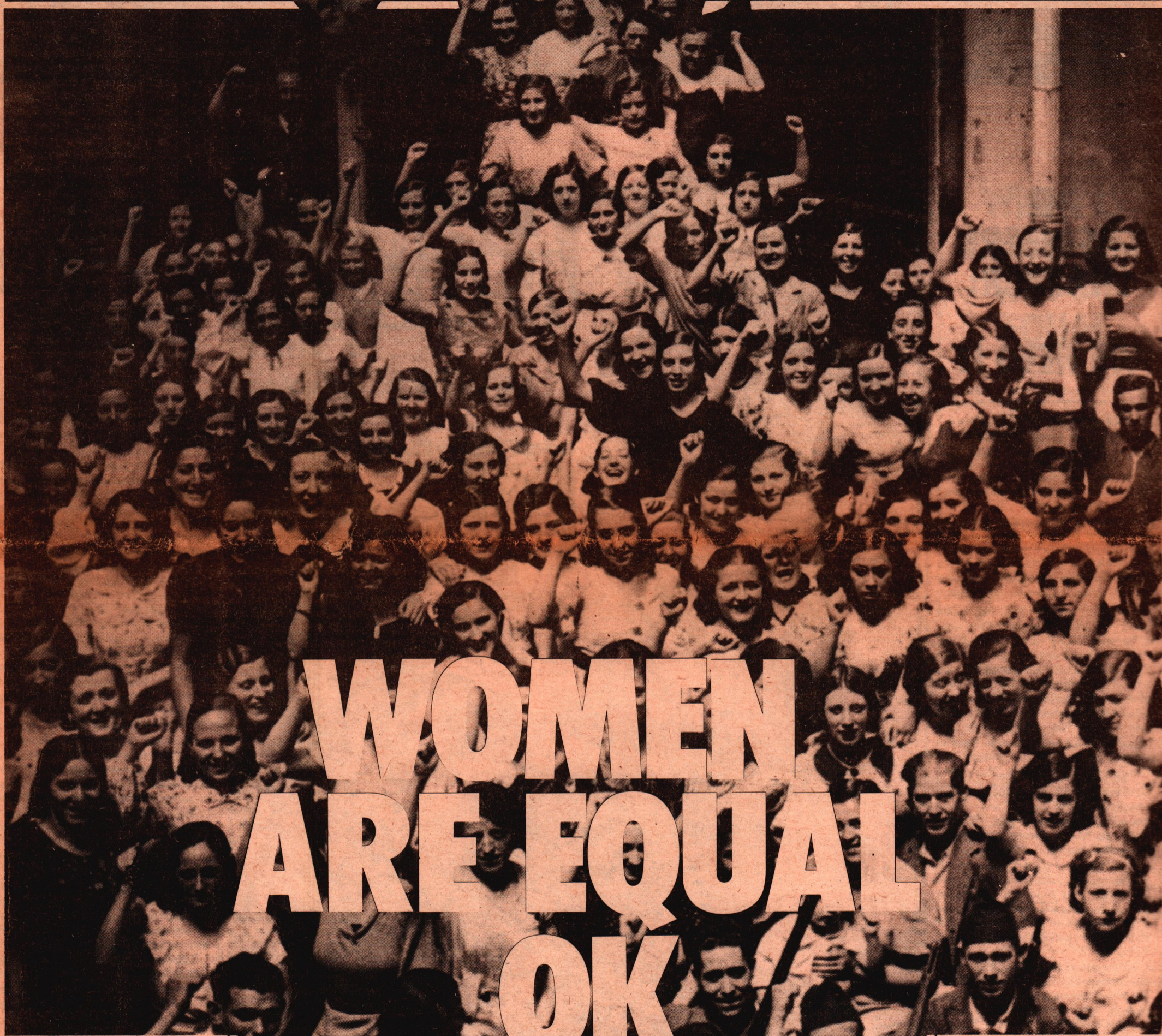


WOMENS VOICE

MONTHLY WOMENS PAPER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
JANUARY 1976 No 25 PRICE 6p



WOMEN ARE EQUAL OK

Women are equal to men. We know it. The problem is we live in a world that grinds us down, keeps us in our place, tells us we're inferior, makes us inferior and tries to make sure we stay that way.

Our wages are less than men's, we don't have the same job opportunities, often we don't have the same rights. We face the double burden of family care. We not only have to have the children, we have to bring them up and suffer deprivation at every turn.

Women have been fighting for centuries for equality. The Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act are a recognition of that fight, that some of the ideas of women's liberation are getting through. But they won't change the

world. Only we can do that.

But let's take a look at the kind of equality we want.

Do we really want to be equal to the men in Chrysler and British Steel, equal in getting the sack? Or do we want to be equal with the directors of Chrysler and British Steel who take the decisions and

run our lives?

The fact is we don't want to be equal with Chrysler workers, equal in exploitation. We don't just want a bigger slice of the cake. As someone once said, 'We want the bloody bakery'.

We want to be able to take decisions about how our lives are

run, make sure there are enough nurseries all the time, free restaurants and laundrettes. We want to get rid of housework altogether.

We want the time and resources to try out things women have never done before, try out new ideas, develop ourselves. We'll only be

able to do that when we control society, the factories and offices, social services, schools and hospitals. And we won't get that control without a fight. The people in control at the moment, the ruling class won't give way whatever they say about 'women's equality', however many laws on women's rights they pass.

We will only get there if we link up with workers in the factories and offices, schools and hospitals, men and women and fight together.

We need to be part of the working class struggle against society—the system that grinds all workers down. We have to join our brothers in the struggle for socialism and kick them into fighting for women's liberation. Together we can smash the system that oppresses us all.

THE GUARDIAN

This week some of those who are involved in women's issues, talk, man to man, about their attitudes

"you wouldn't allow a woman to stand out in the street and cut her hand off. Anyway (in elaboration) it's not just her body. It's part of the man's as well..."

Neither does he seem totally convinced by the battered wives campaign, having come across a number of female constituents who didn't seem to mind the odd whack around the ear on a Saturday night. But that's another story

He talks glowingly of his working-class constituents who wouldn't dream of getting rid of their families, and that the movement for abortion on demand was headed by those who have their holidays in the Bahamas and want their dresses to fit properly.

JAMES WHITE

THE ENGINEERS CHARTER: WE NEED IT

by Angela McHugh
AUEW shop steward

1975 was heralded as International Womens Year, the year when all women would achieve equality. Well 1975 is over and what have women achieved? How many have got their kids into nurseries, how many still have jobs? How many have been able to get an abortion on the National Health Service? How many have got equal pay?

For most women 1975 has meant nursery places being slashed, thousands of women losing their jobs, James White's anti-abortion bill and the biggest con of all—the Equal Pay Act not being implemented. All last week we've seen all sorts of people on TV and radio making noises about how women with the Sex Discrimination Act and Equal Pay Act were on the road to equality and how lucky we were.

The truth of the matter is that in Scotland alone only one in forty companies have made any moves towards paying equal pay. Where I work, the AUEW members are getting Equal Pay, but the TASS members are not. In fact, up to a few months ago, the management refused even to negotiate with them over Equal Pay. However, they soon changed their minds when TASS went out on strike demanding the £6 and that negotiations should start on Equal Pay.

