

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Occupations must answer sackings

# THOUSANDS FACE JOBS

THE THREAT of mass sackings hangs over thousands of workers.

In Glasgow, 2000 newspaper and print workers have been told to pack their bags. At Lucas, the Birmingham car accessory giant, 10 per cent of the workforce are threatened with the axe.

In Coventry, there is serious talk of 15,000 redundancies in telecommunications, causing havoc in the city. (Report: back page.)

The greatest fear of all is in Bristol where the Concorde aircraft, employing some 26,000 workers, is no longer certain to continue.

Six months ago Tory Ministers were talking about 'the biggest boom in history'. Employers everywhere hired more workers.

But the employers could not sustain their boom. Investment took second place to profits, dividends, property speculation. Prices soared.

Now the same workers who only six months ago were lulled into security by their employers are told they must get out and take their place on the scrapheap.

### SIEZED

Workers must not lie down in front of this new employers' offensive. Action can be taken to shake the employers out of their callousness.

Factories and machinery must be seized and occupied until the employers or the government give a pledge that no workers will be made redundant.

More importantly, if redundancy is to be defeated, the workers must link up their organisations at rank and file level. If the fight is left to each group threatened with redundancy, it is lost before it starts.

The Express jobs in Glasgow will not be saved unless printworkers and journalists in Manchester refuse to write and print the Scottish Daily Express, unless printworkers and journalists everywhere push their industrial strength behind the demand: NO REDUNDANCIES IN THE PRINT INDUSTRY.

The Bristol jobs on Concorde will not be saved unless aircraft workers and other workers in the Bristol area demand of the British Aircraft Corporation bosses that not one worker is sacked.

Class solidarity is the only antidote to the redundancy poison. And we won't get it from union offices.

We'll get it only by persistent organisation in the rank and file of the trade unions.

# AXE



## 300 at talks on pickets jailings

SW Reporter

MORE THAN 300 delegates attended a conference on the Shrewsbury pickets' trials in London last Saturday.

The conference, jointly sponsored by the London regions of UCATT and the Transport Union whose members are in jail, heard plenty of anti-Tory rhetoric from Labour MP Norman Atkinson. But Atkinson declined to give any commitment as to what the new Labour government would do about releasing the jailed men and repealing the anti-picketing laws.

Of the platform speakers only Jack Collins, the NUM executive member, attacked the shameful role UCATT's leaders have played by refusing to fight on the Shrewsbury issue.

### Demand

The conference agreed to give maximum support to Wednesday's march and lobby to parliament to demand the release of the jailed men. It called again on the TUC general council to take up the struggle, a thing its leaders have consistently failed to do.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court this week the trial of the last three building pickets, Terry Renshaw, Lennie Williams and John Seaburg, was coming to a conclusion. Verdicts were due on Friday with jail sentences certain to result if the men were found guilty of unlawful assembly and affray.

Delegates picture: Chris Davies (Report)

## RUSH IS ON FOR THAT KEY CONFERENCE

THE RUSH is on to go to the national conference called by rank and file union papers in Birmingham on Saturday 30 March.

Organising secretary Roger Cox told Socialist Worker there were now 460 delegates. 'This is far better than we had expected.'

Delegates include the Glasgow Corporation Central Electrical Workshops Shops Stewards' Committee, the shop stewards' committee at Walmsleys Wigan, 38 AUEW branches and 24

TGWU branches. Barr and Stroud AUEW Junior Workers Committee in Glasgow will attend and London busmen are well represented. There has been a good response from hospital workers.

'In our original motion for the conference we called for the defeat of Phase Three,' Roger Cox said. 'We thought that would be irrelevant after the election. In fact it's quite clear that it is still central.'

'Phase Three is still with us. And the officials

## Foot keeps Phase Three

by Jim Higgins

LABOUR Employment Secretary Michael Foot, according to press reports, scored a parliamentary triumph on Monday when the Tories backed down from a vote on the Queen's Speech and the need for a statutory incomes policy.

But the real impact of his speech will be felt outside the House of Commons, where golden phrases buy nothing in the shops.

In one breath Foot spoke of legislation to abolish the Pay Board and in the next breath spoke of maintaining the board until agreement with the CBI and the TUC was reached on what he chose to call 'methods to secure the orderly growth of incomes on a voluntary basis.'

The Pay Board is to be used as the threat that can be held over



Foot: Pay Board threat

the trade unions to make them agree to supervise wage limitation.

Claims already settled under the Pay Board procedure will stand. Claims being negotiated will be kept firmly within the Tory pay code. That is Labour's contribution to the 'social contract' with the trade unions.

The response of the TUC has been even more breathtaking than Foot's. Alf Allen, this year's TUC president, said: 'Mr Foot's speech certainly needs applauding.'

TGWU general secretary Jack Jones has made it clear that in return for repeal of the Housing Finance Act, increased pensions and the promised repeal of the Industrial Relations Act, his union's claims will be 'realistic'.

But realism is one thing to the government and another to workers attempting to hold their heads above a rising tide of inflation.

in Congress House are going to find that the rank and file doesn't care who the government is if the policies are staying the same. They haven't even bothered to change the name.'

The conference is more important than ever. There is still time to get delegated in some union branches.

It will be a real step in strengthening the unity of shop floor workers across industry and their ties with white collar trade unionists.

Report: page 14. Form: page 16.

## Anger as black youths get savage sentences

LONDON: Black people in the city were hit by 'justice' again last week.

At the Old Bailey three black youths each received three year sentences for assaulting the police.

After a stabbing at a fair in South London more than 100 members of the notorious police Special Petrol Group invaded a crowd of mainly black people.

Robin Sterling, Horace Parkinson and Lloyd James were pulled out and taken to Brixton Police station. They were beaten up on the way.

Horace Parkinson needed four stitches in his head after the incident. In the original (later dropped) charges, Robin, aged 14, was accused of grievous bodily harm to THREE police officers.

### Protested

This latest example of a standard police technique—where arrests take place first and evidence is 'supplied' later—has raised fury in Brixton.

Since the sentences the Lambeth branch of the Teachers' union has protested, as has the Tulse Hill School where Robin was a pupil. A defence committee has been set up in Brixton.

Such was the wave of fury that the judge called Robin Sterling back into court on Monday. His parents had hopes that he would be released. They were soon disillusioned.

The judge said 'that he still felt the sentences were appropriate'.

In East London the police raided the home of Lloyd Linley and accused him of stealing from the ice cream van which he drives for the Rossi Ice Cream Company. His firm did not bring the charge.

After a fight, Lloyd and his brother were beaten up and taken to Brixton prison. His mother had a bruised shoulder.

### Pakistani demo

THE scandal of Pakistan's political prisoners will be highlighted by a demonstration on 30 March. It leaves Hyde Park at 2.30pm and will arrive at the Pakistani Embassy at 3.30.

### TRAGIC DEATH

GLYNIS DONOVAN, a member of the Slough branch of the International Socialists, was killed tragically last week in a car accident. Her husband, Rob Donovan, was seriously injured.

Glynis was in her twenties and was a lecturer. Rob is a teacher. Both joined IS a few months ago.

Slough IS secretary Howard Senter has asked Socialist Worker to record his branch's sorrow at the death of Glynis and to wish Rob Donovan a speedy recovery.

## SNAGGERS STRIKE HALTS LEYLAND

LEYLAND:— 280 workers in the BX chassis assembly shop at British Leyland were still out this week in a dispute over bonus rates for 'snaggers'—the men who fit parts on to the chassis after they have come off the assembly line.

The dispute started last Friday when management transferred skilled assembly line workers on to snagging in an attempt to clear a backlog of unfinished vehicles. They were on a higher bonus than the regular

## SOCIALIST WORKER

'MANY BELGIANS are shivering this weekend as the oil companies launch an all-out attempt to obtain higher prices for petrol and heating fuel,' reports the Sunday Times. 'Following BP's boycott of Belgium, Esso has said it will stop operations on Monday and refuses to touch its "strategic" stocks.'

The same issue of the paper (17 March) also reports, 'The Japanese government has ordered a 62 per cent increase in oil product prices from tomorrow. It has finally bowed to pressure from oil refiners.'

The British government required less pressure. When the oil companies produced an artificial shortage of petrol, late last year, the government caved in at once and gave them the price increases they wanted.

The 'Counter-Inflation' policy required, so the government claimed, a head-on clash with the miners, three-day working and a snap general election—all justified by the alleged need to 'stand firm' against inflation. But there has never been any question of standing firm against the oil barons.

A small number of very big companies operating on an international scale and dominating the refining and distribution of oil products, are able, in fact, to exert more real power than any number of millions of voters. Why are they so powerful?

The obvious answer is that they can and do divert supplies, manipulate shortages and 'punish' governments that attempt to resist them as they are doing in Belgium today. But the obvious answer is wrong. This is not the real source of their power.

After all, the oil business requires huge and costly installations. These cannot be moved around like tankers. They are very vulnerable to seizure, to confiscation. So are oil stocks.

Nor is it true that there is no other source of supply of crude oil. The governments of the big oil exporting countries are as willing to sell crude oil to publicly-owned buyers as to Esso or BP. They are only interested in the price they

## The giants with the real power

get for crude oil.

Most people get their ideas on the oil business from television and newspapers. So they are persuaded that the greater part of what they pay for paraffin or petrol goes to greedy oil sheikhs.

In fact only a small fraction of the price you pay ever finds its way to Saudi Arabia or Nigeria. The real money in oil is in refining and distribution.

For many years the producing countries got peanuts for their crude oil. Gradually the companies began to see that it was in their interest to keep the governments of the exporting countries happy. They needed to head off threats of nationalisation. In 1943 the big US companies, led by Esso (Standard Oil), made a deal with the government of Venezuela for a 50-50 split on crude oil. The government got half the profits on the crude. Esso was happy enough because profits on crude are a very small part of its over-all profits.

Since 1943 all the producing governments have got similar deals except that the government share is now normally 70 to 80 per cent of crude profits. Only the British Tories could argue that if our government were to take 50 per cent on North Sea crude profits the companies would run away. 50 per cent is less than is paid to the weakest and most backward sheikhdom.

That is the clue to the real source of the oil companies' power. An American author put his finger on it in a book called The Politics of Oil.

## WHAT WE THINK

After describing the immense wealth and political power of the US oil giants he says 'this entire galaxy derives its power from the right of private ownership... On this is built one of the most complex collective systems known to modern man.'

The oil companies are powerful only because the governments they deal with are committed defenders of capitalism. Esso has no army or air force of its own. It defies the Belgian government only because it is confident that its refineries and storage tanks will not be taken over.

We have been speaking of oil but the same argument applies to every area of big business and finance. We are told of the dangers of a 'run on the pound, if the Labour government pursues policies that cause 'a lack of confidence'.

But whose confidence? Who is going to make the running? 95 per cent of the population of Britain have never even considered switching their funds into dollars, yen or marks. Most of them have no significant funds to shift anyway.

The power of a tiny minority to dictate policies, to veto measures that they dislike, arises because governments, legal systems, civil services and so on are built on the basis that the defence of capitalist property is the unchanging foundation of policy. Armed forces exist, in the last resort, to enforce the same end.

Breaking the power of big business, nationally and internationally, requires the seizure of its assets. Reformist governments like the present one in Britain invariably shy away from this.

And so, in spite of themselves, they end up by giving way to big business pressure and adopting the policies that big business insists on. It has happened time and again. 'Left' governments with big majorities or small ones have gone the same way.

Different policies, socialist policies, can only be carried out if the other big force in society—the working class—is mobilised and organised to take over industry and society and run them on a democratic basis. That is what we mean by revolution and there is no other way to make any basic change in society.

CORBRIDGE WORKS, CORBRIDGE CRESCENT, LONDON E2 01-739 9043/0185/6361

# CHRYSLER MOVE TO SACK MILITANT

COVENTRY:— Chrysler has suspended Dave Nisbet, a leading millwright steward at the Stoke plant for allegedly sleeping on the job.

The millwrights—members of the AUEW—decided on strike action for his reinstatement from last Friday after a final works conference ended in a failure to agree.

The alleged incident was supposed to have happened when Dave Nisbet was doing Friday night safety work on overtime. The millwright's steward says that he dozed off in his department while waiting for cleaners who were working on the job before him. They refuted management's charges with signed statements.

The company originally accused Dave of fraud by claiming wages while he was off the plant. They alleged that an intensive search was made between the hours of 11pm and 2am for him by a foreman.

This allegation proved to be unfounded and it was pointed out that this foreman who did the 'intensive' search did not even bother to ask any of the other millwrights who were working that night.

Throughout the negotiations the foreman conveniently became 'unavailable' even after repeated requests

from union officials and convenors that he be present.

But Chrysler were adamant about one thing. They wanted to get rid of Dave Nisbet. They dropped their original allegation and sacked him on the spurious charge of sleeping on the plant.

The joint shop stewards' committee at the Stoke plant stood firm behind the millwrights. This prevented the management using scab labour during a strike as they did with electricians last year.

As a result of this and the millwrights' own firm stand the company has backed off.

Dave Nisbet has been given a two-week suspension, which say the management, is his 'last and final warning'. In fact, he has never been warned before.

### PAY BOARD

### SET TO GRAB

### FIREMEN'S

### WAGE AWARD

THE PAY BOARD'S first act after getting a new lease of life from the Labour government has been to issue a '14 day notice' warning of their intention to grab back £2 of the Glasgow firemen's settlement last October.

The firemen's strike was the first to smash through Phase Three, and the Pay Board bureaucrats have been smarting at it ever since. As part of the settlement after the strike Glasgow Corporation agreed to pay £2 a week expenses to all firemen in the city. This £2 is now under threat from the Pay Board's order.

The board is 'hearing representations' from the Glasgow firemen, and will be issuing an order any day now. If it bans the £2, there is almost certain to be an angry reaction from Glasgow firemen.

## Crosland rats on Clay Cross

THE TWO-YEAR stand of Labour councillors at Clay Cross against the Tory Housing Finance Act has been betrayed by Labour's Environment Secretary, Anthony Crosland.

Despite numerous Labour Party conference resolutions supporting the councillors' refusal to levy the rent increases demanded by the former Tory government, Crosland has decided that £1 a week of those increases must be paid.

He has also decided that the Tories' Housing Commissioner, Patrick Skillington, who levied the increases after the Labour councillors had been disqualified by the High Court, must stay in Clay Cross and supervise the payment of the increases.

The increases became payable three days after the election of a Labour government. Rent books drawn up by Skillington including the increases have been stopped by Clay Cross' new council, 10 of whom were elected to replace the 'first eleven' on a pledge to keep the rents down in defiance of the Tory law.

Last Monday, Mr Crosland told a deputation from Clay Cross council—John Dunn, Es Barnes and council chairman George Simms—that the increases must be paid. He refused to say anything about the vicious surcharges which have been imposed on the debarred councillors for refusing to levy rent increases.

Crosland's decision has infuriated the Clay Cross councillors and the people who elected them, who have continued to vote in support of anti-Housing Finance Act policies.

Last week, John Dunn was elected for Labour to the Derbyshire County Council from Clay Cross, and Labour swept the board in the elections for six members of the District Council.

The Labour majorities in both elections were as high as ever, and the turnouts for local government elections were enormous.

## Mutiny threat by Ulster loyalists

by Mike Miller: Belfast

SECURITY forces chiefs in Northern Ireland are strenuously denying reports that the Ulster Defence Regiment and the police force have been heavily infiltrated by loyalist extremists who are preparing to mutiny if any tougher moves are made against their fellow right wing activists.

Army chiefs claimed that the UDR is 'a non-sectarian body'. In fact it is 95 per cent Protestant in composition and in the main is staffed by former members of the disbanded B-Specials.

Since the UDR was formed by the Labour government in 1970 there have been innumerable cases involving UDR and ex-UDR men on charges ranging from causing explosions to murder and attempted murder.

A recent report by the Community Relations Commission showed that in Belfast the Royal Ulster Constabulary had aided the extreme Protestant Ulster Defence Association in terrorising thousands of Catholics from their homes.

Allegations of RUC complicity in loyalist assassinations were strengthened recently. A Protestant woman has admitted phoning the police with information detailing the place and time when a group of loyalist gunmen were planning to shoot a carload of Catholics.

The information was given half an hour before the shooting took place. The police did not arrive until after two of the Catholics were killed and others wounded and the gunmen had escaped.

■ ■ ■  
PADDY DEVLIN is a leading member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and a member of Brian Faulkner's power-sharing executive.

His job in the executive is Minister of Social Services. With this job goes the responsibility of collecting arrears from rent strikers protesting about internment.

Before power sharing, the SDLP was an enthusiastic supporter of the strike, going so far as to tell the strikers not to save the money but to spend it on drink. Among the rent rebels was none other than Paddy Devlin himself.

Now Devlin presides over an increasingly harsh system to recover back rent.

One man who refused to pay the arrears got a taste of Devlin's 'socialism'. The bailiff arrived accompanied by two Saracen armoured cars, full of armed troops, a military police woman and two Special Branch officers.

The man was forcibly removed in the Saracen and hauled before the Master of the Enforcements Office, who told him that £4 each week would be deducted from his wages until the amount owing was paid.

■ ■ ■  
ON 28 FEBRUARY 1973, British troops were patrolling the Derrybeg estate in Newry. Before they returned to base, their leader, Corporal Francis Foxford, shot and killed 12 years-old Kevin Heatley.

Last week Corporal Foxford was sentenced to three years for manslaughter. Judge Kelly told the jury he had 'a great deal of sympathy for Foxford'. The judge did not feel it necessary to mention any sympathy for the dead child.

In his defence, Foxford claimed that he had been fired at by Kevin Heatley. Apart from his own patrol, no one else, including forensic experts, backed up his story.

The fatal shot, according to the judge, 'resulted from a momentary lapse of discipline'.

The day before Foxford received his three years, a republican, Dominic McGrath, received 10 years for causing two explosions in which nobody was hurt at all and the damage to property was slight.

# BP record profit for less oil

BRITISH PETROLEUM, Britain's biggest company, sold less oil last year but increased profits by 340 per cent.

Last year, BP made £70.3 million profit. This year, with sales down by 1.6 per cent, they made £340 million.

That's enough to pay all the miners their full 1973 claim *three times over*. Or enough to give every farm worker and every nurse in the country an immediate increase of £25 a week.

Most of this fantastic increase came in the first three months of the 'oil crisis'—the last quarter of last year. In that time BP made £123 million profit, compared with £34.9 million the previous year.

