather than the other way round.  
ALL officials should be elected. We need true democracy and rank and file control of the Union.  
Fight for the Right to Work — I support the RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN which stands for uniting employed and unemployed workers in the fight for jobs.  
I am opposed to productivity dealing and believe we must fight now to win the 35-hour week without loss of pay. Factories facing closure should be occupied and the strength of our Union used to force the Government to nationalise firms and industries rather than sack workers.  
Neither begging from the Labour Government nor the bosses will provide jobs. We must adopt new fighting policies.  
Unity is Strength — Unequal pay, phoney grading schemes and discrimination against women linger on. Yet still only a handful of the 600 T.G.W.U. officials are women! We should fight for FULL WOMEN'S RIGHTS NOW.  
I reject absolutely the anti-trade union poison of Enoch Powell and his Nazi allies. Those who attack "immigrants" and "scroungers" are putting up smokescreens to prevent workers seeing the real parasites — the bosses. We must not allow fascists to break strikes as at Imperial Typewriters, Leicester.  
I stand for strengthening our unofficial rank and file organisations. Strong rank and file organisation could have kept T.G.W.U. member Ricky Tomlinson and the other Shrewsbury pickets out of jail like the way it freed the "Pentonville Five".  
I don't want you to simply vote for me. I urge you to help build the RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN and all rank and file groups that stand against collaboration with the employers and for militant policies.  
I believe the struggle for the Right to Work in the face of the capitalist crisis will continue until we rid ourselves of this system and replace it with a planned socialist society under workers' control. That is why I am a member of the Socialist Workers' Party.

Yours fraternally,  
**TOMMY RILEY.**



'AT FIRST we thought we'd only be out for a day because the TGWU is such a powerful union. But then we found we had another fight on our hands. We had to occupy the district office to get our strike pay.  
Chatter, the district secretary, promised us support from every factory in the area on a picket rota. We haven't seen that. The support has come from the Right to Work Campaign, local convenors, and our husbands.  
Ann Coffey (left), shop steward at Club One Bingo, Coventry, where 43 women were on strike for ten weeks before they won union recognition last month.

TGWU RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN  
PROTEST RALLY  
**SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT**  
**FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK**  
Saturday 26 March, 1977, 11.30am. Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter St, Manchester.

**TGWU Who Rules?**

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



Badges  
10p each from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please add 8p postage.

LEAFLETS: TGWU election Campaign—why vote for Tommy Riley? £1 for 500 from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Socialist Worker public meetings

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

Have a Socialist night out!

Scotland

EDINBURGH Socialist Worker public meeting: Smash the Social Contract... Build the SWP.

GLASGOW RAILWAYS Socialist Workers Party branch meeting: Wednesday 23 February 5pm-6pm.

EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every Saturday 11.30am.

GLASGOW Socialist Worker Youth Movement Disco: Tuesday 22 February 8pm-12.30am.

Socialist Workers Party INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for members and supporters in Scotland.

North East

DURHAM Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Every second Thursday 8pm.

3 March: And then there was capitalism - Marx's view of history.

North West

LANCASTER Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Wednesdays 7.30pm.

2 March: Socialists and the environment.

SOUTHPORT Socialist Workers Party members and supporters meet every Wednesday.

ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers Party members and supporters meet every Thursday.

BOOTLE Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Thursdays 7.30pm.

3 March: Racism and fascism.

CRUMPSALL Socialist Worker meetings: What is Marxism? Speaker: Brian Jones.

WARRINGTON Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays 8pm.

SALFORD Socialist Worker public meetings: Every second Wednesday 8pm.

MERSEYSIDE SWP district meeting for all members: Provisional date Sunday 20 February.

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party day schools for new members: Working as a socialist in your workplace.

CENTRAL LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Wednesdays 8pm prompt.

23 February: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

Scotland

DUNDEE: Thursday 24 February, 7.30. The Music Centre, 1a West Bell Street.

ABERDEEN: Wednesday 23 February, 7.30pm. Music Hall, Union Street.

Clydeside

EASTERHOUSE, Glasgow: Tuesday 8 March, 7.30pm. Blairtummock House.

GLASGOW RAILWAYS Socialist Workers Party branch: Wednesday 9 March, 5pm.

ALL-GLASGOW RALLY: Thursday 10 March, Partick Burgh Halls.

JORDANHILL COLLEGE, Glasgow: Thursday 10 March, 12.30pm.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY: Wednesday 9 March, 1pm. Queen Margaret Union.

PAISLEY: Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm. Watermill Hotel.

North East

DARLINGTON: Monday 21 February, 7.30pm. Darlington Public Library.

DURHAM: Tuesday 22 February, 8pm. Durham Town Hall.

Yorkshire

LEEDS: Wednesday 2 March, 8pm. Leeds Trades Club.

WARRINGTON Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays 8pm.

MERSEYSIDE SWP district meeting for all members: Provisional date Sunday 20 February.

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party day schools for new members: Working as a socialist in your workplace.

CENTRAL LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Wednesdays 8pm prompt.

23 February: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

North Wales

BANGOR Socialist Worker day school: Saturday 26 February, 11am onwards.

CENTRAL LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Wednesdays 8pm prompt.

23 February: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

SOCIALISM WILL NEVER WORK AS WELL AS CAPITALISM



South East

WITHAM: Speaker Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm.

WELWYN AND HATFIELD: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. Welwyn Trades and Labour Club.

MAIDSTONE: Tuesday 1 March, 8pm. Old Palace Road.

OXFORD: Speakers: Tony Cliff and Em Wallace. Friday 25 February.

BEDFORD: Tuesday 1 March, 8pm. St Mary's St.

KINGSTON: Tuesday 22 February, 8pm. Liverpool Armsby Nurbiton Church.

READING: Wednesday 2 March, 8pm. Trade Union Club.

BISHOPS STORTFORD: Monday 28 February, 8pm. Half Moon pub.

CRAWLEY: Thursday 24 February, 8pm. AEU Hall.

HARLOW: Wednesday 23 February, 8pm. Tye Green Community Association.

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. College of Further Education.

London

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Wednesday 23 February, 7.45pm. Clapham Manor Baths.

INNER EAST LONDON: Thursday 22 February, 7.45pm. Princess May School.

LONDON CIVIL SERVANTS: Wednesday 23 February, 6pm. The Plough.

HENDON, North London: Tuesday 15 March, 8pm. Surrey Arms.

EAST LONDON: Monday 28 February, 7.45pm. Manor Park Library.

TOWER HAMLETS: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. Toyne Hall.

South West

EXETER: Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm. Oddfellows Arms.

HARLOW: Wednesday 23 February, 8pm. Tye Green Community Association.

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. College of Further Education.

The case for Socialism Public meetings on building the Socialist Workers' Party

Midlands

PETERBOROUGH: Thursday 24 February, 7.30pm. The Still, Cumbergate.

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. College of Further Education.

East Anglia

CAMBRIDGE: Monday 28 February, 8pm. Mawson Hall.

LOWESTOFT: Thursday 3 March, 8pm. College of Further Education.

WOMEN AND SOCIALISM public meetings

CENTRAL LONDON: Tuesday 8 March 8pm. Portland Hall.

BIRMINGHAM: Tuesday 8 March, 8pm. meeting place to be announced.

BLACK COUNTRY: Tuesday 8

MARCH, 8pm. meeting place to be announced. Speakers: Jen Carter and Janet Kerr.

GLASGOW RALLY: Sunday 13 March, 7.30pm. City Halls (room 4).

NORTH LONDON: Monday 14 March, 8pm. Florence pub.

EAST KILBRIDE: Thursday 17 March, 7.30pm. Murray Halls.

NORTH LONDON: Monday 21 March, 8pm. The Beehive.