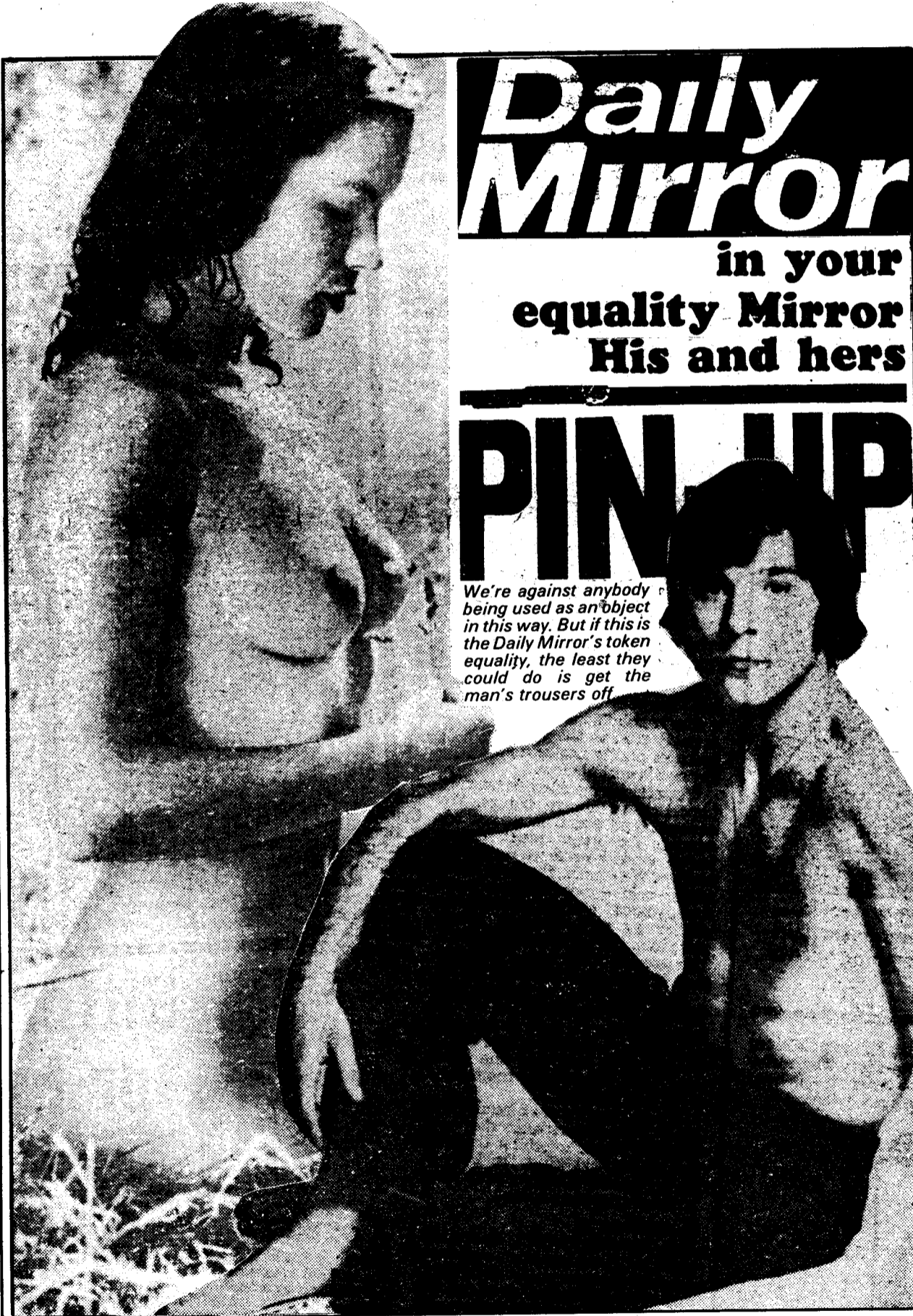
Although we have Equal Pay, we are not conned into thinking the Act works. We know there are thousands of other women who haven't had anything towards Equal Pay and unless they start to fight for it now the picture will be the same next year.

No employer is going to pay it, or if he does he will use job evaluation to grade the women into a special grade or else grade them into the low paid male worker. They will use everything to get out of paying it.

The unions have only paid lip service to the Act. They won't lead a real fight for it. The fight will have to be taken up by the women, the rank and file, themselves.

In December I went to the first national meeting of the Charter in London. The Charter was set up six months ago by ordinary members and stewards in the engineering union. The idea is to try and link up workers in the AUEW in different factories who want to organise a fight for jobs and better wages. Clearly the union leadership is not going to fight for the 35 hour week never mind equal pay or nursery facilities.

The more people like John Boyd get



Daily Mirror

in your equality Mirror
His and hers

PIN UP

We're against anybody being used as an object in this way. But if this is the Daily Mirror's token equality, the least they could do is get the man's trousers off

ONE DAY AT THE WOMENS VOICE RALLY

IN Stirling, Scotland, I'd come up against the fact that it's compulsory in some pubs for women to use separate bars from men. I got a shock when I found the same thing in Manchester and when I was there to attend the Womens Voice Rally.

When the lunch break came, my friends and I went into a pub just down the road from Belle Vue. The first bar we went into was men and women and was pretty packed, so we went into the other bar. It was all men. When we went in one of the men opened an adjoining

door which led back into the first bar and said:

"Women aren't allowed in here."
"Well, we're staying," I replied. "we've got as much right in here as you have. It's sex discrimination to ask us to leave and we're not going."

The men just laughed and accepted the situation but were even more amazed when they saw us drinking pints of beer instead of nice 'feminine shorts'. "You lot are from up the road aren't you," they said.

This is only a minor example of how we are put down all the time, but these little things help tremendously to 'keep us in our place'.

Jean Clark

ACT FOR OUR RIGHTS

THE Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act are now law. It is now 'illegal' to discriminate against women in pay or job opportunity. The press (and vast numbers of men) are trying to trivialise these changes in the law. All the jokes about 'male serving wenches' and calling postmen postpeople are attempts to divert us from the facts that women only earn half as much as men, that women are losing their jobs three times as fast as men.

Of course the Sex Discrimination Act backs away from anything that might cost employers money. Equal job opportunity perhaps, but equal pensions for the women already employed, no... We know the thousand and one ways the employers got round the Equal Pay Act. Regrading jobs so that women are in the bottom grades, making it impossible to compare women's and men's jobs, sacking women rather than give them equal pay, the whole structure of apprenticeship and promotion schemes. We know we can expect the Sex Discrimination Act to be avoided in the same sorts of ways.

But these Acts recognise our right to struggle for equality at work. They legitimise our fight. They don't win the struggles for us, we can only win them ourselves. But they do give us a framework we can use. That is why they are important, why we mustn't fall into the traps of treating them as a big joke, or of thinking we'll get anywhere without organising ourselves.

The same right to work as anyone else and, when we've got a job, the same pay for the same work—these must be the key issues for Womens Voice readers and supporters. We must:

- Fight employers, the unions and, if necessary, the men on the same job who try to push women out first when it comes to lay-offs, short time, and redundancies.
- Challenge discrimination against girls who want to take up apprenticeships in engineering, construction or any other male dominated field.
- Fight against regrading and all the other tricks employers get up to to make sure women end up with less in their pay-packets than men.
- Find out in your area which work places have already got equal pay and write and tell us about it.

RIGHTS FOR WOMEN—A step-by-step guide to the Sex Discrimination Act, the Equal Pay Act, unfair dismissal and redundancy, pension schemes and paid maternity leave. This pamphlet from the NCCL explains clearly the new laws, how to use them and the gaps in the Acts. 65p from: National Council for Civil Liberties, 186 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9DE

The Guardian made as much of a mockery of the two Acts coming in to force as any other paper. What makes their 'wide spectrum of opinion' series 'The Year of the Act' outstanding is the space given to the 'man of the year' James White.

His claim that the Abortion (Amendment) Bill was simply 'after the bandits' is a lie. If you really want to stop anyone

making profit out of unwanted pregnancies, fight for free abortion on demand. If you don't follow James White's instructions as follows:

If a woman wants to hurt herself eg, 'cutting her hand off in the street'—STOP HER.

If a man wants to hurt her eg giving her a 'whack' on a Saturday night—LET HIM, BECAUSE SHE LIKES IT.

Good News Or How the Act has helped



1 British Rail are withdrawing their 'Ladies Day Facility', where two women could travel to London for the price of one for a day's shopping.

2 Banks are going to put up the cheap mortgage rates they give their employees, now that women are entitled to them too. Know any more stories like this?

ALICE MURRAY

THE oppression of women begins in the cot. First you are dressed in sickly pinks and whites, or even the daring yellow. Blue is considered strictly unfeminine, for what reason I don't know. Not for young female babies the stripes, dungaries and shirts. No, it's all lace frills and flowers.

When you're a year old, the teddy is discarded for the doll, and here begins the whole toy industry's attempt to force the idea of motherhood upon us. We then graduate to the doll's pram, the doll's house, the vacuum cleaner, the ironing board, mops, brushes, sewing kits, knitting sets—all this to prepare us for our future role in this society.

By the age of five you've probably met little boys whose future roles are equally defined. The little boys are boisterous, rough—'boys will be boys'. They have footballs, building sets, cars, soldiers, railway tracks. They can fight, and if they can't are labelled 'cissy' or 'softy'. Their world is just as firmly set out for them. They are engaged in a young life filled with machines, and fighting.

