

Workers Press

18p

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Saturday December 21, 1985

Number 1

One more political gain

WELCOME

THE NEW PAPER

🎄🎄🎄 **Christmas issue** 🎄🎄🎄



GREETINGS TO DEAN AND RUSSELL and all miners still in jail. . . The families of Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland, serving eight-year jail sentences, send all their best for Christmas (left to right): Lyndsey Pugh (Russell's suster), Mary Hancock, Yvonne Pugh (Russell's mother), John Hancock and Richard Pugh (Russell's brother)

Sacked and jailed miners NEVER FORGOTTEN

DEAN HANCOCK and RUSSELL SHANKLAND are two young Welsh miners who, like many other men jailed during and after the miners' strike, will be spending this Christmas behind bars.

Their prospect is several Christmases in jail — though not as many as the judiciary originally intended. They were jailed for life following the death of cab driver David Wilkie, who was transporting a scab to work. But on appeal, they were cleared of murder and are now serving eight years each for manslaughter.

Their mothers Mary and Yvonne (seen above) are sending the following message to them and all jailed miners through the Workers Press:

WE SEND our very special Xmas greetings to Russell and Dean. We would also like to send season's greetings to all the other jailed miners and their families, who we know must be feeling the way we are.

We are thinking of Doreen and Mark Jones, who lost their son David and of all those who suffered during the strike. We also take this opportunity to thank everyone, too numerous to single out, for their support during the 12-month long struggle and the worrying times waiting for the outcome of the trial and the successful appeal.

SEE more greetings from all over Britain on our centre pages

£60,000 legal fund appeal

WE HAVE received an additional £1,078.61, and our grand total is £25,793.88.

The courts have not hesitated to back fully the legal and anti-communist onslaught against the Workers Revolutionary Party. But, as can evidently be seen from today's historic re-launch of 'Workers Press', this attack WILL be beaten back — politically, and in a

fight throughout the working class.

Every member of our party makes sacrifices — and we are very proud of this tradition, that is why we must say to the Healy clique that whatever unscrupulous and unprincipled anti-working class actions they take, they cannot smash the revolutionary Trotskyist tradition.

Many many thanks to all our members and suppor-

ters. We have received: Aberdeen £8.80; Paisley £4; Glasgow East End £20; Edinburgh £20; Middlesbrough £20; Jarrow £86; Toxteth £10; Halewood £1.10; Bradforth North £10; Penzance £10; Hull £15; Exeter £5; Leicester West £20.58; Reading £15; Swansea £15; Merthyr £5; Kilburn £19.66; Willesden £12.50; Harlesden £3; Camden £100; Catford £5; Peckham £50; Lewisham

£35; Woolwich £5; Brixton £9; Crawley £143.32; E. London Collection £22.35; Mr Keen, Basingstoke £5; Huddersfield £25; Newcastle £70; Willesden £9; Nottingham £68.80; Camden £15; Walthamstow £40; Woolwich £100; Vauxhall £40; W Croydon £25.50; B. Hankey £10.

Send your donations to: £60,000 Defence Fund, 21B, Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JT

IN BRINGING the Season's greetings to all our readers, the Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party proudly announces that it is resuming publication of 'Workers Press'.

We are confident this step will be welcomed by our members, supporters and readers and illustrates our determination to build a paper of the Leninist type.

In adopting 'Workers Press' as its organ, the Central Committee is convinced it is acting in the spirit of the decisions of conferences, discussions and correspondence in the party since the split with the Healy rump.

Let our enemies make of it what they will, we will not be deflected from the course on which we have embarked.

Our party has made great political gains in the last two months. It is prepared to stake everything in the battle against its enemies.

We shall not be frightened by the courts or whatever other succour the renegades from Trotskyism seek from the bourgeoisie.

This paper is and will develop as a weapon of struggle: it will be a real organiser of the Party and the class. It will grow as the Party grows, confident of its new-found strength. It will never act as a yoke on the backs of the membership for the aggrandisement of a clique.

Every gain of 'News Line' remains our property and is embodied in 'Workers Press'. Our daily paper started in September 1969 as 'Workers Press' to give way on May 1, 1976, to 'News Line'.

We know that the same dedication and sacrifice that made possible 16 years of daily publication will be harnessed to the fresh tasks of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Let our enemies take heed! We shall fight to defend every single political and technical achievement of our party. We shall not yield an inch. In this fight, we shall get to grips with what the degeneration of the WRP was and what it represented.

There are no short cuts to learning lessons of this kind. But by the same token, no setback is going to intimidate us. Healy's epigones may jeer, but this party has declared, 'Nothing will silence us now'.

We know that this is winning the respect and support of the working class.

The printer of News Line, Astmoor Litho Ltd, is now in the hands of the Official Receiver. This follows successful action by former WRP Central Committee member Vanessa Redgrave to wind up the company through the courts.

This is but one of the court actions — now running into double figures — taken by Healy's 'class fighters'. Whatever lawyers cost, in these circles principles come cheap.

Mr Justice Harman gave judgement in favour of Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Ltd when her firm's petition compulsorily to wind up Astmoor was heard in the Chancery Division (Companies Court) of the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, London, on Tuesday December 9.

In bringing the petition, her firm sought payment of £29,000, which she

STATEMENT BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

claimed was a loan. The contention by David Bruce, director of Astmoor, that the money was in fact a gift was rejected by the judge as 'hot air.'

In an affirmation to the court, Bruce pointed out that the money was actually paid from Redgrave's personal bank account and not from the petitioning company's account. This would have rendered the petition as invalid, leaving the court no option but to strike it off the list.

But the judge ruled this evidence as 'irrelevant' although Mr Rymer, counsel for the Redgrave firm, offered to furnish an explanation as 'this was a point that had to be explained'.

The case cannot be separated from the WRP, which has recently thrown out former leader G. Healy, who refused to answer charges of sexual abuse, violence against comrades, slandering of political colleagues, etc. After 49 years membership of the Trotskyist movement — more or less continuous — he could not face his own party, which for decades he had expected to indulge his every whim.

This cowardice was only rivalled by that of his diminishing coterie of supporters. Routed in political debate, they fled in a flurry of much-publicised secrecy. Their guru maintains a silence which only seems to go unnoticed in the ranks of the rump provided they shout their lies, evasions and slanders.

Their actions contrast with the traditions not only of the revolutionary movement, but of the labour movement as a whole.

Smarting from their humiliation, they had no hesitation in making recourse to the bourgeois law. Whatever her standing in the eyes of the Companies Act, Redgrave's action must be regarded as political piracy. It can be assumed it has at least the tacit support of her fellow renegades from Trotskyism.

It follows her destruction of the party's film department. This belonged not only to the WRP, but to the international movement. Too cowardly to face honest discussion in our ranks, she scurried for the sanctuary of her lawyer's office.

She looked to Rubenstein Callingham (also known as acting for Notts coalfield strike-breakers' leader Prendergast) to defend her bourgeois property rights. In so doing, she sacrificed her political rights as a revolutionary. She clearly values the first higher than the second. Class lines have been crossed.

Friday, December 20, 1985
WATCH OUT for the next edition a week on Tuesday. Order now.

TUC renege on Wembley

TUC LEADERS have set the scene for a total abandonment of their Wembley conference policies which opposed the Tory anti-union laws. Labour leader Neil Kinnock is closely involved in the manoeuvres.

A special conference — with senior union officials as 'delegates' — has been

arranged for February to discuss revising the TUC's previous approach.

By 39 votes to six on Wednesday, the TUC General Council approved a decision by its 'inner cabinet' to call the gathering to reconsider the previous policy adopted at Wembley in 1982.

A confidential document passed around at Wednesday's meeting proposed four options to be put to

officials in February:

- Reaffirming existing policy that none of the 91 affiliated unions are permitted to accept government cash.
- Advising unions not to take the money, while it being 'clearly understood that it is within their discretion to do so'.
- Allowing unions to be 'totally free' to take the money.
- Laying down guidelines

for the acceptance of the money 'under the present law'.

The timing of the TUC General Council's decision was to coincide with the announcement by the AUEW engineering union of an eight-to-one membership ballot vote in favour of taking state cash for ballots.

The AUEW's executive council immediately implemented the ballot deci-

sion by authorising general secretary Gavin Laird to apply to the state's certification officer for £300,000 more money to cover the cost of the political fund ballot and elections during the past six months.

A few days earlier, the EETPU declared an even larger majority from a ballot vote.

Instead of both these unions being suspended from the TUC — an empty threat

made at time of the annual TUC Congress last September — the labour movement bureaucracy is now about to let others rapidly follow

Several meetings have been held in the past ten days between Kinnock and other Labour Party leaders with senior TUC officials.

In a BBC television interview, Kinnock this week openly agreed with state funding of union procedures.

Forge sacks 700

SEVEN hundred striking steelmen from Sheffield Forgemasters' Atlas site have been sacked.

The strikers received their notices on Wednesday after the breakdown of a last-ditch bid to find a peace formula.

Workers at the company's River Don site are set to hold a mass meeting when it is expected they will give the go-ahead to strike action in support of their dismissed colleagues.

The sackings have come after the strikers snubbed repeated management ultimatums to go back to work or lose their jobs.

Company chiefs sent letters out to workers last weekend warning them that Tuesday was a watershed for the company and if they did not return the future of the works is in serious danger.

Disgraceful

Shop stewards' chairman Ken Nicholson: 'It is disgraceful and indicative of what we have come to expect from this management.'

He believed company chiefs will now try to woo back strikers in the New Year by offering to re-employ them. But this would mean men with years of service losing out on aggregated pension rights and redundancy terms.

Steelmen at the River Don works had earlier pledged their support for their Atlas colleagues and agreed to take industrial action as soon as one man was sacked from the site.

Nicholson described Wednesday's talks at the Engineering Employers' Federation as a charade, adding: 'The final offer was totally unacceptable.'

Agreement is IRA's target

THE Irish Republican Army has pledged to carry on its war next year to smash British imperialism — and the reactionary Anglo-Irish agreement.

In their annual message to members and supporters, IRA chiefs said: 'May you enjoy Christmas, and go forward into 1986 confident in your ability to overcome British and Free State repression, and determined to take victory.'

They pledged to continue their campaign against the Anglo-Irish agreement, which they described as 'a highly sophisticated counter-revolutionary plan', which the Tory and Dublin governments believe would 'successfully isolate Republicans'.

They rightly branded the agreement with Dublin as 'the most elaborate and determined of schemes yet contrived' by Britain in the last 16 years.

But the IRA added that the Tories had again failed to understand the resolve of Republicans, and warned: 'Let no one question our dedication and our confidence to overcome this latest plan of our enemies.'

Meanwhile in Dublin, Garret FitzGerald, co-conspirator with Thatcher in the Anglo-Irish agreement, said: 'The nationalist and unionist people of Northern Ireland share a desire for peace and a distaste for extremists and violent political action.'

RECOGNITION

Call from Contracts strikers

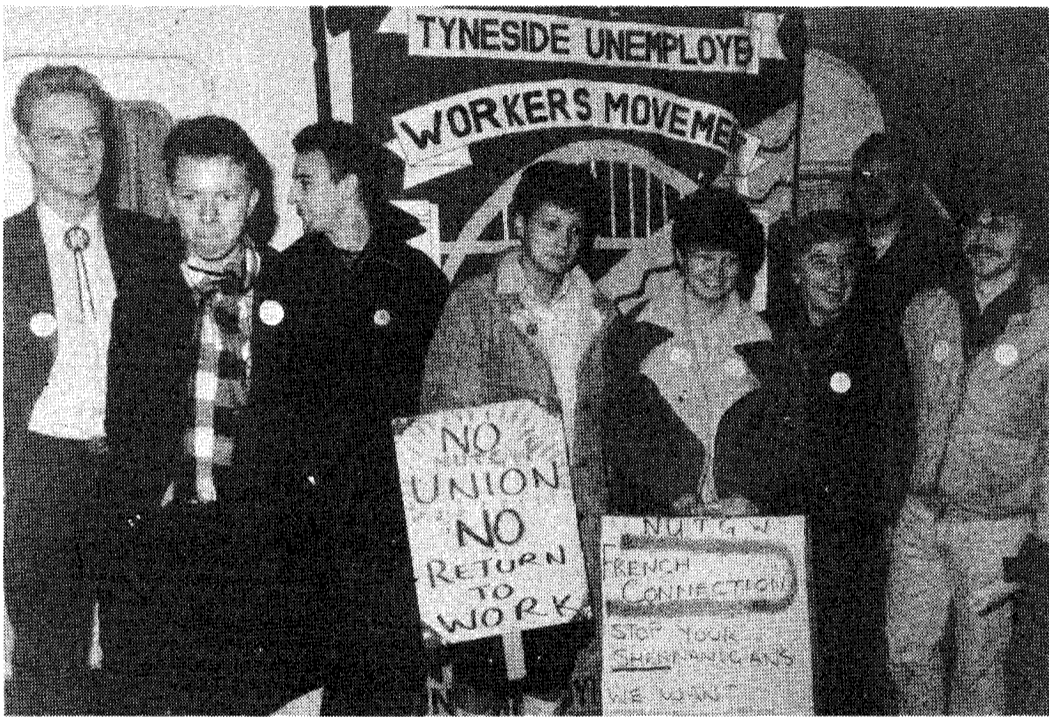
FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

RECOGNITION is the demand from clothing strikers on the picket line at South Shields. They have been shouting this for 15 weeks and the voices of the 140 women and youth get stronger and stronger as they approach Christmas.

The Contracts/French Connection strike has become the front line in the battle for trade union rights on Tyneside. The policing of the picket lines and the provocations reported in News Line last week have continued. The only casualties have been pickets.

A small herd of scabs in the latest incident were crying to the police because a picket poured lemonade over them. Mark Stevens, 22, from the Gateshead Unemployed Action Group, was immediately charged with 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace'.

The determination of the Contract strikers is matched by French Connection's adamant refusal to concede trade union recognition to the tailor and garment workers' union (NUTGW).



Contract strikers and their supporters on the picket line in South Shields

The strike committee have spent more time talking to the conciliation service ACAS than to the factory owner Steven Marks over the past week.

'Negotiations' have been at the level of telexes between the strike committee and Michael Shen, a director of French Connection.

The company offer an alternative to trade union recognition which is a works committee where management have the final say.

Twenty members of the Tyneside Peoples Choir gave a booster to pickets this week when they sang the Red Flag and other socialist songs. There are also regular visits by musicians from the Stumbling Band.

A mass picket was held on Friday followed by a Christmas party in the Seamen's Union hall.

● SOUTH Tyneside Labour Council passed a resolution on Wednesday stating: 'This borough council reaffirms its belief in the right of employees to join a trade union and for the right of that union to be recognised by the employer. We deplore the hardship and poverty facing trade unionists and their families this Xmas who are in dispute with Contracts Ltd.'

'We believe that we should give no financial assistance or grants to any firm which will not give an

undertaking to recognise trade unions and allow them to negotiate on behalf of their members.

'All officers are instructed to take appropriate actions and inform other local authorities of our views.'

The council had originally made a £50,000 grant to Contracts when it took over the factory from New-man's.

The resolution was carried by 39 Labour votes, with eight Tories against and one Liberal abstaining. The Tory who spoke against said that workers at Contracts were paid up to £200 a week for 37½ hours.

There were loud shouts of liar from the public gallery from shop stewards and strikers from Contracts. The Tory said the strikers were led by agitators from the miners and unemployed groups.

Jane Kingsland told our reporter: 'They threatened to throw us out of the public gallery if we didn't stop shouting but we have a surprise from them at our public meeting in January.'

