

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

ADVERTISEMENT

National Right to Work Campaign
**ALL OUT AGAINST
 THE SOCIAL CONTRACT
 NATIONAL STRIKE
 ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL**

Called by the British Leyland Shop Stewards Combine and supported by the Right to Work Campaign and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

Join your local demonstration or join the NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION, 1pm, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London. Bring Banners.

SOLIDARITY!

By IAN MORRIS,

AUEW shop steward, Heathrow

A BLACK DAY for trade unionism—that was last Thursday.

National full-time officials of some of the biggest trade unions in the country signed a document calling on their members to scab.

A fine day for trade unionism—that was last Tuesday when engineering workers at Heathrow and at airports throughout the country struck in protest at the infamous Blacklegs Charter.

Officials from Jack Jones' TGWU, Clive Jenkins' ASTMS and Frank Chapple's EETPU were all among the signatories to the call to scab on engineering workers sacked for refusing to work shifts.

The Engineering Union officials did not sign

Rank and file feeling at the airport across all unions ran so high on Tuesday that the signatories to this infamous document backed down.

But just three weeks ago the AUEW executive supported a nearly identical document aimed at intimidating the Leyland toolroom workers

None of these officials can be trusted.

This week Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon and Frank Chapple have been preparing another round of the Social Contract and another round of wage freeze with Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey.

They are trying to smash any group of workers who upset their plans by fighting for pay increases.

That is why they have spread the lie that the airport strike is 'divisive'.

Yet they know that the engineers' claim for improved pay for shift work is one that could be taken up by all groups of workers in the airport.

The 'division' is between national full-time officials, whose high salaries protect them against the worst effects of rising prices, and the mass of rank and file workers who desperately need wage increases now.

Those fighting the effects of the Contract deserve the support of every rank and file trade unionist.

The solidarity of the airport engineers must be matched by other workers outside the airport.

Next Wednesday, 20 April, is the day of national strike action against the Social Contract called for by the Leyland stewards

Let's make it a powerful display of solidarity.

Smash the Social Contract

Support the Heathrow engineers

Airport engineers show the way



Engineering Union shop stewards Mick Warner, George Draper and Ray Tempest at Heathrow on Tuesday to collect the AUEW British Airways Bulletin. They told Socialist Worker: 'We are now going back to pull our members out at Birmingham Airport. And we are taking 2000 bulletins back for distribution throughout places like British Leyland and GKN.'



The Heathrow engineers: they need massive support

ALL OUT AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT NEXT WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL

1984 comes to Northern Ireland

AT THE PUSH of a button, state security forces will be able to tell the pattern of the paper on your living room wall, the way you vote, the place you work, the people you drink with, the number of your car and much else besides.

1984 has come early to Northern Ireland. And it is coming soon to Britain.

Computer

That was the message from the British Army in Belfast at the weekend. It announced that its new computer has been installed and will be in action inside a couple of weeks.

It will store a mass of incredibly detailed information gathered over the past five years about every man, woman and child in the North.

By Eamonn McCann

Soldiers and police at checkpoints will have instant access to the information via direct radio links into the computer system.

It is a surveillance system such as Joe Stalin only dreamed about. And its unveiling drew not even a sigh of concern from those guardians of liberty who, only a few years ago, were howling with outrage against people being fined for not filling in census forms.

In other words, the most massive invasion of privacy these islands have known in war or in peace has been accomplished without resistance from anyone—except Irish Republicans!

What the state security forces are aiming at is not far short of thought control. The more the state knows about you the less it can be threatened by you.

And that goes not just for individuals

but—even more so—for any community or class which finds itself in conflict with the state. The implications are obvious.

Commenting on the army's announcement, the ultra-conservative Irish Independent newspaper noted on Saturday that 'although ostensibly (the system) will be employed in the fight against terrorism in the North, there is no reason why it could not be used in Britain to comply with Special Branch techniques and screen people such as trade unionists, political and student activists, rapidly growing groups... anyone in whom the state may have an interest'.

Not innocent

Until now, the army has stored information about the Northern population in a Ministry of Transport computer in Swansea, which had been intended to hold details of motor registration.

The Swansea machine will now belatedly undertake that role. And it is not quite as innocent as it seems.

Any Socialist Worker reader who drives a car should take note that quite soon the bobby in the Panda Car who waves you down because your rear light isn't working will be able to discover literally in seconds, whether you own the car, who you bought it from, if you have a valid licence and how many endorsements are on it, the registration number of the last car you owned, and to whom you sold it.

In seconds, he will be able to tell you details you yourself have forgotten.

No doubt Major Kitson and his acolytes in the army officer class are content that, as far as keeping tabs on the British population, it's a start...

1984 may have arrived seven years early in the North. The indications are that it will be well ahead of time in Britain, too, unless of course something revolutionary happens.



1500 AT SOCIALIST WORKER RALLY

The finale to last weekend's Socialist Worker Skegness Rally. The rally brought 1500 adults and children of all ages together for three days of pleasure, politics, discussion and sport. It was a great success with a lot of stimulation and much recharging of batteries for the battles ahead. The pictures show the final meeting at the rally, on 'The Way Ahead', speaker Tony Cliff (far right).



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

RACIST COUNCIL GET A SHOCK

A SIKH sports festival in Gravesend, Kent, has been banned by the local Tory council.

The festival, held annually for ten years, is

By Andy Moir

part of a series of events in various towns.

But Councillor Rees, chairman of the Gravesend Council's amenities committee, claims there had been complaints from local

residents about the noise at last year's festival.

Rees is well known locally for his extreme racist views and for his sympathy for the National Front and the National Party.

The Indian Youth Federation and other local

Asian organisations complained that the ban was racist.

SWP members and supporters organised a petition among nearby residents in support of the festival.

We received a very friendly response and almost everyone approached agreed to sign. Only a very few refused, generally for racist reasons.

'Losing dignity'

But not one of these, when asked, admitted to having complained last year.

We got 100 signatures in

less than a day. We told the local press of what we were doing and got good coverage.

We plan to present the petition to the next council meeting and to organise a demonstration outside.

The council hadn't expected so much opposition locally. They rapidly arranged a meeting with the festival organisers.

A number of councillors are now saying that they were not personally against the games taking place.

So now the council appears to be trying to find a way to back down without losing too much of their 'dignity'.

Build this rally, says nurse who beat deportation order

THIS IS Nicky Siew. She's a nurse from Selly Oak Hospital in Britain. She saves lives.

The Home Office said they wanted to deport her. But she fought her case and won.

She defeated the contemptible racist policy of the Home Office to deport foreign-born nurses once they've finished their training.

This policy, endorsed by the TUC, allegedly makes way for what they're pleased to call 'native born' workers.

Actually it makes way for more cuts, fewer jobs and an even more disastrous decline in the standard of health care.

Deportation

Sue Persad, also a recently qualified nurse at Selly Oak, still faces the threat of deportation. She was to have married recently but changed her mind.

The Home Office racials



then told her to get married or get out.

Nicky Siew is going to the Rally of Black Revolutionaries in Britain organised by the Socialist Workers Party and Flame.

She urges all black militants to attend: 'We must get together and discuss how we are going to fight back', she told Flame.

Fascists off the streets!

THE NATIONAL Front have called out 'all units' to participate in 'a very lively activity' on Saturday 23 April.

Their St George's Day march is to be held in Tottenham, North London because of the presence locally of 'many immigrants and red groups'.

It will take place just hours after the demonstration for the Islington 18 will have set off from Highbury Corner, some four miles away.

Racist march

This 'coincidence', and the fact that the racists will be marching through the borough with the largest number of West Indian workers in Britain, is something we will not ignore.

Haringey Trades Council will be calling on local trades unionists to support a demonstration to keep the fascists off our streets.

Socialist Worker calls on all members and supporters of the SWP to attend.

London SWP members assemble at Highbury Corner, Islington, N1 at Noon sharp (Highbury and Islington tube). This is the Islington 18 demonstration, which

will join the anti-fascist mobilisation. All Home Counties SWP members assemble at Turnpike Lane Tube (Piccadilly Line) at 1pm sharp.

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY DEFEND THE ISLINGTON 18

Meetings organised by Flame and the Socialist Workers Party

LEA VALLEY: Tuesday 19 April, 7.30pm, Community Centre, Stanley Road, London N15. Speakers: Steve Matthew and a member of the Islington 18 Defence Committee.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Tuesday 19 April, 7.30pm, The Albany, Green Road, Deptford, SE8. Speakers from Flame and Islington 18 Defence Committee.

MANCHESTER: Sunday 17 April, 6pm, watch for details.

STICKERS available now: 25p a sheet or 3p each. Cheques payable to Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. All proceeds to the Defence Campaign.



Defend the Islington 18—a four-page FLAME SPECIAL. Articles on the history of police harassment of blacks, the deportation of black nurses and how we must fight back. Take copies round your workplace, youth club and community. 12p each (including postage) from: Flame, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

DEMONSTRATE

DEMONSTRATION: Saturday 23 April, called by the Islington 18 Defence Committee. Assemble 12 noon, outside Highbury Magistrates Court, Highbury Corner, London N1. All London SWP members to support.

Socialist Workers Party

RALLY OF BLACK REVOLUTIONARIES IN BRITAIN

Saturday 30 April, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Road, Brixton, London SW2.

Prompt start, 11am. Tickets 50p in advance, 75p on the door.

Write to SWP Rally of Black Revolutionaries in Britain, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

ALL OUT NEXT WEDNESDAY AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

'BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate is expected to show another turn for the worse this week'.

That was The Guardian newspaper on Tuesday. Another prediction stated:

'The near term outlook for inflation, output and jobs is dismal. Output may actually decline between the first

We CAN stop Phase Three—but we must start the fight NOW

and second halves of this year. Unemployment will rise by another 200,000. The inflation rate will not show any improvement for the next 18 months'.

That was the view of the

London Business School, printed in the Sunday Times.

These statements show that the Social Contract has done to devastate our lives.

Yet the leaders of the TUC have now started talks with the government on a further year of controls.

They are prepared to ram through trade union conferences acceptance of a further attack on their members living standards—as they rammed it through the National Union of Teachers conference earlier this week.

And it's not only living standards that are under threat.

They have shown that they don't mind if the very principles of trade unionism are attacked—as with the blacklegs charter signed by full-time officials from 17 unions at Heathrow after the management had threatened the engineering workers with the sack.

Two elements in the proposed plan for phase three will further weaken trade unionism. So-called 'kitty-bargaining'—telling workers that the only role for collective bargaining will be to discuss how different groups of workers divide a fixed sum among themselves—is designed to turn worker against worker, union against union.

And productivity bargaining is designed to let some workers have very meagre wage increases in return for selling the jobs of other workers.

Phase Three will only be prevented if rank and file trade unionists take action now.

ACTION in support of those groups who find themselves fighting now against the employers, the government, the trade union officials and the Social Contract—like the Port Talbot electricians and the Heathrow workers.

ACTION next Wednesday, on the day of strike action called for by the Leyland conference against the Social Contract.

And **ACTION** to demand £15 across the board wage rises in every workplace now.



Callaghan: he 'forgot' to mention something

Who are you kidding Sunny Jim?

PRIME Minister James Callaghan painted a beautiful picture last weekend of the glories that await us if only we put up with Phase Three.

Prices will stop rising, he said, and the crisis would pass. All we had to do was to show the restraint shown, for instance, by German workers.

But German workers themselves are learning otherwise.

The Financial Times reported last Wednesday: 'Together with the Bundesbank and the union, the government have created the right conditions for an "upswing in stability"—low inflation, cheap money, restrained wage settlements. Yet the economy refuses to catch fire.'

The number of people unemployed remains at more than a million, with another 257,800 on short time.

Investment in new plant and machinery is still lower than in 1970.

West Germany is not alone in failing to benefit from conditions which should, according to Callaghan, produce wonders.

In Japan, unemployment rose by 80,000 in February to 1.22 million.

Elsewhere, things are even worse. The number of people officially out of work in Italy is now 1.3 million. Clearly, there is no way out of the crisis by imitating the so-called 'successes' of these other countries.

There is a world crisis. And you cannot get rid of that without changing the whole basis of society.

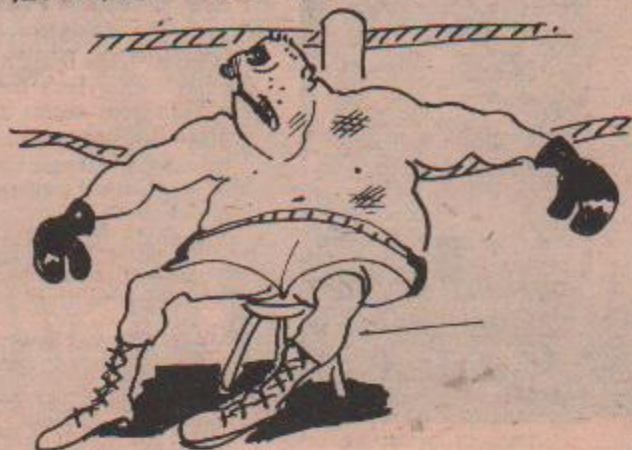
SOCKY'S WEALTHY SPONSORS EXPECT A LOT FROM HIM IN THIS CONTEST...



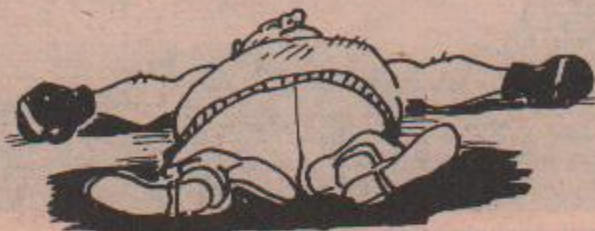
ROUND ONE - AND SOCKY'S LOOKING GOOD! HE'S LANDED SOME VICIOUS LOW-PAID PUNCHES...



ROUND EIGHT AND IT'S NOT GOING WELL FOR SOCKY NOW HE'S TAKEN A LOT OF PUNISHMENT...



HE'S DOWN! BUT CAN HE GET UP AGAIN?



Wages . jobs . cuts . only rank and file action can answer Labour's betrayals

THE Socialist Workers Party is standing candidates in the two by-elections that take place on 28 April—in Grimsby and in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

Our candidate in Sheffield is Jill Hall. In her election address, she explains why she is standing—to get the message across to as many workers as possible of the need to build a socialist alternative to Labour, based on rank and file action:

The Labour government has betrayed the working class that elected it. My husband is a miner and I work as a school dinner lady. So I know

what two years of the Social Contract has meant: a cut in real wages while prices rocket.

The result is a vicious cut in working class living standards to the extent that it's not luxuries that are going by the board in many homes today; it's necessities.

The other side of the Social Contract has meant savage cuts in social services and nearly one and a half million unemployed.

As a member of the National Union of Public Employees, I am myself involved in the fight back against the cuts.

In my experience the

rank and file want to fight back against the cuts and against the Social Contract. But most of the trade union leaders are more concerned with negotiating yet another round of the Social Contract.

In Nottinghamshire, the Coal Board has plans that could involve the closure of up to 18 pits within the next 20 years.

If these plans go ahead, the Ashfield area could become a disaster area, an industrial wasteland. It's only rank and file action that can stop the destruction of our jobs and our communities.

It's rank and file action that I stand for—against

the Social Contract, against the cuts, against factory and pit closures and mass unemployment.

Racialists and their friends in the Nazi Front say that black workers and their families are the cause of the crisis. What nonsense.

