

# Socialist Worker

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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



JUNE NUTTALL

## All out to support Clay Cross eleven

JUNE NUTTALL, Clay Cross councillor and wife of David Nuttall, one of the original Clay Cross eleven, made this speech at the Women's Voice Rally in Manchester last Saturday.

Comrades,

For the past three years the elected councillors have been harassed, prosecuted and persecuted for carrying out socialist policies. And now, after battling through a-all the courts in the land they have been made bankrupt.

At the moment the official receiver is planning to send in bailiffs to remove furniture and personal possessions. Cars and superannuation pensions have been taken from them.

And for what?

For refusing to increase rents. For providing free school milk for the children. For providing employment for the unemployed.

And above all for even having the audacity to look after the old and disabled people in Clay Cross. For giving them free travel tokens and free television licences. For carrying out election pledges.

In 1973, when the present Labour government was in opposition, all of these things that I have mentioned were official Labour Party policy.

But who is it that continues to betray these eleven councillors?

The Labour government supported by the trade union leadership.

But the betrayal does not stop there. In two or three weeks time, the second Clay Cross eleven are going to be dragged through exactly the same procedure as the first eleven.

We are only allowed to govern as long as we are prepared to be puppets and prop up a capitalist system with capitalist policies.

Are we going to continue to allow these injustices to exist?

Comrades, of course we can't allow it. As socialists and trade unionists we must stand by people like Des Warren and the Clay Cross councillors who stood firm on the principles and policy of the Labour and trade union movement.

But on Saturday 6 December, we have a demonstration in Clay Cross, jointly organised by Chesterfield Trades Council, the Clay Cross Labour Party and some members from the International Socialists in Chesterfield.

I would urge you to support this demonstration by bringing along your friends, husbands, boyfriends to join in the march and help stop the betrayal of the Clay Cross councillors.

SISTERS IN STRUGGLE—report of the Women's Voice Rally, pages 4-5.

## Labour's 'New Britain' exposed

# SIX MILLION ON THE BREADLINE

THIRTY years ago the first ever majority Labour government promised in its manifesto to abolish poverty. That promise has been repeated in every Labour manifesto since. What are the facts today?

A Child Poverty Action Group report out this week gives some of them:

● Four and a half million people need state benefits to bring their incomes up to the 'poverty line' of £25.70 a week.

● At least another one and a half million live below this line.

Six and a half million workers, four million of them women, earn less than £30 a week.

● The report quotes a single parent as saying: 'Wednesdays and Thursdays are poor days for me, so I do without food so the children can have some.'

A mother of four children said: 'I have been trying for school clothing for John, aged 12, and Melvyn, aged 14, since November 1973, but I have heard nothing. They are losing a lot

'In some instances, the gap between the poor and the rest of the community has widened.'

of education as it's mostly coats and shoes they require and they have none, only plim-solls.'

The report concludes: 'For the period under study, there has been no marked overall improvement in the position of the poor. In some instances, the gap between the poor and the rest of the community has widened.'

These are the shocking facts of Britain under Labour. They prove just how pathetic have been Labour's efforts, in three periods of government since the war, to 'wipe out poverty'.

What remedies do the Labour government propose? A £6 wage limit, permanent unemployment of more than a million, and heavy cuts in spending on the 'welfare state'.

The £6 wage limit increases poverty. For all six million workers who receive less than £30 a week, it means lost rebates, lost family income supplement, lost free school meals—and less money in their pockets.

Unemployment at the present rate increases the poverty outlined in the Child Poverty Action Group report by more than 30 per cent.

The cuts in the public services mean more and more families landed with the full cost of looking after old people, sick people, disabled people and children.

Labour are not the champions of the poor, as they pretend. They are the champions of the Confederation of British Industry and the City of London, who have forced all these policies on them.

Next time any trade union leader or television hack tells you to accept the £6 limit in the interests of the poor and needy, just fling these figures right back in their faces.



## JAPAN: OTHER SIDE OF THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE . . .

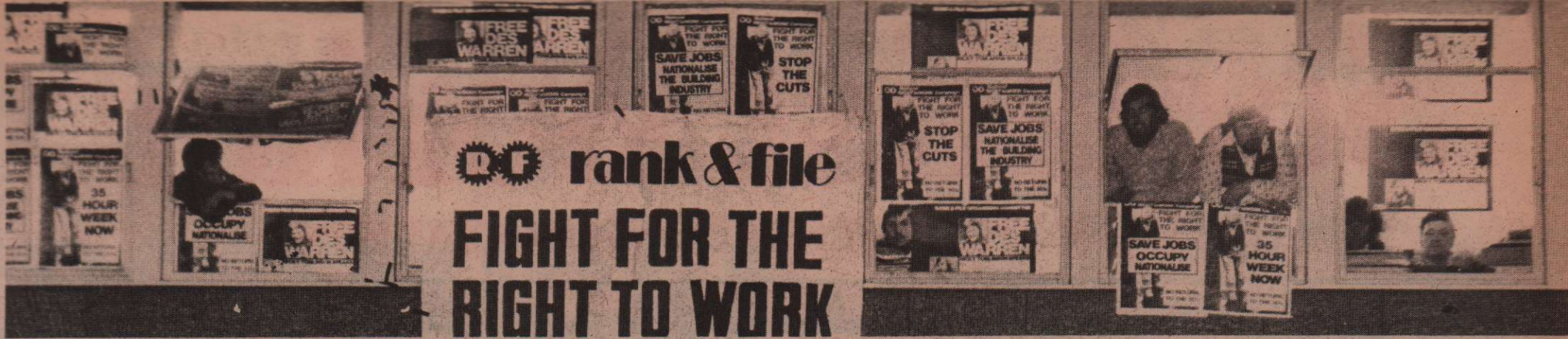
IN a Tokio station last week—a great strike rally. Yes, in the land of the economic miracle where capitalism works, the railwaymen are on strike. So are the busmen. So are all corporation workers. 600,000 public service workers are on strike.

What for? The right to strike.

In Japan, public service workers are banned from striking by law. Now they are breaking the law—to gain basic trade union rights. Miki, the Japanese Prime Minister, said on Monday that he would fight the strikers to a finish. If he gave in, he said, 'it would be tantamount to destroying parliamentary democracy as we know it'.

Now where have we heard that before?

Picture: Morning Star.



# rank & file FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

CONGRESS HOUSE, the TUC headquarters, on the night before the demonstration. Twenty unemployed trade unionists, including Ricky Tomlinson, the freed Shrewsbury picket, occupied two rooms of the building.

Ricky told Socialist Worker: 'We are occupying to protest against the TUC General Council's lack of action in the fight for the right to work and in the campaign to free Des Warren.'

Then, at 10pm—after five hours of the occupation—TUC General

Secretary Len Murray ordered 40 police to use crowbars and axes to break down the doors into the occupied rooms.

Once the police had broken in, Murray ordered them to take the names and addresses of the demonstrators

and escort them from the building.

Ricky Tomlinson said: 'Using the police against us was the only positive action Len Murray took on a day when unemployment reached new heights. It's disgusting.'

# WE'RE ON OUR WAY

**TWENTY THOUSAND** workers, employed and unemployed, marched through the centre of London last Wednesday in spite of every effort to stop them by the official trade union leadership.

Not a single national newspaper carried any reports of the preparations for the march. The TUC General Council issued a special circular telling all affiliated bodies not to support it.

From the safety of the TUC headquarters Congress House, protected by lines of policemen, TUC General Secretary Len Murray told the press about his solution to unemployment.

## MARCHED

'The best way of overcoming this problem is by the TUC working together with the government—not by taking part in anti-government demonstrations,' he said.

Despite Murray, delegates came from every area. More than 700 Chrysler workers from Coventry marched behind their shop stewards committee banner. The Islington branch of NALGO, the local government workers' union, showed what white collar workers can do and stopped for the day.

One of them, Gordon Peters, told Socialist Worker: 'More than 400 members of the branch are on this demonstration. It's exhilarating for all of us. It's magnificent.'

Special trains came from many parts of the country. From Manchester came 85 unemployed workers, given free seats on the Trades Council train thanks to the local Right to Work Committee.

Secretary Bobby Buirds told Socialist Worker: 'No-one seemed to care about getting unemployed workers down.'

## FIGHT

'I rang the Trades Council, I rang all the unions. The only thing to do was to get shop stewards committees, branches and individuals to agree to pay for seats for the unemployed. And it worked.'

'It's our fight as well. The official machinery just forgets about you once you're on the dole.'

As part of the efforts to create a united march, the Right to Work Campaign organised a platform and loudspeakers at Euston Station and invited speakers from the numerous delegations.

Ricky Tomlinson, the freed

## 'Now build Right to Work campaign'

JOHN DEASON, of the National Right to Work Campaign, said: 'The march was very good. It was a real achievement to get so many people out.'

'Murray said it was the work of a few extremists. He's never worked in a factory or on a site. He doesn't know how workers feel.'

'You can't fool 20,000 people, let alone the tens of thousands who voted to send delegations, and paid for collections to send others.'

'The Rank and File Organising Committee, through the National Right to Work Campaign

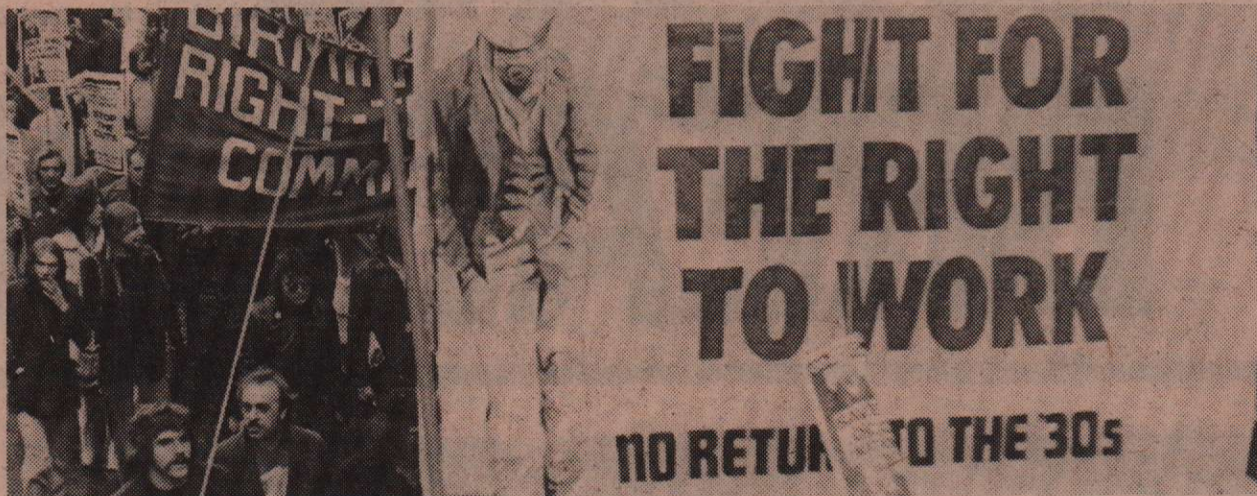
made a real impact. We're beginning to get known and supported far more widely in the movement.'

'But what was missing on the march was the anger of the unemployed. We are going to have to fight much harder to involve unemployed workers in the campaign and in the trade union movement.'

'The march helped establish the campaign, but now we have to concentrate on detailed hard work in the areas, bringing together unemployed workers with the power and strength that led to so many shop stewards' committees being represented on the march.'



Ready to march off: the 20,000-strong protest



Part of the Rank and File contingent: Now we must build Right to Work committees

Shrewsbury picket, talked about the continuing fight to free Des Warren and said the fight against unemployment was part of the fight for socialism.'

Among dozens of speakers was the secretary of the Chrysler Stoke shop stewards committee, Eddie McCluskey who is also a member of the executive committee of the Communist Party.

Speakers were also invited from the committee of the London Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Unfortunately they refused to speak from the platform and preferred to address a far smaller meeting at the head of the march.

Many bodies contributed to the magnificent turn-out. It was a pity, then, that the repeated calls for a united march and meeting made by the Right to Work Campaign were attacked.

Overtime—35 Hours now without loss of pay—Nationalise the building industry.

These placards became the slogans of the whole march.

The enthusiasm of the march was dampened by the way it ended. The police broke it up into small groups which were allowed to go along the riverside for a mile-long walk to Parliament.

Of those who got to Parliament, few were allowed in. One who was, Gail Cartmail, an unemployed clerk from Norwich, told Socialist Worker:

'It was a bloody waste of time. These MPs they don't have a clue. All they said was 'I voted the right way on this amendment and that amendment'.'

'What use is that? We still don't have jobs.'

As the crowds dispersed outside Parliament, the police charged in on horses. 'I don't know why they did it,' one injured girl told Socialist Worker.

'People were going away and they charged straight in. It was a shambles.'

## SUCCESS

And a greater pity that the Morning Star failed to report the enormous efforts of unemployed workers from the local Right to Work Committees to make the march a success.

The Morning Star also failed to report that thousands of trade unionists carried the National Right to Work Campaign's placards.

These demanded: Fight for the Right to Work—Save Jobs, Occupy, Nationalise—Nationalise the car industry without compensation—Ban



ABOVE: Some of the speakers on the Right to Work platform: Mick Brightman, an unemployed engineer, and unemployed building workers Frank Drain, from London, and Tommy Dourass, from Liverpool



## FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK! NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee

**SOUTH EAST LONDON**

Monday 8 December, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, SE7.

Chairman: Will Fancy, member of NALGO executive. Speakers: Peter Lisle, convenor, Molins, Deptford, Dick North, member of the NUT executive (in a personal capacity), Ray Storry, secretary Unemployed Workers Action Committee.

Sponsored by Greenwich Trades Council, Thamesmead Building Workers Shop Stewards Committee, Molins (Deptford) Shop Stewards Committee, United Glass (NEW Cross) Shop Stewards Committee, Greenwich No 1 Iron and Steel Confederation, TGWU 1/1563, South East London Unemployed Workers Action Committee, Kentish Times Federated Chapels, Osram (Erith) Shop Stewards, ACTTS (SE London Social Services Branch).

# WHY THE HANG'EM BRIGADE ARE WRONG

THE CAMPAIGN to hang 'bombers' and 'terrorists' is being led by Margaret Thatcher and the Tory press. But it seems to make sense to many workers who have never voted Tory in their lives.

They feel something has to be done to stop bombs going off in the streets. The call to Eradicate the terrorists' seems to them the instant answer.

Socialists are against the planting of bombs. We have repeated that again and again. We are also against the assassination of individuals, no matter how unpleasant they may be.

Acts of individual terrorism turn such people into instant martyrs for workers who would never support their political ideas if they were properly explained.

The answer to such losses of life and limb does not lie in the application of even harsher punishments. It cannot. For it does not in any way deal with the causes which drive people to turn to random bombing.

Eight years ago, there were no bombings, although capital punishment did not exist then either. But people from the Catholic areas of Northern Ireland did not feel driven to engage in such acts.

Only with the stepping up of the struggle in Northern Ireland, and the consequent increase in repression—more and more people thrown in jail, hundreds of others murdered by Protestant sectarian groups against whom the British army takes little action—have some Republicans

come to feel so bitter that they are prepared to bomb and kill British people at random.

Repression has produced that bitterness, with the bombing campaign as a by-product. It will not be stopped by more repression. The real answer lies in ending the conditions that have made many Irish people see the 'people of Britain'—including ordinary British workers—as their enemy.

Threats from the Tory Party or Margaret Thatcher will not change their views. After all, they

know the Tories have always been prepared to justify the bombing of civilian populations by Britain's armed forces.

They remember the support for the parachute regiment when it murdered 13 civilians on Bloody Sunday nearly four years ago.

Sections of the IRA believe that they, as 'soldiers for Ireland', are entitled to do what British soldiers have done in the past. The threat of death will deter them no more than it deters other soldiers.

There is only one way to stop this vicious circle of repression and reaction to repression. It is to end the 600-year-old attempt of the rulers of Britain to dominate Ireland.

Fifteen years ago there were many acts of 'terror' committed in France by Algerian nationalists. Today there are none.

The withdrawal of French troops from Algeria achieved what no amount of repression ever could. The lesson applies to Ireland.

The Tory press and the Tory politicians will never learn that lesson.

The so-called 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' which the government is now seeking to make permanent, has led to more than 1,000 people chiefly trade unionists, being held for days on end without charge and without contact with their families or lawyers.

The police have later recognised that 95 per cent of these had committed no crime.

The introduction of hanging for 'terrorists' would add to the repressive powers at the hands of the police and the courts.

It would lead to people politically opposed to the British presence in Ireland, but with no involvement whatsoever in the bombing campaign, being threatened with a fate similar to, for instance, James Hanratty.

But it would not stop the bombing campaign either. Only the withdrawal of British troops will save that.

## FORTY lovers of law and order, members of the National Front, went on an outing last Sunday.

They went by bus from Blackburn to Manchester, where they dropped in on a National Council of Civil Liberties meeting on The State, the Law and Ireland.

As solicitor Tony Casson introduced the meeting, these supporters of Roy Jenkins' anti-Terror Act got to work.

'Fenian bastards', they shouted. 'Get back to Ireland'. One of their number threw a brick at the chairman.

Then these believers in flogging and the birch for hooligans got to work on the furniture and fittings. They wrecked the place, causing upwards of £3000 damage.

A member of the audience, 60-year-old Mrs Tansey, was hit over the head with a bottle.

Graeme Atkins got a broken bottle in his face, causing wounds which required 19 stitches. Malcolm Peach got a serious eye injury and a broken arm.