None of the profit came from increased sales. Less oil was sold in that quarter than in the same quarter in 1972. All the profit came from increased prices at the petrol pump which were imposed because of the 'oil crisis'.

## Police arrest 15 picketing students



Students lobbying parliament last week as part of their campaign for higher grants. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

by Pat Harper

COLCHESTER:—Police arrested more than 15 students in an attempt to break picket lines at Essex University on Monday. The picketing has been in protest at the expulsion of two students from the university for activities during a sit-in before Christmas over the demand for higher grants.

A police car arrived at the picket line on Monday at 9.20 in the morning and ordered that a barricade that was partly blocking the road be removed. This was done by university security guards. But the students kept the road closed by forming a 20-strong picket across it.

When 50 police surrounded the picket line, the students saw they were completely outnumbered and

the pickets' stewards ordered them to disperse. But as the picket was dispersing, the police moved in and arrested 15 students. They were clearly picking out those they regarded as the most militant students.

Lorries escorted by the police then drove through into the university. But by this time more students were gathering from the campus until a mass picket, 300-strong blocked the road and the police, realising their impotence, departed.

The students are determined to maintain the picket throughout the Easter holidays, seeing that the only way to defeat the victimisation is by forcing the university to close down. A dance hall has been occupied to serve as an organising centre for pickets.

## Angry students demand action to fight the crackdown

by Alex Callinicos

THE National Union of Students' conference on victimisation met on Saturday at the University of Essex as the confrontation between students and authorities intensified.

In Oxford last week the trial began of 19 students before a disciplinary court. They are being tried for occupying a university building as part of the campaign for central student union.

It soon became clear that the university doesn't want even the pretence of a fair trial. All defence submissions were rejected and defendants and their advisors were beaten up and thrown out when they tried to raise the political character of the trial.

Students reacted angrily and on Friday 400 demonstrators broke into the ante-chamber of the building

where the trial is going on, causing the adjournment of the trial until Tuesday.

At the Essex conference, speaker after speaker emphasised that there is an increasing trend by the authorities to tighten up disciplinary procedures and to use the police on campus to intimidate students from taking direct action.

The conference called on the NUS executive to organise a national campaign against victimisation, to hold a demonstration on the issue in London on 3 May and to give auto-

matic support to students' unions taking direct action.

The main opposition came from Steve Perry, secretary of the NUS and a member of the Communist Party. He argued that NUS should only play an advisory role in the fight against victimisation.

But the message from the conference is clear: Victimisation and police violence against student's direct action are a national pattern and demand a national response. The NUS executive must take the initiative and lead the struggle.

### Excellent

Just at the time when Tory Ministers were warning us to 'tighten our belts', Britain's biggest oil company was preparing for its greatest profits orgy in its history.

That orgy continues. As the Daily Telegraph puts it: 'BP must already have an excellent first quarter of 1974 under its belt'.

Prices have soared—far higher than costs—and profits so far this year have exceeded even last year's un-dreamt-of expectations.

More than 90 per cent of BP's sales are overseas, so almost nothing is paid out of these vast profits in British tax.

BP chairman Sir Eric Drake was not satisfied: 'The return,' he told the newspapers, 'is hardly exorbitant for a risk enterprise.'

#### SOME AMERICAN OIL PROFITS.

Co	1973 Profit	% inc. over 1972.
Exxon Corp. (Esso)	\$2440m	59
Texaco	\$1292m	48
Mobil	\$ 843m	47
Shell Oil	\$ 333m	27

## Strike over sacked man

NORTH WALSHAM, Norfolk:—Last week Crane Fruehauf sacked engineering union convenor Charlie Amis. All 600 workers at the container factory took immediate strike action.

Mr Amis was sacked on a trumped up charge of misrecording hours of attendance during the three-day week.

This was an excuse for the company to get rid of an effective convenor who has an excellent record of fighting for his members. He was one of the men who originally built the union at North Walsham. He is a member of the AUEW district committee and chairman of Cromer Trades Council.

There are suspicions that Crane Fruehauf took action against Mr Amis now while materials are in short supply and the order book is uncertain. They want to demoralise the workers and put the union on the defensive before bargaining gets under way on a new wage agreement.



# BRIEFING

DOCUMENTS released on the order of a US judge give a glimpse of the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) against left-wing groups in the 1960s.

The main operation, against militant black organisations, was carried out by 41 local offices. The aim was to infiltrate, using spies who often posed as 'disgruntled police employees', then to discredit the organisations in the black communities among their own supporters, and among white liberals, 'who have vestiges of sympathy for militant black nationalists'. The FBI agents also tried to prevent any effective alliance among black nationalist groups, which might be 'the beginning of a true black revolution'.

Among other targets was the Socialist Workers Party. A recent court case has revealed that the SWP was placed under such close watch that even a schoolgirl who wrote to its national office because she was doing a school project on left-wing groups was blacklisted by the FBI.



IN NIGERIA, all the students detained during last month's protests have been released. The universities have reopened, and the students have won a victory in refusing to sign undertakings of good behaviour or to pay for damaged property. Eight students suspended from the University of Ibadan are now being allowed to attend classes and to defend themselves before the university's disciplinary committee.

The students' successful defence of their rights in the face of violent attacks by armed police is an achievement in a country where political freedom does not exist and democratic rights—including the rights of trade unions—have been shorn away by the military government of General Gowon.



IN WEST VIRGINIA, 26,000 miners have been on strike in protest against President Nixon's fuel crisis measures. These did not allow the miners enough petrol to get to work, and as many men were having to stay away from the pits they decided to make it a full-scale strike. The strikers defied the state governor, the coal companies and their own union leaders, who were all urging them back to work.

Most American workers depend on cars to get to work. Many are beginning to realise that soaring fuel prices are not the inevitable result of a real crisis, but yet another exercise in raising the oil companies' already sky-high profits, with government backing.

The miners' protest follows a massive lorry drivers' strike for lower diesel and petrol prices. In Seattle, a local Labor Council has voted to recommend a general strike unless the phoney fuel crisis is ended. In Rochester, New York State, and in New Jersey, the unions have held demonstrations and called for a one-hour nationwide strike to fight the crisis measures.



THROUGHOUT France, school and university students are mobilising against the government's plan to reorganise secondary education, causing more selection and narrow specialisation. In Paris the authorities have closed several schools and one university site because of student action. In Paris technical schools the protest has been linked to opposition to the new law on apprenticeship introduced last year.

The protest movement is organised mainly by co-ordinating committees of delegates from the schools. The Communist Party, which held back from the massive protest against conscription which mobilised school students last year, is giving this movement full support. Support is also coming from teachers' organisations concerned about worsening education and possible redundancies.

## Workers battle in the streets

by Mike Gonzalez

THERE is now a permanent confrontation between police and workers in the streets of Cordoba, Argentina, and the left-wing governor of the province is in hiding.

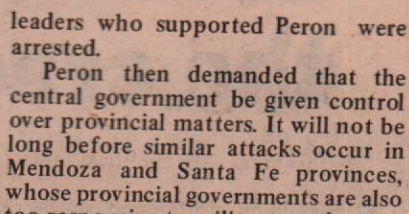
Ever since President Peron got back to power last September, he has been looking for chances to clamp down on the left and on the trade union movement, destroying the militant workers' movement wherever possible and imposing 'loyal' trade union leaders.

The situation came to a head around a transport strike in Cordoba, which was resolved when Governor Bidegain and his deputy Atilio Lopez,



Argentina

a long time militant, overruled a government freeze on the wage increases demanded by transport workers. Right-wing gangs, aided by the police and army, took over key points in the city, expelling the provincial government which had, they said, 'been infiltrated by Marxists'. At the same time left-wing



Brazil

leaders who supported Peron were arrested.

Peron then demanded that the central government be given control over provincial matters. It will not be long before similar attacks occur in Mendoza and Santa Fe provinces, whose provincial governments are also too responsive to militant workers.

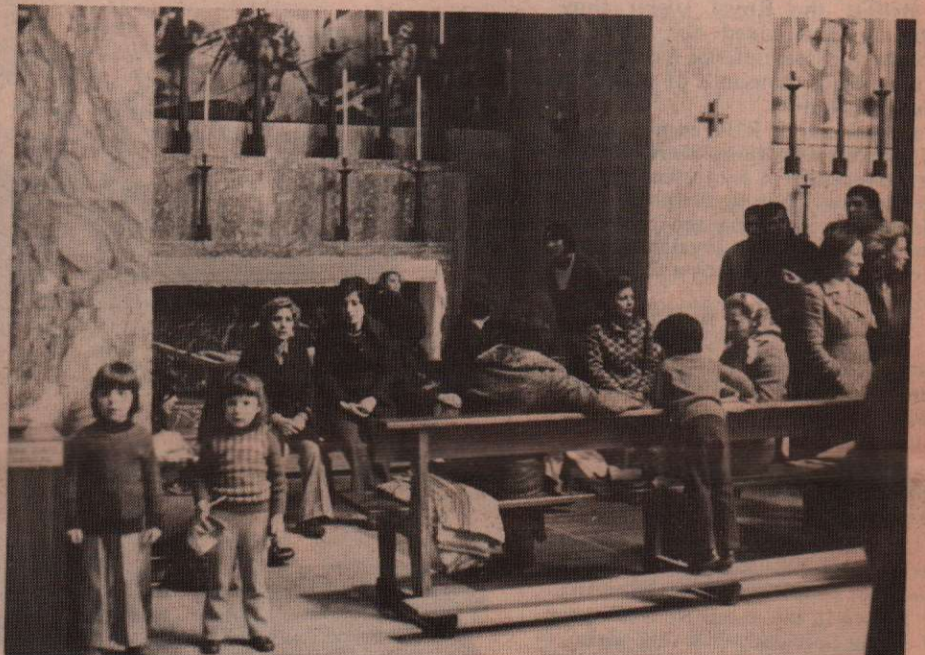
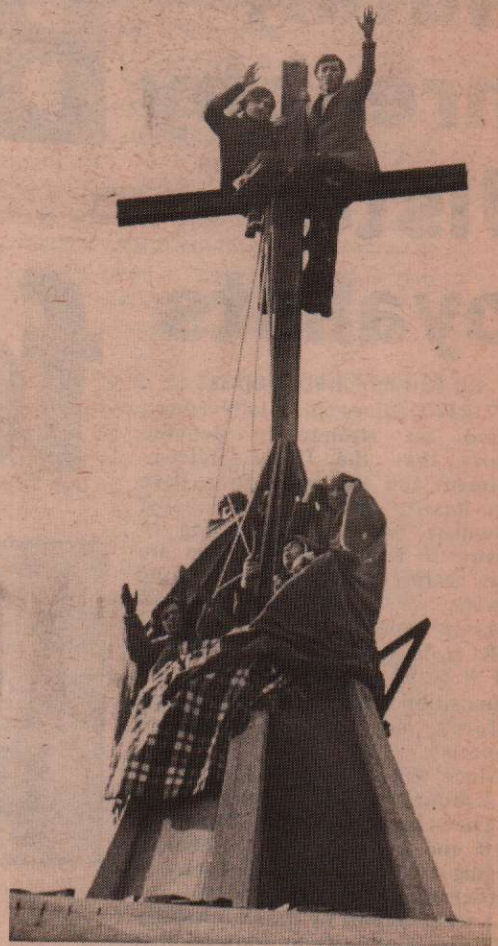
The government of Peron has shown itself as much an enemy of the working class as the military regimes before it. As the open struggle between workers and the government grows, the myth of Peron the 'people's leader' is fast fading. This is a gain, for that illusion had been a cause of constant confusion among workers. The honeymoon, then, is over.

# SQUATTERS TAKE OVER CHURCH



MORE than 100 shanty-dwellers, mostly women and children, occupied the Church of St John Bosco on the outskirts of Rome after police forced them out of some new blocks of flats where they had been squatting. While Rome has thousands of homeless and thousands more living in slums, the Catholic Church owns a massive amount of property.

The priest of the church provided food for the occupiers, some of whom climbed up to the top of the tower (pictured right). The old woman below took part in a demonstration in Rome carrying a small bowl of beans and a piece of bread. 'Mr President, look at the miserable meal that I have with the small pension your government gives me,' she shouted.



## Military dictators celebrate 10 years

by Vic Richards

TEN YEARS ago this week, army officers seized power in Brazil. In those 10 years they have ruled with a viciousness not known elsewhere in Latin America until the recent bloody coup in Chile.

Twelve thousand political prisoners rot in Brazilian jails, thousands have fled the country, hundreds have been killed by the political and military police. While the people are subjected to Nazi-style propaganda, torture is a routine in police interrogations.

The military dictators feel justified in celebrating their 10th anniversary. In their 10 years, they have spared no effort to make Brazil an investors' paradise. Prices were almost doubling every year in the

with an excuse for the takeover.

The army put a stop to all talk about equality and nationalisation. Left-wing parties were outlawed and the unions turned into government puppets. Later most elections were abolished and the rest gerrymandered. The army and police crushed any resistance ruthlessly.

### Abolished

With wages frozen, inflation slowed down and profits kept high. Repression against socialists and militant trade unionists prevented workers from fighting back. As inflation bit, workers' living standards fell tremendously.

Having abolished democracy and trade unionism, reduced inflation and created a pool of cheap labour, the military dictators turned to the multinational corporations and bankers abroad. Investment flowed in: as long as profits are high, capitalists are not squeamish about how they get them.

American companies led the stampede to invest, with Britain fourth. British American Tobacco, Rolls-Royce, Joseph Lucas, Plessey, British Oxygen, Ferranti and Coates Paton among others have been making huge profits from labour kept cheap by repression.

In 1971, when British investments in Brazil were estimated at £20 million, British firms managed to reinvest £50 million from profits made that year. Britain's trade with Brazil is now almost four times what it was in 1964.

But there are signs that all is not

going well. World inflation is beginning to push Brazil's inflation up, while the crisis in Europe and the US threatens Brazil's crucial industrial exports.

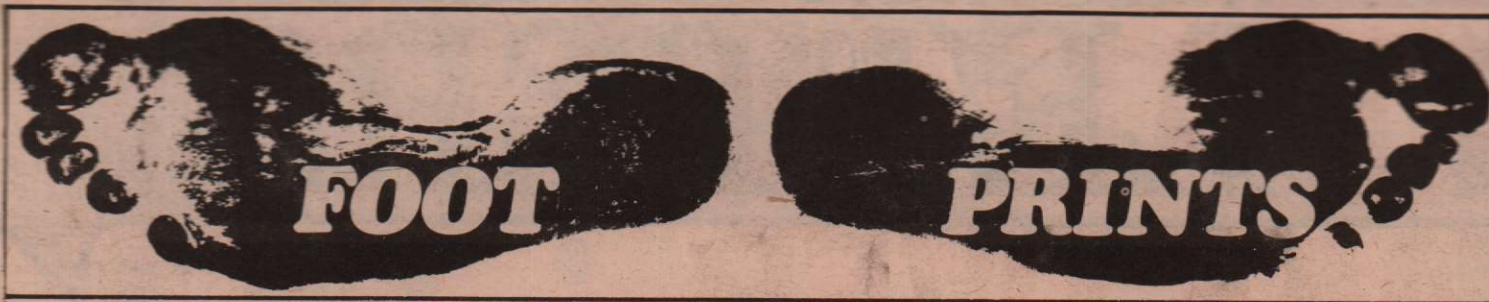
The most worrying feature for the military, though, is that there are more than twice as many industrial workers as 10 years ago, and they have started to fight back. In the past 12 months shipyard workers and workers at all the major car plants have taken strike action, disregarding the puppet unions, and won wage increases.

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Journal of the International Socialists

Issues 36-55 have now been produced as a single bound volume in a limited edition. It includes Tony Cliff on China, Peter Sedgwick on Orwell, Trotsky on Fascism and Stalinism, Jim Higgins on the Communist Party, Ray Challinor on the trade union bureaucracy, Eamonn McCann, John Palmer, Paul Gerhardt and Brian Trench on Ireland, Nigel Harris on India.

Price including postage £7.30. IS JOURNAL, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS



# Clutterbuck gutter bug

FROM time to time I have reported on the activities of Major-General Richard Clutterbuck, whose business is 'counter-insurgency' and who trains soldiers and sailors to put down dissent by violent means. Clutterbuck's best-known partner in this grisly work is Brigadier Frank Kitson, whose recent book on counter-insurgency appealed for the use of the army against dissenters.

Major-General Clutterbuck is a 'lecturer' at Exeter University and is in great demand all over Britain as a speaker. He has been asked, for instance, to speak to students at the military defence college, Latimer, near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire on 20 May.

The college, it will be remembered, was damaged on 12 February by a 20lb bomb which spoilt a lecture by General Ernst Ferber, Commander

of NATO forces in Central Europe.

Clutterbuck will be addressing the students at Latimer on 'the causes and methods of insurgents and the principles which governments should follow if they are to be successful in combatting them. These included: 'Operational techniques available to the military and the police in counter-insurgency situations', and 'Some lessons learnt from Vietnam'.

These subjects were covered by the Major-General in a lecture to the college in March 1973, and were well received.

On the day following the Major-General's lectures, a hitherto unchosen senior officer from the British Security Service will lecture on the subject: 'Extremist bodies which represent an internal threat to this country'.

The following month—on Tuesday 25 June—Major-General Clutterbuck has an even more important engagement at Old Sarum, Wiltshire. He is to speak at a high-powered NATO

educational exercise entitled SARUM CASTLE 74. 100 officers of Colonel's rank and above will be attending the exercise, and listening to lectures from counter-insurgency experts all over Europe.

The Major-General is to give a lecture on the opening day of the exercise. It will be entitled: 'The enemy within'. The briefing for the lecture points out that the fuddy-duddy NATO generals still think of the main enemy as an external aggressor. They have to be taught, according to Clutterbuck's brief, that a much more serious enemy is at home.

I understand that Major-General Clutterbuck will also be required to speak to courses organised by Royal Army Education Corps officers attached to the Department for Extramural Studies at Birmingham University. Captain T J Finney, who organised a series of lectures for army officers in Hereford this winter, was delighted with the results and is hoping to arrange a repeat per-

formance.

The list of subjects for this winter's lectures makes interesting reading:

11 Oct Ideologies (Dr P Savicear), 25 Oct Spectrum of Guerrilla Warfare (Sir R Thompson), 15 Nov Counter-revolutionary Warfare (Gordon Lee), 30 Nov Urban Guerrilla Warfare (Richard Clutterbuck), 13 Dec The Value of Intelligence (F Kitson), 4 Jan (Role of the Army in Society (R Purnell).