PONTEFRAC: Wednesday 23 March, 7.30pm. meeting place to be announced.

North Wales

BANGOR Socialist Worker day school: Saturday 26 February, 11am onwards.

CENTRAL LIVERPOOL Socialist Worker discussion meetings: Wednesdays 8pm prompt.

23 February: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

Midlands

SALOP district Socialist Workers Party meetings: Thursdays, 8.30pm.

24 February: The need for rank and file control of the trade unions. Speaker: Gerry Langford.

COVENTRY District Socialist Workers Party industrial day school: Saturday 19 February.

Session 1: The party and industrial organisation. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

CROYDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Thursdays, 8pm.

3 March: A new socialist party. Speaker: Dave Peers.

WITHAM Socialist Worker public meeting: Fight the Cuts! Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.

London

SOUTH WEST LONDON District Socialist Workers Party: Shock, Horror, Outrage!

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meetings on the anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising.

Socialist Worker AFRICA GROUP discussion meeting on Zimbabwe: Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm.

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Workers Party branch meeting: Thursday 17 February, 8pm.

RACISM UNEMPLOYMENT POLICE HARASSMENT BLACK WORKERS FIGHT BACK WITH FLAME SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY black workers paper

LAMBETH Socialist Worker public meeting: The rank and file versus the bureaucracy in the unions.

LAMBETH Socialist Worker public meeting: China—final triumph of state capitalism.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Worker meetings on The Meaning of Marxism.

20 February: Fascism and how to fight it. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

6 March: Crisis in Southern Africa.

HAMMERSMITH and KENSINGTON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Jamaica—what next?

INNER EAST LONDON: Thursday 22 February, 7.45pm.

LONDON CIVIL SERVANTS: Wednesday 23 February, 6pm.

HENDON, North London: Tuesday 15 March, 8pm.

EAST LONDON: Monday 28 February, 7.45pm.

TOWER HAMLETS: Thursday 3 March, 8pm.

EXETER: Saturday 19 February, 7.30pm.

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Enjoy yourself—and help build the Socialist Workers Party.

SOUTH EAST LONDON district SWP cabaret and disco.

GREENWICH SWP jumble and book sale.

COVENTRY SWP jumble sale.

SOUTHWEST LONDON SWP district sponsored football competition.

SOUTH WEST LONDON SWP whist drive.

NORTH LONDON SWP social.

LEA VALLEY SWP curry evening.

NUPE: National meeting for all members and supporters.

LONDON HOSPITAL WORKERS: Meeting for all London members.

Woolwich Rock against Racism Concert.

NORTH LONDON: Friday 4 March.

MANCHESTER ROCK AGAINST RACISM Concert.

BADGE in Red and Yellow.

NOISS National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies.

NOISS annual conference.

Sessions include: The state of the class struggle.

Conference begins Friday 11 March.

All International Socialist Societies are invited.

Accommodation wanted in Tottenham/Enfield area.



THIS IS NO LIMP FANTASY PENNED TO PASS TIME ON A WET BANK HOLIDAY IN FRINTON. . .

# What would socialism be like?

HOW THE LEFT Could Cripple Labour, warned a headline in The Guardian letters column recently.

Setting aside for a moment the unpleasant medical problems the headline raised (how do you actually set about crippling a corpse?) I read the letter underneath, which turned out to be from a politics lecturer at the University of York.

It was the usual nervous defence of right-wing Labour policies, hinging on the claim that the Left since Marx had been unable to 'improve upon Marx's pitifully laughable description of a communist society' so we should stick with the shambles we have.

It's not true, of course. Indeed, in the same decade that Marx's Capital became available in an English translation, William Morris, socialist, artist and agitator, read it, absorbed it and set about elaborating his vision of a future communist society.

The result was a novel called *News From Nowhere*\*, which was serialised in *Commonweal*, the journal of the Socialist League, in 1890.

In it, Morris imagines a Victorian revolutionary like himself falling asleep and waking up in 21st-century London to find it a socialist society.

The rest of the novel describes that society in some detail and how it was fought for and won.

What gives *News From Nowhere* muscle is that it's not just one more limp fantasy about a future utopia penned to pass time during a wet Bank Holiday in Frinton.

## Targets

Rather, as most readers have noted, it draws strength from the fact that it was written for a specific socialist movement in which Morris worked and had, as a result, defined political targets.

One of Morris's targets are the Fabians, founded in 1884 and convinced that socialism could be achieved gradually without the need for a revolution.

*Fabian socialism wanted and still wants capitalists, as*



The promise of socialism that was destroyed: famine relief in Russia, 1921

## WE HAVE THE POWER

A PLAY about workers' control in Portugal. We Have the Power of the Winds, will be performed for the first time this Friday (18 February).

Produced by the Broadside Mobile Workers Theatre, it is part of a three-day conference on revolutionary culture in Portugal, Chile, and Britain, staged at the Conway Hall in London's Red Lion Square.

On 26 February, Broadside will be presenting an evening of 'radical entertainment' at the Alexandra Palace in London as a joint benefit with the rally for women's rights earlier that day.

To book We Have the Power of the Winds, contact Broadside at 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London W1 (01-450 6992 or 01-730 5396).



## PAUL O'FLINN REVIEWS A CLASSIC NOVEL ABOUT OUR FUTURE

*Morris puts it, 'to rob us in moderation only'—still the best one-line shafting of moderate that I've come across.*

In *News From Nowhere*, socialism in the 21st-century is only arrived at after a painful and bloody civil war lasting two years.

This breaks out when troops fire on strikers in Trafalgar Square and, in the ensuing chaos, the government throws in its lot with quasi-fascist middle-class militias called Friends of Order.

If you're interested in the details of Morris's vision of a socialist Britain, I urge you to read the book for yourself—it's widely available in paperback. It ought to be compulsory remedial reading for

politics lecturers at the University of York.

What I found most convincing about the work is its honesty. It doesn't pretend that the morning after the revolution all problems and contradictions cease because now we have something magic called socialism, comrades.

## Lovers

Thus, for example, two young lovers in the book, Clara and Dick, live through the sort of tensions that all young lovers do.

But Morris's point is that their problems are much more soluble because so many of the traditional distorting pressures on people have been at least relaxed or

at best abolished—pressures of religion, money, morality, property and so on.

It's this sort of approach that enables the book to close with conviction as it sends the reader back from the socialist future into his or her own continuing battles.

'Go back again, now you have seen us, and your eyes have learned that in spite of all the infallible maxims of your day there is yet a time of rest in store for the world, when mastery has changed into fellowship—but not before.'

\* *News From Nowhere*, by William Morris (Lawrence and Wishart) £1.20, inc. postage, from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.



William Morris: socialist, artist and agitator



# A MINDFIELD OF IDEAS

EVERY DAY we are bombarded with the ideas of our rulers.

At home, at work and at college we are told by TV, radio and newspapers that 'a woman's place is in the home' or that public sector workers are 'unproductive' and therefore must be sacked.

We are told that the unemployed are 'scroungers'. In school, we are taught how Britain 'civilised' Africa and how capitalism is inevitable because of something called 'human nature'.

With growing numbers of workers and students rejecting that nonsense and turning towards the ideas of

revolutionary socialism, there is a crying need to hear a thorough analysis of the marxist case.

## Key sessions

That is what *Marxism 77* is all about, a week of lectures and discussions organised by NOISS, student supporters of the Socialist Workers Party.