It's the system itself and the tiny number of people who own it and control it who are to blame.

These people are happy to use racialism to divide and weaken workers and to make it harder for us to fight back against them.

More than ever, a

fighting socialist alternative is needed to smash the scum who try to divide us with their racist filth, and to fight for higher wages, decent housing, education and hospitals.

And to organise the working class to take into our own hands control of the wealth we produce.

If you have time to help Jill's campaign, or the campaign of dockworker Mike Stanton in Grimsby, phone 01-739 9772 immediately.

Many teachers, students and lecturers are still on holiday—why not use the time to help put socialist ideas to the workers of Grimsby and Ashfield?



Jill Hall, SWP candidate

£40,000 FUND

£29,139 SO FAR

HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED YET?
DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS
ONWARD TO THE £40,000

STILL the money comes in for our fighting fund. There must be many of our readers who are astonished by the speed with which the money has been raised.

Socialist Worker has no doubt that the trade union leaders responsible for the launching of our fund are much more than astonished. Look at what our readers have to say about them.

Dear Comrade,
Please find enclosed £30 as my contribution to the sum you said to pay off "brother" Jenkins and his friends.
I think it is disgusting for a so-called representative of the working class even to consider taking the cost of action that your Socialist opposition to your is excusable for a "socialist" of his type.
I hope you will continue to stay in print, and convinced that misbegotten tales about you are the bulk of the press in this country, and their yellow front-liners in radio and TV.
Yours faithfully
D.M.H.

Dear Comrade,
Please accept this small donation of £2 to SW fund. Although this is a very small donation we feel that if all SW readers do the same the £40,000 target would soon be reached.
Our paper must be protected from union leaders and officials, who by their liberal legal action seek to interrupt the SW.
These officials have proved themselves to be anti-working class, and seem to be more interested in propogating the capitalist system in the interest of the real economy, rather than protect the interest of the long suffering and poor but most worthy.

TAKE HEART !!
WE WON'T LET YOU GO UNDER.
THERE'S PLENTY MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM !!
UP JENKINS'

Just some of the many letters we have received: they have been 'censored' to avert more libel actions

Thanks to:

- AUEW 3 members
- Falham
- Margaret Cohan, USA
- J Barnes BBC unionists
- Pittfield Street
- R Denn
- ASTMS City 694 Branch
- J Knowles
- I Davies
- Sue Mackay ASTMS
- D Andrews
- Longsight and Hulme
- SW Readers, Lindthorpe
- Middlesboro
- Southport
- Dudley
- B Groves
- Thames Poly Students
- H Sareen
- Hunting engineering
- Rochdale
- J & M Reiser
- Tony & Pat Horne
- Exeter
- Neil Smith
- Blackpool
- Glasgow
- M Stevenson
- D Gray
- Leeds
- I Gasper
- Owen Davies
- E Bowles
- Coventry
- NATFHE
- H Lieberman
- Jacques Frenay, Brussels
- A Cunningham
- CA Clark
- D Gray
- Hawthorn Leslies
- Harlow
- Y & M Girard
- B Deacon, F Williams
- Loughborough
- SE London Womens Voice
- Southampton
- Dr Lewis
- H Thompson
- Oldham College
- Roger Green
- Little Parndon Estate, Harlow
- D Lampers
- J Martin
- N Bleward
- Swindon
- J Price
- Brian Trench
- S Zeluck
- John Berger
- Swinton supporters
- B K Jones
- S Boyd
- Camelot Press and SOGAT
- Solent branch
- Chloride Bardie
- Southampton medical students
- Southampton sewerage
- Canterbury
- NATFHE Hitson college
- Inner East London
- Reading University students
- Langdon Park School
- East London gay centre
- Pat Holland
- Students American School, London
- NUR Paddington station
- ASTMS American school London
- D Bash
- C Herbert
- Ellergreen comprehensive
- M Carlense
- T Gibbs
- Aibion Motor readers
- S Renfry
- F Mann
- ASTMS No. 8 divisional council
- D Kirby, ASTMS
- CA Parsons
- M Lemex
- E Stafford
- D Fraser
- C Blackmore
- B Cairns
- Harlow
- F Shillgarden, Oslo
- London College of Printing
- D Courts
- Caledon Ship yard
- Anon, Sheffield
- Inner East London
- M Holder, B Grove
- C Burgess
- Preston Plymouth
- M House
- Dumfries
- J Cummings
- J Cummings
- B Jones
- S Welgen, New Jersey
- J Mooney
- S Newman
- Glooucester
- R Haworth
- Lea Valley
- Glasgow Hospital Workers
- Maidstone
- Lea Valley
- ASTMS
- P Rao
- Unroyal Chemicals
- Anon, Liverpool
- NUJ collection sheet
- S Collins
- M Davis and K Wright
- Iranian Student, Manchester
- Chessington Estate Surrey
- A W Halifax
- Anon, Bury
- Crawley
- Anon, Sutton
- P Griffith
- H & G Newlove
- IS Soc NELS
- Development Planning Unit
- P Jackson Brighton
- Anon London
- T Nielow
- Release Collection
- Peterborough
- J Mommy Muhlster Germany
- R Powell
- E Talbot & R Dunkey
- P Fowles
- Camden Council
- Aberystwyth
- A Jackson

Engineers, sparks, builders...another

230 join the SWP

MORE and more workers are joining the Socialist Workers Party. 230 people signed up last month alone.

Engineering Union and 24 the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The active participation of NOISS members (the student organisation affiliated to the SWP) in the campaign against the racist fee increases has attracted 67 new student members and 21 school students.

WE'RE ON THE MOVE IN WIGAN

By John Rees, Wigan SWP

SINCE our 'Case for Socialism' meeting the branch has gone from strength to strength.

Seven people joined at that meeting in late February and we've begun to establish ourselves as a small but serious alternative to social 'democracy' in Wigan.

At our Hazards of Work meeting, three lads, a boiler-maker, a miner, and one lad on a job creation scheme, joined.

Firstly, on the job creation scheme run by the Manpower Commission, the lads are doing up a local Boys' club. They can't join a union and feel as though they're just cheap scab labour.

Instead they've been told that one of their jobs on the club is to strip the old asbestos roofing off. They received no advice about the deadliness of asbestos.

At the other two workplaces, safety is being sacrificed because of the various productivity deals



Wigan SWP members picketing anti-abortionists: their efforts got big publicity locally

EVEN IN A TORY TOWN IT'S POSSIBLE

By Joe Durkin

SETTING UP a branch of the SWP in a Tory town like Southport seems difficult, if not impossible.

But seven weeks ago, a few SWP members and supporters decided to have a go.

We now hold weekly meetings in the Mount Pleasant pub and recently had a meeting attended by 17 people.

Sales of the paper have also gone well, contrary to expectations.

We started with four members and now have ten.

We hope our efforts will inspire other comrades in similar towns to take heart and organise a branch and all the public activity that goes with it.

☐ MORE than 20 industrial workers came to hear Tony Cliff speak on racism last week at the first after-work meeting of SW supporters in factories around the Southbury area of Enfield in North London. Two joined the SWP.

☐ 300 PEOPLE packed into Stratford Town Hall in East London to hear Paul Foot and Phillip Agee last week. Ten people joined the SWP.

A social with a difference

By Dudley SWP

OUR recent social was a success unlike so many in the past.

We hired a plush pub in the town centre, booked a reliable disco and had fancy tickets printed. The 'coup de grace' was North West Spanner's latest play Just a Cog.

Our thoroughness was rewarded. More than 180 people turned up establishing the S.W.P. as the political focus in Dudley.

WHERE WE STAND

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

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

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

GERRY PRINCE

WIGAN members will be sad to hear of the death of Gerry Prince, an ex-miner who had been suffering from pneumoconiosis for some time.

Gerry always made a point of attending public meetings and had been a keen socialist for many years.

His socialism was born of the bitter experiences of his youth in the Twenties and Thirties.

The greatest tribute to him, is the determination of SWP comrades to fight so that those days do not return.

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

This is a basic trade union issue . . . support us

SPECIAL BULLETIN SPELLS OUT THEIR CASE

TENS OF thousands of copies of a special bulletin arguing their case to other trade unionists were produced by the engineers shop stewards committee at British Airways on Monday.

It was their way of opposing the notorious Blacklegs Charter signed by the full-time officials of the other unions in the airport.

The editor of the bulletin, shop steward Ian Morris, outlined their case on the front page: WE, the Heathrow engineers appeal to you for support.

All we are asking for is a shift allowance that closes one gap with our fellow workers in the engineering industry. Some of us are more than £10 behind.

Regardless of what you have read in the newspapers or heard on television, that is what our claim is about.

It is *not* about differentials. It is *not* about the AUEW demanding to be treated as a special group of workers. It is about shift pay—pure and simple. Lousy rotten shift pay for lousy rotten shift-working.

We have been locked out, 1,200 out of 4,000 of us have been sacked.

And worst of all, national officials in other trade unions at the airport have signed a document urging other airport workers to do our jobs, while we are in effect locked out.

That is why we need your support. This is an issue of basic trade union principles.

□ Socialist Worker's printers were proud to be able to offer the facilities of our printshop for the production of the bulletin, with some of our workers giving up their bank holiday to do the job.



WHAT A DIRTY TRICK!

By Ian Geddes
AUEW shop steward

INSTEAD of handing out the notice sacking the engineering workers at work, British Airways management sent out telegrams, knowing they would be received by their wives.

Some wives were woken from their beds to have the notices read to them over the phone.

This was followed up with phone calls to wives from Personnel asking if their husbands understood the implications of the telegrams.

All designed to use the wives to undermine the determination of the shiftworkers to achieve a just settlement.

Heathrow engineers speak out

Blacklegs Charter:

AFTER the AUEW shop stewards meeting at Heathrow on Tuesday morning, Andrew Graney, Ian Ludlow, Ian Geddes, Ian Morris, Kevin Prior and John Cooney described their struggle to Socialist Worker.



'These officials have isolated themselves by their actions from the whole trade union movement.'

'Don't believe what you read in the papers. This dispute is about shift pay and shift pay alone.'

'We would like the other unions to put in a similar shift pay claim.'

'But the leaders of the other unions have been pushing for an incremental scales claim, which is no good at all.'

'These are the same officials who signed the Blacklegs Charter via the National Joint Council.'

Judas council

'We now have a new name for the National Joint Council—we call it the National Judas Council for Co-operation against Trade Unions.'

'These officials have isolated themselves by their actions from the whole trade union movement.'

'Last week there was a carnival atmosphere here. Shift workers came in who didn't work. Supervision didn't give a damn.'

'They know if we win our shift claim, they can bang in a shift claim, too. Almost everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves.'

'All the AUEW officials who have been down here have been obstructive—Hepple, Butler, Choulerton, Birch.'

'However, Birch has been in a difficult position—he's under instructions from the executive council. At least he attacked the Social Contract.'

'He said this morning that there will be no money until the Social Contract is finished. We don't agree with him.'

'They can pay our claim through the Employment Protection Act, Schedule II.'

'We've had real live democracy here the last few days. There have been several

mass meetings of shop stewards discussing every aspect of policy.'

'Under-represented areas are creating new shop stewards all the time. The rank and file worker is in direct control of this dispute.'

'We called a full-scale strike this morning in response to the Blacklegs Charter.'

'Shell drivers in the TGWU came to the meeting to tell us

they will refuse to fuel British Airways planes.'

'It is now so much easier for the other unions to support us. Employees of other airlines have indicated their support, too.'

'In the last dispute, when management got the planes off the ground, we ended up with three aircraft badly damaged as a result of their failure to follow proper procedure.'

Support from Leyland toolroom

By John Rose

A DELEGATION from the British Leyland toolroom workers came to Heathrow last Friday to bring solidarity to the airport stewards.

Some of the airport stewards were a bit apprehensive about the meeting at first. One told me: 'If they come it will confirm in the public mind that our claim is only a craft claim.'

But the two toolroom stewards, Derek Willis and Roger Goode, avoided full-time officials like Len Choulerton and went straight to the Heathrow stewards. They told me:

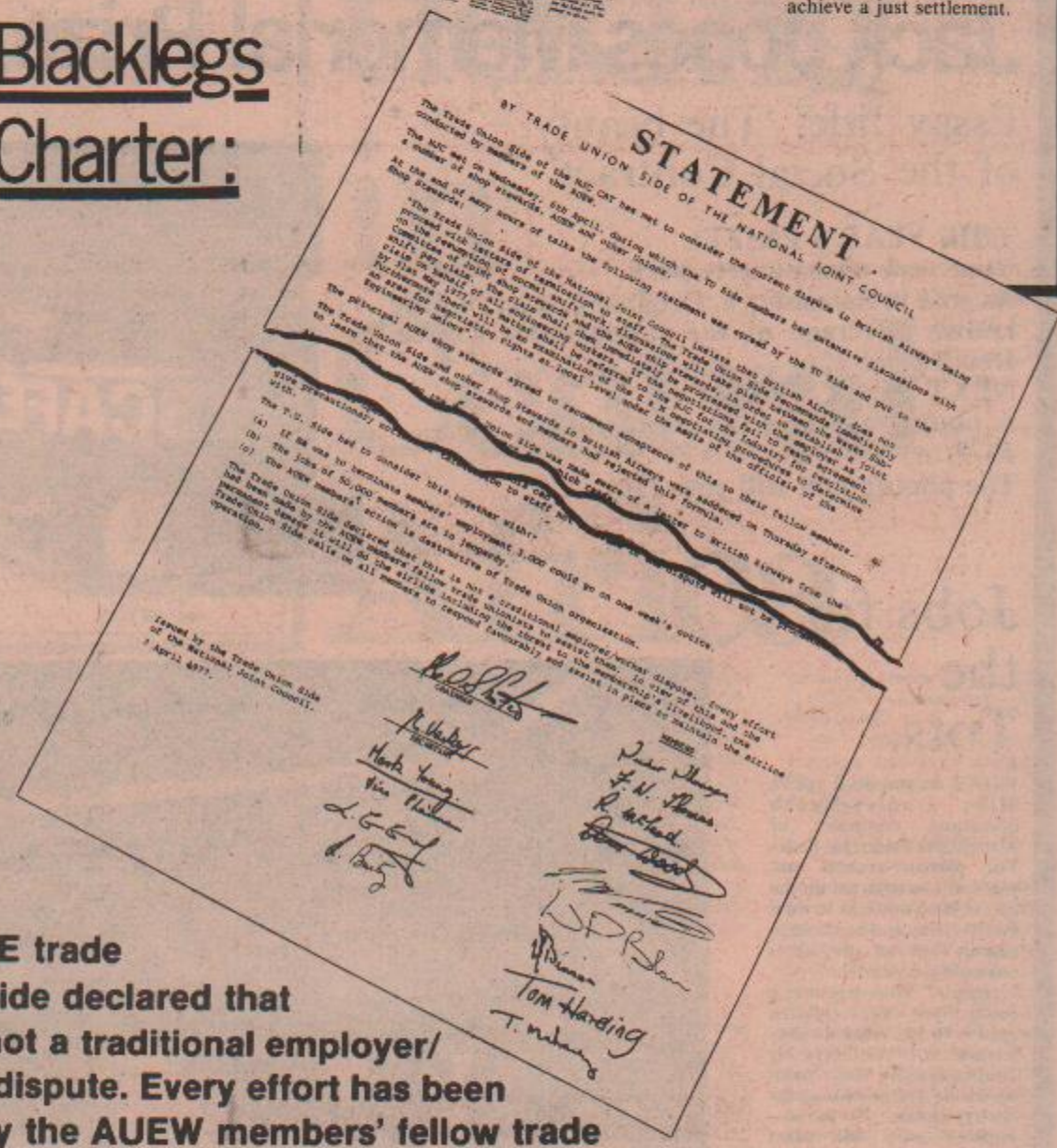
'We have offered financial and moral support to the engineers and we will seriously consider industrial action, like a 24-hour stoppage, if the dismissal notices go through.'