The series of lectures was also open to officers from the SAS, the army's special squad which 'deals with' 'special situations' such as assassination or kidnapping of 'key enemies'.

All in all, Major-General Clutterbuck and his friends in the 'counter-insurgency' business are being kept very busy. None of the engagements above, I understand, is likely to be cancelled by the Labour government, and Socialist Worker's defence correspondent intends to bring readers full coverage of the contents of the Major-General's lectures.

## When the wind blows the cradle will fall...

ON 6 April last year, three young building workers from Rushton and Nelson, Lancashire—David Willaims, Raymond Lofthouse and Barry Lang—went up a 'cradle' to waterproof roof joints on the huge McAlpines building site in Cadogan Street, Glasgow—now an office block called Melrose House. The men were working 80 feet up on one of the corners of the building when the cradle collapsed and they were thrown to the ground.

David Willaims was killed instantly. According to the ambulance driver who took Raymond Lofthouse to hospital, every bone in his body was broken from the waist down.

He was in hospital for four months. Barry Lang was also taken to hospital with less serious injuries.

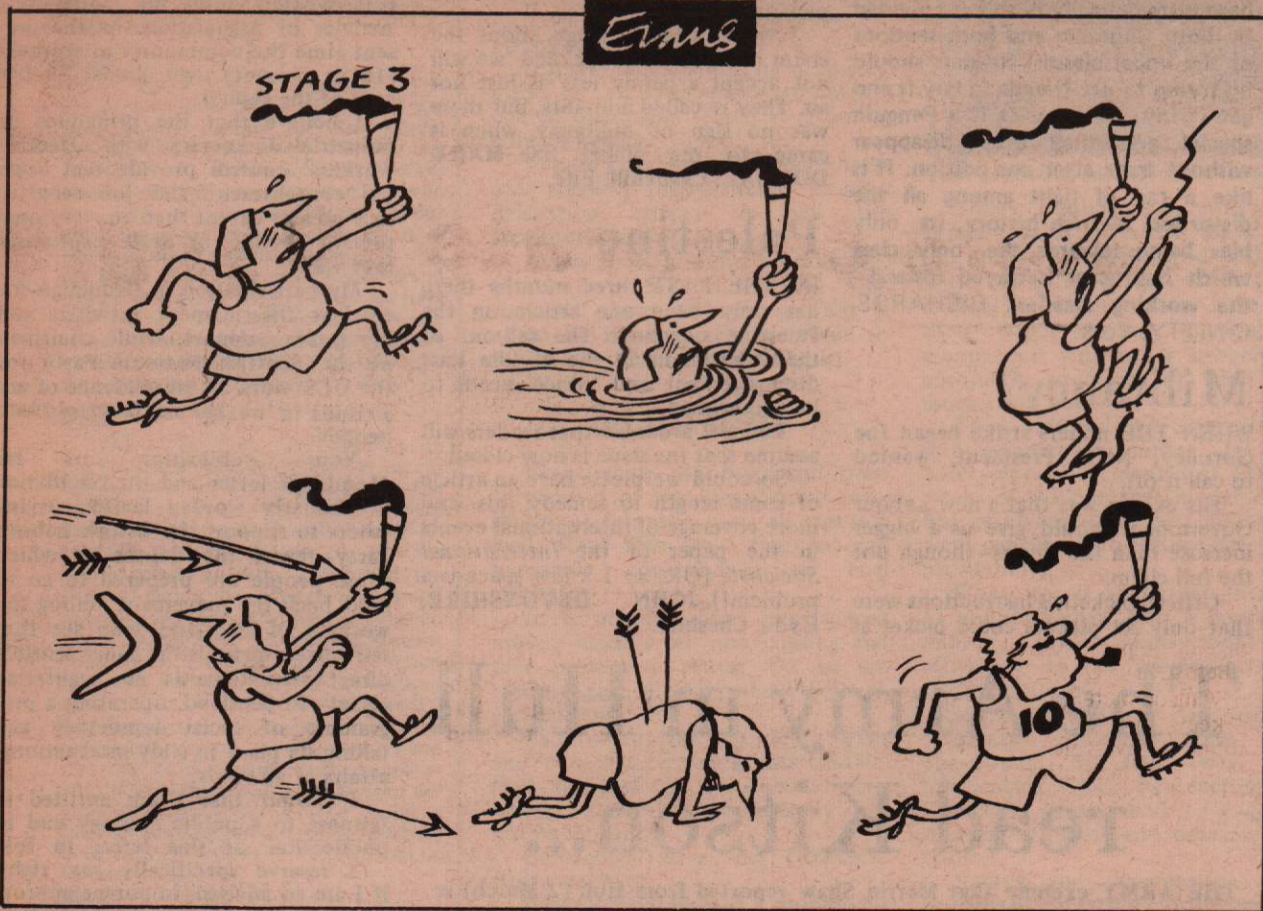
A member of the International Socialists visited the site the next day and was told by McAlpines' agent: 'There are definitely no lump workers on this site.'

A rather different story was told by Benjamin Scott, a director of B D & W Ltd, who had organised the waterproofing on the day of the accident and who were facing trial before Glasgow magistrates on 23 January for offences under the Factories Act.

Scott argued that the death of David Williams and the injuries to Raymond Lofthouse were not his responsibility—because the men had been self-employed! This defence, after long legal argument, was rejected.

Expert evidence was then produced to show that the weights of the cradle were inadequate and that none of the men had been given proper instruction or supervision in the use of the cradle.

Sheriff Bell—that's the man who sent an eight-year-old girl to prison last year—listened carefully to all this and then found the firm not guilty of faulty erection and not guilty of faulty construction. He found them guilty of not keeping a statutory register—and fined them £20.



## BANK IN THE BLUE

THE Australia and New Zealand Bank wants more money for investment, so has had a 'rights issue' of shares calling on all its shareholders to fork out some cash.

Earlier this year the bank persuaded the British Government to relax its dividend restrictions so as to entitle more shareholders into giving the money. Some time before the general election the Treasury gave its consent for the bank to increase its dividend on 20 September, when the company declares its annual results.

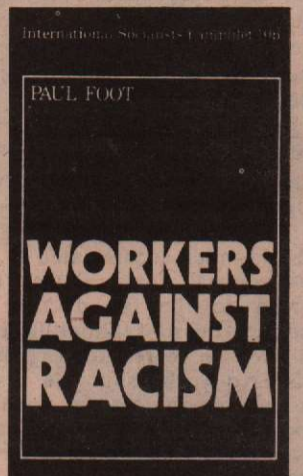
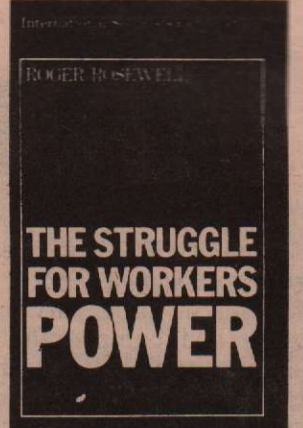
The dividend increase will be from 10.1p per share to 13.571p per share—more than 30 per cent. The increase can only take place if 'current regulations' are still in force, but when consent was given the Tory

government had no plans for more dividend restraint before next November.

There are 35 million shares in the Australia and New Zealand Bank. So unless the Labour government introduces a new dividend freeze, the shareholders will be getting an extra million pounds next September—even if they don't contribute a penny more for investment.

This handsome present is to be made by permission of the Treasury of a Tory government.

One of the leading Ministers in that government was chairman of the Conservative Party Lord Carrington. Before the 1970 election, Lord Carrington was chairman, and then deputy chairman, of the Australia and New Zealand Bank.



Roger Rosewell's THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it.

Paul Foot's WORKERS AGAINST RACISM examines and demolishes all the racists' arguments. Today, when socialists need to be ever more prepared to combat the increasing racism that is riding on the State's tide of laws against immigrants, it is essential reading for every socialist militant.

10p each, plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free).



LENIN



TROTSKY

Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of two great revolutionaries—Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

Written by Jim Higgins and Duncan Hallas, the pamphlets rescue Lenin and Trotsky from their political enemies and false friends and underscore the modern relevance of what they fought for: workers' revolution.

5p each plus 3p post. 12 copies or more post free.

IS BOOKS,  
265 Seven Sisters Road  
London, N4

ARE YOU ON THE  
NEW VOTERS LISTS?  
CHECK NOW

LETTERS  
Colin...  
Dorothy...  
Kathleen...  
L2 9DS

# LETTERS

## Fire at Chrysler - just who is irresponsible?

LAST AUGUST, a worker at Chrysler, Linwood wrote to Socialist Worker describing some of the fire risks in his department (the Car Assembly Block) and complaining about the company's failure to provide fire drill.

On 8 March what he said was proved true. At 9.15am, a fire broke out in a pit under the assembly track 'final line'. For weeks, men in the section had been complaining about the danger of fire, and had been prevented from taking action only by the senior steward's appeal not to endanger the factory lay-off agreement (which is suspended when internal disputes occur).

When an extractor fan ignited the oil and muck accumulated in the pit over several years, flames quickly spread to the fan ducting nearly touching the roof (about 30 feet).

The two nearest fire extinguishers failed to work, while the first hose turned on the flames wasn't connected to the water supply, and the second produced a sprinkler effect, soaking the user.

Luckily, no-one was burnt, but no effort was made to clear the 1000 workers from the CAB. In any case, since no fire drill has been organised since the plant opened in 1963, nobody knew what was required of them.

The section involved refused to start work until the pit was thoroughly cleaned. Eventually they agreed to resume work if a fireman stood by and the company would clean the pit while they were laid off the following Monday and Tuesday.

Since the damaged extractor fan removes engine fumes as cars are driven off the truck, the men decided to switch off the engines and push the cars the last few yards to keep the fumes down. The company wouldn't allow it—they sent the 700 track workers home. The 300 off-truck workers in the block decided to go home in sympathy.

So the next time you're listening to some pin-striped employer's toady pontificating about greedy, irresponsible workers, just remember the thousands of workers who die or are seriously injured at work every year due to their employer's unwillingness to spend a few bob.

The 'incident' at Linwood could only take place in an anti-human system like capitalism devoted to the pursuit of profit. The faces may have changed, but the employers remain as vicious and corrupt as ever. PETER BAIN, Glasgow.

### Communists

THE attacks on the Communist Party in Socialist Worker (9 March) are made on a false basis and thus do not get to the root of the real fault of the

### Mental illness: who does the labelling?



Ronnie Kray—'insane'?

I WANT TO CONDEMN the glib and careless use of terms like 'intelligence' and 'insanity' in Jim Higgins review of the book on the Kray twins (16 March).

References to Ronnie Kray being 'certified insane' and showing the 'classic symptoms of a psychopath' and that 'together they would have difficulty in passing the entrance exams for a school for the mentally subnormal' go no way towards smashing the myth that exams measure how 'intelligent' you are. Nor help to explain why people suffer mental illness under capitalism and are written off as insane or sub-normal.

A socialist paper should never accept ruling class definitions of how and why things are—and what is normal or abnormal.—L WARREN, York.

Communist Party—its reformism.

It was said that Jimmy Reid 'even managed to avoid having the label "Communist" put on the ballot paper.' In fact Reid, made it clear on TV and in press statements that the words 'engineering worker' instead of 'Communist' appeared through a mistake by his election agent. Reid's election posters clearly called him the 'Communist candidate'.

Tony Cliff's attack on Mick McGahey and other NUM leaders misses the mark. I think Cliff would lose a 'bet' that the CP leaders of the Scottish miners union will 'forget' about the 'miners' charter', calling for a £65 a week minimum for all mineworkers, a four day week and big improvements in conditions and health facilities.

The Communist Party and left NUM leaders resisted Gormley's attempts to have the strike called off for the election. Socialist Worker did not attack the leadership of the locomotive union which used the election as an excuse to give up the struggle.

The worst defect in the Communist Party strategy in the miners' strike was the acceptance of the 'special case' argument, instead of trying to develop the struggle into a broad working class counter-offensive.

Being a revolutionary does not simply mean adding a fiver to whatever claim the union puts forward. If this is all we do, the Communist Party may beat us at our own game.—JIM SMITH, Edinburgh 4.

THE article on Eamonn McCann's book *War and an Irish Town* did not do it justice. This is the *only* book of its kind about Ireland (apart from Connolly), which tries to show how the working class in the North and the South, Catholic and Protestant, have systematically been kept divided by both Churches and both sections of the upper classes. Readers should be trying to get friends to buy it and get it into libraries. It is a Penguin special and they often disappear without trace after one edition. It is like a ray of light among all the distortion of Irish history, its only bias being towards the 'only class which has never betrayed Ireland—the working class'.—A RICHARDS, C WITTY, York.

### Militancy?

WHEN THE miners strike began Joe Gormley, NUM President, wanted to call it off.

His excuse was that a new Labour Government would give us a bigger increase than the Tories—though not the full claim.

Official picketing instructions were that only six pickets could picket at

one time. Again we had to play it cool so that Labour might win.

At first left-wingers like McGahey called for '100 Saltleys'. But no-one on the executive publicly opposed the six man picket rule. We would have got the full claim with a *real* fight—which would have meant mass picketing.

I think their verbiage about the claim being 'not enough' and 'we will not accept a penny less' is just hot air. They're called militants, but there was no sign of militancy when it came to the picket line.—MARK DOUGAL, Castlehill, Fife.

### Palestine

IN THE PAST three months there has only been one article on the Palestine question. The sell-out of the Palestinians in the Middle East disengagement and 'peace' needs to be emphasised.

There is a danger that readers will assume that the issue is now closed.

So could we please have an article of some length to remedy this—and more coverage of international events in the paper of the *International Socialists* (OK, so I know space is a problem!).—JOHN DEVONSHIRE, Hyde, Cheshire.

## The Army in Hull read Kitson...

THE ARMY exercise that Martin Shaw reported from Hull (2 March) is part of a larger pattern.

Brigadier Frank Kitson, Commandant, Headquarter School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts, stressed the need for this type of operation as long ago as 1970. He wrote: 'If a genuine and serious grievance arose, such as might result from a significant drop in the standard of living, all those who now dissipate their protest over a wide variety of causes might concentrate their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen the army would be required to restore the position rapidly (Low Intensity Operations, p 25).

Kitson's book is copyrighted by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and it is commended in the most glowing terms by Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver GCB, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC. 'This book', the General writes in his Foreword, 'is written for the soldier of today to help him to prepare for the operations of tomorrow. It will be of the greatest help to him, and I hope it will be read by all those concerned with training the Army.'

The circumstances for which Kitson wrote his book, 'such as might result from a significant drop in the standard of living', are becoming reality. To deal with those circumstances, Wilson now has on call a specially trained and armed strike-breaking force. It is more than he had eight years ago when he used Special Powers to break a national seamen's strike.—MICHAEL KIDRON, London NW3.

### Complaints Dept.

THE LETTER FROM Ian McAdam of Edinburgh is hardly in the traditions of fair journalism (16 March).

The work places he refers to are dry, warm and lit, all in accordance with Factory Act regulations. My father was not George Wolfe. My father did not 'start' this forge or any other works. The company has never employed any 'cheap' or 'mentally retarded' labour.

The Factory Inspectorate visit the premises regularly and can answer for the safety of the machinery. Part of one roof has spaces above the coal-fired furnaces aiding ventilation. An earth floor is suitable and safe at such a furnace. The other floors are concrete, timber or metal.

There never was a hand pump—or any other kind of pump. The water trough is for hardening and tempering steel spade blades etc.

No worker has lost three or any other number of fingers because of lack of guards. No one works, or worked 80 hours a week. There never has been an employee by the name of Ronald and no-one here was over 50 when Mr McAdam did his brief spell with us (only seven weeks in early 1969).

The company which employed Mr McAdam was established in 1967. Since then it has been a wholly owned subsidiary of a company in which I have a 16.5 per cent shareholding, it isn't a 'family business'.

I am particularly concerned over the letter because I can fairly claim to be a pioneer in practical industrial democracy. In December 1971 I founded a company with the concept of worker ownership and control written into the company's Articles of Association. At the present time the community of workers (10 at present) own almost 10 per cent of the capital.

I believe that the principles of industrial democracy with effective workers' control provide real hope for contentment and job security to a greater extent than conventional private, public or state capitalism ever will.

My participation in Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament activities and my public support, while chairman of the Scottish National Party for the UCS 'work-in' are evidence of my attitude to 'weaker and less fortunate people'.

Your publication of Mr McAdam's letter and the circulation of similarly worded leaflets urging voters to support the British Labour Party reveal the depths to which some people are prepared to go to hold back the movement among the workers of Scotland who see that self government is the most sensible direct step towards an egalitarian society in Scotland, operating a programme of social democracy and taking its place in truly international affairs of all kinds.

I submit that I am entitled to fairness to a public apology and to publication of this letter in full.

I reserve specifically my right, if I am so advised, to pursue appropriate actions against all who have initiated and published these defamatory statements.—WILLIAM WOLFE, Bathgate, West Lothian.

I AM writing with reference to the article about me which was published in Socialist Worker, 16 March.

The facts as they are stated are I am afraid untrue. Yes, I am a first year student at Bretton Hall College of Education and I do have a room on my own, but so do 10 other first year students. This has certainly nothing to do with my father's position. These rooms are given to the oldest students who had unconditional places with one exception when a single room was given on health grounds.—KATE FIGGURES, Wakefield.

An International Socialists pamphlet 10p

ROGER KLINE

can  
Socialism  
come  
through  
Parliament?

Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT? draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, in government and in opposition, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

10p plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



Postal Points

**NO, WE DIDN'T PAY HIM . . .** I think Socialist Worker is the best newspaper in Britain at the present. It's absolutely superb in its layout, news coverage, revolutionary content and just nicely balanced to attract people who are not yet revolutionaries, but, excellent also for us who are convinced already.—**JOHN BIRKS**, Hillingdon.

**THE GERMANS DID THE EVICTING . . .** I had a paper which stated that Britain paid the French government ground rent for the trenches we held in the 1914-1918 . . . Could you give me the facts? Most of my friends refuse to believe me.—**E DAVIES**, Syke, Rochdale.