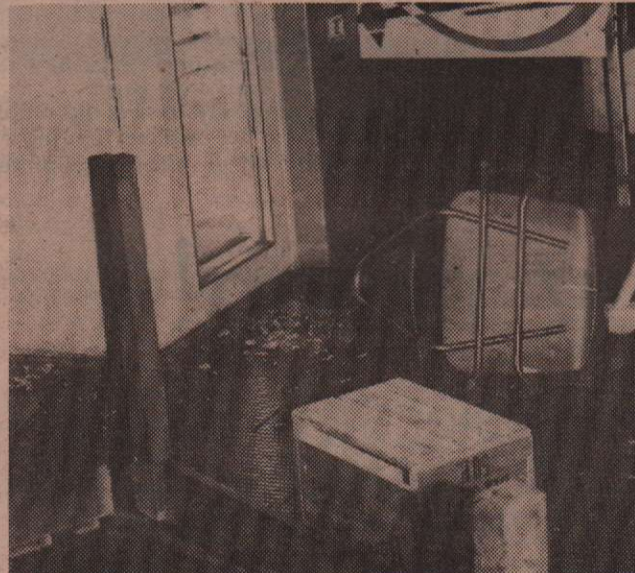
The police were called but claimed at first that the meeting wasn't on their beat. And so, with the job done, the National Front members moved off back to their hired coach, in military formation, giving the Seig Heil salute.

Finally, one lone policeman was sent 'to find out what had been going on'. Others eventually joined him and, in all, 30 arrests were made.

But the 30 Nazis hadn't dug up a cricket pitch in protest against the imprisonment of an innocent man,



Graeme Atkins - 19 stitches in his face after being attacked by Front members armed with bottles and bricks—and the remains of the meeting hall after the Front had passed through...



## The National Front passed this way...

like the supporters of the George Davis is Innocent campaign.

They had only beaten up a 60-year-old woman and pushed a few socialists' faces in. Accordingly, there were no conspiracy charges and they were allowed bail immediately.

In the week before, the NCCL had received several threatening phone calls. But no preparations to defend the meeting were made.

And even now NCCL members are looking to the police to do the job, when, as is evident from this case, the police are only too happy to see the left attacked.

Pat Arrowsmith, the pacifist campaigner against British Troops in Ireland, who arrived after the meeting had been wrecked, even went so far as to suggest, we understand, that the remedy was to invite the Front to speak at future meetings.

In fact, the Front and all their ilk represent so deadly a threat to the socialist and working class movement that the exact opposite tactics apply.

You have to organise against them. You have to prevent them from speaking at, intervening in and if possible in any way attending or picketing trade union and socialist meetings.

There should be no free speech for fascists.

### PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT

Meeting of trade union delegates and observers.

Tuesday 16 December, 7pm, Blythe Hall, Blythe Road, London, W14.

Speakers: Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement), a legal expert (who will answer questions on the Act), and trade unionists arrested under the Act. Chairman: Bill Geddes (NUPE) shop steward, Hammersmith Hospital).

Called by Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Sponsored by Hammersmith Hospital NUPE shop stewards' committee.

A trade union bodies invited to send delegates or observers. Credentials available from above address or on door, price 25p. Admission by trade union card only.

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# WARNING TO ALL STUDENTS: THE RIGHT ARE ON THE MOVE! They want:

By Lindsay German  
**NEXT WEEK'S** conference of the National Union of Students at Scarborough is going to be very different from those of the past few years.

The reactionaries are on the attack. Their main weapon will be the one which has scored such enormous right-wing victories in the Engineering Union—the demand for election by ballot.

The right-wing have a resolution which seeks to elect the students' union executive by separate ballots in the colleges, instead of by delegates' vote at the conference, as at present.

As with the argument over postal ballots in the AUEW, it will all appear very reasonable. 'More people will vote', the 'moderates' will argue. 'So more people will determine union policy'.

Not so. As in the AUEW, the ballot would stamp out all serious political discussion and debate. It would castrate the conference as a policy-making body.

The tradition, which has been carefully built up, of serious discussion and debate about issues that affect us all will be destroyed.

If the right-wing win, they will be able to run ragweeks, rugby matches, insurance and travel rackets just like they did in the 1960s. It's worth remembering that when the NUS was controlled by the Labour Right—remember Gwyn Morgan, now

- RAG WEEKS
- RUGGER
- INSURANCE AND TRAVEL RACKETS
- MONEY FROM THE CIA

assistant European Commissioner in Brussels?—it was assisted by Foundations financed by the CIA.

The NUS has moved forward since those days. We have developed a campaigning record, largely because we have insisted on taking decisions in an atmosphere of discussion, where the students' interests are put first. The ballot would wreck all that.

Students' interests would be steamrolled by the 'national interest' (the words the Press proprietors use for the interests of their class).

We need to mount an assault on the ballot at this conference. But we will not win the argument just by conference manoeuvre.

The present executive would be quite happy to win the vote against the ballot at the conference (on the grounds that it costs too much!) and leave the matter there. That's been their attitude all along.

## Organise

But if we are to preserve a fighting union, we have to take the argument back to the colleges. We have to discuss the arguments in the light of every situation in each college. We have to organise people to put the argument clearly at union general meetings. We cannot rely on the arguments being put spontaneously.

In all this, the building of the National Organisation of IS Societies is crucial. As the fine turn-out from NOISS (with unemployed young workers from their areas) at last week's big Right to Work demonstration showed, we are now the main group who are trying to organise rank and file students in the fight against the Right.

We will be fighting hard to save our union at the conference. But we will be fighting even harder back in the colleges when the conference is over.

# We want: A fighting union!

HEY THERE, MR PRESIDENT, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU GROW UP? ... EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW, OF COURSE!

ONCE a union bureaucrat, always a union bureaucrat, as the saying goes.

DIGBY JACKS, NUS President two years ago, is now a full-time official for ASTMS.

JOHN RANDALL, last year's President, has become assistant general secretary of the civil service union without ever going near the civil service—indeed, without ever working for an employer.

He moved straight into the CSU office after leaving the NUS office in London's Endsleigh Street.

HUGH BAYLEY, an NUS executive member two years ago, is now a full-time officer for NALGO.

Which union will take Charles Biggles Clarke—the current President?

The President, incidentally, is very well-paid. He and the secretary, treasurer, and deputy President are on about £3200 a year.

They also got 'free travel abroad once a year' until the privilege was stopped this autumn: after the officers had their travel!

It's never been clear why these four officers should get about three times as much as the London grant. Al Stewart, replying to recent criticism, said it was the 'rate for the job'. But it isn't.

Union officers should get what their members get. Then they would identify more easily with their members' problems.



Digby Jacks and John Randall... making careers

WORKERS in Britain's paper mills are under attack. A couple of mills have been closed this year, there is talk of widespread redundancies in the fibreboard mills, and most of us have been laid off for considerable periods.

In September 7000 paper-mills workers were out of work, and 5000 were on short time.

And yet the response of our union, SOGAT, is to campaign for import controls on foreign paper.

Import controls would put workers in other countries out of work or on short time. With less money to buy British exports, unemployment would go up here.

British paper-mill workers are entitled to full time employment—but so are Austrian, Dutch, Japanese and

Canadian mill workers. Our industry has been carved up by the multinational companies—giants like Reeds, Bowaters, Unilever and Wiggins Teape. Bowaters, for example control over 40 plants in Britain producing newsprint and packaging and are similarly involved in USA,

Canada, the Far East and Western Europe. Reeds produce about a sixth of British paper in nine mills, about 1,090,000 tonnes of paper and pulp a year in North America, and are busy constructing fine grade mills in South Africa (where all the cheap labour is).

# Sisters

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT has broken all its promises to women—and it is up to us to fight back, said MARGARET RENN of Socialist Worker, introducing the first session of the conference.

The worst disaster area was jobs. Unemployment, up 48 per cent for men in the last year, had risen 121 per cent for women. But there was no fight from trade union leaders.

There was fight from working women, as strike after strike from Yarnolds to Ladbroke had shown. 'These struggles are our strength,' she said.



Margaret Renn: We know what we want

Margaret added: 'We know what we want. We want a decent house, job, school—we want to be able to control our own lives.'

'But if we want that control we're going to have to take it from the people who run our lives for profit.'

## ABORTION

ELAINE ROSE from Pontefract told how she had been refused an abortion six years ago. 'They told me that if I spent three weeks in a mental institute I could get one on mental grounds.'

MAUREN JOINER, a Post Office worker, described her experience of the 1967 Abortion Act.

A self-imposed abortion before the Act had led to 'massive haemorrhaging'; a Health Service abortion after the Act had been 'safe'.

'People who don't agree with abortion reform,' she said, 'should look at it from the simple, human point of view.'

'Look at who's made the decision, and make up your mind whether you want her to go back to the back streets, or have a safe operation.'

JEAN LEWIS, a doctor from Pontefract, and GERRY NORRIS, a type-setter from North London, said that the agitation around the National Abortion Campaign had given whole numbers of women confidence to take part in political activity.

JILL BROWNBILL from South East London gave a number of examples of direct action.

'When a local church put up a notice saying: Abortion is Murder, Think Twice, Think Christian, we picketed the Sunday services for three weeks, lobbied the bishop and had it taken down.'

'When Mother Magazine published a lot of lies on abortion, we picketed the magazine, and forced them to publish a retraction and a statement of our case.'

## NURSERY EDUCATION

SHIRLEY NICHOLSON, a housewife, had found it easy to get signatures from working class women on abortion—but difficult to get anything more.

'The issue of nursery education might be able to involve women where abortion doesn't,' she said.

IRENE BREUGEL, an ASTMS member from North London, lambasted the government's 'hypocrisy

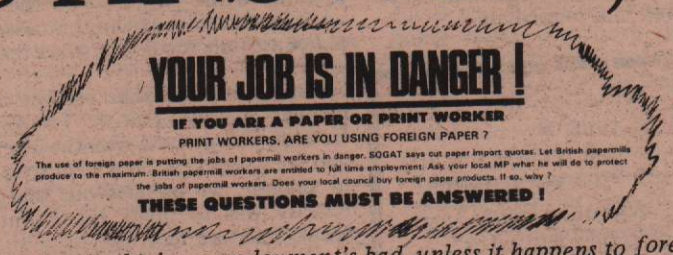


Elaine Rose: horror story



Maureen Joiner: self-imposed abortion

# IT'S NO ANSWER, SOGAT



SOGAT 'leadership': unemployment's bad, unless it happens to foreigners...

By IS members at Reeds Tovil and Bridge Mills, Maidstone

Canadian mill workers. Our industry has been carved up by the multinational companies—giants like Reeds, Bowaters, Unilever and Wiggins Teape. Bowaters, for example control over 40 plants in Britain producing newsprint and packaging and are similarly involved in USA,

Canada, the Far East and Western Europe. Reeds produce about a sixth of British paper in nine mills, about 1,090,000 tonnes of paper and pulp a year in North America, and are busy constructing fine grade mills in South Africa (where all the cheap labour is).

If SOGAT really wants to protect the jobs of its members, we will have to prepare ourselves for an all out fight with the multinationals—by building national and international links.

Of course, if the industry was properly planned and controlled, the tremendous potential for producing paper from recycled waste would be fully exploited.

● To protect our jobs we must demand:

➤ No overtime except holiday and sickness cover.

● A full week's work or a full week's pay.

● Rank and file combine committees throughout the multinationals.

● Nationalisation under workers control and without compensation of all firms that cannot guarantee the right to work.

# in struggle



We're women, we're workers—and we're fighting: some of the 600 women at Saturday's rally



Sheila McGregor: women's voice

in bringing in the Sex Discrimination Act, and, in the same breath, announcing massive cuts in nursery education.

In Camden, it cost £2 a day to leave a child in a nursery.

In Islington, there was a strong fight back against these cuts. The NALGO action group had managed by strike action to stop them.

JANET BROWN, said she was 'terrified' of speaking—and then went on to give a brilliant account of the difficulties of organising playgroup workers in Manchester.



## HEALTH CUTS

SHEILA PARKIN, an auxiliary nurse from Leeds, said 40 nurses in her hospital who had just qualified were not being kept on. In Liverpool, qualified nurses were being asked to stay on—as student nurses.

'If this goes on another 12 months,' she said, 'there won't be a health service.'

The most important thing was unity. Management was always trying to split auxiliary nurses from staff nurses, porters from domestics and so on.

IRENE HEHER from Liverpool emphasised the point. She had spent some time as a patient in Walton

hospital. The problem was not overcrowding. Half the wards were empty—but the nurses were working ten-hour days.

The junior hospital doctors often only got two and a half hours' sleep out of 24. These doctors were health workers just like any others—and should be supported.

## EDUCATION CUTS

JENNY BROOK, an unemployed teacher from Bradford, told how she had filled in 'countless applications, gone to countless interviews.

'And even though I know the real reason I can't get a job is because of the education cuts, demoralisation

sets in. You get to feel it is your fault, you're not much good.'

JILL HALL told how school cooks in Nottingham had got equal pay. Their money went from 72p an hour up to a magnificent 75p an hour!

'Equal pay! Equal to what? There aren't any men school cooks. So they put us in the same category as the old men who get jobs as school caretakers.'

JOAN SMITH from London pinpointed the political assumptions behind the cuts with a sharp attack on the concept of 'community care'.

Cuts in housing and hospitals for the elderly, she said, meant women in the home had to look after the children and old people turned out of nurseries and hospitals because of the cuts. 'The twilight shift spreads throughout women's lives.'

It cost local councils some £80 a week to keep a child in care—while families kept children on £20 a week. The family therefore became a great welfare state in itself, and women's right to choose was cut down all along the line.

'We are going back to the days when an old person who gets desperately ill is put in an ambulance and taken to the nearest daughter, niece, or other woman relative they can find.'



Irene Heher: 'hospital wards empty'



Jill Hall: 'equal pay? equal to what?'

# How we're fighting

CAROL DOURASS opened the afternoon session on jobs and redundancies with a magnificent speech.

A convenor in a Liverpool printing firm, she told how difficult it was to get women to branch meetings.

'So we had factory floor meetings. Even if you only get five women out of 300 to support an idea, that's a response. Those are people who you can get to fight with you.'

'We fought voluntary redundancies. We said, 'You're selling those jobs out of the labour movement forever. When your kids come out of school next year, there won't be a job for them because you've sold it.' We got a response.'

'Don't snuggle up to the left-wing men in the trade unions. You may think they can help you. But the moment you raise something that means they're going to have to fight, they shit all over you. I'm sorry to be so crude, but that's just what they do.'

'At the beginning of the year, I asked Simon Fraser on the Liverpool Trades Council to arrange something



Carol Dourass: magnificent because it's International Women's Year.

'Nothing happened, so I reminded him. He said he had it all in hand, not to worry.'

'A few months later he says he's applied to the GPO for a special stamp!'

'But that's not all, the answer he got from the GPO was, "You've got the Queen's head on the stamp—what more do you want?"'

'We've got to say, "Listen pal, I

don't want no stamp." And tell them what we do want.'

KATHY FINN of Glasgow spoke of the 280 Ladbroke's workers—mostly women—out for union recognition for six months now.

SHEILA ROBIN told how 68 part-time women workers had been sacked to guarantee overtime for the men at the Birmingham Post Office.

SAM STRUDWICK spoke of the difficulties trying to unionise women at Sunlight Laundry, Brixton.

After CHRIS GUNTER from Lambeth NALGO and a member of the Rank and File Organising Committee's Right to Work Campaign committee had outlined the campaign's policy, the rally heard another fighting speech from an AUEW member.

JUDY NORRIS from Portsmouth, who described herself as 'a mechanic—that really means a screwdriver-pusher'—said she wasn't working for pin-money. Her husband was unemployed.

She worked in an unorganised shop, and many women were frightened of unions, because they were worried about their jobs.

Part of the job of the Right to Work

Campaign must be to help women organise themselves in unions in factories like hers. It was vital too, that women should be on the platform of every Right to Work meeting.

The conference ended with a fine speech from SHEILA MCGREGOR, IS women's organiser and editor of Women's Voice.

'We face the employers' assault in the front line,' she said, 'because we are the most vulnerable.' The past year had seen a lot of defeats of women who had been sold out by the trade union leaders.

'The women at Yarnolds had every bit as much a right to victory as dockers or miners,' she said. 'It's up to us to see that these small battles are not isolated.'

'It's no good being all namby pamby when women are out on strike and just saying "You're great". We've got to make sure that the same mistakes are not made again. That's why rank and file organisation is so important to women.'

The Labour government and the employers were getting away with their attacks. Women had to make sure they didn't go on getting away with it.

'We've missed a lot of things. Take the Post Office women in Birmingham—68 sacked by agreement with the union. We should have picketed every Post Office.'

'Tom Jackson, stuffing himself with mussels and shrimps and talking about women's equality, we should picket him too. We should stuff the mussels and shrimps down his throat!'

'If they sack workers at Chrysler, we should react. The wives should take their children down to the Chrysler offices and tell the bosses:

"Well, here you are. We can't give these children their Christmas dinners because of your decisions. You take the responsibility for them."

Finally, said Sheila, 'we have to fight for the socialist revolution: for a new society where having children can be pleasure not a burden; where we can control our lives; where we can have decent schools and nurseries, not bombs and Concordes.'

'We've got to lead the struggle for socialist revolution. We don't want just to be a voice in the movement.'

'We want to be central to the movement so we can be central to the socialist revolution.'

# The tragedy of Spain, 1936

I WROTE LAST WEEK that the Spanish Communist Party, 'with the aid of the right wing of the Socialist Party', throttled the Spanish revolution in 1936-37 and so paved the way for Franco's victory.

A comrade has criticised the article on the grounds that it does not explain how this was possible.

Granted that Stalin's government in Russia was determined to sabotage the revolution for foreign policy reasons. Granted that in those days the word of Stalin was the word of God for most Communist Party members. Still, how was the Party able to gain mass working class support for its policy of 'democratic unity' with the 'left' bourgeois parties?

This is a fair criticism and it raises some basic



questions, not only about Spain but about revolutionary politics in general.

First of all, it will not do to refer to the 'reformist illusions' or 'immaturity' of the Spanish workers.

This, the blanket explanation for every failure advanced by some 'revolutionaries', is a libel on the Spanish workers of that time.

'The Spanish proletariat stood, in the first day of the revolution, not below but above the Russian proletariat of 1917,' wrote Trotsky at the end of 1937. It was true.