By the time school is reached, the separate and very divergent roles are established. Girls learn to make knitting bags and aprons, while the boys get handiwork and PT.

All the ideas of the submissiveness of the female sex and the notion that our only function in life is to reproduce are ingrained in most little girls before they can read.

Reading adds a new dimension to all this. Boys read 'boys' magazines—where men are all tough cowboys or soldiers. Girls have the *Bunty*, *Mandy* or *Judy*, where there's a sneak in every story, a liar or a gossip.

From these delightful comics you go on to the *Romeo*, the *Jackie* and adulation for the *Osmonds* or the *Bay City Rollers*. You start going down to *Woolworths* on a Saturday where you can buy your own lipstick, face blusher and perfume. You are now reaching the age when the whole weight of the capitalist system exploits the fact that you are entering puberty.

This barrage of pressure exploits the feelings of young girls, and pumps into us the idea that the only way forward in life is to get our man, and keep him. To do this you have to look good. You have to be covered in all sorts of deodorants, perfumes and make-up. And you have to compete for men. You go to dances where you wait till someone asks you to dance. You build up rivals for the men you fancy—after all in every story there's a winner and a loser. You have to fight to get him and all the problem pages tell us you have to fight to keep him. You've got to get off that shelf!

Then comes the day when you go to work. But that makes very little



Why
can't a
woman
be more
like a
man

As boy is to fishing,
So girl is to mothering.

difference. After all it's only going to be temporary. After all, you're only working to get your clothes and cosmetics, to realise your ultimate ambition of getting your home and husband. Motherhood will be so much more exciting than the boring routine of the factory or office, but you'll have to put up with the routine because it won't last very long.

So you don't join the union. Nobody asks you to anyway. You don't know what the union is. The *Romeo* never told you about the union. The men are going to work all their lives—they might need the union. Politics is for men. Women have got bigger concerns, like

nappies and cleaning.

Then you get your man.

You have to find the back seats of cars or your friend's house when her parents are out to make love to your boyfriend.

You rush to legalise it and have your big wedding. You get married and begin the life you've always dreamed about.

Then the bubble bursts. You have to live, you have to eat, and your husband's wages won't cover all the HP and furniture payments, so you can't stop work. But it's still temporary.

When the kids come along you'll have to stop.

Baby comes, and the world of *Women's Own* is not quite your world.

They all seem to be so happy. The housework is not so entertaining as you thought it would be. The constant pressure of the bills, the rent, the clothes for the baby are weighing you down. You begin to wish you were back at work with your old mates, but there are no nurseries anyway. The doctor can't help you. He just gives you Valium or Librium and tells you to get on with it.

You're now 22 and what lies ahead? More Valium, more housework, more boring jobs . . . or what?

WHEN IS EQUAL PAY NOT SO EQUAL

Question: When is Equal Pay not so equal?

Answer: When you work for Newton Derby.

December 1973: At Newton Derby, an electrical engineering firm in Derby, talks begin between management and 21 members of APEX (Association of Professional Executive, Clerical, and Computer Staff) over job evaluation and equal pay.

December 1975: Equal Pay Act comes in to force.

January 1976 The official strike at Newton Derby enters its tenth week. For those picketing daily from 7.45am to 4.30pm outside the factory gates, the Act which the Employment Secretary, Michael Foot, calls the culmination of 'a century of struggle' has made not one bit of difference. To get what the Act supposedly offers them on a plate, these 19 women and 2 men will have to keep up their 100 per cent success on the picket line. Despite the length of the strike and management's refusal to recognise the APEX negotiators, morale is very high. As Moira Simpson, APEX Representative says:

'We came out fighting in 1975. International Womens Year, and we come into 1976 and we're still fighting.'

On the first day of picketing in the New Year, they received financial support from ASLEF and the TGWU (Qualcast branch). According to Moira:

'What we want is for the stuff coming in to be blacked by AUEW members.'

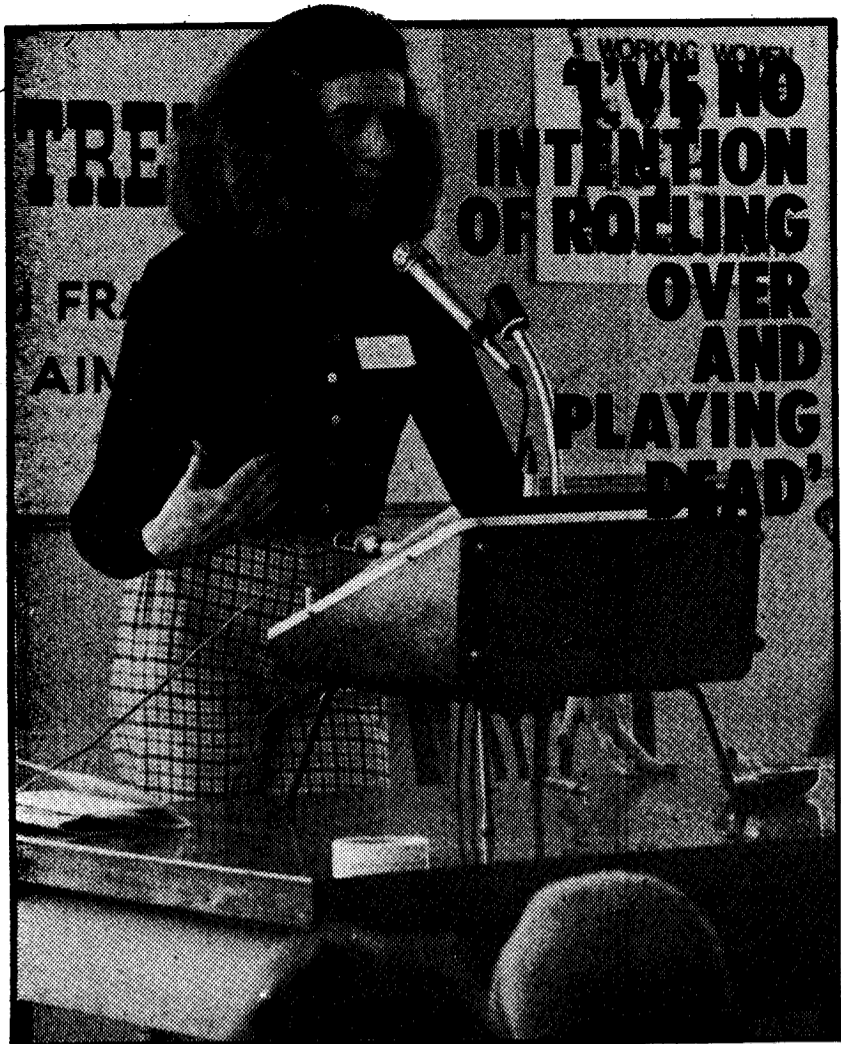
The strikers have approached the AUEW district official in Derby, Bob Kirk, who showed no interest at all.

There are now, however, signs that the AUEW members still working at Newtons will be giving support. But not if the company can help it. In the union ballot before Christmas over whether to give support to the APEX strikers, notices were stuck up by the management informing members that if they voted to support the strike, their jobs would be in jeopardy. Besides this, the management has had the audacity to print ballot papers giving them to the workers who are not in the union at all. As a result, scabs voted in the union ballot and the vote went against the strikers.

Moira adds:

'Each of us had a letter from management telling us that WE are the unions and we should not be kept out by one or two militants. "It's a free world", they say. Well, we don't know about that but we certainly know WE are the UNION and we will stay out till we win.'

Support and donations to Moira Simpson, APEX Rep, 33, Washington Avenue, Chaddesden, Derby.



Wendy Weinberg addressing a conference of working women in the USA.

WENDY WEINBERG INTERVIEWED BY SARA CARVER

General Motors (GM) is one of the largest corporations in the world. Wendy Weinberg works on the assembly line at the Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant in Detroit, USA. She is a United Auto Workers (UAW) committeewoman (shop steward). At the time of this interview, Wendy was on two weeks' suspension from GM she explains why:

'Every two weeks or so I publish the 'Plant Six Second Shift Newsletter' to keep members informed about the problems in the plant and the issues we need to tackle the management on. The last newsletter fingered a general foreman for harassment particularly of union representatives. GM claim it's against company rules to make 'vicious and malicious statements against members of the management'. It's not the first time they've tried to scare me off, even other union reps advised me to drop the newsletter.