*Your friends may be right. According to the Imperial War Museum the 'French were only too happy to have us' rent free. After all none of the tenants hung on to the property too long. Plenty of people made a fortune out of the massacre—the owners of Metro-Vickers, Krupps, Rofors, Creusot, for example. They made guns and money . . .*

**FREEDOM FOR THE FRONT . . .** I was angered to read N McLaren's letter (9 March). I detest the National Front but I'm against silencing and victimising people because of their views . . . 'I am for free speech but not for fascists,' he says. He would deny them freedom because his views differ from theirs! . . . Fascism stands for censorship of opposing views . . . We mustn't allow recent election results to scare us into a fear of blues under the bed.—**NIGEL PUGH**, Wymondham, Norfolk.

**NOR HIM EITHER . . .** I think Socialist Worker is a splendid piece of journalism. Masterly analyses like Duncan Hallas' piece on the Liberals (2 March) may find their way into booklets, but I hate to part with certain centre page spreads which I post on local walls. Perhaps you might make a selection into an annual at Christmas. I promise to buy at least three copies if you do. The Norma Levy article (23 February) may not have been good for women's liberation but I enjoyed it. A revolutionary paper can easily become dreary. Capitalism is no joke but there'll be no revolution if we forget to laugh. Keep up the good work and thanks a million!—**KEN HARDING**, London NW3.

**WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? . . .** The article on Eddie Milne (9 March) the Independent Labour MP for Blythe should have appeared before the election . . . Some Socialist Worker readers—including my Mam and Dad who have never had illusions in the Labour Party but have always voted for it in elections might well have decided to vote for Milne . . . If you wanted workers in Blythe to vote for Milne you should have said so, and why, before 28 February, rather than wait and declare Milne's victory the best result of the election.—**PAT KIRKHAM**, Leicester.

**IT WAS A SUCCESS . . .** Your article on the Student's week of action (16 March) was misinformed and a little vague. The lack of an adequate lead from the NUS Executive was due to the lack of an effective political programme for the grants campaign. After instituting the week of action they refused to give any directives which could initiate a campaign which would have led to mass student involvement. Colleges which took action remained isolated. But the occupations were a success—they were a potentially decisive form of action, they brought the campaign's demands to local workers and students. To build a successful campaign individual colleges will have to take the initiative independently and build a national campaign at a local level.—**JOHN O'GRADY**, **JOHN FITZGERALD**, Thames Poly.

**MAN OF HARLECH . . .** I was interested in your report of George Clarke's Whatever Happened To The Welfare State (16 March) . . . I covered a Fabian Society meeting where Clark spoke for the Birmingham Trades Council Journal. We were all given a leaflet giving facts and figures on towns and cities—with a foreword by Lord Harlech . . . How can change come about when committees, however worthy are patronised by the very Top People who run our society and will obviously resist drastic change? . . . Clark has done yeoman service in drawing attention to the way many families live, and to the explosive situation in depressed areas where the young have nowhere for recreation. But he seems to want to put things right within the present framework. Why co-opt Lord Harlech otherwise?—**EVELYN RATCLIFF**, Birmingham 17.

# Coal's big white jumbos

COAL is wonderful stuff. You can burn it for warmth and turn it into electricity in power stations. At one time you could run trains with it.

You can produce smokeless fuel from it, aniline dyes, tar, bricks and road aggregate and, to cap the lot, you can it you like turn it into oil and petrol.

The problem is getting coal out of the ground. To date the Coal Board has not overcome the troublesome problem of using miners to do the job.

For a time they thought they had the answer at the fully-automated Bevercotes colliery in Nottinghamshire. Coalfaces were to be denuded of flesh and blood miners and replaced with machines.

Human hands would be necessary only as an appendage to white-coated operatives seated at gleaming control panels.

The scheme was not a success. At one stage a high-powered Russian delegation arrived to view the Bevercotes miracle.

A few days prior to their arrival, thousands of tons of coal had to be shovelled down the pit so that it could be triumphantly extracted to the envious gasps of the Russians.

## Manned

Even when the bugs had been sorted out of the complicated machinery at fantastic cost, all was not well. Roof falls are a frequent and inevitable consequence of coal mining.

In a manned face, experienced miners usually see one coming and take preventive action. On an unmanned face machines have no such second sense.

Falls occur, the machinery stops and men have to clear the trouble. Men stopped can be directed elsewhere. Cumbersome machinery cannot be moved.

Bevercotes is a very expensive white elephant.

Bevercotes stands as a monument to managerial inefficiency and lack of foresight. Sadly, it is not the only such monument.

Not far from Bevercotes, in the same Nottinghamshire coalfield, is the Gedling pit. In 1962, Gedling produced 1,124,000 tons of coal, which brought a profit before interest of £1,470,000.

It is not a bad return on the labours of 2000 miners. It represents a profit per working miner of £735 set against miners' wages when averaged about £20 per week.



Top: Bevercotes—a monument to inefficiency. Above: a miner breaks up mechanically-dug coal at Gedling

Today Gedling is running at an annual loss of £400,000. Since 1962 the miners have sacrificed 800 jobs. With the introduction of the power loading agreement, they have seen their wages decline relatively in comparison with other workers and absolutely in terms of what their money will buy.

They suffered the high accident rate peculiar to mining. In June 1969 some 63 accidents lost 234 man weeks of work in that month alone. But accidents aside, the Gedling men were concerned to restore the pit to profitability.

What was it then that turned a £1 million profit into a nearly £½ million loss? Management inefficiency is the answer given by Gedling miners.

Money was spent on costly development schemes that were abandoned. All faces were fully mechanised. These two factors were the main ones added to a general shortage of parts and organisational failures.

Falling and disappearing profit brought on threats of closure from the NCB and a falling and disappearing morale of the miners.

The management decided to develop a new drift from the working High Hazel seam into the Main Bright seam. This development was alleged by management to be the winner the pit needed.

Rank and file miners who actually knew the mine were not so confident. After development teams had been at work for four and a half years, the job was stopped and the Main Bright was summarily extinguished. The cost



of this failure is estimated at £1 million.

Having rejected the costly Main Bright scheme it was urgent to develop new faces to replace existing ones that were becoming rapidly worked out. Another scheme was set up to develop a new face, the A18s.

Ten days before they were due to cut coal, when all the machinery was in place, management discovered that the roof was unsafe and the area subject to flooding. They closed it down.

## Story

The loss of this change of working results in a reduction in profitable revenue of £136,500 each year.

Having effectively closed two developments, the management was anxious to find new workable coal. They turned to the low grade Hard seam with the result that the price obtained was less than the cost of production. Losses were only minimised slightly when the face went out of production.

The story of Bevercotes and Gedling is the story of extended ineptitude on the part of the NCB management. It is a story that can be repeated throughout the industry.

Brave talk about involving the working miners is no more than talk. An enquiry by NUM experts into the Gedling pit, when members accused the management of inefficiency, did not hear evidence from the actual miners involved and then went on to absolve the NCB from blame.

In the last decade working miners have been caught in the dilemma that potentially profitable pits were being driven to closure through ignorance and inefficiency. The NUM has a sorry record of opposing closure and its procedures of consultation are designed to ensure that working miners are excluded.

Discussions are carried through by full-time officials at area and national level. Frequently the officials have been so long out of the pits that they have only second-hand knowledge of modern conditions.

Gedling pit is the latest justification for workers' control. The people whose working lives are at risk are the people who can more efficiently control the pits.

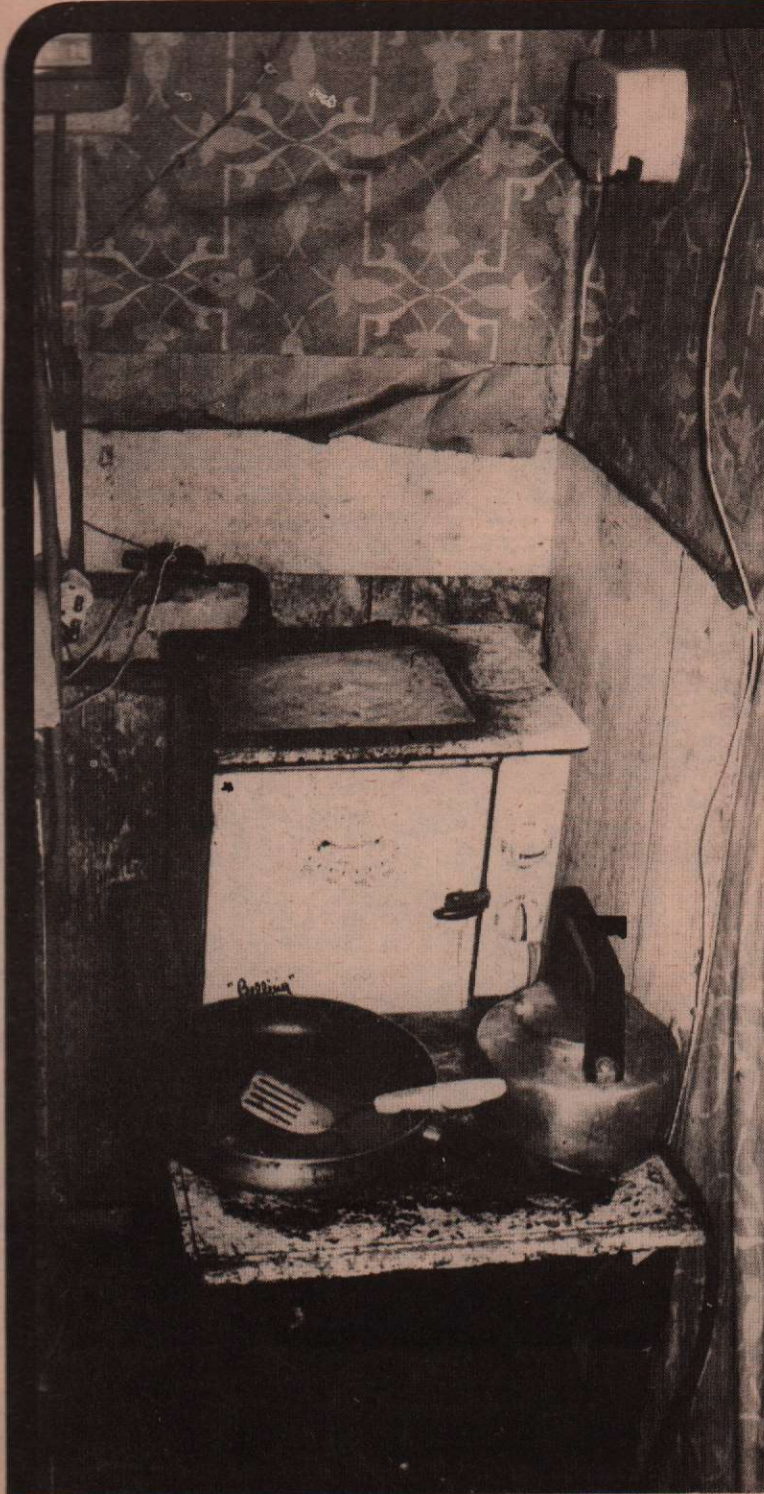
The arrogant anarchy of management in all industry, not only the NCB, has long past its usefulness.

Pluto Press  
Workers' Handbook No.1

## The Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them.

400 pages. 90p plus 7p postage  
From IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.  
Bulk orders: 60p for more than 10 copies

Report by **JIM HIGGINS**



# One man's revolt against rent and the

## International Socialism

Monthly journal of the International Socialists, March 1974, price 15p, Number 67

### A WORKERS' PAPER

The latest issue of International Socialism journal features an important article by Tony Cliff in which he deals with the problems of building a workers' paper. He does so by describing how Lenin established Pravda as the main workers' paper in Russia in the years 1912-14.

He writes that 'The concept of the workers' paper as an organiser was developed most fully in theory and practice by Lenin... Pravda was not a paper for workers, it was a workers' paper... Thousands of workers read it, wrote for it and sold it.'

Cliff argues that the key to expanding the influence of Socialist Worker today is by taking up this lesson, encouraging many more workers to write for the paper and getting as many of the readers of the paper as possible to begin selling a few copies themselves.

Cliff's article alone makes this issue of IS Journal essen-

tial reading for all members and supporters of the International Socialists. But the other articles should be of interest to anyone who wants to go further into the discussion of socialist ideas than is possible in the limited space of Socialist Worker.

Colin Barker discusses the ideas of some Yugoslav opponents of Stalinism (including the variety that prevails in Yugoslavia) Dennis Childs describes the development of a new stage in the arms race, potentially more dangerous than any previously. And Peter Binns writes on the development of Marx's ideas.

Finally, Notes of the Month deal with the prospects facing the Labour government and a four page 'briefing' piece outlines the causes of the present world-wide inflation.

20p per copy (inc. post) £2.10 for 12 issues. From IS JOURNAL, Carbridge Works, Carbridge Crescent, London E2.

ERIC SWINBANK lives in the Leith area of Edinburgh. He has decided not to pay his rent until something is done about the conditions of his house.

He has been absent from work for seven weeks now. He is a cleaner at the Robb Caledon shipyard and he is a member of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Mr Swinbank has a kidney infection. He was married a year ago and at that time his wife had just come out of hospital. The doctors said it was vital that she should have a house with a bath, hot water, and good heating.

### Waiting

They got a house from the Castle Rock Housing Association, with one tiny electric water heater—which no longer works—a small electric stove with one ring and a small two-bar fire.

Mr Swinbank pointed out that the house was unsuitable because of his wife's medical condition. He was told he would be placed on a waiting list for a better house.

He is still waiting. They pay £3.79 rent each week. Mr Swinbank receives £12.90 sickness benefit.

The Castle Rock Housing Association is a non-profit making organisation. The money from rents goes to pay off property and to buy new property.



The fireplace: rats come through the hole on the left and gnaw food

It is subsidised by Shelter—the housing campaign—to the tune of more than £20,000 a year. It deals mainly with people evicted or rejected by the local authority. Because preference goes to new clients, someone in the Swinbank's position has little chance of being

rehoused. The association operates in a paternalistic fashion. It does not encourage tenants' associations, but seems to overlook the need to provide basic information, such as the fact that rent allowances can be received from the corporation.

The association evicting people for arrears of rent, but Shelter to drop this arrears. Now it asks Shelter for arrears.

The condition of house was already

Picture report by CHRIS GORMAN





# e rats

Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city has had many expensive face lifts to such places as Holyrood House in order to attract tourists. But away from the city centre you find dreadful slum housing such as the Swinbanks (above) are forced to live in. Left: the one-ring cooker on which they prepare meals.

moved in. They have one habitable room with two beds in it. Mrs Swinbank's daughter and son-in-law are living there while they await a corporation house.

The condition of the house is not improved by the presence of rats. Food has been eaten and the daughter has seen one run across the floor.

The bad state of the house gave the rats access through holes and parts of the skirting and a cheap paper composition fire surround have been gnawed.

The sanitary inspector visited many houses in the street last week and the Swinbanks were informed that on the inspector's recommendation, the house should be demolished, but it may not be until next year.

If you look out of the Swinbank's window, you can see a large crack down the wall of the houses across the street.

## Worried

Mr Swinbank told Socialist Worker: 'In my opinion the house is not worth £3.79 a week. Next week I intend to pay off some arrears in rent. I will tell them I want my rent cut and the house improved.'

'I will not pay any more rent until it is done. I will fight them for it. You have to fight for your rights and I want to let people know through Socialist Worker how people live.'

He is not worried about friends who tell him this is a dangerous

thing to do. He says that his wife's doctor would back him up.

The overall situation of housing in the city has been worsened by the Housing Finance Act. Higher rents lead to eviction, which leads to Castle Rock, which leads to slums.

Tenants' associations are hampered or not encouraged. Life becomes quite intolerable in the resulting squalor.

## Action

During the period under the Tories, council house building nationally fell by 40 per cent. The vicious attack which the Housing Finance Act meant, especially to low-paid workers, taken side by side with the increase in profits in building—Northern Developments pushed its profits from £1.5 million to £7 million in two years—shows that housing is yet another area where profit takes large priority over human need.

Labour has put off this year's rent increases. It has yet to repeal the Tory Act.

Only a tough commitment to a crash programme to demolish the slums and build millions of new homes can offer hope to the Swinbank families of every city.

But that means a head-on clash with the property speculators, the banks and the building giants. Only nationwide action by tenants will force Labour to take that kind of action.

# STREAKING IN THE HOUSE...

ONCE in a while a Member of Parliament makes a worthwhile speech in the House of Commons.

We reproduce extracts from Bolsover Labour MP Dennis Skinner's contribution to the debate on the Queen's Speech:

I was in the Tea Room about an hour ago, when I came a worried-looking government whip who suggested the need for some livening up of the proceedings in the Chamber.

I therefore came in and looked at the Liberal benches and wondered, "Could it be that they have gone streaking?"

It crossed my mind that the hon. Member for Rochdale (Mr Smith) was streaking away from the Leader of the Liberal Party as fast as he could.

I also wondered whether the hon. Member for Cornwall, North (Mr Pardoe) was streaking off to another studio—BBC or ITV—to get on the air to exercise what he considers to be Liberal policy. I imagined that the hon. Member for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles (Mr Steel) was streaking after him with another form of Liberal policy in order to get that across.



I thought then of the Liberal leader streaking out of the headquarters of London and County Securities—not today, of course—and I had a mental picture of him trying to streak into any coalition, any place, at any time.

What I did not like about the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was his emphasis once again on wage restraint. I find it somewhat nauseating that, although he did not spell it out as much as he did during the election campaign, he tended to concentrate on what he believes are the greedy people.

I want to place on record the fact that in some respects the Leader of the Opposition and I agree that there are such people. I believe that instead of talking in abstract terms we should name a few of those greedy people. Instead of talking about collective bodies of trade unionists, let us get down to names.

I refer to the person mentioned during the election campaign, John Davies of the Rank Organisation, whose salary was raised from £55,000 to £65,000 "at a stroke".

At the same time the Rank Organisation gave £35,000 to the Tory Party and another £5000 to the junior partners in "Heathcote Ltd", the Liberal Party. These are the greedy people.

The noble Lord, Lord Carrington, has been involved in property speculation for a considerable time. The latest affair concerned the reputed £8½ million profit to be made out of the 140 acres to be sold to Wycombe Borough Council.



There was the previous affair in which two houses were bought for £100,000, converted into six flats and sold for £45,000 apiece. It is what is known as "double your money".

Those are some of the greedy people. Therefore, if we are to talk about wage restraint and statutory incomes policies, these greedy people, too, must be brought in.