In the first week of the military-fascist coup of July 1936 the workers, often under the local leadership of anarchist and left-wing socialist militants, neutralised, won over or destroyed the army units in the majority of Spain's cities.

They did so in spite of the attempts of the Popular Front government to paralyse resistance.

That government, when it knew that the coup was well under way, declared:

'The government acknowledges the offers of support which it has received (from the workers' organisations) and, while being grateful for them, declares that the best aid that can be given to the government is to guarantee the normality of daily life, in order to set a high example of serenity and of confidence in the means of the military

strength of the State.'

If the working class which broke the first fascist assault was not revolutionary, then there never was and never will be a revolutionary working class.

But, of course, to go forward from the first spontaneous resistance, to consolidate the power won and to destroy the remaining fascist forces, a leadership—a party—was needed.

Understanding this, tens of thousands of working-class militants turned to the Communist Party, the Party, as they believed, of revolution.

The Spanish Communist Party had been a very small organisation with a very leftist, indeed ultra-leftist, position.

Until 1934, it had described the Socialist Party as 'Social-Fascist' and the growing Socialist Party left wing as 'Left Social-Fascists'—the most dangerous kind! It had repeatedly called for soviets and for revolution.

It now grew very quickly, from a few thousand members to 117,000 (its own figure) early in 1937.

The Communist Youth grew from a few hundreds to over 100,000, swallowing the whole of the Socialist Youth in the process.

It grew on the basis of its reputation as the most left-wing of the nationally known parties and also because of its association with 'Red Russia'—still a powerful attraction in those days.

And the popular appeal of Russia, 'the socialist fatherland', was greatly strengthened because only the government of the USSR (apart from Mexico) was willing to sell arms to the anti-fascists.

France, under the Popular Front government of Leon Blum, and Britain, under the Tories, joined hands with Hitler's Germany and fascist Italy to enforce 'non-intervention'.

This meant a blockade of Republican Spain by their joint fleets while Hitler and Mussolini sent not only arms but also regular troops to prop up Franco's faltering rebellion.

It is not surprising that the prestige of Russia and of the Spanish Communist Party rocketed.

## Blockade

But surely the masses of radicalised workers (and peasants) must have become disillusioned with the pro-capitalist policies of the Popular Front, which was increasingly dominated by the Communist Party? They did.

Trotsky's grimly accurate assessment, at the end of 1937, summarises the result.

'The republican military commanders were more concerned with crushing social revolution than with scoring victories.

'The soldiers lost confidence in their commanders, the masses lost confidence in the government, the peasants stepped aside, the workers became exhausted, defeat followed defeat, demoralisation grew apace . . .

'By setting itself the task of rescuing the capitalist regime the People's Front doomed itself to military defeat.'

Why did this not produce a swing to the revolutionary left?

Partly because there was no significant revolutionary organisation—the POUM, which claimed to be one, was actually part of the People's Front. But also because the rising tide of revolution had been missed.

The historic crime of the Spanish Communist Party was to divert the working class at the moment of the flood tide, to prevent it from seizing the hour.

Thus, in spite of its intentions, it did pave the way for Franco's victory.

## THE BEST THERE IS?

NEARLY FOUR YEARS AGO, the British Army murdered 13 people on a Bloody Sunday in Derry—and, in retaliation, the Official IRA blasted an Aldershot barracks. The army commander concerned was later awarded the OBE, and the Official IRA's alleged commander in Aldershot, a socialist called Noel Jenkinson, was awarded 'at least 30 years' in jail.

Just lately, in the high security wing of Parkhurst jail, Jenkinson has won other 'awards' from law and order. On 8 November, for instance, he was attacked and beaten unconscious.

He spent two days in hospital after that, his second beating in three months.

From hospital, he was taken to the punishment block and held in solitary confinement for 56 days by order of Governor Maurice Brian. The order can be renewed indefinitely.

### HOPE

Brian's justification for punishing the victim and not the culprits of this latest attack is that it is for Jenkinson's 'own protection'.

His assailants, according to last week's Daily Express, were obviously fellow prisoners. Obviously? Consider a little about Jenkinson's trial:

The case against him rested largely on a receipt from an Aldershot shop found in his North London home. It was later withdrawn as evidence after being shown in court to have been planted by a Detective Chief Inspector Smith . . .

And so the 'evidence' became Jenkinson's politics. The impartial judge, Sebag Shaw, heartily joined in the cross-examination, demanding to know of Jenkinson if he was 'anti-capitalist'.

For the conservative Winchester jury, it was enough that Jenkinson was Irish, leftwing—and active. Never mind that he strenuously attacked the politics of the terrorism of which he was accused.

### CLAIM

Never mind that his wife had been arrested without pretext and—in a scene straight out of 1984—produced in his prison cell and told she would get ten years if he refused to sign a statement saying he had hired the car used in the bombing.

It was a trial which Jenkinson later described in a prison letter as 'every bit as farcical as the Reichstag fire'—and which he is still seeking to have exposed at the Human Court of rights in Strasbourg.

That expose would be not a little embarrassing for many powerful people who enjoy talking about British justice—the best there is.

And it would be not a little convenient if Noel Jenkinson could be persuaded against it. Persuaded by a few days in hospital and a few months in solitary, perhaps?

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It raises the question of whether an MP should be a delegate or a representative. The latter, by going to the back of his shoulder all the time, is not a constituent's party; it is not like what he is saying or doing. It's not good enough.

—Reginald Prentice, MP, interviewed on ITV's First Report, 25 November.

## 5 FIFTH COLUMN



### JUMMINGSKLIN SHOWS US HOW IT'S DONE

HERE WE GO - AN IRISHMAN



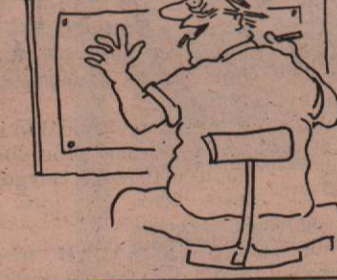
THERE YOU ARE - A TYPICAL THICK PADDY!



OH - YOU'RE IRISH (GULP) - HA HA - NO OFFENCE INTENDED!



PERHAPS THIS TIME A PAKISTANI OR A GREEDY TRADE UNIONIST...



## Don Slander, Mark 1 and 11...

Chrysler men. Your chickens have now come home to roost!! You bloody fools!!!

Those words of sympathy come from a leaflet recently handed out at Chrysler's two plants in Coventry. There are more:

If ever the British working man committed industrial suicide you must be the classic example!!!

And the author of this delightful tract? A clue:

'I tried to help you at Stoke in 1973 with the engines to keep the other plants going, but No!! You let the commies and the local politicians con you . . .

The name of this 'Englishman with

WITHOUT COMMENT: 'Although there has been a strong movement for women's equality, a sensible wife certainly does not make the major decisions. Most wives sensibly leave it to their husbands.—Judge Caulfield, in the High Court, 22 November.

no political connections', as he touchingly describes himself, is Mr Tony Bilton.

Bilton's 'help at Stoke in 1973' consisted, during the 'shoddy work' dispute, of organising six strike-breaking lorries to hurtle through the picket lines, almost killing a security officer in the process.

ANOTHER, equally disgraceful leaflet was put into Chrysler's Coventry plants after Flamethrower Riccardo's balloon went up.

This 'Chrysler Information Bulletin'—in the exact style and format of management's hand-outs to employees—went on:

According to reliable information at the Company's disposal there are a number of suitable positions open to Ex-Chrysler workers.

There are for instance, a few opportunities open with the Council, especially suitable for the older man to assist in the maintenance of the Public Urinals. Benefits including free use of the facilities.

Other opportunities include—Dogwalkers for the RSPCA, Lolly Pop men for school crossings, Bingo callers (evenings only), Old newspaper collectors and a special opportunity for Piano tuners (part-time) with a knowledge of Napoleon for the Napoleonic Institute of Insane Piano Players.

This scurrilous publication was signed: Don Slander, chairman and chief executioner, Chrysler UK.

Can't think who might have been behind it . . .

A legless housewife has had her telephone allowance taken away by Dorset County Council social services department because it claims she is no longer disabled enough to qualify.

A spokesman for the social services department spoke of the need for economy . . .

—from the Daily Telegraph, 27 November.

## Wall street - the biggest joke

DURING the Great Wall Street Crash of 1929 many a dabbler in stocks and shares was ruined. One such unlucky parasite decided to end it all by jumping out of his office window.

Out onto the ledge he crept, but when he looked down all the 25 storeys he'd be passing he had second thoughts. Alas, the window had closed behind him blocking his way back.

So he prayed . . .

Sure enough, his prayers were answered and an Angel of the Lord appeared.

'Do not be afraid, my son,' he said, 'Put your faith in the Lord, jump off the ledge and the God of Infinite Mercy will see that you float down to the ground.'

'B . . . B . . . But I'm scared stiff,' replied the stockbroker, 'I can't move.'

'Relax,' his winged friend said, 'Just put your trust in the Lord and you'll float safely to the ground.'

The stockbroker took a deep breath, moved a step forward . . . and plummeted 25 storeys, screaming all the way.

And a voice was heard from the heavens:

'CAPITALIST PIG'

North London District IS

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Nasty Thatcher design by Liz Mackie and vulgar Evans cartoon. Red and blue on nice grey card. Only £1 for 10—that includes postage—(5 of each).

Send £1s at once to Maggie Rutter, 8 Stamford Grove West, London e5 for immediate delivery.



# PORTUGAL

by Tony Cliff and Chris Harman

# Reaction has won a battle



**THE Portuguese revolutionary movement suffered its first major defeat last week since the overthrow of fascism.**

Its base among the military units in the Lisbon area has been destroyed and scores of left-wing soldiers and officers are in jail. The ruling class has regained a more or less complete monopoly of armed force.

The leaders of the revolutionary socialist PRP, the Movement of the Socialist Left (MES) and other revolutionary organisations are being hunted by the authorities. But the defeat for the revolution is not yet total. Army units have been dissolved, but the workers' committees and the trade unions remain more or less intact. The right wing does not yet feel strong enough to take them on directly.

The disaster is not as in Chile. Reaction has won a notable battle, but full-blooded counter-revolution is not triumphant.

## WHY DID THE DEFEAT HAPPEN?

**PRIME responsibility for the defeat lies with the Communist Party leadership, which initiated the rebellion and then abandoned it to its fate.**

Communist Party aligned officers agitated for the paratroops to seize airbases and the radio and TV station. The Party leadership admitted its part the next day when it wrote that 'the left' had overestimated its strength. Only a few days later it began to blame the 'ultra-left'.

That leading supporters of the Communist Party in the military have been arrested or are in hiding bears the point out.

The revolutionary organisations, such as the PRP, MES, the LCI, seems to have been quite taken by surprise.

But once the paratroopers had taken action, they saw no choice but to support them. It was then that the PRP and MES issued a joint statement that 'the hour has come to give a lesson to the bourgeoisie' and that the Fourth International group, the LCI announced: 'This is the moment when the revolution and the counter-revolution face one another in a fight without truce in the factories, in the localities and in the barracks.'

But within hours, the Communist Party leadership had copped out of the struggle. It called no strikes to back up the paratroopers—although it had been able to initiate a successful two-hour general strike the day before—but did issue a leaflet calling on the workers to stay calm. It left the revolutionaries, and even some of its own officers, isolated in the face of attacks from the right.

### Dupe

We wrote six weeks ago—in the Portuguese edition of the pamphlet of Portugal at the Crossroads—that the bourgeoisie would attempt to strangle the revolutionary left, 'to provoke it to engage in battle before there existed either soviets or a mass revolutionary party. The right will do everything in its power to dupe the working-class vanguard'.

It succeeded on Tuesday last week through the Portuguese Communist Party.

*RIGHT: Amador Commandos refuse a punishment transfer to the Azores in April—with workers' support. Last week that support was missing—the Communist Party was appealing to workers to 'keep calm'*

Now this treachery looks like being rewarded, as right-wing military figures such as Melo Antunes and Charais call for the Party to be kept in the government, while the left-wing officers are in jail and the leaders of the revolutionary left hide from the police.

But the treachery of the Communist Party was to be expected. To explain the defeat, it is necessary to know why the revolutionary left could not counter-act that treachery.

The answer lies in the weakness of the revolutionaries where it really mattered, in the working class.

The revolutionary left had previously, through the soldiers' movement SUV, mobilised thousands of soldiers for demonstrations. It had several times mobilised tens of thousands of workers from some of the most important plants despite opposition from the Communist Party.

But it is one thing for a minority of workers, even a large minority, to demonstrate—and entirely another to follow the path to insurrection. Workers will not take the risks of insurrection unless they feel they have at least passive support from the majority of their class. Without this, even the best-armed soldiers will hesitate in the face of the enemy.

As Socialist Worker said some weeks ago: 'The greatest weakness of the revolutionary movement is the unevenness between the soldiers and the workers. The unevenness cannot go on forever. If the workers do not rise to the level of the revolutionary soldiers, there is great danger that the soldiers' level of consciousness and action will fall to the level of the workers... The soldiers will be wary of marching forward on their own to seize state power...'

'In Paris in 1839 a minority of a few thousand could take power because the rest of the population was unorganised. This cannot be repeated in Lisbon. The Communist Party is too well implanted in the class to allow it.'

### Party

Although many of the conditions for an insurrection existed in Lisbon last week, the most important was missing. There was no mass revolutionary party capable of fighting the betrayals of the reformists where it mattered—in every section of every factory. So the enthusiastic general strike action of the Monday could give rise to passivity on the Tuesday when the real fight was on.

The revolutionary left did have influence in a few of the leading workers' committees. But when it came to the class as a whole, its influence was much weaker than that of the Communist Party.

## WHAT NEXT?

**THE revolutionary left has suffered a serious defeat, but the struggle is not over.**

The military authorities have not felt strong enough to make a frontal assault on the workers' movement in the factories. The left has been defeated, but not smashed.

Historically there have been much worse defeats from which the working

class has recovered in a few months, sometimes in a few weeks. Such was the case after the massive blood-letting in Berlin in January 1919 and in the Asturias in Spain in 1934. We can expect the same recovery in Portugal.

The Portuguese ruling class will use its victory to try to make the working class bear the cost for the present economic crisis. The generals hope that the Communist Party will pay for its position in the government by persuading the workers' committees and the unions to accept this.

### Anger

At first the workers, demoralised by the defeat, might give way. But as prices rise, factories close and wages are held back, their anger will grow. Every rent rise, every eviction, every handing of land back to the big landowners, will add to it.

Indeed, it is likely that more workers than ever will become involved in economic struggle.

As the great revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg pointed out 70 years ago, in every great revolution political struggle passes into economic struggle, and economic struggle forges a yet wider base for political struggle.

Through economic struggle the Portuguese working class will recover its strength. If it does so with the Communist Party in government, the opportunities for revolutionaries will be immense—despite the repression.

The political lull is unlikely to last long. The generals and the politicians are much divided among themselves.

The moderate right still holds power. But the extreme right is waiting in the wings, hoping to regain the positions it lost with the overthrow of fascism. It dreams of smashing the workers' movement completely and of recovering the factories and banks

nationalised last March. An attack by the extreme right against the present government is still on the cards in the next months.

The revolutionary left will be able to take advantage of these splits in the ruling class—if it has built up a mass base in the factories first.

But that means it must be much more involved in the economic struggles than in recent months. There has been a tendency for the PRP and the other organisations of the revolutionary left to tell workers that the economic struggle is not enough—that politics is necessary, without themselves giving leadership in the factories around economic demands.

The revolutionary left can only overcome its isolation and broaden its base if it now takes the lead in the struggle against the government's 'austerity' measures, suggesting the necessary forms of limited struggle exposing the reformists' betrayal even of the struggle for reforms, linking the fight over bread-and-butter issues to the struggle against repression and the state machine.

To do this adequately, the revolutionaries will have to learn to engage in forms of open, legal activity despite the repression. They must avoid any temptation to engage in armed actions in isolation from the masses, and must seize every opportunity to link themselves to workers' struggles—through regular factory bulletins, through legal front organisations and papers, through workers' committees, through union elections.

On that basis they can begin to build the party that was so clearly missing on 25 November. If they learn the lessons of that defeat, it will not be long before they rise again.



# Who's wrecking Health Service

by PAM DENARD

HEALTH care in East London is desperate: more than 1000 TB cases on the register, but no chest clinic in the borough, infant deaths 18 per cent higher than the English average, and very high rates of whooping cough.

Most parents I see are taking 'nerve' pills, Librium and Valium, which in Hackney are as common as Smarties.

In the geriatric ward in the Hackney hospital, some patients have to go to bed at 3pm because there aren't enough staff. No day centre either. And we have nearly 30,000 over-65's in the borough.



As a health visitor, I had to deal the other day with a small Cypriot boy who lived with his brother and parents in two rooms. Nowhere to play. He pulled a pan off a cooker. It had hot fat in it, and the whole side of his body was burned. He is scarred for life. I tried to get a cooker guard for them from the council, but only fire guards are available.

I used to be able to get incontinency pads for children who wet their beds. Now I am told they are 'too expensive'.

A small thing? Well, think of the number of sheets that have to be washed by some hard-pressed mothers in the area, and you'll see it's not a small thing at all.

I'm amazed when I read all this stuff about how we health workers—junior doctors, nurses, health visitors, domestics—are all 'non-productive labour' and so can be sacked.

My milkman has been off work for a few weeks after having his appendix out. I was surprised to see him back at work on Saturday. He said that he was losing £25 a week while he was off, had an electricity bill overdue, and he had to go back to work *even though his wound had not healed*. His 'concession' was to lift only one crate at a time instead of three.



You can't separate the health of the worker from his production. Who's going to make sure that the workers are in good health if you sack nurses and close hospitals in one of the most desperate working-class areas of the country?

We're all productive workers. In any sensible society, the health workers would be seen as just as important to the general welfare and to the production of wealth as any other workers. Only in a society run for profit, can people start making distinctions between 'productive workers' who produce things which you sell on the market to make a profit, and 'unproductive workers' who just help people when they're sick!