It's not even the first time I've been out the door. I've been fired twice in the 3½ years I've worked here. First because of incorrect information on my application form; they can only fire you for this in the first 18 months, they did me when I had only two more weeks to go. I was out for eight months. But I filed a grievance through the union and wouldn't let the union officials push it under the carpet.

The second time was for disobeying an order from a foreman and I got 30 days. Both times I won and even got back pay. That drove the Company wild. They want the workers here to believe that they're powerless and they can't defend themselves against GM. I have proved to the people I work with that if you stick with it you can beat them.

The other reason for their harassment, of course, is to warn off other committeemen who want to fight for the membership. But even that's not working, and I've no intention of rolling over and playing dead. I knew before I got elected that if I did the job right they would come after me.

Why were you elected as committeemember for a section that is nearly all black and all male?

'There's a rank and file group in the plant called THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE which I'm working to build with other militants. We stand for a programme of decent union representation. Most of the stewards here play the management's game. For the 'dc-

nothings' it's a cushy job and you automatically get all the overtime you want. THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE stands for regular plant meetings, regular newsletters, fighting to win all grievances and more stewards. We also want improvements in safety standards, a fighting policy against lay-offs and improved benefits and protection for those who are laid off. Last year, the SUB Fund (unemployment fund) went bust, a lot of autoworkers suffered because of it. It's because I was clearly identified with these policies that I got elected.'

Wendy was one of the first four women to be employed in her section by GM in the 1970s. She clearly sees this as being due to the pressures applied by the Womens Movement to get women employed in previously all-male jobs.

'At first the men's reaction was incredible. It was like they had been stranded in the desert and hadn't seen a woman for 50 years! There was general hilarity and wolf whistles when we first started to work on the line. But the novelty soon wore off. Of course, the management tried to 'prove' the old myth about women not being strong enough to do the same work as men by giving us the dirtiest and toughest jobs to do. But all the women who started with me got through their 70 days probation. Then when the lay-offs came in the auto industry nearly all the women were laid off because they didn't have the seniority. We suffered all over again the burden of past discrimination. The lay-offs should have been fought by demanding longer breaks or alternative employment in non-productive areas, even pushing a broom if it meant our wages didn't drop or that we lost our jobs.'

Wendy is not only a trade union militant but also a revolutionary and a leading member of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA.

'In July, August and September of 1975, General Motors made \$243 million profits. In 1975 hundreds of thousands of GM workers suffered lay-offs, speed-ups and all the other miseries of working for a company like GM. When you walk through the gates of General Motors you say goodbye to whatever rights you thought you had. There is no freedom of speech. No freedom of press. You are considered guilty until proven otherwise.

'If you're a black or a woman decades of struggle were needed to get a job at GMs in the first place, and it can be whipped away from you, it only takes minutes to lay you off and it's all done in the name of 'profitability'. General Motors is a dictatorship. Capitalism is the dictatorship of the employers over the working class. I'm fighting for a system of workers' power for workers' needs and that's called socialism.'

By Joan Smith (ATTI)

TWO months ago the big insurance company Lloyds of London worked out how much a wife was worth to a man. They figured it as £71 a week for the combined jobs of housekeeper, nursery nurse and cleaner. But of course, under capitalism, all these jobs are done by the woman for the price of her husband's wage. The boss gets his forty hour a week and her 60 hour week for the cost of £55.60 (average weekly wage). If the woman goes out to work as well then she is paid less, (£34 a week), and does the housework on top. Her working week is at least 80 hours.

But this is in 'normal' families. Families where no-one is sick, where there are no elderly to care for, where there are no handicapped. In families where such care is needed, then the burden of work is enormous and it is not done by the welfare state. Occasional hospital care is provided by the welfare services but the state only takes over the whole burden of providing for the elderly and sick when the family breaks down. When women are really needed for jobs outside the home, the state will take care of the ordinary work done by women. During the Second World War 1½ million women were taken out of the home, domestic service and the retail trade and put into industry. Their children were taken into nurseries, they could eat in municipal kitchens and use

municipal laundries. The entire Welfare system that we know today was set up during the Second World War—because women were needed as workers outside the home.

The Labour government of 1945 stopped the war-time welfare state being destroyed because they believed in welfare. But that belief didn't do women much good—it was Labour who started to close the nurseries. The

COM

Picture Romans Cagoni (Report)

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Like most people, it was only when one member of my family became physically handicapped that I really got involved with the disabled problem. Before that I would buy raffle tickets off charities, donate money, say it must be terrible to have a handicapped child and think that our Welfare State took care of all the big problems. But I didn't give it much thought — I was more concerned with the other problems of the world.

■ ■

Then my son Philip contracted muscular dystrophy, a progressive paralyzing disease. My first shock was trying to get him educated. When he was six years old and we threatened to dump him at the physically handicapped school and refuse to have him back unless he was educated, they gave in and found him a place.

When his condition deteriorated, and he could no longer climb stairs on his own, I applied for a stair lift, one that would eventually take a wheel chair. Since then I have lost count of the social workers I have seen. I've been told our council house is unsuitable, so I brought in the firm over the heads of the Social Services, and got an estimate of £980.

Then the chief surveyor came from Lancashire County Council and said I needed a bungalow. When I said there weren't any three bedroomed bungalows or flats in our area, he said: 'We'll build one, if it costs £10,000. Your case is urgent, you need one.' So the lift was forgotten.

A few months later, the borders changed and we became Merseyside. St Helens' social services deal with my case now. It was back to square one, new social workers, a new case history was needed although they had all the records. The bungalow was never mentioned again—no money was the cry.

I started pestering councillors who brought the case up in different committee meetings. I made myself a nuisance to the Social Services. Every time they found a reason why I couldn't have a lift, I found a way round it. I was told that the Housing Department was holding up the lift going before full council as they hadn't given an estimate of the alterations needed before the lift could be installed.

I phoned the Housing Department, and when I was told the person dealing with it was out, I phoned every 15 minutes. When they didn't answer in the end, I pestered all the other



Picture Barbara Hall (IFU)

Bottom left and top right some of the facilities will go with the cuts. Large picture: kitchen on Waterk... tion.

departments. I was even threatened that if I didn't take a seat lift, which would have meant me lifting Philip out of the wheel chair onto a seat, going up the stairs holding him on and lifting him off into another wheel chair at the top of the stairs (cost £400), I wouldn't get any lift at all.

I told them I would sooner have nothing, but I would still fight their decision. Anyway, in April 1975, my stair lift was passed by full council. But when they ordered it, it had gone up to £1600 in less than a year. So now I'm to have one by another firm, cost £650. The difference is like comparing a mini to a Rolls Royce, but it will take a wheel chair up, and that's what I want.

The firm said six weeks delivery. I have a four foot deep hole in my hall.

My son is now confined to a wheel chair, I've waited four months and am still waiting. I'm now pestering the firm to deliver. In all, it's taken over three years to get to this point.

I need a lift to get him in and out of a bath, but it must go all through yards and yards of red tape, and the cost keeps rising.

Most people accept what social workers tell them because they feel they know better. It's their job, and they're qualified. But social workers are tied to bosses who tell them there's no money in the kitty, and to talk people out of expensive equipment.

Unemployment is four times higher than the national average for the disabled, both physically and mentally. Even if you have a slight mental

Labour government used the argument that the Tories have used since; that children without their mothers, even for only 40 hours a week, are deprived children. Women were expected to go back into the home as wives and mothers. Whilst capitalism was expanding the British ruling class could afford the welfare state but now that expansion is finished. Now the only way to get extra money for industrial

investment is to stop all investment in social welfare. That means that the family, which has always been the biggest welfare system, must now become the welfare system.

From 1973 when Anthony Barber, the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, cut public spending on housing, education, health and social welfare, to 1975, when Dennis Healey, the Labour Chancellor of the Ex-

chequer did the same, the situation has got worse. Now all new capital spending, on hospitals, schools and nurseries, has stopped and many buildings are empty because there are no staff for them.

The public expenditure cuts fall hardest on the elderly and the handicapped because it is their residential homes that aren't built and their sheltered housing that disappears from

the council's plans. The Health Services could save a lot of money if, as they intend, all elderly patients were cared for at home: two thirds of all the long-term beds in hospitals are taken up by elderly patients.