It will last from 1 July to 8 July and will consist of six courses on these topics:

- The economic crisis and marxist economics
- Marxism and literature
- Women's liberation and the struggle for socialism
- British working-class

history

□ Revolutions of the 20th century

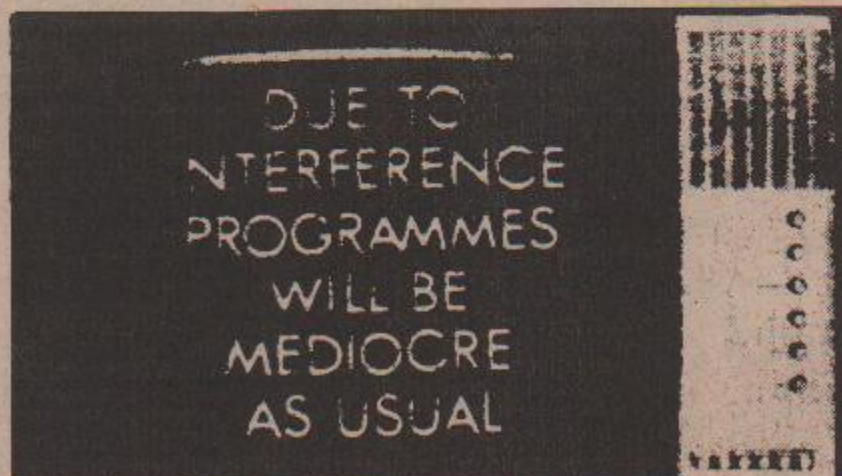
□ What is marxism?

Leading socialists have been invited to take part in the discussions and to lead them. A bar, creche and canteen will be laid on.

Marxism 77 is not for students only. Trade unionists and unemployed workers are urged to attend. Many key sessions are being planned for the weekend and evenings.

If you're working, why not plan now to have the first week in July off so you can come?

Further details will be appearing in *Socialist Worker*.



February issue out now.

10p plus 7p postage from Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



## Who put the screws on LBC?

ON LBC'S Sunday Morning phone-in, in reply to many callers who were praising the action of John Gouriel's 'freedom fighters' in stopping the postal boycott of South Africa, someone phoned in and mentioned the facts printed in Socialist Worker (22 January) about the financial involvement of the law lords and their wives in South African companies.

"Oh," said the programme's presenter, David Bassett, "I didn't know about that."

No further discussion. However the following Sunday morning, 30 January, on the same programme there was a very formal and pompous announcement read over the air by Bassett. It stated that the previous Sunday a

caller had accused the law lords, over the air, or having financial involvement etc. . . . and there was absolutely no truth in these allegations.

London Broadcasting wanted to apologise for any misrepresentation of facts and for any embarrassment caused to Lords Ormrod, Denning and one-time, 'fine, fighting fascist' Lawton and their wives.

What I would like to know is: was Socialist Worker really so mistaken in what it printed. Or, if not, who put the screws on?

□ **YVONNE ELWOOD, London SW6.**

□ *The facts in Socialist Worker are absolutely correct. The LBC bosses are boot-lickers.*



# Letter from jail

I HAVE written this letter twice now, but ten days after posting it was returned to me. When I asked for a reason, they said: 'It's not the contents of the letter, but we cannot have you writing to socialist newspapers.'

So here we go again. First let me thank you for your telegrams and letters. They have really given me a lift and you need on in a place like this.

Second, never let it be said that the British police force don't keep their promises. After all, they did promise to put me behind bars.

I do believe they were stupid enough to think that with me out of the way, the Right to Work Campaign in Skelmersdale would flop, but look what they've done, now, the fools, they've done it all for me.

They've created more campaigners for the Right to Work in Skem by putting me in here than I could have done in months.

My wife Susan said on a visit that local people had been continually calling on her to express their disgust at the way—I'd been framed and asking what they could do.

She tells them: 'Carry on where he left off, fight for the Right to Work.'

I heard before I came here that there was a crime wave going on. Comrades, if you only knew . . .

Even in here unemployment's dirty fingerprints are evident. Men with young children who are serving time for stealing electricity because they couldn't afford to pay the bills out of their miserable dole pay, and to add insult to injury their wives and children live without heat or light while they are in here—and they still have the bill to pay when they get out.

## The Orange Card

JIM PARKES (Letters, 5 February) rightly recognises that, in general, we must support all nationalist struggles against domination by foreign capital. But the divisive element in Ireland is foreign capital not Irish nationalism.

The 'Orange card' was played by Lord Randolph Churchill, better known for his efforts to divide the class than for his Fenianism.

As socialists we must recognise the right of the Irish to self-determination, while arguing that only a socialist struggle by Irish workers themselves will give them any real control over their lives.

In Scotland the issues are even clearer. When a Scot asks you: 'Do you recognise Scotland's right to self-determination' our answer has to be 'Yes—but . . .'

Yes we do—but political independence in itself will make damn little difference to the working class in Scotland. The real changes will come from the socialist struggle in Scotland on all these issues.

Any other position would cut us out of all debate with workers under the influence of any form of Scottish Nationalist view. As socialists we have to prove ourselves as the best democrats and the ones with the least illusions about Uncle Jim's little devolution proposals.

□ **FRANK CONWAY, Manchester 14**

# Letters

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

## Radio report 'on target'

YOUR REPORT attacking the National Union of Journalists and myself over the Radio Sheffield sell-out is on target.

The NUJ executive did ditch Sheffield. It did so because an overwhelming majority of BBC chapels outside London revoked their previous support for industrial action and told us

they would defy the strike call, keep working and afterwards there would be mass resignations.

One can and should ignore Fleet Street's hysteria. Only an irresponsible fool ignores the mass rank and file.

We were smashed, in part, as Paul Foot correctly wrote two weeks ago, as a result of a massive anti-union campaign

launched from certain BBC quarters in London.

The NUJ executive could have gone on with the strike of course. The result would have been catastrophic, no help for Sheffield, and would have meant the introduction of that well-known scab organisation, the Institute of Journalists, such as we have seen at the Sheffield Star and the

Birmingham Mail following the defeat of strikes there.

I did not change my mind and I certainly did not talk to the Daily Mail—their reporter was given inaccurate and distorted quotes from people attending a meeting at which I spoke and at which I defended as I have always done, the correct decision to issue the national strike order.

The Daily Mail reporter later told me that 'perhaps my sources were not the most objective.' Too bloody true.

I am not surprised at the Daily Mail's inaccurate quoting of me without even bothering to contact me first but I am surprised that Socialist Worker leapt into print without first checking highly dubious sounding quotes with the person alleged to have made them. I hope this doesn't mean that Fleet Street standards are infiltrating Corbridge Crescent.

□ **DENIS MacSHANE, NUJ executive member**

## Terror in the name of profit

SHORTLY after I read Paul O'Flinn's article on the news programmes (SW, 12 February), I had the misfortune to see News At Ten.

And there it was, a perfect example of how presentation on TV distorts the news.

First, of course, there was the full drama of the Balcombe Street siege, which would have done justice to a police propaganda epic.

This was followed by another item of 'terrorism' . . . the story of Anthony Kirtsis, a US businessman who kidnapped his bank manager at gunpoint because he wasn't allowed the money to build a shopping centre.

Was he presented as 'a face of evil'? No. This villain who used force as a means to start a profit-making business was portrayed as a slightly eccentric joke figure. The whole item was treated tongue-in-cheek.

Obviously as far as News At Ten is concerned, it's the end that justifies the means.

□ **J Lopez, Dagenham.**

## Toilet seat

I was thinking of writing to Mrs Windsor about it all, but she must have enough on her plate, what with Charlie packing the sea in and all. (Why did they take the seat off the toilet before they put it round his neck?)

Well, I'll sign off now. If all goes well on my appeal I'll see you on the march.

I'm in here for six months. Don't let the others suffer a day of it. Fight for justice. Defend the 43!

PS: I've enclosed £3.50 for the defence fund. It was my return fare from court but I won't need it for a while.

