

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p.

## NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION!

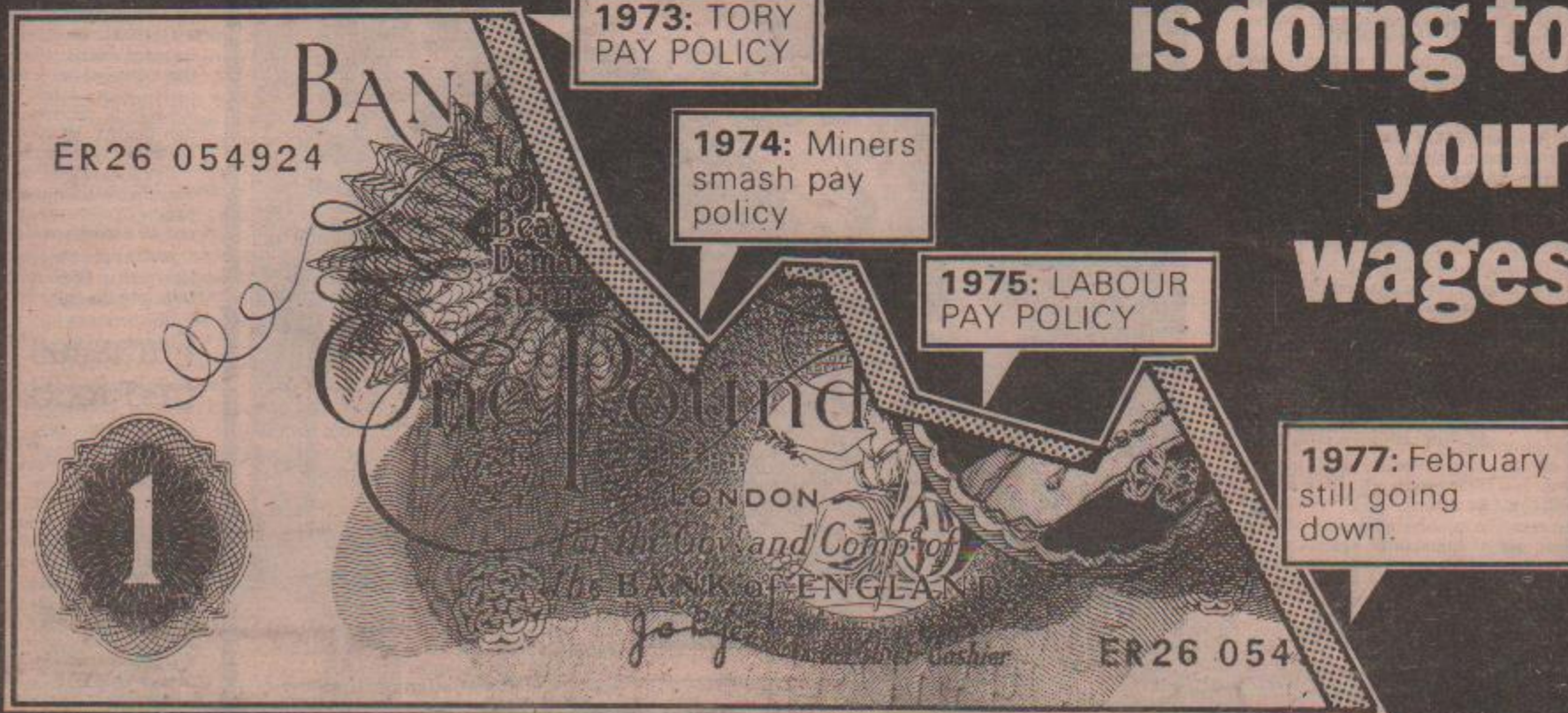
Demonstrate Friday 25 February against the anti-abortion Bill being brought before parliament.

Assemble 12.30pm, West Smithfield, London WC1 (Farringdon and Blackfriars tubes)  
3pm Rally in Central Hall, Westminster. Creche 3pm-4pm.

**BRING BANNERS AND CHILDREN**

Organised by Women's Voice and the National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies.

## What the Social Contract is doing to your wages



# £15 NOW!

**THIS is what's happened to your wage packet over the past three years.**

Real industrial wages—what you have left after price rises and tax deductions are taken into account—have fallen by nearly a fifth since 1973, the time of the first Tory wage freeze.

The only prolonged halt in the downward slide came after the miners

threw out the Heath government at the beginning of 1974. But then Labour got to work with the Social Contract and our living standards were slashed again.

Meanwhile, the big banks are laughing as never before. Lloyds announced a rise in their profits of 55 per cent last Friday. Barclays, National Westminster and the Midland are expecting to announce similar increases.

- Demand a wage rise of at least £15 now.
- Support all struggles against the Social Contract, such as that of Leyland toolroom workers.
- Support the one-day stoppage against the Con-trick called by Leyland shop stewards for April
- THROW OUT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT.**

## Document the secret police tried to stop

THE Guardian was stopped from publishing an article on the links between the British and American intelligence services on Monday.

They were stopped by a D-notice, an official secret service document that censors the reporting of certain matters.

The censored article contained information from a statement by an ex-soldier. It gave some details of the vast apparatus of men and equipment being used to intercept communications.

It refers in the main to radio communications between the representatives of foreign powers. But clearly similar devices could be used to spy on trade unions and working class people in Britain.

The secret services don't want their methods made public. They don't want working-class people to know of methods

that could be used against them.

That is why the D-notice was issued. That is why two journalists, Mark Hosenball and Phil Agee, are being deported.

That is why three of their supporters were arrested last weekend.

Here is the statement they don't want you to know about:

Both the extent of intelligence activities of this nature and the resources which the British Government deploys in this area are largely unknown to the public. The fact that they remain unknown is due in no small measure to the considerable pressure placed on people who have or have had access to the facts.

Secrecy is one of the most important keys to power and the existence of an organisation capable of spending vast sums of money in the total absence of public control

should do much to dispel any illusions about the democratic nature of our government.

I was directly concerned with processing information gained from the illegal interception of the military and diplomatic radio traffic of other countries. The result of these activities, collectively identified as SIGINT, has the advantage over other intelligence of always being accurate and having no need of corroboration from other sources.

In view of this the demand for such intelligence in military circles is scarcely surprising. But like all intelligence it is capable of extensive abuse. The following facts are certainly not common knowledge and in my opinion should be:

1. Approximately one half of the personnel of the Intelligence Corps (a regular

## Keeping the bloody comics at bay

THANKS, editor, for the write up about that bastard Jackson.

Hope your paper sellers got rid of some Workers the other morning. I know how hard it is to break in among the bloody comics that working people poison their minds with.

This letter came from one of the East London postal workers who were on strike a fortnight ago.

It gives some important reasons why Socialist Worker—and the Socialist Workers Party—exist. To support workers in struggle. To counter the attempts of elected-for-life trade union officials to seal out those struggles. To answer the lies of the daily press.

The growing tide of anger against the Social Contract and the public spending cuts shows more and more workers agree with what we say.

We need to print papers, leaflets, posters, supporting the one-day strikes against the cuts, to support the Leyland combine's call for action against the Social Contract.

We need your pennies, your pound notes, your cheques and banker's orders to do this.

One South London SWP district raised £55 by a sponsored penalty goal competition. Our members enjoyed themselves and helped our fund.

One final reason why you should send off donations this week. Our treasurer, Mel Norris is ill with shingles, an infection of the nervous system.

While he's sick, Tony Cliff and Jim Nichol will be taking charge of fund-raising.

Thanks to:  
Lea Valley £71, Bradford public meeting £25, Bradford Women's Voice supporters collection sheet £2.90, Bradford SP £2.10, Edinburgh SW discuss-on group £3.90, Hibburn SWP and supporters £2, Manchester SW supporters 80p, L Cendrowski 75p, Wakefield SWP £10, Glasgow member £1.

Anon £2.50, Southampton £4.10, Norwich £5, Norwich students £1, Manchester University £5.75, Coventry £50, Crewe £25, K Bhamra of Plumstead £10, York £40, North West London £50, South West London £93, Stockport £10, Mansfield £16.60.

Ilington £20, Durham readers and supporters £2, Stella Daly £2.50, J Alwyn £3, S Eccles 50p.

Total £463.40  
 Donations to Socialist Workers Party Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Turn to page 3.



# Court move to evict student occupation

**NO RACIST discrimination against overseas students. No fees increase. These are the demands of students at the London School of Economics who occupied their college a fortnight ago.**

The authorities have responded by threatening the students with the law courts. The occupation started after the college accepted the government's demand to increase student fees massively.

## Back street abortion —NO!

**WOMEN** face one of the gravest threats for a long time this Friday afternoon. For that's when Tory MP William Benyon will be putting before the House of Commons a Bill designed to make abortion more difficult.

Benyon has designed his Bill to look harmless. He even claims that it is designed to protect women against 'exploitation' by private clinics.

But its effect will be to put women wanting an abortion back to going from doctor to doctor hunting for support for the right to control their own bodies. It will mean more late abortions and more backstreet abortions.

It will hit particularly hard the charitable abortion advice agencies on which most working-class women have to rely.

### Forced

In the East End of London, for example, only four of every ten abortions are on the NHS. That means that six out of ten are forced to go to private clinics or charitable agencies.

If the Benyon Bill goes through, many will have no choice but backstreet abortionists.

Support has flowed in for the demonstration called by Women's Voice for this Friday midday, as parliament discusses the Benyon Bill.

Support has come from: NUS Women's Conference, South Yorkshire Area NUS, student unions at Portsmouth Poly, Highbury Tech, Lancaster University, Manchester Poly, Sheffield Poly, University of East Anglia, North London and North East London Polytechnics and from NUJ Magazine branch, the Civil Service Union London Council and NUS Staff ACTSS.

One year on from the Sex Discrimination Act  
**A Rally for Womens Rights**

Saturday 26 February, 11am, Alexandra Palace, London N22 (nearest tube Wood Green, then W3 bus).  
60p entrance, Creche. Benefit in evening, 8pm-10.30pm.

Women's Voice supporters in London are urged to attend.

This was effectively a racist move, since the fees of most British students are paid automatically by the local education authorities. Those who will suffer will be overseas students and students from Britain who finance themselves.

Now the authorities have shown they are prepared to turn to the courts and the police to back up their discrimination against overseas students.

Yet the press paint as a 'liberal' the director of LSE, Ralf Dahrendorf, ex-European Commissioner and chairman of the Royal Commission into the City of London. Dahrendorf should know a lot about the city, since on the board of governors of LSE sit representatives of many of the biggest banks and industrial concerns. It is these people who have called on the courts to take action.

Their resort to injunctions against students is like their use of injunctions against the post office workers who wanted to boycott mail for South Africa and against the workers' occupation at Massey Ferguson in Coventry.

### Lost the vote

The occupation was called for by overseas students, backed by members of NOISS, the student organisation linked to the Socialist Workers Party. Unfortunately the so-called Broad Left, of Labour and Communist Party members, opposed the call for an occupation, and have used every opportunity since to try to get it called off.

They tried last Friday. But despite support from the Tories they lost the vote at a 600-strong union meeting.

On Monday they tried again, claiming they had a compromise that the authorities would accept. This time the support of the Tories enabled them to get a narrow majority.

But the LSE authorities were not interested in a compromise. They insisted on going ahead with their court injunction. The cowardice of the Broad Left seems to have convinced them that the students would not keep up the fight.

Hundreds of students, however, are convinced that the only way to beat back the racist measure of the authorities is to defy the injunctions and intensify the struggle. Whenever this has been done in the past, the courts have backed down from actually imprisoning students.

Students at THAMES and MIDDLESEX Polytechnics are also continuing occupations against the fees increases, while at BRIGHTON Poly and WARWICK University, students occupied for several days last week.



Andy Durgan, a member of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies and of the NUS executive, speaking to the LSE student demonstration on Tuesday.

## Sit-in victory!

**STUDENTS** at MANCHESTER Polytechnic have forced the governors to cut meal prices by 10 per cent. This victory follows a three-week occupation which the governors had tried to beat with court injunctions.

The students had the support of other unions in the college, the public employees (NUPE), the lecturers (NATFHE), and the General and Municipal.

At NEWMAN COLLEGE, in Birmingham, students have been in occupation against teacher unemployment. They point out that the campaign last year came too late in the year, and are calling on other colleges to support them.

## NOISS National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

NOISS annual conference: Friday-Sunday 11-13 March, at Manchester Polytechnic.

Sessions include: The state of the class struggle, Women, Southern Africa, United front, Ireland, PLUS workshops, including Italy, India, Spain, Eastern Europe, Cyprus, Middle East, Education and ideology, Rock against Racism. Also guest speakers and GRAND SOCIAL—accommodation, cheap food etc provided.

All International Socialist Societies are invited to send delegates (one for every five members) and an unlimited number of observers.

Conference begins Friday 11 March, 6pm. Details and registration forms from NOISS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 9DN.

## Heart attack? He must've been a bus driver

by PETE GLATTER  
Bus driver, Tottenham Garage, North London

**POOR** old Tony Crosland. My heart bled for him. I never knew that helping the Common Market put up the cost of living, or that giving a last breathing space to a blood-stained racist called Ian Smith took so much effort.

Five bus drivers in my garage have had heart attacks since Christmas. Most of them have died. And this is not the only place happens, not by a long chalk.

Did they get front page daily hospital bulletin treatment? And will dozens of MPs wake up and call for lower productivity in the bus industry?

Bus drivers in Milan work a 32-hour week. I bet that's one thing our late lamented Foreign Secretary never knew, or if he did he kept pretty quiet about it.

## Hospital authority rats on promises

**WHEN** in-patient facilities at London's Metropolitan Hospital were closed last month, management achieved the operation by agreeing to expand X-ray and out-patient departments at St Leonard's Hospital, Hackney.

Already they have ratted on this promise.

Now they're justifying not improving St Leonard's with the promise of the new hospital sometime in the future.

But the region is supposedly building five hospitals and Hackney is fourth on the list. There is no way, with increasing cuts, that these hospitals will ever be built.

What we let them take now, we'll never get back.

Hospital workers at St Leonard's must refuse to take the increased load, and must unite with other hospital workers in the area, through the district stewards' committee, to take action.

St Leonard's started off as a Victorian workhouse. If we sit back and do nothing, it will end as a workhouse again.

We hope the Save Our Hospitals Conference will help lead the fight back!

## Parasites' free food

**PORTERS** at Withington Hospital, Manchester, are refusing to deliver so-called 'working lunches' to management and consultants. It just shouldn't be their jobs.

But at a meeting following their decision, management's proposals let the cat out of the bag. The so-called working lunches are given to managers and consultants free of charge.

Cost of food alone in 1976 was £16,000. Double that to include labour cost and these highly-paid parasites are getting free grub to the tune of £32,000 in the year our wages were held down and our hospitals were wrecked.

Thus would pay the wages of seven nurses or ancillary hospital workers to look after the sick.

## Victory!

A FAVOURITE trick of hospital managers in their battle to carry through the cuts is the use of agency labour to weaken trade union organisation.

They tried this in Manchester General Hospital recently, but the organisation and solidarity of the directly-employed workers forced management to retreat.

The introduction of five agency workers carrying meals from kitchens to wards was met with a threat of all-out strike action by ancillary workers. Management were given a 48-hour ultimatum, and agreed to replace the five with full-time workers.

Management said they were using agency staff 'because they couldn't get permanent staff'. But, as NUPE steward George Atherton pointed out, there had recently been 150 applicants for one porter's job alone!

If trade union organisation in your hospital or area is weak you can still attend the Save Our Hospital conference called by the National Right to Work Campaign.

The conference is a delegate conference. But observers will be admitted. Those genuine trade unionists who come from areas where organisation is just getting underway or where meetings are infrequent should not hesitate to apply for credentials as an observer.

Conference details, page 5.



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

## 'NO GO' FOR FASCISTS

by DAVE GRAY

**ONE** OF the biggest anti-fascist pickets for years hit Slough last Thursday night to greet John Tyndall, fuhrer of the National Front.

The fascists in Slough have been having a bad time lately, thanks to a leafletting campaign against them. The Slough NF meeting was for members only, designed to boost sagging numbers.

Instead the 80 or so Nazis were jeered and booed by a picket over 200 strong.

The Socialist Workers Party comprised over half the picket, with members and supporters coming from Southall and Oxford, as well as from the town itself.

The NF were harassed as the meeting ended, leaving them with no doubt that for Nazis, Slough is still 'no go area'.



# The state machine grinds into gear...

**DOCUMENT  
THEY  
TRIED TO  
KEEP  
SECRET**

From page one.

British Army unit) is employed full-time on SIGINT duties.

2. At least 4000 civil servants working to the Ministry of Defence are similarly engaged.

3. GCHQ (the effort) is a member of international clique which was set up to facilitate exchange of information and avoid duplication of effort.

4. To a large degree the American National Security Agency is responsible for overall direction of this organisation including GCHQ. This of course means that the CIA, the senior intelligence apparatus, has considerable influence over the activities of a British Government agency.

5. That the considerable expense of maintaining the service personnel engaged on this work would not appear on GCHQ balance sheet, falling instead in the category of ordinary military expenditure.

6. That anyone, civilian or military, who has worked in this area is subjected to a series of threats backed up by the full force of the Official Secrets Act, should they at any time disclose any aspect of their activities, and that such people are actively encouraged to report and inform on each other's social activities should their suspicions be aroused in any way.

