

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

WHOSE CRISIS?



'We're all in the same boat, chaps, how about a glass of champers?' Left to right, Harry Hyams, Ronnie Hoare, Pamela Cory and Don Shead (cigarettes by Wills, champagne by Bollinger).

'SOOPER!', screeched Mrs Pamela Cory, wife of a boss of Wills, the cigarette firm.

Embassy, a racing boat sponsored by Wills, had just won last Sunday's Daily Express power boat race and Mrs Wills was celebrating with a double-magnum of vintage champagne along with the rest of the 'crew', Harry Hyams, Ronnie Hoare and Don Shead.

Yes, Harry Hyams, the property tycoon whose firm Oldham Estates employs about six people and has run him up a fortune of about £50 million, largely by buying and selling office blocks.

EMPTY

His most profitable venture yet is Centre Point, a 31-storey block in central London, which has been empty since it was built nine years ago.

Harry met Ronnie several years ago when he bought a Ferrari. (He's got four other cars, but when you live in a £300,000 house in Wiltshire you just can't make do with three.) Ronnie is chairman of a firm which fights for free competition and which holds the exclusive rights to import Ferraris into Britain.

When Harry bought his car, he said to Ronnie: 'Why don't we buy a boat, (he's already got a yacht, which he bought from Lady Docker for £290,000—but he wanted a racing boat).

So they bought a racing boat for £30,000

Harry and Ronnie and Pamela and Don are all devoted patriots. They believe in making sacrifices in this the nation's hour of need.

They believe we must all tighten our belts to preserve society as we know it. And so they are all hoping that the Labour government's £6 wage-freeze will succeed.

That wage freeze, said Prime Minister Harold Wilson in a television broadcast last week, are designed to cut down unemployment.

Workers all over Britain, especially young workers, are beginning to understand what the old hypocrite really means.

In every town and region, he means higher unemployment than many young workers can remember.

PROFIT

Unemployment will go on growing because of the policies of the Labour government, because of Healey's Budget, because of Crosland's cuts, because of Wilson's wage control, because of the pathetic paralysis of Michael Foot, the Minister for Unemployment.

This government is running the economy like every Labour government before it, not for the people who elected it but for profit.

They are running it for the right of the few to grow wealthy out of other people's labour.

For the right of Harry Hyams and Ronnie Hoare and Pamela Cory to sail about in yachts worth £290,000, to buy cars at £10,000 each, cigars at £25 for 20, champagne at £1 a sip and to spend more in a summer afternoon's frolic on the water than most trade unionists earn in half a lifetime.



NO JOB TODAY: Young, unemployed workers queue in hopelessness in Teesside

Picture: John Surrcock (Report)

ON-THE-SPOT REPORT: Back Page

Portugal's workers need your solidarity



REVOLUTIONARY workers and soldiers in Portugal are fighting to defend and extend the revolution.

Last Wednesday a massive workers' demonstration was held in Lisbon. 150,000 workers and soldiers marched through the streets shouting NO TO FASCISM! NO TO CAPITALISM! FOR A POPULAR OFFENSIVE!

On Monday, a new united front of revolutionaries, left-wing socialists and the Communist Party

and related organisations was formed to fight back against the right-wing offensive of the past few weeks.

These huge outbursts of popular power go almost unreported in the British press. The press barons and their supporters in the boardrooms of British industry want to sustain their influence and wealth in Portugal—and are using all their power to restore Portugal to fascism.

International solidarity with the Portuguese masses and their revolution is crucial.

The Portuguese Workers' Coordinating Committee have called a demonstration in London for 20 September. Your trade union branch and shop stewards' committee must be represented with banners.

YOU MUST BE THERE.

Victory to the Portuguese working class!

All out on 20 September!

March from Charing Cross Embankment, London, 2pm

Every IS branch to mobilise maximum support

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LAW AND ORDER...

Court orders Lairds pickets to stay away

MAGISTRATES in Birkenhead have thought up a new scheme for eroding the right to picket. Eleven building workers arrested outside the Cammell Lairds site have been granted bail, on condition they don't go within half a mile of the picket line.

They haven't been tried yet, so they haven't been found guilty. But the courts are taking any opportunity to get at pickets.

Meanwhile, in Newcastle, ten building workers arrested on the picket line at Eldon Square are coming up for trial on Monday.

Trial

Eleven of the Birkenhead pickets have been charged with assault, obstructing the police, threatening behaviour and behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. The charges can be changed at any time before the trial, which is set for 7 October.

The magistrate's decision to grant bail to the 11, on condition they keep away from their strike has never been used before in cases like this, according to the National Council for Civil Liberties.

It is now possible for police to arrest the leaders of a strike, for the trial date to be set several months away, and for the magistrates to direct that the strike leaders cannot go within half a mile of the strike.

Delegates to next week's TUC Congress should attempt to raise this latest assault on the right to picket.

They will also need to raise support for the ten Newcastle pickets. They were arrested as part of a concerted effort to break a strike by scaffolders which stopped every building site in the city.

The strike began when McAlpines, who were also at the centre of the Shrewsbury pickets' case, sacked 14 active trade unionists on their Eldon Square site.

As other scaffolders in Newcastle joined the picket line, the arrests were made to drive the other sites back to work.

The ten have been charged with threatening behaviour, and behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. There is also one charge of assaulting a police officer.

MASS PICKET

Assemble 9am outside Eldon Square on the Haymarket, Newcastle, on Monday 1 September, to march to the Crown Courts.

Meeting at the Bridge Hotel, 8pm, Sunday 31 August.

The only reason the charges are not more serious still is because of the sustained campaign by local trade unionists in Tyneside in support of the ten. Prison sentences are possible.

Jim Murray, convenor of Vickers Engineering in Tyneside and a member of a local Defence Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The arrest and charging of the Eldon Square pickets represents a further attack on the right to picket successfully.'

'It also represents the determination of McAlpines to resist attempts to have full trade union organisation on their sites. Regrettably, co-operation in these aims has come from the state and sections of the trade union movement.'

The Transport and General Union 8/124 scaffolders branch has called a mass picket outside the court on the first day of the trial.

Together with the defence committee of local trade unionists, they have called upon all branches and shop stewards' committees to send delegations.

Shrewsbury picket Ricky Tomlinson, just released from jail, has urged all trade unionists to support the picket.

He will be speaking at a meeting organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee, the defence committee and the scaffolders' branch committee in Newcastle.



Peaceful pickets—and violent police: 11 pickets have so far been arrested at Cammell Lairds, Birkenhead



Belfast—British troops keeping the peace last week

IRELAND: CIVIL WAR THREAT

THE ULTRA-RIGHT Protestant group in Northern Ireland last week brought all-out civil war a step nearer with their announcement that they will blockade Army camps, as well as launch attacks on Catholic areas, if the Labour government does not concede their demands within three weeks.

They spelled this out at a meeting on Friday with the Junior Minister for Northern Ireland, Stan Orme. Two days later, the Ulster Volunteer Force in Armagh rammed the message home with the murder of two Catholics.

The double murder was a virtual replay of the Miami Showband killings three weeks ago. The victims were waved down at a checkpoint by men wearing British Army-style uniforms.

By Eamonn McCann

The Loyalists want the government to 'take the Army off the leash' and allow it to bludgeon the Catholic population into acceptance of permanent second-class citizenship. In their meetings with Ministers and in their 'military' activities they are saying: 'If the Army doesn't do it, we ourselves will.'

The Loyalists' confidence is greatly increased by the knowledge that many Army officers are secretly, and even semi-publicly, on their side. Claims that they have actually recruited Army personnel can no longer be dismissed as idle boasting. One of the men charged with the Miami killings is a British soldier, a serving member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

As the government steadily backs off in the face of their pressure, the Loyalists have every reason to believe that their voice, which every day strikes a more authentically fascist note, will be listened to when the Convention collapses.

That is why they are especially active at the moment as talks aimed at saving the Convention reach deadlock.

The precise political motivation for these activities was made so clear in a UVF statement last Monday that no-one can ever again dismiss what is happening in Northern Ireland as religious faction fighting, not really relevant to working-class struggle.

Listing the organisations which would be regarded as targets in the event of 'war', the UVF included not only Republican groups but the Civil Rights Association, the Communist Party—and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

The struggle in Northern Ireland may be a preliminary to similar battles soon to be fought in Britain. And the side which wins in Northern Ireland will be the stronger for its victory.

For that reason, if for no other, British socialists must continue to put the Irish question at the centre of their activities.

Help make us 'deplorable'

PETER WILSHER, business editor of the Sunday Times no less, commented last week that among those papers excluded from the government's advertising programme for the £6 wage freeze was 'that highly inflammatory sheet, Socialist Worker'.

He then reprinted much of Socialist Worker's front page ridiculing the government's ad.

This, said Wilsher, was 'good knockabout stuff, in its deeply deplorable way, but the important thing is that this is precisely the way that many people think...'

He's right. Many people do think the wage freeze is a lot of nonsense. Our job is to make more people think like that.

But Wilsher's wrong if he thinks we're complaining about not getting the government's ad. We wouldn't

print it anyway.

We're not in business to make propaganda for Wilson's craven government, even if they offer to pay us for it.

The government are going to hand out about £2 million to the newspaper and television tycoons to push their rotten lies about the wage freeze.

Crucial

That's a little bit more than the £6000 we need for crucial typesetting equipment to help Socialist Worker and the rank and file papers putting the case against the freeze.

We need that £6000 urgently. We're not getting it from advertisers or the government—we must get it from you, our readers.

has brought a great response. You've sent us **£845.53**

Keep it up. Improve it. We must have that equipment by the autumn.

A Woolwich member sent £100, a member from North London £150, a Lancashire member £500. A cheque for 100 dollars means another £48.

Other donations include:

Bristol IS £1; Central London Civil Service IS £10; Cardiff IS £6.52; Pontefract IS £5; reader £5; Cottons Gardens small change collection £1.30; SW reader, Liverpool £6; SW reader, Heinton, Lancs £2; SW reader London NW3 £5; SW reader Burry Port £5.

We have to find £6000 by the end of October. Each IS branch and district should think of ways to help raise the money. Send it to IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



Davis 'fit up' —a grand old CID hobby...

By Micky Fenn

IT MAY seem unbelievable that a man could get 20 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit and that he had, to use the East End term, 'been fitted up by the CID'.

I hope readers of Socialist Worker are not naive enough to think this doesn't happen—and happen a lot—in London, where the police seem to feel it's custom and practice to fit up people. Criminals look upon it as an occupational hazard.

It's been going on for years and only when the police go too strong, as in the case of Detective Inspector Challinor, who was dismissed from the

force and committed to a mental hospital for fitting up two people with carrying offensive weapons (half bricks) on a 1963 demonstration, do the public realise or hear about these quaint old customs of British law.

Men have been hanged after fit-ups—Timothy Evans and James Hanratty are two of the most famous—and men are doing long sentences all over Britain, ten, 15 and 20 years, down to fit-ups.

George Davis would have been just another of those doing bird, but for a campaign that his family and friends in the East End have mounted to free him.

He got 20 years for armed robbery, after only five people out of 38 could pick him out on an identity parade.

Surprise, surprise, the five who picked him out were all police officers.

Slogans

Of more than 200 pieces of forensic evidence, not one could be traced to George Davis.

The East End has been covered for months with Free George Davis slogans. They were painted on top of gasometers, railway bridges, and on the pavements outside the underground stations.

They made Socialist Worker Says No To A Bosses Europe look amateurish—but still no results. They had marches on Downing Street, drove cars at the gates of Buckingham Palace and at the main doors of the Daily Express building.

But what really put them in the news was making a few holes in a cricket pitch.

Forget about people like George Davis rotting in Albany prison and the others like him, the game must go on. A reporter in the Daily Express compared digging up holes in the Headingley Test Pitch with the massacre of Munich.

Holes

Michael Aspel, the respectable disc jockey, said that he would like to cut holes in the people responsible.

What should be of concern to readers of Socialist Worker is that when the political situation in Britain deteriorates it will be members of IS who will be getting the fit-ups.

And disc-jockeys and journalists, as they like to term themselves, will state in the press and on the radio that it was necessary to lock up terrorists in the defence of freedom, democracy and cricket.

UNEMPLOYMENT

THE OTHER week, a patient died while waiting for admission to a hospital in Bournemouth.

'It was very regrettable,' said the spokesman for the hospital board, 'but we simply do not have enough beds'.

Really, continued the spokesman, another hospital was needed but 'in this time of economic stringency' that was out of the question.

There are 135,000 building workers out of a job. There is a mountain of unsold bricks. So why not use some of the unemployed building workers and a slice of the brick mountain to build the much-needed hospital?

NOW

What better time to do it than now, when there are vast amounts of unused men and materials?

Come to think of it why not expand social services of all kinds, abolish homelessness, bad housing, inadequate health and educational provision and so on, by employing some of the one and a quarter million unemployed on the necessary work?

Jobs could be created, not just in building, but across the board, by this means. Why doesn't the 'Labour government' do it?

The short and truthful answer is that the Labour government does not do it, indeed does the opposite by cutting spending on social services, because it is committed to the system of production for profit.

This system, which they hypocritically call 'the mixed economy' and whose proper name is capitalism, requires vast resources to be wasted in the interests of maintaining the profits of the few.

CUT

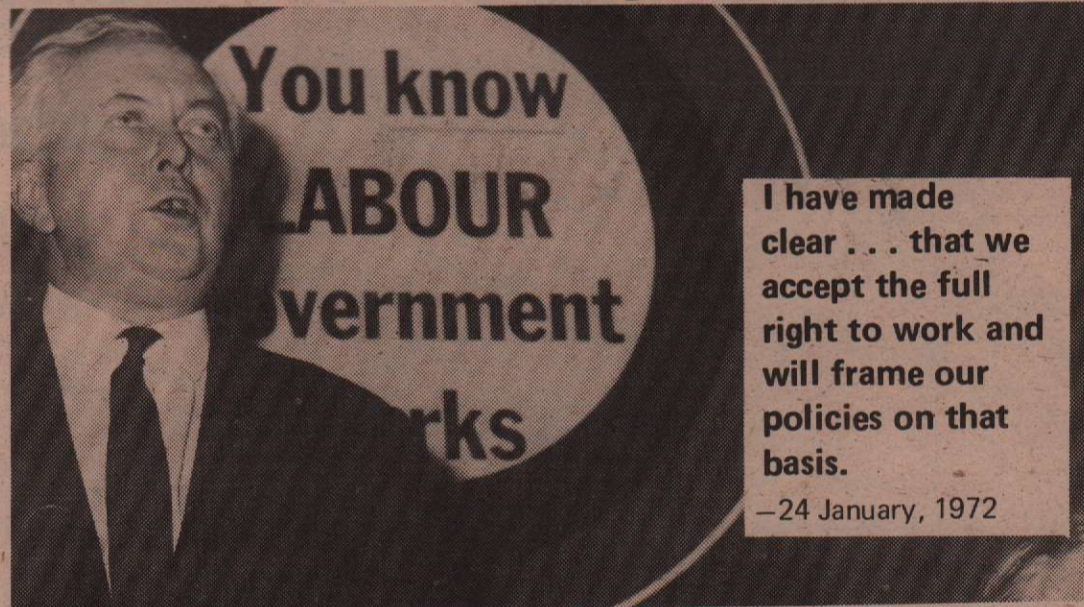
We must cut public spending, say all the tame 'experts' who pontificate on TV, radio or in the press, so as to 'make industry more competitive'.