**726010 (alias BILLY CASTLEY), Walton Prison, 68 Hornby Road, Liverpool L9 3DF.**

□ *Socialist Worker urges all readers to write to Billy Castley, and to Mike Lynch, the other Right to Work marcher now in jail. Mike is prisoner F25199, Pentonville Prison, Caledonian Road, London N1.*

## THIS IS YOUR £9.50 WAGE CUT

A FAMILY with two children on the average industrial wage now needs a rise of £9.50 to get back to pre-Social Contract living standards. So why are we asking for £10?

Profits are rising, productivity is rising. Is our share to be only 50p?

The Nottinghamshire miners are asking for £65. Now that trade unionists are coming into the open against the Social Contract, everybody is thinking big.

We all know that there are going to be big price rises this year, we want our rises to cover that as well. If we are going to put a

cash demand, and now is the time to do it, let's put a realistic one!

Here are the figures:  
Average male weekly wage, April 1975: £60.80.  
Social Contract, Phase 1: £6.00.  
Social Contract, Phase 2: £3.34.

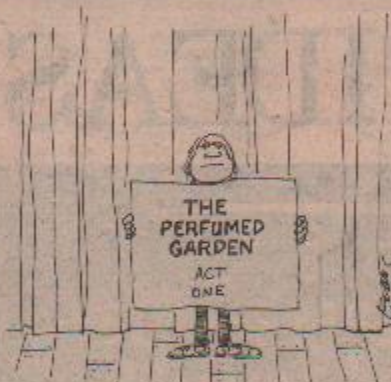
This adds up to a cash wage in April 1977 of £70.14, which is equivalent to a real wage after inflation of £51.30. So we've had a wage cut of £9.50.

□ **CHRIS STEPHENSON, Central London.**

# SKEGNESS IS HERE AGAIN!



THE CAMP STAFF ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP OUT . . .



THE KIDS WILL BE HELPED TO PUT ON THEIR OWN ENTERTAINMENTS . . .



YOU ARE BY THE SEA . . .



THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POLITICS IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND . . .



YOU'RE NOT MADE TO DO ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T WANT TO . . .

**Socialist Worker Skegness Weekend**

**HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

Easter weekend, 8-11 April, at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Centre, Skegness. Full board and accommodation and free entertainment for £18.50 per adult—300 free children's places. Apply now to your local Socialist Worker seller.

MORE DETAILS NEXT WEEK.



## LINDA QUINN RAIDS A NEW BOOK\* TO DESCRIBE THE FERMENT OF 70 YEARS AGO

**'ANY FEAR that the dangerous forms assumed by labour revolts abroad might be imitated at home has been tranquillised by the belief that our Trade Union system and the traditional common sense of the nation would be sufficient protection against industrial revolution.'**

This self-assurance of the rich was shattered by the explosion of Labour unrest in 1911. Mass strikes shook the bosses and membership of trade unions increased four-fold.

But what really alarmed the bosses was the number of unofficial, apparently spontaneous

strikes over which the trade union leaders had little control, and the ferocity that these generated.

There were major strikes on the docks, in engineering, transport and the building trades. The railways had their first national strike. Ideas of unity, solidarity and sympathy action were being advocated and taken up by the rank and file.

In support of the railway strike (workers on the railways were still known as servants), action was taken by other groups of workers. On Merseyside, a mini general strike developed. 80,000 men, women and children demonstrated in support of the transport strike. Putting aside their religious differences, they united in the face of police and troops.

The Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury reported: *'And the residents in many instances took sides with the rioters against the police, throwing bottles, bricks, slates and stones from the houses and from the roofs. The whole area was for a time in a state of siege. We hear of bedding being set alight so as to render the road impassable to mounted police.'*

There were pitched battles between blacklegs and strikers, resulting in serious injury and often death. Gun battles were fought on the docks in the east end of London. Troops and gunboats were sent into strike areas.

The strikers responded by attacks on blacklegs—and on magistrates responsible for the reading of the Riot Act, police, police stations and troops.

The press attack on the Welsh miners' strike centred on the horror of the 'senseless violence', the looting and rioting. But the looting was neither senseless nor random. In Tonymandy, strikers rioted after being beaten back by police. Their bitterness was expressed in selective attacks on the property of magistrates and coal owners.

The drapers shop belonging to the chief magistrates (who was already involved in legal action against the strikers) was the first target. In a gesture of defiance, the strikers paraded in white waistcoats and top hats taken from the shop.

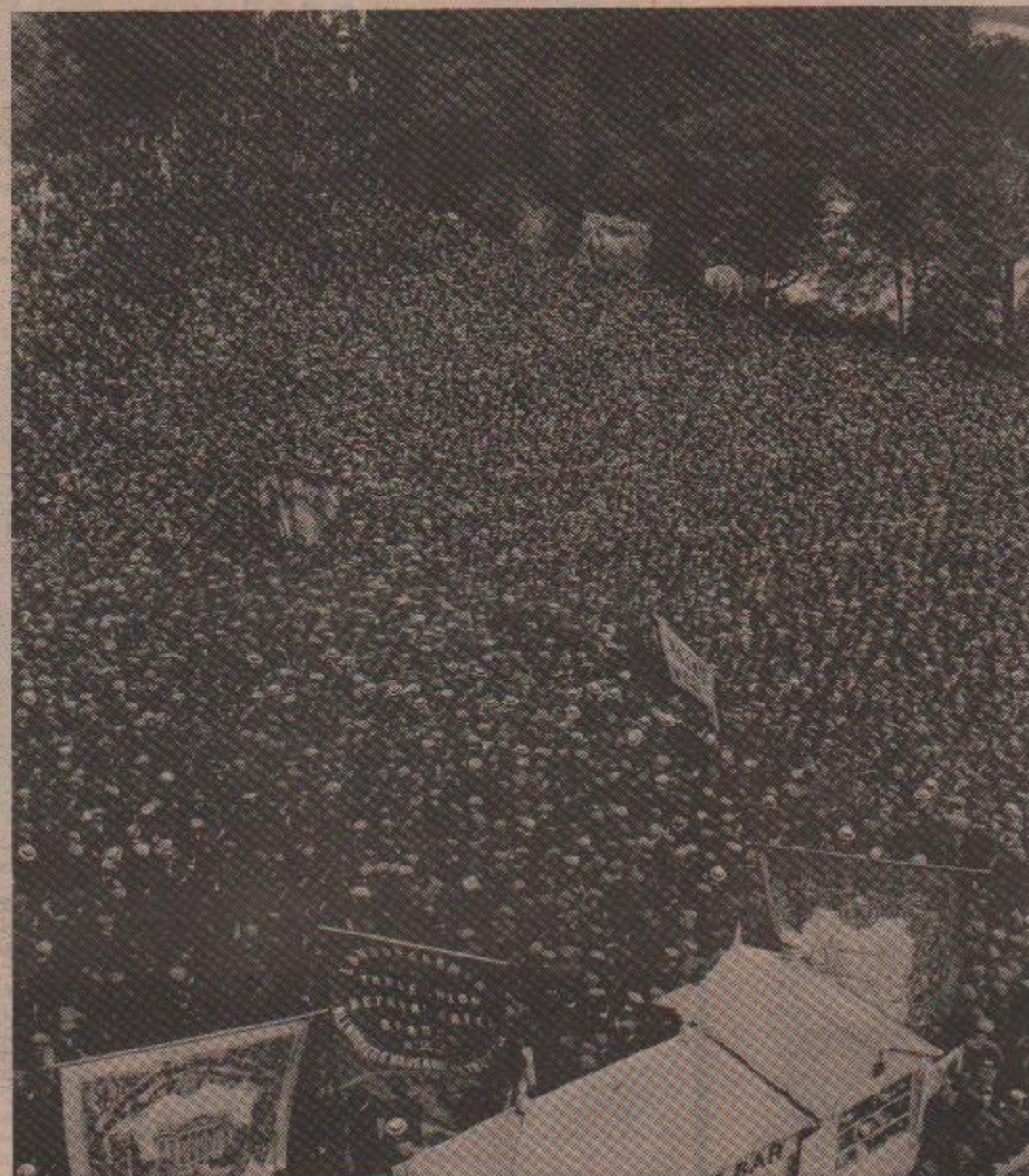
### Blow up

An attempt was made to blow up the mine at the Britannic colliery.