7. That in addition to intercepting the communications of potentially hostile nations, also monitors the radio networks of so-called friend countries and even the commercial signals of UK companies.

The paranoid reaction of the British government in response to the recent disclosures by Mark Hosenball and Phillipe Agee demonstrates quite clearly its very real fear that certain murky facts from which it will derive no credit and which may lead to exposure of the apparatus which could transform Britain into a police state overnight should the need arise, are not so far from the public eye as it had previously thought.

Any action which tends towards realising those fears should be encouraged.

**THE secret police, the Special Branch, struck last Friday.**

They seized three men in North London—van driver John Berry and journalists Duncan Campbell and Crispin Aubrey and held them for almost two days without allowing any contact with friends or solicitors.

On Monday the three were charged with having broken Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act. They are now being held in prison.

Berry, a former Army communications expert, is accused of passing 'secret information' to the journalists. But it is seven years since he left the army.

It is not what he learnt in the army that worries the secret police. It is what has been done since.

□ The three have been active in the defence campaign for Phil Agee and Mark Hosenball, two journalists threatened with deportation to keep them quiet. Agee has been active in exposing the CIA, the US spy and assassination network, for which he used to work.

□ The two journalists have been investigating the electronic spy devices in the hands of Britain's secret services. These are said to include one that enables the army to

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

monitor the frequencies of radio-controlled bombs—which could also enable them to detonate the bombs by radio before any warnings were given.

**The arrests and deportations are an attempt by the secret police to intimidate into silence anyone who might investigate and publicise their activities.**

Every socialist and trade unionist should campaign against them—even if there were no more to it than that. But much more is at stake.

For it was revealed in court on Monday that the charges under the Official Secrets Act are being brought without authority from the government.

### Demands

Proceedings under the Act need the permission of the Attorney General, Sam Silkin. In the past he has usually given in to the demands of the police chiefs.

**But this time they did not even bother to ask.**

The heads of the secret services decided to seize the three men—then force the Labour government to endorse their action.

The Labour government said only last November that Section 2 of the Act, under which the three are charged, would not be used again.

And the Labour Party Manifesto, which won it the last election, promised that the whole Act would be scrapped.

There could hardly be clearer proof that real power in cases such as these does not lie with MPs and Ministers, still less with voters. It lies with the army and police chiefs, the heads of the secret services, the civil service, with the judges.

### Reference

These men—elected by no one, ex-public school, top university, exclusive London club members to a man, closely linked to those who run industry and the banks—claim their gospel is 'the rule of law'.

By this they mean the right of MPs to ignore their election promises, the right of Ministers to deport people without reference to MPs and without telling them why, the right of secret service chiefs and judges to throw people in prison without reference to Ministers.

They mean the right to do all the things they would denounce if they happened in Russia, Uganda, Cuba or some other foreign country.

For those who in any way question the power of such people, the 'rule of law' means arbitrary arrest and trumped-up charges.

*But why have these key people in the state machine decided to take the gloves off now?*

Because they see confrontation coming. Because they see that the Social Contract is not going to last much longer. And so a sizeable minority is preparing to put the trade union movement 'in its place'.

### Intimidate

They are testing whether the trade union movement will let them get away with the use of the law and the secret police to intimidate their opponents.

They gained heart when they successfully used the courts to stop the post office union blacking the scab firm of Grunwicks and boycotting mail to the racists of South Africa.

They rejoiced when they saw a court injunction end the occupation at Massey Fergusons in Coventry.

They rejoiced as they saw Right to Work marchers dragged through the

courts and thrown into prison.

**That is why trade union protest against these arrests and deportations is vital, at every level.**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

**JOURNALISTS' CHARTER**, the rank and file organisation in the National Union of Journalists, is calling for industrial action from journalists and printers against the deportations and arrests.

The Aubrey Berry, Campbell Defence Committee called a meeting on Tuesday to discuss action. Chapel officials (shop stewards) from the Magazine and Book NUJ branches and NUJ members from all over London were invited.

The Agee/Hosenball Defence Committee has called for a demonstration of protest on Saturday 5 March. It assembles at 1pm on the Embankment, London SW1, to march to the head office of M16. There is a rally being held at Conway Hall on Tuesday 28 February at 8pm.

We urge all Socialist Worker readers in London and the Home Counties to support this demonstration with trade union and political banners.



The two arrested journalists: Crispin Aubrey (top) and Duncan Campbell



...take a militant crowd for instance.  
It's not my job to take a political view. But if you understand the political background to the situation you're bound to be more sensitive to it.  
To misjudge it could be fatal.  
That's why you have to prove yourself mentally as well as physically to win a Green Beret.  
I feel sorry for the lads who don't make it.  
But sometimes getting kicked out saves a lot of people's lives.

Getting prepared? Part of an advertisement for officer training in the Royal Marines, from last weekend's Sunday Times

## Who else on the payroll?

**LABOUR** Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has done the CIA, the American spy network, a good turn by ordering the deportation of one of its enemies, Phil Agee.

A lot of other prominent people have done good turns for the CIA in recent years. Last week the Washington Post and New York Times published a list of those it is said have been receiving CIA bribes:

**KING HUSSEIN** of Jordan  
**ARCHBISHOP**

**MAKARIOS** of Cyprus

**WILLY BRANDT**, head of the West German Social Democrats and a leading light in the so-called Socialist International, to which the Labour Party is affiliated.

**PRESIDENT MOBUTU** of Zaire, close friend of General Amin of Uganda and collaborator in the South African invasion of Angola last year.

**EDUARDO FREI**, President of Chile before Allende.

**LUIS ECHEVERRIA**, recently president of Mexico. As Minister for the Interior in 1969 he ordered the shooting dead of 400 unarmed student demonstrators.

**HOLDEN ROBERTO**, head of the FNLA, the organisation that aided the South African invasion of Angola last year.

It makes you wonder whether there weren't lesser-known recipients of CIA money, for instance in the British Labour Party...

## 'THE RULE OF LAW'

ONE of those, unelected of course, who takes 'legal' decisions concerning our lives is L W D Aitchison, adjudicator of appeals under the Immigration Act of 1971.

Judge for yourself the 'legal' content of a recent judgement, his explanation to the Home Secretary why three Chilean exiles should not be allowed into Britain: 'All three... describe themselves as members of the Socialist Party in Chile, in other words communist agitators...'

'In addition, the current all-time peak level of unemployment in Scotland was nearly increased on a substantial scale when Communist agitators tried to prevent completion of naval contracts placed by the Chilean government.'

'Perhaps Cuba might be a country more receptive to the political aspirations of the three...'

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# Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday before publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send CASH WITH COPY (10p a word) to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

## Defend the Right to Work marchers!

What did happen to the Right to Work March at Hendon last March? Why were 44 marchers arrested? What happened at the trials since then? Why is John Deason to appear at the Old Bailey in May? Read the new Right to Work Marchers' Defence Campaign leaflet. Minimum price 5p. Proceeds towards paying the remaining fines and to the cost of John Deason's trial. Available from Right to Work Marchers' Defence Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4. New collection sheets also available.

**LONDON:** On the first anniversary of the police attack on the Right to Work March, Mike Lynch is being released from prison. Keep 18 March free. Special Right to Work Anniversary Dance. Live bands, bar, disco. Tickets 75p (£1 on the door) unemployed 30p.

**LONDON:** Barnet Trades Council Benefit Social in aid of RTW marchers' defence fund. Saturday 26 February, 8pm. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, (nearest tube Warren Street). Disco, bar, raffle. Admission 50p, unemployed 25p. NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.

**MANCHESTER:** Rock against Racism Concert in aid of Right to Work Marchers' Defence Fund. Saturday 26 February, 9pm-late. Manchester Polytechnic Students Union, Cavendish House, All Saints. Live band, plus disco. Bar extension. Admission 80p (unemployed 30p).

**NORTH WEST LONDON:** Right to Work Campaign Safety School. Saturday 5 March, 11am-4pm. Tavistock Small Hall, 2 Tavistock Road, Harlesden NW10 (buses 260, 266, 18, 12, 226, 220 Train to Willesden Junction). Bakerloo, North London Line. Dr Russ Bowman on Hazards and Your Health. Greg Powell on the Law of Health and Safety. Roger Cox on Trade Union Organisation. North West Spanner play on health and safety. All trade unionists welcome. Admission 50p (unemployed 25p). Sponsored by AUEW Shepherds Bush, AUEW Crickwood, TGWU Heinz, Hammersmith Hospital NUPE shop stewards, Harlesden UCATT, Barnet Trades Council, Harlesden Advice Centre.

**GLASGOW:** Right to Work Campaign public meeting. After the Day of Action—what next? Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker) and shop stewards from NALGO, NUPE and British Leyland. Wednesday 9 March, 4.30pm-5.30pm, City Halls, Albion Street.

## Notices

**WHY ARE WOMEN OPPRESSED?** A symposium on International Women's Day, Tuesday 8 March. The speakers will be Irene Brannan (lecturer in Women's Studies), Hermione Harris (anthropologist), and Evelyn Reed (American feminist anthropologist and author). 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London W1.

**POST OFFICE WORKER** no 4 out soon. Articles and reports on wages, Appeal Court's attack on UPW, EDO strike, annual conference, Grunwick's, Bullock Report etc. ORDER NOW (money in advance, including postage, one copy 10p, ten copies 90p, 50 copies £4) from Post Office Worker, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

The **NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS** calls on all its members to support the AAM NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION. Sunday 6 March, assemble Speakers Corner 1.30pm. Unite in solidarity with the people of Southern Africa. Contact: NUS international dept (01-387 1277).

Joint benefit for **BROADSIDE MOBILE WORKERS THEATRE** and **RALLY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS**: Saturday 26 February, 8pm, Alexandra Palace, London, N22. Featuring Broadside's 'Divide and Rule Britannia' and Portuguese songs, Frankie Armstrong, Leon Rosselson, Terri Quayle, Mayapi, and Toby (acrobat and juggler). Tickets £1 (OAPs, clowns, unemployed 75p, strikers free). Benefit and rally £1.30 (£1).

**SOWETO** and the Uprising in South Africa. Exhibition of photographs, 28 February - 5 March, 12 noon - 10pm daily, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2. Arranged by International Defence and Aid Fund.

**HOSPITAL WORKER**, newspaper for rank and file hospital workers. No 6 out now, with details of Save Our Hospitals Conference. To order yours, phone Hugh Gurling on 01-733 8443, or write to Hospital Worker, 19 Red Post Hill, London, SE24.

**REDDER TAPE**—London Civil Service rank and file group. Future meetings. Wednesday 2 March 8.30pm: Civil Service Pay—Smash the Freeze—no return to PRU. The Plough, Museum Street, London WC1 (Tottenham Court Road tube).

# TORTURE

REPUBLICAN prisoners are being tortured in British jails and the politician responsible, Home Secretary Merlyn Rees, has made it clear he will do nothing to stop it.

The prisoners are beaten, kicked and batoned, humiliated by repeated 'strip searches', kept in solitary confinement, refused visits, denied anything to read or write on and prevented from sleeping.

The case of Brendan O'Dowd is typical. The consultant surgeon at Walton Hospital, Liverpool said of him: 'Brought here under guard, with a police story that he had been involved in a fight... was drowsy and technically unconscious... had two black eyes, a broken nose and a broken jaw... an enlarged bladder... body was also extensively bruised.'

## Sordid

That happened in 1975. O'Dowd was later moved to Albany on the Isle of Wight and put in solitary confinement.

When five other Republicans protested by putting a table across a passageway, 50 warders—20 in riot gear—moved in.

Sean Campbell, one of three Luton men set up by the agent provocateur Kenneth Lennon, received a broken hand, jaw and leg and three broken ribs plus cuts and abrasions to his back, scalp and face requiring 30 stitches.

Patrick Fell had his nose broken. Eddie Byrne suffered multiple bruises. Liam McLarnon and Tom Mc-

## Republicans being beaten, kicked and batoned in British jails

By EAMONN McCANN

Fadden severe head injuries.

A report by the Howard League and the National Council for Civil Liberties quoted a letter from an English prisoner.

'All of us who were locked up could hear the clubs and the screams. It was sickening. Prisoners have very little sympathy for IRA terrorists.'

'However, the treatment that the IRA protesters received has outraged and alarmed most prisoners.'

Following the incident, two other Republicans were sentenced to 570 days loss of remission and 91 days solitary confinement, two to 690 days loss of remission and 126 days solitary confinement and another to 690 days and 133 days solitary.

Solitary confinement means what it says. The prisoner is locked up day and night except for half an hour exercise—alone—and denied any reading or writing

materials.

Liam McLarnon, now doing 126 days in solitary, had previously been continuously in solitary confinement from November 1973 to March 1975.

Such tales could be told of practically all the 90 Republicans in jail in Britain. Warders kick and bang keys on the doors of their cells to prevent them sleeping at night. They are 'strip searched' before visits—that is, their clothes are removed, their private parts 'searched', the cheeks of their backsides forcibly prised open and their insides examined.

## Starve

After the visit, during which warder sits at the shoulder of the prisoner who speaks through a mesh to his visitor and is allowed no physical contact with him, the procedure is repeated.



Republican prisoners staging a rooftop protest at Wormwood Scrubs: their treatment is barbaric

The only possible explanation is that this is a deliberate, sordid attempt to break their spirit.

As many as half the Republican prisoners in Britain are innocent even by the normal standards of 'British justice'—either framed by the police like the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six—or set up by agents provocateur as in the case of Sean Campbell and the two other Luton men.

All of them want transfers to jails in Northern Ireland. It is in no way unreasonable.

Since 1972, 48 prisoners—including 26 soldiers—have been transferred on request in

the opposite direction.

In the same period, 12 members of the ultra-right Ulster Defence Association have been transferred from British to Northern Irish prisons. But Rees will not sanction the transfer of Republicans—obviously in contempt at their treatment.

It was that treatment which led Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan to refuse food in protest and finally to starve to death.

And the knowledge that hardly anyone in Britain—least of all Merlyn Rees or the Labour Government—seems to care is not the least of the reasons the war will go on.

## WHY NOT TAKE A TIP FROM US?

By Penny Packham, Edinburgh SWP training organiser

WE HAVE been holding Socialist Worker discussion group meetings in Edinburgh every Saturday morning. Each week, we discuss a chapter of Paul Foot's book, Why You Should be a Socialist. At the first meeting we had 13, then 16, then 18. The new people came along because they'd just bought the book.

## Control

Each week, a new speaker leads off the discussion. These speakers are nearly all new members, and old hands in the SWP are discouraged from turning up and putting the speaker off, or taking over the discussion.

As a result, the speakers have been full of enthusiasm and they've passed on the enthusiasm to the meetings.

We find the book a marvellous starting-off point for discussion—a marvellous organiser all round—and urge other branches to try discussion meetings round it.

## Lincoln: We're on our way

LINCOLN:—In three months, we have grown from just one SWP member to a branch of seven. We have a number of sympathisers and a few more prospective members. We have no illusions about our size and the need for a bigger, stronger branch, but we now have a base to build on.

## We're growing —at a record rate

TWO VERY successful meetings, part of the current SWP recruitment campaign, were held last Thursday in the Gloucestershire area.

80 students and staff at the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design in Cheltenham heard Paul Foot put the SWP case. All the available stock of Why You Should Be A Socialist was sold out.

In the evening, Paul Foot and Dave Bundy, an Engineering Union shop steward, spoke to 70 people in the centre of Gloucester.

Ten joined the Party, including members of NALGO, TGWU, ETU, UCATT and NUS.

THE GROWTH of the Socialist Workers Party goes on.

Last week 43 people wrote in, asking to join. And in one week recently, a record 53 people applied for membership.

This is on top of the large numbers of people joining at the public meetings now being held around the country on The Case for the Socialist Workers Party.

Paul Foot's book of that name continues to sell fast. Sixty-seven were ordered by post last week.

All 20,000 copies have now been distributed and a re-print will soon be under way.

**WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST**  
PAUL FOOT

...the case for the new Socialist Workers Party

## 70 at Zimbabwe meeting

BY Robin Holland SEVENTY people packed into a recent meeting organised by the Swansea branch of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign.

Ignatius Chigwendere, former Assistant General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, outlined the history of the growth of resistance to the white minority dictatorship in Zimbabwe. He explained what had been going on at the Geneva Conference and how the black workers placed no faith in the negotiations. Armed resistance alone can force a quick surrender on the Smith regime.

The Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign is asking trade union bodies to affiliate to the local Committee and to help organise a West Wales speaking tour in support of the freedom fighters.

Twenty-one people put

their names forward to go on a coach to the demonstration called by Anti-Apartheid on 6 March in London.

I HAVE bought two of the punchboards advertised in Socialist Worker. They're the best way to raise money I've ever known.

In one day at work I collected £1.50, from people who usually wouldn't like to think they were supporting the SWP but who couldn't resist having 'alright just one go then'.

The person pays 5p, punches a hole in the board, gets a ticket and there and then see if he or she has got a winning number.

□ The punchboards cost £2 (including postage) from 1, Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.

**SWP**

**WHERE WE STAND**

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

## INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

The workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

## REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up, or reformed, as the established Labour and trade union leaders say. It has to be overthrown.

## THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers'

delegates and a workers' militia.

At most, parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system. Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

## INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a world-wide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racialism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against homosexuals.

We are for real, social, economic and political equality of women.