● THE Contracts strikers have issued a tape 'Rock for Recognition' including eight songs written and sung on the picket lines. It is available for £1.50 from Contracts Strike Committee, c/o NUS, 4 Coronation Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear.

Firemen set for cuts fight

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL firemen's strike to save jobs and stop cuts in the fire service has been threatened by the Fire Brigades Union.

Ken Cameron, FBU general secretary, pledged before thousands of firemen in Sheffield last Tuesday to protest at government cuts plans. He will recall instantly the annual conference with a recommendation for a national strike if firemen are made redundant.

He claimed the government had plans to axe between 3,000 and 3,500 from a national fire-fighting force of 42,000.

He recalled Britain's only national firemen's strike and said: 'Nobody wants to go back to 1977, but that is the only answer this government will understand in order to protect firemen's jobs.'

Organisers estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 firemen from all 64 fire brigades in the country took

part in the march through the centre of Sheffield.

The union claims the government is planning to slash the fire budget in all seven metropolitan counties, due to be replaced by joint boards from next April.

It is also campaigning to end the freeze on recruitment of firemen, already announced by the Home Office, in four of the doomed authorities, including South Yorkshire.

'We have only had one national strike in the history of the fire service, but we will not stand by and let the government destroy the fire service,' said Cameron.

'We feel we have to make a stand on redundancies otherwise we will open the floodgates.'

South Yorkshire FBU chairman Terry Allison said firemen were serious about action to defend jobs.

'We do not recall conference to wave our members goodbye.'

The county's fire chiefs have warned that fire cover would be reduced and 145 jobs would go if the £18.63 million budget already announced by the Home Office is not increased.

They have asked the government to redetermine the budget and an announcement was expected in the Commons on Wednesday. They say the figure is a 10-per-cent cut on present spending which has already caused under-manning in South Yorkshire.

To bring the service back to Home Office approved staffing levels the fire service would need £21.4 million next year, a 13-per-cent rise above what the government has offered.

POLICE inspector Norman McGowan, 35, and Pc Michael Buchanan, 23, were given jail sentences at the Old Bailey on Friday for concealing drugs found in a police raid on a Soho club.

£5,000 Monthly Fund

Give fund boost to the new paper

THIS MORNING we are proud to welcome the Workers Press, the organ of the Workers Revolutionary Party, the British section of the Fourth International. We are in a real fight now for our paper and we need all our members, supporters and readers to turn out and help us raise our Monthly Fund as soon as possible. We need the fund to help us develop the circulation of the Workers Press.

At Christmas every reader and supporter is spending more than usual, and we know you will put this fund on your list of expenditures! As you will have read we are in a battle to the death with the Healy-Redgrave clique. This rump, who split from the Workers Revolutionary Party and have now been expelled, have reverted to the bourgeois courts in an attempt to break the WRP. That is their reactionary politics.

We thank you all for the tremendous support in the past and we rely on you to keep this up in the New Year. There's a long way to go to £5,000.

Please send your donations to:

Monthly Appeal Fund
21B Old Town, Clapham
London SW4 0JT



Protestors outside the Home Office this week with a plain message about the strip searches being used to abuse and harass two women remanded prisoners in Brixton jail, south London

Strip-search torture

Protest over prison abuse of two Irish women

THE BRUTAL treatment of two Irish women held in Brixton prison is causing increasing concern. On 23 days in November, one was strip-searched 27 times and the other 30 times.

Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson have been in jail since last June. Their trial is not due until March or June, 1986, by which time they will have been in custody between nine and 12 months.

Picket

The Home Office, in central London, was picketed this week to demand an immediate end to the abuses. The picket was organised by Irish Prisoners Appeal and Women in Troops Out Movement.

Leaflets distributed at the picket stated:

- Since July 1, Martina and Ella have been strip-searched on average 50 times per month each. On November 18, they were informed that from this date the folds of their bodies could be probed.
- They have had 115 body searches each, i.e. with



Supporters of the campaign against the abuses of Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer picketing the Home Office this week

clothes on, per month. This has involved prison officers putting their hands inside the women's trousers.

- In the last week of October, Martina Anderson was

strip-searched after having had an internal gynaecological examination.

- The women have been given a new and segregated exercise yard — 36 paces

one way and 12 paces the other. Three warders with dogs are always present. A roof is now being put over the yard, which the women have refused to use. They

are now getting no exercise.

- Being Category A prisoners, they are checked on every 15 minutes in the night. A flap is lifted outside the cell door causing the light to come on and waken them up, so they are being denied proper sleep.

- Martina Anderson has regular migraine attacks and heavy periods which are receiving inadequate medical attention. Because of the severity of the migraine, tinted glasses were ordered for her — it was two months before she received them.

'It is a direct transfer of the methods of torture used in Armagh prison,' an organiser of this week's Home Office picket told Workers Press.

Security

'The level of strip-searches is obviously nothing to do with security. Metal detectors, the kind they use at Tory Party conferences, are available at both Brixton and Armagh, but are not used. Strip-searches are used instead.'

One of the women is from Belfast and the other from Dublin.

MESSAGES of support can be sent to Ella O'Dwyer (D.25135) and Martina Anderson (D.25134), H.M. Brixton Prison, P.O. Box 369, Jebb Avenue, London SW2 5XF.

Kinnock is intent on witch-hunt

THE WITCH-HUNT in the Labour Party continued on Wednesday when the National Executive Committee voted to expel Sheffield City councillor Paul Green.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock showed his determination to carry out wholesale expulsions, despite the opposition of some of the 'lefts' who had supported him in the setting up of the inquiry into the Liverpool District Labour Party (DLP).

The right wing narrowly won the vote 14-13, with opposition coming from former supporters of the witch-hunt: Sheffield City Council leader David Blunkett, shadow cabinet member Michael Meacher and NUPE leader Tom Sawyer.

Blunkett said after the meeting: 'We have an atmosphere at the moment where association with "Militant" tendency and its newspaper warrants expulsion. I think that is a sledgehammer to crack a nut.'

He said that the expulsion was opposed by some anti-militant NEC members because it would cause divisions where they did not exist. 'It is a very foolish position to have arisen and I hope we can avoid it elsewhere,' he added.

Pact

Tony Benn clashed with Blunkett, accusing him of starting the witch-hunt against the Liverpool DLP. Blunkett replied that the charge was 'an outrage and an insult'.

Benn accused party leader Neil Kinnock of taking the Labour Party towards a pact with the SDP. Kinnock responded by calling the SDP traitors and accusing Tony Benn of 'mischievous hallucinations'.

Labour Party general secretary Larry Whitty, who is heading the inquiry into Liverpool, said that he hoped to report by the end of January. The inquiry team will be going to Liverpool again on January 14 and 15.

A move to lift the suspension of the Liverpool DLP whilst the inquiry is under way was heavily defeated. The NEC also agreed to suspend two constituency



WEDGWOOD BENN

parties in St. Helens on Merseyside following an inquiry into their running.

Reselection contests in the two constituencies will now be overseen by party officials.

The NEC also declared the deselection of sitting MP John Forrester invalid and called a re-run. Forrester, who has held the seat for Labour for the last 19 years, was dropped by his party in favour of Lambeth councillor Joan Whalley.

Job ads breaking pay law

JOB CENTRES in the north-east are advertising jobs at illegal pay rates, says the area's Low Pay Unit.

Their report 'Job Shop Poverty' points out that pay for one in five jobs in service industries covered by Wages Councils is described as 'negotiable'.

Dr Alan Rainnie, director of the South Shields-based LPU, says his investigation team even found pay in hotels and catering, hairdressing, retailing and clothing at rates fixed below the Wages Councils levels.

Where jobs are up for barter, 'this simply means negotiated poverty, with jobs going to the lowest bidder', adds Rainnie.

Rates for those jobs outside the Wages Councils are even worse.

Rainnie says the Job Centres are understaffed and cannot keep an eye on every job advertised.

There are too few Wages Council inspectors and they have few powers to deal with cases where they find illegal pay levels.

There are eight inspectors for the northern region. With over 21,000 shops, offices and factories in the area covered by Wages Councils, it could take 20 years to visit each one.

Tyneside shipyard men resist privatisation plans

ANGRY shipyard workers on Tyneside have decided to scrap their agreements with Swan Hunters over privatisation of the yards.

A mass meeting decided unanimously to start cancelling the Phase 5 flexibility and interchangeability agreement and talks on privatisation have been cancelled.

Swan Hunter management were accused of trying to impose new working practices without agreement. Shop stewards told the meeting that men were being moved from yard to yard without con-

sultation, contrary to the agreements.

Following another mass meeting of 3,000 workers, the management have now agreed that in future they will ask for volunteers when transferring workers.

Those who had refused to move will be put back on full pay.

Workers have been complaining for weeks that shop stewards and union activists had been moved to jobs they would not normally do in an attempt by management to isolate them from their members.

At the Hebburn yard the already-reduced care and maintenance staff of 43

was to be reduced by seven — three shop stewards and four other workers.

They refused to move and management took them off the pay roll.

In ending the agreement, the men have also forfeited a £7-a-week wage rise.

Tommy Brennan, the regional organiser of GMBATU, warned: 'Swan Hunter's management were doing the dirty work on behalf of the future private owners of the yards.'

The dramatic workers' occupation of Swan Hunter's shipyard last month flashed a serious warning to British Shipbuilders that

privatisation will not go through without a fight.

The attempts by management — the only bidders to buy the Tyne yards — to curtail work breaks provided the immediate spark for the strike.

The speed with which the yards were occupied shocked Swan's managers. According to Paul Stockdale, the CSEU secretary: 'One personnel boss was running around screaming the names of occupying workers into a tape recorder and saying: "He's fired and him and him". The hit-list was so long he could not get the names down fast enough.'



Swan Hunter workers

Statement by Coatbridge WRP branch members

Occupy Scottish steelworks

THE TORY plan to close Gartcosh, Ravenscraig and all other steel plants it considers unprofitable will carry on unabated as long as opposition is limited to the Scottish TUC's 'public campaign'.

This has consisted of appeals to Prime Minister Thatcher and Scottish Secretary George Younger by STUC bureaucrats, clerics, and even some Tories, with, of course, 'questions in the house' from the Labour leadership.

This campaign is completely ineffective because these protests will fall on deaf ears.

The proof of this was last week's Commons Select Committee vote to junk Gartcosh. The flooding of Polkemmet pit by the NCB was the first nail in Ravenscraig's coffin, this is the second.

The Tories will attempt to force the closure of Ravenscraig as part of the overall Common Market plans to run down steel, coal and other basic industries.

The EEC are organising shutdowns throughout Europe.

For example, Martin Black Speedwell wire works in Coatbridge were closed down as part of the EEC steel plan. On the same day, more than 20 works across Europe closed with large EEC hand-outs to the owners.

To fight the international conspiracy of capital, Scottish workers must forge links with trade unionists throughout the EEC.

To fight against unemployment and poverty is to overthrow the capitalist governments and build a United Socialist States of Europe.

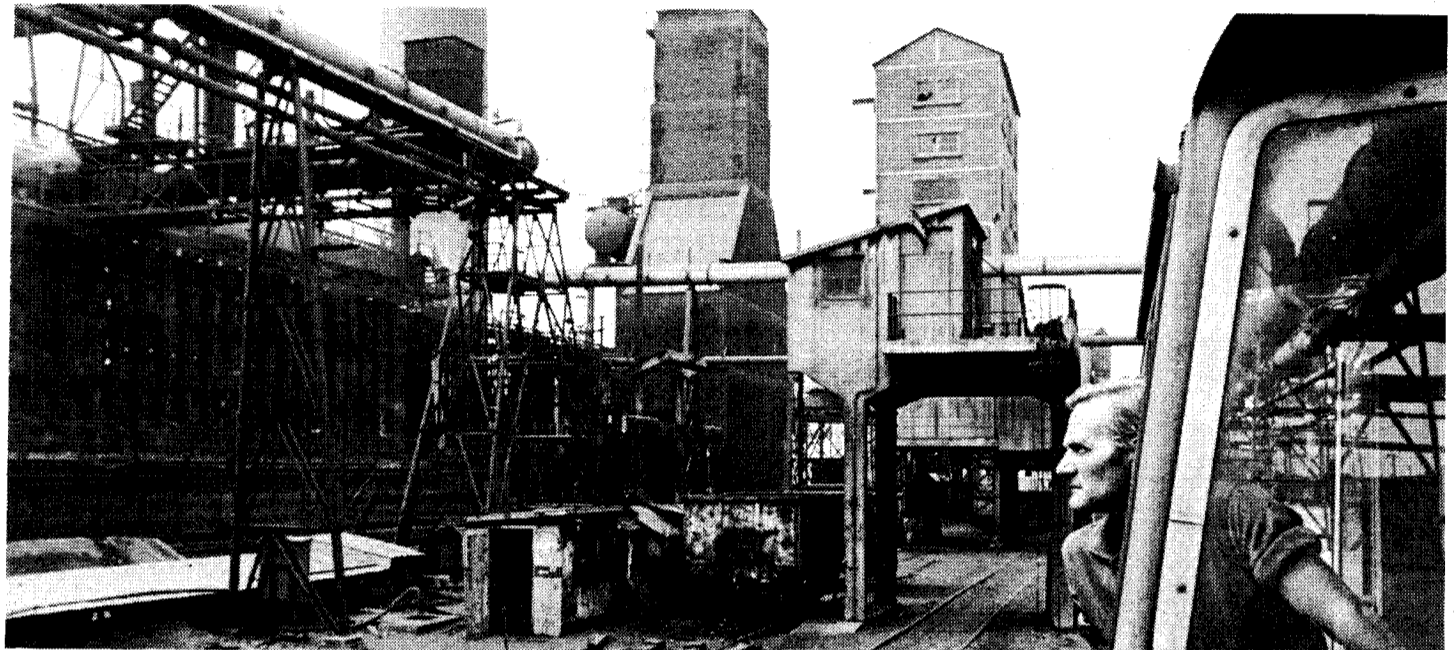
Thatcher and Younger are well pleased with the STUC protest campaign as they are well experienced with such campaigns over the Linwood car factory closure, the Invergordon smelter and Bathgate motor works.

The time for talking, pleading, petitions, appealing etc, is over — it is time given to the Tories to finish off the part of the steel industry it cannot privatise (Gartcosh and Ravenscraig) and to rationalise those plants it thinks it can — 211 jobs lost at Clydesdale and 89 at Imperial.

The STUC campaign encourages such spokesmen of the ruling class as ministers, priests, SDP and Tory politicians.

The 'Tartan Tories' of the Scottish National Party, calling for workers to form a 'blockade', leaving the steel works unprotected in the hands of the British Steel Corporation.

On the other hand, the protest campaign takes the initiative out of the hands of the working-class organisations and



The campaign to save Scottish steel plants has been limited by the Labour and trade union leaders. Ravenscraig (above) is still in danger, while Tollcross workers (seen below on a London demonstration) are some of the victims

communities who depend on Scottish steel for their livelihoods.

The attack on the basic right to work can only be answered by the occupation of all threatened plants.

Occupation committees should be elected from all the staff and shop floor unions involved; the occupation committee would ensure that machinery would not be moved and would be kept in working condition.

There is an urgent need for a body which will unite the struggle of the steel workers with the miners, railway workers, teachers, local government workers, and also with everyone affected in the working-class communities, including tenants, housewives, unemployed and youth on YTS schemes or those soon to leave school.

Such a body should include trade union leaders and rank-and-file members, as well as the Labour Party and other political parties.