All these people will now have to be cared for in the 'community' and the idea of 'community care' has become very important in welfare circles. It sounds beautiful: instead of old people or disabled children spending their lives in terrible isolated institutions, they will be cared for in a total community sharing the lives of all of us. But that means that someone, somewhere, in the community, must be responsible for the twenty-four hour nursing that many need. It might be a son, father, husband,

but more frequently a daughter, wife and mother. The new disabled allowance for 24 hour nursing is £6 a week, just over 3½p per hour.

With the unemployment rate amongst women workers running at 245,200, and the amount of public expenditure cuts going up in the next two years, 'community care' will become even more important. Unemployed women will find unpaid employment—as cheap nurses, nursery nurses, and housekeepers.

Capitalism no longer needs women workers, it hasn't enough jobs for men, and the union leaders are co-operating in putting women first out the door.

MUNITY CARE



It sounds a beautiful idea



their whole lives devoted to looking after a sick or elderly relative with little help and no appreciation from society.

In my own case, I find at times a complete reversal of society's normal attitude. A woman in my position would be condemned for going to work.

I am condemned by some for not doing so. We must fight for the right to work regardless of sex and the right to work regardless of family difficulties. These difficulties should be ironed out by society as a whole. Hours of work should be made more flexible. Where a woman or occasionally a man cannot work a full week because there are young children to be cared for, adequate compensation should be made for unavoidable loss of work.

One parent families should be paid a full week's wage for part time work. Or when going to work is impossible because of family commitments, then adequate benefit must be paid. No woman with children should ever lose her job through unavoidable absenteeism. There should be no qualifying period at all to take up a claim of wrongful dismissal. Fight for these things within your union. If you are not working join the rank and file right to work campaign and fight.

I know how difficult it is if you have young children, to do all the political work you would like to. This really gets me down at times. But I get round the difficulty quite often by taking my kid along with me. I've attended many branch and district committee meetings with Alison on my knee. She's been on pickets, demos and taken part in a job centre occupation. Don't hesitate if there's no other alternative—take the kids along. They'll love it.

Cuts seem to affect children more than any other section of the community—cuts in their education and especially in their health requirements. Children's hospitals seem to be a number one target for the axe.

Fight all cuts and as they are so much on the receiving end, use your kids if necessary.

Wherever there's a political fight in my area, I know my comrades expect me to be there and very often Alison is with me. I think she helps considerably in making us aware of what we're really fighting for.

JACK CUMMINS
Ex AUEW shop steward

disability, it's very, very difficult to get a job. If only healthy people belonging to unions realised that to fight for the rights of the disabled now, they could be safeguarding some of their own rights.

Accidents and illnesses happen to anyone. And it's too late to complain when you're disabled yourself.

Now the government is stopping disabled mothers and haemophiliacs from having adapted 4-wheel cars. A disabled mother's children will have to walk beside her in the car, as it's illegal to carry passengers—also it's too small and highly dangerous.

People have enough problems in caring for the disabled without having to have this constant war of nerves with Social Services for equipment to make life more bearable.

SADIE BLOOD

The Labour government will reduce regional inequality of standards; put emphasis on prevention and primary care and give a clear priority to spending on services for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped. It will continue the progressive elimination of prescription charges and the phasing out of private pay beds from National Health Service hospitals.

MORNING STAR 10.10.75
At Portsmouth the management board has put a total ban on recruitment and replacement of nursing staff and a cutback on student intakes due to £¼ million 'overspending'. As a result sixty newly trained student nurses have been forced to look for factory and office jobs.

FACT
Camden recently explained why they were searching for foster parents for 'difficult' teenagers at £15 a child. It cost Camden £80 a week to help a child in care.

“

I work on average a 16 hour day, 7 days a week. The pay—£18.30. Duties include being a housekeeper, cook, nurse, part-time teacher and constant companion. This is the hard slog normally taken on by women, and the pay is about the same for many of them, especially those in charge of a single parent family. My little girl Alison suffers from a rare, incurable, fatal and virtually untreatable disease.

At times, since my wife died, I have attempted to escape from the grinding poverty of existence on supplementary benefit by making arrangements for my child to be cared for out of school hours whilst I have gone to work.

Each time, either through recurring bouts of illness or arrangements falling through, I have either given up work or been sacked for absenteeism. Even part-

Jack and Alison in occupation of job centre in Manchester.

time work is out of the question. The pay too low, hours not fitting in with actual school time and the constant possibility of Alison being off school again because of her illness. And of course, added to this, school holidays.

Most women with young children have had to face these same problems. One of the worst things I feel I have to face in the present predicament is the terrible feeling of inadequacy that is forced on me at times. If I go to work my child's physical and emotional needs are neglected. If I stay at home I am forced by the parsimonious level of supplementary benefit to lower our standard of living.

Though luxuries are curtailed even for Alison, she does get an adequate diet. But this is only achieved by doing without myself. I have one meal a day. Occasionally a snack as well and very often, one or two days with nothing. There's nothing heroic about this, women have been doing it throughout history. Just as they have so often, more or less sacrificed their lives, as I am doing now to look after someone who is sick. How often women have done this,

”

THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION IS AT STAKE IN ANGOLA' 'Samora Machel)

by Penny Graham

THE people of Angola are fighting the most crucial struggle ever for the liberation of Africa. The People's Republic of Angola faces a massive onslaught by western forces. The Republic was proclaimed on November 11 1975, by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Angola is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa. Its vast mineral resources and oil reserves have been the property of several giant multinational companies, granted cheap concessions during the years of Portuguese rule. These companies profited hugely from the appalling labour conditions imposed by a system of terror.

CIA MOVE IN

The MPLA developed among the workers of Luanda, the capital, and other centres into a significant fighting force committed to the total liberation of Angola. This made the CIA look for people who would collaborate in establishing a pro-American regime. They found a ready accomplice in 1962 in Holden Roberto, leader of what is now called the FNLA. This is a strongly tribalist movement serving the power-lusts of its leader. With the aid of Mobutu, dictator of Zaire and himself a US State Department stooge, Holden Roberto concentrated on defeating the liberation struggle of the MPLA.

Among those to die in Mobutu's jails was Deolinda de Almeida, foremost woman leader of the MPLA. Women have played a significant part in the struggle, and the MPLA are pledged to the full emancipation of women.

The second Angolan puppet movement involved in the current offensive is UNITA of Jonas Savimba. He created the movement following a break with Holden Roberto, and collaborated actively with the Portuguese during the colonial war by informing on MPLA movements.

The self interested leadership and tribalist nature of both FNLA and

UNITA made for an uneasy alliance, forged in the period leading up to independence in the face of widespread support for the MPLA.

SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS

It was the strength of this support that ultimately precipitated the direct invasion by South African troops in a last minute attempt to smash the MPLA and prevent them taking power on November 11.

The South African invading forces linked up with UNITA and FNLA troops and occupied a series of important towns, including the

main ports of Southern Angola and key points along the major (British owned) railway line. This attack from the South was timed to coincide with a major offensive on Luanda from the north by FNLA and Zairean troops, and a swift victory was clearly anticipated.

REORGANISATION

The MPLA's armed forces have halted the advance both in the northern and southern fronts and regained an offensive position. Soviet and Cuban assistance was crucial to meet the South African introduction of 50 Panhard armoured cars into the Angolan battle arena. But as the war draws

on it becomes increasingly clear that the MPLA's success lies with the people of Angola, and its strength in the reorganisation of everyday life within its areas to meet the people's needs. Vast numbers have fled the towns occupied by the invading forces and made their way behind MPLA lines.

In addition to building up civilian militias, MPLA militants are actively engaged in the reorganisation of agriculture into co-operatives and in the extension of a mass literacy campaign.

ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

Total victory is still a long way off. The MPLA firmly resist the calls of

states like Britain for a 'government of national unity' and are steadily preparing for a long struggle. The US senate vote to cut off further funds for CIA use in Angola still has to be passed by the House of Representatives, and does not stop the present flow of money. The US Administration is succeeding with its policy of economic sabotage, and have persuaded Gulf Oil to suspend its operations, and to stop paying tax and royalties to the MPLA.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

There is even more than the independence of the Angolan people at stake. The development of the Angolan struggle has repercussions throughout Southern Africa. Total victory to the MPLA would constitute a direct threat to the apartheid regime of South Africa, centre and policeman of capitalism in Africa.