## EAST LONDON HEALTH: THE FACTS.

- 1000 cases on TB register.
- Higher rates of bronchitis.
- More road traffic accidents.
- Higher death rates for children under one year old.
- Higher risks of disablement at work.
- Higher incidence of nits and scabies.
- Higher incidence of food poisoning.

AND

- Six hospitals schedules for closure.
- £3½ million slashed from the hospital budget over the next three years.
- Plans for a new 198-bed private hospital near Tower Bridge provisionally accepted by the city corporation.

Full details in a special bulletin called Fightback, available at 12p (post free) from 77 Mount Pleasant Lane, London E5.

## Socialist

PAPER OF THE IN

Yes, who's wrecking the National Health Service?

There are two disputes going on at the same time. The British Medical Association, which is run by and for the wealthy doctors, has brought the two disputes together in a deliberate attempt to confuse the situation. They pretend that the wealthy consultants and the junior hospital doctors are fighting over the same issues. They are not.

The consultants are prepared to see any number of patients die just so that they can maintain the right to treat private patients in public hospitals.

These bloodsuckers have got very sympathetic treatment from the press.

Compare for instance the hysteria in December 1970 when power station workers on £25 a week worked to rule. A few chickens were killed in Sussex and the press denounced the 'Mass murder'. Now

## The 6,000 hypocrites who h

by a junior doctor  
CONSULTANT to junior doctor: 'I do private practice certainly—but not for money. Why, I don't think much about money. I couldn't even tell you to the nearest £10,000 how much I have in my current account.'

It's funny how the rich are always telling us to tighten our belts because the country is living beyond its means.—Take the hospital consultants for instance.

They are outraged each time we hospital workers take industrial action to improve our wages. They never miss a chance to tell us that we're killing patients, ruining the health service and so on.

But now these prima donnas on £10,000 a year, who live in big houses, riding around in flash cars—guess what they're doing? They're taking 'industrial action'.

Why? Because their freedom is threatened. Freedom, that is, to

exploit people who are going to get better paying for the private

That's exactly what consultants do—ruining thousands of wealth prepared to work the Health Service a number of lives can go on piling their bank accounts. They're holding the sick. National Health Service.



These 6000 hypocrites who only National Health Service workers who fight in the hospitals. They are the people who make the beds.

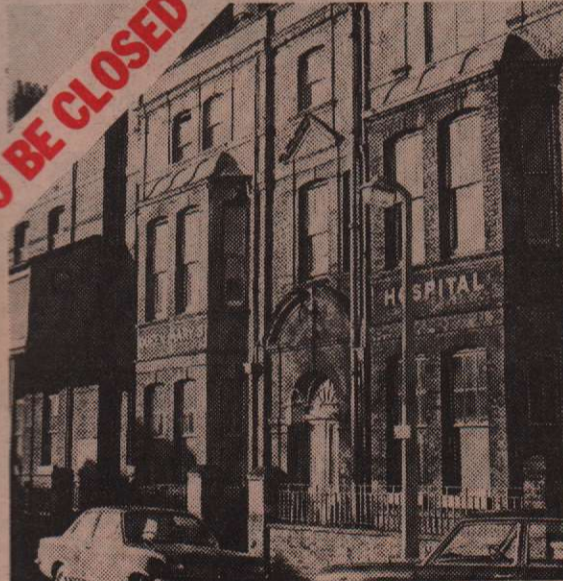
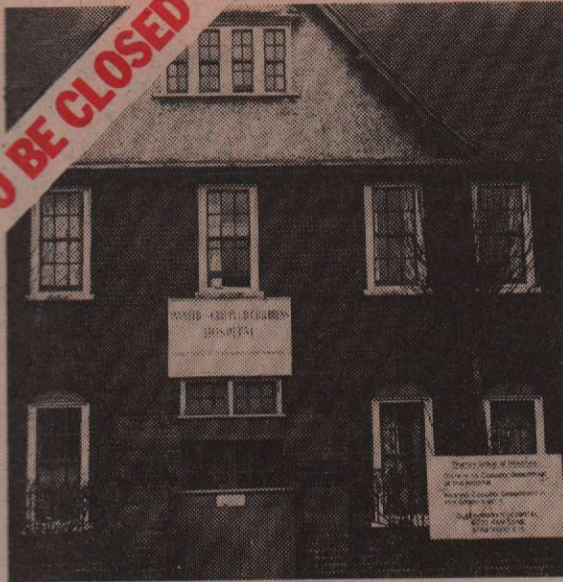
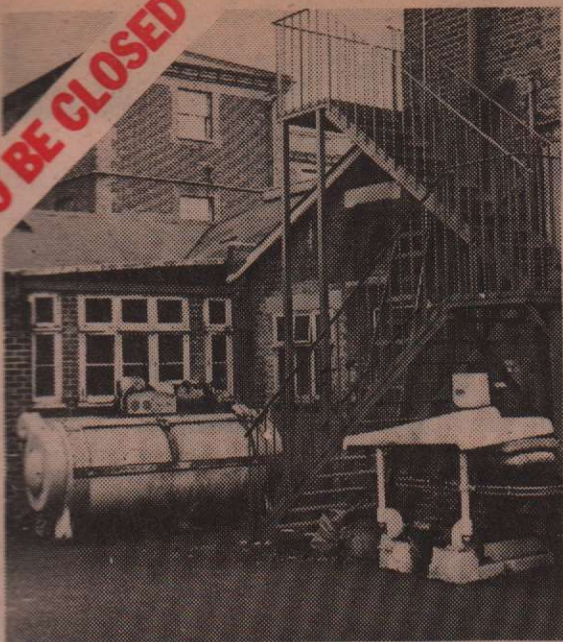
Junior doctor: The junior doctor who works private practice or the whole routine of the Service so that they can get richer.

These people who work the Health Service are a changed since they



They dominate the Medical Association. They dominate the Health Service. They are the earth.

Let them resign from the NHS. We can look after their so-called patients without the bloodsucking for near. May they rot.



Three of the hospitals East London workers are fighting to save. From the top: Forest Gate Maternity, the Invalid and Crippled Children's and Queen Mary's Hospital in West Ham Lane.

Pictures: Wendy Plimley.

## Power to the Oiligarchy?

IT is an amazing thing but tiny differences of emphasis and degree can and do lead to major political storms. There is evidence that one such storm is on the brew now over 'Devolution'.

In a bid to head off the growing support for nationalism, particularly in Scotland, the Labour government published its White Paper on the subject last week.

It sees the setting up of elected assemblies in Edinburgh and Cardiff which will have even less power than the wind tunnel in Westminster.

Naturally enough, this has caused outrage in the ranks of the Scottish National Party. They want every bit as much wind to blow out from the Calton Hill as from Westminster. They want more control of more money. They want control over the police force and law and order.

Not that all or even most Scots working people see the battle between the Nationalists and the Labour Party as a battle over degrees of wind.

The desire for some form of 'devolution' feeds off a genuine concern for more control over their own lives, for a democracy that is not so inaccessible as the Westminster parliamentary variety.

It is unquestionably this sense of

### REPORT BY LAURIE FLYNN

lack of power that fuels the nationalist cause. It is boosted further still by an appreciation that somewhere, somehow all the great hopes put in Labour and reform have been betrayed or gone astray.



Nevertheless the idea that what has failed us in Westminster is going to work when it is seen in half and removed to the foot of Edinburgh's Calton Hill is utterly wrongheaded.

Devolution and nationalism will not work for the working people of Scotland. For devolution is, in the words of the great Scottish socialist writer Lewis Grassie Gibbon, 'a scheme for childbirth without pain, and without a child'.

Just as real power in London does not reside in the Palace of Westminster, neither does or will real power in Scotland lie on the

benches of the Royal High School. According to data given in the excellent Red Paper on Scotland, three in every five workers in the crucial manufacturing sector of the Scottish economy work for companies based outside Scotland. What's more: 'The bigger the enterprise and the faster growing it is, the more likely is external control.'

It concludes that this is 'a situation which would make it impossible for an independent Scotland to run an independent economic policy'.

Not that the inspirers of the Scottish National Party have any intention of pushing through radical policies, even if the Edinburgh assembly allowed them to. They are tied right in to the business enterprises which for so long have made such rich pickings in Glasgow and Dundee, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

For the moment these people are able to pretend that oil means wealth in every Scottish pocket. But behind all the talk of the black, black oil and the riches that will come in its wake, there is an entirely different reality. Oil brings jobs, but not forever. It also brings

bad working conditions, deaths on site and on the rigs.

And the day comes when the oil industry moves on, leaving those with wealth and power inside and outside Scotland richer, far richer than when it came. It is those people, their set-up and their power that has to be challenged and overthrown.

For these people devolution and nationalism means exactly the same as workers' participation means to the bosses of British Leyland. It is, they hope, a method of tying the working class more closely into the system.

That's why Sir Hugh Fraser, multi-millionaire owner of Harrods, investment trusts and a nice slice of North Sea oil, switched allegiances from the Tories to the SNP.



The power of the Frasers and their kind is such that they could black and organise against any remotely radical policies adopted by a Scottish assembly. So a devolved, fluted or even convoluted version of their system offers no way through for working people, Scottish or otherwise.

The Scottish workers' hopes for the future lie in themselves, their own organisations and endeavours. They need real, not sham, control over their own lives, through the direct democracy of the factory and tenants' committee. They need to make themselves the rulers of the wealth and resources of the land, just as the workers of Wales, Ireland and England need to do.

In that struggle the workers of Scotland need each and every ally they can get. The dustcart drivers of Glasgow needed allies when Scottish troops were used against them. They didn't get them and they lost.

But the West of Scotland lorry drivers did get the solidarity they needed. And they won.

In truth only socialism from the bottom up will do the trick. Only working-class self-activity and organisation, uniting workers in Linwood with workers in Coventry, will enable us to challenge the power of the multinationals, the Nobles and the Frasers.

This scheme for childbirth may involve some pain. But at least there is the definite prospect of a child, and a healthy one at that.



# ing our ervice?

## st Worker

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

### WHAT WE THINK

the same newspapers support the consultants' strike, which will have far more lethal consequences. The Daily Mail on Monday announced: 'The consultants in particular have a right to feel rebellious'.

The same editorial stated: 'We condemn those junior hospital doctors who are now refusing to work overtime'. This attitude of lukewarm support for consultants and vicious attacks on junior doctors has been adopted by most of the press.

The junior doctors' dispute is a straightforward pay demand by hard-working people. It is being resisted by the government for one reason only: the £6 pay limit.

The junior doctors deserve the support of all hospital workers. As a nurse told the Women's Voice rally this Saturday: 'They are workers like us. They work in the Health

Service like us. We are all one hundred per cent behind them'.

We fully support the junior hospital doctors. They need more than £6 and less overtime. But so do thousands of other health workers. If the junior doctors break through, other health workers can follow. That's why all health workers should support the junior doctors.

### Plan the fight back

THIS Saturday, 6 December, supporters of Socialist Worker and members of the International Socialists will be meeting in Birmingham to hammer out the plans which will lead the battle against the cuts in the NHS. DIGBETH HALL, DERITEND HIGH STREET, BIRMINGHAM 12, 11am-5pm. Further details phone 01-749-4834.

### Demonstrate

STOP the hospital closures. Demonstration in East London sponsored by Hackney Trades Council and East London Action Committee Against the Cuts. Thursday 11 December, Addison House, Chart Street, Shoreditch, E2. Starting at 1pm.

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## ...AND THE 19,000 WORKERS WHO WORK UP TO 120 HOURS A WEEK

by Dr Gerry Dawson

THE British Medical Association, the quality press and the public seem to find it a bit of a mystery that junior hospital doctors should be showing such inconvenient militancy at a time when everyone else is supposed to be lying down quietly with the £6.

Are we secret agents of the Conservative Central Office or tools of the consultants? The truth is that most junior doctors aren't Labour or Tory, they don't have the time—they are just exhausted.

Our hours leave you a walking zombie, forgetting what life without hospital food and a squarking bleep in your pocket top is like. Hours which prevent good medicine and which leave you unfit for any mental activity more strenuous than a crossword puzzle.

Our shift systems shred your social life and make it impossible to plan to go out without consulting a hospital rota in advance.

Hospital doctors are fighting the first steps towards working conditions and hours which most trade unionists take for granted.

Only about one junior in ten ever makes it to be consultant. The rest fall off the increasingly steep careers ladder.

We were given a firm promise of a basic 40-hour week in July when the £6 limit was only a glint in Jack Jones' eye. Now, we are still working compulsory overtime with hours of between 80 and 100 a week, paid at an hourly overtime rate which averages about one third of our basic rate.

The £6 limit has meant that there is no new money on the table. So the employers have simply rejigged the present overtime hours so that some doctors will take a cut in overtime pay to finance some increases for the rest.

In their determination to enforce the £6 limit, some Labour MPs are using crude and inaccurate anti-doctor prejudice, as if the juniors, who are relatively low-paid state employees, were in the same class as consultants in private practice who are independent businessmen.

The proper trade union attitude is clear: clear opposition to the consultants, clear support for the junior doctors—and practical help too



Hospital workers at St James's Hospital, Portsmouth, voting last week to ban further admissions to the hospital. Hospital management is refusing trainee nurses jobs as soon as they qualify—because they would have to pay them higher wages. They clearly prefer cheap untrained workers.



### Hospital cuts, East London style.

This pile of rubble used to be a wing of hospital wards. They knocked it down to build a better one. Now they're not going to build anything ...

Picture: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Phase One of the rebuilding at the London Hospital in Whitechapel Road involved the demolition of a ward wing and its replacement with new surgery and X-ray centre. The ward was demolished. Now the local health authority's cuts mean the project is shelved.

A Mr D Thompson for the hospital administration refused to say how many beds were in the demolished ward wing. 'You don't really need that information for your article', he said, politely.

## DEATH FROM 'NATURAL CAUSES'

by Len Chanter, an East London junior hospital doctor.

THE government's plans to cut back the National Health Service are bound to have disastrous effects. The present level of services is bad enough, especially in working-class areas. The following case shows just how bad.

A young boy had trouble with his breathing and was taken to the local casualty ward of an East End hospital. The casualty doctor realised he was very ill and needed emergency, expert care from a child's specialist, a paediatrician. Although this hospital is meant to provide all emergency services for the area, one of the most densely populated areas in the country, no paediatrician is available immediately to deal with emergencies.

The usual 'arrangement' is that sick kids are transferred to the local children's hospital a mile or so away. That hospital is not registered as a casualty hospital

and 999 ambulances cannot take children there, however sick they are.

The boy's breathing was becoming worse all the time as the ambulance raced to the other hospital. The child's heart stopped as he was carried into the hospital.

The doctors at the children's hospital tried to revive him. But for that boy the expert help had arrived too late. His heart was never to beat again. He had died from a serious, but potentially treatable condition.

I had to break the news to his parents. I have never felt to helpless before. The consultant paediatrician who was rung up at 3am said: 'Oh dear, never mind. I'm sure you all did your best.'

The local coroner said that he might have to hold an inquest to quieten the parents, but the post mortem had shown the child had died from 'natural causes'.

That child died from lack of help—a hole in the system that is to become worse.

# Made it!

## TYPESETTING FUND HITS £6000

AT last we have made it—just in time to pay for the phototypesetting equipment which has now been installed.

It's taken us three months to raise the £6,000 we needed, and we want to thank everyone who has contributed or collected and made it possible, a list too long to run this week.

The last £30 has been raised thanks to:

Hull SW supporters £1, Livingstone and West Lothian IS £1.80, M Newman, Welsh National Opera £1.50, NALGOSW reader

£1.20, Bedford University £10, SW supporter, Glasgow £15, SW reader, Chiswick £1, SW supporters, Chelsea £20, High Wycombe IS £5.55, Imperial College £12, Wolverhampton IS £5, A and P Thomson £10, Manchester Poly supporters in ATTI £4, Norwich SW reader £1.50, AUEW Gloucester branch £1, A Cunningham 60p, McInerney site, Finsbury Park £7.

Phototypesetting means we can produce Socialist Worker and all the other work we need to do that much quicker and better.

But now that the fund is full it doesn't mean we can rest. We always

need money. But even more, our comrades in Portugal need every assistance we can give.

From now until Christmas we are going to run just one fund—our Portugal Solidarity Fund. We want to raise £1000. To do that we need your money now.

Send every penny you can to the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## STEP FORWARD FOR GERMAN WORKERS' GROUP

THE recent conference of SAG, the Sozialistische Arbeiter Gruppe, in Frankfurt was the most significant event in the organisation's history. SAG is a fraternal organisation of Socialist Worker and the International Socialists.

Sheila McGregor and Dave Peers, who attended the conference on behalf of the International Socialists, were able to take part in the debates in which SAG took a major step towards breaking out of the academic ghetto of the German revolutionary left.

The revolution in Portugal has thrown the largely Maoist left in Germany into confusion and has presented the SAG with the opportunity to attract socialist militants. At the same time the economic crisis opens the possibility of breaking down the barriers between the revolutionaries and the German working class.

But to take advantage of this situation the SAG has to break with its own traditions of passivity, transform itself into an organisation capable of intervening in working-class struggles and aim to build a revolutionary party in Germany. The task facing our comrades is formidable, for the German working class is the largest in Western Europe and the SAG is not yet even a national organisation. But SAG has taken the first steps on this path.

The most important decision taken was to transform the SAG's monthly journal, Klassenkampf (Class Struggle), into an agitational workers' paper around which the group can organise and build a serious audience for its ideas. From the New Year the paper will appear fortnightly and IS has agreed to provide technical assistance to make this possible. We wish them every success.

## IS SCIENCE SOCIALIST?

MEMBERS of ATTI, ASTMS and other trade unionists got together on Saturday to thrash out a socialist approach to science. Speakers showed how, under capitalism, scientific knowledge is wasted rather than used creatively—or abused with horrifying effects as in Northern Ireland.