In fact, they should be dealt

# IN THE HOUSE...



Skinner: naming names

with first before any question arises about dividing up the national cake. They must be dealt with severely.

There is also the remarkable case of the Duke of Devonshire. He is a fairly wealthy fellow, but he is another of the greedy people. He owns nearly half of Derbyshire, and parts of Yorkshire.

I am told that he owns land in County Limerick, and, according to the reports, it looks as if he owns Eastbourne Borough Council as well.

The Duke of Devonshire has planning permission for a £50 million yachting marina at Eastbourne. We are supposed to be in a period of crisis.

There was not supposed to be enough money around to pay the miners the additional £50 million that they have now received. Yet this man, apparently, can put his hand on £50 million to build a yachting marina with 400 berths for top Tory yachtsmen.

If we are to have a relevant Queen's Speech and a meaningful great public debate, with the idea continually thrown at us that the country cannot stand up without the workers pulling in their belts, pulling up their socks and pulling their fingers out, these people, too, must be taken into account.

Those on the greener side must be tackled, and tackled fiercely.

The Queen's Speech does not fully cover that.

There is an ambiguous phrase which talks about redistribution. It sounds all right. But we must take it further. We must expose what needs to be exposed.

If it is right for my constituents and my hon. Friends' constituents, the workers to be constantly under attack from the Tories, not only at elections but at all times, and again in the House today, as the Leader of the Opposition showed, we must put everyone under the microscope, and we have to name names.

If some of them are Members of the other place, taking £8.50 a day for clocking on and clocking off—when miners cannot get a few bob extra for washing and bathing time, which takes even longer—we must make perfectly clear that they, too, are under the microscope.

When the Duke of Devonshire finds £50 million to develop a yachting marina at Eastbourne, that is something that my constituents have every right to know. The same applies to many others we can talk about.



One of my constituents, after I had mentioned the Duke of Devonshire's yachting marina, said, "You know, Dennis, we ought to run a bus trip."

I said, "Where to, darling?" She said, "Eastbourne. We want to go down to that marina, and we want to put the Leader of the Opposition on top of Morning Cloud and give him a little push, just like that, and send him across the English Channel to the Common Market, because that is where his heart is and that is where he should stop."

New Updated Edition Available from IS BOOKS 265 Seven Sisters Road London N4 3p each, 6p inc. post 10 or more post free

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Social Security for Strikers



a Socialist Worker pamphlet

# BANNED FROM BRITAIN: A BABY OF TWO



The Shah family: Misba (the baby in arms) now waits alone in Lahore

MISBA SHABRAM SHAH is two years old. Her father was born in Britain. Her father and mother live in Acton, West London. Her brother and sister aged seven and five will soon be joining the family in Acton.

But Misba has to wait. The British Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, has sent her a letter telling her she must be 'interviewed' about her national status before she can travel to Britain. The interview, says the Embassy, will take place in April, 1975, in a year and a month from now.

This is not a sick joke. It is a real, live

horror story called the Immigration Act, 1971.

The little girl's parents, Anwar and Blaqis Shah, are beside themselves with worry over the fate of their small daughter. Almost every post brings them more news of hold-ups and bureaucracy in which every official body concerned—from the Home Office to the Pakistani emigration officials—seem to be plotting to tear their family apart.

Anwar Shah works in a laundry. Three years ago, he was in a better-paid job as a fork-lift operator and driver when he was badly injured in a car accident. The accident affected his mind, and he suffered from split

personality. While he was in hospital, his wife who did not know how to apply for social security benefits went with her two children to Pakistan to stay with relations.

She was pregnant. Soon after she arrived in Pakistan Misba was born.

Anwar was greatly distressed at the loss of his children. One day, soon after leaving hospital, he came across two children locked in a car in a car park. He broke into the car, drove it to the police station and reported the children missing. The police arrested him, clapped him in Brixton prison, from where he was committed to a mental hospital.

Gradually he recovered. His wife, who

was living in desperate poverty in Lahore, agreed to return. She could not afford the fares for all the family, so she flew to Britain on her own.

An appeal by Ealing Community Relations Commission raised the £250 necessary to fly the three children to London. Jubilantly, the parents sent messages to their relations asking them to put the children on the first plane out of Islamabad.

That was months ago. Now they hear that the baby, who is a 'patrial' even by the inhuman standards of the Immigration Act, cannot come before being interviewed by Embassy bureaucrats.

## ...and Labour changes tune

MISBA SHAH is a victim of the Immigration Act, 1971.

When the Act was introduced by the Tory government in 1971, Labour exploded in fury.

The Labour opposition in parliament fought the Act line by line through Second Reading, 23 days in Standing Committee and Third Reading in the House of Commons. Labour also opposed it in the House of Lords.

James Callaghan, then Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, called the

Bill 'a sop to prejudice'.

Roy Jenkins, a former Home Secretary, said: 'This is a highly objectionable Bill. It is misconceived in principle and damaging in practice.'

'It is liable to make not merely every new coloured immigrant or every existing coloured immigrant but also every coloured person born in this country feel less secure, less wanted and less belonging, thus inevitably exacerbating community relations...'

'If we unreasonably impair their

rights; if we revert to arbitrariness in dealing with them, as the Home Secretary is here doing, we inevitably impair the whole quality of freedom and tolerance throughout the country...'

'If the government had any self-respect, they would withdraw the Bill and start again.' (House of Commons, 8 March, 1971)

The Act finally became law in January 1973. In June, 1973, the Law Lords decreed that it applied 'retrospectively'—that is, the Act could be applied to people who

came to Britain before it became law.

Before the Act, immigrants who broke the law coming into this country could not be deported after six months' stay here. After the Act, according to five savages in the House of Lords, they could.

The Labour Party in parliament was furious. Shirley Williams, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, moved: 'That the House of Lords' decision, confirming the retrospective effect of the Immigration Act, 1971, has created profound uncertainty of fear and blackmail in the immigrant community; believes that retrospective legislation is contrary to our democratic traditions—and urges the government therefore not to expel immigrants guilty of no other offence who were settled here for six months or more before the 1971 Act.' (House of Commons: 26 June 1973)

### Fought

'The only answer,' said Mrs Williams, 'is to declare an amnesty for all those immigrants who came in between 1968 and 1971.'

Now Roy Jenkins is Home Secretary. Mrs Williams is in the Cabinet. Peter Archer, who bitterly fought the Immigration Bill, is Solicitor General.

Stanley Clinton Davies and Alexander Lyon who both spoke against the Bill are in the government.

Yet from the new Labour government there is NOT A WORD about relaxing the pressure on black people.

The Queen's Speech last week has NOT A SINGLE MENTION of any promise to do anything about the Immigration Act or the House of Lords' decision.

Though the Liberals and the Welsh Nationalists are on record supporting fairer immigration laws, Labour has not moved an inch towards them.

As far as Labour's public state-

ments go, there will be no repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act.

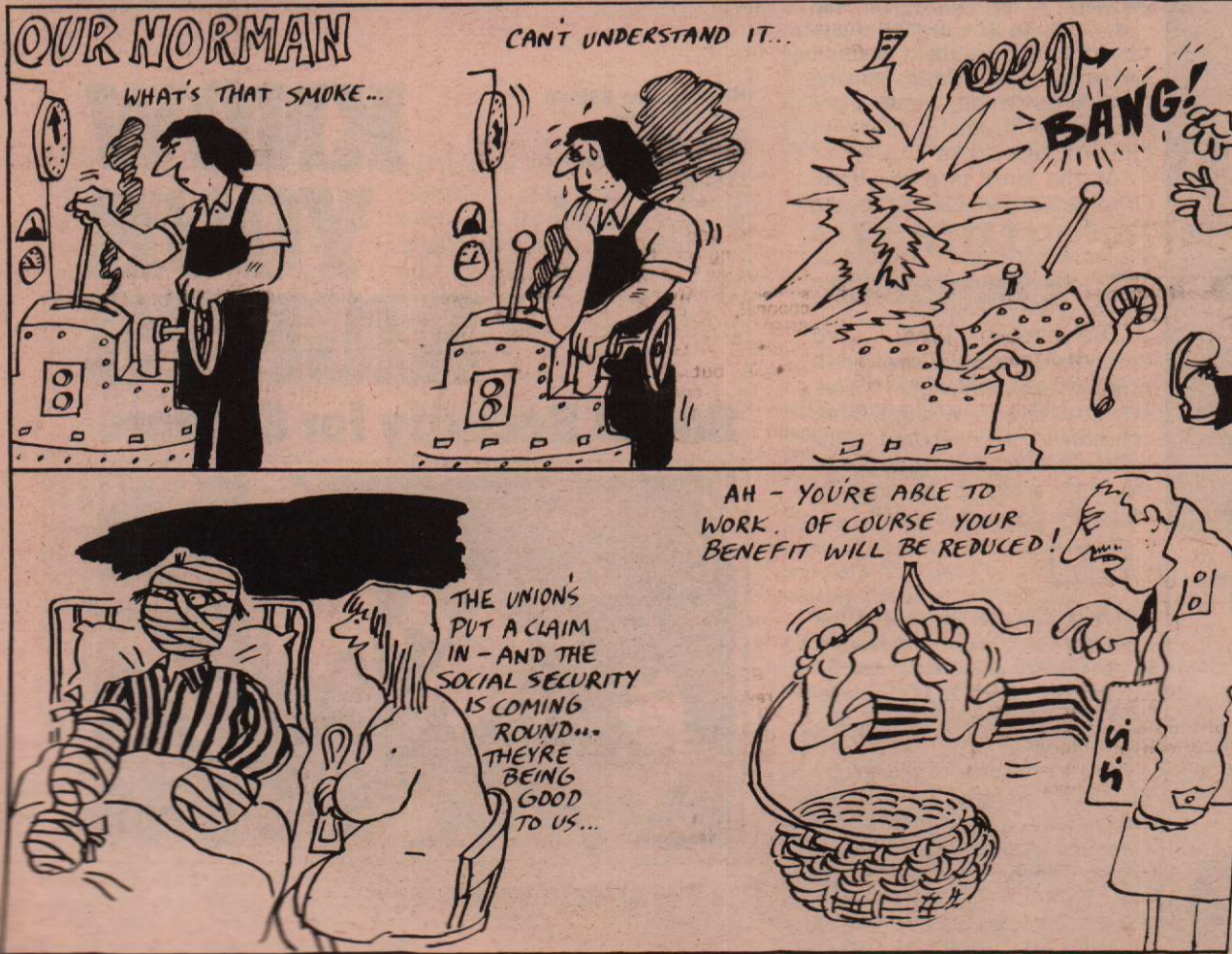
There will be no amnesty for immigrants who came in before 1971.

All the illusions and hopes of more than a million black people who voted Labour in the election have been shattered in a few days.

This is disgraceful.

The Amnesty MUST be declared. The Act MUST be repealed.

Meetings representative of black people and trade union organisations throughout the country must be called to press these demands on the government immediately.



### BOOKSHOPS

- WOMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD, Sheila Rowbotham, 35p
- LABOUR IN IRISH HISTORY, Connolly, 50p
- LANGUAGE AND CLASS, Workshop pamphlet, 15p
- VOICES FROM WOMEN'S LIBERATION, ed Tanner, 70p
- THE BLACK SHORT STORY ANTHOLOGY, ed Woodie King, 75p

Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p for books.

Available by mail order and direct from IS BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, and directly only from IS BOOKS, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1, and the Coventry Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 65 Queen Victoria Road, Coventry.

# BYE, BYE BOBBY BUBBLES



Moore—of West Ham, England—and Fulham

BLACK ARM BANDS can be seen in London's East End. Bobby Moore has left West Ham United. An era in English football has ended.

It could even be the last great era. For Moore was the advance guard of the few who believed in attacking, attractive play, where the game was as important as the result.

It is a vision submerged and perhaps drowned by the defensive boredom that now passes for a once great game. The studied viciousness, the visual misery of four-four-two formations, the

predictability of matches won by a single goal snatched by a break from defence.

When I was a kid on the terraces at Upton Park in the early 1950s, West Ham was a middle-order Second Division side, that we all expected to remain a middle-order Second Division side.

But then the Irons took a flyer into the First Division, gained a new manager in Ron Greenwood and started to play a smooth, flowing game that many copied but none excelled. It was dubbed 'continental football'. I don't know how accurate the description

was but it took West Ham to the FA Cup and the European Cup Winners Cup.

More important, their style won them respect everywhere. In an age of growing toughness and 'professional' fouls, West Ham were a beacon for fair play.

Geoff Hurst was sent off by a referee last season. It had never happened to him before. But by then he had left West Ham for Stoke.

And the football world gasped in amazement last year when Moore was booked for dissent. What is the tiresome commonplace at Elland Road

and Old Trafford still caused raised eyebrows at Upton Park.

Moore was the rock on which the new West Ham was built. From midfield, he commanded the play, reading it with amazing perception, feeding the ball forward with an accuracy that was often breath-taking.

Some took his icy coolness as a sign of either arrogance or even indifference, an assessment destroyed by a study of his face as he took up position by the near goalpost when a corner was being taken: he was always totally absorbed in the game, so absorbed that there was no room for the ugly passions that now threaten to ruin it.

His career must be something of a miracle these days, when players flit from club to club like butterflies. He joined West Ham in 1958 and stayed with them for 16 years, making 642 League and Cup appearances. He played for England 108 times, 90 of them as captain.

He had his lapses, of course. Sometimes—as he proved on the continent last summer—those too-easy back passes to the goalkeeper could prove fatal. And from terrace level he was more than a little bow-legged—and I actually saw the ball squeeze through his knees when West Ham were away to Spurs last year.

But the faults were few. He is one of the most skillful and elegant of players and, despite his closeness to Ramsey as England captain, his playing has always been the polar opposite of the England manager's monotonous defensiveness.

In the end, though, Moore had to go from Upton Park. His very greatness was stifling a team that had shed many of its former stars and was attempting to rebuild.

The team became a caricature of itself. Uncertain younger players would move forward, hesitate, look round for Moore and then pass the ball back to him. West Ham started playing pat-a-cake football across the pitch. They stopped attacking and scoring goals. Their opponents didn't.

Sadly, the recent resurgence of the team has been while Moore was injured. He saw the light and decided to leave. I hope the club will honour him with something better than his final game—a reserve match played before 1000 shivering fans in driving rain.

On the debit side, there is Moore the Superstar, Moore the rich businessman with a life style a million light years away from the dockers, car workers and school kids who cheered from the terraces.

'If anyone's going to make a million from soccer,' he said, 'I want to be the first one.' That's a bit removed from the old spirit of 'the game's the thing' but blame the system that buys and sells footballers like just one more commodity, not the individual players.

Some will say that West Ham didn't achieve very much while Moore was at the helm. In terms of cups, that's true. They promised much, achieved little. They echoed the plaintive song from the Upton Park terraces:

'We're forever blowing bubbles, pretty bubbles in the air. They fly so high, nearly reach the sky, then like our dreams they fade and die . . .'

But there is more to football—or should be—than trophies. There are old-fashioned but still worthwhile pursuits, such as sportsmanship and skill.

If most of the rubbish seen on Match of the Day is considered to be good football, then I'll carry on blowing bubbles with Bobby Moore.

ROGER PROTZ

## Final Tubes...

THIS IS a good book. It explains the origins of the strike, its progress, and why workers went to the lengths they did to support the basic trade union rights of organising—and staying organised within the factory.

It shows that workers in largely unorganised areas shouldn't have to struggle in isolation—that they should be able to expect the leadership of the trade unions to carry the fight forward to victory.

But the trade union movement isn't geared to winning a strike like Fine Tubes. It isn't enough to declare the strike 'official'. The strike could have been won if there had been positive action. With real solidarity there would have been no need for three years of struggle—and defeat.

Ken Graves reviewed the book in the Morning Star at the end of February. He has worked in Plymouth and has a good working knowledge of the strike.

He criticises Tony Beck's attitude to some of the full-time union officials. He argues that support for the strike in the local area would have been crucial.

'Surely' he writes 'one of the key issues about the Fine Tubes Strike is whether it was tactically correct to continue the struggle with dwindling participants for three years or conduct a strategic retreat?'

But why conduct a strategic retreat? Who would it have helped? The trade union leadership or the strikers?

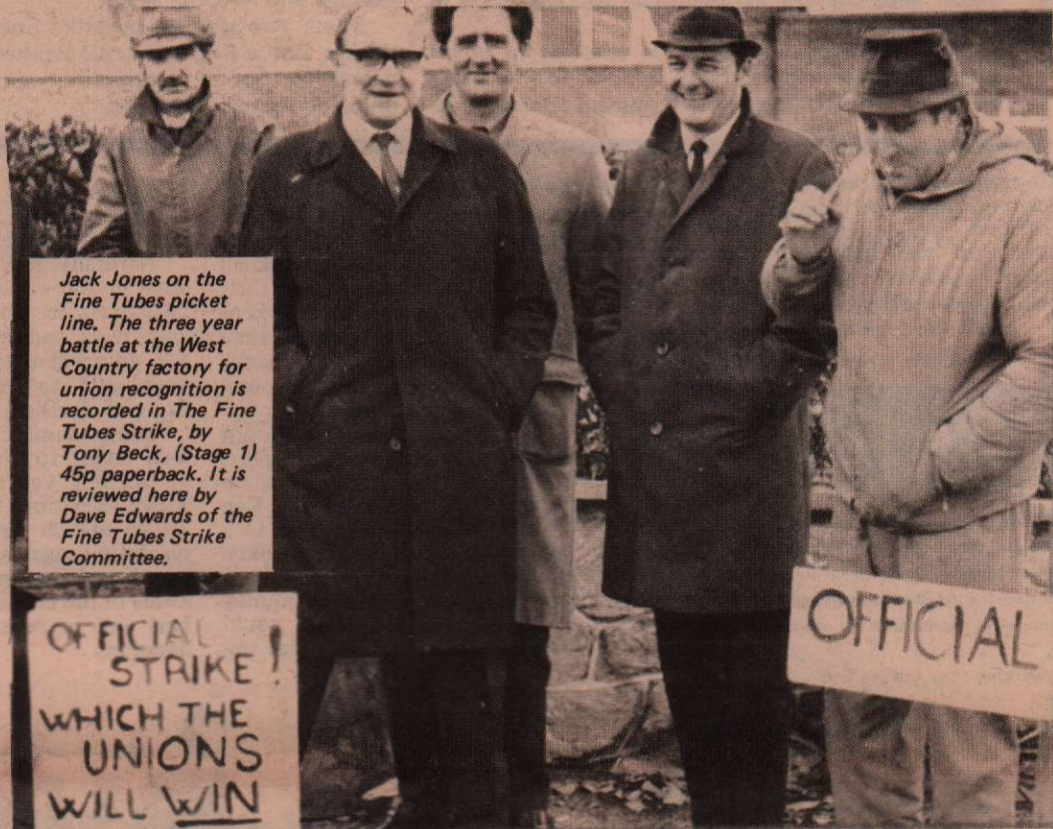
The plain fact is that at Fine Tubes and in other disputes the union leadership's role is very questionable.