The experience of Russia

demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist, but state capitalist.

We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests.

We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

We urge all those who agree with our policies to join with us in the struggle to build the revolutionary party.

If you want to know more about Socialist Worker and the Socialist Workers Party, fill in the form on page 16.



# A rank and file TUC

'A RANK and file TUC'. The expression was used in the Morning Star newspaper last week. It sums up what growing numbers of workers see as necessary.

We are threatened with a third year of wage controls. Prices are shooting through the roof. Hospitals, nursery schools, lollipop men and women, fire services, old people's homes, are being cut.

Even the Minister of Unemployment says the number on the dole could rise to two million.

Yet many national trade union leaders are saying there is to be a continuation of the Social Contract.

They rammed this through last year's union conferences without consulting the rank and file. They think they can do the same this year.

But the last month has seen a growing wave of resistance to their plans. Shop stewards' committees have been demanding an end to wage controls.

## Strike

In town after town, there are demonstrations, strikes, protests, pickets against the public sector cuts.

But we all know that a single group of workers by

themselves cannot decisively defeat the attacks on them.

A strike by one section of workers in one town may deflect some of the cuts. The danger is, however, that the council or the local health authority will shift the cuts onto someone else.

With wages, the position can be even more difficult. Few groups of workers feel strong enough to take on the wage controls by themselves.

And already there are

THAT'S  
WHAT  
WE  
NEED

TO PROTECT OUR JOBS, OUR SERVICES  
...AND OUR WAGE PACKETS

moves afoot to divide us one against another, so that some groups of skilled workers might be offered small wage increases—not nearly enough to keep up with the cost of living—in return for productivity concessions that will mean fewer jobs for other workers.

Some at least of the trade union leaders—and we fear, some of the senior stewards—who have said they oppose further wage controls look

towards productivity deals for skilled workers as the alternative. They speak of an 'orderly return to free collective bargaining.'

What they mean is some device that prevents all workers catching up with the cost of living.

We can only prevent these manoeuvres by building a unity of a new kind—unity based in the rank and file.

This is what a Rank and File TUC means, if it means

anything. It means a rank and file body that can organise united rank and file action.

Such bodies have been built within the trade union movement in the past.

During the First World War, for instance. Then the trade union leaders were collaborating with the government to hold back wages, as they are today.

Shop stewards in the engineering industry responded by building a national

structure, where rank and file delegates could organise united action to protect their members, regardless of what the union leaders said.

It is this sort of unity we want today.

And it has to be unity in struggle. We need a united struggle against the cuts—culminating in an all-out public sector strike to defeat them.

We need a united struggle against the wage controls—with industrial solidarity for any group of workers who decide to take the first step in taking on the pay policy.

Finally, we need unity between those fighting for wages, those fighting the cuts, and those fighting unemployment.

## Trust?

The Right to Work Campaign has, since its fighting, stood for this sort of fighting, rank and file unity.

Regrettably, there were some people in the trade union movement who dismissed such calls as 'rank and fileism'. They said we could trust in the Jack Jones, the Hugh Scanlons, the Ray Bucktons.

They claimed that any other course involved 'splitting'.

The heartening thing of the last couple of weeks is that it is clear that growing numbers of active trade unionists now see the problem as it should be seen.

We cannot fight back against the social contract unless we build a real rank and file TUC to provide the leadership which the full-time officials TUC will not.



A Stop the Cuts protest in Bristol: the movement against the Social Contract needs to be linked up

## AND THIS CONFERENCE COULD BE A START

THERE ARE many signs of the desire for rank and file action against the Social Contract.

One of the first will be this Saturday's conference of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

It is unlikely to be quite as important as the conference called by Leyland shop stewards for 3 April.

But it could provide an important initiative in pushing the rank and file movement forward. The Liaison Committee was born about eight years ago, in the fight against the attempt of the last Labour government to introduce anti-union laws.

## Part

The LCDTU played an important part in initiating the one-day strikes and demonstrations that forced the government to drop its plans. It continued to play an important part in the early fights against the Industrial Relations Act of the Tory government. It called unofficial one-day strikes that mobilised hundreds of thousands of people.



A Liaison Committee conference: this Saturday's must be geared to united action

Unfortunately, however, in the latest stages of the fight against the Industrial Relations Act, the Liaison Committee took virtually no initiatives.

When, for instance, the five London dockers were put into Pentonville prison, the Liaison Committee did not

put out a single leaflet for the campaign to release them.

The inactivity continued under the first three years of the Labour government. Occasional conferences were called. But little action resulted. The number of delegates attending declined. The organisers tried to limit

action and instead gave much of the conference over to speeches from full-time trade union officials.

By last year it seemed that the committee was finished for good. Instead of calling a conference of the committee, some of its organisers were involved in calling the Assembly on Unemployment.

Yet this was just as ineffectual as the Liaison Committee had been in recent years.

There was a reason for the failure of the Liaison Committee and the Assembly. The organisers took the view that rank and file organisation is only needed to put pressure on the official movement.

Although that is an important task, it is not enough. The official movement is dominated by full-time trade

union officials—and it takes an awful lot of pressure to move them.

In some cases, nothing short of a massive rank and file explosion will budge them.

The job of rank and file organisations is to organise such explosions, even if you have to disobey the full-time officials to do so.

The fact that the Liaison Committee has been revived shows that its organisers are subject to pressure from growing numbers of workers who are not prepared to wait upon the full-time officials.

The success of the conference will depend upon whether the organisers allow it to be used for discussion on how to achieve united action, or whether, as in the past, they allow full-time officials to hog the platform.

## THE WAY FORWARD

MILLIONS of workers are now in a mood to fight the Social Contract. We have to organise to turn that mood into a struggle.

OPPOSE the Social Contract at meetings of shop stewards committees and union branches and, above all, at special meetings in the factories and sections.

PUSH for a minimum wage demand of £15

PUSH for all-out support for the 3 April conference from workers opposed to the Social Contract and the cuts.

ALL OUT on 19 April  
LOBBY the public sector union joint conference on 22 March to demand an all-out one-day stoppage on 19 April

SUPPORT every group of workers who push for wage increases in defiance of the wage controls. Unfortunately, only eight people at the Leyland stewards meeting voted for solidarity along these lines. If 3 April is to be the beginning of a real rank and file TUC, it must be won to supporting wage fights now.

Advertisement

The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade union organisations to support the

LIAISON  
COMMITTEE FOR  
THE DEFENCE OF  
TRADE UNIONS  
CONFERENCE

At Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, Saturday 26 February, 10am.

Credentials from Brother Jim Hiles, LCDTU, 137 Wanstead Park Road, Redbridge, East London.

## SAVE OUR HOSPITALS CONFERENCE

Delegate conference for all trade unionists in hospitals  
Saturday 19 March, Portland Hall,  
16-22 Riding House St., London W1  
(Gt. Portland Street Tube)

Make sure your trade union branch or shop stewards' committee sends delegates. Observers from hospitals are also welcome. The fee per delegation is £1. Get your credentials for delegates and observers from Hospital Worker Conference, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

Sponsored by Hospital Worker and the Right to Work Campaign



# What is 'production'?

**TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM**  
Chris Harman

A fireman who risks his life putting out fires is 'non-productive'. But the man who makes profit from disaster is 'productive'. That's the crazy rule of capitalism.

AN ARGUMENT you hear again and again these days is the one about 'productive' and 'unproductive' workers.

It is likely to become even more widespread in the months ahead.

It seems to provide a justification for the cuts in public spending. And so it comes easily from the lips of government politicians who see that the Social Contract is being rejected by more and more industrial workers.

It appeals to some workers because it seems to provide a simple explanation of the crisis—that wages have to be frozen because of a massive increase in the number of 'unproductive' workers living off the backs of those who really create wealth.

But when you look closely at the argument, it begins to fall apart.

In the first place, those who preach about 'too many unproductive workers' are very hazy about who they think is a productive worker.

## One version

One version is that it is those who work in industry who are productive, and those who work elsewhere who are unproductive. So engineers and builders are productive; teachers and hospital workers unproductive.

The trouble with this is that it soon leads you to absurd conclusions. Most engineering workers would not be able

to work if they couldn't read and count. Is it really true that those who taught them to do that don't contribute to production? Very few workers would want to operate their machines if there were no health services for them if they suffered accidents. Are those who run the health services unproductive?

A sizeable chunk of British industry is still concerned with making arms. Almost to a man, the defenders of 'productive work' regard arms-making as productive. Yet the well being of all of us would grow, not diminish, if the arms industry was turned over to making, for instance, equipment for hospitals. Again, for the supporters of 'productive industry', those who manufactured Concorde and those who

fly it are 'productive'. Yet it flies to the Middle East two-thirds empty, and no worker will ever be able to afford the massive fares.

These contradictions in their own argument often lead the opponents of 'unproductive work' to shift their ground. From saying that industrial work is productive, they move to saying that work for 'the market' is.

## Massive chunks

This, for instance, was the distinction used by two so-called economists, Bacon and Giltis, who were given massive chunks of the Sunday Times to air their prejudices late last year.

Yet this view leads to even more absurd conclusions.

It claims that nurses and teachers are unproductive—unless they work in private hospitals and schools. Then, miraculously, they become a productive part of the 'market sector'.

The fireman who risks his life putting out fires in homes or factories is unproductive. But the director of an insurance company who makes a profit out of such fires is productive.

The nurseries that allow working class women to go out to work are 'unproductive', the gross speculations of the stock exchange are 'productive'. This shows what the talk of 'productive' and 'unproductive' work is really about.

What is 'productive' for people like Bacon and Giltis is what makes a profit for private firms, however useless it might be for the public at large.

What is 'unproductive' is that which does not provide a profit. This must be chopped back.

What is 'productive' for them, crudely, is what is productive for capitalism.

But what is good for capitalism is not good for the rest of us. We need many of the services provided by workers who do not contribute to profit-making.

Indeed, we desperately need more of those services—more teachers, more nurses, more firemen, more social workers.

And we should be able to have them.

There are a million and a half unemployed at present—two million if you count those who don't bother to sign on.

Forecasters in every country say that new investment will be labour saving. It will mean still fewer workers in industry. That could mean more people available to work in the non-industrial sector, as well as a shorter working week.

Could we afford to pay those people? Yes—if we had a planned socialist economy.

Less wealth is produced in British industry now than during Edward Heath's three day week.

That is what capitalism means today. It prevents production of wealth—and then blames so called 'non-productive workers'.

We will return to some of these arguments next week.

## Lid off the Nazis...

FOUR MEMBERS of Leicester National Front have spilled the beans about the Nazis since they left their local branch.

Terry Verity, chairman of the branch for nearly three years is quoted in the Leicester Mercury:

'If you stand up and make any criticisms you are branded an infiltrator, troublemaker, a Communist, or a 'plant'.

He says the NF's aims are 'more sinister' than the

immigration issues. Fred Turner, who also left, has this to say: 'NF is struggling. They are scrapping the barrel to find election candidates.'

He added: 'There is a deep hatred for Jews and coloured people. It disturbs me that the NF should draw people in on the immigration issue and slowly brainwash these people into the real things which NF is about. The more I have been involved the more I was convinced it was a Nazi machine.'

NAZI NEWS: Mr F Berry, the Nazi Front general election candidate in East London has a regular column in the letters page of the local paper condemning Tower Hamlets Council for corruption and squandering money (for instance on a river boat which is used by young people locally).

He recently put out a leaflet giving his address in Violet Road, Bow, calling for school meals to be put out to tender, to private enterprise. How sur-

prising then to learn that he runs a private catering firm (Unique Catering) from his home.

Not so long ago he put in a tender for the catering at the local town hall. Although it was the lowest, the council turned him down. So Berry took legal action and won.

But Berry did not account for a boycott of his bar by town hall workers and councillors. He was forced to leave with serious financial loss.

## The men who died 'quietly'.

THE DEATH of John Joseph Lowther went completely unnoticed by the British Press.

Lowther, 43, married with four children had lived in Bolton for 20 years. He came to England from Co. Mayo in Southern Ireland and still had a Mayo accent.

He went to Belfast on contract for a Bolton Company and shared accommodation with Thomas Boston, from Antrim.

One night the two men went out for a drink. They were stopped and asked to identify themselves.

Because of Lowther's Co. Mayo accent, they were abducted at gunpoint.

Their bodies were found in a burnt out car in Shankill. Boston had been shot in the head. Lowther had his throat cut and was shot in the chest.

The story appeared in the Irish Post but was ignored in Britain. But then Lowther was murdered by a loyalist and he wasn't a rich industrialist either.

FANTASTIC FACTS No 754: It would cost one tenth of the amount the world spends on arms each year to provide clean water and enough to eat for every human being by the beginning of the 21st century, according to the Economist.

DELYN COUNCIL has done a deal with a London merchant bank. They can borrow £2 million to use on attracting industry to the area which has high unemployment. The interest will cost £7000.

Who's idea was this? None other than Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of Courtauld's—the company who threw hundreds of local people onto the scrapheap when they closed down Castle Works.

'EQUAL PAY' has existed for teachers since 1961. But, according to Department of Employment figures, the average wage for women is only 78 per cent of the average for men.

## A Challenge to Tom Jackson



When can we expect an announcement by the Union of Post Office Workers of a boycott of the postal and telegraphic services to:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
Eastern Germany  
Angola

Or do double standards apply?

CLUB OF TEN  
Kent House, 87 Regent Street, London W1R 7HF  
Guardian 8 February

THE CLUB OF TEN apologists for mass killing of blacks in South Africa—have been spending a lot of money to discredit the post office workers union (UPW). Meanwhile the UPW has negotiated new rules on political activity for post office workers, according to their journal POST.

These include no political activity while in uniform or on duty, and no display of notices with 'a party political objective' or in support of any political candidate. And any worker is in doubt about his political activity, he is advised by the union to 'consult his Local Manager'.

## Watch out, there's a Trumid about

A CERTAIN M.J. Davies from Birmingham applied for a job at my factory. He was cleared by Allen Cross AUEW Branch and started work in my department as a fitter in November.

Within a month he called for the resignation of both the Shop Stewards Committee and me as convenor,

accusing me of being a member of the International Socialists and of trying to close the firm. He talked about going to a meeting of the local Trades Council Anti-Fascist Committee 'to find out who attended from the shop stewards committee and to find out who was in IS.' Soon after, TRUMID leaflets appeared around the factory, accusing IS of trying to close the Company. He denied putting them

round, but by coincidence was in work early that morning. The shop stewards immediately denied the allegations.

Investigations by the shop stewards revealed that he was the son of Sid Davies, the man who as secretary of Allens Cross had proposed him in the branch.

This same Sid Davies is now a full-time official for TRUMID, the so-called 'movement for true democracy in the trade unions.' Coincidence? The



## Selling them Shorter

TRANSPORT AND General Workers Union organiser Les Shorter is obviously a popular figure with employers in the aviation industry.

So popular that when British Airways workers at Edinburgh were on strike last week they flew him up from London at their expense to sort things out.

Equally impressed with Les's negotiating skill were the British Airways Authority in Glasgow, where the airport firemen had been on strike over staffing levels.

Shorter came through to Glasgow and was put up at BAA's expense in the £13.50 a night Exelsior Hotel, along with their own industrial negotiator. In both cases Shorter was brought in over the head of Jimmy McIntyre, the TGWU full-time Scottish official who normally deals with airport matters. He wasn't even consulted about the situation.

—ALAN MacDERMID

YOU'VE got to bear in mind that the people opposite you at the negotiating table have to take something back to their members, even if they lose the main fight. So you have to help them to lose without being destroyed. Give them arguments they can use when they go back to the shopfloor.

—From an article called Learn the Rules of Negotiation Before You Play The Game in the September 1976 issue of Works Management magazine.

CHARLES ANGUS KENNEDY, otherwise known as the Earl of Cassillis, knocked down a pedestrian and failed to stop after the accident.

When questioned by the police the 19-year-old earl said he saw a man in the road, felt a bump and intended to report it. He added: 'If he's down, he's down.'

And what was the penalty for careless driving and failing to stop? After making a plea to keep his licence because he needed to drive between various parts of the estate, he was fined £70 at Inverness Sheriff Court.

ALL CHANGE: IBM's board meeting in New York was an occasion of great comings and goings.

Four directors resigned, three to take up positions in Jimmy Carter's new cabinet, while three former high officials in the defunct Ford administration were elected to the board. —from Computing magazine.

SACRIFICE CORNER: Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips have been given planning permission for £40,000 stables at their home in the Cotswolds.

the CP, the SWP & the  
**Rank & File Movement**  
**The TGWU**  
**Portugal now**  
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# The Social Contract's under fire throughout Europe, too



Dockers in Rotterdam demanding wage increases.

**THE BIGGEST strike wave since the war. That is what has hit Holland in the last fortnight.**

It has followed attempts by employers to cut living standards for the third year running after two years of wage controls.

The workers demanded wage increases to keep them automatically up with price rises, plus two per cent on top of that.

The employers at first refused to consider this.

The trade union movement has, in the past, been considered weak. It is dominated by bureaucrats and divided into rival federations, according to politics and religion.

But the anger of the workers forced the union leaders to call for action. And that action began to go beyond what the union leaders wanted.

## Lightening

By the middle of last week, the docks, the printing industry, the food processing plants, ICI and Unilever were all shut by the strikes. The transport workers are banned by law from striking — but this did not prevent them organising lightening strikes which closed public transport for several hours each day.