*'BL' and 'Scab' were daubed on doors. Women and children were organised into teams to break the windows of blacklegs.*

A significant change had occurred. Trade union leaders could no longer be relied upon to hold down the grievances and anger of the labour force. Some owners feared revolution was on the way.

Troops and police were used mercilessly to put down the strikers, and thousands of rank and file leaders were arrested. Yet still the struggle continued until the First World War.



The great transport strike of 1912

Such was its intensity that some units like the Leeds Artillery were even supplied with swords in case of hand to hand fighting.

Meanwhile, trade union militants were producing leaflets encouraging troops not to shoot down or attack strikers, but to take up the cause of the working class against capitalism. Fred Bower, a syndicalist stonemason urging soldiers to disaffect wrote:

### Idle rich

*'The idle rich, who own you and order you about, own and order us (the working class) about also. They and their friends own the land and means of life in Britain. You don't, we don't. When you kick, you get court-martialled and the cells. Your fight is our fight. Instead of fighting against each other... Help to win back Britain for the British, and the world for the workers.'*

Bower was imprisoned along with Tom Mann, who published the leaflet in *The Syndicalist*.

In South Wales, miners seized upon a rank and file document called *The Miners Next Step*. It derided the reformism of trade union leaders and advocated not just one centralised mining union to combat the power of the employers, but workers control.

### Inspiration

Arthur Horner, a lay preacher, said of it: *'This programme and the movement it created through the coalfield gave me the inspiration I had been looking for... The conception of working class power was to me far more realistic than the idea of fighting for seats in Parliament...'*

In Dublin, the tram workers

struck in protest against appalling conditions and rates of pay. Other workers came out in sympathy. The employers' response was the great Dublin lock-out of 1913. Thousands of men, women and children were involved.

In the ensuing struggle, people were killed and 400 injured. But the importance of this struggle was the class solidarity which cut across sectional and sexual lines.

The strike committee, under Jim Larkin and James Connolly, tried to show how things could be. Every able-bodied person was directed into the tasks of feeding the community and providing entertainment.

### Workers control

The ideas which caught on and were generated through the strikes of this period were not new—ideas of solidarity with others in struggle, the need to challenge the capitalist system which makes us unequal, the concept of workers control.

Revolutionary ideas existed, but were known to but a few. The experience of the strikes—against a background of conciliation, parliamentary and trade union sell-outs, and direct action against troops and magistrates, the willingness to challenge authority—began to make these ideas more meaningful to larger sections of the labour movement.

### Direct Action

The idea was direct action at the point of production. Revolutionary industrial action, not parliamentary action. Workers control was the way to socialism, not the ballot box.

This emphasis is what makes it an important movement for revolutionary socialists to examine and learn from today.

Syndicalism showed the potential of industrial struggle for revolutionary change.

But it neglected the need for a revolutionary mass party to transmit and exchange these experiences, and to link up the struggle and lead it forward to the conquest of power.

\* *British Syndicalism, 1900-1914*, by Bob Holton (Photo Press) £3.10 (inc. postage) from Bookmarks, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

# If you despair of 'apathy' take a close look at these pictures



Arrested revolutionaries in Liverpool, 1911—the year a general strike halted the city



## Stop these free adverts, Boyd!

By Willie Lee\* and Jimmy Burke, AUEW stewards, Chrysler Linwood

THIS MONTH'S AUEW journal contains a full-page advert for films and records from union headquarters.

Any member could be forgiven for believing that the second advert for a film called 'The Militant Moderate' was an official union film.

After all, it is sandwiched in between an advert for a film called 'We are the Engineers' and an advert for a record of the film theme.

The Militant Moderate is a film about John Boyd OBE, General Secretary of the union.

### God Ltd.

If you look at the advert you'll find out that the film makers are an organisation called RFL—Religious Film-makers Limited.

This is not an AUEW film. It was commissioned by the Salvation Army and is about one of their most influential members, Major John Boyd OBE.

It is strange indeed that an advert headed 'Attention Branch and District Secretaries' should be advertising a religious film and giving a false impression to rank and file members.

This is no isolated complaint. Twice, to our knowledge, full-page adverts have appeared on behalf of the Asbestos Information Committee, an organisation funded by the bosses of the big asbestos companies.

### Exposure

Many workers have been murdered for profit through exposure to this material. In Glasgow alone, countless numbers of members of the T&G Insulation Branch have died or are dying through the use of this material.

Many trade unionists feel it should be banned completely.

It's time branches started to challenge Bro Boyd in his prostitution of our journal.

One last thing—we would like to see John Boyd working full-time—but for the Salvation Army, not for the AUEW.

\*Willie Lee is the Engineers Charter candidate for National Organiser in next month's AUEW election.

# Telecomms uproar

FIASCO AT PROTEST MEETING



Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)

HUNDREDS of telecommunications workers demanded the right to speakers from the floor after union leaders tried to close a rally at Central Hall, Westminster on Monday. About 1500 workers had marched through London (above) to a lobby of Parliament and a meeting at Central Hall.

They were treated to a series of vague speeches led off by EETPU leader Frank Chapple.

They were told the government had conceded an independent inquiry operation between the unions and bosses.

and bosses. They were thanked repeatedly for coming and the meeting was closed. But there was a storm of protest.

Some of the factories attending have imminent closure dates with mass sackings. Nothing had been said about fighting for them.

The protest march and lobby was organised by the electricians union with support from APEX and ASTMS, the white-collar unions, the municipal workers union (GMWU) and TASS, the white collar section of the engineering union.

The turn out on the demonstration could have been much greater had the union leaderships organised transport and mass support.

Many workers left Central Hall discussing how to fight despite the leadership.

The national Rank and File Contact Conference on Saturday 12 March is an ideal opportunity to develop a national telecommunications rank and file fight-back.

It's at 2pm, AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester.

## Now Essex firemen step up cuts fight

By an Essex fireman

ESSEX firemen have stepped up their action to resist the £250,000 cuts in the brigade that the County Council want to make in the coming year.

They have launched a work-to-rule and may soon be considering more militant action.

The cuts include 12 redundancies of firemen, loss of travelling expenses and the sacking of 20 part-time cooks and cleaners.

### Recruit

By getting rid of 12 firemen, the brigade would be 55 men short. Because of their crisis, the government have never allowed Essex to recruit in the proper numbers.

The withdrawal of the travelling expenses would mean a wage cut for many Essex firemen.

The idea of expecting us to negotiate on whether cooks or cleaners are sacked is disgraceful.

We have made it clear that we are not going to do their work. Neither are we prepared to go without meals or work in dirty stations.

On Friday, there will be a final attempt to persuade the county's Fire Brigades Committee to withdraw the cuts. If that fails, firemen are in a mood to take more militant action.

## Sit-in students say: We'll fight court injunction

STUDENTS in occupation at the London School of Economics are defying threats to use the courts to get them out.

The well-known liberal director, Ralph Dahrendorf, has said he will apply for an injunction if the occupation, over new tuition fees, is not ended.

He is lining up with the National Association for Freedom, who used an injunction to stop the postalworkers' boycott of South Africa, and with the Massey Ferguson management, who used an injunction to end the occupation of the factory in Coventry.