But representatives of the ruling class such as Tories, CBI and SDP should not be allowed to participate.

Defence of the steel works is a class fight which only the working class can carry out.

This is the first step in the fight.

The WRP say that this fight will only end successfully with the destruction of capitalism and the state machine.

The WRP calls for the nationalisation of the banks, all basic industries and land without compensation. Without taking these measures, there can be no restoration of full employment.

The malignant system of private ownership is only interested in making profit: not making steel.

Only when the working class achieves a socialist planned economy can the misery of closures and unemployment be stopped.

Occupy Gartcosh! Occupy Ravenscraig! Unite the whole working class in the fight against closures! No talks with Younger or other capitalist politicians!

It is only through the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism that it would be possible for the working class to defend its jobs and basic rights.

For this it is necessary to build a revolutionary party.

Join the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Statement by the Workers Revolutionary Party Coatbridge branch



Union ballot didn't tally with meeting rooms

THERE were huge discrepancies between voting figures and the size of the meeting rooms where a ballot for election to the UCATT executive had taken place, one of the candidates has claimed.

Ron Miles, the Broad Left candidate for the building workers' union national body, has won a re-run of the ballot after court moves.

Miles took the union to the High Court in Dublin, alleging that ballot rigging had taken place in certain branches in the Republic of Ireland and succeeded in having the election declared null and void.

He visited Ireland after studying the election results and actually measured the size of some of the rooms in which the voting took place.

In Limerick, for example, 204 people were supposed to have voted by show of hands in a room 12 foot by 12 foot.

He also contacted several branch secretaries. 'Six out of seven refused to deny the allegations,' he said.

He gives an example of a

previous case in the 1978 election between J. Smith and the present Republic regional secretary R. Rice.

Smith also alleged ballot rigging had taken place and appealed at the time to the Executive Committee which rejected the appeal.

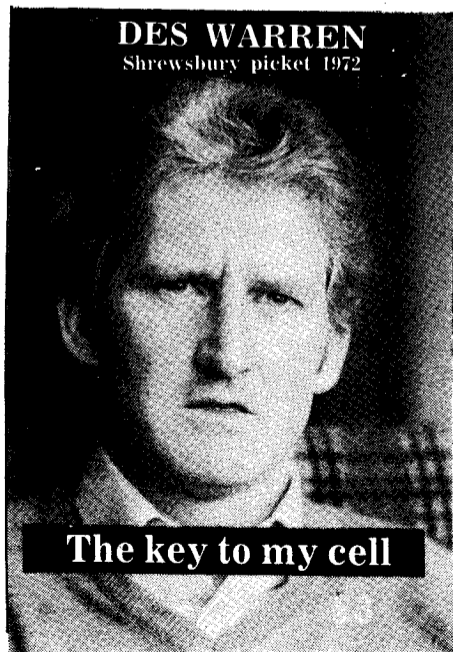
Miles feels that this present election is of crucial importance at a time when the present Executive Committee is split in two between the Broad Left and the right wing.

'My election is essential

to block the acceptance of government cash for ballots stop the danger of UCATT joining forces with the (engineers' union) AUEW and (electricians') EETPU possibly making links with the Union of Democratic Miners in organising a breakaway TUC'.

He concluded: 'Where we discover corruption, we have a duty to expose it.'

As a result of the High Court ruling, a new election is being held by postal ballot this month.



DES WARREN
Shrewsbury picket 1972

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Discussion article on aid for struggle against racist state

International solidarity with S. African workers

THIS ARTICLE is a policy statement from 'Azania Frontline', Newsletter of the Azania (South Africa) Liberation Support Committee based in Lon It was written by a well-known leader of the resistance movement in South Africa. For obvious reasons, he cannot be named.

THE INTERNATIONAL working class can undertake quite specific initiatives in order to assist the black workers and their allies in South Africa today.

That country has entered what can only be called a pre-revolutionary situation, one in which the black working class, the radical sections of the black middle class and individuals from the white middle class (mainly intellectuals) are engaged in a life-and-death struggle against the white capitalist class and its allies (the white middle and working classes and the reactionary elements among the black middle class.)

The fundamental aim of international solidarity with the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa must be at all times to strengthen the revolutionary forces in that country.

This goal has to be effected both in the medium-term sense of 'war of position' and in the short-term tactical sense of tipping the balance of power in favour of the exploited and oppressed at any given moment during a crisis situation.

The international solidarity movement, therefore, has to undertake campaigns and actions that will strengthen the revolutionary forces against the South African establishment, which is backed by and dependent upon international capital.

We have to approach this question from two sides, even though the fundamental impetus of our solidarity work has a single source in the international proletariat.

It is necessary to look at the question from the two sides of capital and labour.

International capital will do (and does) everything in its power to strengthen the racial capitalist system in South Africa from which it has profited for 100 years.

It is vulnerable to two kinds of pressure, viz. 'moral-political' pressures deriving from the political and economic effects its continued support for the apartheid regime could have on the electoral, i.e., power-political, arithmetic in the capitalist countries, or on the corporate image of their multi-nationals in their own countries.

In response to such pressures, the multinationals have undertaken improvements in working conditions in their South

African plants and initiated or supported cosmetic social reforms. They will also respond to the normal market-related trends in the South African economy.

If the prospects for profit look dim, they will generally tend to disinvest in one way or another.

The former process has been taking place over the past decade or so mainly via the Sullivan and EEC codes, the latter process has begun in earnest now that both the recession and the politically-induced instability have led to economic disaster in South Africa. It is clearly possible and necessary for the international solidarity movement, especially via the trade union movement, to apply maximum and consistent pressure on international capital to force it to apply pressure on the system of racial capitalism along both these axes.

Militant

There are very obvious contradictions between the two kinds of processes, but these are resolved by the militant and revolutionary activity of the South African proletariat itself.

The non-question about whether disinvestments 'hurts the blacks' should simply be ignored. It is a vicious red herring that does not concern the black working class in the least.

Whether unemployment derives from drought, capital-intensive industry, insufficient demand for South African goods or from 'disinvestment', in the end for the South African proletariat it is essentially a question of the way in which economy and society are organised, i.e., a question of racial capitalism.



Black mineworkers were in the forefront of trade union struggles in South Africa during 1985

Only the destruction of this system (in both its terms, not merely the 'racial' component) will ensure full and meaningful employment to all.

From the side of labour specifically, the tasks of the solidarity movement are crystal clear and largely being carried out, even if not always in as co-ordinated and synchronised a manner as is possible. These tasks can be tabulated as follows:

1. Organise maximum anti-apartheid publicity, drawing the attention of the whole world to the crimes of the apartheid regime against humanity. In this activity, though it is of necessity variegated and often tailored to the absorptive capacity of a given audience, it is essential to reveal the umbilical connection between racism and capitalism.

This anti-apartheid propaganda helps to isolate the racist regime and its capitalist backers and is, therefore, an important facet of the war of position between the South African proletariat and the capitalist class.

2. Do everything possible to facilitate the emergence and growth of a united national liberation movement under the leadership of the black working class in South

Africa.

Ideally such a movement would consist of a single organisation. Historically, this is not yet possible because of the manner in which the liberation movement has developed out of the social, political and ideological complexity of South Africa.

It is essential that the international solidarity movement acknowledge the existence of three to four significant political-ideological tendencies within the national liberation movement, whatever the specific weight of any one of these tendencies at a given moment of South African history.

This does not preclude at all the preference of given solidarity groups for one or other of these tendencies in the South African movement.

It does, however, prohibit the treatment by the international solidarity movement of any of these tendencies as 'enemies of the people'.

To the extent that the international solidarity movement tries or helps to elevate any of the major tendencies in the South African struggle to the status of the 'sole authentic representatives' of the oppressed and exploited people of South Africa, it would be in-

strumental in reinforcing a suicidal sectarianism, one which — in most cases — it would denounce in horror in any of the countries where it itself operates on the basis of organisational pluralism.

It is quite simply a fallacy, a strategically and tactically disarming fallacy, that any given organisation or tendency at this moment represents the overwhelming majority of the oppressed and exploited people in South Africa.

Vital

And even if any organisation were to acquire that desirable status, the international solidarity movement would still have to accommodate other groupings as representative of genuine revolutionary albeit minority currents in the South African totality. King-making can boomerang badly. Witness Zimbabwe!

South Africa's oppressed and exploited people have to determine for themselves who shall represent them in the organs of power generated by the struggle for liberation inside the country and in international forums.

Any society is a unity of contradictions. It is certainly possible and desir-

able for the international solidarity movement to bring pressure to bear on the tendencies in the South African movement to resolve whatever secondary contradictions keep them apart.

This would be a great revolutionary help to the struggle against racial capitalism.

But until the struggle itself relegates particular organisations and tendencies to the sidelines, or even throws them over into the enemy camp, it is not the task of the solidarity movement to decide for the South African proletariat which groupings alone may represent them and thus perpetuate and intensify the unpardonable folly of divisive, sectarian politics.

3. Material support, especially to the trade union movement in South Africa, remains vital. The more full-time organisers, newspapers and other media the movement can support and the longer the periods during which it can provide such support, the stronger it becomes and the more rapidly it grows.

The deep roots which the movement has struck among the urban and rural poor can no longer be pulled up even by the most grotesque brutalities of the regime. This, more than anything,

makes it possible to say: **Victory is certain!**

4. At given moments of crisis and disequilibrium (as at present) it is vital that the international solidarity movement should do everything possible to tip the balance in favour of the black working class.

What can be done depends on the circumstances in each country but anything from trade and consumer boycotts, temporary refusal of landing rights to South African aircraft, refusal to handle South African goods by the workers concerned, to harassment of South African establishment figures (sportspeople included) would be legitimate — as long as such action helps to strengthen the vulnerable ranks of the South African working class.

5. The left elements within the international solidarity movement need to take up and maintain contact with left-wing tendencies in all the organisations of the national liberation movement in South Africa.

Concerted action along these lines will help to ensure working-class hegemony within the South African national liberation struggle. This could prove to be the most important development on the African continent in the 20th century.

No fears for top cop

GREATER Manchester's Chief Constable James Anderton is to be investigated by a senior officer from another force over remarks he made about his police committee.

The decision was taken on Wednesday at a closed meeting of the committee. Gay Cox, who chairs the committee, later told a news conference that the investigation would be 'in accordance with the disciplinary procedure' and it would be up to the investigating officer to decide if disciplinary offences had been committed.

The move is the latest in the four-year dispute between Anderton and the Labour-controlled police committee. It follows remarks he made to his local police federation meeting on November 4, also attended by Cox.

Anderton told Federation members much of what pas-

sed for police committee business 'has been a total sham and of limited value to the police force or the public we try to serve'.

With the abolition of the Greater Manchester Council by the Thatcher government next April, the investigation could outlive the police committee.

Cox said that if this were to happen, the new authority would have to decide if it wished to continue with the action.

Anderton was said on Wednesday: 'I am an honest and truthful man who puts his trust in God and fears nothing from any complaint'.

With the investigation being conducted by a fellow officer, it is doubtful whether he has anything to fear at all.

HEALY'S FA

THERE was once a time (1953) when G. Healy took up a fight for the continuity of the Fourth International and Marxism against Pabloite revisionsism, and showed an unequalled determination, resolve and political sense for what must be done in that fight, in a long series of struggles.

But the descent into Hegelian speculation (without understanding the profound historical content of Hegel, and so reducing the dialectic to an idle play of subjective fancy, it must be said), played the role of confirming Healy's profoundly mistaken and dangerous but unshakable conviction that his judgement was beyond criticism.

His 'dialectic' has more and more been instrumental in systematising and rigidifying his personal ruthlessness and rudeness to the point of sheer abuse and brutality, in which he came to identify his own impulses and interests — impulses and interests of the basest and most sordid kind — with the interests of the Party and the International Committee of the Fourth International.

He arrived, long ago, at the point where he was immovably convinced that he was so unique, so important, indeed indispensable, that everything that other comrades could contribute was subordinate to him as the embodiment of history.

Unfortunately there are comrades on this Committee who accept this proposition.

These conceptions were imposed on the Party members and also in the International Committee.

WHAT Healy was building in Britain was the key to the world revolution and the building of the International. The WRP members were there only to do the active work necessary to make sure that this great victory of 'subjective cognition' was duly 'obdectified'.

For some of them it meant they must directly satisfy Healy's personal impulses — and if they were unwilling, they were breaking with the International!

However bizarre and idiosyncratic the inner mechanics of this process, the process itself has a definite and political character — Pabloite revisionsism and the destruction of the cadres of the International Committee.

Some members of the Central Committee look for reasons to discredit the analysis and criticisms that I and others are making on the grounds that they did not hear us making these criticisms before. (Actually this is spurious. What they object to is not that we did not say it

This article is based on a document presented by Cliff Slaughter to the October 12 meeting of the WRP Central Committee, at which former CC member G. Healy was charged with abusing his authority and respect in the Party by sexually assaulting women members of the WRP and the International Committee of the Fourth International. He was expelled the following week and was joined a week later by a rump of supporters, including Vanessa and Corin Redgrave and Alex Mitchell. They were present at the meeting where Slaughter raised his criticisms of Healy's pamphlet 'Studies in Dialectical Materialism.'

earlier, but that we are saying it now.)

I will speak only for myself, as other comrades will speak for themselves.

I did make a serious mistake in not going through with these criticisms earlier, and in particular when Comrade David North raised many of them in 1982 and 1984.

Many clashes did occur in the past, some on committees and some not. Comrades, including me, were more than once forced to consider that to press differences further would mean isolation from the movement, or a damaging split.

They had to make the judgement, sometimes mistakenly, that the only road was to find some way to make a contribution, to try where possible to encourage correction of obvious errors (as I often did with Healy, as his files will show).

Comrades often accepted that to persist in their criticisms was a kind of subjectivism. At any rate, we have to say what everyone knows very well. An atmosphere, I will even say a regime, was created in this Party where you could not raise differences in a way that could bring real discussion.

Discussion of differences was time and again rejected in favour of threats, intimidation and even blows. Healy even advanced the very dialectical theory that the way to tell an anti-communist was to give him a slap across the chops.

If comrades persist in the question: is there any connection between the raising of these criticisms now and the retirement of Healy, yes of course there is.

He has retired under such unspeakable circumstances that the spell of authority and infallibility which he so criminally abused had been broken, so that it becomes possible to listen, and to speak. Like Comrade Banda, I agreed in large part with the criticisms raised by Comrade North on dialectical materialism in 1982 and on the colonial revolution in 1984.

(Incidentally C. Redgrave's assertion that I 'led' the discussion with Dave North and Mike Banda on those questions in 1982 is pure fabrication, as Mike Banda will confirm. The credit for that is due to Dave North).

But, like others, I did not persist those differences, first, because I accepted, mistakenly, Healy's argument that the preservation of the cadre built up over years of struggle here was a priority. I now consider that to have been an anti-internationalist line, pragmatist and characterising a clique mentality.

Secondly, I could not see then any prospect of raising the questions with any possibility of resolving them. I feared the only outcome then would be split or isolation, just as North had to conclude, when I and Mike Banda refused to go forward with him, had to consider the prospect of a split from the International Committee, and he rightly pulled back. As on earlier occasions, I decided to pull back and work loyally despite disagreements, through the Party's 7th Congress and the International Committee's 10th Congress.

(I would not spend so much time on this aspect but for the fact that Comrade Redgrave drew attention to it at our last meeting.)