We must cut real wages, boost unemployment and run down welfare so that British industry can become more profitable.

The supporters of capitalism in other countries sing the same song.

'The West German government has decided on sweeping cuts in public spending,' reports the Guardian (25 August), 'the axe will fall mainly on the

The greatest insanity of an insane system



I have made clear . . . that we accept the full right to work and will frame our policies on that basis.

—24 January, 1972

public service . . . Other economies are to be made in transport, hospitals where charges have been rocketing, the health service in general and social benefits.'

There are a million unemployed in West Germany and the government, backed by 'social-democrat' Helmut Schmidt, is doing its bit to increase that number in the interests of 'making industry more competitive'.

HOW

At the last count there were more than 15 million unemployed in the United States, Japan and the Common Market countries—and the numbers are rising.

Why? Because we have a world recession. Why? Because too many goods are being produced. There is 'overcapacity' in the steel industry, the car industry and so on.

Why is there 'overcapacity'? The World Bank's current annual report estimates that there are 650 million people in the world today whose income is £24 a year or less. That is not a misprint, £24 a year.

'Another 100 million people are only marginally better-off,' it adds. Hundreds of millions of people in the most desperate need on the one hand, idle men and idle machines on the other.

It is not profitable to produce for the poor. They are in need but there is no profit in it.

That is the capitalist system. That is the consequence of production for profit.

That is what Harold Wilson urges everyone to support by 'giving a year to Britain' by which he means you allow your real pay to be cut so that we can have still higher unemployment.

There is, of course, not the slightest necessity for any involuntary unemployment at all—if production was organised to meet people's needs.

Production for need, and not for profit, would banish unemployment and rapidly reduce poverty and inequality.

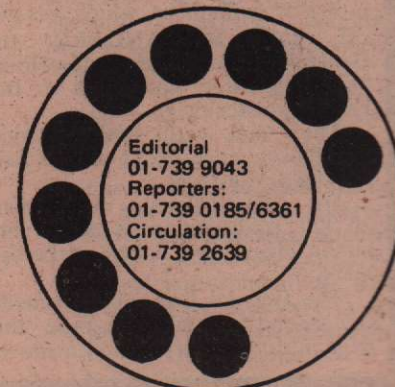
If, eventually, too much was being produced then hours would be cut all round—without any reduction in living standards. That is the socialist system, the only rational system.

WHY

Before there can be a rational and humane organisation of society, a mass socialist movement must be built and the power of the working class used to overthrow the capitalist order. But how?

The immediate step in the fight against unemployment and in the fight for socialism is to wreck the government's fraudulent 'anti-inflation' policy—the policy of creating mass unemployment—and to destroy the influence of its supporters inside the working class movement.

Anyone who pretends to be a socialist and does not exert every effort to defeat this policy to preserve poverty in the midst of plenty is a fool or a fake.



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On the eve of the Trades Union Congress two reminders of the

SHREWSBURY: THE GREAT

CAN YOU remember what you were doing on 20 December 1973? Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones can. They were disappearing into jail.

Six hundred and eighteen days later, Des Warren is still there, the last remaining victim of the Shrewsbury pickets trial—and an enduring reminder of the TUC's impotence.

The three men were inside for more than two months before the TUC General Council, the so-called general staff of the working class, did anything about this grave attack on trade unionism.

By then, Labour had won the election—so the TUC moved into 'action'. They wrote a letter to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins. It was to be the first of many.

WROTE

On 26 APRIL, the General Council wrote to the Home Secretary again. This time they asked him 'to give further consideration to ways in which he might ease the men's position if their sentences and convictions are confirmed on appeal.'

On 3 JUNE, at the height of the government's efforts to get the TUC to operate the Social Contract as a form of wage restraint, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were released on bail, pending appeal.

This was scheduled for October, after the TUC Congress and the Labour Party Conference.

On 12 JUNE, the Home Secretary replied to the General Council, saying once again he couldn't do anything. This time the excuse was that the appeals were waiting to be heard. Six days later, McKinsie Jones was released from prison after serving his sentence.

In SEPTEMBER, the TUC passed a resolution which began by stating:

'Congress demands that every step be taken under existing legal provisions to ensure that no building worker tried at Shrewsbury be held in gaol any longer ...'

SMITH

Moving the motion, construction workers' general secretary George Smith stated:

'The first part of the motion demands that Congress state categorically that all possible means at the disposal of the Trades Union Congress will be fully utilised to ensure that under no circumstances are Warren and Tomlinson returned to jail.'

On 29 OCTOBER, after the TUC had recorded its empty words on Shrewsbury and after it had endorsed the Social Contract, Warren and Tomlinson went back to prison after their appeals were turned down.

On 30 OCTOBER Len Murray again wrote to the Home Secretary, asking him to secure the release of the two and enclosing a copy of the TUC resolution.

Between 5 NOVEMBER and the lobby of parliament, which was put off until 14 JANUARY, the General Council wrote to the Home Secretary three times and to the Prime Minister twice.

They met with Jenkins twice and Wilson once. None of this had the slightest effect.

On 14 January, more than 20,000 trade unionists took part in the biggest-ever lobby of Parliament.

The General Council then made its second attempt to raise the issue inside the trade union move-



Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

ment. Len Murray wrote an article for the Sunday Mirror on the case. This was issued as a leaflet.

150,000 were printed and sold to trade union bodies at £6 for 1,000. They sold out, so great was the pressure from rank and file trade unionists for information.

In FEBRUARY and MARCH, pressure from branches and shop stewards' committees led to discussions about strike action. UCATT asked the General Council to consider calling a one-day stoppage.

LACK

The TGWU called for a one-day protest stoppage. ACTT went through all this verbal camouflage and called for a 24-hour general strike.

But the General Council met the Home Secretary yet again with the same lack of result. They decided not to call a strike because 'both men would become eligible for

parole in May and (they) did not want to do anything to prejudice this.'

Inevitably, after this climbdown, parole was turned down on 8 MAY for both pickets.

There was to be one more meeting with the Home Secretary, who again refused to do anything. Then, on 26 JULY, Ricky Tomlinson was released on parole.

Because the government and its Tory predecessors have been allowed to get away with the imprisonment of the Shrewsbury pickets, there are now trials of building workers for picketing the Eldon Square site in Newcastle and Cammell Lairds in Birkenhead.

They face serious charges—and possible imprisonment. And the TUC, having opened the way for such prosecutions, will no doubt respond by visiting Roy Jenkins.

PETER CLARK

GREAT

WHAT

THE TUC is supposed to be the 'general staff of Labour', uniting and leading the whole movement in defence of working class interests.

The 107th Congress at Blackpool is being recommended by the General Council to do the opposite.

The General Council proposes 'continued commitment to the policy of the social contract and to its development'.

And everybody knows this will be adopted.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Under the social con-trick, we now have one and a quarter million unemployed and the figure is rising fast.

The General Council's Supple-

mentary Report comments, 'in some respects the economic situation has improved substantially since March 1974 and it is right to draw attention to these improvements.'

Incredible? There it is, in black and white, on page 12.

PAY: The government's latest figures show prices rising faster than earnings *even before tax*.

Real pay is falling, consumption is falling and so still more unemployment is being created.

TRIKES: The scandal the TUC could so easily have ended

By MARGARET RENN

IT COULD BE SAID, in defence of the TUC, that Shrewsbury is, after all, a difficult issue. But on this and every other question, the TUC seek the respectable way, which means consistently shunning the immense power at their elbow: workers' industrial muscle. Nothing shows the impotence of that approach more clearly than the trikes scandal.

Trikes—invalid tricycles—are noisy and slow, they tip over in high winds, they roll over on imbalanced roads. They are single-seater, so there is no passenger to help out in the event of an accident. There is no spare wheel.

Last week, the driver of an invalid tricycle took out a High Court writ against the Department of Health over injuries received when a trike blew over in a high wind.

A few days before, a special report from the Ombudsman showed that drivers of invalid tricycles are nine times more likely to be injured than any other car driver, and five times more likely to be injured than a disabled driver in a specially-adapted four wheel car.

For years, there have been complaints about the vehicles' safety record, and yet more than 21,000 of them are being driven around by people less

able to cope with a dangerous vehicle than most of us. Trikes are issued only to those disabled who have no legs, who cannot walk because of serious muscular or nervous disease, or who can only walk a few yards but need transport to get to work.

A trike driver who has an accident is obviously unable to go for help.

A few drivers have specially adapted cars. They include the war disabled, a distinction justifiably resented.

Cars

For years, drivers have campaigned for trikes to be replaced by cars. In 1974, the Sharp Report into the mobility of the disabled condemned them.

By 1973, trikes were costing the government more than the supply of adapted cars.

And yet there is a simple answer to this scandal: replace the 21,649 dangerous trikes by 21,649 safer Minis.

It is a scandal on which the TUC has passed endless resolutions—and never once sought to win the active support of thousands of workers.

But that, like Shrewsbury, is another scandal. The scandal of the TUC itself ...

15 years of

IN 1971 Tom Parker, a blind man who devotes his life to the National League of the Blind and Disabled, spoke at the Trades Union Congress. He said:

'This is a small price to pay for ending the loneliness of the most lonely drivers in this country. I hope therefore that the General Council will apply all the pressure it can to end this discrimination against the people who are disabled.'

His motion was formally seconded. He was applauded. The delegates moved on to next business. And the General Council was left to carry on as before.

It was the fifth time in ten years that they had discussed the question.

In 1961, the General Council report on vehicles for the industrially disabled concluded: 'The General Council have asked the Minister to receive a deputation.'

Then in 1962 they said: 'The General Council are giving consideration to the question of further re-

THE 'OLD HANDS' KNOW, FROM LONG EXPERIENCE, THAT IT IS MORE OF AN 'OUTING' THAN A GATHERING FOR

impotence of the General Council...

TUC'S BETRAYAL



WE THINK

The General Council comments, 'there should be a universal application of the figure of £6 per week.'

'The TUC will oppose any settlement in excess of this figure... The twelve month interval between major-pay increases must continue to apply.'

In plain words, accept cuts in your real pay.

SOCIAL SERVICE CUTS: The government is forcing cuts in health, housing, education and welfare.

The General Council comments: 'maintain and develop the social contract as the fundamental basis of continuing unity between the trade union movement and the Labour Government.'

Unite to cut the social wage! There will be opposition to these reactionary policies from a few union leaders.

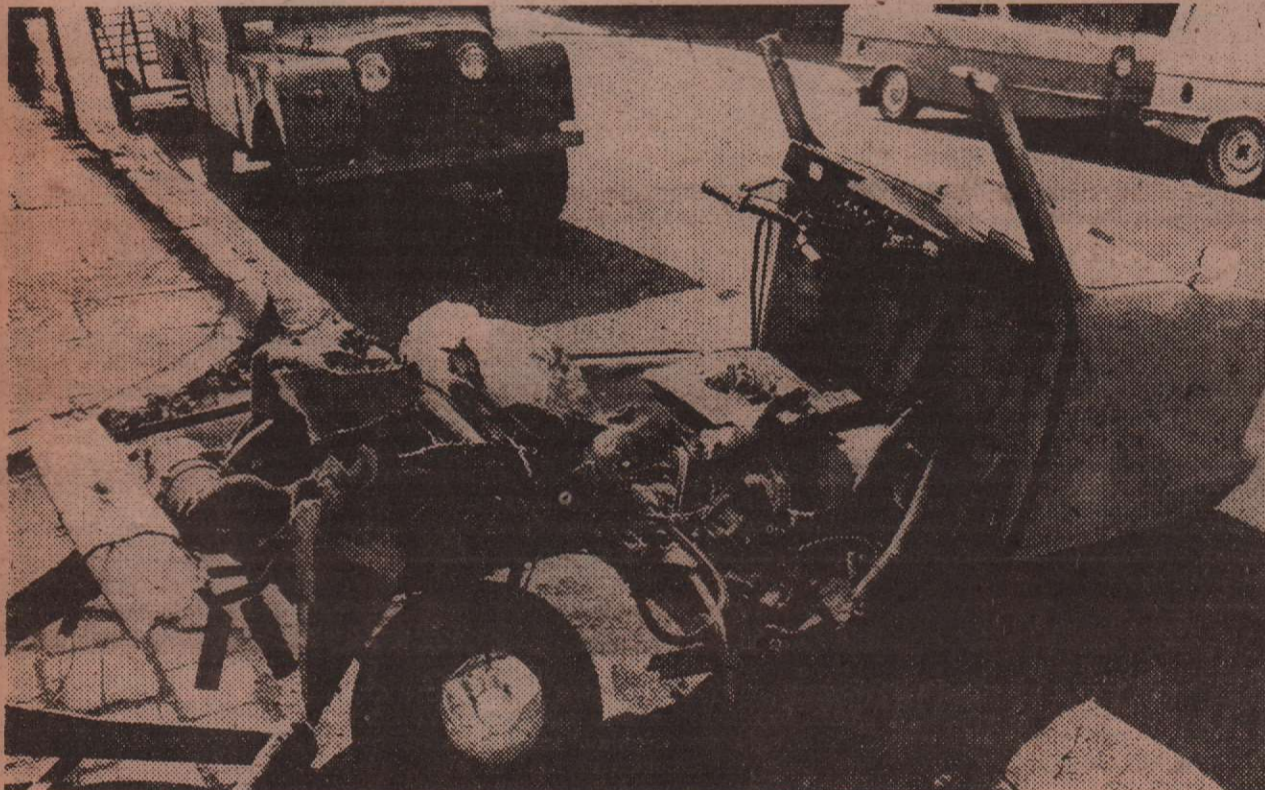
The AUEW delegation may even screw up its courage to do what it

failed miserably to do at Brighton last year—vote against the social con-trick.