The employers have resorted to court injunctions to force workers in at least two factories back to work.

Unfortunately, the workers did not have the confidence and the understanding to call the bosses' bluff. But as they returned to work, other factories came out.

At the beginning of this week, the unions persuaded workers at a number of firms, including Unilever and Philips electrical, to return to work pending negotiations on the two per cent.

But the Rotterdam docks remain paralysed.



Part of a massive protest against fare increases in Hanover, West Germany

## DENMARK: Anger grows

DENMARK'S social democratic (Labour) government was returned in last week's elections with an increased majority for its policy of wage controls.

Right-wing voters supported it in increased numbers, as they saw it as the best way of ensuring that wages lag behind prices.

But even as the elections were taking

place, the best-organised sections of workers showed that they will not be subdued. Twenty-five newspapers were shut by strikes last week in solidarity with 1,000 at the Copenhagen daily newspaper firm, Berlingske. The workers there have been on strike against the use of new technology to destroy 300 jobs.

The labour court, the Danish equivalent of Edward Heath's notorious Industrial Relations Court ordered them to return to work. But

they recognised that the only way to treat an injunction was to defy it, and to spread the strike. It was then that printers on the other papers came out in solidarity.

As the leader of the Copenhagen typographical workers, Louis Andersen put it: 'The Labour court is a rudiment from the past, an instrument of ruling class oppression of those without possessions'.

Certainly, a large number of Danish workers already see the need to fight

against the government's policies. In the elections, parties to the left of the social democrats won 19 seats.

And the most left wing of them, the Left Socialist Party, increased its support from four seats to five.

□ The Danish printworkers have found that solidarity is international. Their employers tried to get the papers printed at the Springer works in Germany. But the German printers refused to scab.

## WEST GERMANY: So much for the 'economic miracle'

By Hans Fischer, of the Sozialistische Arbeiter Gruppe

THE WEST German economy is held up to British workers as a model of success, where the workers are not greedy and

### BELGIUM: Fury over prices and many prices.

THE TWO trade union federations in Belgium have called a series of 24-hour stoppages.

This follows government budget proposals which will put up VAT

get their due reward.

Well, it looks a bit different over here.

But the recession has brought a big crisis into the lives of German workers.

Unemployment has risen to more than a million, and that does not include the married

women who have been sacked, the immigrants who have been sent home again (about 300,000 in 1976) or the school leavers who have not found a job or an apprenticeship.

Like the British Labour government, the Social Democratic government has poured billions of marks into the pockets of the employers to encourage investment 'in order to save jobs'.

But the result has not been an increase, but a further reduction in employment. The capitalists have used the money to finance rationalisation.

As a result of these subsidies the state budgets have run a huge deficit. To finance this deficit the state has introduced a programme of price increases and cuts in social services.

Student grants have been



Some of the 30,000 protesters who marched in Itzehoe, West Germany last week over the building of nuclear power plants

cut; 20,000 teachers are unemployed and a bar has been imposed on teacher employment; apprentice training courses have been halved.

And from 1979, the old age pension will be effectively reduced by a third.

In Hanover, rail fares have increased by 200 per cent over the last two years and the cost of electricity, gas and water has gone up by 40 per cent.

But not everyone is falling for the lies about 'saving jobs'.

We have started to fight the yearly fare-increases, which take effect next Tuesday.

Our aim is to bring the public transport system to a standstill by blockades and mass demonstrations, while providing substitute transport by stopping cars to take people who don't want to take part in the action.

## ITALY: Falling wages, higher prices, more on the dole

ITALY has a Social Contract with a difference—it is supported not only by the Italian equivalent of the Labour Party, the Socialist Party, but also by the Communist Party.

The government is run by the Italian Tories, the Christian Democrats. But it is only able to stay in power because of the 'benevolent neutrality' of the Communist Party.

In recent weeks, Communist Party leaders have been explaining to bewildered workers that they have to accept 'sacrifices' to get capitalism back on its feet. The sacrifices mean falling living standards, massive price rises and high unemployment.

This has earned the leaders of the Party, who call themselves 'Eurocommunists', much praise in the western press.

### Reject

But many rank and file workers are beginning to reject their message.

So, too, are tens of thousands of students. For them the Social Contract, as in this country, means cuts, although under the name 'university reform'.

A fortnight ago, they occupied their colleges in protest at this and at a wave of fascist outrages.

The trade union bureaucrats were embarrassed by this challenge to their alliance with the government. They sent one of their number, a Communist Party member, Luciano Lamba, to the university to criticise the 'ultra leftism' of the students.

He used the sort of language we would expect from the Daily Telegraph. 'The university', he said, 'must not produce parasites.'

This was too much for the 2500 students who drove him from the campus.

But the next day the Rome police used this as an excuse to invade the campus, drive out the students and close down the university.



**SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA**  
Sunday 6 March, Assemble 1.30pm Hyde Park Corner.

Organised by: Anti-Apartheid Movement  
Supported by: National Union of Seamen, NALGO, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, National Union of Students

The Socialist Workers Party urges all members and supporters to make this a demonstration of massive support for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and black workers throughout Southern Africa.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

### ZIMBABWE AFTER THE TALKS

Thursday 24 February: Cryptic Club, Gloucester Terrace, Notting Hill, 7.30pm. Zimbabwean speaker and film.

Thursday 3 March: Sussex University (watch for details).

### Film shows featuring Last Grave in Dimbaza

Wednesday 23 February: Edinburgh Trades Council, Picardy Place, 7.30pm. Speaker: Eddie Kauhoe

Thursday 17 March: Glasgow: Watch for details.

Saturday 5 March: SASC Forum on Southern Africa; sessions on South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Solidarity work: 10am-4pm, Polytechnic of Central London.

SPARK—Second issue out now. Articles on Zimbabwe, Black unions under attack, Namibia. 10p plus postage. Ten or more post free. Order from SASC, 101-103 Gower St., London WC1.

Socialist Worker Africa Group is holding a discussion on Zimbabwe: Tuesday 22 February, 7.30pm—The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, Central London.



# What the Social Con-trick is doing to one Leyland family-AND T

SUE and Jim Sword live in Birmingham. Jim has worked at British Leyland's giant Longbridge plant for 13 months. He's a maintenance electrician.



Jim Sword

He was one of the 6,000 carworkers who demonstrated against the Social Contract when Labour Minister Eric Varley came to Longbridge last week.

'We're so badly off we can't stand another 12 months of this pay policy, and that goes for everybody at Longbridge,' said Jim.

When I got into Longbridge I had this idea that you were in there for life and had it made. In fact I'm getting the same money I was two years ago when I was working at GKN.

Inflation, the way prices have risen over the past two years, has hit everyone. Our whole standard of living in this family is much worse than two years ago.

That's why I went on the demonstration, because of the Social Contract.

When they brought it in we were told that inflation would be held down. We were told that high wages caused inflation. Now we can see it's obviously wrong. Wages are right down and inflation is still going up and up.

And prices are rising all the time.

That's directly because of the Social Contract. It's diabolical. It's the most anti-worker piece of control that's ever been devised.

I've been a member of the Labour Party for years. I've been active in

canvassing, on committees and so on. But I don't think I shall be renewing my card this year.

I don't believe the top people in the Labour Party are socialists. They just contribute to the capitalist system. If profits are threatened, if there's a lack of investment, they make sure it's the workers who pay the price.

I went on the demonstration to tell our MP, Eric Varley, and his two geriatric union sidekicks, Scanlon and Jones, that we've all had enough. Not just the militants, everybody in the factory.

We've been through two years of it, but now they're threatening another year. We're all so badly off we can't take it.

Interview: PETER CLARK

Pictures: JOHN STURROCK (Report)



THE rent for the Sword family's council house—now £8.74 a week—is going up yet again in the spring by between 60p and £1. Jim's take-home pay in a flat week is £51, his gross pay £63 for 40 hours.

The trouble is you feel you're putting someone else out of a job. If they paid us all decent wages, there'd be far less overtime, and more electricians would have jobs.

To get us back to the same standard of living as two years ago I need a basic rise of at least £20, without paying any more taxes, and perhaps as much as £30. In the time I've been at Leyland, there's not been a single rise. We should have got the £2.50 in November, but we've not even had that.



'FOOD is the worst nightmare every week,' said Sue. 'By Saturday night I never have a penny in my purse.'

That's how it is until I get the £6 family allowance for our five children on Tuesday.

Our whole way of eating has changed. We have more pasta, more spaghetti, far cheaper cuts of meat. Meat is the main thing to go, now we have more minced meat, more sausages, more streaky end bacon. There are many people far worse off than us. I just don't know how they survive. They must go without food and starve themselves, and get permanently into debt to keep going.

This Social Contract is one big con-trick. They said it

## 'Food is a weekly nightmare'

would put the country on its feet. Well the first year wasn't too bad, but the second year has been terrible.

If we have another year of it, there'll be rickets back again, and children with bandy legs, and teeth falling out. All the diseases that come from lack of proper nourishment. The Swords' stan-

dard of living has been affected by far more than price rises. Sue explained what is happening at the local school.

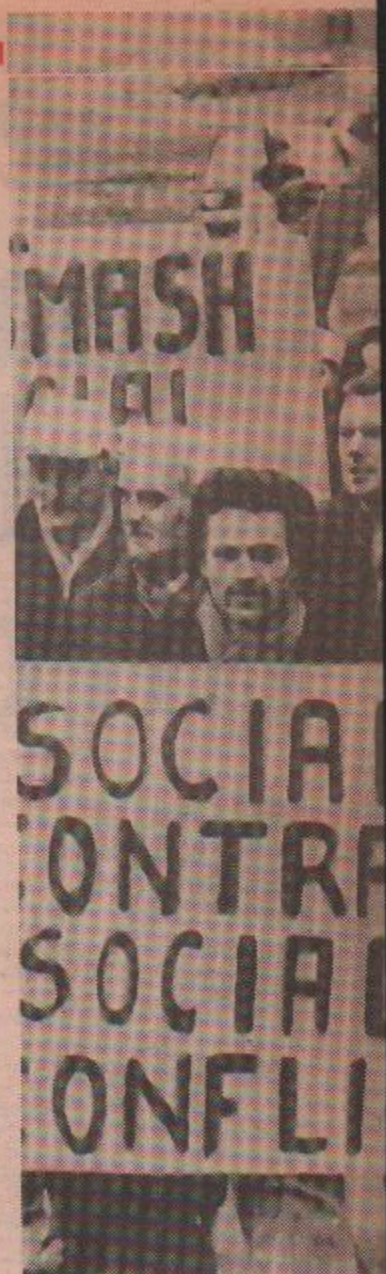
They can't take my children until they're five. They've already got 35 to 40 in a classroom. How can any teacher cope with that many? It's impossible. You can't give any child the attention they need. But they're going to cut back even more. We are going to see 50 to 60 in a class.

It's not the school's fault. The same thing has happened in the nurseries. They're standing empty, unused because the government won't employ the staff.

Jim said: 'They're putting up dental charges again. Was that part of the Contract?'

It's not something they can't control. The government decided to put the charges up. They're taking us back to a system where only certain people could afford to be ill.

When I was a lad most people by the age of 30 had their teeth out. They couldn't afford decent treatment for them. It's all coming again. The people who can least afford it are going to be the ones to suffer.



The 6000-strong protest march by



THERE'S not a week goes by when I need shoes, or an item of clothing, or I keep up,' said Sue. One pair of shoes cost £6.99 last week. A pair for the six-year-old of the clothes down to each child.

HOUSING

FOOD



# PLAN TO DEPORT 9000 NURSES

NINE THOUSAND nurses face deportation—if the government gets away with its latest round of cuts.

From this year all student nurses directly recruited from overseas by British hospitals will not receive work permits once they complete their training. At least 9,000 face Catch 22—if they pass their exams they will be kicked out, if they fail they can spend another year as cheap labour for the NHS.

They are being victimised because they are black. Thousands of black workers were encouraged to come here in the 1950s and 1960s—the 'boom' years. Even Enoch Powell, when Minister of Health in the 1960s, called for the recruitment of black nurses from the West Indies.

Now the Health Service is being slashed to ribbons and the Department of Employment plans to victimise the black nurses. 'We have a responsibility to look after British nurses first', simpers the Department.

Ministers and civil service bureaucrats hope this policy will help the divide hospital workers. Many workers might be tempted to say: 'Let them sack the foreigners first. That'll mean more jobs for us'.

This is jobs suicide—if black nurses are deported it won't mean 9,000 more jobs, it'll mean 9,000 jobs in the NHS lost forever. And once the management win the battle to sack black workers, they will turn with increasing confidence on other workers.

## Spending

Don't expect the union leaders to do anything about it. The TUC is calling for restrictions on the number of work permits issued to hotel and catering workers—permits will be cut from 6,000 to 2,000 this year.

The TUC is playing straight into the bosses' hands. By suggesting that deporting black workers will solve unemployment, they give credibility to racist propaganda. By discriminating against one section of the working class, black workers, they are weakening union organisation and our ability to fight. If the unions are to be strong they must defend all their members with equal militancy.

The government's deportation plans can be beaten.

Nicky Siew is a shop steward at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. She always wanted to be a nurse but 'there are only two hospitals at home in Trinidad.'



'The British government invited nurses from Trinidad to train here. We were told that once we had trained there would be good jobs for us,' she said.

Nicky qualified last October. But instead of a job, she and three other black nurses got a letter from the Home Office telling them to get out of the country.

Nicky fought the deportation. 'I got my union, NUPE, the National Union of Public Employees, to back us. We won the right to stay and work here.'

The immigration laws in Britain were drawn up to allow black workers to come here when they were needed for cheap labour—and to kick them out once unemployment starts rising. I think the shop stewards in all the hospitals should get together and organise a fight back.'

Get your union branch, shop stewards' committee and trades council, committed to fight against the deportation of black workers. Organise meetings in the hospitals and the black community. Try a petition and a letter campaign to hospital management.

## SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY RALLY FOR BLACK SOCIALISTS

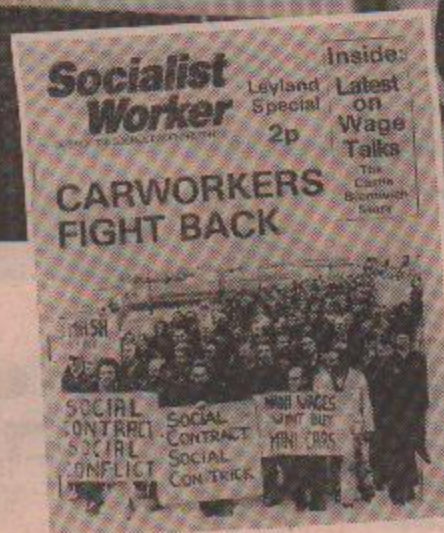
We're black and we're fighting back: against racism, against police harassment, against the deportations, against unemployment and the cuts, and for the socialist revolution. Come to the rally, join the struggle.

SATURDAY 30 APRIL

Full details from (phone 01-739 1878).



British-Leyland workers last week.



A thousand copies of the Socialist Worker Leyland Special were printed last Wednesday. By Friday they were sold out. Another 1,000 are being printed.

# TO YOU!



'TWO and a half years ago we were saving money in the bank and running a car. Now we haven't got a bank account and we haven't got a car. Each week we have to scrimp and save.

'We might have one good week, then two bad ones. It's barely living, it's just getting by. The Sword family haven't had a holiday for three years and don't go out as much as they used to. Said Sue: 'We've cut right down on what we spend when we do go out. If we go out and miss the bus late at night, we walk home.'

Says Jim: 'If I wanted to put some shelves up, or decorate, or fix the garden, it wasn't a big expense. I could afford to quite easily. Now if we really need something, we all have to scrimp to afford it, whatever it is.'

'I WORKED for one firm where most men weren't in the union when I came. The pay was terrible. There were eleven grades, A to K, and a merit payment.

'After being paid on a Thursday everyone went into a corner by themselves to open up their pay packet and see what they'd got. Everyone thought they were getting more than someone else. The whole place was divided, with people crouching in corners looking at pay slips.

'One week we broke it down, and started showing our pay slips around. There was a gap of 13s from highest paid to lowest paid. If you were on a low grade you got a high merit and so on.

'Within five weeks everyone had joined the union. They hadn't had a strike there for over 100 years. Everyone was out for three months and the

pay went right up.

'The Social Contract is doing as much damage to the lower paid as it is to the carworkers. I believe in helping the lower paid. Just last week I helped take a collection sheet round the electricians at Longbridge for a strike by low-paid workers.

'But the proper answer is for the low paid to get organised in fighting trade union groups, that's the way to fight being lower paid.'

CLOTHES

FARES

ARE YOU LOW-PAID?

An advertisement by the National Right to Work Campaign

TOMMY RILEY, rank and file candidate in the TGWU general secretary election, is going on tour

TGWU RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN  
PROTEST RALLY  
**SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT**  
**FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK**

Saturday 26 March, 1977, 11.30am, Lesser Free Trade Hall, Peter St, Manchester.

**NORTH LONDON:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton, N18. Joint meeting with Engineers Charter.

**CENTRAL LONDON:** Friday 25 February, 7.30pm, Friends House, Euston Road, London N1. Speakers include Tommy Riley, John Deason secretary, National Right to Work Campaign, Eddie Prevost (rank and file paper Dockworker) and Jack Aldrich (rank and file busworkers paper Platform).



# BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

## Scotland

**EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Smash the Social Contract. Build the SWP. Speakers: Duncan Hallas and Steve Cardow (CPSA Edinburgh District Secretary). Chairman: Tam McDonald (AUEW). Monday 7 March, 7.30pm. Society Centre, Hill Place.

**EDINBURGH Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Every Saturday, 11.30am, Societies Centre, 21 Hill Place (off Nicholson Street). Open to all SW readers.

**Socialist Workers Party INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** for members and supporters in Scotland: Saturday/Sunday 5-6 March, Societies Centre, Hill Place, Edinburgh. Nigel Harris on the World Crisis, Ian Birchall on the Left in Europe, session on Southern Africa, and others. Details from SWP International dept., phone 01-739 1878.

## North East

**DURHAM Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Every second Thursday, 8pm, The Colpitts pub, Sutton Street, Durham City. All welcome.

3 March: And then there was capitalism. Marx's view of history.

## Yorkshire

**HARROGATE Socialist Worker supporters meet every Tuesday night** at the Coach and Horses, West Park, Harrogate.

**HULL Socialist Workers Party members meet fortnightly** in the Russell Club, Royce Road, Thursday 10 February, 8pm: Russia—state capitalist or socialist? Speaker: Mick Brighton (AUEW). All supporters welcome.

## North West

**LANCASTER Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings:** Wednesdays, 7.30pm, Ring of Bells pub (opposite Studios 1 and 2 Cinemas). All welcome.

2 March: Socialists and the environment.

**SALFORD Socialist Worker public meetings:** Every second Wednesday, 8pm, Kings Arms Hotel, Whit Lane.

9 March: State capitalism in Russia. Speaker: Colin Barker.

**BOOTLE Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Thursdays, 7.30pm, St Hilda's pub, County Road, Walton. Meetings end 9.30pm.

3 March: Racism and fascism.

10 March: The struggle for women's rights.

**SOUTHPORT Socialist Workers Party members and supporters meet every Wednesday, 8pm, The Mount Pleasant ( upstairs room), Manchester Road, SW is on sale on Saturdays, 11am-1pm, outside Chapel Street Station.**

**ORMSKIRK Socialist Workers Party members and supporters meet every Thursday, 8pm, Full details, please contact the SW sellers at the Clock Tower on Saturdays, 11.30am-1.30pm.**

**WARRINGTON Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Alternate Thursdays, 8pm, Bowling Green Inn, Liverpool Road (by Crossfields). All welcome. For details phone Padgate 811584 or Newton-le-Willows 21284.

**MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party district meeting for all members:** Sunday 27 February, 7.30pm, Triton Hotel, Paradise Street, Liverpool 2 (opposite Holiday Inn).

Report and assessment of district development, industrial strategy and the Social Contract, election of district committee. **NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE. ALL MEMBERS MUST ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.**

**MERSEYSIDE Socialist Workers Party Day School for new members:** Working as a socialist in your workplace. Speaker: John Deason. **NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE: Sunday 13 March, 11am-5.30pm.** Limited number of places available to surrounding branches and stricts. 75p employed/25p unemployed, students, etc. **Send money to book place to Merseyside district organiser. All new members to attend.**

**KIRKBY Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Thursdays, 8pm, Tower Hill Community Centre, Heathfield, Tower Hill. Meetings finish 9.15pm. All welcome.

3 March: Socialism and the struggle for women's rights.

10 March: The Labour Party—an obstacle to socialist?

All SWP members must be there by 7.30pm to decide on branch business.

**BIRKENHEAD Socialist Worker discussion meetings:** Tuesdays, 8pm, Castle Hotel, New Chester Road (opposite Cammell Lairds gates). All welcome.

1 March: The role of the state—the police, army and the law, whose side are they on?

8 March: What is a revolutionary socialist party?

All SWP members to be there by 7.30pm to decide branch business.

## Socialist Worker public meetings

Send notices — to reach us first post Monday — to What's On, SW, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

### Scotland

**EASTER ROSS:** Friday 25 February, 8pm, Perrin Centre, Ainess. Speakers: Jim Nichol (SWP central committee) and Albert Fraser (Boilermakers Society, Nigg Site). All welcome.

### Clydeside

**ALL-GLASGOW RALLY:** Thursday 10 March, 7.30pm, Partick Burgh Halls (near Merkland Street subway). Speakers: Paul Foot and local trade unionists.

**EASTERHOUSE, Glasgow:** Tuesday 8 March, 7.30pm, Blairrummock House, off Wardie Road. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**JORDANHILL COLLEGE, Glasgow:** Thursday 10 March, 12.30pm, College Common Room. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**PAISLEY:** Wednesday 9 March, 7.30pm, Watermill Hotel. Speakers: Paul Foot and a local trade unionist.

**HUMBERSIDE**

**SCUNTHORPE:** Tuesday 3 March, 8pm, The Brown Cow, Ashby High Street. Speaker: Jim Nichol (SWP central committee).

**GRIMSBY:** Friday 4 March, 8pm, The Duke of Wellington, Pasture WP central committee.

**North Wales**

**BANGOR Socialist Worker day school:** Saturday 26 February, 11am onwards. Students Union, University College. Sessions on Aspects of the British Labour Movement, The Revolutionary Party, plus group discussion on the Role of Ideas in Society, Why a Rank and File Movement, etc. Main speakers: Marilyn Jones and Gerwyn Evans. All SWP, NOISS members and supporters are welcome. Admission 50p.

**Midlands**

**SALOP district Socialist Workers Party meetings:** Thursdays, 8.30pm, all welcome.

3 March: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Sheila McGregor. Red Lion, High Street, Madely.

10 March: The fight against racism and the new Nazis. Speaker: Azim Haje. The Unicorn, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury.

**DUDLEY Socialist Workers Party Social:** Friday 4 March, 8pm - late. The Courthouse, Tower Street, North West Spanner theatre group, R and D Roadshow Disco. Late bar, Admission £1 (unemployed 50p, couples £1.50).

**LEICESTER TEACHERS Socialist Workers Party public meeting:** Communism and the family. Tuesday 1 March, 7.30pm, further details from the branch secretary.

**South East**

**CROYDON Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings:** Thursdays, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane). All welcome.

3 March: A new socialist party. Speaker: Dave Peers.

**WITHAM Socialist Worker public meeting:** Fight the Cuts! Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

**MAIDSTONE:** Socialist Worker is sold every Saturday morning, 11am-12noon, in Week Street (outside Mards and Spencer). Maidstone SWP meet every Monday, 8.15pm, The Lamb pub, Fairmeadow.

**WELWYN AND HATFIELD Socialist Worker Party members and supporters meet fortnightly** at Welwyn Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, 8pm, Thursdays (17 February, 3 March, 17 March).

**London**

**SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party day school:** Building the SWP/Traditions of the International Socialists/Writing leaflets. Saturday 5 March, 1pm-5pm, Charlton House, Charlton, SE7. Open to all SWP members and close supporters.

**Midlands**

**WITHAM:** Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Half Moon pub, Hadham Road. Speaker: Shaun Docherty (Rank and File Teacher).

**CRAWLEY:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

**South East**

**WITHAM:** Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Half Moon pub, Hadham Road. Speaker: Shaun Docherty (Rank and File Teacher).

**CRAWLEY:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

**South East**

**WITHAM:** Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Half Moon pub, Hadham Road. Speaker: Shaun Docherty (Rank and File Teacher).

**CRAWLEY:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

## The case for Socialism

Public meetings on building the Socialist Workers' Party

### Yorkshire

**HULL:** Thursday 3 March, 8pm, at YPI, George Street. Speakers: Duncan Hallas, Margaret Renn, and a local trade unionist. ALSO Wednesday 16 March, 8pm, YPI, George Street, Hull. Speaker: Mike McGrath (executive member CPSA—in personal capacity).

**LEEDS:** Wednesday 2 March, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount (off Chapel Road). Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Chaired by Mike Fitzpatrick (AUEW shop steward, Hallwood and Ackroyd).

### WOMEN AND SOCIALISM

**LIVERPOOL:** How can we get Equal Pay? Speaker: Ann Robertson (hospital worker). Tuesday 8 March, 8pm, place to be announced.

**CENTRAL LONDON:** Tuesday 8 March, 8pm, Portland Hall, Portland Place, W1. Speaker: Margaret Renn (SWP Womens Organiser).

**BIRMINGHAM:** Tuesday 8 March, 8pm meeting place to be announced. Speaker: Judith Condon.

**BLACK COUNTRY:** Tuesday 8 March, 8pm meeting place to be announced. Speakers: Jen Carter and Janet Kerr.

**GLASGOW RALLY:** Sunday 13 March, 7.30pm, City Halls (room 4), Albion Street. Play: Out on the Costa Del Trico. Speakers: Sheila McGregor and Angela McHugh.

**NORTH LONDON:** Monday 14 March, 8pm, Florence pub, Florence Road, N1. Speaker: Margaret Renn.

**NORTH WEST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting** on the anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising: What did James Connolly die for? Speakers: Sean Docherty (SWP Irish committee) and Bernadette Dunne (NUI). Chaired by Bill Geddes (NUIPEL). Thursday 31 March, 8pm, Acton Town Hall, Acton High Street, W3.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Worker discussion meeting:** Lenin and workers power. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Thames Polytechnic Students Union, Thomas Street, SE18.

**TOTTENHAM Socialist Worker public meeting:** Education and the Cuts. Wednesday 2 March, 8pm, Tottenham Community Project, 628 High Road, London, N17.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Worker discussion meeting:** The Communist Party. Speaker: Ted Parker. Wednesday 2 March, 7.45pm, Charlton House, Charlton, SE7.

**BALHAM and Tooting Socialist Workers Party open discussion meetings:** Wednesdays, 8pm, Wheatstaple, Tooting Bec.

9 March: What is capitalism?

16 March: The Labour Party and the parliamentary road.

### Midlands

**LOUGHBOROUGH:** Tuesday 15 March, 7.45pm, Public Library, Granby Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff (SWP central committee).

**CHESTERFIELD:** Wednesday 9 March, 8pm, Galleon Club, Lordsmill Street. Speaker: Simon Turner.

### East Anglia

**CAMBRIDGE:** Monday 28 February, 8pm, Mawson Hall, Mawson Road (off Mill Road). Speaker: Tony Cliff (SWP central committee). Admission free.

**LOWESTOFT:** Thursday 3 March, 8pm, College of Further Education, St Peters Street. Speaker: Paul Foot.

### South East

**WITHAM:** Speaker: Jimmy McCallum. Monday 28 February, 8pm, Spring Lodge Community Centre, Chipping Hill.

**READING:** Wednesday 2 March, 8pm, Trade Union Club, Minster Street. Speakers: Jim Fagan (NUPE shop steward) and Tony Cliff (SWP central committee).

**BISHOPS STORTFORD:** Monday 28 February, 8pm, Half Moon pub, Hadham Road. Speaker: Shaun Docherty (Rank and File Teacher).

**CRAWLEY:** Thursday 24 February, 8pm, AEU Hall, Robinson Road. Speaker: Nigel Harris.

### WELWYN AND HATFIELD:

Thursday 3 March, 8pm, Welwyn Trades and Labour Club, Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City. Speaker: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS/AUEW convener, John Brown Engineering, Clydebank).

**MAIDSTONE:** Tuesday 1 March, 8pm, Old Palace Road, Mill Street. Speakers: Nigel Harris (SWP) and Alan Beeny (SOGAT).

**OXFORD:** Speakers: Tony Cliff and Em Wallace. Friday 25 February, 7.45pm, Ruskin College, Walton St.

**BEDFORD:** Tuesday 1 March, 8pm, St Mary's St (Labour Party Rooms). Speaker: Tony Cliff (SWP central committee).

**ST ALBANS Socialist Workers Party founding public meeting:** Wednesday 9 March, 8pm, Beehive pub (off London Road). Speaker: Nigel Harris.

**London**

**NORTH WEST LONDON:** Hospital Workers: Thursday 10 March, 7.30pm, White Hart, Acton. Speaker: Tony Cliff (SWP central committee).

**EAST LONDON:** Monday 28 February, 7.45pm, Mawson Park Library, Redwood Road, Manor Park. Speakers: Paul Foot and judicial Peter (London Royal Dock) shop steward.

**Marxism and the Revolutionary Party**

Friday evenings, 7pm, at the University of London Union, Melet Street, WC1 (nearest tube Goodge Street opposite Diltons Bookshop). 25 February: Fighting racism and fascism. Speaker: Colin Sparks.

4 March: Women and the Family. Speaker: Joan Smith.

11 March: Gramsci's Marxism versus European Communism. Speaker: Chris Harman.

18 March: The class struggle in North America. Speaker: Steve Jefferys.

25 March: Science and technology—capitalist and socialist. Speaker: Dave Albury.

Give yourself a socialist night out! ALL WELCOME.

### Notices

**WORKERS STRUGGLES—new workers' paper from Greece:** Extensive political and industrial coverage. 12p for the first issue from 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

**SOCIAL WORKERS, counsellors and therapists in the Socialist Workers Party** are invited to discuss forming a group for theoretical and practical development of Marxism in directions opened up by humanistic psychology. Wednesday 9 March, 8pm, Centreprise, Kingsland Road, London, E8.

**ROOM NEEDED URGENTLY** in North or East London for printshop worker. Must be reasonably cheap. Phone Kenny, 739 1870.

**PRAGATI, the Socialist Workers Party paper in Bengali—latest issue out now:** 10p a copy (plus 8p postage) from Pragati, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**Now available again SOCIALIST WORKER POSTERS:** blank posters, with 'Socialist Worker' in red and room for your own slogans for factory and street sales. ALSO 'Stop hospital closures', 'Fight the Cuts'—2p each. SW organisers should order these from SW Circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cheques, postal orders must be sent with orders.

**BOOKSHOP MANAGER WANTED** to run our new SWP bookshop in Cardiff. We can't afford to pay any wages, but if that's no problem and you fancy living in the land of milk and honey, get in touch with us. No experience needed, but must be an SWP member. Write to SWP Bookshop, 58 Bridge Street, The Hayes, Cardiff.

**FLAMING PETITION DEMANDING FREEDOM FOR Nathan Williams, the 21-year-old Antiguan now facing deportation from Britain.** Copies from FLAME, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON public meetings organised by FLAME:** Friday 25 February, The Struggle in Jamaica. Speaker: Yvory Bogues (Revolutionary Marxist League, Jamaica). Tuesday 1 March: The struggle in Zimbabwe. Speaker: Basil Manning. Both at the Right to Work Centre, 33 Batavia Road, New Cross, SE14, starting at 7.30pm.

# WORKERS!



**MENDON, North West London:** Tuesday 22 March, 8pm, Surrey Arms, The Hyde, West Hendon, NW4. Speakers: Paul Foot (Socialist Worker), Aloke Biwas (secretary, Hackney Asian Association) and Bernadette Dunne (NUI London Transport). Chaired by Archie Sinclair (UPW Cricklewood Sorting Office).

**TOWER HAMLETS:** Thursday 3 March, 8pm, Toybee Hall, Commercial Street. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**SOUTHALL:** Monday 7 March, 7.30pm, Southall Town Hall, Uxbridge. Speaker: Tony Cliff (SWP central committee).

### South West

**SWINDON:** Wednesday 2 March, 7.30pm, Co-op Hall, Railway Village (entrance in Harding Street). Speaker: Laurie Flynn.

The SWP's new book *Why you should be a socialist* is now sold out. The reprint will not be ready for at least one month. If you have any unsold copies please contact Pete Fish on 01-739 2639 at once.

**GREENWICH SWP jumble and book sale:** Friday 4 March, 7pm, Charlton House, Charlton, SE7.

**COVENTRY SWP jumble sale:** Saturday 26 February, 2.30pm, St Joseph's Hall, Keresley.

**NORTH LONDON SWP social:** Friday 25 March, 8pm, Caxton House, Archway, N19.

**LEA VALLEY Curry Evening:** Saturday 5 March, for details phone 348 2041.

**LEA VALLEY Jumble Sale:** Tuesday 29 March, 8pm, Tottenham Community Project. Details, phone 808 9057.

**MANCHESTER ROCK AGAINST RACISM Concert:** Saturday 26 February, 9pm-late, Manchester Polytechnic Students Union, Cavendish House. All Saints Band—Lifemask—plus disco. Bar extension. Admission 60p (unemployed 30p). All proceeds to Right to Work Marchers Defence Fund.

**NORTH LONDON:** Friday 4 March, North London Polytechnic, Ladbrooke House, Highbury Joint Rock Against Racism/Leavers benefit. Tom Robinson Band.

**Woolwich Rock against Racism Concert:** Saturday 26 February, Thames Polytechnic, Calderwood Street, Woolwich. Bamboo (ex-Reggae Guitars) plus Chris Elliot Disco. Proceeds to Overseas Student Campaign and Brick Lane Anti-Nazi Defence Fund.

**MANCHESTER ROCK AGAINST RACISM Concert:** Saturday 26 February, 9pm-late, Manchester Polytechnic Students Union, Cavendish House. All Saints Band—Lifemask—plus disco. Bar extension. Admission 60p (unemployed 30p). All proceeds to Right to Work Marchers Defence Fund.

**BADGE in Red and Yellow, 22p** including postage or ten for £1.50 post free. From Rock Against Racism, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**Socialist Workers Party INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting:** Sunday 6 March, 11.30am, in Manchester. Members will be sent details by SWP industrial dept.