South Africa's stake in Angola goes beyond its interests in the giant hydro-electric scheme on Angola's southern border. The victory of the Angolan people would wreck the whole South African policy of 'detente' with compliant nationalist governments in Africa. 'Detente' is designed to guarantee vital markets for South African manufacturing industry; to ensure the continuing stranglehold of African economies by the big corporations, making talk of real independence meaningless; and most of all to hinder any prospect of revolutionary change in South Africa itself.

VICTORY

Victory to the MPLA would inspire and strengthen all those struggling against this sinister strategy. Each reverse suffered by capitalism in Southern Africa touches the working class struggle throughout the world.

Demonstration US OUT, SOUTH AFRICA OUT, VICTORY TO THE MPLA

Assemble: Lincoln's Inn, 2.00pm, 21 January.

For up to date information on Angola and details of solidarity work contact: the Angola Solidarity Committee, 30 Romilly Road, London, N4.

US OUT SOUTH AFRICA OUT VICTORY TO THE MPLA



Women soldiers in training for the national liberation struggle in Angola.

Song for Judith Campbell, alive and married in San Diego. (To the tune of D.I.V.O.R.C.E.—Or something a bit like it.)

I'm the girl who put the F into JFK, I tell you, he put some effort into me, While I was running with the MAFIA, Just as happy as a girl can be:

Then J Edgar Hoover told him they were CIA,

Agents, honey, oh can't you see . . . He was just another mug to me, oh yeah,

He was just another thug to me.

It's all part of the (crumbling) service.

The authorities at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow have coined a new phrase. Every now and then they have to 'decant' children from particular wards.

The hospital, which cost £5 millions to build, was hailed at its opening four years ago as the finest and most sophisticated in Europe.

Ever since it opened, however, it's been a shambles with ripped out pipes, cracks, and crumbling ceilings due to structural faults. While the architects and builders argue it out, wards are closed down in rotation, and the children of Glasgow are 'Decanted' out of the way of the rubble and cement

It's all part of the service . . .

A million people, it has been estimated, will be without heat and light in the coming year because they cannot pay their electricity and gas bills. At present electricity disconnections are running at a rate of 120,000 a year, affecting 400,000 people in all.

The increase in fuel bills (electricity charges have doubled in the last two years) is expected to more than double this figure. Still with all-electric council house bills averaging about £7, the social security heating allowance (if you can get it) is between 55p and £1.65 a week.

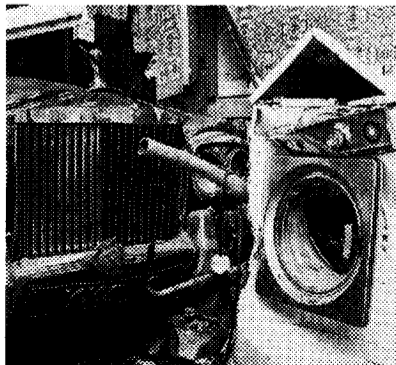
Thousands upon thousands of old people, children, the sick, and the hard-up will be made even more miserable and destitute.

It's all part of the service . . .

About 150 residential homes for the handicapped, sick and elderly will stay empty in the coming year because of cuts.

In Coventry two homes for old people and one for the physically handicapped is to be shut for at least two years. The same pattern is being repeated across the country.

Dirty Linen



This blue Rolls Royce crashed into Mrs Jeanette Tullett's council-house kitchen in Chobham, Surrey, as she was making the Sunday dinner. Study the picture.

Question: When a Rolls Royce crashes into a council house which comes off worse?

Answer: Rolls Royces are built for rich people.

According to the Guardian the first sign of 'committed opposition' against the society of 'sexual equality' has been the flooding of a marriage bureau in Slough, with hundreds of applications from British men for traditional Asian wives.

Here are the manageress's suggested reasons why

'We do not argue with our husbands and we are quite happy to have our marriages arranged. Our women run the home properly and would not think of leaving it . . . Our Indian women believe in equality. After all, India's Prime Minister is a woman, but we look after our men better. We trust them more and are not forever suspecting them when they go out by themselves'.

The article was headed: 'Wives with Eastern Promise'.

Look out for the 'Hire a traditional slave-style housewife' bureau.

Jack Ashley, so concerned about the law lords' ruling last April that 'Rape is a man's right to choose' is using his time in the next session of parliament for a private member's bill to change the law in relation to rape—to ensure the rape victims name is not disclosed and that her previous sex life should not be taken in evidence.

Great, we all agree that a woman's sex life is irrelevant to a case of rape and

that privacy would make her life a lot easier. However, Jack Ashley is not going to tamper at all with the fundamental aspect that a man cannot be convicted of rape as long as he was reasonably justified in thinking that the woman wanted him to do it.

So, even according to great law reformer and women's libber Jack Ashley, rape will still remain a man's right to choose.

Dr Sheila Cassidy
Neil DeVoye (her solicitor).

Left winger contacted priest for treatment. Passed to Dr Cassidy problem: infected leg three bullet wounds, opened abscess in operation.

Later found worse high fever unable to walk, life in danger advised him to seek political asylum . . . relayed info. to priest advising him.

Few weeks later Sat night Nov 1st, heard scream. Neighbour shot, bullets coming in her window, neighbours house. hid under table, firing stopped, Knock door. Machine-gunned soldier. Blind folded taken in car. Tortured that night electrical shocks. Tied naked on bed. Feared for life. Tortured three sep. occasions over 12 hours. Held in solitary three and a half weeks.

Send us in your stories . . .

INTERVIEW BY
MARGARET RENN

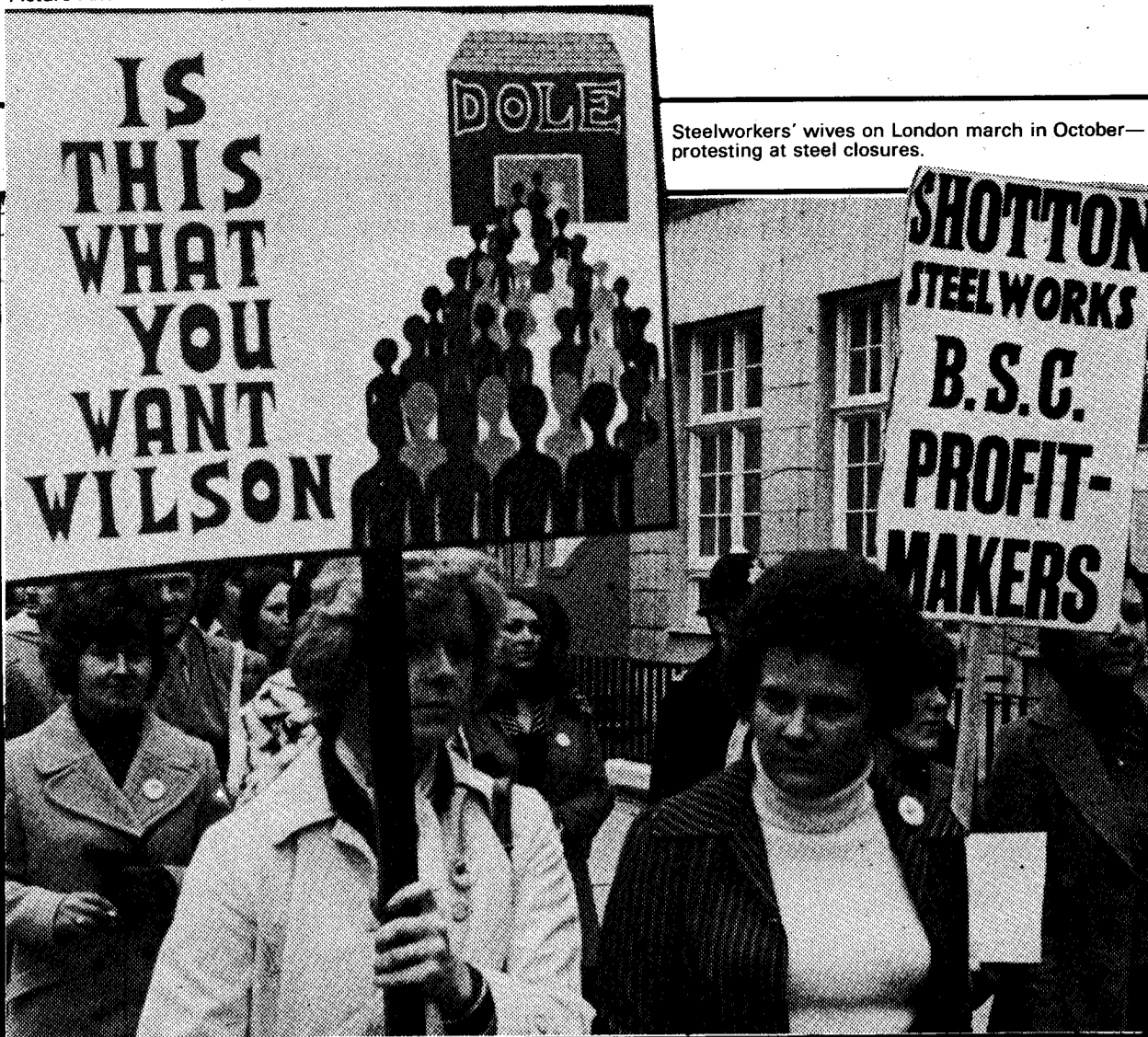
Gwyneth Bowen is married to a steel worker in South Wales. She has three children—Mark aged eight, Emma five, and Lee who is three.