But it won't go beyond the odd speech and vote. The 'left' leaders have not the slightest intention of making any real fight against the disastrous stampede to the right in TUC policy.

The only way to stop the rot is to build a powerful rank and file movement, fighting in deeds as well as words, for militant policies in defence of working class interests and for democratic control of the union by the members.

BUILD THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT.



The remains of a crashed trike; the first trike was an engine fitted onto a bath chair in 1921—and it's not much safer now...

resolution—mongering...

representatives on these general issues in the light of their review.'

In 1965, it was the same again. 'Renewed efforts have been made to secure provision of motor cars.' And they concluded:

'The General Council have informed the Minister of Health of their disappointment at this reply, and have asked him to meet their representatives again.'

Wish

By 1966, the Minister of Health was in turn repeating his assurances that the question would be reviewed. And the General Council had 'informed the Minister that they wish to meet him when the proposed review takes place.'

In 1971, they listened politely to Tom Parker, and carried a motion which called upon 'the General Council to make representations to Her Majesty's Government.'

In 1974, they could report that 'the General Council have drawn attention to the need for more Government resources... They are

also pressing for trade union representation on the independent review committee.'

In other words, the TUC has done nothing. In 15 years, their singular achievement has been to avoid using one ounce of the industrial strength at their disposal.

Why is the TUC incapable of doing anything? After all, the amount of money involved is trifling, and the issue is one that would arouse the sympathy of every trade unionist.

But the union leaders of the TUC want to influence and shape national policy, and they want to look after their own futures. So they resort to resolutions and lobbying, hoping that they will be listened to, without having to fight.

Fighting for disabled drivers to have safe cars doesn't keep you in with the government. And there is no similar concern about keeping in with the members.

If the trade union leaders had so much as flexed the movement's muscles, the cars would have been provided 15 years ago.

Socialist Worker

FIGHT THE £6 FREEZE!

TUC Congress
Socialist Worker
Public Meeting

Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and Vincent Flynn (former general secretary, SOGAT).

Monday 1 September, 7pm,
Kings Arms, Blackpool.

Beatrice Webb on
the 1915 TUC

Portugal: We can't afford to sit and wait

BY JOHN DEASON
(just back from Portugal)

WORKERS, soldiers and sailors demonstrated in their thousands in Lisbon last week in support of a workers' socialist society based on elected councils.

Meanwhile, in the north, attacks were again taking place on Communist Party offices. Thus does the fate of Portuguese society hang in the balance.

The 'captains' revolution can either be broken by the forces of reaction or the workers can seize full state power.

In Lisbon and the south, arming the class, control of production and how best to organise the workers' revolutionary councils, are the subjects of everyday chat.

Much of industry has been forcibly nationalised. Everywhere workers' factory commissions control production or are so strong that management are effectively unable to operate.

Sacked

Known fascists and distrusted managers have been sacked. Remaining managers and executives have been subjected to wage cuts by the rank and file.

But the increased control of individual factories is frustrated by the lack of overall control of the economy and the state. Encouraged by the People/Arms Forces Movement programme, more and more workers see the only solution in terms of genuine socialism governed by a system of workers' councils.

As yet, the development of these revolutionary councils and the arming of rank and file workers is only beginning. This is understandable while so many workers still have illusions in the existing army, and especially in COPCON, the security forces, delivering workers' power.

But in the revolutionary ferment in Portugal today, ideas change within days.

Cloak

The right wing, meanwhile, is not idly standing by. Those that represent the interests of monopoly capital, and the same fascists who served capital so well under Salazar, now move behind the respectable cloak of Soares' Socialist Party.

'The reaction', as it's termed in Portugal, seeks to isolate Lisbon politically and economically before the final onslaught on workers' self-organisation.

Thus Soares scuttles around Europe soliciting support from social democrats like Harold Wilson, while 'coincidentally' the trade embargo on Portugal is tightened.

The fascists are behind the anti-Communist Party attacks in the north. But there is a genuine opposition to the Communist Party.

The Party, having moved in and taken over the local municipalities, are now seen by the peasants as the new local bosses responsible for falling living standards.

Within industry, the CP took over the old fascist unions and opposed many strikes, so alienating much working class sympathy.

Their unpopularity in the army is a result of similar manoeuvring: intriguing among the officer corps, plots and counter-plots.

The anti-CP hysteria can become a threat to the whole



On the alert: many workers still think the existing army can deliver socialism for them.

working class. It is providing a rallying point for the forces of reaction. Thankfully, thousands of rank and file CPers see through their leaders' machinations—witness their support for the revolutionaries' demonstration in Lisbon last week.

But the confidence of the right is growing. For the moment, it shadow boxes and assesses its support within the forces, while all the time whipping up anti-Communist feeling that can easily become anti-working class.

And so international solidarity must become more than a pious sentiment. Portugal's economic deterioration is being hastened by trade boycotts. Already the British Labour government has slapped an embargo on Portuguese textiles.

Credit

Much of Portuguese industry is dominated by British based multinationals—ICI, GEC, IIT, B. Leyland, Plesseys, Gardners, Lucas. Supplies dwindle, spares are withheld and credit refused.

The Lisbon bus garage has to cannibalise old buses, and even forge and cast its own spares. It needs parts from Leylands, Gardners, Lucas and CAV.

Such combines are threatening British workers with the dole because of lack of work, while at the same time they are preventing work for Portugal.

The TINCO (part of ICI) commission told us how British ICI now demands cash in advance—a practice unheard of in normal trading within a combine.

In this country, the National Rank and File Movement must initiate links between shop stewards' committees here and the workers' commissions in the same combine or industry in Portugal.

We should insist on doing the work for Portugal and ensure its delivery, checking against managerial sabotage with shop steward inspections.

Off

The NRFM should seek to raise collections for, and recognition of, the developing revolutionary councils.

A genuine Hands Off Portugal Campaign must rely on workers' organisations here supporting workers' self-government in Portugal—if necessary, independently of the Labour government and the TUC.

The key to international solidarity is not to sit and wait until civil war breaks out.

We must begin now sowing the lessons of Portugal, establishing rank and file links between workers' organisations, supporting the revolutionary councils, and most important of all, winning workers everywhere to the notion that there is an alternative to the anarchy of capitalism.

A revolution is beginning to blossom in Portugal.

It will be crushed if we allow it to become isolated.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM by DUNCAN HALLAS

'THE traditional capitalist system is breaking down under accelerating inflation,' claims an article by Richard Fletcher in the current Bulletin of the Institute of Workers' Control.

'Trade unionists are no longer prepared to be exploited for low wages while industry is organised for private profit.'

Would that it were so. Certainly, capitalism is in deep trouble. But it has been in deep trouble before. It will never 'break down' like a worn-out engine. Capitalism is not a machine, it is a system of organising people in society and it can be ended only by breaking up this system and replacing it by a different one. This needs *political* action, it needs a revolution.

Or does it? The IWC article has a different answer. It proposes an expansion of workers' co-operation—with government aid. We are warned that 'workers' co-operation—unlike liberal co-ownership schemes—offers no soft option, accepting that the 'present class basis of society must be ended'.

Indeed it 'will require the transformation of all large scale industry, the commanding heights of the economy, to a socially responsible form of organisation under the democratic control of working

Socialism-while we wait...

people.'

And how is this splendid transformation to be brought about? Mr Fletcher does not dodge the question. Three things, he says, are needed.

First, 'there must be demands for such changes from the shop floor'.

Second, 'advisory services should be set up—either by the trade union and co-operative movement or the state—to assist any group of workers wishing to set up a co-operative'.

Steps

Third, 'the government must take positive steps to create conditions favourable to industrial co-operation, firstly by the provision of capital, and secondly by amending company laws so that companies can be converted into co-operatives'.

Thus the lion is to lie down with the lamb. The capitalist state is to preside over the liquidation of 'the present class basis of society' and the co-operative commonwealth is

to arise like the New Jerusalem—except that no divine intervention is needed, only some capital, some advisory centres, and a change in the company laws!

It would be ungenerous to criticise too harshly the great utopian socialists who developed these or similar notions in the infancy of industrial capitalism, a century and a half or so ago.

Robert Owen and Charles Fourier were products of their time. But it is a bit staggering to find such a scheme solemnly proposed in 1975. The thought did cross my mind that Mr Fletcher was pulling our legs. But apparently not.

'Traditionally the working class in Britain has turned to co-operation as a form of self-help at times of economic crisis,' says Fletcher and he is talking about what used to be called 'producer co-operatives', not the retail shop. With what result?

Mr Fletcher does not flinch from unpleasant facts. Many worker co-operatives were established in the last century he admits, 'but most had collapsed by the end of the

century, when about 100 remained.

'Today only about 20 of these earlier workers' co-ops survive.'

How do these stand in relation to 'the commanding heights of the economy' which are to be co-operatised?

'Probably the most successful producers' co-op is Equity Shoes of Leicester which has 200 employers... Hardly impressive as a form of self-help for workers when 1,250,000 workers are unemployed and not exactly a commanding height of the economy either.

Few

'Why have so few producer co-ops survived?' asks Richard Fletcher. 'Largely because this form of co-operation was not able to accumulate capital as easily or as rapidly as aggressive entrepreneurial capitalism... The economic weakness of the producers' co-ops were largely a function of their position in the historic time scale, that under present economic conditions—the decline of the free market economy

under accelerating inflation—their outlook could be very different'.

On the contrary, the environment of capitalism in crisis is much tougher, the big firms more ruthless, the difficulties of maintaining socialist or co-operative clearings in the capitalist jungle much greater. And this is the key fact.

Hardly anyone will nowadays be persuaded that setting up worker co-operatives is the road to socialism. In that respect Mr Fletcher is a harmless eccentric.

What is not at all harmless is the proposal that this form of 'self-help' is the way to fight closures. The workers' co-operative, in these circumstances, means a weakening of trade union resistance to redundancies, the reduction of manning levels and voluntary wage control.

It weakens other workers and, in the end, it can only operate by the workers concerned driving down their own standards—or going broke.

That is what happened in the nineteenth century and it is sad but true that it is the fate of NVT-Meriden, Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering and Scottish Daily News.

The fallacy is that society can be transformed without transforming the power structure, without a planned economy. It cannot.



Dead 'of the age we live in...'

LAST week the government's 'anti-inflation policy hit the newspapers. On TV Harold Wilson did another of his Churchill/Lloyd George impersonations, and in the newspapers a rather grey advert was splashed over full pages.

Publicity for this campaign originates from the Special Information Unit. This is situated in St James Square in the heart of London's proletarian Mayfair.

The unit is headed by the Daily Mirror's industrial editor, Geoffrey Goodman. Mr Goodman is on leave from that paper. His connection with the campaign underlines the solidarity of that paper, and its owners, the International Publishing Corporation, with Harold Wilson's Labour government.

IPC is the largest publishing company in the world. Its last chairman, Sir Don Ryder, recently produced the report on British Leyland. In happier times George Brown used to receive a £500 annual 'advisory' fee from IPC.

Now it is upon Goodman's shoulders that the selling of the campaign rests. He is assisted in this by Lord Jacobson, who as Sidney Jacobson was the editor of the Sun.

Fee

Do you remember that paper? No, not the sex plus football daily of 1975, but the new style, abrasive 'born of the age we live in' paper of 1963. It was this, the prototype lame duck, that was sold to Australian Rupert Murdoch in the late 1960s.

The Sun was to be the spirit of the new age of Harold Wilson's first government. Goodman was another man who helped launch, and saw sink, that venture.

How appropriate then that Goodman and Jacobson ('he comes in a few days a week and lends a hand,' said a spokesman) should preside over this, the latest and greatest of Wilsonian ducks.

Not content with the services of Goodman and Co an advertising agency have been hired to sell the wage freeze and poverty to us all. This is Boase Massimi and Pollitt. They are responsible for the production of last week's advertisements.

It's a complicated process putting

the campaign together,' explained Martin Boase of the agency. 'We are in a total process as advertising consultants. It is just the same as selling instant mashed potatoes or beer.'

'But you shouldn't talk to us about it. The unit are obsessed with us not talking to the press.'

The campaign has cost £100,000 up to now. Advertising papers have suggested a likely total budget of £2 million.

And if the campaign meets with any success it should lead to a plummeting sales for instant potatoes, and beer...

FIVE Barcelona newspapers were closed for a day the other week. All because of subteranean erotic life.

That was the title of an article by journalist Jose Maria Muertas of 'Tele-Express' a local paper. He's been in jug for the last two months.

His crime? He suggested that certain local clip-joints had been owned by widows of Army officers. This constituted a 'slander against the armed forces.'

COMING OVER FUNNY

LAST week's Daily Telegraph reported a sad tale. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board went down the Tilmantstone pit in Kent to 'reproach miners for not working hard enough.'

Unfortunately he was overcome by the heat, and had to suspend his morale boosting speech. 'Temperatures in the deep Kent mines often reach the 80s,' reports the paper. 'Many of the miners work in just shorts, boots and helmets.'

It is hoped that other captains of industry won't be deterred by this unfortunate incident. Sir Monty Finniston could give a lecture on the cut-backs in British Steel from within an Ebbw Vale blast furnace. Doubtless the workers there would give him a real Welsh welcome.

Richard Marsh might volunteer to be tied to a welded railway line to demonstrate the stopping power of the new high speed train. It has long been argued that many of the problems of British industry are due to a 'breakdown in communications'. The death of a few of the communicators would doubtless be regarded by them as a small price to pay for improved productivity in these troubled times.



At last! Housing crisis solved!

THERE are 4500 families on South Tyneside waiting for council homes—but Peter McGurk's family isn't one of them.

McGurk is the £8000 a year Housing Director for South Tyneside council.

For 19 months he has lived with his wife in a newly built block of council flats at Westmoreland Court, Hebburn. He was given the flat by South Tyneside Council's steering committee in January 1974 when he was appointed the youngest housing manager in Britain. He is 27.

Current council policy for key workers is that council employees with a salary scale under AP5 (£3825 to £4095) get key workers homes for the duration of their council job. Those over AP5 are allowed key workers' homes for six months only. In that time they are expected to sort out their own housing arrangements.

This policy was decided ten months ago—nine months after McGurk took over the handling of South Tyneside's housing problems.