Considering British industry, everyone was encouraged by events at the Lucas Aerospace components factory where the social usefulness of the products being made was being questioned. In some cases, the right to work can best be fought for by suggesting an alternative product.

John Morser described the activities of the International Socialists Science Group. Scientists have a big contribution to make to the Rank and File safety schools, because the question of health and safety is going to be important for anyone whose work involves handling chemicals or potentially dangerous machinery.

The science group can help to put shop floor workers in touch with laboratory workers who have access to information about dangerous substances.

If you want more information or help, contact the IS Science Group, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## WOMEN'S VOICE OUT NEXT WEEK

The latest issue of WOMEN'S VOICE is being printed next week and will be sent out with Socialist Worker on Wednesday 10 December.

## Come to Skegness with Socialist Worker



FOUR days of boozing, political discussion, meetings and films, football and swimming at the Derbyshire Miners' holiday camp. Book now with your SW seller for the Easter weekend, 16-19 April. Only £16.25 a head for full board and lodging. Don't delay—places are limited.

Local organisers should send in forms now. We have been flooded with requests for extra places. All bookings and deposits must be in by 19 December—places unfilled after then will be allocated to branches that have asked for extra.

Send forms to Julia Hatts, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Socialist Worker CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Friday 19 December, The Bank pub, Hampstead Road (off Tolmers Square), London NW1 (nearest tube, Warren Street). Socialist Worker Christmas Draw to be made after midnight. Real ale! Disco! Tickets. 50p

SW Lottery organisers must make sure that all the stubs and all the money is sent in now. Stubs not received before 19 December cannot be in the draw—so get them in quick. Send them to SW Lottery, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

## SW

### What we stand for

**SOCIALIST WORKER** is a revolutionary socialist paper that seeks to organise its supporters around the following principles:

**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 are all part of

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 racism 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 are capitalist. We support the workers' struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class. The revolutionary party to achieve socialism is the

tant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and Socialist Worker aims to build towards 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 victimizations 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 racism 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.

## JOIN

# Socialist Worker IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Secure a Socialist Worker Subscription—fill in the form on page three.

Notices for What's On should be posted to reach Socialist Worker by first post Monday before publication. Adverts will NOT be accepted by phone. Send to What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

## Socialist Worker meetings

**CENTRAL MANCHESTER SW public meeting:** Why the Labour Party can never bring socialism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. CAST will perform their play, SAM THE MAN. Friday 5 December, 7.30pm, Peter Green Centre, George Street, Salford (off Chapel Street, behind Cathedral).

**SOUTH WEST LONDON SW public meeting:** Revolution in Portugal—What it means to us. Speaker: Tony Cliff, Wednesday 10 December, 8pm, Battersea Library, London Hill, SW11.

**NORTH WEST LONDON teachers and school students SW public meeting:** The battle for our Schools. Speakers: Michael Duane (former headmaster of Risinghill Comprehensive) and Dick North (NUT national executive member). Thursday 11 December, 8pm, Anson Primary School, Anson Road, NW2.

**BRADFORD SW Agit-Prop meeting:** Saturday 6 December, 11am, Bradford College. It is the first in the area and all those interested in helping are welcome.

**SOUTHAMPTON Flame meeting:** Chairman Kingsley Giddings. Speakers: Lee Kane (Flame), Phil Murphy (WIA) and a local teacher. Friday 12 December, 7pm, St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road. All welcome.

**INNER WEST LONDON SW public meeting:** Fight for the Right to Work. Speakers: Tony Cliff and local trade unionists. Thursday 11 December, 7.30pm, Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, W3 (near Acton Town tube).

**SOUTHWARK SW public meeting:** The Multinational Corporations. Speaker to be announced. Wednesday 17 December, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhithe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

**SOUTHWARK SW public meeting:** The Nationalised Industries. Speaker: Christopher Hird. Wednesday 7 January, 8pm, Committee Room 1, Rotherhithe Civic Centre, Albion Street, London SE16.

**HARLOW SW public meeting:** The Environment under Capitalism. Speaker: Rosie Calvert (IS Science Group). Thursday 11 December, 8pm, Tye Green Community Association, Bush Fair.

**CAMBRIDGE SW public meeting:** The £6 limit equals wage cuts. Speakers: Richard Buckwell (NALGO). Monday 15 December, 8pm, Duke of Argyle pub, Argyle Street.

**NEWCASTLE WOMENS VOICE public meeting:** The Struggle for Women's Rights. Speaker: Carol Douras. Saturday 6 December, 2pm, Students Union, Newcastle Poly, Sandford Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Creche provided.

**HEALTH WORKERS, national meeting for SW supporters and IS members:** 6 December, in Birmingham. Discussion on: the Right to Work campaign: 'pay' cuts in the health service. More details from Health Workers Section Secretary, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

**MAIDENHEAD SE discussion meetings every Thursday at 8pm.** All welcome. Details from SW sellers or by phoning Maidenhead 24102.

**CANTERBURY and district:** Any SW readers and supporters in Canterbury and the surrounding area who would like to get in touch with active supporters in Canterbury please write to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**ACCRINGTON SW public meeting:** Fight for the right to work. Speaker: John Deason. Thursday 11 December, 8pm, Blockade Hotel, Fring Street.

**HULL SW discussion groups:** Every Monday, 7.30pm, Socialist Books, 238 Spring Bank.

**ASHTON District International Socialists and SW supporters meet every Sunday at 7.30pm at the Laughing Cavalier, Market Street, Stalybridge.**

## Socialist Worker events

**BRISTOL SW jumble sale:** Saturday 6 December, 2pm, St Michael's Church Hall, St Michael's Hill, Bristol 2. Please note change of date.

**EAST LONDON SW Grand Christmas Social:** Friday 12 December, 8pm, Docklands Settlement Club, 250 Grove Crescent Road (near Stratford Tube). Late bar, raffle, good music, Christmas shocks and surprises. hurry, hurry—ring for your tickets now (590-5846) 50p.

**SONGS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION:** 60-minute cassette includes Grandola Vila Morena, the song played over Lisbon Radio as signal for the 25 April coup. Alerta!, a song often heard on Lisbon demonstrations, and songs about the tenants' struggle and the African liberation movements. £1.60, including postage, from Pete Marsden, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Proceeds to the SW Portugal Solidarity Fund.

**HERE IT IS,** what you've been waiting for: Socialist Worker, Women's Voice, Wings Disco, buffet. 7.30pm, 6 December, Waveney Hotel, Lowestoft. Tickets £1.

**INNER EAST LONDON SW Christmas Social:** Saturday 13 December, 8pm, The Knave of Clubs, Bethnal Green Road (on the corner of Club Row), E2. (Nearest tube Liverpool Street, Food and Night Train Soul Disco. Entrance 50p.

**MANCHESTER SW Social with Alex Glasgow:** Sunday 7 December, 8pm, Poly Union, Cavendish Street, Manchester. Tickets 50p in advance, 70p on the door. Organised by Poly NOISS.

**BRADFORD SW Social:** Saturday 6 December, 8pm, Rawlson Hotel, With the Road Gang Theatre Group and bar extension. Tickets 50p.

## NOISS

**CENTRAL LONDON NOISS day school:** Wednesday 3 December, at SOAS, Malet Street. 3-5pm. Portugal 6-8pm: How to fight the right.

All NOISS delegates to NUS conference must attend a meeting on Friday 5 December, 4pm, at the NOISS bookstall in Scarborough. All NOISS delegates must make arrangements to get to the conference early in order to attend the meeting. Delegates to register at the bookstall on arrival.

**STUDENTS:** Posters headed 'International Socialists Society' in red available by return from J Cox, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham 12. Size 25in x 18 in. Cost £2.50 per 100 including postage. Minimum order 100 posters. Cash with orders only.

**WILL ALL STUDENT COMRADES** and sympathisers whose homes are in the Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester, Stroud or Gravesend areas ring Medway 575080 or 575080 or Gravesend 57095 on their return from college.

## IS notices

**WOMENS VOICE Factsheet on Abortion.** 1p a copy plus postage or 75 for 50p from SW Distributors, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

**CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE,** a short pamphlet produced by SW Africa Group, 5p (plus 6½p postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Other bookshops should contact to get copies.

**AGITPROP BULLETIN:** The SW Agitprop Group is preparing a bulletin to draw together some of the experience of using films, theatre, songs, posters, photos, music in carrying forward the struggle for socialism. Write and tell us what's been happening in your branch, district, area. SW Agitprop Group, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

**WITNESSES** of the arrest of Terry Povey at the Chelsea Town Hall anti-National Front picket required immediately. Phone 01-609 1260.

**WOMEN'S VOICE** Christmas postcards: 3p each, 15p for a set of six. All with political nursery rhymes—drawn by Liz Mackie. Send money with orders to Women's Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# Sheer poetry... but can it survive?



## LONDON

I wander thro' each charter'd street,  
Near where the charter'd Thames does flow,  
And mark in every face I meet  
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In every cry of every Man,  
In every infante cry of fear,  
In every voice: in every ban,  
The muffled drags I hear

How the Chimney-sweepers cry  
Every blackning Church appalls,  
And the hapless Soldiers sigh  
Runs in blood down Palace walls

But most thro' midnight streets I hear  
How the youthful Marlets curse  
Blasts the new-born Infants tear  
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse

GEORGE III died in 1820. He was a fairly typical sort of king—mad, blind and reactionary—and his death was followed by a fairly typical sort of poem from Robert Southey, the poet laureate, announcing the king's arrival in heaven.

Southey's drivel stirred Byron, then living in Italian exile, to write *The Vision of Judgment*. In it he imagines Southey at the gates of heaven begging for George III's admission and ending his plea by reciting his poem.

By the fourth line, the whole assembled multitude of angels and saints have sloped off in bored panic and the king slips into heaven during the confusion. Things haven't changed a great deal since. You

could still empty a room pretty quickly by standing up and starting to read your epic poem that you happened to have brought along in your suitcase.

That sort of response is understandable but in some ways a pity.

If the claims that poetry makes for itself are even a quarter true—that it represents men and women using language at its most stretched and articulate to come to terms with themselves, their struggles and their world—then sometimes poetry is going to say things that are startling, subversive, exhilarating and worth remembering.

William Blake, the Soho engraver born 218 years ago this week, wrote that kind of poetry. One line from his *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*—"The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction"—was recently written up on a blackboard at William Tyndale School.

The shudders that set up are still trembling up and down the editorial column of the Daily Express.

In *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, Blake sets out to pin down much of what traditional Christianity has regarded as hell, as evil, and to insist instead on its worth.

The poem is full of bald lines that celebrate areas of human experience the established church has repressed and condemned, and a lot of them are worth quoting and chewing over. A few examples:

*Without contraries is no progression.*

*The road of excess leads to the palace of wisdom.*

*Prisons are built with stones of law, brothels with bricks of religion.*

*One law for the lion and ox is oppression.*

The great thing about lines like these is that they can and have been scribbled on walls, blackboards, bomb-sites and banners.

It's not that all poetry needs to be like that.

But if it can be reproduced easily it does help to get round at least one of the barriers cutting poetry off from people—namely, the form of its distribution, that whole forbidding feeling of shelves of mean, expensive volumes in mean, expensive bookshops that the very word poetry still seems to carry with it.

Blake avoided this barrier for a while. Nobody would publish *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* in 1792—to do so would have meant fines and imprisonment.

So he engraved and printed the 500-odd lines himself and sold them off quietly. It's a major irony that this year the Oxford University Press has brought out an edition of this poem—at £7.50 a copy.

And so Blake, like so many others, gets absorbed as a hugely profitable commodity by the very system that once tried to deny his work any existence at all.

It's a problem of incorporation that won't be fully solved this side of the revolution. If on bad days that sometimes seems a slim possibility, then perhaps we need to remember what Blake insisted on elsewhere in the same poem:

*What is now proved was once only imagined.*

## THE TYGER

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And water'd heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

William Blake



From Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell* and, above right, a poster of one of his best-known poems (available, price 30p, from all IS Bookshops).

# Holiday of a lifetime

I WENT to Portugal for a holiday—and the experience straightened out a lot of my doubts about workers power.

I'd always wondered about workers' control, the kind of doubts our elitist society makes inevitable.

My dad left school at 13 and worked at Ferrantis for years. He wasn't stupid or anything, but I'd never really been able to see him running the factory efficiently with his mates.

In Portugal, the school-leaving age for people now working in the factories was ten. Even with so little schooling—most working class children left before then—there were ordinary working people setting up commissions, running their factories without the bosses.

Knowing the jobs as well as they did, they were able to improve efficiency and increase production, and at the same time improve the general 'quality of working life' in the factories.

## Privilege

Another doubt was the use of arms. I think most of us finally learnt from Chile that the workers must be armed.

*Arm the Workers—a fine-sounding phrase. But what does it mean? There are lots of practical problems—who to arm, how long for, where to get the arms, where to keep them, how to control the use of them.*

While I was in Lisbon, this question was being tackled by the revolutionary

This article, written by a Socialist Worker supporter who visited Portugal in August, shows very clearly what the workers are fighting for—and why all the forces of the right are now trying so hard to crush them.

groups and the workers. Establishing links between factories and local barracks was obviously an important step.

But the questions were still going on when I left: questions of who exactly should be issued arms, questions of skill, courage, common sense, reliability and trustworthiness, all to be weighed against each other.

Visiting factories in the Lisbon area, I also saw the problems of the economic boycott and the power of international capitalism.

In spite of all the convincing intellectual arguments, I'd always had a feeling it might be possible for a country to survive on its own after a revolution. But everywhere, the stranglehold of international big business was evident.

In many ways, the economic boycott and sabotage seemed overwhelming. There just didn't seem any solution.

But the workers didn't feel hopeless, they were determined that there was no going back, no matter what.

But the need to spread the revolution, to think about what was going on in Spain, to build international solidarity between the working class, was obvious. I'd never taken our

international work seriously before. Gone on the odd demonstration, of course, but thought the international solidarity campaigns should be left to the students and the middle classes, who could speak foreign languages and go on holidays abroad.

The relationship of party and class also became much clearer. At home, it had just seemed a boring title for a boring talk at a boring meeting about something which seemed fairly obvious.

## Love

*In Portugal, the working class had felt some of their power and strength. Everyone seemed confident.*

And yet they seemed very disorganised, with dozens of small sectarian groups putting, it seemed, more energy into fighting each other than into fighting for the revolution, and so alienating many true revolutionaries among the working class.

The absence of a strong revolutionary party seemed the greatest tragedy of Portugal. The formation of the United Front offered a glimmer of hope if it could unite the rank and file of the organisations with

the support of the mass of the working people.

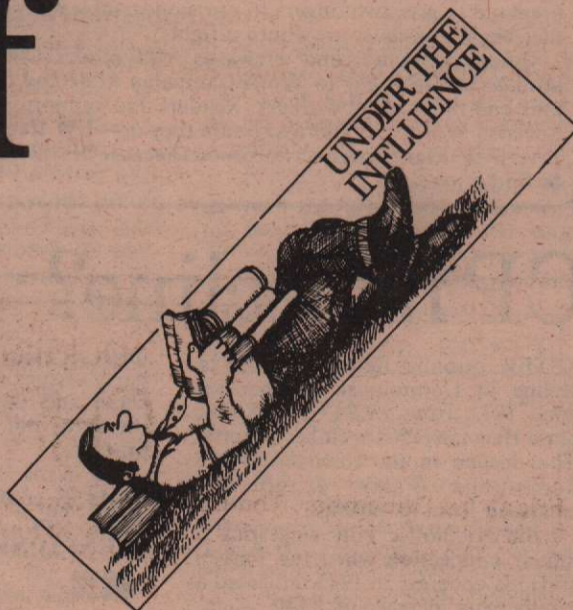
Many people bemoaned the feelings of anti-climax on returning to England to organise mundane paper sales or routine meetings. But for me, my visit to Portugal had the opposite effect.

The emotional experiences involved in shouting Portuguese slogans with Spanish comrades on solidarity demonstrations in Lisbon raised my consciousness far more than all the meetings on the question of Revolution in One Country ever had.

The necessity and importance of the trivial and mundane work we are involved in at home became relevant as never before. The need for a strong rank and file movement bringing together workers throughout industry, fighting together for basic rights seemed far more obvious and important.

If only Portugal had a strong rank and file organisation. If only the little revolutionary groups had more influence on, and roots in, the working class.

And if only there were a strong revolutionary party to show the necessary direction and lend the necessary cohesion to the struggle.



## ON THE BOX

### THURSDAY

THIS WEEK (ITV, 8.30pm) looks at a village in Portugal where the peasants have taken over, running it as a collective. BBC2 (9.30pm) are showing IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE where James Stewart is saved from suicide by his guardian angel. Possibly the corniest film ever made.

FRIDAY Do you know what a million pounds even look like? THE MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC2, 8.15pm), introduces us to the international exchange merchants who gamble with large parts of the profit we produce in situations where 'millions of any currency can be made or lost in a matter of seconds'. This week's TRINITY TALES (BBC2, 10.35pm) is the Judy's Tale. VIVA ZAPATA (BBC1, 11.27pm) is one of the few watchable political films.

### SATURDAY

THE HUMAN CONSPIRACY (BBC2, 8.30pm) examines the factors behind human behaviour, are they cultural or biological? Could be interesting.

### MONDAY

Mick Jagger stars in NED KELLY (BBC1, 9.25pm)

### TUESDAY

THE NEARLY MAN (ITV, 9pm) comes under pressure from local Labour Party activists. Wonder if Reg'll be watching.

# LETTERS

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

## IMPORT CONTROLS: WE MUST THINK AGAIN

AS AN IS member I am somewhat dismayed over our attitude to import controls, especially after reading the SW editorial (22 November). I believe more flexibility is called for on this important issue.

Companies and multinationals over a number of years have taken millions out of Britain and invested in the Third World and South Africa. British Leyland are starting car plants in South Korea, British Steel in South America, Courtaulds in Hong Kong.

We can't stop the outflow of British capital but we could stop these

companies bringing their commodities back into Britain by using industrial muscle.