MIKE BANDA

The fundamental errors in 'Studies' are related directly to (a) The failure to develop perspectives based on the objective class relations of their changes, and (b) individual arrogation of leadership powers, assumption of the role of unchallengeable and infallible leader, who substitutes personal decisions, personal whims, personal prestige, personal subjective judgements of people and tendencies, personal dealings with other 'top people', for collective leadership, real discussion of differences, team work.

This descended, for many, many years, into sheer bullying and contempt for cadres and for party organisation



HEALY

I mean by bullying — verbal abuse, political abuse, abuse of resources garnered by lives of unremitting sacrifice by hundreds of comrades, sexual abuse, contempt for the development of other comrades as communists, contempt for their revolutionary dignity as men and women who had come forward to fight for the socialist revolution.

That was the practice that corresponded to Healy's 'theory'.

The more he developed this 'theory', to the exclusion, more and more, of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, and with any work by other comrades denigrated and sneered at, with Healy relying on his own interpretation of selected texts, the more brutally individualistic and uncontrolled his practice.

It was destructive; it is destructive.

He has retired, not because of age and ill-health, but because his theory and practice came into conflict with this Party, and because Mike Banda had the conviction and courage to confront, outface and outfight Healy (and I don't mean only Mike Banda).

Like others, he hesitated at times, and others, particularly Dave Hyland, insisted on ending the hesitation.

Healy has retired and he cannot come back. Nor can he impose this gross distortion of Marxism any longer on comrades at the School (College of Marxist Education).

We've had to remove comrades physically from proximity to him because of the danger of physical, sexual abuse by him. It is just as vital to protect comrades from the so-called philosophy that served to justify all this.

(Other comrades pointed out that the School had been used for Healy's sexual abuses, and that that was a further reason for stopping him going there. The vote to stop him was lost by 24-9.



CORIN REDGRAVE

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LSE DIALECTICS



When Healy went to Parwich in the following week he used the School to conspire with comrades from other sections against the Central Committee decisions).

C. Redgrave makes liberal use of the words 'moral' and 'morality'. If we work now to correct mistakes and attempt some accounting of our own responsibility for the criminal damage done to our Party, we are accused of 'moral handwringing'.

The real question here is by no means one of abstract morality, but one of facing hard problems squarely in the face like communists, with responsibility to the class and the Party.

Individuals as well as the Party and its leading bodies must overcome these abuses and mistakes, not to achieve some (moral) satisfaction but because of the basis of our present and future revolutionary practice de-



TORRANCE

mands that we negate, transcend, overcome, raise to a higher level, all that has gone before.

That is the dialectics of the question.

It is contemptible to assert that it is 'moralising' to take up the reasons behind, the consequences of, and the necessary steps against, the gross anti-party and anti-working class actions of Gerry Healy which came to light in the middle of 1985.

It is an insult to the membership of this Party and to the working class itself to treat this fight as if it is a matter of defending the Party against middle-class moralising. The actions themselves are indefensible, an abomination in any working-class organisation.

Anyone who thinks that cadre-training could have been beyond criticism when left in the charge of a comrade with such a bourgeois attitude to party cadres is surely blind.

Many, many young comrades (scores, in fact) over years and years (decades, in fact), were sexually abused and some of them corrupted. This was done systematically and regularly, and Party resources were used systematically and regularly to sustain it.

There are comrades who intervened or resisted and were vilified and driven out of the movement.

Are these then communists relations? Do communists have anything to say about them, or is it a matter for petty-bourgeois moralising?

I have something to say about them. I am absolutely confident that I do not only speak for myself.

And it can be shown that the traditions of our own movement, Trotsky's own struggles, speak loud and clear against these practices. These practices are unspeakable.

Communists in their struggle attain a stature and dignity as leaders and fighters, basing themselves on Marxism, which carried forward, at the same time transcending and negating, all that is highest and most noble in bourgeois and all human culture.

The oppression of women, the buying of women, the reductions of people to objects to be manipulated and subordinated — that is the filth produced by class exploitation and oppression. Those who want to justify it, or to cover up its destructive effect on a whole stream of comrades in our Party or who try to dismiss us as moralists and middle-class elements because we are outraged by it, have nothing to do with Marxism.

They represent, actually, the repulsive 'permissiveness' and reduction of sex to a commodity which decaying capitalism has raised to the level of an ethic. We are not having this in the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Fourth International. It will be cut out like a cancer.

We are going forward from this crisis to a higher level of practice and theory,

decisively putting aside with contempt this legacy of bourgeois society in decay. Members and leaders of the WRP who justify such practices have no place in this Party.

To show the continuity of what we are saying here with the best traditions of Marxism, I quote from Trotsky 'On the Suppressed Testament of Lenin'.

'Lenin despised idealistic moralising. But this did not prevent him from being a rigorous of revolutionary morals — of those rules of conduct, that is, which he considered necessary for the success of the revolution and the creation of a new society.'

But Trotsky did not just characterise Lenin's revolutionary morals 'in general'.

He referred to the bureaucratic abuse of Stalin as general secretary.

'Stalin's actions showed a lack of loyalty and an inclination to the abuse of power' . . . It is in them, however, that one can find the key to the relations between Lenin and Stalin in the last period. Lenin was not only a theoretician and technician of the revolutionary dictatorship, but also a vigilant guardian of its moral foundations.

'Every hint of abuse of power for personal interests kindled threatening fires in his eyes. "How is this difference from bourgeois parliamentarianism?" he would not infrequently add . . . Stalin, meanwhile, was more and more broadly and

indiscriminately using the possibilities of the revolutionary dictatorship for the recruiting of people personally obligated and devoted to him.

In his position as general secretary he became the dispenser of favour and fortune. Here the foundation was laid for an inevitable conflict. **Lenin gradually lost his moral trust in Stalin.'**

I will add one thing. My remarks on this score are directed at Corin Redgrave, Sheila Torrance and others who have voiced the opinions I have attacked.

It should be pointed out that C. Redgrave characterised my contribution as 'moralising' even when I tried to do something which neither he, Healy, nor any of his co-thinkers has thought fit to attempt, namely, to show that there is a theoretical and methodological source in the theory and practice of Healy, for the abuses involved and for the present crisis, and to **apologise** on behalf of this leadership to the comrades so grossly abused.

It is dishonest and unprincipled to ignore these matters and yet inject into the discussion the accusation of moralising.

As for Sheila Torrance, I can only make an appeal to her to come clean and make a contribution to the necessary clarification. Until she does, she will constitute, in the powerful position this Party has given her, an obstruction that will have to be removed.

Comrade Torrance lied to

me, in front of Mike Banda, when she told me she knew nothing of Healy's sexual abuses until they became known to others in mid-1985.

She knows that on at least one occasion, two years earlier, she was told by one of the victims. I can understand how comrades saw no way of raising such a matter, given the regime in the Party. But we must condemn any continuation of the cover-up when everything depends on facing the problem squarely and overcoming it.

I condemn her for lying about it now, thus working to prevent other comrades from negating the past. Such an attitude, I repeat, is an intolerable obstacle to the needs of the Party. We stand on the verge of a greater transformation than this Party has ever achieved, in line with the demands of the class struggle, the revolution.

We must fear nothing in criticising, facing up to, and overcoming the mistakes and abuses of the past. No compromise. It is a matter of life and death.

October 10th, since I completed this document, the



LEON TROTSKY

corrupt practices of the Political Committee majority have created an unprecedented crisis and division in the Party. No one will believe that this crisis can be overcome by organisational actions and decisions. The political and theoretical matters raised here have to be resolved, or we will build on foundations of sand.

The degeneration into centrist politics and practices did not come from nowhere. The same powerful social forces which lay behind them continue to press on this Party. Everything depends on the Marxist reworking of all these problems and the training of a cadre on the basis of this struggle.

We have to restore Trotskyist internationalism and the traditions of Trotskyism to this Party. That means taking the struggle to the highest level, that of the International.

For years the WRP has been accepted as the leading party, the centre of the International Committee. It is only on the basis of all the conquests of Trotskyism at the level of the Fourth International that we have any base for the re-education of this Party. And the fate of the IC and its sections depends on the same fight.

Workers Press COMMENT

Squeezing the poorest workers

THE White Paper on social security reveals the Tory government's determination to pauperise still further the poorest and most vulnerable sections. This is a long-term policy objective, rooted in hostility to the system of social security which has existed since World War II.

The Thatcherites hate the present system not because it is inequitable and oppressive, but because in their view it gives too much to too many. They hate it, too, as the product of a political consensus between the Labour right wing and the Tory 'wets' of the day.

Social Services Secretary Norman Fowler and his supporters argue that it provides insufficient incentive for the unemployed to take dead-end jobs at rock-bottom pay. Unlike the City slickers who need incentives in the form of huge pay rises, generous mortgage relief — and immunity from prosecution — the poor must be spurred on by want. Hence the introduction of a family credit scheme, aimed at bringing more people within the scope of the low-wage economy.

A particularly objectionable feature of the proposed family credits is that they will be paid out by the employer through the pay packet. This scheme is proposed as a replacement for family incomes supplement.

The pensioners also have a part to play in this squeezing of the working class: their role is to show the awful consequences for those too profligate to provide for their own old age. To rub home the lesson, the real level of old age pensions is to be cut, a string of supplementary payments abolished and replaced by discretionary payments, and the earnings-related pension plan slashed to pieces.

The clear calculation here is that workers will more and more be forced to put large sums into the giant financial institutions: a forced levy of capital under the guise of establishing personal pension rights.

The White Paper makes it clear that the government sees no prospect of a return to the kind of economic growth seen during the post-war boom. On the contrary the chief argument against the state earnings-related pension is that it will impose too heavy a burden in the next century.

Clearly the government has no confidence in its own propaganda about the prospects of an improvement in living standards. The Tories also propose to make every claimant pay at least 20 per cent of their rates. This is intended to undermine relations between Labour councils and their poor constituents, whose rates are currently paid by the social security department.

The councils will be obliged to squeeze rates out of those who can least afford to pay, who will simultaneously become the target of Tory propaganda about the need for cuts in services to bring the rates down.

This is part of the political price for the capitulation of GLC leader Ken Livingstone and other Labour councillors to the official Kinnock line. The Tories have found a way to turn the 'dented shield' into a new weapon against the working class.

The extent to which the government is dependent on the treachery of the Labour and trade union leaders is clear when Fowler proposes to postpone implementation of many of these measures until after the next election. The Tories are confident that their attack on social security will meet only token resistance from the Labour leaders.

It is Labour's rejection of an all-out struggle against the Thatcher regime that gives Fowler and Thatcher confidence in their onslaught against the unemployed, the old and the poor.

Greetings to all sacked and jailed miners and families

YOU are in our thoughts at Christmas. We are still fighting for you — you're not forgotten.

Ex-jailed miner BOB ANDREWS, sacked from Cresswell colliery, Notts.

Keep your chins up lads. We are continuing to fight for the release and reinstatement of all jailed and sacked miners.

Ex-jailed miner JOHN BAILEY, sacked from Hucknall No 2 colliery, Notts.

IT'S the workers who are fighting for the jailed miners, not the trade union leaders. These men in jail fought like everybody else for their rights. I hope people sitting down for the Christmas dinners and celebrations will think of these men.

I know I will, and I know I will also choke on my meal as I think of these lads. We are thinking of you at Christmas. The girls at Contracts will not give up the fight for the jailed and sacked men. We will do everything we can to help them.

JANE KINGSLAND, shop steward at the three-month-long Contracts Ltd struggle on Tyneside.

THERE are no policemen in jail for their actions on the picket lines. I can only say we support you, the jailed miners, and we all think of you and your families.

IRENE PRINGLE, Contracts strike committee.

WE REALISE what you went through in your strike last year as we gather on our picket lines now. You are not criminals.

You are working people who fought to defend their rights. You should all be released as soon as possible. We feel strongly for you and your families over this Christmas period. We remember you always.

MICHELLE DRING and MARGARET CASSIDY,

young girls on the Contracts picket line.

WE salute you jailed and victimised miners and we pledge to keep faith with you.

We draw the attention of the whole labour movement to the fact that there are still hundreds of miners victimised and in jail as a result of the onslaught against the British working class.

We call upon the movement to demand the release of the jailed men and the reinstatement of those victimised.

JACK COLLINS, general secretary, NUM (Kent area)

AS an NUM member who was sacked, our thoughts over Christmas are with all the sacked men, but even



Irene Pringle, Contracts strike committee

more so with the jailed men. We still have our freedom and are not held as political prisoners, especially at this time when we have our families around us we will rally round them. We will not forget them and their part in



Ex-jailed Nottinghamshire miners John Bailey, sacked from Hucknall No 2 colliery, Notts, and Bob Andrews, who worked at Cresswell colliery

the struggle to defend our jobs and communities.

BOBBY ROBERTS, sacked Phurmacite worker in Aberdare and his wife, ANNETTE.

OUR thoughts are with you over Christmas and we will always support you, you are paying the highest price for our struggle. We will continue to fight on for the sacked men's jobs back and for the victory the miners deserve. Your sacrifice has not been in vain.

ANN JONES, Tower Colliery Women Against Pit Closures and JOHN JONES, Ann's husband who works at Tower.

TO ALL the miners who are in jail this Christmas and all those who have been sacked by the NCB, you are in our

thoughts. You are paying the price for defending the working class in the heroic year long struggle of the miners.

We will always strive for a government that will protect the working class and not one that attempts to destroy us and our communities as this present government is doing. Once again you are in our thoughts. Best wishes.

KEITH WILLIAMS, Secretary of Aberdare Trades Council and Secretary of the Voluntary Care for the Unemployed in Aberdare.

WE SEND Christmas greetings to the jailed and sacked men. Our thoughts are with the boys in jail who are paying the highest price for our struggle, the whole year round. We also feel a great sense of relief at the reduction of the sentences of Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland and send our regards to their families.

TOWER LODGE COMMITTEE

WE SEND fraternal greetings to jailed and sacked miners at the Christmas period. The men at Merthyr Vale have shown by their generous contribution to the hardship fund they have not and never will forget the men who have suffered as a result of this government. We know only too well at any

time in the strike it could have been any one of us.

MERTHYR VALE LODGE COMMITTEE

YOUR imprisonment now is a Christmas present from the TUC General Council. This is the 'Merry Xmas' that these so-called leaders give to the working class. Capitulation and cowardice, sackfuls of it.

Having spent three Christmas's in prison as a Shrewsbury picket, I know it is no use wishing the jailed miners a happy time. It is impossible to have that inside a cell, and in some respects it is even rougher for their families.

These men should not be in jail and I get extremely angry over this fact. It is to the shame and indictment of the movement that they are in there. Personally, I would say the movement failed to secure the release of the Shrewsbury pickets, and the laws the ruling class drew up after Shrewsbury have now been implemented. Yet the movement is still sitting back.

The fight must go on, but the movement must understand why these men are still in jail.

DES WARREN, Shrewsbury Picket
VIGIL: OUTSIDE DURHAM JAIL. CHRISTMAS EVE 6p.m. to 7p.m. backed by Durham NUM executive and miners' support groups

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

NORTHUMBERLAND

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durham Jail, Old Elvet, Durham DH13HU.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18-month sentence. G76424 Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three-year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Acklington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

Not miners but sentenced in connection with the miners strike:

DAVID TEASDALE: Student — Nine-month sentence from April 1985. HMYCC, York Road, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 5ED.

N. DERBYSHIRE

PAUL BROTHWELL: 12-month sentence.

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Doddington Road, Wellingborough.

KENT

MARK BEST: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74749, Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury, Bucks.

TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four-year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

GARRY NEWELL: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574745, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness

CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three-year sentence from January 1985. A29398 Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford

JAMES WADDELL: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574747, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness.