The men also said that they hoped to establish a nationwide skilled men's committee and seemed surprised to find that there were unskilled members in the AUEW at London Airport.

After a moment's thought, Derek Willis said: 'Well it doesn't matter anyway, the main reason we are here is to

THE trade union side declared that this is not a traditional employer/worker dispute. Every effort has been made by the AUEW members' fellow trade unionists to assist them. In view of this and the permanent damage it will do the airline including the threat to the membership's livelihood, the trade union side calls on all members to respond favourably and assist in plans to maintain the airline operation.'

Chairman L Shorter, TGWU, Mark Young, BALPA, L Guy SMW, L Britz, EEPTU, D Bennison, BALPA, Tudor Thomas APEX, Fred Thomas TGWU, R McLeod TGWU, Denis Wood MNAOA, W Blair EEPTU, Tom Harding Mahoney ASTMS, Ted McKenzie ASTMS, T



Solidarity . . . Derek Willis (right) of the Leyland toolroom greeting Heathrow steward Tom Matthews

A GREAT TACTIC

By Kevin Prior,
AUEW shop steward

THE HEATHROW engineers were effectively in occupation once they refused to go home when told.

As a tactic this has been a great success. Because we were all in the airport, we were all able to keep in touch. It has made it possible for the false rumours that abound in the press to be scotched quickly, and it has made it much harder for the management to intimidate individuals.

This was shown when they tried to get us off the premises in the early stages of the dispute. Workers reacted in various ways when asked to leave, but no-one was actually thrown out.

In the European Division Engine O/M area, the superintendent brought in

Overseas Division security men. This was because the Securitor people in the European Division did not want to get involved.

The superintendent approached a group of workers, pointed to one of them and said to the security men: 'Remove him from the premises.'

But the worker asked: 'Have you any authority to physically remove me?'

The security man admitted he had not. The worker then said: 'Really, you are just requesting me to leave, aren't you? The security man admitted this was true and was told, 'I am declining your request.'

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

Engels tried to show that that the growth of private property, the break up of the clan system, and the subjugation of women went together.

Wives and property

WE ARE so used to societies with different classes, private property and with states having a defined territory, written laws, policemen, judges, professional soldiers and so on that it takes an effort of imagination to think of societies without any of these.

Yet they are all of very recent origin—no more than a few thousand years old in their original centres.

Forty lifetimes ago—taking a life as 50 years—the ancestors of the English and the Scots had none of these things, although more advanced peoples had known them for a long time.

These older societies were knitted together by the bonds of kinship. An incident, told by the historian Macaulay of the Jacobite rebellion in the Scottish highlands at the time of the English and Scottish revolutions of 1688-89, gives some idea of its overwhelming significance in older societies:

Bone of their bone

'Amongst those slain with the Grants in resisting the Camerons was a McDonald of the Glengarry branch, who had long resided among the Grants, had become in feelings and opinions a Grant and had absented himself from the muster of his tribe.

'Though he had been guilty of a high offence against the Gaelic code . . . his

kinsmen remembered the sacred tie which he had forgotten. Good or bad, he was bone of their bone; he was flesh of their flesh, and he should have been reserved for their justice.

'Glengarry in a rage went to Dundee (the Jacobite General) and demanded vengeance on Lochiel (the Cameron chief) and the whole race of Cameron'. The MacDonalds would have killed the renegade without a second thought if they had caught him but that was not the point.

The point is that relationship—who is and who is not 'flesh of their flesh'—mattered more than anything else to people in pre-class societies.

That is why Engels and Morgan attached such importance to ways of reckoning kinship amongst primitive peoples and they were certainly right to

do so. It will be recalled that they worked out a scheme of development of the family on the basis of the difference between the way kinship terms (brother, sister and so on) were used and the actual relationship as we understand it.

Subjugation of women

In 1844, Engels tried to show that the growth of private property, the break up of the clan system and the subjugation of women went together.

One problem is that careful investigation showed that there were undoubted savages (the term will be defined shortly) without a trace of private property in the means of production, who reckoned descent exclusively in the female line and used the 'classificatory' mode of reckoning kinship but in which the status of women was low or even very low.

More serious, the method will not do because the time-scale is wrong.

Engels, like all his contemporaries, thought that savagery—the stage when men lived exclusively by hunting and gathering—'may have lasted thousands of years.'

Traditions

We now know that this is a gross underestimate.

Men, that is to say cultural toolmakers—making tools according to definite patterns and traditions—have existed for some two million years and perhaps longer. Human society is that old at least.

Now it is plausible to argue that the kinship terms pointing to group marriage, and supposedly even earlier forms, survive a few hundred or even thousand years after the institutions have disappeared.

When you have to talk in millions it simply will not do.

We do not know what sort of family arrangements existed in the remote past and any statements about them, such as the common view amongst bourgeois archaeologists that they resembled those of today, is pure speculation unsupported by any scrap of evidence.

Three stages

Yet the Morgan-Engels scheme was right in two important respects.

First, in its division of the evolution of society into three broad stages: savagery (hunting and gathering only), barbarism (cultivation of plants and domestication of animals), civilisation (cities, writing, the state)

Second, as we shall see, in its realisation that the status of women became high among the original discoverers of agriculture (whatever may have been true earlier) and that among these peoples, that is to say in the main line of social evolution, the subsequent subjugation of women and the rise of private property did indeed go together.

Jack Jones Memorial Prize

Essay title: 'The beauty of the Social Contract'

THIS YEAR'S PRIZE:

Your very own poverty pack. As sold in Sainsbury's. Original 1 oz jar of little known beverage of the ruling class. Coffee. Retail price 25p.

NEXT YEAR'S PRIZE:

A photograph of a 1oz jar of coffee. 1979:

The photograph will cost 25p.



actual size

Jobs for the Tots

WHAT do you do if you're Mike Dudley-Heath operations controller of Manchester's decrepit Belle-Vue pleasure-ground and you want to smarten-up the place? But you want to do it on the cheap and not have to employ any of the City's unemployed painters.

Simple. You organise a competition for children aged 6 to 16. What do they have to do? 'Well' says Mr Dudley-Heath 'they paint the inside walls enclosing the showground's 70 acres—together with 246 plant troughs.'

Sick

Prizes? Don't be silly! Why free tickets to enter Belle Vue, of course. (No, you won't be sick of seeing the place after painting all those walls).

First off the mark were Stockport District Council (famed for its compassion towards its elderly ratepayers and homeless). They've requested 600 entry forms.

Now that's not surprising. Faced with a boycott by its teachers of what are some of the largest class-sizes in the country, Stockport Council has been having some difficulty knowing what to do with the hundreds of its children who are being sent home from school every day.

Fame at last

FROM THE Police Federation journal: 'Do you find a certain irony in the fact that some of the shop stewards at Leyland who put 25,000 people out of work during the toolmakers' dispute are enthusiastic supporters of the militant Right To Work Campaign?'



STARTING THEM EARLY. This picture is part of an appeal leaflet sent out by Emanuel School, South London, an independent school that hopes to raise money to give bursaries to 'Twentie Poore Children'. These lucky youngsters will be able to take a step up the social ladder. Among the opportunities available to them is the 'war games society', the Christian Union and of course 'shootin'.

The 'right' of reply

REMEMBER Johnathan Dimbleby's excellent This week programme which exposed the myth about scroungers and discredited the rantings of right-wing MP Ian Sproat?

Well surprise, surprise, Mr. Sproat wasn't too happy about the programme. He says it was biased to reflect Mr. Dimbleby's personal views.

So the Independent Broadcasting Authority has supported him and he will be given the opportunity to respond to the points made.

Lady Bridget Horatia Plowden, a former director of Trust House Forte, and

wife of Lord Plowden who is chairman of Tube Investments, director of Commercial Union Insurance and the National Westminster Bank, is chairman of the IBA.

No doubt in future Lady Plowden will give similar support to trade unionists, black people, 'scroungers',

THE ISLINGTON GAZETTE in North London carried a story about a visit by the Queen to celebrate her jubilee. The local council was planning to spend £1000 on the 10 minute flying trip.

Inside the newspaper carried a leader entitled 'God Save Our Noble Scrounger'.

women, and gays who might have their words distorted, their views attacked, by television.

Fifth Column hopes that any such group will take up their case with Lady Plowden by writing to her at the IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3.

No sooner had this rare piece of journalistic truth hit the streets than Stanley Clarke, millionaire chairman of North London Newspapers.

was on the phone saying: 'We don't want any more articles about this.'

The journalists' NUJ chapel is considering this threat to 'press freedom'.



Sticker seen on London Underground: QUESTION: Daddy, who did you beat up before you joined the National Front? ANSWER: Mummy.

Tightening Our Belts...

THE DEPARTMENT of the Environment is to spend £500,000 restoring the North Wing of London's Kensington Palace, making two grace and favour apartments.

'KP' (as the Royals call it, dahling) is the town home of Princess Margaret, Princess Alice and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

The new apartments will be fully equipped, the fine plastering wood and carvings have been restored.

Who is going to live there? Answer: Nobody.

There are already more grace and favour flats available for the Queen to bestow upon people than there are people with the 'right credentials' to get one.

Socialist Worker understands that homelessness is not a 'right credential'.

A RESTAURANTEUR in Dublin paid £530 for a punet of strawberries this week. That's £17.70 per strawberry.

His profit wasn't bad either. He sold two portions of ten with cream for £300 a time.

A PAIR OF Meissen vases were sold at Christie's recently for £46,200. They are part of a £1.1 million batch owned by the Swiss arm of the Rothschild family.

READERS OF Fifth Column will be able to sleep easily in the knowledge that poverty-stricken pensioner Lady Spencer Churchill has solved her financial crisis.

She sold part of her art collection for £86,000. Should keep her in coal and fish fingers for a while.

Friends in strange places

MAUREEN COLQUHOUN, the 'left-wing' Labour MP who gave Enoch Filth credibility in January by claiming 'Powell is not a racist... he has a case to be considered', has found some new friends.

In the latest copy of Spearhead, the National Front's monthly fantasy sheet, Nazi Martin Webster writes: 'Praise is certainly due to Ms Colquhoun, she had the moral courage to do her duty as a politician and speak her mind.'

In Webster's opinion Colquhoun's speech was 'even more important and valuable than Powell's'.

Socialist Worker

EDITORIAL

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REPORT BY GARRY BUSHELL

THE Western powers are making a desperate attempt to prop up the government of President Mobutu in Zaire in Central Africa.

France is ferrying Moroccan troops to aid Mobutu, an old friend of Amin in neighbouring Uganda. In the USA the CIA is recruiting mercenaries to join in the fighting. South African agents are known to be actively supporting Mobutu.

The former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, has been covering up for this Western intervention by claiming that 'a sovereign country' has been invaded by a 'Soviet-backed army'.

Yet for the past 15 years Zaire has been less a 'sovereign state' than a private fiefdom of the CIA. Now its corrupt government seems unable to stop a 3000 strong army that's marching across southern Zaire. And the panic is on.

THE INVADERS

THE invaders of Zaire are the exiled Katangan gendarmes driven out in 1963. For ten years they served the Portuguese rulers in Angola, fighting the freedom fighters.

But the gendarmes retained their hatred for the Mobutu regime—and during the Angolan civil war, when Mobutu attacked the MPLA, the gendarmes transferred their allegiance.

They are largely of the Lunda tribe of Katanga and seem likely to get strong local support.

The gendarmes aren't fighting directly for the Angolans, but it's obvious they couldn't have invaded without tacit support.

Angola is naturally hostile to Mobutu. Not only did he actively support the attacks on Angola in 1975-76 but there are still camps of the CIA-backed FNLA in Zaire.

From their history it's obvious the gendarmes aren't a progressive movement. But their intervention could trigger a wave of hostility to the hated Mobutu regime, revive opposition movements—some of them progressive—and bring Mobutu down.

This is why the Tories are foaming at the mouth about Cuban forces and 'Soviet imperialism'. Immensely rich Zaire, still an important oyster for the West could pass out of their control.

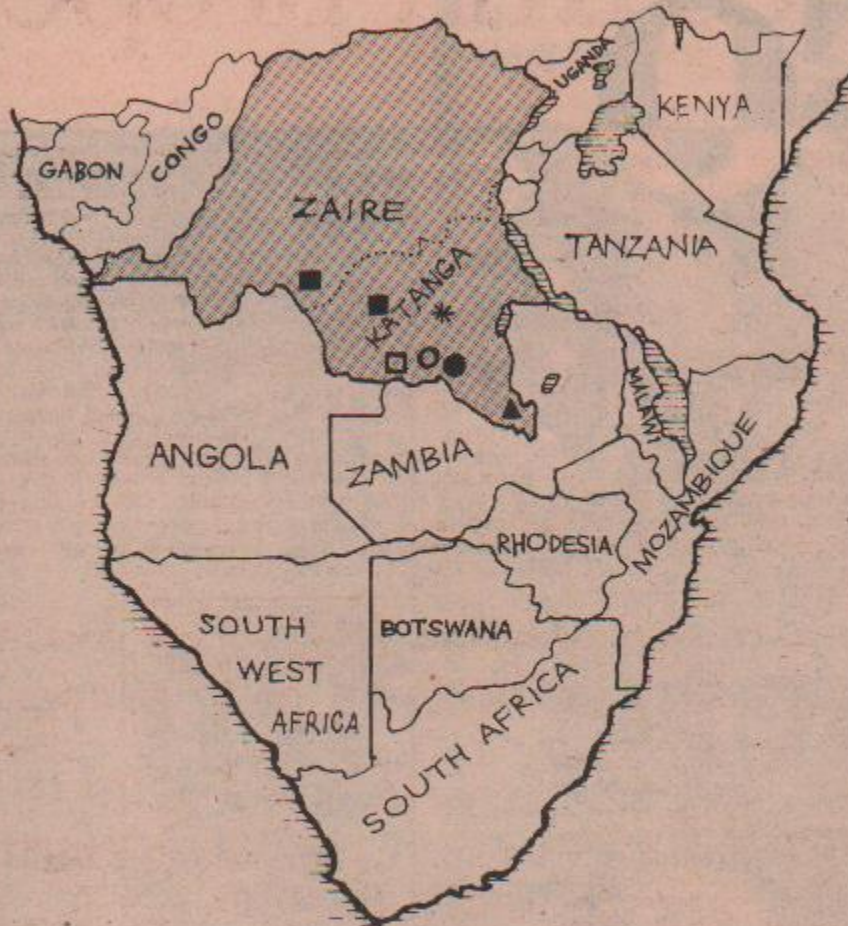
Direct Russian involvement is a fairy tale. Only the Western powers have ever been directly involved in Zaire.

The Tories will also argue once again how Zaire proves blacks can't govern themselves. This is bullshit. Zaire proves that political independence solves nothing when your economy is dominated by foreign capital interests.

The rulers of black and white Africa, terrified of internal opposition, will do their utmost to stop the revolt, because its victory could upset the stability of other tottering African regimes.

The Katangans may be a reactionary movement, but they could be the key to a wave of popular unrest, and further open the road to socialist revolution throughout Africa.