Polytechnics at Bristol,

and Brighton have also occupied. Teesside Poly has temporarily ended an occupation. Students at Newman College of Education in Birmingham occupied the Administrative Centre of the college in protest at teacher unemployment and the cuts on Monday.

In Dyfed, Wales, the council is threatening to stop the payment of funds to student unions. In Lancaster a 48-hour occupation forced University authorities to abandon attempts to prevent the student union from sending money to strikes or paying for abortion.

### Disguised

If local councils follow up Dyfed's threats this could be the start of a national move against student union autonomy, backed up by Court injunctions. It will be disguised as making more cuts.

At the same time, other cuts are affecting thousands of students, often those least able to fight back. Many overseas students will not be able to pay the massively increased tuition fees and will face deportation.

Unfortunately, the executive of the National Union of Students has done little to support students facing these threats. Last term the only members of the executive who called for national support for three occupations protesting against overseas students fees' increases were the two NOISS members.

### Closures

NOISS is the student organisation that supports the Socialist Workers Party.

This term, with closures of 28 colleges announced, most of the executive adopted a policy of wait and see. Last week, Lancaster students were told they could expect no help from the executive.

Meanwhile, because of such demoralisation, the Tories are building support in the union. The occupations have to be extended. Every IS Society should:

□ Send messages of support and delegations to the occupying colleges, and, more important

□ Try to get action now over the cuts—whether over prices, fees, or closures.

□ If you can't get action before, go for occupation on March 1—the day of action on overseas students—which can be extended.

# POSTMEN WIN—NO THANKS TO JACKSON

By Paul Holborow

EAST LONDON: More than 500 Post Office workers have won a two-week battle in the face of opposition from their employers, Press, TV—and their own union leaders.

Tom Jackson, their general secretary, said he was 'ashamed' of their strike action. He told a radio interviewer that 'the community have been treated

particularly shabbily'.

Press and TV reports tried to make out that the workers were fighting against staff recruitment because it would mean a drop in overtime earnings. In fact, the dispute was provoked by the Post Office, who wanted to tear up established work schedules and impose a new system of working without any consultation with the local UPW branch.

Bill Connor, a postman for 30 years, said: 'This Whitechapel branch has a long history of militancy.

'We would not work new machines in this District Office for three years until we got a premium payment. Before the scrapping of the schedules blew up, management had been needing us for some weeks.

'They cut our pre-Christmas working and also tried to discipline our London organiser John Taylor.

'Management say they want to recruit 50 men to improve the public service. But they do not give a damn about service to the public.

'They want to weaken our bargaining position that the power to impose an overtime

## DON'T LET WHITBREADS GET AWAY WITH THIS

EAST LONDON: The lock-out at Whitbread's brewery continues. The dispute, which is in its fifth week, began with management suspending drivers who refused to work a new system involving the use of bigger lorries and smaller crews, a system which hasn't been properly negotiated.

### Threat

Kenny Willis, Transport Union steward at the Manor Park depot, said this would mean a threat to jobs.

He told Socialist Worker: 'If the company can get away with ignoring the procedure agreement we might as well tear up our union cards and go home.'

□ Donations and messages of support to: Kenny Bentley c/o TGWU, West Ham Lane, Stratford, London E15.



Tom Jackson: 'ashamed of the strikers'

the Union of Post Office Workers, said: 'The strike has forced supervision to recognise the branch committee, no work changes can be introduced without prior consultation, and all disciplinary charges have been dropped.'

Last week the UPW London District Council passed a resolution calling for a return to free collective bargaining. Take-home pay at present is a miserable £38.

ENGINEERS CHARTER/Right to Work Campaign Meetings

### SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Vote Willie Lee for AUEW National Organiser

EDINBURGH: Wed 23 February, 7.30pm. Trades Council. Club, Picardy Place. Speakers: Ron Brown (shop steward, Parsons Peabody), Angela McHugh (shop steward Rawplugs)

PAISLEY: Tuesday 22 February 7.30pm. AUEW Halls, Paisley. Speaker: Rab Reid (Paisley DC member, shop steward, Linwood)

CLYDEBANK: Mon 28 February 7.30pm. Lecture Hall, Town Hall. Speakers: Angela McHugh, Tommy Gorman (senior shop steward, Albion Motors)

GLASGOW CENTRE: Sun 27 February 7.30pm. Iona Community House, Clyde Street, City Centre. Speakers: Angela McHugh, Willie Lee (shop steward Linwood)

SOUTHALL: Mon 28 February 8pm. Community Centre, Bridge Road. Speaker: Willie Lee

Read Engineers Charter - 10p each plus 5p postage. Feb-April issue out now 8 for £1 including postage. 20 for £2 including postage from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

HARLESDEN: Thurs 3 March 8pm. White Horse, Corner Roundwood Rd and Church Rd. Speakers: Willie Lee, Laurie Smith (National Organiser), Roger Cox (shop steward, Old Oak Common, North London District Committee), Billy Taylor (Candidate for Div No 6 AD0).

SHEFFIELD: Thurs 3 March 8pm. Speakers: John Deason, Clive Hartley (Convenor, Balfour Darwin)

LIVERPOOL: Fri 4 March 8pm. Speaker: Willie Lee

MANCHESTER: Sat 5 March, 12.30pm, Lass O' Gowrie, Charles St, off Oxford Rd, Nr BBC. Speakers: Willie Lee, Tom Smith (convenor, Automat)

LEEDS: Sun 6 March 7.30pm. Trades Club, Saville Mount, Chapeltown. Speakers: Willie Lee, John Deason.

WALSALL: Tues 1 March 8pm, The Falcon, off Gower St, Willenhall. Speakers: Willie Lee, John Deason

BRADFORD: Tuesday 1 March 8pm

LETCHEWORTH AND CAMBRIDGE: Wed 2 March 8pm. The Settlement. Speakers: Willie Lee and Dave Gillard (convenor, Herberts)

Engineers Charter/Right to Work Campaign PROTEST RALLY

### SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Saturday 2 April, 12.30pm. Lesser Free Trade Hall, Manchester. Speakers include: Laurie Smith (AUEW National Organiser). Tickets 20p each from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



## We fight! say Glasgow busworkers

GLASGOW- Bus workers at Partick Garage have launched a campaign to save their jobs. A mass meeting of 300 voted unanimously to oppose any moves by Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive to close the garage.

During the meeting all the buses from the garage were off the road.

The meeting voted unanimously to step up the Save Partick Garage Campaign.

Afterwards, Alec Reid and Sandy Busby of the Garage Action Committee spoke to Socialist Worker.

### Garage Closure

'It's not just our garage that we're fighting for,' said one. 'Bridgeton Garage has already been closed and last year bus fares went up.'

'This round of cuts will mean the closure of our garage, the disappearance of 300 jobs, another 5 per cent reduction in bus services and another 10 per cent increase in fares throughout Glasgow.'

'We know for definite that there are more cuts to come. We realise now that it is no longer a case of just fighting the cuts in the bus services. The only chance we have is through linking up with all the other local authority workers threatened with cuts and redundancies.'

The action committee have agreed to invite Willie Dolan, from the Right to Work Campaign, to their next meeting to discuss what assistance the campaign can give to the fighting workers.

Said Sandy Busby: 'We're out in front. Everybody else in the public sector is waiting to see if we win or lose. So what happens to us is important.'

'There is no way we can win on our own. Our committee will be arguing for the calling of a meeting of all organisations prepared to fight the cuts. We see this as the first step in getting joint action.'

The local Right to Work Campaign intends to spread the fight to passengers. The fares are already the dearest in Britain. If they go up again more people will simply stop using the buses.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to: Partick Garage Action Committee, Hayburn Street, Partick, Glasgow.

### Victimised! So DGI out

MANCHESTER: Workers at DGI Aluminium Products are on strike against the victimisation of one of their members.