**HEALTH SERVICE WORKERS:** Regional meeting for Socialist Workers Party members working in the NHS in Yorkshire and Humberside. Saturday 5 March, 1pm, Leeds Polytechnic. Details, phone Leeds 620350.

**FLAME POSTERS** in three colours—red, black and yellow—produced by Hackney Flame Group. £3.50 for 100. Money with orders to: S.A. Mascarenhas, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

**RACISM UNEMPLOYMENT POLICE HARASSMENT. BLACK WORKERS FIGHT BACK WITH FLAME.** SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY black workers paper.

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The world economic system is in crisis. For millions around the world it means famine—Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Sahel, food riots in Egypt, Poland.

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As Marx wrote 120 years ago, the biggest single indictment of the capitalist system is that it cannot keep its slaves alive.

**WORLD CRISIS,** the latest cassette from Socialist Worker Recordings, is an analysis of this crisis by Nigel Harris of the SWP international committee, and of the world-wide class confrontation it brings with it.

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# Jubilee Mugs

## A NEW SERIES FOR THE BIG YEAR

YOU'VE got to hand it to the Royal Family. They've got one of the best closed shops in the business.

It's an extremely difficult profession to break into. You usually have to 'know' someone. Having a mother who is the Queen is often thought to be an advantage.

□ □

Once inside, the rewards are quite exceptional. An apprentice Majesty like Charles takes home £250,000 a year and all the champagne he can't swallow.

A deputy Majesty like

Philip only makes half that amount, though he can usually manage to keep the wolf from the door by putting in a few hours for the World Wildlife Fund—when he's not on the grouse moor bagging world wildlife, that is.

The real mazzooma only comes, of course, when you reach the top. The Queen's basic rate is £8 a minute, which is good money by any standards.

Like all hourly-paid operatives, she knows the value of a closed shop. Such is the

strength of hers that she was able to negotiate a £250,000 increase this year, a figure believed to be outside the government's pay controls.

Her annual income is in the region of £5 million a year, all of it tax-free. Inflation being what is it, however, she sometimes has to dip into her reserves, which are estimated to be worth £800 million.

Her employers, though anxious to cut down on wasteful expenditure, like schools and hosp-

itals, nonetheless believe she receives a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. It averages out to about £5 for every hand shaken, roughly £25 for every smile in public, and something like £800,000 whenever she breaks a bottle of champagne across a ship's stern.

□ □

As for her loyal subjects, this year there will be a little bonus: Jubilee mugs.

Which is not a bad description of us for putting up with this nonsense.



# The case of the dead man's suit...

## OR HOW I BECAME A SOCIALIST, BY TERRY STEWART

WHEN I LEFT school, I was considered 'lucky' to get a job in a High Street tailor's shop, one of the multiple stores.

And there I came up against it, the heartless disregard for working people. The motto was 'get their cash out of them—at all costs'.

If they came in for a suit, sell them a coat too.

### Inquisition

If a customer went out without buying, an inquisition was held, followed by a report card to 'Head Office' giving the reason for the lost sale. A league table of shops was (and still is) displayed in the staff room.

Then, for a time, national service took me to Korea to defend American imperialism against the 'red menace'.

I was a bit puzzled when I first landed. We were stoned

by a group of South Koreans whom I imagined were there to protect.

It was only later that I realised we were propping up a corrupt right-wing puppet regime of the USA.

The army gave me an opportunity to see our 'ruling class' close up—the officer class. Now I saw the enemy face to face, part of the 7 per cent who own 84 per cent of the wealth.

After Korea, I returned to the 'window to watch' shop but by now I had a healthy disrespect for authority.

One lunch hour, when the area inspector and I were alone, I told him what sort of rat I thought he was.

A man just returned from his brother's funeral asked if we could perhaps sell the suit his brother had ordered. It had already been paid in part—he didn't want the

deposit returned—just, would we keep the suit?

I was naive enough to reason it thus: a hefty deposit paid in advance meant that 'the firm' had at least broken even, if not made a small profit. The suit could be sold at a further profit at their 'misfits' shop.

Oh no. That would have been too humane. Under the circumstances it's better to rob the dead, so the bereaved brother was made to pay for and take away the dead man's suit.

### Rage

That was when I told the inspector he was a rat. That's when, red with rage, he told me, 'We are in business to make a profit—finish—nothing else counts.'

A few weeks later, when I was in hospital, my wife, then pregnant, was handed my notice. I was out of a job and their tied house—virtually on the street.

I didn't know what a socialist was then but I knew that what the bosses were for I was against.

I helped to organise the first ever strike at a department store in our town owned by Sir Hugh Fraser. By a coincidence, he was visiting the town as a guest of the local Conservative Party.

My suggestion to the full-time union officials that, besides picketing the store we picket Fraser himself at his posh luncheon and ask him how he would like to live off £9.14.6d a week, was met by the shocked retort that 'that kind of thing won't do our case any good.'

I was sure they were wrong—but as full-time officials I was assured they knew best.

Anyway, we won the strike, and I realised that what gets results. Hit them where it hurts, right in the cash register—they don't half bloody scream.

I decided to think it all out. What exactly was wrong? I worked for bosses whose only aim in life was a profit, and quite heartless about how they got it.

We did all the work, they took all the profits. Our miserable wages bought from

other bosses the goods other workers made, these other workers bought the goods we made. The bosses bought raw materials from other bosses thus keeping the wealth circulating amongst themselves.

Conclusion—I'm living in loony land.

But what could you do about it? The papers told me communists were bad, and after all hadn't I seen them on TV, shooting workers down in Hungary and Czechoslovakia? Then lightning struck. I accidentally came across Socialist Worker, a paper that put the ideas I had, but couldn't formulate, into a clear programme. They knew what was wrong with society and how to change it.

### Machine

It couldn't be clearer. Individual socialism can't work. Individuals can't defeat a ruthless organised capitalist machine.

Group these 'individuals' into a determined organisation and we can win the world. We have lots of supporters to whom I say, come down from the terraces—don't watch the team—join it.

Let's make the final score Workers EVERYTHING, Bosses NIL.



Retreat in Korea: for Terry Stewart, it was a chance to see part of the ruling class face to face



February issue out now.  
10p plus 7p postage from Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.



# Letters

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

## PROBLEM HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?

READING Socialist Worker, the jailing of Mike Lynch, the hospital cuts, the Sheffield engineers' strike, you cannot but be aware that underlying these incidents is the problem of 'how to fight back'.

The Right to Work Campaign is ideal in this—though if the work offered is so dangerous, uncongenial, debilitating, boring, do you demand the 'right' to work if it means such slavery?

And what about the Cuts? The cuts are a logical outcome of capitalism. In a period of economic expansion, such as the early 1960s, capitalism can afford to give people these 'extras'. But as soon as profits start to decline—whether real or imaginary—doesn't matter as any excuse will do—we, the people, lose our hard fought for 'extras'.

### Demand?

How do we get them back? It is no use complaining and demonstrating if that is all we are going to do—we must either physically take control of all the services that serve the interests of each community or create alternatives. Perhaps we should do both.

You cannot demand from a repressive regime the adoption of 'liberal' or 'socialist' concessions—Chile is the outstanding reminder that a ruling class will not voluntarily give up its power.

This means taking control of everything—the social services, education, as well as the means of production—but no one is going to 'give' these things to us until we are free mentally and then are politically strong enough to take and hold on to our gains once the initial move is made.

Demonstrations, protests, complaints are OK, but I think we must see their limitations, otherwise we are on a hiding to nothing.

□ JOHN GREVES,  
Grantham, Lincolnshire.

## THE MAN WAS A FASCIST!

I THOUGHT the 'Take it as red' article on D H Lawrence (SW, 29 January) portrayed a false impression of a man to all intents a fascist.

This is clear from his letters. He wrote in June 1915: 'What we must hasten to prevent is this young democratic party from getting into power. The idea of giving power to the

# How socialists would solve the housing crisis

IN SWINDON last week a few conservationists demonstrated against the council's plans to demolish the old covered market hall. The idea is to replace the perfectly sound building with yet another car park.

Why should this be going on while there are so many homeless people in the town—and it is left to a group of volunteers to sweat to raise the £8000 needed to build our new night shelter for single homeless people?

### What a waste!

Why are well over 100,000 homeless and millions living in sub-standard housing? Why do rents—private and council—continue to rise.

Because the workers who produce the wealth have no power over the way resources are used. There are 200,000 building workers on the dole, millions of bricks stockpiled, more than 650,000 houses standing empty.

What a waste!

Decent housing should be a right. Housing should not be a commodity to be bought and rented only by people who can afford it.

The capitalist disaster is plain for all to see. But what could socialists do if the working class were in power?

□ Take control of the banks and other financial institutions, to provide the money to build what is needed and improve what we already have.

□ Nationalise development land to enable a logical plan of land use to be drawn up.

□ Nationalise the building industry under workers' control.

□ Extend state ownership of housing, with management in the hands of the tenants.

□ Give the houses to those people who are owner-occupiers—in other words end all mortgage payments.

□ Distribute houses according to need—for example, family size.

□ Ensure true democracy in the taking of planning decisions.

□ SIMON HOBBS, warden, night shelter for the single homeless, Swindon.

## Jail censors stop mail reaching marcher

ENCLOSED is the disgusting reply I received from HM Prison, Walton, after sending a letter to Billy Castley there.

I joined the Right to Work march last year at Northampton and went with it to London. The first I actually met Billy was the next night in Bedford when we had a couple of pints together.

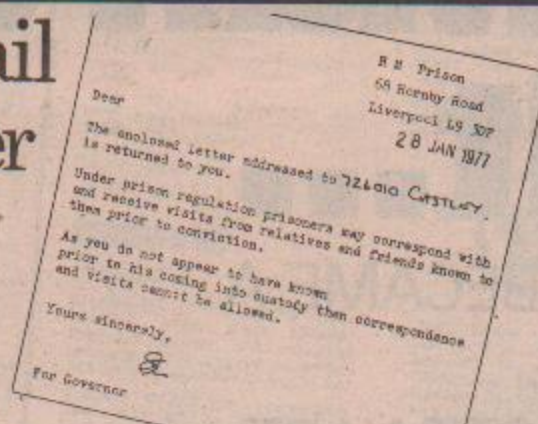
I saw him and spoke to him many times on the march and twice since: the first picket of Hendon magistrates court and the Manchester Cuts Conference. Indeed I was instrumental in keeping him out of custody when the 'incidents' occurred on the march at

Staples Corner.

Of course I was not aware that you had to include a short history of the Right to Work Campaign with every letter you wrote to someone in custody.

Once more we have gross interference with our pseudo-democratic rights. It can only lead to the conclusion that, in spite of the official reasons for his sentence, Billy Castley is being refused rights, which presumably are afforded to a convicted MP like Stonehouse, because his conviction has nothing to do with criminality but most definitely with his membership and

The letter being sent out by the prison



activities in the SWP. I also wrote a letter to Mike Lynch. But presumably the fact that I mentioned that 'God must be a Catholic because Celtic are at the top of the Scottish Premier Division is sufficient proof that I knew him before he was taken into custody.

Mike, I mean not God. Presumably there is someone about who really and truly and positively knew Billy before A.D. Could they be kind enough to send him the solidarity greetings of myself and the Northampton SWP branch.

□ BRIAN HIGGINS, Northampton.

I ENCLOSE a letter I sent to Billy Castley in Walton Prison



The resources are there...



... so are the building workers (200,000 unemployed)...



... so why is so little ever done?

## Bad without the cuts

EVERY week Socialist Worker is full of stories of cuts in hospital spending. These horrifying stories only seem worse if you spend every day, as I do, working in a hospital that has not yet been axed at all.

This hospital is for mentally handicapped people and most in there are in for life. Many of the homes they live in are 30 years out of date and not suitable for animals, let alone human beings.

The staff do their best to provide a good life for the patients but even on the new, 'specially designed' wards it is a struggle against the odds.

If this is a hospital still functioning on its full allotment of money, then I'd hate to see what it is like after the cuts.

The rich don't care a sod for ordinary working people, but for all their self-righteous bullshit, they care even less for the people who through no fault of their own cannot work to create the bosses' profits.

Keep up the good work, SW. Fight the cuts and stay alive.

□ PETE MARSHALL (CoHSE), Walsall.

## So they're changing their Road again

THE COMMUNIST Party has invited all sections of the labour movement to contribute towards their new programme 'The British Road To Socialism'.

It has now become clear that such invitations are the first attempt to fulfil the CP's prophecy that the building of socialism in this country would somehow emerge from a swirling mist of confused alliances in which the working class would play its equal part.

By their next congress the CP will have a carefully written exposition which will yet again justify some of their worst excesses—the seduction of the petty bourgeoisie, the unashamed reformism which has led to such utterances as the need for import controls and 'humane immigration controls based on respect for the sovereignty of the nation'.

### Class

This creep to the right is even manifested in its defence of the post office workers. The CP in its desperate attempt to become the 'best defender' of democracy consciously joined forces with Labour's right and 'progressive elements' in defending that institution of civil liberties—the House of Commons. The only concern should be with the sovereignty of our class!

55 years of relative isolation, 27 of them spent justifying Stalin's day-to-day dictates, has soured the potential of the British CP. Its attempts to crawl into the warmth of the British political system have reduced it to a shadow of its former self.

The fight against fascism and racism is no longer based on the twin slogans of 'Smash fascism' and 'Organise in the factories and workplaces against racism for a socialist alternative'. Nowadays CP militants must walk into church humming 'One race, the human race'.

### Seize

The CP has lost confidence in the class it claims to spring from—consequently rank and file militancy, the upsurges of France '68 and Soweto '77 are seen as 'mindless ultra-leftism' not as genuine desire to rebel which must be seized by the revolutionary party and converted to a clear desire to seize power and establish a genuine workers' democracy... the prerequisite for socialism.

The CP has lost its understanding of revolution. The seizure of power is not based on cleverly-worked alliances but on the politics of rank and file democracy, which builds on a self-confident class, well rid of sectionalism and all other divisions.

The role of the socialist party is to build up and on that rank and file consciousness and to use the history of our class in that process.

In May 1976 I joined the International Socialists after four years in the CP—years of blind alleys, sterile Stalinism and contempt of our class.

I urge all militants and socialists in the CP to use the moment when the latter is launching the new 'British Road' to launch themselves into building a genuine socialist alternative—The Socialist Workers Party.  
□ JOHN REES, Wigan.

## Beavers

DEDICATED to Jack 'Work like a beaver' Jones:

The busy beavers working hard, making things so that other people can be unemployed.

□ STEVE NEWMAN, Cardiff.



## Socialist Worker Skegness Weekend

Easter weekend, Friday-Monday 8-11 April, at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Centre, Skegness. Full board and accommodation and free entertainment for £18.50 per adult—300 free children's places. Details now from your local SW seller.



# About to be blown sky-high: Eastern Europe's myth of socialism



Hungary 1956—and two secret policemen get their come-uppance: now Eastern Europe's workers are on the move again.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**THE CLIQUE** that came to power by invitation of the Russians after the invasion of 1968 are in big trouble.

They have never been able to 'normalize' the situation. There are still dozens of underground opposition groups including workers' groups, some even discussing the possibilities of armed struggle.

Open opposition is bubbling up again. Charter 77, presented to the Czech government and the national institutions such as Parliament at the start of the year, lists hundreds of basic grievances such as arbitrary arrests and searches, discrimination in housing and jobs, police spying, bugging

**LAST JUNE**, factory workers in the Polish town of Radom went on strike against massive increases in food prices. Accompanied by schoolchildren and housewives, they marched on the local Communist Party headquarters.

They goaded a local party official. 'How much did your suit cost' yelled one worker. 'Too much—more than a month's wages for the likes of us' yelled another. 'Let's get

the clothes off him' shouted a third.

*The local Party Secretary fled into the building in his underclothes.*

That Polish crowd was expressing vividly the frustration and the anger that is boiling throughout Eastern Europe. Anger about food shortages, housing shortages, the lack of freedom to express your views. Intellectuals fighting for human rights and workers shattering what's left of the myth about socialism in

Eastern Europe.

Die-hard Communist Party members still claim there is no economic crisis there. Go to Eastern Europe and see.

There may not be dole queues. But try the endless food queues, look at the pensioners who supplement their pittance by charging for time spent queueing while others work.

Eastern Europe is all set for an explosion. Where will it happen first? We summarise here what's going on—and what the implications are for socialists in the west.

## E. GERMANY

**THE PARTY** bureaucrats are faced with a dilemma: should they allow freedom of information and movement, which more and more people are demanding?

The recent diplomatic recognition of the country by the western powers, open discussion of 'socialist democracy' at last year's conference of Communist Parties in East Berlin, and the Helsinki Agreements have all raised expectations, and increased the people's courage to oppose the regime.

Also, the West German government demands 'human rights' in exchange for favourable trade agreements and credits which East Germany relies on for badly-needed hard currency.

*But to give way to these demands would endanger the position of the party bureaucracy and possibly provoke Russian intervention. So the internal policy remains nervous and unpredictable.*

Unorganised opposition is increasing. Tens of thousands have applied for emigration, there is a continuing trickle of refugees across the border, there have been several lone demonstrators with placards, writers and poets continue to publish critical works in the west.

Wolf Biermann, a poet and singer critical of the regime, hasn't been allowed to perform or publish in East Germany for more than ten years.