McGurk obviously thinks this new ruling does not apply to him. His starting salary with South Tyneside Council was £6921. Since then local government increases have bumped his earnings over the £8000 mark.

His reason for not moving out of his council flat was that he couldn't sell his home in Coventry—where he worked as the town's Assistant Director of Housing Management.

He had to wait for the cash from the sale to buy a home on Tyneside and, he said, 'I've only just sold my house.' He would not say which month he sold it, which is not surprising. Inquiries reveal that he sold his detached house in Wood Lane, Shilton, a village outside Coventry, to a family called King... LAST DECEMBER.

It had been on the market for about £18,000 but he was forced to sell it for less.

When this was pointed out to McGurk he admitted he sold his house last Christmas. But he said he would be leaving the council flat on 29 August because that was the day the house he was having built in Whitely Bay—a seaside town outside of his council district—would be finished. Completion delays had prevented him moving sooner, he said.

But has McGurk's own housing committee ever considered evicting their housing chief? Councillor Don Dixon, committee chairman admitted no pressure had been put on McGurk to get him out of the much needed council flat. The matter had never been discussed in or out of committee, he said.

'But I suppose it is right he should move out as soon as possible' said the Labour councillor. 'He can obviously afford to.'

AFTER Fifth Column's story on the ill-fated exposure of Newham's Labour Party's Tony Kelly, we have been sent, anonymously, a charming wedding photograph. We cannot identify either guest in the picture. Perhaps our anonymous contributor could be more forthcoming...

Why the Greek junta were reprimanded

THE GREEK government met on Monday to consider whether the death sentences on three of the leaders of the 1967 military coup should be carried out. Predictably, the decision was in favour of a reprieve.

The reluctance to carry through the sentences bears some relation to Premier Karamanlis's long involvement with the Greek right, which set the stage for the coup.

But, more importantly, considerable pressure against the execution has been applied by the officer class in the Greek army.

Two weeks ago, 14 junior officers were court-martialled and jailed on the interesting charge of 'plotting to force the government to grant the Junta an amnesty.'

The trial of the top eight defendants which culminated in last Friday's death sentences against George Papadopoulos, Nikolaos Mikateos and Stylianos Pattakos, was itself held in exceptionally secure surroundings with all demonstrations banned.

And when the hour of the judgement approached, the armed forces were conveniently ordered to stage manoeuvres in the far north of the country, a sign from the government that the death sentences would be commuted.

But it is not just the strength of feeling in the Greek Army which has brought succour to the colonels.

Doubtless, massive international pressure has been brought to bear on the Karamanlis Government, pressure from the Central Intelligence Agency, which still funds the Greek Army secret service, and from NATO, whose military planners unquestionably assisted the engineering of the 1967 coup.

Giving evidence in the recent trial, Andreas Papandreou—leader of the Greek Socialist Party—insisted that NATO and the CIA were deeply involved in preparing the coup. So, he added, was King Constantine and a host of other members of the Greek establishment.

Avoid

Furthermore, added Papandreou, if the colonels hadn't staged the coup, the colonels would have.

But the present conservative government has gone to enormous lengths to avoid these issues being raised in the trials. So, just as the trial of Lieutenant Calley for atrocities in Vietnam involved no indictments against the real criminals, the Greek colonels' trial has been carefully stage-managed.

Aside from protecting the reputations of numerous businessmen, politicians and senior army officers, the government ordered that the 'foreign factor' was outside the scope of the trial. It was apparently not in the 'national interest' that such matters should be probed in depth.

The purpose of the operation was to disguise the depth of NATO involvement in the military coup.

This involvement extended far beyond American military police academies training Greek officers in the latest techniques of torture and bestiality.

Such details are being disclosed daily in the parallel trial of 31 ESA (Greek military police) officers for torturing political prisoners.

In February 1967, several months before the coup, Papadopoulos—who became the top man

They got

away with

MURDER...



Papadopoulos... and, below, his gang of murderers being tried in Athens



Gregory Lambrakis the left-wing MP dying after being clubbed in the street by fascist thugs in 1963. His murder was the basis for the film Z.

after it—was given the job of updating Prometheus, the NATO military coup plan for Greece. To update it, he merely put it into practice.

NATO, incidentally, has plans for military coups in each member country, and doubtless others besides.

The consequences of this NATO decision must have been known to the NATO supreme commanders. For they had a long and close association with Papadopoulos.

As far back as 1957, there were attempts to remove Papadopoulos from the Greek Army because of his right wing extremist views. These attempts were foiled by the direct intervention of the NATO high command, who wanted to ensure the survival and promotion of those officers they favoured and whose politics were 'reliable'—that is,

extreme right wing.

This deep involvement continues even after the fall of the Junta, something the Karamanlis government is determined to conceal, not only by pretending there is no politics in the army, but by rigging the trial.

Reasons for concealment go beyond Greece. If the trials disclosed that NATO had masterminded the coup, it would be much more difficult for NATO to operate in Portugal.

Trial

Furthermore, it would be impossible to pretend that the aim of any NATO operation in Portugal had anything to do with democracy.

Nevertheless, the Karamanlis government has at least been compelled to stage a trial of the Colonels,

which indicates the strength of popular feeling.

The fact that the death sentences are not being imposed shows that the army is pressing its claims

This of course will encourage the next generation of 'Colonels', just as Papadopoulos and Company were encouraged by the joke punishment handed out to the perpetrators of the failed 1951 coup in Greece.

The Karamanlis government of so-called national unity shows no such restraint when it comes to attacking and killing workers as it did in Athens last month.

Such assaults are probably also carefully detailed in various NATO manuals, which the Greek ruling class and Greek military leaders are still free to consult even though they have temporarily withdrawn from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

CYPRUS: THE BIG CARVE-UP BEGINS

THE THIRD round of Vienna talks on Cyprus has produced the beginnings of an agreement of no benefit at all to Greek or Turkish Cypriot workers, but of immense benefit to imperialism and reaction.

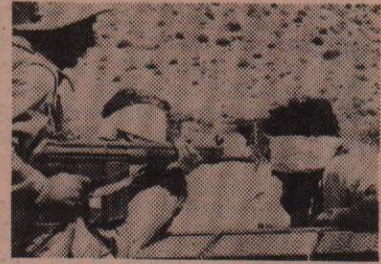
Representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities, meeting under the so-called guidance of the United Nations, agreed that Turkish Cypriots should be moved from their homes in the south to the area held by the Turkish army in the north.

This is a first step towards the carve-up of the island into two zones.

In the Greek Cypriot community, the political parties of the extreme right condemned the agreement in the hope of gaining some credibility among the refugees, who are most affected by it.

SOLVE

The Unity Party, the party of the bosses in the Greek community, naturally supported the agreement. They want to 'solve' the problem as quickly as possible so they can get back to business as usual.



A gun to his head: Greek Cypriot refugees are the most affected by the agreement

AKEL, the Communist Party, also supported it. Once again, the reason was that a quick solution must be obtained. Furthermore, claimed AKEL, this carve-up was the 'best deal we could get from our enemies.'

EDEK, the Socialist Party condemned the deal but resolved that it would give no practical expression to an anti-government act.

Various Cypriot student organisations decided, however, to issue leaflets condemning the impending carve-up, calling for workers and refugees to organise against it.

They also staged a picket in the centre of Nicosia. On the first morning, this was 30 strong. But in the afternoons, the numbers were swollen by people only too eager to listen.

On the third day of the picket, a particularly large crowd gathered. This turned into a spontaneous demonstration, with up to 1200 refugees and workers on the march.

In all, 18,000 leaflets calling for an independent working class initiative against the carve-up were given out—a development of considerable importance.

AS ONE JUNTA DISAPPEARS, ANOTHER PREPARES TO CELEBRATE...

CHILE - TWO YEARS OF TORTURE

11 SEPTEMBER marks the second anniversary of the military coup in Chile.

It marks two years of suffering and deprivation for the Chilean people. Death, torture and imprisonment without trial have become commonplace for thousands of Chilean workers.

There is also rising unemployment, massive inflation and near starvation. But the anniversary also marks two years of resistance.

Aided by international solidarity, the organisations of the Chilean working class have not only survived the repression but have reformed

underground and begun to fight back.

It is imperative for this solidarity to be increased. The Chile Solidarity Campaign urges maximum support to make September a month of solidarity with Chile. Its programme is:

4 SEPTEMBER—TUC meeting 6pm. Windsor Bar, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Speakers: John Forester (AUEW TASS), Alec Kitson (TGWU). Chairman: George Anthony (AUEW).

During the week before 11 SEPTEMBER, there will be three vigils at the Chilean embassy in Devonshire Street, London W1 from 12-15pm—1.45pm.

On 8 SEPTEMBER the vigil theme is Stop the repression in culture and education. On 10 SEPTEMBER, the theme is Stop the repression of women and children, and on 11 SEPTEMBER, Stop the military rule in Chile.

On 11 SEPTEMBER, Madame Allende will address a Labour Party rally on Chile at the Central Hall, Westminster at 7.30pm.

Tickets are 20p from Transport House, or the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

30 SEPTEMBER: The Chilean folk musicians—Quilapayun, Inti-Illimani, and Isobel Parra—will be appearing at the Albert Hall.



The torment of Chile

Two faces of the

ONE OF the first decisions which had to be taken by the new Labour leadership of Derbyshire County Council in 1973 was the replacement of the old telephone exchange system.

A 'working party' of four council officers was set up. It was headed by Neil Ashcroft, deputy county secretary, a 36-year-old 'whizz kid' who wanted to put Derbyshire on the map.

The working party did not consult any experts on telephone technology. They did not put the contract out to tender. They did not even ask the Post Office to recommend the best new system available.

Cost

Instead, they consulted three companies with three different telephone systems—Ericsson's, Standard Telephones and Cables, and IBM.

The cost of the different systems was: Ericsson's £200,000: STC £256,000: IBM £327,000.

The Committee recommended to a council steering committee that they buy the IBM system. They produced a set of figures which, their report admitted, 'are open to question but are nevertheless put forward as a means of evaluating one system as against another'.

One councillor on the steering committee opposed the recommendation. Peter Jackson, formerly Labour MP for Derbyshire High Peak, moved that the council should ask the Post Office for their specifications and put the contract out to general tender.

Peter Jackson told Socialist Worker: 'I was not happy about the report. I felt it was a sales pitch for IBM. The standard procedure in these matters had not been gone through.'

'All I asked for was some negotiation with the Post Office—and a general tender'. But Jackson could not get a seconder for his motion. The committee voted for the IBM system, and installation work started soon afterwards.

IBM's interest did not stop with the contract. They wanted Derbyshire County Council to help sell their system all over the country.

Influence

So, from the moment the new system came into service—in September 1974, five months later than promised—IBM executives used all their influence to ensure maximum co-operation from Derbyshire officials and councillors.

In March 1974, a party of nine councillors and officers, including the Labour leader of the council, Peter Regan, went on a weekend



Charlie Bunting outside his council house: former housing chairman, Clay Cross, disabled miner, unemployed

BANNED AND BANKRUPT -the Clay Cross councillor who fought for Party policy

visit to IBM's headquarters in Hursley, near Winchester.

The council, at the expense of ratepayers, hired a special 'cocktail coach'. Drinks on the coach were paid for by IBM.

The party dined at IBM's expense at the Wessex Hotel (often used for IBM hospitality). Their accommodation was paid for by the Derbyshire ratepayers.

The main purpose of the visit, Councillor Regan told Socialist Worker, was to find out how operators worked the system so they could be properly graded.

Yet the decision to install the

IBM had already been taken, and it was already being installed.

This was not the only time councillors and officials from Derbyshire wined and dined at IBM's expense.

Lunch

18 OCTOBER, 1974: IBM hosted a lunch for Peter Regan, and three of his officers (including Ashcroft) at the Red Lion hotel, half way between Matlock and Chesterfield. The purpose? To celebrate switching on the system.

22 NOVEMBER, 1974: Ashcroft and Raine lunch at the New Bath Hotel, at IBM's expense, to 'brief a freelance journalist on the exchange system'.

20 DECEMBER, 1974: Mr Colin Greatorex, the council's assistant treasurer in charge of computers, and 'senior computing staff' were lunched by IBM at the exclusive Riber Hall hotel, where the port is 80p a glass.

Purpose of the lunch: 'to celebrate the completion of additional work'.

6 FEBRUARY, 1975: Messrs Raine and Ashcroft lunched again with IBM at the New Bath for 'further discussions on publicity'.

10 MARCH, 1975: Mr Colin Greatorex and Mr George Burns,

Club

the council's senior administrative officer (finance), dined at the Playboy Club in London with IBM executives.

IBM explained later: 'These two were only in town for a very short time and it was reasonable we should have an evening



TWO PICTURES which tell one story about Labour local government in one county under a Labour government.

Left, operators sit round the new IBM telephone exchange system at Derbyshire County Council offices at Matlock.



The system was installed at a cost to the ratepayers of £370,000 after a single decision, taken after less than an hour's discussion.

Right, the 24-hour intercom system for wardens of old people's houses at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, which was instituted by the Labour council for all old people in the town in 1972.

The councillors who set up the system have now been disqualified for 'wasting ratepayers' money' and are to be declared bankrupt. Meanwhile, the new District Council have 'saved money for rate-

payers' by cutting out the intercom system during the day. As Eileen Wholey (right) one of the 11 disqualified Clay Cross councillors put it: 'It's all right by them if the old people die by day'.



Peter Regan, in expenses (minimising)

and wipe out the rest of them.

Some of the financial problems have come from Derbyshire County Council controlled since last year.

In recent weeks, fending off a similar council's relations with powerful multinational Business Machines.

A close look at which cost the council as two brand new little about how they 'accept the Clay Cross councillors'.

engagement to system'.

Burns was the representative on the IBM Committee, which month at the London.

The Cafe Royal 'specials' for these could not explain are.

These junkies, panied by a stream of councils and firms country to see the IBM system.

The visitors were by senior officers of council. Peter Regan 97½ hours of 'off used in this way'.

Drinks

All the visits in or drinks in the premises. 'Hospitality' local authorities with Derbyshire ratepayers sponsored visits, met by IBM.

The bill for the British Nuclear Fuels paid for by an undrawn on the private IBM executive.

The results—for holders—were made local authorities at the system.

Kent and Leices on 'restricted terms' Staffordshire. £750,000 on theirs: £512,000.