With the Pentonville Five it was mass rank and file action which freed the dockers. At Saltley Coke Depot in the 1972 miners' strike it was a well organised rank and file committee which put 10,000 pickets outside and closed the gates. No official called for mass action.

Over the jailing of the Shrewsbury building workers the Transport Union called for a one day strike—but the action has fizzled out. Jack Jones appears to be waiting for the Labour Party to free the Shrewsbury lads.

At the Chrysler dispute at Coventry where the members of the Electricians Union were on strike what was the reaction of Scanlon and Jones? They didn't instruct their members to respect the picketlines. So what was the result? Another sell-out.

This book can advance the cause of trade unionism. If the right people read it—and learn the lessons.



Jack Jones on the Fine Tubes picket line. The three year battle at the West Country factory for union recognition is recorded in *The Fine Tubes Strike*, by Tony Beck, (Stage 1) 45p paperback. It is reviewed here by Dave Edwards of the Fine Tubes Strike Committee.

## 7.84: THE JOHN MACLEAN SHOW

THE VENUE for the 7.84 Theatre Company's first Glasgow presentation of *The Games A Bogey*—the John Maclean Show by John McGrath could not have been better chosen.

The Pearce Institute is in the heart of Govan where Maclean worked and fought for his revolutionary ideals, in fact he is reported to have spoken to meetings in the Institute itself. The play of more accurately show is a continuation of the company's committed policy. It lives up to the high standard of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Oil*, their first production.

The show follows the life of a working class couple, and their unsuccessful attempts to cope with the 'system'.

Interspersed with this are dramatic sections of Maclean's life and his politics. The show is fast moving and up to date with references to Heath's defeat, and there are a couple of catchy tunes. One

could complain that Maclean's message was submerged in the funmaking, but the company's spirited performance should be praised. No trade unionist or socialist in the area should miss the chance of seeing this thought-provoking and enjoyable show.

Over the next few weeks the play will be visiting the following places in Scotland.

21 March: East Kilbride, the Murray Hall.

22-23 March: Irvine, the Harbour Arts Centre.

28-29 March: Glasgow, AUEW, venue not fixed.

1 April: Cross House Community Centre, Ayrshire.

2 April: Maybole Town Hall

3 April: Auchinleck Community Centre.

4 April: Hurlford Community Centre.

5 April: Kilburnie, the Walker Hall.

On 17 April the play is performed at the Scottish TUC conference at Rothesay.

GEORGE KELLY

## PREVIEW

IF YOU'RE reading this on Thursday 21 March you could leap to your TV set, if you can still afford the inflationary rental, and watch the BURKE SPECIAL, which is on inflation, and may feature International Socialist, and financial writer, John Palmer.

SATURDAY: ITV, 7.00pm, in the Scottish, West and Birmingham areas only is SPARTACUS, with Kirk Douglas. Produced towards the end of the day of the Hollywood 'epic' this isn't a bad film, although it isn't as good as the novels by Lewis Grasset Gibbon and Howard Fast on the same subject. It deals with the slave revolt against the Roman Empire. Meanwhile back on BBC-1 Dr Who confronts the MONSTER OF PELADON—a mysterious apparition who is killing and terrifying the down-trodden miners of a vital mineral. Great possibilities there, didn't realise William Whitelaw had taken up acting . . .

SUNDAY: ITV, 5.35pm. Yorkshire TV move into the costume drama epics with BOY DOMINIC with Richard Todd set in 1820. 'Your husband's ship wrecked off coast of North Africa . . . wife left virtually destitute. Their fine house must be sold . . . loyal cook and housekeeper must be given notice . . . thrown on mercy of tyrannical embittered mother . . . pet monkey Bathurst . . . All this and much, much more from Yorkshire TV hand-out. The series has the phantom

harmonium player from Stars on Sunday, Jess Yates, as Executive Producer so perhaps Johnny Mathis will guest as a singing Napoleon. The Bedtime Story on BBC-2 is JACK AND THE BEANSTALK written by Nigel Kneale, who wrote Quatermass. The TV series of MASH\* is back on the same channel. On BBC-1 Richard Crossman talks to Jeremy Thorpe on CROSSTALK. They seem fairly well tanked-up before they get into the studio on this programme—or is it just their normal manner? Last week's, with Jack Jones, was a good education on how two members of the Coventry Labour Party learned to sell out and still have plenty of time for self-congratulation.

British film director JOHN BOORMAN is profiled on Omnibus\* earlier on same channel. He made the excellent films Point Blank and Leo the Last, has just finished a science fiction film Zardoz. NEW PRESSURES IN CAPITALISM\* are examined on Radio 4 at 9.15pm.

MONDAY: BBC-2. The Second City Firsts play at 10.15pm is LUNCH DUTY about Janet, a 31-year-old teacher with radical teaching ideas who supports an attempted revolt by sixth formers at a comprehensive school. Same channel has

the Philpott File on Four Corners Of The Marketplace, first of four on the Common Market countries. The first is THE CALCUTTA OF EUROPE\* dealing with Naples where the unemployed are so numerous they've never been counted—a city where a child is likely to be working at 10 years and redundant by 16.

TUESDAY: ITV, 10.30pm. Ray Gosling looks at TRAFFORD PARK, Europe's first industrial estate, in Manchester, if you didn't know. Gosling is a good writer and TV reporter.

On BBC-2 Europa, which uses material from other European TV companies looks at the British class structure through Dutch eyes in CAN ARTHUR SAVE BRITAIN? A new six-part series of films about young people growing up in Britain, 'narrated by the young people' starts off at Battersea County Secondary School and Walworth School London—WHERE WE LIVE\* The well-known, totally impartial, Tory, editor of the totally impartial Tory weekly the Economist, Alastair Burnett, introduces BUDGET '74 in the afternoon on BBC-1.

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2. Socialists talk about the 'ruling class'—usually meaning the people you can see, the Heaths,

Wilson, and Lord Stokes, Sir William Armstrong knows which side he's on—he's head of the Home Civil Service and is the subject of MAN ALIVE PROFILE\* Same channel has on Midweek Cinema, THE SERVANT. It stars Dirk Bogarde and James Fox. It is a good film, about a arrogant but weak young aristocrat and a cunning and evil servant. Any such relationship is obscene, but the film is good at showing why. BBC-1 has another new American series DOC ELLIOT which looks like a prime contender for a schmulck award, about a big city surgeon who decides to work in sparsely populated Southern Colorado. How about a series on the American Medical Association showing how to make a million dollars by not having any National Health Service? Not such lovable stuff of course . . .

THURSDAY: BBC-1. Big week on BBC for revolting schools with PIDGEON—HAWK OR DOVE? About a revolt at a run-down public school. Since the one on Monday is at a comprehensive is this what is meant by 'balanced programming'? Paul Schofield plays Alexander Solzhenitsyn in a sixty minute biographical feature on the Russian writer on Radio 4\*.

FRIDAY: BBC-2. The second of the W C Fields season is THE BANK DICK\*.

\* Time unknown at press time

## Accident?

RACIALISM has long halted black music from reaching wide audiences. Unless it's someone like Sammy Davis Jr who gets big by leaving behind his roots and turning into a crooner.

In England new soul records are promoted by word of mouth parties or the odd accident.

A good example of how this censorship works is 'Here I Am Baby' by Al Brown on the Jamaican Trojan label. It is the fastest selling reggae record ever, selling 10,000 copies a week.

But the British Market Research Bureau that decides what is to be included in the 'Fun Thirty', which then becomes the records played over and over on Radio One, does not include black record shops in its survey. Hence Al Brown's record has no chance of being played on the radio.

Once the circle has been set in motion, most record shops just stock the 'Fun Thirty', sales are ensured, the people get 'what they want.'

ROGER HUDDLE

# THE UNIONS

## Who controls who?

**DOCKERS** at Grimsby and Immingham had decided to black ships bringing in Polish coal on the Wednesday before the miners' strike started. On the Saturday night the strike began and they walked off the ship Felice.

They left it fully loaded, calculating that it wouldn't be enough to unload the coal and then black it, because the Tories might use troops.

But suddenly on the Thursday after the first week of the blacking a mass meeting of all Grimsby and Immingham dockers was summoned by full-time official Ken Wardle.

He asked the men to consider unloading the ship and gave assurances that the coal would not be moved out of the dock estate.

The meeting turned this down

ONE of the most crucial events of the miners' struggle was the mass movement of Leicester miners against the antics of their full-time secretary, Frank Smith.

The strike in protest against his pro-Tory statements and the suggestion that he ought to be kicked out of office were decisive in disarming the right wing in the miners' union.

This controversy brought the question of union democracy, the answerability of officials to their members, to the fore in the miners' union. The

importance of union democracy will be up for discussion at next Saturday's National Rank and File conference sponsored by such newspapers as The Collier, Carworker, GEC Rank 'n File, Platform—the London transport workers' paper, Rank and File Teacher and NALGO Action.

These two articles—by Mike Stanton, a Grimsby docker, and a Brighton hotel worker who cannot be named for fear of victimisation—show how urgently union democracy is needed.

overwhelmingly on the recommendation of the elected branch committee officers, who pointed out that if the coal was unloaded the NUM would have to be informed and would send pickets.

Since the British Transport Docks

Board had announced that their police would not allow miners' pickets on the dock estate, the miners would picket the gates and ask all dockers to refuse to cross their picket lines. But if the dockers kept blacking the coal ships, then they could keep up solidarity with the miners and stay at work—a sound argument if ever there was one.

In the wake of this, militant members of the Transport Workers Union 10/54 branch thought some action should be taken against Ken Wardle for calling the meeting in a bid to overturn a properly taken branch decision.

But they found, on examining union rules, that no action could be taken. Full-time officials are res-

ponsible only to the region and the union executive. The branch and the membership have no control.

Naturally Ken Wardle did not do what he did off his own bat. He was instructed to do it after the port employers had been in touch with the union at national level. He had been told to attempt to get the dockers' decision reversed.

Some members of the branch are now trying to draft rule changes to go to this year's Transport Union Rules Revision Conference. Their 10/54 branch has already passed a resolution against any more mass meetings being summoned over the heads of the elected committee members and to reverse properly taken decisions.



Flashback to the 1972 miners' strike: A mass picket confronts a ship attempting to unload coal

**UNION MEMBERS** at a Trust Houses Forte hotel in Hove, near Brighton, wrested important concessions out of Sir Charles Forte's management after a dispute there in December. Sir Charles is a personal friend of Ted Heath.

They won their union, the General and Municipal Workers, the right to negotiate wages in all Trust Houses Forte hotels and the first manning agreement in the hotel industry. Since THF is the biggest hotel group in the country others would find it difficult not to follow suit—so this looked like a breakthrough.

But negotiations of that importance could not be trusted to the rank and file members who had actually won the concessions! They were passed into the skilful hands of GMWU National Officer Bobby Smith.

Smith promptly showed where his heart lies. In spite of THF letters asking when the fateful meeting was to be held, in spite of pleas from the Hove shop stewards and correspondence between the union's southern region secretary Derek Gladwyn and general secretary David Bassett, Smith skilfully saved himself from following up the Hove victory, and put proposals to THF clearly meant to give back to the employers' side everything they thought they had lost.

Smith's main concern seems to be to get management to collect union dues direct from wage packets, the 'check off' system. This is dangerous because it reveals union members' names to management. It also encourages a sort of house union.

Smith's proposals only relate to hotels where there are already union members—though after the dispute at Hove management indicated that company-wide organisation might have to be conceded. Nor is there any mention of manning agreements.

The hotel workers feel their efforts are being frittered away. Hove shop stewards have sent round an appeal to other hotel branches and the first vote of no confidence in Bobby Smith has been passed.

The workers are also demanding that the executive review Smith's position as an official and the matter will be raised at the union conference this year. So far no demand has been made for frequent re-election of all officials. It may come soon.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and owe no allegiances except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms.

The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action by the working class.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggles of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed or rejected by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or 'unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.

Against productivity deals and job evaluation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both in the plant and on a combine basis.

For a minimum wage of at least £25 a week.

Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs. We support the demand: Five days' work or five days' pay.

For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black workers.

Against immigration restriction.

For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Against secret diplomacy.

Against all forms of imperialism. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine national liberation movements.

For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

We are opposed to all ruling class policies and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the unity of all revolutionary groups.

The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and a world based on human solidarity, on the increasing of man's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of man over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It is no use just talking about it. More than a century ago Karl Marx wrote: 'The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it.' If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us.

FOR THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, WRITE TO THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, 8 COTTONS GARDENS, LONDON E2 8DN.

## Labour putting on an Act

by Mary Dennis

**THE REPEAL** of the Industrial Relations Act should pass through parliament without too much trouble. Rank and file opposition to the Act, from Pentonville to Con-Mech, has made the whole machinery totally unworkable.

No-one is more anxious than the employers to ditch it and set up a more conciliatory system. This is precisely what the Labour government intends to do.

But the new framework is basically the same. There is still the same pretence that there is a 'sensible' answer to industrial disputes, that employers and employees meet on equal terms.

First, Labour will bring in the 'Repeal Act', getting rid of the right to scab, the enforced 'cooling off' periods, registration, the NIRC, the Commission on Industrial Relations, the Industrial Arbitration Board, and the Registrar. In their place would be the Conciliation and Arbitration Service, combining all these jobs.

The Service is to be 'independent', publicly financed, and made up of trade unionists, employers, and experts. Under the 'Repeal Act', it would do little, but it is clear from the TUC/Labour Party Liaison Com-

mittee discussions that under the second stage of Labour's plan, the Employment Protection Bill, the old patterns would re-emerge.

The Labour Party also says it will improve the protection of pickets. Knowing well that the picket has no rights, the TUC/Labour Party Liaison Committee apparently felt it enough to add the right to approach vehicles peacefully to persuade the driver to stop. In other words, no change to the situation that led to the jailing of building workers at Shrewsbury.

The Trades Dispute Act 1906, which comes back in with the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act, boils down to a vague assertion that picketing, in itself, is not a crime or a civil offence. But, of course, conspiring, obstructing the highway, unlawful assembly, affray and a thousand activities covered by the Police Act, all of which it would be difficult not to commit while picketing, are offences.

The minimum needed to protect the smallest group of thoroughly peaceful pickets is immunity from

prosecution under the conspiracy laws and the Highways Act, and a restriction of police powers in picketing situations. Anything else is worthless.

Workers unfairly dismissed are still going to get a raw deal. Labour's manifesto only suggests such minor changes as longer time to apply to the tribunal and no limit on compensation.

At the very least, a serious attempt to 'protect employment' needs a court that can order the employer not to dismiss.

Labour is no more serious than the Tories about 'protecting employment'. Their strategy is to get industrial relations 'out of the courts and back where they belong'—which means in the offices of trade union officialdom.

The trade union leaders involved themselves in organised opposition to the Industrial Relations Act only with the utmost reluctance. Official response came to one Sunday demo and two token stoppages in the AUEW. But with a very definite role assigned to them in Labour's grand conciliation and arbitration programme, even token opposition is out this time.



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

# WHAT'S ON

## Speech! Speech!



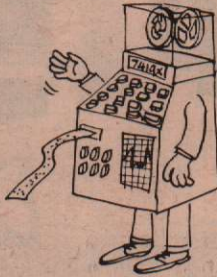
KEEP IT SHORT...



REMINDE YOUR SPEAKER ABOUT THE TIME...



DEAL FIRMLY WITH LONG BORING QUESTIONERS...



DONT DRINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK...



DONT LET THE SPEAKER KEEP CHIPPING IN DURING DISCUSSION...

THERE is a story about three young revolutionaries who used to get together in a back room in Glasgow to practise public speaking.

They had no real audience, for they were teaching themselves the tricks of a new trade. Two of them would be the audience for the night with the other being the speaker. The 'speaker' would heckle and ask questions, tough awkward questions.

Eventually all three learned to speak and speak well. One of them, it is said, was John Maclean, who went on to become one of the ablest agitators and socialist speakers in the business.

The point of the tale is that speaking is not something you are born to. It is something you can learn.

To assist in this IS will soon be publishing a guide on public speaking and the chairing of meetings. These notes have been put together by Mike Woods of Liverpool IS, with notes on chairmanship by IS national committee member Duncan Hallas.

Phil Evans has produced his own sharp comments on both the subjects to illustrate the publication, available soon from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## 30 WATCH FILM ABOUT STRIKE

MORE THAN 30 people came to a meeting organised by women in York IS branch, and watched a film in which miners' wives from the Rhondda talked about their lives and experiences in the 1926 strike. The conditions in the mines and the position of women didn't seem to have changed very much. The miners had found some pleasure during the strike from the jazz bands and the meetings, but the women had the cares of budgeting on a pittance to keep the home together.

After the film the meeting discussed how the problem created by housework and children's development would be dealt with in socialist society, and how to fight now for better conditions under capitalism. Several speakers stressed that Socialist Worker had a vital part to play in training more women for the fight for socialism. The paper needs more articles on women and by women.

York IS women's section plans more meetings like this one, using films to spark off discussion.

## Way ahead for students

NEARLY 40 IS members attended a meeting for IS students in the Yorkshire area last week. Chris Harman and Sheila McGregor, from the national committee, stressed the need for IS students to take their political activity in the colleges seriously.

Building IS Students Societies was the best way to ensure that socialist ideas were put across to large numbers of students. Such societies had to make socialist propaganda, sell Socialist Worker, and hold public meetings at least fortnightly. They had to argue the socialist position on a whole range

**YORK busman and IS member Mick O'Flanagan has found himself the target of a new and insidious way of attacking left-wing organisations.**

He has been charged with 'promoting' and 'causing' posters advertising meetings to be put up, although he was in no way involved in putting the posters up and police do not know who was.