EMLYN DAVIES: A Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74746, Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury, Bucks.

BRIAN DAY: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74748, Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury,

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, Leicester

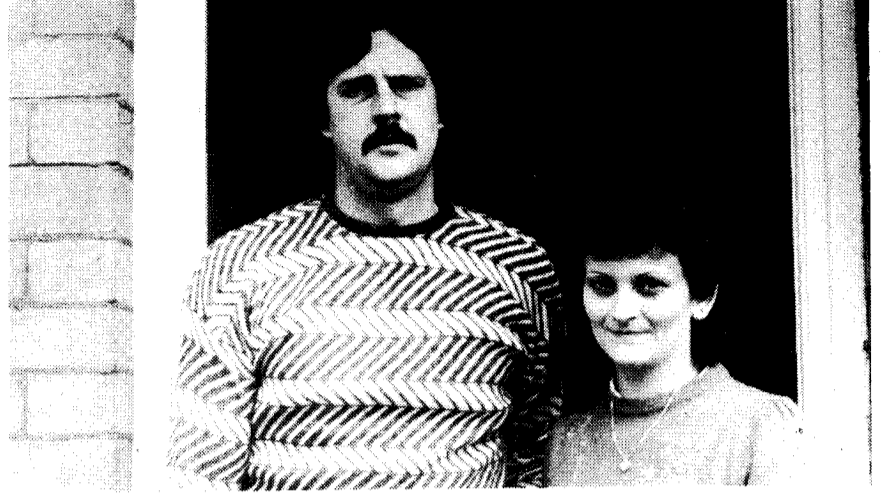


Jane Kingsland, shop steward at the three-month-long Contracts Ltd struggle on Tyneside, and fellow striker Billy Edwards

ER FORGOTTEN



Miners from Polmalse, Scotland, many of whom still remain sacked, have sent a message to the jailed miners: 'You are not forgotten. We are still 100 per cent behind you. You can hold your heads up high. You are in jail for fighting for your union, as we all did. All the best'



Bobby Roberts, sacked Phurnacite worker in Aberdare, and his wife Annette



Merthyr Vale Lodge Committee members Tony Davies (secretary), Ivor John (chairman) and Peter Evans (treasurer)

Jailed Murton men to appeal

LAWYERS acting for jailed Murton men are to appeal against their conviction. The move follows the harsh sentencing of the six accused north-east men who tried a last-minute bid to change their plea to not guilty of affray.

Judge Forrester-Paton, at Teesside crown court, added an extra three months to most of the sentences because the accused said the police bullied them into making confessions. The judge rejected that notion.

The men attempted to change their plea and their legal representation because, as they told the court, they had maintained their innocence since the start.

But, they said, their solicitor, Geoffrey Ellsbery, of Houghton-le-Spring, and their barrister James Harper QC, had insisted that they plead guilty to affray because a deal had been done with the prosecution.

That deal — vigourously denied by the prosecution,

involved dropping the initial charges of riot, criminal damage, and arson on the understanding that the accused would plead guilty to affray.

The Murton Six called in Brian Thompson & Partners of Newcastle and barrister Vera Baird to try to change the plea and legal aid funding. What followed was an unprecedented washing of the legal system's dirty linen in public.

The court heard statement after statement from the accused which told of pressure from Ellsbery and Harper to get them to plead guilty to the affray charge.

At one point barrister James Harper shouted at one of the accused because the latter was insisting that he wanted to plead not guilty.

Barrister Vera Baird said Harper had told the accused that they should plead guilty to affray and that he would try to 'get them off with less than three years.'

She told the court: 'My clients wanted to change their plea and their legal representation because of the attitude and advice they had been given by Mr Ellsbery and Mr Harper.'

The legal battle to change plea and representation went on for five days until the judge finally ordered that the case go no further and the men were sentenced.

The appeal will argue that the men wanted to plead not guilty all along but were prevented from doing so.

The men are:

Robert Howe, 22, miner, affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea), 21 months

Anthony Rutherford, 24, Miner, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months

John Robinson, 21, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months jail

Gary Blackmore, 19, charge affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody.

Anthony Howe, 19, affray, attempted not guilty, two years youth custody

William Bell, 20, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months youth custody

John Matterson, 19, unemployed, affray and attempted arson, guilty to affray, not guilty to attempted arson, two years and three months youth custody

John Robson, 23, miner, affray, guilty, 15 months jail

John Hemingway, 23, miner, affray, guilty, 15 months jail

Michael Smith, 22, affray, not guilty, charge dropped

At the time of going to press all those in jail are in Durham prison and those given youth custody are detained at Low Newton remand centre, near Durham.

The charges arose out of a disturbance described by the prosecution as a 'northern Ireland-style riot', after the pubs turned out in Murton a year last August.

During that time the Travellers Rest pub was burned out in the village. Police turned out with riot gear. The disturbance coincided with police action to get Paul Wilkinson into Easington colliery.

Wilkinson was the first miner to return to work in the Durham coalfield.



Michelle Dring and Margaret Cassidy, young girls on the Contracts picket line



Ann Jones, Tower Colliery Women Against Pit Closures

THIS CHRISTMAS OVER 600 MINERS' FAMILIES STILL NEED YOU

40 STILL LOCKED IN

A message from Peter Heathfield, NUM General Secretary:

'Striking miners and their families fought courageously for 12 months against pit closures, the destruction of their communities and to secure jobs for their children. They stood firmly for trade union rights in the face of a brutal police force, a biased judiciary and a prejudiced media.'

Some 660 miners have paid a particularly bitter price for their loyalty to trade unionism; 620 remain sacked, mainly for trivial offences — picketing and coal picking. 40 are in prison, despite the doubts cast on police evidence by the collapse of the Orgeave and Mansfield trials.

Christmas for these miners and their families will be very difficult this year. They stood by the trade union movement in the fight for the right to work.

Please stand by them this Christmas.'



620 STILL LOCKED OUT

an Mar Gregoris said to the miners: 'They are paying the price of insubordination, and boy! are we going to make it stick.'

... (text partially obscured) ... generous ... to the Miners' ... (text partially obscured) ... (text partially obscured) ...

Show your solidarity this Christmas.

Please make cheques payable to Miners' Solidarity Fund, c/o NUM,

St James House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield.

Or pay cash in through any bank quoting Miners' Solidarity

Fund, Co-op Bank, Sheffield Branch, Account No

30000009. Bank Sorting Code 08 90 75.

Christmas TV selections

A right bit of bovver!



Del Boy (David Jason) and Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst) from the hit comedy 'Only Fools and Horses' popped in for a pint with 'East Enders' regulars Angle Watts (Anita Dobson) and Sharon (Letitia Dean). The lads will be your screens on Christmas Day and the Albert Square crowd on both Christmas Eve and Boxing Day

LEAVE it out mate. How can you run our two best comedy programmes at the SAME time and on the SAME day over the holidays.

I mean we want to watch both. Don't we bruv? But we all can't afford to buy a video machine — albeit a little dodgy — from Arfur Daley or Del Trotter.

So we end up having to make a big decision, as Arfur would say 'we're on the horns of a right debacle'. It's either 'Only Fools And Horses (BBC1 7.30p.m.) or 'Minder on the Orient

Express' (ITV 7.30p.m.) on Christmas night.

This is 'Minder's' swansong as Arfur and Tel disappear into the east aboard the Orient Express in an extended edition of the oh-so-popular series. The script looks very interesting.

After coming to the aid of a damsel in distress, young Tel is rewarded with a trip on the Orient Express for two. Arfur manages to wangle a seat as his guest. But there's murder and internaval intri-

gue afoot on the journey. And Inspector Chisholm is along for the ride too.

There's big business afoot for the Trotters (the low lifers from a Peckham high-rise) as they set off to Holland to collect 'some gear' for a friend who, one would imagine Chisholm, would like to help him with his inquiries.

Decision time on Christmas night in many houses could lead to a right ding dong. However, you'll be on a 'right little earner' whichever programme you watch.

From 'Reds' to 'Macbeth'

ITV begins the great Xmas ratings war on Saturday evening by showing Warren Beatty's epic film of the Bolshevik Revolution, as seen through the eyes of John Reed.

'Reds' (ITV 9p.m.) was five years in the making as Beatty raised most of the cash himself to shoot the movie. Although a financial disaster in Hollywood terms, the actor's efforts were met with critical acclaim.

'Reds' should not be missed. It's one of the highlights of the festive film season.

Earlier in the day 'The Mikado' (Ch4 2.30p.m.) opens this independent channel's holiday programme. The Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, performed by the D'Oyly Carte company, has good sets and costumes and is filmed well.

The late Phil Silvers turns up in 'Follow That Camel' (BBC1 6.25p.m.). A rather weak 'Carry On' sequel is saved by the appearance of the great American comedian.

'Three Brothers' (BBC2 11.20p.m.) concludes the Beeb's series of Francesco Rosi movies. A sometimes stark evaluation of their lives by the brothers

as they return to the small farming community in southern Italy on the death of their mother contains a marvellous performance from Charles Vanel as their ageing father.

ON SUNDAY 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' (BBC2 9.05p.m.), Karel Reisz's 1982 adaptation of Fowle's bestseller, produces reasonable performances from Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons.

Beautifully shot by Freddie Francis in and around Lyme Regis, this movie crawls along at times, but is Sunday night's top viewing.

Neil Diamond leads the cast in 'The Jazz Singer' (Sun, BBC1, 7.15p.m.). An appallingly bad remake of the first talking movie, it's best left alone — unless you are a fan of the crooner.

MONDAY provides us with Joseph L. Mankiewicz's epic 'Cleopatra' (BBC2, 2.35p.m.) along with Roman Polanski's little masterpiece 'Tess' (BBC2 8p.m.).

The 1963 'Cleopatra', starring Burton and Taylor, is best remembered for the expensive sets and the odd stunning line from Burton. It's dated now and somewhat boring whilst 'Tess', Polanski's interpretation of Thomas Hardy's novel,



Tim Curry and Dermot Crowley are chasing 'Blue Money' on Saturday December 28 on independent channels

is admirably directed and handled beautifully.

'The Fog' (ITV, 9.25p.m.) is an unusually gripping horror movie which features Jamie Lee Curtis making her acting debut.

CHRISTMAS EVE sees a re-run of Steven Spielberg's 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' (ITV 1.30p.m.). This version, however, has had 'Special Edition' added to its title as it contains the director's 'more explicit' ending. A shade too long at two hours, 25 minutes, but a fine portrayal from Richard Dreyfuss as the father consumed by the arrival of the aliens.

Dudley Moore turns up in his best role since '10' when he plays a permanently drunk playboy

in 'Arthur' (ITV 9p.m.). However, John Gielgud, as his valet, steals the show.

Possibly a better bet is 'The Lady Vanishes' (Ch4, 9.35p.m.). Alfred Hitchcock's 1938 original is, along with 'The 39 Steps', his best British work. Wonderful performances from Margaret Lockwood, Paul Lukas and Basil Radford.

CHRISTMAS DAY brings a mixture of first-class comedy, a silent classic, Orson Welles at his best, a French thriller and a charming work from Scotland.

'The Thief Of Baghdad' (Ch4, 4.45p.m.) was made in 1924 and stars Douglas Fairbanks and Anna May. A giant among silent films, this Raoul

Walsh production lasts close to three hours.

The Marx Brothers make a welcome return to the small screen in 'The Marx Brothers at the Circus' (Ch4 2.35p.m.) thus giving the youngest of our television stations a fine double billing in the afternoon.

'Citizen Kane' (BBC2, 4.30p.m.) needs little introduction with Welles making his debut ably backed up by Joseph Cotton, Agnes Moorhead and Everett Sloane.

'Diva' (BBC2, 10p.m.) would appear to be a strange selection for Christmas night. But this 1981 French thriller is high on suspense and well worth watching.

'Absence Without Malice' (BBC1, 10.40p.m.)

has Paul Newman trying to live down a gangster heritage while a journalist, played by Sally Field, tries to dig up the muck. Heavy going at times, but Newman makes compulsive viewing in his role.

'Gregory's Girl' (BBC1, 10.50p.m.) was Bill Forsyth's 1981 debut as a director and also brought to the attention of the British film public the young actors, Gordon John Sinclair, Dee Hepburn and Claire Grogan.

A charming comedy as Sinclair, a gangling youngster, attempts to woo Hepburn, the best footballer at school!

BOXING DAY is almost filled with repeats. There's 'The Great Race' (ITV 10.40a.m.), 'The Horse Soldiers' (BBC2 11.05a.m.), 'The Great Escape' (BBC1 1.25p.m.), 'Superman' (ITV 2.40p.m.), 'The Pirate' (BBC2 11.05p.m.) and 'Strangers on a Train' (BBC1 11.45p.m.).

Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis are the stars of 'The Great Race' a period comedy as the two stars contest a motorcar race from New York to Paris — via Alaska. It's overlong and best left to the kids.

For some people Christmas wouldn't be complete without John Wayne and 'The Duke' turns up

in 'The Horse Soldiers'. A Civil War western, Wayne leads a Union patrol deep into Confederate country. William Holden's portrayal of the army doctor is possibly the best part of this run of the mill soap opera.

Steve McQueen is back again trying to make a dash from a Nazi prison camp in 'The Great Escape'. Worth watching for the departed McQueen's thrills and spills on a motorbike.

'Superman' is making his third appearance on television at Christmas and is beginning to wear thin, while BBC have set you a poser with their two late films.

Both are classics in somewhat different veins. 'The Pirate' is a vehicle for Gene Kelly's wonderful hoofing and Cole Porter's magnificent score. They are backed up admirably by Judy Garland and Gladys Cooper.

Hitchcock's 'Strangers On A Train' has often been underrated. A great storyline and a better bet if you want a thrill or two before departing for bed.

FRIDAY'S top choices are: 'Ben-Hur' (BBC1 2.10p.m.), 'I See A Dark Stranger' (Ch4 10.45p.m.) and yet another Hitchcock thriller 'Suspicion' (BBC1 11.40p.m.).



The Two Ronnies play Hare and Hatter in their Christmas Day version of 'Alice in Wonderland'



John Phillips, Dyfan Roberts and Owen Garmon in 'Penyberth' on BBC 2 next Saturday play three Welsh Nationalists



Robert Morley and Maurice Evans play the title roles in 'The Story of Gilbert and Sullivan' on Channel 4

Ian Davison defiant despite life jail sentence

The Geordie fighting for the PLO

JAILED Palestine Liberation Organisation fighter Ian Davison from South Shields, Tyneside, has 'no regrets'. Before being jailed for life by a Cyprus Court he said:

'Even if I am sentenced to 100 years, I am not interested, as my freedom is in my heart and my conscience. Everyone must struggle for Palestinian rights and revolution till victory.'

Ian Davison, 28, and Khalet Abdel Kader el-Khatib and Abdel Hakim Saado al-Khalifa were sentenced to life imprisonment for the killing of three Israelis on a boat moored in Larnaca on September 25 this year.

All three pleaded not guilty to murder but guilty to the killings.

Immediately after sentencing, Ian Davison's reaction was: 'It could be worse. The prison is as good as a prison could be.'



South Shields' life and Sabra and Shatila massacres spur to Tyneside man

No regrets

He expressed no regrets about joining in the struggles of the Palestinian people. 'Even for 100 years my heart and conscience will be free; revolution till victory.'

Branded a 'terrorist' in the local press on Tyneside, all the gutter press could drag out was one person, a grammar school teacher of Ian's, who would renounce his actions.