The Labour Party



the members' lounge, county offices, Matlock. Labour leader, Derbyshire County Council. Lives on a sum £10 a day).

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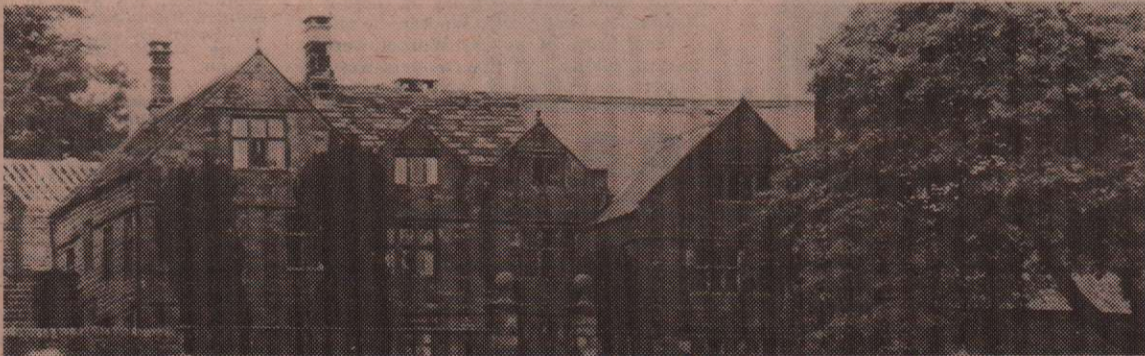
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SITTING PRETTY -the Derbyshire Labour leader who wined and dined with IBM



The luxury Riber Hotel—scene of much IBM junketing

Altogether, by using Derbyshire as their showpiece, IBM sold exchanges to the value of £15 million.

Then IBM went too far. They produced several thousand copies of a brochure about the system which was designed as though it was promoted by Derbyshire County Council.

It included pictures taken in the council offices, and a section from a report which had not yet been published.

When council leader Regan saw the brochure, he refused to allow it to be circulated on the grounds that pictures had not been authorised.

Shocked by the cavalier behaviour of IBM and senior council officers, deputy public relations officer Chris Perry marched into the council offices one Sunday and photographed the desk diaries of all the senior officers.

Perry was instantly sacked. He is suing the county council for unfair dismissal.

The fact is, however, that if



Chris Perry: photographed the diaries

Perry had not acted as he did, none of the facts would have emerged.

Perry's actions had another effect. All the visits to see the Derbyshire exchange system were stopped.

In an interview with Socialist Worker last Friday, Peter Regan defended the visits of firms and local authorities on the grounds

that knowledge about the system would help other local authorities.

Why then did he stop the visits as soon as they were made public?

Peter Regan is also confident that the right decision was taken about the telephone system. 'No-one will tell you now that we made a mistake,' he said. 'It's a bloody good system.'

But there are signs that Derbyshire County Council and all the other local authorities which bought the IBM equipment may regret their purchase.

The 'phone bill for the first quarter of the new system at Derbyshire came to £8941 plus VAT: a 25 per cent increase on last year.

Senior councillors were so shocked that they sent the bill back for confirmation. It was confirmed.

Worse still are the indications that thousands of pounds were wasted. An article in the New Scientist on 24 July stated:

PETER REGAN, Labour leader of Derbyshire County Council, is not corrupt.

With no prospect of benefit to himself, he answered questions from Socialist Worker for an hour and a half on the IBM affair.

He believes the best way for Labour councillors to behave is to go along with the system.

And the IBM story proves how impotent he and his colleagues are in the face of a massive sales campaign by a big multi-national company.

IBM made its main pitch not at the Labour councillors but at the officials. Having won the officials to the idea of a huge and unnecessary prestige product, they then relied on the officials to persuade the councillors. This the officials could easily do by pleading superior 'professional know-how'.

Once the officials persuaded the councillors, they knew the councillors would back them up.

So when evidence emerges of close involvement between officials and IBM executives, the natural instinct of Councillor

There was no independent consultancy. You know, because in this field we're talking about, there would really be nobody, I should imagine, in a position to act as a consultant on this sort of system.

—Peter Regan, Derbyshire Labour leader in an interview with Socialist Worker, 22 August.

The Post Office offers a relevant consultancy service which is currently being used by Cambridgeshire County Council among others. Other consultants exist and ratepayers may be forgiven if they come to expect such services to be used before major investments are made in advanced PABX systems of the 3750 type.

—New Scientist: 24 July

'In general terms, the competitors to IBM 3750 achieve most of its benefits for around 60 per cent of its cost.

'If 90 per cent of a machine's capabilities can be obtained for 60 per cent of the outlay, then a long hard look needs to be taken at the extra five per cent.'

Meals

The article also detailed costs of maintenance. For IBM system: £175 per 50 extensions per quarter. For others: £65 per 50 extensions per quarter.

As Chris Perry put it: 'The councillors spend hour after hour discussing whether they should spend an extra few thousand pounds on a meals on wheels service.'

'But when it comes to spending hundreds of thousands on expensive equipment, and then acting as salesmen for that equipment to other local authorities, their obsession with savings seems to vanish.'

The blind alley of municipal socialism

Regan is to 'go along with the system' and defend his officials.

So Councillor Regan stays until the next election. The official stays for ever. And IBM get the contract.

The Tories stay quiet, and reap in the votes. The impact of a Labour authority on these events is nil.

The councillors in Clay Cross took a different attitude. They used all their power and support to assist the people who elected them—at the expense of private interests.

They bought up more and more council houses, charged low rents, looked after their old people and paid higher-than-average wages to their workers.

As a result, the full fury of capitalist society has been unleashed upon them. AND LABOUR HAS LET THEM DOWN.

The 1973 Labour Party conference promised to cancel the so-called 'debts' of the councillors and to stop the disqualifications. The Labour government has done neither.

And the Labour Party has not even started a fund to assist the Clay Cross councillors who stood up and fought for Labour Party policies.

What does it all prove? That both roads to municipal socialism are blind alleys. The road through the system leads to the Wessex Hotel in a cocktail coach.

The road against the system leads to the bankruptcy court and the gradual demolition of all the good works which isolated left-wing councils achieve.

Both roads lead up blind alleys because they cut away from the organisation of socialists at the root of the working class movement, and because they point only towards 'socialism in one town' or (in the case of Clay Cross) one mining village.

Capitalism is far stronger than a handful of councillors in Matlock or in Clay Cross.

But capitalism is not stronger than the organised working class movement united against it.

That is why socialists must turn away from the Parliamentary and municipal road and seek to build a socialist organisation which aims to unite the industrial strength of the whole working class movement against the system which holds it down.

If the argument is kept within the Labour Party, then all the enthusiasm and fighting spirit which the Clay Cross councillors and their supporters have shown in the last few years will dribble away in internal bickering, disillusionment and despair.

If the councillors and their supporters take the courageous course taken by two Labour councillors in Peterborough this month—if they leave the Labour Party and join the International Socialists—they will come back fighting.



Signing on the line: one of 350 who signed the abortion petition in two hours in Cramlington

Picture: Ray Smith (IFL)

ENTRIES for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

INVERNESS IS public meeting: Labour policies and the socialist alternative. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, Rose Street Hall, Inverness.

EASTER ROSS IS public meeting: Labour policies and the socialist alternative. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Tuesday 16 September, 7.30pm. Averon Community Centre, Ainess.

BANGOR IS public meeting: Nationalism or socialism—the politics of Plaid Cymru. Monday 1 September, 8pm, Gwynedd Hotel, Bangor.

E LONDON IS Disco: Friday 5 September, 8pm, Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate. Entrance 50p. Bar extension to 1am. Raffle.

HALIFAX IS public meeting: The crisis—a socialist answer. Speaker: John Deason. Monday 1 September, 8pm, The New Talbot pub (next to abattoir).

CHELMSFORD IS Party in aid of SW Portugal Fund. Revolutionary music, plenty of booze, Saturday 30 August. Details from Chelmsford 59129. All welcome.

DERBY CHINGARI Public Meeting: Fight wage cuts and unemployment. Build a strong united democratic trade union movement. Speaker: Mota Singh (Leamington), Sunday 31 August, 7.30 pm, St Thomas's Church Hall, Richmond Road.

WHAT'S ON

Meetings for IS members and Socialist Worker supporters

YORKSHIRE Regional IS summer school: weekend 30-31 August (starts 11am Saturday), Trades Club, Saville Mount, off Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

IS Motor Fraction Executive meeting: New date, Sunday 31 August, 12 noon-4pm, Birmingham. Further details from Industrial Department.

WEST LONDON District IS aggregate meeting: Friday 5 September, 7pm, Hammersmith Town Hall (small room). Perspectives.

IS TEACHERS fraction school! Thursday and Friday 28/29 August, starting 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Sessions on The Crisis in Capitalism: economic background, Portugal and the Education Cuts: Building the Party: the Role of teachers. For accommodation/creche, contact Jeanie Holborow, 9 Crosby Road, London E2 (01-634 1980).

CENTRAL LONDON IS DISTRICT Day School on the cuts. Saturday 6 September, 2-6pm, Friends International Centre (opposite Dillons Bookshop), Torrington Place, London, WC1.

MEETING for all IS students and college lecturers in Birmingham District. Sunday 7 September, 7.30pm, IS Books, Digbeth, Student perspectives for coming year.

INNER WEST LONDON District IS aggregate meeting: Friday 5 September, 7pm, Hammersmith Town Hall (small room). Perspectives.

IS notices

NORTH LONDON IS are holding a jumble sale on 6 September at Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4. We still need all the jumble we can get, so please bring it along to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4—or phone 01-802 6145 to arrange for collection.

TEESSIDE IS needs jumble for early September. Ring Bookshop, Middlesbro' 40749, to arrange collection.

THE BATTLER, Australia's revolutionary monthly paper produced by the Socialist Workers' Action Group. For subscription and more information, write to Geoff Goldhar, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

IS Australia/New Zealand Group. Could all comrades from, going to, with contacts in or interested in, this part of the world, write to Geoff Goldhar, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

IS comrade needs single room in IS house in London. Contact Frank, 739 1870.

Part-time clerical assistant wanted for IS work at Cottons Gardens. Office experience preferred. Apply Mel Norris, 01-739 1878.

NORTH LONDON IS are organising a fund-raising jumble sale in early September. We need all the jumble we can get. It should be brought to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4—or phone 01-802 6145 to arrange for collection.

WILL IS members attending the Trades Union Congress in September either as delegates or observers please contact Industrial Department: 01-739 6273

PORTSMOUTH IS Day School: Sessions on: Shop Floor Tactics, speaker Jock Wight; The Rank and File Movement, speaker Ken Appleby; Portugal, speaker Andy Durgan plus Session for Hospital Workers. 6 September, 10.30am Portsmouth Poly Students Union, St Pauls Rd.

E LONDON IS jumble sale: 13 September. Save your jumble and contact Steve 01-590 5846.

INNER E LONDON DIST IS needs jumble for 6 September jumble sale in aid of SW Portuguese Fund. Bring to 43 Allen Road, Stoke Newington, N16.

HULL IS bookshop opening soon: room available for IS member/sympathiser. Would anyone moving to Hull contact Martin Shaw, 67 Salisbury Street, Hull (0482-492733) urgently. Also needed: books, furniture, etc.

SW Litho are offering a Printing Apprenticeship to start in September. Applicants must be under 19 and have a mechanical aptitude. Application in writing to: Training Officer, SW Litho, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Practical schools for photographers: Write to Socialist Worker Photographers, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 for further details or phone Margaret Renn (01-739 6361).

IS Electricians Union fraction meeting: Manchester, Saturday 30 August. For further information contact the Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone: 01-739 6273.

WESTERN SCOTLAND: Would any IS member or supporter with political knowledge of the Fort William/Kinlochleven/Lochaber area of Western Scotland please contact IS-Administrative Office, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, for contact with IS member in Ross-shire.

WILL IS students going to the University of East Anglia this autumn please contact the Norwich IS student branch, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

DARLINGTON SOCIALIST WORKER JUMBLE SALE: The Mechanics Institute, Skinnergate, Darlington, Saturday 13 September, from 10am all day. Jumble collected—ring Darlington 56728.

ABORTION: STEP UP THE CAMPAIGN

THE FIGHT against the Abortion Bill isn't over yet.

We now have to prevent any restrictive legislation becoming law.

Such a change in the 1967 Abortion Act will affect working-class women most, which is why we have to organise in the work-places and trade unions.

We have been running a campaign in the Cadbury Schweppes factory in Birmingham. Women have signed the petition, taken leaflets to circulate in the factory, and are raising the issue in their trade union branches.

We need to be armed with the facts about abortion, so that we are confident of the arguments and can get maximum support for our case.

Why do we need to fight? How do we fight? These are the questions answered in Socialist Worker's penny factsheet.

Every IS branch and district, and every reader of Socialist Worker, should get copies and sell them.

The first 5000 are almost sold out now, and a new edition is being printed soon. Copies from: Abortion Fact Sheet, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Price 1p a copy, or 50p for 75 copies.



The abortion pamphlet: now it's being reprinted.

NO RETURN TO BACK STREET ABORTION

SINCE 1967 WHEN THE ABORTION LAW WAS CHANGED, THE NUMBER OF BACKSTREET ABORTIONS HAVE FALLEN BY THREE QUARTERS

DEFEAT THE JAMES WHITE ABORTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

60 attend NVT meeting

SIXTY people attended an IS meeting in Wolverhampton last Wednesday in support of the fight for jobs at Norton Villiers Triumph.

Jack Collingswood, Engineering Union convenor at Cannon Industries, called for a levy of all AUEW members in the area. He said the NVT action committee should cut themselves off completely from their employers and fight independently in the working class movement.

At the end of his speech, Jack praised the Socialist Worker coverage of the NVT events. 'I know that I wouldn't have understood what was going on there if it hadn't been for Socialist Worker,' he said.

Paul Foot, of Socialist Worker, warned against 'blind alleys' like co-operatives and import controls which were being widely talked of as 'solutions' for NVT workers.

LIFE—the organisation campaigning for more restrictions on abortion—has been boasting about its influence in Cramlington New Town, Northumberland.

So IS members active in the National Abortion Campaign decided to put the other side of the case. They held a public meeting in the shopping centre, demanding No Further Restrictions on Abortion and

Abortion on Demand. A leaflet was put out beforehand announcing the meeting, and many people came as a result.

The petition was circulated. 350 signatures were collected in an hour and a half.