Retaliation would come from British and multinational companies not from tin pot governments.

The socialist message we have to get over to millions of people is that it's not the 'wogs and chinks' that import cheap shoes, clothes and cars, but British and multinationals that don't give a shit for British workers or people in the Third World.—**BILLY HYDE, Abertridwr.**



Briginshaw . . . in Iran

## A scandal, Briginshaw

IT WAS with astonishment that we received the recent news that Lord Briginshaw, an ex-TUC leader, is to act as a middleman between British firms and the fascist regime of the Shah.

Iran's disregard for human rights has far surpassed that of the South African and Spanish regimes.

According to Amnesty International, it has 40,000 political prisoners and has sent 300 members of the opposition to the gallows during the past four years.

His Lordship is acting as a middleman for a regime which, as well

as the above atrocities, has denied the people of Iran all democratic rights including the right to engage in trade union activities.

The 40,000 political prisoners include thousands of workers, and there were tens of workers among the 300 slain opposition members.

All these workers have been engaged in defending their trade union rights. There were two workers among the nine prisoners massacred by the regime a few months ago. They spent seven years in prison and were shot 'while trying to escape'.

The regime gives bullets as an answer to workers' demands, however ordinary they may be. During the past three months we have witnessed the rough treatment of workers in the Shahi factory in which 17 people were killed and a great number of workers arrested.

A similar clash between the regime and Fakhri Iran (in Karage, near Tehran) workers ended up with the arrest of nearly 100 people.

### Monstrous

It is amazing that an ex-TUC leader should choose to act as a go-between for a regime whose secret political police (SAVAK) is engaged in suppressing workers, students and other sections of society, not merely within Iran but also abroad.

The activities of this monstrous arm of the regime have even been extended to Britain where, with the connivance of the British government, the agents of SAVAK bring charges against the workers and students resident in this country.

Iranian students in this country have organised a campaign for the 21 students charged with conspiracy to trespass (in fact they had gone into the Iranian Embassy to register their protest against the massacre of the nine prisoners).

They had appealed to the TUC and trade unions in general to send a delegation to Iran to investigate trade union activities and find out the number of workers in prison for political activities.

Now our 'prayers' have been answered in that a delegation headed by an ex-TUC leader has been sent to Iran, but not to investigate the living and working conditions of the deprived workers of Iran but to serve a fascist and anti-working class regime.—**CHAIRMAN, Committee for Defence of 21 Iranian Students.**

### This was disgraceful!

I AM A MARRIED man and if I were on strike I would expect my wife to mind the kids and do all the housework while I gave all I could to the struggle.

If she were on strike I would naturally do the same. Your article on women strikers in South Wales (22 November) which accepts that women strikers are stuck with the 'responsibility of the home and the shopping' is disgraceful.

SW should always argue that where the husbands of women strikers are too stupid to wash dishes and too crippled to shop, the local labour movement, and specially SW supporters, should step in to offer whatever child-minding and housework is needed.—**JOHN BLAKE, North London.**

## SCABS APPLY HERE...

COL. C J Bradford, a retired army officer, and local impartial magistrates are co-ordinating a voluntary force in Cornwall, to be known as Civil Assistance.

'We are organising ourselves on a county, district and parish level, so that in a time of crisis the local lawful authorities will know that a body of loyal, patriotic citizens are standing by ready to help,' said the Lt Col.

Trade unionists need to understand that Civil Assistance will not be a private army but simply a reserve of ordinary decent civilian volunteers who would act constitutionally and strictly within the law, to defend the right of a parasitic minority class to pounce on the rest.

### LESSON

When the whole thing is off the ground, a meeting might be held and addressed by General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in Northern Europe would you believe?

Portugal, where fascism has collapsed, should be a lesson to us all. We can only hope that soldiers and workers in this country don't get any ideas about protecting their own interests so that the self-appointed leaders of Britain 'be weakened to submit to subversion or be deprived of the means or the will to resist'.

The Lt Col of St Mawes (a popular non-producers area) is calling for as many volunteers as possible. No training required.

Any potential blackleg prepared to don string-back gloves and garden wellies to drive buses and so on during a national emergency can join.

Just write, asking for application form, to Lt Col C J Bradford, Clover Hill, Upper Castle Road, St Mawes, Cornwall or telephone St Mawes 498.—**SUBVERSIVE HOUSEWIFE, Camborne.**

## Right to Work? Don't tell me...

AFTER eight months out of work, my earnings-related benefit is about to be taken away, leaving me with a useless £10 a week. Those wise guys with tales of people living it up on the dole are talking out of their backsides.

Thousands of unemployed will be taking a cut in their money like this when they've slumped it for a few months, and Len Murray and Co are making sure that they'll slum it for months to come.

Of course, dole payments must be increased but the real answer is to flatten the TUC creeps and Labour government 'socialists' who are putting workers on the dole just as surely as the bosses.

The fantastic turn out on last week's Right to Work march shows that the rank and file in the unions are prepared to give two fingers to our wonderful leaders. But that beginning must grow into a fight.

Union branches and stewards committees should affiliate to the Right to Work Campaign to defend their jobs and those of all workers. Readers and supporters of Socialist Worker should make sure they do—**SW Reader, Prestwich, Manchester.** (Anonymous because he still hopes to find a job).



Last week's Right to Work march: it has to be just the beginning . . .

## CP in decline? What about IS!

AFTER quoting figures showing a decline in Communist membership since 1973 from 29,943 to 28,519, Chris Harman (15 November) asserts: 'The decline in the fortunes of the Communist Party cannot be separated from its politics.'

I did not notice him suggesting a similar connection when the Party's previous congress in 1973 indicated a membership increase of 1,140.

To be consistent, Comrade Harman should be concluding that the proportionately far more drastic decline in IS membership over the past period from 3,500 to 2,900 cannot be separated from its politics.

Indeed, if such 'formal accounting' is to be a yardstick of political correctness, should he not deduce that IS's decline of over 17 per cent is related to politics nearly four times as bad as those of the Communist Party which declined by under five per cent.

### Refusal

Harman sees the Communist Party's membership figures as 'the most pathetic items' in its public congress documents. Far more pathetic are not only IS's present membership figures, but its refusal to publish them—or to permit the Morning Star to cover its conferences in the way that Socialist Worker is able to report the Communist Party's congresses.

Tony Cliff once wrote: 'Since the revolutionary party cannot have

interests apart from the class, all the party's issues of policy are those of the class, and they should therefore be thrashed out in the open, in its presence.'

Yet in the 15 years since then, not a single IS conference has debated its policy in the open!—**MONTY JOHNSTONE, London, SE12.**

Chris Harman replies: Monty Johnstone has erected a smokescreen to conceal the political dilemma facing Communist Party members. For years, their leaders have told them that the road to 'left' advance lies in putting faith in 'left' union officials such as Jack Jones.

Now that Jones and his friends are providing the backbone of support for the anti-working class policies of the TUC General Council on unemployment and the £6 wage freeze, the CP is trapped.

For example: a number of speakers at the recent CP Congress, including London dockers Bernie Steer and TASS general secretary Ken Gill, denounced Jack Jones by name—and yet not a whisper of this appeared in the Morning Star's report of the Congress.

Rather than admit that the so-called 'ultra-lefts' were right all along campaigning for a rank and file movement independent of the Jack Joneses of this world, Monty Johnstone and the Morning Star direct their venom against IS.

Yet such a movement could be built by CP members and Morning Star readers getting together with IS members and SW readers—and it could resist the growth of the right in the unions.

But Monty Johnstone appears less interested in this important task than in peddling lies and half-truths. His allegations can easily be answered.

Firstly, the CP's membership has not just been falling for two years. It has been falling for nearly 12 years, except for a small hiccup in 1973.

By contrast, the membership of IS has tended to grow as the class struggle has intensified. This growth has not taken place evenly, but has reflected very much

the ups and downs of the struggle.

There have been longer or shorter lulls—including over the last 18 months, during which time the dues paying membership has remained constant, not fallen as Johnstone and the Morning Star would like to think with their phoney figures.

The IS conference is not open to the press for a simple reason. Experience has taught us that some employers are only too willing to victimise workers who they discover to be IS members.

We cannot afford to give them assistance in compiling their blacklists, although our members do not conceal their politics from their fellow workers.

### Open

Our discussions about key issues in the class struggle are open to members and non-members alike, through the letters page of this paper and through our journal (I wonder if the Morning Star or Marxism Today would publish our letters in the way we have often published Monty's?)

We have a discussion bulletin in which any member can write, unlike the CP. And at our conference, full and open debate takes place.

There could not be a more marked contrast with the CP Congress, at which an observer (or an ordinary party member) can only guess at the real lines of division over key questions in the class struggles.

### RIP...Rest In Profit

SIR DENYS Lawson, once head of a £200 million business empire and reputed to be one of the richest men in Britain, was technically broke when he died two months ago. As a result, no death duties will be paid on his estate.

During his lifetime, he made a personal fortune estimated at £54 million and only few months before he died went on a £25,000 world cruise on the luxury liner, the QE2.

Sir Denys, who employed some of

the best tax and legal experts managed to escape death duties by passing on the bulk of his fortune to his family and family trusts during his lifetime.

Just one example of how the capitalist class manage to survive on the £6 freeze and how they contribute to 'beating inflation'.

The freeze, of course, is merely a freeze on existing property relationships. It must be fought.—**RW, Harlow**

### SOCIALISM AND CHRIST

I JOINED IS after reading SW and realising that the obscenities that society heaps upon human beings can be fought. I also realised that there is no difference between socialism and Christianity, once you take away all the hocus pocus added to it by the State. Maybe I'm wrong. But I think SW should make it plain when it attacks the Church that it is attacking the state and not Christianity.—**RON BURFORD, Anglesey.**

COLIN WHITE (Letters, last week) has got it all wrong. No one doubts that John F Kennedy, for all his liberal make-up, carried out vicious right-wing policies. But the ruling class doesn't look at the world through some sort of inverted marxism.

Kennedy had an unfounded liberal image—but it inspired many people. The danger for the ruling class was that this could have encouraged a real movement for change. We know Kennedy was no more a threat to them than Wedgwood Benn is to our ruling class. But does that mean the British ruling class all realise that?—**JOHN COUSINS, New Cross.**

# Bosses' backhanders—a factory inspector gives the game away

SOME revealing words recently crossed the lips of a senior factory inspector in Glasgow.

'Yes, I have been offered a gift by an employer. It was a handbag. And, of course, I told him he was not on.'

'I have been taken out to lunch. But a good lunch doesn't change your mind. They may take you into the boardroom and fill you full of gin or brown ale or whatever. And you may feel that this means we've sold out. But this is not so.'

The inspector, Mr J Mann, was speaking at a meeting organised by the 7/162 branch insulation engineers branch of the Transport Union.

## Sceptical

The members of 7/162 have good reason to be rather more than sceptical about employers, safety legislation and the Factory Inspectorate. In the past fortnight, two of their members have died of asbestosis.

Attendance at members' funerals is a regular duty of branch secretary J P McKenna. So the members at the meeting weren't readily reassured by Mr Mann and his colleague Mr Highland.

The inspectors were asked how they thought the National Federation of Bankrobbers would feel about the fact that there were only 64 policemen in Scotland, (64 is the number of factory inspectors).

The inspectors admitted that the past record of the Inspectorate was indefensible, but the members insisted it just wasn't good enough to say that this was 'history'.

History, after all, was still very much alive, with more and more deaths, with old asbestos lagging having to be taken down, with the same indulgent attitudes to employers breaking the law, and the same pitiful fines when they were prosecuted.

While there were more than a few barbed comments about the handbag, Mr Mann was

SOCIALIST WORKER GUIDE TO WORKPLACE SURVIVAL: No 12



not asked to advise trade unionists how they should respond the next time they walk in to a London restaurant and see a member of the Vice Squad having a good free feed at the expense of a topmSoHo pornographer.

The two inspectors made some other most interesting comments. They insisted that good conditions would only be won by workers organising for safety. If workers were organised, then inspectors could and would help.

Unfortunately, both Messrs Mann and Highland betrayed the same old concern to be realistic with employers to work within what is 'economic' for the boss. This attitude is, of course, one of the root causes of the

unceasing toll of industrial deaths.

Nonetheless, things are changing slightly in the Inspectorate, as this meeting proved. What's more, the members of the 7/162 branch have discovered information which may prompt more radical changes yet. And by God they're badly needed.

The recent death of a London-based factory inspector Mr Nicholls, they have discovered, was because of asbestosis contracted in the course of his employment as a Factory Inspector.

The members of 7/162 believe that this tragic death may prove more effective in prompting higher standards than many an argument.

## Whatever happened to plain

WHY ARE YOU now asking people to join the Socialist Worker Party. What is wrong with IS nowadays, and why the distinction?—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.

WILL THIS CHANGE OF NAME MAKE SW supporters fully paid-up members? It seems to me that this is a sly under-hand method of increasing the membership with people who don't fully agree with IS.

It is 'our way of life' that the gutter press continually rant and rave about that we need to end—not the democracy and honesty with fellow comrades within and around IS.

This type of manoeuvring can only lead to the demise of IS into small isolated groups of relatively powerless socialists.—P FORTUNE, SW supporter, Dumfries.

EDITOR: We recognise that many people not yet prepared to become full members of the International Socialists support many

## old IS?

of Socialist Worker's and ideas and are prepared to help the paper and work with us on an occasional basis.

We think all such people should become Socialist Worker supporters, selling a couple of copies of the paper if they can, giving a small weekly donation and coming to occasional meetings. Of course, we would like all such people to join IS, but if they are not prepared to yet, it is much better that they become SW supporters than do nothing.

Unfortunately, IS is not yet the real revolutionary party of the working class in this country, in the sense of being recognised by all workers as a possible alternative to the present leaders of the Labour Party and TUC.

We are an organisation trying to build such a party, with some limited successes. That is why we say our aim is to build a Socialist workers' Party. Hopefully, many present supporters of SW would become full members of such a party.

## NOT SO GREAT GAVIN!

SO THE RIGHT-WING have won the Engineering Union elections—and aren't the press pleased? They could modestly say that they played not too small a role in the elections.

On the day after the results, the Scottish Daily Express had a two-inch high front page headline, Great Gavin. They were referring to the victory of Labour Party member Gavin Laird over Jimmy Reid. Yes it certainly was the Day of the Moderates in Scotland and the greatest victory since Bannockburn.

But it's interesting to note how Great Gavin had been made to feel a very small Gavin indeed when, early in October, he spoke at a mass meeting of strikers at an oil rig construction site near Inverness.

He told the strikers of the horrors of the dole queue. He almost wept as he reminded them of their HP payments. He suggested that if they were going to capitulate next week, they might as well go back the same day.

In the vote that followed, Great Gavin found he had only one supporter out of the 1000 present.—STEVE FAITH, Edinburgh.

WHAT A RELIEF to read J Gathercole's letter (1 November). After years of being called extremist subversives, we are now 'daft, horrible and conservative'. It appears that SW and its supporters are encouraging the wages system by fighting for the right to work instead of fighting the wages system, presumably by handing out volumes of Das Kapital on street corners.

The argument of the Claimants Union that unemployment weakens the capitalist state because workers aren't making submarines or aircraft is complete rubbish. Have you noticed any police on the dole? Are the army laying people off? No, the state uses unemployment to boost recruitment to the forces. zthe state doesn't suffer because of unemployment, it benefits from it.

The fight against unemployment is a fight against the bosses and the class they represent, part and parcel of building a revolutionary party capable of organising the fight to overthrow the capitalist system.—STEVE DRAKE, Colchester

THE GOVERNMENT, employers and trade union leaders have made a great deal of the new Health and Safety at Work Act. But their claim of a 'brave new world' in industrial health are rightly treated with scepticism by many trade unionists.

Take the way the government treats its own employees. All civil servants are employed by the Crown and many work in Crown offices. These premises are exempt from sections 21-25 and 33-42 of the Act (Section 48).

Improvement and prohibition notices cannot be served on the Crown, which CANNOT be prosecuted for failing to comply with the Act. The same consideration doesn't extend to civil servants. They CAN be prosecuted as individuals if they are in contravention of section 7 or 8 of the act.—BRYAN REES, Swansea.



Jimmy Reid... beaten

## Brother Wilkes changes sides

MEMBERS of the Engineering Union will be interested in the latest victory for the right-wing in the Wolverhampton district.

John Wilkes, full-time convenor at Turners Manufacturing has moved over to management. He has heard through the grapevine that he would lose his union position in the next round of elections.

He sent a letter to the shop stewards explaining how he didn't want to return to the shop floor.

A new job created by management, suitably called Industrial Personnel Officer, raises Brother Wilkes' weekly wage to £80 a week.

Wilkes' sudden change of sides wasn't all that of a shock. Militants at Turners had through the years thought that he was on the other side.

He has been one of the main supporters of another leading right-winger in the district, Stan Ruthven, the present district secretary.—PAUL BOLTON, AUEW.

## THE FLEET STREET press lords have been working all out recently on behalf of their fellow employers.

They have run article after article on the current round of trade union elections, with engineering and electrical union members in particular being bombarded with advice on how to keep the unions 'safe for democracy'.

The 'advice' boils down to lies and slanders about left-wing candidates and lavish praise for the right-wing. The word right-wing, of course, is never used.

The term preferred is 'moderate'. Woodrow Wyatt, writing in last week's Sunday Mirror, improves on even this in a piece telling his readers who to vote for in the builders' union, UCATT. He refers to 'orthodox Labour government supporters'.

Wyatt's sudden interest in the union coincides with the current voting for a number of positions. The most important is for the union's general council and for two regional organisers based in London.

Much to the disgust of the building employers, postal balloting—the greatest invention since sliced bread—has not yet been adopted by UCATT. Voting in our union takes place instead in branches after proper discussion and argument.

many of those who favour universal postal ballots want democracy on a leash: a show of conflict with the propaganda dice loaded against the left, so that militant candidates may run, and score a reasonable vote, but not actually take the reins

The truth about union elections: from The Times 27 November

## By C Minton, UCATT

With this in mind the London Evening News carried a half-page article on 27 November by Caren Meyer, witch-hunter extraordinaire. This masterpiece was entitled: Will the reds chuck a brick in London's building works?