This latest twist to the law follows York district IS publicity for two meetings in January, one in support of the miners and one at which Harry Wicks spoke on 'The lessons of the General Strike'.

Mick was visited by the police as he was setting out the room for the Harry Wicks meeting. He was informed that he was to be charged with promoting and causing posters to be put up on the sole basis that he had booked the rooms in which the

of issues.

Finally, they had to be at the forefront in agitating over issues which affected the broad mass of students. It was emphasised that it would be quite wrong to ignore such issues on the grounds that they might not be as important as the struggle of industrial workers. Socialists have a duty to show students their common interest with workers.

The meeting then discussed how to increase the effectiveness of IS work among students in the months ahead and resolved to put added effort into building the IS Societies.

meetings were to take place.

While the penalties for the offence are not very heavy, the case is of considerable significance because of the way the charges are framed.

In essence they are similar to the Shrewsbury prosecutions where building workers were prosecuted for conspiring to intimidate workers and not with actually intimidating anyone because police had no evidence to suggest this.

Mick has put his defence in the hands of a solicitor. Solicitors for the International Socialists have been looking into the matter with great care too since a successful prosecution would be a serious precedent. The court hearing is to take place on 9 April. The outcome will be reported in this paper.

Meanwhile Hull IS have also been receiving the attentions of the police for flyposting. Hull branch secretary Dave Wright has twice been visited by the police after the branch's poster campaign during the general election.

The police visits followed a complaint from the Tory election agent that IS posters had no printers' imprint.

But the police added another interesting twist to the law when they told Dave that he was being interviewed as branch secretary and he must give the names of other members of the IS district committee. This, he was told, was because the police considered that the decision to flypost was a collective one and the district committee could be held accountable.

Dave declined to give any names. But this was not to great avail since the policemen already had five names of Hull IS members, which he thought fitted the bill.

# Wanted: For 'causing' posters

Since the visits Dave has been telephoned by the police and told that a report has been made to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Should any charge be made, it will be vigorously defended.

## SCOTTISH SUCCESS STORY

A PROGRAMME of IS meetings in the West of Scotland on 'The Political Crisis and the way forward for socialists' got under way last week with six meetings.

The purpose of the meetings was to take account of the increased interest in general political questions over recent weeks and to argue hard and strong that the rank and file in the trade union movement must stand firm against any compromises with the employing class.

There were good meetings in Clydebank, Cumbernauld, Paisley and East Kilbride, where IS branches are established. In addition there was the first ever IS meeting in Shotts.

In Motherwell, the heart of the steel industry in the West of Scotland, the second ever IS meeting was held, which 15 people attended.

A steelworker from the massive Ravenscraig complex joined IS at the meeting. Indeed, new members were made at each meeting, among them a woman electrical engineer at Clydebank and a teacher at Paisley.

Last Friday night in Glasgow itself there was a dance and social held in the AUEW Hall. It was highly successful with well over 200 people. The dance raised £90 for local funds.

**LONDON IS Irish Forum:** Larkin and the Irish trade unions. Speaker: Paul O'Brien. Friday 29 March, 8pm, The Metropolitan, Farringdon Road, London WC2 (nearest tube Farringdon).

**PRESTON IS public meeting:** The way forward for militants. Speaker: Tommy Healey (AUEW deputy convenor, Standard-Triumph, Liverpool). Thursday 28 March, 8pm, The George Hotel, Church Street, Preston. All welcome.

**ILFORD AND DAGENHAM IS public meeting:** Socialism in our time. Speaker: John Palmer. Thursday 28 March, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Romford Road, Ilford Hill, Ilford.

**NORTH WEST LONDON IS half-day school for black IS members and Socialist Worker readers in North and North West London.** Saturday 23 March, 2.30pm, Devon Room, Anson Hall, Chichele Road, Cricklewood, London NW2. Programme: 2.30pm Introduction, 2.45pm Why immigration? Why imperialism? 3.10pm Films: 'Jamaica' and 'Immigrants' (ATV documentaries). 4.10pm tea. 4.30pm discussion groups. 5.20pm Report back and The Tasks for Socialists. Buses: 260 266, 32, 16, C11 (from Archway), 245, 226. Tube: Willesden Green (Bakerloo line). British Rail: Cricklewood Broadway (St Pancras line). Refreshments arranged.

**BIRMINGHAM AND WEST MIDLANDS aggregate meeting:** Sunday 7 April, 2.30pm. Speakers: Tony Cliff and Duncan Hallas. Place to be arranged. IS members only.

**HIGH PEAK IS public meeting:** Free the Shrewsbury pickets—hands off the unions! Speakers: John Llywarch ('conspiracy' trial defendant) and Glyn Carver. Sunday 24 March, 7.45pm, Railway Hotel, Bridge Street, Buxton.

**TWICKENHAM IS and NUT Rank and File joint meeting:** Comprehensive education in a class society. Speaker: Michael Duane. Wednesday 27 March, 8pm, The Cabbage Patch, 67 London Road (near Twickenham Station).

**RUBERY OWEN IS public meeting:** Trade unionists and politics. Speakers: Ray Rollason (AUEW district committee and convenor) and Tony Cliff (IS). Saturday 23 March, 12 noon, The Red Lion, Park Street, Walsall.

**DARTFORD and District IS public meeting:** The Labour government and the working class. Speaker: Fred Lindop (ATTI). Wednesday 27 March, 8pm, Committee Rooms, Crayford Town Hall, Crayford, Kent.

**DEAL IS public meeting:** The political crisis—the way forward for socialists. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Sunday 24 March, 7.30pm, The Mill Inn, Mill Hill, Deal. All welcome.

**GRAYS and TILBURY IS public meeting:** Can Labour bring socialism? Speaker: Dave Peers (IS national secretary). Thursday 28 March, 8pm, Thurrock Library.

**WIGAN District IS public meeting:** How to fight under Labour. Speaker: Jim Nichol (IS national treasurer). Wednesday 27 March, 8pm, The Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan. All welcome.

**WALTHAMSTOW IS public meeting:** What can we expect from Labour? Speaker: Margaret Renn. Thursday 28 March, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17.

**EDINBURGH District IS members meeting:** Sunday 24 March, 7.30pm, Room 7, Trades Council, 12 Picardy Place. All members must attend.

**MANCHESTER District IS social/disco:** Saturday 6 April, 8pm, Kings Arms, Bloom Street (off Chapel Street), Salford, Bar extension applied for.

**PRESTON IS public meeting:** The way forward for militants. Speaker: Tommy Healey (AUEW deputy convenor, Standard Triumph, Liverpool). Thursday 4 April, 8pm, The George Hotel, Church Street, Preston. All welcome.

**A SOCIALIST FORUM:** What road to socialism? Speakers include Joan Maynard (Labour Party national executive committee) and John Palmer (IS national committee) at the AUEW Hall, Borough Road, Middlesbrough on Friday 29 March, 7.30pm.

**NEXT THURSDAY!**  
North London public meeting organised by M-K Electric, Caxtons and North East London Buses industrial branches of IS  
Tony Cliff on  
**LENIN—AND THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' POWER TODAY**  
Thursday 28 March, 8pm  
The YWCA, 628 Tottenham High Road, London N17  
All socialists and trade unionists welcome

**CATCH A BUS TO THE RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE:** LT bus leaving Wandsworth Garage early Saturday for B'ham. £1 max fare. Ring Janet 75 3709 now for extra details and booking.

**ELECTRICIANS SPECIAL:** All supporters of the EEUPTU special issue please help by sending in payments for copies urgently. Send all money owed for sales of previous issues to SW EEUPTU Special, 3 Sheppey Road, Dagenham, Essex. Give number 317434004 for in-payment transfers at the post office.

**DESIGNER wanted urgently by SW (Litho).** Training and/or experience essential. Must be able to handle own artwork, etc. Write, with details, to Studio, SW (Litho) Printers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**ELECTROSTENCILS:** IS Books can cut your stencils for 75p. Send art work (black and white only please) and money in advance to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Excellent for all typing, and printing. Half-tones not guaranteed. State whether for Roneo or Gestetner duplicator.

**SOCIALIST WORKER needs help from IS students in London.** If you have mornings or afternoons free and/or a driving licence, please phone Margaret Renn immediately—01-739 2639.

# RANK AND FILE CONFERENCE

## Rousing the members to stop those cave-ins over salaries

*With just one week to go to the crucial conference called by several rank and file trade union papers, a leading militant in the National Union of Teachers describes how the influential teachers' paper Rank and File developed and what its role in the union is.*

RANK AND FILE started in early 1968. There had been years of union sell-outs on salaries. The overwhelming majority of the rank and file saw no hope and were apathetic, remaining in the union for 'insurance' purposes.

Some Wandsworth members, in total isolation, had carried the banner of left-wing militancy throughout the lean years. A happy marriage of these experienced members with a few inexperienced but enthusiastic union activists who were horrified by the moribund state of the union, gave birth to the paper.

It went straight to the heart of the problems frustrating and dividing teachers. It fought for a single salary scale to replace widening differentials. For democratic decision-making in schools, involving teachers and other school

workers, pupils and parents, to replace the total authority of the headmaster. It argued for smaller classes so that children could be better taught and teachers less harassed.

Other demands were: a contract of service, union democracy including the election of senior officials, and an end to the complete domination of the union by headmasters, local autonomy for strike action, union support for victimised teachers, time off for union representatives in schools to do their union work and unity with other workers for joint action against public sector discrimination.

All this required a major effort to rouse

and involve the members, and so force the union to get off its knees and fight on their behalf, instead of always giving in to the employers.

The first duplicated issue of the paper sold 400 copies, the second double that number. The third was printed and sold 1500, and the fourth 2500. There was a further rapid rise to 5000 in the run-up to the major NUT strikes of 1969-70. This was quite unheard of in the NUT. The maximum left-wing paper circulation had been 3000 of the Communist Party journal in the early 1960s, and half of these had gone abroad.

It became clear that the success of the paper cried out for an organisation to co-ordinate, transfer experience, decide policy and direct. A 'supporters' fee' was introduced and the elements of an organisation arose.

There are elected regional organisers who oversee the groups in their area, hold regional schools, training schools for group convenors and public meetings. The organisation as a whole has an annual conference which, for the first time this year, will be held on a delegate basis, and which elects a national executive committee. This meets monthly and appoints the editorial board of the paper. A delegate-based national committee meets twice a year.

### Prominent

The growth and effectiveness of Rank and File has worried and angered the union executive. It adopts all sorts of measures to hamper it. It tried unsuccessfully to take disciplinary measures against three prominent Wandsworth members who got a great deal of support from rank and file members during strikes last year.

This has necessitated a radical change in the nature of the paper, from a five-times-a-year journal with a few, expert contributors, to a monthly agitational paper able to react more quickly to events and fight battles more effectively. It has been singularly successful, doubling its circulation within a few months to about 10,000.

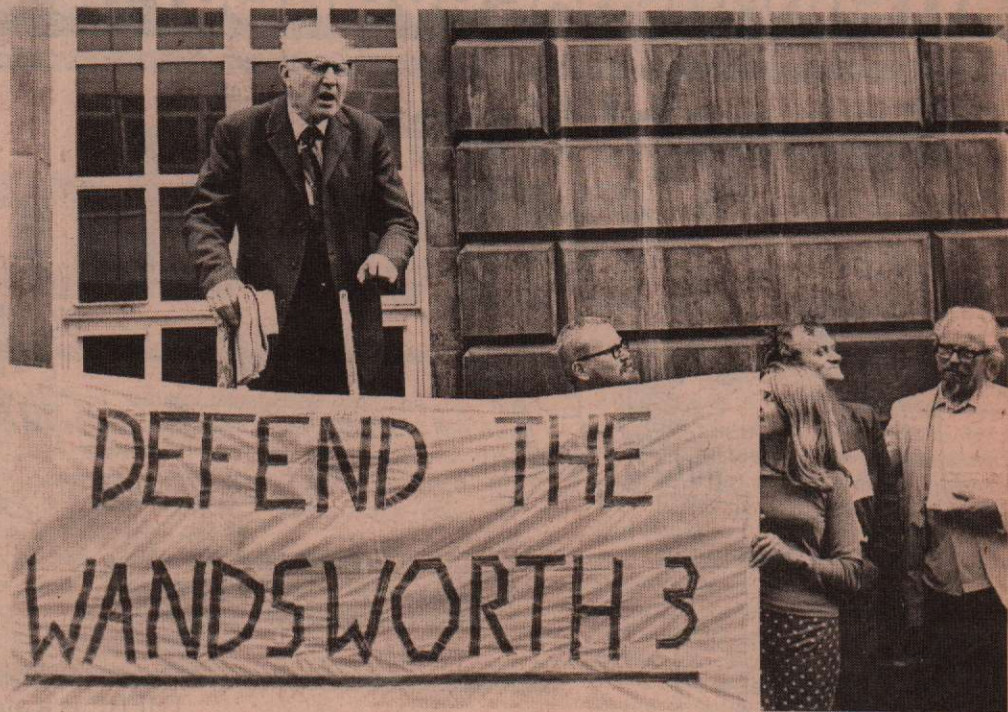
New Rank and File groups are springing up, six Rank and File members are standing for executive positions, and union positions in many towns are being won.

In local associations and schools, Rank and File ideas voice the aspirations of many thousands of teachers. The order of priority of conference motions is decided at members' meetings. This year Rank and File's salaries motion was voted top priority, getting 135,000 votes.

There is a gap between the widening influence of Rank and File's ideas and sales of the paper and the much slower growth of the more committed, sub-paying supporters. This is a cause for concern as it is the committed sub-payers who are the organisational skeleton carrying the whole structure.

Growth in this sphere is now a first priority. It will be a major theme of the Rank and File Conference taking place this weekend—a week before the rank and file papers' conference.

Chanie Rosenberg  
Hackney NUT secretary



A demonstration against the victims of the Wandsworth Three—one of Rank and File's recent activities

## Brothers on their way...

'ALL TRADE UNION leaders are bleeders'—this is the firm conviction of civil servant Ossie Lewis.

Ossie is the branch secretary of London North Central Civil and Public Services Association, Posts and Telecommunications section. He is also a member of the Posts and Telecomms executive committee.

'Every trade union leader I have trusted has sold out,' he says. Since being on the executive committee of

the P and T group he has personally witnessed one sell out after another.

'It's almost a full time job trying to keep abreast of the deviousness of the CPSA union leadership. Left individuals in executive positions such as myself are incapable of exerting sufficient pressure on the officials to obtain militant action over struggles such as the jailing of the Shrewsbury building workers.

'The pressure must come from

below, from the rank and file. I will be at the rank and file conference in Birmingham as a delegate from my branch.

'I welcome this conference because it will among other things help to promote a greater awareness among rank and file trade unionists of the traditional role of betrayal by our union leaders.

'I firmly support the civil service rank and file movement Redder Tape

## Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**URGENT:** IS comrade would like own room with IS members or others in North London area. Can afford only £5 per week. Phone 348 3881.

**SOCIALIST WOMAN Forum:** Jane Brown speaks on the Nottingham prices campaign. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Wednesday 27 March, 8pm.

**NALGO London Weighting Campaign Rank and File Demonstration:** Monday 25 March, 2pm, Islington Town Hall, London N1. 6pm: lobby of NALGO House for local government committee meeting.

**MEN'S LIB/MEN AGAINST SEXISM Conference:** weekend 6-7 April at Leeds Poly. For further information write to Men's Group, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.

**LONDON WORKERS' FIGHT public meeting:** Northern Ireland after the elections. Speaker: Sean Matgamna. Sunday 24 March, 8pm, Golden Lion, Britannia Street, Kings Cross, N1.

**ROOM, FLAT SHARE OR FLAT** needed in London. Phone Peter 01-733 5150.

**WORKING HOLIDAY** on small croft for person prepared to help with animals and bed and breakfasts. Pocket money and plenty of free time. Write Mrs McArthur, Drumnagowan, Glen Fincastle, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland, or ring Killecrankie 275 after 6pm.

**RED BOOKS**  
81a RENSHAW STREET, LIVERPOOL  
Revolutionary Literature: Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation. Tues-Fri, 12.30-3pm, Saturday 11am-4pm.

**FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS** in North Wales: within easy reach of the station, fishing, friendly pubs, pony trekking, frequent transport to the coast, bring your wellies... Six-berth self-contained caravan, all mod cons, £10 per week. Bed, breakfast, evening meal and packed lunch, £10.50 a week—reductions for children. Phone Chirk (069186) 2272.

**SOCIALIST GAY GROUP** has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches especially welcomed. Details from 18 Dickenson Road, London N8.

**CARTOONS:** From £1 for IS branches and rank and file papers. Send details to Phil Evans, 18 Windsor Road, St Andrews, Bristol. Phone 421956.

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY** aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racism, all war. Write for specimen socialist literature to 'One World (SW)', The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

**RANK AND FILE**  
London Teachers social and disco  
The Euston Tavern, 73 Euston Road, London NW1, Saturday 23 March, 8pm-midnight. Bar extension, snacks. All welcome in aid of R and F expansion fund. For tickets, price 30p, phone D Whiteley at 01-672 5982 (work) or 01-672 8842 (home).

## Subscribe Now!

I enclose £\_\_\_\_\_ for one year's/six months

Socialist Worker

(£4 for a year, £2 for six months, bulk orders available on request—post free.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Socialist Worker Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

## Why the International Socialists support the conference

by Andreas Nagliati

IS industrial organiser

THE RETURN of a Labour government has changed the whole political background to the Conference of rank and file trade union delegates meeting next Saturday. The defeat of the Tory 'bash the union brigade' is a real step forward for all trade unionists.

The Labour government's commitment to repeal the Industrial Relations Act, raise pensions, and abandon a statutory incomes policy is welcomed by militant trade unionists everywhere. They meet some of the demands in the resolution for conference circulated by the organising committee.

Yet the holding of the conference at this particular time is crucial. The election of a Labour government has not altered the basic economic reality of rapid inflation and high food prices. British industry is still struggling to survive in the international markets.

The ruling class will still attempt to solve its problems by cutting the living standards of workers.

The danger is that the leaders of the trade union movement will make all kinds of deals with the government which will sell their members short. A voluntary incomes policy will replace the statutory one. The Industrial Relations Act will be scrapped, and a more intelligent attack on shop floor organisation will be introduced.

Meanwhile some of the victims of the previous government's policies, such as the Shrewsbury jailed pickets, will be conveniently forgotten. After all, in a new climate of collaboration, to raise the question of their freedom might seem ungrateful and embarrassing.