Everyone else, neighbours, friends, school friends, and Ian's own parents all refused to be drawn into condemning his actions in joining with the Palestinians and their heroic struggle for their homeland.

The 'TV Eye' documentary team even produced a programme on this issue and had a ten-minute tape recorded interview with Ian Davison in Nicosia Central Prison.

The combination of the press articles, the courtroom reports, and the 'TV Eye' tapes give an absorbing insight into why an unemployed man from Tyneside is prepared to travel half-way round the world to give his life for the cause of the Palestinian people.

Horrific

Ian said: 'If anybody has ever lived in the north-east of England and been unemployed, it makes you realise something is terribly wrong and it has to be changed.'

In 1982 in South Shields, Ian and a friend, Graeme Lloyd of Jarrow, were watching television reports of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, they saw the horrific pictures of the massacres of Palestinian women and children

in the Shatila and Shabra refugee camps.

'We were appalled. It made me angry I couldn't think of sitting doing things in England when there was this immediate problem.'

Ian at that time demanded answers and went with Graeme to an old people's home, Deans hospital in South Shields, to meet and talk to Spanish Civil War veteran Joe Blair.

'Joe told us stories about the revolutionary days in Spain, something touched me and made me realise that it was possible for people to get involved.'

'I wanted to get involved physically in the fight.'

Ian set out from South Shields with a rucksack on his back and hitchhiked his way through Denmark, West Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia and eventually to Greece and the Lebanon.

Five months after leaving Tyneside, he wrote to a friend in Jarrow saying: 'It's very strange here in Lebanon. Everybody is carrying machine guns. It is very dangerous to talk politics and almost suicide to mention Yassir's (Arafat) name.'

Ian's arrival coincided with the 1983 drive against Yassir Arafat and the PLO in Tripoli, northern Lebanon.



The massacres at the Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut had a profound impact on Ian Davison

'I arrived in the middle of the war and I did not have the length of training anybody would expect to get in any other type of situation, but I had a pretty thorough crash course.'

It was during the PLO evacuation of Tripoli that Ian Davison's family back in South Shields saw their son on television. He told the TV crew: 'When I was sitting in South Shields I really felt for the Palestinian cause, somebody should help them. I decided to actually do something.'

It was two and a half years after leaving Tyneside to join the PLO that the latest developments came to light after the



Ian Davison left South Shields to hike to the Lebanon where he joined the PLO and its fighters

action in Larnaca.

This is the statement to the Cyprus courts, which has not been challenged by Ian Davison or his attorneys.

'We agreed, the three of us, from the very beginning, and before we captured the youth, to continue negotiating till 2pm and if our demands were not met, to kill the hostages at 2 o'clock and surrender ourselves to the Cypriot authorities.'

'We agreed to kill them because they were our enemies and worked with the Israeli intelligence against the Palestinian people.'

'I shot the man on the left with two bullets in the back of the head and gave

the same gun to Elias (one of the Palestinians) who shot the other man, so we killed one each to face the same charges.'

When Sergeant Ioannou had finished reading his statement to the court, Ian Davison sat up and started whispering in Arabic to the two others and all three started smiling.

In a statement to the court Ian said: 'I have no regrets for doing what I have done, because it was my duty as an international socialist, a person of conscience, to fight the Zionist movement wherever I can.'

Defence lawyers told reporters crowding the courtrooms that the ac-

cused men disagreed with the 'moral' implications of the word 'guilty' but intended to admit to the killings of the Israelis.

In his taped interview Ian continued: 'I have no remorse for what I have done. My only regret is that I am temporarily forced to stop and I can no longer be physically involved with the war. I would prefer to be back in arms and get involved again.'

'I am totally committed and totally involved in the Palestinian cause.'

Other PLO prisoners, under interrogation by the Israelis, had spoken about Ian to their Israeli torturers.

Network

Raanan Gissin of the Israeli defence forces admitted: 'They look on him as a "good" mercenary, one that is willing to give his life or kill for the Palestinian cause.' Referring to use of the word 'mercenary', Gissin added: 'They have no other word for him. They mean outsider. Mercenary doesn't mean it in the sense that we do.'

Ian said: 'We know that in Cyprus there is an Israeli network, an intelligence network that is working against us, working against Palestinians who are coming from different countries, through Cyprus, on their way to Lebanon.'

'People cry about the three Israelis, but people should look at the Palestinian women and children who are massacred.'

The whole of the taped interview was played to Ian's parents at their home in South Shields. Ian concluded: 'How can a son apologise to his parents for what he has done in his life.'

'I want them to know that I am happy doing what I do. I am happier now than I ever was in England or in the USA. Now I'm happy.'

Ian's father Sam and mother Marjory have been closely following their son's story on television and the newspapers.

They turned down 'media' offers of a ticket to Cyprus to attend the trial.

Sam Davidson said: 'I don't agree with any killing. But I'll stick by him, he is my son, he is my blood. But he is also a soldier and he's fighting the battle the way he's got to fight it. It is not for me to say, there are rules in war that you have to abide by.'

Ian said finally: 'If I had stayed in England, maybe I would have got involved in something closer at home. But this was something immediate that stuck in my conscience.'

'I wanted to go to Lebanon and get involved in the Palestinian revolution.'

LETTERS to the Editor

Step up teachers' action

ON DECEMBER 5, nearly 1000 teachers lobbied the Assistant Masters and Mistresses' Association headquarters demanding there was no sell-out of the wages fight.

Against the position of the National Union of Teachers, a proposal was carried by 15 to 13 to seek a settlement. However, the NUT leaders themselves have helped to bring about this position.

The NUT stance was clearly revealed when a national executive member, Bill Rippon, said recently that the reason the NUT had allowed dispensation from sanctions guidelines in schools during the last week of term was 'because of the pressure from the national newspapers and the media in general'.

If the truth be known, the NUT leaders have always led the opposition to Thatcher's plans for education and teachers wages with at least one arm and one eye on the capitalist media and the state.

Centralised

As Trotsky said in 'Trade Unions in Epoch of Imperialist Decay':

'They (trade unions) have to confront a centralised capitalist adversary, intimately bound up with state power. Hence flows the need of the trade unions — insofar as they remain on reformist positions, i.e. on positions of adapting themselves to private property — to adopt themselves to the capitalist state and to contend for its co-operation.'

This was verified when general secretary Fred Jarvis and the national executive came out in support of the Tories' Youth Training Scheme, as they always have done. Only they add that they could run the cheap labour schemes better than the Tory appointments ('The Teacher', September 27, 1985).

The national executive have continuously fought against even one-day

national strikes. They have restricted action to half days. But not only the national executive.

On the November 7, a delegate lobby of parliament, demonstration and rally was organised. This included the Scottish teachers' organisation, the EIS. However just before the event, ILTA officers (inner London NUT) sent a leaflet to most schools in the capital calling on members NOT TO JOIN the demonstration because the EIS did not want them. This was bewildering to ordinary London and Scottish teachers.

How many NUT and EIS members know of this little piece of chicanery?

The NUT is now forced to call a special delegate wage conference on January 18 because of the sell-out position organised by the other union and teacher organisations.

Clearly the conference is not called by the leadership to explain the nature of the Thatcher government.

This conference must issue a lead and call for indefinite strike action while at the same time organising meetings in every locality to establish a unity with the parents, the youth and the trade unions.

These meetings would lay the basis for community organisations ready to defend schools against closure and attacks by the Tories.

Trotsky also stated on the unions: 'There is one common feature in the development or more correctly the degeneration of modern trade union organisation throughout the world: it is their drawing closely to and growing together with the state-power!'

If this is not so, then why did the NUT allow the fore-runners of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers — the Nottingham Union of Mineworkers as they called themselves then — the use of the NUT training centre at Stoke Rochford for a conference on March 4, 1984? It is also rumoured a Tory



Teachers lobbying the December 5 talks on their pay claim

MP visited them that weekend.

Fred Jarvis and the national executive must state clearly why they refuse to develop the teachers struggle beyond half-day strikes.

All those NUT leaders who are not prepared to develop the fight must make way for those that are. Plainly there is a crisis of leadership at every level within the NUT as throughout the working class and allied sections of the middle class.

Only a Trotskyist revolutionary party can provide that leadership. Trotsky said:

'The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers, and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat.'

Martin Ralph Buxton NUT

THE EDITORIAL Board welcomes letters from readers. They can be sent to Letters Page, 21B Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JT. Those letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Workers Press

'Militant' must be defended

IT IS ABOUT time that the WRP and News Line, and those who have taken up the struggle against Healy and his anti-communist clique, stated clearly and unequivocally that we defend the 'Militant' tendency against the Kinnock witch-hunt.

We must state it loud and clear that we defend the right of the 'Militant' tendency to remain in and belong to the Labour Party

Attack

As Trotskyists and Marxists, we show by our example that a witch-hunt against a section of the Labour Party or the labour movement by the right-wing, by the capitalists press or the state is an attack on the right of socialists in the Labour Party to express their views.

This in no way prevents us as Marxists to oppose politically the political perspectives and programme of the 'Militant' tendency.

Clear

But in the face of the attacks of Kinnock, the capitalist press or the state we must be clear were we stand — with the 'Militant' tendency.

An injury to one is the concern and responsibility of all socialists and communists in the labour movement.

We must resist in every way and oppose the witch-hunt against the 'Militant'.

Charlie Walsh
WRP Kilburn branch,
London

On Engels

I AM the 'unnamed contributor' responsible for the article 'Mitchell, mouth-piece' to which John Robinson has taken such violent exception (December 14 letters page).

In retrospect I readily concede that my phrase about the founders of Marxism tracing 'The origins of the class struggle to the relations between the sexes in primitive society' is inaccurate.

It would have been more correct to have said that in Engels' view, class society emerged from a society apparently dominated by ties of sex.

The rest of Robinson's argument seems to be with

Engels rather than with me. But here, too, I find the tone of his criticisms intemperate.

It is a matter of argument whether Engels committed a 'monumental blunder' in 'The Origin of the Family'. But Robinson should surely be asked to show where Engels told 'plain untruths' (i.e., lies) which is a matter of fact.

Finally, if Robinson is genuinely unable to distinguish News Line from 'Spare Rib', it is perhaps an indication that the bees in his bonnet have begun to interfere with his eyesight as well as his sense of proportion.

John Spencer

The Healy concept of the daily paper

LENIN wrote that without theory there is no revolutionary party. Contrast this with the Healyite fetish: without a daily paper there is no WRP.

'The world's first Trotskyist daily', as Healy was pleased to call it, was set up in 1969 as the supposed precondition of founding the revolutionary party.

What was the Marxist authority for this? None. Where did he get the idea from? None other than Stalin apparently.

In 1929 the British Communist Party, to which Healy belonged, had a new ultra-Stalinist leadership imposed on it to carry out the mad ultra-left turn of the 'Third Period' (the change was ordered by the Comintern executive, i.e. Stalin. It was secured by a change in the system of voting for the Central Committee, the open vote of

Congress being replaced by a nominations commission.)

That was not all that was imposed. 'Almost at once the publication of the "Daily Worker" began: the Comintern had imposed upon the new leadership the initial task of founding a daily paper not later than January 1, 1930.' (Henry Pelling, 'The British Communist Party', page 52).

Political

According to the Stalinists themselves, this was no accident: 'The launching of the "Daily Worker" in 1930 was a political decision, it arose out of the necessities of the situation.' (William Rust and Allen Hutt, 'The Story of the Daily Worker', page 9).

This historical connection between ultra-left madness and the setting up

of a daily paper needs looking into.

With respect to the daily News Line — and with the greatest respect for the self-sacrifice of comrades to establish and sustain it — the question must now be asked, was it really a gain for Trotskyism?

I refer not only to its centrist line, but to its bureaucratic uses as a means of thought-prevention (the membership was too busy selling and distributing newspapers to take up serious theoretical study) and thought-control.

By the latter, I mean the hypnotic Mitchell method analysed in News Line on November 7, according to which 'any empirical fact can be made to lead inexorably to the desired conclusion'.

By its nature a daily paper is a medium for the latest in empirical facts. It

can brainwash us into believing that 'today the masses are more revolutionary than they were yesterday, and tomorrow will be more revolutionary than today.'

'Such a mechanical idea does not correspond to the real process of development of the proletariat or of a capitalist society as a whole.' (Trotsky, 'The "Third Period" of the Comintern's Errors', 'Writings of Leon Trotsky (1930)', page 27.)

Fetish

No wonder the Healyites are so desperate to regain this precious asset!

For our part, the break with Healyism means decisively rejecting this fetish, which threatens to liquidate our Party back into a newspaper empire.

K. Moxham, Cambridge

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Christmas buys

NOSTALGIA

Films and comics

The Wonderful World of Film Fun by Graham King and Ron Saxby. Clarks New Press, £8.95.

LARKS and mirth from 'Fatty' Arbuckle, Laurel and Hardy and the other screen comics who made 'Film Fun' the best-selling comic paper from 1920 until 1962.

The Man Who Drew Tomorrow by Alastair Compton. Who Dares Publishing, £9.95.

FRANK Hampton, creator of Dan Dare, is revealed in his studio and through pages of published and unpublished sketches and drawings for the 'Eagle' comic.

Fifties Style: Then and Now by Ricard Horn. Columbus, £9.95.

FABRICS, fashions, furniture, especially the contorted 'space age' furniture of the fifties, together with other nostalgic glimpses of lost toys and comics.

We'll Eat Again: A Collection of Recipes from the War Years selected by Marguerite Patten, Hamlyn, £3.99.

DRIED EGGS, 'prune roly' and all the other ways of making do are put together on pages that look just like a wartime cookery book, complete with wise advice from the Ministry of Food.

The MGM Girls: Behind the Velvet Curtain by Peter Harry Brown and Pamela Ann Brown. Harrap, £5.95.

YOUNG actresses were turned into stars by MGM under studio boss Louis B. Mayer, but this book reveals that they were, in

the process, the most bullied women in Hollywood.

Money Into Light: The Emerald Forest, a Diary by John Boorman. Faber and Faber, £4.95.

TWO jungles were explored in the shaping of Boorman's vision into a film — Brazil's rain forest and rivers, and Hollywood studios, lawyers and financiers. It took three years, but the result was the film 'The Emerald Forest'.

Coronation Street. 25 Years, 1960-1985. Ward Lock, £7.95.

'THE Street' in pictures and scripts, from the day Ken Barlow, newly arrived from university, squabbled with his brother, and the night the inhabitants were evacuated to the Glad Tidings Mission because of a gas leak, as well as the more recent goings-on.

National Heroes; British Cinema in the Seventies and Eighties by Alexander Walker, Harrap, £10.95.

INTERVIEWS with filmmakers, and the strong opinions of a sharp and critical writer are the features of this book.

The Paramount Story by John Douglas Eames. Octopus, £12.95.

THE illustrated history of one of the great film studios, remarkable value for money.

Halliwel's Film Guide by Leslie Halliwell. Granada, £15.00.

VIDEO and films, described by the partisan and often acid Halliwell, in a book which has now reached its fifth edition.

Death in police hands

'Death in the City' is available from Canary Press, 5 Caledonian Road, London. N1. 837-4473. £3.95.

DAY IN and day out people are dying in police custody, Martin Walker told last Monday's press conference to launch the report 'Death in the City'.

The report, which analyses the substantial increase in deaths both in police stations and in related police activity, was commissioned by the organisation INQUEST, explained Ken Worpole, who co-authored the report with Melissa Benn.

INQUEST was founded in 1980 by the friends and families of people who died in police custody. It aims to support the families of those killed, to help find legal representation,

as well as campaigning for changes in the laws which govern inquests.