Last Saturday, Tyneside IS followed up the meeting with another in the mining

town of Blyth, where the MP, foxhunter John Ryman, has been supporting the James White Bill. 85 signatures were collected for the petition in an hour.

IS members all over the country should follow this example. The meetings in the North East and the response to the petition show the abortion issue is still crucial—and drawing crowds.

LEAFLETS for the Portugal demonstration cost £2 per 1000 (and not £1) and the stickers cost £1.25 (and not £1.50). Send orders to Socialist Worker Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

THE SPANISH Language IS Journal costs 30p, and is available from Box S, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

What we stand for

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

Independent working-class action We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

Revolution not reformism We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support all struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

The smashing of the capitalist state The state machine is a

weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

Work in the mass organisations of the working class We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

Internationalism We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racialism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls. The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

The revolutionary party To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party by fighting for a programme of political and industrial demands that can strengthen the self-confidence, organisation and socialist consciousness of the working class.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials. No secret negotiations. All settlements to be voted on by mass meetings.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against anti-trade union laws or curbs on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

Against productivity or efficiency deals. Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

For militant trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other 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 all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers' revolutionary party, organised in the workplace, which can lead the working class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:

The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



We will rise again

“And we shall have this real equality at all costs. Woe to those who stand between it and us. Woe to those who resist so strong a desire. The French Revolution is but the precursor of another revolution, far greater, far more solemn, which will be the last.”

—From Babeuf's Manifesto of the Equals, 1796

EVERY YEAR, on 14 July, the people of France celebrate the storming of the Bastille.

The entire French establishment, generals, priests, businessmen—the whole gang of parasites—solemnly preside over the festival.

For one day, the ruling class bask in the glow of revolutionary heroism before sinking back into their normal bigoted conservatism.

The storming of the Bastille, the most hated royal prison in France, was part of the opening drama of the Great French Revolution.

In due course, the middle class swept away the old feudal state dominated by the King, nobility and church, and established their own power. To do so they needed the support both of the peasants in the countryside and the workers in the towns, particularly Paris.

Conflict

But the small and young working class of Paris began to develop aims of its own which brought it into conflict with the middle classes.

In the summer of 1789, the King, Louis XVI, tried to use troops to suppress the newly established National Assembly, France's first middle class Parliament.

On 12 July, the people of Paris rose in rebellion and forced the royal troops out of the city. That night, the whole population, bosses and workers, armed themselves, breaking into armouries and gunshops all over Paris.

Two days later, they stormed the Bastille. The months that followed saw the destruction of the entire royal state.

The middle-class leadership, frightened by the forces they had unleashed, tried time and again to halt the revolution. They had no intention of granting 'one man, one vote' and opposed any attempt to get rid of the King.

Gain

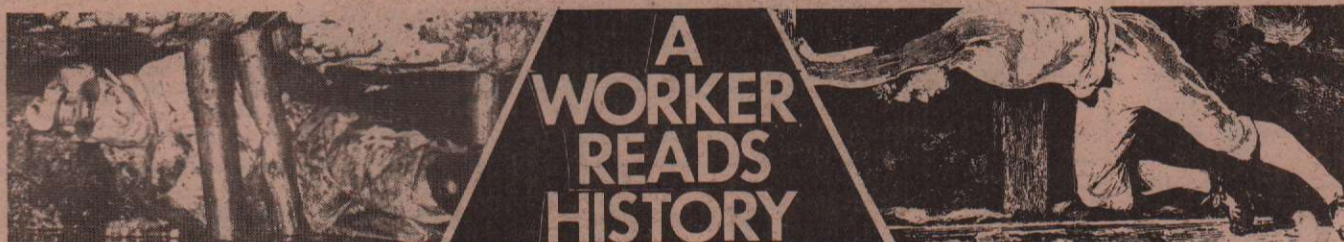
They resolutely defended their profits against workers' attempts to gain better living standards.

By early 1791, there was an open split inside the revolutionary camp. In industry after industry, workers went on strike for higher wages.

The government responded by outlawing trade unions. Despite their economic strength, the working class did not yet have clear political ideas of their own.

Their response was to back another, more extreme faction of the middle-class—the Jacobins, who forced through the declaration of the Republic and took over the government in 1793.

The new government, led by Robespierre, was still a middle-class government, but it had come to power through the workers and it was forced to make concessions to



ANDY MILNER on the French Revolution

its supporters.

It passed the Law of the Maximum, fixing the prices of all essential goods and services. But, at the same time, and with much less publicity, it also passed a law designed to control wages.

For a time, the Jacobins needed workers' support. Businessmen were constantly evading the price controls and workers demanded tough action against them.

The Jacobins responded with the Terror, which school history books make out to be mindless revolutionary violence. In fact, it was an example of one section of the

middle-class controlling another in the long-term interests of the class as a whole.

France was fighting a bitter war against reactionary neighbours determined to stamp out the revolutionary virus before it infected their own subjects. To win the war, the middle-class needed workers' support and they were prepared to make some concessions.

But, however left they might appear, the Jacobins were middle-class and they remained true to their class. As soon as they could, they relaxed the price controls and stepped up government action to control wages.

They arrested strike leaders and broke a series of strikes. By July 1794, they felt strong enough to order a general reduction of wages throughout Paris.

Centre

The Jacobins had served their purpose. Their policies had made it certain that the middle-class could hold the power it needed in France. It was time for the more 'moderate' middle-class to take the centre of the stage.

The Jacobins had come to power with workers' support, but their strike-breaking had literally dug their own graves. When the moderates staged a coup at the end of July, the Paris workers stood silently by.

Robespierre and the rest were

arrested and executed. The Paris workers saw no reasons to risk their lives for the men who had smashed their strikes.

The new government was even more right-wing than the Jacobins. It quickly set about restoring a 'free market economy. Of course, this led to soaring prices and increased profits.

The working class were beginning to learn the lessons. They had stormed the Bastille, but the men they had put in power had turned against them.

The more thoughtful among them began to see the need for independent action.

As prices continued to rise, discontent grew in the working-class areas of Paris. By May 1795 tensions reached flash-point and the workers rose in armed rebellion.

They still had no clear idea of what they were fighting for and no workers' party to lead them. The revolt was at first a confused outburst of independent class-consciousness.

It was suppressed after three days of bitter street fighting. The middle class handed reprisals over to a Military Commission which carried out mass arrests and executions of militants.

The first workers' revolt in French history was drowned in blood.

The lessons of the failures of the early 1790s were driven deep into the minds of the surviving

militants. One group, the Conspiracy of Equals led by Francois-Noel Babeuf, began to put forward the aim of a communist society without classes and without private property in the means of production.

Lead

It set about establishing a tightly-knit organisation of revolutionaries to lead the struggle for the overthrow of the middle class.

Although the Conspiracy of Equals was the embryo of a workers' party, much of the strategy and tactics we take for granted had still to be learnt the hard way.

In 1796, just a year after the smashing of a workers' rising, it launched a new attempt at power. Despite the heroism of the revolutionaries, the defeated and demoralised workers were in no mood for mass action. The revolt ended in failure.

Babeuf paid for that failure with his life, but even his trial was a platform for his political ideas.

He used it not to plead for his life but to defend his socialist ideas. He handed on to future revolutionaries a tradition which lived after his death.

Since 1796, the French working class have grown in numbers and in confidence. One day they will triumph. Then 14 July will be worth celebrating.

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY
BBC-2: 10pm. Two 50-minute documentaries on the Middle East begin with THE WILL IS NOT ENOUGH—on Arab disunity.

SUNDAY
BBC-2: 10.30pm. Orson Welles followed up Citizen Kane with the story of the collapse of an American ruling class family in THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS
MONDAY
RADIO-4 (VHF): 5.45pm. It's worth keeping an eye on Open University programmes like IDEOLOGY AND WELFARE (repeated 12.40am Tuesday).

—TONIGHT on BBC-1 at 11pm produced by the team who produce the appalling Nationwide. PANORAMA is also returning at 8.10pm. JUDGE THE BLOODY CITY (BBC-2, 9.15pm) is a play on the arguments for and against terrorism.

TUESDAY
ITV: 11.30pm. More on the Arab World in a new series ARABS AND ISRAELIS. TUESDAY'S DOCUMENTARY: WHAT ARE YOU EATING? (BBC-1, 9.55pm) on a neglected subject, the modern convenience food, which have everything but nutrition... JAZZ SHIP (BBC-2, 8.10pm) features the now sadly dead sax player Cannonball Adderley.

WEDNESDAY
BBC-2: 6.15pm. More Open University—ARMS FOR SOUTH AFRICA. On BBC-2 at 7.45pm A TASTE OF BRITAIN on London, and London refugee (Huguenot and Jewish) food.

FRIDAY
BBC-2: 8.15pm. Much of the world starves. FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT is a £250,000 film on the subject.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



On the picket line in Birmingham: More than 300 busworkers at Sheepcote Street and Moseley Road garages have won their fight against the proposed closure of the two garages—for the time being. When the closures were announced, one driver told Socialist Worker: 'It's not a question of not

giving up without a fight. We're not bloody giving up at all.' Messages of support and money came in from other Metro garages and from West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive workers. After a week's strike the busmen have forced the Corporation to honour an agreement to maintain

conditions. But the men know their victory is only temporary; the Corporation will certainly try again soon. The Metro men are determined to defeat them again and that means preparing for a united battle for better conditions for all Birmingham's busmen.

3 quizzed by Special Branch—for supporting a strike

THREE Irish socialists have been detained and questioned in Dublin by the Special Branch because of their support for an official Engineering Union strike in Galway, 100 miles away. They are members of the Irish revolutionary organisation, the Socialist Workers Movement. They had distributed a leaflet pointing out that a local haulier had been crossing the picket lines since the strike began four months ago. The strike, at Crown Controls on the Galway Industrial Estate, followed the victimisation of a shop steward.

Break

Its outcome will have repercussions right across the area. As part of the effort to break the dispute, the three were arrested under the Offences Against the State Act.

Two were held for 24 hours, one for three hours. They were released without being charged. This sort of harassment has not stopped them continuing to support the strike.

Platt workers go back

ACCRINGTON: 90 fitters at Platt Saco Lowell have returned to work after losing their six-week fight to stop management imposing a limit on piece work earnings.

The strike, which was made official by the Engineering Union, led to 1000 other workers at the factory being laid off. They were all refused help from the Labour Exchange and the Social Security, although lost wages amounted to around £100 a man.

Shop stewards were considering possible action against the lay-offs when the strike ended.

FORT WILLIAM JOBS CARVE-UP

FORT WILLIAM: All 24 workers at Evette Cosmetics have been sacked. The factory has been shut down.

The workers' crime was to ask for a 30 per cent wage increase. That may seem a lot, but in cash terms it comes to just £5. Anyone over 18 gets a basic wage of £17.80, for a 40-

hour week. Those under 18 get £15. Not all the company's employees are so badly paid. The chairman, Albert Holloway, gets £17,500 a year. Four directors, including his wife, get £15,000 each a year. The plant, set up just two years ago, was given a £66,000 government

loan to get under way. Throughout June and July, equipment was moved from the factory to the firm's other plant in Levenham, Suffolk.

The workers began to organise, joined the Transport and General Workers Union, and put in for a £5 wage rise. Full-time officials tried to get in touch with the management. Then Holloway arrived at the factory and announced it would be shutting down in half an hour and that everyone was sacked.

This is the second time in the last month that a company has suddenly shut down after coming into this area with a government grant.

another attempt at intimidation by management, occupied the main administrative buildings for a brief period, despite the security guards. And more than 2000 workers downed tools for an hour.

GEC stewards occupy

STAFFORD: 70 shop stewards at GEC had their pay docked for allegedly overstaying the time limit at their monthly meeting.

Shop stewards, realising this was

WHY THE POST OFFICE 'LOST' £300m

THE POST OFFICE, as the press indignantly tell us, lost more than £300 million last year.

But if its accounts were drawn up on the same basis as private industry, it would have made a profit of more than £350 million. Here's how:

PENSIONS: Until 1969, the Post Office was part of the Civil Service, which operates a 'pay-as-you-go' pension system: the money is collected from taxpayers and handed across to pensioners.

When the Post Office became a public corporation, the government said it had to establish a pension fund, in which a worker's contributions accumulate during his working life and so pay his pension when he retires.

This meant the Post Office needed about £100 million just to get the fund started. This extra pension fund deficiency costs it £75 million a year, on top of its normal pension contributions. No private company has this sort of burden.

In fact, few private companies provide as good pension benefits as the Post Office: if they did, their profits would be much lower.

DEPRECIATION: All companies, publicly or privately owned, need to make a provision for depreciation—the fall in value of their machinery and equipment.

LOSS Virtually all private companies base their depreciation charge on the historic cost of the machinery.

The Post Office says that with prices rising so quickly, depreciation should be based on the cost of replacing the assets.

This costs an extra £130 million off its profits.

The Post Office is right to do this—the cost of replacing assets is rising and it does not want to run short of funds for new investment.

It is just that private industry does not do this, so it is not comparing like with like when the Post Office's loss is compared with the profits of private industry.

INTEREST CHARGE: Most private companies, such as ICI or Courtaulds, are financed both by shares and retained profits, and by loans.

The accounts fiddle

THE POST OFFICE could increase its profits dramatically tomorrow just by altering its pricing policy—by charging more for rural deliveries than for urban deliveries.

It would make higher profits if it offered poorer pension benefits. But a nationalised industry should make decisions on what the community wants rather than what is most profitable for its owners.

The profits published in the annual accounts can be manipulated by juggling with figures.

The workers produce more than this, they produce the surplus—what is appropriated by capitalists as rent, interest, dividends, or rein-

vestment in the business so that future profits will be higher. It is this surplus which the workers produce, and should control, but do not. Post Office workers produced a surplus of about £800 million compared with investment by the Post Office of just over £820 million.

You could count on the fingers of one hand the number of workers who had any say in how that money was spent or whether it should have been spent at all.

For socialists, that £800 million is the target—how big should it be, who controls it and what should be done with it.

owned companies, it was financed 40 per cent by loans, with the rest as shares owned by the government, the interest charge would have been £164 million instead of £312 million and profits would have been £148 million higher.

PRICING POLICY: The Post Office was forbidden by the government last year from increasing its prices.

Private industry was regulated by the ineffectual price code; it put prices up willy-nilly. Not so the Post Office.

The cost of not increasing prices chopped a further £307 million off its profits.

Taking account of these four factors, the Post Office's £307 million loss would turn into a £353 million profit.