Nevertheless, he describes himself as a communist. Recently he gave an illegal concert in a Berlin church.

He was then allowed to give concerts in West Germany—and then barred from returning. Nobody expected the reaction that followed.

Within a few days more than 70 of the most popular artists protested against his expulsion and students collected signatures at a factory gate while a few other artists asked for and were granted the right to emigrate.

The idea seems to be to get rid of troublesome agitators and plunge the country back into a state of provincial bliss

and phone tapping.

It bases itself on the United Nations Charter on Human Rights and the so-called 'detente' negotiations at Helsinki in 1975, both of which were signed by the Czech government.

But it expresses the dissatisfac-

tion of a huge proportion of the Czech people, and already the number of signatures has grown from 242 to more than 400.

*The working class has not so far played as dynamic a role in recent months as in Poland, but in some ways*

*the situation in Czechoslovakia is more fluid, and the regime is in worse difficulties.*

This is because party boss Husak has, since 1968, been reviled by the British and Italian Communist Parties as a quisling for the Stalinists. These CPs are anxious to prove their 'moderation' and 'humanism' to our own ruling classes, but their attitude aids the Czech oppositionists.

## Negotiations

Many people leading the Charter group are not just former supporters of Dubcek, but were actually a part of his leadership; men like Jiri Hajek, the former foreign minister, and Mlynar and Kriegal who were on Dubcek's central committee.

There are enough former politicians to form alternative government slates in the event of a change from below, or from above by the Russians.

## Ministers

In a desperate attempt to prevent them becoming a focus for national resentment, the government opened negotiations with Austria at the beginning of February to have these three deported. All refused to go and the deal fell through.

Now the government, in the words of one Czech exile living in Britain, 'are scared shitless'.

## POLAND

**THOUSANDS** of men and women poured out of the streets of Polish cities last June.

The government had announced that meat was to go up by 60 per cent, vegetables by 30 per cent, sugar 100 per cent, cheese 50 per cent, and fish 69 per cent.

Workers responded with stoppages in many towns and vast demonstrations.

*In Radom, people were killed when barricades were erected and pitched battles fought with the police.*

The government called the strikers and demonstrators 'hooligans'. But within 24 hours they withdrew the price rises.

They took their revenge, however. Hundreds of workers were interrogated. Many were beaten up. At least one died of a beating. Thousands of workers lost their jobs. Students who supported the workers were interrogated and lost university places.

The Polish economy is becoming increasingly tied up with the west, and is being affected by the same crisis. So far, the government has been able to concede workers' demands by huge borrowing from the west. But this is just patching up a vessel that has new holes appearing all the time.

## THE DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

**THE POLISH** Workers Defence Campaign is a trade union committee formed to raise support in the British trade union movement.

Pickets and a Benefit have been organised in London. The campaign is anxious to get the matter raised as widely as possible.

### Find out more . . .

THESE articles have been put together by the East European Group of the Socialist Workers Party.

Members are organising a series of meetings in Central London. The first meeting will be on Poland and will be introduced by a comrade who has visited it this year. It will be held on Tuesday 15 March (for time and place, watch Socialist Worker).

Raise the question in your trade union branch.

Send for details to 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Get a speaker along to your branch.

Above all, use the issue to demonstrate the need not to rely on phoney moves to socialism from above, from Russia or anywhere else, but

Other meetings will be held on Czechoslovakia, Eurocommunism, Women in Eastern Europe, What is Detente? and Art and Dissidents in Eastern Europe. We are interested in encouraging discussion of these issues throughout the SWP. If you wish to organise a meeting, or want information, contact the East European Group at 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

on the need to build links between workers in various countries to fight back against the system of exploitation and repression that imprisons us all.

The Polish Workers Defence Committee in Warsaw is a group of intellectuals who are collecting money and raising support internationally for victimised Polish workers. Their campaign has been so successful that Party leader Gierek has recently announced that amnesties may be granted on May Day to 'repentant' imprisoned workers.

But the committee will not disband until all its demands have been met. These include the re-instatement of all sacked workers, an inquiry into police behaviour and the right to independent trade union activity. The Defence Campaign in Britain will continue to support their struggle.



# FRANK CHAPPLE'S FEAR...DEMOCRACY

**FACED** with a rising tide of opposition to wage controls, leaders of the Electrical Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Trades Union have decided to put back this year's annual conference by six months.

The union's conferences are only held every two years, in May or June. But a circular going out from head office this week states that this year's conference is not to be held until November.

The official explanation is 'pressure of business'. Every third biennial conference revises the rules as well as

deciding policy. This puts on unexpected extra pressure, explains the leadership. In reality the leadership has had six years to prepare for the rules revision. The last one was in 1971.

In their present calculations, leaders of the union cannot have overlooked the massive rise in discontent in the union. This was indicated by the scenes at the recent Telecomms conference where union boss Frank Chapple was booed and heckled when he denied rank and file members the right to speak.

The rising disaffection isn't just confined to telecomms. Contracting workers have had enough. In the power industry, the members are sick of productivity wheeler-dealing.

All this could mean an explosion at

any conference held when originally due in May or June.

By November, of course, the TUC top brass will have finished their Social Contract Mark Three carve-up. This would neatly get the EETPU leaders off the hook and present the conference with a fait accompli.

To organise against this and to link up the jobs and industries in the growing fight-back, Rank and File Contact is calling a conference at 2pm on Saturday 12 March in AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford.

All EETPU members, sparks, TV engineers, plumbers, electronics, the lot, are welcome. As well as sessions on the Social Contract and the Campaign for Democracy there will be important meetings where workers in telecomms and contracting can get together.

**EETPU Rank and File Contact Conference**

**SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT STOP TELECOMMS SACKINGS FIGHT FOR UNION DEMOCRACY**

**Saturday 12 March, 2-5 p.m. AUEW House, The Crescent, Salford, Manchester.**

**Speakers: Billy Williams (Cardiff), Jack McKenna (EETPU Convenor, STC East Kilbride). Chairman: George Kelly (Glasgow Corporation Electrical Workshop).**

## Scotland: All out against the cuts on 9 March

**THE RIGHT TO WORK** Campaign is appealing to trade unionists throughout Scotland to join a one-day strike against the cuts on Wednesday 9 March.

The strike call has come from the local government workers union in Scotland, and is supported by the public employees union. Both are calling out their members in local government for the day.

In an effort to spread the action, the Right to Work Campaign has produced 3,000 posters, thousands of leaflets, and is touring factories calling for solidarity strike action and delegations to the demonstration.

**Hot stuff...**

□ **A SAVE Our Hospitals Campaign supporter in Hackney gave a badge to the local fish and chip shop man. He now wants another 35 to give to customers to pin on their coats and is making a donation to the Save Our Hospitals Campaign.**

Factories affiliated to the Campaign are being asked to sponsor the call for a West of Scotland shop stewards meeting to organise extensive solidarity action.

The stoppage on 9 March is the latest in a series of strikes, demonstrations and actions by public sector workers in Glasgow and Scotland.

The Strathclyde Building Department has stopped for one day, as have the busmen. The firemen have held a demonstration. Every national demonstration, like that on 17 November, has received big support.

But none of these actions has been co-ordinated. Instead, the campaign against the cuts is being dissipated in a series of unco-ordinated stoppages.

Every group of workers fighting the cuts needs to be brought together—Hospital workers supporting firemen, building workers supporting local government workers.

### Drivers

The union leaderships will not organise this sort of campaign. In Scotland, NALGO and NUPE are doing their best to limit action on the 9th, not to spread it.

The main effort must come from rank and file groups organised in every union and work place.

The call by the Leyland combine for a one-day stoppage on 19 April is an opportunity to organise throughout Scotland for a united day of action, against the cuts, against unemployment and against the whole of the Social Contract.

□ **Demonstration assemblies 2 pm., Wednesday 9 March, Blythswood Square, Glasgow. After the demonstration, the Glasgow Right to Work Campaign have organised a meeting.**

### Murray in a hurry...

**CHATHAM:** Enraged members of Gravesend Right to Work Campaign greeted Len Murray when he arrived to open a new jobs centre.

Murray didn't speak to the pickets. Instead he scuttled into the Jobs Centre to talk to the Mayor and other local big wigs. And he didn't come out until after the pickets had gone.

### Engineers foil RHP

**CHELMSFORD:** 100 members of the Engineering Union at Ransome Hoffman Pollard scored a quick victory over management last week.

The men, all from the ball plant, walked out when management tried to reduce compensation payments in connection with an incentive bonus scheme.

The dispute was settled within three hours as management backed down and withdrew the threatened reduction.

### Socialist Workers Party Industrial Advisory Committee

**Next meeting Sunday 6 March in Manchester. All those attending will receive details of place, time and joint transport.**



On the picket line at Corona in South West London, where management locked out 25 production workers last Wednesday. The dispute started when management refused to negotiate over the production of a new litre bottle.



Part of the march by trade unionists through Swansea last Saturday protesting against the cuts. It was supported by public sector unions, the Trades Council and the local Right to Work committee.

**UNION OFFICIALS SMASH BUILDERS' 37-WEEK BATTLE**

AFTER 37 weeks on the picket line unemployed building workers at Welwyn Garden City have called off their action.

Trade union officials, led by Ivor Jordan district secretary of the men's union, UCATT, organised to get London Brick lorries onto the site to keep it going.

The men were demanding an end to sub-contract labour and direct employment for all building workers, in line with union policy.

Once again, the need for rank and file organisation to bring democracy to UCATT is as clear as day.

## Drivers walk out

**CHELMSFORD:** 30 drivers at Essex County Supplies struck last Wednesday against a back-handed management move to cut their jobs.

Management had recently told shop steward Ron Moore that the work going through the stores would drop by up to 30 per cent as a result of the cuts.

The threat to the drivers' jobs was obvious.

But, out of the blue, management advertised for two new drivers—and the men saw in it a ploy to undermine them.

**Defeat**

One of the drivers, Tacky Turner, explained: 'It was obvious that management wanted to overload the staffing level so as to push down wages.

'That way they could sit back and get voluntary redundancies—and then get rid of the two new drivers before their six months' probation was up.

'It's a messy dispute—and the local press tried to make it look as though we couldn't care about people on the dole. But that's not true.'

After the men had walked out, management agreed not to take on two more drivers until two new contracts had been confirmed.

## WE'LL DOCK YOUR PAY

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE:** 714 engineering workers are still locked out at Dowty's big mining machinery factory at Ashchurch near Tewkesbury.

John Simmons, AUEW steward, said: 'These people are scoundrels. Only this month, Bill Deakin, another steward who has worked 27 years for Dowty, had two hours pay taken off for taking his wife to hospital.

'Men with 40 years service are still getting their pay docked for going to the dentist.'

The men were locked out two weeks ago over a claim for payment for first day off sick. Management refused to negotiate and the men worked to rule. As a result, they were locked out.

Dowty's are using their lowest-paid factory as whipping boys. The only answer is an all-out stoppage throughout the combine.

**ENGINEERS CHARTER/Right to Work Campaign Meetings**

### SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

**Vote Willie Lee for AUEW National Organiser**

**PAISLEY:** Tuesday 22 February 7.30pm, AUEW Halls, Paisley. Speaker: Rab Reid (Paisley DC member, shop steward, Linwood)

**CLYDEBANK:** Mon 28 February 7.30pm, Lecture Hall, Town Hall. Speakers: Angela McHugh, Tommy Gorman (senior shop steward, Albion Motors)

**GLASGOW CENTRE:** Sun 27 February 7.30pm, Iona Community House, Clyde Street, City Centre. Speakers: Angela McHugh, Willie Lee (shop steward Linwood)

**SOUTHALL:** Mon 28 February 8pm, Community Centre, Bridge Road. Speaker: Willie Lee

**BRADFORD:** Tuesday 8 March, 8pm, Rawson Hotel, Rawson Square, Johns St. Speakers: John Deason, Terry Farrer (Convenor Metal Box)

**WALSALL:** Tues 1 March 8pm, The Falcon, off Gower St, Willenhall. Speaker: Willie Lee.

**LETCHEWORTH AND CAMBRIDGE:** Wed 2 March 8pm, The Settlement. Speakers: Willie Lee and Dave Gillard (convenor, Herberts) and John Deason.

**HARLESDEN:** Thurs 3 March 8pm, White Horse, Corner Roundwood Rd and Church Rd. Speakers: Willie Lee Laurie Smith (National Organiser) John Deason, Billy Taylor (Candidate for Div No 6 ADO).

**MANCHESTER:** Sat 5 March, Noon, Lass O'Gowrie, Charles St, off Oxford Rd, Nr BBC. Speakers: Willie Lee, Tom Smith (convenor, Automat)

**LEEDS:** Sun 6 March 7.30pm, Trades Club, Saville Mount, Chapeltown. Speakers: Willie Lee, John Deason.

**Read Engineers Charter - 10p each plus 5p postage. Feb-April issue out now 8 for £1 including postage. 20 for £2 including postage from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.**

**SHEFFIELD:** Thursday 10 March, 7.30pm, The Forresters. Speakers: John Deason, Clive Hartley (Convenor, Balfour Darwin).

**LIVERPOOL:** Sunday 6 March, Noon. Speaker: Willie Lee.

**EDINBURGH:** Wed 23 February, 7.30pm, Trades Council Club, Picardy Place. Speakers: Ron Brown (shop steward, Parsons Peebles), Angela McHugh (shop steward Rawlplugs)

**Engineers Charter/Right to Work Campaign PROTEST RALLY**

### SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

Saturday 26 March Noon, University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST) (Near Manchester Piccadilly Station). All AUEW members welcome

*\* Please note change of date and venue to avoid clash with the Leyland shop stewards' call for a delegate conference on 3 April which both the Engineers Charter and the Right to Work Campaign are fully supporting.*

## A victory at Pye

**By Peter Porteous, Glasgow EETPU Central branch**

**AIRDRIE:** The 300 electricians union members at the Pye factory voted unanimously to support the one-day stoppage on 14 February against the cutbacks in the Telecommunications industry.

Initially, the TASS members refused to support the stoppage but after being told that a picket would be placed on the factory they changed their minds.

On the day of the strike, a few TASS members succeeded in crossing the ETU picket line. After the stoppage, the electricians refused to work with these scabs and blacked their work.

After negotiations, the company agreed to dock the wages of the blacklegs, pay the money into a charity and pay in full the expenses of the delegation which went to London on the 14th.

## THE 14-YEAR ITCH

**By DAVE TREND**

**Hemel Hempstead Right to Work Campaign**

**THE LOCAL** area branch of the Transport and General Workers Union hasn't met for more than 14 years—so no-one knows how many members were denied a vote when Jack Jones became general secretary.

But whatever the outcome of the present election battle for TGWU general secretary, the Right to Work Campaign for Tommy Riley has already brought valuable spin-offs.

Because of the agitation by three local Right to Work Campaign supporters in the TGWU, the branch secretary has agreed to call a general meeting in time for voting.

It's the first step to building an active rank and file in the union—which is the reason for the campaign.

## Leicester strike over

**LEICESTER:** Workers at the Leicester Photo Company have returned to work after winning recognition of APEX, the clerical workers union.

Bob Shaw, who helped organise the union, has not been reinstated. Instead management have agreed to negotiate after a tribunal hearing into his victimisation.

## 'Gormley must go' call

**THE YORKSHIRE** Area Council of the National Union of Mineworkers has called upon the union's executive to organise a national conference to discuss a return to free collective bargaining. There was only one vote against.

The Council also called for the resignation of union President Joe Gormley and expressed no confidence in him and other national union officials for their handling of the early retirement issue.

Another resolution from Houghton Main NUM calling for support for all organisations campaigning against the cuts was passed overwhelmingly.

Only three members voted against it. All three are Labour councillors.



# WHO RULES THE T&G? ASK BLACKLISTED 40

## 'Full-time officials have kicked us in the teeth'

By Allan Borrell, TGWU.

**PAISLEY:** 40 members of the Transport and General Workers Union at Allied Suppliers have found out who rules their union.

Nearly 100 distribution workers were sacked last month following a dispute over who should carry out stock-taking duties in the warehouse—them or management.

The dispute has gone to an industrial tribunal. But many of the men now feel their real fight is with the T&G hierarchy in the Paisley District.

60 men have been started back as a result of behind the scenes wheeling and dealing.

New men have been taken on from the dole queue, yet 40 trade unionists are still on the streets.

'For the past six or seven weeks we've played it by the book,' Joe Dillon, a shop steward, told Socialist Worker. 'We've gone through every stage of procedure, but the men in the Paisley District Office have abandoned us.'

'We built this union. Now they turn round and kick us in the teeth.'

Joe and another T&G member at the factory, Andy Clark, told their story at a meeting held by the Glasgow T&G Right to Work Campaign.

### Minutes

The tale, a familiar one to members up and down the country, illustrates the lack of democracy in our union.

It took ten days before a full-timer even met the men. Union minutes, which the men can't get hold of, were found in the manager's desk.

Union officials wouldn't let the stewards see the file containing correspondence with the company.

T&G fulltimers know a black list is being operated. They asked management for a copy! Nothing has been done.

Another member of our T&G branch phoned up the District Office to offer support. He was told by McMonigle, a fulltime official: 'Don't interfere. This isn't as black and white as it looks. I don't want you people jumping the gun.'

Ray MacDonald, the Scottish Regional Secretary, denied a blacklist existed and guaranteed there would be no selective re-employment.