The report, said Worpole, showed that not only were deaths in custody rising, but that deaths attributable to other police activity were also on the increase, particularly, he stressed, deaths through police car chases, raids and shootings.

Worpole debunked the popular myth that the police were forced to carry guns because criminals now used them more. He said that the report revealed that while the incidence of gun use had remained constant over the last decade, there had been 700-per-cent increase in the issue of guns to the police during the same period.

The report, he said,

showed the trend for the police to try to extend 'the area of criminality' from the police station to the street and into the home.

'In their everyday life even in their own homes, people are no longer safe from the forces of law and order,' he stated.

Melissa Benn outlined one of the report's central concerns, that of the unsatisfactory nature of the inquest system itself.

There are, she said, several serious and not generally recognised defects in the system. It provides no legal aid for the families of those killed. Many suspicious deaths, therefore, are not thoroughly examined.

The coroner is invested with enormous powers. He can decide who is represented, what evidence is given and who gives

evidence. The coroner and does suppress evidence that would throw light on the circumstances of the death or would incriminate the police.

A notable example, said Benn, being the ruling on the inadmissibility of the police internal report, the Cass report, during the Blair Peach inquest.

Benn also told of the way that the police dominate the coroner's court. They run the court, they swear in the jury and, by their overwhelming presence, both in the courtroom and by the number of witnesses that they provide, act to intimidate the families.

Nick Finnis, a researcher for the 'London Programme', spoke of the attempt by the police

to suppress a documentary on the death of John Mickleson, a Hells Angel killed during a fracas while in police custody. Finnis pointed out that the police injunction to stop the programme being broadcast on the grounds that the matter was sub judice had disturbing implications.

Bernard Carnell, the solicitor for the Jarrett family, spoke of the inquest system being the only chance, despite its severe limitations, of a public discussion of the circumstances surrounding a death.

Rejected

This, was particularly true, he said, in the case of the death of Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, where a public inquest had been rejected. He outlined the methods that the police had used in the Jarrett case, where the police had begun by trying to slander Mrs Jarrett and had gone on to try and criminalise the whole family.

Floyd Jarrett had been arrested for the 'theft' of his own car and his sister Patricia had her own statements to the new police complaints authority used against her in court.

At one point the police referred to her as 'the defendant'.

This kind of treatment was by no means uncommon as seen in the way the Roach family were treated.

Clive Soley, MP for Hammersmith and the Shadow Home Affairs spokesman, winding up the press conference, said that 'Death in the City' pointed to the need for a continuing campaign for police accountability and an independent police complaints procedure.



Ken Worpole, Martin Walker, Melissa Benn and Bernard Carnell at the press conference to launch 'Death in the City'

HISTORY

The Burston Rebellion by Betka Zamoyska. BBC, £3.95.

EYEWITNESSES, the villagers who knew the school strike which lasted from 1914 until 1939, told Betka Zamoyska their stories when she was researching the BBC film about the long struggle of Tom and Kitty Higdon.

THEATRES of the Left, 1880-1935: Worker's Theatre Movements in Britain and America by Raphael Samuel, Ewan MacColl and Stuart Cosgrove. History Workshop Series, £8.95.

PROPAGANDA theatre's development on both sides of the Atlantic, with some scripts and staging, and the dead hand of Stalinism, the workerist turn

in the twenties and thirties which partly led to experimentation, and generally to distortion and pauperisation of the art of theatre.

Most Dangerous Women: Feminist Peace Campaigners of the Great War by Anne Wiltsher. Pandora, £5.95.

THE suffragist movement split in two, patriots and pacifists, and it was later to be deeply affected by the Russian Revolution, which inspired many of the pacifist feminists Wiltsher describes here. **The Weaker Vessel** by Antonia Fraser, £3.95.

CHILD BIRTH dominated the lives of women in the 17th century. Antonia Fraser also discusses

SPORT

Leave the Fighting to McGuigan by Jim Sheridan. Viking, £8.95.

BARRY McGuigan's story, well-told and illustrated is this year's best boxing book.

Kings of the Ring: 100 Years of World Heavyweight Boxing by Gilbert Odd. Newes, £5.95.

CHAMPIONS and action over a century told with 200 pictures.

Lester Piggott: The Biography in Pictures, by Julian Wilson, Queen Anne Press, £12.95.

YOU Will have to wait until next March to read Dick Francis's biography of Lester Piggott; in the meantime, this is a memorable collection of photographs.

Born Lucky by John Francome. Pelham, £9.95.

SEVEN times champion jockey, and rider of a record number of National Hunt winners, John Francome tells his own story, including the unhappy incident in 1978 when he was suspected of dishonest connection with bookmaker John Banks.

Frame by Dennis Taylor, Queen Anne Press, £8.95.

CLOWNISH, popular, snooker player and family man, Dennis Taylor, explains his career and rivalries.

Soccer in the Dock: A History of British Football Scandals 1900-1965, by Simon Inglis. Collins, £9.95.

BRIBERY, real and im-

aginary, and how stories passed from dressing room to Fleet Street, are the subject of Inglis's investigation, which factually stopped 20 years ago.

The Glory Game: a Year in the Life of Tottenham Hotspur by Hunter Davies. Mainstream, £5.95.

OVER 12 years after Hunter Davies sat with the flies on the wall throughout a season with the famous London club, this book remains a classic.

The Art of Captaincy by Mike Brearley. Hodder, £12.95.

CRICKET book of the year, by the most articulate captain England has ever had, explaining how he did the skipper's job, and how others have done it.

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BOOKS



Sportsquiz

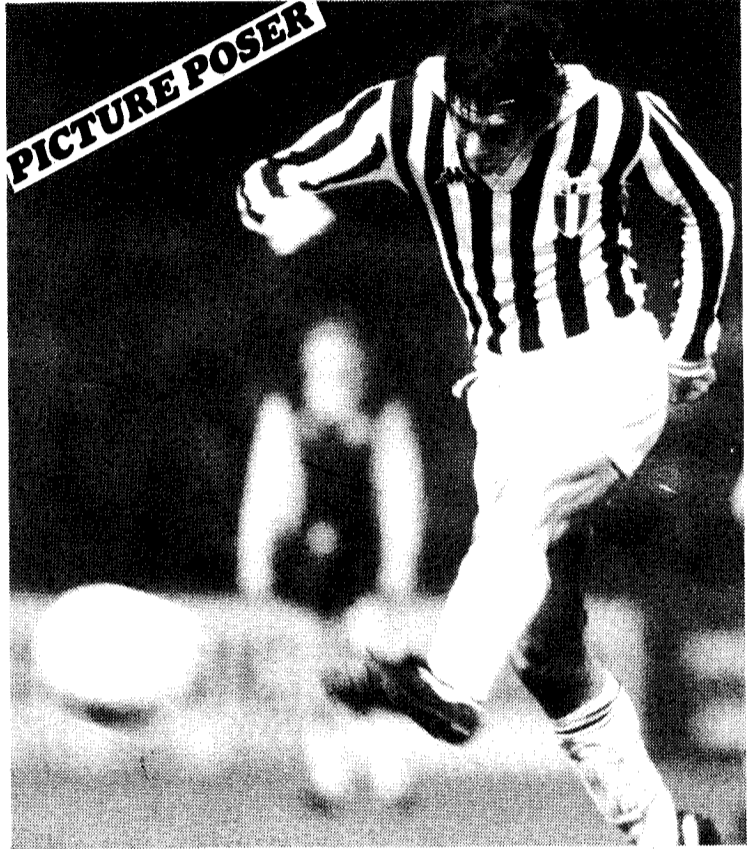


Twenty teasers to try on your friends

1. Rugby League's Challenge Cup final is now a Wembley tradition. This year Wigan and Hull clashed in the decider. Who won?
2. Everton completed the second part of their possible 'treble' in May by winning the European Cup Winners' Cup in Rotterdam. Who were their opponents and what was the score?
3. The youngest man on the field scored the winner in the FA Cup final. Who was he, who does he play for and what was the final score?
4. Barry McGuigan, as expected, won a world title. But who did he beat to lift the title in June at Loftus Road?
5. The tragedy in Brussels before and during the European Champions' Cup led to Liverpool's manager resigning. Who was he and where did they finish in the League?
6. Boris Becker became the darling of Wimbledon when he won the singles title at 17 years of age. But what tournament did he win in the week before the All-England Championship?
7. At what distances did Steve Cram set world record during the summer, and does a British athlete hold a world mark in any other track event?



QUESTION 1. Action from the Rugby League Challenge Cup at Wembley but who won it?



PICTURE POSER...This is a famous Italian striker who set the last World Cup alight with his goalscoring exploits. Can you name him?

8. Early in the year a British welterweight fought for the world crown on a third occasion and lost. Who was he?
9. Who won the four men's tennis Grand Slam events this year?
10. An American motorcyclist achieved a unique double this year. Who was he and what was his feat?
11. England brought the Ashes home, but by what score did they beat Australia in the six Test series?
12. Wales and Scotland contested a vital World Cup qualifier in Cardiff on September 10. The 1-1 draw meant that Scotland went on to play Australia and win a place in next summer's Mexico finals. The night, however, was overshadowed by tragedy. What happened?
13. Two more English players joined the exodus to Italy during the summer can you name them?
14. Who won the County Championship in cricket and who were second?
15. A famous old Football League side bade a sad farewell to their home in September.

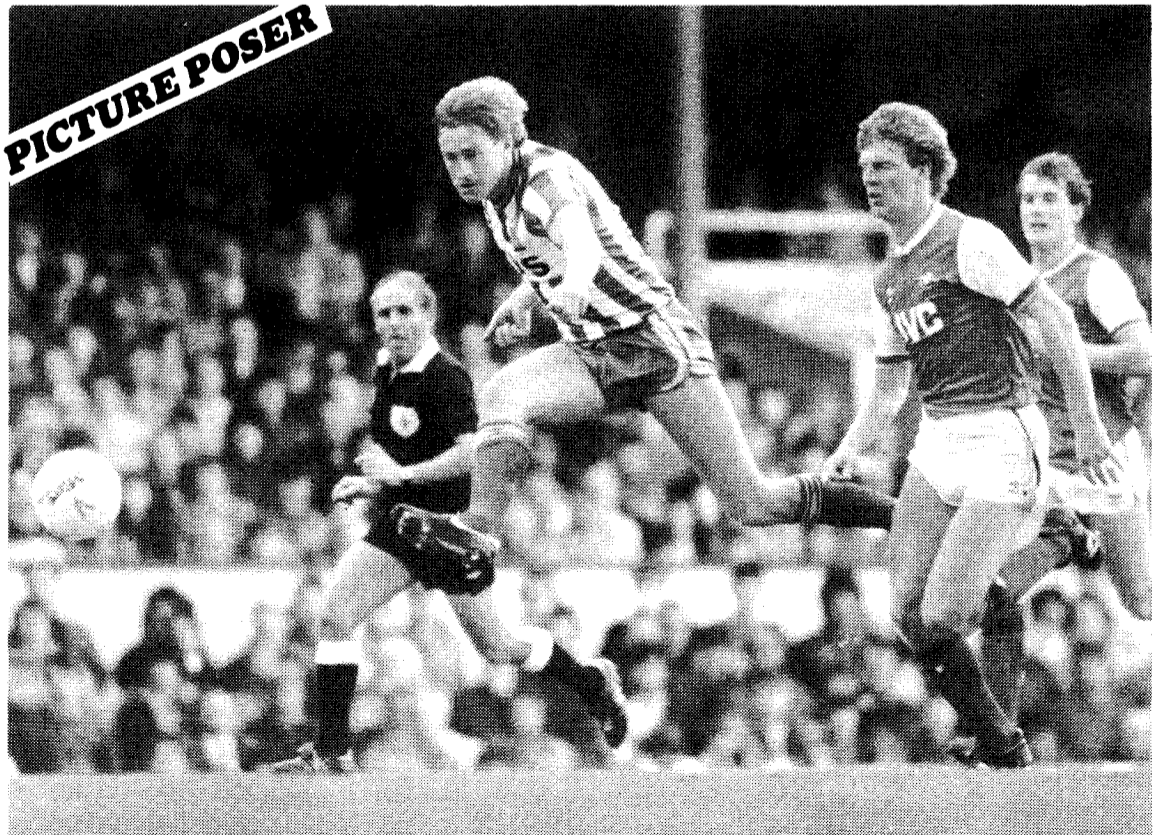
- Who were they, where did they leave and who do they share a ground with now?
16. A British player won the British Open golf championship for a change. Who was he?
 17. The two teams who competed in the Milk Cup final this year were both relegated in May. Who were they, who won and who scored?
 18. Britain's leading jump jockey called it a day in April who was he?
 19. A last gasp victory in the World Snooker Championship for an old favourite who was he?
 20. Who captained the British Ryder Cup team who brought the title back this side of the Atlantic after a wait of 24 years?

Answers

1 Wigan 28-24; 2 3-1, Rapid Vienna; 3 Norwich United; 4 Chester United; 5 Joe Fagan, runners-up; 6 The Stella Artis Championships; 7 Cram broke the 1,500 metres and mile records while Buster Watson broke the 400 metres indoor record; 8 Collin Jones; 9 Mats Wilander, Boris Becker, Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg; 10 Freddie Spencer won the world Grand Prix titles at 250 and 500cc; 11 3-1; 12 Scottish manager Jock Stead; 13 Aston Villa's Paul Rideout and Gordon Cowans moved to Bari; 14 Middlesex and Hampshire respectively; 15 Charlton Athletic left the Valley and moved in at Selhurst Park with Crystal Palace; 16 Sandy Lyle; 17 Norwich beat Sunderland 1-0 with an Asa Hartford goal; 18 John F 19 Dennis Taylor; 20 Tony Jacklin; Picture Poser shows Paolo Rossi; Puzling shows Lee Chapman of Sheffield Wednesday scoring against his old club Arsenal who he left after a nightmare nine months and just six appearances



QUESTION 19. This man lifted the the World Snooker Championship. Who is he?



PUZZLING...What is the significance of this player thundering home a goal against Arsenal?

Sports Review of 1985

Best forgotten

on the football scene at least

BY MATTHEW NUGENT

IN SPORTING terms 1985 will be long remembered for the tragedies in Bradford, Birmingham and Brussels.

Soccer, the national game, was in a sorry enough state before these catastrophes. Then, in the space of three maddening weeks in May, the game was dealt a terrible body blow.

Three incidents — with English soccer fans involved in all of them — left 90 people dead. And with it the reputation of British football was almost flushed down the toilet for good.

Flames

On May 11, over 10,000 soccer fans descended on Bradford City's Park Avenue ground. It was to be a day of celebration for the club. They were back in the Second Division for the first time in 24 years and there was a party atmosphere around the town.

But just before half time, smoke was seen billowing from the main stand — a wooden structure that was due for demolition a month later. Within minutes the stand was engulfed in flames. It became a funeral pyre — and 53 fans lost their lives, burned to death in the holocaust.

At Birmingham on the same afternoon, a battle between City and Leeds United supporters led to the death of another fan. It should have been a sobering time for soccer.

But then, on May 29, in the Heysel stadium, Brussels, what should have been a wonderful evening of football was turned into one of human carnage when a further 36 fans lost their lives.