Socialists in Britain must adopt one clear campaign: **NO INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE!**



- ▲ COPPER
- GOLD
- COBALT
- URANIUM
- DIAMONDS
- * MANGANESE

The bomb that's ticking in Central Africa

THE PUPPETEERS

THE CONGO—as Zaire was originally named—had its boundaries arbitrarily drawn in 1880 by Belgium. It was their jewel in a mineral-rich Africa fought over by British, German, Belgian and French empire-builders.

The Congo was about the size of the Common Market, covering 200 tribes with no natural ties. It was, and is, rich in copper and other minerals, cobalt, zinc, diamonds and tin.

Belgian big business sucked its blood until 1960. The colonial government was one

of the most vicious and nasty, even by the vicious and nasty standards set by British, German and French colonialism.

But in the 1950's a weak movement for national independence headed by Patrice Lumumba began to pick up steam. Belgian

followed the logic of other Western powers—relinquish political control to maintain economic control.

'The financial circles concerned firmly believed... that it would be enough to give the few Congolese leaders titles of 'Minister' or 'Deputy' with decorations, luxury motor-

cars, big salaries, and splendid houses in the European quarter in order to put definitive stop to the emancipation movement which threatened the financial interests,' wrote journalist M. Staelens in the Belgian newspaper La Relvee.

But the transfer of power in June 1960 didn't go smoothly.

Squabbles between rival factions tore the country apart. The old colonial order fell apart, but the new national liberation movement was not powerful enough to take its place. Rival

politicians and rival armies fought to grab the country's wealth.

The disturbances in the right-wing press in the West as proof that black Africa could not rule itself. In fact, they were testimony to the desperate and inhuman means which Western business interests were prepared to use to hang on to their wealth.

Gendarmes

Belgian business interests grabbed the south-eastern region, Katanga, under the cover of the movement for Katangese secession, or independence, headed by a puppet, Tshombe. Katanga is the richest part of Zaire, with 60 per cent of its resources and the bulk of the copper.

'Tshombe's regime,' the time, 'depends entirely on Belgium for arms, men and money.' Tshombe created a force of gendarmes who were trained by Belgian officers.

The United States stepped in, under the cover of the United Nations, to aid the Congo National Army, allegedly to preserve the 'unity of the country'—in

reality to secure a cut of the Congo's economy for themselves.

By 1963 independent Katanga had been crushed. The gendarmes fled to Angola.

C.I.A. pay

Since then, US involvement in Zaire has grown and grown. A minor army officer, Mobutu, formerly a sergeant in the Belgian colonial forces, emerged as the 'strongman' to unify the country'. The CIA now admit that Mobutu has long been on their payroll.

Patrice Lumumba, who had represented a genuine national independence movement, was murdered on CIA orders.

Zaire under Mobutu became the centre for US involvement in Africa. The regime was brutal and increasingly corrupt.

When it looked like falling to left-wing guerrilla forces in the mid-1960s the Western press ran a scare campaign about the danger 'to white civilians'. Belgian and American paratroops seized a key town on the battlefield 'to protect civilians'—and 'incidentally' smashed the guerrillas.

THE DICTATOR

ONLY one political party is tolerated in 'free' Zaire, Mobutu's MPR, which since 1972 has become increasingly integrated with the Catholic Church.

Opposition is debated with bullets. Rural unemployment 'solved' by forced resettlement. Unemployed workers are taken from the cities and forced to work on the land.

US involvement is still overwhelming. Zaire is receiving 28 million dollars in US aid this year—nearly half the allocation for all black Africa.

The money aids precious few Zairians. Last week's International Herald Tribune noted: 'Mobutu has diverted enough of his country's wealth into his personal coffers to become one of the

world's richest men. And he has created a super-rich class of underlings with lavish tastes.'

He's constructed a 40-mile motorway from the capital Kinshasa, to one of his eleven palaces. More Mercedes-Benz are imported than tractors, while large areas of Zaire have lapsed back into subsistence agriculture.

But the corrupt regime has been under increasing pressure. The economy, based on copper, has been severely hit by plummeting copper prices and runaway inflation—48 per cent between 1975 and 1976.

Defaulting on its payments to Western banks, the Zaire government was 'rescued' by, and is now heavily in hock to, the IMF.



I get my money from the CIA—who pays you? Mobutu and friend.

T DAN SMITH WAS HERE 80 YEARS AGO

IT'S not often that a fine socialist novel gets serialised on television. But such is Power Without Glory, by the left-wing Australian author Frank Hardy.

Corruption

The novel is about the T Dan Smith of the Australian Labour Party—a self-made

millionaire who corrupted half the working-class movement. Despite its fictional form, the events it describes are true: trade union leaders and MPs bought and sold, corrupt near-gangsters linking with the heads of the Catholic Church to witch-hunt the left.

Overall, it provides a ruthless indictment to Labour Party politics—whether in Australia or Britain.

Fiddles

It's yet to be seen whether all this is included in the TV version. But the first episode last Wednesday was a good

start.

We were shown the crude choice facing the individual Australian worker—80 years ago and today—join with your fellow workers to organise a bitter fight back against the system, or fiddle your fellow workers out of their hard-earned pennies in a desperate attempt to

raise yourself above them.

There are only two things wrong with the series so far. First, it's only available for London viewers. Second, it's on so late at night that you need to prop up your eyelids with matchsticks to see the episodes through to the end. Last Wednesday, at least it was worth it.

International Socialism

The labour government has launched a series of debates on what it sees as the falling standards in education. The governments' main contribution being massive cut-back in education spending. In this issue of IS JOURNAL Richard Noss joins The Great Debate with a socialist view. Also in this month's issue Alex Callinicos on The British Road, Joanna Rollo Immigration part 2, Colin Sparks on Stuart Hollands' The Socialist Challenge' Plus Briefing, Notes of the month and Reviews.



40p (inc post) 5 Cotions Gardens London E2

Seveso



The effects of dioxin on Seveso in Northern Italy: Leaves eaten away—dioxin was used as a defoliant in Vietnam; all animals in the area were wiped out; Alicia Senno, one of hundreds seriously affected.

So what did happen in China?



Find out at Marxism 77, seven days of revolutionary ideas and discussion at the Polytechnic of North London, 1-8 July.

The Two Chinese Revolutions' is one subject covered in the course on Revolutions of the 20th Century. Other courses: Literature and Revolution, The Marxist Methods, Women's Liberation and the struggle for socialism, Capitalism and crisis, Labour History.

Plus guest speakers, debates, films, music, free creche, accommodation. Registration fee £5. Send to Marxism 77, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies.

NOT FOR STUDENTS ONLY

STAVELEY CHEMICALS have shut their plant in Derbyshire for a week to give it a thorough 'clean-up'.

A survey there has found 28 workers suffering from Chloracne, known as the 'blackhead itch'.

The doctor who confirmed the cases, Dr Crow, considered the cases were generally mild and would be cleared 'within 6 months to 3 years'.

'Everything possible' is now being done to prevent further outbreaks occurring. The management, with the Health and Safety Executive, suggest that the outbreak was due to conditions on the plant 'at an early stage of production'.

The £1,750,000 plant was built over 18 months ago. So if the chloracne dates from so long ago, why wasn't it spotted before?

Short-sighted

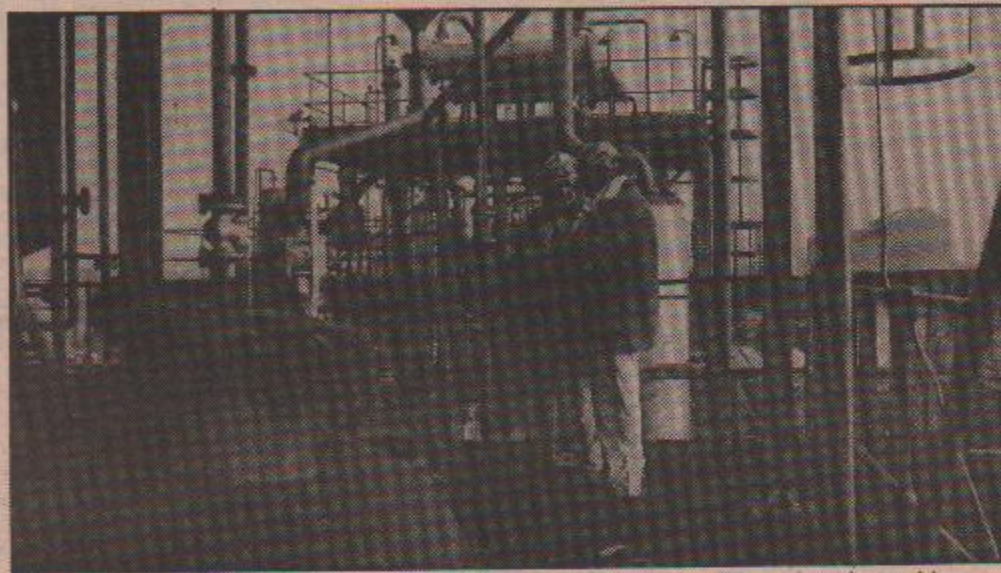
Twenty-eight cases of blackhead itch staring the most short-sighted bosses in the face should be enough to get them moving.

But such is the way of people who manage other people's lives that it was dismissed as 'insignificant'. Chloracne, despite all its antisocial effects, has always been seen as a 'relatively unimportant industrial disease'.

Objection to nerve gas

THAT was until Seveso. When the Icmesa plant there blew up, spewing the deadly dioxin over Seveso, hundreds of people con-

comes to Derbyshire



Staveley Chemicals in Derbyshire: 28 workers have chloracne

by CHARLIE CLUTTERBUCK

Editorial board member, BSSRS Hazards Bulletin

tracted chloracne. The dioxin was the contaminant of 245-T weedkiller, used in Vietnam for defoliating trees and deforming people.

Other plants producing trichlorophenol (used to make 245-T) were soon flushed out, and Coalite in Derbyshire was closed down. The

maintenance men at the plant started to refuse to go in.

Nerve gas

A few miles down the road from Coalite is the Staveley complex. It is owned jointly by the Coal Board and the Steel Corporation, with the Ringwood plant owned half by Staveley Chemicals and

half by two Japanese companies, Hodagaya and Sumitomo.

According to Japanese sources, Hodagaya had planned to enlarge its plant in 1970 in Yamaguchi. But residents were against the phosgene used in the process being transported by trucks. Phosgene was used as a nerve gas in the First World War.

So Hodagaya dropped the plan and 'expanded their UK interests'.

Weedkiller

They recommended that Staveley Chemicals should carry out blood tests every 6 weeks and urine tests every 2 weeks. But nobody seems to have recognised why these

tests were needed.

The Rigwood plant in Dichlorocaniline (DCA), is used to make a wonder weedkiller—D. Yet in the wake of Seveso nobody bothered to look at other weedkiller plants if there was any blackhead about.

'Sudden' discovery...

SO HOW did it spotted? It started in a paper in the US journal Science which said during the production of Diuron and DCA, contaminants were found called TCAB and TC.

These contaminants almost identical to dioxin paper showed that they were structurally almost identical and biochemically similar. Both groups not affected the skin, but affected the same enzyme system in the liver.

A BBC journalist informed the company and the authorities of the discovery. There were now four breaks in the US.

That was in November although some work had to have started, it did involve the workers' unions.

It wasn't until we in BSSRS notified the journalist—Campaigner Journalist of the Year explained the complete story that things were happening.

He notified the organisers and ran the Within days, three chloracne were 'found' a major survey undertaken.

Some of this story has covered in the BBC's Programme, which compared Staveley Chemicals, and Vinatex—Vinatex, miles up the road. It's PVC, and people unhappy. Up to 20 men there suffering from various of PVC disease.



ed by chloracne; and a soldier guarding the boundary of the poisoned land.

Unanswered questions

BUT can everything be solved by a weeks' 'clean-up' when questions remain unanswered?

In addition to chloracne, what of the risk of long-term liver damage, the main concern of the *Science* paper? And given similarity to dioxin, what are the possible effects of TCAB/TCAOB on the foetus?

Are the necessary toxicity tests going to be carried out? How persistent are these contaminants?

And can they affect farmworkers spraying diuron? Have the agricultural workers' union and rural doctors been alerted to the possibility?

All these are unanswered questions. But of one thing we can be sure. If 28 cases in one factory can be overlooked, then a few cases in any one rural area can be ignored.

Then there is the risk to the surrounding community. Isn't it about time workers and the 'community' organised a health and safety committee, which would cut across the factory fence, a committee which would prove there is no conflict of interest between them by establishing unity against the profit machine, the machine that takes people out of the nearby fields and puts them in high risk factories, where they have to work or go on the dole.

Fight back

One lesson stands out. If the workers had been aware of the dangers improvements would have been made earlier.

That means not only that the bosses should pass on what little they know, but that the scientific and technical sections should organise with the production side to help dig out the necessary information.

Together, they probably already know more than the rest of the world's medical profession. They must gain confidence to act on their own.

In the past workers have been responsible for some of the great discoveries of the occupational health establishment—such as the dangers of PVC.

So if you have more than your fair share of spots, or headaches, or backache, **ACT NOW**. Don't wait for the bosses and their medical establishment. Or you might not be around when they eventually find out about the dangers.

REVIEW

by Geoff Ellen

ROOTS is sentimental, stereotyped and even occasionally downright distorted.

It is also a show that no socialist should miss.

The BBC lavished the Easter weekend on the first half of the six-part series, no doubt expecting the same massive audiences captivated by it in the United States, where 80 million people tuned in nightly.

Roots is based on the book* of the same name by Alex Haley, part-author of the excellent auto-biography of Malcolm X.

It traces the lives of a slave family in the Southern States until just after the American Civil War.

Essential

It has its faults—the slaves are, for instance, seldom shown at work and thus at their most degraded, and their lives are full of small but surprising comforts such as beds—but, for a change, it is not *White Man's History*.

It is the story of slavery seen through black eyes. And for that alone, no matter what the commercial distortions, it is essential viewing.

Kunta Kinte's *Roots* are in Africa, the land from where, at the age of 17, he was captured into bondage and, with others like him, transported across the sea to become a slave.

He arrives to find men and women already 'broken in' by slavery, people no longer in chains physically because they are in chains mentally.

They are brutally treated and yet they appear to accept it, even calling themselves 'niggers' after the manner of their masters.

Fresh & strong

Kunta, his memory of freedom too fresh and his spirit too strong, is appalled. He escapes once, twice, four times until, finally, a slave-catcher cuts off half his foot to ensure he doesn't do it again.

Forced to come to terms with his life as a slave, Kunta discovers that his fellow-sufferers despise their lot, too.

Roots explores how the slaves faced up to their lot and, as in the Nat Turner rebellion, strove against terrifying odds to end it.

Kunta's individual battle for freedom becomes fought out over his daughter, Kizzy. He teaches her the language



Hoeing cotton in Mississippi. Hundreds of thousands of slaves were shipped from Africa Two 'freed' slaves. Pictures: Dorothea Lange.

If you want to understand the **Roots** of black struggle, watch this series

and tradition of the Africa she will never see.

Kizzy also learns to read and write English. But since learning is forbidden for 'niggers', Kizzy's 'master' sells her away from her family.

Raped repeatedly by her master, she has a son whom she teaches in turn.

So the heritage of Africa, the heritage of freedom, is kept alive, passing down the generations and inspiring hopes that, one day, slavery will be a thing of the past.