Her husband Ken works in the Trostre and Velindre plant of the Steel Corporation. He's not one of the million and a half unemployed, but it's not only those who are actually out of work who are hit by the crisis.

The British Steel Corporation wants to make thousands of steel workers redundant, and even close some of the plants. But they need to save more money than that. So, because there isn't the same demand for steel now (because less cars, fridges, radiators and so on are being made) they want to cut the hours of thousands of other steelworkers by cutting the shifts they work at the weekends. This will save them a lot of money normally paid out in wages.

They also want to do away with an agreement whereby the steelworkers are paid 80 per cent of the wages when there isn't any work, even though it's not the steelworkers' fault that the work isn't there.

The net result of their proposals will be to push every steelworker and his family into harder times, when they can't be sure where the money they need



Steelworkers' wives on London march in October—protesting at steel closures.

'I think the men should come out on strike now. They've got to fight.'

to live on will be coming from.

Ken explained to me: 'I work a 48 hour week every other week, which includes working a Sunday. For the inconvenience of Sunday working they pay double time. Now, if they cut the

Sunday working I will lose 16 hours pay at £1.07 an hour, over £17, from my wages. Just like that. It's not overtime, it's hours they work because they wanted the steel-mills running all the time.

For Gwyneth the prospect is a bleak one:

'We'll have to eat pigs trotters, that's all. The school dinners will have to stop. We'll have to turn the fire down—you can't get into debt.

I'll be borrowing out of the gas to pay the electricity and out of the electricity to pay something else, and back again. just to see us through.

'I want a new carpet, and when you have saved for it for so long you don't want to have to spend it on something else. But gas and electricity have to be paid for so we'll have to pull out from the savings, and once it's gone, it's gone.

'Mind you, there's no marvellous wage at the end of the week now. Once you've put aside for everything that needs paying for—insurance, mortgage, gas, electricity, coal, the rest just about goes round. Once, five years ago we got a weekend away in Blackpool.

'We understand it, but the children are too young. You can't explain to them.

'I think the men should come out on strike now. They've got to fight.

'I did once, when I worked in the Cop. They were going to make some woman a floor worker, to keep an eye on us. So we got together and went straight to the management. Take it on right from the start, that's the way to fight.

'But however mad the women are, it is still for the men to fight. It's easier for them because they're all together at work. But I would go round and get people up if I was angry enough.'

Enough anger and organisation can stop the steel bosses from throwing 44,000 workers on the scrap heap. And it can stop them turning the lives of thousands more of their workers and their families into a misery.

Every Womens Voice reader who lives in or near a steel town should organise support immediately if the steelworkers are forced out on strike. Many of them are women. All of them have families. All of us will suffer if they lose.

LADBROKES: THE STRIKE IS OVER

The strike is over. It lasted seven months, involved the workers concerned in incredible hardship and ended in complete victory for Ladbrokes. They have successfully bought the union out and the sacked workers are to be given payments of £650 for part time staff up to £1100 for the manager. Out of the original 329 only 28 will get their jobs back. Altogether Ladbrokes will pay out £100,000. No doubt that seems a drop in the ocean to them. After all, they recently paid £1,600,000 to keep the Grand National running.

How did they win?

On the face of it, it looked as though the strikers were on to a winner. They had joined Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers Union, and had its massive industrial strength to support them. The dispute and the eventual sackings were about the right to trade union recognition, an issue on which the strikers felt that every fellow trade unionist would support.

Even at the end of the struggle, the hard core of strikers who were left, mainly women, showed no signs of weakening. Even the industrial tribunal found in their favour.

What happened?

Basically the Ladbrokes' workers lost because the pillar of strength they depended on crumbled. No attempt to win the strike by spreading it or organising blacking was made by the officials. Only the workers themselves and rank and file sympathisers up and down the country tried to extend militant action and hit Ladbrokes where it hurt most.

Instead the strike committee were sent bills for strike appeal sheets and the

use of union rooms for meetings. The bills came from the Transport and General. The union they were fighting so hard to belong to.

The strikers depended too much on union officials but that is easy to understand. They work in an industry with no history of union organisation whatever. Betting shops are staffed mainly by women, often working only part time and no trade union has ever been able to organise them.

The Transport and General should have seized this chance of making inroads into the entire betting industry but they didn't even try to recruit Ladbrokes' workers in other parts of the country, never mind approaching workers in other betting shops. Now this opportunity has been thrown away. The behaviour of the Transport and General has thrown trade unionism back for years in the betting industry.

The lesson to be learnt from this bitter failure is a simple one—only by linking up workers in different industries by building a rank and file movement capable of mobilising support on issues like this will we ever win. The trade union officials are too busy pushing down their members' throats to give a damn.

KATHY FINN EIS

Many thanks to all those who organised and supported the pickets of Ladbrokes betting shops last month. According to Ladbrokes own figures we succeeded in picketing 126 shops.



The Alliance Against Dictatorship in India is organising a demonstration to protest at the political prisoners being held in India. The demonstration is on: January 25th, 1.00pm

Assemble Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. March to India House via Downing Street.

**RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
AN END TO ALL TORTURE
AN END TO ALL KILLINGS**

PERSONNA: 24 'VOLUNTARY' REDUNDANCIES FOR WOMEN

The occupation at Personna is over. The workforce were forced into defeat and accepted twenty four voluntary redundancies in the women's sections.

These will be used as the thin end of the wedge by the management to get further redundancies. There is also a tacit acceptance in the agreement that 'women should be the first to go'.

How is it that a strong, confident, well-organised factory with an experienced leadership which had won equal pay for women, ended up isolated and giving way on the issue of women's redundancies?

The struggle lasted 11 weeks. It began last September when the Personna bosses tried to sack 44 of the 300 engineering workers and increase the productivity and flexibility of the rest. The response of the workforce was a united strike to defend jobs and conditions with round the clock picketing—women and the men standing shoulder to shoulder. The strike met a disinterested response from the Philip Morris Combine, the American multinational cigarette king, who own Personna. After four weeks the workers occupied the plant.

The shop stewards then started to use the factory as a base for organising support. Running the occupation was costly. The strikers needed to get regular financial support from the local labour movement. At first they relied on publicity through the press and television and on sending letters to local factories. This brought in some support but it was not enough.

The stewards organised a meeting for all the local factories in the area and held it inside the occupied factory. At the meeting they put forward their case explaining why it was so important for the whole labour movement that they should win their fight. Over 90 shop

stewards attended that meeting.

The Personna stewards suggested that a delegate committee from local workplaces be set up to organise local action in defence of jobs and set up a central fund to help all factories in the battles ahead.

But George McCormick, the Communist Party convenor at Rolls Royce moved that the idea of building the committee was premature, and that what was required was that the stewards should go back to their factories and organise collections for Personna. Many of the leading AUEW convenors and stewards in the Paisley district supported him. The motion was carried.

That was it. From then on the workers were left on their own.