The man allegedly filled in his application form wrongly—he is one of the negotiating committee who had just won a better bonus deal for the men.

The men hold a mass meeting every Thursday in Ordsall Lane, Salford, 8am-9am. All support welcome. Collections and messages of support to: Strike Committee, c/o 22 Buckingham House, King's Street, Salford.

### No Concrick

SHOP STEWARDS at Howard Rotavator in Ipswich and Washington, Co Durham, have come out against the Social Contract and have called for 'a complete return to free collective bargaining.' They are sending letters of support to British Leyland stewards.

## Three Masseys plants shut

COVENTRY: All three Massey Ferguson plants have now been closed in the eighth week of the strike and lock-out at the Banner Lane plant.

136 men were locked out before Christmas for what the company called 'inadequate effort'. The whole assembly shop has been out in support ever since.

The strike has now been made official by the engineering workers' union (AUEW) national executive and no one except safety maintenance workers are crossing the picket lines.

The Banner Lane Joint Shop Stewards Committee has called for a city-wide shop



Some of the people who marched through Halifax on Saturday to protest against the threat to close the Moderna blanket factory in nearby Mytholmroyd.

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

# IT'S YES TO UNION, GRUNWICKS TOLD

**JOHN GOURIET, national organiser of the National Association for Freedom, is about to emerge in his true colours: as a champion of sweated labour and anti-union employers.**

He and his extreme right-wing associa-

tion are likely to be called in by Grunwicks, the North London film processors whose disgusting working conditions, low pay and petty tyranny on the shop floor have provoked a six month official strike.

Grunwicks are angry this week because the government arbitration service ACAS have found heavily for union recognition—the main demand of the strikers.

An ACAS poll of about 300 Grunwicks workers,

found overwhelmingly that the workers want to join APEX, the clerical workers' union.

The bosses have consistently refused to allow recognition, and are now threatening—with the help of NAF—to sue ACAS for not polling the scabs who are still working in the factory. This is real hypocrisy, since ACAS desperately wanted to poll the scabs, but Grunwicks refused to give them the names and addresses!

Whether or not Grunwicks sue ACAS, it is clear that the company are treating the government arbitration service with contempt.

They have no intention of giving in just because ACAS say so.

There is nothing ACAS can do about this. The only way to force Grunwicks into line is to hit them where it hurts most: in the pocket.

The postal blacking must be reimposed.

### CARDIFF DISPUTE 'TEST CASE'

CARDIFF: 75 catering workers at the Royal Infirmary have a message for their bosses—they are not accepting redundancies or redeployment.

When management threatened to sack or redeploy eight workers last week, no meals appeared for administration, medical or managerial staff.

Bill Adams, the COHSE branch secretary, told Socialist Worker: 'Obviously management and trade unionists in other Cardiff hospitals are watching the dispute closely. We are very much a test case.'

Catering facilities were maintained for patients only as union reps Steve Rose (NUPE) and Bill Adams invited management to negotiate.

The answer came on Monday morning. They threatened to send home four workers for taking part in industrial action. All the catering workers walked out.

Management are preparing meals. 'I only hope they can cook better than they can manage.'

### Doughty lock out 700

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: In the week that the Doughty group announced record profits of £8½ million, 712 workers have been locked out by its Mining Equipment Plant management at Ashchurch.

Before the lock-out the Transport Workers and Engineering Workers union members were working to rule in support of their claim for payment for the first day of any sickness. The staff section already get this.

Now the pickets are seeking support from the Swansea miners and from dockers who handle the firm's equipment for export to Argentina.

The group's staff union, TASS, ACTS and ASTMS are giving financial aid, while the local dole offices have refused payment for the workers and their families.

### Warburtons occupied

BURY: After eleven weeks of strike action, 41 engineers from two Warburtons factories occupied the firm's office last week. The men, all members of the engineering union (AUEW), are demanding wage increases of between £8 and £10 to bring themselves into line with other local factories.

Convener Derek Mortiboys said: 'After 11 weeks of standing on the picket line, in all the bad weather, the lads just felt that they had had enough. It was just not making any progress towards a settlement.'



### CUBBITTS STRIKE

EAST LONDON: 130 building workers at Cubitts site in Hackney were on strike last Monday over management's refusal to pay the agreed fall-back rate to some of the men.

Cubitts, a notoriously anti-trade union firm, refused to maintain the wages being paid. Some

men are now earning up to £15-a-week less.

Tom Shanahan, federation steward, said: 'Is Cubitts trying to establish another Wallsend situation? Where Cubitts provoked disputes, then tol Chelsea Council that they couldn't finish the contract, and sacked all the workers.'

stewards meeting next Tuesday to formulate a united policy to defend long-standing agreements and conditions.

The attack at Masseys is being repeated in other factories locally—at Triumph, Chrysler, Alvis and Rolls-Royce. After getting away with so much on wages over the past two years, the employers are now feeling confident enough to launch an attack on productivity and conditions.

Money and messages of support to: Massey Ferguson Assembly Shop Strike Committee, AUEW Halls, Corporation Street, Coventry.

## Colliery backs Right to Work

CARDOWAN Colliery, in Lanarkshire, Scotland, have held an official collection for the Right to Work Campaign and raised £13.

The Miners' Union branch secretary, John McCafferty, told Socialist Worker: 'It's a liberty that Mike Lynch should go to jail because he fights against unemployment. We are supporting the campaign because we oppose unemployment. We are also supporting the Liaison Committee Conference on 26 February and we've agreed to send delegates.'

Mike Lynch, a Dunfermline miner, is in Pentonville Prison in London serving a three-month sentence. He was one of the 43 Right to Work marchers arrested when police baton-charged the Right to Work march last year.

Mike Lynch will be released from prison on Friday 18 March. A special fund-raising social is planned for the night to help raise money for outstanding fines and expenses and the coming trial of the campaign secretary, John Deason, at the Old Bailey on 2 May.

Money is urgently needed to help the Defence Campaign. Send donations and get tickets for the benefit from the Right to Work Campaign Defence Fund, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## News Scabs isolated

KETTERING: When the TUC Printing Industries Committee stitched up a deal to end the 11-week strike of Kettering journalists a few loose ends were left.

Nine of those loose ends are scabs who claimed to have joined the Institute of Journalists. Northants Newspapers NUJ chapels (office branches) will not work with them until they recognise they can't leave the NUJ.

Kettering printworkers' NGA chapel has refused to allow the IOJ scabs into the building and will not accept their copy or pictures. Donations and messages of support to NUJ Strike Committee, c/o NAAW Offices, Cattle Market, Kettering, Northants.