The American Civil War seems that moment, 200,000 blacks took up arms against the South and millions more stopped work as the Union army approached, promis-

ing 'liberation'.

Freedom from slavery they got, liberation they still await.

And there, *Roots* ends, with the clear suggestion that the racialism spawned by slavery was not ended by the Civil War.

Radicalism

Nor could it be any other way. The motives of the whites who ruled the North were quickly revealed in the reconstruction period after the Civil War, when black aspirations produced a radicalism that went far beyond the mere abolition of slavery and thus had to be checked.

Those aspirations remain today, stronger perhaps than at any time since reconstruction. They can only be met when black and white workers march shoulder to shoulder for a new, higher form of 'liberation'.

The rich man's fear of just that explains why racialism still exists so powerfully in the United States; not to mention dozens of other countries such as our own.

But that is another story. And it's not one the BBC are likely to tell.

Not this side of the revolution, anyway.

* *ROOTS*, by Alex Haley, is shortly to be published by Hutchinsons.



Advertisement for the National Right to Work Campaign.

PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER



This superb book is to be published on May Day. The authors, Robert Golden and Sara Cox, are giving their 'royalties' to the Right to Work Campaign. It is available now, pre-publication, at £1.25 (plus 17p postage), compared with the published price of £1.50 + 17p. Fill in the form below.

Please send me... copies of **DOWN THE ROAD** at the pre-publication price of £1.25 each (normal price £1.50) plus 17p postage.

NAME ADDRESS

SEND TO: Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

EDINBURGH SWP/Women's Voice discussion group meetings on Women's Politics: Saturday mornings, 11.30am, Room 6, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place (top of Leith Walk). Open to all SW and Women's Voice readers.

16 April: Superwife! Domestic labour.
23 April: Mum's the word! Women and education.

DUNDEE SWP Branch meetings will now be every second Thursday with Meaning of Marxism discussion meetings on the alternate Thursday, both starting at 7.30pm, at our new bookshop, called Socialist Worker Books, 128 Victoria Road (Watch out for more details about the only socialist Bookshop in Dundee). This new cancels all previous meeting arrangements in Park Place school. Further details: Branch Secretary, Jim Barlow, 11d Greenfield Court.

STIRLING Socialist Workers Party Branch meetings: Tuesdays 8pm, Crown Inn, Arcade.

North East

DURHAM Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Every other Thursday, 8pm, Collets Hotel, Sutton Street, Durham.

JARROW SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY meetings: Every fortnight on Wednesdays, 8pm, Borough Arms, Jarrow. Next meeting 20 April. All supporters welcome.

SUNDERLAND SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY meeting: The Case For Socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 20 April, 8pm, Wheatheaf (junction of Roker Avenue and North Bridge Street).

Yorkshire

MINERS FOR SOCIALISM: Barnsley SWP public meeting: The Threat of productivity Deals. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Sunday 17 April, 7.30pm, The Devonshire, next to Barnsley Bus Station. One of a series of four discussion meetings for miners in Yorkshire. For all full details contact Bill Message, 143 Carleton Rd, Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

North West

CRUMPSALL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, Room A11, Abraham Moss Centre.

14 April: The Cancer in the working class—racism and fascism. Speaker: Ian Wall.

LIVERPOOL CENTRAL Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: What is the SWP? What does it stand for? Wednesday 20 April, 8pm, The County Hotel, Comutation Row (off London Road, opposite St George's Hall).
All SWP members to attend by 7.30pm to conclude branch business. Extended meeting on 13 April.

MANCHESTER Socialist Workers Party lecture series on socialism: Can the third world solve its own problems? Speaker: Joanna Rolfo. Monday 18 April, The Castle Hotel, Oldham Street, Manchester. Admission 20p.

MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party day school: What is capitalism and why is it in crisis? Provisional date: Sunday 17 April. All new members to keep this date free.

Notices and meetings

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, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

WANDSWORTH Anti Fascist and Anti-Racist Committee benefit social Saturday 16 April, 8pm, The Fountain, Gannet Lane, SW17 (Roding Broadway tube). Red roses (and plus dress) for extension to 12. Admission 75p. Donations 50p.

JAMAICAN Workers Solidarity Fund: Shoppers with working number 4. 4224. Near Wandsworth, Home Park Road.

JAMAICAN WORKERS SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN Bulletin No 7 available. Price 50p including postage from 25 St. Alphonsus Road, London, SW14.

HOSPITAL WORKER: rank and file paper for all health workers. Issue 7 out end of April. Please order now—write or phone Hugh Gurling, 19 Red Hill, London SE24 (phone 01-733 8443). All stories etc for this issue to reach editor by 11 April.

LONDON NALGO ACTION GROUP public meeting: Why you should vote NAG: Why you should fight for Social Contract. Tuesday 19 April, 7.45pm, The New Inn, 183 Tottenham Court Road. Speakers include NAG NEC candidates.

Socialist Worker public meetings

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



STICKERS In two colours—black and purple, as above. 30p for a sheet of six (plus 7p postage) from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

PAMPHLET

Stop the deportations! Fight police harassment! New pamphlet produced by the Socialist Workers Party. 10p each, plus 7p postage (ten or more copies post free) from SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

ORMSKIRK Socialist Worker discussion meetings: All advertised meetings cancelled except Thursday 14 April: Marxism and History. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Please see your SWP seller for details of this and further meetings.

BOOTLE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every second Thursday, 8pm, St Hilda pub, Walton Road, Liverpool 4. Meetings end 9.30pm. All welcome.
14 April: Religion and socialism.
28 April: Unemployment—and how to fight it.

PRESTON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Thursday, 8pm, The Keystone, Brook Street (off Fylde Road). All welcome.
14 April: Who was Lenin?
28 April: Labour Party—socialism or sell-out?

STOCKPORT Socialist Workers Party meeting for new members and supporters: The unions and the rank and file movement Thursday 21 April, 8pm, The Spread Eagle pub, Lower Hillgate.

WIGAN SWP meetings: The Swan and Railway, every Thursday, 8pm. All welcome.
21 April: No more wage controls—Fight the Social Contract! Trade union speaker. Contributions from the meeting welcome.

BURY Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: What is Marxism—a short summary of basic ideas. Speaker: Brian Jones. Thursday 21 April, 8pm, The Sundial, Walmerly Road (opposite the General Hospital).

OLDHAM Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, The Sergeant at Arms, King St, Oldham.
21 April: Is Russia Socialist? Speaker: Colin Barker.

KIRKBY SWP discussion meetings: Every other Thursday, 8pm, Tower Hill Community Centre, Heathfield, Tower Hill, finishing by 9.15pm. All welcome.

21 April: Queen's Jubilee visit to Liverpool on 21 June—How can we help make her visit memorable? Speaker: Billy Caldwell.

SALFORD Socialist Worker public meetings: Wednesdays, 8pm, Kings Arms Hotel, White Lane.

Wales

Socialist Workers Party CONFERENCE ON WELSH NATIONALISM AND DEVOLUTION. Cardiff, Sunday 17 April, 11am. Accommodation, food, creche etc. Delegates from SWP branches phone Cardiff 499579 for details.

Midlands

LEAMINGTON SWP Public meeting: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Margaret Renn (editor, Women's Voice) Wednesday 27 April, 7.30pm, Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street.

East Anglia

NORTH NORFOLK: Would any Socialist Worker reader in the Kings Lynn, Cromer, Holt, Fakenham area, who are interested in forming SW discussion groups or branches of the SWP, please contact Norwich SWP, 14 Edinburg Road, Norwich.

South East

ROMFORD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 28 April, 7.45pm, Harold Wood Community Centre.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Wednesdays, 9pm, Rose and Crown (small room), Old High Street.

20 April: The need for a rank and file movement within the trade unions. Introduced by David Trent.

MEDWAY Socialist Workers Party first public meeting: Smash the Social Contract—Build the Socialist

Alternative. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Tuesday 19 April, 7.45pm, Hare and Hounds pub, The Banks, 340 High Street, Rochester. Admission 10p. Tickets from SW sellers or ring Medway 676080.

MAIDSTONE Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: The role of the revolutionary socialist Party. Speaker: Gary Patrick (NUT). Monday 25 April, 8pm, The Old Palace, Mill Street.

London

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Why you should be a socialist. Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), Paul Lutner (Greenwich Reinforcements). Thursday 21 April, 8pm, Lewisham Concert Hall, Catford Road, Catford, SE6.

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Gramsci's Marxism versus Euro-Communism. Speaker: Chris Harman. Wednesday 27 April, 8pm, Thames Polytechnic, Student Union entrance, Thomas St, Woolwich, SE18.

NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Paris Commune 1871 and Paris, May 1968—Workers' democracy in action. Speaker: Chris Harman (editor, Socialist Worker) Sunday 17 April, 5.30pm, Carib Club, Cricklewood Lane, Cricklewood.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Judith Condon. Tuesday 26 April, 7.30pm, Lambeth Town Hall (room 121).

South West

FALMOUTH Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Labour Party and the Socialist Alternative. Speaker: Paul Foot. Friday 15 April, watch for local leaflets for time and place.

Notices

LOST: One black holdall on the coach from Skegness SWP rally to Waterloo. If any comrades have found it or know where it is please ring Mike on 01-720 2443 as soon as possible.

COMRADE working in Hammersmith seeks accommodation. Phone Simon or Steve 01-278 5070.

PRINTING! We can do all your printing—leaflets, posters, stickers, pamphlets, etc. SW Printers (TU), phone 061-832 8102 or write 260 Deansgate, Manchester M3 4BE.

LUTTE OUVRIERE FETE 1977. Saturday 28 May to Monday 30 May, north of Paris. Food, booze, music, films, debates, etc. SWP bookstall. SWP members who speak French and are prepared to help with our political intervention in debates especially welcome. We also need to know if there are any cars going with spare seats, or whether to arrange a coach. Anyone going or interested in going, please contact LO Fete, c/o 9 Grove Dwellings, Adelina Grove, London E1.

Socialist Workers Party Says SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT: BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE. Poster with cartoon A4 size.

Action in the unions

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE ASTMS MEMBERS: Meeting for all SWP members and close supporters in ASTMS on Saturday 23 April, 11am—3pm, Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Leeds. ALL ASTMS members in the region, even if you cannot get to the meeting, please phone Malcolm Povey, Leeds 789920. Contact us in advance if you need creche facilities.

CIVIL SERVICE: Meeting for all SWP members in the civil service, Saturday 16 April, 1pm—6pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester. Pooled fare system. For accommodation on Saturday night ring the Industrial Department, 01-739 6273.

NATFHE: National meeting all SWP NATFHE members, Saturday 30 April (please note change of date), 10.30am to 5pm, Polytechnic of Central London, New Cavendish St, London W1. Details from Ted Parker, 6 Cottons, London E2.

HOSPITAL WORKERS: National meeting for all SWP members and supporters in the NHS, Saturday 7 May, 1pm—5pm, TU Bookshop, 260 Deansgate, Manchester. Discussion on Save Our Hospitals Campaign, Social Contract, building local HW groups. COHSE members meet before hand at 11.30am.

Socialist Workers Party Midlands and South White Collar Workers CONFERENCE: Saturday 21 May 10am—5.30pm. Place to be announced. Agenda: Building rank and file organisation, white-collar work place SWP branches.

black and white, £2.40 for 100 (including postage). Make cheques payable to 'Stockport TU Book Club' and send orders to John Penney, c/o TU Books, 260 Deansgate Manchester 3.

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Socialist Workers Party INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION BULLETIN out now. Special double issue on left governments. Articles and documents on France, Italy, Jamaica. 25p per copy (plus 10p postage) from: SWP International Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Make cheques payable to SW International Fund.

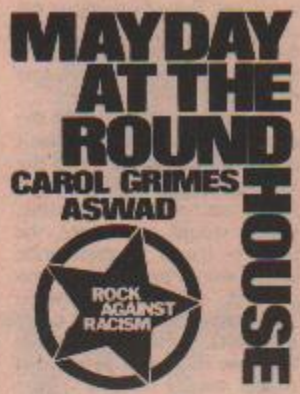


ROCK AGAINST RACISM BADGES: In red and yellow, 22p including postage, or 10 for £1.50 post free. RAR, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

HAVE YOU HEARD SOCIALIST WORKER'S LATEST? Documentaries and public meetings on cassette:
□ **LENIN.** Speaker: Tony Cliff.
□ **WHAT HAPPENED TO BLACK POWER.** Speaker: Fred Hooper (ISUS).
□ **CHILE.** A sound documentary.
□ **WORLD CRISIS.** Speaker: Nigel Harris.
□ **SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION.** £1.40 each including postage.
□ **SPECIAL:** Half-hour introduction on STATE AND REVOLUTION by veteran socialist Harry McShane, intended for SW discussion meetings—£1 including postage.
Send stamped addressed envelope for detailed list. SOCIALIST WORKER RECORDINGS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.



WOMEN'S VOICE Equal Pay stickers: Printed in red. Three sheets (of 12 each) for 50p including postage, from: Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Money with orders only.



CYPRIT WORKER out now in Greek and Turkish. Articles on the Cuts in Haringey and the Save Our Hospitals Campaign. Thalassia—the government's cuts will kill young Cypriots. Unionisation—the fight for higher wages in sweatshops. The Cypriot Defence Campaign. Articles on Greece and Italy and many more. One copy 13p (incl. postage); ten copies £1.50 (incl. postage) from Cypriot Worker, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. NOTE THE CHANGE: Cypriot Worker in both Greek and Turkish.

Have a Socialist night out!

Enjoy yourself—and help build the Socialist Workers Party. The proceeds of these events will go towards our £30,000 party-building fund.

LEAMINGTON SWP FOLK CONCERT IN AID OF THE SW Defence Fund. Featuring the Somerville Gentlemen Singers, Polly Bolton and Kevin Dempsey from Dando Shaft, Dave Prestige and others. Thursday 21 April, 7.30pm, Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street. Tickets 50p from your SW seller or at the door. Raffle—lots of prizes, good drink, good singing, good cause.

EAST LONDON SWP Social: Featuring Limosine and disco. Friday 22 April, 8pm—midnight, North London Poly, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove (Islington tube, buses 30,10). Admission £1.50p for unemployed and students.

MANCHESTER tour of Sam the Man, CAST's 75-minute play on the life of Labour left-wing MP, Samuel Keir Hardie Muggins (a comic tragedy).

SALFORD: King's Arms, White Lane, 8pm, Wednesday 20 April. Admission 75p.

NORTH EAST MANCHESTER: Royal Oak, (near Wilsons Brewery), 8pm, Friday 22 April, 7.5p admission.

CREWE Socialist Workers Party eve of May Day Social: North West Spanner theatre group. Disco. Raffle. Saturday 30 April, 7.30pm, Masonic Arms, Market Street, Crewe.



Rank and File DIARY

Available from Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Right to Work Campaign

DEFEND JOHN DEASON: Mass picket of the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May, 10am. Fight for official delegations. BRING BANNERS.

TRANSPORT to the Old Bailey picket: Sit in HELD. Coaches leave from Seven Sisters. MANCHESTER: Cheap ticket—going on from 55 return. Tickets at 260 Deansgate or phone 061-832 8102. DUNFREMLOE and EDINBURGH: 40-seater coach. Details, phone 021-686 1076. GLASGOW: Coach leaves George Square Information Centre, 11pm, 3 May, 07 return. OTHER AREAS: phone 01-802 0978.