Announcing she has 'fear-quaking news for the building employers', Meyer devotes most of her article to 'notorious fibreglass' Frank Taggart, and 'unofficial Communist agitator' Lou Lewis.

Suggestions as to the difference between an 'unofficial Communist' and an 'official Communist' on a postcard only.

Lewis seems to be the main target and his use of the nick-name 'Lou' instead of his 'correct' name Richard is exposed as the devious method he uses to get through the employers' blacklist. There's another working class myth shot down in flames!

Until I read Meyer's article, I always thought they went by your National Insurance number. Now the secret is out. Who's going to tell the employers the fear-quaking news?

## EXPOSED

Several 'dirty tricks' whereby 'Moscow boys' 'Commies' and 'reds' get elected by the membership, are exposed.

These are 'exposed' by 'someone' who knows and are irregularities which are carried out by left-wing branch officers to thwart the will of the moderates in the branch. How these secretaries and chairman get elected in the first place is not explained.

One alleged method is that of a chairman failing to read out the list of branches nominating the candidates.

After reading Meyer's eloquent plea for the decent trade unionist to stand up and fight for democracy, I feel obliged to list the number of branches nominating the candidates for regional organiser.

LEWIS: 52 branches. LE MARECHAL: 36 branches.

TAGGART: 55 branches. SCOTT: 1.

If you don't want an organiser supported by the capitalist press, vote for Lewis and Taggart. The left candidates for General Council which are elected by the London branches are: Henry (woodworkers), Massey (painters) and Miles (builders).

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## BOOK OF THE WEEK



Examine the ideas—long ignored or distorted by establishment historians—of the small radical groups, such as the Diggers and Levellers, which appeared in the English Revolution.

£1.15 (inc postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters road, London N4.

Socialist Worker Film Tour

### SPAIN: DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES

CARDIFF: Thurs 4 December, 8pm, Bouchier Hall, Fitzalan Place, off Newport Road. BIRMINGHAM: Fri 5 December, 7pm, Friends House, Bull Street. BANGOR: Sun 7 December, 7.30pm, University Students Union. EAST LONDON: Mon 8 December, 7.45pm, Livingstone House, Livingstone Road, NELP, off Romford Road between Bow Flyover and Stratford. CHELMSFORD: Tues 9 December, 1pm, Mid-Essex Technical College. BRAINTREE: Tues 9 December, 8pm, The Institute (next to Wallis Supermarket, town centre). NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday 10 December, 1.30pm, Portland Student Union Building, University of Nottingham, AND 7.30pm, Int Community Centre, 618 Mansfield Road. DERBY: Thurs 11 December, 7.30pm, St Helens House, King Street. DUNDEE: Fri 12 December, 7.30pm, The Music Centre, Bell Street. GLASGOW: Sat 13 December, details next week. EDINBURGH: Sun 14 December, details next week.

Local organisers please phone details to Pete Marsden at 01-739 9043 as soon as possible.

STOP PRESS: Film tour programme now includes 18-minute Workers' Newsreel film from Portugal.

# JOIN NATIONWIDE PICKET AND HELP BEAT LADBROKES

**GLASGOW:** If the Ladbrokes strikers are to win they need your help. On Saturday 13 December every Ladbrokes shop around the country must be picketed—which will hit Ladbrokes where it hurts most, in their pockets.

Solidarity action for the Ladbrokes strikers is simple to organise, because Ladbrokes have a betting shop in every major town and city.

The Ladbrokes struggle must be raised at every TGWU branch and district. Most important it should be raised on every shop stewards' committee. No trade unionist should place any bets with Ladbrokes.

Every trade unionist who reads Socialist Worker should set aside an hour or two on Saturday 13

December to come and picket.

Then Ladbrokes won't become another Fine Tubes, where the strike lasted for three years without a victory. Ladbrokes have been out for over six months now. But every member of the committee, representing the 280 strikers, is confident they can win.

'I'm on strike for trade union recognition and anything else is a sell-out', Gavin Kelly, a member of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker.

Help make sure there is no sell-out. Picket Ladbrokes on Saturday 13 December.

More details in Socialist Worker next week. Send us details of picketing planned in your area.

**Send donations and messages of support to Ladbrokes strike committee, 216 West Regent Street, Glasgow.**



## Glasgow Right to Work Campaign

**Meeting for delegates from local shop stewards committees and for all unemployed workers.**

### FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

**Wednesday 10 December, 7.30pm, Kingston Halls, Glasgow.**

Sponsored by the shop stewards' committees at Scottish Cables, Renfrew, and the Ladbrokes strike committee.

# Personna offer is a joke

**GLASGOW:** For ten weeks, 300 men and women at the Personna razor blade factory in Hillington have been battling with the giant Philip Morris group, an American-owned combine, to defend their jobs and conditions.

For the past six, the workers have been occupying the factory and organising support throughout the labour movement.

When local support was slow, the shop stewards' committee took the initiative and organised a meeting of delegates from local factories to win financial support. The cash is now coming in.

When the AUEW national executive shilly-shallied over official backing and strike pay, the workforce held a mass meeting and agreed to send a squad of flying pickets to protest at the AUEW headquarters in London.

The executive were pressurised into giving immediate support and authorising strike pay.

The occupation faced another test last week. Management made an offer through the government's Conciliation and Arbitration Service. It amounted to return to work now and in January we'll review the redundancies.

For the workers at Personna either the offer is a joke or the management are insane.

Phil McBride, AUEW convenor, told Socialist Worker: 'It's a bloody ridiculous offer—the management know that the factory is piled high with blades and there are urgent orders for them from all over the globe. It's clear they want us to go back to get these orders out and save their profits, after that they'll just attack us again and maybe even try to close the place down. 'Well, they're definitely not on. We're rejecting their offer.'

Helen Gallagher, TASS shop steward said: 'If we go back to work on this offer it would be madness. It would mean that we'd fought for ten weeks for nothing. They must think we're mugs, but it does show they're worried about their profits.'

The occupation needs support. Financial help is a priority. Ten weeks without pay is a long time, particularly with Christmas coming up.

To end the struggle to save jobs, the occupation needs the active support of other workers. Already the Hull dockers have agreed to black all Philip Morris goods. That kind of support must be spread.

Donations and messages of support to Ruby Duncan, Treasurer, Personna Occupation Fund, 27 Bowfield Crescent, Glasgow.

## Ansells crack under mass strike threat

**BIRMINGHAM:** The Ansell's dispute is over. Last Thursday there was the first full combine meeting of both clerical and manual unions at Ansells. It voted for industrial action throughout Allied Breweries if a settlement was not reached by the weekend.

After a 15-hour meeting that same day the dispute was settled.

The original dispute to organise pub managers into ACTSS, the clerical section of the Transport Union, instead of the management-preferred National Association of Licensed House Managers, has now gone to the TUC for arbitration.

Ansell's management has agreed to build a £3 million extension for its Birmingham depot. This will provide more jobs in both clerical and manual departments.

Throughout the dispute the right-wing Birmingham Evening Mail has been printing all manner of lies and distortions about the situation. Peter Kane, ACTSS branch chairman, said that Socialist Worker's reports of what has really been happening was a great morale booster for all involved.

'It's the only paper which has given the workers an opportunity to tell what has really been happening,' he said.

## 500 STRIKE AT ALLCARDS

**SHEFFIELD:** 500 workers at Easterbrook and Allcards went on strike on Friday. The women in the factory are demanding equal pay with semi-skilled men and last Thursday they sat in to get it. Management then locked them out—and on Friday the men joined them.

Management claims equal pay means that women will be taking home more than the setters—which merely shows what a low rate the setters are on. Staff are being used as strike-breakers so the strikers, the majority of them women, are picketing in force.

## Alcoa offer: Sack the Scots!

**SOUTH WALES:** N G Bailey, the contractors whose sacking of electricians two months ago led to a strike of all 500 workers at the massive Alcoa Steel project, near Swansea, proposed a settlement on Monday which amounts to shameful victimisation.

They proposed to offer jobs to 57 of the 63 men sacked. The other six are all Scotsmen.

The employers pretend that they do not want the six because they 'are not local men'. This avoids the fact that one of the 'non-local men' is Stevie Stevenson, secretary of the joint shop stewards

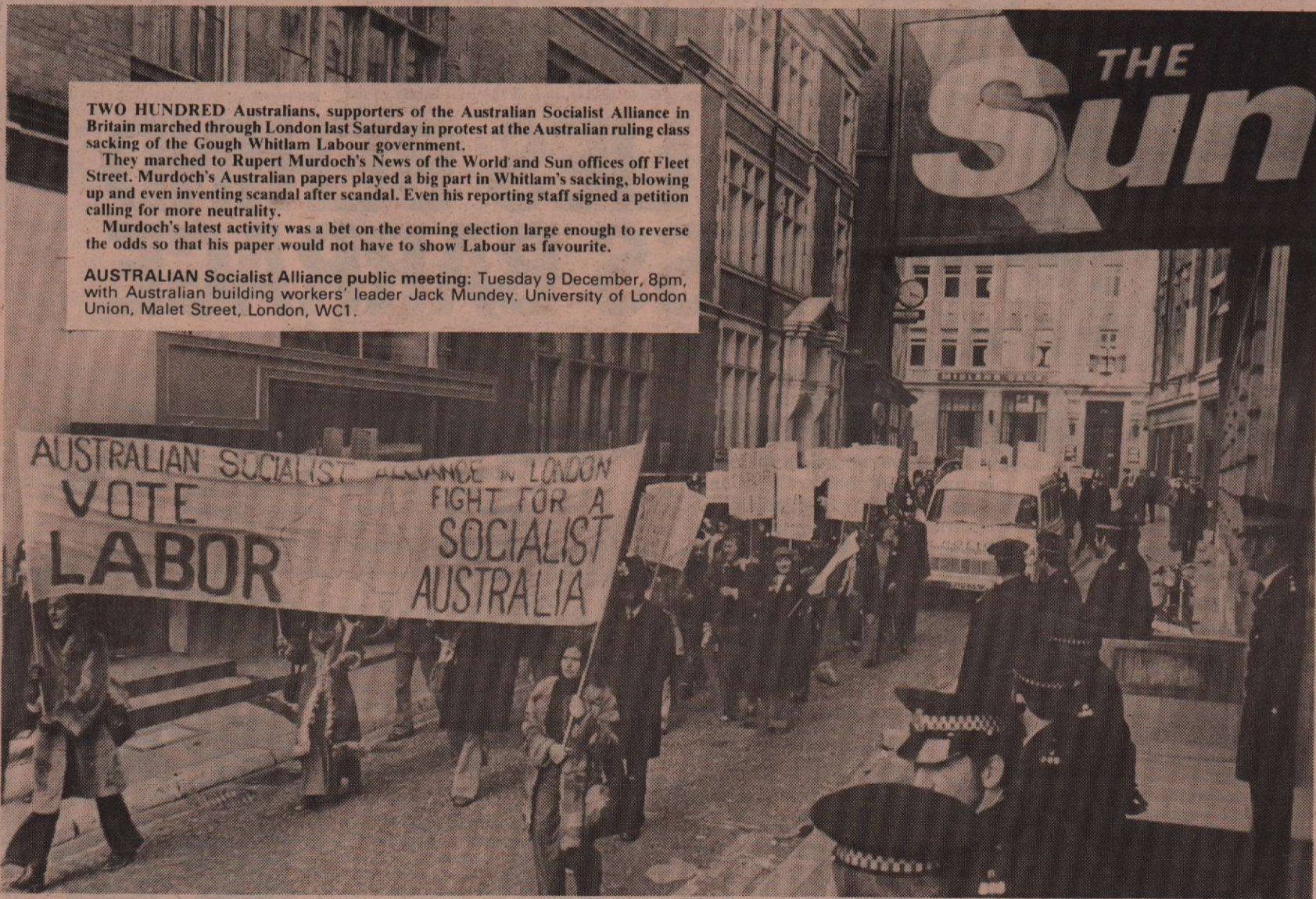
committee, which is leading the strike.

This formula was instantly acceptable to the union's local organiser, Don Jones, who remarked: 'It's much the best we can get lads'.

But it is extremely dangerous. It gives the appearance of total victory, while in fact it threatens the activities of every militant in the building trade.

The pickets at Alcoa are clear. The 'peace formula' is gross victimisation. A mass meeting of Alcoa workers was to discuss the matter after we go to press on Wednesday.

Picture: Andrew Wlard (Report)



**TWO HUNDRED** Australians, supporters of the Australian Socialist Alliance in Britain marched through London last Saturday in protest at the Australian ruling class sacking of the Gough Whitlam Labour government.

They marched to Rupert Murdoch's News of the World and Sun offices off Fleet Street. Murdoch's Australian papers played a big part in Whitlam's sacking, blowing up and even inventing scandal after scandal. Even his reporting staff signed a petition calling for more neutrality.

Murdoch's latest activity was a bet on the coming election large enough to reverse the odds so that his paper would not have to show Labour as favourite.

**AUSTRALIAN Socialist Alliance public meeting:** Tuesday 9 December, 8pm, with Australian building workers' leader Jack Munday. University of London Union, Malet Street, London, WC1.

## Notices and meetings

Adverts for this column must arrive by first post on Friday, eight days before publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. Send cash (5p a word) with copy to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Invoices cannot be sent.

**DEMONSTRATE:** Free Desmond Trotter sentenced to hang in Dominica, West Indies, Saturday 13 December, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, 1pm. March to the Foreign Office, Downing Street.

**WANTED:** office space with access to telephone, for Angolan Solidarity Committee. Phone (01-734 9541).

**COUPLE** seek room in shared house in South London, write to Box H, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2.

The Socialist Theatre Group RED LADDER have in the past five years performed for hundreds of trade union branches, conferences, schools and socials. Now THEY need money for their permanent move to the North of England. They are to perform their new play *It Makes Yer Sick*—about Health and the NHS—at a benefit for themselves and will be joined by the women's rock band, Stephney Sisters, Friday 5 December, 7.30pm, St Pancras Assembly Rooms (Kings Cross Tube). Bar from 7pm. Tickets £1.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Military Dictatorship in Portugal—the Workers' Struggle continues. Speaker just returned from Lisbon will report on the present situation, plus first showing of 90-minute colour film, *Viva Portugal!* Saturday 6 December, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn. Organised by Solidarity Campaign for the Portuguese Working Class, 10 Little Newport Street, London WC2.

**ENGINEERS** Charter Social: Saturday 6 December, 7pm, Central London Poly, 104 Bolsover Street, London W1. Bar, food, raffles, disco, the 'Best in Rhythm and Blues'. All welcome.

**IF YOU'VE BEEN PHONING** Sam the Man in vain—please try again! Socialist Worker apologises to CAST theatre group for having misprinted their phone number three weeks running. Is this a record? CAST's latest play, *Sam the Man*, is still looking for bookings—it's about Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins MP, trying to walk the tightrope between being a Labour MP and his socialist ideals. Lasts 75 minutes, needs large hall and audience. Contact CAST, 11c Cabbell Street, London NW1. Phone 01-402 6087.

**LONDON—DUBLIN** return. Two places in car leaving 23 December, return 30 December. £20 each. Phone Paul 01-739 1870 or 01-272 1970 (evenings).

**RADICAL AMERICA**—a revolutionary socialist magazine covering the history and current condition of the working class, reports on shop floor and community organising, analyses of the history and politics of socialist movements, black liberation and the women's movement in the United States and Western Europe. A one-year subscription for six issues costs £2.50. Send to: Radical America, Box B, N. Cambridge, Mass. 02140, USA.

**Peggy Seeger and Ewan MacColl** sing FOR THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE. A concert on Monday 15 December, 7.30pm, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Tickets 50p at the door. Sponsored by the Cultural Committee of the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

**FREE DESMOND TROTTER** Demonstration, Saturday 13 December, Assembly 12pm, Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, March to the Foreign Office, Downing Street.