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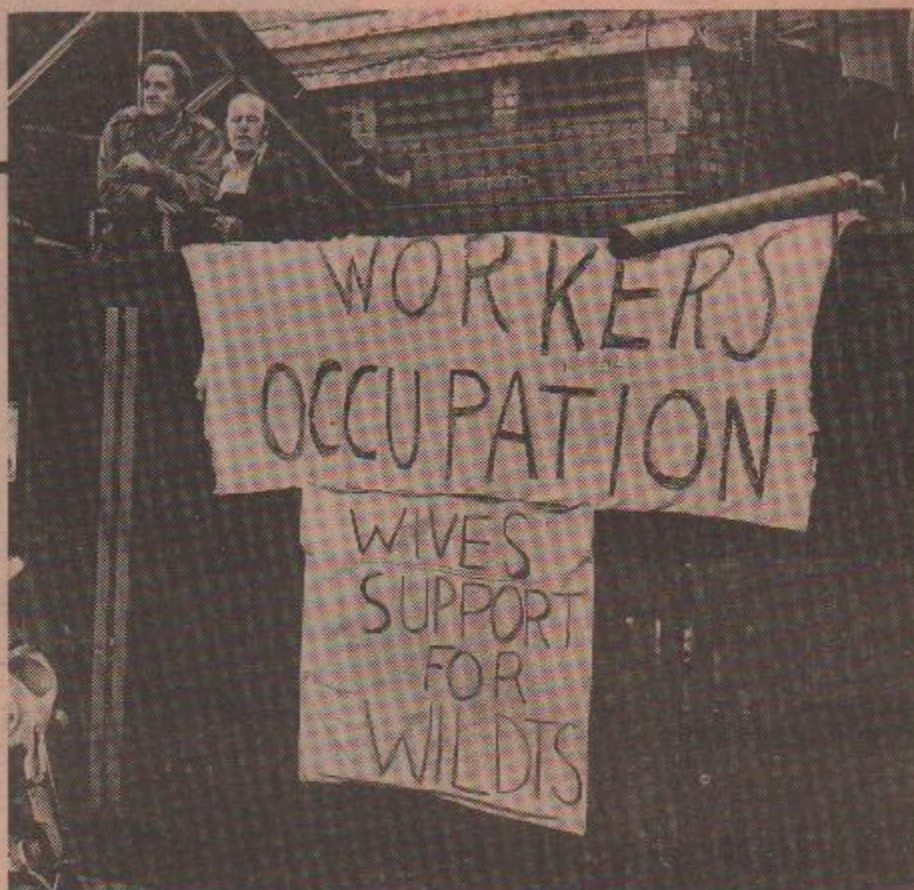
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# Socialist Worker

## Wives back a jobs sit-in

PICTURES  
BY JOHN  
STURROCK  
(Report)



# ALL OUT AGAINST THE CON-TRICK!

'STRIKE WITH US ON 19 APRIL' CALL BY LEYLAND STEWARDS

**JOIN US on 19 April. That was the message from the British Leyland shop stewards combine meeting on Tuesday.**

More than 200 shop stewards are to recommend to 100,000 Leyland workers a one-day stoppage on 19 April and a massive lobby of Parliament.

They invited everyone else to make it a massive day of action, calling for a return to free collective bargaining on 1 August.

### Controls

To back up the action, the stewards are calling a national conference, open to all groups of workers, to discuss an end to wage controls. It will be in April at Birmingham Town Hall, which seats more than 3,000 people.

After the meeting, one Leyland shop steward told Socialist Worker:



*'This means we are going to fight the Social Contract until we break it. We're sick and tired of the way we've been treated in Leyland over the past two years. Low wages and high profits—that's what's been happening.'*

There are still Leyland workers getting £52 a week—that is £12 below the national average. It is no longer a well-paid cushy job.

### Effort

'We've had redundancies, attacks on conditions, short-time working—the lot, over the last two and a half years.'

The national press is calling Leyland workers every name they can think of in an effort to stop the militancy.

But two years of a worsening standard of living and continual attacks of conditions are now making Leyland burst apart at the seams.

There are strikes over manning at Morris Assembly in Cowley, over lay-off pay in

## What it's costing you

□ EIGHTEEN months ago, the average family spent £54.59 a week.

□ To buy the same goods a year later, that family needed to earn £62.79.

□ TO BUY the same goods in six months time, it will need £72.19. That's £17.60 more than

it was getting in 1975. But wage earners have been restricted to £6. in 1976 and £2.50 in 1977—less than half what was needed.

These facts are taken from the Department of Employment's Family Expenditure Survey.

Services at Cowley, over parity at Rover in Cardiff, over redeployment and an attempted wage cut at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham, over time and motion at Triumph in Coventry.

If the carworkers take the lead, hundreds of thousands

of other workers will be able to follow.

They can make the first massive breach in the pay policies erected by the TUC, the government and their friends in the City of London.

## Support our fund

WHY YOU Should Be a Socialist, Paul Foot's statement of the case for our party, has sold out.

All 20,000 copies of the book have gone faster than we ever imagined. Naturally, 20,000 more have been ordered.

But much of the money for the books has yet to come in—and the printer has to be paid fast.

So once more we've had to dig desperately deep to get the presses moving. And this at a time when costs are pinching us in every part of our work.

Last week we had a letter from G. Peck of Hendon. He wanted to join the Party. He sent what he called a 'modest donation' of £8.50.

Our fund did well last week. We got £558.65 in, and that included an anonymous donation of £200 from a reader

whose landlord had paid him the money to get out. But it isn't enough. We must press on to that £30,000 target.

Thanks this week to Durham SWP £50; SW London £1; Northant £2.25; Anon £200; Mike Morris, Clackmannan £1.90; Inner East London £300; Balham SW supporters £1; Acton £25; Anon £26.

□ Send collections and donations to SWP Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

RIGHT TO Work committees in towns throughout the country are organising pickets of Trust House Forte this Saturday.

Trust House Forte is the giant hotel and catering group locked in battle with strikers demanding trade union recognition in Oxford.

The executive of the union concerned, the Transport and General Workers, is refusing to organise national blacking of THF.

In response to this, one Sheffield TGWU branch, the 9/236, has passed a resolution demanding immediate action, which it hopes other branches



LEICESTER: Almost the entire workforce of 800 occupied the Ayleston Road works of Wildt Mellor Bromley on Monday to prevent the sacking of nearly 400 workers and the transfer of a similar number to the St Saviours

Road plant.

The threatened closure is the latest in a series of attacks on the trade unions in the Bentley Engineering Group.

Already support is coming in and some wives are forming a support group to

raise money, to deal with hardship cases and to prevent the isolation of the occupation.

□ Donations and messages of support to: Wildt's Occupation Fund, Wildt Mellor Bromley, Ayleston Road, Leicester.

## Picket the Forte thieves!

will take up. Val Saynor, one of the Sheffield strikers, said: 'We're getting nowhere with the blacking.'

'The National Executive has said there's no chance of national blacking, so we're having to go through the whole thing of getting the TGWU regions to start it, in the hope that the people at the top will start doing something about it. The officials' attitude is disgusting.'

### Drivers

One explanation of the TGWU leaders' reluctance to take action may be that, according to the Catering Times, the union is making a national arrangement with Trust Houses Forte, to open up approved accommodation for long-distance lorry drivers in the TGWU.

If THF is cracked, thousands of catering workers

in other groups will feel confident to demand union organisation, decent wages and conditions.

Already in Oxford workers at another hotel, the Linton Lodge, have been on strike for more than 12 weeks.

Pickets will be organised this Saturday between noon and 2pm at:

□ Newport Pagnell on the M1, Northampton (Bedford and Hitchin Right to Work Committees to support);

□ Woodall on the M1, Sheffield and Chesterfield to support, Chelmsley on the M6 (Coventry to support);

□ Charnock Richard on the M6 near Chorley (Preston, Bolton and Wigan Right to Work Committees to support);

□ Gordano on the M5 near Bristol, Bristol and Bath to support);

□ Burtonwood on the M62 (Liverpool, Kirkby, Warrington and Manchester Right to Work Committees to support);

□ Barnsdale Bar on the A1 near Pontefract, Pontefract, Barnsley and Wakefield Right to Work Committees to support)

All the Right to Work Committees in London will be organising for support for a picket on the prestige Talk of the Town in Leicester Square between 7pm and 9pm.

Trust House Forte hotels should also be picketed in other towns.

OXFORD DEMONSTRATION called by the Trades Council. March from Linton Lodge to the Randolph Assemblies this Saturday, 10.45am.

### To all postal subscribers

Because of a strike in the local postal sorting office (see page 14) the last two issues of Socialist Worker will not have reached you. The issue of two weeks ago is still in the post. Last week's issue was not dispatched.

If you would like a copy of last week's issue, please write to us, or phone 01-739 2639. If we do not hear from you we will extend your subscription by one issue.

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