PHOTOS: If you have any photos of the Right to Work march on Friday 19 March last year, especially any taken before the police attack, they are all urgently needed for John Deason's defence. That day the march went from Hatfield Poly, down the A1 to Sailing Corner, Apex Corner, Burnt Oak Broadway, then on to Staples Corner, Edgware Road, Willesden High Road, finishing at Old Oak Common Lane. Every photo is needed. Right to Work Campaign, phone 01-802 0978.

WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS AT HENDON LAST MARCH? Read the new Right to Work Defence Campaign FACTSHEET. Minimum price 5p—proceeds towards paying the remaining fines



April issue of THE COLLIER out now. Articles on Gormley's prod deal the threat to Natts Coalfield, the fight for dust victims' rights and much more. Up to 10 copies, cash with order (5p each plus 6p postage). More than ten copies post free (send no cash with order; pay us for the copies you sell). Orders to The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barnsley, South Yorks.

STOP THE CLOSURE! Mass picket outside the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital: on the day set for closure, Monday 18 April, 7am and all day. EGA, Euston Road, London (near Euston Station).

PLATFORM, the paper of rank and file bus workers, NATIONAL MEETING: Saturday 23 April, in Manchester. To discuss: Wages and the Social Contract. Cuts. How to build your own locally-based Platform. Racism and how to fight it on the buses. A national Platform pamphlet. Further details from Platform, 175 South Park Drive, Ilford, Essex.

Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions SOUTH WEST DURHAM Conference Against the Social Contract and for an Unconditional Return to Free Collective Bargaining: Saturday 16 April, 10am—3pm, Newton Aycliffe Workingmen's Club. Speakers include: Bob Wright (AUEW), Jimmy Airlie (from UCS), Harry Wilkinson (Sunderland AUEW secretary), and provisionally Arthur Scargill (Yorkshire NUM) and Derek Robinson (chairman, Leyland Shop Stewards Committee). Credentials from N Hancock, 16 Isherwood Close, Newton Aycliffe 50p per delegate. Bona fide trade union organisations only.

TGWU RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN Say no to the Social Contract petitions to be presented to TGWU Biennial Delegates Conference—available from Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Send money to cover postage.



10p each, plus 7p postage (10 or more post free) from Engineers Charter, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

WHY NOT PIN THIS UP ON YOUR WORKS NOTICEBOARD?

FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO WORK NO MORE JAILINGS DEFEND JOHN DEASON MAY 4

JOIN THE PICKET OF
THE OLD BAILEY, 9.30am,
WEDNESDAY 4 MAY.

JOHN DEASON is one of the 43 unemployed workers arrested last year when the police attacked the Manchester to London Right to Work march.

Forty-two of the marchers were tried before magistrates, one was imprisoned for three months, others received heavy fines and suspended prison sentences. 17 were cleared.

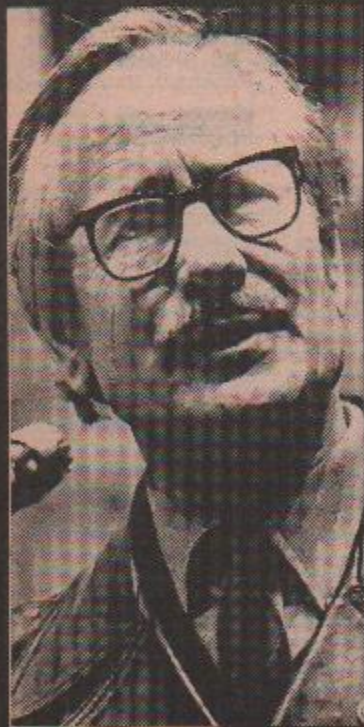
The most serious charges were levelled against John Deason, the secretary of the campaign. If convicted, he faces a prison sentence of several years.

That would be a serious blow against the right of all trade unionists and unemployed to demonstrate without threats from the police.



John Deason with Ricky Tomlinson, one of the Shrewsbury building workers jailed for defending the right to picket.

Some of the trade unionists who are joining the call



ERNIE ROBERTS



ARTHUR SCARGILL

MANY TRADE unionists have called for support for John Deason and the mass picket of his trial at the Old Bailey on Wednesday 4 May.

More than 800 delegates to the recent Leyland Combine Conference signed a petition urging support. Among those who, in a personal capacity, have joined the call for support on the picket are:

SHREWSBURY PICKETS: Ricky Tomlinson, Des Warren, Arthur Murray, Brian Williams, Ken O'Shea, Geoff Roberts, John Seabury, Mike Pierce

ENGINEERING UNION: Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary; John Tocher, Manchester Divisional Organiser; Laurie Smith, National Organiser; Ken Slater, Accrington District Secretary; M. Mackay, Paisley District Secretary; Jim Mackenzie, Glasgow District Secretary; Bob Dagnall, Bolton District Secretary.

MINERS' UNION: Arthur Scargill Yorkshire President and NUM executive; Peter Heathfield, Derbyshire secretary and NUM executive; Jack Collins, NUM executive.

Sid Harraway, chairman, Shop Stewards' Committee, Ford's Dagenham; Peter Carter, UCATT; Jim Hiles, secretary of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.



DES WARREN



LAURIE SMITH

Letters

Why we must win the police to socialism

I AM perhaps better qualified than most on the subject of the police, having spent about 15 years in the police force and a similar period since defending people charged with offences.

Ross Mackenzie's letter (SW, 2 April) is one of those things that causes me to lose patience with many of those professing to be socialists. Most policemen come from working-class backgrounds. Mostly they're drawn from the ranks of factory workers and

farm workers. Many have trade union experience.

They, being human, carry with them memories, thoughts and aspirations from their working-class backgrounds. And many retain them throughout their service.

So why do so many of them become tools—willing or otherwise—of repression?

The principal cause is the constant enmity displayed towards them by such as Ross Mackenzie. No matter how forbearing any man is, if you persistently insult, abuse and denigrate him because of his job then you force him into a position of hostility towards you.

Most policemen are constantly in contact with the worst aspects of poverty and social deprivation. From personal experience I know that many have a strong sense of social justice.

I accept that also there are a number of villains. But remember not all SWP members are on the side of the angels.

The forces of the left would be better served if instead of deliberately alienating the police they sought to win them over. I tell you from personal experience you'd be agreeably surprised if you tried it.

When the real struggle for power begins, as it surely must, such support will be invaluable.

It'd be far better to have them on our side than against us. We shall find enemies enough without creating more.

□ A G DURBRIDGE, Gravesend.

CAST's play Sam the Man, advertised in last week's Socialist Worker as a fundraiser for the £40,000 needed by the SWP, should be booked by every branch. We showed it in Chelmsford last Wednesday and it got a great reception from everyone present.

Not only were we able to raise a few bob, we were also able to put across the politics of the Labour Party a million more times more graphically than if we had had a boring speaker out front haranguing the audience for 40 minutes or so.

If only all SWP meetings were as lively and as convincing. We'd be recruiting hand over fist AND drawing big audiences for our ideas every week.

□ GEOFF Ellen, Chelmsford SWP.

I WRITE to express my horror at my union's action over the Spain issue. I wish to be dissociated from the decision of Clive Jenkins to sue the Socialist Worker.

Your efforts in exposing the idiotic anomalies of our society are appreciated. Your sellers in Lincoln are now a common sight, and to be congratulated on their constant appearance in all weathers.

Wishing you all success in achieving a better world.
□ SEAN MARCUS (ASTMS rep), Lincoln.



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

I KNOW the Epsom hospital dispute is 'all over' but I thought I'd send this cartoon which is in fact a pretty fine illustration of the feeling among the old people at the Schiff during the dispute. Keep up the good work. □ JACKIE SKIPPER, Guildford.

Why we picket our MPs

WE LIST Labour MPs who vote against abortion for a simple reason (Letters, 26 March).

As socialists we demand a woman's right to control her body. As socialists we demand the right to control our 'representatives'.

Support for abortion rights is the policy of every major union. We have fought long and bitter battles in union conferences to get our unions to adopt and fight for such a policy.

Labour MPs insist on the right to vote as their conscience dictates. But we say that MPs, specially those who are union-sponsored, should vote accordingly.

The picket at Michael O'Halloran's surgery showed many working-class women that there is a growing movement against bums like him.

NHS abortions are falling, because of the cuts. The birthrate is falling, because of the cuts and these economic hard times. Every vote for government policies is a vote against a woman's right to choose.

Picketing those MPs, campaigning against their sponsorship by our unions, is just one part of our campaign to stop this change in the law going through.

□ GERRY MATTHEWS, London.

JUST a small aside in the abortion debate. Last year I remember having a heated debate with my mother-in-law on Charing Cross Station when she was literally screaming that no woman should be allowed to 'murder' a child.

This month it turns out that my brother-in-law's fiance is pregnant. And who's shouting loudest for them to have an abortion? That's right, mother-in-law!

□ SAMMY GLADDING, Peckham, South London.

I'M SAD to see that 'On the Box' has passed away, specially at a time when we're being subjected to week-long bore-ins on the life of Jesus Someoneortheother.

Socialist Worker can't afford to ignore TV, or sport for that matter. What about articles on football as personified in West Ham United? More on music would also be welcome.

□ DAVE 'Claretandblue' STONER, Plaistow, East London.

Not so much a case of one law for the rich and another for the poor, but no law for the rich.

□ C SUGDEN, London, N11.

*The Daily M**L be damned - she hasn't enjoyed herself so much since the General Strike!*

Prod deal in disguise

I ATTENDED the Leyland Conference on 2 April. One of the delegates said he was against productivity deals, but called for opening the company finance books. He said this would enable the shop stewards to say how much the workers concerned are entitled to.

This to me is a productivity deal. What the delegate was suggesting was that if you found that the employers are making huge profits, then you put in for a large wage claim. Productivity means profitability.

□ MATT SALISBURY (AUEW), Letchworth.

Democracy? Well . . .

RECENTLY the Broad Left were put on the spot on Preston Trades Council. The issue was election addresses and it was alarming to see how quick the Broad Left were to join forces with the right wing in trying to get them banned.

Out of the 22 candidates nominated for the executive I was the only one to issue an election address.

The one point I did concede was that, as a shorthand typist, I had the facilities to type one out.

The answer, I suggested, was for the Trades Council to lay on such facilities for every candidate, at the probable cost of £4 each year.

But in the next minutes, the executive baldly announced that they recommended the banning of all election addresses.

So the fight was on!

It was the Broad Left and the right wing who got up at the next meeting and spoke against election addresses. Their arguments amounted to 'if you've been the Trades Council long enough and made enough speeches, then people will know who you are'.

An argument for keeping the old guard in control, if ever there was one.

Diamond smuggling? No, just testing Customs . . .

I THOUGHT your piece on the Eton and Guards judge giving the Eton and Guards bank robber a suspended sentence was first class. But what about Jacques Rotenberg, the 62-year-old diamond merchant and con-

sultant to the Customs and Excise who was found to have been smuggling diamonds worth at least £850,000—while he was advising the Customs and Excise.

According to The Times (29 March) this crook won't face

any charges. He's simply paid back £500,000 to the Customs and Excise, making £350,000 on the deal, and resigned his consultancy.

He keeps his OBE for services to the nation (ha, ha) and that's the end of the



Stewart Hepburn, a member of the SWP in Stirling, has suggested this design for a symbol for the party. What do readers think of it? Have they got any better ideas? Socialist Worker would like to hear from you.

JOINED FOR MY GRANDFATHER

IN JANUARY last year I submitted a claim to the DHSS for my grandfather to receive constant attendance allowance.

Two weeks later I received an acknowledgement saying: 'It may take some little time to decide the claim but a decision will be sent to you as soon as possible.'

Agnes passed until we received word saying that the claim had been rejected.

I decided to claim again in December. A couple of

AS YOU LIKE IT, LABOUR?

May we ask you Mr Callaghan, What on earth are you doing, man? You promised us a better living, but all are taking, no one giving.

We see the shooting star of prices, the drunken lurch to greater crisis, Values of our money sink ever lower, company profits grow never slower

Increased wages are not allowed, tho' our voices are raised increasing loud Profiteers bleed their own people white, not seeing the revolutionary flames alight.

Beware, our patience is nearly done, there's no more blind faith to call upon. Not for long will we bear your cross, before our gain becomes 'Loves Labour Lost'.

□ DICK ADAMS (unemployed), Harlow

MAY 1ST

Don't miss it

Socialist Worker

This May Day is going to be special. Socialist Worker is bringing out a special issue. Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards committee, trades council or other trade union organisation gets its May Day Greetings in. For only £1 you could reach over 100,000 trade unionists and their families.

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6cms single col, 30 words £4
6cms double col, 60 words £8
Inquiries phone 01-739 2639
Final copy date Friday 22 April

Send in your greetings NOW

Fill in this coupon and attach it to your greeting (typed if possible) and send it to: Socialist Worker May Day, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

I would like the following size of greeting (please tick) □ Special Classified

□ Semi-display □ 3cms single display

□ 6cms single display

□ 6cms double display

Name and Address of Organisation

I enclose cheque/PO for

BETWEEN 1914 and 1918 the first and most terrible world war was fought to a bloody conclusion across Europe.

Millions of men had their lives squandered in an obscene struggle for domination of markets and for power.

In Britain alone, 600,000 men, nearly one tenth of all those under 55, were sent to their deaths. 1.6 million more came back gravely wounded.

For women, that meant overwhelming grief and loneliness, bereavement and hardship. That was their number one experience of the First World War.

Men came home from war as late as the summer of 1919 to families they hadn't seen for four years. Children were afraid of the stranger who appeared on the doorstep unable and unwilling to speak of the horrors he had lived through.

Imagine

What else happened to women in the meantime? Try to imagine their lives at the moment war was declared.

Contraception was a risky subject and hadn't reached working class women. Families were large, doctors expensive. There were no fridges, no detergents, no DDT, no electric cookers or irons or washing machines.

Sanitary towels were home-made and had to be washed. There were no tampons, no deodorants and in working class homes no running hot water or bathrooms.

In truth working class women were in the front line of the war on dirt—either in service to the rich or in their own homes.

The only way to stay on top was drudgery, day after day. And most men would be seen dead rather than lift a finger to cook or mend or clean.

At the skilled, respectable end of the working class, it was a matter of pride that women stayed at home, that the man's wages were enough.

The pride extended to immaculately turned out children, gleaming black lead stoves, doorsteps scrubbed and brass door knockers polished every single day. At the other end of the working class, women struggled and yet still went under. Or else they gave up.

Sweated

Women who worked were at pit head, textile mill or nail factory, according to locality. In Scotland, in particular, many still worked on the land.

In the East End of London they laboured in sweated trades, sewing sacks and making matchboxes on piecework in their cramped and squalid homes.