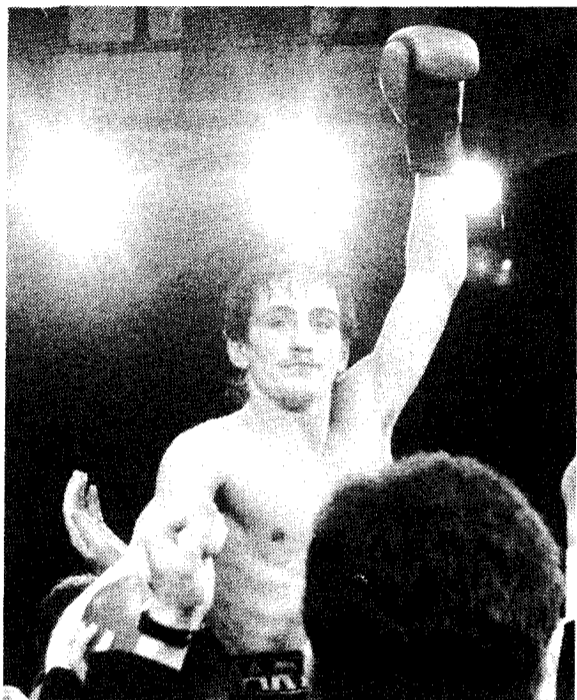
Liverpool's magnificent record of crowd behaviour spanning two decades evaporated that night when a section of their so-called supporters attacked Juventus fans and in the panic a safety wall collapsed.

Agony

Most of those who died that terrible evening were crushed and suffocated. Theirs was a slow and agonising death.

Ironically, all of these terrible incidents could have been avoided.

Bradford's stand was due for demolition, but it takes a brave board of directors to decide to build a new one these days. Look at reasonably well-off clubs like Watford and Tottenham who only last week knocked on



BARRY MCGUIGAN . . . The best boxer, pound for pound, in the world

the head plans to build new stands.

Bradford's main stand was 100 years old. Yet the structure of the game means that a club in the lower divisions cannot spend money on modern facilities or safeguards for their fans.

The cat was let out of the bag after the tragedy. Immediately the safety standards at many sporting venues were checked. Wimbledon, the home of tennis, was found wanting and several grounds had to shut down part of their stadiums.

Miracle

The Tory government, however, was not willing to part with the cash to help clubs improve their facilities.

That just one fan was killed on that fateful afternoon in Birmingham is a miracle. That none lost their lives at Luton and Chelsea in earlier incidents during the season defied reason.

What happened at those games, tempered by the atrocity in Brussels, gave this reactionary government the opportunity to introduce another draconian law.

It is supposed to curb violence at football matches. But it will be soon used against trade unionists or other working-class organisations that defy this government.

The Tories and those who run the national game are still not willing to admit that the disturbances that break out sporadically at football stadiums are directly linked to social deprivation.

Attending a football game for many of these youngsters is the highlight of their week. But if you treat them like animals, cage them up at stadiums, herd them to and from their transport and generally treat them with less dignity than cattle going to the slaughterhouse, you must expect them to rebel.

The sooner football authorities learn to treat their fans as human beings and when the youth of this country are given some hope of a future, then the disturbances that have brought the game to its knees will evaporate.

But not entirely. There is an element out there who just go for the violence. They are either members or supporters of fascist groups. Some of these were in Brussels. A full investigation has never been made into their part in the carnage in Belgium.

Treble

There was obviously going to be a domino effect when the new season started. Attendances are down by around 10 per cent and it's hard to see all 92 current Football League clubs going to the starting line when they begin the new season next August.

On the playing field, Everton proved to be the team of the season, coming out of Liverpool's shadow to win the League Championship and European Cup Winners' Cup in swashbuckling style.

Manchester United denied them the treble when Norman Whiteside cre-



BRYAN ROBSON . . . Ready to lead England out in Mexico

ated a goal out of nothing to lift the FA Cup in extra time. Norwich City defeated Sunderland in the Milk Cup final by the only goal of the game too. Later, however, both teams paid the price for their trip to Wembley by being relegated.

England, Scotland and Northern Ireland have all qualified for next summer's World Cup finals in Mexico. Already Bobby Robson is making excuses just in case England fail to do well.

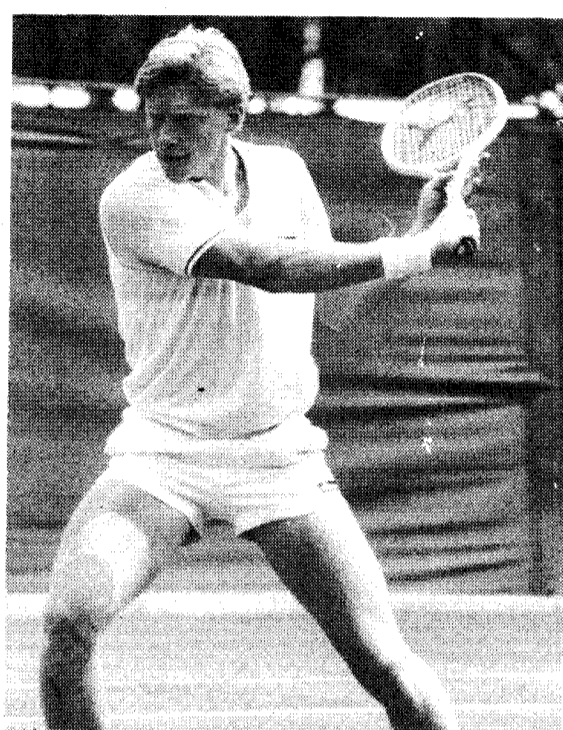
The football fiesta down Mexico way is one thing to look forward to at the end of the domestic football season. After all that has not been banished

from the television screens yet!

Boxing had its fill of controversy as well this year. Promoters Mickey Duff, Jarvis Astaire and Mike Barratt, along with manager Terry Lawless were implicated in an illegal cartel.

But the sport's governing body, the British Eoxing Board of Control, decided no harm had been done. That body remains the most limp-wristed in sport today.

Colin Jones tried, unsuccessfully, for the third time to lift a world welterweight title in January. This time he came up against a real craftsman



BORIS BECKER . . . A real treat to watch at Wimbledon

in Don Currie and lost in four rounds.

There was no shame in that for only a fortnight ago Curry carved up Milton McCrory, the man who went 24 rounds with the Welshman 18 months ago, and won his title in dubious circumstances.

Then came the 'Clones Cyclone', Barry McGuigan. In June he packed out Loftus Road in west London for his world flyweight title fight against a great champion Eusebio Pedroza.

Excite

The dapper, little Irishman was perpetual motion in front of his adoring fans and sent them off into the summer night in ecstasy as he lifted the title with a show of pure skill and determination.

McGuigan is, pound for pound, the best boxer in the world today and is set to excite us with his exploits once again early in the new year.

Last ball

Another Irishman, Dennis Taylor, kept half the country up one Sunday night as he came back from the dead to take the world snooker championship, snatching it from the defending champion, Steve Davis, on the very last ball of a three-day, 33-frame final.

It was a popular victory, for, like McGuigan, Taylor is liked by the masses for his down-to-earth approach and honesty.

It turned out to be a peculiar year in tennis.

We may have seen the demise of John McEnroe, while the balance of power in the women's game held by Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert-Lloyd would seem to be on the wane.

Just in case McEnroe does decide to call it a day, Wimbledon threw up a new tennis hero in July in the shape of 17-year-old West German Boris Becker.

A year earlier the youngster had crashed badly while playing a second-round match and ended up with badly severed tendons. This summer he went all the way to the final.

Out there on centre court, playing in the match of his life, Becker provided one of the most endearing sporting memories of 1985.

Deftly

His already frustrated opponent, South African Kevin Curren, mis-hit a service ball in the third set. As it came back over the net Becker trapped it on his chest then bounced it on his knee before deftly flicking it away to a ball boy.

Only a youngster would have forgotten the immense pressures in such auspicious surroundings for one moment and thrill the crowds with his soccer routine. He then went on to defeat Curren in four sets to become the youngest and the first unseeded player ever to win the singles championship.

So a year of little highlights with the memory of Birmingham and Brussels in particular etched on the memory for the rest of time.

Final challenge by Tottenham

Spurred on



TERRY BUTCHER . . . Will face Tottenham at White Hart Lane today

TOTTENHAM are determined to launch a last-ditch attempt to get back into the League Championship race over the holiday period by halting the progress of two other London clubs — West Ham and Chelsea.

Spurs currently lie in 12th position, all of 21 points behind leaders Manchester United.

But on the eve of their meeting with lowly Ipswich Town at White Hart Lane on Saturday, manager Peter Shreeve told his players that anything less than nine points over the holiday would finally end their bid to win the Championship.

'I am the first to admit that we have had a bad start to the season,' Shreeve said. 'But if we were to go through the holidays unbeaten, we might just put ourselves back in with a fighting chance.'

After today's game Spurs entertain high-flying West Ham on Boxing Day and then travel to Chelsea next Saturday.

'You have got to fancy West Ham to get a result against Luton at the weekend, so that means they will probably come here on Boxing Day unbeaten in 17 games, that's some record,' added

BY SAUN PHILLIPS

Shreeve. 'We are looking forward to our biggest crowd of the season for that game now.'

The north London club hope to have a full squad available with Glenn Hodde and Osvaldo Ardiles reporting fit after recent knocks.

But Shreeve also made it quite clear that Ipswich would be no pushover this afternoon.

'They might be in 21st place, but they have started to show signs of a revival in recent games,' he said. 'We have had some bad results at home — against teams we should have probably beaten — so we are not taking anything for granted.'

On the clashes against the London clubs, Shreeve was somewhat guarded. 'The points will be invaluable if we are to climb the table again. But I just hope that there are no problems. That would really spoil the Christmas festivities,' he added.

Those comments were echoed by Chelsea manager John Hollins and West Ham's John Lyall.

'Football has had a very bad year. I hope that it doesn't end with more violence,' said Hollins. 'I think the fans will behave themselves over Christmas,' added Lyall.

Hollins is still a little worried about the availability of David Speedie who suffered concussion in midweek, while Lyall's only problem is skipper Alvin Martin. Both players, however, should be available for the hectic holiday programme.

Everton, too, could throw the cat amongst the pigeons over the festive break if they were to defeat Manchester United on Boxing Day. 'We are beginning to find our form at last,' admitted manager Howard Kendall earlier this week.

'We have the players to

take on and beat United. We have done already this season and there is no reason why we cannot do it again on Boxing Day.'

Everton, however, have a couple of injury problems in the shape of Kevin Sheedy (Achilles tendon) and Adrian Heath (thigh strain).

Next Saturday Everton have another plum home match when they take on Sheffield Wednesday. A clean sweep over the next week could put the League Champions back into the chase to retain their title.

Leaders Manchester United take on a rejuvenated Arsenal following their victory over Liverpool in their first game of the three-match holiday programme.

Manager Ron Atkinson waits on a progress report from the treatment room — where Kevin Moran, Paul McGrath, Gordon Strachan and Frank Stapleton are all receiving treatment for minor knocks.

Stapleton in particular will be hoping to be fit to face his former teammates at Old Trafford. After that United must prepare for that trip to Everton before travelling across country to take on Newcastle.

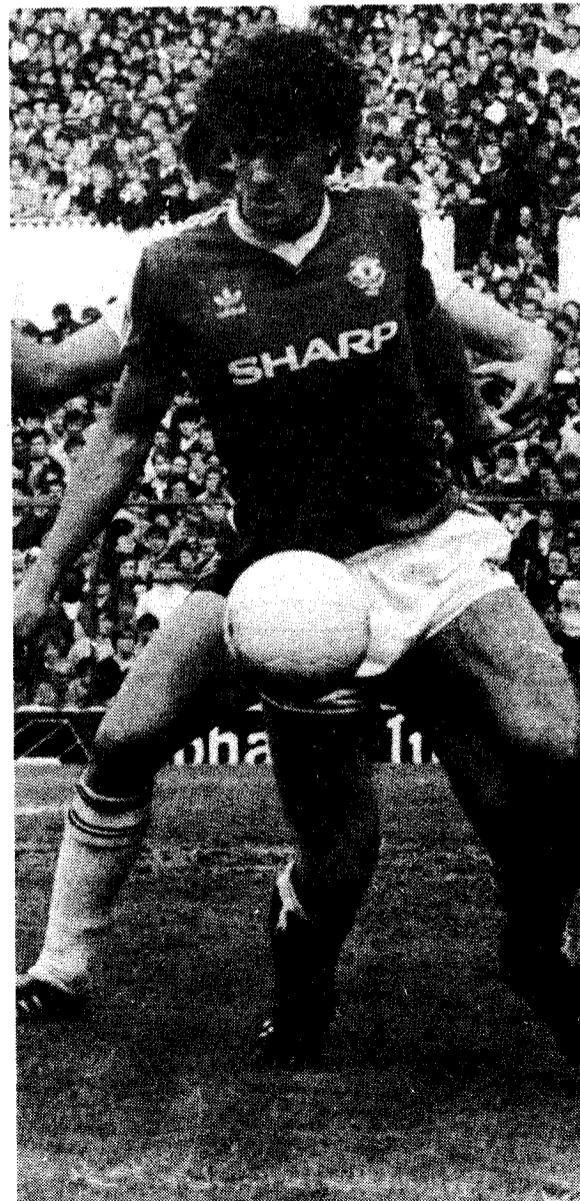
Liverpool appear to have the easier programme than the rest of the pack chasing the title.

They should prove too strong for Liverpool at home this afternoon and for Manchester City at Maine Road on Boxing Day. Their real test will come next Saturday when they visit Nottingham Forest.

'We must keep the pressure up on Manchester United over the holidays and to do that we must win all our matches and not rely on other teams to do us favours,' said a determined Mark Lawrenson last night.



ADRIAN HEATH . . . Injury doubt



MARK HUGHES . . . Hoping to get back to goalscoring form over the holidays

COMMENT

Strengthen the boycott

BY MATTHEW NUGENT

THE RACIST South African regime is shaking in its boots as the masses in this apartheid state rise against oppression.

Many have lost their lives in the streets protesting, many more have been murdered, cut down in cold blood without raising a hand in anger.

Yet despite the working-class explosion, sportsmen and women continue to fraternise with this racist state lured by the promise of blood-drenched Krugger-rands in prize-money.

Presently a team of Australian renegades, billed as an international team, are playing a series of cricket matches there. They follow in the footsteps of English, West Indian and Sri Lankan teams.

But the news for all those unprincipled and greedy enough to make the trip to collect some cash is bad. The sports boycott is biting hard — and in this sphere South Africa is at last beginning to suffer quite decisively.

Nationals who support their regime's racist policies have now become outcasts throughout the world. Nobody wants them.

Sadly that does not apply so much in Britain.

The latest United Nations' blacklist proves the point. Of the sportsmen and women who accept this blood money, a third are from Britain. They are still happy to play games with the racists while the majority of the population are in revolt against apartheid.

But in the final analysis their greed will end up affecting other British athletes who are opposed to racism.

For sometime in the not too distant future the third world nations — who now hold the balance of power in such organisations as the International Olympic Committee and FIFA — will say enough is enough, you have had your chance to break off sporting con-

tacts with South Africa and you didn't.

So Britain could be banned from the Olympics because of the avarice of Rugby Union or cricket players, sports which don't have Olympic recognition. Soccer teams will be thrown out of the World Cup despite the fact that the Football Association takes a dim view of any contact with the apartheid state.

In 1986 South Africa should become completely isolated in sport. 'Our sports boycott is growing all the time and we call upon every sportsman and woman to make a stand against apartheid in the new year,' Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, said this week.

'Many athletes have already made a stand against this despicable regime and in 1986 we want the rest of them to do so. The sports boycott has affected them badly. They are outcasts in many sports. Next year we want to make it every sport.'

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