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● SOUTH WALES:—Electricity prices are going up here because of an £11 million loss. But the local Electricity Board is not daunted. They have just bought two new Jaguar cars for their chairman and deputy chairman. The cost is £5089 each.

The cars that are being replaced are just two years old. With perks like these who needs to worry about getting only a £6-a-week pay increase?

PORTUGAL: IS public meetings



OXFORD IS PUBLIC MEETING: Portugal—workers' power or counter revolution? Speakers Chris Harman and Joanna Rollo, Clarendon Press Institute, Oxford, 8pm, Wednesday 3 September.

CROYDON IS public meeting: Defend the revolution in Portugal. A speaker returned from Portugal. Thursday 28 August, 8pm, Ruskin House, corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane.

N W LONDON IS School on Portugal: Tuesday 2 September, 7.45pm, Harlesden Primary School, Acton Lane, NW10. Practical discussion on the present situation in Portugal led by comrades who have recently returned. Socialist Worker supporters welcome.

NEWPORT IS public meeting: Solidarity with the Portuguese workers' revolution. A speaker just back from Portugal. Wednesday 10 September, 8pm, King William IV pub, Commercial Street.

HULL IS public meeting: Portugal—the struggle for socialism. A speaker just back from Portugal. Tuesday 9 September, 7.30 pm, Central Library. All welcome.

NORTH WALES IS Day School: Sessions on revolutionary party and Portugal. Saturday 18 October, Students Union, Bangor. Details from branch secretaries.

S E LONDON IS DISTRICT Half-day school: The progress of the revolution in Portugal. Report back from comrades and trade unionists just returned from Portugal. All SW supporters welcome. Saturday 6 September, 2-6pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7.

A SMALL delegation of IS shop stewards will be going to Portugal 20-27 September. Return flight costs £55. Those interested contact IS Industrial Dept, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

IF workers here are to build links with those in Portugal, the language barrier has to be climbed. Many colleges run courses in Portuguese, often as evening classes.

In London, the Evening Institute offers a year's course for £3.50, one evening a week beginning in September. The courses are at the City of London Polytechnic, Goldsmiths College, Westminster College and these institutes: Addison, Central London, Fulham and South Kensington, Marylebone, Paddington, Putney, South Bank, Sydenham and Forest Hill. Details are available now from these colleges or institutes.

THE NEED FOR AN ENGINEERS CHARTER

by Willie Lee
Senior Steward
Chrysler Linwood
A Socialist
Worker
pamphlet

THE CASE AGAINST THE POSTAL BALLOT

Vital reading for every AUEW member
1p each. Bulk orders for shop stewards committees, branches etc.
75 copies for 50p.

FROM 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

OBSERVER: THE FIGHT ISN'T OVER...

DAVID ASTOR, the editor of the Observer newspaper was certain he had succeeded in browbeating organised Observer workers into accepting redundancies by the middle of last week. The print unions SOGAT and the NGA had agreed to sell jobs.

On the Wednesday the new general secretary of the print union NATSOPA, Owen O'Brien moved against the one chapel still fighting—NATSOPA machine.

At a chapel meeting called by NATSOPA officials, they succeeded in overturning by 71 votes to 62 the chapel's opposition to all redundancies. The chapel is accepting 40,

plus a 'promise' from the bosses that they'll want at least 24 later.

This is scandalous. Every job is necessary if you're talking about tolerable human work-loads and production without the danger of piles of ragged newsprint and rubbish cluttered around the machines.

Rat

The deal is the green light for every Fleet Street boss to do the same—and reduce manning to a level below an unorganised rat shop.

This package was signed, sealed and delivered by union officials. At succes-

sive conferences resolutions have committed them to oppose unemployment—but they're increasing it.

This leaves the owners, managers and press pundits on huge salaries to talk about 'overmanning'—when they wouldn't spend a night in the machine rooms. Why? Because of the heat, dust and noise.

No wonder that Astor thanked the union leaders in last Sunday's paper. He gleefully announced that the paper had cut its staffing levels to pieces without the semblance of a fight. But he hasn't quite got away with it yet...

Last Saturday was a night of upset and trouble on the Observer machine room floor. This unsurprisingly, went

unreported in the 'free press'. The deal was achieved by intimidation, threats, and procedures which would cause outrage—if they were employed by workers.

The men discovered how derisory was the redundancy money they were selling their jobs for—and other workers' futures. The bosses planned to slice off a week's money and reduce them to a week's notice.

The Observer's figures show that since 1973 their newsprint costs have risen by just under £1 million. Who put up the costs?

Reed International, who own the Daily Mirror (and want to sack more printworkers) and Bowaters. Both companies now have massively increased profits...

Scrap

The Observer is only too willing to pay the tribute. They are fellow capitalists after all. So 'requirements' have to be met, and workers' livelihoods are flung on to the scrapheap.

Astor like every newspaper proprietor, is very rich. Workers should be forcing him to draw on those reserves. The proprietors having looted wealth from the newspaper industries are now investing it outside Fleet Street—and outside the industry.

If the print unions were worthy of the name they would stand with the Observer NATSOPA chapel—who still have the will to fight.

And if they do fight, and refuse the one way ticket to the scrapheap? Then it'll be dockers', engineers' and every serious trade unionist's duty in the London area—and beyond, to rally to them.

Spanish trial: Two lives at stake

THE trial of the two Basque militants Echeverria and Garmendia was due to start in Burgos, Spain on this Thursday. Garmendia himself is completely unconscious thanks to police torture. It was thought unlikely that he would be able to attend his trial on a trumped up charge of killing a civil guard.

The trial has been delayed for months. It is being held now because it coincides with the works holidays in Spain, with many people away. The two men face possible death sentences.

At the same time the Franco government, which has conducted a reign of terror over the past months, has introduced a new two year anti-terrorist bill. This means that people can be held without trial indefinitely. Previously, except under a state of emergency, prisoners had the right to see a lawyer within 72 hours of arrest.

Five

Five members of the armed organisation FRAP are also due to come up for trial with prosecution asking for death penalty, also for allegedly killing policemen. In 1970 in Burgos 16 ETA members on trial escaped the death penalty because of international solidarity. Puig Antich however was garroted last year because of lack of international solidarity.

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL NUMBER 6



SAFETY BOOTS WILL PROTECT YOUR FEET

IN BRIEF

RENFREW ENGINEERS—NO DIFFERENTIALS

Workers at Babcock and Wilcox, the heavy engineering combine have won a £6.60 across-the-board wage rise. And the bosses aren't happy...

They are trying to bring in a four pence differential between the welders and other workers. The 1500 Engineering Union workers are demanding that all the workers should get it. They have

decided on strike action.

Babcocks, fresh from record profits, are refusing negotiations and are threatening to use the government's wage legislation against the strikers. But the workers are staying out...

SCOTCH STRIKE

Workers at the Chivas Regal distilleries in Paisley, Beith and Dalmeir are on official strike.

Last month 400 men and women were locked out after a shift payment dispute. They are back now, but the bosses are planning to ditch the Christmas bonus payments from annual negotiations with 100 maintenance engineers.

The management, pleading poverty, made £8 million profit last year. They've broken off talks.

Donations and messages of support to Chivas Regal Strike Fund, AUEW House, Uncle Street, Paisley, Scotland.

SHEFFIELD ENGINEERS—PART OF THE UNION

A strike by 40 workers at Eatad Engineering has led to all 40 joining the Engineering Union.

The 40 struck over the victimisation of one worker at the factory. As a result management reinstated him and they have now made concessions on a whole number of demands to the newly unionised workers.

LEAMINGTON—CLERICAL VICTORS

800 members of the clerical workers' union ACTSS have won their strike after two weeks. Management have reinstated the seven suspended members and agreed to demands for £52 a year. Full report in next week's Socialist Worker.

EDINBURGH—FREE DES!

Eighty people, mainly trade unionists, attended Monday's highly successful 'Free Des Warren' meeting in Leith Town Hall.

The meeting was called by the National Rank and File Organising Committee and sponsored by five union district and shop stewards' committees. These included Lothian and District Electricians and Plumbers Union, Edinburgh and District Civil and Public Service Association, and Mathew Hall joint shop stewards' committee. Ken O'Shea, who stood trial for conspiracy at Shrewsbury alongside Des Warren and got a suspended sentence, was the main speaker.

£90 was raised in the collection and the meeting unanimously endorsed a resolution committing those in attendance to raising the issue of Des Warren's continued imprisonment to secure his release, in the workplace.

Classified

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (3p a word) with copy to Classified, Socialist Worker, Carbridge Works, Carbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

NORTH WALES FARMHOUSE HOLIDAYS: John and Margaret Llywarch invite you to a North Wales farmhouse holiday. Clean air, mountain streams, country rambles, fishing, wildlife galore, barbecues. A children's paradise and only two miles from a mainline station. For terms phone 069-186 2272 or write Bryn Iddon, Bron y Gwrth, Oswestry, Salop.

IRELAND—Rising in the North: New Big Flame pamphlet. Interviews, reports and analyses from within the struggle of the past six years. From all good bookshops, or 20p plus 10p postage and packing from Big Flame Publications, 632 Bookshop, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham 29.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN meeting to organise opposition to amendments to the abortion law. Wednesday 10 September, 6.30pm, Adams Arms pub, Conway St, London, W1 (Warren St tube). Phone 435-1902 for further information.

DEFEND THE 16! Drop the Charges! Public meeting against the use of the Incitement to Disaffection Act. Monday 15 September, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Speakers include Joan Maynard MP, Ricky Tomlinson, Lawrence Daly, Paul Foot.

SOCIAL in Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Rd, London, W1. Music and drink Friday 12 September, 8pm. Organised by the Campaign for the Repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act. More information from Franco Caprino, 45 Kensington Park Rd, London, W11.

SOCIALIST HEALTH SERVICES—another pie in the sky? The Medical Committee against Private Practice. Second meeting in a series. What lessons can be learned from Chile and Cuba? 8pm, the Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road, Thursday 4 September.

Chrysler compromise

by Gerry Jones, Chrysler Stoke Coventry shop steward

LAST Monday was a major setback for Chrysler workers in the fight against the company's worker participation scheme. A mass meeting in Gosford Green saw the Stoke leadership, under Bob Morris, Transport Union convenor, turned a unanimous rejection of the scheme by the stewards' committee into a disgraceful compromise.

Although still officially opposed to

national bargaining (despite the fact that Morris said 'it may have to come in the future') and compulsory arbitration, the mass meeting voted for the confused position of the leadership to continue talks on participation.

No opposition speakers were allowed.

Delegates slam Irish trip

THE argument over the three delegates expelled from the Greater London Association of Trades Councils' 'fact finding' trip to Belfast has hotted up, with majority and minority reports on the delegation's visit being produced.

The three, Rosemary Sales of Barnet Trades Council and Gerry McMorrow and Mike Knowles of Hackney Trades Council were thrown off the delegation after asking the trip's chairman to let the group hear the Editor of the Anderstown News, the chairman of the Link Community Association, a Sinn Fein member and a Belfast journalist.

Guise

In their document the three say that 'What we object to most strongly is the attempt by the organisers of the delegation to force one particular view on the London trade union movement, in the guise of a fact finding delegation.'

In an earlier statement they claimed that 'the GLATC's name and reputation were being used to organise, without the knowledge of its constituent bodies, what was in fact nothing less than a "conducted tour" calculated to reproduce statements in support of the Communist Party.'

The three complained that the delegation refused to meet 'members of the

Provisional Sinn Fein, the main anti-imperialist force in the Catholic ghetto areas, even though they met right wing Loyalists, British subsidised organisations, civil servants, management, Officials and self-confessed "irrelevant" groupings like the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, none of whom are part of the trade union movement.'

The GLATC have suspended the three from 'all sub-committee activity of the GLATC' says the official report, '... until such time as the final recommendation of the Executive has been made.'

The EC meeting was expected to take place this week. The three are believed to be querying the rule under which they are suspended, and why they are being suspended. They are also demanding speaking rights at the Report Back Conference on the delegation on 13 September at 2pm at Unity House in Euston Road, London NW1.

This meeting is open to Trades Council delegates and 'leading trade unionists'.

At the same venue on 1 September the Troops Out Movement are holding a public meeting at 7.45pm. This will be addressed by the three. TOM have also invited representatives of the majority of the delegation to this meeting. They are believed to have turned this down.

The real meaning of Wilson's £6 freeze...

-A ROTTEN 55p AT SWANS!

TYNESIDE:- For seven weeks, 5000 workers at Swan Hunters have been fighting for a wage claim of £8.30. Management have offered £3.50 now and £2 in January. But now—after a bombshell from the Department of Employment—the workers are being offered just 55p.

The Department have said that is the most they could get under the terms of the £6 wage freeze because they have had a rise in the last 12 months.

When they heard the news, officials from the Engineering Union, the Electricians and Plumbers, and the General and Municipal, called a mass meeting and tried to con the strikers into giving in.

They sought to restrict the numbers attending the meeting by hurriedly arranging it in a hall in the centre of Newcastle—ten miles from the usual venue of open air mass meetings by the Tyne in Hebburn.

They managed to convince the 1330 strikers present—a quarter of the number out—that a ballot should be taken and then tried to persuade the men to support the White Paper and help Britain out of its crisis.

They threatened that if they didn't there would be unemployment in the yards because the government would cancel naval contracts.

But the strike committee recommended the men to continue the strike in pursuit of the full claim. The ballot ended in a 675-656 vote to stay out.

Now other pressures are being put on the strikers. According to the Financial Times, 'the government through the Departments of Industry and Employment would be likely to bring a lot of pressure on Swan Hunters to hold firm against the pay demands in order to avoid recourse to an embargo on defence orders which is seen as the ultimate weapon for enforcing the voluntary pay policy in this kind of situation.'

International Socialists Pamphlets

Can Socialism come through Parliament
by Roger Kline, 10p
Workers against Racism
by Paul Foot, 10p
Women Fight Back
by Kath Ennis, 10p
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by Duncan Hallas, 5p
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by Richard Kuper, 10p
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What's Happening to our Health Service?
by IS Health Workers, 10p
Crisis in British Leyland: our answer, 10p

All these pamphlets are available, from IS branches, direct from the IS bookshops at 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1; 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; 65 Queen Victoria Street, Coventry; and 4 Roseangle, Dundee; or by post from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (please add 4p for single copies, 8p for multiple copies, to cover postage).