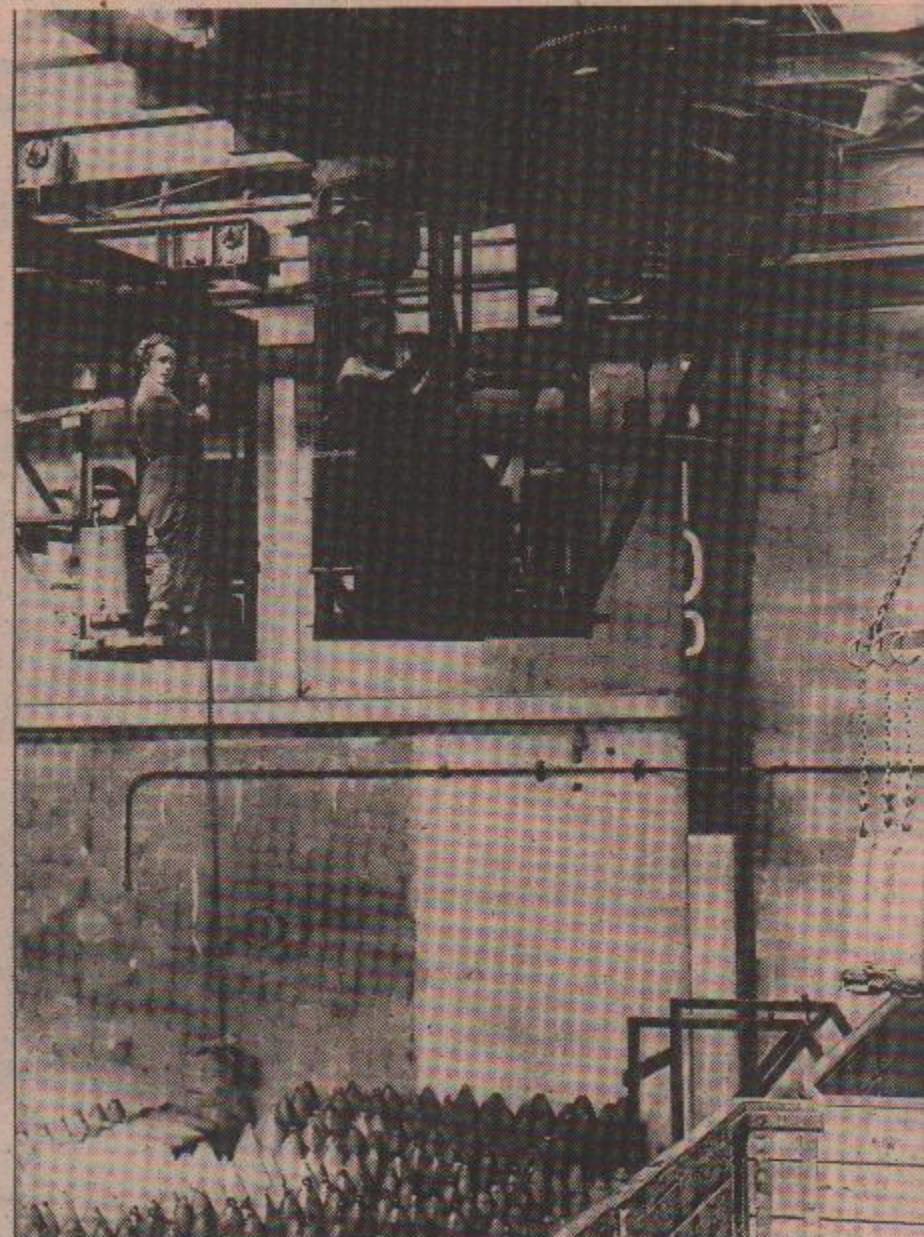
They earned one third as much as men. Low wages and unemployment led directly to widespread occasional prostitution. Then came war.

Suddenly, the state needed women in a new role. Backward elements in the administration were slow to accept this but eventually they came round.

Thousands of women were brought into paid work



Women at work in the First World War: suddenly, 'a woman's place' was no longer in the home



When a factory was the 'woman's place'

By JUDITH CONDON

for the first time. In the service of murder and death a whole society was re-organised, long cherished beliefs and prejudices swept aside.

At first, the employment of women was marginal. But the government desperately needed to bring women into production by 1915. They needed more and more bullets, bombs and heavy artillery.

The Ministry of Munitions actively encouraged recruitment of women into munitions factories with the offer of free training. Later, as conscription took more and more men, higher wages and greater opportunities drew women into skilled jobs, to engineering, spinning, the coke and gas industries and most rapidly of all, onto trams and buses and the railways.

The craft unions resisted this 'dilution'. They made it clear that women were only to be temporary

workers, there till the soldiers came home. Later many came round to the position that so long as women held such jobs they should at least get the full male rate.

In just a few months, countless prejudices and preconceptions about women were set aside. Women were told to economise and wear shorter dresses. Some even wore trousers to work.

They could take on arduous and heavy duties. They flooded into banking and finance as clerks. Married women were actively encouraged to work. Women were 'up to it.'

At the level of sheer courage and endurance, they proved themselves. But they also paid a price.

Mildred Hart's daughter died of blood poisoning after only two months working with TNT at the Edmonton Munitions Works. She was 23, and left a small son and a husband at the front.

Fatal

Mary Bruce was killed in an accident while working as a crane driver in the Old Park Works in Wednesbury.

Seventy-one women died in explosions at munitions factories. Another 81 died in other fatal accidents and 61 of poisoning.

New medals were created for women who died at the front. Those nearer home got less.

All these figures, which being official doubtless underestimate the violence of the industrial battlefield, are drawn from a new book called *Women at War*. The

book is accompanied by an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London.

Arthur Marwick, all credit to him, has gone out of his way to present a feminist analysis of events. But there is a problem. You can come away from the exhibition thinking the war was a good thing, at least for women.

There is a full-scale photograph of women at the Cunard Shell Factory in Liverpool bowing beside a giant shell stamped 'First eight-inch shell manufactured by women'. Without comment, such items glorify the war and the war effort.

Perhaps for the same reason, Marwick's analysis of the suffragettes falls short. At the outbreak of the war, the government declared an amnesty and released suffragette prisoners.

Almost overnight Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst went into full battle cry—on the side of the war.

They made recruiting speeches. They marched for 'A woman's right to serve.' They even renamed The Suffragette newspaper Britannia.

It is not enough to point out that these women had proved themselves fierce and courageous and that Christabel in particular was no great lover of men. No doubt the war did provide an acceptable channel for the militancy and energy that marked the Suffragette Years. But it's not enough of an explanation.

Not only the radical and liberal element of society collapsed into

crude chauvinism. The social democratic movement in Europe was also found badly wanting.

The Internationalist revolutionary sections of the working class movement alone held out against the war. And the working class suffragettes led by a third Pankhurst, Sylvia, were part of it.

So were the women of the Clyde, who organised fantastic rent strikes. And many others, too, who inevitably are not given a look-in at the exhibition in the Imperial War Museum.

Because, for those women at the bottom of society, it comes down to politics, and the strength of their own organisation.

Vote

Lloyd George said women could have a share in the 'triumph' as they'd shared in the suffering. He meant that at last they could have the vote.

The working class heroes returning in 1918 could no longer be denied suffrage as they had been previously on the grounds that they were not householders. So women over 30, householders or married to householders, were given the vote, too, partly to provide a counterbalance.

It was generally assumed they would be a conservative force. Votes for all women over 21 had to wait another ten years.

The official view was that middle class women at least must be reconciled to the system.

'Women are no longer afraid of cows', as one silent film captioned

a sequence about land girls, which was all very well. Such is the grotesque nature of capitalism they only used us when they needed our labour to produce the means of destruction.

The state's priorities only came into sharp focus when you looked at what happened after the war. It's all too sadly familiar. Having been brought into paid work within a matter of months, women were being pushed back into the home, though women of marriageable age so far outnumbered men that many had no choice but to go on working—not to mention the hundreds of thousands of war widows.

Working class women returned to the battle against dirt and poverty and wage cuts. Within the working class movement, women were largely leaderless and subject to the same old male prejudices and opposition.

In spite of the new confidence and work experience women shared, and in spite of political reform, we were defeated in our larger aspirations. It didn't take too long.

Galloping war-time prices, followed by unemployment, official opposition to birth control and the old propaganda that our place was in the home all played a part.

Social reform did not automatically and effortlessly follow the innovations of war time production.

Getting the vote, in two carefully separated stages—important as it was—didn't bring in the new dawn.

★ *Women At War*, by Arthur Marwick (Fontana) is available, price £3, inc. Postage from Bookmarks, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



Cypriot women in North London; how to organise the union; your maternity allowance rights interview with Evelyn Reed; News, letters, information, and lots more.
Price 10p. For single copies send 17p to Womens Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

Why are these strikes going on for so long?



Strikers picketing Landers, in Birmingham

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

35 WEEKS

Grunwicks Film Processing

NORTH WEST LONDON: Strikers at Grunwicks have now started 24-hour picketing in their fight for trade union recognition.

The strikers are mainly Asian. They were sacked for demanding recognition of their trade union, the clerical workers' (APEX), 35 long weeks ago.

Since then they have been promised support from every section of the trade union movement. Even the general secretary of the TUC, Len Murray, made one of his very rare appearances at a strike. He pledged the full support of the TUC General Council.

And of course nothing happened. But months after Murray's visit, the General Council finally swung into action.

All they did was recommend that trade unionists stop buying Grunwicks film. They could have stopped all services to the factory, they could have persuaded the Post Office union to put back its blacking on deliveries to Grunwicks.

That action alone would win the strike, because Grunwicks depend on film deliveries by post.

A campaign is needed throughout the trade union movement, and particularly in North West London, to win support for widespread strike action.

In the past AUEW district committees have called one day stoppages of engineering members in support of strikes in their own union. The North London District Committee has supported the Grunwicks strikers. Now they should start the argument for a one-day strike throughout the area.

Mahmood Ahmed, one of the strikers, warned at the 3 April Conference against the Social Contract: 'If the trade union movement want Asian and black people to join the trade unions and organise themselves, they will have to do better than they've done so far in Grunwicks.'

The conference gave his speech a standing ovation. That support and enthusiasm now needs to be translated into active help.

□ Winning regular factory delegations to help man the 24-hour picket line.

□ Organising regular collections

□ Passing resolutions through all unions to the executives and the TUC General Council demanding further action.

□ Support the 24-hour picket outside Grunwicks, and send donations to the strike fund. The address of the strike committee is Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 Willesden High Rd, London NW10.

19 WEEKS

19 WEEKS

SEVEN WEEKS

19 WEEKS

FOUR groups of catering workers are still out on strike demanding that their employers recognise their trade union, the Transport and General Workers.

All the strikers have been sacked. In every case their crime was joining the TGWU.

The giant catering company, Trust House Forte, has sacked hotel workers in Sheffield and Oxford and workers at a night club in Birmingham. At another small Oxford Hotel, the Linton Lodge, more TGWU members have been sacked after joining the union.

In Oxford at the Randolph and Linton Lodge

hotels, and in Sheffield at the Grosvenor, the disputes have been going on since before Christmas. At the Night Out club in Birmingham strikers have been out since the end of February.

Rank and file trade unionists in all three towns have helped man picket lines, joined demonstrations and collected money. Nationally the Right to Work Campaign has organised pickets of Trust House Forte hotels, motorway service stations and clubs.

But the one organisation with the strength to win all the disputes and win trade union recognition throughout Trust House

SIX WEEKS

by sacked convenor Brian Masters

BIRMINGHAM: At long last the strikers at Landers have received official support from the executive council of the engineering union (AUEW).

After six weeks of waiting, our members decided to take a tip from the Massey-Ferguson lads, and we went down to Sleepy Valley (the AUEW London head office

in Peckham Road) to lobby the executive.

We challenged our executive member, Terry Duffy, as to why they'd taken so long to make the strike official. All he could say was that the full executive had not met to consider it.

It seems it needs a full executive meeting to make one small recognition strike official—but not to order 3,000 Leyland toolmakers back to work!

We're still being harassed on the picket lines by the

Landers of Birmingham

police and the company scabs. One steward is being taken to court accused of denting a van. In fact the dent was on the van two days before he's alleged to have done it.

There's effective blacking now, and Alan Law, the local Transport Union official, is supporting us.

We've learnt a lot in the past six weeks not least what trade union solidarity is all about. If it'd been left to the officials we'd be nowhere. Only the district committee and rank and file stewards in other factories have given us any help.

We've been on the TGWU picket line at the Night Out Club as well.

This looks like being a long strike but we're determined to win and see justice done. When we win it'll give encouragement to all the other backstreet sweatshops

□ Donations and messages of support to: Val Richards, 32 Mary Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham 12.

Linton Lodge Hotel, Oxford

Grosvenor House Hotel, Sheffield

Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Night Out Club, Birmingham

Forte is the TGWU. And the union executive has kept the union right in the background.

The Catering Group of the TGWU has recommended that Trust House Forte be blacked nationally by TGWU members. This would mean TGWU drivers would refuse to deliver food for them, that in factory after factory canteens run by Trust House Forte would be boycotted.

This sort of action would win the disputes. But the TGWU executive says that such blacking would be illegal. With this pathetic excuse they sit back and do nothing.

Already workers who were sacked for joining the

TGWU have stood on picket lines from Christmas to Easter. Are they still going to be there at Whit?

□ Support the picket lines. Help the strike funds.

19 WEEKS

Evening Telegraph, Kettering—see opposite page

SEVEN WEEKS

Die Castings

PETERBOROUGH:

The men and women at Peterborough Die Castings have been fighting for seven weeks for a closed shop.

One worker on the 24-hour picket told Socialist Worker: 'Before I was against the closed shop but now I can see it's the only way to make us strong and do something about the diabolical conditions. Management treat us like dirt, the toilets aren't fit for animals and safety is very bad.'

The dispute arose in the toolroom, where eleven out of twelve toolmakers were members of the engineering union (AEUW). The odd man out was widely hated. He was well in with management, came in when he liked, worked weekends and earned up to £150 a week.

That's why the workers demanded a closed shop. After a 3-day strike and hours of talk management still refused point blank.

About 60 AUEW members from the press and finishing shops and foundry, including women and Asian workers, came out in support of the toolmakers.

A cowboy firm is continually breaking the picket—a manager nearly killed a picket by driving at the line. And now the right-wing National Association for Freedom For Exploitation have stepped in.

Predictably, union full-timers have been dragging their feet, the Transport Union district organiser in particular. Yet the strikers are convinced that effective blacking and massive picketing could settle the strike in days.

□ Donations and messages of support to: Bill Weber, 29 Camelia Close, Peterborough.

Striking contract sparks sacked at pit

SHEFFIELD: Electricians who have been on strike for six weeks at Dinnington Colliery have been sacked by management.

The dispute started when the contract firm, Hall and Kay went back on an agreement with the electrician's union (EPTU). The company had agreed to pay an extra 35p an hour on the rate as a site agreement which would be legal under the pro-employer Joint Industrial Board.

Instead they applied for a bonus payment, which would be illegal under the JIB pay code and the Social Contract.

The members want the payment as first agreed, which would set a precedent on National Coal Board sites and open the door to free collective bargaining for site agreements on all new NCB work.

The men have sent their cards and sacking notices back to the management by recorded delivery.

□ Messages of support and donations to: V Wilkinson, 215 Yew Lane, Sheffield.

Bury beats the cuts —again!

by IAN WALL

BURY: The Tory-controlled council has suffered another defeat in their attempts to cut social services.

They planned to save a few thousand pounds by withdrawing concessionary bus fares from the disabled. We collected thousands of signatures in the town centre for several weeks and held a demonstration of 300, finishing with a picket of the social services committee.

The committee reversed the decision. This victory follows our success in keeping open a day nursery, a training centre and a halfway house.

Vital to our campaign has been the ban on cooperation with the cuts by the local NALGO members.

The fight is not over. The committee agreed to look for cuts to make up for the bus passes and other establishments face closure. Bury, which became notorious for its savage cuts, should now be just as well known for showing that cuts can be fought and reversed.

...and they're not the only ones

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STOP THE CUTS
A Right to Work Campaign pamphlet by Paul Foot



GRIMSBY

Dockers vote: We stay out

by MIKE STANTON (TGWU)

GRIMSBY: Dockers at Grimsby and Immingham have been on strike for over four weeks in defence of jobs.