The Rank and File Conference still has an important role to play. It must come unequivocally out against any form of wage restraint. If you needed a wage rise under the Tories to survive, you will need that same rise now.

The conference must reject any replacement for the Industrial Relations Act which still imposed restrictions on trade union rights. The conference could act as a powerful platform for the sponsorship of a Trade Unionist Charter or bill of rights, to replace the Act.

The conference must give strength to the campaign to free the Shrewsbury building workers. The Labour government must not be allowed to become the jailor for these brothers jailed under Heath.

If the conference faces up squarely to these challenges it will make a vital contribution to the labour movement. It is now up to the many delegates!

## Post Office union attacks conference

AN ATTACK on the Rank and File Conference appeared in the Union of Post Office Workers' Branch Officials Bulletin two weeks ago. It read:

123. UNAUTHORISED CIRCULAR: FIGHT THE EMPLOYERS' OFFENSIVE FOR UNITED TRADE UNION ACTION

Branches of the Union have drawn attention to the receipt of a circular with the above heading about a delegate Conference of trade unionists being held in Birmingham on Saturday, March 30, 1974. The Conference is being organised by the International Socialists (a Trotskyite organisation).

The Executive Council has already decided that our Branches should not become involved in the activities of these fringe groups which seek to use trade unionists for their own political ends and purposes. In connection, Branches are instructed not to appoint any delegates to attend the above Conference.

In reply, the conference organising committee secretary, Roger Cox, has written to UPW general secretary Tom Jackson:

Dear Brother,

My attention has been drawn to your publication 'Branch Officials Bulletin', Vol 12, No 9, 8 March 1974, Para 123, 'Unauthorised Circular', etc. where you instruct officers of your branches not to send delegates to our conference because this 'conference is organised by the International Socialists' and that 'The EC has already decided that our branches should not become involved with the activities of these fringe groups which seek to use trade unionists for their own political ends and purposes'.

While it is true that members of the

# FORD PHASE THREE DEAL BY OFFICIALS

THE full-time trade union officials have settled with Fords. 53,000 workers are to receive increases within the Tory Phase Three, after the Tories have been chased from office.

The whole claim has been notable for lack of positive leadership from the officials, and lack of democracy for the rank and file.

The settlement gives £2.60 on basic rates and includes a modest increase in the lay-off fund of £200,000 and 2½ days additional holiday. Ford workers will be financially worse off over the next

12 months.

The first condition conceded by the union officials was that the claim could be revived if Phase Three were abolished.

The settlement and the way trade union leaders rode the claim through is giving many Ford members a new insight into the whole union negotiating structure at the company.

The Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee is composed of members appointed by the

unions' national executives. The leading officials are Reg Birch for the AUEW, and Moss Evans for the TGWU.

The opinions of the five convenors on the committee are frequently ignored and they have no right to instruct the officials on behalf of the members. At a meeting several months ago between this committee and the Ford Joint Workers Committees in London, Moss Evans told the assembled stewards that they were only the 'barometer' of shop floor opinion and while the officials would listen, they would not be told what to do.

Moss Evans also ignores his own promises when convenient. He promised a reconvened national conference of the Joint Workers Committees to ratify the deal when a final offer was received. That meeting has now been refused.

Tony Barrow, deputy convenor at the Ford Leamington plant, told Socialist Worker: 'The officials have accepted a deal from Ford that not only plunges the workers on the shop floor to an all-time low for wages in the motor industry, but has bypassed even basic democracy. If there can be such a thing as a military junta in the trade union movement, then the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee are it.'

## DRASTIC

Ford trade unionists are already calling for drastic re-organisation of negotiating procedures. The demand is for a negotiating committee to include only the national convenors committee with national trade union officials available for advice, not decision making. Shop-floor workers will know who among them is best able to negotiate and elect accordingly.

This is a key settlement. Already Vauxhall has offered similar terms to its workers. The leading sections of the engineering industry are being misled into Phase Three settlement by trade union officialdom.

Loyalty to the Labour government and the failure of consistent leadership will cost Ford, Vauxhall and many other workers dear in 1974. The need for rank and file organisation, independent of the manoeuvres and pressures of the officials, is clear.

## Occupation stands firm

EASTLEIGH, Hampshire: The work occupation at Strachan's Engineering now entering its third week, determined and confident to save the jobs.

The pickets are organised in four eight-hour shifts to keep an eye on the million worth of vans, steel and p Giltspur, the parent company, is refusing to discuss re-opening the factory and there are no moves yet from possible buyers.

Ford, the plant's sole customer for vans, has received only 200 out of the 5 they have on order. The occupational trump card is the promise by Ford stewards at Southampton and Lang that any alternative firm supplying vans will be blacked.

by Socialist Worker reporter

## Yawning gap at Women's TUC

by Sandra Peers

SLAVERY was not abolished in Victorian times, a delegate told the TUC Women's Conference in Scarborough, last week Sylvia Greenwood, a Transport Workers Union delegate, said she had discovered this the day she and other women travelled in a cattle truck to pick potatoes for a 'jack-booted' farmer for £1 a day.

'I never felt so degraded in my life,' she told the 230 delegates. This emphasises how our fight is not only against low pay but against the continual insult and indignity of being a second-class person.

The problem with the Women's TUC is the gap between words and deeds. The resolutions, most written by union executives or full-time officials, have the right aims but do not say how we are to achieve them.

On the first day the conference agreed to launch a campaign on pensions—which discriminate against women because they live longer—and committed the TUC Women's Advisory Committee to continue to press for a law of equal opportunities and welfare laws to improve working laws to improve working conditions for both women and men.

## Schools

Another resolution called for the trade union movement to give priority to the fight for equal pay and against low pay. The TUC also was asked to press for nationwide support services for working women. This covers a wide range from maternity leave to nursery schools and should generate trade union activity at all levels if the TUC acts on it.

But none of these resolutions will be put into action without a movement of trade unionists to fight for them, while the Advisory Committee is still a few people at the top doing things on behalf of quiet and passive members.

The most encouraging feature of this year's conference was the growing number of delegates whose speeches showed they were trying to find ways of solving this problem, and the large numbers who referred to the need to 'get back to the grass roots'. There is a clear need and opportunity for the rank and file trade union papers and organisations to fill this void left by the official movement.



Demonstrators outside Twickenham rugby ground on Saturday before the England v Wales international match protesting against the British Lions' projected tour of South Africa. 'Don't play with apartheid', said the banners. John Taylor (left), a Lions and Wales international player who has refused to go to South Africa, addressed a meeting of the protest campaign.

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)

## ULTIMATUM FOR CAV WORKERS

by Katyn Tait

APEX staff representative, CAV, Acton WEST LONDON: Workers at CAV Acton, part of the Lucas combine, who are fighting to prevent 300 redundancies scheduled in May, have been given an ultimatum by the company. Their policy of non-co-operation and overtime ban cut production by more than two-thirds.

Most of the redundancies are to be in the offices and a mass meeting of members of the two unions affected, TASS and APEX, last week showed management they were not intimidated by victimisation attempts.

Management then called in union representatives and put its ultimatum: either there would be open confrontation, 'voluntary' redundancies being replaced by compulsory ones—or the unions must co-operate by ending the industrial action, help plan the redundancies, and decide how the increased work is to be redistributed.

Who do they think we are? We have a clear mandate from all the workers in the factory to fight redundancies by whatever means necessary. This is a ruthless management which threatened to close down the whole plant a few days before Christmas unless a sectional dispute was ended.

We must be prepared for other ruthless actions. They have long-term plans to close down parts of the factory and send the work elsewhere. They can only do it if we let them, and we can begin now to show them we don't intend to let this happen.

International Socialists are active in organising and as delegates to the conference, the same applies to members of the Labour and Communist Parties, as well as other individuals who belong to no political organisation. What we want to take the EC to task over is the strong and completely distorting picture you give that our conference is undemocratic and manipulated.

The conference has been called by a number of serious rank-and-file papers, supported by growing numbers in several unions. Some of them put up candidates for union elections on the platform of the rank-and-file group and have got members elected to the ECs of a number of unions on this basis.

The conference is made up of elected delegates from branches, shop stewards committees and district trade union organisations. A resolution has been presented to delegating organisations for amending and improving. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the problems facing rank and file trade unionists and what is needed to strengthen the trade union movement to be victorious over its real enemies.

Lastly, we object to your statement because it attempts to smear delegates to our conference who are honest, hard-working members of the movement whose devotion, day in, day out, makes our movement possible.

Yours fraternally,

Roger Cox, Secretary, Organising Committee.



I would like information/join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

**Winklers  
get out!  
demand  
tenants**

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## Express hatchet falls on 1900 jobs



NORTH LONDON: 'They taught us everything we know. We should use the same methods on them!' The words come from an angry picket outside an Islington estate agency. Tenants' and squatters' groups have joined in the Islington Tenants Crusade against the notorious activities of local property speculators and estate agencies.

Fifteen years ago Islington was a working-class suburb. Since then rocketing property values and the 'desirability' of the area have pushed the local people

out. Methods such as 'winkling'—where tenants are harassed and frightened out of their homes, have made fortunes for the land dealers.

Last Saturday a march through Islington past the estate agencies ended with a meeting on Islington Green. One agency under attack Prebbles, hit back on Monday with hand-delivered threats of libel action against tenants who have spoken out against the racketeering.

But the campaigners are not being deterred. Tenants have pointed out the role of the local council, who

have left property empty for years while families go homeless, the role of the Church Commissioners—who have interests in local property—and the role of Tory MP Edward Du Cann, chairman of Keyser Ullmann, the merchant bankers who own the notorious property dealers Swordheath Properties.

The Islington Tenants Crusade hope to establish links with all the local tenants organisations, and to work with similar groups in other parts of London.

PICTURE: Mike Cohen.

MILLIONAIRE publisher Sir Max Aitken is determined to throw 1,942 workers out of a job by closing the Scottish Daily Express, the Scottish Sunday Express and the Glasgow Evening Citizen.

The announcement on Monday, only days after his hatchet man Jocelyn Stevens, had said there were no imminent plans for closures, was one of the most devastating blows ever to hit the newspaper industry in Scotland. The loss of so many jobs in a specialised trade leaves slim hope for many of news jobs.

The news left the workers too stunned and demoralised to think at first about fighting back and forcing Sir Max to use his millions or the property assets he was boasting about in letters to the press last week. Attempts to save the papers have so far centred on approaches to other millionaire press barons such as Sir Hugh Fraser or Lord Thomson.

Within hours of the announcement, Beaverbrook management were haggling over terms—in spite of the £6 million Sir Max could make by selling the Express Albion Street office to Strathclyde University. Many of the staff have worked for the Express all their lives.

### Poison

The right-wing, anti-union and often racist editorial line of the Daily Express was repellent to most working-class people in Scotland. But—for all the poison they spread—the loss to the community of the closure of the three papers should not be underestimated. As well as the loss of jobs, wages in the rest of the industry are likely to be forced down.

Beaverbrook Newspapers has set out to undermine the will to fight by offering slightly higher redundancy payments if the workers will go quietly and 'work normally' until the closure is completed.

Beaverbrook employees in London and Manchester have been told that 'any obstruction' on their part will mean more closures and more jobs under the axe.

This blackmail must be resisted. The Express group, hit by rising newsprint costs and a slump in advertising, may be in a cash crisis. But they will soon be raking in the spoils from investments in North Sea oil, commercial radio—including Capital Radio in London, and property speculation at least in Bristol and Shoe Lane, London, if they don't get away with it in Glasgow.

The Labour government, in its present delicate position, can be pushed to step in and help preserve all jobs. But they and the Beaverbrook press barons will only move if forced by a serious fight, such as an occupation against any redundancies, and for work or full pay, with full support from Manchester and London.

### Lucas threatens a big cutback

THE Lucas combine is again threatening jobs in its electrical components factories at Birmingham, Burnley and Cannock. There has been no cut in orders and the company still requires the same output.

Stewards from the factory in Birmingham believe that the company is trying to solve the problems created by the three-day week at the expense of the workers.

On Friday the BW3 joint shop stewards committee at the Shaftmoor Lane factory, Birmingham, agreed a policy of: No redundancy; Immediate overtime ban; No mobility of labour; No subcontract workers; No coverage on jobs where people leave and are not replaced.

On Monday, the stewards committee at the King Street factory supported this and started an immediate overtime ban.

### Women on strike

COVENTRY:—Women at Raglan Street GEC factory have been on strike for two weeks because management, hiding behind the excuse of a cut in Post Office spending, is trying to move 190 women's jobs to GEC's Treforest factory, near Swansea. They are hoping to have the work re-timed at a lower rate.

Women's earnings at Raglan Street are the highest in GEC, Coventry, and management have made several attempts in the past to push them down.

The strike could have national repercussions. The shake-up at Raglan Street is only a small part of the planned reorganisation of the GEC Telecommunications division. 10,000-15,000 redundancies are rumoured to be in the pipeline.

# 5500 STRIKERS HIT BY UNION BETRAYAL

by Dave Turner  
**DUNDEE:—**The 5500 workers at the three Timex factories returned to work on Monday after a three-week strike in which they had defied the Phase Three pay laws and the threat of closure only to be stabbed in the back by their own union.

This was the first ever united strike by the whole Timex workforce and it shook the management severely.

Wage rates at Timex are £6 to £7 a week below those at other engineering factories in Dundee. Basic rates include £27 for toolmakers, £21 for labourers and £19.11 for women production workers. Two-thirds of the workforce are women and management has been able to exploit sex, craft and shop differences to take on one section at a time and beat them.

When the auto shop went on strike three years ago, the entire shop were sacked.

But this year they were presented with a united claim for £10 across-the-board. Their 'final' offer was £2.50 plus 85p on the bonus for women and another £1.50 for tradesmen.

The offer was rejected by every single shop and the entire workforce walked out.

Throughout the strike the women were the most militant. 'I didn't have a chance

to make a recommendation to my members,' said a woman steward, 'they were out the door as soon as they heard the management offer.'

Management refused to talk to the strike committee. In the second week they announced they were going to sack 1800 workers if there was no immediate return to work.

At a mass meeting 4000 workers voted to continue the strike, calling the management's bluff. The following day the closure threat was withdrawn.

But at this point the Engineering Union's national leadership made a scandalous intervention on the side of the management. In a letter read out at the mass meeting, John Boyd, AUEW executive member for Scotland, informed the strikers that their strike was 'unofficial' and 'in breach of procedure' and urged a return. This was ignored.

### SUCCESSFUL

But last week AUEW district secretary John Brown and district organiser Tom Gray, both Communist Party members, met the Timex shop stewards and gave them a directive from the national executive council that the strike must cease. The directive was designed to get the Labour government off the hook, since a successful strike would have smashed Phase Three.

A majority of stewards still opposed this and, the next mass meeting was brought forward to Friday. Beforehand

the stewards were again met by officials and instructed not to make any recommendation to their members.

The meeting, again attended by 4000 workers, was heated and angry women denounced the officials as scabs. After two hours John Brown put the vote for a return to work and announced it carried on a show of hands.

'Statements in the press that it had been carried by two-thirds are completely false,' a steward told Socialist Worker. 'It was extremely close, and there should have been a count.'

'The management would have cracked

## Sit-in ends as ITT backs down

GLASGOW:—The 13-week occupation at Maclaren Controls, part of the ITT giant, has ended. It is only a partial victory, for the settlement is vague and the dispute certainly not over yet.

The occupation started after management used non-union labour to move machines out of the factory while the 300 workers were striking for higher pay. Maclarens then sacked all the workers and announced the factory was closed.

The wage claim is won in full. The factory is to be reopened. Every shop steward is to be reinstated. But the number of workers to get back their jobs is still being negotiated.

Convenor John Morrison is hopeful that all who want their jobs back will get them, but there is still the danger the stewards will be split from the workers. Until all are back at work the stewards wages are going into the strike fund.

ITT was forced to retreat by the determination of the workers to take the fight outside the factory walls. The steps taken towards an ITT shop stewards

combine committee were crucial. Said John Morrison: 'Solidarity action from other sections of ITT in Britain was on the cards. This was a big factor in forcing ITT's hand.'

The winning of official Engineering Union support for the occupation, after more than 300 shop stewards from local factories pledged their support for the Maclarens workers was also crucial. Official blacking instructions for Maclarens products and supplies were sent out.

Said John Morrison: 'This dispute proves that workers in even small units of multi-national corporations can win through and defend their union organisation if they are determined enough. This combine committee should have happened a long time ago.'

'I hope this paper is read by ITT workers. If it has not already happened they should get their factories into the combine committee.'

To contact the combine committee, phone John Morrison at 041-429 2191.

## WE DON'T SELL OMO

WE CARRY a lot of advertising in Socialist Worker—so does the Fleet Street press.

But there's a big difference. The big national dailies will advertise anything—at a price. We look at things differently. Ninety per cent of our adverts are free and they're not there to sell you soap suds. They inform readers about socialist meetings, socialist books—so that you can change the world, not the colour of your washing.

So we don't get the big money from Omo—we rely on you, the readers. An old age pensioner from Hove sends us 75p

every month. We need that money, and we're grateful. Can you do the same?

This week we received £863.77, bringing the March fighting fund total to £1919.39.

Donations collected by IS branches from readers, supporters and members this week include: Stirling £7, Rugby £10, Edinburgh a further £55, Partington £28, Manchester District £5, Wigston £9, Basildon £4, Chelmsford £18, Wandsworth £68, Thames Poly SW Readers £3, Leeds £10, Fakenham £5, Walthamstow again £29, Rochdale £17, Portsmouth £6.25, Paddington £131.

### ADVERTISEMENT

**For united trade union action  
Fight the employers' offensive!**

National Rank and File Conference of delegates from trade union bodies to be held on 30 March at 11.30am at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham.

This Conference is sponsored by the following rank and file papers: GEC Rank 'N' File, The Hospital Worker, The Carworker, The Steelworker, London Transport Platform, The Collier, NALGO Action News, Post Office Worker, Rank and File Teacher, Tech Teacher, Case Con, Redder Tape.

This advertisement has been paid for by the Organising Committee. For a letter of invitation to be brought to the attention of your trades union branch/shop stewards' committee/trades council/district committee, write to Roger Cox, Secretary, Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

TU Body: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an invitation to the conference. (Return this form to the Organising Committee Secretary at the above address)