Solidarity inside the occupation was still strong, but the stewards failed to involve the whole workforce in visiting other factories to win support. They began to lose confidence in their ability to win a total victory. The result was that, when the company came forward with a compromise offer immediately before Christmas the stewards recommended acceptance. And at a mass meeting the workforce almost unanimously decided to return to work.

Management have been forced to guarantee that every other job will be retained to the end of 1976. The workforce have also managed to establish that all future plans for flexibility and efficiency must be ratified by the shop stewards committee and the local AUEW district before implementation. The company have backed down in the face of a well organised occupation that was biting into their profits.

But they conceded only the absolute minimum and switched to voluntary redundancies for women workers, a section only too readily sacrificed.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO WORK...

WHY WE'RE GOING ON THE MARCH

Picture John Sturrock (Report)



Between January and July, unemployment rose by 121 per cent among women and it's going to double. I was at school then but due to leave. And I knew that I wanted a job. But can you imagine yourself the effect it has on me and other young girls who are about to leave school and embark on their careers. Careers but on the dole.

Women have always been hardest hit where unemployment is concerned and will carry on being just so unless we women do something about it. Because believe me, Len Murray's talk with the government will not find us a job or stop further redundancies among women. This they have proved already.

We need action not words and empty promises. That's why I'm going on the unemployment march to London to show the bosses' unions that women, not only men will fight for their right to work.

United we can and will fight. And we will win.

KERRY ABRAM



I was an Easter leaver and had one job. But that only lasted for three months. I don't think I'll get another, no matter how I try unless it's a cleaning job. I get £7.70 on Social Security. With that I pay my mother £3 and £4.70 to buy my clothes, get around and enjoy myself. I wear trousers—they cost at least £5.

My parents are always getting at me to find a job. But when all I hear is 'sorry, no vacancies' you tend to give up. I have been out of work since September.

People say you are too lazy and that all you do is sit on your backside and live off the country, a lady of leisure they say is a name that suits me. What can you say to convince these people. It isn't true.

These are the reasons I am going on the three week march to London. To show these people that I do want a job. Let Len Murray carry on with his talk, I'm going to fight for the right to work and with the unity of the men and women we can and will win.

TINA DICKINSON

Other women going on the march are listed below:

Denise Salmon
Thelma Kennedy
Erica Burnley

Womens Voice would like to know of any further women intending to go on the march.

Unemployment among women is rising three times as fast as among men. Over the last year 235,000 women have lost their jobs. These official figures do not even begin to tell the whole story. Married women paying reduced contributions don't get any money from signing on at the Labour Exchange—so of course few of them go through the hours of queuing and waiting around in grim offices. Three quarters of all married women workers pay reduced contributions. The official figures only cover those women who do sign on. In October there were still 19,500 girls who hadn't yet got a job since leaving school.

Unemployment is here to stay. We are told, time and again, 'sacrifice today, and all will be well tomorrow'. This is a lie. The days of full employment are over. The days when the system allowed those who wanted to work a job have finished. The Opinion Research Centre, a group of top directors, predict 1 1/4 million unemployed by the end of next year. Look around. GEC, Plessey, Courtaulds, The Post Office, Chrysler, any number of firms are all trying to cut their workforces. New jobs are not being created. We will not see unemployment below the million mark for the foreseeable future, no matter how hard we tighten our belts.

The White Paper on Steel put it very clearly: 'Modernisation means fewer jobs. But it is essential if those jobs are to be securely based.' If the government has its way the 'regeneration of British industry' will mean fewer jobs for workers, bigger profits for industry. 'Sacrifice today, jam tomorrow'. We sacrifice, spend our lives on the dole queue in financial hardship and demoralisation, jam tomorrow for the shareholders of British industry.

All the Labour government's policies push up unemployment. The £6 wage freeze: less money in our purses, factories closing because people aren't buying their goods. They can't afford to!

Cuts in the welfare services—nurses, teachers on the dole. 7000 fully qualified teachers are drawing the dole while our children sit in overcrowded classrooms.

No, unemployment is here to stay, here as long as we allow ourselves to be used by those who run this society for their profit.

Who is going to fight back? Not the

FUND

We are launching a fund to sponsor Tina and Kerry on the march. Our dead-line is February 15th.

TARGET: £250

WHAT FOR? To pay for the boots, socks, suitable clothing, food and everything else Kerry and Tina will need on the march.

HOW CAN I AFFORD IT? Everyone can afford 10p. SEND IT—Every little bit adds up. Better still:

Collect from your friends and the women you see taking your kids to school every day. Ask everyone you sell Womens Voice to for 10p, instead of 6p—they might give more!

WOMENS VOICE SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF EVERY WOMAN WHO WANTS A JOB TO BE ABLE TO GET ONE

We've got to get moving now to build the Right to Work march from the North West to London starting in mid-February. Womens Voice is sponsoring two unemployed school-leavers, Tina and Kerry, on the march.

SUPPORT THE MARCH

Labour government. Not the trade union leadership. Jack Jones and the other old men pushing the £6 wage freeze through the TUC, wearing out their jaws discussing how many should go (never how to stop any from going), they're not going to do anything unless we make them. Look at how the AUEW has let 8300 Chrysler jobs go down the drain.

The only people seriously campaigning to build a movement to fight for our jobs is the National Right to Work Campaign. The campaign is open to individuals, women and men, employed and unemployed, and to all trade union bodies. Local right to work committees, uniting the unemployed with the employed, have been set up in many areas. The demands of the Right to Work Campaign are:

ONE: Opposition to all forms of redundancy. No voluntary redundancy, no job loss through natural wastage, for rigorous maintenance of manning levels and job replacement.

TWO: For official declaration nationally of the 35-hour week. For official overtime bans to force more jobs.

THREE: Shopfloor trade union control of hiring, firing and manning levels. No discrimination or blacklisting. Trade union district registration of all jobs and protection of district manning levels.

FOUR: Five days work or five days pay. For occupations to force the nationalisation without compensation of firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.

FIVE: Stop the cuts.

SIX: Break the freeze, for across-the-board increases to protect living standards.

SEVEN: Full wages for the unemployed. £6-a-week increase now for all unemployed workers as an immediate step towards this.

EIGHT: Uncompromising opposition to all forms of racialism and discrimination. For the equal right of women to a job.

NINE: For full trade union rights for the unemployed.

TEN: No co-operation with the employers—no to all participation schemes.

The Right to Work Campaign is organising the march from the North

West to London. It is up to us to support it, up to us to use it as a way of raising the issue of unemployment, as a way of building the campaign into an organisation capable of fighting unemployment.

The march needs the active support of trade unionists along the way, individuals, branches, districts and shop stewards' committees. Wherever it passes through, the march will provide a local focus for all those prepared to do something positive, will show that there is a determined opposition to unemployment.

But members of all unions and workplaces all over the country must support the march and use it to build the campaign. 'The march will not go past the hospital you work in, but, if there's a member of NUPE on it, you ought to be fighting for support.' And don't think: 'I'm just a housewife. I can't do anything.' You're an unemployed worker. You don't know when you'll need a job. This is how the march can become a national focus for the whole campaign for the right to work.

We want every section of workers hit by unemployment represented on the march. There are already unemployed school-leavers, an unemployed nurse, building workers and engineers ready to march.

'We're not begging the bosses. But we are saying to the trade union movement: Together we have the muscle to end unemployment.'

Women are being hit hardest by unemployment. We must make this march a success, and use it to make the campaign a reality.

The address of the Right to Work Campaign is: 46 Prince George Road, London N16

There are many things you can do to help the march.

Sponsor a marcher for one day—or for a week, or for the whole march. It costs about £5 a day to keep a marcher on the road.

Help with accommodation.

Send delegations and banners on the march for a day or two as the march moves through your area. Send delegations to the Albert Hall rally in London on 20 March.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Lindsey German, now student organiser for the International Socialists, has resigned from the editorial board of Womens

Voice because of pressure of work. Jean Wright has taken her place. The other members, Elana Dallas and Judith Condon remain as before, with Sheila McGregor as editor.

MARCH FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK
MANCHESTER TO LONDON
FEBRUARY 28th — MARCH 20th

Locations marked on map: Trafford Park, Manchester, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Derby, Burton-on-Trent, Walsall, Birmingham, Coventry, Northampton, Rugby, Bedford, Hitchin, NW London, Albert Hall.

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