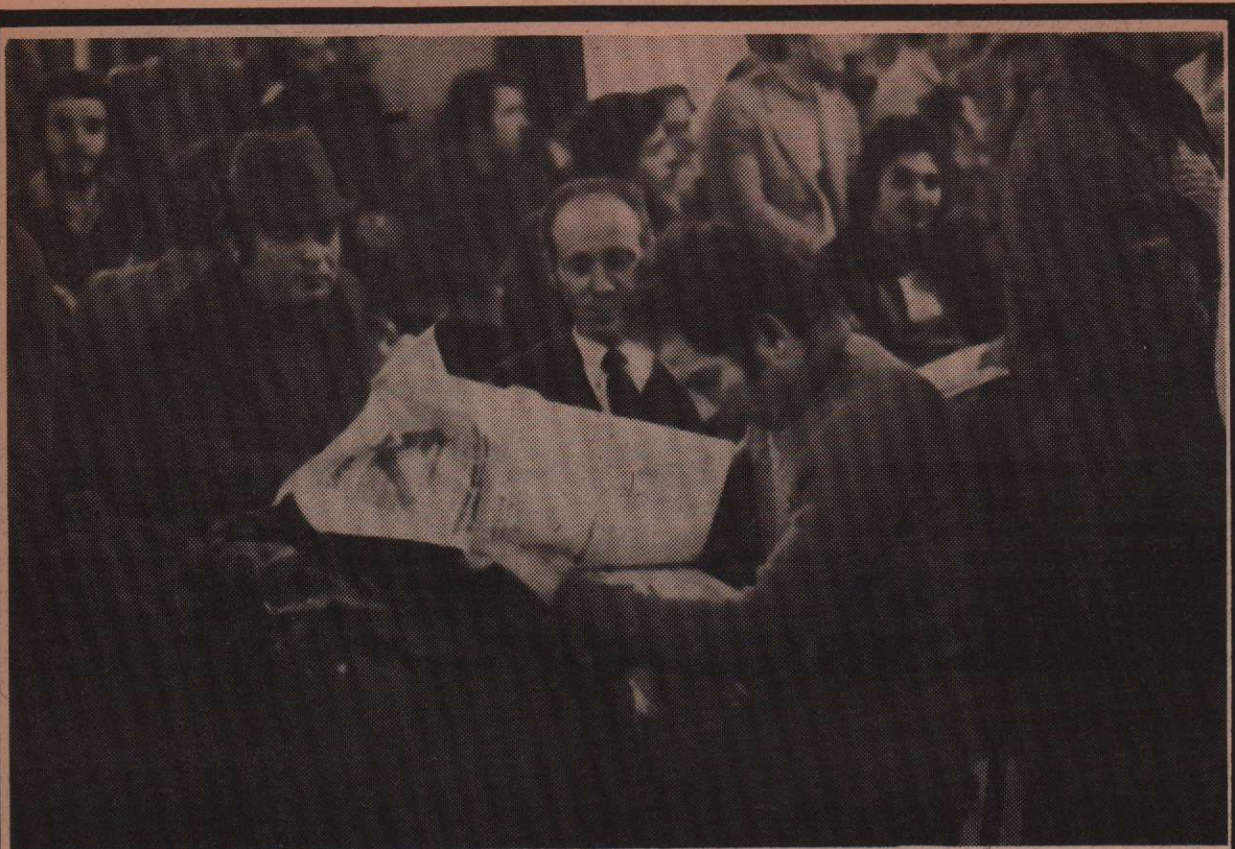
**South African troops out of Angola!** Victory to the MPLA! Solidarity rally, Friday 12 December, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (Holborn tube). Film: *Angola in Struggle* (made in Angola, October 1975). Speakers from Southern Africa, Portugal and Chile. Basil Davidson (author of *In The Eye of the Storm: Angola's People*). Tickets 20p in advance and at the door. Organised by Angola Solidarity Committee, 30 Romilly Road, London N4.

**CONFERENCE ON IRELAND:** Saturday 13 December, 10am-5pm, Speaker: Eamonn McCann, workshops and a film, 8pm: Irish social, 60p. City of London Poly, Whitechapel High Street, Aldgate East tube. Organised by East London Troops Out Movement. All welcome.

**FIGHT THE CUTS!** First showing of a film made for use in the Cuts campaign. Central London Poly, Marylebone Road (opposite Madame Tassauds) London NW1. Saturday 6 December, 3pm. An opportunity for all trade unionists and community action groups from all areas to discuss action. CIS/CDP who produced *Cutting the Welfare State*, will also be there. If unable to attend, the film is available from 01-794 2825. 55 minutes, black and white. Hire free—cost of dispatch and return only.

**AUSTRALIAN** building worker Jack Munday on unique trade union which, in 1973, imposed 36 bans on building developments which threatened working-class homes. Wednesday 10 December, 7.45pm, The Rugby Tavern, Rugby Street, London WC1. Organised by Big Flame.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOSPITAL CLOSURES:** Mass lobby of Area Health Authority, Thursday 11 December, 1pm onwards, Addison House, Chart Street, Shoreditch, London E2.



Inside the occupied plant in Milan

## Innocenti workers take on British Leyland

'We are not just fighting Innocenti and British Leyland. We are fighting the government. We are fighting not just for our jobs. We are fighting for the right to work for everyone.'

These are the words of one of the Milan workers now occupying the British Leyland-owned Innocenti plant, speaking to Glynis Cousins of Socialist Worker this week.

The 4500 workers at Innocenti are experiencing exactly what Chrysler and the British government are trying to do to Chrysler workers in Coventry. But they are fighting for every job.

They refuse to accept any redundancies at all. Instead they have occupied the factory and are using it as a focus to fight for the right to work.

They go out in to the city squares and shopping centres, round the factories big and small and explain their case.

Their campaign is paying off handsomely. On Tuesday they had a joint demonstration with striking Dunlop-

Pirelli workers - also threatened by redundancies. On Thursday this week there was a four hour general strike in Milan against unemployment.

If Leyland get away with their bid to close the plant, then workers here who make engine kits for Innocenti will come under the hammer. What's more 120 Italian dealership outlets for other products of Coventry, Birmingham and Oxford factories are also being chopped by Leyland.

This position has been officially adopted by the workers, who are demanding not only nationalisation and a guarantee that all jobs will be protected but also the conversion of the plant for the production of public transport vehicles.

Send a donation to the Innocenti fund send them a message of support and solidarity, write to the workers' factory Council that is running the occupation: Consigli di Fabbrica, Via Pitteri, Lambrate, Milan 20/100, Italy.

## AUEW: Come help the Charter push back the right

ANGELA McHUGH is an Engineering Union shop steward at Rawplugh in Glasgow. She'll be travelling to London on Friday for the first conference of the Engineers' Charter.

At last week's Women's Voice Rally in Manchester Angela outlined some of her experience of the engineering industry. Her whole working experience had been one where women workers were sold short or sold out, she said, especially by those who were supposed to lead them, the full-time officials.

In a dispute earlier in the year, workers had voted to support strike action only if the AUEW officials were excluded from their discussions.

'The Engineers' Charter is trying to involve people. But it won't fight for women unless we go to its conferences and demand that they do.'

'Every Engineering Union member who wants to fight should be at the Charter conference,' she added. 'We have to fight for ourselves.'

For too long engineering militants have put their money on winning friends and influence at the top. The hard work of convincing enough people on the shop floor has been neglected. The Engineers' Charter is the beginning of a serious attempt to change that and turn the tide in the second biggest union in the country.

The Charter starts from small beginnings. It needs to become a big and



Angela McHugh: fighting speech

powerful organisation. It will only become this with your efforts, with your attendance and with your devotion.

The need for such an organisation could not be greater. There is the economic crisis. There is the right-wing bandwagon in the union, rolling strong thanks to the support of press barons and TV pundits.

It's this that has made groups of rank and file engineering workers round the country declare their support for an Engineers' Charter candidate for the post of AUEW assistant secretary.

The Charter candidate standing against the shining light of the right, John Weakly, is Len Blood, a steward at Greenings in Warrington. His candidature is so far supported by more than 180 signatures. These include the whole stewards' committee—convenor and nine stewards—at CAV, Colindale, North London, 67 members from the Cummins Engines factory in Darlington, and eleven stewards from the Borg Warner factory in Hitchin.

At Metal Box in Shipley, the convenor and the deputy convenor are supporting Len Blood. At Transparent Paper in Bury, 63 have signed, including four stewards. At T Ryder and Sons in Bolton, the convenor and five stewards are supporting this fighting campaign.

So, brothers and sisters, don't forget: Get yourselves along this Saturday to the First Engineers' Charter Conference, and try to get your stewards, convenor and workmates to support the candidacy of Len Blood.

Send supporting names to Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

### FIRST NATIONAL ENGINEERS CHARTER CONFERENCE

Saturday 6 December, 1pm-5pm, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Holborn)  
UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK, THE AUEW 1976 WAGE CLAIM  
Agenda and credentials from Engineers Charter, 46 Prince George Road, London N16

# BUT RYTON STEWARDS STILL WON'T FIGHT

RYTON is closing. Last Friday was our last working day. We have been given no starting date by Chrysler for the coming year.

Stewards in some sections said there was no cause for concern. The company police had promised to let nothing go out through the gates over Christmas!

This blind faith of some of our stewards proved itself ridiculous when all over the weekend men were working round the clock to clear the tracks of unfinished cars. What surer sign of a closure?

It has been obvious for a long time that Chrysler

intended to shut down Ryton. The stewards' delaying tactics have got us nowhere except on the wrong side of the factory gate. The truth is they do not know how to start the fight.

At a recent meeting which lasted all day the Ryton stewards could not decide what to do. They went to the length of calling in Jock Gibson, the ex-Ryton convenor now retired, to see if he could show them the way.

On Monday they struck on the solution of holding a

Chrysler Support Meeting in the Willenhall Working Men's Club this Saturday. The convenors, Fox and McCartney, have apparently invited other Coventry convenors and the local MP as well as the trade union officials to this eleventh-hour jamboree.

But jamboree or not, everyone prepared to fight should be there and make that point quite clearly—it's one of the few chances we've had. Playing power games with officials and MPs won't win our jobs. We on the shop floor must stir ourselves, forget the wait-and-see philosophy and fight.

We must organise now to occupy the plant and resist all further attempts to move anything from it. The only alternative is the dole queue.

by John MacSorley (TGWU), Chrysler Ryton

## 'Occupy Chrysler' call spreads at Linwood and Stoke plants

THE Chrysler Stoke stewards' committee is being pushed by events into verbally declaring support for militant tactics to save jobs. Last week's news that Linwood is prepared to occupy, coupled with the tremendous response to the 26 November Right to Work demonstration in London, have forced the senior stewards into saying that the Stoke plant will be occupied in the

event of closure.

Meanwhile at Ryton workers have been laid off indefinitely with the leadership

playing -like absentee landlords. The stewards even refused to take part in the 26 November lobby of parliament because the staff were there. It's no wonder Chrysler boss Riccardo and Prime Minister Harold Wilson see Ryton as easy pickings.

But at Stoke things are certainly not safe. It's odds on that at least part of the Stoke plant will be included in the government's

plans for the car industry, but this still means massive redundancies and Stoke stewards committee still has its eyes closed.

But some Stoke stewards are prepared to occupy the plant against redundancies and force nationalisation to protect every job.

Bob Morris, the TGWU convenor, has accused some stewards of trying to bring politics into the situation by talking of nationalisation. He has said the Linwood convenors do not even believe in it. One steward replied that he had become an extremist, if being an extremist meant saving jobs. 'The only future for moderates', he said 'is the dole queue'.

In Ryton there are workers from the Old Ryton Action Group attempting to organise for an occupation and regularly leafletting the pay queues.

One danger we have to knock on the head immediately is the attempt to create divisions within the plants. The Ryton convenors won't meet other plants with the staff present. Already the Stoke leadership are saying that 'charity begins at home'.

The only way we can save every job is by a united combine fight and an occupation of the plants. By demanding the nationalisation of the whole combine, without compensation, to protect all of our jobs.

## SMELTERS UNITE

AVONMOUTH: The official strike at Commonwealth Smelting is now in its fifth week. We are determined to stay out until the management agrees to return to original manning levels and to take back those men who were sacked.

As a direct result of the strike, stewards in all the major chemical works at Avonmouth are meeting. This covers Commonwealth Smelting, International Smelting, Fisons, ICI, Sevalco and Teneco.

John Millar, Transport and General Workers Union national secretary for chemicals, told a joint meeting of stewards that all fights such as ours against rising mass unemployment would get the union's full backing. We must hold the union to

that statement.

Twenty-five strikers, their wives and children occupied the regional headquarters of the Department of Health and Social Security last Monday. Thirty others picketed the main gate of the social security office. They are protesting against a new code which means no striker can claim under section 13, for cases of proven financial difficulty.

Round-the-clock picketing continues. We call on all trade unionists to support our fight for safe and hygienic working conditions, and the right to work.

Please send all donations to: Mike O'Dea, Secretary 3/83 branch TGWU, 10 Eldon Terrace, Bristol. Official collection sheets available.

## Textile workers win £6 rise

MERTHYR TYDFIL: The Kayser Bondor clothing workers have won the £6 rise—in two stages—after three weeks of round-the-clock picketing.

Other clothing workers in the Courtaulds' Northgate Group in South Wales and Merseyside voted to make their strike for the £6 official. Pat Williams, steward at the Treforest factory, said: 'Morale is just as good as ever. Women who wavered before are much closer now since it's official. We'll stop supervisors going in if necessary.'

Courtaulds, threatened with a strike of an additional 8000 workers in its other factories, are being forced to the negotiating table.

## Picket lines

KEIGHLEY: Three tunnel miners, members of the TGWU tunnel miners' branch, are picketing Streeters building site after being sacked. They were brought up to Keighley from Blackpool, but after a few days management called them in and sacked all three without giving any reasons.

The next day they were called on to the site, given gelignite and powder and asked to do some blasting, without being reinstated. They refused. They also refused an offer of money to go away and stop the picketing.

Donations and messages of support to 60 Park Way, Steeton, near Keighley, West Yorkshire.

KENT: The South East London Right to Work Campaign mounted a picket of employed and unemployed workers outside the ITT complex in Fooks Cray on Tuesday in protest at ITT's plans to close Kent Mouldings (losing 90 jobs) and to sack a further 60 workers from another factory on the site.

Pete Lisle, convenor of Molins (Deptford), who is to speak at the South East London Right to Work meeting, said: 'Last week's massive demonstration in London gave a great boost for the campaign against unemployment. A united struggle throughout the whole labour movement is crucial in the fight for jobs.'

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK public meeting: Monday 8 December, 8pm, Charlton House, Hornfair Road, Charlton, SE7.

BIRMINGHAM: The administration block at the Polytechnic Edgbaston Centre has been occupied by students in an effort to stop victimisations. The students face expulsion because of their refusal to pay another massive increase in fees.

Messages of support to Occupation Committee, Administration Block, Edgbaston Centre, Birmingham Polytechnic, Westbourne Road, Birmingham.

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## PORTUGAL:

From Socialist Worker reporters in Lisbon

# WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

**THE soldiers were betrayed. No to repression.**

With that headline, a special edition of the worker-controlled paper Republica appeared on the streets on Sunday, for the first time for five days.

*But how was the battle lost?*

Already a myth is being pushed that the extreme left tried to stage a coup.

The real sequence of events was rather different. The revolutionary left groups, the PRP and the MES, had been arguing that an insurrection was necessary to avoid the danger of another Chile.

But they expected it only after some weeks of building support for it in the factories.

However, on the night of 24-25 November, right-wing military figures made a number of provocative moves—putting commandos outside the military police barracks and removing Otelo da Carvalho from his command for being too tolerant to the left.

The paratroops, who had only just come over to the left, seized airbases and the main radio station in retaliation. The authorities are now claiming that 'elements of the Communist

THE BRITISH press were last weekend celebrating the collapse of what it claimed was a 'left-wing coup' in Portugal. There was little for workers in Lisbon to celebrate, however.

The 'defenders of liberty' who control the government and armed forces have suspended eight left-wing state-controlled papers while they re-organise the editorial boards.

The radio and TV are being censored, and more than 100 left-wing soldiers and officers are in jail.

Anyone entering Lisbon from the airport has to pass through six military roadblocks, each manned by leather-jacketed commandos. Two unarmed civilians who disobeyed their orders were shot dead last week.

The leaders of Mario Soares Socialist Party are toasting victory. But they may soon be shoved aside by right-wing commanders who now hold a monopoly of military power—and who long for a return to the trappings of fascism.



Traffic duty for a left-wing soldier outside a Lisbon barracks: the right want him and his comrades purged



Ready for action: a left-wing soldier takes up position after the paratroops had seized airbases

Party and the extreme left participated in the rebellion'.

But when the paras moved, the revolutionary groups were as surprised as everyone else. The CP seems to have been directly involved. It issued an hysterical call for 'vigilance' and bodies it influenced called people to the barracks. Only after these calls had been made did the revolutionary

left join the movement.

Late on Tuesday morning, Fifth Division officers sympathetic to the Communist Party visited the PRP offices to persuade them to join in.

However, at that point the CP did an about-turn and abandoned to the fury of the right those who had followed its initiative—including some of its own key people in the

armed forces.

The marines, who had initially supported the paras, withdrew to the sidelines. CP-influenced officers in key military units began negotiating for surrender, creating general demoralisation.

The Metal Workers' union, which had called for a general strike on the Tuesday, did nothing to work for it the

next day. The Intersyndical, the CP-led trade union federation, did nothing. A CP leaflet called for 'serenity'.

Suddenly, the left wing soldiers and the revolutionary groups found themselves isolated.

The left wing army units were divided and confused. Although they were opposed by at most 1000 right wing commandos, the CP-influenced officers advised surrender.

But why did the CP leadership do a somersault that amounted to nothing more than betrayal of its own military supporters?

The rumour in Lisbon is that, at the height of the rebellion, Cunhal, the leader of the CP, made contact with the President of the Republic.

Jointly they agreed that the CP would be allowed to remain in the government, providing it would oppose strikes in future and would work with the government to clamp down on the revolutionary left.

Certainly, the evening the revolt was crushed, Melo Antunes, one of the leading 'moderates' appeared on TV to say that the CP should still be in the government.

The tragedy was that the revolutionary left did not have the foresight to see the scale of the treachery, nor the strength in the factories to gain support for the soldiers once the CP had changed sides.

## HOW WE CAN HELP

TO LOSE a battle is not to lose a war. With these words, Republica has summed up the feeling of many militant workers.

The Portugal defeat is not yet 'on anything like the scale of the Chile defeat of two years ago. The left-wing army units have been dissolved, but the main workers' organisations remain intact.

But now all the pressure will be on workers to accept wage cuts, rising unemployment, victimisations, an end to land reform and eviction of squatters.

This makes the role of the revolutionary left as important as ever.

They need as much help as the left in the rest of Europe can give them. For this reason, Socialist Worker urges all readers to raise money as quickly as possible for our solidarity fund so that we can aid the PRP, which we think is the best of the Portuguese revolutionary groups.

An anonymous donation last week enabled us to send £500 to Portugal when the need was greatest.

Between now and Christmas we want

to raise another £1000. To do that, every reader of Socialist Worker must make a contribution, large or small.

Bankers' orders guarantee the fund a regular income. Ask your Socialist Worker seller for a form to send a fixed amount of £1 to the fund for the next six months.

If you already have a bankers' order make sure you renew it—many are running out in January. Forms will be sent to all IS branches and districts this week.

Students should make one last effort before the end of term.

Our thanks this week to: Bangor £8, Aberystwyth College of Librarianship £2.50, High Peak SW supporters £9.50, Imperial College £3, Coventry teachers £15.30, Badges and posters £8.20. Total: £48.50.

Send donations to: Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

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