Management claimed that two hatchway men employed on the Cape Pride at Immingham were no longer needed and tried to return them to the labour pool for reallocation to another vessel. Our position is clear. Any man who is employed on a vessel stays there till his gang is finished.

We were willing to meet management providing the men were allowed to return to the ship. So far they have refused. And we decided to stay out indefinitely.

Despite attempts by the local press to weaken the strike by giving front page treatment to blacklegs and exaggerating the small number of men who have gone back to work, the branch meeting of over 400 last week voted overwhelmingly to continue the strike until our committee recommends otherwise.

Confidence

The vote was a mark of confidence in our elected leadership and our determination to maintain our manning levels. Against a national

background of drastic reductions in the numbers of registered dockers we still have the same workforce we had ten years ago.

This is a proud record which we will not easily surrender.

We have applied for another 40 men to be admitted to the permanent register, plus ten temporaries. This has been refused by the National Board but every job we can save on the dockside makes it more likely that these men will be admitted.

The lesson of this strike is clear. Nobody can take for granted the right to work. It is something we have to fight for.

Pupils asked to scab on teachers

by a sixth former, Baysgarth Comprehensive

HUMBERSIDE teachers have had some success in opposing education cuts.

The county council have decided the easiest way to implement the cuts was not to replace vacant teaching posts. But faced with sanctions from

the National Association of Schoolmasters and the threat of a no-cover campaign from the National Union of Teachers, they backed down.

But instead they intend to make the cuts by breaking a nationally-negotiated agree-

ment and cutting the numbers of free dinners that staff get for doing lunchtime duties.

When teachers threatened to withdraw these services the headmaster at Baysgarth Comprehensive in Barton, a Mr Smithson, decided to bring in a few ancillaries and ask sixth formers to cover for staff at lunchtimes, although the matter was going to arbitration.

He called a meeting for the by now suspicious sixth form to explain his reasons. One prefect asked: 'Won't we be considered blacklegs?'

Smithson replied that the teachers weren't taking industrial action. They were just 'not volunteering for extra work'.

Inconclusive

Asked whether the cost of employing ancillaries would destroy the savings made by the cuts, he said: 'Not significantly'. With 16 staff on duty the savings on meals amount to £7.20 a day, hardly enough.

He had not considered the position of those facing A-levels this year. Nor did he think we should bother about the wider issues of the cuts or the teachers' dispute, but confine ourselves to the smooth running of the school.

After the meeting, which ended inconclusively, I asked around the others. The Upper Sixth were not keen on doing duties just before exams and, although the Lower Sixth were prepared to cover for them in return for exemption the following summer, we were not prepared to cover for staff taking legitimate industrial action.

DON'T LET NEWS BOSS SMASH CLOSED SHOP

NORTHANTS: 60 journalists have been out on the streets for 19 weeks in defence of trade unionism. And they are not going back until they win.

The NUJ members in the Joint Chapels at Kettering went on strike in early December over improved conditions.

Seven weeks ago they reached a settlement with the management of East Midlands Allied Press... then found themselves locked out when they tried to return to work.

During the strike nine of the NUJ members tried to resign, claiming they had joined the scab organisation, the Institute of Journalists.

The defectors knew they couldn't get away with this. NUJ rules debar anyone leaving the union during a dispute.

But the nine didn't care. They were determined to smash the closed shop that has operated in Kettering for more than three years.

The bosses of East Midlands Allied Press agreed with them. Quoting spurious threats to 'freedom of the press', they saw a golden opportunity to keep down future wages and told the NUJ strikers that if they didn't learn to live with the scabs, they would be locked out.

Poverty level

The Newspaper Society heartily agreed. This draconian organisation represents nearly all provincial papers in England and Wales and uses the Institute of Journalists to keep wages at poverty level.

Still feeling sore about the NUJ's recent closed shop victory at Ilford, they had billed their employer members £400 a head to set up an anti-

strike fund.

The bosses know that if they can smash one of the union's most militant chapels at Kettering then they can unite against any dispute in the country.

The IOJ were of course delighted with the defectors. They praised and feted the miserable nine, crowing about how the 29,000-plus membership of the NUJ was helpless in face of their 2,000—including Robin Day and Denis Healey.

So the 60 NUJ members found the doors locked as the bosses and the scabs—egged on by Fleet Street—waged a political strike against them.

The print unions don't officially recognise the IOJ, though they handle their copy up and down the country. The locked-out members were boosted when printworkers in the NGA refused to set any copy from the nine blacklegs.

No sweat

But that was no great sweat for the bosses. They simply sent the scabs home on full pay.

The papers were able to keep coming out because the NUJ allows editors to remain outside union control and the printers accepted all their copy.

Gradually the NUJ leaders were awakening to the fact that they had a major dispute on their hands. It was late January before any full-time official went near Kettering—strike pay was upped to £25 and some limp circulars were sent out.

But most of the NUJ hierarchy were loathe to call out other journalists employed by EMAP in Peterborough, Stamford, Bury St Edmunds, Kings Lynn and Newmarket, arguing that they might not want to come out!

Last Thursday the TUC's Printing industries Committee considered the issue. After refusing to hear a Kettering delegation, they bravely beat the locked-out members over the head.

But there was a better meeting in Bury St Edmunds the same day, when other EMAP journalists gave management a week to reinstate the NUJ.

The union's annual conference is in Ilkley next week. Kettering will turn out in force with demands that they call out all other EMAP chapels, stand firm against the IOJ scabs and increase dispute pay to wage levels.

A MASS PICKET has been organised for this Friday (15 April) at 1 pm outside the Evening Telegraph in Kettering.



NUJ members meeting inside the Evening Telegraph the day they tried to return to work—and were locked out by management

MR CUBE STARTS LOCK-OUT

SOUTH WEST LONDON: When process workers turned up for their 12-hour shift at Gartons starch and glucose factory in Battersea at 6am on Tuesday, management refused to let them clock on unless all process sections agreed to work 'normally'.

The management's interpretation of normal working means being available on days off to work overtime, to cover for absences due to sickness, and to double up on some jobs.

Production in the starch department recently reached

450 tons a week, which brought an extra man into the department under a four-year-old agreement. Production later increased to 600 tons

Stewards then asked for regradings based on 'expansion of job responsibility'—a formula by which management have recently paid increases to their own upper and middle levels.

Management refused, so the starch department workers began to work to contract—no overtime, no cover. The

workers are in the Transport and General Workers Union.

A mass meeting of process workers backed the starch department and have now been 'laid off due to lack of orders' according to management letters.

There is no reduction in demand for the starch. This is simply an attempt by Tate & Lyle, who took over Manbre Garton last year, to intimidate workers into accepting their working rules or be sacked, the same tactics as in the British Leyland and British Airways disputes.



FIREMEN DEMAND £25 RISE

FIREMEN from South Yorkshire will be calling for a £25 increase on their basic pay at the Fire Brigade Union annual conference in May.

The South Yorkshire FBU committee has mandated all the area's delegates to vote for this resolution. One South Yorkshire branch has already called for strike action.

Next week the committee is discussing whether to organise a strike ballot of members before the conference.

Oil rig site pickets camping out

KISHORN: The six-week unofficial strike of 35 Construction Union and Boiler-makers members at this remote North Scotland oil rig construction site continues.

The dispute began when a man was victimised. The men were later sacked following the decision to strike.

Kishorn is the worst oil rig construction site to work on. The large number of sub-contractors working on the site has made the establishment of strong trade union organisation and unity of action almost impossible.

The strikers are being ignored by their officials.

The pickets are living and sleeping in cars outside the site and funds are urgently needed to provide them with food and so on. The site is totally isolated from normal facilities like social security offices and the nearest shop is about 10 miles away.

Rush messages of support and contributions to the strike fund to: Fraser and Ironside Dispute, c/o Convener of Shop Stewards, Highlands Fabricators, Nigg, Easter Ross, Scotland.

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(BLOCK CAPITALS)

OLD BAILEY TRIAL FOR SIT-IN STUDENTS

FOUR STUDENTS are to appear for trial at the Old Bailey in May for organising an occupation of Middlesex Polytechnic.

The four have been charged with 'resisting the Sheriff of London whilst exercising a High Court Writ'.

One student at the Poly, Von McClarey, told Socialist Worker: 'Seven weeks ago we occupied Middlesex Poly in protest at increases in tuition fees. Courses will be stopped and staff made redundant.'

'The director of the Poly claimed to be sympathetic. So he shut off heating and light on the occupied sites.'

'The High Court granted a possession order for all 12 sites of the Poly, even though we were only occupying two sites at the time.'

This clearly sets a dangerous precedent for future occupations, whether of empty housing, factories or colleges.

Von McClarey described what happened when the police and the Sheriff tried to serve the writ:

'The day that the possession order was granted we put up barricades and barricaded off two floors.'

'The day after the order was granted the Under Sheriff for Greater London plus a couple of police came and asked us to leave. We refused, after which they threatened to arrest people, but went away.'

Support

'Next day a man appeared in the switchboard, said "Afternoon all" and announced he was the Sheriff. The policewoman with him said: "Well, you've had a nice time dear, but you'll have to go now. If you don't, you'll get put in the nick, and you don't want that do you, dear?"'

'They threatened to arrest me if I didn't go, but I refused to go and someone from upstairs—from behind the barricades—came down to help me on the switchboard. They asked him to leave, and arrested him when he refused.'

'They threatened to arrest me if I didn't go, but I refused to go and someone from upstairs—from behind the barricades—came down to help me on the switchboard. They asked him to leave, and arrested him when he refused.'

'They frogmarched me out of the building under protest but didn't arrest me. They broke down the barricades upstairs and arrested the

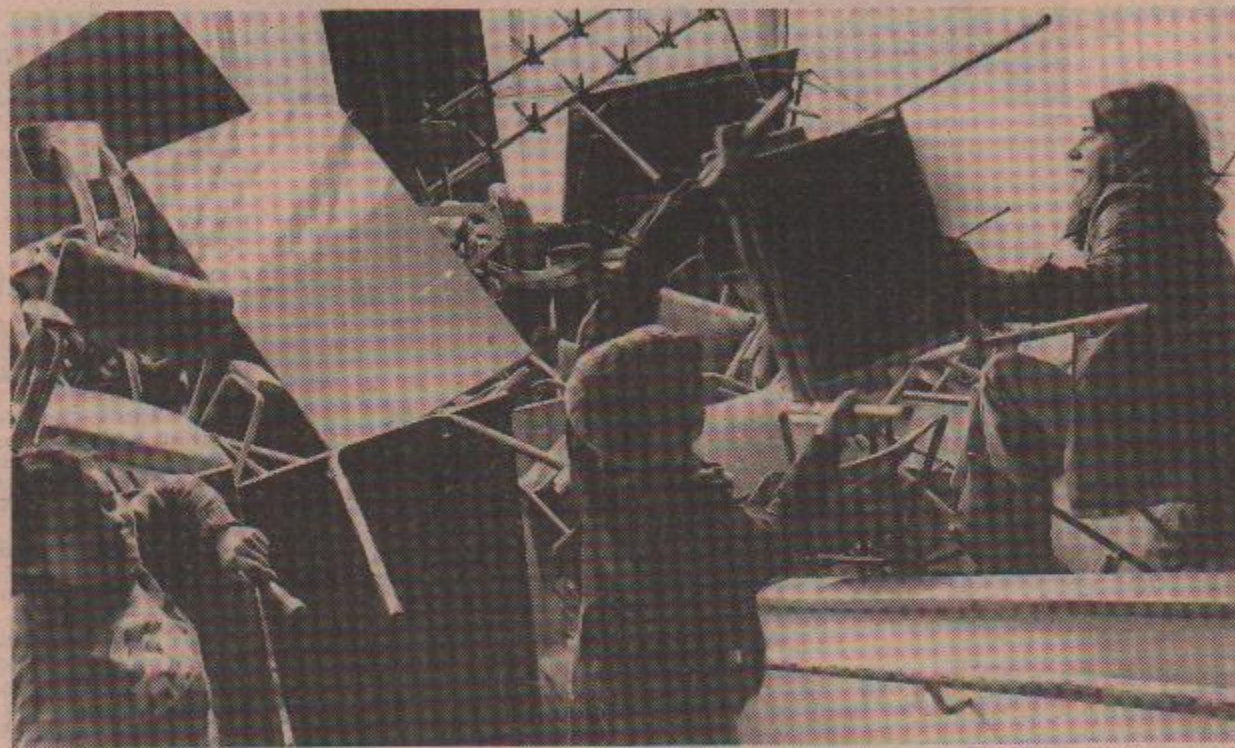


Students building barricades inside the Poly — now they face trial

president and vice-president. 'The rest were allowed out.' Four students were arrested. They are to appear at the Old Bailey on 9 May. Just one week before this, Right to Work marcher John Deason also appears at the Old Bailey.

Just as the students' real offence is daring to occupy in protest at fees increases, John Deason's real crime is demonstrating against unemployment.

If the students are convicted, it will be a serious blow against any group of students or workers who defy the courts and organise occupations.



PICTURES: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Port Talbot: 'We want justice'

'WE'RE striking for justice,' Wyn Bevan, electricians' convenor at Margam Steelworks, Port Talbot, South Wales told Socialist Worker.

'There should be no preferential treatment for workers who can make out a strong case inside the Social Contract. The Social Contract should

be out. We need to get back to free collective bargaining.'

The 500 electricians who've been striking for two weeks at Port Talbot know all about the Social Contract. They've been doing increased work on new machinery with no recognition for two years.

Negotiations got them nowhere fast. So they blacked machinery. The British Steel Corporation suspended five workers—and the men came out, without the backing of their union, the Electricians (EETPU).

'Our executive instructed us back to work,' Wyn explained. 'They said we're striking against the Social Contract. Well so be it. We have moved a massive vote of no confidence in our executive. We voted by 420 to 65.'

Arrest

'The Social Contract is dead. It's the root of all our problems.'

'We're supporting the Heathrow workers and we're meeting with them. I'm all for solidarity in the working class.'

'I support anyone who's fighting for what they believe in.'

'At the moment BSC and the EETPU are trying to stamp us out. But we won't be stamped out. We need moral support from all EETPU branches in the country, and we need financial support to sustain our members who aren't getting any strike pay or social security.'

□ Donations and messages of support to Bill Curtis, (secretary, shop stewards committee), 27 Hawthorne Avenue, Baglan, Port Talbot, South Wales.

No more Shrewsburys! 4 May Delegations

HERE are some of the trade union bodies sending delegations to the picket of the Old Bailey on 4 May, when Right to Work marcher John Deason comes up for trial:

Sharnleys building site, Bedford, Cricklewood

AUEW, East London NUJ, Frenchay Hospital NUPE, Crook UCATT, Ellington NUM, Wokingham 2/AUEW, Pontins Holiday Camp building site (UCATT), York Trades Council, Barnet Trades Council, NUJ Book Branch, ACTSS Com-

posite, York, Letchworth 5/AUEW, Ipswich AUEW, Cowley AUEW, Hammersmith Hospital NUPE, Hackney Trades Council, Seddon Atkinson, Preston, Woking Trades Council, Greenwich Trades Council, Swansea EETPU, TGWU 5/293

Branch (Cowley Assembly), TGWU/38 (128).

□ Please notify details of your delegations to the Right To Work Campaign (phone 01-802 0978), 265a Seven Sisters Road London N4.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Name
 Address
 Trade union
 Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary
 Socialist Workers Party 6 Cottons
 Gardens, London E2 6DN