### Depth

A few days later the deputy convenor and branch secretary went to the homes of 60 of the sacked 100 and invited them back to work.

How did they know who to visit? It looks as if the union is operating a blacklist for the company.

A new depth was plumbed by Thomson, the Paisley District official. 'When I asked him what the next step was he told me to sign on the dole,' Joe Dillon said.

The men realise that if they are to challenge the local union bureaucracy their most powerful allies are other rank and file members.

Messages of support and donations to: Joe Dillon, Interim Treasurer, 16 Todholm Road, Hunter Hill, Paisley.

### ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

**BIRMINGHAM:** Morton T. Colver's Jewellery firm who sacked eight of their employees at the beginning of January, have once again demonstrated their 19th-century approach to labour relations.

Mary Dowie, a girl taken on since the eight were locked out

**NINETY SIX women (right) at Geoffrey Peters firm at Hunslet near Leeds have been sacked for demanding recognition of their union, the Tailor and Garment Workers.**

**Management claim they would rather shut the firm than tolerate the union. The reason for this is all too clear. The women are getting 56p an hour.**

**Financial help is desperately needed. Send donations to Circle House, 29 Lady Lane, Leeds LS2 7LS.**

**Unanimous! No more pay controls**

**LETCWORTH:-** Production workers at the Borg Warner Automatic Gearbox factory have decided unanimously at a mass meeting to call for an end to wage restrictions and a return to free collective bargaining.

### IN BRIEF... IN BRIEF... IN BRIEF... IN BRIEF

**AN UNOFFICIAL strike is spreading among North Thames Gas fitters and road gangs throughout East London.**

**It's against contract labour doing their weekend work. The contractors are also breaching safety rules.**

**The strike started at the Boleyn depot but quickly spread to Stratford, Ilford Barking and Woodford.**

**The strikers, all members of the GMWU, want the contractors out. So far, management have refused even to meet the men at the depot.**

**SALFORD:** Strikers at Doulton Glass Industries have won their battle against attempted victimisation.

**Management had tried to sack a member of their negotiating committee.**

**All 250 TGWU members have now returned to work.**

**in January, had an accident at work. She fell on the uneven floor and dislocated her neck. As soon as she got back from the hospital she was given her cards.**

**The 11 pickets at the firm are still fighting to get their jobs back. They were locked out and sacked for organising the union (NUGSAT).**



## MASSEYS: NO DEAL!

**COVENTRY:** Last Friday, at our mass meeting, 1,000 assembly workers on strike at Massey Ferguson voted to reject the trade union officials' return-to-work formula. It was just a face-saver, and there were only 12 votes for them.

**They cooked it all up on the Monday before at a National Joint Council Meeting with the management. They wanted us to return**

**By Terry Lindsay, AUEW steward, Terry Wilcox, member of Strike Committee, Mick O'Raw, AUEW, and Max Fletcher, AUEW.**

**to work with only half our Christmas pay, and draw up a new interim agreement within five days which would put all the power in the officials' hands in every future dispute.**

**For us to change the agreement we would have to give 90 days' notice before 31 March. They seem to think they are different.**

**Management had even made plans for a return to work from last Monday. Lorries with parts arrived from Burnley on Monday morning and we turned them away.**

**We think our dispute is the most important in Coventry since the shoddy work dispute at Ryton. After two years of wage controls, management now feel strong enough to have a go at us on our conditions and on discipline.**

### Special

**That's why we've called a meeting next Tuesday (1 March) in the AUEW Halls. It's open to all trade unionists who want to build a fight against this sort of attack and against the Social Contract.**

**Support for us has been magnificent. We've received more than £1,400. Of special note is the £10 from the Campaign for the Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran, and the £14.65 from Portuguese workers in Britain.**

**For credentials for the meeting write to the Strike Committee, or phone Coventry 78423.**

**Money and messages of support to: Massey Ferguson Assembly Shop Strike Committee, c/o AUEW Halls, Corporation Street, Coventry.**

**The man has been reinstated and they have won a better bonus system.**

**CHESHIRE:-** Tesco delivery drivers are picketing the Walton Vale Tesco Supermarket after drivers were suspended for refusing to deliver goods to the store.

**The refusal followed one of the drivers being threatened by a manager. Transport Workers union shop steward Bill Newton said: 'This is our first dispute in 14 years. If management lift the suspensions we will return to work.'**

**KETTERING:** Journalists on strike for three months over an improved house agreement are forcing scabs to recognise that they cannot walk away from union membership and discipline.

**Nine journalists duped into strikebreaking joined the anti-union Institute of Journalists. Every bit as bad is the editor. He has consistently scabbed. For his cowardly stand he has been made into a folk hero by the media.**

**NGA members are refusing to work with the scabs at Kettering.**

**T&G Who Rules?**

New Right to Work Campaign pamphlet out now! Send orders to 254A Seven Sisters Rd. N4. 10p + 8½pp. Orders over 10 post free.

## Police harass Hoult's pickets

**NOTTINGHAM:** Workers at Hoult's Removals have organised a picket after being locked out. Management tried to sack two men, one of them the Transport Workers shop steward, and then locked everyone out.

Two weeks before, the workers had received an assurance that there would be no lay-offs. Now management are claiming that redundancies are being arranged on a 'last in first out' basis.

Police have twice surrounded the picket. First they accused pickets of holding up the Royal Mail, because a postman refused to cross the picket line.

### Gun

Then four panda cars and a police motor bike surrounded a car where four pickets were sheltering.

They accused the pickets of possessing a gun. Sure enough, on the car dashboard there was a child's toy pistol.

Supporters of the local Right to Work committee have been accompanying the pickets around local removal firms to help win support.

**The dispute has not yet been made official, so donations are urgently needed. Send them to N. Evans, Strike Committee Treasurer, 11 Wellbeck Walk, Huntingdon Street, Nottingham.**

## CUBITTS LADS WIN VICTORY

**By Alasdair McSween, UCATT**

**LONDON:** The lads at Cubitts Shelgrove site have won their battle to preserve their bonus payments.

Cubitts were offering what amounted to a wage cut or redundancies. Instead the men organised a stoppage for one day each week.

Within ten days, the firm agreed to go to a conciliation panel, where they discovered that not even a panel made up of half employers, half full time union officials would listen to their case.

The Cubitts workers have now got their wages completely restored by their prompt action.

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

## LEICESTER: The bosses won't split us up!

LEICESTER: Workers are still occupying the Wildt Mellor Bromley woollens factory against closure.

It is now clear that, despite management denials, trade union organisation is under attack.

Management want to close the factory despite £1.5million worth of uncompleted knitting machines being on site. They want to contract out large parts of the operation.

Deputy convenor Bob Palmer said: 'This is not just our fight, it's a fight for trade unionism in Leicester, especially in the Bentley Group. If we go under, the whole group will suffer.'

It is also emerging that

promised government grants to the Bentley Group will be forthcoming only if there is rationalisation. The Labour government therefore is directly implicated in the loss of further jobs.

The occupation is well

organised and morale is high. Workers are expecting good support throughout the combine and moves are being made to get an Engineering Union district levy.

It is unlikely, however, that enough financial support can come from the district. It is imperative therefore that other sectors of the Labour movement give maximum support.

As soon as the factory was occupied, two wives, Chris Billingham and Lynne Anderson, set up a support group.



# EQUAL PAY: SUPPORT THE BAKERY WORKERS

SPILLERS FRENCH, the giant baking firm who made £50 million profit last year, are about to spend £107,000 on a television advertising campaign.

It would cost them £70,000 to give their women workers equal pay, which is what they are entitled to under the law.

But instead bakery workers throughout the country are striking to win equal pay from Spillers and their rich friends in the Bakers Federation.

Negotiations have been going on between the union and the employers for ten months. When the employers finally admitted that there should be equal pay, what was their suggestion? They decided that the men's wages should be brought down to the same level as the women's.

That's why the union has called a strike from this Sunday.

Women in the bakers Union were sold out on equal pay by their executive two years ago. Since then the gap in earnings has widened to £5.69.

The claim involves workers who produce 'morning goods'—tea cakes, rolls and buns. Women doing this work are on grade 9, while men doing exactly the same work are on grade 6.

### Rates

The only men in grade 9 are pensioners. They are not included in the claim for equal pay, because the union allows 'disability' rates to be negotiated.

The union executive has decided to hold the strike in two stages in an attempt to 'keep the public supplied with bread.'

But general secretary Sam Maddox had to admit to the Daily Telegraph: 'Despite the executive's decision I cannot guarantee that the rest of the

Margaret Renn, SWP women's organiser, writes: Every branch must rally behind the strikes and help ensure victory.

Womens Voice leaflets should be produced for distribution at all bakeries before the strikes start, and for supermarkets, big bread shops, queues and factories where women work explaining the bakery workers' case.

Every Saturday the strike lasts, Womens Voice street meetings should be held.

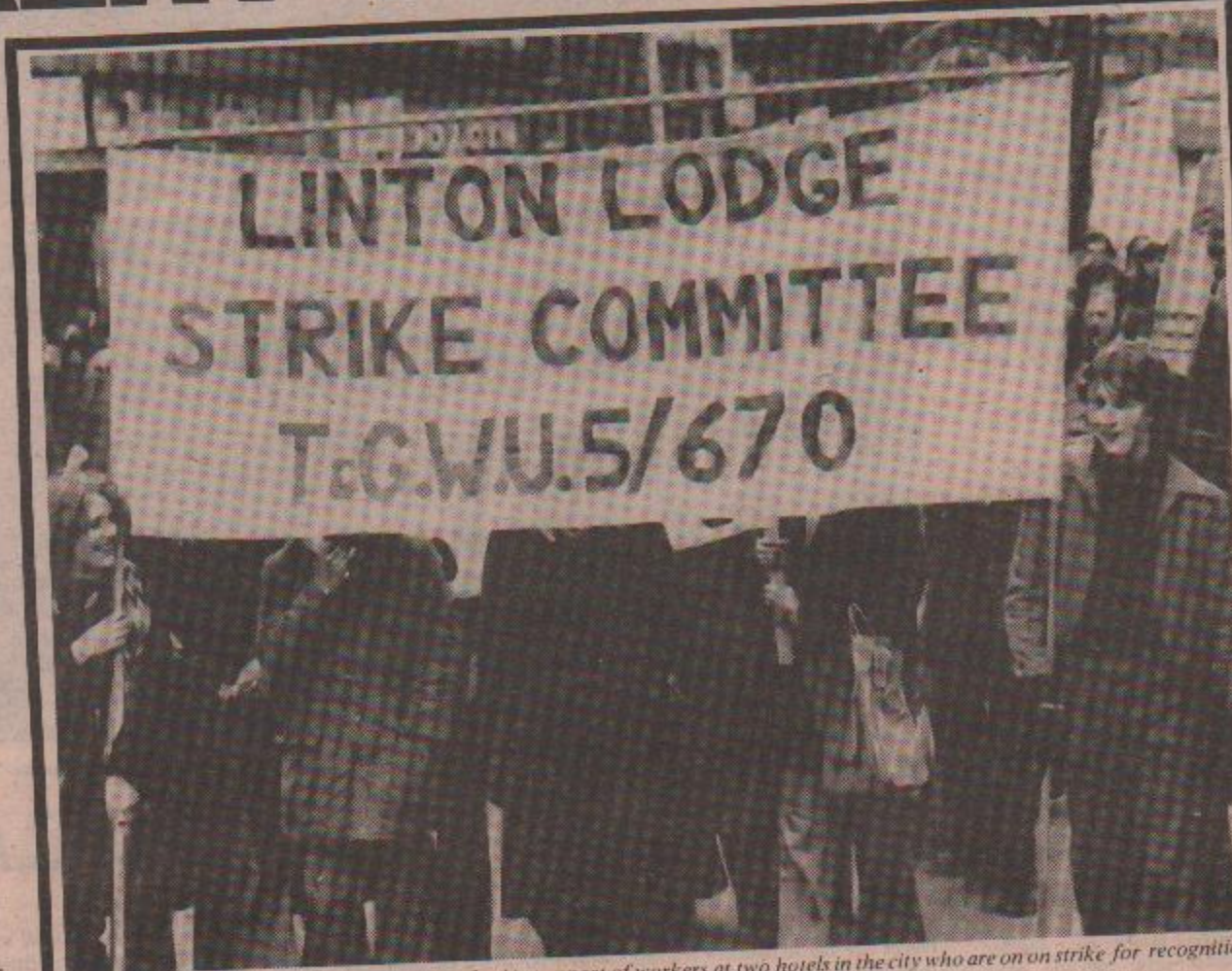
Public meetings to let women from the bakeries and others involved in equal pay battles should be organised.

membership won't join the strike. It could be one out, all out.'

This Sunday they plan to call out Rank-Hovis-MacDougall (1976 profit £40 million) who produce Mothers Pride and Hovis, and Spillers French, who make Homepride.

The following week these strikers are due to go back to work, when the Co-op workers will be out along with workers from Associated Bakeries, who make Sunblest.

This wonderful organisation which made £66 million last year, is controlled by Mr. Garfield Weston, who owns the Queen's favourite shop, Fortnum and Mason, where London's idle rich buy their caviare.



Part of last Saturday's demonstration in Oxford in support of workers at two hotels in the city who are on strike for recognition

## Now another strike for a trade union hits Trust House Forte

TRUST HOUSE FORTE have driven another group of workers out on strike for the right to belong to a trade union. This time 40 workers are manning a picket line outside the Night Out club

in Birmingham after an active union member, Mrs Pat McGuire, was sacked.

Oxford and Sheffield workers at two Trust House Forte hotels have been sacked for joining the Transport and General Workers Union, and have been on strike

since before Christmas. Pat McGuire was sacked after an anonymous letter was allegedly received from a customer claiming that she had dropped a fork in a customer's lap, served the men before the women, and said: 'There's no halibut, the melon is frozen and anyway it all tastes the bloody same.'

After getting the anonymous letter, the management used it as an excuse to sack her.

Supervisor Kathy Jacks had made it clear this was likely to happen when a lot of the staff joined the TGWU in November. She told them: 'If you're going to join the fucking union, I'll have you bastards out.'

### Smuggle

Management claim they have three months supply of food, but they have already been found trying to smuggle it in.

Ansells Brewery, Grants of St James and Mand Bs are blacking all supplies and transport drivers are refusing to cross the picket line. Some have also stopped to support the picket.

One of the pickets said: 'We're absolutely determined to get Pat reinstated and get the union recognised throughout THF. We'll stay out 12 months if necessary.'

## WHEN WILL THE TGWU ACT?

By John Donachie 'I CAN'T think what's going on. There's nowt happening over national blacking of Trust Houses. Only Region Five has got it. Our region, number nine, isn't moving at all. We don't know what's happening.'

Those are the words of

### BLACK TRUST HOUSE FORTE

Support the strike funds  
BIRMINGHAM: Night Out Strikers, Broad St., Birmingham B1 2HL.  
OXFORD: Linton Lodge 127 Botley Rd.  
Randolph 41 Bridge St.

SHEFFIELD: Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead.

Janet Brown, one of the Grosvenor House Hotel strikers in Sheffield who have now been out for union recognition for ten weeks.

Gardener Merchant canteen workers—part of the Trust House Forte group—

stopped work at Moore and Wright, a local engineering firm, on Monday in support of the strike.

But the national leadership of the Transport Union are still refusing to start any action in support of the strikes at Sheffield and Oxford, although they were made official two months ago.

The spread of solidarity action now depends entirely on the efforts of the strikers.

On Saturday, a delegation from the strike committee went to Oxford to join the demonstration in support of the Linton Lodge and Randolph Hotel strikes.

On the same day, the Grosvenor House was picketed by supporters of the Right to Work Campaign. Other THF hotels were picketed around the country.

### Stick

Chris said: 'We know the wives would be hard hit, being at home with the kids. It is easy to nag but we need to stick together to support the occupation.'

'We started a fund to cover hardship cases and have arranged for social security advice.'

40 wives and supporters attended the first meeting. Lynne told Socialist Worker: 'The spirit was fantastic. There were lots of ideas as to how we could help.'

There are a few women inside the occupation and they, too, have played a splendid role. Sheila King, an inspection worker, organised a demonstration outside the Holiday Inn where management had set up temporary headquarters.

### Stake

'Management is trying to split everyone up,' argued TASS member Carole Frost, a trainee computer operator. There is no difference between the sexes in this fight: we are equally involved.

'Our jobs are at stake.' Paul Anderson, Engineering Union convenor, said: 'It seems our livelihoods are less important than accountants' balance sheets. There is no reason for any redundancies.'

Messages and donations to: Wildts occupation Fund, 2 Graiby Road, Leicester. (tel 833 977).

### STOP THE

HOSPITAL

CLOSURES

SAVE JOBS

Demonstrate: Wednesday 2 March, 4pm, St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, S London.

Organised by the Save Our Hospitals Campaign

The Socialist Workers Party calls for national support for the counter demonstration against racism and fascism in Birmingham on Saturday 26 February

### NO NAZIS IN STECHFORD!

End immigration controls!

Fight unemployment

Assemble Adderley Park Birmingham, 1.30pm. March to Saitley Gate

Sponsors include: February Committee against Fascism, Indian Workers Association (MIL), Bangladesh Work Association, Pakistani Welfare Association, Kashmiri Work Union.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Name  
Address

Please send me more information

Trade union

Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6DN.