Ten weeks — and still the 280 fight on

FOR TEN weeks, 280 workers from Ladbrokes betting shops have been on strike against their company's refusal to recognise their trade union, the Transport and General.

It has been a bitter dispute over the basic right to be organised in a trade union and have proper negotiating procedures.

Firm

The strike began when Ladbrokes announced a wage increase to all their employees. The Glasgow workers—90 per cent of whom recently joined the TGWU—claimed it was unacceptable and asked the company to begin negotiations with their union representatives.

Ladbrokes refused and made it clear that they wanted to smash trade unionism in the betting shops. Their attitude was always firm, while the trade union official response was less than it could have been.

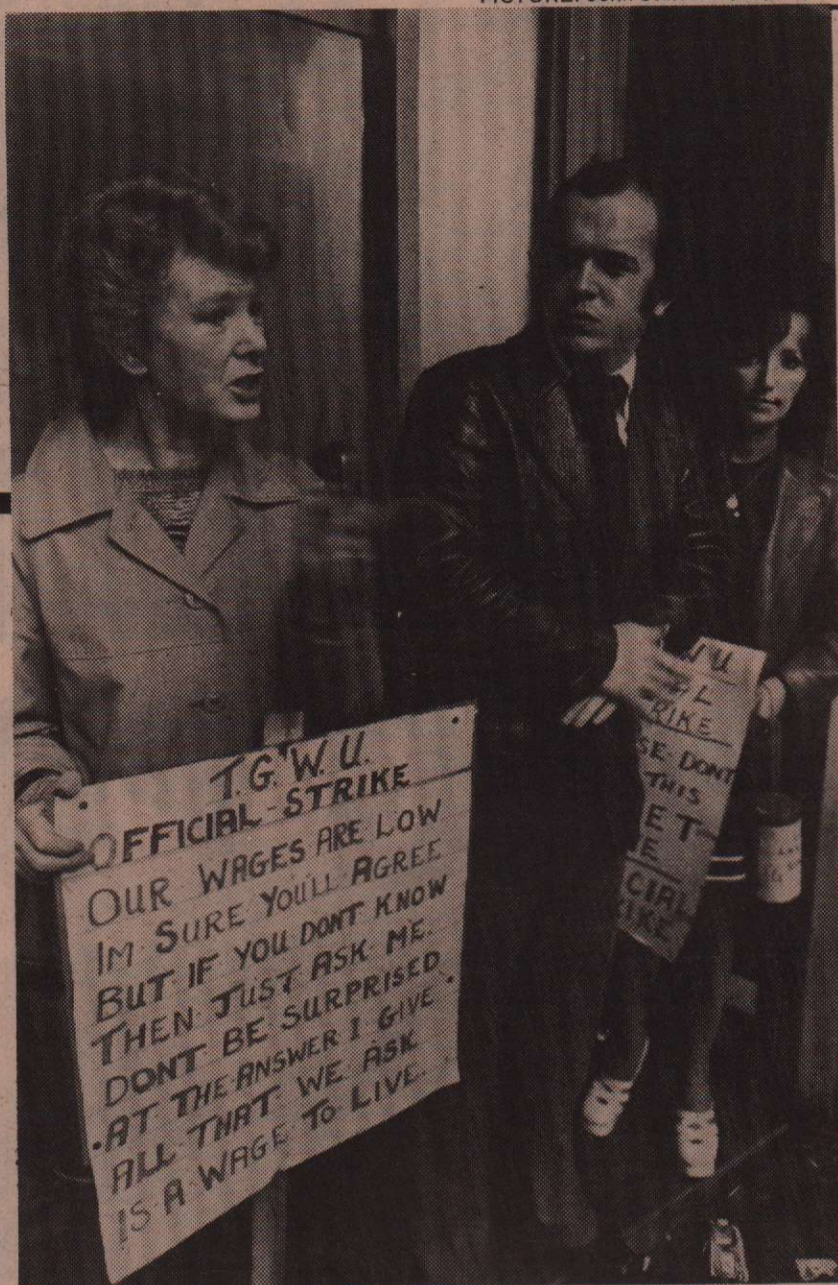
After six weeks, the strikers were advised by their strike committee leaders, backed up by the TGWU Regional Officer, Hugh Wyper, to accept defeat and go back to work.

The only problem was that Ladbrokes had sacked every one of them and going back to work meant crawling to the boss to beg for a job. Many of the strikers knew Ladbrokes would only accept back those they wanted and that the victimisations would be ruthless.

It was Ladbrokes refused to re-employ any of the strike committee and made it clear to those given a job that anyone who stepped out of line would be fired.

SPENNYMOOR:- A mass meeting of Engineering Union members at Courtaulds—profits last year a record £88 million—voted overwhelmingly on Saturday to continue their ten-week strike for a £3.60 pay increase. National negotiations have broken down.

AUEW convenor Brian Gibson told the meeting that they were having no more productivity deals—'the management have just not kept their side of the bargain in the past'.



Poetry in action. This was the picket line at one of Glasgow's Ladbrokes betting shops.

After another mass meeting, the 280 workers voted to continue with the strike. They also demanded that picketing be stepped up and that the Transport and General should give more solid support.

They saw that their dispute was extremely important in the fight to organise workers in areas without trade union representation.

Shops

Over the past three weeks, pickets have been placed on shops previously working during the dispute. And on Bank Holiday Monday, pickets were sent to Blackpool and main holiday resorts in England to make sure that the Ladbrokes Empire did not make their usual clean-up of workers' holiday money.

Despite this increased activity, many strikers are unhappy with the support they have been given. They are particularly unhappy about the way in which TGWU officials have chosen to fight.

They feel they need the support of workers in strongly organised sectors if they are to win. Four of the strikers made it clear to Socialist

Worker that the way they thought this could be done was by mobilising mass pickets in every centre where Ladbrokes operate.

This strike is over basic fundamental trade union rights. It needs and must get the support of every militant trade unionist. The strikers cannot be left on their own or forced to rely on trade union officials who have no wish to extend the dispute.

Donations and messages of support to Michael Docherty, Ladbrokes Strike Fund, TGWU, 216 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2.

The Rank and File Organising Committee is calling on all trade unionists in affiliated bodies to arrange pickets of Ladbrokes betting shops on Saturdays while the dispute is on. Ken Appleby of the Organising Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The dispute is over the basic right to be in a trade union. Every trade unionist should support the Ladbrokes workers.'

Courtaulds: We'll strike on for £3.60

'As a Shop Stewards' Committee, we would rather resign than accept their offer, and we managed to persuade the full-time official at the negotiations to go along with us.'

'After four and a half hours, the management wouldn't give an inch, so their offer of an extra £1 a week in return for a productivity deal of shift changes and lower employment was completely unacceptable...'

Kenny Beattie, AUEW shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'The workers on the picket line are stronger

than ever, and attitudes towards Courtaulds generally are hardening, specially with management trying to cloud the issues.'

'Our shop stewards are in total agreement with the electrical shop stewards at Nelsons Acetate, Lancaster—we must work towards a National Combine Committee of Shop Stewards.'

The task facing all trade unionists is clear: to give the men at Courtaulds practical and financial support, to build an effective combine committee

of Courtaulds stewards, and to strengthen rank and file organisation in Courtaulds around the Engineers Charter.

The strength of feeling was summed up by Mike Steel, an AUEW member, when he said at the mass meeting that... 'The point is, it's more work up here we want, not less.'

Donations and messages of support to be sent to either: Brian Gibson (AUEW convenor), 7 Magdalene Place, Ferryhill, County Durham; or Kenny Beattie, 5 Bolton Close, Newton Hall, Durham.

**DECCA -
WHAT
WE'VE
LEARNED**

WORKERS at Decca television in Battersea, South London last week lost their jobs after a short occupation, 400 workers, mainly Asian women, are now out of work. They describe the lessons of the dispute here:

Thank you for printing our report in full. However, we would like to make a few points, which should be kept in mind by other workers fighting redundancies by occupying.

First, refuse to talk to management until the occupation is well established. They are not afraid to lie, cheat and threaten. At Decca they threatened to put bad reports in our insurance cards. We now know they couldn't really do that.

They said they understood our anxiety and would help if we went home. But the next day the same manager told us harshly that we were 'silly girls', and sent up to 20 of us to a plant where they only wanted three. So much for their promises.

Second, do not be afraid if the initial occupation involves a small number of people. Once you are in, others will want to join you.

We found, next day, that most of the women had heard of the occupation on the radio, and that they had come prepared to join us.

They had cooked the day's meal, arranged for their children to be looked after and talked it over with their husbands.

Finally, it is important to relate our experience to other workers in the area. We are organising a meeting in our district on how to fight redundancies.

FIGHTING REDUNDANCIES: Public Meeting, Saturday 6 September, 7pm Tooting Library, 75 Mitcham Road, London, SW17.

Socialist Worker Information Service

MAYBE you need to know more about your firm, its profits, its directors. PERHAPS you're worried about the chemicals you work with.

Then get in touch with the Socialist Worker Information Service and we'll try to help.



Write to Alan Denean, SWIS, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Stop the National Front marching in the East End
 March, Saturday 6 September, 1pm.
 Victoria Park Square, near Bethnal Green tube.
 Supported by Hackney Trades Council. All London IS branches to support. Full details next week.



On the march: now the pendulum has swung to the left

150,000 march - and the whole mood changes

LAST WEDNESDAY's momentous demonstration in Lisbon has shifted the whole political spectrum to the left.

The demonstration ended outside the Constituent Assembly building, which the merchants of phoney democracy hold so dear. 150,000-strong, the demonstration demanded the dissolution of that assembly and the immediate implementation of the COPCON document for popular workplace and local community organs of working class power.

The chances are that such organs of working class power could begin to emerge over the next days and weeks, as workers decide to implement the Copcon document from the bottom up.

That is why Portugal's revolution will be at the turning point in the weeks ahead.

In the wake of the giant working class demonstration, which was due to be repeated in Lisbon and Oporto in the North as Socialist Worker went to press, support has fallen away from the right wing faction in the Armed Forces Movement headed by Melo Antunes and General Fabiao.

In the Central, Southern and Lisbon regions, the rank and file of the army are solidly behind the Copcon document.

Even in the North, there is substantial support for the left. And rank and file soldiers there are believed to be firm on demanding re-instatement of recently purged officers.

But the effect of the demonstration was more profound than that. It showed that the working class

PORTUGAL: THE TURNING POINT

LAST WEDNESDAY, it happened.

After weeks of increasing right-wing offensive in the north of Portugal, after weeks of tension and crisis as faction vied with faction at the upper levels of the Armed Forces Movement, the working class moved.

They moved in what was far and away the biggest demonstration in Lisbon since May Day 1974.

The demonstration was called in support of the revolutionary programme outlined in the Copcon document.

JEEPS

The march was led by 2000 sailors and soldiers in jeeps and army trucks. They led the demonstration in open defiance of their officers who had ordered them to return the vehicles to barracks.

Behind the soldiers and sailors were hundreds of Lisnave shipyard workers dressed in their overalls and helmets.

Behind them and stretching for more than two miles, were delegations from hundreds upon hundreds of workers' committees, tenants' committees and committees of farmworkers and poor peasants from Alcoentre,



Clenched fists—and a clear message for big business, 150,000 times over

riding on their tractors.

For every worker on the march, there was another on the pavement, cheering, raising

clenched fists and joining in the chanting of slogans.

This was no walk in the sunshine. Far from it. Every man and woman was marching for an end to the capitalist system, a system that has proved itself incapable of solving any of the problems that face working people.

The slogans the demonstrators

shouted were eloquent testimony to this. 'No to fascism, No to capitalism. Yes to a popular offensive'. This was followed by 'Immediate implementation of the Copcon document'.

The soldiers cried again and again 'Soldiers, always on the side of the people.' This slogan was taken up by the whole march.

At around 9.30pm, the front of the demonstration entered the vast Sao Bento square in which stands the ornate Constituent Assembly building.

As the square filled up, all the slogans of the march gave way to a single one Dissolve the Constituent Assembly Now.

By 11.30, the square was packed and the slogan was echoing around the entire district.

It is difficult to convey the message that the marchers conveyed so clearly.

But one section of society got the message specially loud and clear. The bourgeoisie, the men of business and reaction, understood 150,000 times over.

RICHARD NOSS reports from Lisbon

PICTURES: Beeban Kidron

was prepared to put up a united and utterly determined fight.

General Otelo de Carvalho, for example, felt the effect immediately. Within 24 hours, this man, who only a week before had been intriguing with the right, did another smart about-turn.

He announced that he did in fact support the Copcon document. The reason for his delay, he explained, was that it was more difficult for a General than for a Major to speak his mind.

Splits in the Socialist Party have become more widespread. Rank and file Socialist Party members have joined revolutionary demonstrations.

Inside the Party the leadership has staged a series of expulsions of Socialist Party members who oppose Mario Soares' pro-capitalist policies.

NOW THE LEFT UNITES

THE COMMUNIST Party has also been pulled in behind the revolutionary left by the present situation. Party leader Alvaro Cunhal, who had earlier been forced to give support to the revolutionary demonstrations, made direct contact with the leaders of the revolutionary left.

On Monday, these talks resulted in the declaration of an agreement for a united front between a number of revolutionary left organisations, the Communist Party and its related organisations and organisations somewhere in between.

Included in the united front are the PRP/BR, the LCI, LUAR, the Movement of the Socialist Left and the First of May Group, the Portuguese Communist Party, the MDP (Democratic Popular Movement) and the FSP, a left group which split from the Socialist Party some time ago.

As Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday, the first action of this front was announced in Lisbon. Another demonstration was called, this time from Lisbon's main railway station to the presidential palace at Belem.

WIN

It was confidently expected to be even bigger than the one ten days ago. Among the slogans agreed for the demonstration were the following, 'For a front of popular unity', 'Workers, poor peasants, soldiers and sailors: Together we can win', 'Dissolve the Constituent Assembly Now', 'Against fascism. Against capitalism. Popular offensive'.

This historic united front of revolutionary and other political parties could provide the stimulus for

speedy development of a united front of workers from below. In short, over the next days and weeks, real workers' councils through which the working class could take state power, could begin to flower.

In this crucial situation, it is the duty of every militant and socialist in Britain to redouble efforts to win solidarity with the Portuguese working class.

That solidarity could help speed final victory and the emergence of workers' power and the first workers' state in Europe.

£248.47 has been sent in to the Socialist Worker Portugal Fund in the last two weeks.
 Fund details—Page 12

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